Planning for Choice
A National Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay

CSTA Forage and Turf Committee
November 7, 2014

Coexistence Planning - Background

• Coexistence Planning was given high priority by CSTA's Board of Directors in February 2012
• Overall objective to have proactive coexistence plans in place for all crop kinds
CSTA Policy

Depending on their operations and their customers and markets, farmers need to be able to choose the production system that best suits their needs – whether the production system is organic; conventional; or makes use of products developed by modern biotechnology.

Began with Alfalfa Hay in Eastern Canada

- Began with an Alfalfa value chain workshop in October, 2012
- Plan written based on meeting report
- Panel of specialists (experts) developed Best Management Practices
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Planning for Choice
2. Background
3. Principles of Coexistence
4. AGLC Hay Production Systems in Eastern Canada
5. Organic Hay Farming in Eastern Canada
6. Irrigated Water Use in Hay Production in Eastern Canada
7. The Biology of Valley Fertilizer
8. Fertilizer Use in Hay Production in Eastern Canada
9. Fertilizer Use in Hay Production in Eastern Canada
11. Best Management Practices for Production of Grand Traverse RFDs
12. Best Management Practices for Production of Grand Traverse RFDs (cont.)
13. Best Management Practices for Production of Grand Traverse RFDs (cont.)
15. Best Management Practices for Production of Grand Traverse RFDs (cont.)
16. References
Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay in Eastern Canada

Coexistence BMP Specialists/Experts

Forage Specialists
• Ontario
• Quebec
• New Brunswick
• Nova Scotia

Hay Producers
• Ontario Hay Producer
• Ontario Dairy Farmer

Academic
• University of Laval

Weed Specialist
• Quebec

Best Management Practises

• Are suggestions from experts for farmers to adopt voluntarily

• Support contracts and regulatory requirements (e.g. For organic and for GM)

Growing for the World/Une Croissance Axée sur le Monde

Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay in Eastern Canada

Best Management Practises

1. BMPs for GM Alfalfa Hay
   • Record Keeping
   • Preventing Adventitious/Low Level Presence at Planting
   • Reducing the Risk from Gene Flow
   • Preventing Mixing at Harvest
   • Preventing Mixing during Handling and Storage
   • Stand Take-Out
   • Preventing Volunteers from a Prior GM Crops
   • Preventing Weed Shifts and Weed Resistance
July, 2014

- CSTA Board directs the expansion of the coexistence plan for alfalfa hay – to all of Canada
- Will not include coexistence planning for seed production

Process:
- New plan for Western Canada?
- Expansion of existing plan?
- Completely new national plan?
Possible Process

1. Technical researcher and writer to update/create new sections of the coexistence plan
   • Overview of alfalfa production and use in western Canada
   • Characterising production systems in western Canada
     • Organic
     • Conventional
     • GM

2. Panel of Experts (Specialists)
   • Review the document and develop best management practices

   Representatives of:
   • Forage Specialists
   • Plant Breeders and Academics
   • Alfalfa producers – organic, conventional, potential GM
   • Domestic users – dairy, beef, processors – conventional and organic
   • Alfalfa and alfalfa product exporters
   • Seed producers and exporters
Best Management Practises for:

- Record Keeping
- Preventing Adventitious/Low Level Presence at Planting
- Reducing the Risk from Gene Flow
- Preventing Mixing at Harvest
- Preventing Mixing during Handling and Storage
- Stand Take-Out
- Preventing Volunteers from a Prior GM Crops
- Preventing Weed Shifts and Weed Resistance

Overall Objective

Voluntary guidelines

- To assist producers in all three production systems to maintain and expand their markets
- To assist producers who wish to grow GM or organic alfalfa to comply with contract and stewardship requirements