



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments



Fifteen years of internationally  
recognized expertise

Quinze années d'expertise reconnue  
à l'échelle internationale

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



### **Our vision:**

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

### **Our mission:**

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

## *Development of a National Voluntary Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Sector*

*Prepared by the CFIA for the  
2015 BC Cranberry Congress, Feb. 11, 2015*

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# Overview

- Background: Biosecurity in Canada
- Objectives: Why National Voluntary Biosecurity Standards?
- Development process: National biosecurity standards
- Timetable and current status: Where are we now?
- The Draft Standard: *National Voluntary Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industry*
- Goal of the Standard: Developing a farm specific biosecurity plan
- Next Steps: What's next?

# Background: Biosecurity in Canada

- Crop biosecurity prevents, minimizes and controls the introduction and spread of plant pests at the farm level. Pest problems can severely reduce the sustainability and profitability of the Canadian agricultural sector.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) works with stakeholders to develop national voluntary farm-level biosecurity standards and producer guidance documents for several crop and animal-based sectors. These documents are tools that producers and others can use to implement proactive approaches to minimize the introduction and spread of diseases and pests.

# Objectives: Why National Voluntary Biosecurity Standards?

## The National Voluntary Biosecurity Standards:

- Provide guidelines for biosecurity, including prevention and integrated pest management.
- Promote a consistent approach across the country for mitigating the risks with clear guidelines for effective biosecurity.
- Enhance industry's knowledge of the risks associated with pests and diseases.
- Provide a tool for proactive business risk management.
- Help to identify potential gaps in current biosecurity measures.
- May serve as a tool to support industry or provincial government programming.

# Development process: National biosecurity standards

- The development process is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in partnership with CFIA under the Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Policy Framework.
- The following had previously been developed for plant under Growing Forward:
  - National Farm-Level Biosecurity Planning Guide for Plant Resources
  - National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Grains and Oilseeds Sector
  - National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Potato Sector
- In order to ensure that what is developed is relevant and useful for producers and the sector as a whole, Biosecurity Advisory Committees (BACs) are developed which pull together expertise from industry and producer organizations, producers, academia, and federal and provincial specialists.

# Timetable and current status: Where are we now?

- 2010: Federal/Provincial/Territorial committee determines key sectors for biosecurity standard development. Fruit and tree nut industry deemed as a priority for biosecurity standard development.
- 2013: Assessment of industry readiness - undertaken by a consultant who identified that the sector is interested and willing to partner in the development of a National Biosecurity Standard.
- 2013: Formation of stakeholder advisory committee (FTN BAC).
- 2013/2014 : Background Literature Review and Gap Analysis.
- First face-to-face meeting – February 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- Monthly conference calls to maintain progress on drafting the standard.
- Target outcomes have been developed.
- Second face-to-face September 2014 - Draft standard is nearing completion.

# The Draft Standard:

## *National Voluntary Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industry*

- Identifies key themes, considerations, and critical points of biosecurity interventions, based on pest introduction and transmission pathways.
- The current draft is divided into two main sections:
  - *Plant Health Management* addresses outcomes related to the plants under production and provides considerations related to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), biological vectors and environmental factors, surveillance, and pest response.
  - *Farm Property and Operational Management* addresses day-to-day activities of the operation and provides considerations related to the inputs, outputs, controlled and restricted zones, the movement of people, machinery, tools and equipment, and training and communication.

# Goal of the Standard: Developing a farm specific biosecurity plan

- The Standard is to act as a general guideline for the development of a **biosecurity plan**, whereas the producer guidance document (to be developed once the standard is finalized), will provide more details on practices that allow for crop variety and geographic differences to be addressed. Both documents will be provided as tools, to be used along with your business goals and local realities – the specifics of your operation are critically important to the development and successful implementation of your **Farm Specific Biosecurity Plan**.
- Implementation of biosecurity principles in your operation can be seen as a cycle of activities, where the cycle demands that we [1] assess risks, [2] make a plan that addresses biosecurity gaps, [3] implement measures and procedures, [4] survey and gather pest and disease intelligence, and [5] the need to reassess on an on-going basis to ensure continuous improvement.

## Next Steps: What's next?

- Next face-to-face meeting will be held in Ottawa on February 20<sup>th</sup> where we are hoping to come close to finalizing the draft standard – All sections have been drafted and we are hoping to finish refining the text.
- Producer guidance document will be developed next, which will provide more details on practices that allow for crop variety and geographic differences to be addressed.
- The objective is to complete the standard itself by September 2015, so will go out for broader consultation spring/summer 2015.
- Stay tuned for this in the coming months as your input will help to ensure that the final product is a useful tool for you and your sector.

# Questions?

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