



DO YOU HAVE LAND THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BROKEN?

Ducks Unlimited Canada is looking to buy acres suitable for wetland restoration » PG 3

COMPENSATION FOR PREDATOR KILLS IS A WIN-WIN, STUDY SAYS

Ranchers provide wildlife habitat and shouldn't be stuck with losses, says researcher » PG 3

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EXPRESS

ONE YEAR LATER: Carbon tax eating into bottom line

There's no overall figure on what the carbon levy cost farmers, but producers say they are feeling the impact

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

It's hard to put exact numbers on it — but Alberta's carbon tax is taking its toll, say farmers.

And that toll increased at the start of the year, when the carbon tax increased to \$30 a tonne — a 50 per cent jump from the initial \$20-a-tonne tax implemented a year ago.

SEE CARBON TAX » page 7

You might soon be seeding in February or March

Researchers successfully grow 'spring-type winter wheats' in Alberta and say it could be an option by 2020

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF / RED DEER

What kind of wheat crop might you get if you seeded in February or March?

One that's not half bad, if the preliminary results of a recent federal research study are any indication.

"How can you get a little more yield? Well, you can put it in the ground a little bit earlier," said University of Alberta PhD candidate Graham Collier, who was involved with the study.

"If you look at seeding rate studies, most of the time the best yield comes from that earlier seeding date. And we have the opportunity to seed a lot earlier."

Collier's research was birthed in a winter wheat-breeding program, which essentially created "spring-type winter wheats" by crossing Norstar — a popular winter wheat variety — with Bergen, a CPRS wheat variety. Several of the spring lines from that cross had better cold tolerance than some winter wheat varieties. So a team led by Ag Canada researcher Brian Beres decided to see how far they could push their seeding dates without sacrificing yield.

"We are going in early, and we are trying to stress these plants," Collier said at the recent Cereals

SEE EARLY SEEDING » page 6



Some Alberta producers may be able to seed their wheat as early as mid-February, but there's still work to be done, says researcher Graham Collier, seen here in test plots seeded 'ultra early.' PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Provincial legislation isn't helping fusarium battle, say seed growers

Grower groups argue a zero-tolerance approach is the wrong way to reduce its spread in Alberta

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Fusarium graminearum is listed as a pest in the province, and that's causing trouble for the crop industry.

"Now that it's in the pest act, it's hard to get it out of the pest act," said Ward Oatway, chair of the Alberta Seed Growers Association and owner of Oatway Seeds in Lacombe.

His association, the provincial wheat and barley commissions, and others have been calling on the province to take fusarium graminearum off the Agricultural Pests Act. That would still leave the fungal disease under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, which as its name suggests, is about controlling rather than eradicating a pest. (For example, the Norwegian rat is a pest but coyotes and magpies are nuisances.)

Fusarium graminearum was listed under the pest act in 1999, a few years after a major outbreak in Manitoba of the fungal disease, which reduces yield and grade and produces mycotoxins. That means there is zero tolerance for fusarium graminearum in grain seed, and seed growers are prohibited from selling seed with any detectable level of the pathogen.

"It's hard because there hasn't been any enforcement for it. You don't want to break the law, so you test it, and you do it and you follow the rules as best you can," said Oatway. "It's harder in certain areas of the province where you have seed that has 0.5 per cent of fusarium and you can't sell it."

That's despite the fact that seed treatments kill fusarium.

"If you treat the seed, the chances of fusarium being there is virtually none," said Oatway. "That's different from what we've been told in the pest act. If it's present and you're testing, it's a moot point because you can't sell it."

Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier has been sympathetic to calls from farm groups and his department recently conducted a survey (which closed earlier this month) and has pledged to review the matter. However, several municipalities are opposed, said Oatway.

Downgrading the pathogen to a nuisance and dealing with the problem on a case-by-case basis is the better route, he said.

"As long as you're treating your seed and testing the seed, you're propagat-



Fusarium head blight on wheat spike. PHOTO: JANET LEWIS/CIMMYT

ing it much less. We're not looking for an accepted level. We're looking for a flexible program — not just zero."

For example, durum is a significant challenge for seed growers. Good durum seed can have one or two per cent fusarium in it, and be treated to remove the risk. However, under the current law, that treated seed can't be sold in Alberta. That's not the case across the border in Saskatchewan, where seed can contain up to 20 per cent fusarium before it is treated.

"With seed treatment, the problem is that fusarium on the seed does not mean that you will have fusarium on

your crop in the fall — it just means that it's present," said Oatway, adding proper management and rotations are the keys to reducing the spread of the pathogen.

Moreover, fusarium was added to the act to stop its spread through seed, but the main way it's transmitted is through crop residue — either when it's blown into neighbouring fields or hitches a ride on equipment, he added. The main problem areas are south of the Trans-Canada, although it has been found in the Wainwright area, and is moving towards the Saskatchewan border.



"If you treat the seed, the chances of fusarium being there is virtually none. That's different from what we've been told in the pest act."

WARD OATWAY

"It's not as pervasive as clubroot, but it moves with the environment, as well," said Oatway.

"We get a wet year, and there's more fusarium present.

"Back in the early 2000s, during the drought, we were getting fusarium hauled in (from other provinces) and fusarium on the bedding straw. That didn't help the situation at all either."

Having the disease in the pest act also prevents new crop varieties with better fusarium graminearum tolerance from being brought into the province.

At present, the industry has been educating people to test their seed. Only 20 per cent of the seed sold in Alberta is certified and has gone through testing, said Oatway. The vast majority of producers don't test their seed if they are using farm-saved or common seed, which means that they could be spreading fusarium without knowing it.

"It's not just the seed growers who have to worry about this. We're the ones who have to follow the rules by law," he said.

In order to prevent fusarium, producers should use pedigreed seed, test their own seed, and use good management practices, such as a four-year rotation, he said.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

This ain't your grandad's conservation easement

Easements are changing with the times, making it less restrictive for producers to protect their wetlands

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

Producers can find the right buyers for their marginal lands — if they know where to look.

“There is a market out there now for some of these parcels of land that producers might have a hard time off-loading because they're wet,” said Warren Robb, provincial policy specialist at Ducks Unlimited Canada.

And his organization just happens to be in the market.

“We purchase a parcel of land, restore the wetlands, restore the uplands, put a conservation easement on the title, and then we sell it back to the agricultural community,” said Robb.

“When we put a conservation easement on the title, we're selling this land for 20 or 30 per cent less on some of this land. But we've reseeded the uplands and re-established it, so cattle producers would be able to purchase a brand new grass stand for 80 cents on the dollar.”

Ducks Unlimited Canada put on a pair of workshops this fall tailored for realtors in Alberta where it highlighted the challenges and opportunities of buying and selling land that has a conservation easement on it.

Pedigreed seed grower Shawn Jacula attended the workshop with his “real estate hat” on — he also owns RE/MAX Prairie Realty in Vermilion. But as a farmer, he sees the potential benefits of putting conservation easements on his marginal land and producing ‘ecosystem services’ (conservation efforts given a dollar value by organizations like Ducks Unlimited Canada).

“There is a lot more opportunity, especially on the pasture side,” said Jacula, who farms near Vermilion. “It's something I'm considering and will want to think about when working land and purchasing future land.”

Like many farmers, Jacula had some misconceptions about Ducks Unlimited Canada.

“Their programs have changed from the old system that I heard about but never really experienced directly,” he said. “They are active buyers in our real estate market. And not only are they a potential buyer for your land, but in the event that a purchaser wishes to take advantage of some of their programs, it could help them financially as far as making their land more environmentally conscious.”

In many cases, the marginal land



Ducks Unlimited Canada conservation specialist Bryon Wolters points out the benefits of conservation easements to provincial policy specialist Warren Robb (right) and farmer Shawn Jacula (centre) at a real estate workshop this fall. PHOTO: DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Ducks Unlimited Canada purchases “shouldn't have been broken anyway,” said Robb. “That's the land we're turning back into grazing land for cattle producers.”

Restrictions

Of course, there are restrictions that come with any conservation easement — and that's what has turned producers off them in the past.

“The biggest barrier is that there are restrictions put on the land that really cannot be removed,” said Jacula. “It's not a decision that is going to last during one individual ownership — it's going to stick with the title of the property.”

But the restrictions aren't as stringent as some people may think, Robb added.

“Conservation in the past might have been looked at through a negative perspective — ‘If we put some kind of conservation program on our land, we're going to be restricted,’” he said.

“Not anymore. There are not a lot of restrictions to it. Our rules are simply don't break the uplands and don't drain the wetlands.”

Even so, producers will need to do their homework.

“It's something an individual should be educated on before they proceed with a conservation program,” said Jacula. “It all comes down to where the property is and what its potential future use could be — if there's any type of other uses that might come up down the road.”

“This is not going to be for everybody. But if they do their homework, it's something that could benefit them financially and on the environmental side of things as well.”

“There are not a lot of restrictions to it. Our rules are simply don't break the uplands and don't drain the wetlands.”

WARREN ROBB

For farmers not ready to commit to a conservation easement, Ducks Unlimited Canada offers other conservation programs, Robb added.

“There are a lot more opportunities for conservation for landowners now, so hopefully they start exploring the benefits of it. It's money in their pocket.”

But wetland restoration is the “biggest bang for their buck” right now.

“It's a 10-year lease, and we restore just the wetland,” he said. “If they want to restore a wetland, we're paying 100 per cent of the full market value for them to do that, and that's the only part of the parcel of land that we have the agreement on.”

“A lot of the time, they're not getting production off it anyway. If we can pay them 100 per cent of fair market value for that, they're coming out ahead. That's a pretty good deal for land that's going to waste.”

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

Predator compensation benefits all of society

Ranchers are key to maintaining wildlife habitat but pay a price because of predator losses, which are on the rise

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Ranchers play a key role in conservation by keeping their lands available to wildlife, and it's important that they be compensated for those losses, says a new study

“Our paper makes a case that there are benefits... if those ranchers who have depredation programs see some compensation for wildlife to be on their private lands,” said Mark Boyce, a professor of ecology at the University of Alberta.

If there were no financial compensation, there would only be negative consequences for ranchers who maintain wildlife habitat, which attracts deer, elk and moose and, in turn, large carnivores, says a paper written by Boyce, PhD student Andrea Morehouse, and master's student Jesse Tigner.

For the report, Morehouse investigated incident reports, reviewing nearly 4,500 claims from 2000 to 2016. Payouts to ranchers come from the Alberta Conservation Association, which has financed the compensation program partly through licences from hunters and anglers since 1996. During that period, the annual amount of the payouts increased eightfold to \$800,000 in 2016.

“The cost just keeps going up and up because of the increase of the numbers of wolves and increase in depredation, but also because the price of cattle has gone up substantially,” said Boyce.

In most provinces and in many U.S. states, compensation is provided via agricultural subsidies or government revenues.

Seventy per cent of the predation is caused by wolves because their populations have increased dramatically in the province. In the 1950s, there was a rabies outbreak in southern Alberta, and the government almost eradicated wolves through a focused kill effort. But since the 2000s, wolf populations have rebounded.

“Since 2000, almost all the potential wolf habitat was occupied in Alberta,” said Boyce.

In theory, farmers receive full market value for their losses through a rate, based on current market values, established by the provincial government. But that system doesn't take into account what the animals



Wolves account for 70 per cent of losses on Alberta ranches, says a new study. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

would be worth. Wolves often take breeding stock while bears mostly take calves.

“If bears get into calves in the spring, the farmer had those calves that she or he was planning to raise through the growing season, using the current annual production of forage on the ranch,” said Boyce.

Ranchers also argue wolves cause shrinkage in cattle because they are more anxious and don't gain weight when large predators are around. In Montana, ranchers are compensated for shrinkage, but that's not the case in Alberta.

The hot spots for predation are the southwest corner of the province, the Pincher Creek area, the Peace Country, and aspen parkland regions.

In the case of predation, a rancher can call a fish and wildlife officer trained to evaluate predator kills. If it's a confirmed cougar, wolf, or bear kill, the rancher gets 100 per cent compensation. However, older kills may be more difficult to determine as telltale signs — such as bite marks on the necks of wolf prey — may no longer be clearly visible.

It's important for ranchers to keep on top of their kills, and the paperwork involved is not onerous, said Boyce. He also recommends the use of dogs to ward off bears and having people ride through areas where their cattle are grazing.

“Anything that allows ranchers to retain wildlife on their land is a benefit for conservation,” he said. “It's not all bad that the Alberta Conservation Association is paying the bills (but) we think an agricultural subsidy program ought to be more broadly supported.”

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EDITOR

Glenn Cheater
Phone: 780-919-2320
Email: glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com
twitter: @glenncheater

REPORTERS

Alexis Kienlen, Edmonton
780-668-3121
Email: akienlen@fbcpublishing.com
Jennifer Blair, Red Deer
403-613-7573
Email: jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Heather Anderson
Email: heather@fbcpublishing.com

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Shawna Gibson
Email: shawna@fbcpublishing.com

DIRECTOR OF SALES

Cory Bourdeaud'hui
Email: cory@fbcpublishing.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES

Jack Meli
Phone: 647-823-2300
Email: jack.meli@fbcpublishing.com

LOCAL ADVERTISING SALES

Tiffany Taylor
Phone: 204-228-0842
Email: tiffany.taylor@fbcpublishing.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES

Mitchell Tityk
Phone: 1-888-413-3325 Fax: 204-944-5562
Email: classdisplay@fbcpublishing.com

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

Arlene Bomback
Phone: 204-944-5765 Fax: 204-944-5562
Email: ads@fbcpublishing.com

PUBLISHER

Lynda Tityk
Email: lynda.tityk@fbcpublishing.com

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Laura Rance
Email: laura@fbcpublishing.com

PRESIDENT

Bob Willcox
Glacier FarmMedia
bwillcox@farmmedia.com
204-944-5751

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Canada

OPINION



BY GORD GILMOUR
MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR EDITOR

Richardson International's decision to pull its financial support for the Canola Council of Canada, Soy Canada, and the Flax Council of Canada was a metaphorical bombshell.

The biggest loser under this scenario is surely the Canola Council of Canada, which received the lion's share of the \$1 million that Richardson says it shelled out annually.

Richardson executives told the media they weren't convinced the company was getting value for money. In particular, they noted they've been encouraging the oilseed groups to merge to get more bang for their buck.

The groups in question were apparently reluctant. The smaller ones worried they'd be lost in the shuffle and the far-larger canola council was said to be concerned that its efforts would be diluted.

It's never a bad idea to look for a better way. But it would appear, however, the company has concerns going well beyond capturing a few more efficiencies. It seems it is also pushing for a change to the mandate of the organizations.

Richardson is a privately held company and is completely within its rights to spend (or not spend) its money.

But for a grain company whose very existence and profitability hinges on volume of grain handled, it's a strange choice

to ignore the canola council's exemplary record of growing and maintaining volume through agronomy.

It appears that Richardson sees the canola council's efforts as redundant.

It's true that the industry has its own complement of agronomists, but there is a nuance between the roles of sales agronomists and independent extension advisers that should not be ignored — at least not by farmers.

It also doesn't recognize that the canola industry has some looming agronomic challenges, particularly clubroot. It was a Canola Council of Canada agronomist who first identified the disease in Alberta and the organization leads the charge against it.

Richardson also appears to object to the canola council's market development work, noting global canola production is now measured in tens of millions of tonnes annually. The company appears to feel there's no need to sing the crop's praises, and where there is, the private trade is doing a fine job.

That assumes the status quo will continue, however. Canola is still a relatively small crop. Global annual soybean tonnage alone is four times as large as canola production. The global oilseed market is a crowded place with many contenders and a lot of sharp elbows.

Canola has long made hay on its reputation as a healthy food ingredient. But the continua-

Canola council continues to play a critical role

Dealing with diseases like clubroot and extolling the health benefits of canola are jobs that never end

It also doesn't recognize that the canola industry has some looming agronomic challenges, particularly clubroot. It was a Canola Council of Canada agronomist who first identified the disease in Alberta and the organization leads the charge against it.

tion of that can't be assumed. In early December, Temple University suggested canola oil could be linked to poor memory and reduced learning ability in Alzheimer's patients.

There will undoubtedly be more research in this area, which will either prove these findings or deposit them in the junk science box. There's no question canola has its enemies. A quick Google search containing the terms "canola," "oil," and "harmful" returned nearly 400,000 hits in 0.57 second.

That's not to say science won't evolve and not always in the way an established industry desires. Note how research changed our understanding of the effects of trans fats created when vegetable fats are hydrogenated on human health, with repercussions that ripple throughout the food industry.

In the meantime, it is important to have an industry voice that can offer a reasoned response to public concerns.

Beyond that, the industry needs leadership that will chart a course for the future, both in meeting emerging market demands and supporting research.

The Canola Council of Canada takes a value chain approach to commodity development. It has continued to evolve over the 50-plus years it has been in existence.

Richardson's withdrawal is a blow but the council is in no imminent danger of demise. Farm groups and other industry players have stated they'll continue to support it.

Richardson should too, for its own sake.

gord.gilmour@fbcpublishing.com

Our stewardship is improved, but still not good enough

Whether you look at organic matter, emissions, resistance, or biodiversity, we can do better

BY DAVID ROURKE

Not only are farmers being trusted to look after the land, crops, and animals, we also want to do the best possible job ourselves.

The problem is we don't always have the clearest picture of what the best practices really are, and we of course operate within the confines of present technology and profitability.

Take the fundamental question of soil tillage, a practice that has dramatically changed over the past couple of decades.

At one time summerfallow was the general practice. It helped store soil moisture, provided nitrogen nutrition for plants and helped control weeds. However, after awhile we found there were negative effects. We were losing soil organic matter. The soil tilth and structure were declining because of this constant disturbance. As a result, we were experiencing mas-

sive losses of our precious topsoil due to wind and water erosion.

Through research we found better alternatives including continuing cropping, diverse rotations, and zero-till seeding. These practices were largely made possible by the introduction and wise use of zero-till equipment, glyphosate and other pesticides, as well as a lot of commercial fertilizer.

There's little doubt our soils are better for these changes, and that wind and water erosion have been significantly reduced. We have improved.

But are we environmentally sustainable?

When I take a step back I find that my farm, while financially sustainable, still has a long way to go to be environmentally sustainable. I use a number of benchmarks to measure this.

My soil organic is still only about 50 per cent of what it originally was. This reduced organic matter still means poor soil structure and low nutrient — soil food web

cycling. In other words my soil is not as efficient as it could be.

Rainfall is often not used where it falls, which can be problematic. Our crops only grow robustly for 60 to 70 days as a rule, out of a possible six-month window when we can expect liquid precipitation. Because there isn't always a robust growing crop to soak that moisture up, excess moisture can enter the soil in recharge areas, collect salts, and then be discharged in other areas causing saline seeps.

We use a lot of fossil fuels, but we don't burn them all. As well as diesel fuel, we also use lots of natural gas to make nitrogen fertilizers in the Bosch-Haber process. This in turn releases nitric oxides that are 300 times more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide.

We also lose phosphate from the system, have more pesticide-resistant weeds, an increase in yield-limiting plant diseases, continued though significantly slower soil erosion, and a significant loss of biodiversity.

As in the past, when we have been made aware of the negative effects of our actions, pioneering farmers and researchers look for yet better ways. Biological solutions, biomimicry, high-density grazing, zero till plus, organic zero till, and regenerative agriculture will become the norm.

Change is hard and some help may or may not be required. But to be the stewards of the land and be worthy of the trust given to us, we do need to change.

We must find better ways to build soil organic matter, soil health and dramatically lower our greenhouse gas emissions while providing adequate nutrient-dense food.

David Rourke has been farming for four decades near Minto, Manitoba. He is also the founder of Ag-Quest Inc., a contract research company; co-founder of the Western Feed Grain Development Co-op, which is a farmer-owned, wheat-breeding co-operative; and a board member of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

OPINION



Encouraging seed diversity is essential for the future

We should mourn the loss of diversity in older crop varieties and the concentration of seed ownership

BY **BRENDA SCHOEPP**
AF COLUMNIST

One of the wonders of travel and of food is the vast varieties of plants that beautify our world.

Many have medicinal and nutritional qualities and have been used for food or healing for thousands of years. Others are new hybrids that beautify the plate and add colour to our meal. They all have ancient roots as a perennial.

A perennial plant easily adapts to its environment and will change its output according to the environment it is in. The concept in farming was to cultivate the plant and create varieties that had a high level of production with the help of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. The result has been the breeding out of adaptive characteristics in exchange for volume, appearance, or taste.

To create this high-output plant, there has been single trait selection, genetic modification, and in recent decades seed patenting. The result is the majority of commercial seed varieties is owned by a few companies and the depletion

of adaptable plants from which to harvest a diversity of seeds.

At last seed count, more than 95 per cent of vegetable seed varieties had been lost in the 20th century. Did you know that in North America there were once 544 varieties of cabbage and there are now 28? That there were 158 varieties of cauliflower and now nine; or 288 types of beets and now 17; or 46 asparagus varieties and now one; 55 types of kohlrabi and now three?

In addition, it is estimated that 93 per cent of carrot, 91 per cent of eggplant, 90 per cent of pepper, 96 per cent of corn, 98 per cent of celery, 94 per cent of onion and radish and cucumber varieties have been lost.

It all adds up to a lack of seed diversity that will prove to be problematic in the very near future as farmers and gardeners strive to plant seeds that are fertile, strong, and productive. Today, the use of GM crops and the control of the seed has dominated sectors such as soybeans, corn, and cotton. The patent on a life form altered or unaltered equates to a loss of genomic liberty. For farmers, this is a debt trap.

In India, 11.6 million hectares are in GE cotton and farmer suicide is near pandemic levels. Debt has repeatedly been found to be the main factor in these deaths, particularly debt incurred to buy seed and chemicals. In this country, where there is a restriction on landownership and a farmer makes \$1,000 a year, they need low-input and adaptable crops from which they can keep the seed. Producing more has not solved the issue of market access nor the lack of community industry that can add value to the primary crop. Selling GM seed to the poor only ensures these communities cannot grow much-needed secondary industries that support agriculture.

Daily we are offered seeds of deception. Global warming has been identified as the culprit for the increase in malaria and mosquito-borne diseases, but the hard truth is that a non-indigenous and recently introduced GM crop, corn, produces a large amount of pollen that mosquitoes love. The production of corn in regions such as Africa, where other sources of food life were common has contributed to malaria and yet the

scientific discussion of the day is to counter the problem with a GM mosquito.

When Bayer purchased Monsanto, the world's dominant chemical producer converged with the world's largest creator of GM seed and owner of seed patents. To ensure future success, hundreds of private seed companies were purchased. The future of our world is now in the hands of a few, with six companies controlling more than 70 per cent of the world's seed. In Canada, 25 per cent of the arable land is in GM crops, mainly canola, soy, corn, and sugar beets.

Let us not be fooled by the rhetoric of our responsibility as farmers to feed the world. We already are feeding the world. It is up to global trade companies and governments to ensure we are paid for it and to deliver this food.

And let us not be led into a value-based discussion with corporate interests. The definition of 'shared values' was defined in one tweet about Bayer/Monsanto as "a management strategy in which companies find business opportunities in social problems." I would argue that the loss of seed diversification

is a shared social problem that these companies promoted and from which they will now profit.

I am not arguing the characteristics of seed, which may be bred or modified to be advantageous, but am deeply troubled by the ownership of such seed. Seed is an organic universal property that was not created by man and the perennial foundations cannot be replicated. These diverse roots belong to mankind to build upon. Protecting any form of the wild or perennial ancestor of plant life and encouraging seed diversity is essential for the future.

Farmers should have an informed right to choose, as should consumers. Choice is an international human right. The dignity of choice is also written in as a right in international and national food security policy. We have global and national statutes on which to lean on and create future change.

Brenda Schoepp works as an international mentor and motivational speaker. She can be contacted through her website www.brendaschoepp.com. All rights reserved. Brenda Schoepp 2018



BY **LAURA RANCE**
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Food policy recommendations reflect diverse interests

The report to Parliament will either cement the solitudes or set the stage for finding common ground

The 21 recommendations toward developing this country's first national food policy delivered to Parliament last month establish one thing fairly succinctly.

It's complicated.

However, from the first recommendation (making adequate nutrition as a basic human right) to the last (calling for a national food policy advisory body with a wildly diverse range of stakeholders), the committee's report marks an important step forward for food policy in Canada.

As odd as it sounds, formally recognizing access to affordable food as a human right, and acknowledging that eaters should be recognized as a "stakeholder" in agriculture and agri-food policy were something akin to heresy in some influential circles until very recently.

The federal government launched its public consultation

on a national food policy in May 2017. It received input from more than 40,000 Canadians on the four main themes to be addressed: increasing access to affordable food; improving health and food safety; conserving soil, water and air; and growing more high-quality food.

Expecting one policy to address all that is a tall order.

But when the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food started its hearings in September, it expanded that the mandate further to include considering the next generation of farmers and access to farmland and labour.

Depending on how you look at it, the resulting recommendations either cement the solitudes dividing the food sector into factions, or it sets a starting point for greater reflection on common ground within those incongruities.

For example, one recommendation urges ongoing support for supply management and regional food systems, making sure trade

negotiations don't undermine their domestic markets. Another recommends the government continue to focus on reducing barriers to export growth with a view to increasing Canadian agricultural exports to at least \$75 billion per year by 2025.

Many in the agricultural sector see continued support for supply management as undermining Canada's ability to negotiate improved access to foreign markets.

This recommendation is also bound to be controversial: "The committee recommends that the new food guide be informed by the food policy and include peer-reviewed, scientific evidence and that the government work with the agriculture and agri-food sector to ensure alignment and competitiveness for domestic industries."

The consultation and review of Canada's Food Guide also announced last year expressly denied special status to agricultural interests, which had been allowed under previous reviews.

These days, it seems science is often contorted by conflicting belief systems in highly politicized food debates, such as meat versus plant proteins, or conventional versus organic production. Just because GMOs are considered scientifically sound, are consumers morally bound to accept them?

For its part, the committee recommends streamlining the approvals of new biotechnology innovations, particularly new seeds and plant breeds. But it also recommends a greater government commitment to supporting growth of the organic sector, which eschews these products of biotechnology.

The committee recommends: keep food costs low, promote healthy food choices, help young farmers, solve the farm labour crisis, increase exports to support the Canadian economy, reduce food waste, help farmers innovate, increase trust, make farming more environmentally and animal-welfare friendly.

What does a government do with all that?

The danger is nothing, or perhaps even worse, a policy so vague and full of platitudes that it accomplishes nothing while allowing the government to say it did something.

In a policy note issued last month, University of Guelph agricultural economist Al Mussel warns against expecting too much, too soon.

"If some see the process as an opportunity for redress from historic inequities, or seek a fundamental change in policy, they will likely be disappointed," he writes, noting the history of food and agricultural policies in Canada, the shared federal and provincial responsibility, and the diverse factions at the table makes for a slim likelihood of a "stunning policy outcome here that sends the Canadian food system in some bold new direction."

Any policy that emerges will have to be aspirational rather than finite. The best possible outcome would be a commitment to a forum that keeps stakeholders at the table — and talking.

EARLY SEEDING ▶ from page 1

Innovation Symposium in Red Deer.

Of course, there's an obvious potential downside.

"The risks are obvious — the loss of your crop stand early because of freezing. It's going to cost you to go in and reseed again," he said.

"But there are an awful lot of benefits, too."

Water and weeds

And they aren't limited strictly to potential yield increases.

Ultra-early seeding allows plants to capture early-season moisture and take advantage of a longer vegetative growth period. It would also give producers more time by enlarging both the seeding and harvest windows, improve weed competition, and reduce the risk of pest and disease infestations.

However, all that is moot if the crop freezes out.

"We have something here, but what we need to do is figure out how we can best use it in Western Canada," said Collier. "We need to optimize the system."

To that end, researchers seeded plots in Edmonton, Lethbridge, Swift Current, and Fort St. John based on "trigger temperatures" — 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 C — rather than seeding by date.

They monitored soil temperatures at the same time every day, and once the soil hit the trigger for the first time, the plot was seeded.

"Our goal with soil temperature triggers is to standardize the conditions when we're seeding," said Collier. "Though the time is going



PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

to be different every single year, hopefully the conditions will be the same."

They were surprised how early they got into the fields.

"In Lethbridge in 2015, our first seeding date was March 6. In 2016, we seeded on Feb. 16 (although 2016 was probably the earliest spring I can remember."

Edmonton was a little later both years, but researchers were still able to seed super early — April 9 in 2015 and March 29 in 2016.

The typical recommended soil temperature for seeding spring wheat is no lower than 4 C, with 20 C being optimal. But yield wasn't affected by the low seeding temperatures, even

when the crop was planted into 0 C soil.

"By seeding ultra early, we didn't cause a yield decrease," said Collier. "Ultra-early seeding didn't cost us any yield. It worked out all right."

Next steps

And perhaps more surprisingly, AC Stettler — a spring wheat variety used as a check — performed just as well as the cold-tolerant wheats.

"We were a little caught off guard when Stettler did as well as it did. We expected there to be a benefit to those cold-tolerant genetics.

"The fact that there isn't makes

this system a lot easier for us to switch to. If we don't have to have a specialized variety to do this, we're on the road already."

But there is still plenty of work to do before producers start rolling out ultra-early seeding on their own operations.

"We can go and seed early, but that's not a huge help unless we know what the heck we need to do to be successful," said Collier, cautioning the results from this research are very preliminary.

"We have our proof of concept done. But what we want to build is seeding rate and depth recommendations, weed management strategies, nitrogen source and timing recommendations, and a

"We can go and seed early, but that's not a huge help unless we know what the heck we need to do to be successful."

GRAHAM COLLIER

selection tool so we can start using current varieties in this system.

"Hopefully there's something to this and we can come up with a recommendation strategy from it."

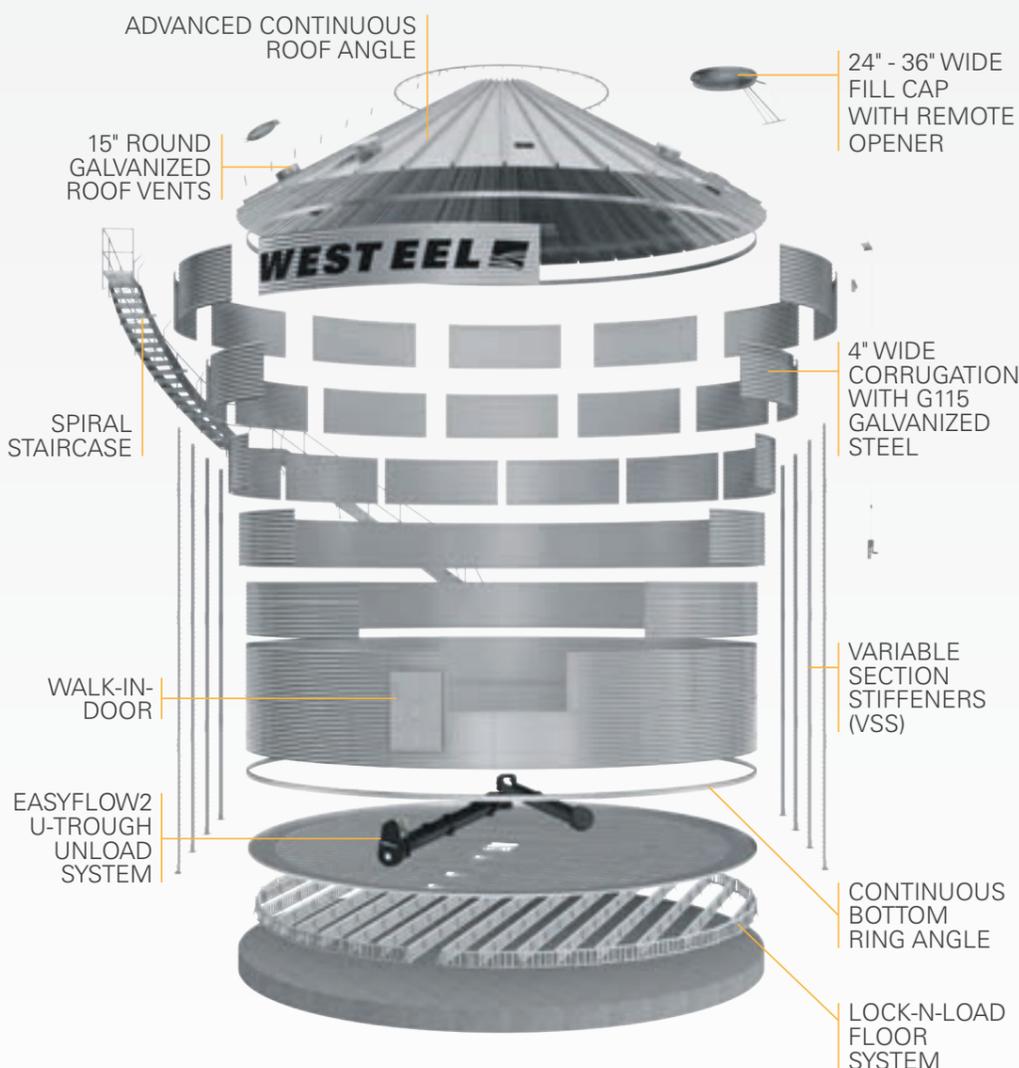
Collier expects that a full management package should be available by 2020, and in the meantime, farmers can begin planning for the day when they're seeding their wheat on a frosty February morning.

"You'd probably be pretty nervous going out and seeding on Feb. 16 — I'm not going to suggest that anyone go out and do that at this point," said Collier. "And I'm definitely not going to suggest that everyone should put all their wheat production in, in the first week of March.

"But if you start picking fields on your farm that are conducive to getting in early, you can start to try it in the near future."

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AGI

Get the latest performance data on canola varieties

The results from the 2017 variety performance trials are now available on an online, searchable database

CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA RELEASE

Canola Performance Trials results for 2017 are now available in online searchable database at canolaperformancetrials.ca. Canola growers can use this online tool to finalize seed decisions for the coming growing season.

The performance trials compare leading canola varieties in small-plot and field-scale trials. Results can be filtered by province, season zone, and herbicide-tolerance system. Producers can also search all varieties or do head-to-head comparisons of two or three varieties. With each search, days to maturity, height, lodging, and yield results are provided in easy-to-compare graph format.

"What growers get from this site are independent, third-party data on new and familiar canola varieties — essential information in making variety choices," said Alberta producer John Guelly, chair of the governance committee for the trials.

The online tool also provides the option to compare varieties for a number of years. The performance trials program has been running since 2011, and all data collected over the past seven years is available. A compilation of 2011-16 data (*Canola Variety Selection Guide: Featuring CPT Summary Data* booklet) is posted in the Trials Summaries section of the website.

The 2017 trials included field-scale comparisons of clubroot-

"What growers get from this site are independent, third-party data on new and familiar canola varieties — essential information in making variety choices."

JOHN GUELLY

resistant varieties and pod-shatter tolerant varieties in straight-combining trials.

"I encourage growers to take some time over the winter to explore the site and read the summary booklets to make full use of all the work involved in generating this data," said Guelly.

The trials were funded by Alberta Canola, SaskCanola, and the Manitoba Canola Growers Association with contributions from the British Columbia Grain Producers Association.

The Canola Council of Canada, which delivers the program on their behalf, is targeting 52 bushels per acre to meet global market demand of 26 million tonnes by the year 2025 under its *Keep it Coming 2025* initiative.

CARBON TAX ▶ from page 1

For some things, the per-unit impact is known but then you have to calculate usage. For example, the Jan. 1 increase added another 50 cents to a gigajoule to natural gas prices bringing the total extra cost from the carbon tax to \$1.51.

That adds up in a hurry when you're drying grain, said Stephen Vandervalk, who grows malt barley, durum, canola, and export timothy on his 10,000-acre farm near Fort Macleod.

"You could easily go through 400 to 600 gigajoules when you're grain drying, or even more if you're farming up north," he said.

But other costs are harder to calculate, such as the impact on the cost of shipping grain on part of the route to West Coast terminals. But it's already very expensive to transport grain from Western Canada and none of the export countries he competes against has a carbon levy, said Vandervalk, noting Australia had one but scrapped it.



"We're trying to bring the government to the realization about how it will affect primary producers."

JASON LENZ

"We're trying to bring the government to the realization about how it will affect primary producers," said Alberta Barley chair Jason Lenz.

Their key point is that farmers will pay more for inputs but have no way of passing on those extra costs.

"If I'm buying fertilizer, the supplier adds a carbon tax on to his input prices," said Lenz, who farms near Bentley.

In some cases, the tax also lowers the prices farmers receive, he said.

When barley goes to a malt plant or canola to a crusher, those operations pay the tax, too, and they make up for it by reducing the price they pay for that barley or canola, said Lenz.

Alberta Barley is also working to nail down the precise cost impact on farmers while lobbying the provincial government to have input on carbon-reducing projects funded by the carbon tax.

Milk producers have noticed increases in their gas bills, as well as their electricity costs, said Albert Kamps, vice-chair of Alberta Milk.

"It is an impact and it's not substantial, but it does cut into the bottom line," he said. "That should show up in the dairy cost studies."

Like Team Alberta and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, his organization is working to tally the extra cost borne by its members. Kamps also points out that milk producers can do little to reduce their natural gas use because they need hot water for clean facilities and clean milk, and to keep barns warm for animals.

Purple fuel (gasoline used on farms) has been exempted from the carbon tax, which now adds 6.7 cents to a litre of regular gas. And while that's appreciated, cattle producers haven't seen any benefits from the money raised by the tax which has increased costs for heating and electricity, said Kelly Smith-Fraser, vice-chair of Alberta Beef Producers.

Like grain production, the cattle business is an export-oriented industry, and ranchers are now at an economic disadvantage to their foreign competitors, she said.

Smith-Fraser, who raises Maine-Anjou cattle near Pine Lake, would like to see an ecosystems service program that would help ranchers care for their grasslands.

"That would assist us financially and environmentally, and ensure that those grasslands remain as they are and are not converted to cropland," she said.

Farmers from across the province have complained there's been no meaningful recognition of environmental benefits produced by farms and ranches, such as carbon sequestration and grassland preservation.

The province issues carbon tax rebates for lower- and middle-income earners. It says the rebate for one-third of households is larger than their carbon tax costs; another third have most of their extra costs covered; and one-third receive no rebate.



The fuel in the tractor is exempt from the carbon tax, but not the fertilizer that's being applied. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

But government efforts to reduce carbon emissions affect farmers in different ways, said Vandervalk. He points to technology that reduces emissions on tractors but adds \$70,000 to \$80,000 to their price tag.

"Tractors are getting used 200 to 300 hours a year," he said. "That's a pretty big expense for that amount of use. It's not like a car where you are in it 365 days a year."

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"You could easily go through 400 to 600 gigajoules when you're grain drying, or even more if you're farming up north."

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"That would assist us financially and environmentally, and ensure that those grasslands remain as they are and are not converted to cropland."

KELLY SMITH-FRASER

Canada in on TPP pact, to be signed in March

Canadian cattle producers hail tentative deal with 10 Pacific nations, including Japan, as 'extremely positive'

REUTERS / TOKYO

Farm leaders and ag groups were quick to praise a deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The agreement is an "extremely positive development for Canada's entire beef sector," said Canadian Cattlemen's Association president Dan Darling shortly after the announcement (which was made as *Alberta Farmer* was going to press.)

The cattlemen's association noted that once the Asia-Pacific trade pact is implemented, Canadian beef will "enjoy a competitive advantage" over U.S. beef in Japan, entering that country at the same preferential tariff rate as Australian beef.

The pact involves 11 countries but not the U.S., which was pulled out of the talks by President Donald Trump shortly after his election last year. A final agreement is expected to be signed in Chile in March, Japan's economy minister said.

Trade officials had been meeting in Tokyo to resolve rifts including Canada's insistence on protections for its cultural industries such as movies, TV and music.

An agreement is a win for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government, which has been lobbying hard to save the pact. Abe has painted the deal as a spur to growth and reform in Japan and a symbol of commitment to free



Access to Japan's meat counters will be one of the biggest wins from a new Trans-Pacific trade agreement, say Canadian farm and ag groups. PHOTO: REUTERS/ISSEI KATO

and multilateral trade at a time when Trump stresses "America First" policies.

A Canadian government source confirmed Ottawa would sign on to the deal, saying it had "secured real gains."

"We are happy to confirm the achievement of a significant outcome on culture as well as an improved arrangement on autos with Japan, along with the suspension of many intellectual property provisions of concern to Canadian stakeholders," Canadian Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said in a statement.

"The agreement reached in Tokyo today is the right deal," said

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"Our government stood up for Canadian interest and this agreement meets our objectives of creating and sustaining growth, prosperity and well-paying middle-class jobs today and for generations to come."

The Canadian Pork Council also gave its full support, saying its producers "can be comforted in knowing that Canadian pork will have competitive access to key markets such as Japan, and developing markets such as Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia."

Canadian pork exports to nine of the pact's 10 member coun-

tries in 2016 totalled 380,000 tonnes, worth over \$1.4 billion, the council said.

The Canadian Meat Council said it's "confident that this deal has the potential to increase beef and pork sales by at least \$500 million, creating the potential to support an additional 5,800 jobs here in Canada."

Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said the pact — now renamed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership or CPTPP — would be an "engine to overcome protectionism" emerging in parts of the world.

He added Japan would explain the importance of the deal to

Washington in hopes of persuading it to join.

Ministers from the 11 countries, including Japan, Australia and Canada, agreed in November on core elements to move ahead without the U.S., but a final agreement was initially blocked by demands by countries including Canada for measures to ensure the deal protects jobs.

"This outcome reaffirms the CPTPP countries' collective commitment towards greater trade liberalization and regional integration," Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry said in a statement.

Canada sought protection of its cultural industries and Vietnam wanted labour protection rules, Motegi said. They plan to exchange separate side letters with other members on those topics at the time of the signing.

Canada, which would be the second-biggest economy in the bloc after Japan, is also unhappy over the rules of origin for cars. The president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association of Canada panned the agreement, saying "we're signing a bad deal."

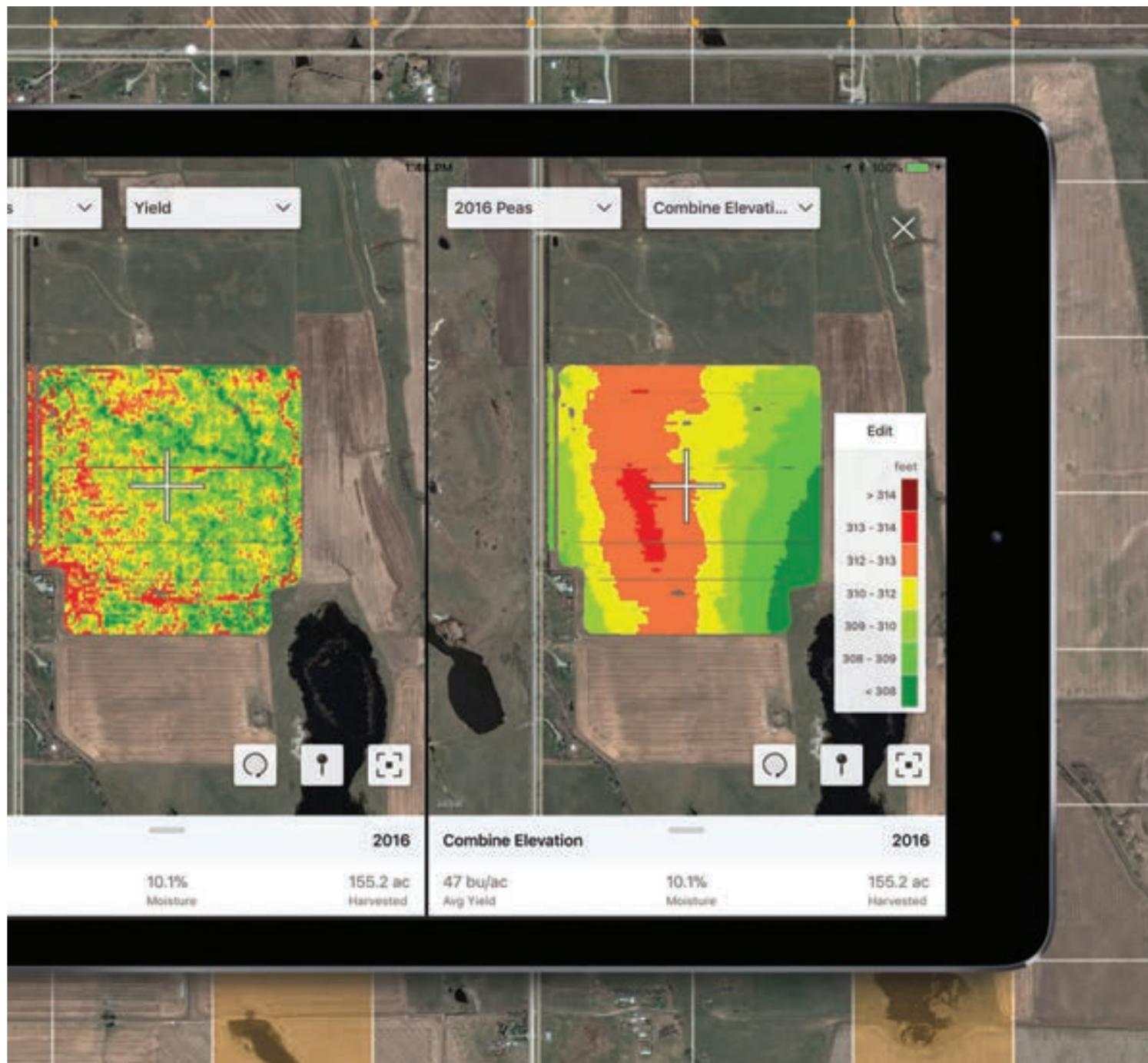
But others said Canada couldn't stand on the sidelines.

"Without the CPTPP it will be South Korea all over again — watching sales evaporate because we hesitated and didn't implement a trade agreement," Brian Innes, president of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, said prior to the agreement.



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- Gary Csöff,
Product Marketing Manager,
The Climate Corporation



Trans-Pacific agreement draws praise

Farm and agri-food groups say deal will open new markets but CFA issues warning on supply management

STAFF

Here's what farm and agri-food groups were saying after an agreement was struck on a new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal (also called TPP-11 or CPTPP):

Cereals Canada

The TPP-11 agreement raises the bar with respect to modern and progressive trading rules in Asia-Pacific and beyond. Canada's participation demonstrates much-needed leadership in advancing trade policy co-operation on the global stage.

Cereals Canada views this agreement as a necessary development for agriculture.

"This agreement is the best opportunity available to improve export competitiveness, growth and diversification for the Canadian cereals sector," said president Cam Dahl.

An improved trade environment will allow Canadian farmers and exporters to benefit from stronger access. This includes reduced tariffs and a more predictable trading environment.

TPP-11 countries already account for roughly 20 per cent of Canada's wheat exports.

As a result of this agreement,



The Port of Vancouver may get a lot busier with a new Trans-Pacific trade agreement. PHOTO: PORTMETROVANCOUVER.COM

Cereals Canada expects to see additional growth in existing markets like Japan as well as development in emerging customers throughout all of Asia (such as Vietnam).

Canadian Pork Council

Pork producers can be comforted in knowing that Canadian pork will have competitive access to key markets such as Japan, and developing markets such as Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia following the signing of the trade deal in March.

"The CPTPP is of tremendous importance to Canadian pork pro-

ducers who export over 70 per cent of their products to over 100 countries," said chair Rick Bergmann. "Because of improved access to key markets, Canadian pork producers can rest easy knowing that their livelihood and that of a thousand other Canadians in rural and urban communities who work in the pork industry is supported by this newest trade deal," he adds.

In 2016, Canadian pork exports to nine out of the 10 countries that are members of the CPTPP totalled 380,000 tonnes valued at more than \$1.4 billion. With this trade deal concluded, Canadian pork products will continue to

"This is fantastic news. The future for Canada's globally competitive agri-food exporters looks a lot brighter."

BRIAN INNES

be made available to more than 461 million potential consumers under conditions favourable to the Canadian pork industry.

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance

"This is fantastic news," said president Brian Innes. "The future for Canada's globally competitive agri-food exporters looks a lot brighter now that we will have competitive access to key markets in the Asia-Pacific and especially Japan."

Japan is Canada's third-largest export market for agri-food, accounting for \$4 billion in 2016 and has remained a strong advocate for the agreement. The CPTPP will not only provide the sector with unprecedented access to the high-value Japanese mar-

ket and rapidly growing markets like Vietnam and Malaysia, it will also provide Canada with a competitive advantage over the U.S., since that country is not part of the agreement.

"We're pleased that the new deal keeps the gains of the former TPP agreement intact — particularly the market access provisions," said Innes. "It's crucial that we implement this deal quickly."

"Our competitors are not standing still and already have free trade deals in these markets."

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Joining the CPTPP will open unprecedented new markets for Canadian farmers producing export-oriented goods, such as red meats, grains and oilseeds.

CFA commends Canada's trade negotiating team for recognizing the growth potential of our exporters; however, we call on government officials to make good on their commitments to farmers of supply-managed products (such as dairy and poultry), particularly as NAFTA talks continue.

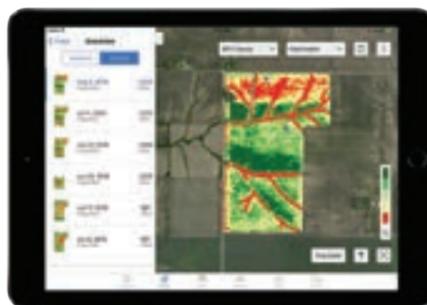
CFA is adamant that the Canadian government stand firm on its position to build on NAFTA's success and to not concede any additional market access for supply-managed commodities.

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SOY TRADE USES BLOCKCHAIN

A cargo of U.S. soybeans shipped to China has become the first fully fledged agricultural trade conducted using blockchain. Several companies participated in the trade, in which the sales contract, letter of credit, and certificates were digitalized on the Easy Trading Connect platform. The system produced "very significant efficiency gains," said a trading official with Louis Dreyfus. Blockchain, which underpins cryptocurrencies, is a distributed record of transactions that is maintained by a network of computers on the internet. Benefits include cost savings and greater speed. — Reuters

LOONIE TO STAY RANGE BOUND IN 2018

The loonie should stay range bound this year, say analysts. The dollar started the year about 77 U.S. cents, but moved up to crack the 80-cents mark driven by higher commodity prices and a Bank of Canada interest rate hike. A Scotiabank analyst said "it's difficult to see much more upside scope," noting the dollar has already hit the bank's end of the year target. A collapse in talks to retool NAFTA could push the loonie down while recent U.S. cut to corporate tax rates could also pressure the dollar, says currency watchers. — CNS

MARKETS



Bearish factors outweigh bullish news in sideways canola market

Crush margins are soft, old-crop supply is large and StatsCan's estimate doesn't help either

BY PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN

Canola futures hit some of their lowest and highest levels of the past month during the week ended Jan. 19, with the end result being a continuation of a rather choppy and sideways pattern.

Canola finished the week on a high note, but there's more bearish news than bullish in the background for now. Large net fund short positions, relatively soft crush margins, and ample old-crop supplies should all keep a lid on any potential rallies barring an outside catalyst.

While the jury is still out on the veracity of Statistics Canada's record-large 2017-18 canola crop estimate, the large official number has brought some complacency into the market, with little concern from end-users over running out of stocks before next year's crop is available.

While that 2018 crop is still a long ways off from even being seeded, the early money is on an increase in canola acres in Western Canada. While prices may not be all that great, the lost pulse acres will go somewhere and canola should still deliver decent returns.

In the meantime, while the futures market is looking sluggish, basis opportunities should pop up from time to time.

News that Richardson International would no longer be providing funding to the Canola Council of Canada did little from a marketing standpoint, but could create some ripples down the road. The company contributed an estimated \$1 million to the council on an annual basis, with that loss likely cutting into some of the research and promotional efforts of the organization.

The question now is whether or not Richardson's move will have a domino effect on other commercial players. Ultimately, a shift to an amalgamation of individual commodity groups is likely, but what will actually take place remains to be seen.

In the U.S., soybeans spent the week seeing some follow-through buying interest after jumping higher in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest supply/demand estimates, released Jan. 12.

Shifting weather forecasts out of Argentina that heightened concerns over hot and dry conditions for soybeans in the country were also supportive, although the crops are a far cry from being written off and conditions are generally decent in Brazil where the harvest is just getting started.

Corn futures moved up as well, but remain stuck in a fairly sideways trading pattern.

For three-times-daily market reports from Resource News International, visit "ICE Futures Canada updates" at www.albertafarmexpress.ca.



Wheat spent the week clawing back some ground after dropping sharply following USDA's larger-than-expected winter wheat acreage estimate. While above expectations, the acreage base would still be the smallest in more than 100 years.

Phil Franz-Warkentin writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market reporting.

Prairie wheat bids mixed along with U.S. futures

Minneapolis March spring wheat futures declined 4.25 U.S. cents on the week

BY ASHLEY ROBINSON
CNS CANADA

Wheat bids in Western Canada were mixed for the week ended Jan. 19, following the lead of U.S. markets where wheat futures fell in Minneapolis and rose in Kansas and Chicago.

Depending on the location, average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS, 13.5 per cent protein) wheat prices were mixed in Western Canada with some falling \$1 and others increasing \$1, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points compiled by PDQ (Price and Data Quotes). Average prices ranged from about \$226 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as \$249 in parts of Alberta.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but fell slightly to range from about \$2 to \$25 per tonne above the futures when using the grain company methodology of quoting the basis as the difference between U.S. dollar-denominated futures and Canadian dollar cash bids.

When accounting for currency exchange rates by adjusting Canadian prices to U.S. dollars, CWRS bids ranged from US\$181 to US\$200 per tonne, down slightly on a U.S. dollar basis on the week. That would put the currency adjusted basis levels at about US\$24 to \$43 below the futures.

Looking at it the other way around, if the Minneapolis futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$30 to \$53 below the futures.

Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat bids were down by \$1. Prices across the Prairies ranged from \$174 per tonne in southwestern Saskatchewan to \$194 per tonne in parts of Alberta.

Average durum prices were little changed, with a few rising slightly across Western Canada, and bids ranging from about \$268 to \$274 per tonne.

The March spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts Canada are based, was quoted Jan. 19 at US\$6.085 per bushel, down 4.25 U.S. cents from the previous week.

Average (CWRS) prices ranged from about \$226 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as \$249 in parts of Alberta.



Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPSR in Canada. The March K.C. wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.275 per bushel on Jan. 19, up 1.25 U.S. cents compared to the previous week.

The March Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.2275 on Jan. 19, up 2.25 U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar settled Jan. 19 at 80.26 U.S. cents, up by over a quarter of a cent compared to the previous week.

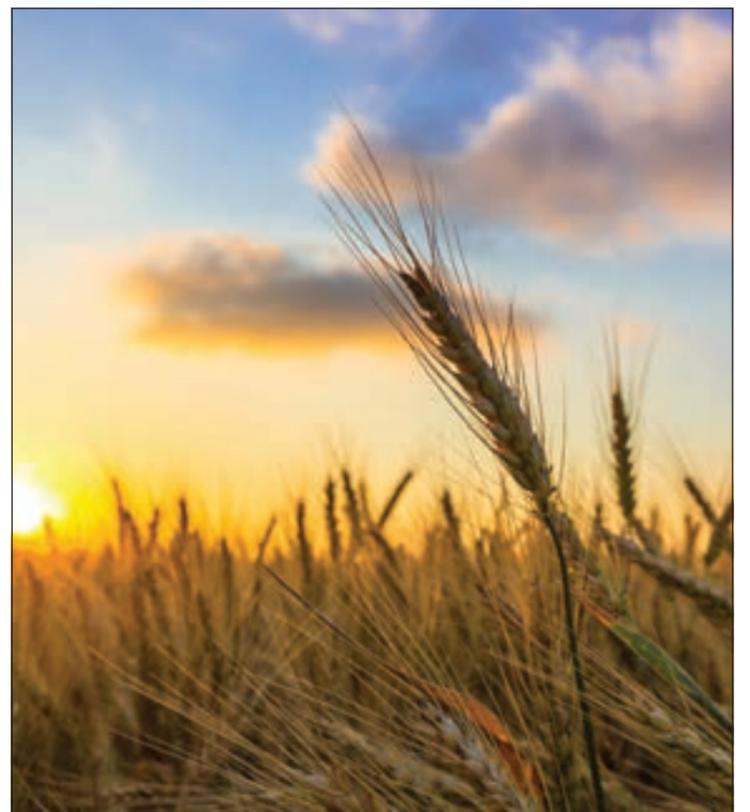


PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

New precision ag map promises to follow the money

'Profit mapping' is a tool that shows whether an input or application will make you money or not

BY JOHN GREIG

GLACIER FARM MEDIA/RIDGETOWN, ONT.

Precision farming can find the high-yield and low-yield areas on fields as well as the high-fertility and low-fertility areas.

But the missing link has been making money from the information.

But profit mapping could change all of that. Think variability in terms of profit, not yield.

"This is the beginning of making precision farming more valuable for us," said Clarence Swanton, a University of Guelph weed scientist who has researched profitability mapping.

It works by linking field data (such as yield, fertility and as-applied input maps) and to profit for each area (including the price received for the crop). A computer program crunches those numbers and plots profitability down to specific areas of a field.

As a result, the input decisions — such as seeding rate, fertilizer, chemicals — can be based not just on yield and soil fertility, but also the impact on profit.

That's going to change the conversation between producers and their advisers because it allows a farmer to "call BS on the scripts being produced for you," said crop adviser Mike Wilson, who worked with Swanton on the project and spoke about it at the recent Southwest Ag Conference here.

"If it's not performing how you want it to perform, ask them to change it," said Wilson, who works for Veritas, a farm management advisory company in Chatham, Ont.

Farmers know from their yield monitors that there's huge variation within a field, but it's not been easy to gauge the cost benefits of an input or application, he said.

"There are areas that can net \$400, but there are also areas that are losing \$400 to \$500 per acre," he said.

That's going to get producers' attention, he predicted.

And while there may not be a fix for a \$400 loss area, using variable-rate applications to put less fertilizer or seed on parts of the field where crops don't grow as well can boost profitability.

Swanton agrees and said profitability mapping could also help balance ecosystems and profitability on farms.

He foresees a time when farmers will be

"There are areas that can net \$400, but there are also areas that are losing \$400 to \$500 per acre."

MIKE WILSON



Mike Wilson is working on profitability mapping solutions for farmers with Veritas. PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

able to tell when it makes sense to just plant a cover crop instead of a particular crop, because it is unprofitable. It could also tell a farmer when land, or parts of farms make little sense to rent.

Swanton said he is excited about the idea that farms could be just as profitable, by enhancing yields in most profitable areas, and then increase the biodiversity on their farms by retiring or doing something else with unprofitable areas.

"Think of the public relations if we increase the biodiversity across our land," he said.

Grain handle down in CP's 'best-ever' fourth quarter

STAFF

U.S. income tax reform and significant increases in non-grain traffic more than offset a dip in CP Rail's grain handle in its fourth quarter of 2017.

CP had net income of \$984 million on \$1.7 billion in sales in what it described as its "best-ever" fourth quarter. The railway's full-year net income for 2017 hit \$2.4 billion on \$6.6 billion in revenues. The rise in fourth-quarter profit was "primarily as a result of U.S. tax reform," it said.

During the quarter, it moved about 115,100 carloads of grain, down four per cent from the year-earlier period. The full-year grain handle was 440,700 cars, up two per cent from 2016 while full-year fertilizers and sulphur carloads dropped three per cent.

CP also booked a record operating ratio of 58.2 per cent for the year. The ratio — operating expenses over net sales — is a key measure of efficiency. — Staff

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NEW BEEF PLANT RAMPING UP

Nearly a year after Harmony Beef slaughtered its first cow, the plant is now processing 360 head a day, says the company's director of marketing. Canada is its primary market at present, and Costco is the packer's largest customer, said Cam Daniels. It has also started selling to the U.S., made its first shipment to Hong Kong this month, and is in the process of obtaining certification required to sell to the European Union, he said. The company is also looking at selling to Japan, Korea, China, and Mexico. The plant is owned by Rich Vesta, a former top executive in the U.S. meat-packing industry. Vesta is happy with how the plant is performing and customers have praised the quality of its products, said Daniels. — Staff

FORAGE SEED REBATE OFFERED

Ducks Unlimited Canada and Crop Production Services are again offering a forage seed rebate for producers wanting to sow fields to grass. Under the program, Alberta producers receive a \$100 rebate on every 50-pound bag of Proven Seed forage varieties purchased at CPS retail locations. While the program is best suited to producers in the Parkland and Prairie regions, farmers located close to DUC habitat priority boundaries may also be eligible. Last year in Alberta, 12,905 cultivated acres were seeded to grass under the program. For more info, go to a CPS location or call 1-800-661-3334. — DUC

LIVESTOCK

National cattle checkoff on its way up this spring

The national levy used to fund marketing and research is going up by \$1.50 — the first increase since 2002

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Come spring, more than the grass will be rising — the national cattle levy is going up \$1.50 per head on April 1.

"The impetus for us was the national beef strategy," said Rich Smith, executive director of Alberta Beef Producers.

"The national beef strategy is a plan for us for the next five years in terms of moving our industry forward. These are ambitious plans in terms of market demand and productivity arising out of that strategy.

"We need to increase our industry funding if we are going to stay competitive globally."

The national beef strategy was developed by all the provincial and national organizations, and released back in 2014. Its backers said the current \$1 national checkoff, which has been in place since 2002, wasn't nearly enough to help the beef sector achieve its plan. They did an assessment of both Canada Beef and the Beef Cattle Research Council before coming up with the \$2.50 figure that goes into effect April 1. (Combined with the \$2 provincial levy, the total checkoff will be \$4.50 per head.)

A group called the Canadian beef advisers (which included reps from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Beef Cattle Research Council, Canada Beef, the National Cattle Feeder's Association, and the Canadian Beef Breeds Council) recommended how the \$2.50 should be allocated — 65 per cent to Canada Beef, 30 per cent to the beef research council, and five per cent to an issues management portfolio, which will be handled by CCA. (This works out to \$1.625 to Canada Beef, 75 cents for beef research, and 12.5 cents for issues management.)

Some provinces do things a little differently (Manitoba keeps some of the national checkoff for its provincial organization) but Alberta and Saskatchewan — which have the biggest cattle herds — pass on every penny, said Smith.



Cows will be doing their part for beef research and marketing — those sold after will be subject to an extra \$1.50 checkoff to fund those areas. PHOTO: MICHAEL MOSKALUK, SPECIAL TO ALBERTA FARMER



"We need to increase our industry funding if we are going to stay competitive globally."

RICH SMITH

"To put that in perspective, in Alberta, we (currently) charge \$1 — 80 cents goes to Canada Beef and 20 cents to the BCRC," he said. "So basically, we're taking BCRC from 20 cents to 75 cents and taking Canada Beef from 80 cents to \$1.62."

The research council also needs the funding boost because the rules are changing for government funding. To

get the same amount of funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the successor to Growing Forward, which also takes effect April 1), industry has to up its contribution.

"It's not going to give BCRC a lot more money, but it will allow it to have the science cluster operate at the same level that it currently is," said Smith.

Canada Beef has been getting money from a legacy fund, but that fund has finished.

"There's no big windfall for any of these organizations. It's more just enhancing the money they need, with some enhancements to the work they're doing. If we didn't increase the national checkoff, they would have been left with a lot less money to operate."

The increased checkoff, first presented to producers at their fall meetings in 2015, has been endorsed by Alberta Beef Producers delegates. Once the change comes into effect, beef organizations will be stepping up their communication efforts, first with producers and then those who collect the checkoff (such as auction marts, packing plants and dealers). The hope is that explaining why the increase is needed and how it will be used will solidify support for the national levy.

The \$2 provincial checkoff hasn't enjoyed universal support in the industry, particularly among cattle feeders, who account for the lion's share of the roughly \$2.5 million that Alberta Beef Producers refunds every year. (That's about one-third of what's collected.) But Alberta Beef has reached a deal with the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association to make the provincial checkoff, like its national cousin, mandatory (and therefore not subject to refunds).

Cattle producers backed the deal at their fall meetings and the feeders' association is putting it forward for approval at its annual general meeting next month. If it wins support there, it's expected the province will hold a plebiscite on making the provincial checkoff mandatory.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

Horse owners warned to watch for equine infectious anemia

Equine infectious anemia can be hard to detect but infected animals become lifetime carriers of the virus

STAFF

The province's chief veterinarian is warning horse owners to be on the lookout for equine infectious anemia.

A case was recently found in Newell County by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Dr. Keith Lehman said in a letter sent to vets across the province.

"The disease affects horses and other members of the equine family, such as donkeys and mules, and it is potentially fatal," the letter states. "The EIA virus is most commonly transmitted on the mouthparts of horseflies and deer flies. It can also be transmitted by needles, syringes, or surgical instruments, or through the semen of an infected stallion. Foals can be infected in utero, and they are usually aborted or die within two months of birth.

"There is no cure or available vaccine for EIA."

The letter says infected animals are carriers of the virus for life. However, they may show few clinical signs of disease, particularly in the early stages of infection. Loss of co-ordination may be the only clinical sign observed, but indicators can be anorexia or weight loss; depression; general weakness; intermittent fever up to 41 C; jaundice; bleeding under the tongue and eye; or swelling of extremities.

Equine infectious anemia is a federally reportable disease.

"If you suspect your horse may be infected, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible," states Lehman's letter. "Many other diseases can cause the same signs in horses, which is why it's so important to call your veterinarian to examine and possibly test your horse for EIA.

More information on the disease can be found at bit.ly/1gNSwGN.

The letter was sent to animal owners who have registered their land location under the Premises Identification System. To check if your information is current or to make a change, go to agriculture.alberta.ca/premises or call 310-FARM (3276).

Loose housing improvement wins Aherne prize

An isolation crate developed for an Alberta sow farm is one of two winners of this year's F. X. Aherne Prize for Innovative Pork Production.

The prize, named in honour of the late Frank Aherne, a professor of swine nutrition at the University of Alberta, is awarded for innovative solutions to production challenges. Sunterra Farms production manager Scott Hyshka was named co-winner at the Banff Pork Seminar last month for developing an isolation crate for loose housing system.

The device is used at Mountain Vista Farm, a 4,000-sow operation near Drumheller that uses competitive feeding shoulder stalls in its open housing pens. However, this feeding system can cause problems because aggressive sows can result in others not getting enough feed.

The collapsible crate can be opened to house an animal that requires segregation for additional nutrition or as a refuge. When not needed, it can be folded up against the pen wall. A sow can rejoin the group when fit.

The other co-winner of the Aherne prize was Ontario's Birnam Pork for a "ghost gate" that can be placed behind animals while breeding them. — *Meristem Land & Science*



Isolation crates collapse and can be stored against the pen wall when not needed.

PHOTO: MERISTEM LAND & SCIENCE

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Vaccines made simple(r) – basics you need to know

Here are some tips to cut through the confusion and help you decide on the best protocol for your ranch

BY ELIZABETH HOMEROSKY
DVM, MSc., DABVP

We have all been there — it's the day before preg check, you need to get your vaccine order in, and you just can't seem to remember what you gave the girls last year.

Was it the one in the turquoise box? The white box? It was the yellow box, that's it!

You put a call into the vet office and it turns out there is more than one yellow box?!? And now they are asking if you want the '5,' 'FP5,' or 'VL5.'

Vaccines are undoubtedly among the most confusing products on the market, and with so many options to pick from, it can

be very difficult to keep track of who gets what and when.

Here's some tips that will (hopefully) clear up some confusion and help you decide what protocol is best suited for each class of cattle on your operation.

Modified live versus killed

The two major types of injectable respiratory vaccines are modified live and killed.

Modified live vaccines generate a very rapid and strong immune response; are generally less expensive; provide longer-lasting protection; have a shorter meat withdrawal; and are available in smaller, two-ml doses.

However, there's a trade-off.

Modified live vaccines must be reconstituted with a sterile solu-

tion and be used immediately after mixing. They can also cause abortions in naive animals or those not vaccinated with the same brand and type of vaccine prior to becoming pregnant. Failure to booster annually can also cause an animal to immunologically revert to naive status.

So you must be on an approved modified live vaccination protocol before using these products and exactly follow the label directions before administering to a pregnant animal.

This is where a killed vaccine has a distinct advantage — it can be used in any animal, open or pregnant, at almost any time without concern. (However, booster vaccinations are often required to achieve adequate immunity.)

You can also refrigerate leftover product and use it later.

If you're vaccinating while preg checking, weigh your options and decide whether modified live or killed products are better suited for your operation.

However, if you vaccinate pre-breeding, there is no reason you can't opt for a modified live vaccine, as it will provide the most bang for your buck.

Look for the 'FP' label claim

Whether using modified live or killed vaccine, you will notice that following the trade name there are often a series of numbers or letters (such as: 5, 6, 10, FP5, or VL5).

It can look like alphabet soup, but it's fairly simple.

The number typically signifies how many different strains of viruses or bacteria are included in that product. 'FP' stands for 'fetal protection,' which means the vaccine will help protect against birth of a calf persistently infected (PI) with BVD virus. The calf of a pregnant animal exposed to the BVD virus could be a PI calf and a life-long shedder of BVD.

If your herd has experienced suboptimal fertility, is turned out on community pasture, or has newly introduced animals with an unknown vaccination or disease history, you should discuss using a product labelled 'VL5' or '10' with your veterinarian. These products provide protection against additional diseases known to reduce fertility and cause abortions (such as vibriosis and leptospirosis).

The 30-day rule

An animal is considered 'naive' when it has not received the same brand and type of vaccine in the past year.

As well, calves often don't have

Vaccines are undoubtedly among the most confusing products on the market



long-lasting immunity from vaccinations at branding and sometimes weaning, so replacement heifers are considered naive for the purposes of pre-breeding vaccinations (even if they meet the one-year criteria). You need to vaccinate naive breeding animals and particularly replacement heifers against common respiratory pathogens known to cause abortions prior to breeding.

However, the IBR (Rednose) viral component in modified live respiratory vaccines causes temporary inflammation in the ovaries. This can affect fertility for one cycle following administration in naive animals.

So vaccinate those replacement heifers and all other naive animals at least 30 days prior to breeding. Booster vaccinations can also be administered within the 30-day window without causing any negative impacts on fertility.

Tetanus threat

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria called *Clostridium tetani*, which thrive in wounds or tissue with little to no exposure to oxygen. Unlike castrating by knife, banding will often cause severe necrosis of the scrotum with pockets of dying tissue not exposed to oxygen — so tetanus is most common with banded bulls.

That makes it imperative to vaccinate with a seven-way or eight-way Clostridial vaccine that has a tetanus toxoid. Contrary to popular belief the '8' does not automatically mean the vaccine provides protection against tetanus — it usually means it's also effective against *Clostridium hemolyticum*, the bacteria responsible for Red Water disease.

Cows can also encounter *Clostridium tetani* spores in the soil while lying down to give birth. Once in the oxygen-deprived uterus, this can result in tetanus and subsequent death. So cows can also benefit from a tetanus toxoid.

Pre-conditioning works

There is a vast amount of research on the benefits of pre-condition-

ing and administering vaccines to calves prior to weaning. These include improved performance and feed efficiency and decreased morbidity and mortality. Pre-weaning vaccinations are highly recommended in all calves, especially if you're retaining ownership for backgrounding, finishing, or development as replacement heifers.

In the right relationship with buyers, pre-conditioned calves may also command a higher price. And they're only going to be more sought after as we reduce our reliance on antimicrobials.

A protocol for your ranch

No two cow herds are alike. Every ranch has its own unique combination of opportunities and challenges.

While there are subtle differences between those different-coloured boxes, in the end, it is far more important that your herd be vaccinated properly.

That means in the right location on the animal, at the right time of the year, against the right pathogens.

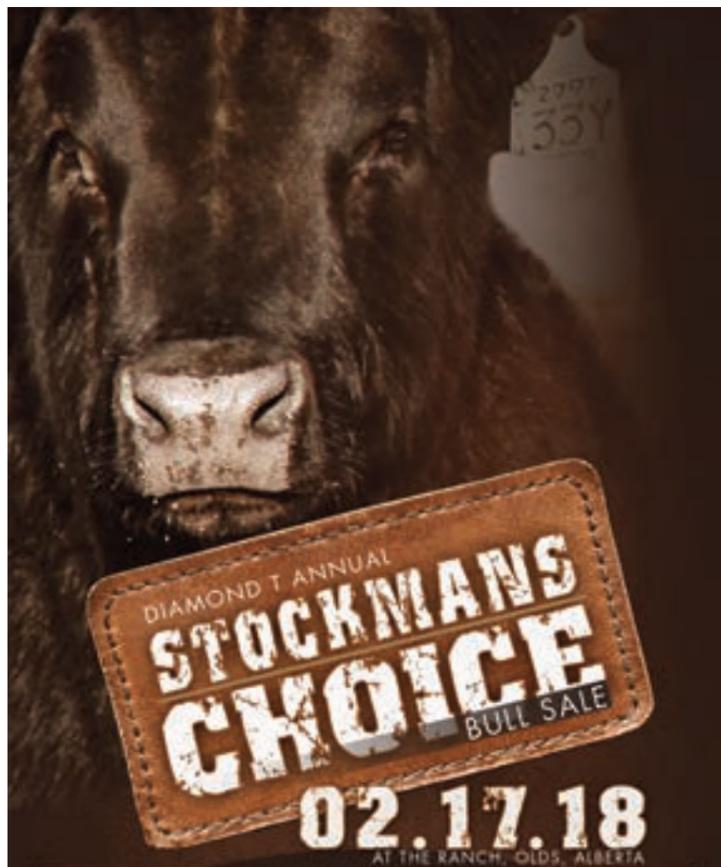
Your veterinarian can create a customized vaccination protocol for your herd.

And keep good written records — which aren't old invoices in a shoebox.

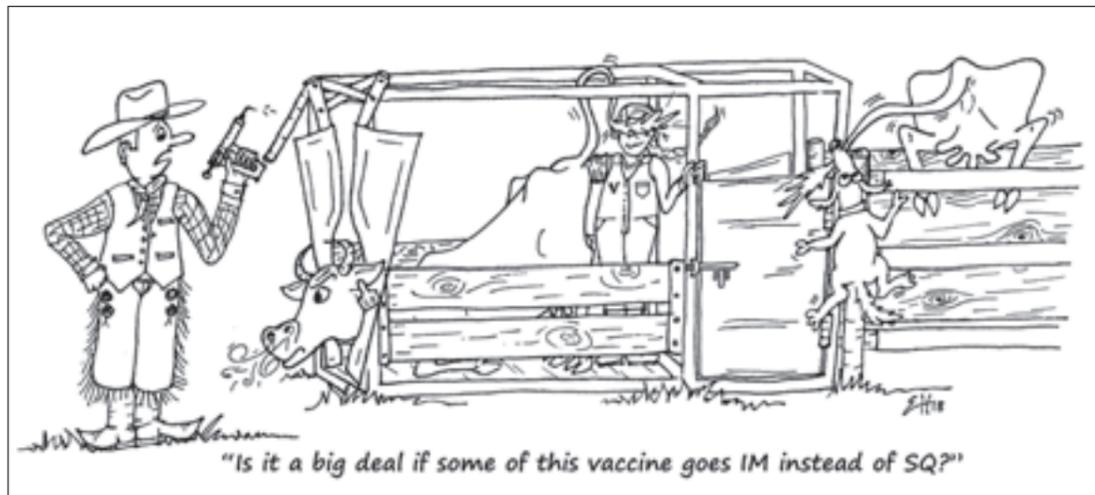
On multiple occasions, I've investigated IBR abortion outbreaks and discovered the cause was modified live vaccines improperly administered to naive animals.

When everybody is flowing nicely through the chute (that is until that last-minute weld breaks lose), it is easy to forget that new additions without a vaccination history should always be treated as naive. Our goal as veterinarians is to help you optimize the immune status and health of your herd through clear-to-follow vaccination protocols that are practical, safe, efficacious, and cost effective.

Elizabeth R. Homerosky is a commercial cow-calf producer and works as an associate veterinarian at Veterinary Agri-Health Services in Airdrie.



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Dennis Laycraft is the executive vice-president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

Pacific trade deal critical for beef producers, says CCA

But a senior CCA official says the federal cabinet is split on the issue, partly because of NAFTA uncertainty

BY JOHN GREIG
GLACIER FARM MEDIA

Canadian beef farmers could be out millions of dollars in new exports if Canada is shut out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), says the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

The trade deal would allow competitors such as Mexico and New Zealand better access to Japan and other Asian markets while not being part of it would mean "we would effectively be knocked out of the Japanese markets other than some commodity beef," said Dennis Laycraft, the organization's executive vice-president.

Canada has not committed fully to the TPP following the U.S. withdrawal from the talks, said Laycraft, adding that he understands the federal cabinet is split on the trade deal.

Renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement has complicated the process, he added. For example, the Canadian dairy sector was satisfied with giving up 3.25 per cent more access to TPP deal members when it included the U.S., he said. But it now faces the prospect the U.S. could be given additional access under a new NAFTA deal, which would be on top of the 3.25 per cent available to TPP participants such as Australia and New Zealand.

But the beef sector needs the deal, he said.

For example, Australia has struck a free trade agreement with Japan that reduces the tariff on its meat exports to 27.2 per cent (versus the 38.5 per cent tariff on Canadian beef). With the TPP, the tariff on beef for all countries moves down gradually to nine per cent, but as a first step to 27.2 per cent.

"We would effectively be knocked out of the Japanese markets other than some commodity beef."

DENNIS LAYCRAFT

That's prompted Alberta Beef Producers to urge its members "to contact their respective federal cabinet minister to share the vital importance of securing a trade deal in the Asia Pacific region."

The 27 per cent tariff would not only level the playing field with Australia but give Canadian beef an "11 per cent advantage" over American beef, ABP said in its *Grass Routes* e-newsletter.

"Under this scenario we are confident that our export sales would increase over \$200 million," the newsletter stated. — *With staff files*

Keeping more heifers can turn out well

Hanging on to your heifers in tough times can help preserve a herd's genetics

BY KRIS RINGWALL
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
BEEF SPECIALIST

How do you cut cow numbers in half and maintain the same number of cows calving?

That seems like a strange question, but one that surfaced as the Dickinson Research Extension Center prepped for the current drought on this year's feed supply. The answer is to develop all the heifers as future brood cows.

The answer may seem as strange as the question, but keep in mind one of the focuses of the centre is to maintain calves longer in their life cycle, utilizing lower inputs and more forage. The bottom line: more pounds of beef.

The centre summered 262 mixed-age cows in 2017. Because of the feed situation, the centre cut the cow herd to 143 coming three- and four-year-old cows this past fall, plus 18 embryo-transfer cows that are treated as a separate herd.

As a background note, starting in 2014, the centre began a study to evaluate frame score and longevity in cattle. The centre kept all the heifers, bred them and placed them in the cow herd. The unexpected result allowed for a more rapid changeover in the cow herd as 117 older cows were sold to spare winter feed.

Fortunately, the centre has 86 pregnant heifers from last year's calf crop, so the current bred female inventory is 229. This is not a traditional approach, but one factor stood out very clearly:

The younger cows are lighter and require less feed, and bred heifers have more flexibility to seek outside locations to feed.

Cow numbers can vary tremendously within a given time period for a given cattle operation. And, depending on what the makeup of the inventory is, the reduction in cow numbers will have varying impacts on the cow age distribution.

One point that stood out in the centre's favour was the large inventory of younger, lighter cows. That was a good thing this year. Heifer retention at the centre means keeping all the heifers. The requirements: The heifer had to be alive with no obvious health issues, no heifers born twin to a bull (freemartins), no obvious structural issues, and at least 500 pounds at a year of age. Heifers that met these requirements were retained for development.

Interestingly, during the past three years, following a low-input winter backgrounding period, no heifers had health, structural or weight issues, and only an occasional freemartin was put with the steer calves.

The centre has sent 303 heifers to another university facility with a confined feeding system. Those heifers that had trouble adjusting were sold as yearlings. The remaining ones were developed and bred and returned to the centre.

To date, 229 developed females, or just less than 76 per cent, are pregnant. Of the initial set of 100 heifers born in 2014, 77 coming four-year-old cows, or 77 per cent, remain. Of the second

set of 93 heifers born in 2015, 66 coming three-year-old cows, or 71 per cent, remain. Of this year's 110 heifers born in 2016, 86 coming two-year-old heifers, or 78 per cent, remain.

The essence of the project is to follow the cows throughout their lifetime and evaluate the effect of frame size on the lifetime production of the cow and birth weight of her calf. That will be another story at a later date.

The point today is simple: If a producer keeps all the heifers and exposes them to the bull, approximately 20 per cent, or one heifer out of five, may not become established as a mature cow in the breeding herd. In this particular study, a cow needs to be open two consecutive years to be culled.

Time will tell. Producers may have a hidden opportunity to consider keeping more heifers and exposing them to the bull. During droughts, preserving a herd's genetics can be accomplished by keeping more heifers, which also increases flexibility within managerial options.

Like most, we learn as we go, and in preparation for future droughts, producers should start thinking of how to aggressively maintain more heifers and let Mother Nature select out the less adapted heifers.

The bottom line is to explore more options on keeping a higher percentage of the annual calf crop as yearlings and taking advantage of the yearlings' ability to grow. Heifers may be a good option, and keeping a younger cow herd allows a producer to manage the mature weight of the cow herd.



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IT WAS ANOTHER HOT YEAR

Last year was the second or third warmest on record behind 2016, and the hottest without an extra dose of heat caused by an El Niño event. Average surface temperatures in 2017 were 1.1 C above pre-industrial times. The warmest year on record was 2016, with 2015 and last year basically tied in second place. However, 2016 and 2015 were El Niño years – a phenomena that releases heat from the tropical Pacific Ocean into the atmosphere. The Arctic ended 2017 with the least sea ice for mid-winter and tropical coral reefs suffered from high water temperatures. Weather- and climate-related disasters in the U.S. also set a record – \$306 billion with western wildfires and hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma all causing major damage. – Reuters

DRIER THAN A DESERT

A rare snowfall earlier this month means the Sahara Desert has seen more of the white stuff this winter than most of the Prairies. As much as 40 centimetres fell in the Algerian desert town of Ain Sefra, just the third snowfall for the region in the past 40 years. Snow levels are below average for most of the Prairies, with a large section of central Saskatchewan having virtually no snow. Subsoil moisture levels produced better-than-expected yields last year but experts say that moisture is now depleted, and needs to be replenished. – CNS

WEATHER



The six top weather stories from across Canada in the past year

Summer couldn't have been more different in the western and eastern halves of the country

BY DANIEL BEZTE

In the last issue we looked back at some of the top weather stories of 2017 from around the world. For this issue, we are going to zoom in and look at the top weather stories of the past year from across Canada.

To start off with, according to Environment Canada, 2017 was the eighth-warmest year on record for Canada, going back 70 years. It was also the 21st consecutive year with warmer-than-average temperatures nationally, which coincides with what the rest of the planet experienced.

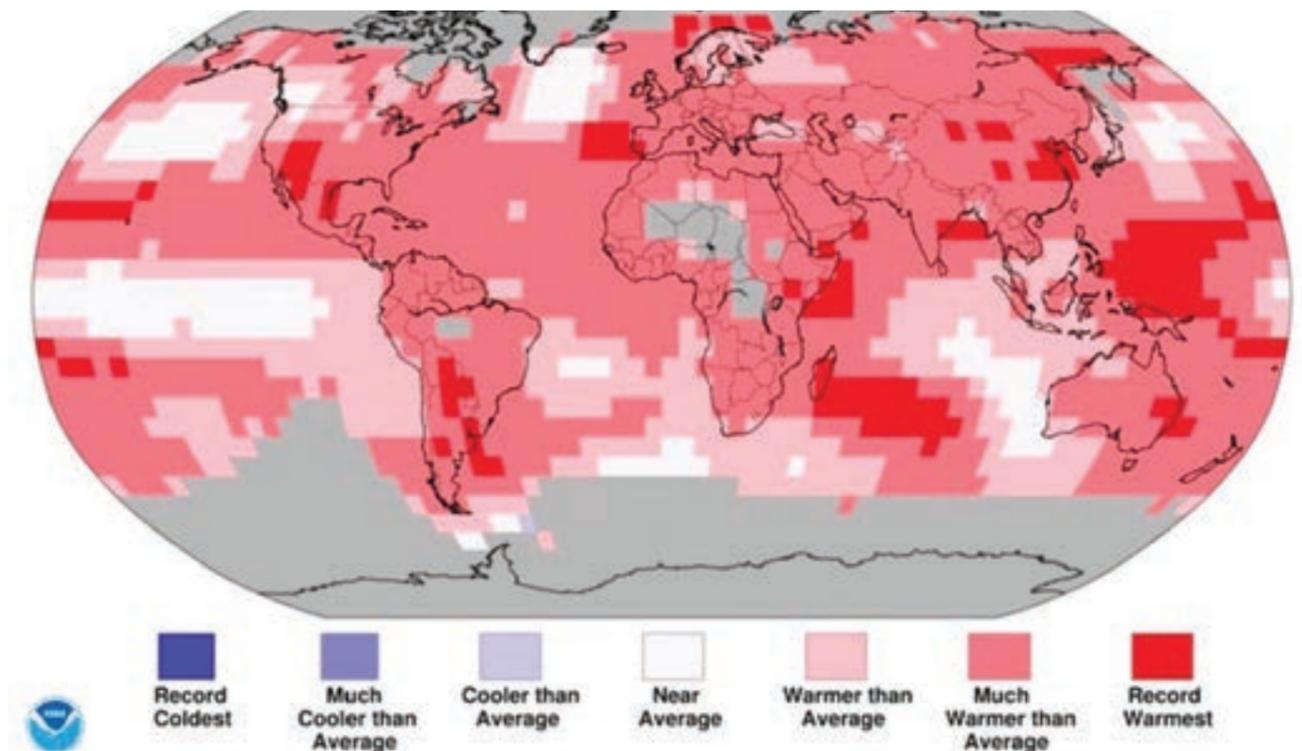
I must agree with Environment Canada on the top two Canadian weather stories, with both of them coming out of Western Canada and both tied into excessive heat and dryness.

The first was the wildfires that affected a large part of southern British Columbia. Much like what happened across California, a wet winter and spring followed by a hot and dry summer set the stage for a disastrous wildfire season. Conditions were so bad this summer that a province-wide state of emergency was declared on July 7 and lasted until Sept. 15 — the longest state of emergency in the province's history.

When all was said and done, 1,265 fires were reported with nearly 1.2 million hectares burned, which was 30 per cent more than the previous record.

The second top story tied into the first, and that was the hot, dry weather across the western half of the Prairies and B.C. last summer. Starting in B.C., Kelowna saw only 0.2 millimetre of precipitation in total during July and August. According to Environment Canada, Calgary saw its warmest April to August period since record-keeping began back in 1881. Farther north, the Peace River region saw a mean summer temperature that was about 1.0 C above average, and along with the warm temperatures came meagre amounts of rain. Total rainfall from June to the end of August was just over 100 millimetres, which is well below the long-term average of 175 millimetres.

It was also dry across much of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Regina saw one of its driest summers since 1948, with only 119.3 millimetres of rain from April to October, which fell well below the previous record of 151.5 millimetres set back in 1961. Southern areas of Manitoba also had a fairly dry summer, with the Winnipeg region only recording about 130 millimetres of rain from June to the end of August. The one saving grace for this region was the fact that the majority of the summer rainfall occurred in July, which was very beneficial for the crops.



This map shows the global temperature percentiles for 2017. The one thing that immediately jumps out is the fact that the map does not show any region that experienced much cooler-than-average temperatures during 2017.

This leads to what I would say is the next top story, the fact that the warm and dry weather across much of the Prairies resulted in what could arguably be the nicest summer weather found anywhere in Canada during 2017.

With far western regions seeing record to near-record drought conditions, along with extremely hot temperatures, and eastern regions seeing a cool, wet summer, most Prairie regions finally got a nice summer. Overall, summer temperatures across our region were near to a little above average.

The only problem in some areas was the lack of rainfall, but that same lack of rainfall kept mosquito numbers down which allowed us to really enjoy the weather. Looking back at the numbers, it does become evident that it was a darned nice summer. We didn't see any really cold periods, with only a handful of days that didn't see highs over 20 C. And for those who don't like the oppressive heat, we only saw a handful of days with temperatures warmer than 30 C.

The next big weather story of 2017 was the cool, wet, and just plain miserable summer across Eastern Canada. I don't know about you, but I take a strange kind of pleasure out of the fact that Eastern Canada had a bad summer, especially with the near perfect one we had. Cool

According to Environment Canada, Calgary saw its warmest April to August period since record keeping began back in 1881.

weather, combined with above-average to near-record amounts of rainfall resulted in very little sunshine along with endless hours of rain. The wet and cool weather made it very difficult for farmers to get on the fields, with most agricultural activities being a week behind all summer long. Then September rolled around and summer finally decided to arrive in Eastern Canada, and this leads to the fifth top story of 2017.

After a near disastrous summer, as fall officially arrived, the warmest weather of the year moved into Eastern Canada. Starting on Sept. 22, temperatures

soared into the low to mid-30s across much of southern Ontario and Quebec, bringing the best 'summer' weather of the year — not to mention shattering records for the hottest fall day on record. The warm weather continued through much of October, resulting in many locations recording their warmest September to October periods on record.

The sixth and final top weather story of 2017 also springs from the wet summer story across Eastern Canada — the second 'storm of the century' to hit the Windsor area in as many years. A year after a record-breaking rainstorm caused \$153 million in damages across Windsor and Essex counties, another once-in-a-century storm brought between 140 and 285 millimetres of rain in less than 48 hours. The rain began on Aug. 28 and by the end of the 29th it had turned into the most expensive single storm in Canada in 2017.

Here is hoping that we make it through the rest of this winter without making it into the list of the top weather stories of 2018!

Daniel Bezte is a teacher by profession with a BA (Hon.) in geography, specializing in climatology. He operates a computerized weather station near Birds Hill Park, Man. Contact him with your questions and comments at daniel@bezte.ca.

DEAL REACHED ON AMMONIA NURSE TANKS

An agreement has been reached that will allow ammonia nurse tanks to continue to be used this spring if they meet certain conditions. New Transport Canada regulations were to take effect Jan. 12 requiring implementation of Canadian Standards Association B620/622-14 standards. They increase the frequency for hydrostatic testing and for visual inspections, and set new requirements for the construction of new nurse tanks. The agreement adjusts the pressure testing frequency back to five years for nurse tanks that are post-weld heat treated and have a Maximum Allowable Working Pressure of 265 psi (or 250 psi if purpose built for ammonia). For more info, go to www.caar.org. – Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers

CROPS

Don't let your guard down – fusarium still a risk

Dry weather greatly reduced the incidence of the fungal disease last year, but the threat is likely greater than ever

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Producers should be on the lookout for fusarium head blight this year, even though the incidence of the fungal disease was down in 2017.

"Forecasting head blight is really quite challenging," said Mike Harding, a research scientist and plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The province saw record levels of fusarium graminearum in 2016 because it was a wet year. The extremely dry conditions last summer reduced the incidence but the pathogen continues to spread to new areas, and there is more of it in areas that have already been infested.

"We can't say that it is necessarily established everywhere, but it certainly is spreading," said Harding.

Fusarium species are very adept at colonizing cereals and corn at the ground level, particularly in the first node of the plant, where the largest number of pathogens are found. Some of the pathogens that cause head blight produce asexual spores that can splash higher up on the plant when it rains. These spores then infect the anthers, grow down into developing kernels, and cause shrunken, bleached kernels.

"In years where we don't see a lot of head blight, it doesn't mean that the fusarium has gone away," said Harding. "It just means that the fusarium may be present low down in the canopy or even on the roots."

The pathogen could simply have been completing its life cycle down in the crop in 2017. As a result, producers should be on the lookout in any area where fusarium graminearum is common.

In 2017, there were dry conditions in south and central Alberta during the flowering period, and a survey by the Canadian Grain Commission showed that numbers were down.



Premature bleaching of infected spikelet in wheat. PHOTO: KELLY TURKINGTON, AAFC

"The weather influences this disease to a great extent," said Harding, noting the highest risk is when there are wet conditions during the flowering period.

Even if the disease wasn't seen in 2017, it could still have colonized crop residues.

"Just because we had low levels in 2017 doesn't mean we couldn't have another record-breaking year in 2018," said Harding.

Fusarium graminearum head blight has been most common and damaging in southern Alberta, but a 2016 survey by Alberta Agriculture found 20 per cent of all the fields on the eastern side of the province had some signs of

the pathogen. There are also a few pockets in other areas of the province and researchers found their first positive sample in the Peace in 2016.

"There are some areas where it is more severe and we expect to see a significant number with more than 20 per cent of fields with it in a wetter year," said Harding. "But every field in the province needs to be on alert for this. It's probably not going to stop moving."

By the time symptoms of head blight have been found, there are no management options left. But it's still good to scout during the late-milk to early-dough stage to look for signs of prematurely ripening florettes.

"Sometimes, even when you peel back or look around the edge of the bloom, you can see a pink or salmon-colored growth of the fungus," said Harding.

At harvest, producers will see shrivelled and bleached kernels.

In order to prevent the spread of the pathogens, producers should test their seed, and avoid bringing contaminated or infected seed onto their farm.

"Because fusarium is surviving on crop residue, crop rotation is a good management tool," said Harding.

Other tips include using high-quality seed, seed treatment, purchasing good genetics, applying fungicide, and increased seeding rates.

This year, Alberta Agriculture has also developed an app that can be used on a computer or mobile phone. The app, which can be found at weatherdata.ca/m calculates hourly risk, and also offers weather alerts and historical fusarium data.

Producers should check it daily because the situation can change from day to day, said Harding. The site is only active during the growing season.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

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Actual test results. University of Guelph, 2014.

Richardson pullout roils canola sector

Alberta Canola backs council, saying its marketing efforts and agronomic support are key to canola's success

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

Richardson International's decision not to renew its membership means a big financial hit for the Canola Council of Canada, but it could have been even worse.

According to several reliable sources, Viterro had planned to leave too, but changed course — possibly because of a big cut in membership fees.

Losing Canada's two biggest grain companies would've been an even bigger blow to the 51-year-old council, which is credited for playing a key role in canola's success.

Alberta Canola Producers Association was quick to pledge its support for the council. Along with its sister organizations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and their national umbrella group, it praised the council both for its marketing and agronomic acumen.

"The science-based support they provide to company agronomists and farmers will keep canola a profitable and sustainable crop on Canadian farms for years to come," they said in a statement.

While the growers' groups are the largest source of the council's funds, Richardson's withdrawal from the council, and its much smaller flax and soybean sister groups, will hurt.

"We're looking for a way of getting better value for the dollars that we're spending in these industry associations," said Jean-Marc Ruest, the company's senior vice-president for corporate affairs. "We spend well over a million dollars a year funding these three organizations."

The decision to leave was not made suddenly or in a fit of anger, said Ruest.

"We had provided notice to the three organizations — well over a year ago — that our funding commitments would end at the end of 2017," he said.



Richardson International's Jean-Marc Ruest says his company's decision to withdraw from the Canola Council of Canada came after almost a year of talks aimed at making the associations more efficient and funding more equitable. PHOTOS: ALLAN DAWSON

Creating a single oilseed council was just one issue, he added. His company questioned how much the canola council spends on market development — something his company is prepared to



Canola Council of Canada president Jim Everson says the council is working with its members to ensure it meets their needs. He says Richardson's absence doesn't endanger the council.

do itself as an exporter — and a funding model where big companies pay more than smaller ones, Ruest said.

There's also a cost for staff time to participate in organizations, he said, adding Richardson will continue its membership in other

industry associations, including Cereals Canada, the Western Grain Elevator Association, and the Canadian Oilseed Processors Association.

Sources say Viterro shared those concerns and worked with Richardson to push for efficiencies, including merging the canola council, Flax Council of Canada and Soy Canada. Viterro eventually opted to stay, but with a lower membership fee, which according to one source, was to be cut to 15 cents a tonne from 23 cents. The reduced membership fee will apply to other members, too, the source said.

The council has 38 employees and in 2016 received almost \$8.3 million from its core funders — exporters, crushers, farmers, and life science firms.

In contrast, Cereals Canada coordinates the wheat sector with just six employees and a budget of just over \$1 million. The two crops are close in acreage, but wheat is a much more diverse crop with many more end uses, classes, and grades than canola, Ruest said.

The canola council is not endangered by Richardson's withdrawal, said canola council president Jim Everson.

"We have a very solid value chain; a very solid budget and work plan; and we're very confident about where we're going," he said.

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"We had provided notice to the three organizations — well over a year ago — that our funding commitments would end at the end of 2017."

JEAN-MARC RUEST

The council's success in uniting the canola industry is a Canadian comparative advantage, he added.

Markets change and vary with the product and country. Canola doesn't need as much promotion in the U.S. as it does in a newer market such as Vietnam, Everson said in defence of market development. The council's agronomy efforts help grain company agronomists, he added.

Richardson holds no animosity towards the canola council, Ruest said.

"We're disappointed we got to this result, but that doesn't make us hostile to the canola council," he said. "We support the canola council. We'll probably have initiatives where we can work with it."

His company may even "come back to the fold at some point in time," he added.

"But that's a decision for them to make," he said. "We don't want to drag people along with us who are reluctant or don't want to participate. That doesn't help anything either. It's OK to have disagreement and different viewpoints on what's important and what's not." — *With staff files*

allan@fbcpublishing.com

Prairie grain movement not perfect, but not in crisis

Shipments are moving at year-ago levels, but this year it's CN that is behind in getting grain to port

BY PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN
CNS CANADA

Canadian grain exports are moving out of the country at a similar pace as they were a year ago, but there are still some challenges along the logistical chain.

"Right now we're looking at the second-largest supply of grain that we've ever had to move," said Mark Hemmes, president of Quorum Corporation, which compiles weekly performance updates on Canada's grain-handling sector.

He described grain movement to date as "not a perfect year," but also "not a crisis."

"It's safe to say that it could be better," said Hemmes.

CN is facing some challenges while CP is seeing good movement — which is the exact opposite situation a year ago, he said.

"When both railways get behind, then we really start to worry."

CN's problems were tied to getting caught short and increasing its movement of other commodities, such as coal and containers. However, the company went on a hiring spree in late 2017 and is leasing more locomotives, and Hemmes said he expects to see an improvement over the next few months which would "get stocks back down to a more manageable level."

Looking at port activity, Hemmes said a downturn in traffic through the Port of Prince Rupert was hurting the overall movement, with only about 1,000 to 1,100 cars coming in per week, compared to the planned 1,400 to 1,500.

In Vancouver, there were 20 vessels waiting in the last report, which was down from 30 at Christmas time, but still above the 12- to

"When both railways get behind, then we really start to worry."

MARK HEMMES

14-vessel lineup that would be more ideal. Hemmes said a ratio of two vessels per each terminal was what they liked to see, rather than the three-plus situation currently.

Weather will be a factor to watch as another cold snap or avalanches in the Rocky Mountains could cause delays.

"If we were going to get a bad cold snap at any time during the winter, having it at Christmas is probably the best you could hope for," said Hemmes.



Avalanches can have a big impact on grain movement at this time of year.

PHOTO: CN RAIL

Seminar offers the lowdown on industrial hemp

Cannabis legalization has boosted interest in industrial hemp and should lead to less paperwork, too

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

The pending legalization of cannabis is boosting interest in growing industrial hemp. And it's expected it will be easier to grow the crop in 2018 once a review of federal regulation on the use of chaff (leaves and flowers) and the licensing procedure is completed.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is putting on seminars in Vermilion on Feb. 6 and in Vegreville Feb. 8 to help producers identify if industrial hemp may be a good fit in their crop rotation.

Department staff will provide an overview of the industrial hemp industry and current market opportunities. There will also be presentations from Jan Slaski, lead industrial hemp researcher at InnoTech Alberta, and Byron James, supervisor of the organization's farm and decortication facility in Vegreville.

Viking producer Brian Rozmahel will also talk about his experiences growing organic industrial hemp.

"2017 was our fourth year of being certified organic and growing hemp," said Rozmahel. "My interest lies in using cover crops to improve soil health, increase fertility, and to control weeds."

Other presenters include Terry Radford of Just Biofiber (on using hemp for building materials), Charles Holmes, president of Hempco Canada (on hemp health products), and Dan Madlung of BioComposites Group (which uses fibre mat technology to make hemp products). Register online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca (search for 'hemp seminar') or email patti.breland@gov.ab.ca for more information.

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Monsanto touts research pipeline

Company says glyphosate- and dicamba-tolerant canola is undergoing agronomic testing but is still five or six years out

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

Dicamba-tolerant canola is coming and so is a triple-threat soybean, resistant to glyphosate, dicamba and glufosinate.

That's just some of what's in Monsanto's crop and weed-control pipeline, said Robb Fraley, the seed and pesticide giant's executive vice-president and chief technology officer.

Great things are coming from new gene editing techniques and innovations from the company's precision farming platform, Fraley said earlier this month.

Triple-stacked soybeans will hit fields sooner than dicamba-tolerant canola, Fraley said.

"Depending on the final regulatory approvals we should launch in the next two to three years," he said about the new soybeans resistant to three herbicides.

"Testing has been very strong for the product in terms of weed control and developing the herbicide formulation and we're in the final phases of global regulatory approval and starting seed production."

But dicamba-tolerant canola won't be available in Canada for "roughly five or six years," Fraley said.

"But we're moving it forward in the pipeline. It's going through some of the initial agronomic testing. I think it's a key technology and one that will be important for canola production in Canada."

Making crops resistant to several herbicides with different modes of action is critical in the battle against herbicide-resistant weeds, he added.

"We are also developing new formulations of dicamba... to bring new combinations of new modes of action so that farmers have more enduring tools for weed control," Fraley said. "We see the dicamba trait being a very strong partner trait with these other technologies for years to come."

The company's goal is to ensure farmers have two or three different modes of action in all their crops, enabling farmers to continue controlling grassy and broadleaf weeds for the future.

"I think that lets them get ahead of some of the challenges that they've seen historically with weed resistance," Fraley said.

Xtend soybeans, which are tolerant to the herbicides glyphosate and dicamba, were a big success in the U.S. last year, and Fraley said he expects Xtend plantings to double to 40 million acres in the U.S. this year.

Despite headlines to the contrary, the weed control, the yield performance and the adoption of the technology has been outstanding, he said.

News reports estimated 3.1 million acres of U.S. soybeans were damaged by dicamba last year, prompting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adjust dicamba's label in an effort to reduce drift.

TruFlex canola

Meanwhile, Monsanto con-



Monsanto's research farm near Carman, Man. — the seed and herbicide giant says its dicamba-tolerant canola will hit the market in Western Canada in five or six years. PHOTO: REUTERS/ZACHARY PRONG

tinues to work with Chinese regulators to approve TruFlex canola, which won Canadian approval in 2012. TruFlex withstands higher doses of glyphosate for better weed control and more application flexibility.

"That technology, in my mind, should've been in the Canadian market three or four years ago," Fraley said.

Monsanto is also making headway developing earlier-maturing varieties of corn and soybeans for Western Canada, he said.



"I think it's a key technology and one that will be important for canola production in Canada."

ROBB FRALEY

"We're seeing corn yields of 120 to 150 bushels per acre. We're seeing soybean varieties literally perform at 40 to 50 bushels (an acre), which I think, provides an exciting new option for Canadian farmers."

New, more precise, gene editing techniques will improve crop yields and research efficiency, Fraley said.

CRISPR is one that has made headlines, but new editing tools are being developed almost weekly, he said. Monsanto has been making deals with some of the developers, including the

Broad Institute in Cambridge, Mass., to get access to them.

"We think the CRISPR Cpf1 technology has a number of benefits and advantages," he said. "We've been using these

tools across a broad breeding program and used it to develop a number of new products that can range from disease-resistant traits to traits that can improve the nutritional or

quality aspects of fresh fruits and vegetables."

Gene edited plants should go through the regulatory process faster than those with foreign genes, but they're still going to require six or seven years of plant breeding and seed production, Fraley said.

"I think those first-generation products really will represent a combination of breeding traits, biotech traits, gene edited traits, because that's what's going to give farmers the benefits and features that are important in their operation," he said.

Climate Corporation, the company's precision farming platform, is taking a growing volume of digital data and turning it into information farmers can use to increase yields more sustainably, said its chief science officer Sam Eathington.

Climate Corp. expects to have 50 million paid acres this year. About a million of those are in Ontario. The company has been working on adapting its Field-View platform for wheat and canola in Western Canada.

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NEW

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New study finds organic fields store larger amounts of carbon

Study used new techniques to break soil organic matter into different components for analysis



A large U.S. field study looks at how organic farming stores away carbon in the soil and out of the atmosphere.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
AND LAURA RANCE
STAFF

New research looking at soil organic carbon adds to a growing view organic systems are both more energy efficient and store more soil carbon.

On average, organic crops consume 60 per cent less energy and create 25 per cent fewer emissions and 80 per cent fewer ozone-depleting emissions, said Tracy Misiewicz, associate director of science programs at The Organic Center, a Washington-based non-profit.

That's largely due because organic farmers don't use commercial nitrogen products or pesticides.

Researchers from the centre and Boston's Northeastern University collaborated to produce the largest field-scale study yet done, gathering soil samples from across a broad swath of the U.S. to analyze differences in how organic and conventional soils sequester carbon.

"There's been a lot of studies showing that organic practices increase organic carbon in soil," said Misiewicz in a recent teleconference organized by the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative.

"This study shows that organic farming can contribute to climate change mitigation."

TRACY MISIEWICZ

"This is the first that really links that increase in soil carbon in organic to sequestration."

The study found organic soil samples, on average, had 13 per cent more organic matter and notably higher levels of stored organic carbon. More than 1,000 soil samples were collected — 659 from organic farms across 39 states and 728 conventional soil samples from all 48 U.S. states.

That large sample size enabled researchers to take into account a wide variability among multiple farms across a wide geographic area, said Misiewicz.

"Our ability to quantify carbon sequestration with such a large sample size across such a broad geographic range really allows us to understand the effects of organic," she said.

Novel method

The research also used a novel method developed by soil scientists at Northeastern University to separate soil organic matter into different components for analysis.

Those components — specifically humic substance — are what sequester carbon over

the long term. Humic substance doesn't degrade and can remain in the soil for hundreds, potentially thousands of years, keeping carbon out of the atmosphere.

This study consistently found higher levels of it — 44 per cent higher — in organically managed soil compared to conventional. A component of humic substance, namely fulvic acid, was found to be 150 per cent higher. From this, organically managed soils show greater potential for humification, or conversion of soil organic matter to enter that stable carbon pool.

"We found that soil from organic farms had 26 per cent more humification," noted Misiewicz.

However, more research is needed, said Martin Entz, who runs Canada's longest-running organic-versus-conventional crop system study at the University of Manitoba's Glenlea research station.

"We found that organic systems lost carbon in subsoil, and it took some serious manure additions to perk up the soil to start sequestering again," he said. "What we have found is that living carbon (microbial biomass C) was greater in organic versus conventional at Glenlea in surface soil when we had alfalfa in rotation. In grain only organic systems, microbial biomass carbon was lower than conventional."

He cautions against using these datasets in a debate over organic versus conventional.

"The future research on soil carbon needs to be guided not by organic-versus-conventional comparisons, but by addressing specific parts of the carbon cycle in agroecosystems," Entz said.

When it comes to the soil's carbon storage capacity, soil types matter as do some of the tools used by farmers, such as cover crops, intercropping, and growing varieties with bigger root systems, he said.

Misiewicz also called for increased investment in organic research as scientists look for ways to stem the loss of carbon as natural ecosystems are converted to cropping and grazing worldwide.

Results published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* last year reported 133 billion tonnes of carbon have been lost worldwide in the top two metres of soil, a rate of loss that has dramatically accelerated over the past two centuries.

Ultimately, what we're seeing is how improper management of agricultural inputs is decreasing carbon stores and contributing to climate change, said Misiewicz.

With proper management, we can increase carbon sequestration, keeping more carbon in the soil and out of the atmosphere, she said.

"This study shows that organic farming can contribute to climate change mitigation," she said.

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Size matters when it comes to the success of plants

Scientists think they know why flowering plants dominate most landscapes around the world – tiny genomes

STAFF

It's a problem that puzzled even geneticist Charles Darwin so much he called it the "abominable mystery" — how did flowering plants take over the world?

They're relative newcomers, yet dominate most landscapes, are incredibly diverse, form the basis of our food system, and drive the animal diversity we see all around us.

A recent paper suggests it's all about the cell size. Researchers from San Francisco State and Yale universities found flowering plants have small cells when they're stacked up against other plant types, something that's made possible by a similarly smaller genome. That makes it possible to build more and more complex cells in the same space, and makes the cells created more efficient at tasks like photosynthesis. Additionally, by



Flowering plants are the largest, most important and newest type of plants. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

shrinking the size of each cell, water and nutrient delivery can be made more efficient.

Comparing hundreds of species, the researchers found that genome downsizing began about 140 million years ago and coincided with the spread of the earliest flowering plants around

the world. "The flowering plants are the most important group of plants on earth, and now we finally know why they have been so successful," the researchers wrote.

Although this research answers a major question, it opens the door to many more. Why were

the flowering plants able to shrink their genomes more than other plant groups? What innovations in genome structure and packing have the flowering plants exploited? How have the ferns and conifers managed to elude extinction despite their large genomes and cells?

Flax council will try to carry on

Organization will continue to promote flax but agronomic efforts will cease unless new funding model found

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

The Flax Council of Canada will continue operating with a part-time administrator after closing its Winnipeg office at the end of this month.

The office closing and staff cuts, including its lone agronomist, are the result of reduced revenues, said council president Brian Johnson. The organization is funded by voluntary levies submitted by companies selling flax domestically and abroad, but some have opted not to contribute. Reduced flax production has also hurt revenues.

"This whole thing is unfortunate because we've been caught with a couple of things happening at the same time," said Eric Fridfinnson, chair of the Manitoba Flax Growers Association. "We've had a few smaller companies that want to take a free ride and not contribute to the council. That naturally got the ire up of a couple of the bigger ones that continue to contribute."

"It's a situation that's going to hurt everybody. But the two grower organizations (in Manitoba and Saskatchewan) are still here and we're going to try and do the best we can."

The flax council, which has years of good information on the health benefits of flax, will also continue to promote flax, Johnson said.

The work has already paid off, resulting in flax being used in cereals, breads, nutrition bars, eggs (omega-3) and pet foods, he said.

"We're going to be re-evaluating over the next few months and try to maybe come up with a different funding model as well," he added.

Both men said flax has a lot of potential for farmers, and praised the work of flax council agronomist Rachel Evans in developing best management practices for growers.

"Rachel did an absolutely fantastic job," Johnson said. "I am very disappointed not to have her there. She was very instrumental in really putting an agronomic program together and supplying growers with best management practices. It has really helped boost the flax yield."

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Black Sea wheat eats away at French exports

Russia and other Black Sea wheat producers have virtually shut out Europe's top wheat producer in the largest wheat market

BY GUS TROMPIZ
REUTERS

Unrelenting competition from the Black Sea region has claimed its latest victim — the export prospects of French wheat farmers.

Government farming agency FranceAgriMer lowered its forecast for French soft wheat exports outside the EU this season for a third straight month and said there could be more cuts coming. Its latest report estimates soft wheat exports to

non-EU countries in 2017-18 at 9.3 million tonnes, which means the EU's biggest grain producer is lagging the pace needed to clear its surplus.

And exports could fall further, to around nine million tonnes, given competition from Black Sea exporting countries led by Russia, said Marc Zribi, head of the agency's grain and sugar unit.

"The competition battle looks like being tougher than was expected at the start of the season," he said.

Black Sea origins have claimed

a virtual clean sweep so far this season in the tenders of Egypt, the world's top wheat importer, while they were also being aggressively sold to North and sub-Saharan African countries, he said.

However, good quality from last summer's harvest is allowing France to claim more milling wheat sales within the EU following weather-affected crops in countries like Germany and the Baltic states. FranceAgriMer projects end-of-season soft wheat stocks will be 2.9 million tonnes.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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C-72-01/18-10887593-E

New food safety regulations in the home stretch

Food sector associations say Ottawa needs to get the rules right if it wants to seriously boost agri-food exports

BY ALEX BINKLEY
AF CONTRIBUTOR

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says it's on the home stretch of its overhaul of food safety regulations but the food industry says there's still work to be done.

CFIA says the revamp will finally complete the implementation of the Safe Food for Canadians Act passed by the previous Conservative government in 2012, with the final version of the rules made public this spring.

However, the Food Processors of Canada says there are five holes in the current regulatory proposals:

- Increasing border inspection of imported food products,
- Putting federal and provincial food plants on an equal footing,
- Reducing the scope of its Administrative Monetary Penalties for a more collaborative approach with processors on reaching food safety standards,
- Establish a more realistic basis for a Product of Canada label,
- Increase the number of food-testing labs across the country.

The package of regulations is intended to consolidate 14 sets of commodity-based regulations that CFIA inherited from various federal departments when it was created 20 years ago. A proposed revamp of the regulations issued a year ago received more than 1,700 comments.

Getting the rules right will be an important ingredient in helping the food industry meet the government's goal of \$75 billion in agri-food exports by 2025 (up from about \$56 billion yearly today), said Denise Allen, Food Processors of Canada president.

The proposed regulations need more and better definitions as well as support for smaller companies trying to deal with the food safety rules, said Susan Abel, a vice-president with the Food and Consumer Products of Canada.

ADM approach to Bunge a potential U-turn on oilseed strategy

The companies aren't commenting but analysts say consolidation makes economic sense

REUTERS / CHICAGO

Archer Daniels Midland's proposed takeover of Bunge could signal a change in the company's strategy on oilseeds.

Citing unnamed sources, the *Wall Street Journal* reported earlier this month that ADM had approached Bunge about a takeover. Such a deal would give ADM, the top U.S. grain merchant, a much bigger capacity to crush soy just months after ADM's CEO said the firm would cut spending on the sector.

The potential strategic change comes as the world's biggest agricultural merchants search for new ways to offset four years of bumper harvests that are hurting their ability to make money from buying, selling and shipping crops.

Consolidation is seen as one

remedy, and both companies are major soybean crushers.

Just three months ago, though, ADM chief Juan Luciano said the company would reduce capital spending on oilseed crushing and increase spending on higher-margin businesses, such as food ingredients, "in support of the growth portion of our strategic plan."

The company placed its biggest bet on that strategy in 2014 when it acquired natural flavourings company Wild Flavors for about US\$3 billion.

"A merger would differ from the value-added push that ADM described as its strategy when it bought Wild Flavors," Credit Suisse analyst Robert Moskow said. "That said, this represents a golden opportunity for ADM to grow its oilseeds division and improve its long-term competitiveness."

Especially valuable to ADM could be the chance to expand oilseed operations in Brazil, the world's biggest soy exporter, traders said. Bunge controls 27 per cent of the oilseed crush market there, while ADM has 10 per cent, according to data from Credit Suisse.

JP Morgan analyst Ann Duignan also said Bunge's processing capacity outside of the United States would likely be considered "prize assets" for ADM.

Bunge had rebuffed an acquisition offer from Glencore last year and both companies declined to comment on the takeover approach.

Heather Jones, analyst for Vertical Group, placed the odds of a Bunge takeover above 50 per cent after ADM's approach.

She said a bigger bet by ADM on oilseeds could pay off as



that market grows over time — presenting a simpler path to improved returns than a lengthy strategic overhaul.

"Arguably the most bullish longer-term theme in the agri-business sector is global vegetable protein demand," she said.

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Darren Bond, farm management specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, runs the audience through 2017 commodity markets during Ag Days Jan. 16-18, 2018. PHOTO: ALEXIS STOCKFORD

Forget cost per acre — what's it cost to grow a bushel?

Instead of dollars per acre, it's better to think of cost in terms of product produced, says business specialist

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD
STAFF / BRANDON, MAN.

Darren Bond wants farmers to stop thinking in dollars per acre.

Cost per acre is what counts, says the farm management specialist with Manitoba Agriculture.

Farmers sell their product per bushel, so it's easier to track and predict profitability if costs are tracked on a per-bushel basis, Bond said at the province's Ag Days earlier this month.

Profitability projections alone

leave out critical risk information and using cost-per-bushel forecasts make it easier to make decisions during the growing season.

"Once the seeder has done its job, (we should be assessing) what our investment decisions are throughout the growing season in terms of risk and reward," he said.

Using December prices (numbers that he admits have dropped about 50 cents per bushel since) and cost-of-production numbers developed by his department, Bond compared expected return with the level

of risk a producer can expect to have covered by insurance.

Canola and soybeans emerged with both the highest return (10.3 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively) and the highest expected coverage (with 72 per cent and 82 per cent of risk expected to be covered, respectively).

Margins were tighter for both corn and northern hard red spring wheat, the next runners-up in terms of reward (8.1 per cent and 8.5 per cent reward respectively, but only 64 to 65 per cent expected risk coverage).

It was a bad news story for both barley and winter wheat, both of which dipped into negative return (-18.6 per cent in the case of barley and only 50 per cent expected coverage), although coverage for winter wheat hit 70 per cent.



Farmers sell their product per bushel, so it's easier to track and predict profitability if costs are tracked on a per-bushel basis.

DARREN BOND

When broken down, Bond said that a 40-bushel-per-acre canola crop at \$323.25 cost per acre and 80 per cent expected coverage can expect \$8.08 of their cost per bushel to fall under insurance. Another \$2.12 (labour and fixed costs) are exposed to risk, leaving \$1.05 per bushel sitting above the break-even for that crop.

Only soybeans beat out canola in a similar analysis, at \$1.47 profit, while wheat returned 47 cents per bushel profit for northern hard red and 22 cents per bushel profit for hard red.

"This is using our numbers. Of course, your numbers are more important than my numbers," Bond said.

astockford@farmmedia.com



WATER COOLER MEETING



Four donkeys and a mule gather around the shed and water tank on Burro Alley Ranch, near Millarville. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E



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Grain producers: Changes to wheat variety designations

These varieties will move to the Canada Northern Hard Red wheat class. They will remain in their current classes for the 2017 harvest.

As of August 1, 2018

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AC Cora	CDC Makwa	Leader	Thatcher
AC Eatonia	CDC Osler	Lillian	Unity
AC Majestic	Columbus	McKenzie	5603HR
AC Michael	Conway	Neepawa	
AC Minto	Harvest	Park	
Alvena	Kane	Pasqua	

From Canada Prairie Spring Red:

AC Foremost	AC Taber	Conquer	Oslo
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As of August 1, 2019

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Prairie processors plan gluten-free partnership

Best Cooking Pulses and Avena Foods will share technology to guarantee oats free from wheat, barley and rye

STAFF

A Saskatchewan firm processing gluten-free oats is pairing up with a Manitoba pulse miller to expand Prairie producers' space in the certified gluten-free market.

Portage la Prairie-based Best Cooking Pulses and Regina-based Avena Foods have struck a new partnership agreement they say will boost cross-selling and market penetration.

The deal is centred on Avena Foods' "Purity Protocol" program, which offers "superior-quality certified gluten-free oats" consistently below the five-parts-per-million level, the companies said in a news release. The program is meant to guarantee oats free from wheat, barley and rye, processed at a gluten-free and allergen-free facility, supplied by a network of over 90 gluten-free growers across Western Canada.

The two companies said they are "exploring opportunities" for farmers to supply pulses that can meet "Purity Protocol" benchmarks.

Formed by pedigreed seed growers in 2008, Avena has been majority owned since June last year by Toronto-based private equity firm Ironbridge Equity Partners.

BCP, which has been in the pulse trade since 1936, produces pulse flours, pea hull fibres and related ingredients at its milling plant in Portage la Prairie, and operates a pulse plant at Rowatt, Sask., where it cleans and bags whole peas, lentils and chickpeas, and dehulls, splits and polishes peas.



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Robotic weeders almost ready for prime time

The technology still needs a lot of work, but the devices now make economic sense for some high-value crops

STAFF

Forget about that old hoe — going high tech for weed control is getting closer and closer.

Researchers at the University of California-Davis say robotic weeders are already making headway in high-value vegetable crops, fuelled by both a lack of chemical controls and affordable labour.

Steven Fennimore, an extension specialist at the university, pegs the cost of hand-weeding at between US\$150 and US\$300 an acre.

"I've been working with robotic weeders for about 10 years now, and the technology is really just starting to come into commercial use," Fennimore said. "It's really an economic incentive to consider them."

The weeders utilize tiny blades that pop in and out to uproot weeds without damaging crops. The technology isn't perfect, but it's getting better and better, said Fennimore.

The devices are programmed to recognize a pattern and can tell the difference between a plant and soil. However, they currently have trouble telling the difference between a weed and a crop.

Some companies are training the machines to tell a lettuce plant from a weed while Fennimore is working with university engineers on a system to tag the crop plant so the weeders will avoid it.

"The problem with the machines right now is that they are version 1.0, and there's tremendous room for improvement," he said.

The robotic weeders currently on the market cost between \$120,000 and \$175,000.



A robotic weeder in a vegetable field near Davis, California. The rows must be very straight and precise for the weeder to properly do its job. PHOTO: STEVEN FENNIMORE



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O-52-01/18-10887598-E

Urban farms 'critical' to combat hunger and adapt to climate change

It could theoretically produce 10 per cent of global vegetables, pulses and root crops, a new study says

BY THIN LEI WIN
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

They may look small scale, but rooftop farms, vertical gardens and allotments could prove crucial in fighting hunger in urban areas, say researchers.

Urban farms also increase vegetation cover — a key way to limit rising temperatures.

They reduce the “urban heat island effect,” where cities are often several degrees warmer than nearby rural areas due to heat trapped by dark-coloured roads and buildings.

Urban farms can also lower the risk of flooding during heavy downpours and help to regain water in dry areas, according to a paper published in the journal *Earth's Future*.

In developing regions, “urban agriculture may be critical to survival or a necessary adaptation to changing climate,” said the team of researchers, led by the Arizona State University and Google.



Citizen Farm head of farmers Darren Ho inspects an indoor hydroponic growing system at an urban farm in Singapore May 30, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS/THOMAS WHITE

Urban farms could supply almost the entire recommended consumption of vegetables for city dwellers, while cutting food waste and reducing emissions from the transportation of agricultural products.

The researchers analyzed multiple datasets in Google Earth Engine, an internet platform for

processing geographical data, to derive global-scale estimates.

Urban agriculture has the potential to save energy equivalent to the use of air conditioners in nearly nine million United States households, and to produce up to 180 million tonnes of food, they found.

While this represents only about 10 per cent of the global produc-

The U.S., China, Brazil, India, Russia, Germany and Japan have the most potential benefit from urban farming.

tion of pulses, root crops and vegetables, it provides “a partial solution,” said Matei Georgescu, associate professor at Arizona State University and co-author of the paper.

The U.S., China, Brazil, India, Russia, Germany and Japan have the most potential benefit from urban farming. With more than two million hectares, the U.S. has more urban area available than any other country.

Georgescu said he hopes urban

planners in Africa and Asia will see the potential of urban agriculture too.

According to the United Nations, two-thirds of the world's population may live in cities by 2050, with new urban areas concentrated in Asia and Africa.

Georgescu also encouraged people to calculate this potential for their local areas themselves using methods provided in the paper. “One simply has to include their own locally produced data, which might be better than the global data we had to use, and produce their own estimates,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

Urban farms have become popular in recent years as governments and residents look to promote healthy eating, tackle environmental challenges and transform industrial cities.

Pittsburgh is establishing the largest urban farm in the U.S., post office workers in Paris are growing vegetables and breeding chickens on a rooftop, while a warehouse in London is farming fish and greens.

Got impact? Ontario dairy farmers to do their own marketing

Organization dissatisfied with marketing efforts of Dairy Farmers of Canada, wants to go it alone

BY JOHN GREIG
GLACIER FARM MEDIA

Dairy Farmers of Ontario is starting to do its own consumer marketing now that it's no longer sending tens of millions to its national parent.

The organization's withdrawal from national marketing of milk has meant upheaval for the Dairy Farmers of Canada, which will have to cut back its advertising efforts, particularly in the country's most populous province.

The move, which took effect Jan. 1, came after the Ontario group asked the national organization to show what sort of return has been made on the more than \$40 million Ontario farmers have put into milk marketing.

“We were not able to obtain this information from DFC in a way that met our objectives,” said Graham Lloyd, CEO and general manager of Dairy Farmers of Ontario.

The organization has appointed a group of dairy market experts and already received some recommendations in December, he said. One was to support milk product consumption in general while another was to work directly with partners in retail and food services before promotions are created.

His organization wants to partner with its national parent but also wants any joint efforts to be very focused, said Lloyd.

“The goal has to be with all of the programs, with some exceptions, to increase demand for Canadian milk and dairy components,” he said.



Graham Lloyd, Dairy Farmers of Ontario CEO and general manager, says dairy marketing activities need to show that they can build the market for milk. PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

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Whoops! Last-minute change to U.S. tax overhaul splits grains sector

Private firms say they'll be at a substantial disadvantage to producer co-operatives



U.S. lawmakers appear to have inadvertently included a poison pill for private grain companies in recent tax changes that puts them at a disadvantage to co-operatives PHOTO: CREATIVE COMMONS/MARTIN FALBISONER

BY TOM POLANSEK
REUTERS

Republican U.S. senators are working with some of the world's biggest agricultural merchants to undo a last-minute provision in the tax overhaul that threatens to distort the grains market and starve private firms of corn, soy and wheat supplies.

It was included during final revisions of the tax bill that passed the Republican-controlled Congress last month. The restructuring of the tax code, the biggest in 30 years, handed President Donald Trump his first major legislative victory since taking office.

The provision gives farmers a 20 per cent deduction on payments for sales of crops to farmer-owned co-operatives, but not for sales to private or investor-owned grains handlers such as global firm Archer Daniels Midland.

The modification was introduced to compensate co-ops and their farmer owners when Congress eliminated a part of the tax code, known as Section 199, which had benefited them for more than a decade.

Republican senators, John Hoeven of North Dakota and John Thune of South Dakota, are among the lawmakers whose offices said their attempt to create an equivalent to the old tax code had backfired by incentivizing sales to co-ops at the expense of others in the market.

"Sen. Thune is now aware of the unintended situation this new provision could create in the agriculture industry," his spokesman Ryan Wrasse said in a statement. He added that Thune believes tax laws should not sway where farmers sell their harvests.

The government wants to correct the disparity, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture said earlier this month it is working on a solution.

"The federal tax code should not pick winners and losers in the marketplace," Greg Ibach, an undersecretary at the USDA, said in a separate statement.

ADM and Cargill, two of the world's top agricultural traders, joined talks with Hoeven, Senate aides, and trade associations that represent co-ops and private firms to come up with a way to even the playing field. Representatives of grain companies and lawmakers met in Washington twice recently in a sign of the urgency of the matter.

If legislators do not address the provision by the autumn harvest, private grain companies could lose out on deals to buy billions of bushels of corn and soybeans. Farmers already are looking at how they can transfer grain stored at private elevators to co-ops to take advantage of the new law.

"It's a massive issue for people like us, ADM, Cargill, all the private ethanol buyers and on and on and on," said Dale Beyer, chief financial officer for Minn-Kota Ag Products, a private grain handler in Minnesota.

Thune and Hoeven began hearing in early January that the provision would influence where farmers sell their products, according

to the National Grain and Feed Association, a trade group that has met repeatedly with the lawmakers' aides this month to discuss the issue.

The association told members in an email that it learned of the provision in late December, after it was included in the final version of the tax law, and immediately asked tax experts for advice. The group then met with Thune and Hoeven staffers to learn why the senators included it in the law.

The association, in a separate statement with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said it was working with Hoeven, Thune and Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, also a Republican, to reach "an equitable solution" that preserves benefits formerly available to co-ops under Section 199.

"It's disappointing to learn a provision in the tax reform bill is distorting the grain markets," Roberts said in a statement. "The authors of the measure did not intend that outcome."

"The federal tax code should not pick winners and losers in the marketplace."

GREG IBACH

Tensions rise

The grain sector is struggling with low crop prices following years of big harvests and is paying close attention to the tax law after support from rural communities helped propel Trump into office in 2016.

Earlier this month, the president said farmers would score big from the overhaul.

"It's a total of US\$5.5 trillion in tax cuts, with most of those benefits going to working families, small businesses, and who? The family farmer," Trump said in a speech to the American Farm Bureau's annual convention in Tennessee.

Farmers generally decide to whom they want to sell their grain based on the prices offered by different handlers, how close they live to delivery sites and personal affiliations.

However, the wording of the new provision wrongly assumes that all farmers deliver their grain to co-ops, said Bob Zelenka, executive director of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, a trade group that represents co-ops and private companies.

"It tells me that someone who wrote this is unused to how things work in the ag industry," he said.

Efforts to adjust the provision have some co-ops pushing back out of concerns farmers could lose tax benefits.

Chris Pearson, chief executive of the South Dakota Wheat Growers co-op, said on Twitter that the law "gives farmers some nice tax advantages when doing business with the ORGANIZATION THEY OWN!"

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Seven years on, mentorship program has made its mark



There were just five young people in the first Cattlemen's Young Leaders program, but there's now fierce competition to snap up one of the 16 spots in the year-long mentorship program. PHOTO: WWW.CATTLEMENSOUNGLEADERS.COM

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Ricki Fleming was one of the first mentees when the Cattlemen's Young Leaders program began seven years ago.

There were just five participants and while everyone liked the idea of pairing young producers with industry leaders, it was all a bit of an experiment.

"When we first started it as a pilot, nobody knew how it would evolve," said Fleming, now the renewals co-ordinator with Verified Beef Production Plus. "Everybody wanted to continue because they could see what opportunities were out there."

And continue it did, expanding to 16 spots, which are keenly sought by young people from across the country.

Back in 2010, a 23-year-old Fleming was a trailblazer. She had been active in 4-H for many years, helped to found the Alberta Junior Angus Association, and was armed with a diploma in agriculture technology and animal science. And while keen to participate in the wider beef sector, it was all a bit intimidating.

"The networking is huge," said Fleming. "It's difficult to step into some of those conferences or meeting rooms."

But the program gave her the confidence to be able to do that, she said, praising the mentorship of veterinarians Craig Dorin and Mike Jelinski, who are both managing partners of Veterinary Agri-Health Services in Airdrie.

"To this day, we stay in touch," said Fleming, who lives near Granum and operates a purebred cow-calf operation with her husband and parents.

Fleming visited Dorin and Jelinski, was frequently in touch by phone or email, and was even able to sit in on some of their client



There's keen competition to get into the young leaders' program. Pictured here is the session involving the 2017 semi-finalists from CYL's Facebook page. PHOTO: CYL



"When we first started it as a pilot, nobody knew how it would evolve. Everybody wanted to continue because they could see what opportunities were out there."

RICKI FLEMING

calls at feedlots and larger cattle operations. She was managing a research farm at a lab in Lethbridge at the time, and used her mentors as a resource for many different things. The program also allowed her to attend the conference of what was then the Five Nations Beef Alliance (consisting of Canada, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Mexico) in Denver. She also went to a meeting of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the main American cattle organization.

"It was neat to be part of that and work with some of the other youth," she said. "At the end of the day, we all have our different issues in each country, but what it boiled down to were the same issues."

She still keeps in touch with many of the people she met at these conferences. And she's seen graduates of the program become involved in the beef sector. As part of her mentorship, Fleming also participated in some industry meetings and saw that organi-

zations were in need of younger people.

"Sometimes it's nice to have those younger voices around the tables," she said. "When you sat around all those tables, the age was a little older than what you would like to see."

"In the purebred breed associations, there are a lot of good young individuals with good leadership skills, but there is a gap between their junior career and sitting around the board table. This is one of the ways to bridge that gap."

Fleming recommends that any interested youth apply to the young leaders' program. Even if they don't land a spot, people will learn a lot from the application and interview process, and will make some good connections.

While the Cattlemen's Young Leaders is a great learning experience, there are many ways to build your networks and that's invaluable, she said.

"It builds some of those essential skill sets that people need to be successful in life and in the industry."

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

what's up

Send agriculture-related meeting and event announcements to:
glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com

Jan. 30: Advice From AgInform Professionals (tax, insurance, and safety sessions), Community Hall, Foremost (also Feb. 6 in Acadia Valley). Contact: Janet Adams 403-527-8114

Jan. 30: Pricing Principles (for retail markets), Provincial Building, Grande Prairie. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Feb. 1: Tools for Building Soil Health: Cocktail Cover Crops, Rycroft Ag Centre, Rycroft. Contact: Peace Country Beef & Forage Association 780-835-6799

Feb. 7: Organic Master Garden Course, Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain. Contact: Jennifer Burns-Robinson 780-963-2777

Feb. 8: Growing Industrial Hemp, location t.b.a., Vermilion (also Feb. 8 in Vegreville). Contact: Patti Breland 780-853-8181

Feb. 13-14: Leading Edge Farm Management Conference, Holiday Inn & Suites on Gasoline Alley, Red Deer. Contact: Rick T. 780-454-0844

Feb. 15: Getting Into Farmers' Markets, AFSC Building, Camrose. Contact: Eileen Kotowich 780-853-8223

Feb. 21: Sour Cherry and Haskap Production Workshop, Pomeroy Inn & Suites, Olds. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Feb. 21: Building a Working Destination Farm, Agriculture Business Centre, Leduc. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Feb. 21-23: Alberta Beef Industry Conference, Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, Red Deer. Contact: Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association 403-250-2509

Feb. 22: Preparing Your Business for Change, Alberta Agriculture Centre, Airdrie. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Feb. 28: Farming Smarter AGM, Farming Smarter, Lethbridge. Contact: 403-317-0022

Feb. 28: Beyond Sticky Traps: Levelling Up Your Greenhouse Biocontrol, Thiels Greenhouses, Bruderheim (also March 1 in Lacombe). Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Feb. 28: Lakeland Agricultural Research Association AGM, Craighend Hall, Craighend. Contact: Kellie Nichiporik 780-826-7260

March 6: Potato Pest Management, Festival Place, Sherwood Park (also March 8 in Lethbridge). Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

March 7-8: Western Barley Growers Association 40th Convention: A New Era in Agriculture, Deerfoot Inn & Casino, Calgary. Contact: WPGA 403-912-3998

March 8: Septic Sense - Solutions for Rural Living, Bonnyville Centennial Centre Theatre Room, Bonnyville. Contact: Kellie Nichiporik 780-826-7260

Up-and-comers paired with leaders and innovators in the cattle industry

STAFF

Albertans make up half of the mentees and 10 of the mentors in the 2017-18 edition of the Cattlemen's Young Leaders program.

The program, which started in 2010, pairs young producers between the ages of 18 and 35 with industry leaders for a year-long mentorship geared to their individual interests. Participants also have a \$2,000 budget for attending conferences and industry events. Applications for the 2018-19 program are now open and must be in by March 31. To apply or see the full biographies of the 16 mentees and their 16 mentors in the current program, go to www.cattlemenyoungleaders.com.

Lee Creech grew up on M.C. Quantock ranch near Lloydminster, which is currently calving around 1,000 cows. He has a marketing degree from the University of Lethbridge, has worked for a livestock nutrition company and an online auction technology company, imported and sold utility vehicles, and is pursuing a master of science at the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management at Texas A&M. His mentor is Travis Toews, a former president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and managing director of a ranching and backgrounding operation near Beaverlodge.

James Jenkins grew up near Okotoks on a small family farm and operates Double J Ranches, a 70-head cow-calf operation made up of both purebred Fleckvieh Simmentals and commercial cows that spring and fall calve. His mentor is John Cross of a7 Ranche, the oldest cattle ranch in Canada still in the hands of the original family and which employs holistic resource management.

Ashley Gaudet is a first-generation cattle producer, originally from P.E.I. She began showing commercial steers and purebred Charolais cattle in Eastern Canada, earned a veterinary technician diploma, and moved to Alberta to build a herd of her own. She is growing her own herd of Angus/Simmental-cross cows east of Calgary. Her mentors are Rob and Gail Hamilton who have a purebred Black Angus operation northwest of Calgary. Hamilton Farms was started on rented land in 1981 and now consists of 325 purebred Black Angus cows, more than 6,000 acres, and a seedstock operation that has sold genetics around the world.

Melissa Lee is another Alberta transplant. She came from Manitoba to study at Lakeland College and took an environmental studies degree at the University of Alberta. She is now a conservation officer at Dinosaur Provincial Park near Brooks as well as operating Diamond L Ranch near Oyen with husband Leon. They raise high-quality Red Angus seedstock for both commercial and purebred producers as well as training and selling ranch and performance horses. Her mentor is Clint Morasch of Lazy MC Angus in southeastern Alberta, which has a 200-head purebred cow-calf herd and employs genomics and herd improvement tools. Morasch is also a partner in Bow Valley Genetics, which is located at the ranch.

Cale Toews is a third-generation cattle rancher from west of Grande Prairie. The family operation has 1,500 mother cows and a small backgrounding feedlot. Toews works at the ranch during the summers and is attending the University of Calgary and hopes to become a veterinarian. His mentor is Dr. Cody Creelman of Veterinary Agri-

Health Services in Airdrie. Creelman is well known for entertaining and educational YouTube videos and is also co-founder of an investment group created to support rural veterinary practices in Western Canada.

Matt Kumlin is a fifth-generation rancher from Jumping Pound who graduated from the University of Calgary's veterinarian school in 2014 and worked as a cow-calf and advanced reproductive vet at Bow Valley Livestock Health and Bow Valley Genetics in Brooks. This month he, wife Angela, and son Wade moved back to the family ranch. The couple plans to expand the commercial and purebred Red Angus herd while Kumlin also works at Veterinary Agri-Health Services. His mentor is Dave Solverson, who is past president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and operates Woodwind Ranch with his brother and daughter.

Ben Wilson is a full-time independent filmmaker and consultant who was raised in Ponoka and now operates Benjo Productions from Bashaw. The company is a full-time venture and serves a wide variety of clients across Alberta, primarily in the agriculture industry. His mentor is Phil Braig, assistant manager of the historic Douglas Lake Cattle Company at Douglas Lake, B.C.

Originally from B.C., Lacey McCrae operates a mixed operation north of Vermilion with husband Andrew McCrae. Along with grain, they have a commercial Black Angus herd and calve out about 350 cows. Her mentors are Kelly and Julie Anne Howe, who have a Charolais and Red Angus operation near Moose Jaw, Sask., and have been active in numerous ag associations and groups.

Alecia Karapita works as an ag banker for RBC and operates an Angus herd with her husband near Kamloops, B.C. Her mentor is Rob Smith who has had an extensive career in the cattle sector spanning nearly four decades. This includes working as a livestock extension specialist, managing a purebred seedstock operation, stints with the Alberta and Canadian Angus associations, and most recently co-chairing the 2016 and 2017 editions of the Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

B.C. native Carley Henniger works for the B.C. Angus Association. Her mentor is Bob Lowe, managing partner of Bear Trap Feeders at Nanton, past chair of Alberta Beef Producers, and the first producer to become involved with McDonald's sustainable beef pilot.

Kaitlyn Polegi ranches in Saskatchewan and is also an inspector with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Her mentor is Jill Harvie who ranches with husband Cole and his family on an operation near Olds, is a partner in her parents' operation, and is also the program manager at the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and manages the Cattlemen's Young Leaders program.

Taylor Grafton is a third-generation rancher from Prince George who manages the family operation. His mentor is Michael Munton of Benchmark Angus, a fourth-generation family operation in southern Alberta that raises Black and Red Angus. Thirty per cent of the ranch's cattle grade prime and the ranch is a supplier to top steak houses in Calgary and Banff.

Other members of the 2017-18 Young Leaders program are young ranchers Andrea Haywood-Farmer (B.C.), Allan Hjertaas and Quinn Anderson Folk (both from Saskatchewan), and Rachel Verwey from Manitoba.

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USED EQUIPMENT

BALERS

Hesston 856A, 2002, AW, Wide pickup . **\$15,496**
 JD 568, 2008, Net & Twine, Megawide Pickup, 21.5Lx16.1 tires **\$29,060**
 NH BR780, 2005, NW, Reg pickup, 540 PTO **\$13,855**
 NH 664, 1996, Twine Only **\$6,500**
 NH BR7090, 2011, NW, Specialty Crop, rebuilt pickup, new apron belts - standard lacing **\$35,000**
 NH BR780, 2003, Twine Only, reg pickup **\$8,500**
 NH BR7090, 2007, Net & Twine, reg pickup, 1000 RPM **\$25,000**
 NH BR7090, 2010, Net & Twine, reg pickup, hyd pickup lift, 1000 RPM **\$23,260**
 NH BR7090, 2012, Twine, reg pickup, hyd pickup lift, gathering wheels **\$25,600**
 NH 560, 2015, Specialty crop, 1000 rpm, 21.5x16.1 tires, hyd bale ramp, 5 bar solid tine pickup, premium laced belts. **\$52,000**

MOWER CONDITIONER

NH H7150, 2013, HS16 Header **\$36,700**
 NH H7450, 2012, 13', Rubber Rolls, Shock Pro Hubs **\$31,200**
 NH 499, 1996, 12' cut, good condition. **\$6,900**
 NH H7460, 2010, 16', shock pro hubs **\$28,400**
 NH H7150, 2012, HS16 Header **\$33,800**
 Case SC114, 1999, 14' sickle. **\$7,000**

RAKES

Jiffy 912, 2005, 12 Wheel. **\$14,500**
 Sitrex MK-12, 2005, 12 wheel **\$7,500**

BALE PROCESSORS

Highline CFR651, 2017, Large Tires, right hand discharge, 3 remotes, Chain Feeder . **\$22,500**

SWATHERS

Macdon M155, 2015, 30' D65 header, double swath, A40D 16' sickle header **\$205,000**
 NH HW305, 2007, 16' Sickle Header . **\$65,000**
 NH 2550, 1995, 25' Model 994 draper header, double knife drive **\$40,000**

COMBINES

NH CR8090, 2012, c/w 790CP header - 15', new feeder chain & sprocket, new rub bars & lugs, complete service **\$290,360**

COMBINE HEADERS

Macdon D65S, 2013, 35', CR/CX Adapter, slow speed transport, pea auger, pickup reel end finger kit **\$75,000**
 Macdon D65S, 2013, 35', CR/CX Adapter, slow speed transport, pea auger, pickup reel end finger kit **\$75,000**

GRAIN VACS & AUGERS

Brandt 5000EX, 2007, **\$15,000**
 Rem VRX, 2014. **\$19,500**
 Wheatheart BH36-10, 10' x 36' auger w/mover **\$9,000**

DISCS

Kello 210, 1988, Consists of 2 - 12 foot discs, knotted blades. **\$32,500**
 Lemken HELIODOR 8, 2014, 8M (26 feet), New Discs **SOLD**

CONSTRUCTION

NH B110C, 2013, Engine - 100 hp, 4.72M Dipperstick, front counterweight, Pilot controls, Cab heat & A/C, glide ride, Rear hammer circuit, hand tool circuit **\$80,000**

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AIR DRILL

2014 Bourgault 3320	\$169,000
2014 Bourgault 3320	\$169,000
2009 Bourgault 3310, 65', 10"	\$128,000
2008 Bourgault 3310, 55', 10"	\$99,000
2007 Bourgault 3310, 55', 10"	\$89,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 76', 12"	\$198,000
2013 Bourgault 3320-76	\$245,000
2013 Bourgault 3710, 50', 10"	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720, 70', 12"	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720, 70', 12"	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720	\$198,000
2015 Bourgault 3720-50	\$149,000
2015 Bourgault 3720	Call
2002 Bourgault 5710, 29", 10"	\$32,000
2008 Bourgault 5710, 64', 10"	\$69,000
2005 Bourgault 6350	\$43,800
2010 Bourgault 6550	\$89,800
2010 Bourgault 6550	\$89,800
2014 Bourgault L6550	\$118,000
2015 Bourgault L7800, TB, TRKS, SLDT	\$226,000
2015 Bourgault 3720	Call
2008 CIH 3430	\$39,500
2000 Flexi-Coil 6000/3450, 40', 10", Pillar Openers	\$115,000
2010 Flexi-Coil P2060, 60', 10"	\$68,000
2004 Flexicoil 6000, 40', 10"	\$39,000
2011 NH P2070, 70', 12"	\$85,000
2005 NH SD440, 45", 10"	\$48,000
2008 Seedhawk, 50', 10", Leading Air	\$89,000
2014 Seedmaster CT80-12/520 Tank	\$279,000
2014 FRLCL 350	Call
2014 FRLCL 4350	\$48,000
2010 Flexicoil 5000	\$29,000
2017 Valmar 8611	\$89,000

AIR TANK/CART

2012 Bourgault 6450	\$115,000
2008 Bourgault 6450	\$68,000
2008 Bourgault 6450	\$79,000
2005 Bourgault LFC 2000	\$15,000
2011 NH P1070, Tow Behind	\$98,000
2008 CIH ADX3430, Mech, No Rust	\$45,000
1995 Flexi-Coil 5000/1330, 33', 9"	\$19,500
2004 Flexicoil 3850, Tow Behind DS	\$39,500
2003 Flexicoil 3450	\$48,000
2002 Bourgault 5440	\$48,000

BALER/ROUND

2014 NH RB560, Wide, BC, Net, Spec	\$45,800
2013 NH BR7090	\$39,800
2005 NH BR780	\$13,500
2003 NH BR780	\$11,800
2006 NH BR780A	\$14,500
2004 CIHRBX562, 12,600 Bales	\$13,800
2008 NH BR7090	\$28,500
2003 NH BR780	Call

BLADES

2015 Grouser 770HD, 14', 8-way	\$45,000
2007 Leon 4000 STX425- Frameless	\$13,800
2011 Leon Q5000 STX Quad	\$30,000
2013 Leon Q5000	\$33,000
2013 Leon Q4000	\$16,800
2012 Leon Q500	\$19,500
2016 Kubota BB2763	Call

GRAIN AUGER/HARROW

2007 Bourgault 6000	\$25,800
2013 Bourgault 7200, 72'	\$41,800
2010 Salford 570RTS	\$68,000
2011 Salford RTS570	\$56,800
2007 BOURGAULT 6000	Call

COMBINE

2012 NH CX8080, 748 hrs	\$278,000
2011 NH CX8080, 1438/1030hrs	\$259,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1875/1348 hrs	\$228,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1755/1237 hrs	\$228,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1297/939 hrs	\$238,000
2009 NH CX8080, 1,301 hrs	\$228,000
2008 NH CX8080, 1726/2348hrs	\$238,000
2007 NH CX8080, 1341/1949 hrs	\$215,000
2007 NH CX8080	Please Call
2010 NH CX8080, 1237 hrs	\$228,000
2010 NH CX8080	Please Call
2013 NH CX8090, 846/627 hrs	\$359,000
2013 NH CX8090, 942 hrs	\$359,000
2013 NH CR8090, 1162/904 hrs	\$289,000
2012 NH CR8090, 1144/917 hrs	\$289,000
2012 NH CR8090, 1314/1041 hrs	\$299,000
2004 NH CX860, 2688/2035 hrs	\$119,000
2004 NH CX860, 3685/2869 hrs	\$98,000
2004 NH CX860, 2528/1924 hrs	\$138,000
2001 NH TX66, 2270/3018hrs	\$58,000
1997 NH TX66, 3754/2781 hrs	\$28,500
1998 NH TX66, 2796/2188 hrs	\$48,000
1998 NH TX66, 2921/2344 hrs	\$48,000
1987 NH TR96	Please Call
1997 NH TR97	\$38,000
2011 NH CR9070, 749 hrs	\$258,000
2011 NH CR9070, 1519/1153hrs	\$239,000
2009 NH CR9070, 1673/1238hrs	\$189,500
2008 NH CR9070, 2279/1562 hrs	\$228,000
2010 NH CR9070, 1622/1199 hrs	\$179,500
2007 NH CR9070, 948/780 hrs	\$198,000
2008 NH CR9070, 1434/1023 hrs	\$189,500
2008 NH CR9070, 2251/1583 hrs	\$169,500
2007 NH CR9070, 1510/2267 hrs	\$148,500
2009 NH CR9070, 1554/1137 hrs	\$198,000
2011 NH CR9070	Please Call
2011 NH CR9080, 1522/1063hrs	\$228,000
2010 NH CR9080, 1659/1150hrs	\$228,000
2009 NH CR9080, 1347/980 hrs	\$249,000
2011 NH CR9090Z, 1311/967 hrs	\$289,000
2012 NH CR9090Z, 632 hrs	\$339,000
2012 NH CR9090Z, 811/576 hrs	\$369,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 680 hrs	\$379,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1138 hrs	\$298,000
2012 NH CR9090, 1046/740 hrs	\$345,000
2012 NH CR9090, 2050/1418 hrs	\$315,000
2011 NH CR9090, 1806/1244 hrs	\$269,000
2014 NH CR9090E, 804/556 hrs	\$379,000
2010 NH CR9090E, 1187/1703 hrs	\$269,000
2010 NH CR9090E, 1064/1518 hrs	\$268,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1484/1138 hrs	\$298,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1128/804 Hrs	\$369,000
2015 NH CR8.90, 620/414 hrs	\$483,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 489 hrs	Please Call
2016 NH CR8.90, 465 hrs	Call
2016 NH CR8.90E, 266 hrs	Call

2017 NH CR9.90E	Call
2015 NH CR9.90E, 607/452 hrs	\$559,000
2004 CIH 2388, 2547/2146 hrs	\$98,000
2010 CIH 7088, 1784/1316 hrs	\$187,000
2012 CIH 8230, 1304/962 hrs	\$278,000
2013 JD S680, 933/653 hrs	\$387,000
2012 CLASS 770, 1131/657 hrs	\$369,000
2012 CLAAS 670, 764/475 hrs	\$339,000
2002 NH CX840, 3700/2500 hrs	\$78,000

VERTICAL TILLAGE

2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30'	\$68,000
2011 Salford RTS570	\$56,800
2007 Bourgault 6000	Call
2013 Bourgault 7200-72	\$41,800
2007 Bourgault 6000	\$25,800
1986 Bourgault FH-48-52	\$12,500

HEADER COMBINE

2010 Honeybee, HB30, Gleaner adaptor, 30'	\$49,500
1999 Honeybee SP36, 36'	\$29,000
1994 Honeybee SP30	\$9,800
2009 NH 88C, 42'	\$68,000
2003 NH 94C, 30'	\$29,500
2005 NH 94C, 30'	\$29,500
2009 NH 94C, 36' CX/CR	\$39,500
2008 NH 94C-36'	\$39,500
2003 NH 94C-36'	\$39,500
2009 NH 94C, 30'	\$28,000
2008 NH 94C, 30'	\$29,500
2007 NH 94C	\$28,000
2003 NH 94C, 30' CX/CR	\$29,500
2005 NH 94C, 36'	\$39,500
2004 NH 94C, 30' CX/CR	\$29,500
1998 NH 994 CX/CR	\$19,000
1999 NH 994-30'	\$29,500
1998 NH 994-36'	\$19,000
1995 NH SP25	\$15,000
2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'	\$65,000
2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'	\$69,800
2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'	\$69,800
2014 MacDon D6530G	\$65,000
2014 MacDon D6530G	\$69,900
2014 MacDon D6535G	\$69,900
2013 MacDon D6530G	\$69,900
1998 MacDon 960, 25'	\$9,500
1998 MacDon 960, 30'	\$25,000
2012 MacDon FD70, 45'	\$79,000
2010 MacDon FD70, 45'	\$69,000
2014 MacDon FD75	\$79,500
2015 MacDon FD75	\$92,000
2014 MacDon FD75	\$75,000
2010 CIH 2142, 35'	\$58,000
1998 H 994, 30' TX/TR	\$18,000
2014 CLASS 1200, 35'	\$59,500
1997 Westward Adapter	\$4,000
2009 Case IH 2142	Call
1997 NH SP25	\$15,000
2007 Honey Bee SP30 CX	\$55,000

MOWER CONDITIONER

2004 NH 1475, Toung only	\$6,500
2006 NH 1475	\$21,500
2002 NH 1475, Toung only	\$2,000
1995 NH 2216	\$7,500

1995 NH 2216	\$9,500
2012 NH H7460	\$33,500
2013 NH H7460, 16'	\$39,800
2007 NH 1475/HS18	\$23,800
2012 MacDon A40D 18'	\$23,800
2008 CIH SCX100, 18"	\$23,800

SKID STEER/ COMP. TRACTOR

2014 Kubota L3800HST, 200 hrs	Please call
2014 Kubota B3350, 240 hrs	Please call
2011 Kubota L3940, 380 hrs	Please call
2008 Kubota B2360, 1,257 hrs	Please call
2012 Kubota F2680	Please call for pricing
2008 Kubota BX2660	please call
2013 NH L223	\$39,800
2002 Bobcat 773, 3,289 hrs	\$23,500

SPRAYER/HIGH CLEARANCE

2013 NH SP240, 1000 Hrs, 1200 Gal, 100"	\$309,000
2011 NH SP240F	\$208,000
2011 NH SP240F, 1920 hrs	\$185,000
2009 Spraycoupe 4660, 440 gal, 80'	\$84,500
2005 Sprayair 2010	\$85,000
2005 Sprayair 2010	\$85,000
2010 CIH 4420	\$195,000
2014 CIH 4430, 1300 hrs	\$268,000

SWATHER

2011 MacDon D60, 35'	\$34,000
2013 MacDon D65, 40'	\$49,500
2010 MacDon M150, 2068/1213 hrs	\$85,000
2010 MacDon M150, 35', 1848/1213 hrs	\$85,000
1998 MacDon 960, 25'	\$9,500
2013 MacDon M155/D6540, 520 hrs	\$138,000
2014 NH SR200/440HB	\$169,000
1999 NH 994, 25'	\$15,000
2007 NH HW325, 1200hrs	\$58,000
2008 NH H8040/HB36, as is	\$69,000
2014 NH SR200	\$175,000
1995 MF 200	\$15,000
2010 NH H8060, 30', 1075hrs	\$104,800
1997 MacDon 690, 36'	\$9,800
2012 MF WR9740/5200	\$102,800
2004 MacDon 9352	Call
2009 MacDon M150/D60	\$128,000
2000 MacDon 9350	\$8,800
2011 MacDon M205, 1078 hrs	\$158,000

TRACTOR

1981 NH TW10, 8,500	\$6,500
2011 NH T7.270 AutoCommand - LDR, 2360 hrs	\$178,000
2012 NH T7.235, 2341 hrs	\$169,000
2011 Versatile 305, 1800 hrs	\$149,500
2012 NH, T7.235, 5959 hrs	\$109,000
2006 NH TM175/860TL, 7700hrs	\$58,000
1977 Ford 8700	\$12,500
2005 CIH MXU 110, 7200hrs	\$43,800
2011 Massey 2650	\$48,000

TRACTOR 4WD

2008 Versatile 2375	\$139,000
2009 CIH STX535Q, 3103 hrs	\$248,000
2012 NH T9.505	\$339,000
1994 NH 9680	\$89,000
1995 CIH 9270	\$69,000

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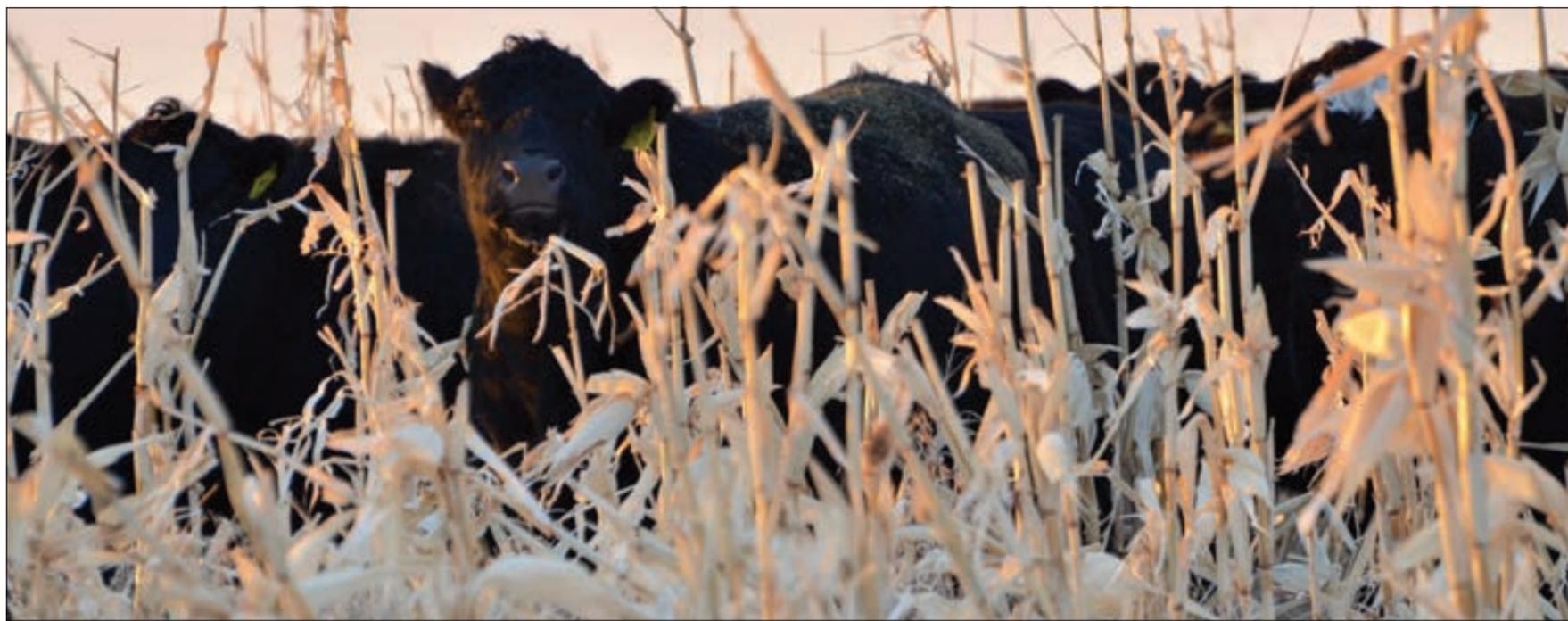
CHERRIES AND BERRIES WORKSHOP

Sour cherries and haskap are excellent fruit crops to grow in Alberta, with lots of potential markets for these tasty berries. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has organized a full-day workshop in Olds on all aspects of growing these crops, from planting to harvest. Participants will receive information on varietal selection, establishment, maintenance, and harvest of both fruit crops, as well as how to identify potential markets. The workshop runs Feb. 21 at the Pomeroy Inn and Suites at Olds College. To register call 1-800-387-6030 before Feb. 14 or go to www.agriculture.alberta.ca and search for 'haskap.' – AAF

CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY COMING UP

The second annual celebration of Canada's Agriculture Day will be held on Feb. 13. The day highlights a sector of the economy that employs one in eight Canadians. Last year's Agriculture Day was marked by hundreds of events across the country and by food conversations conducted through social media. Individuals are encouraged to make a family meal using all Canadian foods, and snapping a farm or food photo and sharing it on social media using hashtags such as #CdnAgDay and #FarmLife. For more ideas on how to celebrate Canada's Agriculture Day or for a list of community events, visit AgDay.ca. – FCC

MORE NEWS



Cattle at research farm run by Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives chow down on standing corn. PHOTO: ALEXIS STOCKFORD

Corn offers double benefit for Manitoba farmers

The province's farmers planted more than 400,000 acres last year although low prices may stall further growth

STAFF / CNS CANADA

Corn continues to gain acres in Manitoba and growers there have a couple of reasons to be happy — prices are holding up surprisingly well and grazing the crop turns out to be a good way to stay warm during the province's infamous cold winters.

Manitoba farmers planted 410,000 acres of corn in 2017 (up from 345,000 acres a year earlier) and got yields of about 134 bushels an acre, which is above the 10-year average.

But they also had to market that crop in the midst of a worldwide glut of corn. American farmers harvested 14.6 billion bushels, and the USDA expects ending stocks to hit a staggering 2.48 billion bushels.

But solid demand has been underpinning the market for Manitoba growers, said Myron Krahn, president of the province's corn growers' association.

In particular, Alberta feedlots have taken a liking to Manitoba corn this year. Price is the key reason why, as corn is compet-

ing more favourably with feed wheat and barley prices.

"Corn prices aren't fantastic," said Krahn. "They're hovering pretty much between \$4 and \$4.30 (per bushel)."

As long as bids don't drop below the \$4 level, farmers in the province should continue to plant acres, he said, although acreage isn't expected to go up much, if at all, in 2018.

"Talking to fellow seed dealers around the province there's a large assumption that corn acres will be fairly flat," he said, adding the key for provincial growers is good yields to offset the margin prices.

Grazing corn

But cattle producers who grow corn for grazing have another reason to like the crop.

Manitoba rancher Ryan Boyd has long experimented with systems like swath grazing and corn grazing. Just prior to the new year, temperatures dropped to -35 C with wind chills approaching -50 C. Sheltering his cattle from that wind was critical, he said, adding his herd did "decently well" despite the fierce cold.

Cattle not only need more energy during cold periods, but also more protein and this proved to be Boyd's biggest issue (along with frozen waterers) during the near -50 weather.

"Talking to fellow seed dealers around the province there's a large assumption that corn acres will be fairly flat."

MYRON KRAHN

"I baled up some pea greenfeed that has more mature peas in it than I had expected and that has been giving me some grief," he said. "As I upped the amount of feed in the cold, some acidosis started showing up in the cows from too much

grain, a combination effect of corn and peas combined."

At Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives' research ranch, where animals winter exclusively in the field through extended grazing, hay is used to supplement corn grazing.

Cattle need about 15 per cent more feed for every 10° drop in temperature, and corn easily supplies the energy component, said project manager Shawn Cabak.

"Corn is a good source of energy under extreme temperatures and so it works well when you have below-normal temperatures because they're actually getting more energy than their requirements already," he said.

"It's important for rations to be balanced for protein, energy, mineral and vitamins," Cabak said.

The researcher advised a 2-1 mineral with extra calcium or 3-1 mineral to make up for corn's lower calcium content.

Protein is a relative weakness of the system.

Bart Lardner, lead researcher on ongoing corn grazing projects through the Western Beef Development Centre, tested five corn varieties in 2011-

12 and found an average 7.4 per cent protein. Research out of the University of Saskatchewan backed up his findings. In 2015, a trial comparing corn to swath-grazed barley and barley greenfeed found corn had the lowest protein at 8.2 per cent, compared to 10.9 to 11.2 per cent in the other two feeds.

Corn's protein is enough for the average cow, said Lardner, but likely not enough for pregnant ones.

Cows gorging on corn is another risk, and is one of the main reasons why experts advise farmers to transition cattle onto corn slowly and supplement with hay before moving the herd onto the field or into a fresh paddock of corn.

The idea, Cabak said, is to fill up the animals before they reach their new grazing grounds.

As Boyd can testify, ensuring adequate water is also a challenge.

Cabak didn't have that issue as the research farm is currently testing a motion-activated gravity waterer. It only brings water up when an animal approaches and then drains it back underground, where it is unlikely to freeze.



EYEING A FROSTY MORNING

Raven, a standard donkey on Burro Alley Ranch, near Millarville, sports a frosted face after a night of frigid temperatures. Donkeys were originally desert creatures but are now found all over the world. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

U.S. faces oversupply of antibiotic-free chicken

Top U.S. chicken producer says consumers mostly want breast meat and it's selling other parts at a loss

BY TOM POLANSEK
REUTERS

Supplies of chicken raised without antibiotics are outstripping demand, says a major U.S. poultry producer.

Large chicken and restaurant companies, including Tyson Foods and McDonald's, have raced to cut antibiotics from poultry supplies as health experts have warned about the link between use of the drugs in farms and the rise of drug-resistant bacteria.

Antibiotic-free chickens made up an average of 40.5 per cent of all fresh U.S. production for the first 10 months of 2017, Sanderson Farms said in a regulatory filing. However, only 6.4 per cent of sales were for products sold as antibiotic free, said the third-largest U.S. poultry producer.

Consumers of antibiotic-free chicken, which can cost more to produce, mainly want breast meat and chicken tenders, Sanderson said. Producers are forced to sell other parts of the bird, including wings, against lower-priced meat from conventionally raised chickens.

Sanderson's assertion challenges a belief that the U.S. supply of antibiotic-free chicken is not enough to meet demand. Sanderson is the only large U.S. chicken producer that has not committed to limit the use of antibiotics, though it has a plan to eliminate them if it is in the company's best interest.

Chief financial officer Mike Cockrell said in an interview proper antibiotic use was good for animal welfare and gave the company a competitive advantage.

"It allows us to produce product at a more affordable price point," he said.

The market for antibiotic-free chicken is mainly limited to breast meat, said Christine McCracken, animal protein analyst for Rabobank.

"All indications are that demand is increasing," said Austin Wilson, program manager for activist group As You Sow, which is pushing Sanderson to stop using certain antibiotics.

"Even if it's not currently keeping pace, it may catch up."



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Cold weather is an ideal time for pruning diseased trees

Black knot and fire blight can be easily spread when it's warm but not in winter

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

Very few people think of pruning in the dead of winter, but it's probably the best time when it comes to trees infested with black knot and fire blight.

"The beauty of winter pruning is that there are no leaves, and you will have a clear picture where to prune," said Toso Bozic, a provincial woodlot extension specialist.

You want to remove the 'three Ds' — dead, diseased, and damaged branches, he said.

"Walking around your trees to envision the end result of your pruning is the first step," said Bozic. "Next you can get to work removing water sprouts, suckers, rubbing and undesirable branches."

Trees infested with black knot or fire blight require special care and attention.

"Black knot is a fungal disease while fire blight is bacterial, and you want to make sure you take the proper steps not to spread either of them," said Bozic.

Black knot reduces growth, but takes a long time to kill a tree. On the other hand, fire blight is a very deadly disease that can kill part or sometimes an entire tree very quickly.

"Black knot is a fungal disease while fire blight is bacterial"

TOSO BOZIC

Black knot is a very common disease among the Prunus genus, and appears on a range of trees and shrubs including chokecherries, maydays, plums, and many others.

It is relatively easy to recognize due to the black and tar-like swelling of fruiting bodies. In the early stages of an infestation you will notice a green to olive-coloured gall (swelling) with a spur where the disease is spreading. After two to three years that fruiting body is mature and will ripen and become black. This stage is more recognizable.

Fire blight can kill a range of many hardy ornamentals or fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in the Rose family including crabapples, hawthorns, raspberry, saskatoon berry, mountain ash, pear, and cotoneasters.

In the summer, this disease is more easily recognizable as it causes blossom wilting and browning, and also causes leaves to turn black, as if they were scorched by fire. On the bark of branches you will see cracks, splitting, peeling, and eventually watery oozing. Infection will progress along the branch, circling it and creating a canker. The old infested canker may look like cracked bark with a black colour surrounding it. This is a good indication about where the disease is, and where to prune. These old cankers are the main source for a future fire blight infestation and must be removed.

"Pruning in cold weather is ideal for treating both of these diseases, as their spores are inactive and can't survive cold temperatures,"

said Bozic. "Winter pruning also removes the opportunity for them to spread and infest other trees."

For both infestations, the key is to prune at least 12 inches below the infested area.

If an entire tree or shrub is infested, you will likely need to remove it. Once removed, infested branches must be destroyed immediately. You can put them in sealed bags and send them to the local landfill. Burning diseased branches is also an option in the winter. Do not leave the pruned branches on the ground until spring, as they can spread spores once the growing season begins.

You should still sterilize your pruning tools after each cut, but even if you cut through the spores or bacteria, they will be exposed to cold and can't survive on tools for long in an Alberta winter.



Black knot is a fungal disease spread by spores, but the spores are inactive in winter. PHOTO: CREATIVE COMMONS

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Chinese company says it wants to be the world's top grain trader

But state-owned COFCO International is finding commodities are a tough business to succeed in



Dutch grain trader Nidera is one of the recent acquisitions COFCO hopes will transform it into a top international grain company. PHOTO: CREATIVE COMMONS/MICHAEL TROLOVE

BY JONATHAN SAUL, GUS TROMPIZ AND HALLIE GU
REUTERS

China's COFCO International is in the throes of a staffing upheaval as the group pursues its ambition to become the world's top agricultural trader.

But doubts persist among some in the industry over whether the trading firm will really challenge the existing four dominant players. In the end, they suspect, it may prioritize securing strategic food supplies for China over commercial aims in an era of rising trade tensions.

State-owned conglomerate China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corp. began building its foreign commodities operations in 2014 and formally launched the COFCO International Ltd. (CIL) trading division in April last year. Its assets include port facilities in Brazil and Romania, sugar mills in Brazil, and grain silos across the globe.

COFCO Group president Yu Xubo recently laid out a bold expansion.

"We aim to become the largest international food trader by 2020, not only in assets we own and revenues we make, but also in the quality of our assets, business operation, and return on investment," he said.

COFCO Group, which has interests in hotels, real estate and leading Chinese food and drink brands, had revenues of US\$53 billion in the first nine months of 2017. It has been recently securing its global supply lines, including expanding its ocean shipping fleet and buying ports around the world

— part of China President Xi Jinping's trillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative involving huge infrastructure projects connecting China to Europe and beyond.

But COFCO International has spent most of the past year integrating past purchases rather than expanding during a difficult time for all traders, including the top four: Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus (collectively known as the ABCDs).

"It has been a challenging period," said one source with knowledge of COFCO International's strategy.

But he said the worst is over, and the Chinese company is intent on taking market share from rivals.

"The big ambition is still there — to be the new C of the ABCDs."

COFCO International has been trying to integrate two purchases, together worth more than US\$3 billion, that it agreed three years ago — of Rotterdam-based grain trader Nidera and the agribusiness of Singapore-listed Noble Group.

This has meant heavy job losses. A company official said last month that over 2,500 jobs had been shed in its Brazilian sugar operations alone, with further cuts expected there, although this was separate from the integration process.

COFCO Group has also sent a team of managers from Beijing to take pivotal roles in operations across the globe, including in Canada, Brazil and Europe, company memos seen by Reuters showed.

A spokesman for Geneva-based COFCO International said around 50 of its staff are

"It's a big machine. It doesn't think like a business. It thinks like a government."

FORMER COFCO MANAGER



former COFCO Group employees, although he noted this was out of a total workforce that exceeds 13,000. The spokesman declined to comment further on human resources issues.

Chief executive Johnny Chi, who held top positions with COFCO Group in China, has overseen the departure of several top staff at Nidera, from which the trader inherited big losses. These included a US\$150-million financial hole in its Latin American operations and US\$200 million in unauthorized trading losses on its biofuels desk.

Sources said Nidera teams have been shrunk or removed in Europe and North America. This followed a management reshuffle in Brazil after the accounting irregularities.

The firm has also hired high-profile figures from the industry, with Pierre Lorinet, former chief financial officer at trade house Trafigura, and Serge Schoen, an ex-Louis Dreyfus chief executive, both joining its board.

Whether the firm has achieved a turnaround yet is unclear. No profit and loss accounts are available for COFCO International, in which the Beijing parent holds 48 per cent and the



sovereign wealth fund China Investment Corp. 12 per cent.

One former COFCO International manager who left in the past year said the firm had been struggling over how to cut costs and ensure future revenues after shedding people who had been making it money. Other problems lay in overcoming cultural differences across its global operations.

"It's a big machine. It doesn't think like a business. It thinks like a government," the former manager said.

Chi has played down suggestions that the firm is torn between competing objectives, unsure whether to pursue its own commercial aims or the strategic interests of its home country. He told one newspaper that the company does not want to be "just a procurement platform for COFCO Corporation or China."

But some remain skeptical.

"What COFCO International should strive for is to be the most efficient procurement office for China — the feeding of China's population is of the utmost strategic importance," said Jean-Francois Lambert, founding partner of Lambert Commodities consultancy.

"This is in fact its prime objective."

With such powerful Chinese shareholders, the firm has the financial clout to become an ABCD "if it wants to," said Jay O'Neil, senior agricultural economist at Kansas State University.

COFCO International had overpaid for the investments in Nidera and Noble and not got the results it was looking for, he said. However, he noted the possibility that the purchases were designed to let COFCO and China diversify supplies of soybeans and to "protect them from potential political issues with the U.S."

President Donald Trump has repeatedly complained about the size of China's trade surplus with the United States, and accused the country of stealing U.S. intellectual property.

If COFCO International wants to be the top grain trader, it will have to return to the acquisitions market, Kansas State University's O'Neil said.

"I do not see them as taking a significant percentage of market share away from others until and unless they buy into one of the ABCDs. And if they do that, well then they will be an ABCD."

U.S. government forecasts first drop in soybean exports in five years

BY KARL PLUME
REUTERS

The U.S. government expects the country's soybean exports to drop for the first time in five years as bumper crops in South America pose a stiff challenge for U.S. shipments abroad.

The drop is bad news for American farmers struggling with low prices and record stocks of the oilseed as Argentina and Brazil, which surpassed the U.S. as the world's largest exporter in 2013, seize a larger share of the US\$48-billion global soybean export market.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's most recent forecast is for exports of 58.79 million tonnes for the year ended Aug. 31, down 1.77 million tonnes from the prior-month forecast. Meanwhile, the agency lifted current-season Brazilian exports by 1.5 million to a record 67 million tonnes. The country is expected to grow 110 million tonnes of soybeans this season, its second-largest-ever crop and farmers there are still holding stocks from last year's harvest.

"Exports need a significant increase to still reach USDA's projection, and at this point I don't think we're going to get there," said Terry Reilly, senior commodities analyst with Futures International.

U.S. export sales for shipments since September are trailing year-ago sales by 14 per cent, USDA data showed.

Reilly said the new crop from

"Exports need a significant increase to still reach USDA's projection, and at this point I don't think we're going to get there."

TERRY REILLY

Brazil will undercut U.S. soy supplies.

"As soon as Brazil comes online, they're going to be deeply discounted to U.S. regardless of how low the dollar goes," Reilly said, citing the weaker green-

back, which reduces costs for buyers holding other currencies.

U.S. soybeans for February shipments from Gulf Coast elevators are around US\$370 per tonne on a free-on-board basis, about US\$9 per tonne below Brazilian prices, traders said.

But the U.S. price advantage narrows to around US\$4 to US\$5 per tonne in March, as newly harvested Brazilian beans flood to port. Buyers in top importer China are normally willing to pay premiums of at least US\$5 per tonne for Brazilian beans due to their higher protein and oil content, traders said.

"USDA didn't shock anyone by cutting (U.S. soybean) exports. The questions now is whether it will be cutting it back even more next month," said a soybean trader who asked not to be named.



Latin American soybean producers are proving stiff competition for their U.S. colleagues. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

AGI buys bin sensor, fertilizer blending system makers

Winnipeg-based Ag Growth International has bought Burnaby, B.C.-based CMC Industrial Electronics and Iowa-based Junge Control. The former makes commercial bin monitoring sensors and handling systems for the grain, feed and milling sectors while the latter makes automation, measurement, blending and measurement systems, mostly for liquid fertilizer blending.

Ag Growth International's brands include auger makers Westfield and Wheatheart and grain bin makers Twister and Westeel. — Staff

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Peru's alpine herders revive ancient technologies to face the future

Millennia-old infrastructure was rebuilt to save their livelihoods and communities

BY THIN LEI WIN
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

With their alpine grasslands shrinking due to erratic rainfall and glacier retreat, herders in Peru's central Andes have decided that the future lies in reviving the past.

To improve access to water and save their livestock, Indigenous communities in the villages of Canchayllo and Miraflores have restored abandoned dams, reservoirs and canals that date back over 3,000 years.

Two years on from completion of the project — supported by The Mountain Institute (TMI), a U.S.-based non-profit — there are more and better-quality pastures for sheep, cattle and alpaca to graze, and milk, meat, and crop yields have risen.

The project's success, benefiting 9,600 people in the Nor Yauyos Cochas Landscape Reserve, has raised hopes for thousands of highland communities in Peru and elsewhere who are facing similar climate pressures, said Florencia Zapata of TMI, which works with mountain communities.

It could also have far-reaching impacts along the desert coast, home to almost 70 per cent of the population, which receives less than two per cent of Peru's available water.

"Water that most of the population depends on comes mainly from the mountains. So, we need to take care of (that water)," said Zapata, who oversaw the project.



Shepherdess Narcisca Cornelio (r) and her daughter Nancy Condor rest in front of Hualcan glacier in Huascarán natural reserve in Ancash, Peru. PHOTO: REUTERS/MARIANA BAZO

The western ranges of the "brown" Andes — with a marked dry season — are dotted with remains of ancient infrastructures dedicated to managing water, said Jorge Recharte, director of TMI's Andes program.

The ranges extend to Bolivia, Chile and Argentina and while some water structures are still in use, knowledge and understanding of them had started to vanish as populations dwindled due to migration to the cities, Recharte said.

Peru's glaciers are a source of fresh water for millions of people but they have diminished by 40 per cent since the 1970s, government figures showed.

The South American country is home to 70 per cent of the world's tropical glaciers, which are "especially sensitive to warming temperatures," the United Nations warned.

Fears over the melting of an Andean glacier has even led to

an intercontinental lawsuit that environmentalists are watching closely.

"As glacier retreat progresses and climate change kicks in... new lands are becoming available for agriculture in the Andes," said Alexander Herrera, an archeologist and associate professor at Colombia's Universidad de los Andes.

"Learning from the past is absolutely crucial for sustainable, low-risk, productive agriculture (of the kind) the Andes have had for thousands of years," said Herrera, who was involved in the Canchayllo and Miraflores projects.

Grey and green

Peru has a long history of embarking on engineering feats to manage the flow of water for agriculture.

The Incas and the civilizations before them built terraces, cisterns and canals while modern government projects include the \$500-million Olmos and the stalled Chavimochic III irrigation projects.

It was at one of the first meetings TMI organized in 2013 that locals raised the possibility of rehabilitating the neglected pre-Inca hydraulic structures.

Designed to slow the movement of water through grasses and soils, they replenished aquifers and springs and helped the grasslands retain more water, allowing biodiversity to flourish.

This way, the ecosystem acted as a buffer against flooding and drought and provided fodder for their animals, who in turn produce cheese and importantly manure, used to cultivate "thousands of native potato, corn, tuber and grain varieties," Zapata said.

The restoration and adaptation of ancient terraces and canals for modern use has been pioneered by British archeologist Ann Kendall since the late 1970s.

But other attempts by Andean governments and aid groups in the 1980s to revive these technologies for development failed because the focus was more on techniques and less on the needs of the locals, said archeologist Herrera.

In Canchayllo and Miraflores, the restoration has combined ancient and modern technologies to meet the demands of herders, after months of consultation.

The restored systems incorporate "grey" infrastructure such as PVC pipes, water valves and fences and "green" elements such as restoration of grasslands and wetlands.

The restoration minimized the need for regular maintenance work since labour is in short supply, with the young and able moving to cities for better jobs.

"It is not enough to just improve their infrastructure or water availability. If people are not organized to manage the infrastructure, it will collapse sooner or later," Zapata said.

Not another burden

Julio Postigo, a Peruvian expert on pastoralism in high altitudes, said poor, marginalized communities needed support from government to revive the ancient structures — just as families were supported centuries ago.

"We tend to forget, when we romanticize these Inca or pre-Inca or ancient responses, that they were never taken by individual families," said Postigo, a senior research scientist at the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center.

"You're talking about an empire that decided that, that infrastructure was going to be built."

TMI said it was looking to train and work with the Peruvian government and other organizations to replicate the success of projects in central Peru.

But reviving ancient water systems must be part of a wider plan to help communities cope with climate change, said Postigo.

"The people most vulnerable to climate change effects are those who are poorer, less educated, more marginal, Indigenous," he said in a phone interview.

"We should fight poverty and improve living conditions. In doing so, those populations will be on a better foot to respond to climate change."

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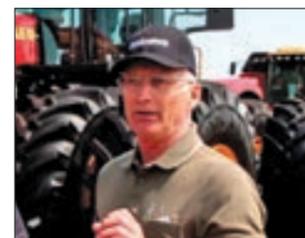
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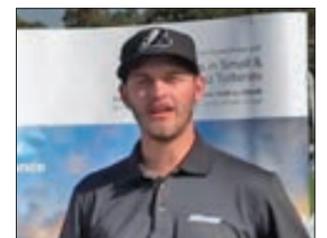
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Honeybees' attraction to fungicide 'unsettling' for food output – study

For unknown reasons these important pollinators will seek out fungicides when gathering

BY EMMA BATHA
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Honeybees are attracted to a fungicide used in agriculture with “unsettling implications” for global food production, says a new study.

Tests carried out by a team from the University of Illinois showed bees preferred to collect sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil over sugar syrup alone.

The finding follows other studies linking fungicides to a worldwide plunge in honeybee and wild bee populations, which are crucial for pollinating crops.

“Bees are kind of like humans in that they sometimes like things that aren't necessarily good for them,” said University of Illinois entomology professor, May Berenbaum, who led the research.

She said fungicides were bad news for bees because they could exacerbate the toxicity of pesticides and kill off beneficial fungi in hives.

Her team set up two feeding stations in an enclosure allowing the bees to choose sugar syrup laced with a test chemical or without. The chemicals included three fungicides and two herbicides at various concentrations.

The researchers were taken aback to find the bees choosing one of the fungicides.

“It was a surprise when they actually liked them,” said Berenbaum, adding that it could explain why fungicide contamination in hives was so common.

“This is not anything that anyone had even thought about before so we need to readjust our focus because there certainly could be implications for agriculture.”

However, she said the bees actively avoided a second tested fungicide and were neutral about a third.

The scientists said the findings were “worrisome” in light of research showing fungicides interfere with honeybees' ability to metabolize pesticides used by beekeepers to kill parasitic mites that infest their hives.

The scientists were also surprised to find the bees showed a taste for the widely used herbicide glyphosate.

A study by the Center for Biological Diversity last year said hundreds of native bee species in North America and Hawaii were sliding towards extinction. It said bees provided more than US\$3 billion in fruit-pollination services each year in the United States.

Experts have blamed habitat



Researchers are surprised to find bees are actually attracted to at least one commonly used fungicide. PHOTO: REUTERS/DAVID W CERNY

loss, heavy pesticide use, climate change and increasing urbanization for declining numbers. The United Nations recently

announced an annual World Bee Day on May 20 to raise awareness of their importance and declining numbers.

Australia takes Canada to WTO over wine rules

BY TOM MILES
GENEVA / REUTERS

Australia has complained at the World Trade Organization about Canada's rules on wine sales, expanding a similar U.S. complaint against one province.

In October, Washington accused B.C. of providing an unfair advantage to local vineyards by giving their wine an exclusive retail channel in grocery store shelves and cutting out U.S. competition.

Australia's complaint says not only B.C. but also Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, as well as the Canadian government, had policies on wine that broke WTO rules.

“It appears that a range of distribution, licensing and sales measures such as product markups, market access and listing policies, as well as duties and taxes on wine applied at the federal and provincial level may discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against imported wine,” Australia said.

The dispute is the first brought by Australia against Canada in the history of the WTO, and follows a rise in trade tension between Canada and the U.S.

The Canadian federal government “works closely with all provinces and territories to ensure their liquor distribution and sales policies are consistent with our international trade commitments,” said a federal government spokesperson.

Australia has seen exports of bottled wine to Canada fall between 2007 and 2016 (from \$224 million to \$119 million), although sales to Britain and the U.S. have fallen by even more.

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Canada's vets get top marks from international panel

An international organization has found Canada stacks up well against anyone when it comes to animal health

BY ALEX BINKLEY
AF CONTRIBUTOR

An international review of the provision of veterinary services in Canada during 2017 found the system in good shape, says Jaspinder Komal, acting national chief veterinary officer.

A team of veterinary experts assembled by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) checked documentation on veterinary training and operations and conducted on-site visits across the country, he told the recent annual conference of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

"The assessment found Canadian veterinary services operate at the highest level with no major weaknesses," Komal said. "The

results are very favourable, with most scores being five out of five. A few areas scored four out of five or three out of five."

The low scores came in areas of known weaknesses that will be addressed, he said. One example was traceability of animals and their products. Another was on the implementation of a plan to curb antimicrobial resistance, which Health Canada has addressed with the release last fall of major steps in creating a framework to deal with the issue. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency "will develop an action plan with stakeholders to address all recommendations in the report."

Komal also reported on the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction that brought high-level animal health experts from more than

"The results are very favourable, with most scores being five out of five."

JASPINDER
KOMAL



100 countries to Ottawa. It produced 12 recommendations for member countries to increase international co-operation in preventing the accidental or deliberate spread of animal diseases around the world.

They included closer collaboration between animal health experts and law enforcement to

track emerging livestock diseases to ensure they aren't used by terror groups to disrupt national economies.

Another called for guidelines to cover biological research to ensure that scientists are aware of the potential for their discoveries being used for criminal purposes and take precautions to prevent such misuse. As well, internationally accepted standards should be applied to all new laboratories being built to study livestock diseases and treatments.

Komal said Canada supports all the recommendations and has already acted on the one calling for the destruction of any remaining stockpiles of the virus that causes the virulent livestock disease rinderpest. It was formally declared eradicated in 2011. The ones at the CFIA labs in Winnipeg have already been destroyed.

CFIA works with the RCMP on any disease outbreaks that it finds suspicious, he said.

"We want to keep the animal diseases out of the wrong hands," Komal said.

"Canada, represented by CFIA and Global Affairs Canada, will be active in international forums on improving the identification and eradication of livestock diseases."

Troy Bourque of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, said the recommendations provided Canada with lots of opportunities to become involved in global animal health initiatives.

"A key issue is the rigour of biosecurity measures at laboratories," he said. "Lab security has been handled the same in all parts of the world. Academics need to ensure they have proper security around their works."

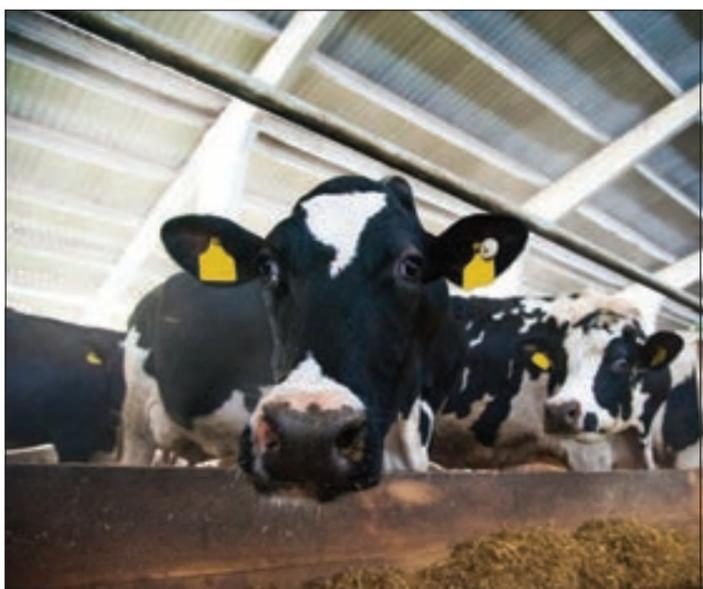


PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Transgenic cows produce human antibodies

Scientists say human antibodies produced in cows could be used to combat a deadly new type of viral disease

BY KATE KELLAND
REUTERS

Human antibodies made in genetically engineered cows have proved safe in an early-stage clinical trial and could be developed into a treatment for the fatal viral disease called MERS, say U.S. researchers.

MERS, or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, is a SARS-like viral infection first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012 that has caused deadly outbreaks in the Middle East as well as sporadic cases around the world. No effective treatment or vaccine has been developed against MERS, which has a 35 per cent case fatality rate and has so far killed at least 740 people worldwide.

But researchers have found that human antibodies called SAB-301 generated in so-called

transchromosomal cattle — animals with human DNA incorporated into their genome — were safe in healthy volunteers.

The antibodies also persisted for more time than the MERS virus typically remains in the body, the study found, with antibodies still detected in the bloodstream after 90 days.

This opens the way for testing antibodies in trials in people infected with MERS, the researchers said.

"The data from our study suggests that SAB-301 is safe, and further research into the treatment is warranted," said John Beigel at Leidos Biomedical Research, who co-led the U.S. government-funded study.

The idea of using human antibodies has developed in recent years in a variety of severe and emerging diseases, including flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), MERS and Ebola.



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Vitamin shortage affects feed formulations

Feed formulations will have reduced levels of vitamins A and E because of a worldwide shortage

STAFF

Feed manufacturers up against a global shortage of vitamins A and E will be able to temporarily reformulate their products for sale in Canada without a complete rewrite of their product labels.

The shortage stems from an October fire during the startup of an aroma chemicals plant operated by global chemical firm BASF in its corporate hometown of Ludwigshafen, Germany.

The fire forced BASF to shut down the plant, which makes citral and isoprenol ingredients, and declare force majeure — that is, a legal suspension of a contractual obligation due to a situation beyond a party's control — on delivery of those products.

BASF is the world's biggest manufacturer of citral, making about 40,000 tonnes a year. Apart from its aromatic uses, citral is a "starting material" for processing vitamin A and E and carotenoid feed ingredients.

The company said its vitamin A and E plants, which were also



A file photo of BASF's citral manufacturing plant at Ludwigshafen, Germany. PHOTO: BASF

shut down around that time for scheduled routine maintenance, now can't be restarted until the company's supplies of citral and "corresponding intermediates" become available. BASF thus announced it would have to extend its force majeure

to its deliveries of vitamin A and E and several carotenoid ingredients.

Feed manufacturers, as a result, have had to revise their feed formulations with reduced levels of vitamins A and E, in order to continue to provide

Feed manufacturers, as a result, have had to revise their feed formulations with reduced levels of vitamins A and E, in order to continue to provide feed to livestock.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

However, to show that a given domestic or imported feed product is effective for its intended purpose, CFIA requires the product label to carry guarantees of certain nutrient levels.

Normally, changing a product's label guarantee for vitamins A and E would require an administrative amendment, but CFIA announced an interim measure given the "temporary nature of the situation."

Processors who have to reformulate feeds, with the aim of conserving inventories of vitamins A and E, may instead provide CFIA with a notification of reformulation, and attest that their labelling accurately reflects nutrient guarantees.

The revised guarantees will be allowed until supplies of vitamins A and E have stabilized, after which processors' guarantees for these vitamins will return to the levels as approved in their registrations, CFIA said.

The cleanup, followup inspection, repair and restart for BASF's citral plant — and the restart for affected downstream plants — are expected to take "several weeks," the company said in mid-November.

feed to livestock, said the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Temporary reformulations of feeds to reduce levels of vitamins A and E is "not expected to cause any undue safety or welfare risks to livestock," the agency said.

Limagrain says vandalism could force relocation of research

French seed company says GMO protesters may force even its conventional research out of that country

REUTERS

Limagrain, the world's fourth-largest seed maker, will consider moving its research activities out of France if field trials in its home market continue to be sabotaged by opponents of genetically modified crops.

The French co-operative group was targeted last month by protesters who invaded test fields southeast of Paris and scattered non-commercial seed. That was the latest in a series of actions by opponents of gene editing technology, which they say will herald a new generation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Limagrain said the incident ruined a 37-hectare trial of wheat based on conventional breeding and showed the risk of a repeat of virulent debate over GMOs.

"If we have repetition of this kind of problem, I will be the first to say that we should relocate our research and not conduct it in France," said Jean-Yves Foucault, Limagrain president and one of the farmers who own the co-operative group.

Limagrain, which is a major seed maker through listed subsidiary Vilmorin, previously stopped performing GMO field trials in France, where commercial growing of such crops is banned.

"If we have repetition of this kind of problem, I will be the first to say that we should relocate our research and not conduct it in France."

JEAN-YVES
FOUCAULT

The emergence of new breeding techniques has reignited debate over genetic modification in Europe.

So-called gene editing has been hailed by researchers as a revolutionary tool but has led to fierce arguments over whether gene edited crops should be treated as GMOs.

Crop developers say such crops should not fall under the European Union's strict GMO rules because the new technology does not involve the transfer of genes from different species. Critics, meanwhile, say they are GMOs by another name.

The EU has yet to decide how to classify the new techniques.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS 0200

AGRI-VISIONS 2018 Tradeshow and Conference, February 14 & 15 2018, Lloydminster Exhibition, Lloydminster, SK/AB. Visit us online: www.lloydex.com 306-825-5571 email: slake@lloydex.com

MASSIVE SALE! Axis Motorsports, Sundridge RV, Greenlight Truck & Auto. Financing specials, low payments! Jan 26th, 2820 Jasper Ave, Saskatoon SK, 306-260-3396.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SASKATCHEWAN 0330

YORKTON FARM TOY SHOW - February 10th & 11th. Pedal tractor raffle, Yorkton, SK. Call 306-742-4772 for information.

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WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALARMS- 1/2 mile range. Easy to install. Calving/foaling barn cameras, backup cameras for RVs, trucks and combines, etc. Free shipping from Calgary, AB. 403-616-6610.

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THE WINNIPEG AGRICULTURAL Motor Competitions 1908-1913, by Rick Mannen, 340 pages illustrated, \$29.95 + shipping. Contact Haughm Books 519-522-0248.

ANTIQUE VEHICLES 0705

WANTED: 1968 Dodge Coronet or Charger, in any condition. Call 306-536-6693, Sedley, SK.

JIM'S CLASSIC CORNER - We buy or sell your classic/antique automobile or truck. Call 204-997-4636, Winnipeg, MB.

ANTIQUE MISC. 0710

WANTED: TRACTOR MANUALS, sales brochures, tractor catalogs. 306-373-8012, Saskatoon, SK.

WANTED: VOLKSWAGEN van/truck, pre-1967; Also antique signs, gas pumps, oil cans etc. 306-222-7376, Warman, SK.

BEEHIVE BOOK 1945; Planter jars; Heinz ketchup bottles; Polish & Hungarian reader books; Round window w/frame (24x24); Old CDN & US road maps; 8 Pepsi-cola bottles; Old scratch 649 tickets; Air wave radio. 306-654-4802, Prud'Homme, SK.

AUCTION SALES 0900

AUCTION

HUGE FARM TOY AUCTION: Friday, Feb. 9th, Yorkton Auction Centre, Hwy. 10 East, Yorkton, SK. Doors open 4 PM, Auction starts at 6 PM. Over 250 lots! Pictures and info at www.jakz.ca or ph. 306-641-5850.

AUTO/TRANSPORT

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS 1030

ALLISON TRANSMISSION. Service, Sales and Parts. Exchange or rebuild. Call Allied Transmissions Calgary, 1-888-232-2203; Spectrum Industrial Automatics Ltd., Blackfalds, AB., call 1-877-321-7732.

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WRECKING LATE MODEL TRUCKS: 1/2, 3/4, 1 tons, 4x4's, vans, SUV's, Cummins, Chev and Ford diesel motors, Jasper Auto Parts, 1-800-294-4784 or 1-800-294-0687.

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2013 VW JETTA GLI, loaded, \$14,995. Greenlight Truck & Auto, Saskatoon. Sale Jan 26 at 2820 Jasper Ave. DL# 311430. 306-934-1455, www.GreenlightAuto.ca

TRAILERS

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24' GOOSENECK 3-8,000 lb. axles, \$7890; Bumper pull tandem lowboys: 18', 16,000 lbs., \$4750; 16', 10,000 lbs., \$3390; 16', 7000 lbs., \$2975, 8000 lb Skidsteer, \$1990 Factory direct. 1-888-792-6283. www.monarchtrailers.com

1981 NEIL'S 61' double drop flat deck, snap-off neck, 36' working deck, \$7000; 1998 Trailtech tandem 12' sprayer trailer, \$8000. Call 780-221-3980, Leduc, AB.

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PRECISION TRAILERS: Gooseneck and bumper hitch. You've seen the rest, now own the best. Hoffart Services, Odessa, SK. 306-957-2033 www.precisiontrailers.ca

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1995 DOEPKER 48', 102", tandem machinery trailer, single drop, hyd. tail/lift, alum. outriggers, 12,000 lb. winch, good cond., \$30,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

TRUCKS

NEWEST TO OLDEST 1595

2015 DODGE RAM 3500, crew, Longhorn, 6.7L Dually, Aisin auto., 58,500 kms, \$59,995. Hendry's Chrysler 306-528-2171, Nokomis, SK. DL #907140.

2010 SILVERADO 1500, gas, 2 dr, long-box, 4.8L V8, 2WD, 93,000 kms., A/T/C, white, automatic, excellent shape, no rust, \$11,500 OBO. 306-436-7461, Regina, SK.

2009 DODGE 3500 diesel, 1 ton, 4WD, with 5th wheel deck, 196,000 kms., new clutch, tires & glass, recent front suspension upgrade, \$29,500; **Double A 5th wheel trailer w/elec. winch,** rear loading ramps, \$12,500. Lamont Farm Centre Ltd, Lamont, AB. 780-895-7338, 780-940-6372.

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2013 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD, ARE Topper, \$24,995. Greenlight Truck & Auto, Saskatoon. 306-934-1455, DL#311430, www.GreenlightAuto.ca

2009 FORD ESCAPE, 4x4, 3L, \$5995. Greenlight Truck & Auto, Saskatoon. Sale at 2820 Jasper Ave, Jan 26. DL# 311430. 306-934-1455, www.GreenlightAuto.ca

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1994 INTERNATIONAL EAGLE Tandem, Detroit 60, 365 HP 10 spd., Courtney Berg 20' unibody w/rear cross auger for side discharge, Michel's roll up tarp, ladder, front and rear box controls, rear pintle, air hook-ups, 11R24.5 tires - new rear/90% front, \$45,000. 306-834-7579, Major, SK.

1995 GMC TOPKICK Tandem, Cat 3216, Allison 6-spd. Auto push button, spring susp., new Firestone 11R22.5 front/rear, 20' Courtney Berg unibody w/rear cross auger side discharge, front and rear hoist and auger controls, Michel's roll tarp, ladders, 52,558 kms., 3979 hrs., \$89,900. 306-834-7579, Major, SK.

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SEMI TRUCKS 1677

2008 PETERBILT 386, yellow, daycab, 18 spd., 850,000 kms., 46k rears full locks, vg cond., \$24,900. 780-206-1234, Barrhead.

2005 KENWORTH W900 c/w Cummins 13 spd., approx. 900,000 kms., Studio bunk, \$35,000. Randy 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

2018 MACK CXU613 day-cab, Mack MP8, 455HP Eaton 13 spd., \$39,900. DL#1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.

SEMI TRUCKS 1677



2011 FREIGHTLINER DAY-CAB, Detroit DD15, 455 HP 13 spd., 12 front, 40 rear, 175" WB, 715,800 kms., \$44,900. DL# 1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.

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2011 S/A SHUNT TRUCK, low hours. Call Randy 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

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2009 GMC C8500 TANDEM GRAIN TRUCK Isuzu Diesel 300 HP Allison Transmission 14+40 Axles Rubber Block Rear Suspension, Alum wheels A-C-T PW PL PM Air ride seat. CIM 20' Box and hoist w/Remote hoist and end gate. 12R22.5 Front and 11R22.5 Rear Tires, Red Cab & Red Box, 19,950km, Stk#M7346A \$89,995

2001 INTERNATIONAL 9100 SERIES TANDEM GRAIN TRUCK C-12 CAT 375-450 HP, 10 speed fuller trans, air ride, CIM 20'x65" Grain Box, Michels electric roll tarp. Remote hoist, endgate and tarp, white with teal box, 531,158kms, Stk#G1440A \$69,995

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2009 **JOHN DEERE 710J** backhoe, 4x4, new tires, ex-city, 7100 hrs., \$47,500. Call 403-291-1010, Calgary, AB.

2005 CAT 930G wheel loader, c/w Quick-Attach forks and bucket, 12,000 hrs. Call Randy at 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

CAT 621E SCRAPER, lots of major work done, excellent condition machine. Call Randy 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

2011 KOMATSU TC308 excavator, hyd. thumb, guarding, very clean, 5300 hrs., \$140,000. Randy 780-983-0936, Camrose

D6R LGP CRAWLER Tractor, 9000 hrs, 90% UC, angle dozer, winch, fully guarded, \$110,000. Randy 780-983-0936, Westlock.

CLIFF'S USED CRAWLER PARTS. Some older Cats, IH and Allis Chalmers. 780-755-2295, Edgerton, AB.

2002 JCB 214 SLP backhoe; Case 2870 w/Degelman dozer; Fassi hyd. arm & 10' 1-ton steel deck. Call 306-240-8086.

WANTED: USED RUBBER TIRE HOE, similar to medium sized track hoe. 306-304-1959, Meadow Lake, SK.



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1998 D6RLGP TWIN TILT angle dozer, winch, full cab canopy, would trade for D6N. 306-278-7740, Porcupine Plain, SK.



2008 G940 TANDEM drive articulated, Volvo D7E eng., net 165 HP HTE 1160, shuttle auto shift trans. (11 fwd, 6 rvs), 14' mold board, 5688 hrs., \$74,800. DL#1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.

1986 CASE 450C dozer crawler, 6-way blade \$9500. www.waltersequipment.com 204-525-4521. Minitonas, MB.



2008 JD 850J WLT crawler dozer, c/w ROPS, 12' 6-way blade, SBG pads, 8700 hrs., \$95,000. 204-871-0925, MacGregor, MB.



2006 KOMATSU D65 EX-15. Approx. 5950 org. hrs., 24" pads, straight tilt blade, 3 tooth ripper, excellent working cond., very good UC, \$139,500. Bush canopy available. Trades considered (warranty). Can deliver. Call 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

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GRAIN AUGERS
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2012 CASE 4530, 3-bin, 70' booms, 2000 hrs., ext. warranty, \$145,000; 2011 4520 1-bin, 70' booms, \$143,000; 2010 Case 3520, 3-bin, 2670 hrs., \$115,000; SPECIAL: 2010 Case 4520, 1-bin, 70' booms, 1920 hrs., AutoSteer, \$138,000; 2006 Case 4510, AutoSteer, FlexAir 70' booms, 7400 hrs., \$77,000; 2005 Case 4520 w/70' Flex-Air, 4000 hrs., \$78,000; 2010 International New Leader G4, 3000 hrs., \$88,000; 2004 Case 4010, 80' SPRAYER, 7000 hrs., \$58,000; 2002 Loral AirMax 1000, 70' boom, \$63,000; 2009 AgChem 3 wheeler, 4000 hrs., G-force spinner bed, \$88,000; 2004 KBH Semi tender, self-contained, \$32,500; 2009 and 2012 Merritt semi belt tender, self-contained, \$33,500 and \$44,000; 24 ton Wilmar tender beds, \$18,500 ea; 2012 Wilmar Wrangler 4560, loader, 1600 hrs., bucket and fork, \$29,500; 18,000 gal. NH3 holding tank, \$34,500. All USD prices. 406-576-3402 or 406-466-5356, Choteau, MT. Visit online: www.fertilizerequipment.net

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COMBINES 1160

2004 CIH 2388 w/2015 PU header, AFK rotor, lateral tilt feeder house, HHC, chopper, rock trap, grain tank ext., roll tarp, DMC II moisture tester, exc. cond, vg tires \$65,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2000 CIH 2388 w/1015 header, \$55,000; 2004 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$95,000; 2006 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$110,000; 2002 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$80,000; 2008 2588 w/2015 PU header, \$135,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2253, Storthoaks, SK.

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2012 760TT, Terra Trac, 3000/1500 hrs., new tracks, \$40,000 w/o, nice, \$19,000 Cdn. OBO. 218-779-1710. Delivery available.

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AGCO GLEANER-MF FLEX PLATFORMS: 500 25'-30'; 800 25'-30'; 8200 30'-35'. Some with air systems. Gary Reimer, 204-326-7000, Reimer Farm Equipment, Hwy.#12 North, Steinbach, MB.

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JOHN DEERE FLEX PLATFORMS: 920F-925F-930F-630F-635F. Some with air systems. Reimer Farm Equipment, #12 N, Steinbach, MB. Call Gary at 204-326-7000.

CIH FLEX PLATFORMS: 1020 20'-25'-30'; 2020 25'-30'-35'; 3020 25'-30'-35'. Some with air systems. Call Gary Reimer, 204-326-7000, Reimer Farm Equipment, Hwy.#12 North, Steinbach, MB.

NEW HOLLAND FLEX PLATFORMS: 74C 30'-35'; 973 25'-30'; 740 CF 30'-35'. Some with air systems. Call Gary Reimer, 204-326-7000, Reimer Farm Equipment, Hwy.#12 North, Steinbach, MB.

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7' SCHULTE FRONT MOUNT snowblower for 60-90 HP tractor, in working order, \$2750. Call 306-845-2404, Livelong, SK.

FARM-KING MODELS: 96", \$3900; 84", \$3450; 74", \$3200; 50", \$1900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK.

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PT SPRAYERS 1238

2014 NH SP240F 120', 1200 gal. SS tank, IntelliView IV, AccuBoom, AutoBoom, Stk 024111, \$299,000. 1-888-905-7010, Lloydminster. www.redheadequipment.ca

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2015 CASE/IH 4440 120', AIM, Auto-Boom, AccuBoom, Pro 700 Stk: 023153 \$475,000. 1-888-905-7010, Swift Current, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2013 JD 4940 120', BoomTrac, sect. control, AutoSteer, 2630 monitor, Stk: 02415, \$240,000. 1-888-905-7010, Prince Albert, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2010 JD 4830, 100' booms, 1000 gal. tank, AutoSteer, Swath Pro, AutoBoom Stk: 021520, \$215,000. 1-888-905-7010, Saskatoon, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

1998 CASE/IH SPX3185 90', 2 sets tires Stk: 017817, \$79,000. 1-888-905-7010, Saskatoon, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2014 CASE 4430, \$270,000, 2035 engine hours, 120' boom, AIM, Viper Pro, fan reverser, 2 sets of tires, dividers, loaded, exc. cond., 306-398-7677, Cutknife, SK.

2013 JD 4940, 120', 1500 engine, 380 tires & duals on rear, 1200 gal. stainless, all options, \$219,000. 306-948-7223, Biggar, SK

2013 CASE/IH 3330 high clearance sprayer. Has active suspension, sectional control, AutoBoom height, 100' boom, 2 sets of tires, crop dividers, Outback S3, leather interior, 580 engine hours. Mint condition, bought new, always stored inside. Rented farm out. \$255,000 OBO. 204-662-4474, or 204-851-0211, Antler SK.

2011 ROGATOR 1396, 132' alum. recirculating boom, 1300 SS tank, Raven Viper Pro, Raven SmartTrax steering w/slingshot, AccuBoom sect. control, AutoBoom height control, HID lighting, DeKoning air lift crop dividers, 2 sets of Michelin tires, 1 owner. 204-937-3429, 204-937-7047, Roblin, MB.

2011 SPRAC-COUPÉ 4660, AutoSteer, Auto-Boom 400 gal tank, 700 hrs., 125 HP Perkins diesel, 5 speed Manual, Master Switch, JD Greenstar 2600 display w/Starfire ITC receiver, 9.00x24-8 ply front, 320/85R24 rear, \$95,000 Cdn. Paradise Valley, AB. Text or email only please: 780-871-3963, teasdalejw@gmail.com

SPRAYING VARIOUS 1244

2012 FLEXI-COIL S68XL 96' High Clearance, 1350 tank, hyd. drive, RiteHeight boom ctrl, sec. ctrl, 480/80R38 tractor lug, \$26,000. 306-834-7579, Major, SK.

FLOATER TIRES: Factory rims & tires: JD 4045, 710/60R46, \$20,500; 800/55R46, \$22,500; JD 4038, Case 4420, 650/65R38 Michelin tires and rims. Sprayer duals available. 306-697-2856, Grenfell, SK.

120' SPRAY-AIR TRIDENT

CASE IH
4286



2013 CIH 450HD, 4WD, 1980 hrs., deluxe cab, HID's, high capacity hyd., full factory guidance w/372 receiver and Pro700 monitor, 1000 PTO, 710 metrics, weight pkg., vg cond., \$230,000 OBO. Kelvington, SK, 306-327-7527, mjf1980@hotmail.ca

STEIGER
4289

1998 STEIGER 9390, 4WD, S/N JEE0072255, Cummins N14, 425 HP standard, Trimble 500, EZ Steer, 4 hyd's., aux hyd. return, 710/70R38 at 65%, front and rear suitcase weights, 4575 hrs., \$89,500. 306-594-7716, Major, SK.

1986 PANTHER 1000, with 3406 CAT engine, PowerShift transmission (no PTO), 20.8x38 rubber, 9800 hrs., 335 HP 40 GPM hydraulic, new batteries, and tires are decent. 306-594-7716, Norquay, SK.

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CATERPILLAR
4292

2013 CHALLENGER MT875C, C18 eng., no DPF or DEF, 585 HP 30" tracks, 5 SCV, PTO, Topcon GPS, 977 hrs., like new, \$390,000 OBO. 780-951-0783, Edmonton

2014 MT965C, 800's, 5 hyd's., GPS, 1025 hrs., 525 HP loaded, \$329,900; 2013 MT 545D, loader & grapple, 24 spd., dual PTO, 1512 hrs., cab susp., 155 HP \$129,900; 2012 MT955C, 2400 hrs., 800's, PTO, \$279,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK.

JOHN DEERE
4295

2005 JD 7220, IVT trans., 3 PTH, 741 loader/grapple; JD 7710, FWD, LHR, 3 PTH, JD 740 loader/grapple available. 780-674-5516, 780-305-7152 Barrhead AB

REDUCED PRICE! 1983 JD 4450 MFWD w/Ezee-On FEL 2130 grapple, 15 spd. PS, 3 hyd's., 7925 hrs. showing, 14.9-26F, 20.8R32, duals available, 306-283-4747, 306-291-9395, Langham, SK.

2011 7430 PREMIUM, loader and grapple, 6X4 trans. 4500 hrs., 20.8x38 rears, \$124,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK.

2008 JOHN DEERE 9530 4WD, 2700 hrs., 800 metrics, powershift, good condition throughout, GPS ready, delivery can be arranged, \$198,000 OBO. Call Neil 306-231-8300, Humboldt, SK.

2011 JD 9430, 3000 hrs., 710x42 Firestones, 18 spd. PS, Active Seat, rubber 70%, exc. cond., \$225,000 OBO. Charles Cattle Co. Ltd. 306-457-7529, Stoughton.

2000 JD 9400, 425 HP 12 spd. powershift, EZ-Steer 4 hyd. outlets, plus return line, new hyd. pump (48 GPM), 8 new tires, 710/70R38, mint cond., \$105,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2011 JD 9530T, 18 spd. PS, 36" tracks, 4 hyd's. plus return line, front weights, and idler weights, AutoTrac ready, mint cond., \$185,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

BOOK NORCAN SOYBEANS Common #1 so you keep more green. Buy a bigger JD with the savings! Early discounts. Norcan Seeds at 204-372-6552, Fisher Branch MB.

2 JOHN DEERE 8970's: 5400 hrs., powershift, \$79,000 Cdn. OBO; 6800 hrs., 24 spd., \$69,000 Cdn. OBO. Both have PTO and 3PTH. 218-779-1710. Delivery avail.

2016 JD 9620R, 332 hrs., 800 metrics, hyd. suspension, weight pkg., 1000 PTO, 58 gal. pump, \$319,500 USD. Call 320-848-2496 or 320-894-6560, or visit www.ms-diversified.com

2017 JD 6175R, H380 loader w/grapple, 85 hrs., IVT, Triple Link, \$154,500 USD; 2016 JD 6155R, 640R loader w/grapple, 125 hrs., IVT, \$142,500 USD. Call 320-848-2496 or 320-894-6560, or visit www.ms-diversified.com

2013 JD 9410R, 4 WD, 2100 hrs., power shift PTO, excellent condition, \$279,000 OBO. 306-921-6693, Melfort, SK.

2017 JD 6155M: Beautiful loaded demo unit with only 99 hrs! Front fenders. 20/20 PowerQuad Plus w/shuttle lever and 40 km/h trans. 580/70R38 rear, 480/70R28 front tires. Front axle TLS suspension, 3 remotes, 663R loader w/grapple bucket and self leveling. 540/750/1000 RPM rear PTO w/fender controls. Rear TPH w/fender controls, A/C air suspended seat. \$144,950 OBO. Call 306-861-2500, Weyburn, SK. kruienterprises@gmail.com

2003 JD 9520 4WD, 7404 hrs., 450 HP, 4 hyd's., PTO, AutoTrac ready, excellent cond., \$170,000. 780-618-7377, St. Isidore, AB.

KUBOTA
4298

2012 M135X, loader and grapple, 3PTH, 16x16 PS trans., 2400 hrs., 20.8x38, 135 HP \$73,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK

MASSEY FERGUSON
4301

2014 MF 7616, deluxe cab, cab susp., loader & grapple, CVT, 150 HP 2510 hrs., \$139,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK

NEW HOLLAND
4304

2004 NH TJ375, 4 WD, 3980 hrs., Deluxe cab, Goodyear 7.10-70 R42 tires at 70%, 55GPM, 4 remotes, standard trans., HID lights, Outback AutoSteer w/STX monitor, always shedded, exc. cond. \$152,000 OBO. 306-644-4703, Loreburn, SK.

1998 NH 9882, 4 WD, 6151 hrs., 425 HP, new 20.8 triples, good condition, \$90,000 OBO. 306-921-6693, Melfort, SK.

VERSATILE
4310

875 VERSATILE SERIES III, 20.8x387 duals, 3400 original hrs., ultra premium condition. Dozer available. 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

VERSATILE
4310

WANTED: 875 or 895 Versatile tractor in good running condition. 306-446-0164 (H), 306-481-4701 (C), North Battleford SK

1984 VERS. 875 4WD, w/Atom Jet hyd. kit, \$27,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment Ltd., 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

WANTED TRANSMISSION FOR 835 Versatile, 12 speed. Please leave a message 204-822-1343, Thornhill, MB.

1992 FORD/VERSATILE 946, JD Auto-Steer, 6000 hrs., very nice, \$44,500 Cdn. OBO. Delivery available. 218-779-1710.

VARIOUS TRACTORS
4319

GRATTON COULEE AGRI PARTS LTD. Your #1 place to purchase late model combine and tractor parts. Used, new and rebuilt. www.gcparts.com Toll free 888-327-6767.

MULTIPLE HIGH HP track & 4WD tractors. Various options, various hours. All are in excellent condition and priced to sell! Delivery available. Call 218-779-1710.

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LOADERS/DOZERS
4322

LEON 700 FRONT END LOADER, with QA 7' bucket, with mounts off 90 series Case tractor; 4 like new Blizzak winter tires, 245-70-17, Call 780-764-2152, or cell 780-718-0746, Hilliard, AB.

CAT DOZER BLADE: Ideal for making a pull dozer, 12'x3", good shape, cutting edge never turned, good bolts, C-frame for blade, \$1200. 306-722-7770, Osage, SK.

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

WANTED: 4020 JOHN DEERE, powershift gas model. 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

2006 CAT CHALLENGER MT845B, 5163 hrs., Outback AutoSteer, Steinbauer module (500 HP), \$97,500; 2008 MacDon D60 header 25", PU reel, dbl. knife dr., fore/aft, triple delivery, \$22,000; 2009 Farm King 13"x70" auger, reverser, hyd. winch, hyd. mover, full bin sensor, camera, \$9500; MacDon 973 39", PU reel, transport wheels, fore and aft, headsight AutoHeight control, c/w MacDon/NH adapter, \$22,000. 403-665-2341, Craigmyle, AB.

ACREAGE EQUIPMENT: 3-PT. CULTIVATORS, Discs, Plows, Blades, Etc. 780-892-3092, Wabamun, AB.

7100 JD CORN PLANTER, 12 row, 24" spacing 3 point hitch, good shape. 306-236-5891, Meadow Lake, SK.

NH 273 SQUARE baler with hydraulic tension, \$1000; 546 Rock-O-Matic rock picker, \$3800; MF88 diesel tractor, w/FEL, good rubber, \$2200 OBO. 306-395-2668 or 306-681-7610, Chaplin, SK.

ODESSA ROCKPICKER SALES: New Deggelman equipment, land rollers, Strawmaster, rockpickers, protill, dozer blades. 306-957-4403, 306-536-5097, Odessa, SK.

41' JD CULTIVATOR, with 1500 gal. NH3 tank, \$12,500. Call 306-963-7724 or 306-963-7880, Imperial, SK.

SUNFLOWER HARVEST SYSTEMS. Call for literature. 1-800-735-5848. Lucke Mfg., www.luckemanufacturing.com

If you want to sell it fast, call 1-800-667-7770.

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

RON SAUER MACHINERY LTD.

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

FOR SALE: 60' Excel Land Roller with 5 plex rollers, great for following the land contour. Like new condition, \$60,000. Please call 306-276-7788, or 306-769-8887. Email: breavie@live.ca Arborfield, SK.

WANTED
4328

LOOKING FOR: Edwards hoe drill model 912 or 812; Hydraulic pump for 7020 Allis tractor; Sprayer slide-in truck w/booms. Call 403-650-8369.

WANTED: USED, BURNT, old or ugly tractors. Newer models too! Smith's Tractor Wrecking, 1-888-676-4847.

WANTED

MF #36 DISCERS. Will pay top dollar and pick from anywhere. Phone Mike 306-723-4875, Cupar, SK.

WANTED: NH BALE WAGONS & retrievers, any condition. Farm Equipment Finding Service, P.O. Box 1363, Polson, MT 59860. 406-883-2118.

FENCING
4400

MULCHING- TREES, BRUSH, Stumps. Call today 306-933-2950. Visit us at: www.maverickconstruction.ca

GUARANTEED PRESSURE TREATED fence posts, lumber slabs and rails. Call Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., ask for Ron 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK.



16' PEELED RAILS, 2-3" \$4.50/ea., 125 per bundle; 3-4" \$9.50/ea, 100 per bundle; 4-5" \$11.50/ea, 75 per bundle. Vermette Wood Preservers, Spruce Home, SK, 1-800-667-0094, email: info@vwpltd.com website: www.vwpltd.com

SOLLDLOCK AND TREE ISLAND game wire and all accessories for installation. Heights from 26" to 120". Ideal for elk, deer, bison, sheep, swine, cattle, etc. Tom Jensen ph/fax: 306-426-2305, Smeaton, SK.

FINANCING/LEASING
4450

MORTGAGE INVESTORS WANTED: Earn 8-15% per annum, investing in first and second mortgages. All investments secured by Canadian farmland with interest paid monthly. Call 888-393-8686, visit website: http://www.farmlender.ca/investors/info@farmlender.ca Brampton, ON.

FIREWOOD
4475

BLOCKED SEASONED JACK Pine firewood and wood chips for sale. Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK. Will deliver. Self-unloading trailer.

CHEAP BULK BIRCH FIREWOOD: \$160/cord, split & dry, 14-16" length, 1/2 ton short box \$80, 1/2 ton longbox, \$100. Large orders welcome. We do not deliver. 306-961-3349, Prince Albert, SK.

SEASONED SPRUCE SLAB firewood, one cord bundles, \$99, half cord bundles, \$65. Volume discounts. Call V&R Sawing, 306-232-5488, Rosthern, SK.

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MISCELLANEOUS
4325

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

(403) 540-7691
ronsauer@shaw.ca

25' Heston PT Swather, bat reel, 540 PTO.....	\$3,000
25' Case IH (MacDon) PT Swather, bat reel, 1,000 PTO.....	\$3,000
40' Morris 3100 Hoe Drills, mover and hitch, nice shape.....	\$10,000
560 Heston Round Baler, 1,000 PTO.....	\$5,500
660 NH Round Baler, 540 pto, nice shape.....	\$5,500
60' S82 Flexcoil Harrow Draw Bar, 5 bar Bent, Nice shape.....	\$5,250
44' 820 F.C. Deep Till Air Seeder, 4 bar harrows.....	CALL
2320 F.C. TBH Air Tank, complete with 320 - 3rd tank.....	CALL
41' Flexcoil 300 B Chisel Plow, 3 bar harrows.....	\$12,500
100' 65XL Flexcoil Sprayer, complete with windguards, elec. end nozzles single tips, auto rate, excellent condition.....	\$12,500
29' 225 DOW Kello- Bitt Tandem Disc, 28" smooth front & rear blades, 10.5" spacing, oil, bath bearings, as new.....	\$60,000
47' 820 Flexcoil Chisel Plow, 4 bar harrow, low mileage.....	\$67,500
HD8 - 1400 (46') Sakundiak Grain Auger, 31 HP Vanguard engine, E-Kay mover, belt tightener, power steering, spout, 10 gallon fuel tank.....	\$11,500
13" X 95' FarmKing Hydraulic Swing Auger, reverser, low profile hopper, spout, full bin alarm, 1 season.....	CALL
New E-Kay 7", 8", 9" Bin Sweeps available.....	CALL
3 Used E-Kay Bin Sweep Extensions.....	CALL
8" Wheat Heart Transfer Auger, hydraulic drive, good condition.....	\$1,000
New Outback S-Lite guidance.....	\$1,250
Factory Recon. Outback STS GPS and Mapping.....	\$2,250
New Outback STS Guidance, c/w E-Drive TC & VSI steering wheel.....	\$7,000
New Outback STS Guidance, c/w E-Drive TC & hydraulic kit.....	\$6,000
New STX Guidance, c/w E-Drive XD & hydraulic kit, 3 year ESP.....	\$9,200
Used Outback E-Drive Hyd. kits.....	\$500

Outback GPS Systems, E-Kay Custom Augers, Movers, Clutches, Bin Sweeps & Crop Divider Kohler, Vanguard, Robin Subaru Engines, Headsight Harvesting Solutions, GreenTronics Sprayer Auto Boom Height, Kello-Bitt Discs

FIREWOOD
4475



BLOCKED & SEASONED PINE FIREWOOD: Bags \$90. Delivery available. Vermette Wood Preservers, Spruce Home, SK. 1-800-667-0094, email: info@vwpltd.com Website: www.vwpltd.com

GENERATORS
4725

NEW AND USED GENERATORS: 500KW Caterpillar, Perkins, Cummins, Magnum - In stock. Call 250-554-6661, Kamloops, BC. Email: denis@bcdieselgenerators.com www.bcdieselgenerators.com

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT
4980

PUMP MOTORS, propane & diesel, wheel moves, all sizes of alum. pipe. Call Dennis to discuss your needs! 403-308-1400, Taber, AB.

WESTERN IRRIGATION: CADMAN Dealer. We BUY and SELL traveling guns, pumps, pipes, etc.; EcoSmart water purification systems, no salt, no chemicals; Large supply of good used buyback centre pivots at low prices. 306-867-9461, 306-867-7037, Outlook, SK. derdallreg@hotmail.com

8" to 6" MAINLINE; 6 - 5"x5" wheelies; Bauer 1160" w/4.5" hard hose reel; Also Reinke 985" pivot, refurbished. Call for pricing, 306-858-7351, Lucky Lake, SK.

BLUE WATER IRRIGATION DEV. LTD Reinke pivots, lateral, minigators, pump and used mainline, new Bauer travelers dealer. 25 yrs. experience. 306-858-7351, Lucky Lake, SK. www.phisirrigation.ca

We know that farming is enough of a gamble so if you want to sell it fast place your ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds. It's a Sure Thing. Call our toll-free number today. We have friendly staff ready to help. 1-800-667-7770.

NURSERY/GARDENING SUPPLIES
4990



SPRUCE FOR SALE!! Beautiful locally grown trees. Plan ahead and renew your shelterbelt or landscape a new yardsite, get the year round protection you need. We sell on farm near Didsbury, AB. Also can deliver in Western Canada. 6 - 12' spruce available. Now taking spring orders while supplies last. Phone 403-586-8733 or visit: www.didsburysprucefarms.com

BISON/BUFFALO

BISON/BUFFALO
5001

BUYING FINISHED BISON. Call or text Harmony Natural Bison, 306-736-3454, SE Sask.

BISON WANTED - Canadian Prairie Bison is looking to contract grain finished bison, as well as calves and yearlings for growing markets. Contact Roger Provencher at 306-468-2316, roger@cdnbison.com

17 BRED PLAINS BISON heifers for sale. Call Spruce Vista Seed Farm Ltd., Berwyn, AB. 780-338-3657.

KEEP JOBS IN CANADA. Elk Valley Ranches a Canadian Co. finishes bison in Canada. We are now buying cull cows, cull bulls, yearlings and calves. Paying top \$\$ with prompt payment. Kitscoty, AB. Frank at 780-846-2980. elkvalley@xplornet.com www.elkvalleyranches.com

BUYING: CULL COWS, herd sire bulls, yearlings and calves. Now dealer for Redmond Bison mineral. Call Elk Valley Ranches, 780-846-2980, Kitscoty, AB.

COMPLETE BISON COW herd dispersal Productive herd, cullled annually, 125 cows, 50 yearling heifers. Royal Black Bison Ranch Inc. 306-441-7128, Paynton, SK

20 - 2016 PLAINS Bison females. Average weight December 13th, 749 lbs. \$3250 each. Call 306-441-1408, Meota, SK.

LOOKING FOR ALL classes of bison from calves, yearlings, cows and herd bulls. Phone Kevin at 306-539-4090 (cell) or 306-429-2029, Glenavon, SK.

NILSSON BROS INC. buying finished bison on the rail, also cull cows at Lacombe, AB. For winter delivery and beyond. Smaller groups welcome. Fair, competitive and assured payment. Contact Richard Bintner 306-873-3184.

QUILL CREEK BISON is looking for finished, and all other types of bison. COD, paying market prices. "Producers working with Producers." Delivery points in SK and MB. Call 306-231-9110, Quill Lake, SK.

50-2016 BISON FEMALES, weight on Nov.30/2017 was 815 lbs. \$4000, please call 306-342-4253, donjanzen@gmail.com Glenbush, SK.

10 - 2016 GRASSFED BISON HEIFERS: Average weight (Nov/17) 820 lbs., Sire by XY BISON bull from CWA Show & Sale, \$3500. 306-867-0035, Quill Lake, SK.

Hit our readers where it counts... in the classifieds. Place your ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classified section. 1-800-667-7770.

CATTLE

BLACK ANGUS
5010

100 BLACK ANGUS heifers, bred to registered Black Angus bulls. Can winter and calve out. 306-322-7905, Archerhill, SK.



BURNETT ANGUS 34TH Annual Bull Sale, Saturday, April 7, 2018, 2:00 PM. The Ranch, Swift Current, SK. 60 yearling bulls, many genetically developed for breeding heifers. Sires represented: Shipwheel Chinook, OCC Missing Link, Sooline Motive, Stevenson Rockmount, Bruiser, Optimum (Chivson son), Crowfoot Fred, Bryce 306-773-7065 or Wyatt 306-750-7822, wburnett@xplornet.ca

PUREBRED BLACK ANGUS long yearling bulls, replacement heifers, AI service. Meadow Ridge Enterprises, 306-373-9140 or 306-270-6628, Saskatoon, SK.

BLACK ANGUS BULLS on moderate growing ration, performance info available. Valleyhills Angus, Glaslyn, SK. Adrian or Brian and Elaine Edwards, 306-441-0946, 306-342-4407, www.valleyhillsangus.com

BRED HEIFERS due to calve in April, bred to easy calving Angus bulls, preg checked. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca

BLACK ANGUS BULLS, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006,

LIMOUSIN
5115

NORDAL LIMOUSIN & ANGUS 2018 Bull Sale, Feb. 15th, Saskatoon Livestock Sales Saskatoon, SK. Offering 25 polled Red & Black 2 year old Limousin bulls. Contact Rob Garner 306-946-7946, Simpson, SK. Catalogue & info at: nordallimousin.com

SALERS
5185

POLLED PB THICK Butt Salers age advantage bulls, excellent disposition, tested. DynaRich Salers, Richard Andersen, 403-746-2919, Eckville, AB.

2 YR. OLD Salers bulls, 18 Red and Black bulls, mostly polled. Excellent dispositions. Bulls for cows and heifers. See Facebook, 403-872-1549, www.skywestsalers.com Red Deer County, AB. Please email: travisdepalme@outlook.com

SHORTHORN
5200

SELLING FOR THE ESTATE of Harvey Blanchette. One 3 year old white bull, very sound and quiet. PB name is BMC11C, Sire BMV1274, Dam-uphill rose 6Z. 306-342-4918, Glaslyn, SK.

REGISTERED SHORTHORN OPEN heifers for sale, 3 early 2017 open heifers, 2 Roans and 1 Red, weighing 800-900 lbs. Please call 204-748-3136, gwtoough@rfnow.com Hargrave, MB.

SIMMENTAL
5205

SIMMENTAL COWS FOR SALE: Offering your pick of 110. 10 head calving March & April; Feeder bull calves, polled FB semen, universe breeding. Dale at Silver Swiss Simmental, 780-853-2223, Vermilion, AB.

4TH ANNUAL JEANS & GENETICS Simmental Bull Sale, Tuesday February 13, 2018, 1:00 PM at the Ponoka Ag Events Centre in Ponoka, AB. Offering a great selection of Red, Black, Fullblood, and Fleckvieh Simmental bulls. For a catalogue or more info., contact T Bar C Cattle Co. at 306-220-5006. To view the catalogue online, visit us at www.buyagro.com. Watch and bid online at www.dlms.ca

DIAMOND M RANCH 7th Annual Bull Sale, Sunday, February 11, 2018 at the ranch west of Estevan. Selling 60 coming two year old Simmental & Simm./Angus bulls, as well as 40 commercial heifers. All bulls are semen tested and guaranteed. For more information or a catalogue contact Jordan Mantei 306-421-1915 or T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.buyagro.com. Watch & bid online at www.dlms.ca PL#116061

BLACK 2 YEAR OLD'S: Also Red, Black and fullblood yearling bulls. Moderate birth weights, excellent temperaments. All bulls sold private treaty. Call Bill or Virginia Peters, 306-237-9506, Perdue, SK.

WANTED: FB SIMMENTAL commercial cows, big red and white ones, no Angus cross, must be young. Call 306-734-2970, cell: 306-734-7335, Chamberlain, SK.

TEXAS LONGHORN
5225

ALBERTA TEXAS LONGHORN Association 780-387-4874, Leduc, AB. For more info. www.albertatexaslonghorn.com

5TH ANNUAL CTLA Registered Longhorn Sale with guest consignors Red Spring Ranch Quarter Horses. Saturday April 7th 2018, 1 PM at Saskatoon Livestock Sales. Consignments now being accepted. Entries close Feb. 19th. For info. 306-867-9427, 306-296-4712, or 780-966-3320.

WELSH BLACK
5235

WELSH BLACK- The Brood Cow Advantage. Check www.canadianwelshblackcattle.com Canadian Welsh Black Soc. 403-442-4372.

CATTLE VARIOUS
5240

CATTLEMEN FINANCIAL CORP Programs for cow/calf operators and feedlots, proceeds as you sell and equity draws. 780-448-0033 or www.cattlefinance.com

100 BLACK ANGUS 3rd and 4th calvers; 250 Black & Red Angus 2nd calvers. Swift Current, SK. 306-773-1049, 306-741-6513.

20 BLACK COWS, will feed until March; Also 4 black bull calves. 306-441-6608, North Battleford, SK.

400 REPLACEMENT QUALITY heifers: 800 lbs. by mid-March. You pick. Can feed until grass time. Will finance feed and cattle until they go. Trucking available. No TBA implants/ balance growing rations/ complete vaccination program. Not asking a fortune for these heifers; just a premium over market. Phone Blaine 306-621-9751 or Steve 306-621-2522, Yorkton, SK.

60-80 RED & BLACK ANGUS cross, Red Angus bulls went out on July 6th. Leave a message, 306-834-5156, Kerrobert, SK.

50 SIMMENTAL & SIMMENTAL Cross bred cows and heifers, bred Simmental, start calving March 1st. 306-762-4723, Odessa.

14 RED ANGUS bred heifers, to start calving March 25th. Ivomec'd and vaccinated. Call evenings, Garry Yeo, 306-873-9078 or 306-873-3788, Tisdale, SK.

CATTLE WANTED
5245

WANTED: CULL COWS and bulls. For bookings call Kelly at Drake Meat Processors, 306-363-2117 ext. 111, Drake, SK.

AUCTION SALES
5305

HORSE AND TACK SALE, Northern Livestock Sales, Prince Albert, SK., Thursday, Feb 15th, 6:00 PM. Call 306-763-8463.

QUARTER HORSE
5415

2 - 2017 PB Quarter Horse chestnut fillies, \$750 each. Will consider young bred cow on trade. 306-865-4168, Hudson Bay, SK.

HORSES VARIOUS
5460

BUY & SELL: Horses, saddles and tack. Also horse and stock trailers. Call Skip Arntsen, 306-221-9251, Delisle, SK.

HARNESSES/VEHICLES
5470

HORSE COLLARS, all sizes, steel and aluminum horseshoes. We ship anywhere. Keddie's, 1-800-390-6924 or keddie.com

SPECIALTY

LIVESTOCK VARIOUS
5285

PLEASE JOIN US Thursday Feb. 8th, 2018 at 2:00PM for Carlrans Ranging Bull Sale. 60 Hereford bulls; 12 Angus bulls; Please be our guests for lunch at noon. Catalogue available online at buyagro.com For more info. call 306-398-7879, 306-398-7343, 306-823-3912, 306-823-3933 Cutknife, SK

40 BLACK & BWF COWS, bred to Black bulls, to calve in March, \$1650; 60, 3 year old Black, BWF & Simmental cross, excellent calvers, bred for March, \$2300. Call 204-856-3402, Austin, MB.

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT
5290



2007 WORKSTAR 7400 IHC feed truck, 7780 hrs. on the truck, bought new (Oct. 2008) c/w new Cattelac 600 mixer, excellent work, \$100,000. 306-672-7502 or 306-672-3516, Gull Lake, SK.

STEEL VIEW MFG. Self-standing panels, windbreaks, silage/hay bunks, feeder panels, sucker rod fence posts. Custom orders. Call Shane 306-493-2300, Delisle, SK. www.steelviewmfg.com

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CATTLE SHELTER PACKAGES or built on site. For early booking call 1-800-667-4990 or visit our website: www.warmanhomecentre.com

5'1X40' ELK HANDLING SYSTEM with hydraulic squeeze. Phone 306-784-2915, Herbert, SK.

PAYSEN LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT INC. We manufacture an extensive line of cattle handling and feeding equipment including squeeze chutes, adj. width alleys, crowd- ing tubs, calf tip tables, maternity pens, gates and panels, bale feeders, Bisor equipment, Texas gates, steel water troughs, rodeo equipment and garbage incinerators. Distributors for El-Toro electric branders and twine cutters. Our squeeze chutes and headgates are now avail. with a neck extender. Ph 306-796-4508, email: ple@sasktel.net Web: www.paysen.com



ROUND BALE FEEDERS built from 2 3/8 oil field pipe, single or double feeders. Will build to suit your needs. Will also build other livestock equipment. Can deliver. Call Frank, 306-640-5542, Rocklglen, SK.

FREESTANDING PANELS: 30' windbreak panels; 6-bar 24' and 30' panels; 10', 20' and 30' feed troughs; Bale shredder bunks; Silage bunks; Feeder panels; HD bale feeders; All metal 16' and 24' calf shelters. Will custom build. 306-424-2094, Kendal, SK.

2008 HIGHLINE 8100, in good condition, \$10,000. 306-963-7724, 306-963-7880, Imperial, SK.

NH 358 MIX MILL with PBF, very nice cond. Still on first corner of hammers, extra screens, \$9000, hard to find. Call Randy at 204-729-5162, Brandon, MB.

SUPREME 700TMR w/scale, 6' unloading conveyor, dry hay recutter at back, dual wheels, always shedded, excellent cond., \$36,000. 204-758-3374, St. Jean, MB.

MISC. ARTICLES
5850

USED PIPE AND SUCKER RODS: 2-3/8", 2-7/8", 3-1/2" used pipe, \$36/ea.; 2-7/8", 1" sucker rods, \$12/ea. Call 306-460-7966, or 306-460-4166, Kindersley, SK.

MISC. ARTICLES WANTED
5855

WANTED: ANTIQUES & JUNK you want to clear out. Almost anything in old buildings. Pay cash, will travel! 403-915-0447, S. AB.

GRAINS
5942

COMMON CERTIFIED ORGANIC Alfalfa (tap rooted), common cert. organic Red and common cert. organic Alsike Clover, 50 lb. bags. 306-382-1299, Saskatoon, SK.

WANTED: ORGANIC LENTILS, peas and chickpeas. Stonehege Organics, Assiniboia, SK., 306-640-8600, 306-640-8437.

ORGANIC BORAGE PRODUCERS: DSC is looking for organic borage producers for the 2018 harvest season. 306-697-3152, Grenfell, SK. dandilee.colby@outlook.com

PERSONAL VARIOUS
5952

ARE YOU SINGLE and would rather be in love? Camelot Introductions has been successfully matching people for over 23 years. In-person interviews by Intuitive Matchmaker in MB and SK. Call 306-978-LOVE (5683), 204-257-LOVE (5683) www.camelotintroductions.com

PETS

THE ANIMAL PEDIGREE ACT No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof within six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further information contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobicoke, On.

REGISTERED
5970

ROUGH COLLIES: BEAUTIFUL Lassie pups, in S/W and Tricolour, available Jan. 15/18 to approved homes, \$500. 306-201-9207, Regina, SK. Email: fonehill@canwan.com

NON REGISTERED
5971

BOSTON TERRIERS: 5 adult breeding pairs. Producing all colours. No inbreeding. Brindle pups avail. 780-365-2217, Andrew, AB.

IRISH WOLFHOUND PUPPIES, 3 females, have shots, \$1200. 780-954-2415, Jarvis, AB. Email: michellelovin36@gmail.com

WORKING DOGS
5973

GREAT PYRENEES PUPS born to working parents. Vet checked, first shots, ready January 15th, \$300/each. 403-308-4781, E-mail: heathernelsonfarm@gmail.com

GREAT PYRENEES/AKBASH CROSS pups, born Nov. 17 with sheep, both working parents, \$250; Two 8 month old bonded dogs, \$600 ea. 306-845-2404, Livelong, SK

RED BLUE HEELER PUPS: From good working and good natured parents, ready to go, \$300. 306-725-4510, Bulyea, SK.

Stretch your advertising dollars! Place an ad in the classifieds. Our friendly staff is waiting for your call. 1-800-667-7770.

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS/LAND 6115

175 MAIN ST., PIERCELAND, SK. 60'x90' commercial building, perfect for any business, \$399,000. MLS#SK711082. Meadow North Realty: Call 306-236-4610, or email mnr@sasktel.net www.meadownorth.ca

COTTAGE/LOTS
6125

LOG SIDING, LOG cabin logs, Fir timbers, Fir flooring, Cedar. Special orders. Check out more info. at: rouckbros.com Lumby, BC., 1-800-960-3388.

HOUSES/LOTS
6126

LOG AND TIMBER HOMES, Saskatoon, SK. Visit www.backcountryloghomes.ca or call 306-222-6558.

MOBILE HOMES
6127

2016 FOREST RIVER Quailridge, call for Pricing! Sunridge RV, Radisson, SK. Sale in Saskatoon Jan. 26th at 2820 Jasper Ave. 1-877-827-4845, www.sunridgervs.ca

SELLING

WWW.MEDALLION-HOMES.CA modular homes/lake houses/RTM's. Visit our sales lot, or check online for stock, homes and all other plans. Factory direct orders built to your specs! Trade-ins welcome, buy and sell used homes. Hwy 2 South, Prince Albert, SK. Call 306-764-2121 or toll free 1-800-249-3969.

READY TO MOVE
6128

HOME HARDWARE RTM Homes and Cottages. Phone 1-800-663-3350 or go online for floor plans and specs at: www.northbattlefordhomehardware.com

J&H HOMES: Western Canada's most trusted RTM Home Builder since 1969. View at: www.jhhomes.com 306-652-5322



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RTMS AND SITE built homes. Call 1-866-933-9595, or go online for pictures and pricing at: www.warmanhomes.ca

RESORTS
6129

2 DEEDED TIMESHARES for sale: 1 in Nashville & 1 in Las Vegas. Call Barry for details, 250-423-1771, Grasmere, BC.

FARM & RANCHES

BRITISH COLUMBIA
6131

BAR M RANCH - ASHCROFT, BC: Prime location with great valley views. 573 ac. in 4 titles plus lease land, all gravity fed water under 3 centre pivots, 4 residences and 1000 head feedlot. Shop, equipment storage, calving barn, large steel hay shed, and horse barn are some of the improvements. Adjacent range for 4500 AUM's which translates to 565 cow/calf pairs. Early turn out and later gather means only 90 feeding days. Some development potential and 2.5 hrs. to Fraser Valley. 100 ac. certified organic along with 5-50 ac. currently leased to a local vegetable grower. Call Tim @ Ranches Only for more info or to arrange a viewing. 250-280-7653.

ALBERTA
6132

SECTION OF LAND FOR SALE, includes modern bungalow w/3 bedrooms, top of the line appliances, triple pane windows, and wrap around cedar deck. Deep well w/good flow, septic tank with out flow. Large quonset, storage shed, and utility building w/heat & power. 40 cleared and seeded acres fenced for livestock, plank fencing, round pen, shelters and heated Ritchie auto water. Farm consists of 230 ac. of Alfalfa w/some Timothy. Rest of the land is partially cleared w/mature Birch and Spruce. Backs onto Crown land w/lake. Hunters paradise, \$1,600,000. Call 780-524-4173, Little Smoky, AB.

Take a Look

ORGANIC LAND in MD of Mackenzie, north of Peace River: 1200 seeded ac., 1800 sq.ft. house w/garage, 6800 sq.ft. shop, 60x120 cold storage, 100,000+ bu. grain storage, power, phone, natural gas, dug-out, on school bus route. 780-928-2538 or 780-841-1180.



LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF NEWELL: 301.91 acres, irrigated m/l with 231 acres EID first water rights. For sale by owner \$2,500,000. Three titled parcels: Parcel A 159.8 acres (NW 3-21-15 W4); Parcel B 107.71 acres (Portion of SW 3-21-15 W4); Parcel C 34.4 acres (portion of NE 3-21-15 W4). Irrigated #1 soil well suited for any forage, cereal or specialty crops including very successful potato crops on this unique elevated land with sandy #1 soil. The best historical use of this agricultural land has been potatoes and alfalfa seed. T-L pivot covers approximately 192 acres. Wheel move irrigation covers approximately 39 acres. EID water service is provided by two water delivery points. 3 phase electricity provides power for the electric irrigation pump and hydraulic system that runs the pivot. Additional surface lease rental income of \$17,000 per year. The 107.71 acre Parcel B has delivery of fresh water from the County of Newell Water Project (CNWP). This parcel would make an excellent building site for a residence and additional support buildings. Access to the land is on Range Road 153 North off secondary Highway 550, approximately 4 kms West of the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 550. Contact Greg Neufeld by phone or email: 403-862-0811, gneufeld@cgeng.ca

SASKATCHEWAN
6133

WANTED: GRAIN FARM approx. 1000 acres for purchase or rent in north half of Saskatchewan. Prefer with yardsite. Call: 780-205-4296 or email: 3star@telus.net

WANTED: Saskatchewan grainland, housing, and vacant lots. Will pay min. 10% premium on current pricing. Within 25 miles of Leader SK. Box 5001, c/o The Western Producer, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2C4

RM MAPLE CREEK #111. For sale N 1/2 35-11-26-W3. 320 cult. acres, 60x100' steel quonset on 2' cement fld, power, water for up to 100 head of cattle, 1 mile of Hwy #1 frontage. Will be sold by February 20th. Call 403-866-2214.

LAND FOR SALE in RM McCrainy SW 1/4 16-30-28-W2, gravel on adjacent 1/4. Bids close Feb. 18, 2018. 306-229-2181, Kenaston, SK. Email: brad.rink@mapleleaf.com

SASKATOON SOUTHWEST, River Valley View Estate, near golf course. Paved road and all services to site, \$229,500. Phone 306-382-1299 or 306-382-9024.

SECLUDED RIVER RETREAT: 80 acres on west bank, pt of 01-46-04 W3. Summer road and river access, \$167,500. Phone 306-382-1299 or 306-382-9024.

RIVER RETREAT: Saskatoon South - 177 acres forested, organic river front land. 50 acres cultivated. \$6500 per acre. Phone 306-382-1299 or 306-382-9024.

TOM@SASKFARMLAND.COM Interested in the value of your farmland and considering selling? Up to date market evaluations done at your farm. Coldwell Banker Signature. Tom Neufeld 306-260-7838.

FOR RENT BY TENDER: RM of Nipawin, SK. #487, NE-14-49-15W2, NW-14-49-15W2, & SW-14-49-15W2, comprising of 472 cult. ac. There are no buildings on the land other than a house and barns on the 5 acre yard site. All of the land is currently farmed. Tenders are to be submitted in envelopes marked "Nipawin Tender", to Dezaara Senft at Miller Thomson LLP 600-2103 11th Ave., Regina, SK, S4P 3L8, on or before noon on Fri., Feb. 23, 2018, and shall include: tender price, length of rental term, any other terms you are prepared to offer and a certified cheque/bank draft payable to "Miller Thomson LLP in trust" for 10% of the tender price (being 10% of the annual rent pmt. you are tendering). No conditional tenders will be accepted and the highest, or any tender, will not be opened in public. The deposit of all unsuccessful tenderers will be returned by mail. The successful tenderer shall enter into a lease agreement on or before Mar. 16, 2018. The 10% deposit will constitute a deposit towards the first years rental payment. For further information, please contact Dezaara Senft, 306-347-8309.

FOR RENT: ALL of Section 23-23-27 W2, in RM of Craik #222. Call 306-734-2997.

SASKATCHEWAN
6133

FOR SALE BY TENDER: RM of Argyle No. 1, NE 34-02-30 W1, NW 34-02-30 W1, SE 34-02-30 W1, SW 34-02-30 W1. Mineral rights are not included in the sale, but 6 current surface leases, with total annual rental of \$17,700.00 will be included in the sale. Land consists of approximately 556 cultivated acres in total. Sale includes two quonsets both approximately 40'x60' one metal, and one wooden. Wooden quonset is in need of repair. Also included are 8 - 1650 bushel bins. Tenders must be submitted on the entire section as quarters will not be sold individually. Tenders must be accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft for a minimum of 5% of the bid price payable to Orlowski Law Office Trust. Tenders must be received at the office of Orlowski Law Office, 1215 5th Street, Estevan, Saskatchewan, S4A 0Z5 by 4:00 PM on February 20, 2018. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Balance of funds from successful bidder will be due by April 2, 2018. Deposits of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded. For further information contact Stephen J. Orlowski at: Orlowski Law Office Prof. Corp., Phone: 306-634-3353, Fax: 306-634-7714, Email: steve@orlowskilaw.ca

WOOD RIVER RM #74. By tender S1/2 12-8-6-W3; N1/2 12-8-6-W3; N1/2 7-8-5-W3. Please bid on each half section separately. Tenders must be received by 1:00 pm, Feb. 8, 2018. Mark tenders "Filson Brothers Tender". Highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. Send tenders to Duane Filson, Box 340, Lafèche, SK, S0H 2K0, or by email to duane.filson@sasktel.net For info call 306-472-7772. Woodrow, SK.

WANTED

PEDIGREED SEED

NOTICE TO SEED ADVERTISERS

The Seeds Regulations prohibit the advertisement or sale of common seed of the major crop kinds by variety name. A variety name may only be applied to pedigreed seed that has been grown, processed, sampled, tested and graded as set out in the Seeds Regulations. Furthermore, seed of unregistered varieties of the crop kinds subject to variety registration may not be sold in Canada even when labelled as common seed.

For more information contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Seed Section at: seedsemenca@inspection.gc.ca or phone 1-800-442-2342

CEREAL SEEDS

BARLEY 6404

CERT. #1 CDC Austenson. Nutrient densified for enhanced emergence and yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

AAC SYNERGY, Cert. top quality seed. Very high yielder, gaining acceptance with maltsters. Contracts available. Inquiries welcome. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd, North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

CDC COPELAND, Fdn., Reg., Cert. top quality seed. Widely accepted malt variety. Inquiries welcome. Volume discounts. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd, North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

TOP QUALITY CERT. #1 CDC Copeland, AC Metcalfe, Newdale. Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

CERTIFIED #1: CDC COPELAND, AC Metcalfe, CDC Polarstar, AAC Connect, CDC Fraser. Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERTIFIED **CDC MAVERICK**. Hickseeds 306-354-7998 (Barry) or 306-229-9517 (Dale), Mossbank, SK.

CERT. #1 Copeland: 94% germ., 95% vigor, 48.3 TKW, 100% Copeland. Sandercock Seed Farm, 306-334-2958, Balcarres, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 Metcalf(2R) & Legacy(6R). Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED AC Metcalfe, AC Newdale, CDC Copeland, Legacy, CDC Austenson, CDC Maverick, CDC McGwire. **Van Burck Seeds**, Star City, SK 306-863-4377. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED CDC Austenson & Maverick feed barley. Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

CERTIFIED CDC Copeland & AC Metcalf. Call Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

CERTIFIED # 1, high germ: AC Metcalfe, CDC Copeland. **Seed Source**, Archerwill, SK., 306-323-4402.

CERT. AC METCALFE, 99% germ., 96% vigor, 0% smut, 0% fus., 49.4 kernel weight, will be cleaning late Jan. \$8.25/bu. Olynick Seeds, 306-338-8078, Quill Lake, SK.

CORN 6406

GRAZING CORN CM440 conventional variety. Early maturity, whole plant is palatable making for easier cleanup in the spring, high quality forage during winter months. No planter required. Low seed cost. CanaMaize Seed Inc., call 1-877-262-4046 www.canamaize.com

MINIMIZE INPUT COSTS & maximize yield potential. Grain & grazing/silage corn. The leader's in non-GMO technology. A more sustainable way of farming! Free delivery. Call **De Dell Seeds Inc.** 204-268-5224.

DURUM 6407

CERT. & REG. CDC Precision; AAC Spitfire. High germ. & 0% F.G., Fast Seed Farm Ltd., 306-463-3626, Kindersley, SK.

CERTIFIED **TRANSCEND**, very good quality. Call 306-843-2934, Wilkie, SK. www.herle.ca

CERTIFIED **TRANSCEND**. Proven variety. Printz Family Seeds, Gravelbourg, SK., 306-648-3511, 306-380-7769.

CERTIFIED **CDC ALLOY**. Good disease package. Printz Family Seeds, Gravelbourg SK., 306-648-3511, 306-380-7769.

CERT. **CDC PRECISION & AAC SPITFIRE** Exceptional yield potential and standability. Printz Family Seeds, Gravelbourg, SK., 306-648-3511, 306-380-7769.

OATS 6410

EXCELLENT QUALITY CERTIFIED #1 CS Camden, Summit, CDC Minstrel, CDC Ruffian, CDC Orrin. Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

CERTIFIED #1: C.S. Camden. Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERTIFIED **CDC HAYMAKER**. Hickseeds 306-354-7998 (Barry) or 306-229-9517 (Dale), Mossbank, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Ruffian, AC Leggett & CDC Orrin. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERT. **CDC RUFFIAN**, CDC Minstrel, AC Morgan. **Van Burck Seeds**, Star City, SK 306-863-4377. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED Camden, Morgan, Baler and Haymaker. Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

CERTIFIED #1, high germ: CS Camden, CDC Ruffian, CDC Morrison. **Seed Source**, Archerwill, SK., 306-323-4402.

TRITICALE 6416

CERT. BOBCAT BEARDLESS fall triticale, excellent for cover crop. Nutrient densified for enhanced emergence and yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

NEW AAC DELIGHT, beardless spring. Nutrient densified for emergence & yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

TRITICALE 6416

CERT. SUNRAY TRITICALE. Nutrient densified for enhanced emergence and yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

WHEAT 6419

REG./CERT. AAC BRANDON. Nutrient densified for enhanced emergence and yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

SY ROWYN CPCR, Cert. top quality seed, high yielder with vg protein. All inquires welcome. Volume discounts. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd., North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. Email gregfarms@sasktel.net

AAC BRANDON CWRS, Cert. top quality seed, very high yielder and protein. Highly recommended by growers. All inquiries welcome. Volume discounts. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd., North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851, 306-445-5516 or email: gregfarms@sasktel.net

AAC ELIE, CWRS, CERT. top quality seed, synergist wheat to AAC Brandon. Very high yielder with high protein. Positive reviews from growers. All inquires welcome. Volume discounts. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd, North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851, 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

NEW CERTIFIED CDC LANDMARK VB; AC Andrew soft white, very good quality. 306-843-2934, Wilkie, SK. www.herle.ca

EXCELLENT QUALITY CERTIFIED #1: AC Andrew, SY Rowyn, Faller, Penhold & AAC Sadash. Call Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

EXCELLENT QUALITY CERT. #1, CWRS: CDC Landmark VB, AAC Viewfield, AAC Brandon, AAC Cameron VB, AAC Elie, Cardale, CDC Utmost VB, AAC Connelly & AAC Redberry, Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

NEW WHEAT KING! Certified #1 **AAC Brandon**, 98% germ. **Nakonechny Seeds**, 306-932-4409, Ruthilda, SK.

AC VESPER VB, WASKADA. Fdn., reg., cert. #1. High yielders, good protein, excellent quality! **Nakonechny Seeds**, 306-932-4409, Ruthilda, SK.

CERTIFIED #1: AAC Brandon, AAC Cameron VB & Carberry. Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERTIFIED # 1 AAC Jatharia VB wheat, new. Midge tolerant. Shewchuk Seeds, 306-290-7816, Blaine Lake, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 AAC Brandon: 99% germ., 99% vigor, 38.58 TKW. Sandercock Seed Farm, 306-334-2958, Balcarres, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Landmark VB, CDC Plentiful, Cardale, Elgin ND, Goodeve VB, Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED **CARDALE**, AAC Redwater, CDC Utmost VB, CDC Landmark VB, Pasteur. **Van Burck Seeds**, 306-863-4377, Star City, SK. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED CDC Landmark, AAC Cameron, Jatharia, Brandon CWRS wheat. Contact Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

CERT. # 1, high germ: CDC Landmark VB, AAC Cameron VB, AAC Jatharia VB, CDC Utmost VB, AAC Brandon. **Seed Source** Archerwill, SK. 306-323-4402.

CERTIFIED AAC BRANDON, AAC Jatharia. Call Grant, 306-746-7336, 306-524-4339, 306-746-8070, Semans, SK.

ALFALFA 6425

TOP QUALITY CERTIFIED alfalfa and grass seed. Call Gary or Janice Waterhouse 306-874-5684, Naicam, SK.

CANOLA 6440

TOP YIELDING CANOLA from Canterra Seeds. Check out yields in the seed guide and purchase from Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

HYBRID AND OPEN-POLLINATED canola varieties. Certified #1 Synergy (Polish), Dekalb & Rugby. Phone Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

FLAX 6443

CERTIFIED CDC GLAS. Nutrient densified for enhanced emergence and yield. 403-633-9999, www.fabianseedfarms.com

CDC GLAS, Reg., Cert., top quality seed. High yield, exc. standability, easy to harvest. Great reviews from customers. Inquiries welcome. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd., North Battleford, SK., 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

CERTIFIED #1: CDC Glas & CDC Bethune. Call Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERTIFIED # 1 CDC GLAS - The variety to grow! Top yield, excellent lodging resistance. 306-290-7816, Blaine Lake, SK.

CERT. #1 BETHUNE, 98% germ., 95% vigor. Sandercock Seed Farm, Balcarres SK., 306-334-2958.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Sorrel, AAC Bravo. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Sorrel, AAC Bravo. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED CDC **SORREL**. **Van Burck Seeds**, 306-863-4377, Star City, SK. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED **GLAS** and CDC Sorrel flax. Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

If you want to sell it fast, call 1-800-667-7770.

PULSE CROPS

BEANS 6449

CERTIFIED #1: SNOWBIRD. Call Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERT. NSC StarCity, NSC Leroy Soybeans. **Van Burck Seeds**, Star City, SK. 306-863-4377. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED Snowbird fababeans & Amarillo Peas. Call Trawin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.trawinseeds.ca

BEANS 6449

CERTIFIED CDC **Blackstrap**, earliest black bean, direct harvest, high yield, excellent disease pkg.; **CDC Super Jet & CDC Jet** also available. Martens Charolais & Seed, 204-534-8370, Boissevain, MB.

CHICKPEAS 6452

Now Agents For:

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CDC Proclaim Red Lentil
CDC Palmer Chickpea

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AAC Lacombe Yellow Pea
CDC Precision Durum
Guttino and KWS Daniello
Hybrid Fall Ryes
and so much more!

Phone: 403-715-9771
Email: office@seednet.ca



LENTIL 6455

CERT. CDC PROCLAIM CL Reds, high germ. & 0% disease. Fast Seed Farm Ltd., 306-463-3626, Kindersley, SK.

CERT. **CDC IMPULSE** Clearfield red lentil, best in it's class. 306-843-2934, Wilkie, SK. www.herle.ca

CDC MARBLE, reg. #1, 99% germ., exc. quality! Limited supply. **Nakonechny Seeds**, 306-932-4409, Ruthilda, SK.

CDC PROCLAIM CL, new Red. 100% germ., 0% ascochyta. **Nakonechny Seeds**, 306-932-4409, Ruthilda, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Impala (small red) Clearfield. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED CDC **MARBLE**, dark speckled; Certified CDC 4371-4, red. Call Grant, Semans, SK. 306-746-7336, 306-524-4339, 306-746-8070.

PEAS 6458

FDN. & CERT. CDC Spectrum; CDC Amarillo. High germ. & 0% disease. Fast Seed Farm Ltd., 306-463-3626, Kindersley, SK.

FERTILIZER 6530

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Landmark VB, CDC Plentiful, Cardale, Elgin ND, Goodeve VB, Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

PEAS 6458

GREEN PEAS, yellow pea prices down, try new green pea varieties! CDC Limerick, CDC Greenwater & CDC Spruce. Select, Fdn., Reg. and Cert. Ask about CDC Forest. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd, North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

ABARTH, CDC SPECTRUM, AAC Carver certified yellow peas, very good quality. 306-843-2934, Wilkie, SK. www.herle.ca

CDC AMARILLO, CDC INCA, certified #1, excellent quality! **Nakonechny Seeds**, 306-932-4409, Ruthilda, SK.

CERTIFIED #1: CDC Limerick. Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

CERTIFIED AAC **ARDILL** yellow peas. Call Hickseeds 306-354-7998 (Barry) or 306-229-9517 (Dale), Mossbank, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Spectrum, CDC Acer (Maple), CDC Amarillo and CDC Meadow. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

CERTIFIED CDC **AMARILLO**. **Van Burck Seeds**, Star City, SK. 306-863-4377. www.vanburckseeds.ca

CERTIFIED CDC **INCA**, CDC Greenwater, CDC Mosaic. Call Grant, 306-746-7336, 306-524-4339, 306-746-8070, Semans, SK

We know that farming is enough of a gamble so if you want to sell it fast place your ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds. It's a Sure Thing. Call our toll-free number today. We have friendly staff ready to help. 1-800-667-7770.

SPECIALTY CROPS

CANARY SEEDS 6464

REG. & CERTIFIED CDC Calvi (itchless), high yielder. Fast Seed Farm Ltd., 306-463-3626, Kindersley, SK.

CERTIFIED #1: CDC Calvi & CDC Cibo. Call Lung Seeds Ltd. 306-368-2414, Lake Lenore, SK.

MUSTARD 6467

Looking for off grade mustard, lentils or chickpeas. Custom color sorting of all types of crops. Ackerman Ag Services, 306-631-9577, Chamberlain, SK.

SUNFLOWER 6473

CONFECTION SUNFLOWER SEEDS Wanted: XL's, scuffed, bird feed & high quality confection. 204-327-6488, Rosetown, MB.

FERTILIZER 6530

COMMON SEED

CEREAL SEEDS 6482

TREATED **OAT SEED** for sale: Souris and Morgan, treated with Raxil Pro. Call Justin 306-469-0105, Big River, SK.

SEED **BARLEY** FOR SALE, 99% germ, phone 306-435-9122, Rocanville, SK.

FORAGE SEEDS 6485

TOP QUALITY ALFALFA, variety of grasses and custom blends, farmer to farmer. Gary Waterhouse 306-874-5684, Naicam, SK.

COMMON CERTIFIED ORGANIC Alfalfa (tap rooted), common cert. organic Red and common cert. organic Alsike Clover, 50 lb. bags. 306-382-1299, Saskatoon, SK.

OILSEEDS 6491

LOOKING FOR OLD and new crop soybeans FOB Western Canada. Licence and bonded grain company. Call, email, text **Now** for competitive pricing at the farm! Market Place Commodities Ltd, accurate real time marketing. 403-394-1711, 403-315-3930. info@marketplacecommodities.com

COMMON **YELLOW FLAX** seed, 2500 bushel, golden flax seed from 2017 crop, 98% germ., 87% vigor, 1000 kernel weight 5.8g, brown count .04%. \$28.00 FOB, Lemberg area, \$28/bu., pickup. Call 306-730-8375, or 306-730-8375, Lemberg, SK. Email: Rhfarms1884@sasktel.net

PULSE CROPS 6494

GLYPHOSATE 1 **SOYBEANS**: Top yields, delivered. Common #1. Keep your own seed! Call Norcan Seeds, 204-372-6552, 204-739-3519. Fisher Branch, MB.

VARIOUS 6497

NOW Available

COVER CROPS. HICKSEED LTD., Mossbank, SK. Now has on the floor for organic plowdown: Daikon radish (zero till); Hairy Vetch; Austrian Winter peas; Buckwheat; Yellow Blossom sweet clover. Also, green feed blends available. For all your seed needs call Hickseed Ltd. Barry 306-354-7998 or Dale 306-229-9517

FERTILIZER 6530

VARIOUS 6497

1000 BU. ORGANIC FLAX seed, grade #2, and borage seed available, various GLA'S. 306-595-2094, Pelly, SK.

CORN SEED - Open pollinated. Approx. \$28/acre, at 26,000 PPA. Tall leafy plants, 7-9 with 8-10" in cobs. Excellent grazing/silage. Delivery Available, 204-723-2831, Austin, MB. cattcorn18@gmail.com

FEED GRAIN 6505

WANTED

WANTED HEATED CANOLA. No broker involved. Sell direct to crushing plant. Cash on delivery or pickup. 306-228-7306 or 306-228-7325, no texts. Unity, SK.

WHY NOT KEEP MARKETING SIMPLE? You are selling feed grains. We are buying feed grains. Also buying chickpeas, lentils and golden flax. Fast payment, with prompt pickup, true price discovery. Call Jim Beusekom, Allen Pirness, David Lea, Vera Buziak or Matt Beusekom at Market Place Commodities Ltd., Lethbridge, AB. Phone 1-866-512-1711. Email info@marketplacecommodities.com

VAN RAAV PASKAL Farms in Iron Springs area is looking for **Feed Barley**. Put more \$\$\$ in your pocket and sell direct to us with no brokerage fee. Call 403-330-9147.

WANTED: OFF-GRADE PULSES, oil seeds and cereals. All organic cereals and specialty crops. Prairie Wide Grain, Saskatoon, SK., 306-230-8101, 306-716-2297.

WANTED: FEED BARLEY Buffalo Plains Cattle Company is looking to purchase barley. For pricing and delivery dates, call Kristen 306-624-2381, Bethune, SK.

WANTED: FEED GRAIN, barley, wheat, peas, green or damaged canola. Phone Gary 306-823-4493, Neilburg, SK.

LACKAWANNA PRODUCTS CORP. Buyers and sellers of all types of feed grain and grain by-products. Contact Bill Hajt or Christopher Lent at 306-862-2723. clent@lpctrade.com bhajt@lpctrade.com

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FERTILIZER 6530

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HAY/STRAW 6510

ROUND ALFALFA/ALFALFA GRASS solid core greenfeed 5x6 JD hay bales for sale. Call 306-237-4582, Perdue, SK.

DAIRY QUALITY & beef hay: 500 round bales, approx. 1500 lbs. Feed test available. Faubert Farms, Marengo, SK. Call Murray 306-463-9691.

FOR SALE, 200 large round mixed hay bales, 780-826-0883, Cold Lake, AB.

1ST AND 2ND cut alfalfa for sale, 3x4 square bales, no rain and feed test available. Call 403-501-9307, Tilley, AB.

HAY FOR SALE: Various grades, tests available. Call 403-633-8835, Tilley, AB.

2ND CUT ALFALFA/GRASS, mixed square bales, no rain, under cover. 780-916-2584, Edmonton, AB area.

100 ROUND BALES, 1400-1450 lbs., 5¢/lb. at the farm, first cut, no rain. 306-893-4010, Maidstone, SK.

HAY FOR SALE - DELIVERED! Also custom hauling. V-V Trucking Ltd., 306-631-8544, Moose Jaw, SK.

NEW HAY FOR SALE; Round bale picking and hauling, small or large loads. Travel anywhere. 306-291-9658, Vanscoy, SK.

REASONABLY PRICED HAY in big squares. Only 157 remaining can arrange for trucking. 306-320-1041, Leroy, SK.



POST SHAVINGS: Cattle feedlot, horse & poultry bedding. Bulk pricing and delivery available; **Landscaping Mulch:** Available in 1 yard bulk bags for \$45, delivery available; **Colored Landscaping Mulch:** Available in 1 yard bulk bags for \$115, delivery avail. Vermette Wood Preservers, Spruce Home, SK. 1-800-667-0094. Email: info@vwpitd.com Visit: www.vwpitd.com

DURUM STRAW BIG squares, no rain, very clean, vg quality with some durum seed, \$25/bale. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

LARGE ROUND BALES, hard core, 5x6, alfalfa/grass mix and alfalfa 1st and 2nd cut, no rain; also grass bales. 204-749-2194, 204-526-0733, Rathwell, MB.

WANTED: ALFALFA 3x3 and 3x4 bales. Will arrange for pickup at farm/field. Phone Chris 204-746-0462, Brunkild, MB.

2017 SMALL SQUARE straw bales, about 600 small square straw bales. Good solid bales. Shredded, \$3 each. Delivery available, 306-862-1998, 306-609-0244, Codette, SK.

FEED WANTED 6540

BOW VALLEY TRADING LTD.
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- Spring Threshed

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SEED WANTED 6542

BUYING SPRING THRASHED CANOLA and grain "On Farm Pickup" Westcan Feed & Grain, 1-877-250-5252.

FEED GRAIN WANTED! Also buying light, tough or offgrade grains. "On Farm Pickup" Westcan Feed & Grain, 1-877-250-5252.

BUYING HEATED/DAMAGED PEAS, FLAX & GRAIN "On Farm Pickup". Westcan Feed & Grain, 1-877-250-5252.

SPORTING GOODS 6825

BUYING WILD FUR, whole frozen carcass, cash paid. Must have fur license. DL#6168, call 306-852-8802, Tisdale, SK. Email: madtrapper@hotmail.ca

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TANKS 6925

POLY TANKS: 15 to 10,000 gal.; Bladder tanks from 220 to 88,000 gallon; Water and liquid fertilizer; Fuel tanks, single and double wall; Truck and storage, gas or dsl. Wilke Sales, 306-586-5711, Regina, SK.

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CARPENTRY & PRODUCTION LINE welding program. 2 certificates, 2 employment streams, 1 tiny home. Apply now for Fall 2018 at greatplainscollege.ca Rosetown SK

U-DRIVE TRACTOR TRAILER Training, 30 years experience. Day, 1 and 2 week upgrading programs for Class 1A, 3A and air brakes. One on one driving instructions. 306-786-6600, Yorkton, SK.

FARM/RANCH 8016

RANCH HANDS WANTED: 1000 cow ranch, seeking workers to do all aspects of ranching, haying and operating equipment. Knowledge of pivots & mechanical skills a plus! Top wages and housing included. Alexis Creek, BC. Call 250-394-4623, Email: clranh99@gmail.com

CARETAKER WANTED For small ranch near Lac la Hache, BC. Home provided in exchange for chores. 250-315-0238.

HELPER WANTED ON mixed farm. Steady job for right person. Room and board avail. 403-631-2373, 403-994-0581, Olds, AB.

PERMANENT AND CALVING HELP wanted. Large 1,000 head cattle ranch and mixed grain farm in Alberta Foothills (Cochrane), is seeking a long term employee to join our team as a Ranch Hand as well as short term/seasonal calving help. All positions are to start immediately. Successful candidates will have strong experience in and be willing to participate in all aspects of equipment operation, ranch facility maintenance, cattle handling and care. Driver's license required and Class 1 is an asset. Competitive wage, bonus program, housing and other benefits available. Please send resume with questions to Paula at anderssonp@simpsonranching.ca Additional information will be provided to qualified candidates upon receipt of resume.

SEEKING EXPERIENCED FARMHAND: Full-time on mixed farm, cattle experience required. Class 1 license an asset. Mechanical & welding skills a plus! Wage \$15-\$20/hour depending on experience. Email: crocushillfarms@gmail.com 403-533-2494, Rockyford, AB.

FARM & RANCH HELP Wanted in southern Saskatchewan. Must have some experience and drivers licence is an asset. 306-537-2624.

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FARM/RANCH 8016

FULL-TIME FARM AGRONOMIST wanted for large irrigation farm in southern Alberta as soon as possible. Duties: Scouting of crops, arrange seed & pricing, arrange applications of fungicide & aerial application. Calibration checks for planter, fertilizer applicator and seed cutter. Assist staff as resource for decisions on chemical products and technology. Support crop and growing management planning & decisions. Input data requirements for government/private companies, surveys and programs. Work with retailers, Co-op and associations with seed and chemical trials. Collect and/or supervise soil, petiole and crop for analysis in the growing season. Be able to attend local association seminars, meetings and tours as a representative of our farm, report back to management. Comply with safety on the farm, safe driving practices, and co-ordinate with the same on the farm. These are not intended to be construed as all responsibilities, duties and skills for this position. Qualifications: Undergraduate degree in Agricultural Sciences is required. Knowledge in production of potatoes, seed, canola, soybeans and grains is definitely an asset. Excellent organization, time management skills and group interactive skills. Technical interests and skills in all responsibilities. Successful candidate should be a self-starter with a strong work ethic. Competitive compensation, email resumes to: Stan Kanegawa @kanegawa@telusplanet.net

FARM LABOURER REQUIRED for mixed farm to operate machinery, cattle handling and general farm duties. Driver's license required. Single or family accommodations including utilities. Call 403-575-0712 or fax resume to 403-577-2263. Consort, AB.

FARM LABOURER WANTED: Must have valid 1A with driver's abstract. Mechanical knowledge and experience with farm equipment an asset. Wage based on experience starting at \$20-30/hr. Located in Weyburn/Fillmore area, SK. 306-861-7317

PASTURE RIDER REQUIRED for 2018 season. Monet Pastures Ltd., Elrose, SK., requires a full-time seasonal pasture rider to help care for 1950 cow/calf pairs May 1st to November 1st. Must supply own horses and tack. Experience with cattle disease is mandatory. Valid driver's license required. Must be able to rope and treat cattle in open pasture. Housing available. Wages \$23 to \$30/hour based on experience. For more information contact: Luke Ellingson 306-378-7451, Tim Calwell 306-378-7554, or email calseeds@sasktel.net

FULL-TIME DAIRY HERDSPERSON, permanent position, duties: monitoring cattle health, AI, & milking. Experience required, 3 year minimum as herd manager and diploma. \$15.50/hr., English work language. Mail resume to: St. Brigid's Dairy Ltd., 42352 Brandon Rd., Brussels, ON, N0G 1H0. Email: stbrigid dairy@gmail.com

FARM/RANCH 8016

WANTED: GRAZING LEASE MANAGER/CONTRACTOR. Bow Island grazing lease headquarters is located 3 miles east and 8 miles north of Bow Island, AB. The pasture consists of approx. 38,000 acres of dry land pasture and 1080 acres of irrigated pasture split by the South Sask River. It annually supports anywhere from 8000 to 11,000 aum's of grazing. 2017 numbers consisted of 1750 cow calf pairs and 250 yearlings held in 7 herds. The contractor will be expected to operate the pasture and manage all the herds in conjunction with irrigation timing in order to fully utilize available grazing. Other duties will include: Recording entry and exit of cattle; Treatment of sick animals; Repair & maintenance of fences, buildings and irrigation works; Along with other duties assigned by the board. The contractor must supply: Horses & tack, pickup truck(s), horse trailer, fuel for own vehicles, all hand tools, all additional help including an irrigator for pivot & flood irrigation & liability insurance for the contractor and help. Employment is year round with grazing duties from April 1 to October 31 and winter duties feeding the bull herd for the balance of the year. NB rental housing is available at the headquarters. The board will provide equipment such tractor, silage wagon, ditcher, etc. as deemed necessary by the board. Please submit your resume to: Bow Island Grazing Association c/o Lyndon Haugen, Box 422, Bow Island, AB., T0K 0G0. Deadline for submission is February 16, 2018. For more info, phone: Ryan Renk 403-529-9080, Bill Klassen 403-952-1024 or Paul Gruninger 403-308-6249.

ALTHOUSE HONEY FARMS INC. 1/2 mile south Porcupine Plain, SK., 500 McAllister Avenue. 7 positions required for 2018 season, May to October. Wages \$13-\$18/hr. depending upon experience. Job duties: assisting in spring hive inspection, unwrapping, and splitting, supering, building supers and honey frames, honey removal and extracting, fall feeding, applying mite control and wrapping hives for winter. No education required. WCB coverage. Phone Ron Althouse 306-278-7345, Email: althousehoney@sasktel.net

PRETTY VALLEY HONEY FARM is looking for full-time Apiary worker. Duties: working with bees, feeding bees, harvesting honey, operating apiary equip. At times hard physical labour, build and maintain apiary equip. Minimum 1 yr. experience of apiary work required. Minimum Class 5 driver's license required, high school diploma or equivalent. Wage \$11.85-\$12.00/hr. SW 26-35-26-W in the RM of Minotanas, MB. Email: eckhardinsdorf@gmail.com

FULL-TIME FARM LABOURER HELP. Applicants should have previous farm experience and mechanical ability. Duties include operation of machinery, including tractors and other farm equipment, as well as general farm laborer duties. \$25/hour depending on experience. Must be able to cross US border. Location: Pierson, MB. Feland Bros. Farms, Greg Feland and Wade Feland, Box 284, Pierson, MB. ROM 1S0. 701-756-6954.

GRAIN FARM MANAGER, Livestock Manager & Farm Workers required on large grain and livestock operation in the Eddystone, MB. area. Opportunities are available for: 1. Grain Farm Manager; 2. Cattle Manager; 3. Farm Workers. Competitive salaries. Housing and other incentives are available! Call or text Steve at 204-805-1197, or email: steve.manning@samc.ag

Looking for a hand around the farm? Place a help wanted ad in the classifieds. Call 1-800-667-7770.

HELP WANTED 8024

EXPERIENCED FARM HAND wanted on Purebred Black Angus farm, southern AB. Full ad at: www.banduranches.com

HELP WANTED 8024

HILBERT HONEY CO. LTD is now accepting applications for the 2018 season, April to October. Following positions are required: 4- Apiary Workers (NOC 8431): \$12.03-\$13.50/hr. Minimum 2 years of commercial beekeeping experience and valid drivers license is required. Duties include: colony manipulations and assessment, disease and pest control, nucleus production, harvesting and processing of honey; Also need 8- Apiary Labourers. \$10.96-\$11.50/hr. No previous experience is necessary but must be able to work in the presence of honey bees. Duties include: site preparations and maintenance, cleaning of hive equipment, shop work, honey extraction. All positions are full time. Accommodations available. We are located 13 kms South of Humboldt, SK. along Hwy 20. Apply by fax: 306-682-3096 or e-mail: hilberthoney@gmail.com

CARETAKER/FARMHAND SCENIC RANCH south of Longview Alberta requires couple to fill caretaker role. Lawn care, livestock feeding, and general supervision in exchange for housing. Ideal for retired couple with farm background. Commencing June 2018. Please email resume to: bwatson@telus.net 403-651-7912.

Stretch your advertising dollars! Place an ad in the classifieds. Our friendly staff is waiting for your call. 1-800-667-7770.

TRADES/TECHNICAL 8044

EXPERIENCED TURBINE AG Pilot Req'd: Roland Air Spray based out of Roland MB requires 1 commercial pilot for upcoming spray season starting June 1 2018 - September 15 2018. Applicant must have; (1) A Canadian Commercial pilots Licence & Manitoba Aerial Applicators Licence. (2) Min experience of 2500 hours of Agriculture of which 1000 hrs must be on turbine air tractor. (3) Must maintain journey logs following Transport Canada guidelines. (4) Must be insurable with up to date medical. (5) Be capable of operating Satloc Bantam GPS or Ag Nav Platinum system. (6) Proficient in English. Accommodations and vehicle provided if required. Wage \$60/hr based on 40 hour work week. Possible seasonal bonus based on performance. Workers Compensation provided. Benefits package available. Do Not Apply unless you meet all the above requirements. 204-745-6111 or 204-745-8484, https://www.rolandairspray.com/

Hit our readers where it counts... in the classifieds. Place your ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classified section. 1-800-667-7770.

TRUCK DRIVERS 8046

EXPERIENCED CLASS 1 DRIVERS wanted to haul livestock or gravel. Health plan and safety bonuses. Year round work. For more info, call 403-625-4658.

NORTHLAND LOGISTICS CORP is hiring Class 1 Drivers for its Grande Prairie, AB. locations. On-site accommodations available for out-of-town workers. We offer competitive wages, & benefits. Contact Cindy @ 780-957-3334 or email your resume safety@northlandtank.ca

EMPLOYMENT WANTED 8050

SEEKING FULL-TIME WORK: Experienced with cattle & calving, and most farm machinery. Clean Class 5. Ph. 204-731-1781.

RURAL PROPERTY CARETAKERS looking for position in SW Alberta starting June. 403-558-0191, itsmefred224@gmail.com

We know that farming is enough of a gamble so if you want to sell it fast place your ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds. It's a Sure Thing. Call our toll-free number today. We have friendly staff ready to help. 1-800-667-7770.

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