

## PEA PLANT PROPOSED

A French company is investing in a Portage plant » **PG 7**



## SELL SOON

Oilseed analyst Mielke sees risk in holding on to canola » **PG 20**



# Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

JANUARY 26, 2017

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## Manitoba opens up farm group funding discussion

KAP welcomes the initiative and the National Farmers Union says it wants in too

**BY ALLAN DAWSON**

Co-operator staff / Brandon

The Manitoba government has promised less red tape — including how the Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) collects membership fees.

“The current funding structure creates needless and excessive administration costs for farmers and KAP and purchasers of agricultural products,” Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler said while speaking at Ag Days Jan. 17. “A review of the system is something that the industry has been requesting for a long time. This government is committed to doing just that. Consultations will begin immediately on how to implement those changes to what the government considers a more efficient alternative system.”

KAP, which has long complained the current legislated, but refundable, membership checkoff is flawed, welcomed the news.

“There is an enormous administrative headache associated with our existing membership checkoff program,” KAP general manager James Battershill said

See **FUNDING** on page 6 »

## KAP asks for exemption of on-farm emissions

Carbon pricing remains a heated topic of debate as Manitoba moves towards revealing a climate change strategy



FILE PHOTO

**BY SHANNON VANRAES**

Co-operator staff / Brandon

While Manitoba has yet to join other provinces in signing on to a national climate change framework, Keystone Agricultural Producers has prepared its own proposal for implementing carbon pricing.

“We hope we have a solution here that will bring producers in as part of the effort to tackle climate change, but do it in a way that keeps costs manageable... a way that works for farmers,” KAP’s climate project co-ordinator Sean Goertzen explained during an infor-

mation session at Ag Days in Brandon last week.

The provincial government has previously indicated it will outline a “made-in-Manitoba” plan to reduce emissions in the first quarter of this year. Few details of what that plan might look like have been released, but Premier Brian Pallister has ruled out a cap-and-trade system in the past.

What’s certain is that provinces that don’t design and implement their own plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will have one imposed on them by Ottawa, beginning with a carbon price of \$10 per tonne in 2018. Having ratified the Paris agreement

on climate change, along with China, the U.S., India, the European Union and others, Canada has agreed to cut its emissions by 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Goertzen said KAP is working with the provincial government in the hope of exempting on-farm emissions from carbon pricing in Manitoba.

“That means exempting purple gas and diesel, exempting propane and natural gas used to heat barns and shops and greenhouses,” he said. “We believe this is fair because producers will end up paying for certain off-farm emissions.”

Those off-farm emissions

include those from fertilizer productions, shipping and trucking.

“Ideally, in the long run, we’d like to see truckers, railways and fertilizer companies find ways to reduce emissions and just avoid paying that carbon price completely,” said Goertzen. But he added that at least in the short term, that cost would be passed on to farmers.

“(In) Alberta, where they just introduced a carbon tax, \$20 a tonne of emissions, truckers are adding a one per cent surcharge to pay for their increased diesel costs, so we’re seeing this isn’t just a

See **EXEMPTION** on page 6 »



INSIDE

LIVESTOCK



In denial?

Is the cattle industry revitalization plan a lost cause?

12

CROPS



Strip tillage

It's still not known if the technique works in clay soils

17

FEATURE



Women lead

In Senegal women fight to save farmland for their families

33

CROSSROADS



Tropical oasis

A Glenboro gardener nurtures warm-weather plants

36

Editorials	4	Grain Markets	11
Comments	5	Weather Vane	16
What's Up	9	Classifieds	25
Livestock Markets	10	Sudoku	30

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DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change is poised to hit U.S. harvests

The latest models suggest many key crops could suffer significant yield losses in the coming decades

STAFF

Dutch researchers from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Change have published a paper in the journal *Nature* that says U.S. crop yields could be hard hit as the world warms.

To better assess how climate change caused by human greenhouse gas emissions will likely impact wheat, corn and soybean, an international team of scientists ran a comprehensive set of computer simulations of U.S. crop yields. The simulations incorporated physics, chemistry and biology and applied that knowledge to a robust dataset using algorithms to predict their interaction, said lead study author Bernhard Schauburger.

“We know from observations that high temperatures can harm crops, but now we have a much better understanding of the processes,” Schauburger said. “But they of course cannot represent the entire complexity of the crop system, hence we call them



Climate change-fuelled drought could hit U.S. yields hard this century, researchers say. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

models. In our study they have passed a critical test.”

The numbers from the study are alarming, suggesting yield reductions as high as 20 per cent for wheat, 40 per cent for soybean, and almost 50 per cent for corn by the year 2100.

The effects go far beyond the U.S., one of the largest crop exporters: world market crop prices might increase, which is an issue for food security in poor countries.

Irrigation could be a means for adaptation — yet only in regions where there’s sufficient water.

“The losses got substantially reduced when we increased irrigation of fields in the simulation, so water stress resulting from temperature increase seems to be a bigger factor than the heat itself,” says co-author Joshua Elliott from the University of Chicago.

READER'S PHOTO



PHOTO: DONNA GAMACHE

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# Climate change needs made-in-Manitoba solution: Eichler

The Manitoba government says it will soon announce both water and carbon strategies

BY ALLAN DAWSON  
Co-operator staff / Brandon

The Manitoba government is still working on its climate change and water management plans.

Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler and Premier Brian Pallister told reporters both are still in the works during separate scrums at Ag Days, Jan. 17.

Before Christmas, Eichler said the government's plan for cutting carbon to mitigate climate change would be revealed early this year.

"We only have one chance to do this," Eichler said.

"That is why a made-in-Manitoba solution is a priority for our government in order to ensure that we get it right."

Eichler also said the plan will recognize Manitoba farmers are price-takers and must be competitive in world markets.

"We get that," he said. "But we know it (climate change) is a problem. Look outside now, it is +1. Pretty nice weather. What's the change? It is us. The climate is changing. We have to adapt. Every one of us here has to be part of that solution."

The province will soon release its "green plan," which will include an overall water management strategy, with measures to address drainage, pursue precision farming to ensure better management of nutrient run-off, accommodate the storage of excess water and ensure the retention of valuable wetlands, Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister, said in a news release Jan. 17.

"The realities of climate change mean our province sees unpredictable weather patterns and resulting issues around water management," Pallister said. "This is a challenge we must face together, ensuring we farm the best land better, while allowing water to be retained in places that make sense. This will provide protection, not only for our communities downstream, but also



Agriculture is the "foundational industry for our country and our province," Premier Brian Pallister said while speaking at Ag Days Jan. 17 in Brandon. He later told reporters the province is still working on a plan to price carbon to mitigate climate change and a water strategy. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

**"The climate is changing. We have to adapt. Every one of us here has to be part of that solution."**

RALPH EICHLER

for the agricultural producers who help feed Manitobans and countless others around the world."

Asked about Manitoba's water strategy, Eichler said it's going through the government's planning and priorities process.

"We talk about water all the time," Eichler said. "It is one of those things. We talk about water quality and water quantity."

Pallister, who also spoke at Ag Days Jan. 17, repeated his message later to reporters that Manitoba will develop its own plan to mitigate climate change rather than have the federal government impose one.

If provinces don't price carbon emissions, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said Ottawa will impose a \$10-a-tonne cost on carbon starting in 2018, rising to \$50 by 2020.

"We are trying really, really hard to find a plan that will work best for Manitoba," Pallister said.

"We will do our part for the environment, but doing it in a way that doesn't jeopardize our economic progress as a people either.

"Manitoba has always punched above its weight. We will do our part, but we want to make sure our plan suits Manitoba."

Asked if that means putting a price on carbon, Pallister replied: "We have already said that. It is a question of how it is done. It's not a question of 'if,' because the federal government has taken the question of 'if' right off the table. But it's not going to be a cap-and-trade plan. All that will do, in my estimation, is ship money out of Manitoba and send it to California. We don't need to do that."

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# Weber says Trump the wild card

The maverick president will be a market mover, like it or not

BY GORD GILMOUR  
Co-operator editor / Brandon

Commodity analyst Larry Weber says he's changed his morning routine recently.

In the years he's been in the business of analyzing grain markets, the first thing he always checked every morning was the news wires, looking for world events that could make a difference in markets.

"Now I'm checking Twitter to see what Donald Trump might have tweeted last night," Weber told farmers at Ag Days during his semi-annual market outlook presentation at the event.

"I check it because that's what's moving markets. Canola is up \$4 today because of what he said last night. Friday (Jan. 20, Inauguration Day) the world is going to change, and I'm scared," Weber said. "In all my time, I have never been so fearful of an incoming president."

## Chaos-in-chief

Weber said he's most concerned about what appears to be Trump's chaotic approach to governance and the presidency. While shooting from the hip might be fine for most, the role of the U.S. president is frequently to be above the fray, the calm voice of reason, and the one keeping diplomatic channels open.

"It's not really what he might do that concerns me, so much as the conventions that he won't follow," Weber told the crowd. "He's like a 13-year-old in the schoolyard."

For financial and commodity markets, that's likely to mean politically related volatility, and a lot of it, as Trump bullies and blusters, Weber said.

Much of that volatility is going to be related to currency fluctuation, Weber said, which then spills out into prices on markets throughout the world. Unlike other situations where chaos can produce opportunity, in this case finding those chances might be a bit harder, since Trump doesn't appear to like sticking to script or being consistent.

## Bean bonanza

Turning to grain markets proper, Weber said he expects to see soybeans acreage continue to grow as the crop continues to burst out of the Red River Valley and westward on the Prairies.

"We're even seeing it in Saskatchewan now, especially south of the No. 1 highway, where



**"He's like a 13-year-old in the schoolyard."**

LARRY WEBER

it's showing up in rotations," Weber said.

Weber said it's likely the Prairies will see another big bump in soybean production as growers become more comfortable with the crop, but added that any sense the acreage was coming straight off the top of canola isn't supported by the numbers.

"Canola has actually been quite stable, and so has wheat," Weber said. "It's also not coming from summerfallow, so the question is, 'where is it coming from?' and the answer seems to be that it's coming a little bit from a lot of places."

For example, Weber said oat production in Manitoba likely contributed about 100,000 acres or so to bean production, and that was the biggest effect he could see in his analysis.

## Canola too

Weber also said he's looking for big canola acres this spring, with farmers pencilling out their budgets for the spring now. In fact he's expecting to see the return of tight canola rotations, with economics beating out agronomics yet again.

"Farmers are telling me, 'I'm going to grow it because it's the only thing I'm going to make money at,'" Weber said.

In fact, Weber said this trend has caused him to rethink his long-held view that the crop would always have a hard acreage ceiling because of agronomic limitations, preventing it from reaching the most optimistic future estimates of 22 million or 23 million acres in Western Canada.

"I've thrown that out the window," Weber said. "There was a huge shift to canola when I did my annual 100-farmer survey."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Moving on



Gord Gilmour  
Editor

What happens when a farm family is no longer a farm family?  
This is a question I’ve been mulling lately, after talking with a couple of people I know whose families have decided now is the time to sell up.

It’s a reality for many of us, or will be soon enough. Just a walk around the halls at Ag Days last week demonstrated that, newly arrived young blood aside, the industry demographic still has a decidedly grey cast to it. And while the farmers I am familiar with tend to remain active, both physically and mentally, later in life, eventually we will all decide it’s time to hang up our skates.

For most people, that’s still a momentous life-changing event, but the logistics of it are well understood. File for the pension with the government, stop showing up at the office every day and start drawing down the RRSPs. It may take some trial and error to figure out a new routine and identity that doesn’t revolve around work, but much of the rest remains unchanged.

Most will continue to live in the homes they’ve long occupied, their circle of friends and neighbours will be largely unchanged, and the foundation of outside interests remains to be built on.

For farm families however, this change can be far more jarring when there’s not a family member taking over the farm. We all know this instinctively, but how many of us have really stopped to think about the far-ranging impact of this transition, extending well beyond the circle of the people facing the day-to-day reality of selling the farm?

The retiring couple will, of course, feel the largest and most immediate impact. They’ll be leaving a home where they have spent much of their lives, raised their children and ushered in old age. Most will move to an urban centre where, at least initially, they’ll feel like a fish out of water. Life will suddenly seem much more tightly bounded. I recall a colleague telling me a story a few years ago about bumping into a farmer who had retired and moved into Winnipeg. They got chatting about the bitter winter and the farmer observed that he was more than a little amazed at how difficult snow clearing was on a city lot — because he kept running out of room to put it.

Along with losing their long-term home, they will have lost many other things too. Their hobbies, for example. I know a lot of farm women who are avid gardeners. I always joke they’re the only people I know who would attempt to recreate several acres of formal gardens in the middle of the Prairies, without the staff of gardeners such an endeavour usually involves. I am certain they’ll need to adjust to the prospect of limiting their efforts to a smaller yard, a balcony or perhaps even just a few houseplants.

The effect will ripple out from its epicentre. In most cases, the farm will be sold because there isn’t another generation coming along. That isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Most of the former farm kids I know now are happy and successful. They’re working in challenging, interesting and rewarding careers. They’re raising families and making their own plans for the future. I include myself in that group. Here and there some might pine to return to the farm, but most of them have moved on, are working in another field, or in the industry side of agriculture, and realize that’s not in the cards for them. Yet we still feel a connection. We return to the farm for holidays and we tell people we’re “going home.”

I love bringing my daughter home to the family farm. I love having her ride on the tractor with her grandpa, play in the garden with her grandma and just generally see and understand where her roots are dug into this earth. In a very real way, that feels like an important part of her history. It lets me explain her to herself.

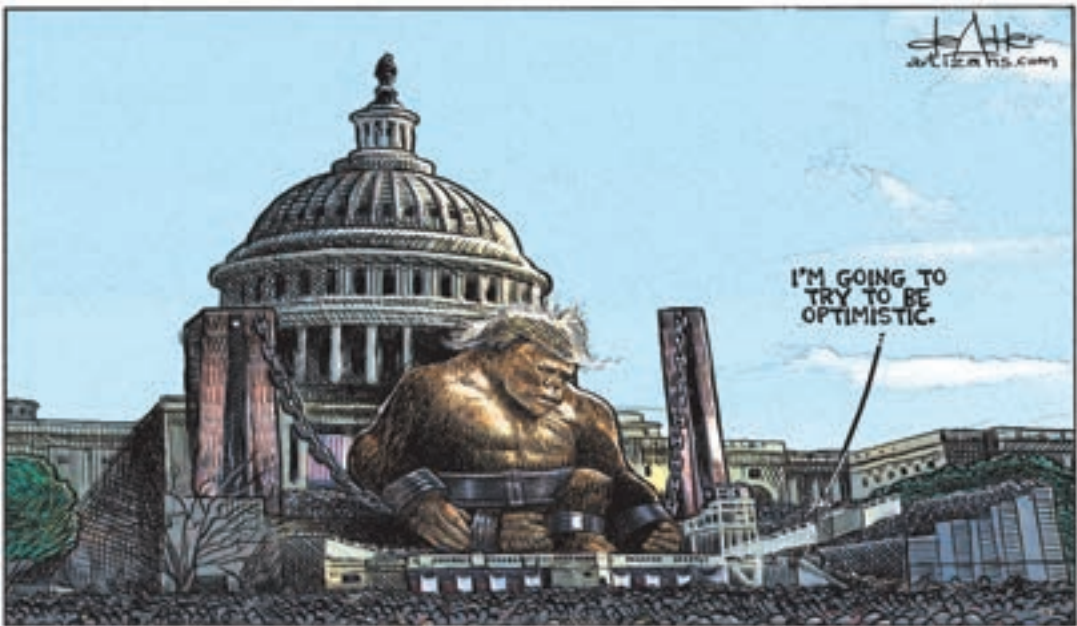
I’m fortunate that this choice isn’t one my family is grappling with immediately. My brother continues to farm as my parents have stepped back. These days my dad is residual labour around the place, filling in when my brother and the hired employees need an extra set of hands. That allows them to stay in their home, and still gives the rest of the family a farm to call home.

But I recognize that’s not going to be forever. My brother is nearly 50. He’s already said that, while he enjoys his work, he won’t be one of those farmers who’s slugging it out well into his 70s.

Someday our farm family will simply be a family. The home place, in our family for nearly a century, will at best be another family’s home, at worst a collection of buildings slowly rotting away.

Agriculture as a sector spends a lot of time trying to figure out how to transfer a farm from one generation to the next.

Do we spend enough time thinking about what might be next?



Grass for generations

BY KRISTINE TAPLEY  
DU Canada

The beef industry has been struggling to retain and attract new producers while the average age of farmers, at 54, keeps creeping up.

The next generation of cattle producers might be looking for something different.

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) released the *National Beef Sustainability Assessment and Strategy* this fall. The industry garnered top marks in most categories, however, producer viability was a weak link.

According to long-term average margins, a cow herd of 200 head provides a total annual income of \$17,559. This will not support a family and is below Canada’s low-income cut-off. Up to 84 per cent of those in the cow-calf sector must rely on off-farm employment.

How do we ask young people to invest themselves in the cattle industry when they will likely be overworked and underpaid? We need to find ways to bring profitability back into our industry.

According to 44 per cent of producers surveyed by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, the largest barrier to entry in the cattle industry is access to land. Across the country land values increased by 10 to 22 per cent annually from 2011 to 2015.

I can personally attest to the woes of competing for hay and pasture land with other industries. Like many others, I moved farther north and on to marginal land, but also farther from my off-farm job, causing even more strain on my time and energy.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) also has a vested interest in the sustainability of the beef industry. DUC recognizes that forage and grasslands kept in the hands of cattle producers who manage these areas are productive for cattle and

wildlife alike. A sustainable beef industry is critical to the retention and health of grasslands and wetlands.

In fact, the CRSB assessment shows the beef sector only accounts for 33 per cent of land that is in agricultural production, but provides 68 per cent of the wildlife habitat.

DUC’s Revolving Land Conservation Program is a tool that allows ranchers to access pasture land in a less competitive market. Land purchased by DUC has the wetland and upland habitat restored and then secured by a conservation easement on the land title. The land is then put back on the market and available for purchase by anyone looking to buy grass.

Essentially, it eliminates potential buyers interested in converting the uplands to grain or removing the water from the land. Both DUC and beef producers see the need for grassland landscapes to be managed by ranchers for generations to come.

It is our hope that programs like this that keep pasture land growing grass will create more accessible land options for beef producers while benefiting the sustainability of the beef industry.

DUC has a great deal in common with the beef industry. DUC believes a thriving and sustainable beef production system is essential on the Canadian landscape to continue growing more grass and protecting clean water. Opportunities that create and improve programs that stimulate this growth and the success of the beef industry is a key focus.

For more details on the Revolving Land Conservation Program visit: <http://tinyurl.com/jm2me8x>.

Find the National Beef Sustainability Assessment and Strategy here: <http://tinyurl.com/hx8aczm>.

Kristine Tapley is the regional beef industry agrologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada. She can be reached at [k\\_tapley@ducks.ca](mailto:k_tapley@ducks.ca).

OUR HISTORY: February 1980

No, not 1.75 per cent per year, more like today, but per month. The interest on overdue farm supply accounts at Manitoba Pool in February, 1980 was 21 per cent a year.

Our Feb. 14 issue carried part five of a summary of the Rapeseed ’80 home study course, in which 2,500 producers were participating. Zero tillage was said to be “an interesting concept.”

“While there’s practically no preparation of the seedbed, a farmer needs lots of patience with it. He may have to wait two weeks after the neighbours start to seed before he can put in a zero-till crop.”

Certified seed, already used by most growers, was recommended. “With the increasing area in rapeseed, it’s likely the seed price will continue to increase slowly,” the summary said.

“Crop rotation has been necessary to prevent mustard from building up. If breeding of a new variety solves the mustard problem, rape could be planted continuously... this would cut the weeds down to a point where very little chemical would be needed.”

The U.S. had imposed an embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union following its invasion of Afghanistan, cutting supplies by 17 million tonnes. Canada had also agreed to limit sales, but Reuters reported that Italian traders were holding Canadian barley cargoes purchased before the embargo, and they could be sold at a profit of up to \$2.75 a bushel.

The short-lived Joe Clark Conservative government had just approved \$42.5 million for infrastructure for the new terminal at Prince Rupert.

# CHANGE OF INTEREST RATES.

Effective April 1, 1980, the interest charged on any overdue FARM SUPPLY ACCOUNTS will be increased to 1.75% per month (21% per annum) compounded monthly.



COMMENT/FEEDBACK

# Could Trump save the Canadian dairy industry from itself?

Trump may be the catalyst necessary for a much-needed revamp of the Canadian dairy industry

**BY SYLVAIN CHARLEBOIS**  
Dalhousie University

The great Canadian dairy crisis is about to experience a new and interesting twist.

As Donald trump assumes the role of the 45th president of the United States, some wonder whether he could bring about the end of Canada's infatuation with dairy marketing boards. Both during his campaign and after the election, Trump took aim mainly at China and Mexico for their perceived prejudicial trading tactics against America. Given that U.S. dairy groups are now calling on Trump to turn his sights on Canada, things may begin to change.

Let's be honest, though: chances are, Trump may not even know about Canada's supply management scheme. In his defence, however, once this scheme is understood, most people outside of Canada would assume such policies could only exist in poverty-stricken countries. The dairy products that are imported to Canada are subject to incredibly high tariffs, sometimes exceeding 300 per cent. Province-based marketing boards issue quotas so farmers can produce and distribute industrial milk for processing and consumption.

For years, Canadian dairy producers refused to admit that the system did not serve the dairy supply chain and consumers well. The strategy in the face of any criticism was to advocate

**Trump could become the Canadian dairy sector's worse nightmare, should he decide to care, that is.**

and deflect. But since domestic milk prices were much higher than world market prices, processors started to import diafiltered milk from the United States. Now such an act would normally be illegal, but the product was imported under a different label, circumventing border rules and bypassing any tariffs.

It lasted for a few years, thus creating a huge imbalance between milk produced in Canada and our domestic demand. The milk which was normally sold to make cheese, yogurt or other dairy products was slowly being replaced by American diafiltered milk.

In the height of the crisis, in 2015, some reports suggested Canadian processors were buying more than C\$200 million worth of American milk. In April 2016, Ontario reacted by creating a new class of industrial milk. The policy allowed dairy processors in Canada to purchase milk at world market prices instead of higher prices controlled by the Canadian Dairy Commission in Ottawa.

A cross-Canadian approach, including all provinces, was to be established by February 1, 2017, but things have been dragging on for quite some time.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, the policy seems to be working, but American producers have enjoyed this demand coming from Canada and are apparently hungry for more. U.S. dairy groups have recently expressed this desire directly to Trump, as our dairy sector never really had a strategy, other than protectionism of course. In today's world, this lack of strategy won't do. Canadian dairy producers only have themselves to blame for the mess they are in.

The Comprehensive European Trade Agreement will also make things interesting for supply management. It will create a two per cent dent in the amount Canadian producers are asked to produce, based on the 17,000 tons of European cheeses about to come our way. But producers and artisan cheese makers will probably be generously compensated by Ottawa. The Trans-Pacific Partnership could potentially have severely compromised the integrity of our supply management scheme, but global economic nationalistic sentiment, led by American politics, will eventually kill the deal.

But now we are soon to have a new occupant in the White House. On the one side, we have a dairy sector strug-

gling and in dire need of a vision. On the other side there is Donald Trump, who is willing to challenge anything, 140 characters at a time. With the support of Congress and a trade-happy cabinet, Trump could become the Canadian dairy sector's worse nightmare, should he decide to care, that is.

The Canadian dairy industry needs a complete overhaul. The status quo no longer suffices, and most dairy farmers know it. The system that dairy producers have been defending for decades is slowly falling apart. The Canadian Dairy Commission Act needs to be renewed, changed, and modernized, along with our self-serving quota system which does little for rural economic growth in our country.

Our system is not innovation focused either, and could never compete globally. Going forward, it needs to be rewired, and prepared to become more market focused in order to foster excellence in the sector. When compared with farms abroad, our own dairy farming managerial practices do not measure up — not even close. The quality is there, but our cost structure would cause an entire sector to collapse overnight, should trade borders be opened.

Trump may be just what the Canadian dairy sector needs in order to become more relevant to our economy, because right now it isn't. Let's hope it's not too late.

*Sylvain Charlebois is dean of the faculty of management, and professor in Food Distribution and Policy at Dalhousie University.*

# Dry spell in Argentina may spoil buzz for soybean bulls: Braun

Switch away from wet cycle could set the stage for a significant recovery in the crop's prospects

**BY KAREN BRAUN**  
Reuters

Soybean bulls have been excited over the excessive rains across Argentina's Soybean Belt in recent weeks, but an expected flip to dry weather might wither their enthusiasm.

It's been wet in the core soybean region in Argentina – the global leader in soy product exports. Most areas picked up between one and two inches (25 to 51 millimetres), but up to three inches (76 mm) were observed in already saturated locations like eastern Córdoba the weekend of Jan. 14-15.

The soybean market had a field day with this year's harvest, when excessive rainfall late in Argentina's soybean season sent analysts into a frenzy, with many predicting losses of up to 10 million tonnes – roughly 17 per cent of the crop.

But last year's harvest losses were closer to two million tonnes, totaling 58.8 million tonnes in the Argentine Agriculture Ministry's latest figure. The U.S. Department of Agriculture holds a more conservative 56.8 million tonnes for the

2015-16 harvest, but still far from the low-ball estimates that were swirling around at the time.

USDA currently pegs the 2016-17 Argentina soybean crop at 57 million tonnes, similar to or slightly higher than the general analyst consensus.

But some market participants are throwing around a number closer to 50 million, which if materialized would instantly legitimize the bullish speculative position, even if neighbouring Brazil – the world's largest soybean exporter – churns out a record crop as expected.

A loss this large could arise only under the most extraordinary circumstances, and based on the latest weather models, flooding will cease to be a concern in the near term.

The recent wet weather has many fearing that the soybean crop could be flooded out in many places, reducing harvested area and leaving the plants under significant stress – which would ultimately reduce the yield.

It has undoubtedly been wet as of late. Within the last month, many areas in the swath from eastern Córdoba to Entre Rios have recorded more than double the normal amount of rainfall.

In a side-by-side comparison, the recent accumulations over the entire core region of Argentina look very similar to those amassed by late April 2016, the only difference being soil moisture, which is relatively lower today than it was last year.

But the waterlogged fields are about to get a significant break. Forecast models are in relative agreement that the entire Agriculture Belt should be fairly dry for

at least the next two weeks, which should give the water levels a chance to go down.

Temperatures are expected to be much warmer than normal for most of the same time frame, which will assist in the dry-out of saturated soils.

In its latest seasonal forecast issued at the end of December, Servicio Meteorológico Nacional – Argentina's state weather agency – predicts that the January through March period is likely to be slightly drier than average across the core soybean production areas.

And it appears the agency does have somewhat of a track record, if last year is any indication. In December 2015, SMN predicted that the next three months might be notably wetter than average – which proved correct.

But both the short- and long-term outlooks for dry weather come as bad news for some of the peripheral areas that have been somewhat parched since planting.

About seven million tonnes of soybeans lie in the southern production regions of Buenos Aires along with the province of La Pampa, where precipitation over the past two months is only two-thirds of normal levels.

Any concern in the market regarding Argentina's dry areas has been far overshadowed by wetness in the core region, but if rain continues to be scarce in these areas through harvest, at least 10 per cent of the crop could be affected.

But moving forward, even the areas that are extremely wet now will eventually need some additional moisture down the road, so if dryness truly does become a major theme over the next couple of months,

the possibility for losses may re-enter the picture.

Word from the ground confirms that Argentina's core is in fact wet, but considerable damage to the soybean crop is far from a done deal.

Analysts from the agriculture research group within Thomson Reuters hit the ground in Argentina last week to scout out conditions. They covered the primary soybean corridor of northern Buenos Aires, southern and central Córdoba, and southern Santa Fe – some of the most productive ground in the country.

According to senior analyst Hong Xu, ditches and streams along the route were filled with rushing water – evidence of the abundant recent rainfalls – but the soybean fields were not yet overcome with moisture.

“Whenever standing water was present, it usually appeared only in small, low-lying areas of the fields. We barely saw any fields on our route that were 50 per cent or more inundated, and even that sight was not too common,” said Xu, who added that southern Santa Fe was the wettest leg of the trip.

Based on the team's observations, Xu does not believe Argentine harvest losses will be as severe as some analysts project, especially if the weather shifts to a more benign pattern in the coming months.

“There were some fields in which plants were yellowing, indicating moisture stress,” he said. “But for the most part, plant health looked OK, particularly in fields that were planted in the first round (first crop).”

*Karen Braun is a market analyst with Reuters based in Chicago. The views expressed here are her own.*



# FROM PAGE ONE

FUNDING Continued from page 1

in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile, the National Farmers Union (NFU) wants the same access to stable funding as KAP. However, under the current Agricultural Producers Funding Act, stable funding legislation applies to just one general farm organization (GFO). That is, and has been KAP, since the act came into force in 1988 — four years after KAP was founded.

The designation, which GFOs apply for from the government-appointed Farm Products Marketing Council, runs for two years at a time.

The NFU is also a GFO, it said in a Jan. 18 news release.

Manitoba's checkoff model is cumbersome and not free of corporate influence, the NFU said.

"Most costly of all is the inability of a diversity of farm voices to be fairly supported by Manitoba's current stable funding model. There is no choice of voice."

There's stable funding for various GFOs in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, the NFU said.

"Some farmers belong to more than one GFO and the Manitoba government should allow for this option."

It's too early to comment on specific legislative changes, Eichler said in an email Jan. 19 when asked about the NFU's request.

"However, our announcement on Jan. 17 was a commitment to work specifically with KAP on reviewing the checkoff funding structure under the Agricultural Producers Funding Act," he wrote.

Unlike most commodity groups, also governed by the funding act, KAP's annual membership is capped at \$210 (including GST). Designated buyers — mainly elevators, processors and feed mills — are legally obliged to deduct at the point of sale agricultural products 0.75 per cent of the gross selling price and remit the money to KAP.

Farmers have to sell \$28,000 worth of product before KAP collects \$210.

Nevertheless, some buyers refuse to collect checkoff, Battershill said. Some collect the



The Manitoba government will work with the Keystone Agricultural Producers to introduce a more efficient system for collecting its annual membership fees, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler announced at Ag Days Jan. 17. The National Farmers Union wants in on stable funding too. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

checkoff on farmers who pay KAP memberships by cheque up front and some keep collecting after hitting the cap.

KAP is obliged to refund to farmers all the money collected if it doesn't reach the \$210 cap.

"For every dollar farmers are paying to KAP through this checkoff system 40 cents has to go back out unfortunately," Battershill said. "It's not because of opt-outs, it is because of overpayments of memberships unfortunately. The purchasers are quite frustrated as well."

"There is no way for us to improve it significantly. We have worked with them (buyers) over the past two years to try and find solutions to these challenges, but unfortunately it is just a poorly designed system for an organization structured like ours."

KAP has looked at other options, including programs in British Columbia and the Maritimes tying membership fee payments to government services.

"It is essentially a reverse onus system," Battershill said. "Producers are responsible to pay up front into those provinces' general farm organizations, in order to be eligible for certain benefits and to be able to access some programming."

Usually there's a refund system for those who want to opt out, he

**"There is no choice of voice."**

NFU

added.

"It is essentially a way of proving that you are an active farmer by participating in your industry group to qualify for some of the benefits that government programming offers."

For example, farmers might have to pay up before being eligible to use coloured (cheaper) fuel or to get certain farm tax deductions.

If farmers paid KAP membership fees directly KAP expects it would earn more, farmers and buyers would be less frustrated and KAP would save time and money.

"We have an audit fee that is higher than it needs to be by about \$3,000 related to the amount of time our auditor needs to go through our purchasing records," Battershill said.

KAP's database and banking fees are all higher too.

"In 2015 we spent just over \$3,500 on postage and the majority of that was refunding money to members."

Farmers' money can be better spent on their policy issues, he said.

Battershill said he isn't sure whether KAP's funding system can be changed through regulation or if it requires legislation. Either way the timeline is up to Eichler, he added. Battershill hopes an improved system is ready for KAP's next fiscal year starting Dec. 1, 2017.

Despite the checkoff's shortcomings, KAP's membership is relatively high currently, at 4,650, Battershill said. He believes that represents a significant portion of Manitoba's active farmers, which have been declining in number as farms get bigger.

KAP estimates every paid member, on average, represents another half through partnerships and incorporated farms. If so, KAP says that's almost 7,000 farmers. Industry observers estimate there are about 10,000 farmers in Manitoba.

KAP membership peaked in 1997 at 7,500, but there were 26,000 "census" farmers in the province in 1996.

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EXEMPTION Continued from page 1

theory that some businesses will pass on their costs, they have said we are passing on these costs because they can," he said, noting producers aren't in a position to pass on an increased cost of production.

"Farmers are global price takers, so they can't pass on carbon costs, they can't ask for a premium on global prices because not every country has a carbon price yet," he said.

In addition to exempting on-farm emissions, the general farm organization is also asking the province to reinvest the carbon tax paid out by agriculture back into the industry. Money from carbon pricing should go towards projects that allow farmers to lower emissions, store carbon in the soil or protect wetlands through an alternative land use framework, said Goertzen.

"Dollars could also go to cost-sharing grants for example, to upgrade, to invest in more effective zero-carbon equipment, so that could include looking at geothermal, it could include all sorts of energy-efficient equipment," he said. "For example, Alberta introduced some grants recently where producers can get up to \$750,000 per grant to cover up to 70 per cent of the cost of upgrading equipment, so that is a real help in terms of that upfront cost."

But the carbon policy KAP is advocating for is not without detractors.

Following Goertzen's presentation, a man later identified as Gerry Demare commandeered the microphone indicating he represented an undisclosed group of people who opposed carbon pricing in general. While supportive of exempting on-farm emissions, he said farmers should be reimbursed for all costs associated with carbon pricing unless they expressly accepted the concept.

"For those other direct emissions we have an exemption or a rebate like the GST tax credit, and that would be on a voluntary basis," Demare said. "So if

**"We're not here trying to advocate for carbon taxation. We're saying given the alternatives, given where our government's headed, we think our approach to this issue could get the best result for farmers."**

SEAN GOERTZEN

you're a carbon tax believer you, on a voluntary basis could not, would not, ask for your money back. If you were a carbon tax denier, or that you don't necessarily know where you stand in terms of carbon taxation, you could ask for a rebate."

Others have suggested KAP take a stance similar to Saskatchewan's approach to carbon pricing. That province has dug in its heels and threatened to sue the federal government.

"We've had a lot of members come up and ask us, well why aren't you just taking Saskatchewan's approach and just opposing carbon pricing entirely, and that's a good question," KAP's Goertzen said, adding the first risk with that approach is that the federal government imposes its own price.

"So I think it's important to ask the question, what do you think will work better? A carbon price designed by Ottawa, or one designed by your home province?" he asked, noting the second risk that comes with opposing the carbon pricing is the possibility another strategy with higher hidden costs could be implemented.

"We're not here trying to advocate for carbon taxation," he said. "We're saying given the alternatives, given where our government's headed, we think our approach to this issue could get the best result for farmers."

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Sean Goertzen speaks at Ag Days. PHOTO: SHANNON VANRAES

## MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR REPORTER

The Manitoba Co-operator, Manitoba's leading farm newspaper, is seeking a reporter to join its award-winning team of journalists. The successful applicant will be familiar with agriculture and be highly motivated to learn more about this diverse and fast-changing industry. He or she will possess excellent journalism skills, including print, photography and digital publishing. This individual will have a valid driver's licence and be willing to travel to rural areas as well as out of province as needed to cover events and assignments. Interested applicants may email their resumé and samples of their writing by January 27, 2017 to Laura Rance-Unger, Editorial Director, Farm Business Communications: [laura@fbcpublishing.com](mailto:laura@fbcpublishing.com).

**Laura Rance-Unger**  
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Farm Business Communications  
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# \$400-million pea plant announced

Manitoba producers to benefit from the global demand for vegetable protein ingredients

BY SHANNON VANRAES  
Co-operator staff

Pea acres in the province could see a growth spurt following the announcement global ingredient and pharmaceutical giant Roquette will build its next processing plant in Manitoba.

The \$400-million pea-processing plant will be located just outside Portage la Prairie and is expected to employ 150 people once complete.

“I expect there will be more pea acres in the province as a result of this, because guys can sell them locally,” said Jason Voth, chairman of Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers. “I think it will increase to a point where it becomes sustainable long term. I’m hoping they work with growers to get a stable base of peas going and that will be price dependent — and most importantly, weather dependent.”

Roquette’s vice-president of pea and new proteins, Pascal Leroy, said the plant will process about 120,000 tonnes of peas each year.

“That is why it is a huge investment for us,” said Leroy adding the company also anticipates an increase in Manitoba pea production as a result of their investment in the province. Additional pea supply will come from neighbouring provinces as needed, he added.

Speaking during a press conference at the Manitoba legislature, company chairman Edouard Roquette said the new plant “will support the future of Manitoba’s agriculture industry and help address the growing global demand for innovative food, nutrition and health products and solutions.”

Construction is expected to begin before the end of the year and once running at full capacity it will be the largest plant dedicated to pea protein processing in the world.

“This new investment in Manitoba marks a key step in reinforcing Roquette’s leadership position in offering high-value plant-based ingredients around the world,” Roquette said.

He added that Manitoba’s quality workforce, as well as the province’s centrally located transportation network, were key to the company’s decision to locate the plant in Manitoba. Canada is also the world’s largest pea producer.

Manitoba’s agriculture minister was on hand for the announcement, but initially indicated there was no financial contribution to the project on the part of the province.

A spokesperson for Minister Ralph Eichler later said the Manitoba gov-



A \$400-million pea-processing plant was announced during an event at the Manitoba legislature. PHOTOS: SHANNON VANRAES

**“I expect there will be more pea acres in the province as a result of this, because guys can sell them locally.”**

JASON VOTH

ernment has provided up to \$6.82 million in tax increment financing (TIF) to Roquette in order to assist with site development costs.

“This TIF will support the development by providing grants equivalent to applicable incremental provincial education taxes over a set number of years based on the initial assessed value of the property,” said the spokesperson.

Following the project’s announcement, Eichler noted increased pea acres could also yield positive returns in terms of sustainability, pointing out the crop’s ability to fix nitrogen.

“Peas are an excellent source of protein, which is in growing demand around the world,” said Eichler. “They are also a sustainable crop, complementing the land management and environmental steward-

ship techniques practised by our farmers.”

He added that approximately 160,000 acres of peas were planted in the province last year.

Voth noted that consecutive wet years in the province have been a limiting factor in pea production, but said that will likely be changing in the coming years.

“I’d say in Manitoba it was always price and weather that was the limiting factor in growing peas, but as soon as you add value-added processing to a product... then the price farmers receive will be a little bit higher,” he said. “Peas are suited to a little bit drier conditions, but as soon as we hit that drier cycle in the weather, peas are going to take off.”

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Edouard Roquette, company chairman.

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# Agriculture Minister Eichler optimistic Trump will see value in ag trade

Trump’s nominee for ag secretary, Sonny Perdue, has a record of supporting trade

BY ALLAN DAWSON  
Co-operator staff / Brandon

Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler is optimistic President Donald Trump will see the value of agricultural trade, despite his protectionist rhetoric.

“I think that Trump is a very educated man in his own way,” Eichler told reporters Jan. 17 at Ag Days. “Maybe he has to listen a little bit more than he talks... that is why we have two ears and one mouth. So let’s make sure we listen and we hope president-elect Trump listens. We have a feeling there are some strong people out there who are well connected with the president-elect and hopefully he will listen to them and give them the ear we need to have in order to make sure those relationships continue.”

President Trump received a lot of votes in farming states and many American farm groups support the Trans-Pacific Partnership — a deal President Trump said during the election campaign he would not ratify. He has also promised to tear up the North American Free Trade Agreement if he can’t get a better deal for the U.S.

Some trade experts fear President Trump will spark an international trade war, in turn potentially causing a worldwide recession.

“I’m not overly concerned at this point,” Eichler said. “We will be able to tell a bit more in a couple of weeks when we see who the new secretary of agriculture will be in the Trump administration.”

Trump has since nominated 70-year-old former Georgia governor Sonny Perdue, who has a record of supporting agricul-

**“I think that Trump is a very educated man in his own way.”**

RALPH EICHLER

tural trade. The Republican-led Senate is expected to confirm the nomination.

A veterinarian, Perdue, served two terms as governor and has run trucking and agricultural companies in Georgia since leaving office in 2011, the *Ag Insider* reported.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau and a Georgia farmer, praised Perdue as a strong voice for agriculture, adding as governor he “was always very good in promoting agricultural products” and encouraged exports.

Ron Moore, president of the American Soybean Association (ASA), said he thought Perdue would support agriculture exports, Reuters reported.

“I think he will be very much in favour of trade,” Moore said in a telephone interview with Reuters. The ASA, with 15 other farm groups, this month urged the incoming administration to “protect and enhance” agricultural trade and its impact on the rural economy.

Trade, a signature issue during the campaign in which Trump accused China of unfair practices, is critical for the farm economy. U.S. farm and food exports to China were more than \$20.2 billion in 2015.

Prices for soybeans rose 16 per cent during 2016 on strong demand from China, which buys nearly 30 per cent of the U.S. crop.

Soybean exports helped boost U.S. gross domestic product in the third quarter.

Some farmers are concerned that Trump’s criticism of China could lead to deteriorating trade relations and put exports at risk.

An influential Chinese state-run newspaper warned that U.S. agricultural imports and U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing could be targets for retaliation in any trade war triggered by Trump.

Agricultural trade is critical to the economies of Canada and the U.S., Eichler said.

“We can never forget that,” he said. “One in eight jobs in Manitoba is because of agriculture. You take exports out of there and we put more value added in, we all win. We cannot take our eye off that ball.”

Many American legislators recognize the importance of trade, which was discussed earlier this month at the State Ag and Rural Leaders group meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Eichler attended and is now the group’s secretary, as did Canada’s Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay.

“We talked a lot about trade,” Eichler said. “That is one of the things that is the most important to us. We are their (U.S.) largest (agricultural) trading partner and they are ours so we want to keep that dialogue open. That message was loud and clear to the senators and of course to the state legislators as well. We know that trade is important.”

“We have a great relationship, not only now but we hope into the future. It is all about having an open conversation, an open dialogue, in order to make sure we continue on those relationships.”

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*With files from Ag Insider and Reuters*

## Ag efficiencies found: minister

Positions have been eliminated in Manitoba Agriculture, but no cuts, says minister

BY SHANNON VANRAES  
Co-operator staff

Manitoba Agriculture has amalgamated its livestock and crops branches as it looks for cost savings in the department.

“First of all there was no cuts, there were efficiencies found within the department,” said Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler during an unrelated press conference. He also confirmed that three director positions have been eliminated, although the individuals who held them have been offered other roles within the department.

Not all changes were tied to cost reduction, however. Eichler added that some changes were made to ensure the department “had the right people in the right place.”



Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler. PHOTO: SHANNON VANRAES

While he could not offer a dollar figure for the efficiencies found within Manitoba Agriculture, Eichler said Finance Minister Cameron Friesen estimates changes made to senior administration will result in an annual savings of \$10 million across all departments.

“The Manitoba government is committed to fixing the finances of our province in order to protect and improve the services Manitoba families depend on. Immediately following the election, we led by example and undertook a complete reorganization of departments which resulted in a one-third reduction in the size of cabinet and political staff,” said Eichler in an earlier statement.

“Under the previous NDP administration, the number of positions at the executive level grew nearly four times the rate of overall staff growth within the civil service, while access or the quality of services did not improve,” he added.

No comment was provided regarding how the newly amalgamated branch will operate.

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# WHAT'S UP

Please forward your agricultural events to [daveb@fbcpublishing.com](mailto:daveb@fbcpublishing.com) or call 204-944-5762.

**Jan. 26-27:** Manitoba Young Farmer Conference, Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Ave., Winnipeg. Held in conjunction with Keystone Agricultural Producers' annual meeting. For more info visit [www.kap.mb.ca](http://www.kap.mb.ca).

**Jan. 27:** Canadian Cattlemen's Association town hall meeting, 4 to 9 p.m., Centennial Hall, PR 325, Ashern. For more info visit [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca) (click on "News/Events").

**Feb. 1-2:** Manitoba Swine Seminar, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info or to register visit [www.manitobaswineseminar.com](http://www.manitobaswineseminar.com).

**Feb. 2-3:** Manitoba Beef Producers annual general meeting, Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Ave., Brandon. For more info visit [www.mbbeef.ca/annual-meeting/](http://www.mbbeef.ca/annual-meeting/).

**Feb. 15-16:** CropConnect Conference, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info visit [www.cropconnect-conference.ca](http://www.cropconnect-conference.ca).

**Feb. 17:** Bridging The Gap: Succession and Transition Planning Workshop for Farm Families, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info or to register visit [www.fmc-gac.com/content/bridging-gap-workshops](http://www.fmc-gac.com/content/bridging-gap-workshops).

**Feb. 28-March 2:** Western Canadian Wheat Growers annual convention, Sheraton Cavalier, 612 Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon. For more info or to register visit [wheatgrowers.ca](http://wheatgrowers.ca).

**March 6-7:** Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference, Hyatt Regency, 700 Centre St. SE, Calgary. Early-bird deadline Jan. 15. For more info visit [www.advancingwomenconference.ca](http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca).

**March 7-9:** Canola Council of Canada annual convention, Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg. For more info visit [canolacouncil.org](http://canolacouncil.org).

**March 8-10:** Canadian Cattlemen's Association annual general meeting, Ottawa Marriott Hotel, 100 Kent St., Ottawa. For more info visit [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca) (click on "News/Events").

**March 10-11:** Manitoba Direct Farm Marketing Conference, Access Event Centre, 111-D Gilmour St., Morden. For more info call Manitoba Agriculture at 204-821-5322.

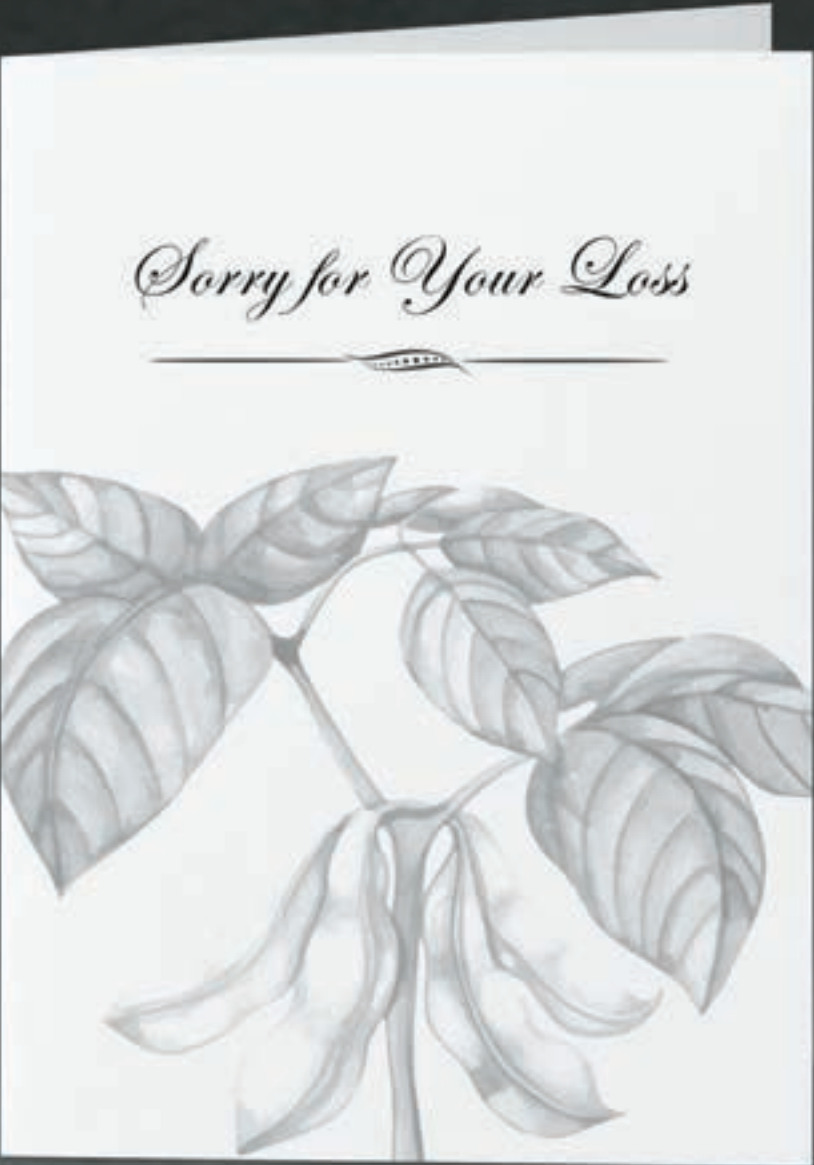
**June 8-11:** Canadian Angus national convention, Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Ave., Brandon. For more info visit [cdnangus.ca/activities-and-services/national-convention/](http://cdnangus.ca/activities-and-services/national-convention/).

## GRAINSAFE



Winkler fire Chief Richard Paetzold (l) and Glenboro deputy fire Chief Garth McIntyre were at Ag Days demonstrating how a rescue would occur in the event of a grain entrapment. Glen Blahey, (r) CASA's agricultural health and safety specialist, was in Brandon speaking to farmers about best practices and procedures for grain handling and storage. CASA launched its BeGrainSafe program last week. The program will include the mobile grain safety demonstration and training unit, an interactive trade show display, tabletop youth displays and a website. The demo unit in Brandon was brought in from the U.S. A Canadian version will be on the road across the Canadian Prairies in the spring.

PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON



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# GRAIN MARKETS

COLUMN

## Canola futures shake off most bearish sentiments

Traders hedge against any surprises in currencies

DAVE SIMS  
CNSC



The ICE Futures Canada canola market continues to climb above the psychologically important \$500-per-tonne level, taking support from a recent rally in U.S. soy.

Weather concerns in South America took centre stage on the market as projections flew over how much of the soybean crop in Argentina could be lost due to flooding.

However, both bulls and bears took turns using precipitation, or lack thereof, to justify their respective positions. Some took the view that flooding in certain regions would be lowered by expected dry conditions; others predicted as much as 10 per cent of Argentina's soybean crop could be lost.

For the most part, canola seemed to shrug off the bearish sentiments and steadily moved up the charts.

The dominant March contract broke out of its recently established narrow range to gain nearly \$20 on the week. Resistance seems to have been carved out near the \$520-per-tonne level.

Weakness in the Canadian dollar added to the upside. The loonie was as high as 76.67 U.S. cents during the five-day period before ending the week at 75.04 U.S.

Crushing activity remained steady, with commercials taking advantage of healthy crush margins. Basis levels in Saskatchewan and Manitoba improved in a number of places.

On the other side, warmer weather across

the Canadian Prairies also sparked an increase in farm deliveries, which was bearish for values.

Speculative buying was a feature in and around the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump. As one trader put it, Trump's comments haven't roiled agriculture as much as other sectors, but they can still have an effect on currencies. Some traders positioned themselves near the end of the week to protect against any sudden moves.

The one constant everyone can seem to agree on, though, is that Brazil is headed for a massive crop, with recent estimates pegging it at 104 million tonnes.

Already, China has focused on South America for a large amount of its imports and that isn't expected to change any time soon.

Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) March soybeans gained roughly 20 U.S. cents per bushel during the week ended Jan. 20. Weather concerns in South America, along with speculative buying and a surprising surge by soymeal, underpinned the market.

CBOT corn's March contract gained just over 10 U.S. cents per bushel during the week. Slow selling by farmers in the U.S. and booming ethanol production were some of the factors supporting the market, along with weather concerns.

CBOT wheat chopped around for much of the week before settling with a gain of 2.25 U.S. cents per bushel. Ideas that demand for U.S. wheat will remain steady even while supplies of high-protein wheat get increasingly scarce helped offset large global volumes.

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

### Manitoba Elevator Prices

Average quotes as of January 20, 2017 (\$/tonne)

	Future	Basis	Cash
E. Manitoba wheat	208.89	3712	246.01
W. Manitoba wheat	208.89	2912	238.01
E. Manitoba canola	519.60	-26.08	493.52
W. Manitoba canola	519.60	-35.59	484.01

Source: pdqinfo.ca

### Port Prices

As of Friday, January 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
U.S. hard red winter 12% Houston	155.42	-2.20
U.S. spring wheat 14% Portland	253.90	-5.22
Canola Thunder Bay	531.60	19.50
Canola Vancouver	539.60	19.50

### Closing Futures Prices

As of Thursday, January 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
ICE canola	519.60	19.50
ICE milling wheat	237.00	-6.00
ICE barley	139.00	0.00
Mpls. HRS wheat	208.89	-5.24
Chicago SRW wheat	157.36	0.83
Kansas City HRW wheat	162.78	-2.20
Corn	145.56	4.43
Oats	170.37	13.13
Soybeans	392.24	7.81
Soymeal	384.27	16.31
Soyoil	775.06	-9.92

### Cash Prices Winnipeg

As of Friday, January 20, 2016 (\$/tonne)

	Last Week	Weekly Change
Feed wheat	n/a	n/a
Feed barley	158.46	-0.92
Rye	n/a	n/a
Flaxseed	487.77	0.79
Feed peas	n/a	n/a
Oats	214.63	1.30
Soybeans	425.50	9.19
Sunflower (NuSun) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	14.70	unch
Sunflower (Confection) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	Ask	Ask

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## Western Canadian wheat bids slightly weaker

Elevators have switched the basis to May wheat futures from March

BY JADE MARKUS  
CNS Canada

Spring wheat cash bids across Western Canada declined during the week ended Jan. 20, as elevators switched the basis from the March contract to the May contract.

Depending on the location, average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat prices were down by about \$1-\$4 a tonne compared to the previous week, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points across the Prairie provinces compiled by PDQ (Price and Data Quotes). Average prices ranged from about \$233 per tonne in Saskatchewan's southeast to as high as \$248 in northern parts of Alberta.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but held reason-

ably steady to range from about \$25 to \$39 per tonne above the futures when using the grain company methodology of quoting the basis as the difference between U.S. dollar-denominated futures and Canadian dollar cash bids.

When accounting for currency exchange rates by adjusting Canadian prices to U.S. dollars, CWRS bids ranged from US\$175 to US\$186 per tonne. That would put the currency-adjusted basis levels at about US\$23-\$34 below the futures.

Looking at it the other way around, if the Minneapolis futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$31 to \$45 below the futures.

Bids for Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat reported by PDQ were unchanged to about \$3.50 weaker compared to the previous week.

Average durum prices were slightly higher, with bids coming in between \$281 and \$289 per tonne in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Average durum prices were slightly higher, with bids coming in between \$281 and \$289 per tonne in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The May spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts in Canada are based, was quoted Jan. 23 at US\$5.605 per bushel, down about five U.S. cents from the previous week.

Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more

closely linked to CPSR in Canada. The May K.C. wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.55 per bushel on Jan. 20, down about six U.S. cents per bushel compared to the previous week.

The May Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled Jan. 20 at US\$4.432, up by close to three U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar was trading Jan. 20 at 75.03 U.S. cents, down by roughly one cent.



# LIVESTOCK

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

## Just a bad patch? Or is the cattle sector in denial?

Charlie Gracey says an ambitious plan to revitalize the beef sector isn't working, but Dave Solverson says give it time

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN  
Staff

The cattle industry needs to stop patting itself on the back and face an uncomfortable truth — its grand plan to create a bright new future isn't yielding results.

That's the view of Charlie Gracey, one of Canada's most renowned experts on the beef industry. And all you have to do is look at the shrinking number of cattle and ranchers, said the former manager of Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Ontario Beef Producers.

Since 2009, the Canadian beef herd (total cows and calves) has declined by more than a million animals. It has also lost about 20 per cent of its producers in recent years.

"There's been an amazing cutback, and there's been very little comment about it," said Gracey.

Every industry needs new blood and if the cattle sector wants to attract and retain young producers, it "has to create the conditions to make the industry profitable," he said.

"That is back to mundane things — like changing the grading system. Let's do some things about the pricing system," he said. "It's not about being a missionary and getting people back into the industry. They're not going to do it unless it seems to be profitable."

The National Beef Strategy — unveiled with considerable fanfare two years ago — is supposed to do just that. It set specific targets to boost the bottom line and laid out a series of steps, such as positioning Canadian beef as a top brand in foreign markets and lowering production costs through R&D.

But "things aren't happening fast enough," said Gracey.

"We want to expand and diversify our export and still we're sending about 95 per cent of all our exports to the States. I don't think the strategy is working. I don't even know what it is."

### Funding needed

Even Dave Solverson, co-chair of the National Beef Strategy, admits the ambitious plan has stalled somewhat.

But the problem has been a lack of funds to move ahead with the strategy's "four pillars," said the Camrose-area cow-calf producer and feedlot operator.

Each of those items — such as improving productivity efficiency by 15 per cent by 2020 — came with a detailed series of steps, he noted. And each step costs money to enact.

"The groups that worked on the four pillars estimated the cost to execute it and that's where the recommended (national checkoff) increase to \$2.50 a head (came from)," said Solverson, who is also past president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

"I do feel, and the groups that have worked on it feel, that with the



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

increased funding, the strategy could move forward."

The sudden and sharp downturn in cattle prices has also hurt, he added.

"It sort of emphasizes the reason for a good strategy going forward, diversifying the markets, and things like that," said Solverson. "My point is that until all the provincial organizations agree — which they are very close to doing — then we can't move ahead with the national checkoff increase and I believe that will make the strategy attainable."

And growing the herd is vital, he added, pointing to the risk of losing a major packing plant if numbers fall too low.

"I would like to encourage producers to maintain and even expand their herds because I believe that there is a long-term positive situation ahead of us," he said. "If we shrink much from our current 3.9 million cows nationally, we stand to lose infrastructure."

### Pay for quality

Gracey would also like to see the herd grow, but says the "bloody reality" is that Canada will never be a major player in the commodity beef world. The alternative is to be known for quality but the current system discourages that by rewarding quantity, he said.

"People are overfinishing the cattle to maximize the dollars," said Gracey. "It makes sense (because feed grain is cheap). I blame industry leadership for this. There is an answer to this, and the answer would involve a pricing system that pays equal weight to quality and quantity."

For this to happen, the grading system needs to be revamped and prices for cattle that yield superior-quality beef need to increase, he said.

"We now have capability to measure the yield of a carcass, not just 1, 2, or 3, but as a percentage figure," he said. "If we can do that, we can pay for it on that basis, the way dairy men are paid for milk (butterfat)."

Producers could do better but there's no financial incentive.

"It's not the individual producer's fault because they have to produce to the reality of the current price of grain, current grading system, and current pricing system."

Solverson thinks the overfinishing problem will sort itself out.

"If plants sent a strong market signal that they would discount heavily finished animals, then the industry would respond very quickly," he said. "Up until now, I think part of the problem — and it happened in the U.S. as well as here with the market being so strong in 2014 and 2015 — (that) people just kept adding on the pounds and the carcass weight went up."

However, carcass weights are already coming down and will improve further, he said.

And although well off their recent peak, cattle prices are strong, he added. The biggest barrier to young producers is the cost of land and livestock, but Solverson said that can be overcome with some innovative thinking.

"We have a lot of producers who are at the age where they want to exit the industry," he said. "A lot of times they



**"The groups that have worked on (the National Beef Strategy) feel that with the increased funding, the strategy could move forward."**

DAVE SOLVERSON

want to hang on to their land instead of just renting it out to be turned into a grain farm.

"We could encourage partnerships with young people who are interested in starting out. It's really prohibitive to invest in land and livestock needed to have a viable operation. There's opportunity to partner with producers who are thinking of retiring."

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COLUMN

# Calving problems are becoming rare, but be prepared to act

The first key step is to note when the birth process starts and investigate if too much time passes

**ROY LEWIS DVM**  
Beef 911



Numerous articles have been written over the years on how and when to intervene at calving, how to recognize malpresentations, and what to do about them.

Producers now see fewer and fewer calving-related problems as our breeding has improved and we select for easy-calving heifers with larger pelvises and moderate birth weight bulls. Ensuring cattle have adequate exercise with good nutrition (including access to balanced minerals) will also ensure cows have adequate strength for uterine contractions and calves are vigorous when they are born.

I have always stated at calving time the goal is to get a lively vigorous calf from every cow not just an “alive” calf. Overpulling or pulling too fast (and not in unison with the cow’s contractions) is not an option. I would suggest since we all don’t need to pull or assist calvings very often, we need to revisit our equipment and review calving guidelines and protocols every calving season just to be prepared. Even though we no longer need to assist many calvings, timely intervention — and more importantly, recognizing your limits — are critical as time ticks along.

With each calving an internal clock starts ticking as the cervix of the cow opens up and the delivery process starts. In my view, it is imperative to watch and record the time of the initiation of calving as this makes it very easy to decide when to intervene. Usually in one hour for cows and 1-1/2 hours for heifers, progress should be made. If continual straining happens, blood appears first, or the cow appears hunched over and nothing is being presented, it may be wise to check her out.

Since we don’t need to assist many cows anymore, there is sometimes a reluctance to intervene. I’ve found in working with many experienced producers over the years, that their intuition usually guides them. If they feel something isn’t quite right, intervening at that time and checking the cow or heifer out earlier rather than later has usually avoided a wreck. Whether it is a full breech birth (both back legs pointed forward), head back, or torsion, a farmer’s intuition is usually correct. Something is not right and intervention is necessary.

Knowing when to call for help can also be a difficult decision to make. With any malpresentation, improperly dilated cervix, or situation which requires fetal manipulation and extraction, bear in mind that progress should be made every 15 minutes. If not, call for assistance.

In my mind, veterinarians should be called for most full

breech births. It takes careful manipulation in full breech births to avoid tearing the uterus and this is where mistakes can happen, leading to death of the cow in some cases.

Torsions are a very rare thing indeed, so recognizing them is the first step in getting help with the correction. Torsions present similar to a full breech birth with the cow or heifer going through what appears to be the first initial signs of labour but then there is no progression. There is no water bag presented or fluid discharge, yet the cow/heifer appears uneasy. When examining the cow vaginally, there feels like bands of tissue running every which way and it does not feel normal. You may be able

to wiggle your hand and reach the calf, but it feels like you are going down a loose corkscrew and your hand may be upside down by the time you reach the calf. This is a sure sign it is a torsion and immediate veterinarian intervention is required.

Your veterinarian may be able to correct the torsion. Some do it by manipulation, or casting the cow and having helpers roll the cow while holding on to the calf per vagina. Others use a de-torsion rod but in probably half the cases either the twist is too tight or there is no room to de-torse and a caesarean section is required.

Torsions are just a fluke — there is no hereditary component and I have never seen a cow develop a torsion

again (and if it did, the odds would be very, very low). I have never seen an incidence rate reported, but it would be one every thousand to several thousand births for sure. Veterinarians would be called to examine most torsions. One time a producer with only 120 cows had two torsions a week apart and was very quick to recognize the second one. Most torsions are 180 degrees but some can be 360 degrees or more. The real important part with torsions is recognizing them and whenever I get one I have everyone examine the cow vaginally so they are better able to recognize it next time. Call for help and hopefully a successful outcome is the result.

With all calving abnormali-

ties — including improper cervical dilation, to twins coming totally mixed up to placenta presented first or a vaginal prolapse in the way — call for help or take the animal to a veterinary clinic if no progress is made in 15 minutes.

These are not very common abnormalities anymore, so a veterinary bill to get a successful outcome and potentially save the cow and calf is what we all strive for.

I hope everyone has a great and, hopefully, uneventful calving season.

*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.*

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# LIVESTOCK AUCTION RESULTS

Weight Category	Ashern	Gladstone	Grunthal	Heartland	Heartland	Killarney	Ste. Rose	Winnipeg
				Brandon	Virden			
Feeder Steers	18-Jan	17-Jan	17-Jan	20-Jan	18-Jan	16-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
No. on offer	670	620	388	1,126	2,581*	930	2,443	920
Over 1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	124.00-156.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	147.00-151.00	n/a
900-1,000	135.00-161.50	n/a	n/a	160.00-175.00	165.00-172.50	n/a	160.00-167.50	155.00-168.00
800-900	140.00-166.00	145.00-171.00	n/a	165.00-177.00	167.00-173.50	n/a	148.00-177.00	160.00-171.00
700-800	159.00-177.00	150.00-177.00	158.00-179.00	170.00-182.00	169.00-181.00	170.00-180.00	146.00-185.25	167.00-184.00
600-700	170.00-201.00	170.00-190.00	155.00-198.75	185.00-204.00	175.00-195.00 (198.00)	175.00-195.00	80.00-199.25	177.00-202.00
500-600	180.00-207.00	180.00-215.00	160.00-214.00	195.00-220.00	195.00-212.00 (216.00)	190.00-214.00	130.00-217.50	190.00-209.00
400-500	185.00-217.00	190.00-219.00	170.00-233.50	200.00-227.00	207.00-222.00	210.00-227.00	112.50-227.50	200.00-218.00
300-400	190.00-232.00	200.00-220.00	170.00-227.00	n/a	n/a	205.00-233.00	220.00-237.50	220.00-240.00
Feeder heifers								
900-1,000 lbs.	n/a	147.00-150.50	n/a	150.00-163.00	147.00-159.00	n/a	130.00-142.00	140.00-155.00
800-900	130.00-148.00	135.00-155.00	n/a	150.00-166.00	149.00-158.00	n/a	120.00-160.00	145.00-158.00
700-800	150.00-154.00	140.00-162.50	139.00-156.50	155.00-165.00	151.00-160.00	n/a	122.00-175.00	150.00-163.00
600-700	140.00-168.50	150.00-178.00	128.00-163.00	155.00-168.00	152.00-162.00	155.00-172.00	100.00-179.00	153.00-173.00
500-600	145.00-180.00	155.00-179.50	167.00-176.00	165.00-184.00	160.00-174.00	165.00-183.00	90.00-193.00	165.00-183.00
400-500	160.00-190.00	175.00-187.00	170.00-191.00	185.00-210.00	170.00-189.00	175.00-197.00	80.00-199.00	1785.00-193.00
300-400	172.00-202.00	175.00-195.00	175.00-203.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	130.00-200.00	180.00-205.00
Slaughter Market								
No. on offer	489	n/a	79	274	n/a	n/a	422	400
D1-D2 Cows	80.00-88.00	75.00 and up	60.00-81.00	82.00-93.00	80.00-89.00	78.00-90.00 (94.00)	82.00-89.00 (101.00)	83.00-90.00
D3-D5 Cows	70.00-78.00	n/a	n/a	70.00-81.00	55.00-82.00	n/a	72.00-83.00	n/a
Age Verified	92.00-104.00	up to 98.00	n/a	n/a	84.00-94.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Good Bulls	93.00-106.50	85.00-97.50	85.00-89.00	95.00-109.00	98.00-108.00	n/a	95.00-103.00	94.00-100.00
Butcher Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Butcher Heifers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	136.5
Feeder Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.00-105.00	n/a	n/a	90.00-115.00
Fleshy Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Lean Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heiferettes	120.00-149.00	n/a	90.00-116.00	n/a	95.00-140.00	95.00-110.00	n/a	n/a

\* includes slaughter market

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

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## Pork promotion agency needs cabinet approval

The proposal has widespread industry support from provincial pork organizations

BY ALEX BINKLEY  
Co-operator contributor

The proposed Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency has received the blessing of the Farm Products Council of Canada and now needs the approval of the federal cabinet. The council held hearings on the agency last year and concluded in a report released in early January “that the level of support among Canadian pork producers and importers is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Farm Products Agencies Act for the establishment of a promotion and research agency.”

It sent its recommendation to Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay noting that the Canadian Pork Council demonstrated support from all provincial pork organizations.”

Creation of the agency was also endorsed by the Canadian Meat Council and Canada Pork International, with only the Retail Council of Canada opposing it on behalf of grocery chains.

The agency would be funded by a \$0.75-per-head levy on all intraprovincial, interprovincial and import trade of hogs and pork products and there would be little impact on consumers.

It would be governed by a board of 11 members, 10 representing producers and one representative of importers. The Pork Council said the levy on imported products would generate about 11 per cent of the agency’s funding and for that reason there should be an importer representative on the board.

The Farm Council said evidence presented to its hearings noted that “only having producers and importers on the board may not provide the breadth of experience for direction of promotion and research activities.” One board member should have research and promotion experience.

The council urged the pork agency “to regularly communicate its actions and results to its value chain stakeholders so they can perceive benefits of the agency, especially in light of comments at the sittings that return on investment has not been seen yet by some stakeholders in the beef sector.”

If the 75-cents-a-head levy had been in place during the 2010-14 period, the agency would have raised \$15.7 million, the council said. With a projected annual operating budget of \$240,000, the agency should have between \$1.3 million to \$1.7 million for promotion and research activities.

This will more than double the annual pork promotion and research expenditures budgets and enable the agency “to seek partnerships and leverage additional funding from federal and private sector programs.”

One priority for the agency is to decide how it will collect the levy that will protect the confidentiality of imports, the council said.

It suggested research priorities could include improved pork grading, emerging animal diseases, alternatives to antibiotics and promotional material on the use of pork cuts by new and young consumers.

# Get ready for super-efficient cattle — and a better relationship with consumers

Top researcher says big data and genomics are game changers, but winning the trust of consumers is equally key

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
Staff / Medicine Hat

In the ever-changing landscape of Canadian agriculture, efficiency is the new watchword.

“If we can increase efficiency of production by about five per cent in Alberta, we can save producers about \$100 million a year — even if only one-third of livestock producers adopt those efficient improvements,” said Erasmus Okine, vice-president of research at the University of Lethbridge.

As the world population grows to nine billion by 2050, livestock producers will need to produce more meat with less land, water, and feed, Okine said at the Farming Smarter conference last month.

“The demand for meat is supposed to increase by about 55 per cent, and this is due to about three billion moving into the middle class in emerging economies like China and India,” he said.

“We — among the six countries that can actually say we feed the world — will have to provide this food in a safe, affordable, nutritious, and environmentally sustainable manner.”

Canadian producers have “always done very well” at increasing efficiency in their production practices. From 1977 to 2007, producing the same amount of beef required 70 per cent of the animals, 81 per cent of the feed, 88 per cent of the water, and 67 per cent of the land.

“For those who want to count carbon, it’s resulted in a 16 per cent decrease in the carbon footprint of the beef animal,” said Okine. “We do very well here.”

Livestock agriculture has made those leaps through genomics and innovations such as ‘big

“Most people who are not in the livestock arena don’t particularly care how much we know — until they know how much we care.”

ERASMUS OKINE

data,’ he said. And it needs to do more of that.

“Big data in the livestock industry is what will propel us to be able to feed the world. That is what is going to get us there, and that’s what we’re using in the livestock industry.”

### Residual feed intake

One of those ways is to drive down feed costs, which account for 25 to 40 per cent of the total production bill.

“If you can increase your efficiency in terms of feeding, that is huge,” said Okine, citing one of his research areas, residual feed intake.

“Residual feed intake is the difference between what we expect the animal to eat for the 2.2 pounds of daily gain we want versus how much they actually eat to gain the 2.2 pounds,” said Okine.

“Some of these animals eat less for the same amount of gain, but some eat more for the same amount of gain.”

And through genomics, scientists are able to select those more efficient animals with heritability of about 40 per cent for those traits.

“Once you select a bull that is low residual feed intake, it will pass on those genes to the calves, and by using that in a commercial setting, we’re able



There’s huge money to be made by finding and selecting more efficient cattle, says Erasmus Okine, an expert in areas such as residual feed intake.  
PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

to show that in a pen of 200 animals, the efficient ones cost less in terms of feed intake,” said Okine, adding less efficient animals can cost an extra \$25 or more per head.

“If you look at it in terms of the actual amount of all feeders, the calculations show about \$19 million to \$38 million of savings. And if you add the cows, it would be about \$54 million to \$110 million.”

### ‘Social trust’

But while genomics and big data will help producers feed the world more efficiently (while saving some money, too), “science is not enough.”

“What we need to do in terms of feeding ourselves and feeding the world is to take a look at shared values,” he said. “I know the science. I can use the science. But what is the point of using the science if we don’t have shared values?”

“Most people who are not in the livestock arena don’t particularly care how much we know — until they know how much we care.”

In order to create those shared

values, the agriculture industry as a whole needs to look at “three pillars.”

“The science is there to help us feed the world,” said Okine. “The challenge is trying to maintain a sustainable balance in terms of the economic, the environmental, and the social pillars.”

Of course, it’s important to be economically viable, he said.

“We need a return on investment. We want to increase productivity and increase profitability.”

But the industry also needs to look at “ethically grounded” production that includes environmental sustainability and “social trust.”

“We need to have the social trust — not licence — through responsibility, respect, fairness, and the truth about what we do,” he said.

“Our future... requires very innovative and intricate solutions to address the important issues facing us on the environmental side, the societal side, and the economic side.”

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# WEATHER VANE

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



## Weather outlook not quite so mild

Issued: Monday, January 23, 2017 • Covering: January 25 – February 1, 2017

**DANIEL BEZTE**  
Weather Vane



As has been fairly typical over the last year or so, the warm air came in as expected and ended up being even warmer than what the weather models predicted. Last week’s heat broke several recorded highs along with even more “record high” overnight lows.

For this forecast period, it looks to remain mild, but not to the same extent as we saw last week. That said, we still might see a day or two with daytime highs pushing the 0 C mark. We begin this forecast period with a moderate northerly flow behind a Colorado low that passed by well to our south. This will help to drop our temperatures back down to around average by Thursday and Friday, with daytime highs expected to be around -10 C and overnight lows in the -16 C range.

By the weekend another strong area of high pressure is forecast to develop over the northwestern U.S. The clockwise circulation around this

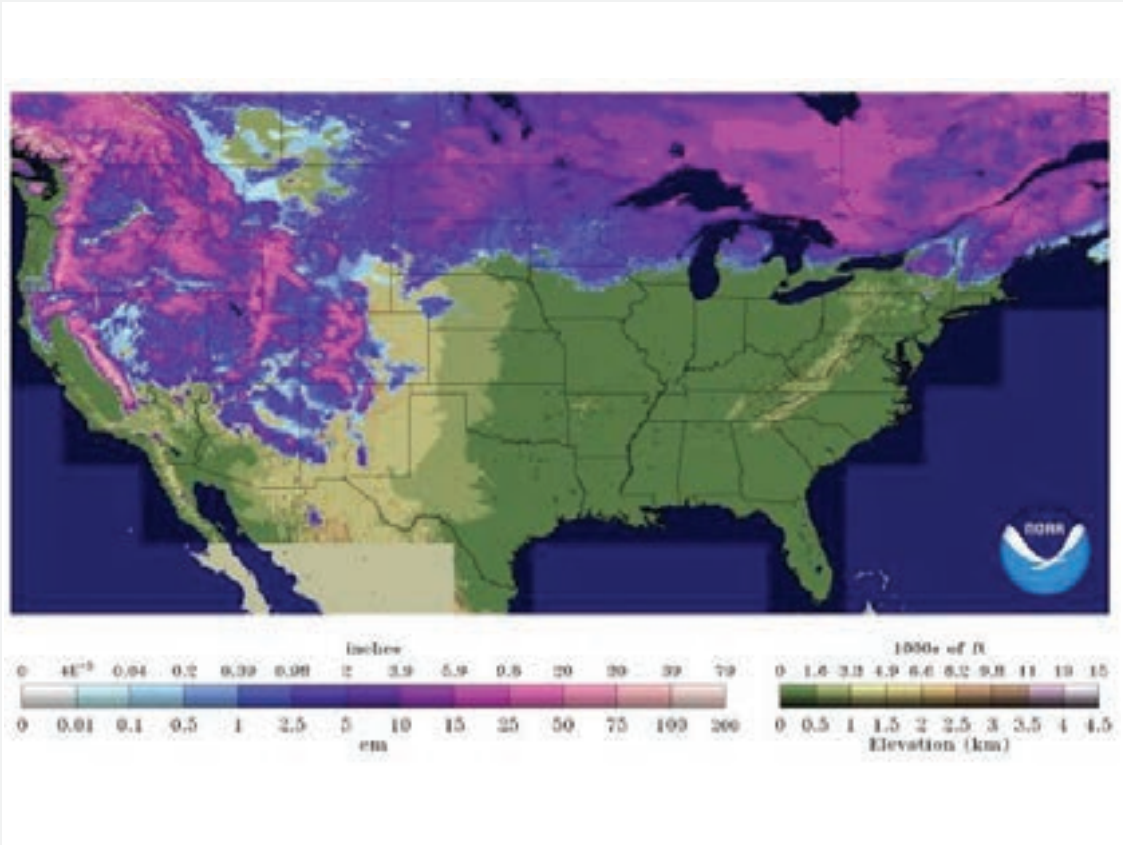
high will start to once again pump mild Pacific air across the Prairies. Daytime highs will moderate fairly quickly under this western flow, with highs by Sunday or Monday expected to once again push the 0 C mark, with western regions seeing highs even a little warmer.

A low-pressure system is then forecast to track southeastward through central Manitoba and into northwestern Ontario on Tuesday and Wednesday. This will bring a chance for some showers or flurries, with the best chance of precipitation occurring near to and north of the low’s track. A cool ridge of high pressure will quickly follow this low on Wednesday and will drop temperatures down by 5° to 10°. These cooler temperatures are expected to last until the end of next week before another push of mild Pacific air moves back in.

Usual temperature range for this period: Highs, -21 to -6 C; lows, -33 to -16 C.

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

### SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT — JANUARY 23, 2017 — 06 UTC



This issue’s map shows the estimated snow water equivalent for the snowpack across the U.S. and southern Canada. For southern and central Manitoba, there is a fair amount of water currently in the snowpack, with estimates as high as 75 to 100 mm in some areas.  
MAP: NOAA OFFICE OF WATER PREDICTION (U.S.)

## Is the unusual weather becoming usual?

This warm spell’s intensity and duration are record breaking, even if daytime highs aren’t

**BY DANIEL BEZTE**  
Co-operator contributor

I am going to take a break from covering our top weather stories of 2016 and instead look at a weather story unfolding across our region right now. After a very late start to winter across the Prairies, we saw Old Man Winter arrive with a vengeance a week into December. Temperatures plunged across Manitoba, with overnight lows bottoming out in the mid-minus-30s by the 17th of the month. Everyone started to talk about how this winter will likely continue to be cold and snowy — just like what a typical La Niña winter should be, or was forecast to be.

We did see a little bit of a reprieve from the frigid cold during the last couple of weeks of December before another frigid blast moved in to start the new year. This got people talking all over again as to whether or not this was going to end up as a cold, miserable winter. Fast-forward to the middle of January, and within a week of seeing warnings for extreme cold, nearly all of Manitoba and Saskatchewan were breaking mid-January heat records. Now all the talk I hear is about the unusual winter warmth we are experiencing and I find myself asking, “When do we start to see this

**Most of the below-average months of the past 10 years came in 2013 and 2014 when our region got “stuck” under an extreme Arctic vortex.**

unusual warm winter weather as ‘usual?’”

A quick look back at the last 10 years of winter weather across our region begins to spell out a story pointing toward the fact that these warm, prolonged shots of winter weather are becoming the norm, and are no longer unusual.

Over the past 10 years, looking at the extended winter season here in southern and central Manitoba (November to March) we have seen 60 per cent of the months with above-average temperatures, 10 per cent with near average, and only 30 per cent with below-average temperatures. Most of the below-average months came in 2013 and 2014 when our region got “stuck” under an extreme Arctic vortex. The coldest month during this period occurred in December 2013, with a mean monthly temperature 6.3 C below the long-term average. Looking at the warmest months, February 2016 came in 8.3 C above average, with two other months coming in at 7 C above average. Comparing the

intensity of warm snaps versus cold snaps during this period, it definitely appears as though the warm snaps are winning.

### Snaps

Let’s look at this winter’s cold and warm snaps. The December cold snap began Dec. 9 and lasted until the 18th for a total of 10 days. All 10 days recorded daytime highs and lows that were below average. The average daytime high was -18.5 C, about 9 C below average and still within the usual temperature range. The average overnight low was -28.7 C, about 10 C below average and just within the usual temperature range for that time of the year. For what I was able to find, no record lows were set during this cold snap.

The latest warm snap began on Jan. 15 and by Jan. 23 was in its ninth day. Extrapolating using the latest forecast, it looks like this warm snap will last until at least Jan. 28, making it 14 days long. During this period the average daytime high looks like it will come in around -1.9

### TABLE: RECENT RECORD HIGHS (°C)

	NEW RECORD	OLD RECORD
Wasagamung	7.3	2.8 (1968)
Swan River	6.0	1.5 (1993)
McCreary	11.8	8.3 (1968)

C, which is about 11 C above average and over 3° beyond the usual temperature range for this time of the year. When it comes to overnight lows, the numbers really become impressive. The average low during this period was around -8 C; this is 16 C warmer than the long-term average. Heck, it is warmer than the average daytime high for this time of the year. I have already talked about how a warming planet will exhibit much of the warmth in the overnight hours and this, and other data, continues to support that.

During the warm snap, several daytime highs were broken right across Manitoba. A couple of the most impressive ones that I saw are in the table shown here.

Along with all of the daytime-high records that were set, there were even more overnight-low records set. Unfortunately, it is tougher to dig into these records, but just looking at Winnipeg, it broke the record for warmest overnight low on Jan. 20, 21, 22 and 23. Not just

by a little bit, but by as much as 4° to 5°. With similar overnight lows recorded across most regions, I wouldn’t be surprised if nearly every station broke at least one or two of their overnight records as well.

While we may have seen some cold weather this winter, it doesn’t even compare in magnitude to the warm snaps we are currently experiencing. Looking back over the last 10 years this overall trend continues. Some may argue about the winter of 2014 and all the cold records that were broken that winter. When you actually look at that winter, yes, it was cold, but not very many daily cold records were broken. What made that winter so brutal and record breaking was the duration of the cold, not its intensity. What made last winter and this winter’s warm spells record breaking are both their intensity and duration — a pretty good sign that even our part of the planet is warming, whether you want to believe it or not.



# CROPS

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

## Is strip tillage the new black for Manitoba farmers?



Corn rows in a strip-till versus no-till study in Urbana, Illinois, which showed the strip-till areas had higher yields. PHOTO: DR. FABIAN FERNANDEZ, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BY ANGELA LOVELL  
Co-operator contributor

The answer is ‘maybe’ — and probably ‘yes’ for sandy soils, but no research has yet been done in clay soils, according to University of Manitoba graduate student, Patrick Walther whose master’s thesis focused on soybean response to different tillage treatments.

Walther compared four tillage treatments in soybean crops — standard double disc, vertical till low- and high-disturbance systems, and strip tillage. In a strip-tillage system, producers till strips in the field and leave the rest of the field undisturbed. The three-year study consisted of on-farm trials at four Manitoba locations.

The strip-tillage system consistently had lower nighttime and higher daytime temperatures than the other tillage regimes, which Walther speculates is because of the way strip tillage works. Strip-tillage equipment cuts residue with a cutting coultter, then pushes the residue aside with trash cleaners. A shank, discs and rolling basket follow and create a raised berm.

“Because the residue is set aside and not incorporated, it doesn’t act as an insulating layer, and the soil in the berm contains a lot of air which warms up and cools down faster than soil,” said

Walther. “Soil radiation per square inch is also higher on the berm than on a flat surface.”

When it came to germination, the difference in soil temperatures didn’t make any difference in plant emergence, but at 47 days, the strip-tillage soybeans were already at 75 per cent flowering compared to the double-disc areas, which were at 25 to 40 per cent.

Although there was no significant difference in soybean yields between the four tillage systems, an economic analysis showed that strip tillage saves farmers money and time, largely because strip tillage requires only one pass, and the other tillage systems require two: one in fall and another in spring to prepare the seedbed.

**Strip till versus no till**

When it comes to comparing strip-till with no-till systems, long-term studies done in Illinois with corn and soybean rotations, have shown strip till significantly increased yields compared to a no-till system, regardless of whether fertilizer was broadcast or deep banded in each case.

These findings are significant because some producers assume that deep banding improves fertilizer efficiency and allows them to cut back on application rates, but that’s not what the research suggests, said Fabian Fernandez of the University of Minnesota. He

discussed his research into fertilizer placement in strip-till and no-till systems.

“Strip tillage produced greater yields than no till, even with no phosphorus (P) applications, so there is no evidence to suggest that if a producer bands fertilizer he or she can reduce the amount needed; they still need to apply the same amount,” Fernandez told agronomists at the Manitoba Agronomists Conference in Winnipeg in December.

Fernandez emphasized that it was the tillage system which made the difference in yields in his studies, not the fertilizer placement. What is important to understand, said Fernandez, is where and how plant roots access moisture and nutrients. In a real farming situation, there are nutrients present in more parts of the soil than just where farmers apply fertilizer. Fernandez found the majority of plant roots developed in the top two inches of soil, regardless of whether fertilizer was deep banded at six inches or broadcast on the surface of the soil.

When the researchers measured drawdown of nutrients over time, plants reduced the amount of fertility in the top two inches of soil in both strip-till, deep-banded and no-till, surface-broadcast situations.

“When we applied P we saw a buildup in the no-till system where we applied at the surface,

**“There is no evidence that producers can reduce rates by banding instead of broadcasting.”**

FABIAN FERNANDEZ  
University of Minnesota

and in the banded application we saw a huge buildup of fertility at greater depth, but the plants continued to take quite a bit of nutrient out of the soil surface even though we hadn’t applied any fertilizer there,” said Fernandez. “Roots continue to take nutrient from where it is easiest to get, closer to the soil surface.”

Soil water content also affects the ability of plant roots to take up nutrients. “When we get a small rain event the surface layers of soil are recharged but the deeper layers aren’t,” said Fernandez. “In dryland agriculture, where we have intermittent rain events, the potential to recharge soil deeper down may be restricted. If producers apply all the nutrient in a deep band, when the plant takes up nutrient it also takes up water, and if that part of the soil dries up the chance of rewetting it is less likely.”

See **STRIP TILLAGE** on page 18 »

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# Average Manitoba 2017 crop insurance coverage up, premiums down

AgriInsurance covers 90 per cent of annual crops seed in this province

STAFF / BRANDON

AgriInsurance coverage in Manitoba is expected to exceed \$2.6 billion this year — the second-highest level on record — on 9.6 million acres of land, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler said Jan. 17 while speaking here at Ag Days.

While coverage is increasing an average seven per cent, premium rates are down an average of four per cent, compared to last year.

“Through AgriInsurance, we continue to offer a comprehensive risk management program for Manitoba’s farmers, which is effective whether they are just starting out or have had years of experience,” Eichler said. “To ensure the long-term growth of our province’s agriculture

“Through AgriInsurance, we continue to offer a comprehensive risk management program for Manitoba’s farmers...”

RALPH EICHLER

sector, AgriInsurance is an essential tool, as it provides reliable protection against the unpredictable challenges of weather and other production-related risks.”

More than 8,400 Manitoba farms are enrolled in AgriInsurance, Eichler said in a news release. Manitoba

has the highest level of AgriInsurance participation in Canada, covering over 90 per cent of annual crop acres.

AgriInsurance is funded by the federal and provincial government and farmers. The two governments’ share of AgriInsurance premiums for 2017-18 is expected to be \$136.3 million.

Under AgriInsurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating farmers, 36 per cent and 24 per cent by the federal and Manitoba governments, respectively. Administrative expenses are paid 60 per cent by Ottawa and 40 per cent by Manitoba.

The Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPPI), which was expanded to include Manitoba cattle and hog pro-

ducers in 2014, provides protection against unexpected price declines. Due to lower cattle prices in 2016, WLPPI paid out \$1.7 million to producers, with 73 per cent of insured calves qualifying for a payment. The average payment for each calf that qualified for an indemnity was \$94.

Under WLPPI, administrative expenses are paid 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Manitoba. Premiums are paid by participating producers.

AgriInsurance and WLPPI are risk management programs supported through Growing Forward 2, the five-year federal-provincial-territorial policy framework, and are administered by the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC).

STRIP TILLAGE Continued from page 17

## More roots doesn't mean more yield

There was also greater organic matter content in the strip-tillage areas than the no till — 3.8 per cent compared to 3.5 per cent, which had an impact on the roots’ ability to penetrate the soil, and ultimately the yield.

“Within the first 10 inches from the seed row there was much lower soil penetration resistance in the strip till than the no till,” said Fernandez. “There were also substantial differences in root length densities. The no-till rows had about 17,000 miles per acre more root length than the strip-till rows.”

More roots are generally a good thing, but if the extra roots are there because the plants are sensing a stressful environment, that may not be so good.

“Plants put a lot of energy into their root systems and if they are growing in an environment where they sense some restriction, they will put more resources into developing the root system to compensate for a lack of water or nutrients,” said Fernandez. “That is why we saw substantially lower yields in the no-till than the strip-till system.”

The take-home message from a fertility standpoint is that the strip-till system outperformed the no-till system because it improved the OM content in the soil and that gave greater biomass and yield.

“There were much larger densities of roots, which the plant uses to take up nutrients, in the no-till system, but in terms of how much of that surface area was used to take up nutrients the strip till outperformed the no till quite a bit,” said Fernandez. “The smaller root system of the strip-till plants was able to use nutrients more efficiently than the no-till system, and it had nothing to do with how we applied the fertilizer.”

If asked where producers should apply fertilizer if they want to band it — for example in situations where they have high fixing soils for P or K, Fernandez suggested it might be more efficient to band it between the rows.

“Because the majority of nutrients is taken up at the surface and in the top two inches of soil, banding it between rows might be a good idea, but with strip tillage most people are not doing that. They tend to band the fertilizer in the tillage strip itself,” he said. “Having the correct level of fertility is more important than how you apply it — with the exception of high fixing soils. There is no evidence that producers can reduce rates by banding instead of broadcasting.”

Fernandez also reminded agronomists and producers that when they band fertilizer they need to make sure they take multiple soil samples from inside and outside the row to get a true picture of the fertility in the field.

A good sampling strategy is to take three cores outside of the fertilizer band for each core taken from the fertilizer band. “If they only sample where the fertilizer was banded, it will suggest they have more fertility than they have, and if they just take samples from between rows it might suggest fertility is lower than it is,” said Fernandez. “That could prompt them to apply fertilizer they don’t need and not get a return on it.”



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# Profitability could be easier to achieve through organic: 2017 COP analysis

Per-acre profitability is markedly different compared to conventional, provincial estimates of production costs show

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON  
Co-operator staff

Organic farmers potentially have a shorter road to profitability than their conventional neighbours in 2017, according to provincial costs of production budgets released recently.

The most promising crops between the two systems are radically different and there's marked difference in per-acre profitability, according to numbers shared by a Manitoba Agriculture farm management specialist at an Ag Days organic event in Brandon.

This is the third year Roy Arnott has put together the same analysis for organic farmers as he does for conventional. His budgets aim to help make cost of production, after differences in yields and market prices are factored in, the basis for deciding what to grow.

Don't use his numbers alone to make cropping decisions, Arnott cautioned growers at the beginning of his presentation.

"Focus on the concept, not the actual numbers. Focus on calculating your own numbers at home," he said.

What his numbers shared with growers assembled for Organic Day show is that top crops to choose are very different between conventional and organic.

On the conventional side, for example, soybeans is the highest-margin crop to produce, whereas it's the lowest-margin organic crop by his comparison.

Hemp would be an organic grower's top choice showing potential for a net profit of \$499.35 per acre. Conventionally grown hemp would be the last thing a farmer would put in, showing a net profit of -\$1.61 per acre.

Right behind hemp, organic growers would be eyeing winter wheat, which ranks No. 2 with a net profitability of \$338.79 per acre, followed by spring wheat at \$249.07 per acre, flax at \$176.62 per acre and oats at \$160.30 per acre.

By contrast, the best choices for conventional farmers look to be navy beans, (\$155.16 per acre), followed by soybeans at \$65.64, confectionery sunflowers at \$41.69 per acre and winter wheat at \$37.58 per acre. Spring milling wheat ranks right down on the bottom of the conventional growers' list, next to hemp.

Arnott's analysis shows operating costs for most organic crops to be between \$200- to \$250-per-acre range, with total costs coming in at \$325 to \$400 an acre.

On the conventional side, operating costs are between \$150 to \$350, and total costs around \$300 to \$450.

Arnott, who stressed that knowing COP on a per-bushel

basis is key — "we sell on a per-bushel basis" — also shared numbers showing break-even yields for organic.

His analysis shows organic farmers, who typically have lower yields, could break even with yields of 19-bushel wheat, 8.6-bushel flax, 40-bushel oats, and 12-bushel soybeans.

Comparatively, break-even yields for conventional growers are much higher at 50 for wheat, 22 for flax, 87 for oats and 28 for soybeans.

"The break-even yields (on the conventional side) could potentially be a lot more challenging to reach, depending on production and market conditions," he said.

Break-even prices for organic production systems are wheat

**"Focus on the concept, not the actual numbers. Focus on calculating your own numbers at home."**

ROY ARNOTT

at \$8.56, flax at \$19.48, oats at \$3.70 and soybeans at \$21.60, Arnott said adding those numbers should be achievable.

"Comparing to the conventional side, again, we're looking at a bushel of wheat selling at \$5.72, flax at \$11.21, oats at \$2.80 and soybeans at \$9.10," he added.

Notably, there are other risks to organic growers, how-

ever, including paying higher crop insurance premiums for lower coverage under current programs available through Manitoba Agricultural Insurance Corporation.

Even as an organic system appears to have less risk "from a numbers perspective," Arnott said any farmer eyeing a switch to this system must be asking bigger questions of

themselves about how they want to farm.

It's not about one system being better than the other. An organically managed farm is "a totally different production mindset," he said.

"It (organic) is a production and marketing option that appears financially viable. That's where we're at," he said.

The guideline for estimating organic crop production costs is found online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/business-and-economics/cop-crop-organic-production.pdf>.

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(With files from Laura Rance)

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# Consider selling new-crop canola soon — more than usual

Thomas Mielke of *Oil World* warns a jump in palm oil production will push world canola prices down later and canola prices could decline by early this spring in anticipation



Get ready to sell new-crop canola soon, Thomas Mielke of *Oil World*, told farmers at Ag Days in Brandon Jan. 17. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

BY ALLAN DAWSON  
Co-operator staff / Brandon

Canadian canola growers should consider selling new-crop canola soon and perhaps more than they would normally this early, says Thomas Mielke, executive director of *Oil World*, a German-based publication covering world vegetable oil and meal markets since 1958.

“We all know these high prices (of around \$500 a tonne on the Winnipeg futures market) cannot persist forever,” Mielke told farmers attending Ag Days here Jan. 17.

“There is a risk if you are becoming, or I am becoming, too greedy I may forget to sell it before prices go down.”

**“If (canola) prices go a little bit higher — another \$10 or \$15 (a tonne) — you should consider selling part of your crop — probably a larger-than-usual part of your new canola crop — simply because the world market is changing.”**

THOMAS MIELKE

Global vegetable oil markets are still tight following “an unprecedented shortage in supplies” due to a big drop in palm oil production, he said.

An El Niño weather pattern brought dry conditions to many parts of Southeast Asia in 2015 and early 2016.

“For the first time ever world

(vegetable oil) production declined by almost four million tonnes from a year ago in calendar year 2016, as consumption continues to rise,” he said.

Many countries, including China and India, that want to rebuild vegetable oil stocks now can’t, Mielke said.

“If (canola) prices go a little bit higher — another \$10 or \$15 (a tonne) — you should consider selling part of your crop — probably a larger-than-usual part of your new canola crop — simply because the world market is changing,” he said later in an interview.

“This (supply shortage) is supporting vegetable oil prices at the moment and this is likely to continue to support vegetable oil prices in February and March, probably also in April... but there will be a point at which the market... will react in a bearish way to the prospective improvement in world supplies (due to increased palm oil production),” Mielke said.

He sees lower new-crop canola prices by summer.

“I think the real bearish impact on prices will occur in 2018,” he added.

Mielke stressed his forecast assumes normal weather. If bad weather affects world oilseed production, canola prices could stay up, he said.

Canadian canola plantings will rise 10 per cent this spring, Mielke said.

“This is required in the market because it looks like the world supplies of rapeseed and canola are tight in the moment,” he said. “It is reflected in the price. And I think they will stay relatively tight also in 2017-18. Nevertheless canola prices will be influenced by a surplus in palm oil.”

Last year, Canadian farmers planted 20.4 million acres of canola, their fourth-largest area ever for the crop, according to Statistics Canada. Canola planting is typically in full swing in May.

Chicago soybean prices, another major influence on canola values, touched a six-month high on Jan. 17, lifted by floods during Argentina’s soybean-planting season. The price increase may be premature until damage is confirmed, Mielke said.

Planting and early crop development have been thrown off by heavy storms in key soybean areas in southern Santa Fe and northwest Buenos Aires provinces.

With files from Rod Nickel, Reuters  
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COLUMN

# Big data and agriculture markets: Part 3

Options-based strategies can help get more out of a chaotic market filled with randomness and unpredictability

DAVID DERWIN  
Hedging your bets



The previous article in this three-part series addressed some of the main myths and misperceptions of commodity hedging. This final segment looks at some practical solutions for improving farm marketing and commodity revenue protection.

In David Orrell's book *Apollo's Arrow: The Science of Prediction and the Future of Everything*, he writes about the unpredictability and randomness of most evolving systems, especially the financial and commodity markets: "Not only is the market subject to random external effects, but its own reaction to that news will also to some degree be random."

As a result, many hedging and trading strategies struggle with the lack of success by trying to predict prices.

How can farmers apply the findings of the research presented in these articles to sell their commodities more efficiently and effectively?

The options advantage

The research concludes that markets are random and that we don't know where they are going. That doesn't mean you don't proactively analyze prices to manage your revenues. It just means that option-based protection strategies using puts and calls (similar to insurance) are ideally suited to this type of environment. Options allow you to more effectively manage market exposure and more efficiently adjust hedge positions to balance your physical commodity.

Yet, only five to 10 per cent of Canadian farmers are using open-market exchange-traded risk management tools. Farmers have been hesitant to incorporate hedging into their operations. Why?

Based on hundreds of discussions with farmers, there are three main reasons that, in addition to the myths and misperceptions noted above, make trading psychologically, mentally and emotionally challenging. Option-based strategies using puts and calls offer a solution to the three issues:

- No production commitments or delivery risk.
- Not locking in prices: downside protection you need and the upside potential you want.
- Minimal capital needed with minimal futures contract margin requirements.

Overall, option-based protection strategies offer unique practical benefits because they are:

- Easy to use and understand since they are similar to insurance.
- A better way to set a target price contract. You avoid the all-or-nothing pricing decision. Options protect your downside risk without limiting the upside of your cash market sales.
- A source of staying power to actually capture the longer-term trends that do develop. Since agriculture markets are typically random and non-trending in the short and medium term, you minimize drawdown

losses, margin calls and getting "stopped-out," often associated with futures contract trading.

- Better suited to farm operations whose focus is to produce the grain or livestock under uncertain conditions. Futures better suit processors, soybean crushers or grain elevator companies that have a flow-through operation with built-in profit margin. Options are better designed for farm operations whose focus is to produce the grain or livestock under uncertain conditions.
- Suited to various market conditions, allowing you to determine the level and range of protection you want by selecting from a variety of strategies. With options, you have more tools that are right for the job.
- Suited to your unique market advantage, the physical commodity position.

Forward production or futures contracts take away that advantage by locking in a price and giving away the upside potential.

Bottom line, which revenue profile would you most like to have?:

- No hedge: completely subject to market volatility with all the upside potential but all the downside risk.
- Forward production/futures contract: no downside, but no upside.
- Option-based protection: downside protection you need, upside potential you want.

Your bottom line

We already know that five to 10 per cent of Canadian farmers use all the tools available to fully and properly manage revenue. There are many reasons for this including some very fundamental market-based myths and misperceptions that affect the efficiency and effectiveness of farm marketing.

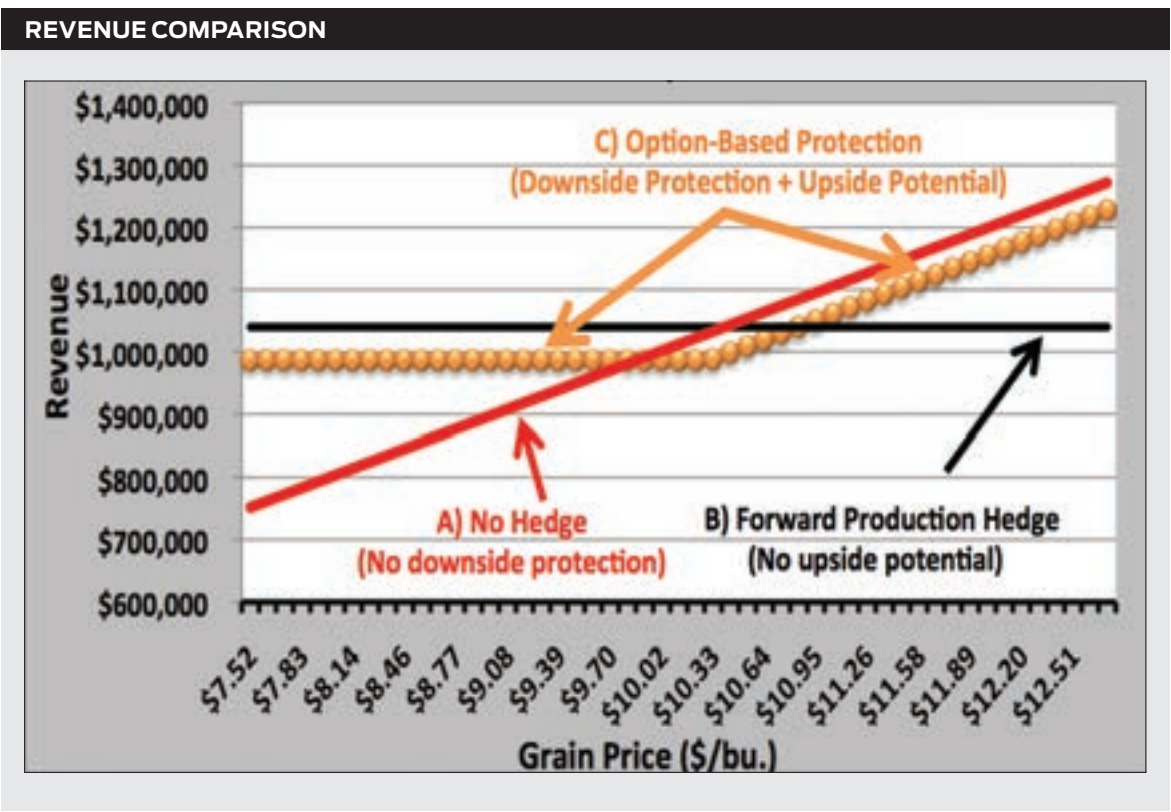
This research shows incorporating big data analysis and precision farming into a marketing plan gives farm businesses an edge.


You are not trying to beat the market. You are trying to improve the overall success of your farming operation. Your edge is your physical position, option strategies and the fact that you don't always have to be in the market, or use directional futures or production contracts. (Sometimes the best decision is to be patient and not do anything.)

Exchange-traded commodity options strategies can be used alongside production or basis contracts to enhance delivery and storage decisions.

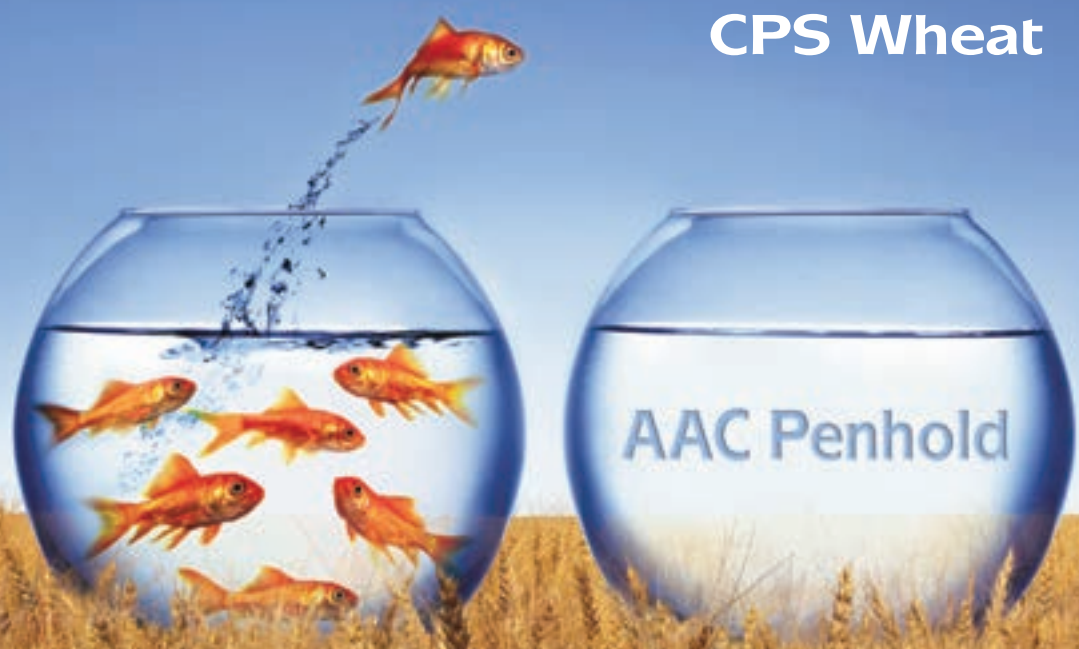
So don't play the game of guessing where markets are going. Instead, accept and use uncertainty and randomness to your advantage with option-based hedging strategies. Farm businesses can become more profitable by incorporating a robust, disciplined revenue management program rather than overanalyzing markets or trying to predict prices.

David Derwin is a commodity portfolio manager with PI Financial Corp. The views here are his own, presented for educational purposes, rather than as specific market advice. For a copy of the complete research study "Farming Big Data — Myths, Misperceptions & Opportunities in Agriculture Commodity Hedging" contact him at dderwin@pifinancial.com.







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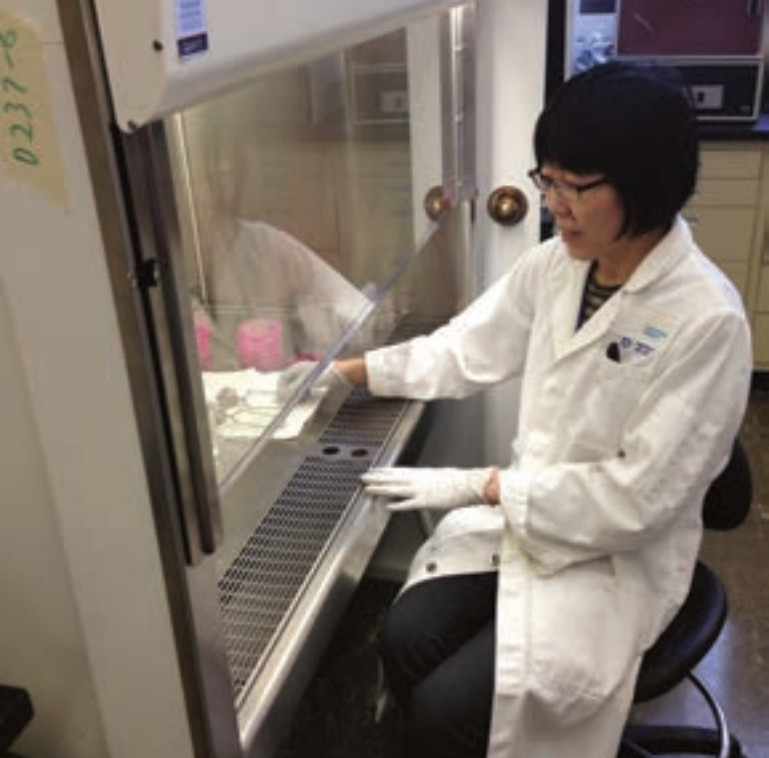


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# Check your texts — your canola may need spraying

Nano-biosensors are more accurate than checklists and scouting at determining when to spray for sclerotinia in canola crops



Nano-biosensors have proven effective in detecting sclerotinia in the lab, says researcher Susie Li. The next step is seeing how well the \$10 devices work in a field. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
Staff / Medicine Hat

An Alberta researcher has found a tiny way to solve a big problem for canola farmers — using nano-biosensors to detect sclerotinia stem rot in the field, eliminating the need for visual scouting.

“Sclerotinia stem rot is one of the most devastating diseases in canola farming, and scientists have worked very hard to try and find a way to forecast it,” said Susie Li, senior researcher at Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures.

“Right now, we have a checklist — a set of questions you have to answer before you can make decisions to spray or not to spray.”

But while the questions — about your crop rotation, incidence of disease in previous years, moisture levels in the canopy, and other factors — have been successful for crops

**“We can’t send a farmer into the field checking 24-7 for about six weeks to find this out, so we know we need to improve the forecasting technology.”**

SUSIE LI

such as peas, they’re “not always reliable” for canola.

That’s because sclerotinia spores can stay dormant in a field for years, and “sudden weather changes can cause infestations to occur unexpectedly,” Li said at the Farming Smarter conference last month.

“If you were to ask me, my suggestion would be to flip a coin. You have a 50/50 chance either way.”

While scouting for apothecia — fruiting bodies that look a little like mushrooms — can be “an excellent indicator of sclerotinia risk,” it is time

consuming and more often than not, producers have no way of knowing how many spores are present or whether they’ve reached a level that can trigger the disease.

“Not finding them either means there’s low risk of sclerotinia, or you just didn’t find it. That doesn’t mean it’s not there,” said Li.

“We can’t send a farmer into the field checking 24-7 for about six weeks to find this out, so we know we need to improve the forecasting technology.”

**Nano-biosensors**

Li’s solution is both high tech and simple: nano-biosensors placed in the field to detect spore levels before they become a problem.

“A biosensor is an extremely small device capable of detecting and responding to physical stimuli,” said Li. “The sensor will detect the spores, and if the number of spores reaches the level that you need to spray, it will convert the biosignal to an electronic signal and send it to your cellphone.”

“You don’t need to go to the field by using this device. You just stay in the comfort of your home until you find out if you need to spray or not.”


The biosensor has two parts — a container that collects the spores, and a small chip that contains a sclerotinia antibody, which attracts the sclerotinia spores. The antibody is a bit like a police checkstop, she said. If a sclerotinia spore tries to go through it, it gets caught, but other spores in the atmosphere carry on by it.

The sensor then counts the number of spores — “it can detect as low as five spores,” — and once the count reaches a level that would trigger the disease, it sends a signal to a cellphone using Bluetooth technology.


So far, the biosensors have only been tested in a lab, using growth chambers and a small number of canola plants. The next step is taking the trial into the field next year to see how big of an area the \$10 sensor can cover and what levels of spores might trigger the disease in a larger area.

“After all this work, I hope we can have a device in the field to monitor sclerotinia stem rot for you and alert you whenever there’s a sclerotinia stem rot outbreak imminent,” said Li.

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# History preservation awards on offer

The provincial efforts aim to recognize individuals who preserve provincial heritage

STAFF

If you know anyone who's put in the time and effort to save or promote Manitoba's history, now's the time to nominate them for a provincial award. The province, in consultation with the Manitoba Historical Society, wants to recognize prolonged and meritorious service for heritage preservation Lt.-Gov. Janice Filmon says.

"As we celebrate 150 years of Canada throughout 2017, acknowledging community-minded individuals who devote their time and expertise to preserving and promoting the

history of this great nation is especially significant. This year more than ever, I encourage Manitobans to celebrate our past, and work together to make this province – this country – even better," said Filmon.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion is presented to those with experience in such endeavours as:

- The writing of historical publications and documents;
- Stewardship of museums and archives;
- Raising of public education, advocacy, and awareness;
- Committee or community service;

- Preservation of historic sites/ buildings; and
- Art and media.

As the oldest historical organization in Western Canada, founded in 1879, the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) presents awards to businesses, farms, and organizations that have operated for over 100 years, recognizes important historical books with its Margaret McWilliams Awards and encourages schoolchildren to learn about Manitoba's past through its Young Historians Awards. It publishes the *Manitoba History Journal* and operates a comprehensive website with


information on all facets of Manitoba history and heritage.

The MHS will receive nominations from the public and will recommend up to five people to receive awards this year. Nominations to be considered for 2017 must be received by Feb. 28. The selected award recipients will be presented at Government House in May.

Nomination forms and further details of the award program are available on the websites of the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba ([www.manitobalg.ca](http://www.manitobalg.ca)) and the Manitoba Historical Society ([www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca)).

**"Acknowledging community-minded individuals who devote their time and expertise to preserving and promoting the history of this great nation is especially significant."**

LT.-GOV. JANICE FILMON

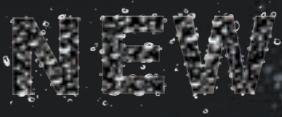



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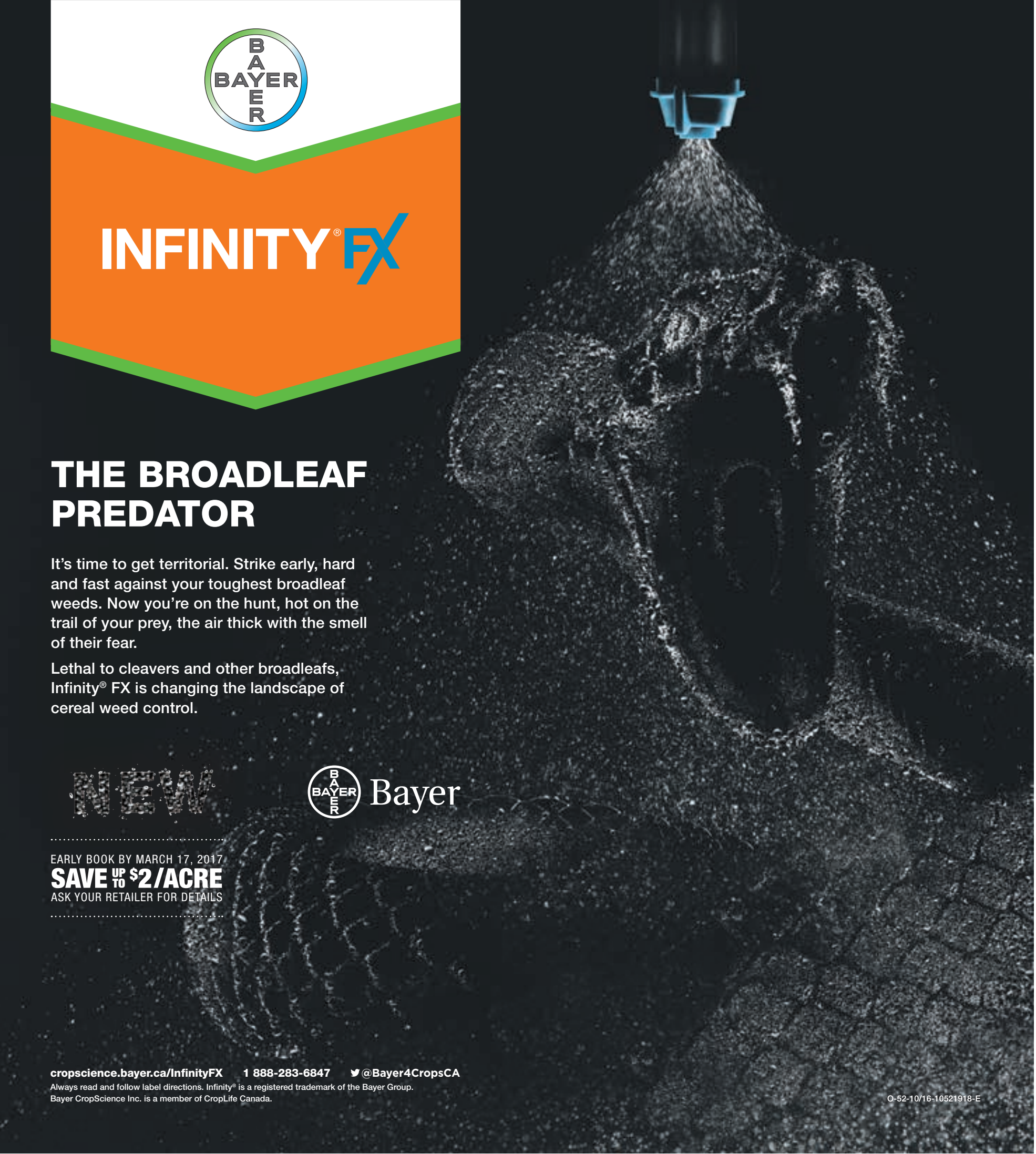
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# CP's Prairie grain handle down for year

CEO Hunter Harrison leaves to turn attention to an 'other' railroad

STAFF

Lower Prairie grain tonnage and revenue took a bite out of the year-end gross for Canadian Pacific Railway in what's turned out to be CEO Hunter Harrison's final year on the job.

Calgary-based CP on Jan. 18 announced full-year net income of \$1.599 billion on \$6.232 billion in gross revenues, up from \$1.352 billion on \$6.552 billion in 2015. Fourth-quarter net income came in at \$384 million on \$1.637 billion in revenues, up from \$319 million on \$1.687 billion in the year-earlier period.

Harrison, who announced Jan. 18 he will retire from CP effective Jan. 31, said the fourth quarter was "weighed down by challenging operating conditions, including unexpected and extreme weather on the West Coast that com-

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CP CEO Hunter Harrison, shown here speaking to shareholders in Calgary in May 2015, has agreed to forfeit his pension as he leaves the company, in return for a partial waiver of his non-compete agreement. PHOTO: REUTERS/TODD KOR

pounded the impact of an already delayed grain harvest." For 2016 overall, he said, the railway's revenues were weighed down by "a precipitous decline in crude oil shipments and weakness in grain movements, particularly in the first half."

CP in 2016 moved about 270,000 carloads of Canadian grain — down five per cent from 2015 — including 75,000 carloads in the fourth quarter, down six per cent. Canadian

grain revenue for 2016 was down 10 per cent at \$962 million, for revenue per carload of \$3,559, down five per cent. Fourth-quarter Canadian grain revenue per carload came in at \$3,758, up one per cent from the 2015 Q4.

In its U.S. grain segment, CP's carloads for 2016 came in at about 162,000, up three per cent, for revenue per carload of \$3,202, down four per cent. Fourth-quarter U.S. grain carloads came in at 44,000, up 10 per cent from the 2015 Q4, for revenue per carload of \$3,488, up seven per cent.

In its fertilizers and sulphur segment, CP's carloads for 2016 slipped three per cent, to 60,000, while revenue per carload rose eight per cent to \$4,769. In potash, meanwhile, revenue per carload rose one per cent to \$2,904 on about 116,000 carloads, down six per cent.

**Non-compete waiver**

The railway on Jan. 18 also announced its chief operating officer, Keith Creel, will replace Harrison as CEO effective Jan. 31. Harrison is taking vacation leave "immediately" until then, during which time Creel will act as CEO.

Citing an unnamed source, Reuters reported Jan. 18 that Harrison and investment fund manager Paul Hilal were finalizing a partnership expected to spur a financial turnaround for a U.S. railroad — specifically, Jacksonville, Fla.-based CSX.

Hilal previously worked for activist investment firm Pershing Square, whose investments in CP led to Harrison's installation as CEO back in 2012.

CP on Jan. 18 said Harrison approached its board to discuss his retirement and "potential related modifications to his employment arrangements that would allow him to pursue opportunities involving other Class 1 railroads."

Harrison's retirement, CP said, will include a "separation agreement" with a "limited" waiver of his non-competition obligations to CP. In return, Harrison is to "forfeit substantially all benefits and perquisites he is entitled to receive from CP going forward, including his pension."

A previously agreed upon consulting agreement between CP and Harrison "will not take effect" following his retirement, and Harrison has agreed to sell all shares he owns in CP by May 31.

"I have had a wonderful experience and depart with many friends and with full confidence in Keith's ability to build on the great success we have enjoyed," said Harrison, who came to CP following a stint as CEO for CP's Montreal rival Canadian National Railway (CN).

CN also saw a change of command in July, when chief financial officer Luc Jobin took over the CEO post from Claude Mongeau, who stepped down for health reasons.

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2000 CANCADE 2 hopper tandem, 36', safetied, c/w 10" Cancade hopper auger, \$23,000. 306-255-7777, Colonsay, SK.

NEW 2017 40' Wilson Pacesetter tandem axle grain trailer, 11-24.5 tires, alum. wheels, elec. tarp. 2017 45' Timpete, 2 hopper tridem grain trailer, alum. wheels, 11-24.5 tires. Recent trade: 2015 Emerald 2 hopper steel tridem grain trailer, good condition. Neil 306-231-8300 Humboldt

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1510

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1515

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COMPONENTS FOR TRAILERS. Shipping daily across the prairies. Free freight. See "The Book 2013" page 195. DL Parts For Trailers, 1-877-529-2239, www.dlparts.ca



2015 DAKOTA ALUM. seed tender with SS conveyor system, self-contained w/remotes controls, or can be run off truck wet kit, exc. cond., fresh MB safety. 45'Lx102"W, loaded trailer, air ride, alum. outside rims, 11R24.5, \$107,000. Located at Kamsack, SK. Call 204-526-0748 or 204-526-0321.

ALL ALUMINUM TRAILERS: tridems and Super B Timpete grain trailers. Call Maxim Truck & Trailer, 1-888-986-2946 or see www.Maximinc.com

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1998 KENWORTH T800, new grain box, Detroit engine, 60 Series, 10 spd. trans., \$48,000. 204-325-5677, Winkler, MB.

2004 PETERBILT 330, tandem axle, C&C, long WB, Cat dsl., 10 spd trans, AC, low miles, alum. wheels, \$26,900, w/new B&H \$48,900. K&L Equipment and Auto. Ph Ladimer, 306-795-7779 Ituna. DL #910885

2002 IH 2600 w/IH 320 HP eng., 10 spd., 221,000 kms, new 20' BH&T, exc. rubber, vg, \$49,500; 2009 Mack CH613, MP8 Mack eng., 430 HP, 10 spd., AutoShift, 463,000 kms, exc. shape, new 20' box, A/T/C, \$73,500; 2009 IH Transtar 8600 w/Cummins eng. 10 spd., AutoShift, new 20' BH&T, 742,000 kms, exc. tires, real good shape, \$69,500; 2007 IH 9200, ISX Cummins, 430 HP, AutoShift, alum. wheels, new 20' BH&T, fully loaded, 1,000,000 kms, real nice, \$67,500; 2009 Mack CH613, 430 HP Mack, 10 spd., AutoShift, new 20' BH&T, alum. wheels, 1.4 million kms, has bearing roll done, nice shape, \$69,500; 2007 Kenworth T600, C13 Cat, 425 HP, 13 spd., AutoShift, new 20' BH&T, alum. wheels, new paint, 1.0 million kms, exc. truck, \$71,500; 1996 Midland 24' tandem pup grain trailer, stiff pole, completely rebuilt, new paint and brakes, exc. shape, \$18,500; 1985 Ford L9000, Cummins, 10 spd., 20' BH&T that's been totally rebuilt, new paint, exc. tires, \$28,500; 1999 IH 4700 S/A w/17' steel flatdeck, 230,000 kms, IH dsl., 10 spd., good tires, \$19,500; 1998 Freightliner tractor, C60 Detroit, 430 HP, 13 spd., alum. wheels, sleeper, good rubber, \$17,500; 2005 IH 9200 tractor, ISX Cummins, 430 HP, 13 spd., alum wheels, flat-top sleeper, good rubber, \$22,500. All trucks Sask safetied. Trades considered. All reasonable offers considered. Call Merv at 306-276-7518 res., 306-767-2616, cell, Arborfield SK. DL #906768.

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Announcements & Calendars	0100 - 0340
Airplanes	0400
Antiques Sales & Auctions	0701 - 0710
Auction Sales	0900
Auto & Transport	1050 - 1705
Business Opportunities	2800
Contracting & Custom Work	3510 - 3560
Construction Equipment	3600
Farm Buildings	4000 - 4005
Farm Machinery	4103 - 4328
Livestock	5000 - 5792
Organic	5943 - 5948
Personal	5950 - 5952
Real Estate Sales	6110 - 6140
Recreational Vehicles	6161 - 6168
Rentals & Accommodations	6210 - 6245
Seed (Pedigreed & Common)	6404 - 6542
Careers	8001 - 8050

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2007 WESTERN STAR 4900SA tri-drive, C15 Cat, 550 HP, 18 spd., full lockers, new 24" CIM B&H. 306-270-6399, Saskatoon, SK. [www.78truxsales.com](http://www.78truxsales.com) DL #316542.

3- 2007 MACKS, 10 speed Eaton auto., new 20" CIM B&H, fresh Sask. safeties. Call 306-270-6399, Saskatoon, SK. [www.78truxsales.com](http://www.78truxsales.com) DL #316542.

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2000 VOLVO WG64F, 14' gravel box, Volvo VED12 345 HP, 10 spd, 18,500 frts, 46 rears, 4-way lock up, 495,000 kms, \$19,900. Norm 204-761-7797 Brandon MB

**2012 IHC TRANSSTAR**, low pro, Max 300 HP diesel Allison auto trans, single axle, loaded cab, 13' Armstrong landscape dump, \$39,900.; **2003 GMC C8500** tandem, automatic, with 15' box, low miles, \$34,900. **K&L Equipment and Auto**. Call Ladimer, 306-795-7779, Ituna DL #910885

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2013 PROSTAR IH day cab truck with in-dash GPS, 500 HP Maxx force 18 spd., 46,000 rears, 3.91 ratio, 228" WB, approx. 129,000 kms, 11R22.5 tires, c/w wet kit for only \$65,000. New MB. safety. 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

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2012 MACK PINNACLE CXU613, 34" flat-top sleeper, removable roof fairing, Mack MP8, 455 HP Eaton 13 spd trans, safetied, \$49,900. Norm 204-761-7797 Brandon MB

**ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION:** Jan 25- 31, 2017. [www.championassets.ca](http://www.championassets.ca) 2008 Peterbilt 367, 550 ISX, 18 spd, 46 rears, 880,000K . 306-865-7660. #334832



2013 VOLVO 630 D13, I-shift automatic, warranty, heavy spec, full lockers, new head and injectors, engine & cab heaters, PTO fluid pump w/remote, \$85,000 OBO. 306-515-1461, Lemberg, SK.

2006 FREIGHTLINER tandem axle, daycab, Mercedes power, auto, nice clean safetied tractor, \$19,500. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

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**2005 GMC C7500** van truck, Cat engine, 24' van body, good condition, S/A, nice cab, \$8500. 1-888-278-4905 or view [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

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**PIONEER 2436** Primary jaw crusher with vibratory feeder, dsl. or electric, \$95,000 OBO. 204-372-6832, Broad Valley, MB.

1979 CAT D8K, hyd. straight tilt dozer or angle available, winch, 90% UC remaining, \$46,000. More items avail. Robert Harris, 204-642-9959, 204-470-5493, Gimli, MB. View: [www.Robertharrisequipment.com](http://www.Robertharrisequipment.com)

1974 CAT D7F, 14' angle dozer, 26" pads, 3306 eng., 60% UC, vg cond., \$42,000 OBO. 204-467-2109, Stonewall, MB.

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**TWO VOLVO A-30D** Articulated trucks, 23.5x25 tires, 2003 and 2004, \$85,000 each. 204-795-9192, Plum Coulee, MB.

**2003 270C JD EXCAVATOR**, 10,300 hrs., QA, wrist and dig buckets, hyd. thumb, \$62,500. Call 204-746-4131 or view website: [www.equipmentpeople.com](http://www.equipmentpeople.com)

**2004 CAT D6N** LGP crawler, 6-way dozer, AC, canopy, diff. steer, cargo winch, new undercarriage, 10,800 hrs., \$82,000; **2007 Komatsu PC200** LC-8 hyd. excavator w/QA cleanup bucket, 9'6" stick, aux. hyds., 12,582 hrs., new UC \$60,000; Also all kinds of buckets, various shapes and sizes 204-871-0925, MacGregor, MB.

**CATERPILLAR 14D GRADER**, 1964, good shape. Call for price 204-267-2292 or 204-226-3612, Oakville, MB.



**EXCELLENT FARM CATS** for sale come with warranty: Komatsu, Cat, Fiat Allis. Call for more info excellent working condition. Most newer UC, rebuilt engine, and trans bush, guarded. Call for price. Can deliver. 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.



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**KOMATSU D85 P-21** dozer, rebuilt motor, trans., torque, steering, final drives, 85% UC, 36" pads like new, 16" twin tilt angle blade, AC, heat, warranty, \$98,000. Can deliver. 204-743-2324 any time Cypress River, MB.

2006 JD 3800 TELEHANDLER, 3900 hrs. new Michelin rubber. Call for attachments. 204-522-6333, Melita, MB.

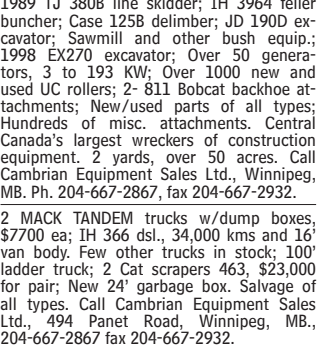
**CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.**  
**3600**



1990 FIAT ALLIS FD 14E dozer, 24 pads, full guarded canopy with enclosed cab, 10.6 wide tilt blade, 350 hrs. on new UC warranty, \$49,000. Can deliver. Call any time, 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

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2003 VOLVO G740B tandem drive, snow wing Volvo D10 (219-243 HP), 8400 direct drive powershift (8 fwd, 4 reverse), Articulated frame, 14' moldboard, 12,056 hrs., \$39,900. Norm 204-761-7797 Brandon MB

**ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION:** Jan. 25-31, 2017. [www.championassets.ca](http://www.championassets.ca) 1996 Champion 726A IV VHR 8.3 Cummins powershift, Espar heater. Call 306-865-7660. DL #334832.

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**11R24.5 SUPERHAWK** new industrial tires, 16 ply, tubeless, \$359. 1-888-278-4905. [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**19.5L-24 TOP TRUST** new industrial tires, 12 ply, tubeless, \$599. 1-888-278-4905. [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**GARWOOD IND. 12 yard pull scraper**, hyd. control, 9' cut width, hydraulic unload assist, \$16,900. 1-888-278-4905 or view [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

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1965 JD 2010 CRAWLER, 1 yd. bucket, rebuilt for cylinder gas, new rollers, shedded, \$8500. 306-289-4208 St. Benedict SK

**D69U 1959**, canopy, winch, angle blade, about 400 hrs. on new rails, sprockets, corner bits and cutting edge, direct start engine, good operating condition, \$12,900 OBO. 306-769-4132, Arborfield, SK.

**ANGLE DOZER** w/TILT for a D7G; Also straight dozer w/tilt; Brush rake to fit D6R, D6N and JD 850. 306-238-4411, Goodsoil.

**CASE 590 BACKHOE**, 4x4, extendahoe; JD 772BH grader, w/snow winch; Gas or propane powerplant G25UHS, 205 hrs. 306-238-4411, Goodsoil, SK.

**2007 ELRUS 2442** jaw crusher, \$152,000; **Ford F700** tow truck, fully equipped, \$24,900. Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030, anytime. North Battleford, SK.

**2004 CAT D7R-XR Series II** angle dozer, full canopy and ripper. 780-983-0936, Westlock, AB.

**2010 JD 624J** wheel loader, 5000 hours, excellent condition, QA. 780-983-0936, Westlock, AB.

**CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.**  
**3600**

**PORTABLE TOILET SALES:** Selling Five Peaks Technologies new portable toilets and accessories. Phone 403-680-0752 for details. Visit on-line: [Speaksdistributors.ca](http://Speaksdistributors.ca)

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3406B, N14, SERIES 60, running engines and parts. Call Yellowhead Traders, 306-896-2882, Churchbridge, SK.

**WANTED DIESEL CORES:** ISX and N14 Cummins, C15 Cats, Detroit Ddec 3, 4, DD15. Can-Am Truck 1-800-938-3323.

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**FARM AND INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL** motor sales, service and parts. Also sale of, and repairs to, all makes and sizes of pumps and phase converters, etc. Tisdale Motor Rewinding 1984 Ltd., 306-873-2881, fax 306-873-4788, 1005A-111th Ave., Tisdale, SK. [tmr@sasktel.net](mailto:tmr@sasktel.net) Website: [www.tismtrrewind.com](http://www.tismtrrewind.com)

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**FOR ALL YOUR STRUCTURAL STEEL**, roofing and siding needs, big or small. Call Fouillard Steel Supplies, St. Lazare, MB. 1-800-510-3303. Remember nobody sells roofing and siding cheaper!! Nobody.

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**NEW MERIDIAN AUGERS:** TL12-39 with 37 HP EFI Vanguard eng., c/w mover, HD clutch, reversing gearbox and lights. Retail \$24,200, cash price \$19,500. 306-648-3622, Gravelbourg, SK.

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**AUGERS: NEW and USED:** Wheatheart, Westfield, Westeel augers; Auger SP kits; Batco conveyors; Wheatheart post pounders. Good prices, leasing available. Call 1-866-746-2666.

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**GRAIN CARTS**  
**4118**

**GRAVITY WAGONS:** New 400 bu, \$7,400; 600 bu., \$12,500; 750 bu., \$18,250. Large selection of used gravity wagons, 250-750 bu. Used grain carts, 450 to 1110 bushel. View at: [www.zettlerfarmequipment.com](http://www.zettlerfarmequipment.com) 1-866-938-8537, Portage la Prairie, MB.

**GRAIN CLEANERS**  
**4121**

**SEED CLEANERS SALE:** 2015 Orion screen machine, many upgrades - better than new. Good selection of screens; 1995 Kamas Westrup air/screen machine, UB1500 4 variable pitch decks. Excellent selection of screens; 2015 Mercury indents, easy change nickel plated non-stick shells; 1995 Carter day indents; 1994 14M Forsberg Gravity, new shaker arms and your selection of new deck screen; 1995 Damas indent, extra shells; 6 pairs of spiral separators. Call Warren 204-730-0430 or Simon 204-720-9155, Ellis Seeds, Wawanesa, MB.

**DUAL STAGE ROTARY SCREENERS** and Kwik Kleen 5-7 tube. Call 204-857-8403, Portage la Prairie, MB. or visit online: [www.zettlerfarmequipment.com](http://www.zettlerfarmequipment.com)

**USED LMC GRAVITY SEPARATORS,** 400 BPH and 300 BPH units available. Call LMC Canada 1-800-667-6924.

**CUSTOM COLOR SORTING** chickpeas to mustard. Cert. organic and conventional. 306-741-3177, Swift Current, SK.

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**WESTERN GRAIN DRYER,** mfg. of grain dryers w/auto, drying/moisture control. Updates to Vertec roof, tiers, moisture control. Economic designed dryers avail. 1-888-288-6857. [westerngraindryer.com](http://westerngraindryer.com)

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2013 **CLAAS 3300 RC** Quadrant 3x4 square baler, approx. 7000 bales made, vg cond., \$110,000. Can deliver. Call anytime 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

**2000 HESSTON 856A** baler, 11,000 bales, 540 PTO, bale kicker, gauge wheels, hyd. PU, 14-16i tires, \$11,970. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**SWATHERS**  
**4145**

**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](http://www.combineworld.com)

**SWATH ACCESSORIES**  
**4148**

**2000 AG SHIELD** Yield Shield, 30' canola pusher, overall good condition, \$2950. 1-888-278-4905 [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**2012 MANDAKO SWATH ROLLER,** 10' poly, axle mount, electric winch, excellent condition, \$2980. 1-888-278-4905 or visit [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**COMBINES**

**CASE/IH**  
**4160**

2007 7010 Case/IH, dual wheels, w/2016 header, \$170,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

2000 CASE/IH 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. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

**CIH 2388 4WD KIT,** c/w tires, rims, axle, wheel motors, hyd. etc, \$15,000. Call 1-888-278-4905. [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**CATERPILLAR LEXION**  
**4166**

2011 **CLAAS LEXION 760,** 700 sep. hrs., fully loaded, \$265,000 CAD OBO; 2010 Lexion 590, fully loaded, 500 sep. hrs., \$220,000 CAD OBO. All exc. cond., used only in small grains; 2000 Lexion 480, \$27,000 CAD OBO. Call 218-779-1710, Bottineau, ND.

**LEXION 580R 4WD KIT,** c/w tires, rims, axles, wheel motors, hydraulics etc., \$18,000. Call 1-888-278-4905 or view [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**GLENER**  
**4175**

**WANTED: NICE R72 Glenner** w/Cummins engine. Call 701-340-5061, Minot, ND.

**JOHN DEERE**  
**4178**

**2010 JD 9870 STS,** loaded, 4 WD, **only 480 sep./ 600 eng. hrs,** \$269,000 CAD OBO. 218-779-1710, Bottineau, ND.

2006 **9660 WTS,** 914 PU, duals, 2300/1550 hrs. \$132,500. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

**2004 JOHN DEERE 9860 STS,** 2619 sep. hrs., 20.8x42, Kuchar row bars, was \$132,000, now \$113,650! South Country Equipment, 306-842-4686, Weyburn, SK.

**2004 JOHN DEERE 9760 STS,** 2640 sep. hrs., 800/70R38, Touchset, was \$105,200, now \$90,575! South Country Equipment, 306-842-4686, Weyburn, SK.

**2010 JOHN DEERE 9870 STS,** 2794 sep. hrs., 20.8R42, Maurer eExt, was \$176,900, now \$152,300! South Country Equipment, 306-842-4686, Weyburn, SK.

**2012 JOHN DEERE S690,** 708 sep. hrs., 650/85R38, ProDrive trans w/Harvest-Smart, \$353,400. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2014 JOHN DEERE S670,** 410 sep. hrs., 520/85R42, AutoTrac, PowerGard warranty to Sept./19, \$372,470. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**COMBINE ACCESSORIES**

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**AFTER SEASON SALE!** All makes of combine platforms: Flex, Rigid, Corn heads. Reconditioned and field ready. Reimer Farm Equipment, #12 Hwy N, Steinbach, MB. Call Gary Reimer, 204-326-7000. [www.reimerfarmequipment.com](http://www.reimerfarmequipment.com)

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**RECONDITIONED** rigid and flex, most makes and sizes; also header transports. Ed Lorenz, 306-344-4811, Paradise Hill, SK [www.straightcutheaders.com](http://www.straightcutheaders.com)

**MISC. ACCESSORIES**  
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**HEADER TRAILERS & ACCESSORIES.** Arc-Fab Industries. 204-355-9595 [charles@arcfab.ca](mailto:charles@arcfab.ca) [www.arcfab.ca](http://www.arcfab.ca)

**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](http://www.combineworld.com)

**PARTS/ACCESSORIES**  
**4211**

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**SALVAGE**  
**4214**

**GOODS USED TRACTOR** parts (always buying tractors). David or Curtis, Roblin, MB., 204-564-2528, 1-877-564-8734.

**G.S. TRACTOR SALVAGE,** JD tractors only. Call 306-497-3535, Blaine Lake, SK.

**SMITH'S TRACTOR WRECKING.** Huge inventory new and used tractor parts. 1-888-676-4847.

**COMB-TRAC SALVAGE.** We sell new and used parts for most makes of tractors, combines, balers, mixmills and swathers. 306-997-2209, 1-877-318-2221, Borden, SK. We buy machinery.

**LOEFFELHOLZ TRACTOR AND COMBINE Salvage,** Cudworth, SK., 306-256-7107. We sell new, used and remanufactured parts for most farm tractors and combines.

**AGRA PARTS PLUS,** parting older tractors, tillage, seeding, haying, along w/other Ag equipment. 3 miles NW of Battleford, SK. off #16 Hwy. Ph: 306-445-6769.

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**POTATO/ROW CROP EQUIPMENT**  
**4217**

2007 JD 1770NT **16 row 30" planter,** c/w 2 pt. hitch, liquid fertilizer kit, 600 gallon liquid fert. tank, 240 gal. liquid fert. tank, MaxEmerge XP not used last 2 years, monitor and controller included, \$60,000. 204-871-0925, MacGregor, MB.

**SNOWBLOWERS/ SNOWPLOWS**  
**4226**

**ALLIED 6' SNOWBLOWER 3PTH,** good condition, asking \$890. 204-728-1861, Brandon, MB.

**SPRAYING EQUIPMENT**

**PT SPRAYERS**  
**4238**

**NH SF115,** 130', 1200 Imperial gal. tank, 2 rinse tanks, wheel boom sprayer, \$19,000 OBO. 306-327-7198 Kelvington SK

**SP SPRAYERS**  
**4241**

**1995 ROGATOR 854,** 4115 hrs., 90' boom, 800 gal. poly tank, EZ-Boom and Steer, floats, 320/90R46, \$39,200. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2015 JD R4045,** 1117 hrs., 120' boom, 20" nozzle spacing, AutoTrac, JDLink, float 800/55R46R1, \$501,800. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2011 JD 4830,** 100', with only 1150 hours, full AutoSteer, 1000 gal. SS tank, all options, both sets of tires, \$219,000. 306-948-7223, Biggar, SK.

**2008 CASE/IH 4420,** 1 owner, 100', Aim Control, 5 nozzle body, full load, leather seats, ViperPro monitors, AutoSteer, auto-rate, AutoBoom, 2501 hrs, 1200 gal. SS tank, crop dividers, all updates, 2 sets of Michellins, very well maintained w/service records, stored inside heated shop, mint condition, field ready, \$195,000 OBO. 306-421-9909, Estevan, SK.

**SPRAYING VARIOUS**  
**4244**

**FLOATER TIRES:** Factory rims and tires. John Deere 4045, 710/60R46, \$19,500; 800/55R46, \$23,500; JD 4038, Case 4420, 650/65R38 Michelin tires and rim, \$13,500. Sprayer duals available. Call 306-697-2856, Grenfell, SK.

**TILLAGE/SEEDING**

**AIR DRILLS**  
**4250**

2015 **BOURGAULT 3320 XTC,** 76', side band, 10", 6550 cart, \$265,000 OBO. Can arrange delivery 306-563-8482 Yorkton SK

1997 **CONCORD 4812,** DS dry with NH3, Dutch openers, 2000 JD 1900 seed cart, 270 bu, \$25,000. 306-452-3233, Antler, SK

5010 **CONCORD** with 3400 tank, 50' 10" spacing, edge-on shank, 4" openers, full Agtron Blockage, \$35,000 OBO. Ogema, SK. 306-459-7519, 306-459-7539.

2010 65' 3310 **BOURGAULT** Paralink, 12" spacing, mid row shank banding, double shoot, rear hitch, tandem axles, low acres, \$145,000. 2002 49' Morris Maxim air drill, 12" spacing, w/7240 Morris grain cart, \$52,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

**BOURGAULT 5710 64',** 9.8" space, steel packers, MRB's, 2005 Bourgault 6350 air cart, DS, in-cab controls. Will separate. Best offer. 306-277-4503, Gronlid, SK.

70' **SEED MASTER,** M fold, 12" spacing, lift kit, smart hitch, c/w 2013 Flexi-Coil 580 auger 10", dual 650's and Valmar 1665 canola box. 306-648-7765 or 306-648-3216, Gravelbourg, SK.

**PACKER WHEELS:** Many wheels available for Bourgault, Seedmaster and Seed Hawk air drills, \$45. Phone 1-888-278-4905 or visit: [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

42' **K-HART DISC DRILL,** 2010, DS, 12" spacing, \$26,500. Phone 306-255-7777, Colonsay, SK.

4710 **CONCORD** and 3000 air cart, 47', 10" spacing, 300 bu., disc levelers, 3" Dutch openers, 4 rank, 5 plex, Agtron blockage, \$14,000 OBO. 306-463-7420 Kindersley SK

2013 **SEED HAWK 6012,** TBH 600 air cart, double shoot, \$215,000. 306-831-9497, Tessier, SK.

2013 **BOURGAULT 3320 XTC 66',** 10" space, MRB, DS, Bourgault updates done, blockage and X20 monitors c/w 6700 cart, 2 fans, 4 metering tanks, conveyor, duals, whole unit always shedded, exc. cond., \$320,000. 780-872-3262, Lashburn, SK.

**2011 MORRIS CONTOUR 61',** 12" space, DS, 6000 acres on Atom Jet openers, 5.5x8 semi pneumatic packers, new hoses, 2013 Morris 8650XL TBT mech. drive, vg cond, \$165,000. 306-421-3865 Estevan SK

**AIR SEEDERS**  
**4253**

2002 **BOURGAULT 8810 52',** packers, 8" sp. \$36,000; 1996 Bourgault 40' 8800/3195, \$16,000. 306-563-8482, Rama, SK.

**2006 SEEDMASTER 66-12ATD** with 2006 JD 1910 430 bu. TBH Smart Hitch, JD towers, 8-run DS, \$159,550 South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2007 SEEDMASTER 80-14,** w/2011 Bourgault 6550 tank, Smart Hitch, double shoot, \$191,000. Call South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2006 SEEDMASTER 66-12,** double shoot/ JD air pack, pneumatic packers, had a JD 1910 cart on it, \$100,650. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2012 SEEDMASTER 66-12** TXB, Raven Cruiser II, in-cab monitor, Matrix hyd. block, Pattison kit, \$153,000. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2010 SEEDMASTER 70-12TXB,** w/2010 JD 1910-430 bu. cart, 750/65R26 large rear tires, 8-run DS, \$191,000. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**1994 FLEXI-COIL 5000 57',** 12", single shoot air pac, w/Flexi-Coil 2320 TBH cart, 28,250. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**2008 SEEDMASTER 64-12TXB,** dual castors, castoring rear outer wing wheel, lift kit, \$92,600. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**AIR SEEDERS**  
**4253**

**2013 SEEDMASTER 74-12TXB,** w/2014 JD 1910- 550 bu. cart, 8 run double shoot, GreenStar, \$232,050. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**1998 JD 1820,** 61', 10" spacing, double shoot, with 1998 JD 1910 cart, \$35,300. South Country Equipment, 306-721-5050, Regina, SK.

**HARROWS/PACKERS**  
**4256**

**FORD TANDEM DISC 13'** wide, new front notched blades, plain back blades, 20" diameter blades front and back, nice shape, \$4000 OBO. 204-669-9626, Winnipeg, MB

2001 **DEGELMAN 70',** original tines at 24" manual adjust, one owner, \$25,800 OBO. 306-563-8482, Rama, SK.

**FLEXI-COIL 60' HARROW** packer draw bar, very good condition. 306-560-7679, 306-576-2171 leave message, Wishart, SK

2016 **DEMO 80' DEGELMAN** land roller, Odessa Rockpicker Sales. 306-957-4403, Odessa, SK.

**FOR SALE BY TENDER:** 42' Rite-Way land roller, S/N 051034. Tenders close Feb. 10, 2017. Submit tenders to McMahon Co-op, Box 6, McMahon, SK., SON 1M0. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Call Gordon 306-627-3434.

**SEEDING VARIOUS**  
**4259**

**IHC 6200 PRESS DRILL,** 2 - 8' steel press, new tires, always shedded, mint cond., \$2000. 204-526-2424, Bruxelles MB

**JD 7200 PLANTERS** IN STOCK, 8 to 16 row, any planter makes available. Call Reimer Farm Equipment, Gary Reimer, 204-326-7000, Hwy #12, Steinbach, MB.

**WANTED: MORRIS SEED-RITE M1100,** 33' or 44' with transport wheels. Call 306-842-6360, Griffin, SK.

2009 **JD 1790 CCS** planter, 16/31 row, 30" or 15" row spacing, drawbar hitch, Yetter floating row cleaners, Ridgeland mud cleaning gauge wheels, Keaton seed firmers, In-furrow liquid fertilizer, Precision planting 20/20 monitor, E-sets, air force Auto-down force control. Corn, soybean and canola seed meters w/loading conveyor, \$130,000. 306-697-7203, Grenfell, SK.

**COMBINE WORLD** is now wrecking seeding equipment! Bourgault 5350, Bourgault 2155, Flexi-Coil 3450, JD 1820. Call for pricing and availability on parts! 1-888-278-4905. [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

**DEGELMAN 45' LAND ROLLER,** \$34,900; **Flexi-Coil 30'** 6000 disc drill, \$16,900 and 57' 5000, \$17,900; **Wishek 38'** disc, \$104,900. Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030, anytime. North Battleford, SK.

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**  
**4262**

**BREAKING DISCS:** KEWANEE, 14' and 12'; Rome 16' and 9'; Wishek 14' and 30'. 2- DMI 7 shank rippers. 1-866-938-8537.

**WANTED MODEL 8810** Bourgault air seeder or 9400 Bourgault cultivator 40'. 306-560-7679, 306-576-2171 Wishart, SK.

1992 37' **CASE/IH 5600 HD** cultivator, w/Degelman mounted 4-row harrows, \$25,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

**2015 ELMERS HT30,** unused, 30' transport, 2 saddles, \$2980. 1-888-278-4905. [www.combineworld.com](http://www.combineworld.com)

2016 **JOHN DEERE 2410,** 63' deep tillage cultivator, 12" spacing, 550 trips, JD 3 bar harrows, 306-231-8060, Englefeld, SK

**TRACTORS**

**ALLIS/DEUTZ**  
**4277**

**WANTED TO BUY:** 72-06 Deutz tractor with good engine for parts. 306-395-2668, or 306-681-7610, Chaplin, SK.

**WHITE**  
**4280**

1981 **WHITE 105** with 10' Leon dozer blade, fair cond., \$9000. 306-561-7780, Davidson, SK.

**CASE/IH**  
**4286</**



**GENERATORS**  
4725

NEW AND USED generators, all sizes from 5 kw to 3000 kw, gas, LPG or diesel. Phone for availability and prices. Many used in stock. 204-643-5441, Fraserwood, MB.

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**HARMONY NATURAL BISON** buying finished up to \$6.25/lb HHW; Culls up to \$5.25/lb HHW; Feeders up to \$4.75/lb LW. Call/text 306-736-3454, SE Sask.

**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.

**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

**NORTHFORK- INDUSTRY LEADER** for over 15 years, is looking for finished Bison, grain or grass fed. "If you have them, we want them." Make your final call with Northfork for pricing! Guaranteed prompt payment! 514-643-4447, Winnipeg, MB.

**WANT TO PURCHASE** cull bison bulls and cows, \$5/lb. HHW. Finished beef steers and heifers for slaughter. We are also buying compromised cattle that can't make a long trip. Oak Ridge Meats, McCreary, 204-835-2365, 204-476-0147.

**NILSSON BROS INC.** buying finished bison on the rail, also cull cows at Lacombe, AB. For winter delivery and beyond. Smaller groups welcome. Fair, competitive and assured payment. Contact Richard Binther 306-873-3184.

**WANTED:** ALL KINDS of bison from yearlings to old bulls. Also cow/calf pairs. Ph Kevin at 306-429-2029, Glenavon, SK.

**APPROX. 70- 2016** bison calves for sale. Nice looking group. Offers. Call Marvin at 306-929-2775, Prince Albert, SK.

**NEW AD!** 40 bred Plains heifers, bred to Plains bulls, \$5200/ea. Call 306-944-4925, Plunkett, SK.

**BISON CALVES,** bulls and heifers, \$2300 each. Call Frank 306-662-4163, Maple Creek, SK.

Go public with an ad in the Manitoba Co-operator classifieds. Phone 1-800-782-0794.



You "accidentally" gained 30 pounds. Pardon me for not feeling sympathetic.

**BISON/BUFFALO**  
5001

**THE PASKAW BISON PRODUCERS COALITION** is a registered Non-Profit Corporation dedicated to raising public awareness to the threat Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) poses to the bison industry. For further info contact Robert Johnson pskwbpcc@gmail.com

**BLACK ANGUS**  
5010

**OSSAWA ANGUS, MARQUETTE, MB.** has for sale yearling and 2 year old bulls and open yearling heifers. Call 204-375-6658 or 204-383-0703.


**STEWART CATTLE CO. & Guests Bull Sale:** February 23rd, 2017, 1:30 PM, Neepawa Ag-Plex, Neepawa, MB. 50 Black Angus bulls; Simmental cross Angus bulls. Contact Brent Stewart 204-773-2356, 204-773-6392. View our catalogue online: www.stewartcattle.com Email: stewartcows@wificountry.ca

**CRANBERRY CREEK ANGUS** registered bulls. Sired by Kodiak, Angus Valley, Final Answer, Cranberry Creek Tiger. EPD and weights available. Hand fed for longevity. Semen tested, reg. transfer, delivered in May. Guaranteed breeders. Please call 204-534-2380 David and Jeanette Neufeld

**22nd ANNUAL Cattleman's Connection Bull Sale,** March 3, 2017, 1:00 PM at Heartland Livestock, Brandon, MB. Selling 100 yearling Black Angus bulls. For catalog or more info call Derrick Pilatic, Brookmore Angus 204-841-5466, Barb Hart 204-476-2607; Barb Airey, Manager HBH Farms, 204-566-2134, Raymond Airey 204-734-3600, rbairre@hotmail.com. Sales Management, Doug Henderson, 403-782-3888 or 403-350-8541.

**CATTLE**

**AUCTIONS SALES**  
5005

  
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SALES INC.

**BRED COW SALE**  
**Mon., Jan. 30 @ 10:00 am**

**BUTCHER & FEEDER SALE**  
**@ 9:00 am**

**SHEEP, LAMB & GOAT SALE**  
**THE PRICES ARE FORM THE JAN 18TH SALE**  
**Wed., Feb. 1 @ 1:00 pm**  
**sheep: 120 - 145**  
**lambs: 200 - 225**  
**kid goats: 220 - 240**

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**BLACK ANGUS**  
5010

**BLACK ANGUS AND POLLED** Hereford bulls bred for calving ease, feed efficiency, fertility and longevity. Semen tested and delivery available. Call Don Guilford, 204-873-2430, Clearwater, MB.

65 RISING 2 yr. old Red and Black Angus bulls. Info sheets available. Triple V Ranch, Dan Van Steelandt 204-665-2448, 204-522-0092; Matt 204-267-0706. www.vvvranch.com Melita, MB.

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**REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS** yearling bulls, low birthweight, very quiet. We've been in registered Blacks for over 50 yrs. Buy now and save! EPD's and delivery available. Amaranth, MB., 204-843-2287.

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**SELLING: BLACK ANGUS BULLS.** Wayside Angus, Henry and Bernie Jungwirth, 306-256-3607, Cudworth, SK.

**BLACK ANGUS BULLS,** two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca



**CARLRAMS RANCHING BULL SALE** with Guests **RNRFlicek Black Angus** and **Flicek Hereford Ranch.** Thursday February 9th, 2017. 2:00 PM, please join us for lunch at 12:00, 5 miles North of Cut Knife, SK. on Hwy 674. On offer: (14) Black Angus bulls; (51) 2 year old horned Hereford bulls, (5) 2 year old polled Hereford bulls. For information contact **Carlrams Ranching:** Cal Ramsay, 306-398-7343 or Carl Ramsay, 306-398-7879. **RNRFlicek Black Angus:** Rick Flicek, 306-823-7266. **Flicek Hereford Ranch:** Randy Flicek 306-823-7091. View catalogue on-line at: www.carlramsranching.com

**BLACK ANGUS YEARLING** and 2 year old bulls on moderate growing ration, performance info. available. Adrian or Brian and Elaine Edwards, Valleyhills Angus, Glaslyn, SK. call 306-441-0946, 306-342-4407. www.valleyhillsangus.com

**PUREBRED BLACK ANGUS** long yearling bulls, replacement heifers, AI service. Meadow Ridge Enterprises, 306-373-9140 or 306-270-6628, Saskatoon, SK.

**RED ANGUS**  
5015

90- TWO YR. OLD and yearling Red Angus bulls. Guaranteed, semen tested, and delivered in the spring. Bob Jensen, 306-967-2770, Leader, SK.

**RED ANGUS PUREBRED** 2 year old bulls. Open heifers also available. Contact DBM Angus Farms at Holland, MB., Brian 204-526-0942 or David 204-723-0288.

**SOUTH VIEW RANCH** has **Red and Black Angus** 2 year old bulls. Ceylon, SK. Call Shane 306-869-8074, Keith 306-454-2730.

**RED ANGUS BULLS,** two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca

**RED ANGUS YEARLING** and 2 year old bulls on moderate growing ration, performance info. available. Adrian or Brian and Elaine Edwards, Valleyhills Angus, Glaslyn, SK. call 306-441-0946, 306-342-4407. www.valleyhillsangus.com

**REG. RED ANGUS** bulls born Feb./Mar. 2016, calving ease, good growth. Little de Ranch, 306-845-2406, Turtleford, SK.

**COMING 3 YR.** old Red Angus herdsire, used on PB herd. Call Little de Ranch, 306-845-2406, Turtleford, SK.

**CHAROLAIS**  
5055

**REGISTERED PB CHAROLAIS** yearling and 2 yr. old bulls by private treaty. Semen tested and guaranteed. Call Brad 204-537-2367, 204-523-0062, Belmont, MB. www.clinecattlecompany.ca

**CATTLEMAN! AGAIN THIS** year we have an excellent selection of polled Purebred Charolais bulls. Both yearling and 2 year olds. White and Red factor. As well as a group of very low birth weight bulls suitable for heifers. Shop early for best selection. Visit the farm or on the web at: www.defoortstockfarm.com Phone Gord or Sue at 204-743-2109, Cypress River, MB.

**REGISTERED CHAROLAIS BULLS,** 2 year olds and yearlings. Polled, horned, some red. Quiet hand fed, hairy bulls. 40+ head available. Wilf at Cougar Hill Ranch 306-728-2800, 306-730-8722, Melville, SK

**COMING 2 YR.** old polled PB Charolais bulls, come red factor. Call Kings Polled Charolais, 306-435-7116, Rocanville, SK.

**POLLED PB YEARLING CHAROLAIS** bulls, performance and semen tested. Will keep until April, \$3000-\$4000. Charrow Charolais, Bill 306-387-8011, 780-872-1966, Marshall, SK.

**HEREFORD**  
5090

**POLLED HEREFORD AND BLACK** Angus bulls bred for calving ease, feed efficiency, fertility and longevity. Semen tested and delivery available. Call Don Guilford, 204-873-2430, Clearwater, MB.

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HEREFORD  
5090



**CARLRAMS RANCHING BULL SALE with Guests RNRfleck Black Angus and Flicek Hereford Ranch.** Thursday February 9th, 2017. 2:00 PM, please join us for lunch at 12:00, 5 miles North of Cut Knife, SK. on Hwy 674. On offer: (14) Black Angus bulls; (51) 2 year old horned Hereford bulls; (5) 2 year old polled Hereford bulls. For information contact **Carlrams Ranching**: Cal Ramsay,306-398-7343 or Carl Ramsay, 306-398-7879. **RNRfleck Black Angus**: Rick Flicek, 306-823-7266. **Flicek Hereford Ranch**: Randy Flicek 306-823-7091. View catalogue on-line at: [www.carlramsanching.com](http://www.carlramsanching.com)

**BANNERLANE HORNED HEREFORDS** Annual Sale, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2:00 PM CST (1:00 PM MST) at the farm, Livelong, SK. 30 coming 2 year old bulls, semen tested; 34 bred Hereford cross heifers, preg checked; 4 feature bred heifers. Dinner at noon. Central point free delivery. Email: [bannerlane@litttleoon.ca](mailto:bannerlane@litttleoon.ca) or phone Rob Bannerman, 306-845-2764, 306-248-1214. Catalogue online at: [www.hereford.ca](http://www.hereford.ca)



**RANCH READY HORNED Hereford Bull Sale**, March 10th, 1:00 PM at the ranch, Simmie, SK. 15 two year old bulls, 30 yearling bulls, 6 purebred open heifers, 20 commercial open heifers. View catalogue and sale videos: [www.braunranch.com](http://www.braunranch.com) Contact Craig Braun at 306-297-2132.

HIGHLAND  
5100

**FRESH AND SPRINGING** heifers for sale. Cows and quota needed. We buy all classes of slaughter cattle-beef and dairy. R&F Livestock Inc. Bryce Fisher, Warman, SK. Phone 306-239-2298, cell 306-221-2620.

LIMOUSIN  
5115

**CIRCLE T LIMOUSIN** purebred Red and Black performance tested bulls. Guaranteed, semen tested, by trade leading sires. 306-634-8536, 306-634-4621, Estevan, SK

SHORTHORN  
5200

**FOR SALE:** SMALL herd of commercial Shorthorns. Please call 204-728-7872, Brandon, MB.

SIMMENTAL  
5205

**RED AND BLACK** Purebred and commercial Simmental replacement heifers. Bill or Virginia Peters, 306-237-9506, Perdue, SK.

**2 YR. OLD** black bulls- yearling Red, Black and full-blood bulls. Moderate BW. Bill or Virginia Peters, 306-237-9506, Perdue, SK.

CATTLE VARIOUS  
5240

**LAZY RAINBOW RIVER RANCH** has 75 Red and Black Angus cross bred heifers. Preg checked. Price negotiable. Phone 204-372-6945, Fisher Branch, MB.

600 TOP QUALITY bred heifers, start calving April 1. All heifers preg checked, pelt measured and full live vaccination program going to breed. Bred to Red and Black Angus heifer bulls. Calved 400 out of same bulls last year with zero cesaerians. 204-325-2416, Manitou, MB.

**CUSTOM CATTLE GRAZING** on former PFRA community pastures in the Interlake. Contact Terence Caumartin 204-278-3515.

11 BRED CHAROLAIS heifers, 9 red, 2 white, bred to low birthweight Charolais bull, calving middle of Feb. to middle of April. Phone 204-827-2721, Glenboro, MB.

**BRED COW HERD REDUCTION**, by half. 150 head. Bred Charolais, to calve first week of April. 306-432-4803, Lipton, SK.



**COZY CAPS!** Ear protection for newborn calves! 306-739-0020, Carlyle, SK. Email [cozycaps@outlook.com](mailto:cozycaps@outlook.com)

125 BRED RED ANGUS cross heifers, bred to Red Angus bulls. Bulls out July 1st for 60 days. Call 306-355-2700, Mortlach, SK.

75 SECOND AND THIRD Black and Red Angus young bred cows. Call 306-773-1049 or 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

CATTLE WANTED  
5245

**WANTED:** CULL COWS and bulls. For bookings call Kelly at Drake Meat Processors, 306-363-2117 ext. 111, Drake, SK.

HORSES

AUCTION SALES  
5305

**HORSE SALE, JOHNSTONE AUCTION MART**, Moose Jaw, SK. Thursday, Feb. 2 2017. Tack sells at 2:00 PM. Horses sell at 4:30 PM. All classes of horses accepted. Next Regular Horse Sale, April 6, 2017. 306-693-4715. [www.johnstoneauction.ca](http://www.johnstoneauction.ca) PL #914447.

HARNESS/VEHICLES  
5470

2 SETS OF BRASS working harness for medium and large size drafts, \$900/ea. OBO. Phone 780-367-2292, Willingdon, AB.

SHEEP

AUCTION SALES  
5505

**SHEEP/GOAT SALE** Saturday, February 11th, 2017, 1:00 PM, Johnstone Auction Mart, Moose Jaw, SK. All classes sheep and goats accepted. Sheep ID tags and pre-booking mandatory. **Next Sheep/Goat Sale**, May 13th. 306-693-4715. [www.johnstoneauction.ca](http://www.johnstoneauction.ca) PL #914447.

SHEEP SERVICE/ SUPPLIES  
5598

**SASK. SHEEP DEV. BOARD** sole distributor of sheep ID tags in Sask., offers programs, marketing services and sheep/goat supplies. 306-933-5200, Saskatoon, SK. [www.sksheep.com](http://www.sksheep.com)

SWINE

SWINE WANTED  
5625



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SPECIALTY

ELK  
5760

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GOATS  
5765

**BUTCHER MEAT GOAT KIDS**, butcher lambs, bred boer nannies. 306-466-2068, Shellbrook, SK.

**SHEEP/GOAT SALE** Saturday, February 11th, 2017, 1:00 PM, Johnstone Auction Mart, Moose Jaw, SK. All classes sheep and goats accepted. Sheep ID tags and pre-booking mandatory. **Next Sheep/Goat Sale**, May 13th. 306-693-4715. [www.johnstoneauction.ca](http://www.johnstoneauction.ca) PL #914447.

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT  
5790

**SUPER SAVER EAR** muffs for calves. Warm Wind and moisture proof. Adjustable halters. Call 204-436-2535, Elm Creek, MB.

**KELLN SOLAR SUMMER/WINTER WATERING** System, provides water in remote areas, improves water quality, increases pasture productivity, extends dugout life. St. Claude/Portage, 204-379-2763.

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**GREG'S WELDING:** Freestanding 30' 5 bar panels, all 2-7/8" drill stem construction, \$470; 24"x5.5' panels, 2-7/8" pipe with 5-1" sucker rods, \$350; 24"x6' panels, 2-7/8" pipe with 6-1" rods, \$375; 30' 2 or 3 bar windbreak panels c/w lumber. Gates and double hinges avail. on all panels. Belting troughs for grain or silage. Calf shelters. Del. avail. 306-768-8555, Carrot River, SK.



**FFS- FUCHS FARM SUPPLY** is your partner in agriculture stocking **mixer, cutter, feed wagons and bale shredders** and industry leading **RoI-Oyl** cattle oilers. 306-762-2125, Vibank, SK. [www.fuchs.ca](http://www.fuchs.ca)

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357 NH MIXMILL, hammer good on 2 sides, good shape. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

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2002 521DXT CASE payloader w/grapple fork. Call 306-773-1049 or 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

**HI-HOG CATTLE SQUEEZE.** Call 306-773-1049 or 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

MISC. ARTICLES  
5850

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NOTICES  
5925

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Southern, Eastern and Western Manitoba

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ORGANIC PRODUCTS

CERTIFICATION SERVICES  
5943

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GRAINS  
5947

Bioriginal

Bioriginal Food & Science Corp. is actively purchasing:

- Organic Flax Seed
- Organic Hemp Seed and;
- Borage Seed

(from the 2016 crop year)

We are also contracting for the upcoming growing season.

For more information please contact:

**Sandy Jolicoeur at (306) 975-9251**

or email [crops@bioriginal.com](mailto:crops@bioriginal.com)



We know that farming is enough of a gamble so if you want to sell it fast place your ad in the Manitoba Co-operator classifieds. It's a Sure Thing. Call our toll-free number today. We have friendly staff ready to help. 1-800-782-0794.

**WANTED:** ORGANIC, HEATED or **FEED QUALITY FLAX** and feed peas. Call: 204-379-2451, St. Claude, MB.

**WANTED:** ORGANIC LENTILS, peas and chickpeas. Stonehenge Organics, Assiniboia, SK, 306-640-8600, 306-640-8437.

**PERSONAL**

**PERSONAL ADS**

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**MANITOBA SENIOR FARMER** looking to find somebody trustworthy, active and kind, if SWF would reply so would I. Reply to Box 5592, c/o The Western Producer, Saskatoon, SK. S7K 2C4.

PERSONAL VARIOUS  
5952

**TIME TO APPRECIATE Relationships!** Life is meant to be shared. We are here to help you. Candlelight matchmakers. Confidential, rural, photos/profiles to selected matches. Local, affordable. Serving MB, SK, NW-ON. Call 204-343-2475 or email [candlelightmatchmakers@gmail.com](mailto:candlelightmatchmakers@gmail.com)

**DO YOU KNOW an amazing single guy who shouldn't be?** Camelot Introductions has been successfully matching people for over 22 years. In-person interviews by Intuitive Matchmaker in MB and SK. [www.camelotintroductions.com](http://www.camelotintroductions.com) or phone 306-978-LOVE (5683).

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PETS

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No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof with-in six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further information contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobicoke, On.

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5973

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COTTAGE/LOTS  
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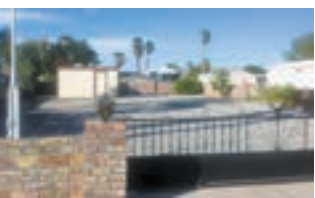
HOUSES/LOTS  
6126

**TIMBER FRAMES, LOG STRUCTURES and Vertical Log Cabins.** Log home refinishing and chinking. Certified Log Builder with 38 years experience. Log & Timber Works, Delisle, SK, 306-717-5161, Email [info@logandtimberworks.com](mailto:info@logandtimberworks.com) Website at [www.logandtimberworks.com](http://www.logandtimberworks.com)

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**YUMA, AZ. HOME** for sale: 3 bdrm, 2 baths, w/solar system, pool, att. garage and RV garage, fully furnished. For more info. call 403-871-2441 or 928-503-5344.



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READY TO MOVE  
6128

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RESORTS  
6129

**MESA AZ.** For sale fully furnished 2 bdrm. mobile home. For more info call 306-317-2740.

FARM & RANCHES

SASKATCHEWAN  
6133

**LAND FOR SALE: RM of Wallace No. 243.** NW 14-27-01 W2. 160 acres (140 cult.), Assessed 43,340. Call 204-414-4129.

**2 QUARTERS FARMLAND, RM Spalding,** E1/2-17-38-16-W2, for Sale by Tender. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Submit tenders to: Greg Harcourt, Box 40, Quill Lake, SK. SOA 3E0 or email [gpharcourt@gmail.com](mailto:gpharcourt@gmail.com) by Feb. 25, 2017. For more info call 306-383-7119.

**4 QUARTERS, 15 miles SE of Raymore,** SK. 2016 crop canola and barley. Grain storage. Call 306-746-7205.

**FARMLAND NE SK(Clemenceau)** 4 quarters plus 36 acre riverside parcel w/5 bdrms. home. Featuring: bins on concrete with direct hit on railroad cars, 40 acres of mostly mature spruce timber, 2 farmyards- 1 bordering Etomami River and 50 miles of provincial forest, excellent elk hunting and other big game and goose. 580 acres cult. Full line of farm equipment and sawmill also available Reg Hertz, 306-865-7469.

**8 QUARTERS GRAINLAND for RENT in RM Kellross** 247. 5 miles North of Leross, SK. 306-736-3223 or [gtwillemse@gmail.com](mailto:gtwillemse@gmail.com)

**FARMLAND FOR SALE** in the Kipling, SK. area, RM 124. 7 quarters with 1000 cult. acres, 1200 sq. ft. w/double att. garage, nat. gas heat, built in 1995, heated shop, quonset, seed cleaning complex incl. weigh scale and apple grain storage. 306-736-2850, 306-735-7575.

SASKATCHEWAN  
6133

**FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER.** RM of McCraney No. 252. Legal Description: NW-32-30-01-W3, ext. 0, SW-32-30-01-W3, ext. 0. Conditions of Offer: 1. All offers to be submitted on or before 4:00 PM on February 28, 2017 to: Shirley Law Office, Box 280, 127 Washington Ave., Davidson, SK., S0G 1A0. 2. Contact Shirley Law Office at [shirkey@sasktel.net](mailto:shirkey@sasktel.net) or 306-567-2023 to obtain Bid Form. 3. Deposits of \$5000 made payable to Shirley Law Office. Cheques will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. 4. Persons submitting offers must rely on their own inspection of land and improvements as to condition and number of acres.

**CASH RENT:** 6 quarters in 1 block, RM Kingsley #124, Kipling/Whitewood area. One quarter 7 miles from home residence may consider selling. 306-696-2957.

**QUARTER FARMLAND** for Sale by Tender. 134 acres, NE-13-44-04-W3, RM Rosthern. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Please submit tenders to: Robert Baynton, Box 1191, Rosthern, SK, S0K 3R0. Call for more information 306-467-4898.

**RM #369,** 160 acres: 130 farmland, 20 grassland, 10 yardsite. Incl. 3 bdrm house, 3 car garage, quonset and sheds. 306-872-4500, 306-874-7778, Spalding SK

**FARMLAND FOR SALE** in RM of Kinistino, 6 quarters: NE 35-46-22 W2; NW 35-46-22 W2; NE 36-46-22 W2; NW 36-46-22 W2; SE 36-46-22 W2; SW 36-46-22 W2. Taking offers until February 17, 2017. Contact: 306-931-2058 or [jim.heather@sasktel.net](mailto:jim.heather@sasktel.net)

**FOR SALE: 8400 ACRES** cultivated highly assessed farmland in Luseland, SK area. Call 306-834-7619.

**FOR RENT:** 3000 acre ranch. Includes hay meadows, pasture, possible farm site, 2 barns, house and quonset. Preferably young energetic couple. Mail replies to: Box 386, Glaslyn, SK. S0M 0Y0.

**LAND FOR RENT** by tender, 25 1/4 quaters for cash rent at Leader, SK. Tenders close Jan. 31, 2017. [sheler1@hotmail.com](mailto:sheler1@hotmail.com) or call Ervin Ausmus 306-628-7918.



**LAND AUCTION for Val Veroba, Kelly Fleck, Dallas Fleck & Sherry Moffat, on Thursday, March 23, 2017, Days Inn, Estevan, SK., 7:00 PM.** Please join Mack Auction Company on March 23rd for your chance to own 12 quarter sections of prime farmland in RM of Browning #34. Over \$60,000 of Surface Lease Revenue being sold with the land located in the center of the Lampman/Steelman gas and oil fields! NW-19-04-06-W2; NE-19-04-06-W2, \$13,350 SLR; SW-19-04-06-W2, \$3600 SLR; SE-19-04-06-W2, \$10,000 SLR (Sub-divided yardsite does not sell); SE-29-04-06-W2, existing Surface Leases not incl. in sale (Sub-divided yardsite does not sell); SW-29-04-05-W2, \$2725 SLR; SE-29-04-05-W2, \$3050 SLR; NE-28-04-05-W2, \$5775 SLR; SE-28-04-05-W2, \$7175 SLR; SE-18-04-05-W2, \$8450 SLR (Sub-divided yardsite does not sell); SW-17-04-05-W2, \$6650 SLR; SE-06-04-05-W2. For sale bill and photos visit [www.mackauctioncompany.com](http://www.mackauctioncompany.com) Join us on Facebook and Twitter. 306-421-2928 or 306-487-7815 Mack Auction Co. PL311962

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**DWEIN TRASK REALTY INC.,** Delisle, SK. Cash renter tenders being accepted for one year lease on N1/2 and SE1/4 of 25-33-09-W3. For further information please call Dwein 306-221-1035.

**DWEIN TRASK REALTY INC.** Perdue SW-01-35-12-W3, includes steel bins, Zip-perlock shed, plus treed yardsite. On main grid. FMV = \$1,400. \$127,500; Dundurn RM 313, N1/2 07-33-02-W3 and RM 314 N1/2 12-33-03-W3 Total FMV = \$211,900. \$634,900. Call Dwein 306-221-1035.

**RM OF WINSLOW #319-** For sale one quarter, NE-32-31-21-W3, 144 cult. acres. Call Barry 306-382-8140, Saskatoon, SK.

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MANITOBA  
6134

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*by Adrian Powell*

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18				19				
			20				21						22	
23	24					25	26				27		28	
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47	48	49						50				51		
52					53							54		
55						56				57	58			
59			60	61					62					63
64														
65						66				67				
68						69				70				

## ACROSS

- |    |                                       |                                  |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Iconic Canadian tree                  | grilling situation?              |
| 6  | Grundy's or Miniver's title           | 65 Swiss calculus pioneer        |
| 9  | Disreputable                          | 66 Relaxing resort attraction    |
| 14 | Mail workers' group                   | 67 Still breathing               |
| 15 | Worcestershire sauce partner          | 68 Someone from the office pool  |
| 16 | Creepy                                | 69 Item a brain surgeon looks at |
| 17 | Plantings that compliment each other? | 70 Summarize                     |

**DOWN**

- |    |                                      |    |   |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|---|
| 21 | Something between the chicken        | 1  | Facial application, maybe                     |
|    | and the king                         | 2  | DiFranco of indie rock                        |
| 22 | Intl. shipping giant                 | 3  | "Zip it!"                                     |
| 23 | Big West Indian crop                 | 4  | Walk with a bounce                            |
| 25 | Untapered cigar                      | 5  | Hydroxyl hydrocarbon                          |
| 28 | Get an eyeful                        | 6  | One of Pallister's buddies                    |
| 29 | Good training game for kids          | 7  | Slow down                                     |
|    | interested in rural law enforcement? | 8  | Members of the crew                           |
| 32 | Hack at                              | 9  | Dry, to a vintner                             |
| 33 | 112 lbs in the U.K.                  | 10 | Part of HRH                                   |
| 34 | Flog on Kijiji                       | 11 | Shake awake                                   |
| 35 | Proprietor                           | 12 | Shape in the northern sky                     |
| 37 | Oil of roses                         | 13 | Agreeable words                               |
| 41 | Enjoy a good book                    | 18 | Amazonian parrot                              |
| 44 | SW Bell, now                         | 19 | You can paddle this                           |
| 46 | Cousin to a Hopi                     | 23 | "Can you hear me?... hear me?...<br>hear me?" |
| 47 | Abdul-Jabbar, to L.A. Laker fans?    | 24 | Made some sketches                            |
| 52 | Summer in Shawinigan                 | 26 | Canada's second largest prov.                 |
| 53 | Celsius unit                         | 27 | Wear away through erosion                     |
| 54 | Rapscallions                         | 30 | Long, boring speech                           |
| 55 | ____ Moines, Iowa                    | 31 | Sandwich known by its initials                |
| 56 | 1837-1901: The Victorian ____        | 36 | "____ I saw Elba."                            |
| 57 | Empty truck's weight                 |    |   |

- 38 Spice used in curry powder  
39 At the peak  
40 Gym work-out tallies, briefly  
42 Arabian bigwig (var)  
43 Hampshire's county flower  
44 Spent some time at the diner  
45 Eighth Greek letter  
47 Small anchors  
48 Went for Chinese  
49 Fix some loafers  
50 New England shake  
51 "O" shape  
58 Hebrew month coinciding  
with February-March  
60 Hyaena's home  
61 Where Zagreb is, briefly  
62 Assist the check-out clerk  
63 Egg cells  
64 High spirits

### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE

[illegible]

# Sudoku

	6			4	5			1
4	8	5		1		9		
		9	2					
						3	9	8
			5		4			
9	7	6						
					8	4		
		7		3		6	1	9
3			7	6			2	

Puzzle by websudoku.com

### Here's How It Works:

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

**Last week's answer**

1	8	9	4	2	7	3	5	6
3	6	4	5	8	9	1	7	2
5	2	7	3	6	1	4	8	9
9	5	8	1	7	3	2	6	4
7	4	3	6	5	2	9	1	8
6	1	2	8	9	4	5	3	7
8	3	1	9	4	6	7	2	5
2	9	5	7	3	8	6	4	1
4	7	6	2	1	5	8	9	3

Puzzle by websudoku.com





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# Women lead battle to save Senegal’s shrinking farmland

Female-led work is vital to rural communities in Senegal — now women are organizing to lead the fight against multinational agribusiness

BY NELLIE PEYTON

Thomson Reuters Foundation / NDIAEL, Senegal

The women of Thiamene, a tiny straw hut village in northern Senegal, used to scrape together a living by collecting wild baobab fruit and selling milk from their cows.

But their earnings have plummeted since an Italian-Senegalese agribusiness, Senhuile, took over the surrounding land five years ago, blocking their paths to the local market and river, and spraying pesticides that make their herds scatter, they say.

“Life here is precarious, especially for women,” said 42-year-old Fatimata Sow in the village square, gazing at the vast landscape of arid ground dotted with the stumps of trees.

While the men in her community do larger-scale agricultural work or have jobs in the nearby town, it is women who tend to the gardens and raise the animals that keep families fed.

“The unhappiness and suffering we have lived from the impact of Senhuile is hard to express,” said Sow.

Vittoria Graziani, a spokeswoman for Senhuile’s majority shareholder Tampieri Group, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in December the local population had signed agreements with the company — which villagers deny — and that Senhuile was open to hearing their concerns.

Female-led work is vital to rural communities like Sow’s, yet women are often the first to suffer from large land deals and disputes, which are common across West Africa where statute law clashes with tribal customs, activists say.

Now, women in Senegal are fighting back, from young coders designing a mobile app to help women buy land, to civil society groups rallying female villagers to stand up to multinationals.

“Before, it was unthinkable for women to be part of the decision-making regarding land at both local and national levels, said Solange Bandiaky-Badji, Africa director at the U.S.-based Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI).

“Now, women are organizing for change,” she added.

### Fighting back

In Senegal, the law dictates that virtually all land belongs to the state, though occupants can purchase ownership and registration documents. In practice, especially in rural areas, customary law reigns and communities dictate who uses land.

While women in Senegal make up half of the agricultural workforce, only one in 20 owns land, United Nations data shows.

Across much of sub-Saharan Africa, tradition dictates that women are not allowed to inherit land, and can only access it through their fathers or husbands. Even then, the plots they are granted are often the least productive.

While women can apply for landownership, only group applications are accepted and very few of the requests are granted, said the Prospective Agricultural and Rural Initiative.

But Boury Tounkara, a young female coder in the northern city of Saint Louis, is developing an app along with three colleagues to fight gender discrimination in land buying.



A woman at work pounding millet in Ndiael, Senegal, December 9, 2016. PHOTOS: TRF/NELLIE PEYTON



Fatimata Sow organized the women in her community to fight against multinationals and protect their land in Ndiael, Senegal.

One feature will allow women to start the buying process without identifying themselves, reducing the potential for bias.

“We hear about these problems all the time,” said Tounkara, who visited communities near the wetland reserve of Ndiael, where Thiamene is located, to ask women what would help them.

“We always see men creating apps so we thought, why not us?”

Female lawyers are also working with civil society to help women understand their land rights and gain legal recognition.

While the gender gap in land rights is not enshrined in statute law, it is deeply engrained in society, they say.

“It is not just a problem for women,” said Yande Ndiaye of the Association of Senegalese Women Lawyers (AJS). “It is a question of sustainable development and food security.”

### Changing landscape

In 2012, the Senegalese government leased 20,000 hectares of land to industrial vegetable grower Senhuile in Ndiael, which is home to 37 villages, including Thiamene.

The vast area, with no roads or infrastructure, was one of the last places in northern Senegal where traditional pastoralists could allow their herds to roam freely.

While Graziani said Senhuile has provided jobs and infrastructure to local people, villagers say the company has brought them nothing but harm. After encountering fierce resistance, the company drew back its boundaries from the area closest to their homes.

“It was the women who said no to (the company’s) advancements,” said Thiamene village chief Amadou Sow. “Since the beginning they have been the main ones to lead this fight.”

However, tangles of barbed wire and an unfinished irrigation canal show how the landscape is changing in Ndiael.

Industrialization and a growing drive to attract foreign investment have put all farmers’ livelihoods at risk, rights groups say.

### Future generations

Senegal has been mired in decades of failed land rights reform, but for the first time, citizens have been included in drafting a far-reaching land law, activists say.

One Senegalese civil society group held workshops around the country encouraging women to share their views on land disputes and propose solutions, which it took to the government.

“Women aren’t used to giving their opinion in this type of discussion,” said Ardo Sow of Enda Pronat, an organization that promotes the rights of rural communities.

“But after 10 or 15 minutes they would jump in and participate, saying: ‘We want this,’ or, ‘We don’t want that.’”

Legal experts say that while the new law marks progress for women in theory, it is unclear whether it will include an action plan and safeguards for enforcing their rights in practice.

Fatimata Sow and the other women of Ndiael are not counting on the law to help them.

Last year they reclaimed a small plot of land from Senhuile by building crude fences out of sticks and planting watermelon.

More than anything, these women are worried about what the future will look like for their children.

“Since time immemorial, we only know this place,” said Diariy Sow, an older woman in the village.

“This is where our future generations have to be.”



# Veterinary association sets framework for medicine oversight

The guidelines are intended to lead to consistent regulations throughout Canada

BY ALEX BINKLEY  
Co-operator contributor

Canadian veterinarians now have a framework for using antibiotics that will assist federal and provincial regulators concerned about antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The guidelines were developed by the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Stewardship Advisory Group of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars (CCVR) and after discussions with government officials and animal health organizations.

“Canadian veterinarians have a national and international responsibility to protect public health by contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance,” CVMA president Troy Bourque said. “By working towards harmonizing veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in Canada, we are optimizing our stewardship practices in animal and public health, maintaining access to and effectiveness of antimicrobials for the treatment and prevention of disease in animals and upholding to the integrity of the veterinary profession.”

He described the guidelines as a template of professional standards, which may be used by provincial and territorial veterinary regulatory bodies when developing their own regulations, guidelines, or bylaws relating to veterinarians’ professional responsibilities in providing oversight of veterinary antimicrobial use. It is intended to lead to consistent regulations across the country.

The framework spells out the professional obligations for veterinarians in prescribing an antimicrobial drug and comes in advance of federal regulations to increase government oversight of antimicrobials use in food production.

Health Minister Jane Philpott says the government wants to finalize its proposals for reforming the use of antibiotics in livestock production so they would be in effect this fall.

Without change, deaths linked to diseases that become resistant to modern medicines could outstrip those caused by cancer by 2050, she adds.

She did acknowledge that the livestock sector “is ahead of the regulations.”

Her policy lines up with measures animal health and livestock groups have already recommended to reduce AMR.

“We’ll tighten the regulations on the use of antimicrobials in agriculture,” Philpott said.

At the top of her list is ending own-use imports of many veterinary drugs by farmers. She also highlighted requiring prescriptions for all veterinary medicines and ending growth promotional claims. It’s generally expected the changes would come into effect during 2017.

The framework will guide veterinarians in meeting federal regulations when they’re enacted. It covers diagnosing, prescribing, using antimicro-

**The framework spells out the professional obligations for veterinarians in prescribing an antimicrobial drug and comes in advance of federal regulations...**

bials, dispensing, maintaining medical records and other stewardship requirements, the CVMA says.

In addition, the framework makes recommendations on outstanding issues such as surveillance of antimicrobial use and distribution, and continuing education opportunities for veterinary professionals on antimicrobial stewardship.

The veterinary profession in Canada will continue to be engaged in discussions on the oversight of the use of veterinary antimicrobials at provincial and national levels, Bourque said.

The framework says veterinary oversight is a key element of antimicrobial stewardship.

“It encompasses the professional involvement of licensed veterinarians in providing guidance or direction for appropriate use of antimicrobials in animals with the objective of ensuring prudent use and minimizing the emergence or spread of antimicrobial resistance.”

Vets need to be at the forefront of preventing and controlling the spread of antimicrobial-resistant infections, maintaining access to effective antimicrobials for animal health, improving animal health and welfare, consumer confidence, and public safety and meeting of phytosanitary standards involving trade, the framework says.

Vets are provincially regulated by bodies that are supposed to provide consistent oversight of the prescribing and dispensing of medicines and take action when vets act inappropriately.

The federal plan aims to eliminate unnecessary antimicrobial use, improving standards of use when these drugs are necessary and improving animal health to reduce the need for antimicrobials.

Health Canada says more than three-quarters of antimicrobials are sold for treating animals including pets. “Of these, approximately 90 per cent are used to promote growth or to guard against disease and infection. Globally, the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals continues to rise, from just over 63,000 tons in 2010 to well over a projected 100,000 tons by 2030. In Canada alone it is estimated that 1.6 million kilograms of antimicrobials were distributed for animal use in 2013.”



Veterinarians now have a set of rules governing antimicrobial drugs, which mirror expected regulations. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



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# Ag Days speaker tells gripping story of being electrocuted in 1999

Retell this to your family and make sure those you work with feel free asking questions and raising concerns about the job you give them, safety consultant says

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON  
Co-operator staff

Curtis Weber spent six years of his life recovering from a horrifying electrocution that occurred three days into working a new job in 1999.

Just 17 years old at the time, the young Saskatchewan man knew the business of grain bin assembly well, having worked in his father's business since a kid.

So that day — July 29 — he saw danger looming as his new crew made a plan to move a steel bin under a low-hanging 40,000-volt live power line. But he was new to the crew. He didn't question the plan.

"I didn't ask the questions," Weber told a transfixed Ag Days audience in Brandon last week. "I didn't feel comfortable saying, 'hey guys, this is stupid.'"

Not that others also didn't see the danger. But it had been a long day and everyone just wanted to get the job done.

"We were frustrated and rushing," he said adding that someone even remarked what they were attempting "had the potential to kill someone."

Moments later it nearly did. The operator of the crane did not boom down far enough and backed directly into the power line. Weber, who was steadying the bin against the wind and was surrounded by steel, became the ground point for three successive surges of 14,400 volts of electricity.

Two other co-workers on the site were also hurt, but his injuries were the most severe. He suffered third- and fourth-degree burns over 60 per cent of his body and lesser burns over the rest of it. Later he would have his left leg and his lower right arm ampu-



Curtis Weber was just 17 years old and working as a construction labourer when he was electrocuted by a 40,000-volt live power line on the job. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

tated during subsequent years spent in and out of hospital. He bears permanent facial scars. The incident ended all hopes he'd had of playing professional hockey.

Today the Battleford, Sask.-

based married father of two is a professional speaker and safety consultant at conferences and client groups across the country.

His main message in Brandon is that farmers absolutely must begin to foster a safer work culture. That includes one that gives job orientations and properly assesses risks, he said.

There are so many circumstances where farmers take risks, like inserting a limb into machinery "because we think we've developed a way of doing it in a way we won't get hurt," he said.

"Let's figure out a better way. Our choices on the farm as to how we do tasks... the choices we make as parents, grandparents, as husbands and wives, have huge effect on us.

"The message I want to leave with you is don't remember how bad my story was... I want you guys to be inspired to make changes in how you view safety on the farm."

That means talking about safety around the dinner table and creating a workplace where people feel free to ask questions and raise red flags if

**"A huge portion of my life was completely lost due to that one bad decision... of not speaking up."**

CURTIS WEBER

they see risks in what they're doing.

"Take this home to your families and have those conversations. You're working in an industry where incidents do happen. Make sure your work environment is a place where people are comfortable being able to say, 'I'm not sure what I'm doing.'"

"A huge portion of my life was completely lost due to that one bad decision... of not speaking up."

Weber's talk last week followed two other presentations including one from Glen Blahey, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association's (CASA) agricultural health and safety specialist on the increasing risk to farmers, workers and bystanders of being entrapped in grain.

Angela Fox, a Manitoba rancher who lost her husband in a farm accident was another speaker who also told her story. She urges farm families to do preplanning and to create 'Because I Love You' lists including critical personal and farm management information to help surviving spouses cope with the aftermath.

Manitoba Ag Day's regularly featured Farm Safety Zone was placed amidst other exhibitors in 2017. A feature booth included a new mobile grain entrapment trailer launched by CASA for education and training purposes.

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## Brazil police clear blockades on grains road

Protest by truckers aims to force talks with shippers about payments

SAO PAULO/REUTERS

Brazilian police have cleared blockades by protesting truckers at three points of a main road for soy and corn shipments in the country's top grains-producing state of Mato Grosso, highway operator Rota do Oeste said Jan. 18.

The blockades were set up by truckers seeking talks with commodities traders and transportation companies over payments for

hauling grain from Mato Grosso, in Brazil's central Farm Belt, to export hubs in the south.

It is not clear how long drivers will continue their protest, which began Jan. 13 and have slowed operations for at least one facility in the state, a soy-processing unit of food processor Bunge.

The protest comes just as Mato Grosso's soy and corn harvest kicks off. The state is expected to produce 30 million tonnes of soybeans this season.



# COUNTRY CROSSROADS

CONNECTING RURAL FAMILIES

## Glenboro woman tends tiny tropical garden in her home

A south-facing sunroom on a Glenboro-area farm home sees a tropical plant oasis in rural Manitoba



Ernestine Sepke holds up the tiny orange trees she's started from seed from a Sunkist orange. The retired Glenboro farmer's bright sunroom has many more tropical fruits growing in it. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

**BY LORRAINE STEVENSON**  
Co-operator staff / Near Glenboro

Ernestine Sepke doesn't need to travel south in winter to be surrounded by orange, avocado and banana trees. They're growing in her sunroom on the side of her Glenboro farm home. Some are so tall they're brushing the ceiling. All were started from local seed — fruit bought at Glenboro Co-op. "I just stick them in the dirt and if they grow they grow and if they don't they don't," says Sepke. She and her husband Richard are now retired from operating a mixed farm their son is now taking over. Summers Sepke spends outdoors, tending apple trees and enormous vegetable and flower gardens. Winters indoors, she patiently waits for her pineapples to ripen. She has seven in various stages of growth. They were planted simply by

chopping off a half an inch of the top of ordinary pineapples she bought at the grocery store, she explains. "They usually take about two years for the first pineapple," she says showing a visitor a spiky green-armed plant in a large pot. It'll take another year for the second to ripen and less for the third, she said. Word gets out that the sweet fruits are nearly ready. "They call asking, 'are the pineapples ready?'" she said. "I usually have a pineapple party for the girls around here." Then there's the banana plants. They're about four feet high and occupy another corner of her sunroom. She started them about five years ago from the tiny black seed of store-bought fruit, too. She didn't expect much, she says, but lo and behold they produced perfect fruit, too — just smaller than what you'd find on store shelves. "But there's scads of them," she said. "They start in a

**"I just stick them in the dirt and if they grow they grow and if they don't they don't."**

Ernestine Sepke

cluster of about 30 and then another comes down, and then another." The fruit is purple, then green and yellow when ripe and just as sweet as the bananas her sister picks off the plants in her yard — in California. She compares notes with her other sister, in Memphis, Tennessee, who has them growing outside, too. Her orange tree hasn't been productive, even though it's now as tall as her sunroom. It's about six years old. She suspects it needs a partner to produce any fruit so she's got some started in a pot, too.

"I started it from seeds from a Sunkist orange," she said. A tiny chestnut tree also started from seed is growing in another pot. "I don't know what I'll do with it," she says holding it up to the sun. "My room isn't tall enough for them and I don't know if they'll survive (outside) up here." Nor will her five-foot papaya plant and an avocado, also started from a stone plucked from its fruit. Sepke isn't sure where she got her decidedly green thumb or her love of houseplants. "I've just been around plants all my life," she said. "My mother was an avid plant grower, so was my grandmother. It's just natural for me to throw something into the dirt and see if it will grow." She really isn't very diligent about fertilizing, she said, but does make sure everyone gets watered — several times a week — which is a bit of work at this point. The oldest plant in her col-

lection would be her grandmother's Christmas cactus. It's blooming profusely with purple and white flowers right now. "It's probably 30 years old," she estimates. In all, Sepke's sunroom has about 50 plants, half of which are tropicals, plus many large cactus, and some beautiful bromeliads. They built this space after the plants were starting to take over their home, she said. Her husband was starting to feel swallowed by the banana plants' leaves, from plants behind his favourite armchair. But the plants are most certainly a nice boost to their home, she says. Plants are just relaxing to be around. They clean the air. And they're just a great hobby, says Sepke. "It gives you something to do when you get to be my age," she says with a laugh. "And if you're lucky enough to grow fruit on them, you can eat in the process."

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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Prairie fare



It's citrus season

This fruit family has more to offer than most can imagine

BY GETTY STEWART  
Co-operator contributor



January to March is citrus season, the time when North American oranges, lemons, grapefruit and limes are at their peak. Take full advantage of the season and explore all the citrus fruit offered in the produce aisle. To help you make the best of the season, here are some tips and recipes for you to consider.

Selecting the best

To find the freshest, sweetest and juiciest fruit in the display case look for the following:

- Clear, blemish-free rinds with no soft spots.
- Fruit that feels heavy compared to those around it. The heavier, the juicier!
- Fruit with finely textured peel versus thick, heavily dimpled peel.
- Rind that is firm around the entire fruit. Only tangerines, clementines or mandarins should have peels that are loose around the orange.

Variety selection

If your grocer has several variety of oranges, try them all. Navel oranges are favoured for their classic sweet, juicy flavour. These plump, seedless fruits

with their telltale belly button are perfect for eating out of hand and taking along for wintertime activities. The cara cara orange is a sweet, mild orange with salmon-coloured flesh. It's considered a low-acid orange, perfect if you find other oranges too acidic. The tangelo, a member of the mandarin class of oranges, is the juiciest of the bunch. Easily recognized by the nub on the stem end, it's also one of the easiest oranges to peel. Read the label carefully as many tangelos and their clementine cousins are not seedless. The moro blood orange is smaller and a little tarter than a regular navel orange, but that mottled burgundy colour is stunning and makes a great addition to salads.

Storing citrus

Stored correctly, citrus fruit will last for several weeks — so, go ahead and buy that big bag of oranges, lemons or grapefruit. To keep them fresh and juicy, keep your citrus cool in ventilated bags that allow airflow. A mesh bag or plastic bag with holes kept in the fridge, a cold room or even a cool corner in the basement will work. While the bulk of your citrus should be kept cool, be sure to keep some oranges, tangelos and grapefruit in the fruit basket to encourage

healthy snacking. At room temperature, they'll release more juice and taste sweeter. They'll keep fresh for about a week on the counter.

Storing cut citrus

When a recipe calls for half a lemon or lime, don't let the other half go to waste. Cut lemons or limes can be kept tightly wrapped in plastic or in a snug, airtight container for three to five days in the fridge. If you don't have a plan for using the leftover lemon or lime, freeze it using one of these methods:

- Place the whole leftover citrus in a freezer bag and toss in the freezer as is. When ready to use, thaw and juice the lemon or lime. Use within three months.
- Cut into small wedges and place in a freezer bag as is or place wedges in ice cube trays, cover with water and freeze. Use frozen wedges or ice cubes in tea, punches or other beverages. Use within three months.
- Zest and juice the lemon or lime. Freeze the juice in ice cube trays and freeze the zest in small airtight containers. Use in any recipe calling for fresh juice or zest. Use within six months.

While perfect for eating just the way they are, citrus can also be used in sweet or savoury recipes for every meal of the day. Here are three recipes to try.



Grapefruit Parfait to Go.  
PHOTOS: GETTY STEWART

Grapefruit Parfait to Go

Ingredients

- 1 ruby red grapefruit
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup lemon yogurt
- 1/3 cup granola

Instructions

Peel, segment and cut grapefruit into bite-size pieces. Mix plain and lemon yogurt. Alternate layers of grapefruit, granola and yogurt in a jam jar. Seal jar and take anywhere. Pack extra granola for a crunchy top layer. Makes 2-3 jars.

Orange, Fennel and Celery Salad

Ingredients

- 1 cup sliced fennel
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 1 apple, diced
- 3 oranges, diced
- 1/3 cup toasted pepitas (pumpkin seeds)
- 1 tbsp. celery greens and/or fennel greens

Dressing

- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. orange juice
- 1/2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- Pinch salt and pepper

Instructions

In salad bowl mix fennel, celery, apple and blood oranges. Top with dressing and mix well. Garnish with celery greens and/or fennel greens and toasted pepitas. Add all ingredients in a jar and seal tightly. Shake vigorously. Taste and adjust accordingly.



Orange, fennel, celery and apple in yogurt dressing.



Luscious Lime Bars.

Luscious Lime Bars

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. lime zest (1 lime)
- 3 tbsp. fresh lime juice (1 to 2 limes)
- 1 tbsp. icing or powdered sugar

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 F. In medium-size bowl mix 3 tbsp. sugar and flour. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Press crumbs firmly and evenly into bottom of an 8x8-inch square pan.

Bake for 15 to 17 minutes until just starting to brown. To prepare lime filling, beat together eggs, 2/3 cup sugar, 2 tbsp. flour, baking powder, lime zest and lime juice. Pour over baked pastry layer. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly golden around edges and centre is set. Cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into 20 squares/bars.

Sift powdered sugar over top of bars and garnish with extra lime zest. All recipes: [www.GettyStewart.com](http://www.GettyStewart.com)

Getty Stewart is a professional home economist, speaker and writer from Winnipeg. For more recipes, preserves and kitchen tips, visit [www.gettystewart.com](http://www.gettystewart.com).



Orange varieties to try (clockwise from top: navel orange, tangelo, blood orange, cara cara orange).



# COUNTRY CROSSROADS

“Well, at least it’s dry in here.” Rose Jackson spoke from her chair in the Jackson house sunroom, looking out over a backyard covered in heavy greyish white snow. Rain fell steadily, a small stream of water trickling from the downspout visible at the corner of the the house. She gestured towards the window. “Nobody’s going to tell me that’s normal.”

There was a brief silence while the rest of the assembled family considered this.

“You know what they call it Mom,” said Jennifer, from her chair across the room. “They call it the new normal.”

“Ha.” Andrew scoffed. “What a crock. New normal. That’s just pretending something is normal so you don’t have to deal with the fact that it totally isn’t normal.”

“That’s what people do now,” said Brady, who was slouched comfortably in the chair next to Rose’s. “Pretend stuff is normal so they don’t have to deal with it. It’s the new normal.”

“What I can’t figure out,” said Randy, who was seated in the corner armchair, his feet stretched out onto the old leather ottoman that Rose had been trying to discard for years, but which Andrew kept rescuing from the trash, “is whether the human race’s need to make everything seem normal as quickly as we can is part of our survival instinct or part of our denial instinct.”

“The human race doesn’t have a denial instinct,” said Brady dismissively. “You just made that up.”

“And I rest my case,” said Randy. “Obviously, you’re in denial about the fact that we have a denial instinct.”

“No I’m not,” said Brady.

“Don’t worry about it,” said Randy. “It’s normal to be in denial.”

“True enough,” Andrew agreed. “And that’s not a new normal either. In fact that’s a normal that’s probably as old as the human race itself.”

“I hate to be a complainer,” said Rose, “but if having two weeks of above-zero temperatures in January is going to be the new normal, why does it have to be so rainy? Why can’t it be



## The Jacksons

By Rollin Penner

sunny and pleasant? I mean this is just like living in B.C.”

“But without the mountains,” said Brady.

“And the snobs,” added Jennifer.

“But with the complaining,” said Andrew.

“I said I don’t like to be a complainer,” said Rose. “But I feel I am being forced to, by unpleasant circumstances.”

“It really is unpleasant,” said Randy. “I’m going to join the complaining team on this one. A week and a half ago it was inhumanly cold. I’d get up every morning and mutter under my breath all the way out to the shelter to check on the cows about what kind of moron ancestors we had, to end up in this frozen wasteland instead of a beach in Puerto Vallarta. And then

I’d listen to the forecast and there would be no relief there, till one day suddenly John Sauder said we’re looking for a high of +3 for tomorrow, and my first thought was, well that’ll be miserable, won’t it? Why can’t it just be -5? Not too cold. Not too hot.”

“Because of global warming,” said Jennifer. “More extreme weather events. Rain in January. Snow in June. Hail whenever. Tornadoes in Saskatoon. Get used to it. It’s the new normal.”

“All righty then,” said Randy. “If it’s normal, what’s to worry about?”

“We can still complain though, right?” said Rose. “Just because it’s normal doesn’t mean we have to be cheerful about it?”

“Whatever makes you happy,” said Jennifer.

“It’s not about being happy,” said Rose. “It’s about being unhappy.”

“OK, whatever makes you unhappy then,” said Jennifer.

There was a lull in the conversation at this point. Eventually Andrew looked around the room and then spoke. “Hey,” he said. “How long has it been since the five of us were in a room together with no wives or children or significant others added to the mix? I can’t even remember.”

“A long time,” said Brady.

“Five years at least,” said Randy.

“It was last Saturday,” said Rose.

“Huh,” said Andrew. “You’re right honey. It was last Saturday.”

“It doesn’t happen often though,” said Jennifer.

“No offence,” said Rose, “but I like it better when the others are here.”

“None taken,” said Andrew. “I fully agree.”

Randy looked at his younger siblings. “Well there you have it,” he said. “We have been replaced in our parents’ affections, by our wives and children.”

“Our wives and children are pretty awesome,” said Brady.

“I never thought it would happen,” said Jennifer.

“Well that’s life,” said Rose. “Welcome to the new normal.”

# Cast iron plant is one tough plant

If you want houseplants but don’t want to spend a lot of time looking after them this could be the one for you

BY ALBERT PARSONS  
Freelance contributor

We avid gardeners enjoy spending time tending our indoor plants during the winter, but some people don’t want to spend a lot of time or effort doing so, and are looking for easy-care, low-light plants. A good one is the so-called cast iron plant — aptly named as it is very tough and will tolerate much neglect.

The cast iron plant’s official name is Aspidistra, and it is a member of the lily family. It is a native of China and thrives in a low-light environment, making it possible to have a green plant in a location indoors that would normally be considered too dark.

Also, it suffers no ill effects if its soil is allowed to dry out between waterings (ideally it prefers to be kept just moderately moist), and will not exhibit leaf tip browning typical of many other plants when the soil has inadvertently been allowed to become dry. Besides being undemanding in terms of its care, the cast iron plant is low maintenance as it is a very slow-growing plant, not needing to be watered or fed as often as other plants or needing to be divided or repotted as frequently.

The cast iron plant grows from rhi-



zomes. These will gradually spread to fill up a container forming a nice clump of greenery, but will take several years before the clump gets too large for the pot. It is not large, typically growing only 65 to 70 cm in height. When the plant does finally

**There are variegated forms of cast iron plant, but they tend to be somewhat more demanding than the plain green one, which is the most robust variety.**

need to be refurbished, the clump can be divided and new plants established by using divisions. Simply dump the plant out of its container and pull it apart, separating the divisions, and planting several of them in new planting medium. They will be slow to get established and to become attractive full-size plants. Use a soilless mix and add a bit of slow-release fertilizer to it. Alternatively, apply some 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer to the soil once a year, preferably in the spring, to ensure the foliage remains a lovely dark green.

Although it does sometimes flower, they are tiny and produced at the base of the plant, hidden from view, so it is definitely grown for the attractive foli-

age. The leaves are lance shaped and glossy dark green, making it an attractive addition to the interior landscape. A cast iron is a great specimen plant but it can also be incorporated into a grouping. Because it is a relatively short foliage plant, it might even be used as a background plant on a mantel or table. In its native habitat, the cast iron plant is subjected to hot, dry conditions, so the relatively warm and dry conditions found in many homes at this time of year will not bother it.

The cast iron plant is rarely attacked by either insect pests or disease. Occasional wiping of the leaves will remove dust and make the plant more attractive. Although the leaves are not particularly fragile, care should be taken when cleaning. The leaf being wiped should sit on the palm of one hand while the other hand gently wipes with a damp cloth. Each leaf should be wiped separately, which can be a bit tedious, but the clean, shiny leaves that result will be worth it.

There are variegated forms of cast iron plant, but they tend to be somewhat more demanding than the plain green one, which is the most robust variety. If you want an easy-care, reliable, tough accent plant for your home this winter, try the cast iron plant — its name says it all.

Albert Parsons writes from Minnedosa, Manitoba



COUNTRY CROSSROADS

READER’S PHOTO



Oh what fun it is to ride... PHOTO: LILLIAN DEEDMAN

Be prepared for winter driving conditions

RCMP RELEASE

With winter well upon us, the RCMP would like to remind the public of some simple and safe driving practices for this cold and snowy season. In snow- and ice-covered road conditions please always be mindful of your speed, drive with caution and reduce your speed accordingly. Driving too quickly is one of the biggest contributors to collisions during slippery road conditions. Make sure that

you leave sufficient space between yourself and any vehicle in which you may be travelling behind. Snow and ice dramatically increase the distance that is required to stop your vehicle should the traffic patterns change around you. Winter tires for your vehicle are always recommended, as they will provide greater traction in slippery conditions. It is recommended to keep your lights on at all times for visibility, and avoid the use of cruise control during inclement weather. Manoeuvres can be

more difficult to make in the snow. Be sure to anticipate what your next move is going to be to give yourself lots of room for stopping and turning. Also, please ensure that your windshield as well as all the windows of your vehicle are scraped free of ice and snow before getting on the road. With these simple and effective safe driving practices in mind, the RCMP are hoping that the roads remain safe this driving season. We continue to be focused and committed to ensuring the safety of all users of the highway.

Country music artist plays in Russell, Man.

Venue takes Gord Bamford back to his roots

BY DARRELL NESBITT  
Freelance contributor

Like a well-worn quilt, family, country music, and a western life-style weave the fabric of Gord Bamford’s life, and last November the Canadian Country Music Association’s (CCMA) award artist shared hit after hit at the George P. Buleziuk Centre in Russell, Manitoba. Backed by a five-piece band including CCMA’s All Star bass player, Lisa Dodd of Hanna, Alberta, Bamford, now living in Nashville, Tenn., said it was the best band on the road today.

The father of three gives a lot of credit to his wife Kendra, for allowing him to share his music with small intimate crowds where it all began, to large stages such

as the Big Valley Jamboree this summer, where he will be among the artists to celebrate 25 years of the Saskatchewan music event.

Along with sharing his passion for country music, he also likes to give back to youth through his not-for-profit organization, The Gord Bamford Foundation. As a foundation, funds are provided for initiatives that include or involve music, education, health care, sports, and multi-use facilities that benefit youth across Canada.

Australian-born Gord Bamford, who was raised in Lacombe, Alberta after his mom and dad divorced, has carried his fundamental principles with him no matter where his tour bus takes him.

Darrell Nesbitt writes from Shoal Lake, Manitoba



Canadian singer-songwriter Gord Bamford shared country music with Russell and area fans. PHOTO: DARRELL NESBITT



This Old Elevator

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please contribute to This Old Grain Elevator website at: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/elevators>.

You will receive a response, by email or phone call, confirming that your submission was received.

Goldsborough is especially interested in determining when elevators were demolished. Readers with photos of elevator demolitions and dates of when these occurred can contact him directly at [gordon@mhs.mb.ca](mailto:gordon@mhs.mb.ca) or call 204-782-8829.



A grain elevator at the former CPR railway siding of Cameron (named for Melita implements dealer A. E. Cameron, in the RM of Two Borders, was built by the Lake of the Woods Milling Company sometime between 1902 and 1910. It became part of Ogilvie Milling after the two companies merged in 1954 and was purchased by Manitoba Pool in 1959. The 38,000-bushel elevator was closed around 1970 and sold into private hands. It now stands abandoned, surrounded by cropland. PHOTO: GORDON GOLDSBOROUGH (JULY 2016)





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