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John Les, Chair
British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board
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March 7, 2018

Mr. Les,

Thank you for the February 2nd and February 15th correspondence with regards to the Quota Assessment Tools Supervisory Review. We appreciate all the time and effort that all parties have placed into this process and we are pleased that we are now in a position to move forward on some of the recommendations included in the submissions.

We wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of our next steps and timeline and to provide you with an opportunity to provide us feedback on our way forward to implementing the decisions included in the FIRB documents.

- 1- The Board will carry out the Quota increase and change in allocation percentage for New Entrants as well as the conversion of NE Growers with 10 full years of production to Commercial growers as described in our submission. We will make those changes effective April 29th, 2018 which corresponds to the beginning of our new Quota year.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify that the recommendation to change the allocation methodology proposed in our submission was included in our June 6th draft submission that was distributed to all growers and turkey sector stakeholders. The feedback on harmonizing the two allocation systems with a 2,500 kg increase in Quota for New Entrants was well received by those who provided feedback to the Board.

- 2- Organic Quota: The Board has decided to carry out further consultation with regards to the elimination of this category of Quota. We believe that more discussion with regards to this topic could help us draft new regulations that can help grow the sector. We hope to propose changes to this sector in the fall of 2018.

In the meantime, the Board will eliminate section 8 of the current regulations (included below) effective April 29th, 2018.

8. In the event that the Board approves the production of certified organic turkey by a grower holding commercial quota or new entrant quota, the Board will issue a three (3) year renewable approval to the grower in a defined amount of production. The grower will be required to produce the defined amount of certified organic turkey for a minimum of three (3) years before being permitted to convert the approved production volume back to commercial turkey or new entrant turkey. Applications to renew for a further

three (3) years must be made on/or before the 2nd anniversary of the approval or the approval may terminate at the third anniversary.

The reason for this removal is that we believe that this section of the orders is one of the main impediments to growth in this sector and this section is causing undue hardship to organic growers who may have developed disease issues in their pasture that could be better controlled by indoor commercial production.

One example is Blackhead. This is a disease that can be devastating to turkeys but only cause minor issues for other types of poultry and wild birds. Blackhead can be transmitted by either the Cecal worm or earthworms which are commonly found in fields in British Columbia. Once Blackhead has been transmitted to a pastured turkey, it will spread and it can survive for very long periods of time in the outdoors. Since Organic production requires the use of pasture land, the growers who are producing organic turkey will be exposing their subsequent flocks to this disease once the turkeys are allowed to go into the field. Blackhead is much easier to control in an enclosed facility with concrete floors.

- 3- Finally, the Board will maintain the existing Transfer Assessment methodology and New Entrant Program outlined in our regulations while we carry out more consultation on these subjects. The FIRB decision provides for many options and the Board believes that reviewing all options again with Stakeholders should be carried out before a final decision is made. This decision is easier for the Turkey Board to undertake since our sector is unlikely to allocate incentive Quota in the near future.

The BCTMB will endeavor to inform the FIRB of the results of our consultation processes and we will commit to follow the directives included in the Supervisory Decision when drafting future regulations.

Regards,



Kevin Klippenstein
Board Chair