Coexistence Planning

November, 2011 – CSTA Board of Directors mandated the development of a coexistence plan for GM forages by December, 2012

- Difficulty engaging participants meant that CSTA will not meet that deadline

- Reconsidered at Board Strategic Planning
February 2012 – The following success measure was incorporated into the CSTA Strategic Plan

• We have facilitated the development of a framework for co-existence planning for different cropping systems by a broad range of industry stakeholders

• We will begin with Alfalfa where we will have facilitated the development of a coexistence plan by December 2013, and the plan has been implemented by March, 2014.
June 2012

Executive supports CSTA facilitated coexistence planning session

Tentative date: October 24, 2012
Location: Guelph, Ontario
Purpose: Value chain stakeholders, scientists and industry representatives develop the framework for a coexistence plan for alfalfa
June 2012

- Working group of CSTA member representatives to plan the process - first conference call in early August

- Establish goals for coexistence conference
  - Proposal to begin with a plan for the hay market in Ontario and Quebec
  - Consider NAFA plans for hay production as template
  - Canadian science
  - Canadian market etc.

- Establish Invitation List
Proposed principles of coexistence:

1. The goal must be to provide producers with freedom of choice and opportunity to pursue diverse markets

2. Coexistence plans must be based on mutual respect and shared responsibilities amongst different production systems (e.g. organic, conventional and biotechnology)

3. Coexistence standards/practices/tolerances etc. must be market driven, practical, achievable and economically feasible

4. Those who benefit from each system must accept responsibility for implementing the practices to achieve the standards

5. Communication is key
CSTA’s role:

• A facilitator
• Coexistence plan will be “owned” by the stakeholders who develop it

Volunteers for the working group are welcome