Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

April 8, 2006 Annual General Meeting

Interested in Garlic? **You are invited to our AGM on Saturday April 8th at the Woodstock OMAF office 595236 Highway 59, just north of Woodstock.**

Coffee will be on at 9 am and meeting starting at 9:30.

Speakers: ***Becky Hughes- Clean Seed*** ***John Zandstra – Allicin Content***

Jamie Doran from "Glass Onion"

President's Message:

With the recent change in weather the Garlic crop should soon be out of the ground. Its been a busy winter for the organization. We have 2 excellent projects approved for CORD IV funding. The first is "the Clean Seed Project" and Becky Hughes is the researcher who will be working on this for the next three years. The goal is to have clean disease and virus free seed stock.

The second project is "The Allicin Project" and researcher John Zandstra will be heading this up. He will be comparing Allicin levels using different cultural practices, as well as comparing some grower samples and imported garlic samples for Allicin levels. This should finally give us the scientific proof that our Garlic is better. Both Becky and John will be at the Annual General Meeting on April 8, at the Woodstock OMAF office and will be covering their projects in greater detail.

We have also been busy this winter doing much needed overhaul of the website. We have established some good links to international garlic sites, created new sections for articles, past newsletters, archives etc. We will be having a recipe section. We are still updating the section for members who buy and sell garlic. I need members info for who buys and/or sells garlic so we can put it on. Hopefully by updating the site more customers, and growers who want current information on garlic and the association can access it easily. Please take a moment to look at the website and suggest improvements. www.garlicgrowers.on.ca

There was a very good article in the Globe and Mail on Saturday March 4 entitled "China Keeps Bad Company". The article goes on to explain how the Chinese government are supporting some of the world's nastiest regimes. Its interesting to see how they are using some of the money they have made by dumping Chinese agricultural products into Canada and other countries. We all know their history around garlic, but they are currently dumping apples, and honey into Canada. To the Chinese, business comes first and self interest is all that matters.

Other News

For those who declare income from farming and have participated in the SDRM and CAIS programs, there were two recent important announcements. First, at the recent Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting in Ottawa the new federal minister for Agriculture Chuck Strahl did admit that even though the conservatives campaigned to eliminate the CAIS program that it would still survive for at least 2006, and 2007 before any new (as yet undesigned) program could take its place. Garlic along with other horticulture crops has always been an eligible crop. The second announcement was by Ontario Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs Minister Leona Dombrowsky that there would be a payment this spring for Horticulture crops based on 2.6% of 2004 eligible net sales, plus continued funding for the SDRM program for 2006, and 2007 provided the fed's put up matching 60% funding. So for those of you reporting income for CAIS in 2004 you will automatically recieve a cheque based on all horticulture crops sales. If you have not participated in either program, but do report income from farming then you will have to apply to OMAFRA. ***Regards & Garlic - Mark Wales President GGAO***

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**** KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THIS LETTER?***

CALL (519) 934-2119 or acowan@bmts.com

Not receiving "The Grower"? Call Mark Wales 519 773 7352

Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Membership Application & Renewal Form

Fill in and Print this form and mail it with your fee to the address at the bottom.

Farm or Company (Member) Name: _____

Name of the designated person representing
the farm or company (Member): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email: _____

For Harvest in 2006 -- # Pounds Planted =_____ on _____ acres

I'm interested in Crop Insurance: _____ Varieties Grown: _____

I would like to contribute to the Association by being involved in the following:

- ☐ Promotions
- ☐ Executive
- ☐ Field Day
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Web Site
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ OFA/Lobbying

Membership Fee for ALL members is $50 per year

Signature of Member Representative: _____ Date: _____

Send Completed Membership Form and cheque made payable to "Garlic Grower's Association of Ontario"
To: **Alan Cowan, Treasurer GGAO, R.R. #2, Allenford, ON N0H 1A0**