

**BITS AND BITES**

## WaudWare adds new feature to Produce Inventory Control System (PICS) software

According to the Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA), in the final regulations of the new Food Safety Act, importers of food into the U.S. have to have their suppliers approved by a certified third party/auditor. The third party/auditor will need to conduct food

safety audits and issue certifications regarding the foreign facilities and the foods they produce.

WaudWare has added a feature to its Produce Inventory Control System (PICS) software that helps customers track these certifications. This new

feature is called the Vendor's Approval Document. It helps businesses in the fresh produce industry keep track of vendor certification documents and it can be set to warn users when a Purchase Order is issued to a vendor for which there is no approval document on file.

The Vendor's Approval Document feature saves produce businesses time and improves productivity.

*Source: WaudWare news release*

## Celebrating greenhouse produce in the foodservice sector

The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) has announced that food-service unit manager, Michael Tuinstra of Dana Hospitality LP who runs the cafe at the Blount Canada Ltd. location in Guelph, has been selected as the winner of the second OGVG Celebrating Ontario Agriculture promotion and display competition.

OGVG engaged more than 20 universities and business dining locations throughout Ontario, providing tool kits, recipes and merchandising material. These resources were created to support menu initiatives, promotions and displays during Celebrating Ontario Agriculture Week.

Working with OGVG resources, Tuinstra launched five colourful displays utilizing OGVG produce. His culinary team also introduced several new recipes that feature Ontario greenhouse cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes throughout its menu.

"OGVG is pleased to be a part of this promotion with Ontario hospitals and cafeterias and we look forward to working with foodservice partners in the future," said George Gilvesy, chair of OGVG. "In a competitive market new partnerships that support our produce in the foodservice marketplace will help sustain Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers."

Dana Hospitality LP is a Canadian-owned food service provider. Their culinary team takes great pride in using fresh, locally-sourced and nutritious ingredients, preparing meals from scratch every day. Their goal is to transform the food service experience.

*Source: Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers news release*



## ADAMA adds new products to 2016 portfolio

ADAMA Canada has announced the addition of two new products to their lineup.

Hotshot, ADAMA's new co-pack, is the ideal glyphosate tank-mix partner for pre-seed burn-off to control a wide range of annual broadleaf weeds including Group 2 & 9 resistant kochia, volunteer

canola including glyphosate resistant, wild buckwheat, dandelion and narrow-leaved hawk's beard. Hotshot consists of the active ingredients bromoxynil and florasulam, and when it's combined with glyphosate, it creates a weed resistance tag team that controls early season weeds. This product is available in

Western Canada.

Squadron, a broad spectrum herbicide registered for grass and broadleaf weed control in a wide range of crops, most notably lentils, peas, chickpeas, fababeans, soybeans and potatoes. Powered by the active ingredient metribuzin, Squadron is an excellent

resistance management tool. This product is available in both Eastern and Western Canada.

These products hit the market in early 2016.

*Source: ADAMA news release*

## Houweling's to enforce intellectual property rights

Houweling's has announced that it is strengthening its commitment to the pursuit and

enforcement of its intellectual property rights by increasing applications for patent

protection worldwide and diligently enforcing its existing patent rights.


As a leader in the greenhouse industry, Houweling's has developed many novel advancements in greenhouse technologies and has invested considerable time and resources into ensuring that Houweling's remains on the forefront of greenhouse development and crop production. To this end, Houweling's has obtained patent protection for its novel greenhouses, air/gas distribution systems and closed loop air drying systems. Throughout the years, Houweling's has continually enforced its patent rights against infringers attempting to misappropriate or otherwise "piggyback" on Houweling's protected technology. Houweling's intends to continue to enforce its patent rights against any and all infringers, in both the United States of America, as well as in foreign jurisdictions such as Europe,

Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Canada and Mexico. Houweling's will also vigorously defend any challenges to its patents worldwide and will exhaust all avenues of appeal against such challenges.

Houweling's commitment to defending its intellectual property rights mirrors its commitment to the development of new and innovative technology.


Houweling's Group is an industry leading greenhouse vegetable grower, propagator and marketer with operations in Delta, BC, Camarillo, CA, Mona, UT and Loveland, CO. A year-round grower, with more than 200 acres of greenhouse farms, Houweling's produces fresh and flavorful tomatoes and cucumbers sustainably.





*Source: Houweling's news release*



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THE NEXT GENERATION

## Millennials grow cooperatively to compete globally



Several important statistics stood out at the January 12 Ontario Apple Growers' annual general meeting. About one-third of the province's 16,000 apple acres has been planted in the last decade. Twenty-six per cent of the plantings are to popular, value-added varieties of Gala, Honeycrisp and Ambrosia. In the last five years, 1100 acres were planted to Gala. Another indicator of rejuvenation is a group of 20 young apple growers. As part of last summer's Ontario Apple Growers' summer tour to Essex County, many of them gathered to learn the latest technology at the Fruit Wagon, Harrow, Ontario. In the front line of this group, from left to right is, Luis Ruiz, Ian Parker and Richard Feenstra. Photo by Glenn Lowson.

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#### KAREN DAVIDSON

Information is liquid. That's how Brian Rideout describes this age of information overload, cascading from multiple sources. He's one of about 20 young Ontario apple farmers, mostly millennials, who share experiences in a loosely structured group.

While he's 46 and a generation X'er, he fits in easily. He didn't grow up on a farm but he's comfortable bridging the baby boomer farmers such as his father-in-law, Rusty Smith, Blenheim, Ontario. Rideout helps manage Manitree Fruit Farms, with 300-plus acres of apples, tender fruit and squash.

Technology exchange is crucial to competing in the global apple industry that has been revolutionized in the last decade with new varieties (Honeycrisp), high-density trellis systems (tall spindles) and more targeted crop protection products.

"Pruning is no longer about cutting off branches but about how to grow branches," says

Rideout. The philosophy has changed to thinking about where the branches will grow and how fast for the best quality. Other growers such as Gerbe Botden, Thornbury, Ontario agree that many factors are involved in precision thinning to optimize the crop load.

Botden, 24, is a second-generation grower at Botden Orchards, who remembers the first organized meeting at Ontario Apple Growers' annual summer tour of the Georgian Bay area two years ago. Since then, the group has met two or three times a year to discuss best practices in establishing a new orchard, pruning techniques and how to access government grant programs. He's actively engaged in 400 acres of Red Prince, Honey Crisp, Ambrosia and McIntosh varieties grown under a high-density system.

As the group moves forward in 2016, Botden is also participating in cross-border events such as the International Fruit Tree Association's (IFTA) meetings in Grand Rapids, Michigan on February 6-12.

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**No one wants to lose the shirt off their back. By sharing information, you have each other's backs.**

~ Ian Parker

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The common thread with all of these young growers is their strong regional ties but willingness to pursue knowledge in other geographies.

Ian Parker, 25, is learning the apple industry from Charles Stevens, Wilmot Orchards, Newcastle, Ontario. "What I like about this young farmers' group is that we're not competing against neighbours but rather competing against the world," says Parker. "No one wants to lose the shirt off their back. By sharing information, you have each other's backs."

For example, apple maggot was an aggravating pest a couple years back. The group shared information on spraying strategies as well as how to keep workers engaged while waiting

for re-entry intervals to lapse.

Parker points out that Ontario has several apple-growing regions. Sharing information about thinning strategies can be very beneficial to growers in different regions. If a specific region is having unusual weather during thinning time, then it's advantageous to share how that situation is handled.

Finetuning crop protection is a common link between all these growers. "For me, I was overwhelmed by the world of chemistry," says Parker, "but after four years, I feel more confident about what to spray and when. I realize I'm not the only one struggling to keep up."

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