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**EXPRESS** 

### Beef sector questions need for transport rules changes

Officials fear new rules will favour public concerns over scientific evidence

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

he beef industry is bracing for changes to cattle transport regulations, fearing they might be based on perceptions rather than sound science.

Current rules require animals be off-loaded after 48 hours of transport for a minimum of five hours and provided with feed and water, unless they can reach their destination within 52 hours. The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency has been working on revisions to the regulations for several years but hasn't given any indication of what might be in store.

But there are fears regulators might be influenced by public concerns that have been created by campaigns by animal rights activists condemning the current rules as inhumane.

"We're not opposed to changes to the transport regulations, as long as those changes are based on scientific evidence and as long as those changes actually contribute to better welfare for the animals," said Rich Smith, executive director of Alberta Beef Producers.

"We don't want changes that are done because somebody thinks

**SEE BEEF TRANSPORT** > page 6

# ON HOLD: Canada's cattle herd has stubbornly refused to grow

High prices made expansion expensive and falling prices have folks nervous — but young producers like Clay and Jesse Williams see only opportunity



Clay and Jesse Williams have grown their herd quickly and the fall in prices hasn't deterred their plans to expand even more aggressively. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BY JENNIFER BLAIR AF STAFF

anada's cattle herd has been poised for expansion for the last two years, but declining cattle prices have put those expansion plans on hold.

"The July 1 inventory showed that we were completely steady with beef cow numbers," said Brenna Grant, manager of Canfax Research Services.

"We did have an increase in beef heif-

ers for breeding purposes — so retention numbers — but we're still well below the long-term average.

"There's no indication that producers are gung-ho to expand."

Canada's cattle herd is currently sitting around 13,205,000 animals, up slightly from 2015's count of 13,035,000. For many producers, last year's drought conditions during breeding season put a halt to any expansion plans, said Grant.

"Some of them who were planning on rebuilding their herds figured they weren't going to have feed that winter." Around the same time, cattle prices peaked and have since been declining steadily

"We're now down 30 per cent from the peak in May of 2015, which is a dramatic drop over 18 months," she said. "We're still falling, and we're seeing that the U.S. market continues to fall as well. That's obviously had an impact on the price signals to cow-calf producers, as calf prices have gone from a high of about \$325 down to about \$200 per hundredweight.

**CATTLE HERD** → page 7

LIVESTOCK **COLUMNISTS** NSIDE » **CROPS** 



**PUTTING RFID** TAGS TO THE TEST

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Alberta now home to an



WHEAT COMMISSION WANTS TRANSPORT **CHANGES** 

Penalties, revenue cap and more interswitching needed

### **CAN YOU AFFORD OPEN COWS?**



It may be time to preg check and cull **FUSARIUM** MARCHES ON



A dry year didn't help slow the spread

**BRENDA SCHOEPP** 

A FARM WOMAN FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

**ROY LEWIS** REVISED BEEF CODE A WIN FOR ALL



**DANIEL BEZTE** CAN WE EXPECT A WARM OCTOBER?

4

# Farm and agri-food employers hail call for foreign worker reform

A new parliamentary report backs their recommendations to fix critical shortage of workers, but will the federal government act on them?

**BY GLENN CHEATER** 

**■** arm employers and food processors are hoping a new report will spur Ottawa to revamp its temporary for-

eign worker program. There are lots of things in the report that are very positive for ag and agri-food," said Mark Chambers, senior production manager with Sunterra Farms and co-chair of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Labour Task

Despite a huge — and increasing — shortage of workers on farms, ranches and in food-processing plants, the federal government has reduced the number of foreign workers companies can hire and upped the paperwork requirements. With numerous other sectors also complaining about the program, Parliament's standing committee on human resources decided a thorough review was needed. Last year, it heard from dozens of groups, including the task force that Chambers co-chairs, as well as labour experts, unions, and foreign workers.

Many of the committee's 21 recommendations echo what his group has been telling government for years, said Chambers.

"It's very encouraging because they've

obviously listened," he said. "Now I guess the million-dollar question is: Will the government look at this report and say, 'OK, these are good recommendations and we'll implement some or all of them.'

"I'm hopeful that they will. We've been speaking to various departments but now you have a review panel saying they have to do something. So now it's not just coming from the industry."

The problems with the program in regard to agriculture are manyfold and that's reflected in the makeup of the task force, which includes farmers from different commodity sectors, food processors, and industry associations. But the common problem they share is that most Canadians don't want to move to a rural area for jobs that are often physically demanding and sometimes unpleasant, such as working in a meat-processing plant.

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council says there are 60,000 unfilled jobs in the farm and food-processing sector and the shortage will reach 114,000 by 2025.

Chambers knows that problem first hand as his company has tried for years to fully staff its hog-processing plant at Trochu. The operation employs 120 people, but needs 10 to 15 more.

"We've still got empty positions and we believe it's costing us significant money," he said. "If we had a fully staffed plant, we could probably capture another \$5 million (a year) in sales revenue. A lot of the value added doesn't get done anymore and so we're basically throwing away food because we don't have enough staff to add value."

Sunterra Meats has been getting a few more applications since the downturn in the oilpatch, but only enough to keep its meatprocessing lines going. What's being thrown away is pig hearts, livers, and lungs.

"You and I may not want to eat those products but there's a lot of overseas countries that see them as a delicacy," said Chambers. "But you need a consistent supply — it's not one of those things you can do one week but not the next. So you need a solid workforce before you can say, 'OK, now we can develop this market."

But since the company has maxed out its foreign worker limit—20 per cent for companies already in the program—it can't recruit abroad to fill those jobs.

This was one of a multitude of issues that farm employers and processors raised with the parliamentary committee. Some are quirky — for example, grain farmers can't use the seasonal farm worker program that's available to vegetable and fruit growers.

"The caveat to that is you have to be on the national commodities list. And grain, for whatever reason, is not on the commodities list so grain farmers can't use this program."

But others are more complex. Chambers and other meat and seafood processors have spent years telling federal officials that the foreign workers they hire should have a "pathway" to citizenship. Highly skilled workers, such as physicians, can easily qualify for permanent residency but it's much more difficult for those "at the bottom of the list" when it comes to job skills.

"We want a pathway for permanent residency even for those at the bottom of the list," said Chambers. "People should be able to come in on a work permit and if they meet all the criteria, become permanent residents."

But the biggest request has been for agriculture and agri-food processing to have its own foreign worker program. And that call, too, was heard by the parliamentary committee, he said.

"One of the things we've been continually pushing for is that ag and agri-food need to be taken out of the regular temporary foreign worker program and have their own robust, stand-alone program that works and would generate pathways to permanency," he said. "And when we look at this report, we see a lot of that in there.

### U of A researcher first Canadian to win major international award

Lorne Babiuk, vice-president of research at U of A, has helped develop six vaccines and made major contributions to animal health

**BY ALEXIS KIENLEN** 

e's helped pioneer the development of vaccines used by livestock producers worldwide, and now he's the first Canadian to be named a World Agriculture Prize Laureate.

Lorne Babiuk, world-renowned virologist and vice-president of research at the University of Alberta, was awarded the prestigious prize in recognition of his lifetime achievement.

'Vaccines, whether for producers or for humans, have saved more lives than any other medical intervention has," he said.

Babiuk, who assisted in the creation of six vaccines for livestock, focuses on the development of vaccines for diseases that can transfer from livestock to humans.

Animal vaccines and the prevention of animal disease has a huge impact on human health and economies.

"The rotavirus vaccine (for E. coli/scours) saves hundreds of millions of dollars a year for producers," he said. "But most importantly, no producer or veterinarian likes to see a young calf

That's doubly true in the developing world "where a lot of these smallholder farmers are living on \$2 a day with four goats," he

'If one of the goats dies, the kids go hungry without any milk to drink. We know that protein and nutrition influence cognitive development, and for the rest of their lives, they could have devastating consequences. It is a hugely important area of research — especially in the developing world."

Though he plans to retire in June, Babiuk, who has been at the University of Alberta since 2007, is hard at work on his sev-



Lorne Babiuk is the first Canadian to be named a World Agriculture Prize Laureate. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

enth vaccine — a five-in-one vaccine to stop pox viruses in sheep, goats, and cattle.

"In the developing world, it's very difficult to maintain a cold chain and keep vaccines refrigerated," he said. "So what we have done is take a virus that causes

lumpy skin diseases in cattle and another that causes goat pox in goats and sheep pox in sheep. They are all pox vaccines and we've been able to show that they are very closely related. If you can make one vaccine, you can protect three different species against three different diseases."

The researchers can put genes from other viruses into the vaccine, so that producers can vaccinate for more than one disease

The vaccine Babiuk is currently working on could also target Rift Valley fever, which is similar to West Nile virus and transmitted by mosquitoes. It is infectious to both humans and animals.

"It is much more virulent than West Nile," he said. "West Nile is a summer picnic compared to the devastation of Rift Valley fever.

"Infectious diseases don't carry passports. With Rift Valley, it could be here tomorrow."

Babiuk's achievements in

virology have made significant contributions to the global livestock industry. He worked on the rotavirus for calves, which other researchers used to create a matching vaccine for humans. He and his team of researchers also developed the world's first genetically engineered vaccine for shipping fever, a disease that previously cost the North American cattle industry about \$1 billion annually.

And he was also part of the team that helped develop the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan in 1975. He went on to lead the organization from 1993 to 2007, and helped turn it into an internationally renowned research centre.

Babiuk will accept the 2016 World Agricultural Laureate award in Cape Town, South Africa on Oct. 18.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

# High costs threaten southern Alberta feedlot sector

Lethbridge County's 'head tax,' WCB premiums, and a looming carbon tax are making his business uneconomical, says a prominent feeder

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

AF STAF

ther cattle feeders in southern Alberta may suffer the same fate as Western Feedlots if a local \$3-per-head tax isn't reversed.

Last month, Western Feedlots — one of the country's largest with 100,000-head capacity at its facilities near Strathmore, High River, and Mossleigh — announced that it would be winding down cattle ownership and feeding operations.

The company said the decision was a result of "the current highrisk/low-return environment in cattle ownership."

"In addition to strong headwinds in the cattle industry, the poor political and economic environment in Alberta are also contributing factors to this decision," said Western Feedlots in a statement.

Fed cattle prices peaked at around \$180 in May 2015 and have since dropped to around \$120 a head. As a result, cattle feeders have seen diminishing returns on cattle bought at those high 2015 prices.

But southern Alberta cattle feeders say there is a deeper issue caused by "regulatory and tax burdens."

"Business needs some certainty," said Rick Paskal, president of Van Raay Paskal Farms Ltd., which has seven feedlots in southern Alberta with capacity for up to 130,000 head.

"When you challenge the intensive livestock industry the way the county has and other governments have, we're really concerned for our longevity in this business."

Paskal belongs to a group of cattle feeders in Lethbridge County who are calling on the municipal and provincial governments to reverse a \$3 'head tax' imposed by Lethbridge County this spring. The



Cattle feeder Rick Paskal, pictured with wife Diana, is worried about competing with U.S. feedlots if Lethbridge County's \$3-per-head tax isn't reversed. PHOTO: VAN RAAY PASKAL FARMS

county said it would raise \$3.5 million annually over 35 years to cover road and bridge maintenance. The tax is expected to increase to \$4 per head in 2017.

"This is not a market issue. We have lots of tools that we can use to help us during market downturns like we're currently seeing," said Paskal.

"This is about uncertainty. We don't know if the tax is going to be \$3 or \$4 or \$14. You couple that with other initiatives from government—Bill 6, the carbon tax—how much is it going to be?

"It's really made us nervous operating in this environment."

Over the past two years, five feedlots in Lethbridge County have closed as a result of Alberta's "high-cost environment," which has been exacerbated by the \$3 head tax, he said. Cattle feeders in the county currently feed around 500,000 head

of cattle, more than half of the cattle on feed in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

But because of the tax, feeders in the area are "concerned about their ability to compete," said Paskal.

"Right now, it's \$5.60 more costly to feed cattle here in Canada than the United States," he said. "The \$3 tax takes us to \$8.60, and they've already said they're going to do \$4 next year — so \$9.60.

"They have found their cash cow, so to speak."

### High costs, low margins

Cattle feeding is already "a small-margin business," said Paskal, and feeders need a business environment where they "don't have to worry about operating costs being so high."

"Historically, if you can secure a \$15- to \$25-per-head profit, you're doing very well," he said.

"When you challenge the intensive livestock industry the way the county has and other governments have, we're really concerned for our longevity in this business."

RICK PASKAL



Paskal noted that the head tax didn't apply to any of Western Feedlots' facilities and said its closure shows how tough it is to make money in cattle feeding.

"Western Feedlots has been in business since 1958. The shareholders of that company are very prominent and credible businessmen," he said. "To be successful in this business, it's not luck—it takes years of good management and hard work.

"I think Western was a well-run operation, but the shareholders looked at some of the challenges facing the industry and made a call."

In addition to the head tax, cattle feeders have also been bearing the cost of mandatory Workers' Compensation Board coverage since Jan. 1 when Bill 6 came into law. In Alberta, feedlots pay \$2.97 per \$100 in insurable earnings, the highest premium possible due to the risk of working with livestock. In the first six months of mandatory coverage, 92 of 356 accepted WCB claims in Alberta came from feedlots.

Prior to mandatory WCB cover-

age, Paskal offered a comprehensive benefits package to his employees in order to compete with the oil and gas industry for labour, and now his costs have gone up even further.

"The government came along, with no consultation with the industry, and implemented Bill 6, and now we have to pay workers' compensation, and we have our own benefits plan. You can't just take that away from people, but we're forced to add another layer of coverage on."

Cattle feeders are also bracing themselves for Alberta's new carbon tax on Jan. 1, 2017, which could cost cattle feeders between \$6 to \$7 a head, according to estimates from the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association.

"Are we going to wake up one day and, bang, there's going to be a carbon tax of \$10 a head, and there's going to be no negotiation with the industry? That's the way that it sounds to me," said Paskal.

"When the shareholders of Western Feedlots hear stuff like that, I know why they pulled up their tent stakes—because of the uncertainty of the business climate in Alberta."

While the cattle-feeding industry is faced with slim margins, the closure of Western Feedlots was "a private business making a business decision," Alberta Beef Producers' chair Bob Lowe said in a statement.

There is still "ample bunk space in the province to absorb the demand to feed cattle," he said.

"We never like to see a buyer leave the market, but thankfully, there are more buyers in the market," said Lowe. "While we are on the downside of the cattle cycle, fundamentally we have a strong, vibrant industry that will adapt to whatever the future brings."

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

### Bill 6 coverage wins prestigious journalism award

or the second year in a row, Alberta Farmer reporter Jennifer Blair has been honoured at the country's premier agricultural journalism awards program.

Blair won bronze in the Weekly Press Reporting category for her December 2015 story entitled *Big Blowup*, which detailed the firestorm of protests which arose following the introduction of Bill 6, which extended workplace safety rules to farms. Blair shared gold in the same category last year with colleague Alexis Kienlen.

This year, Shannon Van-Raes won weekly press gold for one of her stories in a special series on Canada's trade deal with Europe. That series, which ran in two editions earlier this year, featured a comprehensive package of stories from reporters from several publications owned by Glacier FarmMedia (*Alberta Farmer's* parent company).

Madeleine Baerg, a fre-



Jennifer Blair

quent contributor to this paper, picked up two awards for stories she did for Canadian Cattlemen and Farming Smarter. The awards are given out by the Canadian Farm Writers Federation, which represents almost 350 English-speaking agricultural journalists, broadcasters, and communicators from across the country. — Staff



### **Alberta Farmer**

#### FDITOR

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

#### **REPORTERS**

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

#### **CIRCULATION MANAGER**

Heather Anderson

### Email: heather@fbcpublishing.com

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

#### Shawna Gibson Email: shawna@fbcpublishing.com

DIRECTOR OF SALES
Cory Bourdeaud'hui

### Email: cory@fbcpublishing.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES

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

### LOCAL ADVERTISING SALES

Tiffiny Taylor Phone: 204-228-0842 Email: tiffiny.taylor@fbcpublishing.com

#### **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES**

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

#### **ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR**

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

### PUBLISHER

Lynda Tityk Email: lynda.tityk@fbcpublishing.com

### EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Laura Rance Email: laura@fbcpublishing.com

#### **PRESIDENT**

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

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# **OPINION**



# Animal agriculture needs to take this seriously

Synthetic meats are already a reality, and farmers can't assume that consumers will be turned off by the 'yuck factor'

BY GORD GILMOUR

o we need animals to produce meat?
If I'd asked that question even a few years ago, everyone in the room would have assumed I either wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer, or that I'd been reading too much science fiction and was waiting for the "Star Trek" replicators to become reality.

These days though, it's a fair question and it is being asked. A recent article in the *Financial Post* newspaper featured "The End of Meat?" in its title; it painted a challenging picture.

Some say animal agriculture is too environmentally unfriendly at the scale needed to meet expected demand in the coming decades. By 2050, according to one study, every acre of cropland would have to be used to feed livestock, and still the demand would be unmet. And while worldwide meat consumption is growing, it is shrinking in affluent countries of the western world. In Canada, for example, beef and pork consumption has dropped by one-quarter since 1999.

The article outlined a number of recent developments that should worry animal agriculture. Convincing hamburgers can be made from wheat, coconuts, potatoes and a protein known as heme that's made from yeast and is said to make meat taste like, well, meat. There is a milk product that's chemically identical to the real thing, but minus the lactose and cholesterol, slated to hit grocery stores by the end of 2017. A handful of startups is in a race to put the first affordable lab-grown meat into the marketplace.

It might be tempting to simply dismiss these developments as a passing fad. After all, if you lump meat and meat alternatives together, meat replacements, including well-established products like tofu, make up just 0.1 per cent of the market. That's barely a drop in a 260-milliontonne global market for fresh and processed meat.

I have, on occasion, raised this topic with people involved in animal agriculture. Few seem to take it seriously. Most assume that consumer sentiment will run against this development and that the not-insubstantial "yuck factor" will prevent most from making the switch.

In some ways, it's an extension of the mindset long held in a lot of corners of the agriculture industry that folks gotta eat, so they'll eat what they're given. But this could be a game changer.

Ignoring the manufactured meat phenomenon would be dangerously short sighted because it shows signs of being for real. For example, there's some real money behind it. Impossible Foods, the company behind the burger with the protein made by yeast, raised US\$182 million from the likes of Microsoft's Bill Gates and Google Ventures. Clearly, some people with forward vision are putting their money where their mouths are and are betting this will be big. Impossible Foods CEO David Lee vows the company does not "... intend to be niche."

Also consider the issue of animal welfare. Animal industry can argue until the cows come home about the merits of contentious production practices such as sow gestation stalls or battery cages for laying hens, but if the buyers decide to change their terms for buying your product, that pretty much ends the discussion.

It doesn't matter if there's a good reason to do something. If it looks bad on video, is posted on the Internet, and gets a million page views in the first 36 hours, it's just become a black eye for your business. It is your own "yuck factor" and until now, all the business has done is grudgingly make changes, only when forced to by large customers.

So far that strategy has worked as a customerretention strategy. People really like meat, and only a relative handful of consumers seems to be willing to forgo it or pay a premium for a product raised to a certain standard.

But with a credible alternative on the horizon, the choice may now not be meat or no meat. It could be meat or synthetic meat of one type or another. If these replacement products are convincing enough, and consumers feel there are enough reasons to try them, the fallout could be enormous for agriculture.

More than a third of the U.S. corn crop is fed to livestock, for example. If even 10 per cent of that market disappeared, it would mean hard times for grain growers around the world. And what about all that land unsuitable for annual crop production that is currently used for forage?

Nobody knows for sure whether this push will be successful and even if it is, whether the products will be accepted by the market. Lab-grown meat, for example, may prove a bridge too far for many. Or they could gobble it right up.

One thing that is clear, however, is that we're well beyond the realm of science fiction here. This is science fact.

gord.gilmour@fbcpublishing.com



### Countering the misconceptions about agriculture

### People need to be told about the strict standards and rigorous testing that takes place before pesticides are approved

**BY CAM DAHL** PRESIDENT OF CEREALS CANADA

was recently being interviewed by a reporter from Toronto when she made a startling statement about crop inputs that "even one molecule of these chemicals can be dangerous."

That statement is, of course, completely wrong. But this is a common point of view that threatens the social licence of modern agriculture. All of us involved in agriculture must work together to counter this misperception.

Warfarin is an example that clearly demonstrates the importance of "how much." Warfarin is taken by millions of people every day to help manage heart conditions. When the product is used as a drug it saves many lives. But a little higher dose? Then Warfarin becomes what it was originally designed to be used for — rat poison. The dose, or 'how much,' is clearly important.

The science behind product approvals in Canada is not well understood. This is problematic. This lack of understanding is why we have seen the rise of pesticide bans in some provinces. This is why some countries can get away with using pseudo-safety concerns to restrict trade. It is why products like glyphosate are viewed with skepticism by some consumers, despite the fact that glyphosate is one of the most studied crop inputs in use today.

Glyphosate provides an interesting example. In fact, glyphosate is much safer than many things found in your kitchen cupboards. LD50 is the common measure of the toxicity of a substance. The lower the number the more toxic the

product. The LD50 of common baking soda is 4,200 mg/kg. The LD50 of vinegar is 3,320 mg/kg. The LD50 of glyphosate is 5,600 mg/kg. In other words, measured scientifically, both baking soda and vinegar are significantly more toxic than glyphosate.

Unfortunately science will not win the hearts and minds of urban consumers. It will be hard to convince people that the vinegar they just put on their fries is actually quite a bit more toxic than many common pesticides. However we can, and must, work together to help build Canadians' confidence in our strong science-based regulatory system.

Canada's science-based regulatory system is one of the strongest and most rigorous in the world. Canadians should not only feel some national pride in the competence of our scientists, they should also take great comfort in the effort and rigour that delivers one of the safest food supplies in the world.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (part of Health Canada) employs more than 350 scientists whose sole purpose is to conduct evaluations of new pesticides and re-evaluations of products that have been on the market for some time. A potential new pesticide must go through over 200 different health and environmental studies before approval is given for use.

Our regulatory system is precautionary. Canadian legislation requires a tenfold margin of safety before products are registered. This means potential exposure must be 10 times below the levels that have been scientifically shown to be safe. Canadian legislation and regulation specifically ensure that new products are

safe for everyone including the most vulnerable in society, like pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

Agriculture needs to do a better job of getting the word out on the rigour of our science-based system. Governments too must do a better job of communicating, in plain language, the measures taken to ensure that Canadians are safe. But this is not just a communications exercise. We must do more.

'Science based' applies to more than just government policy. This is also the basic foundation of best management practices on the farm. Pesticide labels provide a good example of the importance of this foundation. The labels on pesticides come out of the rigorous science-based process at the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. These labels are based on extensive scientific analysis and we rely on this research to ensure that farm inputs do not have a negative impact on human health or the environment.

Best practices require a good understanding of the labels on every product used on the farm. Rigorous adherence to science-based labels protect farmers and modern agriculture in general. By sticking to the label guidelines farmers help preserve and promote public trust in the science-based regulatory system.

'Public trust' is the most important tool we have to ensure that we preserve a strong objective and science-based regulatory system and avoid a descent into opinion-based regulations. Regulations based on the latest trend on the Internet will result in more and more unpredictable restrictions that stifle innovation and ultimately strangle modern agriculture.

# **OPINION**



# She is not lost – she is beginning

It was never meant to be this way, but now there is a need to reflect on the past, make peace with the present, and look towards the future

BY BRENDA SCHOEPP

he sits at the old kitchen table — a cold cup of coffee in her hands.

The room glows with soft morning light on the papered walls of the home she has come to love. Her heart aches for it seems impossible that she should lose or leave this sanctuary — this place she has called home. The sounds of the children playing in the yard seem distant. Surely they are laughing, swinging in the trees, and chasing butterflies. She thinks of that sound now. Will it be replaced by the constant noise of the city?

She can hear a mother cow softly call to its calf and the sweet songs of the morning birds. A tractor starts in the yard and an auger rumbles away. The horses will soon have babies, too, and she longs for the long slender legs of life to unfold. The chickens are happy as they always are — farm bosses ready to let the world know what they think of these glorious days.

It all seems so normal — so blessedly normal — that she cannot picture her life any other way.

She scans the room for photographs of their beginning, and the progress they made building this farm. The simple home repaired repeatedly, the huge garden that sustained them in winter, and the aerial photographs of 'then and now.' Her eyes rest on the faces of the women who farmed before her — those strong and enduring characters with hands for the sick and for the task of harvest. They went without a great deal of comforts or rest and seemed to be OK with much of their circumstance. Did they ever wish for something different?

She thinks of him — the man she was certain to grow old with.

What happened to their story? He has hurt her in ways she never imagined. Was she to blame? Or did life just turn mouldy and slowly take away the dreams she thought they once shared? The women next door, the Internet chatter, the lies, and all those missing moments that are now totally irreplaceable. How often she sat here alone in complete and utter confusion trying to piece her life back together like the patchwork quilt that her grandmother had made, the one which still covers their cold and lifeless wedding bed. She is afraid.

The animals have always been in her care and she cannot leave them now. The very tiles on the floor beneath her feet hold

the history of their lives and the generations before them. Every tree and flower blooms from the care of her hand. There are families who come to play with their children. There are roots so deep that she cannot imagine lifting her feet to walk out the door. Her body is weighed down by the reality of the day and despite the warming sun, she shivers in her quiet space — wishing for the sadness to leave and life to begin again.

It does at some time begin again. It begins in the unconditional love of her children who will thrive and survive wherever they are because they, by nature, embrace the cycle of life. It begins with the helping hands who commit to loving her creatures and continuing with their care. It begins when she separates her being from her belongings, and begins to see the possible within that lightness. It begins when she stops believing the lies will disappear or the cycle will break, and accepts that her partner has made another choice.

She can run this farm and may. She can leave this farm and may. She does not know at this point what the final outcome is of this now fragmented relationship — she only knows she was part of building something great and that together they

provided a beautiful space for the children's formative years.

A good farmer, she knows those plants and creatures in her care flourished. An honourable woman, she knows she prayed and stayed until the day came when the truth threaded its way into these very walls, shattering her fragile heart. A good friend, she has not been unkind or demanding, just reflective.

It is late and the sun is resting at the 12th

She sits alone with cold coffee in hand making peace with their history and celebrating her victories in life. She forgives herself and feels the possible. It draws her in. And as the final shadows of the day tuck themselves into the corners of those papered walls she gives thanks: for her journey, for her people, for the farm.

The floors and walls will record her presence for future generations and other hands will toil over this old table. Birds will sing. Children will play. Hearts will heal. She is not lost — she is beginning.

Brenda Schoepp is a farmer from Alberta who works as an international mentor and motivational speaker. She can be contacted through her website www.brendaschoepp.com. All rights reserved. Brenda Schoepp 2015

# Innovation must continue to drive farm equipment manufacturing

Smarter government policy that reduces administrative costs and lowers trade barriers can play an important role

BY LEAH OLSON, PRESIDENT

AGRICULTURAL MANUFACTURERS OF CANADA

nnovation, Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains says he wants to make innovation a core Canadian value because it's "the path to growth, the path that leads to a stronger middle class and higher-quality jobs." Canada's agricultural equipment manufacturers have known this for years. In fact, innovation is at the heart of Canadian agriculture, shaping agricultural practices and creating opportunities since European settlement in the late 1800s.

The agricultural equipmentmanufacturing industry has progressively developed as an entity separate from commercial or industrial manufacturing. Central to this evolution was the need to develop agricultural machinery capable of meeting the challenges of the Canadian climate. This drive for innovation was critical to farmers who struggled with foreign equipment designed for smaller farms and less arid conditions. These same challenges have enabled Canadian agriculture equipment manufacturers to be global leaders in the development and production of high-quality, durable and innovative machinery.

In 2015, agriculture equipment manufacturers exported \$1.8 billion worth of products to 154 countries. The U.S. represented 82 per cent of this. Innovation is what drives the industry to develop some of the best agriculture equipment in the world. But we can't rest on our laurels. Agricultural Manufacturers of Canada members help drive the Canadian economy and are global leaders in innovation. It's why changes to the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) and the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) programs as well as opening up international markets are integral to Canada's innovative future.

Innovation is crucial if we want to address global issues such as overpopulation, and increase food production by 60 per cent to feed more than two billion extra people on the planet by 2050. AMC members are entrepreneurs who are helping feed the world. The agriculture industry will need to produce more with less and Canadian farmers are at the forefront of meeting this challenge. AMC's members continuously develop innova-

When it comes to the SR&ED tax credit, administrative costs associated with it are increasingly burdensome, resulting in research and development becoming more challenging.

97

tive technologies and manufacture products that enable us to be leaders throughout the world.

Small and medium-size enterprises benefit greatly from the IRAP program. Often, it is the difference between launching an innovation, leaving it on the research floor or launching without due testing, however, IRAP should be expanded to cover production and marketing costs of projects in order to help grow the industry and contribute to an innovative economy.

When it comes to the SR&ED tax credit, administrative costs associated with it are increasingly burdensome, resulting in research and development becoming more challenging. The process to make a submission to the program needs to be streamlined if the objectives of the program remain to reward innovation.

Often, those applying for the SR&ED credit will pay anywhere from \$30,000 to \$100,000 to get the application done. If one assumes 10 applicants hire external consultants for their submission, the combined amount could be upwards of \$1 million going into administration costs rather than innovation itself. Perhaps it is the cost of doing business but these are dollars AMC members would rather see invested into R&D.

In today's globally connected world, international trade and opening of new markets is critical to Canada's success. Minister Bains recently said in a speech that "as a country made up primarily of small businesses, (he'd) like to see more than 10 per cent of them exporting, and to places other than the U.S." Our members agree. Ratifying the Trans-Pacific Partnership and making investments to promote interna-

tional trade and to bring international buyers to Canada are essential to continued growth.

AMC members lead the world on intellectual property of agricultural equipment. Innovation happens every day because our members are talking directly to farmers and responding to their needs by further refining and enhancing their products. For Canadian agricultural equipment manufacturers, innovation is not just a way of being or something that happens in an isolated facility, it is in how we manufacture and manage day-to-day operations. It is what drives the industry to develop some of the best agricultural equipment in the world. As one of our members says so eloquently, "We're not putting a man on the moon, but we are helping put breakfast on the table.'

The government must act now to ensure that the Canadian agricultural equipment-manufacturing industry remains innovative and strong.

Leah Olson is president of the Agricultural Manufacturers of Canada, a national industry association fostering and promoting the growth and development of the agricultural equipmentmanufacturing industry in Canada.

### **BEEF TRANSPORT** ➤ from page 1

our current times are wrong or because Europe is doing something different. We need to look carefully at how the regulations are doing right now."

The average length of long-haul trips in Canada is about 16 hours, and 95 per cent of cattle spend less than 30 hours in transit, he added.

However, there are few Canadian studies addressing animal welfare while in transit, said Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, senior research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

"Feed, water, and rest intervals are an area that a lot of people are interested in on a welfare basis, but we don't have a lot of work done on that area," she said. "We're assuming that resting for longer periods of time is better, but we don't really know where that line sits.

"The regulations say five hours, but they haven't really tested any other times. Where they set those numbers really wasn't based on any science at the time. We really need that research to inform what those should really be."

It's understandable that trucking of livestock has become a public issue, said Smith.

"Transportation of livestock is highly visible, and for a lot of people in the cities, sometimes the only time they see livestock is on a truck," he said. "So they have concerns that it puts stress on the animals and potential for injuries. We share those concerns. We are actively conducting research on the best methods for the animals in terms of timing.

"But we're not convinced from a scientific perspective that taking animals off a vehicle for a short period of time in a strange location and then putting them back on actually reduces stress compared



Federal research scientist Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein found that cattle begin displaying signs of stress after 28 to 30 hours in transport. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

to having them continue the trip and get to their end destination sooner."

### European rules

People often point to European standards for cattle transport, which require that animals receive one hour of rest for every 14 hours in transport, with a maximum duration of 28 hours.

But Canadian producers need regulations that make sense for Canadian conditions, said Schwartzkopf-Genswein.

"We don't want to be so drastically different from those, but we also want to make sure that they meet the requirements of our country and the standards in which those transports take place," she said.

"We don't want something that's imposed by somebody that doesn't have the same conditions that we do. We have to be careful about that. We need to do the work and the comparisons and come up with what those numbers should be based on the

transport of animals within our own country."

Brady Stadnicki, policy analyst with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, agrees.

"If there's going to be regulatory changes made, they need to be based on science that's relevant to Canadian conditions for transport and, wherever possible, outcome based for the animal itself," said Stadnicki.

"In order for us to support a reduction in hours in the regulations, there would need to be clear science that's done under Canadian conditions that shows there's benefits to the animals being transported and that outcomes would be improved.

"At this point, there isn't research saying that shorter trips and more times loading and off-loading are more beneficial."

In fact, a study from Colorado State University (among others) suggests that off-loading and reloading causes increased stress and injury to animals, added Schwartzkopf-Genswein.



"If there's going to be regulatory changes made, they need to be based on science that's relevant to Canadian conditions."

BRADY STADNICKI



"Are we imposing more welfare issues on them by off-loading them? Depending on what the CFIA regulations will be, we might have to off-load them multiple times before they reach their final destination. Those things have to be considered when we come up with those numbers."

#### Canadian studies

Schwartzkopf-Genswein has begun some of that Canadian-based research, through a large benchmark study of 6,500 animals that explored the relationship of shrink — a key sign of stress — and transport duration.

"What was found was that the 28- to 30-hour mark was when we really saw the conditions of the animals were indicating that they were stressed," she said. "This tells us that transport shouldn't

last much longer than that point without food, water, or rest."

Schwartzkopf-Genswein also found that 99.95 per cent of animals on trips greater than four hours arrived at their destinations injury free, while 99.98 per cent of animals on trips four hours or shorter arrived without injury.

That shows the current regulations are doing their job, said Stadnicki.

"The research that's currently been done has essentially told us that outcomes are really positive in our industry," said Stadnicki, adding that young calves or cull cows are more susceptible to stress or injury during transport than healthy, sound cattle.

"We're always looking to improve, but if there's really wide-sweeping changes that change how transportation is being done in the industry, it's more likely to reduce our number of positive outcomes rather than increase on what we're already delivering right now."

The CFIA needs to take that into consideration before making any changes to cattle transport regulations, added Smith.

"They need to make sure that the changes they're implementing actually make things better for the animals," he said. "Cattle producers care deeply about the health and welfare of their animals, and we do everything we can to minimize stress and injury in transportation.

"We do have a shared concern, and as long as we can work together with the lawmakers and the CFIA to make sure that any changes that are made are based on science and actually make things better for the animals, we'd support that."

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com



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### **CATTLE HERD** ▶ from page 1

"Producers are looking at profitability for the signal to expand being back in line with what we saw in 2012."

Cow-calf producers are still profitable today — but not nearly as profitable as they were a year or two ago, she added.

"Producers are very aware that prices are declining. The question that everyone is asking right now is, 'How low can prices go, and when are we going to get there?'"

In previous cycles, it typically took almost two years for prices to bottom out.

"We're looking at probably mid-2017 or early 2018 before prices bottom out," said Grant. "For many producers, they need prices to bottom tomorrow."

### Riding the downturn

Falling prices may drive some producers out of the industry altogether — particularly older ones nearing the end of their farming careers.

"Our demographics are older producers who are looking at slowing down and getting semiretired," said Grant. "They're going in a different direction than a young producer who really sees a future for the beef industry in Canada and sees the potential and opportunities of trade agreements that are coming in.

"Given the demographics of our industry, we definitely need young people who see the opportunities not just in the coming cattle cycle but in future cattle cycles as well."

And young producers need to start building their herds with those future cycles in mind.

"If they're going to get in, they have to say, 'OK, I'm going to expand my herd, but it's going to be a slow and steady expansion over the next 10 years, because the next time the peak comes, I'm going to be ready.""

But in order to ride the downturn, young producers need a solid business plan.

"It's not impossible," said Grant.
"Sometimes we can talk in the industry like it's impossible, but there are definitely success stories out there from young producers who have done it."

The key is knowing per-unit

"Know what it costs you and

know what your profitability and your margins are in your operation. A low-cost producer is definitely still seeing profits and still seeing a good signal to expand even now. As prices decline, they need to know the point when they're not going to be profitable anymore."

### Aggressive expansion

That's what Clay and Jesse Williams have done on their cow-calf operation near Hanna.

"Prices are lower than they were in 2014, but I think if you manage your operation right and keep your costs of production down, it's not unprofitable — it's just less profitable," said Clay Williams.

The Williams started operating Whiskey Creek Ranch in 2012, right at the start of the upturn, and have since grown their operation "pretty aggressively" by about 40 head a year.

"This year, the prices have come down pretty hard, but in the years leading up to this, the market has been pretty strong and working in our favour, and that allowed us to keep back enough animals to grow our cow-calf herd," said Clay.

A lot of that was luck, he admitted, but the couple also "analyzes things quite intensively."

"We made some smart decisions, and we made some lucky decisions," he said.

For instance, the Williams didn't expect yearlings to do well this year and decided not to buy any.

"That educated guess turned out to be a profitable one," Clay

The couple also keeps detailed records of their per-unit cost of production so they can take advantage of any potential savings that come up.

"We try to analyze everything," said Jesse. "You can't manage what you don't measure. We have pretty extensive — probably obnoxious — records so that we can make those decisions on where we can cut and where we

For some things — like bulls — the Williams "do spend more money than other people," but only if they know that investment will pay off.

"We know exactly where we're spending our money, rather than just assuming cost of production,

which I find a lot of ranchers do," said Clay. "We know exactly how many dollars are put into each cow in order to get a certain dollar. We'll do the math on it to prove it. If we can't prove it on paper, we're not going to do it."

That helps the couple make herd decisions as well, added Jesse.

"If we have a cow that's constantly needing treatment or that's constantly costing us money in one way or another, we can get rid of the more expensive cows and know which ones make us more money."

By keeping their costs low and tracking their exact cost of production, the couple has started to work toward a "pretty aggressive" five-year plan. Over the next two years, the Williams will be building their yard, corrals, and pens so they can start backgrounding 150 replacement heifers every winter.

"We're planning on using that to grow our cow-calf production ultimately to 500 head of cowcalf," said Clay. "We'll pretty much be growing as fast as we can find grass for it." And in some ways, the downturn will help with that, he added.

"As a starting-out cow-calf producer, this downturn will be tough, but it's also an opportunity for us growing our herd, as there will be some cheaper, good-quality animals that a person can get a hold of that can build your herd," he said.

"We've made the decision that we wanted to grow our herd for the long term," added Jesse. "We're in it for the long term, not the short haul."

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# Ample hay supplies increase the benefits of storing bales properly

Protecting hay that won't be fed until the winter of 2017-18 could save you \$70 a head in winter feeding costs



Cattle will waste more hay if it's weathered and there can also be a big drop in digestibility and nutrient levels. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

### ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

Protecting hay from weather damage can significantly reduce the cost of wintering

Adequate moisture conditions in most of the province have resulted in larger-than-normal yields resulting in bigger stacks and rows of hay bales. If the winter is normal and cow numbers remain static, there could be a large surplus of hay carried over into the summer of 2017 and fed in the winter of 2017-18.

"When hay is carried over the course of a winter, bales weather and lose both weight and quality," said provincial beef and forage specialist Barry Yaremcio. "This poses the key question of what kind of value losses occur when storing the bales outside unprotected from the elements?"

Research on over-winter outdoor bale storage done in the Westlock area found a 5.7 per cent reduction in bale weight over the first winter. A 1,400-pound bale in July would weigh 1,320 pounds the following spring. (The bales were stored in an area that was higher in elevation compared to the surrounding area and the grass was mowed prior to bringing the bales onto the site.)

Other research reports indicated that weight loss can be as high as 15 per cent (210 pounds for a 1,400-pound bale). If snow is trapped between the bales and if the water does not run off during spring melt, there can also be significant water damage.

"Weathering also affects the acceptability of hay to livestock," says Yaremcio. "Cows will reject or waste up to eight per cent more feed from bales stored unprotected outdoors as compared to bales

placed under a tarp or stored under a shed."

Bales stored outdoors tend to squat or flatten out during storage. The total surface area of the bale in contact with the ground and exposed to rain increases, adding to the weather damage over time. Digestibility of the weathered hay can drop 10 per cent compared to hay protected from the elements.

This loss in consumption and digestibility is further compounded by leaching losses of protein and soluble sugars (energy).

"Nutrient losses are greater from the leaf portion of the plant compared to the stems," said Yaremcio. "Weathered hay can test two to three per cent lower in protein (hay that tested 14 per cent after baling can be 10 to 11 per cent the following spring), and energy 20 to 50 per cent lower (TDN value of 63 per cent after baling can be as low as 45 to 55 per cent).

"If the winter is variable with many freeze/thaw cycles, damage will be greater than in winters that are constantly cold."

### Protecting hay

Bales made with net wrap withstand weather better than those made with twine. Net-wrapped bales can have 10 per cent damage whereas bales made with twine can have 18 per cent damage. Hard core bales with high density (heavier bales) are packed tighter and shed water better than bales with lower density (lighter bales). Soft core bales sustain more damage than hard core bales.

Weather damage to the outer layers of the bale significantly impacts overall bale quality. A five-foot-diameter bale with four inches of deterioration affects 23 per cent of the total bale weight. Overall quality is reduced significantly even if it appears that a small layer of the

bale is damaged. "Spending time to prepare a bale storage site, covering the bales with a tarp or plastic, or placing bales under a shed will provide an economic advantage especially if a portion of this year's crop will be carried over into next winter's feeding period," said Yaremcio. "If a 1,400-pound bale is valued at five cents a pound or \$70 per ton, weight loss of 5.7 per cent, a reduction in acceptance (increased waste) by eight per cent, and a 10 per cent loss in digestibility increases the 'cost' of providing the same amount of nutrients to the cow at \$89.65 per bale.'

If a 1,400-pound cow is fed 40 pounds of hay for 125 days it requires 5,000 pounds (3.6 bales) of "non-damaged/protected" hay for the wintering period. The cost of the undamaged hay at \$70 per bale is \$252 per head for the 125 days

"Using the values mentioned above, unprotected hay with the associated weight loss, reduction in quality and increased waste, the cost of providing the equivalent amount of nutrients from the hay and accounting for the losses increases the cost to \$322.74 per head," said Yaremcio.

"The difference in feeding cost is \$70 per cow when associated quality and yield losses are considered when storing hay outdoors unprotected from the weather. Harlan Hughes from North Dakota State University calculated that a \$1 reduction in winter feeding costs would improve overall profitability of the operation by \$2.48."





# CBOT wheat futures slide down to a 10-year low

Downward movement comes after a very clear technical signal presented itself on the charts

**BY DAVID DROZD**AG-CHIEVE CORP.

he Chicago Board of Trade nearby wheat futures have moved \$1.65 (all figures U.S. funds) per bushel lower since a reversal pattern appeared on the weekly nearby futures chart on June 10, 2016.

This formation is referred to as a harami on a candlestick chart. It occurred at the height of the spring rally, indicating the market was about to turn down. The harami is similar to an inside day used in bar chart analysis. However, this interpretation suggests a waning in momentum and a possible trend change.

Japanese candlestick charts allow the viewer at a casual glance to spot technical strength and/or weakness by highlighting the relationship between the open and the close for each line (candle). The candlestick method gives you deeper insight by utilizing numerous interpretations for intra-line activity. Hence, the user has a timely advantage in spotting key market turning points for all time frames.

This harami also occurred right after the market failed to push through overhead resistance at \$5.25 per bushel. Reversal patterns are all the more reliable when they materialize after a market has had an extended move up in both price and time, and have rallied into an area of resistance.

### Resistance

Resistance is a term used to describe a price level where the selling of futures contracts is expected to noticeably increase and at least temporarily halt the current direction of the market. On charts, these areas will appear as well-defined areas of price within which the market at some previous time halted the advances. The greater the amount of time spent and the number of contracts bought and sold at this level, the greater will be the potential for resistance in the future. Referencing the accompanying chart, the area in and around the \$5.25 price level halted the advance on seven occasions (weeks) from August to November 2015.

Another characteristic which helps to gauge the relative resistance of a price area is the vertical distance the market must rise prior to reaching the area in question. The greater the upward price move prior to reaching a resistance level, the greater will be the resistance.

### Market psychology

Resistance areas evolve when the offering of contracts for sale increases. The concept of resistance and the market's reaction when it moves into a resistance area are among the most interesting facets of chart study. Where a classic formation may not appear on a chart for several months, one can be reasonably sure that there is always a resistance area, even if minor, not very far from the market. This is important because it can help one formulate expectations of future price action.

The wheat futures chart I am referencing has an example of prices rallying into an area of resistance, only to turn around and proceed lower. Occurrences such as this are commonplace on futures charts, but are extremely important as they illustrate where future rallies are likely to fail

Grain producers can benefit from accurately identifying areas of resistance. These areas are helpful in determining when to make an incremental sale, setting targets for grain pricing orders, and for locking in the futures portion of a basis contract.

Producers should be on guard for reversal patterns at areas of resistance, as this reinforces the odds of a market downturn. Successful marketers must be constantly searching the charts for as many clues as possible. The more evidence one can muster to support a technical conclusion, the more reliable that conclusion is apt to be.

Send your questions or comments about this article and chart to info@agchieve.ca.

David Drozd is president and senior market analyst for Winnipeg-based Ag-Chieve Corporation. The opinions expressed are those of the writer and are solely intended to assist readers with a better understanding of technical analysis. Visit Ag-Chieve online at www.ag-chieve.ca for information about grain-marketing advisory services, or call us toll free at 1-888-274-3138 for a free consultation.





10 NEWS >>> MARKETS

OCTOBER 10, 2016 • ALBERTAFARMEXPRESS.CA

### CANOLA DOCKAGE ISSUE OFF THE TABLE FOR NOW

Canada and China have struck a deal on canola dockage that will keep dockage levels at 2.5 per cent until 2020. China had planned to lower that to 1.0 per cent this fall, saying it feared that blackleg in dockage posed a threat to its domestic canola production. Canadian canola officials have said studies have already shown there is no danger as all of the canola seed goes straight to crush plants. But under the deal, scientists will do additional research on the issue. Analysts have said China's stance was likely linked to high domestic stockpiles. — Reuters

### IRAN POISED TO BE WHEAT EXPORTER

Iran will soon be exporting wheat, says the country's president. "We had a good year that led Iran to stop importing wheat," said Hassan Rouhani. "We are planning to export wheat in the coming months." Iran has been a major wheat importer in recent years as the country aimed to guarantee local food supplies, although its needs have varied partly due to erratic domestic production. Iran's Agriculture Ministry said in June that 4.2 million tonnes of wheat had been bought from domestic farmers this year in state-sponsored purchases, a 20 per cent increase from the same period last year. — Reuters

# **MARKETS**



# U.S. soybean crop outlook keeps dragging on canola

Prairie canola harvest issues also loom large

#### BY DAVE SIMS

CE Futures Canada canola contracts were down roughly \$5-\$6 per tonne during the week ended Sept. 30, in sympathy with the weakening soybean market. The canola market was also dragged down by the advancing harvest in Western Canada as well as selling pressure from hedge companies and overall export uncertainty.

No one seems to know how much canola China will buy from Canada in the months to come, despite a recent agreement of how much foreign material the Asian country will accept in Canadian canola imports. The question is an important one, as China typically buys 40 per cent of the Canadian supply.

Volatility in the vegetable oil market was also bearish for canola. Speculation continues to grow that South America's soybean crop will be very large.

Seasonal harvest issues are on the tops of everyone's minds. The wet weather Western Canada has experienced this past summer and early fall has caused delays in the harvest and prompted concerns over quality. Estimates also vary over how much canola Canada will produce, as some analysts believe Statistics Canada's recent model-based production estimate, which called for 18.3 million tonnes to be produced, was too low. Others say it can't be relied upon at all.

Whatever the case, farmers are reportedly selling off the combine as cash canola is one of the few commodities giving them a decent return.

Demand for Canadian canola is steady, as crushers operate at one of their fastest paces in recent memory. Bargain hunting from end-users early in the week was a feature as the open interest on the charts steadily grew.

Down in the U.S., Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) soybeans lost roughly 20 cents during the week as yields continue to impress across the Midwest while prospects grow for a massive South American soybean supply. As of Sept. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were 197 million bushels of soybeans

grown in the U.S. — the highest level in five years, but still down from average trade estimates.

Corn hung steady during the week as wet weather crimped harvest efforts, while signs continued to point toward a record U.S. harvest. USDA reported U.S. corn stocks, as of Sept. 1, at 1.738 billion bushels. While that's the highest level in 10 years, it was still below market expectations and gave the market a bit of a boost.

Chicago wheat prices suffered a tiny loss due to ample world supplies and downward technical signals. USDA pegged the country's wheat supplies, as of Sept. 1, at 2.527 billion bushels. That was the largest since 1987 and near the high end of trade guesses.

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

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

99

### U.S. wheat shippers putting lousy 2015-16 behind them

American wheat sales are rebounding after abundant low-cost supplies hit them hard last season

BY KAREN BRAUN

A lthough it has been dogged by a lot of doom and gloom of late, the U.S. wheat market may be finally starting to see a break in the clouds.

Last season, it seemed that the United States just could not sell any wheat, and without the sales, domestic wheat stocks ballooned to the largest volume in almost 30 years.

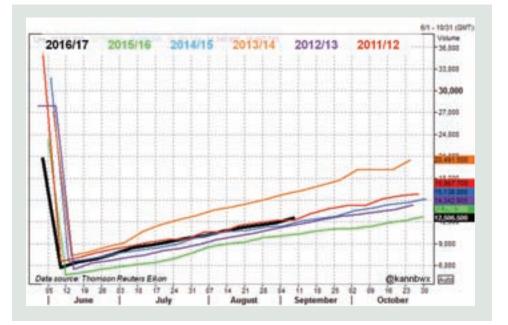
Between June 2015 and May 2016, the United States — once the world's breadbasket — shipped the lowest quantity of wheat since 1971-72. With the world full of wheat, the premium cost of the U.S. product had sent buyers elsewhere.

But the situation has changed. Data through Sept. 1 shows that wheat sales in the current season, which began on June 1, stand at the second-highest level of the previous five seasons.

Actual shipments thus far in the 2016-17 marketing year are off to a better start than the previous two campaigns. Weekly inspection data implies that the United States shipped about 100 million bushels of wheat in August, a very respectable amount compared with the last few years.

The fact that the world has become inundated with wheat in recent seasons did not help U.S. wheat trade last marketing year,





especially since buyers had cheaper options available. But now the price is much more favourable for the U.S. grain.

Since early 2015, the U.S. dollar index has been elevated to levels not seen since the early 2000s, which has also made domestic wheat a tougher sell. Luckily for U.S. grain sellers, the

dollar has now weakened compared with the start of this year.

The price of U.S. wheat, particularly the soft red winter variety grown in the eastern part of the Wheat Belt, has recently become competitive with its foreign rivals, especially those in Europe.

Between June 2015 and May 2016, the United States — once the world's breadbasket shipped the lowest quantity of wheat since 1971-72.



World wheat supply will likely grow this year compared with last year, as other key producers have turned up yet another huge crop.

The United States faces stiff competition with Russia and Ukraine, which together comprise the world's largest exporting region, accounting for one-quarter of world wheat exports last year. Russia's wheat crop has easily set a new record, while Ukraine has nearly tied its record crop.

Russia's cause will be helped even further by the elimination of the wheat export duty, to take effect on Sept. 15 and last through July 1, 2018, so Russian sellers will be extra eager to find customers.



### **FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT, SAYS CCA**

China's decision to allow bone-in Canadian beef from cattle under 30 months of age is another positive sign for the industry, says the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. The move, expected to boost exports by \$10 million per year, and the recent expansion of access to Mexico and Taiwan is increasing opportunities for Canadian beef producers, said CCA president Dan Darling. "If we can also get the Trans-Pacific Partnership implemented and viable access to Europe, the long-term potential should send the right signal for beef producers to increase their herds. We can produce more beef with confidence if we know markets will be open to purchase it." - CCA

### USDA BOOSTS TRANSPARENCY IN CATTLE MARKETS

The USDA will require meat packers to report cattle purchases made through online auctions, a move that stoked traders' hopes for more transparent markets. This will include the Fed Cattle Exchange, which differs from other auctions by providing an eBay-like platform for producers to sell their cattle to packers, instead of selling animals on behalf of producers. The decision is the latest effort by government and industry officials aimed at improving transparency in cattle markets, which have come under heightened scrutiny following a sharp setback in prices in the second half of last year. - Reuters

# LIVESTOCK

# Can you afford to feed open cows this winter?

High prices have more than covered winter feeding costs, but now it may pay to preg check and cull

**BY JENNIFER BLAIR** 

regnancy checking cows in the fall could save producers up to \$250 a head in winter feeding costs—but is it really worth

"Over the last 10 years, it really hasn't been," said Brenna Grant, manager of Canfax Research Services. "But there is a threshold, at about \$1.02 per pound. If prices are lower than that, it encourages producers to preg check and cull in the

Cow prices in the later part of September were sitting around \$1 per pound, Grant said during a Beef Cattle Research Council webinar

late last month. 'That means we're right on that threshold of where it makes sense for producers to take a really hard look at their own costs to determine what's going to make sense on their

own operation," said Grant. "We have seen prices peak in 2015, and we're actually seeing prices coming down. So does preg checking now actually become economically viable?'

Despite the cost of overwintering open cows, the 2015 Western Canadian Cow-Calf Survey showed that only 60 per cent of producers preg check their cows, although that is up from 49 per cent from the 1998

The higher price of cows each spring has "really discouraged preg checking over the last 10 vears," said Grant. "The price of cows is a really big determinant of what you're going to do.

'Producers in Western Canada who have been overwintering their cows have received, on average, prices 25 per cent higher in the spring than the previous fall, so producers have really not benefited from preg checking with these increases.

Because cull cows make up between 15 to 30 per cent of a cow-calf producer's income, conventional wisdom is that open cows should be preg checked and then sold to avoid winter feeding costs, said Grant.

'The management of cull cows is not an insignificant aspect of a producer's income," she said.

"But the value of a cow in a cow-calf producer's operation is dependent on a number of parameters... including his type of winter feeding management and the length of the feeding

"The economics of preg checking are really dependent on the cull cow market price, but also the winter management system."

The type of winter feeding system impacts not only yardage and feed costs, but also the average daily gain of the animals, she



"We have seen prices peak in 2015, and we're actually seeing prices coming down. So does preg checking now actually become economically viable?"

BRENNA GRANT

"That's going to play a role on how much of an advantage or disadvantage you have keeping those culling cows in the fall is." cows over the winter.'

### Running the numbers

The average cost of production varies from around \$1 to \$1.80 per day, depending on the winter feeding management system

"Over a 160-day feeding period, producers can save anywhere between \$155 and \$240 per open cow identified and culled. Obviously, producers who feed longer, say 180 days, are going to have larger gains," said Grant.

The cost of feed accounts for around 60 per cent of a producer's total winter feeding costs, she

"The higher a producer's feed

and overwinter costs, the more favourable preg checking and

But cow performance can offset that, she added.

"You may have low feed costs, which makes it look like it would be attractive to feed and sell in the spring, but if your average daily gain is minimal, that offsets some of the advantage."

Those numbers vary based on the type of winter feeding system used. In a drylot mixed hay system, the average cost of production is around \$1.78 per cow per day. To break even, the cows need an average daily gain of around 1.2 pounds per day, but cows generally see an average daily gain of 1.44 pounds on that system, which "really favours selling in the spring."

A swathed barley grazing system has an average cost of production of \$1.22 per cow per day, with a breakeven of 0.7 pound average daily gain per day and an actual average daily gain of around 0.58 pound.

"In that system, you actually have a lower average daily gain, so this means it really favours preg checking and selling in the fall, said Grant.

Bale grazing, on the other hand, has a cost of production of 98 cents per cow per day, so to break even, cows only need around 0.5 pound average daily gain per day.

"In bale grazing, even though it's vour lowest cost of production at less than \$1 a day and it has a very low break-even average daily gain as a result, you can actually have quite good average daily gains of about 0.88, and that again encourages selling in the spring," she said.

Ultimately, your decision will rest on the goal of your winter feeding system, said Grant.

"Is it to actually add pounds, or is it simply to maintain those cows? If your goal is simply to maintain them, you're not looking for these average daily gains and selling in the fall may be what's best for your operation.

A calculator for determining the economics of preg checking on your operation can be found at www.beefresearch.ca.

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

### Preg checking: Which method is right for your farm?

There are three methods to choose from, and each of them have pros and cons — as well as different costs

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

ith cattle prices falling, it could pay to preg check your cows this fall — but which method should you choose?

The method that best suits your situation will really depend on the management of your herd, your geographic location, potentially even the year," said Dr. Jessica Gordon, an assistant professor at the Ontario Veterinary College.

Rectal palpation — which involves a veterinarian inserting a gloved hand into a cow's rectum to feel for the fetus — is the most commonly used method in Western Canada. But blood tests and rectal ultrasounds using a hands-free probe are becoming more common, Gordon said during a Beef Cattle Research Council webinar.

Each method comes with some pros and cons, she said.

Rectal palpation, for instance, costs about \$5 a head and doesn't require special equip-

ment — "anyone can buy plastic sleeves and lube from your local farm store.'

"But the skill required takes a lot of time and practice to really be efficient and effective at it. It takes palpating thousands of animals before the accuracy is quite good," said Gordon, adding experienced practitioners can have an accuracy rate of 99 per cent.

Rectal ultrasounds work a little like human ultrasounds, by taking an image of the fetus, she said.

"At 35 days, it may not look like much that's easily identifiable as a calf, but we can get a picture of the heart, and we can actually see those valves moving," said Gordon. "We can make sure the heart rate is good and that the heart seems to be functioning properly. That helps us determine the viability of that fetus.

But it's often the costliest option for preg checking, at between \$5 to \$10 a head.

"Some practitioners think this saves so much wear and tear on their arm that they're willing to offer it at the same fee as rectal palpation," she said, adding it's also

But practitioners require an ultrasound unit (which is "fairly expensive") and the skill to accurately read the ultrasound screen.

"It does require a fair bit of practice to be able to master this skill, but it can be upwards of 99 per cent accurate," said Gordon. "Because you're able to look for that fetal heartbeat and you can see exactly what's in the uterus, you get a little bit more accuracy than you can with rectal

Blood tests are a relatively new tool for preg checking, and as such, some on the market have "questionable" accuracy, said Gordon, adding a test called BioPRYN is the "most promising" one currently available.

"The cost is about \$5 per head, but again, that's going to vary greatly based on where you are because it requires shipment to the lab," said Gordon, adding producers can buy kits that include everything they need to do the test.

Unlike the other methods of preg checking, blood tests don't require a veterinarian, making it the most cost-effective option for a small herd or for farms not located near a veterinary practice. But results from blood tests may take up to a week and may give a false positive, she added.

"The accuracy of this test is about 99 per cent for open cows and 93 per cent for pregnant cows, which means if the test says the cow is open, it's going to be right 99 per cent of the time," she said. "If the test says the cow is pregnant, it's going to be right 93 per cent of the time, which means seven per cent of the time, it's going to be wrong."

Producers will need to choose the best method for their herd based on their own operation.

'The type of pregnancy checking you choose to use might vary from year to year or group to group on your farm," she said. "You have to discuss with your veterinarian to really help you choose what's the most appropriate for your situation — what's going to give you the best bang for your

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

### Alberta now home to world-class RFID tag testing lab

### Lots can go wrong with plastic ear tags when it's really cold and the new SAIT lab will help reduce the incidence of tag failure

BY JEFF MELCHIOR

A liberta is now home to an internationally certified laboratory for testing the radio frequency identification (RFID) tags used to track livestock across the value chain.

The lab, located at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's (SAIT) Applied Research and Innovation Services (ARIS) department in Calgary, is one of only three certified animal RFID testing labs in the world and the only one in North America. It is also one of two labs capable of testing tags at temperatures of -35 C and below.

SAIT's decision to seek International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) certification was driven by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's new testing framework which requires tags be tested in an ICAR-certified lab capable of testing tags at -35 C. This also allows animal tag manufacturers to certify locally rather than in Europe.

This is important for the country's animal traceability efforts, said Paul Laronde, tag and technology manager for the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency.

"In other parts of the world, they test tags at room temperature or a little below, and that's fine, but in Canada we know producers apply tags in winter conditions," he said.

"They leave tags out in their trucks in the winter and in some cases that could be -35 C or below. Tags are plastic for the most part and plastic loses elasticity the colder it gets so they become brittle, less flexible, and when you try to apply them it takes more force."

### Cold weather woes

An RFID tag works in conjunction with an RFID reader and each tag carries a globally unique number allowing the animal to be tracked from its point of origin to either its point of export or carcass inspection using the Canadian Livestock Tracking System database.

"A reader is essentially a box with an antenna connected to it," said Laronde. "Inside the box is some circuitry that talks to the tag by sending out an electromagnetic wave that powers the tag up. The tag absorbs the energy and with that energy it sends back the unique number on its microchip."

There is a regulatory approval process administered by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency for cattle tags that takes place before tags can be sold to livestock operators. The SAIT lab is a part of this process.

The lab looks at two main areas of tag functionality, said Bob Davies, project lead and quality manager with ARIS.

"One is electrical: Can we read the RFID part of the tag? There's also the tag assembly — how it goes into the cow's ear and how it stands up mechanically."

A couple of things can go wrong in very cold weather, he said.

"One is they can come apart. The other is they just don't apply very well. The tag is very brittle and the force required to apply the tag to the cow's ear is very high," said Davies.

"We test things like how much force is required to couple a tag together. We also take a look at the force required to decouple the tag. When the tag comes apart, it has to be very evident that it was used

before. For example, the male part gets left inside the female part of the tag so it can't be reused."

Although tag failure is not common, when it does happen it can have a significant impact across the value chain, said Davies.

"If you have a failure rate of two per cent, you have to multiply that two per cent by the cost of tracing that animal back when it goes into the slaughterhouse without a tag. It's significant enough for CFIA to implement its own framework for testing."

### Internationally certified

SAIT's decision to become an RFID testing facility came about from discussions with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, CFIA, ICAR, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency.

"We were aware that tags had to go to Europe, which increases the time for getting samples over there and getting information back. It was also quite expensive," said Laronde.

"Someone suggested that perhaps there should be one in Canada and that SAIT had an appropriate facility. The conversation started with them and there was interest. We decided they had the facilities, knowledge, and personnel to set the lab up to meet the ICAR standard."

To receive ICAR accreditation, the test lab also had to be accredited by the International Standards Organization, which establishes worldwide standards. Armed with approximately \$500,000 in funding from the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, SAIT proceeded to achieve ISO approval in 2012 and ICAR accreditation in February of this year.

"We turned this lab into a onestop shop for CFIA's required testing," said Davies.



Bob Davies, project leader and quality manager with the SAIT Applied Research and Innovation Services department, at work in the school's newly certified RFID test lab. PHOTO: SAIT



www.albertabeef.org

# 2016 FALL MEETING & ELECTION SCHEDULE

ZONE 1	(MEETING 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)			
OCT 26	MEDICINE HAT, FEEDING COMPANY			
OCT 27	BROOKS, BOW SLOPE SHIPPING			
ZONE 2				
OCT 24	FORT MACLEOD, SOUTHERN AB LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE MEETING 7 p.m., FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.			
NOV 1	PICTURE BUTTE, COMMUNITY SENIORS CENTRE (607 HWY AVE) MEETING 7 p.m.			
ZONE 3	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START)			
OCT 25	CROSSFIELD, COMMUNITY CENTRE			
OCT 26	COCHRANE, HERITAGE CENTRE			
NOV 3	STRATHMORE, CIVIC CENTRE			
ZONE 4	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)			
OCT 24	VETERAN, COMMUNITY HALL			
OCT 26	CZAR, COMMUNITY HALL			
OCT 28	HANNA, LIONS HALL			
OCT 28 <b>ZONE 5</b>	HANNA, LIONS HALL  (ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)			
	·			
ZONE 5	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)			

ZONE 6	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)
OCT 25	BRETON, COMMUNITY HALL
OCT 27	CAMROSE, REGIONAL EXHIBITION
NOV 1	PONOKA, LEGION HALL
ZONE 7	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)
NOV 1	HAZEL BLUFF, COMMUNITY HALL
NOV 2	ANSELMO, COMMUNITY HALL
ZONE 8	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)
NOV 1	SANDY RAPIDS, COMMUNITY HALL
NOV 2	VILNA, SENIOR HALL
NOV 3	MINBURN, COMMUNITY HALL
ZONE 9	(ALL MEETINGS 7 p.m. START FREE SUPPER 6 p.m.)
NOV 1	GRANDE PRAIRIE, HOLIDAY INN
NOV 2	FAIRVIEW, DUNVEGAN INN
NON 3	VALLEYVIEW, MEMORIAL HALL

AN ELECTION IS BEING HELD IN ZONE 3



# The revised Beef Code of Practice a win for everyone

Everyone involved in the cattle industry should keep a copy handy and consult it frequently

#### **ROY LEWIS DVM**

here has been a lot written about the revised Beef Code of Practice, which was released in 2013 and was the first revision since 1991.

It is most definitely worth a read, whether you are a beef producer, transporter, marketer, nutritionist, veterinarian, or are involved with the cattle industry in any way. At 56 pages, I know it may seem long, but there is something in the document for everyone and the table of contents makes it easy to follow and find specific sections relevant to you.

As a veterinarian, I learned a few new things and it will, no doubt, get you thinking of others. The document also looks to the future, especially as it pertains to animal welfare. And while there are some hardand-fast rules coming regarding castrating and dehorning, these types of changes are all for the better and will benefit cattle production — both from an economic and animal welfare perspective — well into the future.

This column will deal with the animal welfare deadlines and briefly discuss some of the most important points (and others of interest to me). But as I mentioned, it is worth printing out a copy and having it on the coffee table or other prominent place for everyone to peruse. This is a national document.

Regarding animal welfare, I have seen Dr. Temple Grandin quoted many times saying that the cattle prod should be used no more than five per cent of the time. If you need to prod more than one animal out of every 20 or if there is too much vocalization, then there is either something wrong with your handling facility or you are abusing the prod. Use the prod as the last resort only after other methods have been tried.

We often use flags, paddles, or rattles more when handling cattle and the new paddles are ergonomically easy to carry plus they don't bruise the cattle. I have often said that in good handling facilities, the biggest problem is keeping cattle split up, as they want to follow the leader.

Good facilities should have traction to minimize cattle trips, slips and falls. When processing, we monitor slips out of the chute and sometimes it is simply a matter of having dried manure or sand available to throw down in front of the chute. There is often funding available to upgrade tub systems, chute systems as well as loading or unloading facilities.

For more general health conditions, you should establish an ongoing VCPR (Veterinary Client Patient Relationship) with your vet so he/she can advise on treatment, animal welfare issues, vaccination protocols, and many other things which

Good facilities should have traction to minimize cattle trips, slips and falls. When processing, we monitor slips out of the chute and sometimes it is simply a matter of having dried manure or sand available to throw down in front of the chute.

57

keep your herd healthy and productive. Prevention is far better than treatment.

Your veterinarian can also advise as to when appropriate painkillers or anti-inflammatory medication are necessary. The NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are in greater use today because they make our patients more comfortable, are more affordable, and there are several on the market that have specific uses. Use them where necessary under your vet's guidance.

Since the beginning of the year, the code requires that you use pain control when dehorning after the horn bud is attached or when castrating bulls greater than nine months of age. By offering pain control, animal welfare is improved and your cattle will perform better. So the economic cost of the pain control products will be

returned to you manyfold. This is a very good rule.

We also need to think of when and how we castrate in order to not lose production, minimize risk, and minimize discomfort. Some may use NSAIDs, others will want to incorporate local anesthesia, and some will use both. As of Jan. 1, 2018, the age for effective pain control in castration drops to six months of age. Again, these are very easy goals to reach and you will find that pain medication on calves of any age is a good thing.

Many producers are now giving painkillers to bull calves when castrating at branding and most give them to all calves branded. NSAIDs are coming down in price and there are easy methods of administration available. Having been in practice for over 30 years, I have seen the vast improvement in recovery times when NSAIDs are used for any surgical procedure, including castration.

The different methods of surgical castration are also coming under close scrutiny by researchers. The banding techniques which eliminate blood loss as a positive have drawbacks of a greatly increased risk of tetanus as well as increased stress during the period when the scrotum is about to fall

off. Castration with the knife in combination with clips or tying the cords and NSAIDs may make a comeback when doing older bulls. As a rule castrating at as young an age as possible (i.e. rings at birth) is the least stressful and if we augment that with implanting, gains should be similar as leaving them as intact bulls.

The dehorning guideline is a good one but polled bulls are looking after most of our dehorning issues and for those who use horned bulls, using paste or electric dehorners before the horn bud is attached does a better job and is less stressful. The big keystone dehorners and burdizzos for castrating should essentially become relics hanging in the barn. They remind us of how far we have come in the cattle industry.

I believe we are way ahead with these changes to the beef code and the industry will be better off and more profitable as a result. Progress is good.

Everyone in cattle production should give the beef code of practice a read, and keep it around as a reference source or a training document. It also has tons of contact numbers — such as producer groups, cattlemen's associations, and animal care groups across the provinces. To obtain either a hard or electronic version, go to either the CCA website (www.cattle.ca) or the NFAC website (www.nfacc.

And tell all your fellow producers. By adhering to the guidelines in it we are definitely moving in the right direction when it comes to animal welfare

Roy Lewis practised large-animal veterinary medicine for more than 30 years and now works part time as a technical services veterinarian for Merck Animal Health.





### Rumen management for best herd productivity

### Consistency of feeding is essential in creating a healthy, productive rumen

BY JENNIFER PAIGE

aking high-quality beef from forages requires an active and healthy rumen to break down those tough fibres, and you can foster these microbes that are the key to herd efficiency.

One of the most important things to realize is that as you feed your cattle, you're also feeding the rumen bacteria. Keeping the feed steady keeps them ready to spring into action, according to Greg Penner, an associate professor with the University of Saskatchewan's faculty of animal science.

"If we are looking to promote rumen health, one of the first things that we need to make sure we are doing is providing the cattle a consistent supply of dry matter and adequate nutrients so that they have the tools required for them to do their job," Penner said.

Penner has been working on a number of research projects that focus on developing nutritional strategies to enhance the health and productivity of cattle. He's found rumen health is an important component and their health depends heavily on how cattle are fed.

"There is no way we can talk about rumen health or rumen function without the importance of cattle actually consuming feed," Penner said.

Minimizing variation of feed and nutrient intake across dates is vital in providing consistency within the rumen as it allows for an active but regulated rumen microbial population.

With more consistent feeding systems, rumen microbes see less variation in fermentation characteristics.

The fermentation process within the rumen is important because as the rumen digests feed, microbes within the rumen ferment and grow, which in turn produce valuable protein.

"When those microbes are fermenting that feed, it is giving them energy and essential nutrients so that those microbes are able to grow. As they grow they are producing byproducts, short chain fatty acids, the most valuable source of protein for cattle," Penner said.

Roadblocks in achieving a consistent supply of dry matter and nutrient intake occur mainly during exposure to adverse weather, calving, transportation events or extreme temperatures.

"In terms of preventing or trying to remedy intake variation, if you can identify a potential problem and focus on management strategies that minimize the impact on intake, that will achieve the greatest rewards for your operation," Penner said. "If we have a situation where we know those cattle were not housed under ideal situations, we need to focus on how to transition them to get back on feed as fast as we can so that we can maintain rumen health and ensure adequate productivity."

Penner says current data suggests it takes cattle up to three weeks to return to regular rumen patterns following a feed disruption.

### Industry standards

In recent years Penner has worked in partnership with the Beef Development Centre to study ruminally cannulated cattle on extensive winter feeding systems to see what really happens in the rumen.

Three different groups of cattle were looked at, a herd grazing on

barley, grazing on corn and swath grazing on barley.

The cattle were all given the industry-standard distribution allotment of three days and researchers monitored rumen pH levels.

Penner says they saw rumen variation in all of the grazing systems, with consistently dropping pH levels that caused substantial variation in nutrient supply across days.

"In both corn- and swath-grazing approaches we can see huge variation in rumen pH levels among days in the same groups of animals," Penner said. "Emphasizing, that even though we are following industry standard recommendations, we are feeding our cattle in a system that allows for substantial variation in nutrient supply across days."

### Dependent sectors

According to Penner, producers in the cow-calf and backgrounding sectors may be more dependent on achieving an effective rumen, in comparison to other cattle sectors, because cattle in these sectors rely on the protein rumen microbes produce as their main source of protein.

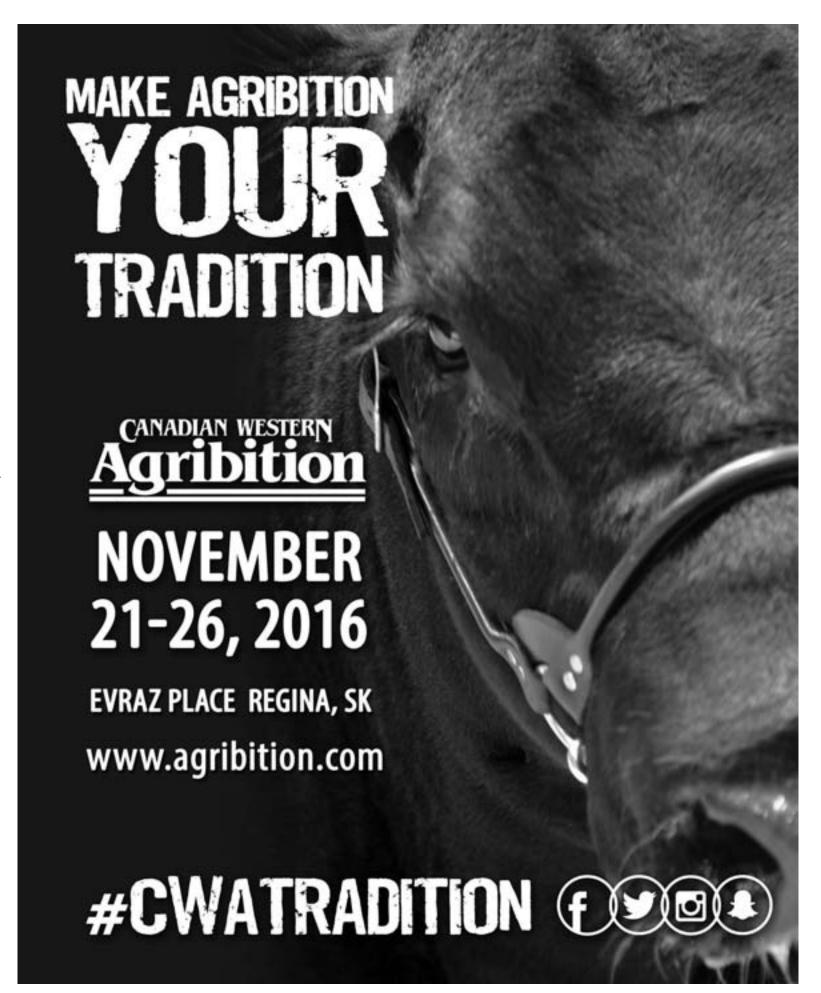
"If you are in the cow-calf side or the backgrounding side adequate rumen capacity will be an issue. Especially, under western Canadian conditions or conditions where you are feeding low-quality forage residues or cereal grain residues," Penner said.

Besides providing stability at feeding time, he says producers can look at other management areas to provide further stability that will support rumen health, such as, good husbandry and bunk management, promotion of nutrient absorption, monitoring grain processing and restricting access to extensive feeding systems to ensure cattle don't overindulge.

jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com



Greg Penner, associate professor with the University of Saskatchewan faculty of animal science, says to achieve a productive rumen, producers need to focus on consistency. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE



### U.S. FLOOD PATTERNS UNCHANGED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

U.S. flooding patterns have shown some regional changes but no countrywide shift despite heavier rains spawned by global warming, says a new study. The study analyzed records from 345 stream gauges, covering 70 per cent of the lower 48 states, from 1940 to 2013. The biggest changes were in the Upper Mississippi Valley, northern Great Plains and New England. But most of the U.S. saw no major change since 1970 in terms of flood frequency, peak magnitude, duration and volume compared to the earlier 30-year period. — Reuters

### LOWERING EMISSIONS NOT ENOUGH

The planet could pass a key target on world temperature rise in about a decade, say scientists. Last December, 195 nations agreed to try to hold world temperature rise to "well below" 2 C, with an aim of 1.5 C. But the planet is already two-thirds of the way to that lower and safer goal, and could begin to pass it in about a decade, according to the U.K. meteorological office. Scientists say it will probably be necessary to remove some carbon pollution, either by planting forests; carbon capture and/or untested 'geoengineering' techniques, such as blocking sunlight in the atmosphere. — Thomson Reuters Foundation

Canada

# WEATHER



# Can we expect a warmerthan-average October?

September on the Prairies was mild in the east and average out west

### **BY DANIEL BEZTE**

Tith the first month of fall now in the books, it's time once again to take a look back at the previous month's weather, then look ahead to see what might be in store for us in October.

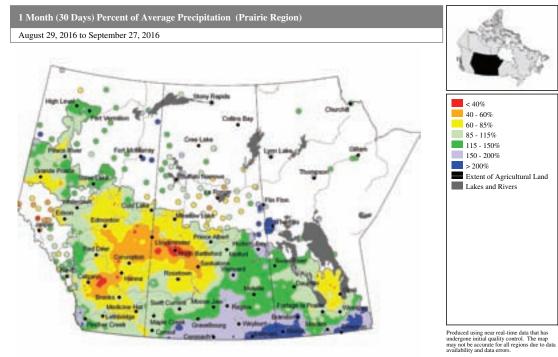
If we take September 2016 as an indication of how the rest of this fall will be, it looks like most of the fall forecasts we looked at back at the beginning of September will be pretty spot on.

Starting off in the west, Alberta saw a September that could best be described as average, at least when it came to temperatures. The Calgary region was the "hot spot" with a mean monthly temperature of 11.2 C, which was 0.2 C above the long-term average. The Edmonton region was the "cold spot" at least in regards to its long-term average, recording a mean monthly temperature of 10 C in September, 0.2 C below average. Finally, the Peace region recorded a mean monthly temperature of 9.6 C, right on the long-term average. September was fairly dry over the southern two-thirds of Alberta, with both Edmonton and Calgary seeing a little more than half their longterm average amount of rainfall. Farther north, it was wetter, with the Peace seeing about 10 mm more than average.

Moving into Saskatchewan, we're seeing temperatures warming up a little bit, both in actual terms and compared to average. Saskatoon recorded a mean monthly temperature of 11.8 C, 0.4 C above average. Regina had a mean monthly September temperature of 12.6 C, 0.8 C above average. The Saskatoon region was a little drier than average in September with about 25 mm of rainfall, while the Regina region was a little wetter with about 54 mm.

The eastward warming trend continued into Manitoba during September. The Brandon region was Manitoba's "cold spot," with a mean monthly temperature of 12.7 C, 0.9 C above average. A little farther north in the Dauphin region, September's mean temperature was 12.8 C, which was 1.1 C above average. Finally, the

1 Month (30 Days) Percent of Average Precipitation (Pra August 29, 2016 to September 27, 2016



This issue's map shows the total amount of precipitation that fell across the Prairies during the month of September as a percentage of the long-term average. The southernmost parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba were the wettest, while central and eastern Alberta, along with northwestern Saskatchewan, were the driest.

Winnipeg region was the Manitoba and Prairie "hot spot" in September, with a mean temperature of 14.4 C, 1.7 C above average. Precipitation during September across agricultural Manitoba varied, with both the Winnipeg and Dauphin regions seeing drier-than-average conditions, while Brandon was wet, nearly doubling September's average

To sum up September's weather across the Prairies, Alberta saw near-average temperatures at all locations, with below-average precipitation across southern and central regions and near to above average in the north. Saskatchewan saw above-average temperatures with below-average precipitation in the northwestern region and above average in the south and east. Manitoba saw above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation in the central region, with aboveaverage amounts in the extreme southern and western regions.

### Who called it?

ed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS). Data provided through partnership with nument Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and many Provincial agencies.

> Looking back at the forecasts, no one was right on the money for September. If I had to give the nod to one of the forecasts, it would have to be the *Old Farm*er's Almanac. It called for nearaverage temperatures along with below-average amounts of precipitation. Environment Canada was also fairly close, as it called for near- to aboveaverage temperatures over the Prairies, along with above-average amounts of precipitation. I guess it all depends on where you live as to which one was the most accurate.

Now, the big question: Will we see a continuation of average to above-average temperatures into October? Environment Canada calls for above-average temperatures over Manitoba, with near-average temperatures in Saskatchewan and Alberta. It also calls for above-average amounts of precipitation in all three provinces, with the best chances for above-

Alberta saw a
September that could
best be described
as average, at least
when it came to
temperatures.

Created: 09/28/16 www.agr.gc.ca/drought



average amounts over Alberta. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* calls for slightly cooler-than-average temperatures along with belowaverage precipitation during October. The *Canadian Farmers' Almanac* looks to be calling for near- to slightly below-aver-

age temperatures (it doesn't mention warm weather), along with above-average precipitation, as it does mention we'll see unsettled conditions several times during the month

times during the month. Finally, my forecast. Last month I was leaning toward cooler and slightly wetter-thanaverage conditions, based on what looked to be a fairly active pattern that was developing. We are still in that active pattern, but so far the main storm track has been pushing these systems well to our northeast and keeping any strong pushes of cold air bottled up to our north. The latest mid-range weather models are keeping the northern storm track fairly busy, which usually results in our region seeing above-average temperatures along with near-average amounts of precipitation. The one tough part of long-range forecasting is that one big storm system can take a warm, dry month and turn it into a cold

### **SWEDE MIDGE NUMBERS LOW**

There is good news from a survey of swede midge larvae this summer. The survey was conducted at 42 canola sites in central Alberta in July. "Bottom line is that the survey found very low numbers of swede midge," said insect management specialist Scott Meers. "As an example, we would typically find between one and five single bell-shaped flowers on 100 canola plants or 250 canola racemes." The results are shown on the swede midge survey map at www.agriculture.alberta.ca (click on the Maps & Multimedia tab). The survey will be repeated next summer to track the spread and measure the level of damage from this new invasive pest of canola. - AAF



# **CROPS**

# Even a dry year didn't slow fusarium's invasion

Many expected fusarium levels to drop last year, but instead it spread east and north and was worse in the south

### BY JENNIFER BLAIR

espite dry weather in 2015, fusarium head blight was

many counties as it was in 2010. A province-wide survey conducted by provincial scientists detected fusarium graminearum the pathogen that causes fusarium head blight in cereals - in 22 counties in Alberta, up from 13 counties

in the 2010 survey. While not surprising, it is alarming, said research scientist Michael

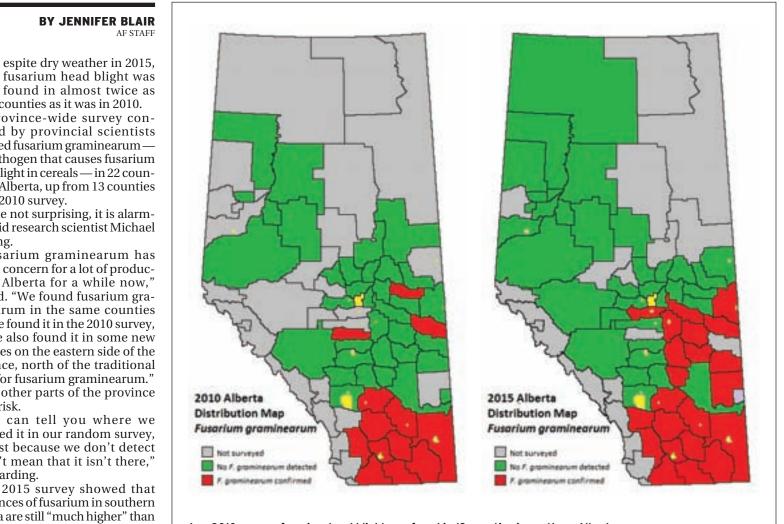
"Fusarium graminearum has been a concern for a lot of producers in Alberta for a while now," he said. "We found fusarium graminearum in the same counties that we found it in the 2010 survey, but we also found it in some new counties on the eastern side of the province, north of the traditional areas for fusarium graminearum."

And other parts of the province are at risk.

We can tell you where we detected it in our random survey, but just because we don't detect doesn't mean that it isn't there,' said Harding.

The 2015 survey showed that incidences of fusarium in southern Alberta are still "much higher" than in the central part of the province, but the disease is moving north.

SEE FUSARIUM → page 18



In a 2010 survey, fusarium head blight was found in 13 counties in southern Alberta. By 2015, the disease had spread north into 22 counties. GRAPHICS: SUPPLIED

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### FUSARIUM ➤ from page 17

"We haven't detected it in the Peace Country in our surveys. That's not to say the graminearum isn't there — it's just to say that we haven't detected it."

While it's too soon to tell if fusarium spread even further in 2016 — the results of this year's survey are still being compiled — "it would be very surprising if we didn't see higher levels of fusarium" based on the wetter summer seen in most areas of Alberta.

"2015 was a year where we'd be less likely to find fusarium graminearum," said Harding. "It was extremely dry during the anthesis period in most parts of the province, which is the window of infection. Because it was so dry at that time, most everyone predicted we'd see much lower levels.

"There was much more fusarium graminearum in Saskatchewan and Manitoba than there was in Alberta, and that's due in part to the dry conditions that we had in Alberta."

Both farmers and surveyors reported "quite a few symptoms" in the field this year.

"The prediction is that it would be a year where we would be able to detect it in areas where we didn't detect it last year, and in the areas where it's well established, it's likely to have been more severe," said Harding.

"That will be borne out as growers start to deliver and have samples evaluated for fusarium-damaged kernels. If they do have a significant amount of fusarium head blight, it will show up in their grain samples and they could be downgraded for it."

### Use all management tools

Fusarium head blight is costing farmers big dollars. Since the early 1990s, when the disease caused its first severe outbreak on the Prairies, estimated losses have ranged between \$50 million to \$300 million annually in Canada.

"Downgrading is the primary way it takes money out of the pockets of grain producers," said Harding. "It also reduces yield. Oftentimes, shrunken kernels end up blowing out the back of the combine. They're not harvested, and when they are, they're lighter."

Fusarium produces fungal toxins — called mycotoxins — that



"We can tell you where we detected it in our random survey, but just because we don't detect doesn't mean that it isn't there."

MICHAEL HARDING

can cause death in livestock and humans and create market access issues for Canadian cereals

And once it's in the field, fusarium can be "very challenging to manage."

"That's one of the reasons that there's a lot of messaging around avoidance — trying to stave off the advance as best we can for as long as we can," said Harding. "Once we do get it, there aren't a lot of great management options."

But there are some things producers can do to prevent fusarium and reduce its spread—using seed with non-detectible levels of the fusarium pathogen,

using disease-tolerant varieties, lengthening crop rotations, not irrigating during the anthesis stage, and applying a fungicide at early anthesis when the infection risk is highest.

Ideally, producers should stack those management tools, said Harding

said Harding.

"Where fusarium graminearum is well established and is causing significant disease pressure, producers need to be aware that there isn't just one thing that they can do that's going to prevent the disease," he said.

"If you're growing a tolerant variety and there's a lot of disease pressure, that's not enough to completely avoid getting fusarium head blight."

The 2015 survey shows producers in other areas of the province need to be prepared to manage it once it becomes established.

"Those foundational principles of clean seed, crop rotation, genetics, and fungicides when the risk is high are important for producers to keep in mind," he said. "But even then, there's no guarantee that you'll avoid getting fusarium head blight."

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com





# Fusarium's relentless march across the Prairies

It's just a 47-second-long animation showing the incidence of a crop disease, but for Alberta producers it should come with a 'disturbing content' warning.

The video, created by BASF Canada, uses Canadian Grain Commission data on the percentage of fusarium-damaged kernels in Canada Western Red Spring wheat found in its Harvest Sample Program from 2003 to 2015. It breaks the three Prairie provinces into 38 regions (seven in Alberta) and uses four brackets: zero to five per cent damage; six to 20 per cent; 21 to 50 per cent; and 51 per cent or more.

Imposed on a map, the visualization of fusarium's spread over 13 years is both simple and arresting. At first, it's very much a Manitoba problem; then it spills over to Saskatchewan; and starting in 2009 charges into Alberta with a vengeance.

The video, which is 41 MB in size, can be downloaded at https://app.box.com/shared/static/rjhgbeqa-u233lfeb9nkc0iqpzhs9fr1z. mp4. (For a direct link, go to www.albertafarmerexpress. ca and search for 'fusarium map.') — Staff

# Wheat commission wants rail transport changes

Reciprocal penalties, a revenue cap, and more interswitching are needed to level the playing field in grain transportation, says farm group

#### **STAFF**

he Alberta Wheat Commission is calling on Ottawa to make reciprocal penalties part of any changes to the Canada Transportation Act.

In a submission to Transport Minister Marc Garneau, the commission urges the government to implement a model that would provide shippers the ability to negotiate penalties and contract terms equal to those that are being charged by the railways today.

"Now is the time when our government can provide long-term solutions to our grain transportation system, which will ultimately advance Canada's economic growth," chair Kevin Auch said in a media release. "The current imbalance of market power allows railways to dictate operational terms instead of operating in a competitive commercial arrangement."

The wheat commission has three major recommendations for improving the transportation system.

It wants service level agreements (SLAs) that include mandatory reciprocal penalties for

failure to perform to binding contract terms. The ability to achieve agreements will allow shipping companies to negotiate contracts that include penalties equal to those being charged by railways today. SLAs will ensure costs due to poor railway performance are not downloaded to farmers by shippers, it said.

The commission also wants the federal government to keep the maximum revenue entitlement (MRE) to protect producers against excessive rate increases. Freight costs are transferred to the producer by shippers and retaining the MRE will ensure these costs do not prevent producers from being competitive in world markets, it said.

The commission also wants Ottawa to make interswitching measures from Bill C-30 permanent and extend them by increasing interchange capacities or extending limits to 250 kilometres.

"AWC believes these key recommendations will enhance Canada's grain transportation system and create an environment that enables a competitive atmosphere to ensure Canada's farmers are able to move their grain in a predictable and efficient manner," said Auch.



The Alberta Wheat Commission says Ottawa needs to address the "imbalance of market power" between railways and grain shippers. FILE PHOTO

# Farming in outer space won't be easy

### STAFF

Food is an essential of life and if humanity is to escape the cradle of Earth, producing food extraterrestrially is a looming challenge.

A recent paper in the journal *Botany Letters* by French researchers from the University of Clermont-Ferrand, Auvergne demonstrates there are many challenges to address to ensure astronauts can grow enough food aboard spacecraft and on other planets.

Lucie Poulet and her colleagues point out that all the current research has only confirmed healthy plants can be grown over the short term in space.

Since the 1960s, experiments conducted in space stations and research rockets have shown that plants can grow normally in microgravity provided factors such as confinement, lack of ventilation and elevated radiation levels are taken into account.

However, microgravity can reduce cell growth, alter gene expression and change the pattern of root growth – all aspects which critically affect plant cultivation in space.

Seeds produced in orbit also seem to have different composition and developmental stages from seeds grown on Earth. As well as affecting the performance and nutritional content of space seeds, this could damage the flavour of plants produced in space.

While there appears to be no major obstacle to plant growth in space, large-scale tests for food production in reduced gravity are still lacking, and a number of viable technologies for space agriculture needs to be developed.

These include efficient watering and nutrient-delivery systems, precise atmospheric controls for temperature, humidity and air composition, and lowenergy lighting.



### Controlling winter weeds now will pay off later

### It's cheaper to control winter weeds in the fall, and they won't compete with your spring crop

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN

You've been busting your butt during harvest and you've scouted your field many times during the growing season.

But if you're direct seeding, it's worth scouting just one more time for winter weeds after you harvest.

"It depends on what kind of production system a producer has," said Mark Cutts, crop specialist with Alberta Agriculture's Ag Info centre in Stettler. "If they aren't using tillage, they will need to look at a herbicide system in the fall. If they are using tillage in the fall, that can be a fairly effective control mechanism."

Across the province, conditions have been ideal for the growth of winter weeds, which germinate in fall or late fall, live through the winter, and then seed in the spring.

Common winter annuals include stinkweed, shepherd's purse, scentless chamomile, narrow-leaved hawk's beard, bluebur, stork's bill, flixweed and common groundsel, among many others. The plants form leaves in the fall and overwinter by developing their own antifreeze, which prevents them from dying. The plants are able to send up a seed stalk the next spring and go to seed before crops get started, depleting soil moisture and nutrients. By the time a producer applies herbicide in the spring, the winter weeds will be well underway.

So the best time to tackle winter weeds is after harvest.

"Once you're done harvesting, if there's a window for those winter annuals to get established, they will," said Cutts. "That's why stepping in with a herbicide application as we get into October can be an effective tool to manage these weeds."

The window for fall applica-

tion of herbicide is from late September to mid- or late October, depending on fall conditions and problem weeds.

A light frost might not be enough to send winter weeds into dormancy. Winter annuals can continue growing, even after the first frost, until the ground freezes.

"It really comes down to how heavy the frost is, and whether the plant is still actively growing," said Cutts. "There is still opportunity to control the weeds if you're noticing them this fall, and still a window of opportunity to spray weeds."

Most winter annuals can be controlled in the spring (except for narrow-leaved hawk's beard), but control options will be less effective and cost more.

Chemicals such as 2,4-D and MCPA are economical in the fall, provide good winter weed control, and will be safe for crops in the spring if they are sprayed at recommended rates.

"Once you're done harvesting, if there's a window for those winter annuals to get established, they will."

MARK CUTTS



Glyphosate could work well in mixtures, but may not be the best choice to kill certain weeds.

Controlling winter weeds isn't something every farmer is doing, but it's something that is worth considering.

"There are ways to control them

in the fall, to avoid the weeds getting ahead of the crop in the springtime," said Cutts. "When required, it's a good management approach to use to control them at this time of year."

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com



# Keep on eye on costs when pursuing unpaid rent

The Surface Rights
Board carefully reviews
the bills of lawyers
and agents who help
landowners file their
application

STAFF

he Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) is advising landowners to take care when hiring advisers to help them prepare their Surface Rights Board case.

"Landowners will often recruit professional assistance in filing their applications to the SRB," FAO spokesperson Jeana Les said in a release. "While the board has the power to require the industry operator to cover these costs, a cost award is not a simple reimbursement."

Instead the board will look at several factors, including the complexity of the matter, the contribution of the professional hired by the farmer, and whether the costs are reasonable or not.

The end result may be that the landowner receives a smaller cost award than requested.

"For example, the SRB could deem a lawyer's per-hour charge of \$550 per hour is too high based on his or her expertise or contribution, and may award costs of \$350 per hour instead," said Les.

The board could also deem some of the work done by a lawyer or agent as unnecessary and not award costs for that portion of their bill.

So before hiring an agent or lawyer, "consider the possibility of a reduced costs award," said Les.

Applications to the Surface Rights Board have skyrocketed since the downturn in the oilpatch. The board used to get about 360 claims annually about oil companies defaulting on rental agreements. That number doubled last year and then doubled again in just the first eight months of this year.

### Pulses need research push, says pulse scientist

While biotechnology has made big changes to some types of crop production, pulses remain underfunded

**BY SHANNON VANRAES** 

hen competing against staple crops like corn, wheat and rice, pulses get the short end of the research funding stick.

The sheer variety of pulse crops guarantees funding will be spread across several research areas, if it's provided at all, Professor Irvin Widders told attendees at the recent Agricultural Bioscience International Conference here.

"Funds are significantly limited, because of the large number of grain legume species and their limited relative importance around the world — compared to a simple crop such as maize or rice or something like that," said the director of Michigan State University's Feed the Future Legume Innovation Lab

"But on the other hand, I'm trying to preach a message that what is unique about pulses or grain legumes is their diversity. And when we think about the global challenge going forward, we really need to talk about and exploit that diversity, because it provides us with options.'

Appealing to the innovators in the room, he challenged the traditional idea of pulses' role in food security and nutrition.

"I want to stretch your mind a bit and not only think of these groups of crops as producers of a dry grain," he said. "For most of these you can harvest, market and consume other parts of the plants.'

Widders noted that in several African countries, including Zimbabwe, the vegetative portion of the plant is used as a leafy green similar to spinach. Other areas also dry the leaves for future consumption.

"And it's highly valued in their diets, and certainly nutritional," he said. "So there is incredible diversity within these crops as

Consumption of fresh pulses, either shelled or unshelled, is also an option.

### Yield lagging

However, in much of the world pulses are not reaching their genetic yield potential — partly because of lagging breeding programs, but also due to issues of crop management, he said.

Because of the lack of investment in grain legumes over the years, productivity in particular has lagged behind the growth of many other crops," Widders said. "Here in the U.S. and Canada we manage our systems in a manner that enables us to achieve yields that are close to the genetic potential of these crops. But if I were to take you to many places in Latin America and Africa, or even Asia, the yields are maybe only 10 to 20 per cent of the genetic yield potential."

Given the ability of pulses to fix nitrogen, that means a huge missed opportunity, particularly in developing countries where inputs are lacking. In terms of energy consumption and climate change, he said that pulses also offer an opportunity to lessen the global impact of synthetic fertilizer production.

"I think I'm speaking to the choir on this point," he said. "You know that legumes are a family of crop species, both annual crops as well as perennials, even trees, that have a symbiotic relationship with a



The wide variety of pulse crops ensures meaningful research funding can be hard to come by relative to much larger-acreage crops. PHOTO: SHANNON VANRAES

specific bacteria, rhizobial bacteria that take nitrogen gas from the air and convert it into ammonium, which can be then absorbed by the plant to produce protein."

Current production of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer is estimated to consume two per cent of the world's energy production, he

'The production of synthetic nitrogen... is a very costly enterprise," he said. "There are millions in savings here."

### Need to 'go back'

While pitching organic fertilizer to a room of biotechnology experts and advocates might seem counterintuitive, Widders said diversifying inputs and freeing up resources for other uses is a part of making agriculture more resilient. He also reminded those present that synthetic fertilizers are a relatively recent development.

"I believe that grain legumes are the food for the future, they are nutrient rich, they promote good health, most importantly they provide income for family farms and improve their sustainability."

IRVIN WIDDERS

"I was born in the year 1950, synthetic fertilizers were not produced commercially until the 1940s, it was a post-Second World War era of industry," he said. "Since the Second World War, our agriculture has become more and more dependent upon these synthetic fertilizers... What we need to do is go back and reflect that there was a time in agriculture that we were able to produce crops without synthetic fertilizers, and we produced more efficient crops as we learned to maximize output

Agronomics aside, the expert added that pulses can also play a role in combating both under- and overnutrition across the globe. While all pulses provide high levels

with contributions these legumes

of protein, they also contribute to gut health and weight regulation.

"As an industry we consider grain legumes to be much more than just a protein-based food, they contain complex carbohydrates that are slow to digest... they are high in fibre and contain micronutrients that are essential for human growth," he said.

### 'Food for the future'

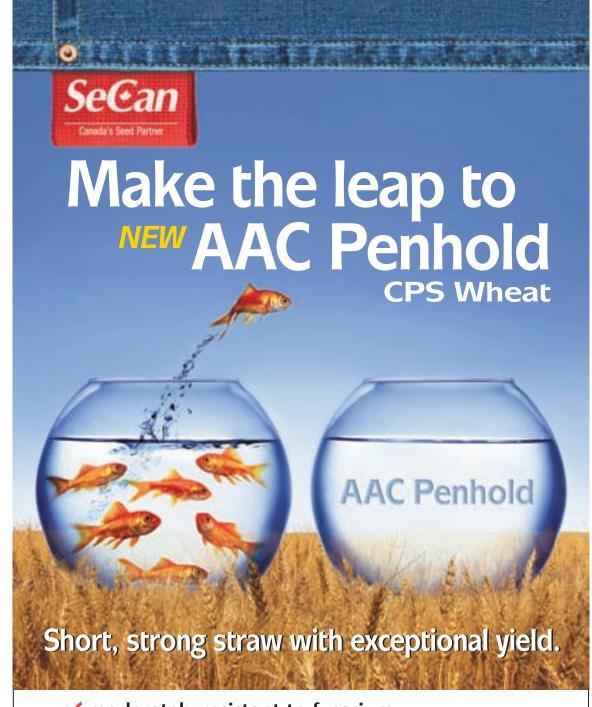
And yet these mighty beans are still not top of mind for many research facilities, not even with 2016 being named the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations. Widders has travelled internationally, pushing governments to invest in pulse production and research, but has often encountered roadblocks.

"We had to make arguments to governments around the world to invest in this international research agenda on grain legumes, and it was very difficult when you came up against crops like maize, rice, other cereals, cassava, whatever," he said, adding that cheap energy also plays a roll in diverting attention away from pulse crops.

Still, Widders is undeterred.

"I believe that grain legumes are the food for the future, they are nutrient rich, they promote good health, most importantly they provide income for family farms and improve their sustainability," he said.

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### Waterlogging stress can take a bite out of barley

### Federal researchers want to determine how barley genotypes respond to waterlogging

**BY JENNIFER PAIGE** 

on't get barley's feet cold and wet — you won't like the results.

A spate of recent wet years and the crop's known dislike for these conditions has a research scientist from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada looking at excess moisture and the crop.

"Barley is known to have cold feet and to be susceptible to excess moisture. With the wet weather we have had in the past years, we thought that this would be something that we should be working on," says Ana Badea, a research scientist with the Brandon Research and Development Centre (BRDC) barley group.

"We have colleagues who are looking at drought, on water and nitrogen use efficiency but this is something we have pinpointed as an issue that has not been looked at in the Canadian barley landscape.

Badea and colleague Bill Legge, who leads the two-row malting barley-breeding program at BRDC, have begun collecting data that will shed some light on how barley genotypes respond to waterlogging stress.

"We are in the beginning of



AAFC researchers are examining 341 two-row barley genotypes for their potential of handling waterlogging stress in Manitoba growing conditions. PHOTOS: AAFC

this project but we are very excited and I really think this is something that we need to look at in order to be prepared for what may be coming in future years, weather-wise," Badea

Waterlogging is when excess water in the root zone affects oxygen concentration in the soil, which can impair plant growth and cause yield losses. According to Badea, industry contacts say the majority of insurance claims from barley stems from issues with excessive water.

"For us as breeders, we need to be prepared to meet the needs of farmers. When we establish our breeding goals we look at production needs or what may be of benefit on the farm," Badea said.

Funding for this project comes through an industryled research and development stream that includes Alberta Barley, the Western Grain Research Foundation, the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Initiative and AAFC's Growing Forward 2.

Funding was received in 2013 and will continue until 2018.

### Worldwide screening

Researchers began by testing cultivars from colleagues around the world as well as Canadian cultivars and breeding lines from both Western and Eastern Canada.

"Our first step was to contact colleagues from across the world who are working on waterlogging," Badea said. "I was in touch with our collaborator at the University of Tasmania and they sent us germplasm. I have also contacted researchers in Japan, who also sent us a germplasm that has tolerance to waterlogging."

Through in-field trials, which began this season, and greenhouse testing, researchers will be analyzing collected leaf tissue to gather insight on chlorophyll concentration, fluorescence, and indicators of stress and yield impacts from a large collection of 341 two-row barley genotypes.

"We have done several tests in the greenhouse and then we have tested in different types of soil," Badea said. "We wanted to understand how these genotypes respond. We also know that waterlogging is a complex abiotic stress and produces multiple plant responses and is complicated by many confounding factors such as temperature, plant development stage, soil type, and topography."

Researchers are looking to identify waterlogging-tolerant genotypes that may be able to be used in the BRDC's barleybreeding program.

"I know that is a long ways away until we will see a cultivar that will have waterlogging resistance but everything has to start from somewhere and this is an exciting beginning to where we could eventually identify a germplasm that could be used to bring waterlogging tolerance into a Canadian germplasm, Badea said.

"I know that is a long ways away until we will see a cultivar that will have waterlogging resistance but everything has to start from somewhere and this is

an exciting beginning."



ANA BADEA

### Aerial input

Researchers are also using UAV technology to gather Enhanced Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (ENDVI) data and Green Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (GNDVI) data to help determine stress levels in the barley caused by excess

"When collecting the chlorophyll content information, we collect that before the treatment and immediately after," Badea said. "You can imagine how muddy it is. Trying to collect the leaf tissue and the measurements is not an easy task. With the drone the only limitation is wind, so it is much easier to collect the data.

This season, researchers will also get their first chance to look at numbers related to yield.

"I am very eager to learn this fall what the yield penalty is, how much of a penalty and if that would be something acceptable, something that our farmers, from a production standpoint, would be OK with," Badea said. "We will look at yield penalty, if there are delays or any changes in the maturity of the plants and we will try to link this data to the data that we have collected with the drone and see if there are any strong correlations."

jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com



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# Monsanto exec says merger with Bayer will be good for farmers

VP says 'cutting-edge biology' requires funding levels that only very big companies can afford

BY SHANNON VANRAES

STAFF/FARC

ewer companies means more innovation.

That's the world according to Robert Fraley, Monsanto's chief technology officer and executive vice-president, who says biotechnology companies need to consolidate to remain effective.

"Consolidation is both needed and healthy in order to be able to provide the kind of investments that you need in cutting-edge biology and data science tools," said Fraley.

He made the comment at a recent biotechnology conference here, just one day after defending the proposed US\$66-billion merger between Monsanto and Bayer to U.S. Senate's Judiciary Committee.

"One of the points I made when I testified yesterday, is that I feel Monsanto is a privileged company, we have the ability to spend a billion and a half dollars a year on R&D," he said.

"But you know if you compare that to the leading innovators in data science like a Google or an Amazon... or a pharmaceutical company like Merck or Pfizer, who's spending \$10 billion on genome sequencing and analysis, I think it's pretty clear for agriculture to reach what it needs to achieve the kind of innovations we need to make, we need to scale up."

"Look, I grew up on a farm and I know that for a lot of farmers, just like for anybody else, change is a little disconcerting."

ROBERT FRALEY

If the Bayer-Monsanto deal goes ahead, it's possible that the global marketplace will be left with only three large biotechnology companies. Dow and DuPont are also heading towards a merger, as are Chem-China and Syngenta. Members of the U.S. Senate and American farm lobby groups have raised concerns that this will reduce competition, raise prices and curtail innovation, noting that it would mean that 70 per cent of global pesticide production and development would be under the control of only three companies.

Not so, said Fraley.

"When you actually think about it, agriculture is a highly fragmented industry. Just think of all of the seed companies and of the equipment companies, all of the retailers, all of the grain-handling companies, all the companies that we don't know who they are in India and China, this is a super-fragmented industry," he said.

If the proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger goes ahead, it will also leave nearly all canola traits in the hands of one company. That's "a cause of serious concern to Canada's canola farmers," said the Canadian Canola Growers Association in a recent press release.

"The merger would combine two leading players in Canada's agriculture industry, significantly reducing competition and consolidating market share in the canola seed, trait and crop protection business."

While Fraley was circumspect in responding to questions about whether or not a merged company would have to divest itself of some canolarelated assets to gain regulatory approval, he did say that some tweaking might occur during the regulatory process.

"Clearly there is a couple

of areas that are going to go through the regulatory review process and those will be the areas where if there are fixes that need to be made, or decisions that need to be made, it's still a very small part of what drives the business combination," he said, adding that change can be difficult for farmers to accept.

"Look, I grew up on a farm and I know that for a lot of farmers, just like for anybody else, change is a little disconcerting," Fraley said. "I appreciate that and I spend a lot of time talking to growers. On the other hand, I've got a lot of phone calls and a lot of folks saying this is great, we need more innovation if I'm going to stay in business."

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com



Robert Fraley, Monsanto's chief technology officer and executive vice-president, speaks in Fargo, N.D. PHOTO: SHANNON VANRAES





25



# **Quality questions** dog Alberta malt barley growers

A rainy September means quality is way down, and that may force maltsters to lower quality requirements

**BY DAVE SIMS** 

nseasonably wet conditions in Alberta this year are causing quality concerns for malt barley growers

Harvest typically begins in late August for many growers, but steady downpours have forced delays across much of the prov-

"We actually started Sept. 1, but we only got two days in before it started to rain," Jason Lenz, an Alberta Barley director who farms northwest of Red Deer, said late last month.

"We got two days in the following week and four days last week and that's the extent of it. It's just been that wet.

"I think the maltsters are definitely not going to get the quality they're hoping for. That may increase the price of malt, but anyone who has barley that's starting to chit bad and lose its germination, they're going to take dockage.'

His concerns are echoed by fellow director Jeff Nielsen, who has an operation near Olds.

"I've had two days of harvest weather the whole month of September," he said last month. "Conditions are questionable right now; there is the possibility of higher chit in the barley."

As a rule, malt generally does worse in high-moisture situations, as the germ will break away from the kernel too easily. Maltsters have strict specifications for the malt they accept, which usually requires protein content of roughly 11-12.5 per cent (dry basis).

Both producers said they think it's possible companies may decide to lower the requirements if too much of the barley is wet.

"They have in the past, because they need certain volumes to keep their plants full," said Lenz.

Rain is threatening to push back the entire harvest to a point where damage is unavoidable, Nielsen added.

Current prices are already lower than last year, when they crept above the \$6-a-bushel mark, he said.

"We contracted some for \$5.40 or \$5.50 this year. I believe the last two months it went down to about \$5.25. I would expect (the price) would go up a little bit due to these wet conditions.'

At the end of the day, Lenz said, what's needed is warm weather and dry winds.

"It's a double-edged sword: there's a lack of quality stuff, but the price will go up. Still, anyone who does get accepted for lower-quality malt will endure a discount.'

Nielsen decided to swath his barley after some of it became lodged.

Both he and Lenz expect the true state of the crop to become clearer as more samples are sent to maltsters.

### New funds for organic research

rganic research at the University of Manitoba is getting a \$366,000 boost from the provincial and federal governments.

Organic trials are part of a rapidly evolving picture in agriculture in which natural systems approaches, such as growing pulse crops and legumes to produce nitrogen, will play a key role, said Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler.

"Who would have thought we'd be at 1.6 million acres of pulses this year, up from 1.3 million acres last year?" he said. "Everything is changing so fast. I think it is the way of the future. Whenever you can use science-based technology to get the natural products in, that's great."

The new funds will be used to buy field equipment, including new implement technology such as a CombCut and the Robocrop in-row cultivator, both of which offer organic farmers improved in-crop weed control.

The announcement came as the university's long-term organic field trials at its Glenlea site celebrate 25 years. Long-term trials are demonstrating the benefits of diversity in a cropping system for improving soil health, reducing energy consumption in agriculture, and reducing losses due to disease and insects, said lead researcher Martin Entz. — Staff



University of Manitoba researcher Martin Entz (r) gives federal MP Terry Duguid a quick lesson in the merits of hairy vetch in a cropping system at the Glenlea long-term organic cropping trials. Looking on is the university's vice-president of research Digvir Jayas and Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler. PHOTO: LAURA RANCE

# Canada working hard to keep Latin America as a grain customer

As the region's population grows, so do the opportunities for Canadian wheat sellers

BY SHANNON VANRAES

atin American markets are continuing to expand and Canada wants a piece of not just the pie, but breads, pasta and

crackers too.

"We have been there for many years, the market knows how good we are, but we have to create and keep that fidelity to the Canadian brand," said Juan Carlos Arriola, head of milling technology at the Canadian International Grains Institute, better known as Cigi.

With that in mind, the institute has just wrapped up a program with 16 millers and grain purchasers from Latin America, including representatives from Colombia, Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, Chile, Peru and Ecuador.

Arriola added that creating and maintaining fidelity in the Cuban market is of particular importance for Canadian growers and grain sellers. As that country moves towards a return to the open market, Canadian grain may face competition from other countries such as the United States.

"Cuba still has the unique system, and in that unique system the government is the only one that can buy wheat, cereals and whatever," he said. "So for us, it's like thinking ahead... so that when the market opens they hesitate to try something new that is not going to be as good as we are — that is why the technical part of these sessions is so important, then they can see why Canadian wheat is so good in quality."



Sixteen participants from a range of Latin American countries learn about Canadian wheat at Cigi. PHOTOS: SHANNON VANRAES

Anel Ferrera Rodríguez is an international buyer with Cuba's state-owned food company Alimport, and speaking through a translator she said Canadian wheat continues to impress millers and bakers in her home country.

"For us we use Canadian hard wheat for improving the blend, because it's the best-quality wheat. So we have been using it for a very

long time," she said, noting the island produces no wheat of its

Cuba would often like to import more Canadian wheat, but the seasonality of the crop means it's not always available at certain times of the season, she said. Cuba imports between 225,000 and 250,000 tonnes of Canadian wheat each year. But it's not only Cuba where Canada wants to ensure fidelity to Canadian grains. All of Latin America has a growing population and represents a growing market for Canadian products, said Arriola.

While high-protein Canadian wheat is often used in sandwich breads and high-volume bread — otherwise known as French bread — those two products only account for about 34 per cent of Latin American baked goods. Sweet breads, which mostly use intermediate classes of wheat, make up as much as 55 per cent of the bakery market in Latin America.

"Our biggest participation on the market is in the smallest fraction of the market, that is French breads, high-protein breads," said Arriola. "We still have a lot of room to grow in sweet bread, because people usually use intermediate- to lower-protein wheat, and then they blend with 30 per cent of CWRS for example to provide the base of protein... if we can offer intermediate-protein wheat like CPSR, that would be great, that would give us room to grow."

However, Canada is facing increased competition when it comes to wheat, particularly in the intermediate class.

"If we take a look at that 10 years ago, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, they used to be part of the top 10 buyers of Canadian wheat, now, today, they are part of the top 10 exporters, so they are direct competitors in that range of protein, but I think that everyone is well aware of our quality," he said.

Impressing clients with Canadian quality is a big part of the programs Cigi operates, Arriola explained, adding that customers are shown all aspects of production, from harvest and inspection through to loading and shipping, while in Canada. The Latin American program concludes with a trip to a grain terminal in Hamilton, Ontario, he added.

For Michell Nuñez, a manager at Grupo JRNP in the Dominican Republic, the week-long program helped her realize why it was she has always preferred Canadian wheat.

"You have proper vision, you see from the beginning to the end. I've had the opportunity to do the same thing in the U.S., but this is a much more complete program," said Nuñez. "The kind of analysis done here is more complete, the variety of grain that you're testing, it just gives the client a better sense of security."

Ferrera Rodríguez agreed that seeing all steps of the process was helpful — but she didn't need much convincing.

"I'm in love with the product," she said. "Now what's been good for me is that I've been able to look at every aspect of the industry, everything from the farmers to the terminals, to the laboratories, you know, everything, so in the end that allows me to have a lot of good knowledge in terms of being able to talk to my clients, so we can talk about the kind of wheat that would be best."

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Michell Nuñez (I) and Anel Ferrera Rodríguez check out fresh pasta at Cigi.

# Analysts say it will be another huge harvest in Russia

Over 64 per cent of winter grains are already in the ground, on pace with last year, and soil moisture is good

BY POLINA DEVITT AND OLGA POPOVA

Russia's winter grain-sowing campaign for the 2017 crop has benefited from favourable weather so far this autumn, say analysts, improving chances that the country could have a bumper harvest for a fourth year running.

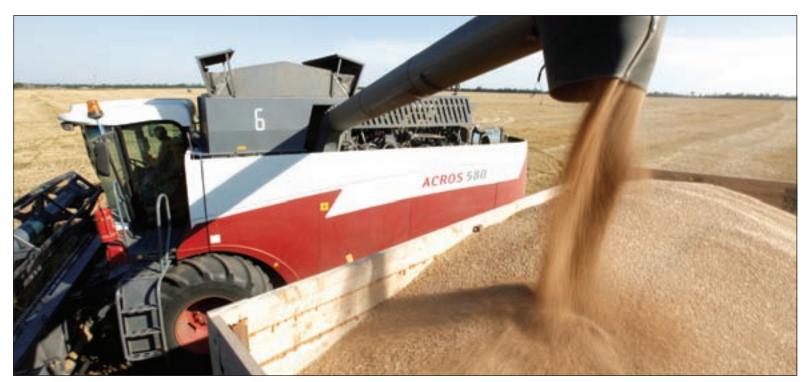
The country produced more than 100 million tonnes of grain a year in 2014-16, because a mild winter or good spring rains made up for damage done by an autumn that was too dry or too wet.

"The winter grain-sowing campaign is running all right," Dmitry Rylko, the head of the IKAR agriculture consultancy, said.

"I have not heard any major concerns from anyone because there is the experience of the previous couple of years: whatever the condition of winter grains in late October, the result will be the same in spring."

Russian farmers, who plan to increase the area under winter grains for the 2017 crop by six per cent from a year ago, have already sown 11.1 million hectares, or 64 per cent of the total planned area of 17.35 million hectares, Agriculture Ministry data showed.

Sowing has been delayed by rain



Wheat being harvested in Russia's Stavropol region in July. Russia is expected to produce a bumper harvest for the fourth year running. PHOTO: EDUARD KORNIYENKO

in recent days and is now running in line with last year's schedule, a state weather forecaster said.

Heavy rain showers over late September in Russia's southern regions, the key grain-producing and -exporting belt, have slowed farming work but raised the level of soil moisture, said Anna Strashnaya, head of the agricultural department at state weather forecaster Hydrometcentre.

"In general, the moisture level is better than a year ago," Strashnaya said. "I think everything is going to be all right with the sowing."

Russia's southern regions still have about a month to finish their winter grain sowing.

The situation looks quite optimistic now, the head of Russia's Grain Union, a non-government farmers' lobby group, told reporters earlier this week.

"We will be praying that the weather allows crops to live through the winter just like in the previous season," Arkady Zlochevsky said on Wednesday.

Last autumn farmers sowed a relatively small area of 16.3 million hectares due to dry weather, but then a mild winter and good rainfall in spring improved the condition of sowings.

Russia has harvested 109.2 million tonnes of grain before drying and cleaning from 88 per cent of the sown area so far this year.



### THESE KINDS OF DAYS HAVE BEEN TOO RARE THIS HARVEST



All engines are firing in this field west of Calgary, as farmers put in long hours to get crops cut and stored. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY



### Richardson expanding crop input business in Saskatchewan

Richardson International is set to expand its crop input retail business across the Prairies, starting in central and western Saskatchewan with plans for two new stores and a rebuilt store.

The company says it will replace its crop input facility at Wakaw, about 90 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon, and build new at Pasqua, just east of Moose Jaw, and at Elrose, about 110 kilometres north of Swift Current.

The new facilities will each have high-speed fertilizer-blending capabilities, "modern" offices and a 6,000-square-foot crop input warehouse. Construction is to start this fall, the plan being to have the new stores up and running by "later 2017."

Richardson also plans to announce "additional new builds in the coming months," Tom Hamilton, the company's vice-president for agribusiness operations, said in a release.

The three sites named so far in Saskatchewan are in areas the company said it identified as "opportunities" in its Richardson Pioneer network, as part of its capital expansion plan. — *Staff* 



# U.S. farmer lawsuits over Syngenta GMO corn granted class status

Farmers claim trace contamination of shipments to China caused economic losses of up to US\$7 billion

BY KARL PLUME CHICAGO/REUTERS

U.S. district court judge in Kansas has ruled lawsuits brought by U.S. farmers against Syngenta over sales of biotech corn seeds not approved for import by China can proceed as a class action, according to a court filing.

Farmers from the largest U.S. corn-producing states sued the seed maker in 2014 after grain shipments containing traces of Syngenta's Agrisure Viptera corn were rejected by China, which had not approved the variety for import before it was launched.

Farmers who did not plant Viptera corn claimed they suffered losses when the rejections that began in November 2013 disrupted trade and dragged down corn prices. Plaintiffs' attorneys estimate hundreds of thousands of corn growers lost US\$5 billion to \$7 billion in current and future profits.

Judge John Lungstrum certified a nationwide class and statewide classes in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota.

"The court's ruling will make it easier and less expensive for farmers to pursue their claims against Syngenta," said Scott Powell of Hare Wynn Newell & Newton, one of the attorneys appointed by the court to represent the class.

Syngenta has said it is not responsible for the losses and that it launched Viptera corn in



PHOTO: REUTERS

full compliance with all regulatory and legal requirements. The Swiss company is a major agricultural seed producer and the world's largest crop chemical maker.

The company said it may appeal the district court's decision.

"Syngenta respectfully disagrees with this ruling, particularly given the widely varying

"The court's ruling will make it easier and less expensive for farmers to pursue their claims against Syngenta."

SCOTT POWELL

ways in which farmers grow and sell corn in different mar-

kets across the U.S.," Syngenta

spokesman Paul Minehart said.



# Agricultural merger mania fuels fears among small seed sellers

### Independent seed producers fear there's no room for them in the new industry landscape

**BY TOM POLANSEK** CHICAGO/REUTERS

**■** he U.S. Justice Department is looking into concerns that global consolidation among major seed and agricultural chemical companies may squeeze supplies of the building blocks for widely used genetically modified seeds, a farm group told Reuters.

The department has asked the American Soybean Association for details about how small and independent seed companies license seed traits from developers, said Steve Censky, chief executive of the association.

The federal inquiries started after Dow Chemical said in December that it would seek to merge with DuPont in a US\$130billion deal. In recent months, department officials have also asked how farmers select seeds, Censky said.

Such questions are common in antitrust reviews, as regulators try to decide whether to approve, reject or place conditions on a

The Justice Department did not respond to a request for comment.

Smaller companies need to license corn and soybean traits, which can protect against insects and other threats, because they

cannot afford the more than US\$100 million it costs to develop

Major seed makers often license traits and other genetic material to smaller dealers that have close relationships with farmers and can help place products on more

Independent seed sellers said the proposed Dow-DuPont merger could hurt them if the companies decide to hike licensing fees or to keep their best traits for themselves. They have similar concerns about subsequent announcements that Bayer AG would seek to buy Monsanto Co. and that Chinese state-owned China National Chemical Corp. aimed to acquire Syngenta AG. All three deals are still pending.

'It's the big question that everybody is looking at right now," said Todd Martin, CEO of the Independent Professional Seed Association, about the future of licensing. 'Anything that does not support the expansion of the licensing market, we are against.'

The association has asked Dow and DuPont to expand licensing as part of their merger. The soybean association, which represents more than 20,000 U.S. farmers, told the Justice Department that trait licensing by major companies needs to be preserved, Censky said.

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Syngenta's logo at the Syngenta Biotech Center in Beijing, China. A proposed takeover by ChemChina is just one of the deals that's ringing alarm bells for small seed companies. PHOTO: REUTERS/KIM KYUNG-HOON

### Future uncertain

Unlike Dow, Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta, DuPont has not been active in licensing traits.

That has raised concerns among small seed companies that a combined Dow-DuPont could pull back on licensing the technology, a prospect Martin said would be "incredibly negative" for independent sellers.

Independent companies supply about 20 per cent of corn and soybeans seeds in North America, giving farmers choices as they work to boost harvests in a downturn. Without licensing, the number of brands of corn seed would probably drop to less than a dozen from about 200 currently, Martin said.

Dow told Reuters it has not

made decisions on trait licensing because its deal with DuPont has not been finalized. Monsanto said it was "too soon to have any of those answers" about whether its \$66-billion acquisition by Bayer would affect licensing.

Syngenta said its \$43-billion acquisition by ChemChina will not change its licensing condi-

DuPont and ChemChina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trait licensing was on the agenda at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, where executives of top companies defended their planned mergers and acquisitions. Bayer CropSciences's CEO told senators it had "no plans to discontinue" trait licensing.

But Senator Charles Grassley, a Republican from Iowa and the committee chair, was one of several lawmakers who worried the deals would slow innovation in seeds and pest control.

Sonny Beck, CEO of Beck's Hybrids, the largest family-owned U.S. seed company, told Reuters the company pays to license nearly all its traits from larger companies, including Dow and Monsanto.

"If they say, 'we're going to keep it all for ourselves,'" he said, "that would hurt us.'

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2010 Flexi-Coil P2060, 60', 10"......\$68,000 2011 NH CR9080, 724/552 hrs....\$335,000 2011 NH P2070, 70', 10" ......\$85,000 2008 NH SD550, 70', 10".....\$59,000 2010 CIH 700, 70', 12".....\$33,500 2008 CIH 700, 70', 12".....\$29,500 2007 CIH 700, 70', 10".....\$28,000

### **AIR TANK/CART**

2010 Bourgault 6700, Tow Be-

hind Conveyor, 3 meters ......\$118,000 2013 Bourgault L6550 .....\$115,000 2013 Bourgault L6550 .....\$115,000 2013 Bourgault L6550 .....\$115,000 2008 Bourgault 6550 .....\$89,000 2012 Bourgault 6450, .....\$115,000 2012 Bourgault 6350, Tow Behind . \$58,000 1995 Flexi-Coil 5000/1330 ......\$28,000 2015 Bourgault L7800 .....\$251,800

### **BALER/ROUND**

2004 CIHRBX562, 12,600 Bales ...\$13,800 2005 NH BR780, .....\$13,500 2003 NH BR780, .....\$11,800 2006 NH BR780A, .....\$14,500 2010 NH BR7090 ......\$29,500

### **BLADE**

### **COMBINE**

2015 NH CX8080, 135 Thr Hrs.....\$419,000 2010 NH CX8080, 1875/1348 hrs \$249,800 2010 NH CX8080, 1755/1237 hrs \$249,800 2010 NH CX8080, 1722/1240 hrs \$249,800 2009 NH CX8080, 1858/1430 hrs \$215,000 2007 NH CX8080, 1729/1186 hrs\$169,500 2011 NH CX8080, 1072/854 hrs ..\$258,000 2010 NH CX8080, 1000/900 hrs .. \$228,000 2012 NH CR8090, 1144/917 Hrs \$289,000 2012 NH CR8090, 1058/811 Hrs \$299,000 40', 10", Piller Openers ......\$115,000 2014 NH CR8090, 321/221 hrs ....\$398,000 2004 NH CX860, 2688/2035 hrs ..\$119,000 2004 NH CX860, 3685/2869 hrs ....\$98,000 2006 NH CX860, 2545/1895 hrs ..\$118,000 2002 NH CX840, 3700/2500 hrs ....\$78,000 1997 NH TX66, 3754/2781 hrs......\$28,500 1998 NH TX66, 3438/2643 hrs......\$28,500 1998 NH TX66, 2796/2188 hrs......\$48,000 1996 NH TR98, 2931/2211 hrs......\$39,000 1997 NH TR98, 2740/1934 hrs......\$38,000 1997 NH TR98, 3058/2357 hrs......\$28,000 1997 NH TR98,.....\$18,000 1998 NH TR98, 3341/2305 hrs......\$18,000 2008 NH CR9070, 2279/1562 hrs \$228,000 2010 NH CR9070, 1622/1199 hrs \$179,500 2007 NH CR9070, 948/780 hrs .... \$198,000 2007 NH CR9070, 1710/1253 hrs \$179,000 2008 NH CR9070 1238/1026 hrs.\$179,000 2011 NH P1070, Tow Behind ........\$98,000 2008 NH CR9070, 1434/1023 hrs \$189,500 2010 Case IH 3430.....\$45,000 2008 NH CR9070, 1489/1020 hrs \$195,000 Bourgault 3225, ......\$13,500 2009 NH CR9070, 1733/1419 Hrs\$169,000 2010 CIH 3430 ......\$45,000 2009 NH CR9070, 1597/1208 Hrs\$179,000 2008 CIH 3430 ......\$39,500 2010 NH CR9070, 1300/1153 hrs \$198,000 2007 CIH 3430 .....\$35,000 2010 NH CR9070, 1616/1190 hrs \$189,000 1996 Bourgault 4300 ......\$13,800 2009 NH CR9080, 1347/980 hrs .. \$249,000 2011 NH CR9090, 1087/837 Hrs \$299,000 2012 NH CR9090, 868/632hrs ..... \$339,000 2012 NH CR9090, 811/576 hrs .... \$369,000 2005 NH CR970, 2459/1821 hrs..\$138,000 2006 NH CR970, 1861/1300 hrs..\$149,000 2006 NH CR970, 1400/1100 hrs..\$178,000 2006 NH CR970, 1547/1219 hrs..\$159,000 2015 NH CR9.90E, 430/309 hrs...\$519,000 2007 Leon 4000 STX425- Frameless\$13,800 2015 NH CR9.90E, 366/268 hrs...\$529,000 2011 Leon Q5000 STX Quad .......\$30,000 2000 CIH8010, 1728/1322 hrs .....\$189,000 2007 Q4000 6 way TJ450 ......\$19,500 2013 JD S680, 933/653 hrs.......\$387,000 2013 Leon Q5000, ......\$33,000 2007 JD 9860STS, 1627/1161 hrs\$208,000

### **VERTICAL TILLAGE**

2007 Bourgault 6000 .....\$25,800 2013 Salford I-2141, 41' ......\$99,000 2014 Salford I-4141, 41' .....\$115,000 2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30' ......\$68,000 FEED WAGON/BALE PROCESSOR

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1993 Flexi-Coil S65, .....\$7,900 2003 Flexi-Coil S67, .....\$19,500 2002 Bobcat \$185.....\$23,500 2005 JD 9860STS, 1497 hrs .......\$148,000 2008 NH SF115, ......\$24,900 2002 NH TJ450, 9000 hrs .......\$138,000

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2008 Miller A75.....\$139,500 2012 NH SP240.....\$258,000 2009 Rogator 1084, 3160 hrs......\$159,000 2011 JD 4830, 1599 hrs .....\$218,000 2008 CIHPatriot 3320, Eng Hrs: 3030 ......\$148.000 2011 JD 4830, Eng Hrs: 1820 .....\$218,000

### **SWATHER**

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2053/1440 hrs .....\$85,000 2010 MacDon M150, 35', 1848/1213 hrs .....\$85,000 2012 MF 9740, .....\$98,000

2003 Premier 2952, 2098 Hrs......\$48,000 1998 MacDon 960, .....\$9,500 1998 MacDon 960, 25' .....\$9,500 2013 MacDon M155/D6540,

520 hrs ......\$138.000

2007 NH HW325, 1200hrs ......\$58,000 2012 JD A400.....\$89,000 1999 MacDon 9300 .....\$28,000 2014 NH SR200.....\$175,000 2013 MacDon M105, 170 Hrs .....\$138,000

### **TRACTOR**

2012 Case IH U105 ......\$59,000 1986 JD 4850, 11,460 hrs .....\$58,000 2012 NH T7.170 .....\$109,000 2011 NH T7.170 - LDR, 2005 hrs. \$119,000 2011 NH T7.270 AutoCommand

- LDR, 2360 hrs.....\$178,000 1997 Westward 9030.....\$4,000 2009 NH TV6070 - LDR, Eng

Hrs: 4660 .....\$95,000 2004 NH 1475, Toung only.....\$6,500 2010 NH T7040 .....\$129,000 2011 Versatile 305, 1800 hrs ...... \$149,500 2009 Case IH 45CT .....\$35,900 2010 Kubota BX1860 .....\$9,000

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All provincial crop commission regional meetings will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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### **NEW CAMPAIGN RECRUITING 'AGVOCATES'**

Agriculture More Than Ever has launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging everyone in the agriculture industry to be an "agvocate." A recent survey found 93 per cent of consumers know little or nothing about Canadian farming practices, but 60 per cent said they want to know more about them. As part of the campaign, individuals who work in various sectors of agriculture submitted video clips of themselves encouraging others to get involved in telling agriculture's story. To see the video and learn about other ways to participate, go to www.AgMoreThanEver.ca, or follow the conversation on Twitter @AgMoreThanEver. - AgMoreThanEver

### ORGANIC FOOD EDGES TOWARDS MAINSTREAM IN FRANCE

Organic food sales in France are set to rise by 20 per cent in 2016. Europe's largest agricultural producer had been relatively slow to take to organic food compared to neighbours like Germany. But the organic market is becoming more mainstream, with sales on track to hit 6.9 billion euros (C\$10.2 billion) this year. Organic farmland expanded to 1.57 million hectares, or 5.8 per cent of total farmland in France, this year. Carrefour, Europe's biggest retailer, is developing stand-alone organic food stores in Paris, as well as selling organic brands in its supermarkets, and this year acquired e-commerce organic supplier Greenweez. — Reuters

# **MORE NEWS**

# Competitive freight rates are a must, farm leaders tell Ottawa

Temporary measures should be extended beyond next August because they're forcing railways to be more competitive

BY ALEX BINKLEY

rairie farmers pay the price when the railways fail to move their grain on time.

That was the message farm leaders had for the Commons transport committee recently, as part of a pitch to extend temporary competition provisions introduced in 2014 beyond next August.

"In the 2014-15 year Canadian farmers paid \$1.4 billion in freight charges to export their grain," said Humphrey Banack, vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Farmers, not the grain companies, always seem to be where the buck stops,

"They pay all the freight for moving the grain," said Banack, who left his Alberta farm in mid-harvest to speak to the committee. "They pay for disruptions. They pay for delays. They even pay the penalties charged by shipping companies when their vessels have to wait in port for demurrage.

Our livelihood and even our monthly cash flow depend on the timely, dedicated and concentrated efforts of the two railway companies that basically have a monopoly.

"Farmers' ability to manage their grain movement — and by extension their cash flow and their ability to pay their bills on time — is captive to a monopolized transportation system that is focused solely on cutting costs and maximizing returns."

He urged the government to continue to mandate the volumes of grain needed to be moved at any given time.

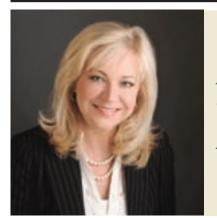
"The success of the Canadian grains and oilseeds industry is contingent on finding international markets, providing a competitive price for those markets and getting the product to the market in a timely fashion," Banack said. 'All those conditions cannot be left to the vagaries of the railways... because farmers have no alternatives for access to export markets and because farmers need competitive freight rates, volumes of grain need to be moved in a timely manner especially during times of bumper crop conditions and high demand in the international markets.

Fiona Cook, executive director of Grain Growers of Canada, said the group wants the current 160-kilometre interswitching rule made permanent because its presence gives farmers and grain companies important leverage with the railways.

The rule has already made for more competitive freight rates and service, and has directly benefited farmers, she said. "Not only have farmers noted reduced costs, they have also gained more leverage in getting rail capacity where needed.'

Some elevators have "operationalized" the interchange right by applying for an ongoing interswitching rate, while others have used it as a leverage, to negotiate with railways.

"The mere existence of the option can provide shippers with the necessary leverage to obtain better terms and conditions, and shippers report that after using interswitching and the alternate line to move shipments, the originating carrier has then come forward to offer better rates and service terms," Cook



"The original 30-kilometre radius was intended for urban centres and moving product at port. It encompassed very few grain-loading facilities: six per cent had access at 30 kilometres. Now at 160 km, 92 per cent have access."

FIONA COOK

Prairies and the nature of grain transportation in Western Canada. The original 30-kilometre radius was intended for urban centres and moving product at port. It encompassed very few grain-loading facilities: six per cent had access at 30 kilometres. Now at 160 kilometres, 92 per cent have access.' She said that for the previous crop

"Extending the radius to 160 kilometres

better reflects the large expanse of the

year up to May 20, 2016, "interswitching resulted in savings of almost \$4 million and almost 1,300 additional rail cars put into service.'

Jean-Marc Ruest, vice-chair of Cereals Canada, said that organization also supported making the 160-kilometre interswitching rule permanent.

"This provision is proving to be an effective tool to provide additional competirailways, as well as with at least one other ronment."

North American carrier," he said. "Its very existence provides eligible grain shippers an extremely useful competitive tool to access in negotiations with rail service providers.

Federal grain transport volume minimums "should be extended until legislation is enacted that will introduce true commercial accountability to all system participants," he added. Better regulation of the railways is critical if Canada is to meet growing demand and maintain a reputation as a reliable supplier. Failure to perform a regulator framework will negatively impact the entire value chain including farmers, grain handlers, and exporters.

'Virtually all shippers are served by one carrier and are subject to monopolistic pricing and service strategies," he said. "Therefore, the government has a critical role to play in establishing a regulatory tion between the two Canadian Class 1 structure that mimics a competitive envi-

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# Climate change could cross key threshold in a decade – scientists

Exceeding global warming targets could mean drastic action is necessary



Ice melts on the Aletsch Glacier in Fiesch, Switzerland, August 12, 2015. One of Europe's biggest glaciers, the Great Aletsch coils 23 km (14 miles) through the Swiss Alps – and yet this mighty river of ice could almost vanish in the lifetimes of people born today because of climate change. PHOTO: REUTERS/DENIS BALIBOUSE

**BY LAURIE GOERING** 

OXFORD/THOMSON REUTERS

■ he planet could pass a key target on world temperature rise in about a decade, prompting accelerating loss of glaciers, steep declines in water availability, worsening land conflicts and deepening poverty, scientists said this week.

Last December, 195 nations agreed to try to hold world temperature rise to "well below" 2 C, with an aim of 1.5 C.

But the planet is already twothirds of the way to that lower and safer goal, and could begin to pass it in about a decade, according to Richard Betts, head of climate impacts research at the U.K. Met Office's Hadley Centre.

With world emissions unlikely to slow quickly enough to hit that target, it will probably be necessary to remove some carbon pollution from the atmosphere to stabilize the planet, scientists said at a University of Oxford conference on how to achieve the 1.5° goal.

That could happen by planting forests or by capturing and then pumping underground emissions from power plants. Or countries could turn to controversial "geoengineering" techniques, such as blocking some of the sunlight arriving on the planet, to hold down temperatures, they said.

"Negative emission technologies are likely to be needed, whether we like them or not," said Pete Smith, a plant and soil scientist at the University of Aberdeen.

But other changes — such as reducing food waste and creating more sustainable diets, with less beef and fewer imported greenhouse vegetables — could also play a big role in meeting the goal, without so many risks, he said.

"There are lots of behavioural changes required, not just by the government... but by us," Smith

The scientists said building resilience to deal with climate change impacts was likely to prove tricky, not least because their scale and timing remains hard to predict with precision.

"We need to get ready to deal with surprise," said Jim Hall, director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

### To warn or not?

Maarten van Aalst, director of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, said officials in the Netherlands failed to issue a heat warning earlier this month, despite a prediction of very hot days, because they assumed — falsely — that lower nighttime temperatures in September would help moderate the problem.

That kind of difficulty in making good decisions about changing conditions is playing out in many places, van Aalst said.

"This is the sort of misperception... that will determine how we cope with these risks," he said.

Virginie Le Masson, a researcher on disaster risk, climate change and gender issues at the London-based Overseas Development Institute, said climate change was another factor — on top of widespread problems such as bad governance and social inequality — adding to the pressures people face.

Helping those most vulnerable to climate change to withstand the problem will require efforts to help them not only adapt to changes but also to absorb shocks, van Aalst said.

Ethiopia's government, for instance, operates a public works program that pays poor people cash or food for work on public projects, such as improving water channels

The program can be quickly scaled up in times of drought to provide a social safety net for those affected, while the work done improves water systems and builds drought resilience, said Stephane Hallegatte, a senior economist working on climate change issues at the World

Other effective ways to boost resilience among the poor include Rwanda's push to provide health insurance — 80 per cent of people now have coverage — and giving poor people access to savings accounts, as a safer alternative to the tradition of putting cash into disaster-vulnerable livestock, Hallegatte said.

### Land competition

The problem, the scientists said, is that some of the coming pressures may be very hard to reduce. Competition for land, for instance, is likely to grow in coming years as it is simultaneously needed to grow food, to protect biodiversity and store carbon in forests, and to grow more climate-friendly biofuel crops.

That makes holding down global temperature rise — currently on a path toward at least 2.7 Cof warming - more difficult, the scientists said.

"We are woefully behind in our current response to climate change," said Stefan Raubenheimer, the director of SouthSouthNorth, a Cape Town-based organization.



### Glyphosate 'not likely' to cause cancer, says new U.S. review

U.S. agency adds its voice to the chorus calling the product non-carcinogenic

BY ALEX BINKLEY

lyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, has been found to not likely be a carcinogen.

The decision from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is an interim finding, with a final position due sometime next spring

The decision matches up with a similar finding last year from Health Canada, which declared glyphosate safe when used in accordance with label directions.

Also last year the European Food Safety Authority con-

cluded glyphosate was "unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans."

Before that, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans." That study was criticized for basing findings on unrealistically high levels of glyphosate usage.

After reviewing the available data, the EPA said, "The strongest support is for 'not likely to be carcinogenic to humans' at doses relevant to human health risk assessment."

After performing a re-evaluation last year of glyphosate, Health Canada proposed to continue registration of products containing glyphosate for sale and use in Canada. Once the final re-evaluation decision is made, the registrant will be instructed on how to address any new requirements, the department said.

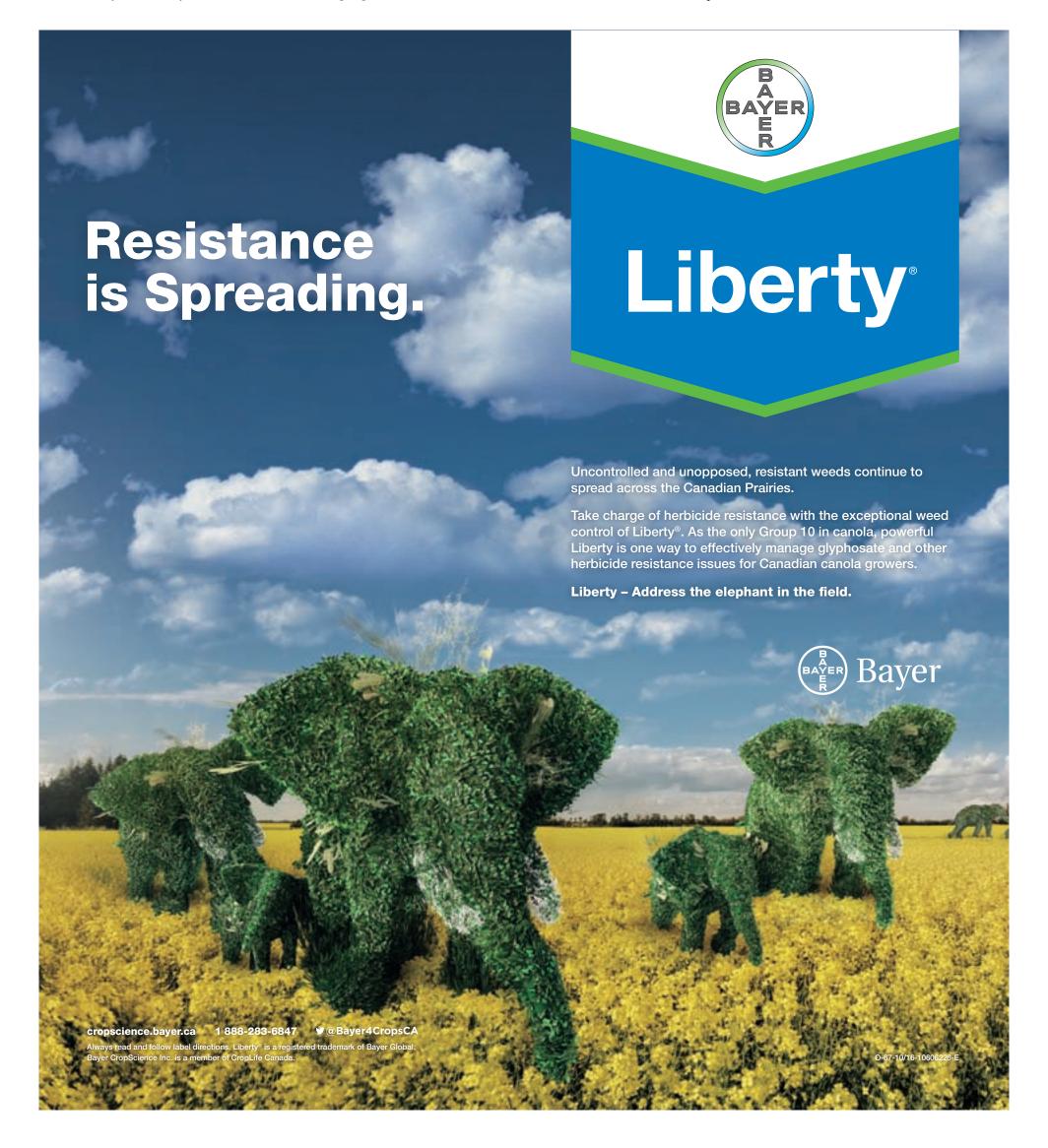
Health Canada regularly reviews registered pesticides "... to ensure that they continue to meet modern standards for human health and environmental protection and provide value."

The department studied data from a variety of sources and looked at potential health effects from exposure, as well as potential effects on the environment.



The world's most commonly used weed killer has been found to be non-carcinogenic by the U.S. EPA. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

"Currently, no pesticide regulatory authority in the world considers glyphosate to be a carcinogenic risk to humans, including the recent reports of the European Food Safety Authority and the Joint UN Food and Agriculture Organization/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues," the Health Canada statement reads.



### TWO YOUNG BUCKS GETTING ALONG... FOR NOW



A pair of white-tailed deer graze through the tall grass beside a log barn near Millarville, Alta. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY



### Subway pledges to ramp up Canadian food products

STAFF

One of the biggest fast-food players has pledged to use more Canadian suppliers for its stores north of the border.

The U.S.-based sandwich chain Subway said it has introduced "Canadian-raised" ham, turkey and shaved steak at its Canadian restaurants and is "committed" to sourcing all roast beef, chicken and meatballs from Canadian producers by the end of the year.

The Connecticut company recently committed to "free-from" sourcing, pledging to pull all artificial colours, flavours and preservatives from its product offerings by 2017.

So far, the company said, its Canadian arm has removed those ingredients from 28 menu items, adding turkey, chicken and roast beef to that list as of last month.

The company noted it has also moved to provide "homegrown produce across Canada, where possible," starting in 2014 with Quebec-grown green peppers in its Quebec restaurants during peak harvest season. This year, its Ontario restaurants used Ontariogrown cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and onions during peak harvest season, and B.C. cucumbers will also be served in restaurants in Western Canada when in season.

Subway is the third-largest fastfood chain in Canada behind Tim Hortons and McDonald's. — *Staff* 

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# Abrasive weeding mechanically controls weeds without tillage

A Minnesota-based USDA agronomist had the idea after a bumper apricot crop

new research project in the U.S. Midwest aims to blast weeds away literally

The technique is known as abrasive weeding and it basically amounts to sandblasting weeds.

It all started when Minnesota experienced a bumper crop of backyard apricots in 2007. Frank Forcella, a USDA weed scientist and agronomist, was left with a pile of pits after harvesting his crop. This caused him to ponder if there might be a use for this sort of 'agricultural waste.

He began by searching the web and discovering that fruit processors frequently ground up the pits to use them as sandblasting grit. This is where his professional training kicked in, as he found himself wondering whether weeds could be killed by sandblasting.

He and a colleague began experimenting with the technique at the USDA's North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory, using a small commercially available sandblaster. They grew corn and weeds adjacent to each other and when the corn was six inches high and the weeds three inches high, they blasted them both for a split second.

Turns out only the weeds were hurt.

This warranted further research. First they used a larger mobile unit on an ATV, then finally, after receiving a research grant, moved on to a more advanced machine to weed row crops like corn.

A second model, designed for vegetable crops with wider row spacing, is being tested by another researcher at the University of Nebraska and now researchers in Spain are looking at a more complex system that will automatically detect weeds and turn on and off on its own.

Forcella says organic farmers are an obvious potential market.



Sandblasting might be a way to kill weeds and leave crops unharmed. lowering the environmental impact of weed control measures and giving organic growers other options. PHOTO: DEAN PETERSON/USDA

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995	NH 9880, 4 Hyds, 5330 hrs, outback gps, 20.8/42 duals	\$80,000
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012	Macdon D60, 40ft,tran,aguer,cr adapter	\$59,000
011	Case IH 2152, 40ft,SKD,auger,transport, AFX adapter,	\$65,000
010	Case IH 2152, 45 ft, auger, transport, aft & adapter	\$59,000
009	NH 94C-36, 36ft PU reel, transport, cr adapter	\$49,000
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# High-tech X-rays may be key to finding healthier fats

Canadian researchers are trying to understand what gives edible fats their texture

ow are edible fats "built?" What gives them their unique textures?

Nobody's really sure, and that's fuelling a research project by scientists at the University of Guelph, with the assistance of the United States Department of Energy and their Advanced Photon Source at Lemont, Illi-

The researchers hope to replace unhealthful trans and saturated fats with better nonsaturated versions — all without compromising texture. That swap could have great implications for the food industry, said Maria Fernanda Peyronel-Svaikauskas, a research associate working on the project.

Trans and saturated fats are important because they provide structure for semi-solid edible fats such as shortening or butter-like spreads. But "as soon as the healthier unsaturated fats are used to replace the trans and saturated ones, the solid structure is lost," she said.

"The key problem is the food industry trying to do this with much trial and error. We are trying to help it by removing the trial and error.'



Maria Fernanda Peyronel-Svaikauskas, a research associate working on the project, demonstrates how to calibrate the imaging equipment. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The team uses new technology called ultra-small-angle X-ray scattering for structural analysis of fats and oils.

"You're looking at X-ray scattering at really tiny angles," Peyronel-Svaikauskas said. "The smaller the angle, the larger the feature you look at in your sample. That's important if you want to understand how the meso to micro structure gets formed."

They found characteristic patterns normally missed by conventional wide- or small-angle scattering.

Food scientists may use this information to decide whether they have the desired product for a particular purpose.

# Nitrate buildup a threat after a light frost

When this happens you need to either harvest quickly or wait for nitrate levels to subside

#### **ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE**

itrate accumulation can become a problem when crops experience light frosts of -1 C to -2 C for even only a few hours during the night.

These conditions damage the leaves of the plants, but not the roots. Over the next three to four days, the roots continue to send nutrients up the plant, and the damaged plant is unable to use those nutrients, resulting in nitrate accumulation.

"When we get a heavy frost of -5 C to -6 C for six or seven hours, the internal working system of the plant is completely destroyed and it can no longer move water or nutrients," said beef and forage specialist Barry Yaremcio. "A killing frost means that the plants are dead and therefore nitrates won't accumulate

"It's the light frosts experienced for only a few hours that damage the plant but not the internal bundles that are still able to move water and nutrients up the stem. The injured leaves can't use the nutrients effectively, and that's when there is the greatest chance of nitrate accumulation."

Annual crops are the most susceptible to nitrate accumulation, oats being the worst, but also barley and wheat. Immature salvage canola crops cut for silage or greenfeed also has a tendency to accumulate nitrates.

"Alfalfa is a legume and the nodules attached to the roots tend to hoard the nitrogen and only release as much as the plants require," said Yaremcio. "Nitrate accumulation is extremely rare in alfalfa."

Application of nitrogen fertilizer or manure also increases the risk of nitrate accumulation.

"If fields have been used for swath grazing, winter feeding areas, have had high manure applications or high amounts of fertilizers applied in the spring, those fields are more susceptible to accumulate nitrate in the plants," said Yaremcio. "If there's been no fertilizer applied, or if it's an old grass field, those fields are not typically a problem."

After a frost, the timing for cutting the field is a key factor in managing nitrogen accumulation. "If producers can get out in the field the day after the frost and cut it as quickly as they can, there shouldn't be a problem," said Yaremcio. "Nitrate levels increase and peak on the third or fourth day after a frost.'

If there is time for the plants to recover, and no subsequent killing frost, then nitrate levels will decline and return to normal after 14 days.

"It's either get out there the day after the frost and cut very quickly, or wait 10 to 14 days before cutting the field," said Yaremcio.

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# Carbon tax worries agriculture groups

#### Too heavy-handed regulation that's out of step with other countries could put Canadian farmers at a disadvantage

BY ALEX BINKLEY

Proposals for a carbon tax to help reduce emissions that cause climate change pose a major threat to Canadian farmers, says the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Canadian farmers already have to cope with a tough climate, says Robin Speer, the association's executive director.

"They're already producing more food while using less land, water and fuel per bushel," Speer said.

New crop varieties, fertilizers and production practices have boosted production, already giving the sector an impressive track record of improvement in recent years.

"But Canadian farmers are worried a carbon tax will undercut their ability to compete with farmers around the world without actually protecting the environment," he said. It's essential that Canada move in step with the U.S. in adopting measures to fight climate change, said Ron Bonnett, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

"If we end up with a carbon cost different than our competitors, the agri-food sector will be in trouble," be said

The CFA and its members are discussing how to respond to carbon tax proposals.

"We know action has to be taken but there's such a mix of proposals coming forward," Bonnett said.

One point farm groups need to make is that agriculture deserves credit for all the steps it has taken to reduce its carbon footprint.

"We've made tremendous changes to increase production while reducing our emissions," Bonnett said.

There are steps governments could take to help such as supporting methane digesters for livestock operations and giving farmers credit for the carbon sink capability of their land.

"The key item is for governments to be careful about not leaving us at a competitive disadvantage," he said.

Speer points out that American and Australian farmers won't be hit with a carbon tax. In fact Australia tried and discarded one.

"The climate matters to farmers – a timely rain or an early frost can be the difference between staying afloat or handing the farm over to the bank after a foreclosure," he said. "But farmers are worried that carbon taxes will threaten their way of life without protecting the environment."

He notes a John Deere S690 combine has a fuel tank that holds 1,155 litres. British Columbia is charging a carbon tax of 7.7 cents per litre of diesel.

"That means farmers would pay \$89 in carbon taxes per fill during harvest, and it requires many tanks of fuel to take off millions of tonnes of grain every year," Speer said. He also cautions against simply exempting farmers from a carbon tax. While B.C. has done that, farmers' livelihoods would remain at risk.

If farmers are exempted, someone else will have to bear a disproportionate burden to meet emission reduction targets. The Manitoba government estimates that agriculture accounts for 30 per cent of that province's greenhouse gas emissions. "Exempting agriculture would force others to reduce more emissions and that affects farmers," he said.

For example, agriculture depends on nitrogen fertilizer, which is energy intensive to produce.

"Canadian fertilizer producers work hard to minimize emissions, but a carbon tax would force them to raise prices," Speer said. "That would force Canadian farmers to make a difficult decision: Pay a higher price for Canadian fertilizers or

buy them from other countries? And again, how would it help the environment to put Canadian fertilizer plants out of business while plants in other countries expand?"

Marc Lee, an economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, says that since B.C. implemented a carbon tax, its greenhouse gas emissions have risen every year.

"Since 2010, B.C.'s GHG emissions have increased every year," he said. "As of 2013, they are up 4.3 per cent above 2010 levels. To be truly effective, carbon taxes will need to be much higher than B.C.'s current rates."

So paying 7.7 cents in tax per litre of diesel isn't enough to reduce emissions, Speer says.

"Canada accounts for 1.6 per cent of global emissions," Speer said. "How high would Canada's carbon tax have to be to have a practical impact, especially if other countries aren't imposing carbon taxes on their people?"

# Flour mill founded by farmers to double in size

One of the last independent flour mills on the continent is set to expand its operation in Elie, Man.

Prairie Flour Mills has begun an \$18-million expansion of its milling operation to meet growing demand for its conventional and organic flour products.

"Our customer demand has been consistently equalling and in some cases, exceeding, our production capacity and a decision was made to expand our mill," said Clayton Manness, the company's president.

The combination of that growing demand, and the company's physical proximity to high-quality spring and winter wheat production has allowed the company to offer its products at a competitive price to the baking and food-manufacturing industry, he said.

The project, which will double the milling capacity of the plant, is expected to be completed by "early 2018."

In addition to a mill expansion, several ancillary projects will complement the project in order to handle a higher volume of in-bound wheat, and finished flour product capacity.

Prairie Flour Mills was originally built by a small group of local farmers and businessmen, and has undergone two earlier expansions since its inception in 1998. — Staff



# Rail review chair says the big picture is being overlooked

David Emerson says building a robust system is the biggest challenge, but he also favours measures to curb the 'power imbalance'

BY ALEX BINKLEY

avid Emerson says people are getting bogged down in the detail and missing the big picture of a report on the Canada Transportation Act (CTA).

The former federal cabinet minister and chair of the fivemember panel that authored the report recently made his first public remarks since presenting the report to government last December.

"The report was really intended to look out 25 to 30 years," he told the Commons transport committee.

Getting Canada's transportation system working well is "the No. 1 way to ensure the competitiveness of the country going forward," he stressed.

Transportation has become more important to trade success than trade policy, he said, noting

that it's common for commercial activities to cover the globe and low tariffs mean borders aren't much barrier.

"Transportation actually is a larger component of overall cost structures than almost anything you can think of on the trade front," Emerson said.

The question for Canadians is how to be competitive in two or three decades, and that's not a long time in the transportation sector, he said.

Transportation regulation has to be crafted in a "very, very long-term perspective in order to enable what is a very, very complex transportation system to adjust to any changes that are material in terms of policy and regulation, he added.

The report was "not intended to be a micro here-and-now to-do list," he said. "The most important thing for the government to do is get decision-making right. "Yes, we have individual recommendations throughout the report, but if you don't get governance right, you're really not doing very much," he said. "You're playing around at the edges."

With that he dealt with questions about the report's recommendation to sunset the extended interswitching limit the Harper government enacted in 2014 as part of a package to deal with chaos in Prairie grain transportation.

He said the debate over interswitching is a "very narrow debate because it applies only to certain provinces and only applies to grain. It is an attempt to add a dimension of competition into a system — which to be very blunt — is rife with power imbalances between major service providers and small shippers... Interswitching is one small tool to help the agricultural sector around that."

Preserving the current 160-kilometre limit would not be "a big problem, to be honest with you," he said.

"But I do think it's a big problem if there isn't consideration to a longer-term evolution to allow a broader interswitching capacity going forward. We really should be not just focusing on interswitching as it relates to grain, or as it relates to three provinces. We need to look at interswitching in a larger sense."

More important is the recommendation to overhaul the mandate of the Canadian Transportation Agency, he said. Equipped with an enhanced resource base, "the agency could make determinations across a whole range of shippers who feel that they are disadvantaged by their local situation or local service provider. And it gives the agency the flexibility to mandate interswitching. It could be 160, it could be

more than that or less than that. Ideally it should probably cover other commodities as well. Our view was, the 160 is arbitrary, it's narrow in terms of public policy considerations and should be broadened."

"That has to be beyond the CTA, which has a more restricted regulatory focus and I do believe that you do need advisory mechanisms that include the various elements of the transportation and logistics system," he said.

"And you need a significant amount of input from financial institutions as well because to really enable the transportation system to grow and thrive in the future takes a lot more money than the government can possibly throw at it and you're going to need the private sector to come to the table. Government is going to have to learn how to enable the private sector to make a bigger contribution."



### New app allows quick access to automated external defibrillators

#### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE RELEASE

St. John Ambulance and a French organization called AEDMAP have partnered to develop a Canadian version of the Save A Life app so responders can quickly find an automated external defibrillator (AED) when needed.

Someone in Canada experiences a cardiac arrest every 13 minutes. Early recognition, CPR and use of an AED can increase the odds of survival by 75 per cent or more. The Save A Life app allows Canadian organizations with an AED to register their device. In the event of an emergency, members of the public or Emergency Services personnel can use the app to locate the nearest AED, saving precious seconds.

In addition, Save A Life will allow persons trained in CPR to register themselves as first responders so that in the event of an emergency they can be notified via SMS, asking if they can provide first aid. This will mean the critical time searching for assistance can be significantly reduced, which will ultimately help improve the outcomes of Canadians who are experiencing a cardiac emergency.

The Save A Life app will be launched this fall along with the new 2016 Canadian Guidelines on First Aid and CPR.

AEDMAP (www.aedmap.org) is a French company with offices in Paris, Toronto, and Dubai. Founded by emergency physician Paul Dardel in 2012, AEDMAP specializes in AED mapping and monitoring solutions. Staying Alive, the company's free mapping app is available in 18 languages, has been downloaded over a million times, and currently lists 80,000 AEDs worldwide. Versions of the app have been released for EMS providers in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, the UAE, and now Canada.

# IGC trims 2016-17 world corn crop forecast, raises wheat

Grain stocks are set to rise with production at all-time high

BY NIGEL HUNT

**▼** he International Grains Council cut its forecast for the 2016-17 world corn crop Sept. 29, mainly reflecting downward revisions for China and the European

The intergovernmental body put corn (maize) production at a still record 1.027 billion tonnes, down three million from its previous forecast but above the prior season's 970

"Overly dry weather has affected (corn) crop prospects in the EU and China," the IGC said in a monthly report, cutting its forecast for China's crop by two million tonnes to 217 million and EU output by 2.1 million to 59.5 million.

The IGC raised its forecast for global wheat production in 2016-17 by four million tonnes to a record 747 million, up from the previous season's 736 million.

"The outlook for wheat is again cut for the EU, but this is outweighed by increases for Australia, Canada, China and Kazakhstan," the IGC said.

The largest increase was



France and other European nations had a below-average wheat harvest this year, but other countries, including Canada, more than made up the difference. PHOTO: REUTERS/PASCAL ROSSIGNOL

for China, the world's top wheat producer, which is now expected to have a crop of 128 million tonnes, up from a previous forecast of 126 million but still below the prior season's 130.2 million.

Total grains production in 2016-17 was unchanged at an all-time high of 2.069 billion, up from 2.002 billion in 2015-

"Despite further growth in demand, grain stocks are set to expand again, with those in the major exporters the biggest in seven years," the IGC said.

 $The\,IGC\,said\,it\,had\,increased$ its forecast for world soybean production in 2016-17 by four million tonnes to a record 329 million, largely reflecting a further improvement in the outlook for U.S. yields.

World rice production in 2016-17 was cut by two million tonnes to a still record 482 million due to slight downward revisions for some producers, notably Thailand.

# Above-average rainfall puts Australia wheat output at risk

While Australian farmers typically fret about drought, this year the trouble appears to be too much rain

**BY COLIN PACKHAM** 

ustralia's east coast will likely see wetter conditions than usual for the rest of 2016, stoking fears of wheat production losses in the world's No. 4 exporter of the grain.

The country's east coast has a 60 per cent chance of aboveaverage rainfall from October to December, says the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

That would come after recent heavy rains across the region either destroyed crops or downgraded the quality of wheat.

"If we get rains in November or December, which is very late in the season, that will mean downgrades of the crop to feed quality," said Phin Ziebell, agribusiness economist, National Australia Bank.

"Some farmers may try and get the crop out early to avoid those issues, but it is too wet at the moment to get into the paddocks.

Australia's east coast churns out the country's high-protein

wheat, meaning output losses would limit exportable supplies of the more desirable grain.

Lower wheat production from Australia could support global benchmark prices, which earlier this month hit a 10-year low due to ample global supply.

Australia's chief commodity forecast earlier this month raised its 2016 forecast for wheat output by more than 14 per cent to 28.1 million tonnes, which would be the secondhighest level on record.

While the rains pose a threat to Australia's grain farmers, the moisture will be welcomed bv cattle ranchers.

Livestock producers in Australia — the world's No. 4 beef exporter — are easing off on slaughtering cattle as they look to rebuild herds from 20-year lows following three years of drought.

Above-average rainfall will aid pasture growth and refill dams, easing pressure to cull cattle that were previously in danger of starving following the strongest El Niño in nearly 20 years.



# HEARTLAND

Community news and events from across the province

# 4-H Canada Club to Club Exchange a memory-making 'whirlwind





They were shy strangers for a day or so, but these Albertan and Newfie 4-H'ers quickly became fast friends when they hosted each other this summer. PHOTOS: PINCHER CREEK DISTRICT 4-H

BY GLENN CHEATER

hen the 4-H'ers from Newfoundland met their hosts from Pincher Creek District 4-H, the kids in both groups were shy, awkward, and a little bit (or even very) apprehensive.

Seven days later, "we could tell when the kids were saying goodbye that they were going to miss each other," said chaperon Myra Hammond

Fortunately, they knew the separation would be brief and the Albertans were Newfoundland bound in a week's time. Those contrasting airport scenes are just two of many memorable events that are the stock and trade of the 4-H Canada Club to Club Exchange.

The program pairs groups of 10 kids aged 12 to 17 from Eastern and Western Canada, with families of the participants hosting their child's "twin" and the clubs organizing a sightseeing extravaganza of their region. 4-H Canada covers the airfare for the kids (save

for a registration fee), screens host families, and facilitates the process to ensure the two visits (which are either seven or 10 days long) go as smoothly as possible.

"It's amazing. The cost is just \$150 per child — as a parent, you can't say no to that," said Hammond. "And 4-H Canada does all the booking of flights and organizes everything. It has conference calls for chaperons and can answer all of your questions.

Hammond and fellow chaperon Suzanne Kirby heard about the program four years ago and volunteered to handle the application from their district.

"The application form is quite extensive for both the host families and chaperons," said Hammond. "It's very doable but there's a lot of information you have to put in and a lot of criteria has to be met before you're eligible. Of course, that's good because you're sending your kid to a stranger's house."

Their first two applications ran into snags, then the exchange program went on hiatus for 2015, but finally "it all clicked" and the district

was matched with a group of clubs located near St. John's. The two groups (the Albertans came from three clubs) then got busy choosing sightseeing spots and activities, fundraising (the host group covers the costs of admissions and tickets, as well as local travel), and the critical job of matching up the kids.

"We Skyped a lot with the other chaperons and did a lot of texting and emailing to match up the kids — you go through ages and interests and pair everybody up," said Hammond.

"You have a choice of seven or 10 days, and we chose a Saturday to a Saturday. I know most of the kids said that they were hesitant about it at first — you know, a little bit of nervousness about staying with someone you don't know. But in the end, they wished that they had 10 days at both ends. It would have been nice to have more free time because our schedule was just packed."

The Alberta leg included trips to the Calgary Stampede, Lundbreck Falls, a mine tour at Crowsnest Pass, Frank Slide, Head-SmashedIn Buffalo Jump, and Waterton Lakes National Park.

"We actually went to Waterton twice," said Hammond. "Once we hiked but you also have to do a community service, so we picked knapweed in the park. That was exciting because everybody saw their first black bear that day.

"Some of the kids went to Waterton on their evenings off and in the span of the week, they saw 13 bears if you can believe it. I don't think I've seen 13 bears in my life."

Seeing how the kids bonded and wanted more time just to hang out together, the Newfoundland hosts scaled back their itinerary, but it was still "a whirlwind," and included visits to famous spots (Cape Spear Lighthouse, the Cabot Tower, and Signal Hill) and a chocolate factory as well as whale-watching, sea-kayaking, and zip-lining.

"It was amazing how much we did," said Hammond. "They also had a lovely BBQ when we arrived and we got 'screeched in.' There was this very lively character speaking what I guess is Newfoundland-

ese; you do a little chant wishing people well; kiss a cod; and then drink screech."

The infamous Newfie rum was replaced with a non-alcoholic drink but "everybody kissed a fish," she added.

Seeing another part of the country is fun, but that's not what makes the exchange program a special thing, she said.

"You're immersed in the community, you're immersed in people's lives, so you form these relationships that go much deeper than meeting each other for a few hours every day. Some of the kids are still keeping in touch and you know some are like, 'If I ever go out that way or they come this way, we'll get together.'

"And it won't matter how many years have passed, they will reconnect and pick up where they left off. It's that kind of bond."

The deadline for applying for the 2017 edition of the program is Nov. 30. For details, go to www. 4-h-canada.ca (use the Programs and Events pull-down menu and then click on 'National Programs').

# 'Opportunities like this don't come up very often'

After arriving back from Newfoundland, participants shared their experiences in a report to 4-H Canada. Here are some of their comments:

enjoyed hosting. All of the people at my house made themselves at home. It was cool to show them my town and area. I liked being a tourist at home... My favourite activity in Newfoundland was zip-lining. We were really high up and we could see the ocean all day! I got out of my comfort zone (I don't like heights) and felt like I was flying! It was so cool. — *Jaxon* 

When I first watched the Newfoundlanders walk through the doors of the Calgary airport, I was surprised and suddenly nervous. I had been texting my "twin," Alicia, for quite some time, yet finally meeting her face to face was completely different. I talked the whole two-hour bus ride home about Alberta, my home, my family, my animals, cattle, ranching and farming, my 4-H club and projects... Alicia didn't say much at first but as we progressed through the

week we talked more and became good pals... We really connected during our second week together. Alicia and I still talk and even her mom has texted me since I've been home. Her family was fun and goofy. I loved listening to their stories and they enjoyed mine. — Jillanna

By the last few days of them being in Alberta we were all starting to bond more and then them leaving made me really sad. We all knew we were going to see each other in a week so that was comforting... We all finally bonded when we went to Newfoundland. Everywhere we went, we were loud and having the time of our summers!... I hope one day I will be able to go back and see all my friends. — *Sarah* 

This wild ride left me with 19 new friends and so many stories to tell my family when I got home from Newfoundland... Opportunities like this don't come up very often. If anyone is ever debating whether or not to take part in a 4-H exchange, do it, you will not regret it. — *Alexandra* 



Yes b'y, that's a real live cod that Brooke Hammond was working up the courage to kiss when she and her fellow 4-H'ers were 'screeched in' upon their arrival in Newfoundland. PHOTO: PINCHER CREEK DISTRICT 4-H

# Alberta farm groups support grain safety initiative

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON

STAF

A lberta Pulse Growers and Alberta Wheat Commission along with the Canadian Canola Growers Association and Prairie Oat Growers Association have committed \$120,000 to the Grain Safety Program.

The program, an initiative of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, will educate farmers, farm workers, and farm families about the dangers of grain handling and storage.

"The Alberta Wheat Commission is excited to be part of this grain safety initiative and it supports our belief that education is the most effective way to promote farm safety," said Alberta Wheat chair Kevin Auch. "This is a great program and our commitment ensures growers have access to tools that can help shape a safe farming operation."

The \$120,000 contribution will help the Grain Safety Program launch and operate. The program includes a mobile demonstration unit, a trade show display, youth tabletop displays, and an interactive grain safety website. It will start with one mobile unit and trade show display, focused on Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

"APG's support of the Grain Safety Program is about reducing injuries and deaths on Alberta farms," said Alberta Pulse Growers chair Allison Ammeter, who farms near Sylvan Lake. "Producers and their families take steps to prevent injuries on their farms every day, and we want them to have the best information to stay safe around grain."

The mobile unit will also help train first responders who are faced with a grain entrapment emergency.

There is a new emphasis on this area due to the high numbers of entrapments occurring as grain storage capacity expands, said Glen Blahey, a safety and health specialist at the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

From 2003 to 2012 there were 34 confirmed deaths. Last year alone there were seven, including four children. In Alberta, three children in the same family died after becoming entrapped in a truckload of canola

Last year may have been "a bit of an anomaly" but the number of entrapments is far too high, and is on the rise, Blahey said.

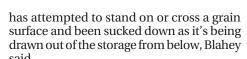
"We see them progressively increasing," he said.

Farmers or bystanders often fail to recognize the dangers, including realizing that the surface of grain is just like quicksand. There have been multiple incidents when someone



"The Grain Safety Program is about reducing injuries and deaths on Alberta farms."

ALLISON AMMETER



Entrapments also occur if someone attempts to walk across the surface of grain where a void exists beneath. This occurred in Manitoba a few years ago, when a farmer who was unloading grain entered the bin from the top to break a crust over the surface where the grain bridged. He broke through and was immediately enveloped from the grain that came down from the sides on top of him.

Death by grain entrapment also occurs if someone enters a storage facility and solidified grain on the walls collapses.

The first responders' training is also very important because in rural situations many of these people are volunteers and the extrication procedures are difficult, technically challenging and dangerous in their own right, despite the precautions. Even as these incidents are on the uptick, the specialized training they need can remain a lower priority because they don't happen all that frequently, said Blahey.

The first phase of the Grain Safety Program will run for three years and cost \$400,000, with more than \$300,000 raised so far. A second phase expanding the program into more communities would require another \$385,000 in funding.

Other donations and sponsorship have come from grower associations, companies, event organizers and media sponsors across the country. — with material from CASA release



**Oct. 11:** Beavers in Our Landscape, Community Service Building, Clairmont (also Oct. 12 in High Prairie). Contact: Jill Henry 780-532-9727

**Oct. 18:** Getting into Farming – Information Session, Airdrie Agriculture Centre, Airdrie. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

**Oct. 18-19:** Livestock Production: Managing in a Time of Unprecedented Change, Hotel Delta, Edmonton. Contact: Andrea 403-948-1528

**Oct. 19:** Foothills Fall Pasture Tour, Milo Hall, Milo. Contact: Rachel 403-700-7406

**Oct. 19:** Gardening with Livestock, Community Services Bldg., County of Grande Prairie, Clairmont. Contact: Jill 780-532-9727

**Oct. 20:** Cold Climate Forest Garden Design & Establishment, Teepee Creek Hall, Grande Prairie. Contact: Jill 780-532-9727

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

**Oct. 20-21:** Agri-Food Processing Lender's Conference, Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Edmonton Airport, Nisku. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

**Oct. 21:** Ag for Life Harvest Gala, BMO Centre, Calgary Stampede grounds, Calgary. Contact: Kaley 403-828-8184

Oct. 21-23: Whole Farm Design Workshop, Webster Hall, north of Sexsmith. Contact: Kolby 780-532-9727 ext. 2105

**Oct. 25:** Environmental Farm Plan Workshop, Wheatland County Office, Strathmore. Contact: Rachel 403-700-7406

**Oct. 26:** Cowbytes Workshop, Stettler & District Community Adult Learning Council, Stettler. Contact: Eric 780-582-7308

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# Another fumigation derogation granted

After years of six-month-long port-of-origin fumigation reprieves, Pulse Canada wants certainty

**BY SHANNON VANRAES** 

STAF

he Canadian pulse industry has been granted another stop-gap extension for a key fumigation requirement, but nobody is mistaking this development for a permanent solution.

India, a key market for the crops, fears shipments could be contaminated with nematodes, something they say could put their domestic crops at risk. Therefore they require shipments to be treated with methyl bromide, a product that's not used in Canada. The temporary waiver allows the ships to be treated at Indian ports, says Gord Kurbis, Pulse Canada's director of market access and trade policy.

"It's been shown that methyl bromide fumigation isn't effective at the low temperatures that can be present at port in Western Canada. There is a waiver that says, yes, in this case we can fumigate in India, instead of requiring fumigation in the port of origin," said Kurbis. "However, if there continues to need to be six-month extensions, which we understand are required because of an artifact within Indian legislation, then what we need to have happen is adequate notification, so that we have predictability for uninterrupted trade."

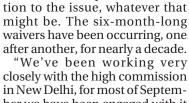
This most recent extension allows the pulses to be treated on arrival in India, until March 31, 2017.

The uncertainty could have serious implications for shipments caught in limbo.

"If you had a bulk vessel of pulses, let's say loaded sometime in August, that would arrive hypothetically on October 1, after the September 30 waiver had expired, then that vessel could run into some market access problems in India," said Kurbis. "And while that has obvious costs to companies that are in the export trade, let's face it, those costs trickle back to the farm gate."

"Those requirements should be laid out with an appreciation that there needs to be adequate notice given to trade to ensure uninterrupted exports."

GORD KURBIS



Pulse Canada said it is working

with both Canadian and Indian

officials to find a permanent solu-

"We've been working very closely with the high commission in New Delhi, for most of September we have been engaged with it on a daily, or near daily basis, he said. "The next step is that we will work with our officials so that the appropriate technical exchange between the national plant protection organizations of India and Canada occurs."

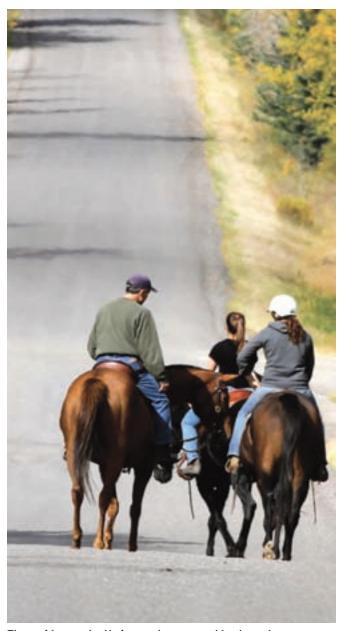
The organization is also working closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to better understand India's phytosanitary requirements, said Kurbis.

"Those requirements should be laid out with an appreciation that there needs to be adequate notice given to trade to ensure uninterrupted exports," he said. "And that if there are any import requirement changes that are being contemplated, then industry needs to be given time to make those adjustments, so that it can make sure that shipments are compliant with Indian import requirements."

India is the largest importer of Canadian pulse exports.

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com

#### AFTERNOON RIDE



Three riders make their way down a rural back road near Millarville, Alta., taking in the warm weather that arrived with the first days of autumn. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

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# USDA requires packers to report online cattle auction deals

The agency's goal is seen as providing cattle market transparency

BY TOM POLANSEK CHICAGO/REUTERS

he U.S. Department of Agriculture said Sept. 29 it will require meat packers to report cattle purchases they make through online auctions to the agency starting next week, a move that stoked traders' hopes for more transparent markets.

USDA will begin including transactions from auctions on the Fed Cattle Exchange in pricing reports that top packers, including Cargill and Tyson Foods, use to determine how much they should pay farmers for an increasing percentage of animals sold.

That means the exchange, which has held eight auctions since launching in May, will begin impacting prices that packers pay in the broader market.

The decision is the latest effort by government and industry officials aimed at improving transparency in cattle markets, which have come under heightened scrutiny following a sharp setback in prices in the second half of last year.

The exchange had asked USDA to include its auction results in the pricing report.

Cargill and Tyson said they were glad the agency agreed.

"Price discovery is important to both the packing and feeding sectors, and we believe this move will improve it," Tyson spokeswoman Caroline Ahn said. By requiring packers to report transactions, USDA intends to provide transparency to markets that few people see, such as deals farmers negotiate privately with packers. Cattle auctions are not normally included because anyone can attend them.

The exchange is different from other auctions, though, said Michael Lynch, director of the USDA division that compiles the pricing report. It provides an eBay-like platform for producers to sell their cattle to packers, instead of selling animals on behalf of producers, he said.

Declining transparency around cattle pricing has concerned producers and traders for years.

Farmers in the cash market have increasingly signed deals months in advance to sell cattle to packers, rather than negotiating prices shortly before sending animals to slaughter.

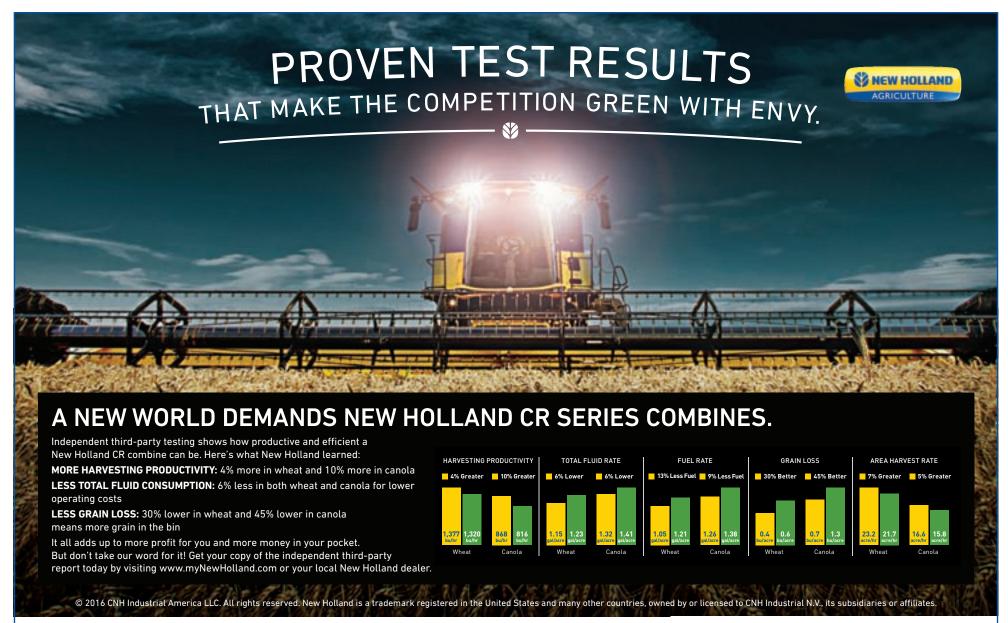
Some farmers and traders have said that shift has created a questionable pricing system. Packers often base prices for longer-term contracts partly on what the USDA reports was the average price paid in dwindling near-term negotiated deals.

Advance sales, known as formula contracts, accounted for about 57 per cent of cattle sales last year, up from 33 per cent a decade earlier, according to USDA data.

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# 'Backward' indigenous peoples may hold solutions to world hunger — campaigners

Traditional knowledge and food sources could contain far more wisdom than the developed world has ever realized

BY ALEX WHITING
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION/
TURIN ITALY

sing the contents of a deer's intestines to make soup may not be everyone's cup of tea, but then neither was quinoa before it became a trendy superfood known for its health benefits.

Both are foods of indigenous peoples who may hold solutions on how to feed a growing population and cope with the impact of climate change, campaigners and researchers said at an international food festival in the Italian city of Turin.

Just three crops provide 60 per cent of the world's calories: rice, wheat and maize, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), leaving the global food larder vulnerable to changes in climate and the spread of new plant diseases.

Indigenous peoples are some of the few who can expand the world's food base, said Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, indigenous peoples team leader at the FAO.

"Indigenous peoples are the last people who are domesticating (wild) plants... and they are the last people to have knowledge to domesticate plants," he said, speaking at the Slow Food festival, where hundreds of farmers, campaigners and academics have gathered.

Their means of growing food is an important model as the world grapples with how to grow enough to feed a population which is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, up from more than seven billion today, Fernandez de Larrinoa said.



Indigenous people like Dream Braga (r), and his friend Nelson Varge da Silva, who live in the Brazilian jungle, could hold the key to global food security.

But their way of farming is threatened both by pressure from companies wanting to take their land, and a growing number of indigenous people themselves wanting to move to cities, he said.

#### Innovative and resilient

Indigenous peoples live on or use 25 per cent of the world's land, and they protect 80 per cent of global biodiversity, according to the World Bank.

They are innovative, extremely resilient and successful at adapting to climate change, said Vanda Altarelli, a specialist in indigenous

"Indigenous peoples are the last people who are domesticating (wild) plants."

YON FERNANDEZ DE LARRINOA

issues and president of SONIA, a Rome-based non-profit group that works with marginalized groups worldwide.

They can monitor changes in climate by observing the abundance of flowers, changes in skin colours of wild animals, and the flight direction of birds, she said.

Depending on the weather, indigenous peoples change where they grow crops and when, and how they prepare the soil. In years when the weather is hard to predict they plant drought-resistant crops alongside those which are flood resistant, she said.

And they often test new plants to see how they grow.

"Indigenous food systems do not consume the capital — they live from the interest, the profit. They don't deplete the forest, they eat from the forest while they preserve the forest," said Fernandez de Larrinoa.

Many traditional indigenous foods, once shunned by urban consumers, are increasingly fashionable.

In Latin America, for example, quinoa was once considered a poor man's food and the indigenous peoples who ate it were considered "backward," said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

"There's a lot of medicinal and health benefits in indigenous foods which have been despised and discriminated against. Suddenly now they are being looked upon as the cure."

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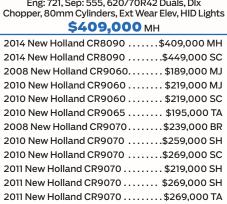
2009 Case IH 700/3430	\$149,000 MH
2006 Flexi-Coil 5000/4350	\$75,000 TA
2008 Flexi-Coil 5500/4350	\$139,000 M
2004 Misc 7550/4350	\$35,000 S0
1997 Morris MAXIM/7240	\$35,000 S0
1998 Morris MAXIMII/7300	\$65,000 TA
2009 New Holland P2060/P106	50 \$149,000 SH
2010 New Holland P2070/P106	0 \$189,000 M
2011 New Holland P2070/P1060	) \$135,000 S0

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1996 Morris 1400 \$9,900 MJ
BALER/ROUND
2002 Case IH RBX561 \$9,900 MJ
2008 New Holland BR7090 \$23,000 SC
2009 New Holland BR7090 \$24,000 SC
2009 New Holland BR7090 \$24,000 SC
2011 New Holland BR7090 \$32,000 SC
2012 New Holland BR7090\$32,000 MJ
2003 New Holland BR780 \$15,000 SC
2003 New Holland BR780 \$15,000 SC
2004 New Holland BR780 \$19,000 SC
2014 New Holland ROLLBELT 560 $\dots$ \$49,000 SC
COMBINE

2010 John Deere T670	\$199,000 S
2012 New Holland CR8090	\$320,000 S
2013 New Holland CR8090	\$349,000 M
2014 New Holland CR8090	\$359.000 S



2012 New Holland CX8080	.\$275,000 SH
2003 New Holland CX860	\$99,000 SH
<b>DEEP TILLAGE</b>	
2012 Horsch Anderson RT370	\$85,000 TA
DISK	
2012 Buhler TD600	\$52,000 MJ
John Deere 335	\$29,000 TA
2011 Versatile TD600	\$45,000 MJ
<b>HEADER COMBINE</b>	

IMPLEMENTS

2014 New Holland CR8090\$409,000 MH	2004 Honey Bee SP36 36'W \$32,000 SH
2014 New Holland CR8090\$449,000 SC	2005 Honey Bee SP36 36'W \$25,000 SC
2008 New Holland CR9060 \$189,000 MJ	2008 Honey Bee SP36 36'W \$35,000 SH
2010 New Holland CR9060 \$219,000 MJ	2011 Honey Bee SP36 36'W\$45,000 SH
2010 New Holland CR9060 \$219,000 SC	1998 Honey Bee ST30 30'W \$12,000 MJ
2010 New Holland CR9065 \$195,000 TA	1999 John Deere 914 14'W\$10,000 MH
2008 New Holland CR9070 \$239,000 BR	2011 MacDon D60-S \$49,000 SC
2010 New Holland CR9070\$259,000 SH	2009 MacDon FD70 35'W\$55,000 SH
2010 New Holland CR9070\$269,000 SC	2010 MacDon PW7\$19,000 BR
2011 New Holland CR9070 \$219,000 SH	2014 New Holland 790CP 15'W \$29,000 SC
2011 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 SH	2009 New Holland 74C 35'W \$29,000 MH
2011 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 TA	2009 New Holland 74C 35'W \$37,000 MJ
2005 New Holland CR960\$99,000 MJ	2014 New Holland 790CP 15'W \$29,000 SC
2012 New Holland CX8080\$275,000 SH	2014 New Holland 790CP 15'W \$29,000 SC
2003 New Holland CX860\$99,000 SH	2014 New Holland 790CP 15'W \$29,000 SC
<b>DEEP TILLAGE</b>	2014 New Holland 790CP 15'W \$29,000 SC
2012 Horsch Anderson RT370 \$85,000 TA	2012 New Holland 880CF 45'W\$60,000 SC
DISK	2014 New Holland 880CF 40'W \$99,000 SC
2012 Buhler TD600\$52,000 MJ	2015 New Holland 880CF 40'W \$85,000 SC
John Deere 335 \$29,000 TA	2015 New Holland 880CF 40'W \$85,000 SC
2011 Versatile TD600 \$45,000 MJ	2015 New Holland 880CF 40'W \$85,000 SC
HEADER COMBINE	2015 New Holland 880CF 40'W \$85,000 SC
2010 Case IH 2142 35'W\$49,000 BR	2003 New Holland 94C 36'W \$19,000 SC
2013 Honey Bee 36GB 36'W\$45,000 SH	2004 New Holland 94C 36'W \$29,000 SH
2013 Honey Bee 36GB 36'W\$45,000 SH	2007 New Holland 94C 36'W\$35,000 SH
2008 Honey Bee HB30 30'W \$29,000 TA	2010 New Holland 94C 40'W\$49,000 BR
1995 Honey Bee SP30 30'W \$12,000 SC	2012 New Holland 94C 36'W \$35,000 SC

### **MOWER CONDITIONER**

2006 AGCO Hesston 1275	\$17,000 MJ
1996 New Holland 1475/2200	\$14,000 SH
1999 New Holland 1475/2328	\$15,000 SC
2011 New Holland H7150/HS18	.,\$32,000 SC
2011 New Holland H7460	\$32,000 MJ

#### **RAKE/WHEEL** 2015 New Holland 1225 ......\$23,000 SC

SPRAYER	
2009 New Holland S1070	\$39,000 MJ
2010 New Holland S1070	\$29,000 TA
2012 New Holland S1070 (W/B)	. \$25,000 MH

#### **TELEHANDLER** 2012 Dieci AGRITEC 35.7....\$90,000 BR

IRACIOR	
2002 Misc 2360	\$115,000 SC
2010 New Holland 3040	\$23,000 SC
2014 New Holland BOOMER 41	\$19,900 MJ
2013 New Holland T4.105	\$65,000 SC
2014 New Holland T9.390	\$265,000 TA
2003 New Holland TC21DA	\$15,000 SC

#### WINDROWER

1996 Massey Ferguson 220 \$19,000	) SC
2011 New Holland H8040/WS36 \$139,00	AT C
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2007 New Holland TC35DA . . . . . . \$21,000 SH



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#### **OTTAWA WANTS CHURCHILL** TO PLAY TO ITS STRENGTHS

Ottawa is giving Churchill \$4.6 million for economic development work for "projects that grow sustainable revenue" and play to "local strengths" such as tourism, Arctic research and "regional service delivery. In July, OmniTrax Canada, which owns the port, grain terminal, and rail line from The Pas, Man., abruptly announced there would be no grain shipments this year and that it no longer intends to operate those facilities. Churchill's ice-limited shipping season has benefited from global warming in recent years, but warmer weather also makes its railway, mostly built on permafrost, less stable. - AGCanada.com

#### RECORD HOG HERD TO KEEP PRICES DOWN

The U.S. hog herd hit a record high in the latest quarter (from June to August), says the USDA. Affordable feed, solid summer grilling demand and respectable U.S. pork exports encouraged farmers to grow their herds. Many producers ramped up sow numbers in preparation for new hogpacking plants coming online by 2018. But given the size of the herd - 70.9 million head - analysts say domestic pork prices will remain low through 2017. Doane Advisory Services economist Dan Vaught said the latest USDA estimate is "what everybody had feared" based on several categories that were at or above expectations. - Reuters

# **MORE NEWS**

# PEDv again stalking Manitoba since wash rule lifted

Province was free of the virus prior to lifting of rule that required hog trailers from the U.S. to be disinfected in Canada

**BY JENNIFER PAIGE** 

■ he number of confirmed cases of onfarm porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in Manitoba has officially entered the double digits and more are expected to arise over the next few months.

'We are entering the season now where it is getting cooler and damper and those are the ideal conditions for this disease to spread. We will likely see more cases being confirmed over the next few months," said Andrew Dickson, general manager of the Manitoba Pork Coun-

Manitoba's 10th case of PEDv was found on Sept. 21 at a finisher farm in the southeast part of the province within five kilometres of a sow farm that was confirmed positive for PEDv the previous week.

 $Confirmed\, cases\, of\, PEDv\, began\, popping\, up$ in the province in late May of this year, after being free of the disease for 16 months.

"It is difficult to pinpoint a source of introduction. There are known sources in Manitoba. For example, we know that assembly yards are contaminated with the virus and we know trailers that have been down to the U.S. and aren't washed or disinfected properly are very likely to be infected due to the high virus load there," Dickson said.

The first case in the string of 10 was found on May 26, less than one month after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) lifted an emergency transportation protocol.

The emergency transportation protocol had required drivers to seal livestock trailers at the border upon their return to Canada and travel immediately to a Canadian wash station to be

When this protocol was lifted, livestock trailers were required to be washed in the U.S. before returning to Canada.

'The chances of a trailer becoming infected at a U.S. wash station are high and we are saying from a disease management perspective, it makes more sense to keep the disease-free



It's not known how PEDv got back into Manitoba, but producers suspect it's coming on improperly disinfected trailers from the U.S. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

status of that trailer intact and get it back in Canada so it doesn't get infected," Dickson

Producers and industry members have been lobbying CFIA to reinstate the emergency transportation protocol ever since it was lifted.

"We are trying to get CFIA to give us an option to allow trailers to be washed in Manitoba without having to be washed and dis-infected in the U.S.," Dickson said. "CFIA is looking at what it can do. The problem is in the legislation, as it limits its ability to offer options. So, it is looking at the current regulations to see if there is a way that it can allow that to happen."

#### **Different tactics**

Dickson explains that Manitoba has been able to keep the disease relatively at bay in comparison to our neighbours to the south through tight biosecurity measures and maintaining

"For starters our pig density here is much less than it is in say, Iowa. The state of Iowa produces 35 million to 37 million pigs a year and we produce about nine million," Dickson said. "Our barns are also farther apart, we have very strict biosecurity measures and we spend a lot of time and money as an industry training staff and service providers to maintain these

In terms of transportation, Dickson says Manitoba has gone out of the way to make sure trailers are going to central sites and are being properly disinfected.

"We also have a limited number of ways the virus could be introduced into the province. There is only one or two ports of entry into Canada from the U.S. into our market, so if those trailers that come through are properly disinfected, we can keep the level of disease at bay," Dickson said. "And, we are unique in that. If you are in Iowa, they have farmer roads and numerous highways. There is just no way they can control the points of entry there."

He adds that Western Canada's approach to managing PEDv has been very different than in the U.S.

'We are taking the approach of keeping the disease out and if we get a case, we go in and rapidly clean it up and not let it drag on," Dickson said. "In the U.S., the approach has been to let the disease wash through the national herd and hopefully enough resistance will build up in the sows that the mortalities will eventually drop.

"But we simply can't afford to lose that number of baby pigs."

PEDv causes severe dehydration and diarrhea in pigs and is generally fatal in young animals. Since the disease first appeared in the U.S. in 2013, more than eight million pigs have died from PEDv in North America.

In Canada, Ontario has had the most confirmed cases of the virus since it first appeared in the country in 2014, and the rest of Western Canada has steered clear of the virus thus far, with no clinical on-farm cases being recorded west of Winnipeg.

#### Moving forward

Producers in the sector are being asked to be extremely vigilant when it comes to biosecurity protocol and to proceed with caution when dealing with any trailers that may be returning from assembly yards.

"Go back and look at your biosecurity plan and make sure that you are doing what you are planning. Also, make sure that every person in the organization is a part of that plan," Dickson said. "The other thing to think about is the service providers, the guy who does the meter reading for hydro, the guy who picks up the garbage, the pizza delivery. Everybody has got to be on top of their game and doing their bit to control the spread of this disease.

In the meantime, sector research and development has been moving forward with a vac-

The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre is in the final phase of testing a PEDv vaccine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Commercial production of the vaccine is being fast tracked by the European pharmaceutical company, Huvepharma but commercial availability in Canada will depend on how quickly trial results can be obtained.

'The development of this vaccine is pretty critical. Like all disease, having a vaccine is your first line of defence. They are hoping that something will be available this winter but a lot will depend on how the trial goes,"

jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com

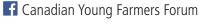


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# Much talk, no action on supply management border issues

#### A Commons trade committee meeting heard lots of words but little new information at a recent hearing

**BY ALEX BINKLEY** 

any words were spoken, but little new was said. At a recent two-hour session of the Commons trade committee, representatives of the dairy and poultry sector and Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay all spoke at length about border issues — but largely reiterated previous statements.

Following a Parliament Hill protest by dairy farmers this spring over diafiltered milk imports, MacAulay said the government wants a "longterm sustainable solution in place,' a statement reiterated at the hearing — but he wouldn't commit to when that might happen and what it may involve.



Dairy producers say they can talk until there's nothing left to say, but it's the government that must act to solve border issues. PHOTO: CARL DAVIES/CSIRO

on any further sessions or filing a report to Parliament on what it learned from the session on whether the Duty Deferral for Food

The committee isn't planning Ingredients program is being used to circumvent border controls on dairy and poultry products. The program exempts processors from paying duties on imported ingredients if the product is exported within four years.

The committee didn't look at the situation of processors who want access to competitively priced Canadian ingredients so their products can sell in international markets.

As the group Food Processors of Canada has told Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, "We would prefer to buy Canadian dairy and poultry but producers are uninterested in providing predictable access to competitively priced ingredients so that we can compete in export markets.'

MacAulay said the government is studying ways to make border controls on diafiltered milk and spent fowl effective, without interfering with legitimate imports.

"What the government wants to

do is to make sure we resolve these issues in a meaningful way, and to make sure we have a strong supply management system, and a strong dairy industry," he said.

Robin Horel, president and CEO of the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council, said his organization has called for intensified "anti-circumvention measures that will enhance our border controls." It's fine to use the program to import spent fowl, but not to import what in reality is broiler

"We are concerned with fraudulent import activity, and we support intensifying anti-circumvention measures that will enhance border controls," Horel said.

Imports of American spent fowl have exceeded the amount of meat actually available in that category, said Yves Ruel, director of commerce and policy with Chicken Farmers of Canada.

In 2012, Canada imported 101 per cent of the entire U.S. supply of spent fowl, when calculated on a whole bird equivalent basis.

"Obviously, this is impossible and far from feasible especially considering that U.S. fowl meat is both consumed domestically, as well as exported to other destinations," he said.

In the first seven months of the year, Canada imported 68.7 million kilograms of spent fowl from the U.S., which is equivalent to 114 per cent of the U.S.'s entire spent fowl production. It's estimated that at least 37 million kilograms of chicken were illegally imported as spent fowl in 2015, which is equivalent to 9.4 per cent of domestic chicken production, said Ruel.

It's a similar story for milk, and the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has had numerous meetings with the previous and the current government explaining why "diafiltered milk cannot be an ingredient when it crosses the border, and milk when it comes to making cheese."

This lack of enforcement of Canada's domestic regulations is causing revenue losses estimated at \$231 million per year for Canadian dairy farmers, said Caroline Emond, the organization's executive director.

DFC wants Ottawa to enforce the existing compositional standards for cheese, she said.

"This could still be done easily and simply by allowing the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to delegate the enforcement of the cheese standard to the Canadian Dairy Commission."

She said the agreement DFC has reached with Dairy Processors of Canada may solve some of the problems diafiltered milk has caused. But "it is not, and should not in any way, be considered as a complete solution. It also should not be taken as an excuse for the government to not play its role when it comes to enforcing Canada's border measures and domestic regulations.'

Emond said the ingredients strategy may help, but it is only one part of the solution—the other half is the enforcement of the cheese standard.

"It is time for all parties to stop playing political games with this issue, and to solve the problem," she said. "It is the government's responsibility to solve this problem, the dairy sector cannot say, or do, anything that we haven't already many times before."



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# PigTrace violation can now result in fines

#### This little pig went to market, this little pig stayed home - but both need to register with PigTrace

BY SHANNON VANRAES

o matter how big or small, you have to start to tag them all.

With the final phase of the Canadian Pork Council's PigTrace national traceability program now in effect, both commercial and hobby farms can face financial penalties for failure to comply.

Right now though regulators appear to still be focusing more on education than enforcement, but that could change.

"Even if you only have two or three pigs in the backyard, you have to comply," said PigTrace Canada manager Jeff Clark. "So whether I have one pig I bought this spring and it's my first time buying a pig and I ship to slaughter this fall, even to a small abattoir... or I have a hog barn, you have to be registered."

Fines start at \$1,300 for minor infractions and serious breaches such as counterfeiting tags carry a \$10,000 penalty. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency enforces the program, which was first introduced in July 2014.

"I can say we've met a lot of really interesting people with this program, I mean there is the business side, trade and the global marketplace... and then there is the small-scale part, it's been really interesting for sure."

JEFF CLARK

While the federal inspection agency would not provide an interview regarding the traceability program, it intimated that no fines had been levied in a written response sent just before press time.

The email indicated that "at this time, CFIA is continuing to increase compliance by educating affected parties such as farmers, custodians of pigs and pet owners of their responsibilities to properly identify, keep records and report the movement of these animals."

The statement went on to explain that educational tools include awareness campaigns and letters of non-compliance.

"Most government inspectors have been very reasonable and are focused on education, getting them in touch with us and then we can take it from there," said Clark. "Now if it's repeated activity, like not identifying a pig going to slaughter or not reporting movements or whatever, they will get a letter of non-compliance, which is a written notice sent to the person, the producer, the abattoir or whatever."

So far, most cases of non-compliance have involved hobby farms or backyard farms that aren't in regular contact with a producer organization and simply aren't aware that there is a traceability program that requires their participation.

Clark said that of the 11,000

registrants the program had by June, about 3,000 of them were backyard hobby farmers. Many of whom only had a couple of pigs, which they intended to use for their own consumption.

"We do go the extra mile to make it simple for them, because I mean this is not a big brother program, it's not so Maple Leaf can export, it's because Canada doesn't really have a lot of people in terms of human resources to respond to an emergency, so it's about getting ahead of it if something happens, knowing where every pig is going to and from," he said.

That makes sense to small-scale producers like Collin Ferris, who has about 100 pasture-raised pigs on his farm near Portage la Prairie, Man., which he sells direct to the consumer.

"It's important that we have some sort of food safety system in place," he said. "We go to an abattoir, so we use the slap tattoos, and then they know whose animals is whose and where it comes from.



All pigs need to be traceable for a national program to work. FILE PHOTO

Then we have a premise ID number and all that other good stuff."
Given the traceability programs

in place for Canadian beef, Ferris

said it was only a matter of time

before pork producers also got on board with increased traceability. "It just makes sense," he added.

However, the program does maintain some ambiguity around

pet pigs and entertainment pigs, such as those used for petting zoos or racing. Clark said he understands why someone with a pet pig that will never leave a yard or petting zoo wouldn't want to tag or tattoo the animal.

"I'm on the side of the person with the pet or the racing pig. They exist and we want to help people with that," he said, adding an internal CFIA memo has urged inspectors to focus on "agricultural" animals. Pets and entertainment pigs still need to be registered and their movements reported, but Clark said he will defend the decision not to tag in those cases.

"It's not like an auction where pigs are coming from all different locations and they're mixed around and then are going out to different locations, ear tags do need to be in those pigs, because otherwise it would be impossible. But these pigs stay put or travel in a group," he said.

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com







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# OCTOBER 2016

# Fall Female Buyer's Guide

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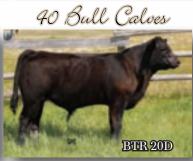






















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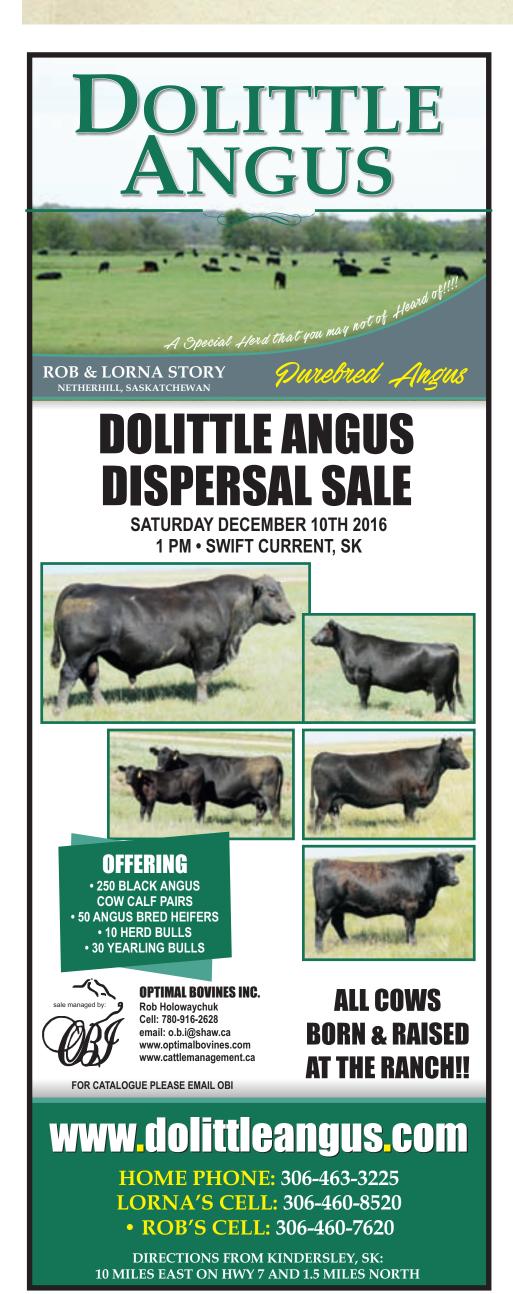
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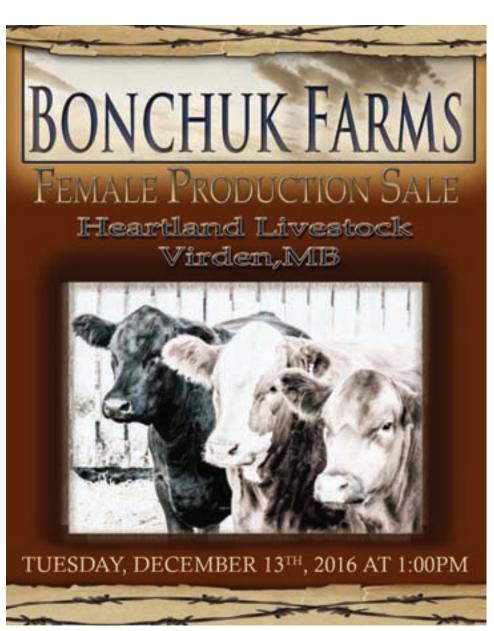


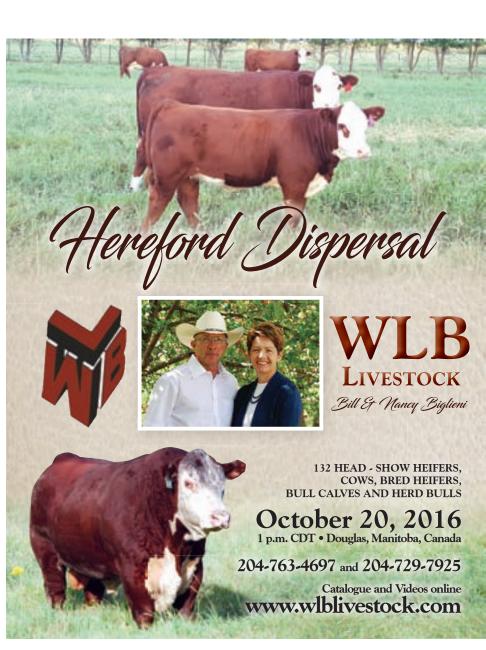
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# Fall Female Buyer's Guide



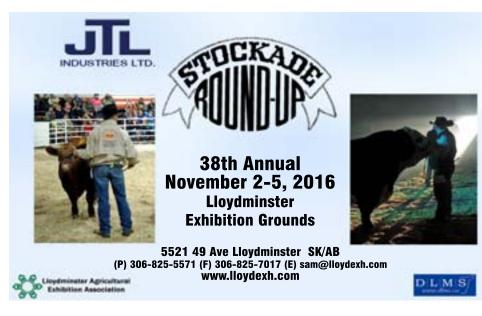




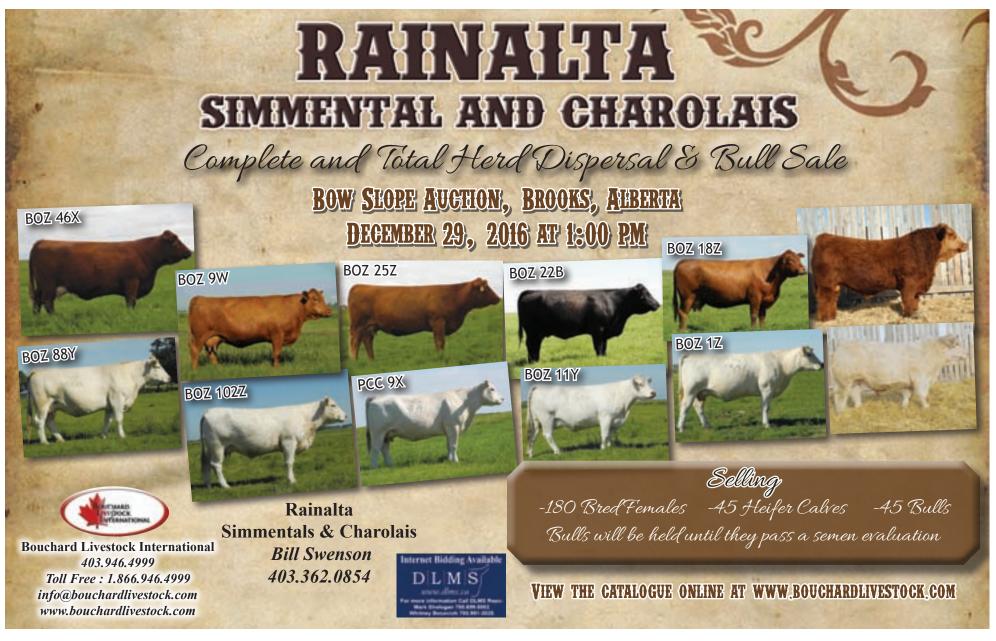




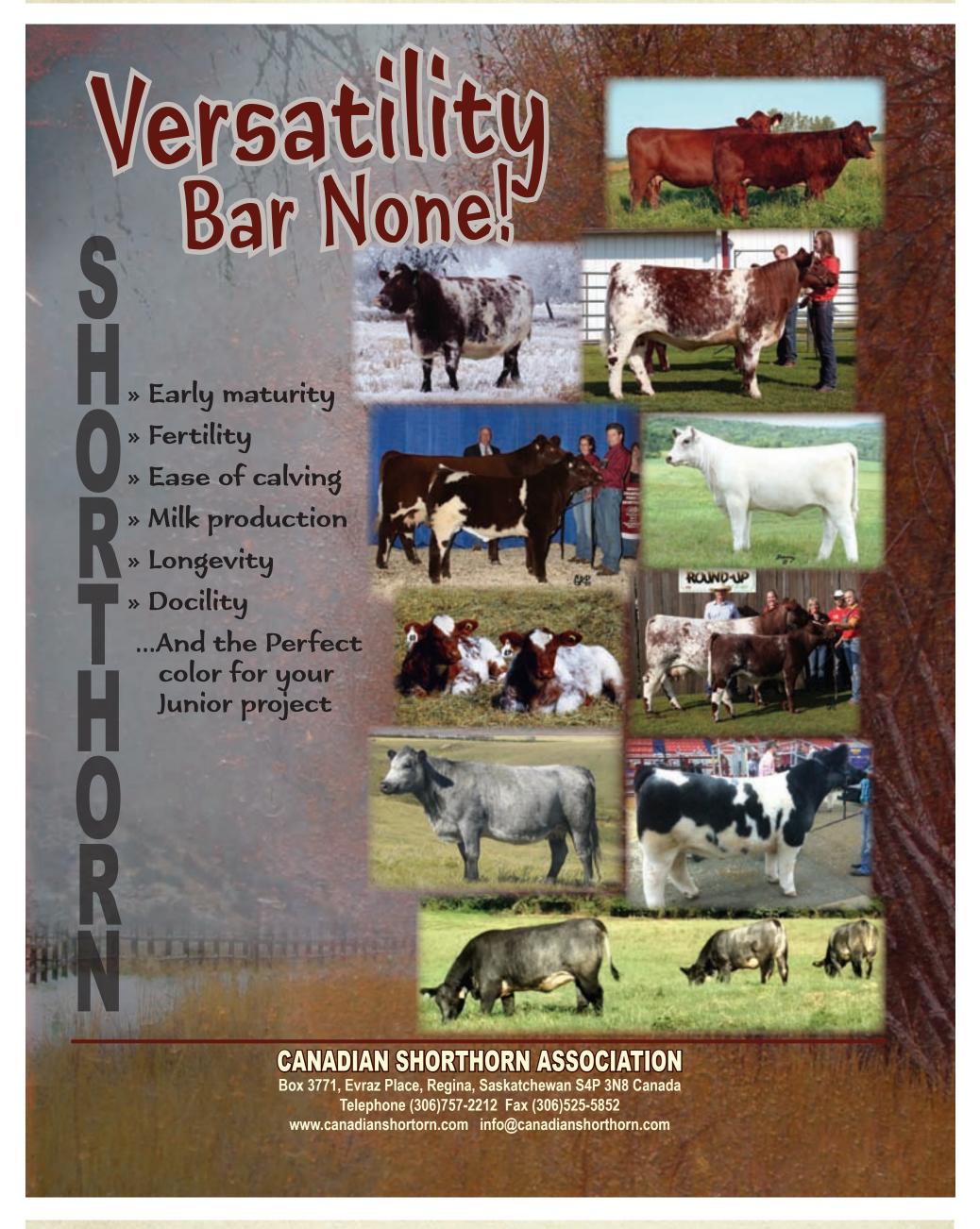












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T800 KENWORTHS ALL HEAVY SPECS 18 spd., full lockers, 2008, 2007 w/bunks. Also daycab 2009, new trans. and clutch; 2009 KW T660, new ISX Cummins, tranny, 2009 KW T660, new ISX Cummins, tranny, and clutch, 18 spd., lockers; 2008 Western Star 10 spd. auto. w/clutch; 2008 IH 9900 daycab, ISX Cummins, 18 spd., lockers, 290,000 kms; 2007 Pete 379, daycab and bunk; 2013 IH 5900i, 42" bunk, 46 diff., 4-way lock, 18 spd., 390,000 kms; 2006 Pete 378, Cat 18 spd., 46 diff., 4-way locks w/roo-bar bumper; 2007 IH 9200, daycab, ISX 435, 13 spd; 1996 KW 1800, 475 Cat, 13 spd, rebuilt diffs and tranny. Ron Brown Implements, Delisle, SK., 306-493-9393. Dt. #905231. www.rbisk.ca

#### SPECIALIZED TRUCKS

**1999 IH 4700**, SA, flatdeck w/17' steel flatdeck, 11x22.5 tires, 230,000 kms, 444 Hatdeck, 11x2.5 tires, 230,000 kms, 444 IH dsl., 10 spd., safetied, real good shape, \$19,500; **1994 GMC Topkick** tandem w/24' flatdeck, 563,000 kms, 3116 Cat diesel, 10 spd., 11x22.5 tires, real good shape, \$21,500. Call Merv 306-276-7518, 306-767-2616, Arborfield, SK. DL 906768.

PORTABLE TOILET SERVICE TRUCK, 2005 Ford F650, Cat C7, auto, hyd. brakes, PTO driven vac pump, 1850 gal. alum. split tank, asking \$14,000. 403-680-0752.

**BALE PICKER TRUCK:** 1994 IH 9400, 425 Cat, 13 spd., 466,000 kms, c/w 2001 14 bale Cancade self-loading/unloading deck and 14 bale tandem axle pup. 306-264-3834, 306-264-7733, Kincaid, SK.

2006 INT. 4300 SEPTIC TRUCK, DT466. 5 spd. Allison RD, 1200 Imp. gal. tank w/new MEC 8000 285 cu. ft. vac pump, \$45,000 OBO. 306-331-7150, Dysart, SK.

2007 CHEV 5500, crewcab, 4x4, deck, crane, fold away 5th wheel hitch, low kms, \$32,500. 780-307-1120, Clyde, AB.

BRAND NEW 2012 Peterbilt, 6 WD, 150' hydraulic extendable platform lift. more info. call 780-307-1120, Clyde, AB.

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championass 2003 Western Star 4900 w/custom um tank. 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 1 of 2 -2001 Western Star 4900 w/custom vacuum tank. 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

PORTABLE TOILET SERVICE TRUCK, 2005 Ford F650, Cat C7, auto, blown engine, hyd. brakes, PTO driven vac pump, 1850 gal. alum. split tank, asking \$8000. 403-680-0752, Calgary, AB.

2000 F-350 XL SuperDuty, red, 5 spd, V8 Powerstoke Turbo dsl, 7.3L w/12' steel flat deck, \$5000. 780-218-2151, Andrew, AB.

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EQUIPMENT HAULING. Serving Western Canada and Northwest USA. Call Harvey at 1-877-824-3010 or cell 403-795-1872. Vandenberg Hay Farms Ltd., Nobleford AB. Email: logistics@vandenberghay.ca

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20.5x25 Michelin's, premium condition, \$139,000. 306-621-0425, Yorkton, SK.

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Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 2005 Cat D6R, Series II XW w/MS ripper, VGC. Call 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

1996 CAT IT28, Cat loader, hyd. QA, 2.2 yd. bucket, \$35,000. Can-Am Truck Export Ltd, 1-800-938-3323, Delisle, SK.

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2002 KOMATSU WA380-3L WHEEL loader, low hrs., 4 yd. bucket, 23.5x25- 90%, exc. cond., \$73,000. 306-921-7583 Melfort, SK.

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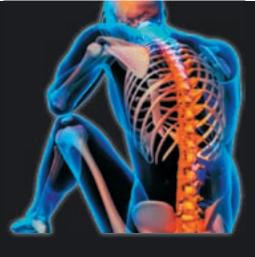
KOMATSU CRAWLER TRACTORS: D65, D85, 155 w/hyd. angle dozers, sweeps, and guarded. 780-307-1120, Clyde, AB.

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2009 SAKUNDIAK 10x1200, \$11,000.
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NEW 2016 ARMSTRONG 750 bu. 4 wheel, \$28,900. New 2016 Armstrong 750 bu., on tracks, \$38,900. Both available with PTO or hydraulic drive. K&L Equipment and Auto, Ladimer, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK.

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#### BALING EQUIPMENT

273 NH square baler, \$1000. Wanted: BR780 or RBX561 Case/IH baler for parts. 306-681-7610, 306-395-2668, Chaplin, SK.

2003 JOHN DEERE 567 round baler, \$14,900. Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

**2002** NEW HOLLAND BB940, square baler, 4x8 bales, 22,000 bales, \$27,900. Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406,

NEW IDEA 4865 5x6, hyd. PU, rubber mount teeth, 2300 bales, shedded, good. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

VERMEER 605M ROUND baler, monitor, kicker, new pickup, good cond, field ready, \$13,000. 306-335-7875, Lemberg, SK.



8 AND 14 BALE WAGONS in stock, Morris and Inland. Call Cam-Don Motors Ltd., 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.

2012 MASSEY FERGUSON (Hesston) 2856A round baler, shedded, 8100 bales, retiring, \$27,000. 403-599-3790, Milo, AB.

WANTED: JD 7810 c/w FEL & 3-PTH; SP or PTO bale wagon; JD or IHC end wheel drills. Small square baler. 403-394-4401.

#### **MOWER CONDITIONERS**

2000 JOHN DEERE 1600A, \$10,900. Call Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

#### **SWATHERS**

1998 35' WESTWARD 9300. 960 header. PU reel, turbo, big tires, excellent cond. \$29,500. Call 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK

**1997 MACDON 2930**, dual range, turbo, Cummins, 3100 hrs., 972 header, 21', dbl. knife drive, triple delivery, gauge w \$35,000 OBO. 403-597-3431, Clive, AB.

PICKUP REEL PARTS WAREHOUSE: MacDon, UII, JD, Hart Carter, CNH, AGCO. We distribute parts for all PU reels. Call 1-888-278-4905, www.combineworld.com

**2002** MACDON 9252, 30', 3500 hrs., \$45,400. Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

MF 9420 SP, 30', 989 hrs., UII PU reels, \$55,000; JD 590 PT, 30', batt reels, exc. condition, \$4500. Both shedded, field ready. Retired. 306-493-7871, Harris, SK.

**2013** JD W150, 743 eng hrs, 600-65R28, hyd. centerlink, eng. fan baffle, w/JD 435D 35' draper header, MT2000H swath roller, \$143,900. www.southcountry.ca

2013 JD W150, w/435D header, 650/500 hrs., dbl. knife and dbl. reel, shedded, \$139,000. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

2012 MACDON M205, 607 hrs, integrated GPS w/Case receiver, pressure sensors, HID lights, MacDon D60 40' ST#0218193A

**2014** MACDON M155, 805 hrs, GreenStar ATU200, hyd centerlink, w/2014 MacDon D6535' hdr DK; ST#0246945A, \$164,900. www.southcountry.ca

2011 30' 1203 Case/IH SP, PU reel and transport, \$77,000; 2002 30' 9250 Westward SP, PU reel, \$40,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Stor-

#### **SWATHERS**

2011 JD A400, 36' header, swath roller, \$91,900. Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

1995 CASE 8820, 30' header, PU reel, 21.5-16.1 tires, excellent conditions \$16,500. Call 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK

swather or combine w/transport, like new, \$19,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2014 MACDON M155, 805 hrs, GreenStar 2600 display, ATU200, hyd. centerlink, w/2014 MacDon D6535' header dbl. knife, \$164,900. www.southcountry.ca

1995 30' MACDON Premier 2900, PU reel, 960 MacDon header, 21.5-16.1 tires, exc. cond., \$22,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore SK

#### **SWATHER ACCESSORIES**

TRAILTECH FULL carry swather transport, tandem, 14000 GVW, lights, brakes, c/w all transporting hardware, \$12,000. 306-466-7744, Leask, SK.

2001 MACDON 972 25' header, Keer Shears, double swath, new knife, exc. shape. 306-435-7893, Moosomin, SK.

#### COMBINES

#### CASE/IH

 $2008\ 8010,\ 1398\ \text{sep.}$  hrs., long auger, loaded, new rotor, 2016 PU header, new rotor and concaves, shedded, premium condition. Terre Bonne Seed Farm, 306-921-8594, 306-752-4810, Melfort, SK.

**2015** CASE/IH 9240, c/w 3016 PU header, 620 duals, HD lateral tilt, Stk #019788 \$510,000. 1-888-576-5561, Saskatoon, SK. or view www.redheadequipment.ca

2000 2388 w/1015 header, \$65,000. 2004 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$115,000. 2006 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$130,000. 2009 7088 w/2016 PU header, \$180,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK. Equipment,

1996 CASE/IH 2188, 4100 hrs, \$399,900 Call Nelson Motors & Equipmer 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

1994 1688, 4300 eng. hrs., newer sieves, rails, feeder house, and bushings, \$20,000 OBO. 306-220-1533, Saskatoon, SK.

2009 7120 CASE/IH w/2016 header, \$165,000; 2007 7010 Case/IH, dual wheels, w/2016 header, \$170,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

2003 CASE/IH 8010, c/w 2016 PU header, 900 singles, rear wheel assist, Stk #016932, \$119,000. 1-888-576-5561, Saskatoon SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2013 CASE/IH 7230, full auto-guidance, 620 duals, hyd. folding tank cover, Stk #018867, \$325,000. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. redheadequipment.ca

1996 2188, 1015 PU, 30' auger header, 2800 sep./3287 eng. hrs, exc cond, always shedded. Will trade for bred bison. 780-888-2245, 780-888-1217, Hardisty AB

2010 CASE/IH 7120. 2016 PU header. long auger, always shedded, field ready, 1167 hrs., exc. cond., \$165,000 OBO. Call Jim at 403-575-0069, Coronation, AB.

2014 CASE/IH 7130, 800 singles, deluxe cab, lateral tilt, elec. folding hopper cover, Stk #014705, \$279,000. Saskatoon, SK., 1-888-576-5561. redheadequipment.ca

2008 IH 2152 40', rigid draper, DKD, AHHC, pea auger, transport, hyd. tilt, nice header, for CNH, other kits avail., \$44,800. 1-888-278-4905. www.combineworld.com

#### CATERPILLAR LEXION

2002 MACDON 872 ADAPTER for Cat Lexion and Claas, \$5500. 306-693-9847, Moose Jaw, SK.

#### GLEANER

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**1976 GLEANER L,** 24' straight cut header, duals, chopper, PU, transport, open to offers. Call 306-693-9847, Moose Jaw, SK.

#### JOHN DEERE

2010 JOHN DEERE 9770 STS, 1575 hrs., 20.8R38, 600/65R28, premier cab, \$221,700. Call South Country Equipment, 306-692-2371, Moose Jaw, SK

2010 JD 9870 STS, fully loaded, Pro drive, 5 spd. feeder house, HD lift cylinders, HD 5 spd. leeder nouse, HD int cylinders, HD final drives, HD rear axle, premium cab, Intelligent Management System, grain tank ext., HD unload auger, long auger, Contour-Master, only 550 sep. hrs., 650 straddle duals, c/w P615 PU header, \$249,000 CAD OBO. Call 218-779-1710.

1998 JD CTS II. 2260 sep. hrs., 914 PU. dual spd cyl., fore/aft, chaff spreader, long auger, fine cut chopper, AutoHeight, big top hopper. 306-460-7620, Kindersley, SK.

1997 9500, duals, 2843 eng. hrs., 2243 sep. hrs., 914 JD PU header, vg cond., \$42,000 OBO. 403-676-3768, Sibbald, AB.

2006 JD 9760 STS, 1950 hrs, 28.8R38, AutoTrac, lam wire concave, HID lights, \$145,700. Call South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2012** JD S670, 1004 sep. hrs., \$299,000 Call Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

**2012** JD S680, certified, 985 sep. hrs., \$318,900. Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com 2009 JOHN DEERE 9770 STS, 1585 hrs., 28L-26,900 singles, Michel's hopper topper, \$199,700. Call South Country Equipment, 306-345-2411, Mossbank, SK.

TWO 2011 JD 9770 STS', 1272 hrs. (and up), 600/65R28, premier cab, 20.8x38 du-als, \$259,200 + Call South Country Equip-ment, 306-345-2411, Mossbank, SK.

2007 JD 936D draper header w/batt wheel, \$22,500; 2006 JD 635F flex, vg cond. \$19,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK

2007 JD 9860 STS, 1809 hrs, 30.5x32, large wire concave, deluxe header con-trols, \$154,000. South Country Equipment, 306-842-4686, Weyburn, SK.

2004 JD 9860 STS, 1567 sep. hrs, 480-42 duals, Contour Master, premium header control, \$156,900. South Country Equipment, 306-424-2212, Montmartre, SK.

**2005** JOHN DEERE 9760 STS, singles, 2149 sep. hrs., \$118,500. Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, visit online: www.nelsonmotors.com

2004 JD 9860STS, 2619 sep. hrs., 20.8x42 duals, 28L-26, Kuchar rub bar, Mav chopper, ContourMaster, HID lights, \$113,500. ST#0705893A. www.southcountry.ca **2010** JD A400, 2474 hrs., 2010 HoneyBee

WS361 36' header, UII 1 piece, 6 batt plastic fingers Roto-Shears, \$79,900. ST#0360086A . www.southcountry.ca

WANTED: 1988 JOHN DEERE 8820 combine. Good and clean. Call 780-672-3755, Camrose, AB.

2014 JD 615P pickup header, overall exc. condition, trades wanted, \$26,800. 1-888-278-4905. www.combineworld.com

**2012** JD S690, duals, 805 sep. hrs., \$355,000. Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

2003 JD 9650 STS, 2714 sep. hrs., auto HH, deluxe header controls, dial-a-speed, small wire concave, ST#0701326A \$84,900. www.southcountry.ca

#### JOHN DEERE

2011 JD 9770 STS, 1430 hrs., 20.8R38, ProDrive w/HarvestSmart, wide spread chopper, \$233,300. Call South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

1999 JD 9610, new rub bars, concave's, walkers and bearings. Chopper recently balanced, rake-up PU, field ready, asking \$75,000 OBO. 306-452-3878, Redvers, SK.

**2006** JOHN DEERE 9760 STS, duals, 1771 hrs., \$154,700. Call Nelson Motors & Equipment, 1-888-508-4406, visit online:

2004 JD 9860 STS, 2619 sep. hrs, 20.8x42, Contour Master Kuchar rub bars, \$132,000. Call South Country Equipment, 306,904,9648 Monthurs CV 306-842-4686, Weyburn, SK.

2008 9770 STS, dual wheels w/2010 615 PU header, \$195,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

2007 JD 9760 STS, 1714 hrs, 800/70R38, premier cab, sm wire concave, Zenon lights, \$158,600. South Country Equipment, 306-692-2371, Moose Jaw, SK.

NEW 2014 MD PW7 w/16' Swathmaster to fit JD STS/S series, \$24,900. 1-888-278-4905. www.combineworld.com



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1994 9600, 4150 sep. hrs., recent Greenlight, w/914 PU and/or 930R header, long auger, fore/aft, Redekop chopper, hopper cover, chaff spreader, \$35,000 OBO. 306-435-9214, 306-435-3514, Moosomin

**2012** JOHN DEERE S670, 689 hrs, 520/85R42, Greenstar 2630, JD link, hopper cover, \$328,000 Call South Country Equipment, 306-746-2110, Raymore, SK.

1986 JD 7721 Titan II with spreader and reverser, shedded, field ready. Info. ca 403-577-2197, 403-575-0093, Consort, AB

#### MASSEY FERGUSON 4181

1987 MF 860, V8 hydro, 2600 hrs., new concave and bars, new rad., Rake-Up PU, reverser, well maintained, shedded. Call 306-554-0217, Wynyard, SK.

MASSEY 750, Perkins dsl., c/w Melroe PU header, 24' straight cut header, chopper, recent concave and rub bars, vg cond., \$2800. Frank 306-463-2407, Kindersley SK

2005 670 CHALLENGER (same as Massey 9790), RWA, lateral tilt, duals, PU header, 1450 hrs., serviced and ready to go. Call 780-205-6789, Dewberry, AB.

Melroe 378 PU, \$3000 OBO. 306-858-7345 or 306-867-9899, Lucky Lake, SK.

1994 MF 8460 Conventional, 2606 hrs., Mercedes, Rake-Up PU, shedded, good. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

#### COMBINE ACCESSORIES

#### COMBINE HEADER

**2006** JD 936D, 36', PU reel, skid shoes, transport, Stk #019157, \$39,170. Melfort, SK. 1-888-576-5561 or view website: www.redheadeguipment.ca

2000 36' 1042 Case/IH w/Case adapter, \$18,000. 2008 36' SP36 HoneyBee, trans-port, pea auger, 7120 or 8120 Case adapt-er, \$37,000. 2010 40' D60 MacDon, transport, \$60,000. 2010 40' Case/IH, transport, pea auger, \$60,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255,

**2012** CASE/IH 2162, 40', single knife drive, transport, cross auger, Stk #019119, \$81,000. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

MACDON 960 36', PU reel, Case 2388 adapter, good shape, \$8000; Case 1020 flex, 25', \$4000. 403-485-3535, Vulcan, AB

2002 42' SP42 HoneyBee, pea auger, transport, Cat adapter, \$25,000. Used JD adapter plate for newer MacDon headers, \$1,400. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, Storthoaks, SK., 306-449-2255.

MACDON CA20/CA25 and HONEYBEE flex or rigid adapters and completion kits, plenty in stock. We want your trade!

1-888-278-4905. www.combineworld.com **2011** CASE/IH 3020, 35', single k Crary air reel, Stk #017943, \$33. 1-888-576-5561. redheadequipment.ca

**2010** NH 94C, 36', AFX adapter, double knife, cross auger, 5tk #020673, \$30,000. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. or

**1998** HONEYBEE SP36, 36', PU reel, AFX adapter, cross auger, Stk #021539, \$12,250. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

**2015** MACDON FD75, 45', cross auger, transport, AFX adapter, Stk #019163, \$105,900. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current,

SK. or view www.redheadequipment.ca 2013 JD 640D, draper head, PU reel, 6" center tube, cutterbar poly skid shoes, dual zone float, slow spd road trans system, \$59,500. www.southcountry.ca

2007 JD 936D draper header w/batt wheel, \$22,500; 2006 JD 635F flex, vg cond. \$19,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK

2010 MD D60-S 40', rigid draper, transport, CA20 adapter, JD, CNH, AGCO, Lexion kits available, nice header, \$39,800. 1-888-278-4905. www.combineworld.com

**2009** CASE/IH 2020, 35', AFX adapter, double knife drive, AWS air reel, Stk #019849, \$29,500. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

**2013** HONEYBEE SP36, 36', hyd. center link, hyd. fore/aft, transport, Stk#018553, link, hyd. fore/aft, transport, Stk#018553, \$73,900. 1-888-576-5561, Prince Albert, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2008 JD 930D, 30' header, PU reel, pea auger, transport, field lights, gauge wheels, fore/aft, to fit 9600, \$35,000 OBO. 403-597-3431, 403-784-3431, Clive, AB.

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PUMPS, PRESSURE WASHERS, Honda/Koshin pumps, 1-1/2" to 4", Landa pressure washers, steam washers, parts washers. M&M Equip. Ltd. Parts & Service, Regina, SK. 306-543-8377, fax 306-543-2111.

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AIR SEEDERS

 $\bf 2006$  SEEDMASTER 80-14, 80', 14" spacing, DS, smart hitch, all run blockage seed only, w/2011 Bourgault 6550 tank, 189,000. www.southcountry.ca

**WANTED:** 40' FLEXI-COIL 6000 disc drill, c/w air tank. Call 403-507-9889 or 403-556-2224, Olds, AB.

40' BOURGAULT AIR SEEDER w/harrows, with 2155 tank, \$14,000 OBO. 306-681-7610, 306-395-2668, Chaplin, SK.

HARROWS/PACKERS

4256

2014 MORRIS 50' heavy harrow, 9/16x26" tires, 800 acres, bought 70', vg, \$2900. Cam-Don Motors 306-237-4212 Perdue SK

NEW RITE-WAY and MORRIS heavy harrows in stock. 70', 68' and 55'. Cam-Don Motors Ltd., 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.

WANTED: SYSTEM 95 harrow packer unit,

SEEDING VARIOUS

2004 JD 1790 CCS, 31 rows, 15" spacing, flex fold frame, vacuum metering system, central fill hopper, 16/31 split row, Prodrive, mini hoppers w/Yetter 2962 mounted Coulters. Canola, corn and bean discs. Yetter trash whippers and eset precision meters on all rows. Air bags, single point hook-up; 787 TBH 130 bu. air cart for fert. (will sell cart and fert. equip. separate), \$80,000. Will consider a trade down for older model 12 or 16 row planter. Call Morris 306-269-7774, Foam Lake, SK. Email: mchalvosron@hotmail.com

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

4262

COMPACTED SUBSOIL ISSUES? Avoid "band-aid" solutions. Since 1984. Call Rick 403-350-6088, anytime.

1997 51' CASE/IH 5800 HD cultivator,

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#### REDUCED

2008 JD 3975 c/w PU header, kernel processor, 40" vert. ext. Just through shop in excellent shape w/new knives and shear bar! \$17,900. Call Jordan 403-627-9300, Pincher Creek, AB.

#### SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

#### SP SPRAYERS

**2013** CASE/IH FL4530 floater, 70', auto fold tip, luxury cab, 810 flex air applicator, Stk #021154, \$320,000. Prince Albert, SK. 1-888-576-5561. redheadequipment.ca



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**2010** JD 4830, 100', SS 1000 gal. tank, 2 sets tires, Stk #016381, \$208,000. 1-888-492-8542, Lloydminster, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2003 SPRA-COUPE 4640 high clearance sprayer, 80' boom, 600 hrs., \$65,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

**2011** CASE/IH 4420, 120', 2 sets of tires, deluxe cab, Pro 600, 262 Receiver, 2500 hours, Stk #020293, \$240,000. 1-888-576-5561. redheadequipment.ca

1998 CASE/IH SPX3185, 90', 2 sets of tires, Stk: 017817, \$79,000. Saskatoon, SK., 1-888-576-5561 or view website: www.redheadequipment.ca

**2009** CASE/IH 4420, 100', AIM, 1200 gal., Norac boom height, 5tk #020576, \$199,500. 1-888-576-5561, Estevan, SK. or view www.redheadequipment.ca

2011 ROGATOR 1396, 120', Sharp Shooter, 2 sets tires, Viper, dividers, Smartrax, Stk #020465, \$240,000. 1-888-576-5561 or www.redheadequipment.ca.

tive susp., 710 floaters and 380/90R46, Stk #019629, \$480,000. 1-888-576-5561, Prince Albert. www.redheadequipment.ca

1996 TYLER PATRIOT 150, 90', loaded w/2 sets of tires, 3207 hrs., 360 Outback mapping, AutoBoom, \$30,000. Ph/text, 306-946-7738, Watrous, SK.

**2012** JD 4940, 120', 1200 gal., Boom Trac Pro 5, leveling, 1300 hrs., STK# 020967, \$297,000. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. or view www.redheadequipment.ca

#### TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

2013 JOKER RT370 high speed disc, 2500 acres, super chop and level, like new, \$79,900. 306-862-7731, 306-428-2847, Choiceland SK

JD 1810 CHISEL PLOW, 53', c/w Degelman harrows. JD 1650 chisel plow, 52', c/w Degelman harrows. 780-679-7795,

MORRIS 760 CULTIVATOR 60' w/harrows, \$5000 OBO. 306-295-7800, Eastend, SK.

NEW VERSATILE SD550 offset disc, 15', 550 lbs/ft., spring cushion gangs, HD bearing option, 26"x3/8" notched. Cam-Don Motors, 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.

KELLO-BILT 8' to 20' offset discs w/24" to 36" notched blades; Kello-Bilt 24' to 38' tandem wing discs w/26" and 28" notched blades and oilbath bearings. Red Deer, AB. www.kelloughs.com Call: 1-888-500-2646.

2013 JOHN DEERE 2623 vertical tillage unit, 40', excellent shape, \$77,000. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

#### TRACTORS



**2009 CHALLENGER MT675C**, 320 HP, Fendt CVT, 34 MPH, axle/cab susp., 3 PTH, 5 remotes, 480R50 duals, 2700 hrs., \$124,900. 780-206-1234, Barrhead, AB.

#### ALLIS/DEUTZ 4277

1986 DEUTZ DX90 tractor, 6850 hours, PTO needs work, cab, AC, radio, \$2500. Call 306-944-4510, Plunkett, SK.

#### CASE/IH

FARM/ACREAGE SPECIAL - Shedded 1981 Case 2290, 6823 hrs., Bourassa 3 PTH attach, new Farm King 96" snowblower used 2 hours, FEL/bale spear, good rubber. Will sell w/wo attachments, \$20,875 takes it all. 306-222-0041, Saskatoon, SK

CASE STEIGER 9150, powershift, new tires 2 yrs. ago, 8250 hrs, return line, no PTO, \$48,000 OBO. 780-608-9024, Tofield, AB.

LIZARD CREEK REPAIR and Tractor. We buy 90 and 94 Series Case, 2 WD, FWA tractors for parts and rebuilding. Also have rebuilt tractors and parts for sale. **2006** SEEDMASTER 66-12, 66', 12" spacing, DS/JD air pack, no blockage- had a JD 1910 air cart on it, pneumatic packers, \$99,900. www.southcountry.ca and parts for 306-784-7841, Herbert, SK.

1984 CASE/IH 684 diesel, only 2600 hrs w/2250 IH loader, 3PTH and joystick, excellent rubber, shedded, premium cond, \$15,500. 403-504-9607, Medicine Hat, AB.

#### JOHN DEERE

4520 JD TRACTOR, 9160 hours, duals, very good tires, exc. cond., asking \$8000. 306-272-4713, Foam Lake, SK.

1980 JOHN DEERE 8440, 4 WD, PTO, 5500 hrs., 3 hydraulics, good condition, \$14,500 OBO. 306-946-7928, Watrous, SK.

2008 JOHN DEERE 9430, triples, power-quad, 2225 hrs., \$223,900. Call Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406,

**JD 8440, PTO**, 5800 orig. hrs., quad trans, premium condition, \$26,000 OBO. Call 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

JD 8440, PTO, 5800 orig. hrs., quad trans, premium condition, \$26,000 OBO. Call 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

**2015** JD 9620R, duals, 665 hrs., \$554,000 Call Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

2004 JD 9200, 4000 hrs., new rubber and Leon dozer, always shedded, exc. cond., \$110,000. Call 780-307-1120, Clyde, AB.

**2012** JD 9560R, triples, PTO, 1820hrs., \$369,000. Nelson Motors & Equipment 1-888-508-4406, www.nelsonmotors.com

1985 JD 4850, FWA, 16 spd. powershift, JD AutoSteer, 18.4x26 front- near new, 20.8x38 radial rear- new inside, new rad. recor., new alternator and batteries, front weights, motor rebuild- 7000 hrs, \$55,900 Ideal grain cart tractor. 306-862-7731, 306-428-2847, Choiceland, SK.

969 JD 3020 diesel, cab and JD loader, excellent rubber, runs and works excellent, \$9750, 403-504-9607, Medicine Hat, AB.

JD 4010, c/w FEL, new tires, batteries and injectors, very clean. Call 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

1981 JOHN DEERE 8640, 4WD, 8300 hours, good condition, \$18,500. Call 306-739-2442, Moosomin, SK.

#### NEW HOLLAND

WANTED: FORD 9030 bi-directional tractor in good running condition. Ph/text 306-946-7738, Watrous, SK.

#### VERSATILE

1984 VERSATILE 975, w/855 Cummins new paint, new interior, new pins and bushings, 8000 hrs., very nice, hard to find! Call 218-779-1710.

2014 VERSATILE 500, PS, 110 gpm., delux cab, weight pkg., AutoSteer, 588 hrs., 1 owner, shedded, very good. Call Cam-Don Motors Ltd., 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.

#### VARIOUS TRACTORS

MM G705 TRACTOR, approx. 85 HP, PS, dual hyd., 12V, \$2500. See full ad under 703 (Antique Equip.). 306-238-7969.

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New E-Kay 7", 8", 9"Bin Sweeps available...... \$105,000 ..CALL NEW HD 10-46' Meridian Auger, 38 hp Kohler engine, HD E-Kay mover, power steering, CALL \$17,500 \$1,250 \$7,000 . In Stock New Outback E-Drive, TC. In Stock New Outback E-Drive X, c/w free E turns. New Outback S-Lite guidance ..... In Stock \$1,250

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Used Outback E-Drive Hyd. kits...

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MF #36 DISCERS. Will pay top dollar and pick from anywhere. Phone Mike 306-723-4875, Cupar, SK.

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MULCHING- TREES, BRUSH, Stumps. Call today 306-933-2950. Visit us at: www.maverickconstruction.ca

SOLIDLOCK AND TREE ISLAND game wire and all accessories for installation. Heights from 26" to 120". Ideal for elk, deer, bison, cheen evides extended to the Tomp Lagran sheep, swine, cattle, etc. Tom ph/fax: 306-426-2305, Smeaton, SK. Tom Jensen

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#### FORESTRY/LOGGING EQUIPMENT 4550

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 2012 John Deere 2154D and 2005 JD 2054 log processors w/Waratah HTH 622B. Call 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 2007 Tigercat 630C and Cat 518C skidders w/dual function grapple. 306-865-7660.

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 1990 Barco 475 log loader w/Imac tree length grapple 306-865-7660 DL# 334832

Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 2007 Tigercat 870C; Feller buncher; 5710 Tigercat head w/340 rotation. Call rotation.

#### **GENERATORS** 4725

NEW AND USED PTO generators. Diesel and natural gas sets available as well. Call 1-888-300-3535, Airdrie, AB.

EX-GOVERNMENT STAND-BY UNITS: 12/92 w/400 KW, 600 volts, 388 hrs, \$25,000; 12/92 w/400 KW, 600 volts, 419 hrs, \$25,000; 12/92 w/400 KW, 600 volts, 419 hrs, \$25,000; 16/92 w/500 KW, 600 volts, 700 hrs, \$25,000; 16/92 w/800 KW, 600 volts, 700 hrs, \$30,000; KT450 Cummins w/250 KW, \$15,000. Can-Am Truck Export Ltd, 1-800-938-3323, Delisle, SK.

#### IRON/STEEL

2-7/8" OILFIELD TUBING, \$40 each; 3/4" sucker rods, \$6 each. Truckload quantities only. Call 306-861-1280, Weyburn, SK.

TUBING FROM 1-1/4" to 3-1/2". Sucker rod 3/4", 7/8" and 1". Line pipe and Casing also available. Phone 1-800-661-7858 or 780-842-5705, Wainwright, AB.

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NEW LS TRACTOR, 4 WD, 97 HP, Iveco dsl., self-leveling loader, 3500 lb. lift, CAHR, 3 spd. PTO, 3 PTH, power shuttle with hi/lo, 5 yr. warranty, \$69,000. The Tractor Company 306-239-2262, Osler, SK.

#### LOADERS/DOZERS

LEON 707 FEL with mounting brackets for 2090 or 2290 Case, \$2500. 306-681-7610, 306-395-2668, Chaplin, SK.

NEW IDEA 5312 discbine, \$6000; 2 JD 665 air seeders w/NH3, packers, harrows, Valmar, \$4000 and \$6000. Will separate; 107 Haybuster disc drill, \$5000; 24' Melroe hoe drill, \$1500; 2- White 8900 combines, \$2500, \$5000; Doepker Super B grain trailer, rusty, \$10,000; Doepker B-train grain trailer, rusty, \$5000; Versatile 300 4 WD tractor, \$10,000; MM JetStar tractor, 3 PT, 1600 hrs., \$9000; MM AT4 1600 tractor, 1900 hrs., \$12,000; Grain Chief 450 grain dryer, canola screens, \$2500; 1986 Ford LTL for parts. 780-961-3213 msg, Vimy AB

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BLOCKED SEASONED JACK Pine firewood and wood chips for sale. Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK. Will deliver. Self-unloading trailer.

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 1998 John Deere 200LC log loader with 5/8 cord Rotobec grapple. 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION: Oct 19-26, 2016. www.championassets.ca 1997 Lode King Super B, flat deck log trail-er, air ride. 306-865-7660. DL# 334832.

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#### IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

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#### BISON/BUTTALO

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BISON WANTED - Canadian Prairie Bison is looking to contract grain finished bison, as well as calves and yearlings for growing markets. Contact Roger Provencher at 306-468-2316, roger@cdnbison.com

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NILSSON BROS INC. buying finished bison on the rail at Lacombe, AB. for fall delivery and beyond. Smaller groups welcome. Fair, competitive and assured payment. Call Richard Bintner 306-873-3184.

KICKIN' ASH BUFFALO Meat Products is currently looking for all classes of bison for expanding North American market. Call Paul 780-777-2326, Athabasca, AB. or email to cabi1@telus.net

WANTED: ALL KINDS of bison from yearlings to old bulls. Also cow/calf pairs. Ph Kevin at 306-429-2029, Glenavon, SK.

QUILL CREEK BISON is looking for finished, and all other types of bison. COD, paying market prices. "Producers working with Producers." Delivery points in SK. and MB. Call 306-231-9110, Quill Lake, SK.

#### CATTLE

#### **AUCTIONS SALES**

4TH ANNUAL ANGUS HARVEST CLASSIC Sale, Oct. 21, 7:00 PM Johnstone Auction Market, Moose Jaw, SK. Offering 55 outstanding heifer calves, bred heifers, plus select club calves. For a catalogue or more info contact Glen Gabel 306-536-1927 or T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.buyagro.com. Watch and bid live Watch and bid live at www.liveaucitons.tv PL#116061

#### **BLACK ANGUS**

SELLING: BLACK ANGUS BULLS. Wayside Angus, Henry and Bernie 306-256-3607, Cudworth, SK.

#### **BLACK ANGUS**

JUSTAMERE 17TH ANNUAL SALE OF **The Year**, Monday, Oct. 17, 2016 at 1:00 PM, at the Farm at Lloydminster. On offer: PM, at the Farm at Lloydminister. On other: 3 prospect herdsires, 8 heifer calves, 22 bred heifers, 2 cow/calf pairs, 8 club calves, 2 commercial bred heifers. For more info or a catalogue call Jon at 780-808-6860 or 306-825-9702.

BLACK ANGUS BULLS, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca

PUREBRED BLACK ANGUS long yearling bulls, replacement heifers, AI service. Meadow Ridge Enterprises, 306-373-9140 or 306-270-6628, Saskatoon, SK.

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19 MONTH OLD Reg. Red Angus virgin bull, 74 lb. birthweight. Little de Ranch, 306-845-2406, Turtleford, SK.

RED ANGUS BULLS, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca

DISPERSAL SALE: 40 PUREBRED Red Angus cows, 2 to 6 yr. olds. 306-463-4053.

#### CALLOWAY 5070

GALLOWAY FEMALE SALE: November 17th to 22nd, 2016. On: LiveAuctions.TV Quiet natured females, selected for structural soundness and maternal strengths. Contact Russel 403-749-2780, Delburne, AB.

#### HEREFORD

HEREFORD HARVEST Production Sale, Oct 14, 2:00 PM Lone Pine Cattle Services, Vibank, SK. Offering an outstanding selection of heifer calves, bred heifers, select bull calves and cow/calf pairs. For a catalogue or more info. contact Rob O'Connor 306-762-4543 or T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006. View the catalogue on-line at: www.buyagro.com Watch and bid live

"Take The Next Step" Sale, presented by "Take The Next Step" Sale, presented by C&T Cattle Co., Phantom Creek Livestock, Twin View Polled Herefords, McCoy Cattle Co., and KLR Polled Herefords. Sat. Oct. 15, 5:00 PM. Right Cross Ranch Sale Barn, Kisbey, SK. Offering a select group of Polled Hereford females and open show heifers. For catalogues or more information contact Chris 306-455-2605; Doug 306-773-7136; Ernie 204-365-7426; Chad 306-436-2086; Randy 306-299-4511 or T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-220-5006. View catalogue at: www.BuyAgro.com PL #116061.

TWIN VIEW POLLED HEREFORDS Production Sale, Oct. 22, 1:00 PM. At the Farm, Strathclair, MB. Offering 65 impressive heifer calves, bred heifers, and young cow/calf pairs. For a catalogue or more information contact Ernie McDonald 204-365-7426 or T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.biyagro.com Watch and bid live at www.liveaucitons.tv PL#116061

Blair-Athol Haroldson's & Friends Sale Sunday, October 16, 1:00 PM at the Blair-Athol Farm, 4 miles west, 3 miles north of Arcola, SK. 75 polled herefords sell featur-ing bred females, cow/calf pairs and select embryos. For a catalogue or more info. contact: Duncan Lees 306-455-2619; Jeff Lees 306-577-1375; Chad Wilson Lees 306-577-1375; Chad Wilson 306-577-1256 or T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-220-5006. View the catalogue at: www.BuyAgro.com Watch and bid online: www.dvauction.com PL # 116061

ANL POLLED HEREFORDS and Guests **Production Sale,** Saturday, October 15, 1:00 PM at Steelman, SK. Guest consignors Glenlees Farms, Brooks Farms and arms, Brooks Farms and Blairs.Ag Cattle Co. Offering an exciting group of bred females, heifer calves and cow/calf pairs. For a catalogue or more info contact Karl Lischka 306-487-2670 or T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-220-5006. View catalogue at:: www.BuyAgro.com Watch and bid online: www.dvauction.com

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#### SALERS

PB HEIFER CALVES. Delivery in October after weaning; choose from the herd. 20 year breeding/culling program produces quiet, thick calves. One PB bull. Drayton Valley, AB., Art and Betty Frey, 780-542-5782, 780-621-6407.

#### SHORTHORN 5200

THE "ALL STAR CLASSIC" SHORTHORN SALE sponsored by the Alberta Shorthorn Association, Saturday, October 22nd at 1:00 PM, Lacombe Ag Facility, Lacombe, AB. Selling herdsire prospects, bred yearling heifers, calendar year heifer calves, planned embryo matings, semen packages and commercial Shorthorn heifers. For further info. contact, Don Savage, Auctions ther info. contact Don Savage Auctions 403-948-3520. Catalogue online at www.donsavageauctions.com Live broabcast on: www.dlms. ca

#### TEXAS LONGHORN

ALBERTA TEXAS LONGHORN Association 780-387-4874, Leduc, AB. For more info. www.albertatexaslonghorn.com

TEXAS LONGHORN & RANCH HORSE Fall Select Sale, Saturday, Nov. 19th, 1:00 PM, Crossroads Centre, Oyen, AB. On 1:00 PW, Crossroads Centre, Oyen, Ab. On Offer: Reg. cattle including heifer calves, bred heifers and cows, bull calves, yearling bulls, 2 yr. old bulls. Crossbred Longhorn heifers bred Longhorn. Also good ranch broke and team roping horses. For more informatics are related to the contract of the cont information, or catalogs contact: Ron Walker 403-548-6684 or 403-528-0200. walkersu7texaslonghorns@gmail.com

TEXAS LONGHORN yearlings and 2 yr. old bulls; Pairs; Bred cows; Bred 2 yr. old heifers and Open yearling heifers. Well established herd of top quality, quiet cattle. Call Dean at Panorama Ranch, 403-391-6043,

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WELSH BLACK- The Brood Cow Advantage

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26 HEIFERS, Red and Black Angus, 17 first calvers, mixed. Ph. 306-466-2401, ph/text 306-940-4772, Leask, SK.

75 SECOND AND THIRD Black and Red Angus young bred cows. Call 306-773-1049 gus young bred cows. Call 306-7 or 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

COW/CALF PAIRS, approx. 30, \$2500 per pair. Can pasture until mid October. Located near Dunblane, SK. Call 306-653-0135.

HERD DISPERSAL: 80 Black Angus cross pairs and 80 mixed pairs, all exposed to Registered Angus bulls. Full herd health program. \$2800 per pair firm. Pasture program. \$2800 per pair firm. Pa available. 306-335-7875, Lemberg, SK.

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#### CATTLE WANTED

WANTED: 200 Red or Black Angus cross younger cows, lease to own. References available. 306-542-2575, 306-542-7007,

#### **AUCTION SALES**

NEAR DISPERSAL OF 2 year olds to aged Quarter Horse and Paint brood mares. From Fitzpatrick Paints & Quarter Horses, November 3rd 2016, Johnstone Auction Mart, Moose Jaw, SK. Over 40 yrs breeding program being offered. 306-925-4523.

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FARM EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, full-time FARM EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, Tull-time permanent wanted to repair, maintain and operate farm equipment. 3 yrs. of experience w/farm equipment and valid drivers license required. No formal education needed. Wage \$32.07/hour, 40 hrs./wk. Location: 960002 Rge Rd 213, Manning, AB. Fax resume: 780-836-7701. Dechant Farms Ltd, Box 636, Manning, AB TOH 2M0

OPERATORS REQUIRED until Nov. 15 for 2016 liquid drag hose injection. Driver's li-cense necessary. GPS and AutoSteer expe-rience an asset. Driver's abstract required. Accommodation provided. Sub. paid. Hutterites welcome. **Perfection Pumping Corp.**, 403-318-9178, Lacombe, AB., email perfectionpumping@gmail.com

AUSTRALIAN HARVEST STAFF Needed AUSTRALIAN HARVES JAFF Needed Operators wanted for Australian grain harvest from mid Oct. to early Dec. 2016. Must be able to work long hours and be proficient in driving late model tractors, chaser bins/grain carts. Be qualified in driving new model Case header/combines. Accommodation and evening meal will be provided. A working holiday visa will be required. Also an international licence (valid quired. Also an international licence (valid in Australia) would be an advantage. You will be working on a family run farm. These positions would suit, fit 19 to 30 yrs. All enquiries to Eastgrove Farming Pty Ltd-Harvest staff tribal@westnet.com.au

FULL-TIME FARM/ RANCH employee required to operate farm equipment, cattle handling and general farm work. Driver's license abstract may be required. Single or family accommodations including utilities. Phone 403-575-0712 or fax resume to 403-577-2263, Consort, AB.

FARM LABOURER TO work a few hours a day with a pensioner. Room and board supplied. Ph 306-245-3311, Weyburn, SK.

#### TRUCK DRIVERS

LOOKING FOR CLASS 1 Drivers to haul livestock. Experience required. Benefits and safety bonuses. Year round employment. Call 403-625-4658.

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