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## *PEI ADAPT Council Agri-Newsletter*

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### *Reminder Notice to Register:*

#### **PEI ADAPT Council's CAAP Official Launch**

Join us in *'The Futures Game,'* a public workshop designed to engage people, organizations and communities in the task of balancing our economic, environmental and community well-being.....while pathfinding a new chapter for the Island's agricultural and agri-food economy.

**Friday, November 27, 2009; 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**The Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown**

The objective of the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is to facilitate industry's ability to seize opportunities, respond to new and emerging issues and to pathfind and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues. In order to help align the CAAP priorities with those identified by civil society, industry and government we will use this event to host the internationally acclaimed, workshop: 'The Futures Game'.

'The Futures Game' is enjoyable way for you to engage in robust discussions about the future. Your participation will lead to a stimulating and meaningful discussion about future scenarios, and explore critical decisions that will affect the future of Island agriculture and the PEI economy.

There is no fee to participate. However, please register by contacting the PEI ADAPT Council; [adapt@pei.aibn.com](mailto:adapt@pei.aibn.com)

## **Young Farmers - Lend Your Voice to the Future of Agriculture!**

Earlier this week, the Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), the honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, announced that he is seeking input from across Canada on the key challenges and issues facing young and future farmers.

- What should be done to assist new and upcoming producers?
- How can the federal government (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada) help new and young farmers start their business and capture more opportunities to grow and diversify their businesses?

Your suggestions, recommendations and comments will be compiled and incorporated into a briefing note, which we will present to Minister Blackburn on behalf of ourselves (CFBMC) and our partners.

Your responses can be emailed to [info@cfbmc.com](mailto:info@cfbmc.com). Please include 'Blackburn' in the subject line.

## **2008 State of Canadian Agriculture**

*Vista on the Agri-Food Industry and the Farm Community* is an occasional publication of the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada. It contains articles highlighting statistical insights on themes relating to agriculture, food and environmental issues.

Highlights:

- 2008 was very good for Canada's grain and oilseed producers. Production of canola in the Prairie provinces rose to 12.6 million tonnes, an increase of 31.7% over the previous record production of 9.6 million tonnes in 2007. Soybean production in Ontario and Quebec, the provinces where over 90% of Canada's soybeans are grown, rose 23.7% to 3.3 million tonnes.
- Feed, fertilizer and fuel account for about one-third of total farm operating expenses in Canada. In 2008, the share of feed, fertilizer and fuel expenses in total operating expenses was 4.4 percentage points higher than 2007. In general, a good harvest and higher grain and oilseed prices helped crop farmers to manage rising input costs. However, livestock producers faced low prices and reduced sales while dealing with rising feed and fuel expenses.
- Total farm cash receipts for Canada increased 10.9% from 2007 to reach \$41.1 billion (in constant 2002 dollars). Nearly all (96.2%) of the increase was attributable to crops receipts. All provinces except Prince Edward Island gained in 2008.
- In 2008, agricultural production added a net value of \$14.9 billion (in current dollars) to Canada's economy, an increase of \$5.4 billion over 2007. Higher prices for grains and oilseeds combined with a good crop production largely contributed to the increase.
- Over the past five years, this sector registered an increase in labour productivity at an annual average rate of 3.8%. This is the fastest rate of all major goods producing business sectors and is well above the average for the total economy.
- As one of the world's leading agri-food trading nations, Canada continued to export more agri-food products than it imported in 2008. As a result, the nation's trade surplus in agricultural and fish products rose from \$8.9 billion in 2007 to \$12.3 billion.

- In 2008, net farm income increased sharply to \$6.1 billion from \$1.0 billion in 2007 on the strength of increased crop inventories in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

For the full report see: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/21-004-x/21-004-x2009002-eng.pdf>

### **Nova Scotia Food Policy Council to be Formed**

The Nova Scotia Food Summit 2009 wrapped Oct. 20 with a strong mandate to form a provincial Food Policy Council. Councils are comprised of citizens and leaders from all food-related sectors who collaborate to make recommendations for policies that will improve health, agricultural, and socio-economic outcomes.

Summit organizers Linda Best, Alan Stewart and Edith Callaghan said the goals of the event were accomplished: “to bring people together to analyze our food system, to raise awareness of challenges and opportunities, and to plan for an inclusive Food Policy Council.” .....

At the Summit there was an evident willingness to build bridges between all sectors. Delegates could envision healthy fields, farms, food, people and communities now and in the future. Choosing to educate others and ourselves about local and global issues and crafting policies to provide solutions will make that vision a reality.

The new Food Policy Council will bring together citizens, non-governmental agencies, educational institutions, businesses, all levels of government and other involved parties to determine effective strategies to insure healthy, economically and environmentally sound, sustainable and secure food for all Nova Scotians.

For complete story see: <http://www.atlanticfarmfocus.ca/index.cfm?sid=298602&sc=586>

### **USDA Promotes Local Food**

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan has embarked on a college tour to promote the USDA's 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiative.

The initiative aims to educate "the next generation of farmers, ranchers and consumers."

According to the USDA, 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' is promoting a national conversation about how to develop local and regional food systems to help small and mid-sized farms and "reinvigorate" rural communities and to reconnect consumers and producers.

According to the USDA, the value of locally grown food was \$4billion in 2002. They estimate that is demand will more than double by 2012

For more information see: [www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer](http://www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer)

## **The Good Food Revolution**

By Will Allen; Boston Globe Newspaper; October 19, 2009

Autumn has arrived in the Northeast. The leaves are turning colors, the days are getting shorter, and the weather has a hint of the chill to come. It's a time of change in many ways. Our nation is grappling with the daunting challenges of health care and global warming. Another change is coming as well. It's called the good food revolution. By bringing locally grown, organic, nutritiously rich food to a table near you, the good food revolution can help us tackle these larger societal issues, and benefit us all.

We need a revolution in our food delivery system because the global \$3.2 trillion processed-food industry is undermining our health and significantly contributing to our carbon footprint.

Let's take a quick look at how produce in Massachusetts makes it to our grocery store shelves. Quite likely it was picked in California's Central Valley, the mother of all breadbaskets. The produce journeyed across the country from the field to the wholesaler to a retailer and finally to your dinner table. Total travel time, about 12 to 14 days.

Have you ever wondered how much nutrition is left after that voyage? Not much. You're largely eating vacuous cellulose - even if you buy it from Whole Foods. This long journey also exposes it to multiple handlers and contaminants that create health scares - recalled meat, tomatoes, peanuts - that are regular features on the nightly news.

Have you ever wondered how many greenhouse-gas-emitting-food miles it took for that nutritionally leached meal to arrive on your plate? The answer is about 3,000 miles. Figure you eat produce from California every day. That means 365 days a year, your food travels 3,000 miles across the country, adding almost 1.1 million food miles to your personal carbon footprint. Ouch!

If this system seems unsustainable to you, it is. It would collapse if it were not for the tremendous state and federal subsidies that big agribusiness receives.

The impact of our industrial food system takes an even greater toll on poorer inner-city residents. Redlining in these districts doesn't just apply to the banking industry. It's as hard to get a mortgage in these neighborhoods as it is to get fresh produce. Often residents have to drive miles to get to a full-scale grocery store. This nutritional wasteland is particularly devastating on children.

The good news is that we can turn this around. Already, more privileged households are increasingly buying locally grown organic foods and getting the best nutrition possible. Ten million people will or have planted food gardens this year, including one on the White House lawn.

It's time to bring this revolution to the rest of America. We need to make this a choice that more of us will be able to make regardless of our socioeconomic status.

Organizations like Growing Power, which I founded and direct, are cutting health care costs and greenhouse gas emissions by promoting programs so people can grow organic, culturally appropriate food close to economically distressed urban populations. By engaging the local community, Growing Power produces \$250,000 worth of organic food in a working-class neighborhood in Milwaukee's Northwest side - less than a half-mile from the city's largest public housing project. Local residents work and volunteer at the farm, creating a stronger, more economically viable and healthier community.

This revolution is taking place in Massachusetts, too. Organizations like the Marion Institute work with urban schools to bring nutritiously rich food to city neighborhoods in the state. For example, the institute recently helped build 17 raised vegetable beds at the Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford, providing children the opportunity to eat well, learn, and experience a bit of greenery on an otherwise wall-to-wall concrete campus.

The good food revolution cannot stop at farmers' markets or natural food stores in suburban or wealthier urban neighborhoods. For the revolution to be complete, people in poorer neighborhoods must have access to it, too.

*Will Allen is founder and CEO of Growing Power, an urban farm based in northwest Milwaukee.*  
See: <http://www.growingpower.org/>

### **Shaping the Future of Food in Canada**

The People's Food Policy Project is backed by a growing number of concerned citizens and organizations across the country. It is a unique opportunity to develop a concrete food sovereignty policy for Canada – a policy framework that reflects our common values of health, justice and sustainability. The moment to transform our food system is now. Tell us what you think. People's Food Policy Project invitation to participate.

<http://peoplesfoodpolicy.ca/welcome>

### **Toronto Star Calling for a National Food Policy**

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/710334--canada-needs-a-national-food-strategy>, that is worth a read. As well, The Star has recently written a series on food that can be found on the right hand side of the linked page under 'related.'

### **First National Local Food Day Declared in Canada**

October 9, 2009 - The Canadian Federation of Agriculture calls on consumers across the country to join farmers in celebrating and supporting the first national "Local Food Day," officially declared today by Randy Kamp, MP for Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission, British Columbia.

"Agriculture is a key industry for Canadians for its contribution to the economy, for its role in sustaining rural communities, for food security and for its contributions to health and the environment said CFA President, Laurent Pellerin.

"Canadians continue to receive high quality food produced at the highest food safety and environmental standards because of farmers and their initiatives on their farms and that is worth a day of recognition," said Pellerin.

While Canadian farmers still provide some of the most affordable food in the world, the amount that returns to the farm gate is relatively small. The Farmers' Share, a recent study commissioned by the CFA's members showed that, on average, only 27 per cent of the cost of an entire week's worth of groceries for a family of four goes back to the farms where the food is produced.

CFA reminds Canadians that choosing locally-produced foods helps to cut down on the transportation cost, reduces the impact on the environment and re-invests in the local economy.

"It is in all Canadians best interest to ensure the Canadian agri-food industry remains strong and continues to contribute to the benefit of all Canadians into the future. When farmers prosper, we all prosper," said Pellerin. "When you are out at the grocery store this Thanksgiving, we urge you to ask for locally sourced products and support your local farmer."

For more information, please contact:

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