

# On-Farm Food Safety: Challenges Ahead

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From the Farm Gate to the Dinner Plate

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Dawn Leblanc

CQA National Co-ordinator

& Member, COFFS Working Group

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# Presentation Outline

- Challenges
  - Farms
  - Farm Organizations
  - Governments
  - Post-Farmgate Industry
  - All Stakeholders/Canadian Approach



# Challenges on the Farm (1)

- Scope:
  - 240,000+ Farms
  - Many farms have multiple enterprises
  - Some enterprises are relatively small yet threshold costs are quite similar
  - Farm size impacts on capacity to cover costs

# Challenges on the Farm (2)

- **When to implement?**
  - Characterized by uncertainty
  - Driven by pressures from customers & competitors
  - Influenced by legal expectations

# Challenges on the Farm (3)

- Resources
  - Internal/on-farm capacity
  - External sources
    - Commodity group
    - Government
    - University/college
    - Private

# Challenges on the Farm (4)

- Competing Demands
  - Other Management Systems
    - Quality specifications
    - Environmental plans
    - Nutrient management plans
    - Animal welfare plans
    - Organic plans
    - Identity Preserved programs

# Challenges for Farm Organizations

- **Tasks**
  - Program maintenance, auditor training, farm certification
- **Capacity**
  - Strength of organizations (national/provincial)
  - Type of organization (policy or services)
- **Scope**
  - Number of farms (from 300 to 100,000+)
  - Geographic spread (from 2 provinces to everywhere)

# Challenges for Governments

- **Official Recognition**
  - Complete the negotiations
  - Fully resource
- **Program integration**
- **Implementation Assistance**
  - 2004/8 - APF Program Funding
  - Beyond 2008 - Long-term commitment
- **International Support**

# Challenges for Post-farmgate Industry

- **Customers**
  - Program recognition & integration
  - Implementation support
- **Service & Input Providers**
  - Awareness & Training
  - Implementation support
- **Education & Training Institutions**
  - Modification of existing courses
  - Professional development opportunities

# Challenges for All (1)

- Sustaining a Collaborative Approach
  - Amongst On-Farm Programs
  - Supply Chain Initiatives
  - Industry/Government Partnership
  - Intergovernmental Co-operation

## Challenges for All (2)

- International Acceptance
  - Government to Government Fora (Codex, FAO, WHO, OECD, bilaterals, etc)
  - Industry to Industry (IFAP, commodity-specific)
  - Supply Chain Initiatives

# Canadian Approach to On-Farm Food Safety

- A Producer-led Initiative
- A Successful Industry/Government Partnership
- A World Leader