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Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

JUNE 23, 2016

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Grain-shipping measures extended one year

Grain companies and farm group welcome the move and vow to keep the pressure on Ottawa for a permanent solution

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff and ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

Pleased and relieved. That's how western Canadian grain farmers and elevator companies are reacting to a one-year extension of emergency grain-shipping measures first implemented by the former Conservative government in 2014 to address a backlog in grain shipping.

The four key provisions, which came into effect under the Fair Rail for Farmers Act, were set to expire August 1.

They give the federal government the power to set minimum grain movement volumes for the railways, provide for arbitration of service level agreements between shippers and the railways and compensation for rail service failures and extend interswitching to 160 kilometres from 30.

Interswitching allows an elevator serviced by one railway to ask another to move its grain, so long as there is a connection within the prescribed distance.

See **SHIPPING** on page 6 »

Early, frequent fungicide applications can be a waste

AAFC cereal pathologist Myriam Fernandez says it can also encourage more kernel diseases such as black point



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research shows early fungicide applications aimed at protecting wheat from leaf spot diseases doesn't provide any benefit when infection is light and can do more harm than good. PHOTO: SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

Farmers can be a little too ready to pull out the sprayer and apply fungicides and may be doing more harm than good.

When there's little or no leaf disease present in a field, those early applications are an expense for no benefit and could do more harm by encouraging other diseases such as black point, says Myriam Fernandez, a cereal pathologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

"You are wasting your time, you are wasting money and you may be causing further problems along the way," Fernandez said in an interview June

14, from her base at the AAFC Swift Current Research and Development Centre. She was speaking about research she and AAFC agronomist Bill May conducted between 2001 and 2006 that AAFC recently highlighted in an online publication.

"The effect of the fungicide does not carry over to later growth stages. So if you apply it early on I'm sorry, you're going to have to apply it later again (if the infection warrants it)."

However, that doesn't mean there aren't times when an early fungicide application to battle leaf spots is warranted, Fernandez added. There's no formal leaf spot threshold, but spraying should be considered if more than five per cent of the penultimate leaves are infected, she said.

The penultimate leaf is the last before the flag leaf emerges.

"If you only have the odd spot then it is not worth spraying because all (wheat) seedlings are going to have some spots because that is just the nature of the beast," Fernandez said.

"If you have a lot of leaf spotting — it is happening this year in a lot of places — at the seedling stage and later on, then yes, go ahead (and spray)."

Their research was done on durum wheat, but Fernandez said the same principle likely applies to spring and winter wheat.

"You have companies pushing for early application at the seedling stage and a little bit later," Fernandez said.

See **FUNGICIDE** on page 6 »

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DID YOU KNOW?

Antibiotics manure risk requires a rethink

Manitoba researchers say previous studies ignore the interplay of animals' digestive systems on the drugs

STAFF

A University of Manitoba research paper may upend the way environmental scientists consider the issue of residual antibiotics in manure.

They're a cause of concern because when they're fed to animals, a lot of the antibiotics pass right through the animal and into the manure. Scientists have worried that could promote antibiotic resistance.

"Often, 90 per cent or more of the antibiotic is excreted, according to previous studies," says Francis Zvomuya, a researcher at the university.

Lead author Inoka D. Amarakoon, a PhD candidate, looked at those previous studies and realized that those researchers were fortifying manure with antibiotics and then tracking their breakdown. In the real world, when they pass through the gut of an animal, they undergo chemical and biological changes.

"That can affect how



Cattle and other animals alter antibiotics as they pass through their digestive systems. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

quickly they degrade once they are excreted," said Amarakoon.

The Manitoba researchers fed combinations of antibiotics to steers and collected their droppings to compare to a control herd's droppings that were fortified.

Results were mixed. For some antibiotics, the excreted antibiotics degraded more quickly. Other antibiotics degraded faster when added directly to manure. Amarakoon said such mixed findings were to be expected when looking at different products.

Also, compared to the antibiotics added to manure, excreted antibiotics can be arranged differently within the manure.

"That can change whether the antibiotics are even available for chemical or biological degradation," Amarakoon said.

Zvomuya, Amarakoon, and their colleagues at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada found that composting manure for 30 days reduced the concentrations of the antibiotics by at least 85 per cent. Some results were as high as 99 per cent.

READER'S PHOTO



PHOTO: LUC GAMACHE

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NASA conducting aerial soil moisture data collection over south-central Manitoba

The NASA aircraft carries a radiometer instrument similar to the one on board the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite launched in 2015



On board the DC-3 is an instrument similar to one on NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) space satellite launched in 2015. PHOTO: AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
Co-operator staff

The U.S. space program is taking to the skies again in southern Manitoba this summer.

They'll be using a Second World War-era DC-3 airplane to make multiple early-morning north-south passes over farm fields around Elm Creek, Carman and Roland later this summer.

It's all part of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) flight operations over this area to capture soil moisture data.

Flights began June 8 and ran until June 20, and will begin again July 10 through to July 22 over the same region. They are being conducted as part of a joint Canada-U.S. experiment to capture moisture data using space-based satellite. The terrestrial flights help determine how accurate the satellite measurements are.

On board the DC-3 is an instrument similar to one on NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite launched in 2015.

“What the radiometer does is it measures the naturally occurring ambient microwave energy that’s coming out of the soil.”

JARRETT POWERS
AAFC

“The plane is carrying a radiometer, the same type of instrument that’s on the SMAP satellite,” said Jarrett Powers, manager of the development unit in the science and technology branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

“What the radiometer does is it measures the naturally occurring ambient microwave energy that’s coming out of the soil,” he said adding that moisture in the ground influences the amount of energy emitted from the soil.

The SMAP satellite meanwhile has both radiometer and active radar to detect the “return value” of the measurement, retrieving the soil moisture value in the top couple of inches of the soil.

The flights are tests of dif-

ferent approaches using the radiometer, and will gather data that produces global soil moisture maps to the highest possible accuracy, Powers said.

The Carman region, and one other U.S. site in Iowa, are where flights are being conducted this summer.

Carman was chosen as the Canadian site because it is one of three locations in Canada (others are in Kenaston, Sask. and Casselman, Ont.) where AAFC has installed permanent soil moisture monitoring stations. There are nine located on private farms in this region of Manitoba, and here as part of ongoing research since 2010 by AAFC to study soil moisture conditions.

This part of Manitoba area was initially chosen by AAFC

because both a wide range of soil textures are represented in this area, Powers said.

“To the west of Hwy. 13 is sand but you just have to go a little bit east and you’re into the heavier clay soils. It has the whole textural range of soils on which to do this work.”

It’s also an area where farmers grow all the predominant agricultural crops, he added.

NASA approached AAFC in 2012 after learning it had established this ground-monitoring network, Powers said.

The network supports ongoing AAFC research into satellite-derived soil moisture from RADARSAT-2, SMAP and other satellites. NASA, AAFC and other organizations conducted a large field campaign in the same area in 2012, when NASA flew two aircraft carrying radar and radiometer instruments over the study area while ground crews sampled over 40 fields.

Over 45,000 soil moisture measurements were taken along with observations on soil temperature, surface roughness and soil structure from heavy clays to sandy

soils. The collected data was used to calibrate and validate soil moisture retrieval models from the SMAP satellite prior to its 2015 launch.

SMAP data is becoming an important source of soil moisture data for Canada, Powers said.

Its benefits range from improved monitoring of both drought and excess moisture conditions which can inform crop insurance and ongoing government programs, to aiding and improving flood forecasting. The data will also improve scientists’ ability to predict weather and develop crop productivity models.

It will also help anticipate crop disease by giving crop pathologists more information to do risk forecasts, Powers noted.

The DC-3 flights depart early morning from Winnipeg International Airport and will be conducting north-south passes at both higher and lower altitudes around 7 a.m., he added.

To learn more about SMAP visit: <http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov>.

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North Dakotans put ‘corporate’ farming to vote

Voters back repeal of a law allowing corporate operation of dairy and hog farms

REUTERS/STAFF

North Dakotans in a statewide referendum June 14 voted to repeal a law enacted last year that changed decades of family-farming rules in the state by allowing corporations to own and operate dairy and hog farms.

Results posted on the North Dakota state government website put the unofficial final vote count from the ballot measure at 98,677 votes for “No” and 31,679 votes for “Yes.”

“We always believed that the

people of North Dakota would agree that the family farm structure is best for our state’s economy and our communities,” Mark Watne, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, said in release June 14.

“The results tonight are a strong message that the people don’t want corporate farming in North Dakota.”

The NDFU and other groups that collected signatures to put the referendum on the ballot have said family farmers cannot compete with large agricultural firms with no ties to the communities where they operate.

Corporate and foreign control of U.S. farmland has been a hot-button issue in several major agricultural states in recent years as a multi-year commodities boom that began in 2007 has attracted non-farm investors.

State laws prohibiting corporations and foreign entities from owning U.S. farmland complicated a \$4.7-billion acquisition in 2013 of U.S. pork producer Smithfield Foods by China’s Shuanghui International (all figures US\$). The deal ultimately closed.

This February, a U.S. district judge issued an injunction

barring Nebraska officials from enforcing the state’s ban on farmland ownership by corporations.

The North Dakota groups campaigned for a “No” vote on the referendum, rejecting Senate Bill 2351, which was signed into law in March 2015 by Republican Governor Jack Dalrymple.

Supporters of the bill, wanting a “Yes” vote, argued dairy and pork operations are on the decline in the state and cannot survive without corporations that can finance expensive equipment and compete regionally, according to the Yes

for Dairies + Pork Producers website.

It is one of nine states that have laws limiting corporate farming, according to the National Agricultural Law Center. The North Dakota law, which dates to the Great Depression, says farming or ranching companies must have no more than 15 shareholders or members who must belong to the same family, to a distance of first cousins.

Senate Bill 2351, supported by Governor Dalrymple, was to exempt dairy and swine production from the corporate farming prohibition.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Time to change



Gord Gilmour
Associate Editor

A few years back, while working as a writer for our sister publication *Country Guide*, I spoke at some length with Saskatchewan-based agriculture economist Murray Fulton, about how farm policy is typically set in Canada.

He told me that what tends to happen is something he called “punctuated equilibrium” — which is to say that Canadian agriculture policy tends to reach a state of consensus on a topic, then remain there for quite some time.

Over time, new issues appear, and pressure begins to slowly build under the surface. Eventually it begins to bubble up, reach a boiling point, then boiling over in a flash of action — like the death of the Crow Rate or the move to an open market for western wheat and barley.

He also told me, in his opinion, we were probably at the start of the process where the pressure would begin to build on supply management. With the benefit of hindsight, he’s beginning to appear downright prescient.

There’s little doubt pressure is rising. Various trade agreements threaten to both undermine it and cap future growth. Columns in both the farm press and mainstream media increasingly take issue with it. Recently Maxime Bernier, a Conservative MP from Quebec and candidate for the party’s leadership, broke ranks and said it is time to reform the system. A pair of University of Manitoba researchers recently received a national economics award for a policy paper examining the outsize impact supply management has on poor households.

In a nutshell their case states that supply management is a regressive tax that rich and poor alike pay at the same rate, and the higher prices of basic grocery staples is driving poor households to less healthy and wholesome options.

Drip by drip, the dam is breached, and change now appears inevitable — the question is no longer if, but when, how and by whose design, in my opinion.

So far, supply-managed commodity groups have taken a fighting stance, battling every perceived threat. It’s certainly understandable, after all the current system appears to have functioned well for them for decades now. But in a strategic sense, I believe this is an error. After a while policy-makers will just conclude the farmers in question are resistant to change and they’ll impose a solution, like it or not.

When the punctuation is reached, governments tend to act the same no matter the party in power, or the issue at play. It can be summed up pretty simply: distract them, rip the bandage off and run like hell. It would be nice to think a new generation of leaders might actually display leadership, but don’t count on it.

If they won’t, industry will need to, or risk being saddled with a deal they’ve had little input on.

I’m not suggesting giving away the farm, of course, and I don’t think even the most ardent free market proponents are either. The truth is a lot of commodities are subsidized in a lot of different ways in a lot of different places. But what makes supply management unique is that it’s been singled out as a trade-distorting policy and essentially shuts Canada out of export markets for commodities, in particular dairy, while spinning off unintended consequences at home.

Agricultural economists Al Mussell, Doug Hedley and Kamal Karunagoda examined this in a widely discussed policy paper, *Canadian Dairy Exports: The Knowns, Unknowns, and Uncertainties*. In it they noted many other countries provide both direct and indirect subsidies, but don’t suffer the same sort of trade backlash, because of the different way those subsidies are viewed.

In fact, the milk sector looks, to the casual observer, like the supply-managed commodity that’s currently under the most duress. There’s a well-documented mismatch between production and consumer demand that’s resulted in ever-rising butterfat imports. There’s a thriving grey market in U.S. milk solids that are crossing the border by exploiting a poorly understood loophole. Our exports are unwelcome because of supply management, while at the same time our domestic market is opening to dairy imports, suggesting Canadian producers are likely to lose out market share with no chance of a replacement.

Left unaddressed it will be death by a thousand cuts. Rather than sticking their collective heads in the sand and hoping for the best, I strongly believe supply-managed producers would be best served by having a painful conversation amongst themselves. They should be taking a long and hard look at what criticisms of the current system might be most valid, and attempting to address them.

There’s still plenty of time to take a more proactive approach to this situation, and nobody appears to be making a case for leaving farmers high and dry, holding the high-priced bag of quota they just bought.



Farm cash receipts should be stable for 2016-17

BY J.P. GERVAIS
Farm Credit Canada

Here’s some encouraging news. Farm cash receipts should be relatively stable across all provinces in 2016-17. Each province combines a different mix of crops and livestock products that result in varied provincial receipts, but the overall trends appear steady.

There are a number of reasons this is likely to be the case.

Commodity prices show surprising strength. Canadian crop receipts are projected to increase 5.8 per cent in 2016, with a further 3.8 per cent expected in 2017.

Crop receipts hit their high in 2013, and have fallen since with record global production and lower consumption. However, production concerns in South America and robust demand from biofuel, feed and export markets have helped strengthen futures prices of grains and oilseeds for 2016-17.

Livestock receipts are expected to decrease 6.9 per cent in 2016, rebounding in 2017 with a 2.6 per cent increase.

The overall pricing in livestock sectors is projected lower than the 2014-15 trends, but remain above historical averages. Cattle prices remain historically strong and hog prices are in line with their five-year average. The dairy sector will face revenue pressures, mostly driven by low world prices for skim milk powder.

Production continues to trend up.

The strength of the 2016 crop receipts is in part due to the size of the 2015 crop. Production of canola, corn, and soybeans was significantly above each crop’s respective

five-year averages, and larger than the 2014 crop. Wheat production has declined, but the impact has been offset by increases in other crops. Of course, how weather will impact 2016 production is unknown, so 2016-17 projections assume average yields for the 2016 harvests.

With no signs of expansion in the cattle industry, Canadian beef production should remain flat or slightly down in 2016 and 2017. Pork production is projected up slightly (less than one per cent growth) while milk production is expected to grow slightly in 2016.

A low Canadian dollar helps too.

Most commodity prices are determined in the U.S. market, which means a lower loonie leads to higher receipts for both crops and livestock.

To date in 2016, the loonie has averaged US\$0.75, slightly lower than its 2015 average of US\$0.78. Having hit a low of US\$0.68 in early 2016, it’s expected to stay in the range of US\$0.75-0.80 for the remainder of 2016.

Stronger farm cash receipts will drive higher farm equipment sales in 2017.

Our projections for crop and livestock receipts suggest a strong Canadian ag sector. Higher farm receipts support both farmland values and farm equipment purchases. We’re set to release a full report on farm equipment sales June 28.

Keep in mind these projections are subject to variability and external shocks. Sound risk management practices are important, even if the 2016-17 pricing forecasts appear promising.

J.P. Gervais is the chief economist with Farm Credit Canada.

OUR HISTORY: June 1898

Perhaps a Case traction engine like this one advertised in the June 1898 issue of *The Nor-West Farmer* will be one of the 125 expected at the “Harvesting hope” demonstration at this year’s Threshermen’s Reunion.

The issue reported that the Department of Agriculture and Immigration had issued a bulletin reporting acreage and livestock figures for the year. Some of those follow, with 2016 figures in brackets. Total acres under crop 2,210,942 (5,245,000 in 2016). Wheat 1,488,232 (3,010,000). Oats 514,824 (430,000). Barley 158,058 (400,000). Beef cattle 7,901 (1,075,300). Milk cows 74,773 (44,700).

The issue carried an article of “The Care of Domestic Animals,” an instalment of a series of “Leaflets on Nature Study” by Professor Plumb of the Indiana Experimental Station. Topics included stabling or shelter, food and feeding, watering and gentle treatment.

The article was under the heading of “Reading for farm boys,” but it may not have been suitable for all of them. Another brief item cautioned that “A waste of talent sometimes occurs on the farm through keeping the boy at home and trying to make a farmer of him when his thought and talent are in some other occupation.

“Not every boy farm born is a born farmer; and while parents find it hard, many times, to see their son leave the old home to fit himself for a profession other than agriculture, yet if his talents lie in some other direction it is unwise to waste them by tying him to the farm against his will. You may succeed in keeping him on the farm but will never make him a first-class farmer.”



BREXIT: ‘Taking farmers for fools’

U.K. farmers find themselves torn between their innate conservatism and economic interests that may be best served by staying in the EU

BY ALAN GUEBERT

With electronic ignition, fuel injection and more computing power than the space shuttle, today’s cars and trucks never backfire. Our politicians — with less horsepower and far less memory — often still do.

The latest may be British Prime Minister David Cameron who, during his 2015 re-election campaign, promised British voters a referendum on whether the United Kingdom (U.K.) should remain in or exit out the 28-nation European Union (EU).

Back then, the idea looked like a winner and, indeed, Cameron’s Conservative Party rode it to victory. Few pundits, however, thought British voters would ever choose to leave, or “Brexit,” the world’s largest democratic union and second-largest economy.

Now, however, leaving is a real possibility. Recent polls show the June 23 referendum neck and neck and Cameron’s winning promise last year looks like a warm beer this year. He had hoped the threat of a referendum would force the EU to grant the U.K. “special status” on tough issues like immigration and the EU’s costly Common Agricultural Policy, or CAP.

It didn’t and, win, lose or draw June 23, won’t. But now he — and the U.K. — is stuck with something no one really wanted.

Caught in the middle are U.K. farmers. Like their North American

“Just to continue paying farmers the same (CAP) subsidy as they are getting now would cost the British taxpayer half as much, because, at present, we pay £6 billion (US\$8.5 billion) a year into the CAP, but our farmers get only £3 billion (US\$4.3 billion) back.”

NIGEL FARNDALE
British journalist

counterparts, most are, by birth and disposition, political and economic conservatives. British journalist Nigel Farndale, who writes for the right-leaning weekly *The Spectator*, recently described U.K. farmers as “TBC, True Blue Conservative,” the stiff backbone in Cameron’s body politic.

But, noted Farndale in a Feb. 28 column, “(T)he Brexit debate is leaving our True Blue farmers deeply conflicted. On the one hand, without EU subsidies, many of them would go out of business. On the other, their Tory (Conservative) instincts tell them that subsidies are a socialist idea, the opposite of free trade, and therefore plain wrong.”

Farndale, a former Yorkshire farm boy himself, urged farmers to vote to leave the EU because it makes “financial sense.”

“Just to continue paying farmers the same (CAP) subsidy as they are getting now,” he explained, “would cost the British taxpayer

half as much, because, at present, we pay £6 billion (US\$8.5 billion) a year into the CAP, but our farmers get only £3 billion (US\$4.3 billion) back.”

As such, he added, “British farmers are effectively subsidizing their competitors: the French, by far the biggest beneficiary of the CAP, receive three times as much.”

Few things fire up U.K. farmers more than the idea that French farmers are getting the upper hand in anything. Farndale’s math, though, failed to stoke indignation in the English countryside. On June 14, *Farmers Weekly*, the respected U.K. ag publication, released poll results that showed 46 per cent of “those questioned said the interests of British agriculture would be best served by the U.K. remaining in the EU, while more than one-third (35.5 per cent) indicated it would be better to leave.”

The reason U.K. farmers would vote to stay in the EU, noted the magazine, is that “only 17.1 per

cent” of farmers polled thought financial “support for farming” — today’s CAP payment level — “would remain at broadly similar levels in the event of Brexit, while 44.5 per cent thought it would not...”

In short, U.K. farmers may be “conservative” in name and ideology but, thank you very much, they’re not trading their rock-solid EU subsidies for vague promises of equal payments from London.

Liberal politicians and left-leaning U.K. farm leaders agree; all say that tomorrow’s bird-in-hand EU subsidies will be worth far more than today’s cheap talk by London’s squawking crows.

Or, as reported by *Farmers Weekly*, “Former NFU (National Farmers Union) president Sir Peter Kendall, who is campaigning for the U.K. to remain part of the EU, said, ‘leave’ campaigners were ‘taking farmers for fools.’”

Well, someone is going to look foolish after the Brexit vote June 23 and, if the growing “leave” trend continues, that someone will be Conservative Party Leader David Cameron and his ah-we’re-not-ready-to-leave conservative farm backers.

Farmers might take note because sometime — and maybe that sometime is 2016 — you get exactly what you ask for even when you weren’t serious when you asked.

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Serbia harbours big potential for Black Sea grain market

Government policies are preventing the area from reaching its full capacity as a grain grower and exporter

BY KAREN BRAUN
BELGRADE, SERBIA/Reuters

Serbia is already an important player on the Black Sea grain market, but the country may not be reaching its full potential.

Corn is the key export for the former Yugoslav country, and the GMO-free quality of the grain captures buyer interest.

Just like their counterparts anywhere in the world, Serbian farmers have their set of hardships that holds them back. But state policy specifically limits the domestic industry and is leading to an underutilization of the country’s fertile soils.

Two of the major setbacks for Serbian agriculture are the government policies regarding land leasing and subsidies. These policies also make the universal struggle of weather more threatening to local farmers.

Inside Serbia, the sentiment is unanimous — state policies are far from ideal.

The Balkan country has

the potential to increase its presence greatly on the Black Sea market — and if Belgrade opts to change the policies, competition on the Black Sea grain market could really crank up.

Of the 2.2 million hectares devoted to grain and oilseed crops in Serbia, about 25 per cent is government owned. This makes the state the largest single owner of farmland in the country.

Farmers are able to lease state land for one to three years, depending on the region, and this is where the problem lies.

Soils are delicate and have to be taken care of. It can take many years of specific crop rotations and land management to “groom” the soils to optimize nutrient intake and maximize yields.

But if farmers are unsure whether they will be farming the same fields in the following year, then they are less inclined to invest fully in all of the proper inputs, especially when resources are tight.

Farmers are not motivated to take care of government land as they would their

own land, and this makes government-owned farmland of lower quality than privately owned land.

This policy is a headache for farmers. Those interviewed by Reuters said the leasing period is far too short, and that even a couple of extra years might make a difference.

Either way, it is clear that if proper land management practices could be employed on 100 per cent of Serbian cropland, yields could be noticeably higher, especially given the fertile black soils in the country’s core Grain Belt.

As for the other major issue, government subsidies, the Serbian government offers subsidies, but judging by the terms and conditions, the effort might best be saved.

Belgrade pays farmers just 32.5 euros (C\$47.29) per hectare, but only to those who farm 20 hectares of land or less. Not only are there few farmers who operate on such a small amount of land, but the payout is essentially a drop in the bucket.

The current cost per hectare to rent farmland in the fertile Vojvodina region is generally between 100 and 500 euros per year depending on soil quality and crop prices. Purchase prices currently run between 6,000 and 8,000 euros per hectare.

One farmer said his cost to plant wheat was around 400 euros per hectare this year, not including machinery. And wheat is cheaper to sow than corn, Serbia’s main cash crop. It is not hard to see that the 32.5 euros cover approximately nothing.

The primary effect of this policy is that farmers can be financially crippled in the event of a major yield loss, but the land-leasing program and lack of subsidies prevent farmers from making bigger investments that would allow for higher productivity and better protection against losses.

Lack of financial assistance from the state could have negative long-term effects on domestic agriculture, as it may also be preventing future generations of Serbs from participating. Farming is a risky business

in general, but where there are fewer cushions there is less incentive.

Serbian farmers overwhelmingly told Reuters last week that weather is the main factor that threatens their operations. This is true in most countries, but the state policies raise the weather risk in Serbia.

With virtually no padding from subsidies, farmers cannot afford to take a hit to yield, no matter how small. But the big hits can be devastating.

In 2012, drought gripped Grain Belts across the Northern Hemisphere and Serbia was hit particularly hard. Many Serbian farmers are still suffering financially from the 2012 season.

Weather will never cease to threaten agriculture in Serbia or anywhere else. However, changes to Belgrade’s leasing and subsidy programs would offload a great deal of risk from the farmers, who would not have to fear the weather as much as they do today.

Karen Braun is a Reuters market analyst.

FROM PAGE ONE

FUNGICIDE Continued from page 1

“The message we want to get across is, based on our studies, it doesn’t work. There have been studies done in the U.S. and other places too. It doesn’t work. And one of the reasons it doesn’t work... is economics. I haven’t seen a single study honestly that shows double applications of fungicides and early applications, et cetera, result in an economic benefit because it doesn’t.”

Farmers shouldn’t rely just on fungicides, but also use other agronomic tools to reduce the disease threats, including growing disease-resistant varieties and rotating crops, Fernandez said.

Using fungicides at the wrong time or when unnecessary just speeds up the selection of fungicide-resistant pathogens, she warned.

“We know what kind of trou-

ble we are in right now with a lot of herbicide resistance,” Fernandez added.

Monitoring crops is important too. If leaf spot diseases are at low levels, farmers might be able to wait until they spray at the early-flowering stage to suppress fusarium head blight, a fungal disease that cuts yield and quality.

“Any application earlier than flag leaf we showed that it could be detrimental and it is not worth it,” Fernandez said. “But also people need to remember the leaf that contributes most to yield is the flag leaf. So what you need to do is protect the flag leaf therefore you need to apply it at flag-leaf emergence.”

Fernandez and May looked at the impact of single and double fungicide applications at flag-leaf emergence and the flowering stage. They found applying fungicides boosted

yield, but also caused more black point and red smudge, resulting in lower grades.

A single and double fungicide application increased yields by 4.3 and 8.5 per cent, respectively. However, an application at either flag-leaf elongation or flowering showed a 47 per cent increase in black point versus no fungicide use. The incidence jumped by 76 per cent for double applications.

Red smudge increased by 17 and 57 per cent with a single and double fungicide application, respectively, “which reinforces that fungicides should only be applied when necessary and at the right time,” AAFC said in a news release.

“The observation of increased kernel discolouration as a result of fungicide application agrees with results observed in previous AAFC studies... as well as those done

at the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation (IHARF).”

Fernandez has some theories why yields and kernel diseases increased with early and frequent fungicide use. Applying a fungicide results in bigger kernels, hence more yield. Bigger kernels push out the glumes around the kernel.

“When you do that it’s fair game for any pathogen in the air to infect the crop so it is less protected in a way,” she said.

“The fungicide could also kill the good guys — the organisms on the glume surface that are protecting the kernel.”

Fungicides are an effective tool for controlling leaf spots in wheat, but farmers need to know when to use them, Fernandez said.

“We are not telling people ‘do not apply the fungicide,’ but be aware of what the consequences are,” she said. “Just

“The effect of the fungicide does not carry over to later growth stages. So if you apply it early on I’m sorry, you’re going to have to apply it later again (if the infection warrants it).”

MYRIAM FERNANDEZ

because you bought the fungicide cheap or you have a fancy sprayer you want to use that’s not a reason. And then there is the issue of fungicide resistance that we are all worried about.”

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SHIPPING Continued from page 1

Both farmers and grain companies say extended interswitching has stimulated railway competition.

“This provides an element of competition between major railways and has emerged as an effective tool in establishing more competitive rates and service levels,” the Canadian Canola Growers Association said in a news release.

As of May, more than 2,900 rail cars moved via interswitching, Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association, said in an interview.

Eighteen hundred cars from elevators on the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) were moved by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), he said. BNSF moved 1,100 cars from elevators on the Canadian National Railway. And CP moved four cars from CN lines.

“By giving shippers some choice it effectively turns a monopoly into a duopoly in many cases and a duopoly is better than a monopoly when it comes to trying to get better rates and service,” Sobkowich said.

Just the threat of interswitching helps grain companies negotiate better rail rates and service, he added.

The Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA) commended the government’s action and said interswitching was especially important to its members — companies that crush oilseeds to produce vegetable oil and meal.

The Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), Agricultural Producers of Saskatchewan (APAS) and Canadian Canola Growers Association, also welcomed the extension.

“It is another step forward,” KAP president Dan Mazier said in an interview. “But we don’t want to lose momentum.”

Rail service is essential for farmers to get their product to customers, he added.

“You can put all the trade deals together you want, but if we don’t have anybody taking grain to market it is all for naught.”

Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways opposed



Grain shippers say the now-extended temporary measures have stimulated competition within the system where before none existed. PHOTO: CPR

“By giving shippers some choice it effectively turns a monopoly into a duopoly in many cases and a duopoly is better than a monopoly when it comes to trying to get better rates and service.”

WADE SOBKOWICH

the extension, saying grain shipping will improve with less regulation, not more. Both have noted new grain movement records were set since the backlog, which they blamed mainly on a record harvest and colder-than-average winter.

In April the government promised a one-year extension, but with House of Commons to rise for a summer break, farmers and shippers weren’t prepared to relax until the motion passed, as it did, first in the Senate and then in the Commons unanimously, June 16.

While Aug. 1, 2017 is a long way off, it takes time to get pro-

posed legislation into law. That’s why farmers and shippers vow to keep the pressure a permanent fix.

“This is the most important issue the Western Grain Elevator Association (WGEA) has worked on in recent years,” Sobkowich said. “We will continue to advocate for fairness and balance in the rail freight system so that we can have some certainty in bringing our product to market for the benefit of the entire industry — grain handlers, farmers and the Canadian economy. We are going to continue to do that until we succeed.”

The WGEA and farm groups claim CN and CP are monopolies that don’t have to invest in increased shipping capacity because grain shippers are captive. They want regulations mimicking a competitive market.

To that end the WGEA has five recommendations:

- Make 160-kilometre interswitching permanent.
- Make rail service demand driven not supply driven.
- Make railways subject to penalties, as grain shippers are now, for failing to meet service requirements.
- Give the Canadian Transportation Agency the authority to investigate railway service on its own and issue orders in urgent situations.

- Set aside discussions on freight rates until service and accountability issues are resolved.

These measures require amendments to the Canada Transportation Act, now under review.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Transportation Agency, which handles disputes between railways and grain shippers, has delayed until next year a review of its rail freight regulations, which should be germane to the decision on the grain transport protections.

During a Commons debate of extending the provisions Liberal MP Vince Badawey said the rail system in Western Canada “has fully recovered from the challenges of the winter of 2013-14 and a healthy grain crop is moving well through the supply chain this crop year.” As of the end of April 2016, western grain shipments totalled almost 34 million tonnes, five per cent higher than at the same time last year, he said. Shipments out of western ports to export destinations exceeded 27 million tonnes, up seven per cent.

The improved performance sets the stage for considering “the best approach to ensuring optimal performance over the long term.”

Former Conservative agriculture minister Gerry Ritz, who

was the main driver behind the fair rail bill, said the extension “gives us some breathing space.” He also said it’s important to “keep the lens on the railways to ensure they measure up.”

“CN is fulfilling its obligations about 80 per cent of the time and CP is at a dismal 60 to 62 per cent, even with all the other commodities down,” he said. “A lot more work needs to be done.”

Service problems were “a question of engines and crews.” Shippers should have the ability to impose service failure penalties on the railways, he said.

NDP MP Linda Duncan chided the Liberals and Conservatives for not making the measures permanent.

“Why are we making the farmers go through this again, waiting right to when it is about to expire, and then only to get another year? For this coming year, Canadian grains and pulses will potentially reach markets in a timely manner,” she said. “This is critical to provide expanded options for producers to access markets, thereby making grain sales more competitive. However, as grain producers have advised, they require longer-term solutions than just a one-year extension.”

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Canadians to be consulted on irradiation of raw ground beef

Health Canada officials believe Canadians will be more open to the concept of irradiation of fresh and frozen raw beef, following a few highly visible outbreaks in recent years

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/Brandon

Health Canada will be consulting with Canadians as the next step in approving irradiation of fresh and frozen raw ground beef.

“Canadians and stakeholders will be consulted on the proposed regulatory changes that would permit the irradiation of fresh and frozen raw beef through a 75-day consultation period, ending on Sept. 1, 2016,” said Karen McIntyre, director general for Health Canada.

The process of irradiation involves passing foods through a machine that sends out low doses of ionizing radiation, typically gamma rays, to kill off unwanted organisms.

“This has several benefits to safety, including reducing the level of bacteria such as E. coli, salmonella, campylobacter,” McIntyre said. “This is not a new process. It is already approved in Canada to be used on onions, potatoes, wheat, white and whole wheat flour and seasoning preparations.”

Health Canada has taken the appropriate steps to conduct a safety review on irradiated raw ground beef, finding it is safe and retains its nutritional value, taste, texture and appearance.

If eventually approved by Health Canada, irradiation will be an optional tool for ground beef products but would require proper labelling.

“Labelling of irradiated food is mandatory. A written description is required, as well as the

distinctive radura symbol, must be on the package. In cases of non-pre-packaged foods, this information must be on a sign displayed immediately next to the product at its point of sale,” McIntyre said.

Details on the consultation process and what will be required to comply will be published in the *Canada Gazette*, part one on June 18.

“This will be a 75-day open consultation period where we will accept comments online,” said Barbara Lee, director of the Bureau of Chemical Safety.

The approval of irradiated raw ground beef was previously proposed in 2002 but it was never finalized, due mostly to negative stakeholder reactions.

Officials believe it will be more widely accepted this time around because of a few highly

publicized, pathogen-linked outbreaks since 2002, including the largest recall of beef products in Canadian history in 2012 from XL Foods Inc.

“We have done some work on public opinion research and what we can see from that information is that, as a result of a number of highly visible outbreaks linked to pathogens, it is our opinion that the public opinion may have shifted to be more in favour of this process,” Lee said.

For Health Canada’s technical summary on the evaluation of irradiation of fresh and frozen raw ground beef, visit: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/irradiation/tech_sum_food_irradiation_aliment_som_tech-eng.php.

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BRIEFS

CFIA clarifies policy on gene editing

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has further clarified statements in the June 2 article “Canada to regulate CRISPR technology.”

The article states that Canada’s Plants With Novel Traits regulatory process will be applied to CRISPR.

“Plant-breeding programs using CRISPR/Cas-9 may lead to the production of a plant with a novel trait,” a CFIA spokesperson said in an email. “It is not necessarily the case that all plants developed using CRISPR/Cas-9 will be regulated. Only those that have a novel trait will be regulated.”

Petition calls for halt to Bayer/Monsanto merger

STAFF

A petition by an international consumer watchdog opposing the Bayer/Monsanto merger has garnered more than a quarter-million signatures from around the globe.

The document is sponsored by SumOfUs, and the group claims the deal would radically threaten global food systems and undermine food security for millions of people.

The petition asks Werner Baumann, CEO of Bayer, to kill the merger. The petition will also be delivered to regulatory authorities in the United States and Europe highlighting the risk that a Monsanto/Bayer agrochemical monopoly would create for food systems, consumers, and the environment, the group says.

The group claims the merger would:

- Consolidate corporate control of global food systems, undermining choice and raising prices for farmers and consumers;
- Threaten critical pollinators like bees and butterflies and both companies have products said to harm insects; and
- Run afoul of antitrust laws designed to protect the public by eliminating competition.

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KAP has first meeting with Ag Minister Ralph Eichler

Manitoba’s general farm organization covered a number of issues, including education tax, in a meeting with the new Manitoba agriculture minister

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

School taxes, red tape, ALUS and Growing Forward 3 were topics of discussion during the first meeting between the province’s general farm organization and the newly minted provincial agriculture minister.

The Keystone Agricultural Producers and Ralph Eichler sat down last week for the first time since the change in government this spring.

“School taxes (on agricultural land and buildings) was the No. 1 issue we brought up,” KAP president Dan Mazier said in an interview June 17.

KAP vice-president Justin Jenner and general manager James Battershill also attended the 30-minute meeting.

KAP has long advocated the removal of locally collected school taxes on all farmland and farm buildings, arguing it’s unfair because it doesn’t reflect farmers’ ability to pay.

The previous NDP government introduced a program to rebate 80 per cent of education taxes on farmland, but then capped the total refund at \$5,000 per landowner.

As of April, the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) said in 2015, 1,893 farmers were affected by the cap resulting in them not getting a total of \$7.4 million rebated. Since the data processing wasn’t finished the final total could be higher.

“School taxes (on agricultural land and buildings) was the No. 1 issue we brought up.”

DAN MAZIER

In 2014, 1,464 farmers were unable to get \$5.5 million rebated because of the cap.

KAP wants all education taxes removed, but in the interim wants the rebate deducted off farmers’ tax bills, rather than requiring farmers to apply to MASC for the rebate.

“It (education taxes) really frustrate me,” Mazier said. “Judging by the amount of phone calls I am getting and the (KAP) office is getting on (farmland) assessment, I think it is going to be well over \$7 million and well over 1,900 (farmers affected by the cap on rebates in 2016).”

Given the provincial government’s deficit KAP doesn’t expect the new Progressive Conservative government will immediately address the cap, Mazier said.

“But our big ask is just take it all off of production buildings and land anyway,” he said. “But that is not going to happen in the first term of this government.”



KAP President Dan Mazier

The new government has also promised a task force to identify red tape. KAP supports the idea and is asking farmers to suggest red tape they want cut. Farmers can fill out a survey on KAP’s website (<http://tinyurl.com/gtxjj4c>).

Mazier said he hopes the task force will consider streamlining the farmland drainage application process, which the previous government proposed in its surface water management bill that died because of the election.

KAP also told Eichler it could be a resource in setting up the Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) program to reward farmers for providing ecological goods and services to society.

“We are ready to work with the department,” Maizer said. “I think he (Eichler) is open to it.”

ALUS was created in Manitoba by former KAP president and now Minister of Education and Training Ian Wishart and Jonathon Scarth, Premier Brian Pallister’s principal secretary.

Pallister instructed Eichler and the minister of sustainable development to introduce “a province-wide program based on the ALUS model to help reduce flooding and improve water quality and nutrient management.”

Mazier likes mandate letters for ministers.

“It really helps the process because then we know what the minister is up against,” he said. To me that is a very positive move.

“It does remind both sides what they are supposed to be working on. The premier is giving guidance to everyone as to what he is expecting.”

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Churchill grain season underlined by uncertainty

Sale of the port is still not finalized and that’s likely weighing against the facility’s success, supporters say

BY PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN
Commodity News Service Canada

Canada’s Port of Churchill is facing an uncertain grain-shipping season, as ownership of the Hudson Bay facility is still up in the air months after the current owners, OmniTrax, announced plans to sell the port and railway that services it.

Denver, Colorado-based OmniTrax announced in late 2015 that it had accepted a letter of intent from a group of First Nations communities to purchase its northern Manitoba assets. However, that deal is still not finalized, and the negotiations have been complicated by an OmniTrax court case against the Manitoba provincial government as well as by protests from some members of the First Nations involved in the purchase offer.

“The veil of uncertainty certainly hovers over the rail line and port,” said Sinclair Harrison, past president of the Hudson Bay Route Association and a Saskatchewan-based farmer.

Canada’s only Arctic port saw 184,600 tonnes of grain move through it during the 2015 shipping season, which was well off the average of 500,000 tonnes. Harrison estimated



PHOTO: ANSGAR WALK/CREATIVE COMMONS

that the port could easily handle one million tonnes in its current state, if the will was there.

However, “it’s tough to do business when you don’t know who the owners will be,” added Elden Boon, current president of the Hudson Bay Route Association and a Manitoba-based farmer. He said it was hard to get any information out of OmniTrax. “It’s frustrating for the whole Hudson Bay supply chain,” said Boon on the uncertain ownership picture, adding that “it will have a negative impact on shipments.”

Boon was hopeful that something would come together over the next few months, but was also “not holding (his) breath.”

The Port of Churchill is a small player in the bigger transportation picture, but Boon saw many benefits of maintaining the infrastructure. In addition to being the shortest distance to tidewater for farmers in the catchment area, he also saw opportunities to service niche markets that may not fit with Canada’s larger ports. Boon said there were also many plans for imports, exports, and

diversification beyond grain through the port that have been talked about for years, but now need credible ownership in order to move forward.

“We need to build on this infrastructure, not try and do away with it,” said Boon.

Chief Arlen Dumas, of Mathias Colomb First Nation, north of The Pas, spearheaded the purchase offer which now includes 12 northern communities. The band already has ownership in the Keewatin Railway Company running between The Pas and Pukatawagan.

“We’re still in talks and in the process of negotiations on moving forward on the deal,” said Dumas, noting that the Manitoba provincial election in the spring caused some delays.

Dumas did not have any concrete dates and said it was too early to discuss specifics while the negotiations were underway. However, in general, he said a sustainable port and enhancements to freight movement were important for the overall plan for the north.

Grain exports have long been a major feature of the Port of Churchill, and Dumas said his group was also in conversation with grain companies “who want to utilize the port, but in recent years they’ve had a disincentive to do so.”

Dumas added that “everyone is looking forward to partnering and collaborating with people who have a similar philosophy.”

A program put in place by the federal government will provide subsidies for grain moving through the port this season of \$12 per tonne, up from \$9 the previous year as there was money left over from the 2015 pool. That program will run out in 2017, but the Hudson Bay Route Association and others are advocating for an extension.

OmniTrax officials did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Saudi Arabia’s SALIC boosts investment in G3 Canada grain company

The state-owned firm is now the majority investor in the joint venture

BY ROD NICKEL
Winnipeg / Reuters

Saudi Arabia’s agriculture company has taken control of the majority investor in grain handler G3 Canada Limited, according to a filing, reducing Bunge Ltd.’s stake and strengthening the kingdom’s efforts to secure food supplies.

G3 Global Holdings, the joint venture of U.S. agribusiness Bunge and Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Co. (SALIC), bought 50.1 per cent of the former Canadian Wheat Board in 2015 for \$250 million. It was renamed G3 Canada, with farmers accounting for 49.9 per cent of equity.

In two steps this year, SALIC, an arm of the state-owned Public Investment Fund, grew its stake in the joint venture to 75 per cent from 49 per cent, according to an April 28 Bunge filing.

“Any ownership changes that have happened within our company have not had any material impact on the organization itself, the operations or how we run the company,” G3 Canada chief executive Karl Gerrand said in an interview.

SALIC has “done a really nice job of allowing our team to operate as an independent Canadian organization,” he said. “For the most part, it’s been hands off.”

He declined to comment on reasons for the ownership change.

SALIC converted \$106 million in promissory notes into additional shares in the joint venture with Bunge on Feb. 1. This took its stake in the majority investor of Winnipeg-based G3 to 65 per cent from 49 per cent, and reduced Bunge’s share to 35 per cent.

Bunge then exercised an option on March 30 to sell shares to SALIC for \$37 million, bumping up SALIC’s ownership of G3 Global Holdings to 75 per cent.

SALIC could not be reached. Bunge spokeswoman Deb Seidel declined to comment.

Saudi has been phasing out crop farming due to its intense water usage in the desert kingdom. SALIC has targeted investments in beef

and eight key crops, including wheat. Canada is a major wheat exporter.

Farmers’ equity accounts for the same number of shares in G3, however, its percentage of ownership has dropped because of recent investments by the SALIC-Bunge joint venture into the company, Gerrand said. He declined to give a current percentage.

Keith Degenhardt, a farmer and first vice-president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, was disappointed when foreign investors bought the former wheat board, but said any dilution of farmer equity is “not top of the mind.”

G3 is a small Canadian player compared to competitors Richardson International, Viterro Inc. and Cargill Ltd.

WHAT’S UP

Please forward your agricultural events to daveb@fbcpublishing.com or call 204-944-5762.

- June 23:** Workshop: Selling at the Farm Gate, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Access Event Centre, 111 Gilmour St., Morden. Cost \$20 per person. For more info or to pre-register (required) call the Steinbach GO office at 204-392-7268 or email joy.lorette@gov.mb.ca.
- July 5-7, 12-14:** Crop Diagnostic School, Carman. For more info or to register call 204-745-5663 or email monika.menold@gov.mb.ca.
- July 10-12:** Canadian Seed Trade Association annual meeting, Hyatt Regency, 655 Burrard St., Vancouver. For more info or to register visit cdnseed.org/meeting-registration/.
- July 12-13:** Dairy Farmers of Canada annual general meeting, Delta Prince Edward, 18 Queen St., Charlottetown. For more info visit www.dfpei.pe.ca/dfcagm2016.htm.
- July 13-16:** Grain Growers of Canada summer meeting, Rodd Crowbush Golf and Beach Resort, Hwy. 350, Morell, P.E.I. For more info visit www.ggc-pgc.ca.

FESTIVALS

Contact us with your event, dates, location and contact info at news@fbcpublishing.com.

- June 17-26:** Red River Exhibition, 3977 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Call 204-888-6990 or visit www.redriverex.com.
- June 24-25:** Killarney Fair. Call 204-523-8289 or email killarneyag@live.ca.
- June 25:** Delodaze, Deloraine Fairgrounds. Call 204-747-3668 or visit delowin.ca/delodaze-2016/.
- June 25:** Rapid City Fair. Call 204-826-2273 or email mkbayes@xplornet.com.
- June 25:** MacGregor Fair. Call 204-771-2357 or visit www.macgregorfair.com.
- June 25-26:** Miami Fair and Rodeo. Call 204-435-2288 or email janmoody@mymts.net.
- June 25-26:** Treherne Fair. Call 204-723-2275 or email twinoaklimousin@hotmail.ca.
- June 30-July 1:** Glenboro Fair. Call 204-827-2661 or email didik@wcgwave.ca.
- June 30-July 2:** Dauphin Fair. Call 204-638-4428 or visit www.dauphinagsociety.com.
- June 30-July 3:** Dauphin’s Countryfest, Hwy. 10 south of Dauphin. Visit www.countryfest.ca.
- July 1-3:** Carberry Fair and Races. Call 204-834-3772.
- July 2-3:** Manitoba Highland Gathering, Legacy Park, Hwys. 59 and 212, East Selkirk. Visit manitobahighlandgathering.org.
- July 6:** Rivers Fair. Call 204-826-2810 or email moyerh@xplornet.ca.
- July 7-9:** Carman Country Fair. Call 204-745-2226 or visit www.carmancountryfair.ca.
- July 7-10:** Winnipeg Folk Fest, Birds Hill Provincial Park. Visit winnipegfolkfestival.ca.
- July 8-10:** Gilbert Plains/Grandview Fair. Call 204-548-4905 or email gp.gv.agsociety@live.ca.
- July 8-10:** Dominion City Summerfest. Call 204-427-2557.
- July 8-10:** PortageX, Portage la Prairie. Call 204-857-3231 or visit www.portageex.com.



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EXCHANGES:
JUNE 17, 2016

\$1 Cdn: \$0.7765 U.S.
\$1 U.S.: \$1.2878 Cdn.

Cattle Prices			
(Friday to Thursday)		Winnipeg	June 17, 2016
SLAUGHTER CATTLE			
Steers		—	
Heifers		—	
D1, 2 Cows		90.00 - 97.00	
D3 Cows		82.00 - 88.00	
Bulls		115.00 - 124.00	
FEEDER CATTLE (Price ranges for feeders refer to top-quality animals only)			
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	150.00 - 175.00	
	(801-900 lbs.)	160.00 - 187.00	
	(701-800 lbs.)	175.00 - 204.00	
	(601-700 lbs.)	185.00 - 212.00	
	(501-600 lbs.)	190.00 - 225.00	
	(401-500 lbs.)	190.00 - 245.00	
Heifers	(901+ lbs.)	135.00 - 155.00	
	(801-900 lbs.)	140.00 - 167.00	
	(701-800 lbs.)	145.00 - 177.00	
	(601-700 lbs.)	155.00 - 188.00	
	(501-600 lbs.)	160.00 - 194.00	
	(401-500 lbs.)	170.00 - 212.00	
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)			
Grade A Steers	(1,000+ lbs.)	\$ —	\$ 142.00 - 158.38
Grade A Heifers	(850+ lbs.)	—	144.64 - 162.42
D1, 2 Cows		95.00 - 110.00	78.45 - 108.33
D3 Cows		84.00 - 100.00	78.45 - 108.33
Bulls		—	111.76 - 135.90
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	\$ 160.00 - 174.00	\$ 155.79 - 186.97
	(801-900 lbs.)	171.00 - 189.00	160.31 - 193.74
	(701-800 lbs.)	185.00 - 206.00	172.27 - 214.89
	(601-700 lbs.)	203.00 - 223.00	172.36 - 228.26
	(501-600 lbs.)	210.00 - 225.00	187.34 - 251.35
	(401-500 lbs.)	210.00 - 240.00	202.12 - 243.35
Heifers	(901+ lbs.)	\$ 142.00 - 159.00	\$ 145.00 - 162.27
	(801-900 lbs.)	155.00 - 170.00	158.56 - 180.04
	(701-800 lbs.)	166.00 - 182.00	153.96 - 182.75
	(601-700 lbs.)	174.00 - 192.00	158.99 - 197.36
	(501-600 lbs.)	180.00 - 205.00	167.72 - 214.97
	(401-500 lbs.)	185.00 - 212.00	158.00 - 222.90

Futures (June 17, 2016) in U.S.					
Fed Cattle	Close	Change	Feeder Cattle	Close	Change
June 2016	117.28	-5.93	August 2016	139.63	-7.68
August 2016	113.35	-5.50	September 2016	138.53	-6.95
October 2016	113.30	-4.80	October 2016	137.15	-6.47
December 2016	114.05	-4.18	November 2016	133.88	-6.32
February 2017	113.88	-3.90	January 2017	130.10	-5.38
April 2017	113.45	-3.52	March 2017	127.05	-6.10

Cattle Slaughter			Cattle Grades (Canada)		
	Week Ending June 11, 2016	Previous Year		Week Ending June 11, 2016	Previous Year
Canada	N/A	N/A	Prime	N/A	N/A
East	N/A	N/A	AAA	N/A	N/A
West	N/A	N/A	AA	N/A	N/A
Manitoba	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	N/A
U.S.	591,000	540,000	B	N/A	N/A
			D	N/A	N/A
			E	N/A	N/A

Hog Prices			
(Friday to Thursday) (\$/100 kg)		Source: Manitoba Agriculture	
E - Estimation			
MB. (\$/hog)	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year (Index 100)
MB (All wts.) (Fri-Thurs.)	205E	198.91	192.54
MB (Index 100) (Fri-Thurs.)	189E	184.21	177.86
ON (Index 100) (Mon.-Thurs.)	190.97	183.12	178.70
PQ (Index 100) (Mon.-Fri.)	191.45	185.09	184.07

Futures (June 17, 2016) in U.S.		
HOGS	Close	Change
June 2016	81.62	-1.05
July 2016	87.08	1.05
August 2016	89.50	3.03
October 2016	74.50	2.22
December 2016	66.95	0.28

Other Market Prices			
Sheep and Lambs			
\$/cwt	Winnipeg Wooled Fats	Toronto	SunGold Specialty Meats
Ewes Choice	—	97.31 - 130.40	—
Lambs (110+ lb.)	—	135.09 - 201.10	
(95 - 109 lb.)	—	248.28 - 267.18	
(80 - 94 lb.)	—	236.39 - 265.86	
(Under 80 lb.)	—	250.44 - 299.40	
(New crop)	—	—	

Chickens		Eggs	
Minimum broiler prices as of April 13, 2010		Minimum prices to producers for ungraded eggs, f.o.b. egg grading station, set by the Manitoba Egg Producers Marketing Board effective November 10, 2013.	
Under 1.2 kg.	\$1.5130		
1.2 - 1.65 kg.	\$1.3230		
1.65 - 2.1 kg.	\$1.3830		
2.1 - 2.6 kg.	\$1.3230		
Turkeys		Goats	
Minimum prices as of June 19, 2016			
Broiler Turkeys (6.2 kg or under, live weight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$1.930		
Undergrade	\$1.840		
Hen Turkeys (between 6.2 and 8.5 kg liveweight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$1.920		
Undergrade	\$1.820		
Light Tom/Heavy Hen Turkeys (between 8.5 and 10.8 kg liveweight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$1.920		
Undergrade	\$1.820		
Tom Turkeys (10.8 and 13.3 kg, live weight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$1.860		
Undergrade	\$1.775		
Prices are quoted f.o.b. producers premise.			

COLUMN

During summer slowdown, buyers can't be choosers

Cattle prices are well down from last summer's levels

DAVE SIMS
CNSC



“A year ago there were a lot of contracts because there was so much money, they could lock in a profit.”

The dog days of summer are beginning to settle over the Manitoba cattle market, which for some growers and merchants may come as a bit of a relief.

Around 1,300 animals were shown to buyers in the province during the week ended June 17. Most of Manitoba's eight major auction marts have adopted a summer schedule or closed their gates until the fall. The animals that were shown drew bids similar to the ones made the week before.

Heavier animals traded fairly steady for the most part, while the other classes were also steady. Buyers weren't as picky either, due to the low numbers of feeders offered.

However, prices are still much lower if you compare them to where they were this same time last year, said Allan Munroe of Killarney Auction Mart.

“A year ago there were a lot of contracts because there was so much money, they could lock in a profit.”

Those days seem to be in the past, as lighter-weight feeder steers which at one time boasted highs above \$400 per hundredweight are averaging closer to the \$200-per-tonne range.

Munroe said his own sale was a bit of a mixed bag as well, but he's hoping for better prices come fall.

“We're at the time of year where you basically guess what things are worth,” he said.

Munroe recently attended a cattle conference where analysts offered predictions about what ranchers could expect once the summer was over.

He said the guesses ranged greatly though, which didn't really help, noting one forecast in which 550-weight steers could range anywhere from \$176 to \$316/cwt.

“A lot of guys are thinking that we're not going to see \$2 600-lb. steers,” he added.

The near-term outlook appears to be muted from the futures' point of view. Cattle volumes are swelling in the U.S. even as demand for supplies seems to be softening.

On the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, cattle futures on June 17 were generally at their low-est levels in six weeks' time.

The market should get a slight bump ahead of the July 4 holiday, though, as it is typically seen as a major grilling event throughout the U.S.

The rising price of corn is another worry, Munroe said.

“That corn has taken on a whole new life; you look on the board and it's gone up a lot,” he pointed out.

A bushel of corn on the Chicago Board of Trade was going for US\$3.68 on May 10. On Friday, the same bushel was going for US\$4.37.

Looking ahead, Munroe said many producers would be cautious with their long-range plans until the picture is a little more settled.

“I don't know if I've heard anyone contracted grass cattle for September. Guys are very cau-tious so I think we're going to see more on the cash market in the fall.”

Dave Sims writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market reporting.

BRIEFS

Bayer crop unit apologizes to farmers after Twitter gaffe

BY TOM POLANSEK
CHICAGO/Reuters

Bayer AG's crop science division apologized on Monday for a tweet that suggested reduced meat demand could benefit the environment, in a bid to appease outraged farmers who buy the company's seeds and chemicals.

The tweet, published on the official Bayer CropScience (@Bayer4crops) account on June 19, linked to a Vox.com article that said “going vegetarian can cut your food carbon footprint in half.”

The post sparked a back-lash on Twitter from North American grain growers who sell much of their harvests to livestock operations and from farmers who raise animals. A decline in meat consumption would hurt their incomes.

“Oh you just lost all my business,” Lance Schiele (@schiele_lance), a livestock producer and grain farmer, said in a tweet to Bayer CropScience.

The gaffe comes as Bayer AG is trying to acquire Monsanto, the world's largest seed maker. The potential tie-up has faced resistance from some farmers worried about consolidation in the agriculture sector.

A Bayer CropScience spokesman said on Monday

that the tweet was a mistake and did not reflect the company's views.

The company has deleted the posting and tweeted apologies to about 130 individual Twitter users who complained about it.

“The livestock industry feeds our planet and we're glad to support it. It was never our intention to antagonize it — sorry!” Bayer CropScience tweeted repeatedly.

Some farmers applauded the company for apologizing but others were fuming.

“This week we will decide about which fungicides to purchase. Probably won't be Bayer products after this tweet,” tweeted Dane Visscher.

Looking for results? Check out the market reports from livestock auctions around the province. » PAGE 14

GRAIN MARKETS

COLUMN

Weather favouring crops unfavourable for futures

Canola sees some support from declines in the loonie

JADE MARKUS
CNSC



ICE Futures Canada canola contracts lost ground on the week, tracking declines seen in the U.S., as both North American markets felt pressure from favourable weather.

Canola prices lost \$13 per tonne in the July contract in the week ended June 17, as Chicago Board of Trade soybeans notched down from earlier gains.

CBOT soybeans saw their first week of declines, after nine weeks of advancing, pressured by improved crop conditions, moving down 18.75 U.S. cents per bushel in the July contract.

It's a similar situation in Western Canada, as the net benefit of excessive rain outweighs the alternative.

Areas that received heavy rains in a short amount of time will see some crop loss, especially in regions with low-lying fields, said Bruce Burnett, weather and crop specialist with G3 Canada.

The majority of those areas is close to the U.S. border in Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan.

"We're seeing just a little bit too much rain in too short of a period of time, and we're seeing some crops suffer because of that," Burnett said.

Overall, he added, the rain has been more beneficial than devastating.

However, wet conditions increase the likelihood of disease, which could affect production and therefore prices.

Looking to next week, canola is likely to see favourable weather, which will minimize risk. Environment Canada's seven-day forecast shows drier conditions over the course of the week, with rain expected for the weekend.

"Certainly if that's the case, the crops that weren't drowned out would have a chance to recover," Burnett said.

The Canadian dollar lost ground against its U.S. counterpart throughout the week, which underpinned canola prices.

A lower Canadian dollar makes canola more appealing to international buyers.

The loonie lost 1.45 per cent between June 10 and 17, pressured by losses in crude oil.

The Canadian dollar moved to a two-week low during the week, pressured by sinking crude prices, and ideas that British citizens may vote to leave the European Union in a referendum June 23 also added pressure.

By Monday, however, some of those concerns had eased, as weekend polling showed increased interest in a "remain" vote in Britain, and the loonie gained back ground.

CBOT corn prices gained 14.75 U.S. cents per bushel in the July contract on the week, as fund buying supported prices.

However, fund buying may be so high in that market that there is little room for further upside, which could cause prices to decline in coming sessions.

Favourable weather, which has been largely ignored by traders, could limit future gains in corn, as warm weather and some beneficial rains have supported the country's crop.

In other grain markets, Chicago wheat shed 13.75 U.S. cents in the July contract, as harvest pressure caused prices to lose ground.

Warm, dry weather in the southern U.S. Plains has helped farmers harvest winter wheat crops, and is keeping grain quality from declining.

Jade Markus writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market reporting.

For three-times-daily market reports and more from Commodity News Service Canada, visit the Markets section at www.manitobacooperator.ca.

Manitoba Elevator Prices

Average quotes as of June 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Future	Basis	Cash
E. Manitoba wheat	198.33	35.67	234.00
W. Manitoba wheat	198.33	29.75	228.07
E. Manitoba canola	510.50	-24.26	486.24
W. Manitoba canola	510.50	-28.05	482.45

Source: pdqinfo.ca

Port Prices

As of Monday, June 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
U.S. hard red winter 12% Houston	94.76	N/A
U.S. spring wheat 14% Portland	235.98	1.37
Canola Thunder Bay	529.50	1.90
Canola Vancouver	550.50	2.90

Closing Futures Prices

As of Monday, June 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
ICE canola	509.50	-13.00
ICE milling wheat	233.00	-11.00
ICE barley	171.50	0.00
Mpls. HRS wheat	194.47	-9.09
Chicago SRW wheat	173.62	-13.87
Kansas City HRW wheat	165.62	-12.31
Corn	167.41	-0.49
Oats	132.60	-0.49
Soybeans	416.86	-15.25
Soymeal	438.37	-17.41
Soyoil	687.08	-41.23

Cash Prices Winnipeg

As of Monday, June 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
Feed wheat	214.56	34.90
Feed barley	174.99	0.46
Rye	n/a	n/a
Flaxseed	434.23	0.79
Feed peas	n/a	n/a
Oats	185.45	-0.65
Soybeans	461.50	6.61
Sunflower (NuSun) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	17.35	0.20
Sunflower (Confection) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	Ask	Ask

Prairie wheat bids hold steady

Uncertainties over spring wheat crops are supporting cash bids

PHIL-FRANZ WARKENTIN
CNSC

Spring wheat cash bids across Western Canada held reasonably steady during the week ended June 17, as production uncertainty helped prop up the North American spring wheat market despite harvest pressure weighing on winter wheat futures.

Depending on the location, average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat prices were down 50 cents to up \$1 per tonne, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points across the Prairie provinces compiled by PDQ (Price and Data Quotes). Average prices ranged from about \$226 per tonne in southeastern Saskatchewan to as high as \$240 in Alberta.

The July Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.9475 on June 17, down by 8.75 U.S. cents on the week.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but held steady overall to range from \$29 to \$44 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\$175 to US\$186 per tonne, down about \$1-\$2 compared to the previous week. That would put the currency adjusted basis levels at about US\$12-\$22 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 \$15 to \$28 below the futures.

Average Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) bids were weaker on the week, losing anywhere from \$1 to \$2 per tonne. Average CPSR prices came in at about \$194-\$201 per tonne in Saskatchewan, and \$206-\$210 per tonne in Alberta.

Average durum prices were up by \$1-\$2 per tonne, depending on the location, with bids in Saskatchewan ranging from roughly \$288 to \$293 per tonne.

The September spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts in Canada are based, was

quoted at US\$5.4875 per bushel on June 17, up two U.S. cents per bushel from the previous week.

Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPSR in Canada. The September K.C. wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.785 per bushel on June 17, down seven U.S. cents compared to the previous week.

The July Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.9475 on June 17, down by 8.75 U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar closed June 17 at 77.65 U.S. cents, down two-thirds of a cent relative to its U.S. counterpart on the week.

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

LIVESTOCK

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

Cattle play role in bird habitat

Bird populations have declined on the Canadian Prairies as grassland areas have shrunk rapidly



The natural symbiosis between grasslands and large grazing animals like cattle provides excellent bird habitat among other benefits. PHOTO: GORD GILMOUR

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

As a rancher, Kristine Tapley’s passions are split between the large ruminants she raises and the land that sustains them — sort of. “I probably shouldn’t say this, but I’m less interested in the cattle and more interested in using cattle as a tool to protect and maintain grasslands, because I think there are so many benefits,” she explained. “Grasslands help with biodiversity and habitat, with water management and quality, they prevent erosion and they sequester carbon.”

A newly released study by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative titled the State of North America’s Birds agrees there are massive benefits to having healthy grasslands and areas of forage available to bird species, but rings alarm bells about declining acres and the impact shrinking habitat has on Prairie bird species.

The multilateral study points to livestock grazing as a key method of preserving grasslands and bird habitat, noting that “one-third of all grassland bird species are on the watch list due to steeply declining populations and threats to habitat.”

It goes on to state birds that breed on the Great Plains of Canada and the United States before overwintering in Mexico have seen a remarkably steep decline since 1970 as a result, with populations plunging nearly 70 per cent.

“This report confirms that MFGA’s interest in keeping Manitoba’s grasslands intact is on the right track, however, it also very much signals a sense of urgency for these threatened ecosystems and the decline of our grassland birds is a definite alarm bell in that regard,” says Henry Nelson, vice-chair of the Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association and co-chair of the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association’s environment committee. “Things are definitely changing for our agricultural lands. We know

“Just because you can get something to grow there once, it doesn’t mean that it’s a healthy grassland, you need grazers to come in and put all those nutrients back down on the ground and then have them cycle over and over again.”

KRISTINE TAPLEY

that from a climate change perspective and now from this NABCI report, on our declining grassland bird populations. We also know that maintaining intact grasslands offers a solution to both situations in the form of carbon sinks and wildlife habitat, as well as the vast benefits to clean air and water, flood and drought mitigation and soil health.”

Tim Sopuck, chief executive officer for Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, agrees that the relationship between range health and biodiversity is an important one.

“The big challenge is conserving and enhancing native range. The good news is that many approaches that improve range health also improve the bottom line for cattle producers, as well as biodiversity,” said Sopuck.

But maintaining grasslands isn’t without cost and Nelson would like to see producers compensated for conservation efforts. However, he acknowledges that making a compensation system work requires political will and public understanding of why healthy grassland and forage is important.

“I think our job is to find the background information so that governments can justify doing that,” he said. “It should really not be looked on as



PHOTO: MANITOBA HABITAT HERITAGE CORPORATION

a subsidy when you are providing a benefit to society. So I think we have to create a political system with market incentives and fiscal policies that reward us for doing the right thing on the landscape.”

Studies like that released by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative help provide the type of third-party validation needed to convince both the public and politicians that grasslands are important, Nelson added, noting MFGA is currently in discussions with the International Institute for Sustainable Development about ways to quantify the importance of grasslands, while also examining how public policy can protect them.

Tapley, who also works as a research technician at the University of Manitoba, knows the value of concrete evidence as well.

“We need to back it up, we can’t just romanticize,” she said. “And as an industry we need to keep looking for other parties and other stakeholders

who have an interest in the same thing we do.”

She is also keenly aware of the role that government can play in helping to preserve and restore habitat. Four years ago Tapley and her husband purchased an abandoned gravel pit. With the help of the province’s Orphaned/Abandoned Mine Site Rehabilitation Program they have turned it into a prairie grassland.

“It is a fabulous program,” she said, adding more birds are flocking to the area now that it’s been returned to a natural state. However, it is the symbiosis between the cattle and the land that really makes it work.

“Just because you can get something to grow there once, it doesn’t mean that it’s a healthy grassland, you need grazers to come in and put all those nutrients back down on the ground and then have them cycle over and over again,” she said. “Sustainability really has to be at the forefront.”

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Postal workers pledge to move bees, chicks if striking

Postal workers are taking strike votes this month across the country

STAFF

Canada Post and its unionized staff have agreed to set up a system in which workers would volunteer to move live animals, such as day-old chicks or bees, during a strike or lockout.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) announced June 14 it has a new agreement with the Crown corporation to move and deliver social assistance and pension cheques in case of a work stoppage.

Agreements have been reached between CUPW and Canada Post ahead of previous potential work stoppages to deliver government payments to seniors and people with low incomes.

However, an agreement that also includes commitments to “ensure that live animals are not trapped in the event of a strike or lockout” is new, the union said in a release.

“We don’t want the most vulnerable people in our society — pensioners and those living on low incomes — to suffer because postal workers might get locked out or forced out,” CUPW national president Mike Palecek said in the release.

“Nor do we want a repeat of what happened in 2011, when managers locked us out for two weeks, trapping animals such as bees and baby chicks in the system.”

According to media reports during the 2011 lockout, postal staff were allowed into warehouses to track down such live cargo; a Canada Post spokesperson was quoted at the time as saying all such cargo, to the corporation’s knowledge, was found.

The new agreement, signed by representatives from the company and union and dated June 11, calls for Canada Post to “develop a mechanism for



Canada Post and its union pledge that mailed newborn chicks will be kept moving through the system if postal workers strike or are locked out. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

segregating or tracking live animals prior to a possible strike or lockout.”

It also binds the corporation to consult with CUPW on “procedures that will be put in place to ensure that live animals are not trapped in the mail system.”

Volunteer CUPW workers would provide up to two days of delivery each month and would get honorariums of \$50 per day for such duties, the agreement said.

CUPW has scheduled strike vote meetings across the country between May 28 and June 26.

The union, in its release, said Canada Post seeks “a raft of concessions” in contract talks and has “budgeted very little in nego-

“... managers (in 2011) locked us out for two weeks, trapping animals such as bees and baby chicks in the system.”

MIKE PALECEK
president, CUPW

tiations over the past months,” while CUPW “is seeking equal pay for its female-dominated rural members.”

According to Canada Post, live animals don’t travel by mail unless the sender has a

prior agreement in place with the Crown corporation before mailing.

Certain animals, such as bees, day-old chicks, parasites, leeches and “some other small cold-blooded animals” may be mailed within Canada “under certain conditions,” Canada Post added.

Animals in such cases must be free of disease and must be packaged according to Canada Post’s specifications. Such packages also must be clearly labelled as to their contents, using language laid out by Canada Post.

Among other requirements, hatcheries moving chicks by mail also must be registered with the Canadian Food

Inspection Agency’s hatchery program. Chicks must be shipped by surface using Expedited Parcel service — and must only be shipped if they can be delivered within 36 hours, ruling out certain remote locations.

Bees, on the other hand, can be moved via Priority, Xpresspost, Expedited Parcel or Regular Parcel services. Bee colonies can only be shipped between March 1 and Oct. 31 by surface using Regular or Expedited Parcel services; queen bees and no more than eight attendants may be shipped between April 1 and Oct. 31 by Priority service. Certain remote locations are also ruled out for bees.

PEDv outbreak remains localized

No new cases of PEDv have been found in Manitoba, but possibility of future outbreaks can’t be ruled out

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

While the origin of recent porcine epidemic diarrhea outbreaks has not been identified, Manitoba’s chief veterinarian has determined the strain is not unique to Manitoba.

“What we do know is that all three barns have the same strain of PEDv and that the strain is not one that is unique to Manitoba, it’s been found in Ontario and the U.S. as well,” said Dr. Megan Bergman. “But at this point — with the exception of geographic location — we haven’t identified any common contact between these three barns, so we continue to review our epidemiological information to try to really further evaluate in more detail whether or not we can pinpoint a source of introduction.”

“We’ve got some good weather and this virus does not like hot, dry weather.”

MEGAN BERGMAN

The three most recent cases of the disease appeared between May 26 and June 4, after nearly 16 months of being PEDv free. All the cases occurred within a five-kilometre radius, in the southeastern part of the province.

However, given the complexity of interactions between hog operations and the larger world — including other farms, trucks, processors, staff, visitors, feed suppliers and other considerations — it is conceivable the cause of these cases may never be pinpointed.

“It is very possible that we will never know exactly how this virus was introduced,” said Bergman.

Some in the hog industry had initially questioned if each barn was infected with the same virus given the varying level of symptoms, but the chief vet said that is to be expected.

“Age is actually the biggest factor in respect to the symptoms that we see in these pigs, the younger the piglet, the more significant the clinical signs are and even a difference of a few days in age can make a big difference in how hard they are hit by this virus,” said Bergman. “So we do think that is largely the cause of why we’ve seen a difference between the barns, and of course we had one finisher barn that was affected, and finisher animals are quite a bit older, so they are able to manage that virus quite a bit better than piglets.”

All three of the barns are currently

at a different stage of the cleaning and disinfection process, which Bergman said could take a significant amount of time. She added that the possibility of further cases of PEDv can’t be ruled out either.

“We have such significant contact with the U.S. and of course the U.S. has a high virus load for PEDv, so I think we also need to prepare ourselves for the potential introduction of the virus and to be able to respond quickly,” she said.

But recent hot and dry weather could be good news for Manitoba hog producers.

“My hope is that with the recent sun and hot weather that we’ve been getting, is that any level of environmental contamination may be reduced because we’ve got some good weather and this virus does not like hot, dry weather,” Bergman said.

LIVESTOCK AUCTION RESULTS

Weight Category	Ashern	Gladstone	Grunthal	Heartland	Heartland	Killarney	Ste. Rose	Winnipeg
				Brandon	Virden			
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	14-Jun	15-Jun	n/a	n/a	17-Jun
No. on offer	n/a	n/a	n/a	179	592*	n/a	n/a	305
over 1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	145.00-161.00
900-1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	166.00-185.00	150.00-166.00	n/a	n/a	150.00-168.50
800-900	n/a	n/a	n/a	174.00-185.00	168.00-184.00	n/a	n/a	160.00-186.00
700-800	n/a	n/a	n/a	185.00-200.00	182.00-195.00	n/a	n/a	178.00-202.00
600-700	n/a	n/a	n/a	190.00-205.00	185.00-206.00	n/a	n/a	190.00-207.00
500-600	n/a	n/a	n/a	200.00-225.00	192.00-211.00	n/a	n/a	190.00-212.00
400-500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	200.00-215.00	n/a	n/a	190.00-225.00
300-400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feeder heifers								
900-1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	145.00-165.00	130.00-147.00	n/a	n/a	145.00-155.00
800-900	n/a	n/a	n/a	150.00-167.00	148.00-162.00	n/a	n/a	145.00-165.00
700-800	n/a	n/a	n/a	165.00-185.00	157.00-173.00	n/a	n/a	160.00-172.00
600-700	n/a	n/a	n/a	175.00-190.00	173.00-186.00	n/a	n/a	165.00-182.00
500-600	n/a	n/a	n/a	185.00-210.00	175.00-195.00	n/a	n/a	160.00-192.00
400-500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	182.00-200.00	n/a	n/a	165.00-202.00
300-400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slaughter Market								
No. on offer	n/a	n/a	n/a	90	n/a	n/a	n/a	195
D1-D2 Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	90.00-103.00	87.00-94.00	n/a	n/a	90.00-97.00
D3-D5 Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.00-90.00	81.00-87.00	n/a	n/a	78.00-87.00
Age Verified	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	89.00-98.50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mature Bulls	n/a	n/a	n/a	118.00-127.00	119.00-129.00	n/a	n/a	117.00-125.00
Butcher Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	140.00-147.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Butcher Heifers	n/a	n/a	n/a	139.00-144.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feeder Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.00-123.00
Fleshy Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lean Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heiferettes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.00-125.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

* includes slaughter market

(Note all prices in CDN\$ per cwt. These prices also generally represent the top one-third of sales reported by the auction yard.)

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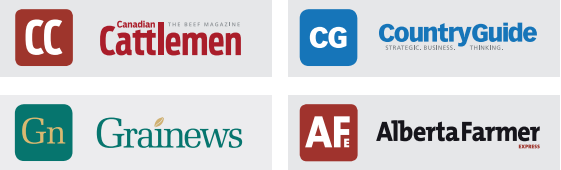
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Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

Early bloom raises algae poisoning concerns

The blue-green algae can be harmful or fatal to humans and livestock



An algae bloom in Walsh County has tested positive for toxic cyanobacteria production.
PHOTO: WALSH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NDSU EXTENSION RELEASE

An early cyanobacteria bloom in Walsh County, North Dakota suggests livestock producers need to exercise caution with water sources this summer.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, can produce toxins that are harmful to livestock, wildlife and people.

Blue-green algae often occur in stagnant ponds or dugouts with elevated nutrient levels, forming large colonies that appear as scum on or just below the water surface, according to Carl Dahlen, North Dakota State University Extension Service beef cattle specialist.

“With this early finding of blue-green algae, be sure to monitor livestock water sources throughout the summer and take immediate action to prevent cyanobacterial poisoning of livestock,” Dahlen says.

Live cyanobacteria are green and turn blue after they die and dry on the water surface or shoreline.

Cyanobacteria typically are a concern beginning in mid-July, says Brad Brummond, agriculture and natural resources Extension agent in Walsh County.

Blue-green algae’s toxicity depends on the species drinking the water, and the concentration and the amount of water ingested.

“With this early finding of blue-green algae, be sure to monitor livestock water sources.”

CARL DAHLEN
NDSU

Cyanobacteria produce neuro and liver toxins, NDSU Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist Gerald Stokka says. Signs of neurotoxin poisoning usually appear within 20 minutes of ingestion.

In animals, symptoms include weakness, staggering, difficulty in breathing, convulsions and, ultimately, death. Animals affected by liver toxins may exhibit weakness, pale-coloured mucous membranes, mental derangement, bloody diarrhea and, ultimately, death. Typically, livestock are found dead before producers see symptoms.

Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist, recommends that if producers suspect cyanobacterial poisoning caused the death of livestock, they should check the edges of ponds for dead wildlife. Dead wildlife is an indication that cyanobacteria are in the water.

In addition, producers should collect a water sample from the suspected water source and submit it to either a public or com-

mercial laboratory for testing.

Here are some ways producers can prevent cyanobacterial poisoning of livestock:

- Reduce the nutrient levels entering the water source by implementing a nutrient management plan or establishing buffer strips with perennial plant species.
- Create a designated drinking area where the risk of cyanobacteria is minimal.
- Fence off the pond and pump water from the pond to a water tank.
- Use or provide other water sources following periods of hot, dry weather.
- Add copper sulphate to the water if the water source has a history of algae blooms. Apply two pounds of copper sulphate per acre-foot of water, which is equal to a rate of eight pounds per million gallons.

Check out the NDSU Extension Service’s *Cyanobacteria (Blue-green Algae) Poisoning* publication at <http://tinyurl.com/NDSU-blue-green-algae> for more information.

Bee die-offs from multiple causes

Experts and bee industry representatives say the story’s been presented one dimensionally by many in the media

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

Habitat loss, poor beekeeping practices and pesticides are among the biggest challenges facing bee populations, experts have told the Commons agriculture committee.

Chris Cutler, an associate professor in the department of environmental sciences at Dalhousie University and also a beekeeper, said another challenge is a lack of information on wild bees, which are vital to food production. There are about 1,000 bee species in Canada.

“In terms of their population dynamics and long-term community distributions and prevalence of different species, we know next to nothing about many of them,” Cutler said. “This is just another cautionary message about making blanket statements about all the bees being in decline. We actually lack a lot of data.”

He said the issue isn’t just limited to those outside the industry, but that beekeepers themselves need to better understand what’s happening.

“Education is the issue that needs to be really tackled among beekeepers,” he said. “You can have hives in the exact same location and half of them will live and half of them will die, and I won’t really be able to understand why.”

There’s a strong sense in the apiculture sector that “beekeeper extension work is key in terms of improving the health of honeybees across the country.”

Kevin Nixon, an Alberta beekeeper and chair of the Canadian Honey Council, said bee issues have received a lot of misleading media attention.

“Unfortunately, most of the media has not been willing to present all the factors affecting bee health, but is aimed at only a single factor, being pesticides,” Nixon said. “There are many factors affecting bee health.”

He cited pests and disease, habitat and nutrition, pesticides and weather and climate all as challenges.

“Most beekeepers on the whole still say that the varroa mite is still the biggest challenge that we face,” he said. “The mite and viruses can decimate a beekeeping operation quite quickly if not managed well.”

Nixon added it’s a frustrating situation for beekeepers with millions of dollars invested in

their operation and no solution forthcoming from the research community.

Beekeepers also face rising costs from supplemental feeding of their bees, Nixon noted.

“All regions of Canada go through periods throughout the year when they need to feed their bees, however, it seems like we are feeding more than ever before,” he said.

The main reason for that is the lack of habitat, such as flowers and weeds, that are food sources for bees.

While some pesticides can be toxic to honeybees, there are also many pesticides, which are safe to use around bees, Nixon said.

“When products are used responsibly and the label is followed, most risk can be alleviated,” Nixon said.

Peter Kevan, a professor emeritus at the Ontario Agricultural College and internationally known bee expert, said starvation is a major factor in bee deaths during the winter.

“Starvation is a management problem,” Kevan said, adding it points to the need for better training of beekeepers.

“We really do need a systematic way of monitoring management practices so that we can make comparisons between the regions in Canada to try to understand what can be done better here or there.”

The starvation issue is due in part to the rather conservative nature of the beekeepers.

“Beekeeping equipment by and large has not changed, at least in the field, for about 150 years,” Kevan said. “I think there are some new approaches that could be taken, that need to be taken.”

Kevan also said the effects of pesticides on bees has been poorly monitored and documented. The debate over the use of neonic seed treatments has created a situation where emotions trump logic at times.

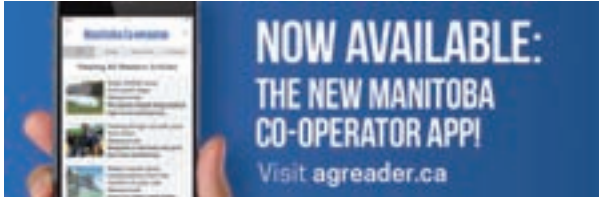
“Disagreements have sort of resulted in the situation being clouded by emotionally expressed opinions, backed up with some facts, some factoids, and some fallacies,” Kevan said. “We are not getting a very good picture of the actual problem, unfortunately, because of the way things are unfolding. Everybody has a stake in it and we understand what those stakes are and that everybody’s stake is legitimate. But there has to be some sort of balance, which seems to be somewhat lacking.”



Bee deaths are often attributed to just one source — pesticides — but experts say a lot more could be at play. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

WEATHER VANE

“EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, BUT NO ONE DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT.” *Mark Twain, 1897*



Seasonable temperatures ahead

Issued: Monday, June 20, 2016 · Covering: June 22 – June 29, 2016

DANIEL BEZTE
Weather Vane



I don't know if I would call last week's forecast a total bust, as the main weather features occurred as forecasted, but as I've said before, sometimes, when it comes to forecasting, the devil is in the details. Take last Friday: none of the short-term forecasts predicted the development of the severe thunderstorms that tracked through in the early-morning hours. So the fact that my medium-range forecast called for some widely scattered thunderstorms isn't that bad!

OK, enough of that; on to this week's forecast. The general flow across North America during this forecast period looks to be pretty zonal, which should result in a little less active weather... should, but it won't. Surface high pressure will be in place by Wednesday, bringing sunshine and seasonable temperatures. Later in the day Wednesday and into Thursday morning, an area of low pressure is forecast to cross through South Dakota and this may bring us some clouds, with the chance of some thundershowers for extreme

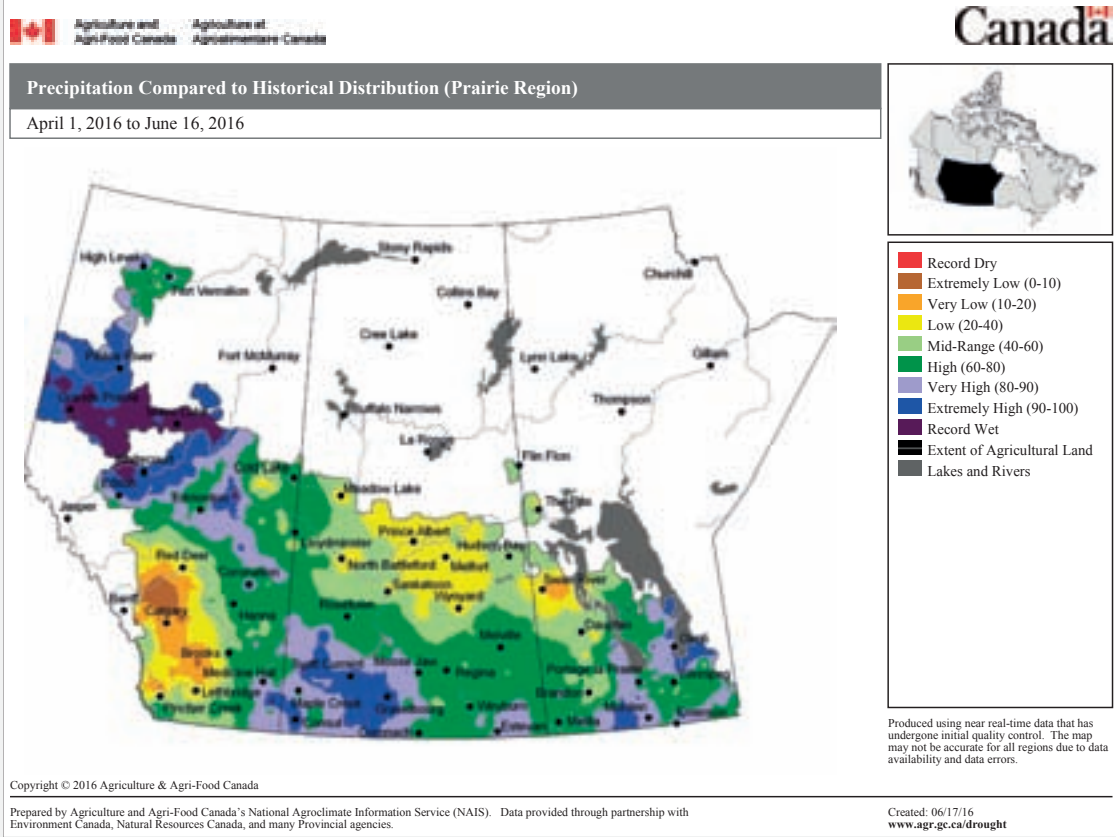
southern regions. High pressure should then build back in later Thursday, bringing a return to mainly sunny skies right through to Friday.

Over the weekend the weather models show a strong area of low pressure moving across the southern Prairies, both at the surface and at upper levels. The exact track of this low will have a big impact on this weekend's weather. Currently it looks like the low will track from central Saskatchewan on Friday to be around Lake of the Woods by Sunday. We can expect to see thunderstorms develop ahead of this system late Friday, with showers and thundershowers scattered around on Saturday. Sunday also looks to be on the showery side along with some fairly strong northerly winds.

Monday and Tuesday look to be sunny, but a little on the cool side, with highs only around the 20 C mark as an arctic high builds southward. Temperatures will then warm up by Wednesday as the strong early-summer sunshine warms the high. We should expect to see highs climb back into the mid-20s by Wednesday or Thursday, with overnight lows in the lower teens.

Usual temperature range for this period: Highs, 21 to 29 C; lows, 8 to 16 C.

WEATHER MAP - WESTERN CANADA



This issue's map shows the total amount of precipitation that has fallen across the Prairies so far this growing season. It has been a fairly wet start, with a large portion of all three Prairie provinces reporting high to extremely high values compared to historical amounts.

Upper ridges and ridge riders

Models suggest ridges will strengthen and bring us longer hot spells this summer

BY DANIEL BEZTE
Co-operator contributor

For those of you who read my weekly forecast you may have noticed a fair bit of “talk” about something called an upper-level ridge. Believe it or not, but we've seen these upper-level ridges develop; the problem is that they just don't want to stick around for very long! The main culprit for why these upper-level ridges haven't been dominating our weather is something known as a *ridge rider*. Before we get into a discussion on ridge riders, though, I thought we should take a little time to review just what an upper-level ridge is.

To understand what an upper-level ridge is, we need to first come to an understanding of what constitutes a ridge. Simply put, the term *ridge* is used to depict a region of high pressure, with the term *trough* used to depict regions of low pressure. But it's a little more complicated than just that. Remember that in the Northern Hemisphere, an area of high pressure occurs when air over a large area is sinking toward the earth and spreading out or moving away from the centre. Areas of low pressure are the opposite. For this

... as areas of low pressure either come in off the Pacific or develop to our west, they are not being blocked or broken down by the ridges.

article we'll mostly discuss high pressure. As the air flows out of the area of high pressure it begins to curve to the right due to the Coriolis force. If the air flowing out of a high-pressure system curves enough, it will eventually form a complete circle of air and we would now have what is known as an *anti-cyclone*, or simply, a region of high pressure. If you look at a typical surface weather map on any given day you can see regions of high and low pressure, or areas of anticyclones and cyclones.

What most of us don't see, unless you know where to look online, are maps showing the pressure pattern higher up in the atmosphere. If you were to do this, one of the first things you would notice is that there are fewer areas of high and low pressure. Instead, there would be troughs and ridges. As we go up in the atmosphere, the closed circulations that we see at the surface open up and the general flow becomes wave-like. If the flow dips south-

ward, we have a trough, and if the flow curves northward, we have a ridge. Areas under a ridge tend to be warm and dry, while those under the trough are cooler and wetter. What controls the placement of these troughs and ridges is the jet stream. When the jet stream is strong (large difference in temperature from north to south) we see very small troughs and ridges (known as zonal flow) and the weather is usually not very active. When the jet stream is weak, the troughs and ridges grow to be fairly large (meridional flow) and the weather is usually very active.

Going with the flow(s)

So far this spring we've been kind of bouncing back and forth between a meridional flow and a zonal flow across North America, with ridging tending to build over western regions and then fairly quickly slide off to the east and weaken. Areas under the ridge have seen the warm and dry weather that usually accompanies such

a ridge, but the farther east you go, the less of an impact the ridges tend to have, thanks in part to the ridge riders that I alluded to at the beginning of this article. Regions farther to our east have been on the edge of the ridge and have seen the active cooler weather that is also associated with this pattern — at least until last weekend, when a strong eastern ridge developed. The interesting part to this current flow is that while it's often unstable and can break down fairly quickly, which is something that we've seen so far this spring, it can also get “stuck” in what is known as a blocking pattern. This is when the pattern of ridges and troughs is such that they tend not to move much. This is what will tend to bring us our heat waves.

So far the ridges that have developed this year have not been overly strong and as areas of low pressure either come in off the Pacific or develop to our west, they are not being blocked or broken down by the ridges. If the ridge is strong enough, these areas of energy either get pushed well to our north or south, or the strength of the ridge basically robs the low of its energy and the low weakens or even disappears. This year, these areas of low pressure are encountering the

ridge and are getting deflected to the north, or they are “riding” over the ridge, but these lows are strong enough that as they pass over the ridge they squish or flatten the ridge. In essence, they partially break down the ridge as they pass by.

This leads to two main impacts on our region. First, the ridges are not getting a chance to get stronger before a ridge rider breaks them down, resulting in only a couple of days of warm, dry weather. Second, the lows that would normally be pushed to our north take a more southerly route, bringing us chances of rain every two to three days. The big question is whether we'll see this pattern continue all summer, which might not be too bad as long as we don't see too much rain. The other possible outcome — the one most long-term weather models are still leaning toward — is that the ridges will become stronger over the summer, bringing us longer and longer periods of hot and dry weather. As always, only time will tell.

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

CROPS

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

Manitoba’s canola crop looking good so far

Canola Council of Canada agronomy specialist Angela Brackenreed has some tips for keeping it that way

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

Manitoba’s canola crop is off to a good start — so good, Angela Brackenreed doesn’t want to jinx it.

“In general I would say we have a really good-looking canola crop across much of the province,” Brackenreed, the Canola Council of Canada’s Manitoba agronomy specialist, said during Manitoba Agriculture’s Westman Crop Talk webinar June 15. “It makes me nervous saying that it is really a nice-looking crop, so knock on wood.”

On the whole Western Canada’s canola crop is also looking good, she added. The crop is most advanced in southern Alberta, followed by Manitoba and then the rest of the West.

Advancing well

Brackenreed advised farmers to be on the lookout for the potentially yield-robbing fungal disease blackleg. Often the damage isn’t noticeable until swathing time.

“The reason I wanted to talk about it now is an early-season fungicide (application) is one option for control or reduction of this disease,” she said.

“I am a little bit afraid that some spraying has taken place a little bit too late to be as effective as it potentially could be.”

To reduce application costs, consider spraying combining a fungicide application with a herbicide.

Fungicide should be applied at the cotyledon to two- to three-leaf stage for best control.

Fungicide costs \$10 to \$15 an acre not including the cost of application, so yield must be increased by a couple of bushels an acre to break even.

“I would say for most of Manitoba, blackleg is on the rise and has been steadily for the last number of years,” she said. “We know the risk (in Manitoba) is high.”

Windy spring

A lack of calm days has challenged crop sprayers this spring. Ideally herbicide spraying should be done in winds of 20 kilometres an hour or less.

“If you have to spray with winds of 20 km, gusting up to 30, you really need to know what’s down-wind because that is getting a little bit risky,” Brackenreed said. “Low-drift nozzles can help.”

Reducing ground speed, adjusting pressure and water volumes and lowering sprayer booms can help.

“The problem if you get too low with the booms is you may not get as good coverage.”

Root rot is a perennial problem. There might be a bit more this year due to deeper seeding.

“Unfortunately there is no real solution after the fact,” Brackenreed said. “But I think it is important to take note of it out in the field.”

Shallower seeding into warmer soils could reduce the problem in future years.

“Unfortunately the fungal complex that causes these root rots is so ubiquitous in our soils that rotation probably isn’t going to be all that effective, but it certainly could help to reduce that pathogen load in the soil if you were to widen out your rotation.”



Applying herbicides to a stressed canola crop can stress it even more. Plants hit twice due to spray overlap can even die. Recent rains are stressing some canola crops, especially in low areas.


“If this is a situation on your farm you may want to try and let that crop recover a little bit, although if you are trying to target your first in-crop (herbicide) application, which is really important for yields and your weeds are really getting out of control, it could potentially be worth a little bit of crop damage to get those weeds controlled,” Brackenreed said.

Water-stressed canola turns yellow because the roots are starved for oxygen, preventing the crop from taking up nutrients, including nitrogen. In most cases the nitrogen is still there and will be

CANOLA UPDATE

SPRAYING: MOISTURE STRESS
A very challenging year for spraying



BLACKLEG


- Fungicide is one option
- Needs to be early!
- Worst yield loss from infection cot- 3/4 leaf
- What’s your break-even?

Source: Angela Brackenreed, Canola Council of Canada

available when the soil dries. As a result, in most cases applying more nitrogen in crop isn’t going to help much, she said. However, it can be where the nitrogen has either leached or volatilized

Application timing critical

“The three- to five-leaf stage is when we want to be applying (nitrogen) to make sure that it is available when the crop needs it,” Brackenreed said.

Urea, liquid UAN and ammonium sulphate can all be applied to canola as a top dressing.

Urea is the most volatile form, followed by UAN and ammonium

sulphate, she said. There are products that can stabilize urea and UAN.

“All these products need rain to get to the root zone,” Brackenreed said, noting canola doesn’t absorb nitrogen through its leaves.

“If you are going to use a product like urea to top dress — and there is certainly nothing wrong with that — you want to make sure the leaves are fairly dry to try and limit those urea prills from staying on the leaf surface and causing leaf burn. With liquid actually the opposite is ideal...”

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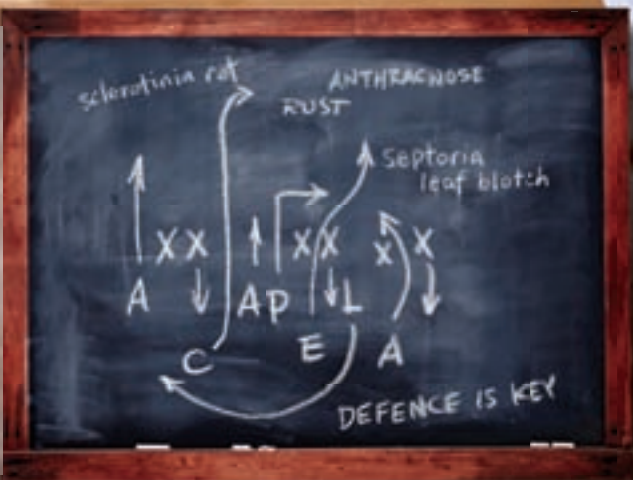
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Cigi coaxes Philippines back into the fold

Cigi is wooing Filipino millers after a period of poor gluten strength and low protein drove them to American wheat suppliers

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

For years Darwin Tatel used Canadian wheat at the San Miguel Mill in Batangas, Philippines, but then something changed.

“We stopped using CWRS awhile back when we encountered some problems in terms of quality,” said the head miller, who was in Winnipeg to take part in a technical exchange program at the Canadian International Grains Institute, or Cigi, last week. “We were surprised, of course, because we were using (Canada Western Red Spring) for quite some time, since 2002 or maybe even 2000, so we had been very surprised to see the quality just drop down like that.”

The head miller said complaints had been received from a number of clients, including Gardenia Bakery, which produces half a million loaves of bread every day.

Michael Santiago, production supervisor at Monde Nissin, said the same quality issues caused his Philippines-based company to turn to American wheat after years of using Canadian grain.

“I think the last time we used Canadian wheat was about 2014,” he said. “Because of the gluten, the protein, the inconsistencies in those, we had to change a lot of blends because of that, so then we moved to U.S. wheat.”

But after an intense week of comparing wheat quality, baking test breads, meeting farmers and representatives from various Canadian commodity groups, both say they feel confident that Canadian wheat can again meet their companies respective needs.

“They have assured us that the problems previously encountered have been addressed,” said Santiago.

That is exactly what Yvonne Supeene, the institute, head of baking technology, wants to hear. She said Cigi invited millers from the Philippines to participate in the technical exchange program in the hopes of bringing them back to Canadian wheat.

“The Philippines has been identified as a market that has potential growth for importing more CWRS, our principle class of wheat,” she said, adding exports of Canadian wheat to that country have declined in recent years.

“We’d like to work with the milling companies and give them exposure to the recent changes that have been made over the last number of years, collectively through co-operation among the whole value chain,” said Supeene. “We saw that decline in exports and we know they do require high-protein wheat, so that is part of the reason we are targeting millers there and showing them what we have.”

While the Canadian Grain Commission is responsible for monitoring and governing the quality of CWRS, not Cigi, Supeene said the institute worked with the commission, testing



Esey Assefaw, Cigi’s head of Asian products and pasta technology, speaks to a technical exchange group from the Philippines at Cigi.
PHOTOS: SHANNON VANRAES

“Canada wants us back and we can work on it.”

MICHAEL SANTIAGO

wheat and collaborating on strategies that would see that class of wheat become more defined in terms of quality.

“I think it is important to say that there was nothing wrong with the class before, it’s just that the feedback from our customers and the work that we were doing ourselves at Cigi and CGC, we collectively saw that the dough strength was becoming a little too mellow and we wanted to be very cautious,” she said, adding several changes have been put in place over the last few years to address any concerns customers might have.

“There were changes done at the quality evaluation committee level, introducing more stringent testing for varieties to even be registered within the class of CWRS, there was a floor and ceiling shift in the class itself, so they made the floor higher — in other words the strength has to be higher now for the varieties to enter into the CWRS class,” explained Supeene.

For Tatel, his first visit to Canada has paid off.

“We understand better now how the system of Canadian wheat is being handled,” he said, noting he and his peers will also leave with a better understanding of where and how Canadian wheat is grown.



Darwin Tatel of the San Miguel Mill in Batangas, Philippines examines pasta technology during a technical exchange at Cigi.

“We haven’t been able to see a wheat field with live wheat in it, but we have seen acres and acres of land... and the kind of huge and sophisticated equipment they are using. We don’t have that in the Philippines as of yet, so we were kind of amazed,” said Tatel.

Santiago was also impressed, not just by the operation they visited, but by the determination shown to win back their customer loyalty.

“Canada wants us back and we can work on it,” he said.

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Federal investment kick-starts Aquanty project

The Aquanty project is said to be a game changer in how the province will address future water management issues within the Assiniboine River Basin

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/Brandon

A computer program capable of analyzing the effects of land use and simulating mitigation strategies of an entire river basin seems like a concept stolen from a futuristic movie. However, a \$1.1-million investment from the federal government has put the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA) on track for developing just that — a multi-faceted modelling platform to predict and monitor the hydrological sensitivity of the Assiniboine River Basin (ARB).

“We believe grasslands and forage crops are a critical part of the solution for future flood- and drought-ravaged areas of the ARB,” said Henry Nelson, MFGA vice-chair and project manager of the hydrology model project. “The hydrology model will showcase proactive solutions for many stakeholders across the ARB for flood and drought mitigation.”

The project will be spearheaded by MFGA, working closely with Aquanty Inc., a hydrological science and research company and IBM, the International Business Machines corporation, to develop a HydroGeoSphere modelling platform that will allow for targeted hydrological analysis and research.

Numerous groups are collaborating on the project, including the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI), the Keystone Agriculture Producers (KAP), Manitoba Beef Producers, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Manitoba Conservation Districts Association, Brandon University, International Institute for Sustainable Development, the City of Minot, Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation, the Prairie Improvement Network and a number of other provincial commodity groups.

“This project, to coin a phrase, has the potential to be a game changer in how we collectively address future water management issues ranging from extreme droughts to damaging floods,” said Allan Preston, chair of ARBI. “We can and will do a better job of multi-jurisdictional water management across the entire basin, using a holistic approach engaging all of the players and stakeholders.”

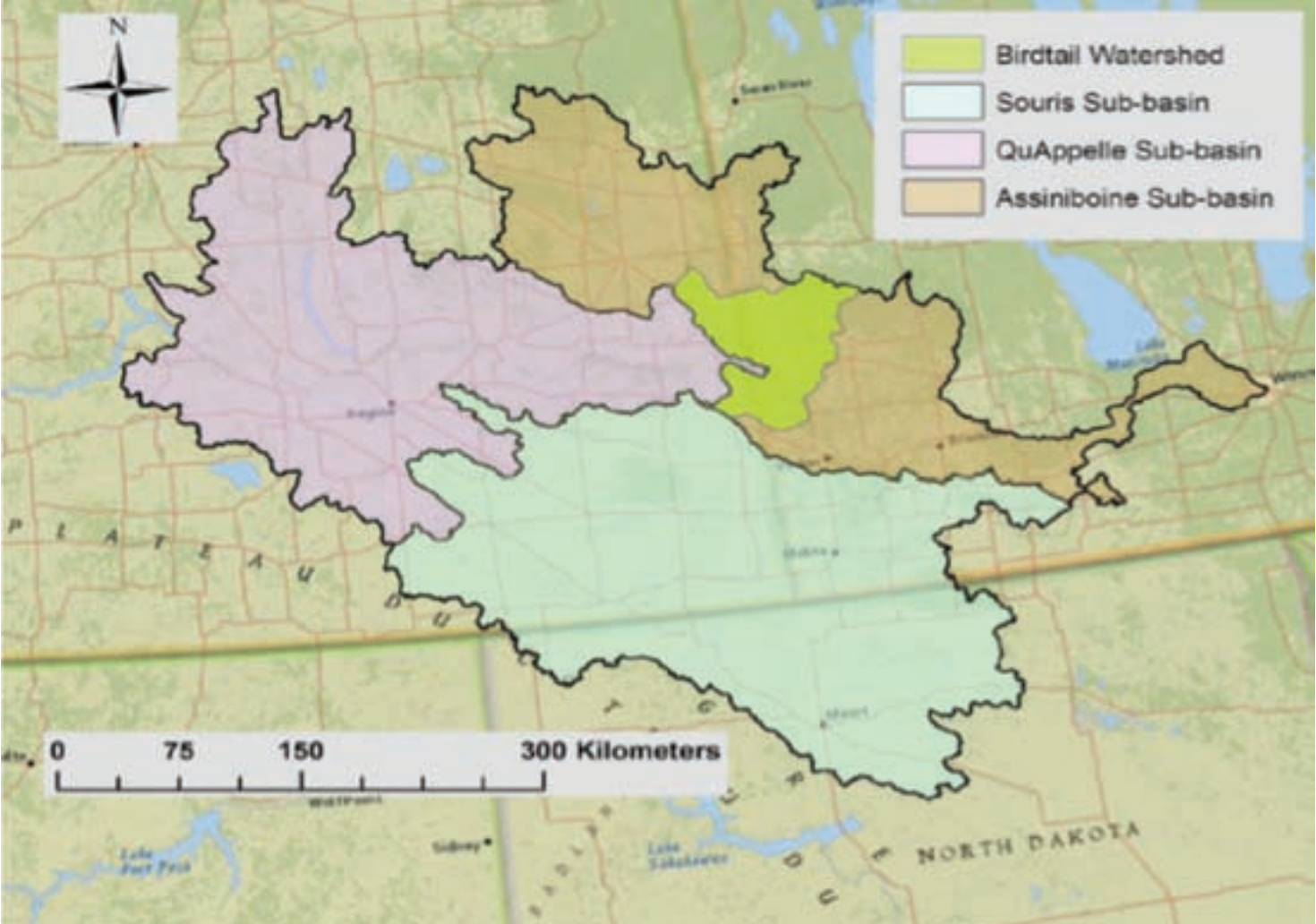
Motivated

Since 2007, federal and provincial governments have dealt with multiple water-related disaster events that have caused unprecedented crop losses, property and infrastructure damage and put a strain on AgriRecovery assistance programs.

On June 13, Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced the million-dollar investment into the project.

“Extreme weather events have created many challenges for Prairie farmers in recent years. We’re committed to working together with the agriculture sector to equip farmers with the tools they need to proactively manage business risks such as these,” MacAulay said.

Nelson said the \$1.1 million from AAFC will cover approximately two-thirds of the project costs, with the remaining balance coming from the provincial government and stakeholder contributions.



The Assiniboine River Basin encompasses the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Assiniboine sub-basins, across Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota and is 162,000 square kilometres in size, which is approximately the same size as the entire state of North Dakota. PHOTO: MFGA

“This program takes into account the soil characteristics, topography, surface and soil moisture and the groundwater levels and then it has the capability to determine how the water flows will react in that environment.”

HENRY NELSON
MFGA vice-chair and project manager of the Aquanty project

“Collecting the data is really where the big cost is here and that is why we are appreciative that AAFC has recognized the value of this,” Nelson said. “Manitoba Agriculture is another key supporter in this and it has provided some financial contribution, as well as some in-kind contribution through staff. It has also provided funding to support a post-doctorate fellow that will be situated at Brandon University to work on the model.”

Phase 1

The first phase of the project will run from now until March 31, 2018. Aquanty Inc. will develop the data analytics system that will be run on a high-performance computing system from IBM.

Existing data on the Assiniboine basin, as well as the Qu'Appelle and Souris sub-basins and Birdtail watershed, will be fed into the platform.

“This program takes into account the soil characteristics, topography, surface and soil moisture and the groundwater levels and then it has the capability to determine how the water flows will react in that environment,” Nelson said.

By March 31, 2018, the Hydro-GeoSphere simulation software will be capable of running complex sim-

ulations of water movement through surface water and groundwater flow systems.

“In this first phase we are looking at infrastructure and the impact of perennial forages and grasslands on the landscape, with respect to quantities of water as it moves through the basin,” Nelson said.

Simulating scenarios

Nelson says the exciting part of this program is that it allows users to input mitigation theories, see the outcome and determine the best possible solutions without real-life investments.

“Basically, we will be able to look at what is causing downstream flows and then create a few ‘what if’ scenarios to see what the outcomes would be without having to invest anything,” Nelson said. “For instance, you can say, if we changed our infrastructure so that we had a dike or ditch in a certain place, or if we were to change our vegetation, if there were 10 per cent more forages what are the impacts on water management within this basin?”

KAP president, Dan Mazier agrees that the program’s ability to test out ‘what if’ scenarios will be one of the biggest benefits.

“This is going to change the way we plan things. We will be able to moni-

tor and simulate so much more criteria that it is going to fundamentally change the way we look at infrastructure and how we design it. That is where I see the biggest benefit in this project,” Mazier said.

Uncapped potential

According to Nelson, following Phase 1 of the project, MFGA hopes to be able to move into a second phase that uses the tool to examine nutrient management and the impact of different types of management practices.

He said that MFGA aims to collect sound information on the impacts of various farming management practices in order to determine the most beneficial practices for the land and the surrounding watershed.

“There are a lot of ecological goods and services, things that forages and grasslands contribute, that aren’t necessarily recognized in the economy. Things like habitat for biodiversity, for pollinators, carbon sequestrations, benefits on climate change, and soil health,” Nelson said. “Farmers are producing more than just food and this tool is a great opportunity to gather some data to show that.”

Many of the project stakeholders also believe information produced by this project will create more predictability and a better understanding of drought and floods.

“Recent flood events in the basin have severely taxed government resources in addressing claims for compensation,” Preston said, noting the technology developed in the Aquanty project provides more opportunity to study preventive measures, risk mitigation activities, to reduce the need for financial support programs.

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CROP REPORT

Spraying well underway, wet conditions dog parts of province

Manitoba Agriculture report for June 20, 2016

Southwest Region

Overall, weather has been good for crop advancement. Rainfall varied from 20 to 50 mm and some areas received thunderstorms and hail with 50 to 75 mm of total precipitation.

Winter wheat and fall rye are at the heading stage. Fungicides on winter wheat should be complete by the end of the week. Early-seeded cereal crops are in the flag-leaf to early-heading stage with producers preparing to apply fungicide. Early-seeded canola is starting to bolt and most late-seeded canola is cab-baging out.

Soybeans are progressing well and most acres are in first- to second-trifoliate stage. Corn and sunflowers are advancing. Early-seeded peas are starting to flower.

First-cut haying has started for some producers, but recent rain and high humidity has delayed baling.

Northwest Region

Temperatures and rain-fall amounts were extremely variable over the past week. Localized areas around and south of Ste. Rose, Makinak and McCreary received up to 25 mm of rainfall adding to the already wet conditions. Crops in this area are yellowing due to exces-

sive moisture and weed control operations have resulted in rut-ted fields. High winds over the weekend caused damage. Thirty per cent of wheat is at the til-lering stage. Approximately 45 per cent of canola is seedling and 50 per cent is at the rosette stage. Most of the field peas and soybeans are in the vegetative stage.

Herbicide treatments are nearing completion but appli-cations continue as field con-ditions allow in areas chal-lenged by wet field conditions. Diamondback moth monitor-ing trap populations continue to be highest in The Pas and Swan Valley areas.

Pastures have adequate growth as a result of periodic showers and warm temperatures.

Central Region

Rain and thunderstorms resulted in significant amounts of rain in several areas. Golf ball-sized hail fell in Altona and Winkler, and even slightly larger south of Morden. Much of the region received 38 to 50 mm of rain with 100 mm and more in some areas. Yellowing of crop due to excessive moisture is evident; good drying condi-tions are needed, especially for the heavier clays. Although her-bicide applications resumed,

some fields will require addi-tional days for drying.

Seeding is complete. Recent emergence has been rapid with warmer temperatures and mois-ture. Crop death in low spots of fields is more evident in the later-seeded fields. There is standing water in some fields.

Cereals are growing rapidly, and most fields are tillering or starting stem elongation. The later-seeded canola is emerging rapidly. The majority of the fields is in the rosette stage. Flowering has begun in some fields, and fungicide applications will start this week.

Corn growth is rapid with the recent moisture and warmer temperatures. Soybeans are in the first- to third-trifoliate stage, depending on seeding date. Iron deficiency chloro-sis is becoming noticeable in a number of fields. Herbicide applications continue.

Peas have advanced, and fun-gicide application for leaf dis-eases has begun. Flowering is complete in fall rye. Fungicide applications at the heading stage of winter wheat have been made. Weed growth is rapid with the recent moisture and warmer temperatures. Herbicide applications continue to be a challenge.

Forages are growing quickly.

Alfalfa is blooming and tame grasses are at heading stage. The moisture has generally been beneficial to the hay and pas-ture, but is impacting cutting and baling operations. Some alfalfa weevil is present.

Eastern Region

Rainfall ranged from as little as eight mm to greater than 115 mm. Localized storm cells in the last half of the week resulted in higher rain-fall accumulations in some areas. Standing water in fields is very evident in higher-rain-fall areas. Symptoms such as crop yellowing in spring cereals and soybeans and premature bolting in canola were noted. Producers continue to be con-cerned about not being able to apply herbicides and fungi-cides in a timely manner.

Seeding is complete in the Eastern Region. Winter cere-als are heading and flowering with some crops in the early-milk stage. Spring cereals are at stem elongation with flag leaves emerging. Early-seeded canola is in early flower with the rest of the crop from rosette to bolting. Field peas range from 10 nodes to very early flower. Most soy-beans range from the second to fourth trifoliate and corn devel-opment ranges from V7 to V9.

First-pass herbicide applica-tions are approximately 90 per cent complete. Fungicide appli-cations targeted at fusarium head blight suppression in win-ter cereals are mostly complete.

Interlake Region

Warm weather followed by extreme rainfall events occurred last week. During the weekend, several storms moved through resulting in large amounts of rainfall and in some areas hail. Precipitation amounts varied from eight to 45 mm.

Producers were able to seed many of the unseeded acres. For the acres that still haven't been seeded, producers are looking into seeding greenfeed, hay, or forages for seed production.

Spraying progress is estimated to be 50 to 60 per cent complete.

Winter wheat completed flowering last week in the South Interlake, while some fields in the North Interlake should be sprayed this week for fusarium head blight suppression. Spring cereals development varies from three leaf up to flag leaf. Canola fields vary from emerg-ing to rosette stage and starting to cabbage.

Soybeans range from unifo-liate to second-trifoliate stage. Corn is growing rapidly and ranges from V1 to V5 stage.

WATER FESTIVAL



Approximately 150 students from Crystal City, Manitou, St. Claude, Baldur and Morden participated in the annual Water Festival, a partnership between the Pembina Valley and La Salle Redboine Conservation Districts and the Prairie Spirit School Division. It provides a hands-on learning event for the students at the Binney Nature Preserve, near Binney Siding. Lynda Matchullis, with the school division, said students are always very enthusiastic about the annual event and enjoy the teamwork element of the program. Students participate in activities like dip netting, digging in the soil, counting tree rings, spotting birds and playing nature games. "It runs like a well-oiled machine," Matchullis said. PHOTO: PEMBINA VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Canadian researcher touts benefits of barley

A Canadian research review has found barley can play a role in reducing harmful types of cholesterol

STAFF

A research review from a Canadian hospital says there's a clear link between eating barley and reduced levels of two types of "bad cholesterol" that are associated with heart disease.

The paper, written by researchers at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital, was published recently in *The European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. It included 14 studies on clinical trials conducted in seven countries, including Canada.

Barley reduced both low-density lipoprotein, or LDL, and non-high-density lipoprotein, or non-HDL, by seven per cent, it said.

The review also indicated that barley had similar cholesterol-lowering effects as oats, which is often the go-to grain for health benefits.

It is the first study to look at the effects of barley and barley products on both LDL and non-HDL cholesterol in addition to apolipoprotein B, or apoB, a lipoprotein that carries bad cholesterol through the blood. Measuring non-HDL and apoB provides a more accurate assessment for cardiovascular risk, as they account for the total 'bad cholesterol' found in the blood.

"Barley has a lowering effect on the total bad cholesterol in these high-risk individuals, but can also benefit people without high cholesterol."

DR. VLADIMIR VUKSAN
St. Michael's Hospital

"The findings are most important for populations at high risk for cardiovascular disease, such as Type 2 diabetics, who have normal levels of LDL cholesterol, but elevated levels of non-HDL or apoB," said Dr. Vladimir Vuksan, research scientist and associate director of the Risk Factor Modification Centre of St. Michael's. "Barley has a lowering effect on the total bad cholesterol in these high-risk individuals, but can also benefit people without high cholesterol."

High cholesterol and diabetes are major risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke, historically treated with medications. However, Dr. Vuksan's research and work focuses on how dietary and lifestyle changes can reduce these risk factors.

"Barley's positive effect on lowering cholesterol is well documented and has been included in the Canadian strategy for reducing cardiovascular risk," said Dr. Vuksan. "Health Canada, the FDA and several health authorities worldwide have already approved health claims that barley lowers LDL cholesterol, but this is the first review showing the effects on other harmful lipids."

Despite its benefits Dr. Vuksan said barley is not as well estab-

lished as some other health-recommended foods — such as oats. Barley consumption by humans has fallen by 35 per cent in the last 10 years. Canada is one of the top five world producers of barley but human consumption accounts for only two per cent of the crop yield, with livestock making up the other 98 per cent.

"After looking at the evidence, we can also say that barley is comparably effective as oats in reducing overall risk of cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Vuksan.

Barley is higher in fibre, has twice the protein and almost half the calories of oats, which are important considerations for those with weight or dietary concerns.

Dr. Vuksan said barley can be enjoyed in a variety of ways. He recommends trying to incorporate barley into existing recipes, using it as a substitute for rice or even on its own — just like oatmeal.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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Red-hot garlic market lures Chinese investors

A handful of wealthy business people are driving a runaway market in this savoury delicacy

JINXIANG, CHINA/REUTERS

Yang Fei doubled his money last year buying and selling in the unofficial garlic capital of the world. He did pretty well the year before, too, and the year before that. One of a few dozen garlic agents in Jinxiang, in China's eastern Shandong province, 34-year-old Yang is at the centre of a trade that has attracted a small group of retail investors, mainly wealthy businessmen, seeking a surer bet than China's volatile stock and real estate markets.

When prices are low, around the spring harvest, investors buy as much of the crop as they can, put it into store, and release it onto the market when prices rise later in the year.

"Manipulating the garlic market and hyping the price is pretty simple compared to the stock market and real estate. Many of my clients have stocked tens of thousands of tonnes of garlic and don't sell it until the price rises," another agent, Liu Yunfei, told Reuters.

Yang's profits and those of his dozen or so clients ballooned to seven million yuan (C\$1.39 million) last year, when the price of garlic rose to 10.6 yuan (C\$2.10) per kilogram.

"For the last three years, our investors have made money, we made a 100 per cent profit last year," said Yang, who has built five warehouses for garlic storage and plans another four.

This year, though, may be different. The one-way bet on garlic has lured many new investors, driving prices up to a record 13.4 yuan/kg in March, much earlier than usual. Also, frosts in China at the turn of the year hit plantings and yields, and that could squeeze margins when the investors' stored garlic comes onto the market later.

Agents said there were more investors this year, and they were spending more to buy up the garlic crop.

"This year, garlic prices are especially high," said an agent named Yan Jianhua. "A lot of people have been looking for me. I know one person from Guangdong who wants to store around 5,000 tonnes. Last year, he stored less than 1,000 tonnes."

Garlic boom

With a population of around 640,000 and no previous claim to fame other than proximity to the provincial capital, Jinxiang has boomed.

It produced 1.69 million tonnes of garlic last year, around seven per cent of China's total — and more than the whole of South Korea, the world's third-largest producer. China's annual crop of around 25 million tonnes dominates the global market.

Garlic fields stretch out around Jinxiang, and at harvest time the air is filled with dust kicked up by trucks ferrying the crop to market and storage. The town also grows onions and hot peppers.

As production around Jinxiang has doubled in a decade, the 'garlic economy' has sprouted new villas, auto dealerships and modern retail space.

"Garlic has made Jinxiang richer in the last two years," said Su Xiuling, a local grower who makes some extra money by peeling garlic at the market once the crop is in. "There's a huge change. Our roads are wider... and even farmers now build bigger homes."



Yang Fei (r), a garlic agent, watches his workers at a warehouse in Jinxiang county, in eastern Shandong province June 1, 2016. PHOTOS: REUTERS/JESSICA MACY YU

"Garlic has made Jinxiang richer in the last two years. There's a huge change. Our roads are wider... and even farmers now build bigger homes."

SU XIULING
garlic grower

Garlic is a staple in Asia's diet, used in everything from the ubiquitous monosodium glutamate (MSG) to desserts. Believed to have medicinal healing powers, it's even added to foot salve.

It's easy to grow, harvest, transport and store. Modern coldstores — some bigger than a soccer pitch — can keep it fresh for up to two years, giving investors a longer window to sell into.

Zheng Xiang from Chengdu in southwestern Sichuan — a more than two-hour flight away — is one of those investors who converge on Jinxiang each year to meet their agents, inspect the crop and check on prices.

"I came to inspect the market and see how big the harvest is and whether the price has increased," Zheng said over dinner, with heaps of stir-fried garlic.

Zheng invested 300,000 yuan (C\$59,446) in garlic last year and plans to spend up to two million yuan this year — hoping to recoup some of the 60,000 yuan he lost on the stock market when property shares fell.

"Isn't everybody switching from stocks to agriculture commodities now? It's the trend. Speculating with garlic is similar to stocks, but (physical) garlic is not as unreliable as futures (trading)," he said.

But not everyone gets to share in the spoils.

Garlic farmers see little of the profits once their crops are harvested. They typically sell their garlic for

around 4.4 yuan/kg, according to local official media.

Opaque market

China's garlic market is difficult to track as there is no official data or clarity on acreage and no centralized pricing. That can exacerbate wild price swings as in some of China's other nascent, casino-like futures markets.

And the scale of production in places like Jinxiang is felt thousands of miles from China among rival growers who accuse a hands-off government of failing to regulate the crop or control the "dumping" of cheap exports.

"The Jinxiang government is paying close attention to garlic prices, but isn't regulating and controlling the market. It is trying to guide planting and trade," said a local commerce official who gave only his surname, Li.

Yu Li, a spokesperson, said the Dalian Commodity Exchange has no plans to add garlic futures, and pays little attention to the crop.

As more money pours in, next year's garlic acreage is expected to increase again, potentially squeezing margins, but not by enough to deter investors.

"You can buy garlic pretty much any year and still make money," said Wang Xiaoying, an investor who owns four Jinxiang warehouses.

"If you invest a million, you'll make a million, it's that simple," she says.



Tall stacks of garlic at a market in Jinxiang county of eastern Shangdong.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

CONNECTING RURAL FAMILIES

A rare birth on a Manitoba First Nations

The white bison is considered sacred or spiritually significant in several Native American religions, including Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, which welcomed a white bison calf in early May

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/Brandon

The rare birth of a white bison calf has sparked a new sense of optimism to the people of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

“We have a shared history with the bison. Our people were almost wiped out just as the bison were. So, we have a connection with them and they are part of our culture and are included in many of our ceremonies,” said Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief Vincent Tacan.

In early May, Sioux Valley First Nation reserve, which is located 50 kms west of Brandon near Griswold, welcomed a white male bison calf into its herd of 25.

The calf and its mother are believed to be two of three white bison in Manitoba. The third, Blizzard, resides at the Assiniboine Park Zoo.

“I don’t know what the odds are to have a white buffalo calf. But from what I understand it is pretty rare,” Tacan said. “This is certainly not a fluke of nature, this is not an albino calf. If you look at this calf, its eyes are not pink. It is a true white bison.”

According to the U.S. National Bison Association, one out of every 10 million bison are born white.

The calf’s mother was gifted to the reserve by the Assiniboine Park Zoo in 2009 because of the animal’s cultural significance.

When the white bison first arrived at the reserve, Tacan says that many thought that she would never have a calf. But, despite speculation she calved two brown calves prior to this white calf.

“I am not a veterinarian or bison expert but one of the guys I was talking to thought that this happened because we switched bulls after her first two calves and that the mother’s genes were stronger in this calf,” Tacan said.

Spiritually significant

The white bison is considered sacred or spiritually significant in several Native American religions, a belief that is followed by a number of residents in the Sioux Valley community.

Tacan explains the story of the white bison calf woman, where two Dakota Nation warriors were out hunting and the white bison woman appeared to them in the distance with a herd.

“The story goes that the first warrior had bad thoughts against her and was turned to dust. The other was afraid and the woman told him to go home and get ready and she would come to their camp and have something to share. He went home and got ready and the woman appeared and shared her purpose and taught them the ceremonies and traditions. It is a significant story that our people tell and today, people still follow some of those customs and beliefs.”

Many First Nations in North America believe that a white bison is the most sacred living thing on earth and will often visit the animal for prayer and religious rituals.

The community has seen a number of visitors who have come to view the calf and leave tobacco offerings wrapped in colourful flags that now line the fence of the animal’s enclosure.



Brightly coloured flags and tobacco offerings line the bison enclosure at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE



The white calf and its mother are believed to be two of three white bison in Manitoba. PHOTO: TIM SMITH, BRANDON SUN

“Some people go to a church and speak with a minister or whatever they choose. But in our culture, we take tobacco offerings and flags and hang them at the buffalo site. We have quite a few people who visit the bison, from both on and off of the reserve,” Tacan said.

In Aboriginal culture, the birth of a white bison is also a sign of hope, an indication of good times to come and in many cases it is considered to be a prophetic sign.

Tacan says he isn’t necessarily too spiritual himself but certainly believes the white bison that was gifted to the community in 2009 has brought positive changes.

“Six years ago when I became chief I basically inherited a mess. The

finances were in bad shape and a lot of aspects of the reserve were struggling. I noticed that when the buffalo came in things began to improve and I really do believe that something is going on here,” he said.

“Our debt has been cleared up, we have a better relationship with our surrounding neighbours, we are starting to educate our people on and off the reserve, there are cross-cultural exchanges happening, and we have been able to start a significant economic development project. There have been a lot of positive things happen here and some that I can’t explain but it seems to be going along a parallel track with the bison.”

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“This is certainly not a fluke of nature, this is not an albino calf. If you look at this calf, its eyes are not pink. It is a true white bison.”

VINCENT TACAN
chief of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation



Vincent Tacan, chief of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, is the caretaker of the reserve’s bison herd along with his brother Tony. PHOTO: TIM SMITH, BRANDON SUN



Sioux Valley Dakota Nation welcomed a white bison calf into its herd in early May. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Prairie fare



Does watching cooking shows promote weight gain?

BY JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE



“I am gaining weight just watching this show. These cooking shows must fuel the obesity issue,” my husband commented. We were walking on treadmills side by side at a gym. We had our TVs tuned to the same cooking show. He probably noticed me shaking my head as I watched the show. I tend to shake my head from side to side a couple of times when I can’t believe what I am hearing or seeing. On this particular show, the people went out to a restaurant to try some highly decadent foods, then they returned home to try to recreate the recipes. They ate a huge amount of food twice. At the time of my husband’s comment, they were sipping super-rich malts. I looked down at the calorie counter on my treadmill. I had burned all of 100 calories. Every bite of what they were eating had at least 100 calories. Keep in mind that consuming 100 extra calories per day theoretically could lead to a 10-pound weight gain in a year unless you counteract the extra calories with exercise. The TV cooks would need to walk on treadmills for hours to burn off the calories they just consumed.

As I thought about my husband’s comment about cooking shows and weight, I figured that researchers must have studied the topic. Could making the recipes on cooking shows promote weight gain? The answer is yes, at least according to one study. Researchers used a survey to study the relationship between watching cooking shows and the body mass index of about 500 women ages 20 to 25. The women who watched cooking shows and followed the recipes at home had a higher body mass index. The women who did not follow the cooking shows’ recipes were likely to weigh less. Of course, not all cooking shows promote unhealthy eating. Sometimes these shows are as entertaining as spectator sports. Cooking shows can teach us valuable culinary techniques, introduce us to unfamiliar cuisine and provide ideas to flavour foods without adding calories. However, managing weight can be a challenge with all the tasty temptations around us, especially if you try all the mouth-watering recipes shown on many shows. Moderation is key for many of the culinary creations we see prepared on TV. We all need to eat, and cooking for ourselves gives us more control over what we



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

consume. If weight management or loss is a goal, consider these behaviours based on information from the National Institutes of Health:

- Set goals. Be sure your goals are specific, attainable (doable) and forgiving (less than perfect). For example, “eat more healthfully” is not very specific. “Have a half-cup of raw vegetables for a snack every afternoon” is a specific goal. In fact, we all should be filling half of our plate with fruits and vegetables.
- Use the concept of “shaping.” That has nothing to do with wearing a girdle, by the way. “Shaping” means that you set small goals to help you reach a distant major goal.
- When you meet a goal, give yourself a non-food reward, such as an afternoon off or your favourite DVD.
- Self-monitor your weight, food and/or activity. Some people like to weigh themselves daily, but remember that weight can fluctuate a little every day due to water weight. Write down what you are tracking in a notebook, or use an app on your phone or an online tool on a computer.
- Figure out what cues prompt you to eat.

When you turn on the TV, do you pull out a bag of snacks? If you go out for coffee with a friend, do you always have a treat? Retrain yourself to avoid having extra calories in certain situations. Maybe you could meet your friend for a walk instead of being in a situation where food is present.

- Slow down when you eat. Before you have another portion, pause. Allow your brain a full 15 minutes to get the signal that you have eaten your fill. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/calculateBMI-NIH> if you are wondering what your body mass index is. All you do is type your height and weight. If your BMI is 18.5 to 24.9, your weight is “normal.” If your BMI is 25 to 29.9, you fall in the overweight category. BMI values above 30 are in the “obese” category. Visit with a dietitian or another health-care provider to learn more about weight management.

Here’s a low-calorie side dish perfect for frozen or fresh beans from a farmers’ market or your own garden in midsummer. I truly couldn’t stop eating these when my students tested the recipe, but I did not feel guilty about eating too many green beans.



Green beans make a low-calorie, tasty side dish.
PHOTO: KAMUELABOY/MORGUEFILE

Snap Bean Provencal

- 1 (16-ounce) package frozen green beans
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

Heat the olive oil over moderate heat in a skillet. Add green beans and sauté until heated through and soft textured. Add salt and pepper to taste. Stir in chopped parsley just before serving. Makes eight servings. Each serving (before added salt) has 40 calories, 2 grams (g) fat, 1 g protein, 4 g carbohydrate, 1 g fibre and 0 milligrams sodium.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Jennifer Jackson stretched her legs out and leaned back against the rough bark of the oak tree that towered above her. Bright rays of sunshine found their way through the canopy of leaves and dappled the ground around her. A few feet away her friend Kendra leaned against a smaller tree and a little farther off their horses grazed contentedly on the slope running down to the river. Below them the river ran, placid, but swollen somewhat by recent heavy rains. Birds sang in the woods behind them and a gentle breeze rustled the leaves above them.

“If there is more to life than this,” Kendra broke the silence, “I don’t know what it is.”

“How true,” Jennifer agreed. “I’d be happy to pitch a tent here and never return to civilization at all.”

“Until winter,” said Kendra.

“Obviously,” said Jennifer. “I’m not crazy.”

Kendra plucked a tall blade of grass from the ground beside her and chewed thoughtfully on the root for a moment.

“Civilization leaves a few things to be desired,” she said.

“It does,” said Jennifer. “No word of a lie.” She tipped the brim of her hat forward to shield her eyes from a beam of sunlight that had found an opening through the leaves of the oak tree. “I don’t know who’s going to fix that.”

“Don’t look at me,” said Kendra. “I can barely manage my own problems.”

“You should come to school with me,” said Jennifer. “We should get ourselves properly educated and then we should fix the world.”

“Oh sure,” said Kendra. “That sounds like something I would do.”

“Well someone should do it,” said Jennifer, “and I don’t see anyone else stepping up.”

“Donald Trump seems to be game,” said Kendra. “And he seems to think he can do it.”

“Donald Trump couldn’t save a nickel at a garage sale,” said Jennifer, “never mind the world.”

“But nobody’s going to convince him of that,” said Kendra.

“According to science,” said Jennifer “the universe is 15 billion years old. Human civilization has been around for a hundred thousand years. And now we have Donald Trump. That’s 15 billion years wasted.”



The Jacksons

By Rollin Penner

“That’s a lot,” said Kendra. “That’s almost as much time as my brother wastes playing ‘World of Warcraft’ every week.”

“So maybe we should try to not waste the next 15 billion years,” said Jennifer.

“We could try,” said Kendra, “but that might be a problem for me.”

“Why?” said Jennifer.

Kendra pondered her answer for a second.

“We were at a funeral a few weeks ago,” she said, “and on the way home I said I’d hate to know

what would end up in my eulogy if I died, and Dad said, don’t worry, it wouldn’t be so bad. He said it would say that I was a kind, generous person who had a deep desire to change the world for the better, if only it wasn’t so much work.”

“Wow,” said Jennifer. “Your dad really gets you.”

“I know,” said Kendra.

“What if you could change the world for the better, without doing anything special?” said Jennifer.

“I would definitely consider that,” said Kendra.

“Well then, you should come to university with me,” said Jennifer. “Because even if you never did anything else worthwhile, the world would be better off because there would be one less uneducated moron dragging everybody down.”

Kendra laughed. “I think you just called me an uneducated moron,” she said, “but I’m an uneducated moron, so I’m not sure.”

Jennifer joined in her friend’s laughter. “OK, that didn’t come out right,” she said. She picked up a twig and tossed it at Kendra. “But, if the shoe fits...” she said.

“The shoe never fits,” said Kendra. “But that’s because my feet aren’t the same size.” She paused. “I have no idea what I would study if I went to school,” she said. “And also, I’m really bad at school.”

“It doesn’t matter what you study,” said Jennifer. “Just so you learn stuff. Maybe you’d learn something so interesting that your new knowledge would suddenly give you a whole new direction in life.”

“You’re starting to sound like my mother,” said Kendra.

“Your mother is very wise,” said Jennifer.

“She’s also a bit of a nag,” said Kendra.

“Listen,” said Jennifer getting up and brushing the dried leaves and grass from her jeans. “I just want you at school with me because you’re my best friend and I’m selfish like that.”

Kendra stood up. “Why didn’t you say so?” she said. “In that case, I’m in.”

“Well then, away we go,” said Jennifer. “Making the world a better place.”

“One moron at a time,” said Kendra.

Using carpet bedding in the landscape

The purpose is to create an ornamental design with plants

BY ALBERT PARSONS
Freelance contributor

Traditionally, carpet bedding involved the use of dwarf, compact foliage plants that were planted in intricate patterns and then clipped to maintain their compact form. Purists still refer to carpet bedding only when such plants are used. Over time, however, the techniques were adapted to include dwarf, compact flowering plants and this is the form that best suits the home gardener.

Grand expanses of carpet bedding can be seen in public areas such as the grounds of the provincial legislative buildings and at the International Peace Garden. Although some foliage plants are used in these places, most are flowering plants. While few of us have the expansive properties needed for such grandiose designs, we can play around with the concept and try something on a much smaller scale to suit our own gardens.

Large examples of carpet bed-

ding are best enjoyed if there is a view from an elevation above the beds (like the bridge at the Peace Gardens) but this is not always possible in our home grounds. Locating such a project where it can be seen from the windows of the house will provide such a vantage point. Also, locating the bed within a grassed or hardscaped area will make the design more visible and focus full attention on the design. Locating the bed on a slope would also make the design more visible.

The purpose of carpet bedding is to create a patterned array of plants, an ornamental design that can simulate a mosaic or a geometric design that can be as simple or as complex as you care to make it. The overall effect is created by minimizing the look of individual plants and creating a design that emphasizes the uniformity and tapestry-like appearance of the entire planting.

The plants must be close enough together to create this carpet-like effect and the varieties must be chosen carefully so that they will all knit together



A form of carpet bedding called ribbon bedding, composed of salvia and marigolds, is seen on the left. The island bed on the right showcases dusty miller and fibrous begonias. PHOTO: ALBERT PARSONS

into a smooth, uniform tapestry of colour. Although foliage plants can be clipped, this is a very labour-intensive practice and it might be best to stick to plants that have a predictable growth habit so they will stay dwarf and compact. Choosing plants that all have the same

son and flowering plants that bloom non-stop all summer. Dusty miller, fibrous begonias, dwarf marigolds, vinca, celosia, dwarf ageratum, and alyssum are some good choices. For a small area, probably a maximum of three kinds would be enough to create an interesting design, and two might suffice to create a simple design. Too many different kinds of plants and flower colours will destroy the harmony of the design. Try a silver and green design, a gold and purple one, or a tapestry of different shades of the same colour.

A carpet bedding display must be properly maintained and if individual plants happen to die or fail to thrive, they should be replaced. It is a good idea, therefore, to plant two or three of each variety somewhere to use as spares if they are required. Creating a modified version of this very formal garden element can be an interesting challenge and a fun project. Why not try it?

Albert Parsons writes from Minnedosa, Manitoba

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Little Free Libraries popular in many areas

Program aims to promote reading and build a sense of community

BY DONNA GAMACHE
Freelance contributor

Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange which is becoming popular in many areas. Rather than replacing regular libraries, the program acts as an alternative source of reading material, especially in places without a library nearby.

In January 2016, there was an estimated 36,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide. The majority is in the United States but there are over 70 countries, including Canada, that have some registered. Participants pay a fee and receive a sign with a charter number and a “Steward’s Guide” of tips. They also receive a subscription to a regular newsletter, access to special book offers and the opportunity to have their library added to the program’s map. (The one-time fee varies from US\$42 to \$77, according to what type of sign is chosen.)

The libraries come in different shapes and sizes, since many construct their own, but the common version is a small wooden box with two or three shelves. It must close tightly to protect books from the weather. The sharing aspect applies to everyone, although the steward usually supplies the books at first. Signs often suggest a take one, leave one policy, although it is not essential to leave a book in exchange, and it is entirely on the honour system. If you do borrow a book, try to replace it in the future. “It’s a good way to meet your neighbours,” says one Manitoba book steward.



The Little Free Library in Delta Beach cottage area. PHOTOS: DONNA GAMACHE



The MacGregor little library is in the campground.

Visit the world map at littlefreelibrary.org to see some of the places that have registered libraries. (This is a new map and not all locations got transferred so stewards must re-add them.) Click on Manitoba or use the search bar to find book exchanges near you. This website will also answer your questions if you are interested in starting your own. Manitoba shows about 35 registered libraries on the map including one at Carberry and one at St. Francois Xavier. At Rock Lake Beach a small library was built by a local carpenter, while one

at the cottage development at Traverse Bay has a bench for readers to use.

The little library in MacGregor is in the Lions Campground. It began a couple of years ago as a project at the elementary school, with students choosing something with the theme, “How I Can Make the World a Better Place.” Most were donating money to various causes, but one pupil had read about the Little Free Library program and decided that would be a good project. He constructed a box with shelves, painted it and placed it in the campground, near the

splash park and playground. Most of the books are for children, although a few are adult selections.

The little library in the Delta Beach cottage area north of Portage la Prairie is more oriented to adult fiction. Its creator is a permanent resident there but wanted to provide books particularly for cottagers and campers who frequent the area in summer.

Little Free Library, Ltd. is a registered non-profit organization with a small team of staff and volunteers. It was started in 2009 when a Wisconsin resident built a model of a one-

room schoolhouse, as a tribute to his mother, and filled it with books to give away. The idea was so popular it soon spread. The official mission is: “To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.”

Be on the lookout for little libraries in your area. You might want to choose a book for yourself, or donate one for others.

Donna Gamache writes from MacGregor, Manitoba



This Old Elevator

In the 1950s, there were over 700 grain elevators in Manitoba. Today, there are fewer than 200. You can help to preserve the legacy of these disappearing “Prairie sentinels.”

The Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) is gathering information about all elevators that ever stood in Manitoba, regardless of their present status. Collaborating with the *Manitoba Co-operator* it is supplying these images of a grain elevator each week in hopes readers will be able to tell the society more about it, or any other elevator they know of.

MHS Gordon Goldsborough webmaster and Journal editor has developed a website to post your replies to a series of questions about elevators. The MHS is interested in *all* grain elevators that have served the farm community.

Your contributions will help gather historical information such as present status of elevators, names of companies, owners and agents, rail lines, year elevators were built — and dates when they were torn down (if applicable).

There is room on the website to post personal recollections and stories related to grain elevators. The MHS presently also has only a partial list of all elevators that have been demolished. You can help by updating that list if you know of one not included on that list.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will help the MHS develop a comprehensive, searchable database to preserve the farm community’s collective knowledge of what was once a vast network of grain elevators across Manitoba.

Please contribute to This Old Grain Elevator website at: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/elevators>. You will receive a response, by email or phone call, confirming that your submission was received.



Around 1986, two small elevators in Mariapolis were replaced by a single large elevator just outside of town. The CNR sold the rail line to the Southern Manitoba Railway which subsequently abandoned it and salvaged the track. Photo by UGG Engineering Dept. (Glenn Dickson), 1968.

FARMER'S MARKETPLACE

Selling?

Call to place your classified ad in the next issue: **1-800-782-0794**
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Westman – South of Hwy 1; west of PR 242.

Interlake – North of Hwy 1; east of PR 242, following the west shore of Lake Manitoba and east shore of Lake Winnipegosis.

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ANTIQUE

Antique Equipment

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AUCTION SALES

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Manitoba Auctions – Red River

AUCTION

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SATURDAY, JULY 23RD 10:00 AM

Location: Winnipeg, MB
1076 Oxford St. W

Partial List: Terex Bid-Well 2450 Concrete Bridge Paver *1998 Peterbilt Concrete Mixer *2002 Freightliner 5T Reefer Truck * Heli FG50C 5000lb Fork Lift *2000 Case 9030B Hyd Excavator *1999 CareLift Zoom Boom ZB10055-44 *Grove RT65S 35T Rough Terrain Crane *Concrete Batch Plant w/Concrete Silo, Conveyor, 45ft Van w/Operation Controls. Diesel & Gas Trucks, Large Diesel Generators & Heaters & So Much More!

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JD 772 DH GRADER; 310 Case loader Backhoe \$5000; 1981 GMC 7000 17-ft box & hoist; 1999 GMC T8500, DSL tow truck, 20-ft deck; MF 2675 cab & dozer; Allis 6080 MFD loader, 3-PTH; Ford Major loader 3-PTH; Rotex SR7 Power Parachute as is; Vac tank 1800-gal. & pump; 24-ft deep tillage & harrows. Phone (306)236-8023

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BRIAN FLOWER OF STE. Rose du Lac, MB intends to sell private lands: SW 32-24-14W ; N1/2 32-24-14W; E1/2 33-24-14-W; SE 28-24-14W; E1/2 8-25-15W; N1/2 35-24-14W; SW36-24-14W to Tim and Kayla Peters of Morden, MB who will be considered by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for possible transfer of the Crown land forage lease associated with this ranch unit. This forage lease currently consists of the following: N1/2 2-25-14W; N1/2 3-25-14W; S1/2 9-25-14-W; E1/2 of NE 9-25-14W; Sec 10-25-14W; Sec 11-25-14W; Sec 14-25-14W; S1/2 15-25-14W; NE 15-25-14W; E1/2 2-25-14W; Sec 23-25-14W by Unit Transfer. If you wish to comment on or object to the potential transfer of this forage lease to this purchaser please write to: Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or Fax 204-867-6578.

GORDON, HARVEY, RANDY, RON & Richard Dyck of Winnipegosis, MB intend to sell private lands: E1/2 07-32-15W; E1/2 18-32-15W; NW 18-32-15W; NW 17-32-15W; E1/2 19-32-15W; W1/2 20-32-15W; E1/2 30-32-15W; SEC 29-32-15W; W1/2 32-32-15W; SEC 31-32-15W; E1/2 36-32-16W; E1/2 01-33-16W; SEC 06-33-15W; SW 05-33-15W; SW 08-33-15W; NW 08-33-15W to Larry, Michael, Shailynn & Brad Slepicka, who will be considered by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for possible transfer of the Crown land forage lease associated w/this ranch unit. This forage lease currently consists of the following: W1/2 07-32-15W; W1/2 17-32-15W; SW 18-32-15W; W1/2 19-32-15W; SE 20-32-15W; E1/2 29-32-15W; W1/2 30-32-15W; E1/2 32-32-15W; N1/2 05-33-15W; SE 05-33-15W; SEC 07-33-15W; W1/2 17-33-15W; SEC 18-33-15W; SEC 19-33-15W; W1/2 20-33-15W; W1/2 29-33-15W; SEC 30-33-15W; SEC 25-32-16W; Sec 36-32-16W; SEC 01-33-16W; SEC 12-33-16W; SE 13-33-16W by Unit Transfer. If you wish to comment on or object to the potential transfer of this forage lease to this purchaser please write to: Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or Fax (204)867-6578.

MORDEN SOUTH WEST 1/4 section NW 7-2-6Wpm. Excellent quality farmland for sale. 160-acres, 140-acres cultivated. 80% class 2 soil, D-5 MASC. Contact: Golden Plains Realty Ltd. 1-204-745-3677 Att: Melvin Toews

TRACTORS
Various

REAL ESTATE
Land For Sale

NORMAN AND FERN LUSSIER of Lac du Bonnet MB, intend to sell private lands: SW 1-16-10E; NW 1-16-10E; NE 2-16-10E; NW 2-16-10E; NE 12-16-10E; SE 12-16-10E; SE 3-16-10E; SW 3-16-10E to Rupert and Mary Theurer, of Moose Jaw Saskatchewan, who will be considered by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, for possible transfer of the Crown land forage lease associated with this ranch unit. This forage lease currently consists of the following: NE 11-16-10E; SE 11-16-10E; NW 12-16-10E; SW 12-16-10E. If you wish to comment on or object to the potential transfer of this forage lease to this purchaser, please write to MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0, or fax 204-867-6578.

Pipestone, MB Land Robbie John Denolf of Virden is offering the following private land for sale: NW 29-8-25W, NE 29-8-25W, SW 29-8-25W, SE29-8-25W, SW 20-8-25W, NW20-8-25W, NE 20-8-25W, NW 21-8-25W, SW 21-8-25W, SE 21-8-25W, NE 21-8-25W The successful purchaser will be considered by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for possible transfer of the Crown land forage lease associated with this ranch unit. This forage lease currently consists of the following: NE 21-08-25W, NW 21-08-25W, SE 21-08-25W, NE 28-08-25W, SE 28-08-25W, SW 28-08-25W, NW 11-08-25W, NE 15-08-25W, SE 15-08-25W If you wish to purchase the private land contact Robbie John Denolf, PO Box 715, Virden, MB R0M 2C0

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Help us make the **Manitoba Co-operator** an even better read! Please fill in the spaces below that apply to you. Thank you!

- ☐ I'm farming or ranching
- ☐ I own a farm or ranch but I'm not involved in it's operations or management
- If you're not the owner/operator of a farm are you:
☐ In agri-business (bank, elevator, ag supplies etc.)
☐ Other

Total farm size (including rented land) Year of birth

My Main crops are:	No. of acres	My Main crops are:	No. of acres
1. Wheat	<input type="text"/>	10. Lentils	<input type="text"/>
2. Barley	<input type="text"/>	11. Dry Beans	<input type="text"/>
3. Oats	<input type="text"/>	12. Hay	<input type="text"/>
4. Canola	<input type="text"/>	13. Pasture	<input type="text"/>
5. Flax	<input type="text"/>	14. Summerfallow	<input type="text"/>
6. Durum	<input type="text"/>	15. Alfalfa	<input type="text"/>
7. Rye	<input type="text"/>	16. Forage Seed	<input type="text"/>
8. Peas	<input type="text"/>	17. Mustard	<input type="text"/>
9. Chick Peas	<input type="text"/>	18. Other (specify)	<input type="text"/>
Livestock Enterprise	No. of head	Livestock Enterprise	No. of head
1. Registered Beef	<input type="text"/>	5. Hog farrow-to-finish (# sows)	<input type="text"/>
2. Commercial Cow	<input type="text"/>	6. Finished Pigs (sold yearly)	<input type="text"/>
3. Fed Cattle (sold yearly)	<input type="text"/>	7. Dairy Cows	<input type="text"/>
4. Hog Weaners (sold yearly)	<input type="text"/>	8. Other Livestock (specify)	<input type="text"/>

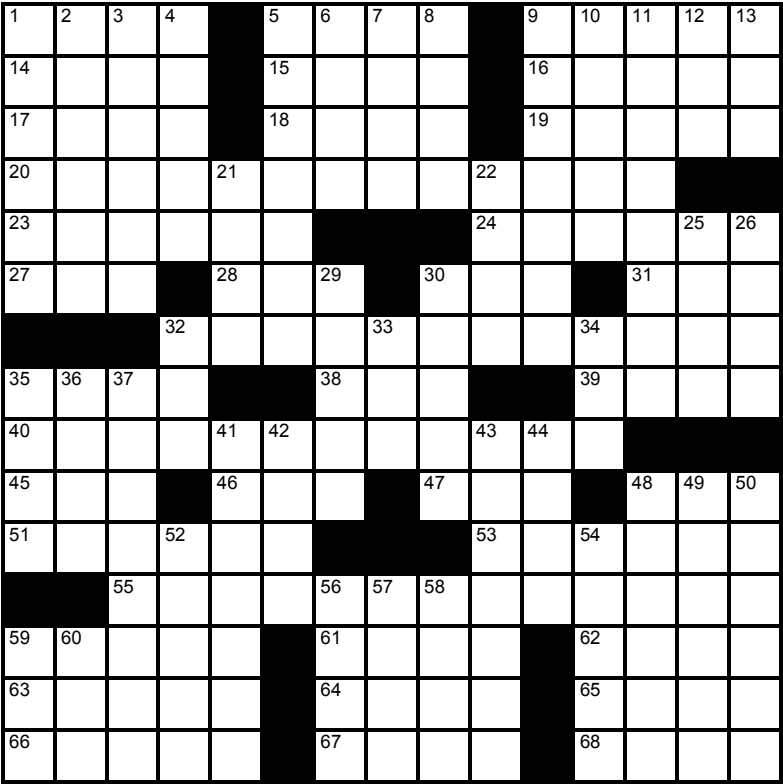
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☐ I PREFER MY NAM AND ADDRESS NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS

Crossword

by Adrian Powell

This is Really Corny



ACROSS

- 1 Supercilious sort
- 5 Insect's feeler
- 9 Goes without eating
- 14 Newborn's head covering, at times
- 15 Slowly shrinking Asian "sea"
- 16 Tibia or Ulna specialist
- 17 Kevin's "A Fish Called Wanda" role
- 18 Adidas rival
- 19 Some things to spend in Oman
- 20 Refuses to listen, in a corny sort of way
- 23 Less refined
- 24 Beam over a door
- 27 Small layer?
- 28 Yoga class need
- 30 Timmie's size, for short
- 31 Cinnabar or cuprite
- 32 Corny covering that looks like a Malamute?
- 35 Shield's raised centre
- 38 Old Sally Field TV role
- 39 SW US tribe members
- 40 Lust amongst the maize?
- 45 Suffix with Japan , Siam and Nepal
- 46 Dancer Adele, to dancer Fred
- 47 The Big Band ____
- 48 Unhappy
- 51 Big, white daisy
- 53 Have ambitions
- 55 Derisive, butter-covered cook-out treat?
- 59 Beelzebub

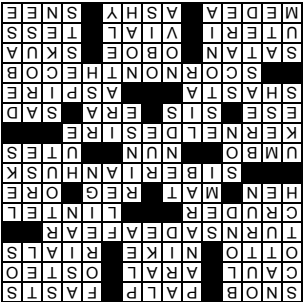
- 61 Double reed wind
- 62 Jaeger's cousin
- 63 Embryos' homes
- 64 Tiny bottle
- 65 "Touched by an Angel" character
- 66 Sorceress who aided Jason
- 67 Kind of unhealthy looking
- 68 Short, antique dagger

DOWN

- 1 Rusty Nail ingredient
- 2 David Suzuki's love
- 3 Defeat in a foot race
- 4 Like many Scandinavians
- 5 On again, off again Mid-east games started in 1953
- 6 Not even moist
- 7 Great Slave, for one
- 8 Legal bargaining subject, perhaps
- 9 From abroad
- 10 Japanese fellow, for one
- 11 Begin
- 12 Israel's ____ Aviv
- 13 Desperate, tapped-out message
- 21 Common Trans-Canada hauler
- 22 Dane's bane
- 25 Something an ancient Manxman spoke
- 26 Albanian dough
- 29 Cares for
- 30 Flush the soap out
- 32 Actor Michael, to Kirk
- 33 McClanahan of "The Golden Girls"

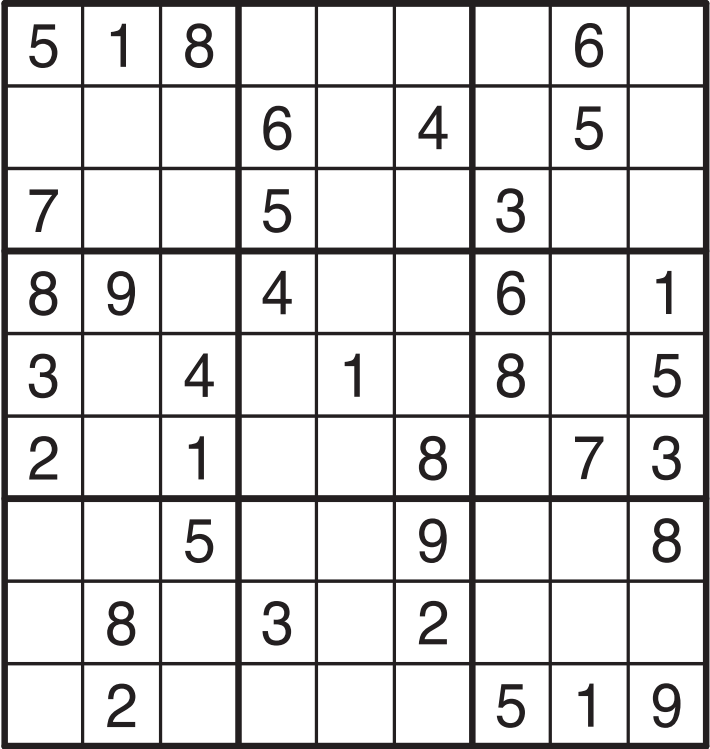
- 34 Interior designer's choice
- 35 Island four-stringers
- 36 Fishnet stocking pattern
- 37 Double-____ suit
- 41 Latvia's neighbour
- 42 Fact fudger, basically
- 43 In an angry way
- 44 First sign of an allergy
- 48 Make queasy
- 49 Stir into action
- 50 Humiliate
- 52 Frighten
- 54 Roaches and termites
- 56 PBS science series
- 57 Kimono ties
- 58 Noted Biblical boatwright
- 59 Simple math problem
- 60 Gorged oneself

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE



TAKE FIVE

Sudoku

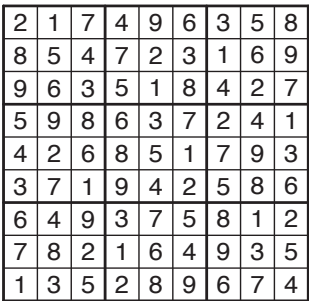


Puzzle by websudoku.com

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Last week's answer



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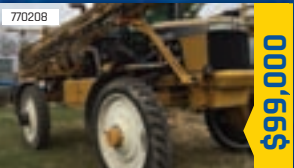




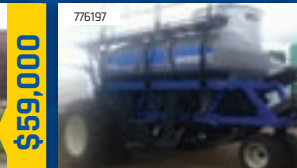
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