



Canada – Mexico – USA

North American Tripartite Committee on Agricultural Statistics

Meeting Notes

To be supplemented with PowerPoint Presentations

October 27-28, 2008

Ottawa, Ontario

Opening remarks by leaders of all three agencies representing Mexico, U.S. and Canada contained the following key points:

- Very important that this group continue its work, even with tight resources.
- Need to determine doable priorities for the next year and focus on them.
- Need a monitoring method to ensure progress is made on the priorities.

The following summary of priority items was accepted during a wrap-up session at the end of the meeting. Note that Priority 1 items are the most important tasks and must be advanced prior to the next meeting. Priority 2 items, are somewhat less important/urgent, and will be worked on as time permits prior to the next meeting, while Priority 3 items will be held for a later time.

Theme I – GIS/Remote Sensing

1. Produce a North American Crop Condition Assessment Program (Priority 3).
 2. Produce graphic representations of Census of Agriculture data for all three countries. Produce a list of key themes for discussion at the meeting in May 2009 (Priority 2).
- Working Group Members: Richard Dobbins (co-leader), Humberto Martinez, Jeff Bailey (co-leader)

Theme II – Web Page

1. Upload and release the Fact Sheet annually in November (Priority 1).
 2. Activate the links for all data in the current Fact Sheet (Priority 1).
 3. Update the contacts for the committee and each working group regularly, beginning now and again in February 2009 (Priority 1).
 4. Canada will send Mexico the name of the Web site contacts for the North American Tripartite Committee on Transportation Statistics (Priority 1).
 5. Update links from the Tripartite Web site to the sites of relevant statistical, agricultural, embassy or other Web sites for Mexico, Canada and the U.S. (Priority 2 or 3).
 6. Promote the Committee's Web site (Priority 2; after data links established).
- Working Group Members: Alain Bertrand, Rich Holcomb, Angelica López (leader)

Theme III – Census

1. Prepare a highlight brochure with data from all three Censuses of Agriculture (Priority 3).
2. Initiate work to prepare four-page theme reports using a standard format (Priority 3) by having the working group first explore content ideas only for the meeting in May 2009. (Priority 1).

- Working Group Members (all are co-leaders): Dave Aune, Lynda Kemp, Ulises Miramontes

Theme IV – Fact Sheet

1. Update the current Fact Sheet and background data annually in November (Priority 1).
 2. Proceed with draft Trade Fact Sheet, including agreed amendments, in preparation for its release on the Committee's Web site (Priority 2).
 3. Prepare an information page related to the Fact Sheets describing the links to data sources (including the fact that more recent data may be available for specific series through the links) and the updating process (Priority 2 or 3).
 4. A decision was not taken on the best method for notifying users when updates are made to data series in the Fact Sheet. For the time being, a footnote will be carried on the Fact Sheet noting when the last updates were made.
- Working Group Members: Lance Honig, Ulises Miramontes, Paul Murray (leader)

Theme V – Agricultural Data Concepts

1. After making small additions to the coverage section and clarifying the definitions, add the concepts document presented on October 27, 2008 to the Committee's Web site in January 2009 (Priority 1).
 2. Develop a matrix relating to the concepts relevant for each country (Priority 2).
- Working Group Members: Kevin Barnes (co-leader), Raul Bolaños, Claude Poirier (co-leader)

Theme VI – Common Livestock Releases

1. The next commodity to be reviewed for potential joint release (Canada-US) is sheep (Priority 1).
 2. Canada will examine its livestock questionnaire regarding the possibility of producing data on common hog weight classes, and will conduct a joint review of the possibility of using common reference dates with the US (Priority 1).
- Working Group Members: Dan Kerestes, Gabriella Martello (leader), Ulises Miramontes

Theme VII – Common Crop Releases

1. Examine the possibility of releasing on a specific date (on or around it) the common data (area, production and sales) for field fruit and field vegetable data and greenhouse flowers and nursery data that all three countries collect and publish on the horticulture sector (Priority 1), but do not pursue work on other horticulture/greenhouse data at present.
 2. These common data would be published using the Fact Sheet approach developed by the three countries (Priority 1).
- Working Group Members: Marco Morin (leader), Lance Honig, María Soledad Cruz

General Decisions

- A teleconference will be held on or about February 12, 2009 to discuss progress to date and to do early planning for the Committee's meeting in May 2009.
- Mexico will host in May 2009, perhaps in Guadalajara. Actual location to be confirmed at a later date.
- 2009 Planning Committee: Dan Kerestes, Ulises Miramontes (leader), Paul Murray

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