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Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

AUGUST 30, 2012

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Weanlings
euthanized
near Austin

The situation is
being investigated

By Allan Dawson,
Shannon VanRaes and
Laura Rance
CO-OPERATOR REPORTERS

Provincial officials are investigating a suspected case of animal abuse after 1,300 piglets found in a state of “severe distress” were euthanized at a hog production facility near Austin late last week.

The Chief Veterinarian’s Office (CVO) responded to a call reporting the inappropriate treatment of hogs

See **WEANLINGS** on page 6 »

New nationwide lamb
co-op ready to launch

Producer-owned and -controlled co-op to offer five-cent premium over Ontario price

By Daniel Winters
CO-OPERATOR STAFF / RIVERS

A new, federally incorporated co-op that pledges to eliminate the \$20-\$25 western freight discount on lambs and breathe new life into the Canadian sheep industry will be ready to launch this fall.

The Canadian Lamb Producers Co-operative (CLPC) grew out of the Saskatchewan Sheep Development board’s 2010 Canadian Lamb Initiative, which tested the feasibility of a producer-owned and -controlled marketing arm.

Since then, meetings have been held in seven provinces across the country that were attended by over 400 lamb producers. So far, 150 have signed on.

Terry Ackerman, the former general manager of the dairy-based Organic Meadow Co-operative in Ontario who is now tasked with setting up the co-operative, said the goal is to recruit at least 300 initially, and 650 within two years.

The past six months were spent negotiating with seven provincial governments from British Columbia to Prince



Competitors at the Manitoba Sheep Association annual show and sale in Rivers. Producers from across Canada are establishing a new marketing co-op for lamb, a move that might make the sheep sector more attractive to young entrepreneurs. PHOTO DANIEL WINTERS.

Edward Island to allow the venture an exemption from having to release a prospectus before soliciting membership shares.

“As soon as we’re given permission to sell them shares, then we’ll take their money and start buying lambs,” said Ackerman. “That should be within 60-90 days by the time we get everything ironed out.”

The co-op will be the only federally incorporated co-operative in the agriculture sector, and will own and control a corporate entity called the Canadian Lamb Company, staffed by professionals in charge of marketing value-added products such

See **LAMB CO-OP** on page 6 »

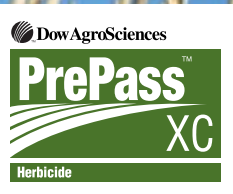
“There’s one thing that farmers agree on: Do not allow farmers to run the business.”

TERRY ACKERMAN

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FROM THE FOOD FILE

Farmers grow it, consumers throw it

Consumption patterns waste sustainable production efforts

Reuters

Americans throw away nearly half their food every year, waste worth roughly \$165 billion annually, according to a study released Aug. 21.

"As a country, we're essentially tossing every other piece of food that crosses our path. That's money and precious resources down the drain," said Dana Gunders, a scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council's food and agriculture program.

The NRDC report said Americans discard 40 per cent of the food supply every year, and the average American family of four ends up throwing away an equivalent of up to \$2,275 annually in food.

Just a 15 per cent reduction in losses in the U.S. food supply would save enough to feed 25 million Americans annually. It also would lighten the burden on landfills, where food waste makes up the largest component of solid waste, according to the NRDC, a non-profit environmental organization.

Particularly worrisome, the organization said, was evidence that there has been a 50 per cent jump in U.S. food waste since the 1970s. Unsold fruits and vegetables in grocery stores account for a big part of the wasted food.



May Wollf, (l), 28, a practising "freegan," climbs into a dumpster while Robin Pickell tears open a garbage bag in an alley behind Commercial Drive in Vancouver, B.C. April 10, 2012. A freegan is someone who gathers edible food from the garbage bins of grocery stores or food stands that would otherwise have been thrown away. Freegans aim to spend little or no money purchasing food and other goods, not through financial need but to try to address issues of overconsumption and excess. REUTERS/BEN NELMS

But consumers and restaurants are also to blame, preparing large portions that result in leftovers that often go uneaten.

The NRDC said it is asking for the U.S. government to study losses in the food system and set goals for waste reduction.

"No matter how sustainably our food is farmed, if it's not being eaten, it is not a good use of resources," said Gunders.

"As a country, we're essentially tossing every other piece of food that crosses our path."

DANA GUNDERS

READER'S PHOTO



PHOTO: LISA COLLINS

Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

FOR MANITOBA FARMERS SINCE 1927

1666 Dublin Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0H1
Tel: 204-944-5767 Fax: 204-954-1422
www.manitobacooperator.ca

Member, Canadian Circulation Audit Board,
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PUBLISHER Bob Willcox
bob.willcox@fbcpublishing.com
204-944-5751

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR John Morriss
john.morriss@fbcpublishing.com
204-944-5754

EDITOR Laura Rance
laura@fbcpublishing.com
204-792-4382

MANAGING EDITOR Dave Bedard
daveb@fbcpublishing.com
204-944-5762

DIRECTOR OF SALES & CIRCULATION Lynda Tityk
lynda.tityk@fbcpublishing.com
204-944-5755

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Shawna Gibson
shawna@fbcpublishing.com
204-944-5763

NEWS STAFF Reporters

Allan Dawson
allan@fbcpublishing.com
204-435-2392

Shannon VanRaes
shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com
204-954-1413

Lorraine Stevenson
lorraine@fbcpublishing.com
204-745-3424

Daniel Winters
daniel.winters@fbcpublishing.com
204-720-8120

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Oat growers worried about the future of their breeding program

Agriculture Canada’s only oat-breeding program is heading to Brandon

By Lorraine Stevenson
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

Cutbacks and closures have oat growers nervously wondering where new varieties will come from. Within the next two years the Cereal Research Centre at the University of Manitoba will close, and all staff reassigned to the two Agriculture Canada and Agri-Food research centres in Morden and Brandon. The oats and small grains programs are destined for Brandon, the wheat-breeding program will go to Morden, and nearly one-third of support staff won't have their contracts renewed as of 2014. That's going to make it hard for Western Canada's only federal oat breeder, Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, to focus on developing the cultivars farmers depend on, said Bill Wilton, president of the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA). "We're down to one breeder in Western Canada employed by Ag Canada," he said, adding fewer support staff will mean more added responsibilities that could affect her ability to focus on oats. The oat industry wants a say about this because they fund this program through their consortium and they have written to federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz to express their concerns.



Oat growers are raising concerns about the future of their oat developer Jennifer Mitchell Fetch's program. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

"The deal was we'd have a full-time breeder," said Wilton. The changes come at a pivotal time for oats, which is fast losing acreage across Western Canada to crops that generate higher returns. More farmers are growing corn, soybeans and canola and won't be growing much oats if the price doesn't budge, said Wilton. "Everything in the market is up with the exception of our trusty old oats," he said, adding what's offered in forward

contracting prices for next fall delivery in the next couple of months are critical. Millers are genuinely concerned about shrinking supply, he said, but they have yet to send a market signal to do something about it. "If farmers can't see a better return from oats they will make a decision in the next 60 to 90 days... and they just will pencil out the oats," Wilton said. Not all news on the oat front is negative — a new Prairie-wide entity to fund oat

research and market development was launched this month. On Aug. 1, the Alberta Oat Growers Commission began collecting 50-cents-per-tonne levy on Alberta-grown oats marketed commercially and now joins with its POGA partners in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to work on initiatives benefiting the western Canadian oat industry. "We're delighted with that. We now truly represent the producers who grow 95 per cent of the oats in Canada,"

Wilton said. A Prairie-wide association was first proposed in 1998.

lorraine@fbcpublishing.com

"The deal was we'd have a full-time breeder."

BILL WILTON
President of Prairie Oat Growers Association

Grain and hog sectors square off over ethanol mandates

Pork producers should look to government supports

By Alex Binkley
CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR / OTTAWA

The Grain Growers of Canada says removing supports for ethanol to help out hog producers would be counterproductive. "How can you shut down a working industry for a year? It's not easy to find and train staff and if you force a shutdown where do they go?" executive director Richard Phillips said. "And at what average grain price do you try to restart them? \$7 corn? \$6 corn? \$5 corn?" he continued. "What price for feed would make pork happy?" While growers understand the difficulties facing livestock producers in the face of rising feed costs, he said they should look to government support programs such as business risk management and AgriStability for assistance rather than push for the suspension of ethanol mandates. The Canadian Pork Council issued a plea earlier this month for relief from high feed costs. "The current feed situation and lack of carry-over stock

from last year's crop supports the argument that it is necessary to reduce grain usage for ethanol and to consider the amounts of grain essential for feeding livestock that is used to feed people," chairman Jean Guy Vincent said in a statement. "Grain is by far the largest cost component of raising pigs and marketplace realities are such that pork producers cannot simply pass along added costs to buyers," Vincent added. "Margins become squeezed and producers need to either absorb heavy losses or, unfortunately, get out of business." While Western Canada is looking at robust grain crop, drought and searing summer temperatures have taken their toll on crops in Central Canada where corn production may be down by 10 to 20 per cent, according to various estimates. Barry Senft, CEO of Grain Farmers of Ontario, agreed that high prices for corn are causing challenges for hog producers. "This is why programs like AgriStability and the Risk Management Program in Ontario are vitally important."

The higher international grain prices will encourage farmers elsewhere to step up production, he added. For now, Ontario farmers hope the higher prices will compensate them for lower yields caused by the drought. Senft said government plans to chop \$430 million from the AgriStability program don't add up with the challenges facing the livestock sector. "The business risk management suite of programs is in place to offset the high risk farmers face competing in the world marketplace like the unforeseen impact on the livestock sector of a devastating drought in the United States. Now is not the time for a severe cut to AgriStability." In Canada, about three million tonnes are used for ethanol and just under one-third of that, about 900,000 tonnes, are returned as animal feed. Corn production in 2012 will likely remain between 10 million and 11 million tonnes this year making Canada's net corn crop usage for ethanol approximately 20 per cent.

Cargill expands Manitoba facility

Cargill is expanding capacity at its Elva facility in southwestern Manitoba to handle wheat, canola, barley and oats. The expansion will include increasing Elva's storage capac-

ity from 14,500 metric tonnes to 24,500 as well as increasing rail car handling capacity from 56 cars to 112. Construction is set to begin by the end of August 2012, with completion anticipated for harvest 2013. It will continue to handle farmer deliveries throughout construction.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Private system, public problem



John Morriss
Editorial Director

It's not as if there wasn't a warning about building Winnipeg in what may be the world's most foolish place for a major city, perhaps second only to New Orleans. "If, without due consideration, or regardless of the local experience which has been gained by many now living, we were to carry the railway across Red River anywhere in the district subject to inundation, we might any year find a dozen miles of the line submerged, and approaches swept away, and traffic stopped until the whole be restored."

So wrote Sir Sandford Fleming, engineer in charge of planning the route for the CPR. He favoured putting it through Selkirk, but influential businessmen who had already invested in Winnipeg were able to convince the government otherwise.

That is perhaps the largest, but by no means the only example of how politics and short-term thinking have prevailed over long-term thinking and common sense regarding settlement and water policy in Manitoba.

Writers for farm newspapers tackle the issue of water policy and drainage with some trepidation — we have learned that readers have strong views on the subject, and in fact are all experts on it. That is, when there is too much water on their land, they are experts in ways to send it somewhere else.

However, as this province has been progressively settled by Europeans, there has been evermore frequently someone living at "somewhere else," which is when politics enters the question.

In fact, this province's entire political structure was largely determined by the need to resolve questions of how water is moved from its natural course to one suiting the new immigrants — but never all of them at the same time.

We owe more insight into that, as well as that quote from Sir Sandford Fleming, to *Wet Prairie — People, Land and Water in Agricultural Manitoba*, a 2011 UBC Press book by Shannon Stunden Bower, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alberta.

The book traces the history of water-management policy in the province from the arrival of settlers. In perhaps the earliest example of what we now call "downloading," after being offered a piece of free farmland by the federal government, farmers said "Thanks, but how do I get a crop in when it's flooded every spring?"

The answer, of course, was that drainage is a provincial responsibility. Stunden Bower quotes former deputy minister of Public Works M.A. Lyons writing in the 1940s about settlement around Lake Manitoba. "Almost immediately... the provincial government was besieged with requests for drainage." Lyons thought dominion land settlement policy had "left the provincial government holding the bag."

Nonetheless, the province got to work, passing the Drainage Act in 1880, undertaking to drain some of the larger marshes. It soon learned that drainage does not make everyone happy all of the time. Stunden Bower quotes letters from farmers in 1886 and 1887 complaining about ditches on their property.

Solution? Again, more of what we today call downloading. The province created rural municipalities, another level of government to which it could throw the hot potato. However, it soon became apparent that water flow does not respect municipal boundaries, and that one municipality's views of drainage may not match its neighbour's, especially when it's downstream.

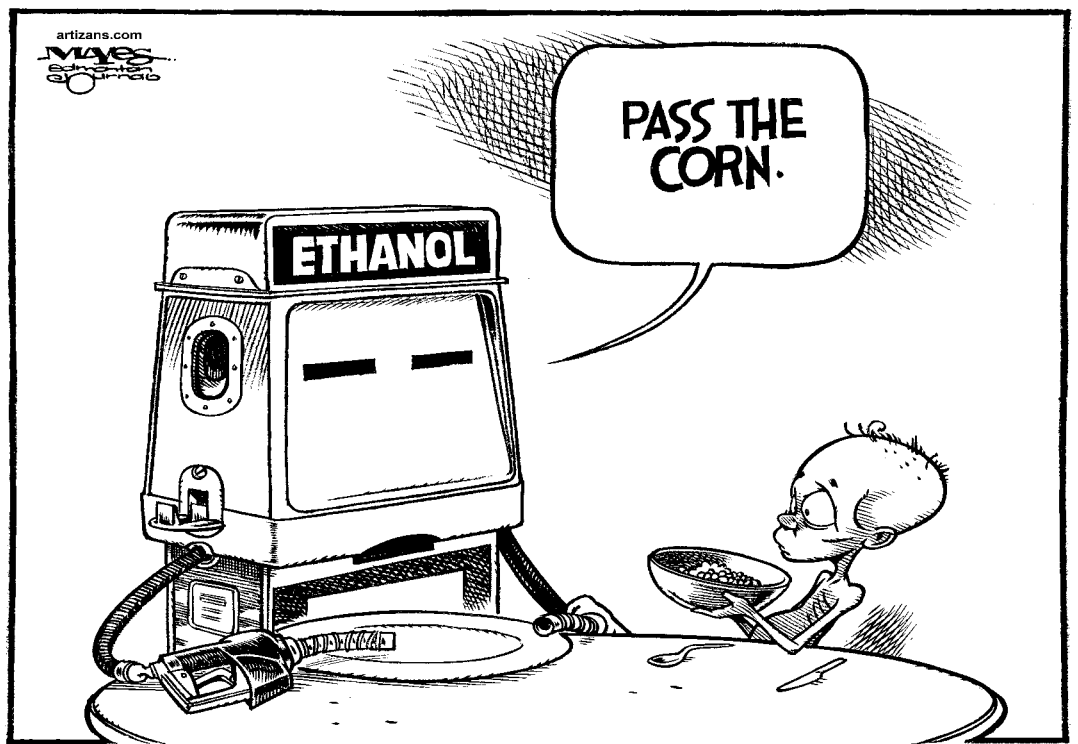
Accordingly, in 1895 the province passed the Land Drainage Act, which provided for creation of drainage districts which better reflected water flow. This should have contributed to a more organized system, but there were accusations that decisions were subject to political patronage, which was endemic at that time.

That led to a Manitoba Drainage Commission, which reported in 1921, but its recommendations did not quell disputes between "highlanders" and "lowlanders," the latter who were being frustrated by the drainage projects of the former. Their farms had been "made a dumping ground for all the water from a large area," as one Red River Valley farmer wrote in 1922. On the other hand highlanders complained about having to share the tax burden of paying for drainage in lowland areas.

Stunden Bower quotes one person testifying before the Legislative Committee on Drainage in the early 1920s, calling drainage "one of the most complicated and difficult problems in the country or the world since the beginning of time." Almost 100 years later, it's hard to argue with that statement.

Recognizing that almost everyone out there is already an "expert" on drainage, they might still do well to pick up a copy of *Wet Prairie* and its analysis of the perpetual conflict in Manitoba. That's a system in which land is private property, but the water that flows to or from it is a public benefit — or a public problem — depending on the year or the season.

john.morriss@fbcpublishing.com



Horse protesters seek to deceive

By Will Verboven

Calgary recently saw a ragtag group protesting the slaughter of horses. They gathered under a billboard which featured the slogan, "Stop Slaughtering Us" with a picture of two pensive-looking horses. To passersby, it was probably bewildering. But it is effective. Slaughter is one of those hot-button buzzwords that gets immediate attention.

The protesters would seem to be mostly American-influenced through an organization called Angel Acres. Even the horse picture was American, as the same billboard has been seen in the U.S.

The American anti-slaughter lobby had won a victory in shutting down the horse-processing business in the U.S. But what they had not figured was that American horses would then be exported to Canada for slaughter. The lobby groups then set up shop in Canada through surrogate groups to influence gullible politicians, close down Canadian plants, or at the least prevent the importation of American horses for slaughter. To date they have not been successful.

One surefire way to get media attention is to state that food is unsafe and contaminated, so the protesters claimed that horse meat is

tainted with a drug called phenylbutazone. CFIA testing shows 99 per cent negative for the drug. The reality is the horse meat business in Canada is a thriving industry that is professionally run, and closely monitored and inspected by the CFIA.

Besides, almost 99 per cent of Canadian horse meat is exported under even stricter European and Japanese health and slaughter protocols. So for Canadian citizens the industry is essentially out of sight and out of mind.

But that reality doesn't stop lobby groups. So why not scare gullible consumers and media with bogus allegations? It's a proven PR tactic used by animal rights groups.

To attract media attention, the protesters also trotted out Alex Atamanenko, an NDP MP from B.C. He is the sponsor of Bill C-322 which aims to stop the importation of slaughter horses into Canada. One suspects his participation was more an opportunistic political stunt to appear trendy and politically correct to naive urban and eastern voters. Even better from an NDP political strategy; they get to again bash at Alberta where the horse-processing business is centred. As deceptive as it all may be, it's all part of lobbying tactics and the end justifies the means.

Will Verboven is editor of *Alberta Farmer Express*.

OUR HISTORY: September 5, 1991



Our Sept. 5, 1991 issue was during the time of turmoil in the Soviet Union, which was soon to collapse. The Soviets had consistently been the world's largest grain buyer for several years, and the harvest that year was 40 million tonnes lower than in 1990. The G-7 countries pledged emergency food aid for the crumbling state, and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Madigan said he would make whatever adjustments needed to keep the Soviets as a customer.

The uncertainty was contributing to poor grain prices, and the House of Commons Agriculture Committee threw all-party support behind farm leaders' pleas for federal aid, with a figure of \$1.7 billion speculated as the sum needed.

Meanwhile, an El Niño appeared to be in prospect, and weather forecasts were disrupted due to widespread volcanic ash in the atmosphere following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

Malting barley quality was reported as the poorest in years, with thin kernels caused by disease and lack of moisture, the provincial government had added its veterinary drug centre to its list of privatized agricultural services, and horse breeders expressed concern over cancellation of the provincial harness racing season.

If you were looking for good news, perhaps it was an ad offering what was seen as favourable financing terms on a Ford truck — 6.9 per cent over 48 months.

COMMENT/FEEDBACK

Open letter to Greg Selinger from beef producers

Provincial assistance is needed on multiple fronts if the province’s beef herd is to be maintained

It has been over a year since the flood of 2011. At that time, Manitobans were bombarded by flood news every day. There was a sense of solidarity, with everyone in the province standing shoulder to shoulder to fight against the latest punch from Mother Nature.

Where are we a year later? Do we still have the sense of solidarity with the people whose land and houses were sacrificed for the greater good? Many ranchers around our great lakes and in the Assiniboine Valley would answer with a resounding “no.”

Many producers in Manitoba are still waiting for compensation promised as a result of flooding in the spring of 2011. This is especially true (but not limited to) compensation applied for under the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).

A tour of the pastures and hayfields around Lake Manitoba is akin to visiting an alien landscape. Thousands of acres are still under water. Land recently uncovered is either bare or growing only bulrushes. Two years ago, this land was productive and supporting families, local communities and jobs in our larger urban centres.

Many ranchers have, once again, moved their cattle away to summer pasture that is not covered by water or simply black mudflats.

Producers downstream from the Shellmouth Dam have once again faced excessive flooding due to the unplanned and unscheduled release of water. Crops, hay, pasture and infrastructure have been destroyed. The unpre-

dictability of flooding in the Assiniboine Valley is not only significantly damaging their income this year, but it is making it impossible for these producers to manage their businesses.

Manitoba Beef Producers requests political leadership from you on these three issues:

• Delivery of promised assistance from damage in 2011:

There are still far too many producers who have received little or no compensation. There are examples of producers who have had to submit applications at least three times and producers who have had multiple assessments, but they are still waiting.

On behalf of all of the flood-affected producers, MBP is requesting your personal intervention to ensure that these funds flow immediately. We request an update from the province on the measures that will be taken to expedite the flow of compensation that is mired in “the system.”

• Ongoing assistance for areas flooded in spring of 2011:

Producers need assurances that there will be forage available to replace the crop that would have been grown on inundated acres. These measures are needed to help ensure Manitoba keeps its cattle herd.

Manitoba Beef Producers is requesting two specific measures:

- a) The announcement of a program similar to the shortfall program instituted in 2011. The program will provide assistance to producers with shortfalls in the forage production required to maintain their livestock over

Time is of the essence... Severe drought in the U.S. is driving up demand for hay south of the border. High prices are encouraging the flow of forage out of Manitoba.

the 2012-13 pasture and winter periods. and ;

- b) Transportation assistance This would assist Manitoba livestock producers experiencing extraordinary transportation costs due to forage shortages caused by extreme moisture conditions that began in the spring of 2011.

The program will provide assistance based on a calculated need to transport feed to livestock or livestock to feed for the distance greater than normally experienced due to forage shortages caused by excess moisture.

Time is of the essence for the announcement of these programs for land surrounding our great lakes. Severe drought in the U.S. is driving up demand for hay south of the border. High prices are encouraging the flow of forage out of Manitoba. There will be limited forage left available for flood victims to purchase if the province delays an announcement of assistance.

For this reason, Manitoba Beef Producers is requesting an announcement of forage and



The land in some parts of Manitoba hasn’t recovered from last year’s flooding. PHOTO: ROSS MCBRIDE

transportation assistance before the end of August 2012.

• Assistance for flooded producers in the Assiniboine Valley:

Producers in the Assiniboine Valley have no control over the increasingly frequent flooding caused by the release of water from the Shellmouth Dam. This issue is becoming chronic, with significant losses to producers and the Manitoba economy.

In the short term, these producers require immediate processing of their applications for assistance from EMO. Significant infrastructure has been destroyed and compensation should be forthcoming — but it is not.

Manitoba Beef Producers requests that the province instruct Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation to make assessments

on the basis of spot losses in areas flooded by the Assiniboine River.

Manitoba Beef Producers requests that the “needs based” forage shortfall and transportation assistance developed for areas around Lake Manitoba be made available to producers in the Assiniboine Valley.

Manitoba Beef Producers also requests that, beginning in 2013, the Manitoba government work with other jurisdictions to publish an operating plan for the Shellmouth Dam. This plan would include planned and published operating levels for the Shellmouth Reservoir and the Assiniboine River. This plan would also estimate when water might be released from the structure based on flood and water flow forecasts.

*Ray Armbruster
President, Manitoba Beef Producers*

Could Chinese purchases push beans past the teens?

International prices are high, but Chinese domestic prices are higher

By Gavin Maguire, Reuters

The July-September quarter is traditionally a soft period for U.S. soybean exports as the world’s top buyers of the oilseed typically divert their buying interest to South American suppliers while the U.S. crop rounds out the growing season.

But the shortage of supplies in Brazil and Argentina following this year’s drought in that region has forced the world’s top buyer China to start the current quarter with a six-year-high purchase of U.S. soybeans for the month of July and show continued solid demand so far in August.

Record-high domestic soy prices suggest China may have further import buying to do in the weeks ahead, and should that buying occur amid fresh fears of potential U.S. crop shortages, could prove enough to push U.S. soy prices beyond the \$20-per-bushel mark.

Scraping the barrel

The primary factor underpinning the soybean price in recent months has been the fact that supplies of the crop have dwindled sharply following steep production losses in both South America and the U.S. — the top exporting regions of the crop — just as global consumption of soybeans hit record heights.

Large end-users such as China were

somewhat forewarned of and prepared for the prevailing supply tightness after having tracked the drought-hit South American growing season carefully throughout late 2011 and into 2012.

But with the subsequent U.S. crop also getting hit by crop-threatening growing conditions, soybean buyers are starting to grow concerned about the diminishing reserves of the crop.

So far China and other major importers have not started to deviate too much from normal purchasing patterns in terms of export market activity, as top suppliers Brazil and Argentina theoretically remain “open for business.”

Indeed, China’s total soybean imports for the month of July were at their highest level since June of 2010 to confirm that supplies were indeed still available for those willing to pay the prevailing price.

However, there have been some subtle adjustments in China’s soy-purchasing patterns that will be worth closer inspection in the weeks ahead after total soy imports from South America fell short of previous highs for the month of July just as imports from the U.S. hit a multi-year high for that month.

Indeed, Chinese imports from the U.S. in July were more than 10 times larger than for the same period in both 2011 and 2010, revealing that Chinese purchasers were forced to break with recent

traditions in order to secure the desired amount of soy coverage last month.

And given that anecdotal evidence suggests South American soy supplies have declined further in recent weeks on additional Chinese purchases and domestic use, a further uptick in Chinese buying from the U.S. looks likely in the weeks ahead.

Coming to America

Indeed, there is evidence that Chinese traders have already picked up the pace of purchases from the U.S. in recent weeks, and are closing in on the record-setting levels of 2011 over the final weeks of the 2011-12 marketing season.

It will be several more weeks before the official commodity import tallies for the month of August are known, but in the interim the usual weekly crop export sales reports will be closely followed for signs of continued strength in Chinese demand.

Domestic strife

Some commodity market analysts are projecting that Chinese soy purchases from the U.S. and elsewhere are bound to slow over the coming weeks in response to prevailing high global prices.

But as high as the export price tags may be from origins such as Argentina, Brazil and the U.S., they remain below the domestic price of soybeans for many

users within China, often by more than \$100 per tonne.

And these high domestic prices prevail despite a recent record-large sale of Chinese government soybean reserves to domestic soy processors. The reserve program is part of an initiative designed to fend off inflation in food and feed staples, and is centred on the notion that state-level traders go to the export market to acquire and build inventories of key consumer and industrial crops which can then be sold into the domestic arena in order to dampen interior price rises of those commodities.

But it is clear from the inexorable climb in interior soy prices that such sales are so far having only a negligible effect at best.

Further, the fact that the recent record weekly sale of more than 400,000 tonnes has already been made ensures that Chinese traders will now have to replenish those reserves in addition to conducting their usual hand-to-mouth purchasing procedures.

As a result, additional strong Chinese interest in U.S soybean supplies looks likely in the weeks ahead, and could well prove to be the catalyst that fuels U.S. soy prices deeper into uncharted territory and potentially beyond the \$20 mark.

Gavin Maguire is a Reuters market analyst. The views expressed are his own.

FROM PAGE ONE

LAMB CO-OP Continued from page 1

as kebabs, meatballs, sausages and other processed items ready for stocking on retail shelves both in Canada and abroad.

Producer members must pay a \$500 fee and a one-time \$30 fee for each lamb they intend to ship. A minimum commitment of 25 lambs per producer is required, and the maximum allowed is a number equal to 25 per cent of their ewe flock.

In exchange, the co-op will arrange pickup of their lambs from collection points in each province and pay a five-cent premium per pound over the Ontario auction price. After three years, dividends will start flowing back to producers.

“We’re going to take the Cookstown, Brussels and Kitchener price average by weight and add five cents per pound to make the price that producers in Western Canada will get paid,” said Ackerman.

Carcass data feedback
Processing will be contracted at two federally inspected facilities, one in Alberta and Abingdon Meat Processors in Hamilton, Ontario.

High-tech Viewtrak grading equipment worth \$1.3 million, similar to that used by the pork and beef industry, will be used at the plants to provide web-based feedback on the quality of each lamb slaughtered. The Alberta government has agreed to cover the cost of developing a grading index algorithm that will work on sheep carcasses.

“Producers will be able to log on and see their lambs being graded for the first time ever in the world,” he said, adding that the data will help them select optimal breeding stock.

Traceability throughout the food chain will be in place, with each carcass DNA swabbed.

“If there’s a recall, I can tell exactly which lamb and which farm that meatball came from,” he said.

Saskatoon head office
The co-operative’s head office is based in Saskatoon, and the marketing arm in Guelph, Ont. It will own “no bricks and mortar,” which Ackerman describes as the “kiss of death” for any business venture. Instead, all functions, from processing, fabrication, ware-

housing, distribution, transportation, finance to legal, will be outsourced.

“There’s one thing that farmers agree on: Do not allow farmers to run the business,” said Ackerman, adding that the success of the Organic Meadow co-op model shows what can happen when farmers work with a separate entity staffed by professional managers.

Even though the co-operative’s goal is to grow the market in Canada for lamb by providing producers with incentives to expand, there has been interest from importers from China, Singapore, Mexico and even the U.K., who seek the grain-finished “taste profile” of Canadian lamb.

Brian Greaves, a sheep producer from Miniota, has already signed up. He’s impressed by the business model, the grading system, marketing strategy and the spread out structure that seeks to diversify the source of lambs to reduce risk.

“To me it sounds like a good deal,” he said. “But, like anything, it costs money to invest in it.”

daniel.winters@fbcpublishing.com



Terry Ackerman says the goal is to recruit at least 300 members initially, and 650 within two years. PHOTO: DANIEL WINTERS

Canadian Lamb Producers Cooperative

- Federally Incorporated Cooperative
- National Premium Pricing
- Premium on Quality
- Dividends Based on Participation
- Guaranteed Purchase of Members' Lambs
- Marketing Services

Marketing Company

NEWS

Beans officially a “Good Source of Protein”

STAFF / Pulse Canada says new data adopted by Health Canada means food manufacturers can now include statements like “Good Source of Protein” on canned and dried pulses (peas, beans, lentils and chickpeas).

Health Canada recently approved Pulse Canada’s submission to adopt new protein efficiency ratio (PER) data for pulses. PER values are used to determine the protein rating which is based on a 250-ml serving, Health Canada’s reasonable daily intake (RDI) for pulses.

Previously only cooked chickpeas (a 250-ml serving) could make a claim for “Good Source of Protein,” based on existing PER values. Research completed in 2010-11 shows that additional pulses may now be eligible for protein content claims.

“The nutritional value of protein is based on both quantity and quality. These newly adopted PER values will enable the industry to highlight the protein in pulses, creating a new marketing opportunity,” Tanya Der, Pulse Canada’s manager of food innovation and marketing said in a release.

WEANLINGS Continued from page 1

on the farm Aug. 24, a provincial spokeswoman said.

“The initial inspection found approximately 1,300 piglets in severe distress, and the piglets were humanely euthanized to avoid further pain and suffering,” she said. “An investigation under the Animal Care Act was immediately initiated.

“Specifics about the investigation, including living conditions of the piglets, can’t be disclosed at this time since this matter is under investigation,” she said.

An anonymous source said the facility under investigation is owned by Berg@34 Pork Ltd. of Austin.

A representative at Rothsay Manitoba division told the *Manitoba Co-operator* the company received a call from the farm Aug. 24, requesting a pickup for 450, 20-pound weanlings and 1,100, 10- to 15-pound weanlings.

“It was a little bit suspicious to us,” said the spokesperson, who said the caller would not disclose how the pigs died.

There was no truck available to do the pickup, and the farmer did not request a later pickup. “I’m assuming he may be composting them,” the Rothsay official said.

RCMP spokeswoman Line Karpish confirmed police officers were involved with an intervention at the request of the CVO, but referred further questions to the province.

Calls to the phone number at the site, and to the listed owner Menno Bergen, were not answered. The yard site east of Austin appeared deserted except for a dog. A collection bin located on site was filled with dead hogs.

Andrew Dickson, general manager of the Manitoba Pork Council said the organization became aware of a situation



Operators of a hog operation near Austin are under investigation after hundreds of young pigs found in a state of severe distress were euthanized. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

“These situations are very difficult for people to handle.”

ANDREW DICKSON
Manitoba Pork Council

and referred it to the Chief Vet’s Office.

“An issue was brought to our attention, and we have talked to the provincial veterinary officer,” he said. “They are now dealing with the matter.”

Commenting generally, Dickson said the RCMP and province may work together on issues of animal welfare where a complaint has been filed, depending on the nature of the complaint being made.

Dickson said in the event a hog producer is unable to provide for their animals, the usual procedure is to arrange for another farmer to take them in and feed them until they can be marketed.

“And that has happened a



Dead pigs overflow a container at the site. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

number of times this summer because prices on weanlings dropped to almost nothing in July and August,” said Dickson.

He said cases of animal neglect are rare in Manitoba hog production, and that resorting to euthanasia during a market downturn is an extreme and unusual response.

“It’s very uncomfortable for us, because our producers are in the business of producing baby pigs in a healthy way,” said Dickson.

“These situations are very difficult for people to handle.”

The provincial spokeswoman said under recent changes to the Animal Care Act designed to provide stronger protection for animals, penalties included banning those convicted under the act from owning or caring for animals in the future. “The bottom line is, when people treat animals poorly, we need strong laws in place to ensure they’re held responsible for their actions,” she said.

Spinning straw into paper

Winnipeg-based company hopes to grow the province's rural economy and save trees along the way

By Shannon VanRaes
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

Manitoba farmers could see a lucrative new market for straw emerge, as the province moves closer to becoming the site of North America's first pulp and paper mill using straw.

Prairie Pulp & Paper Inc. launched a new printer paper containing 80 per cent straw this summer, and if the product is a hit with consumers, the company will build a paper mill in rural Manitoba, said president Jeff Golfman.

"It would be a whole new value chain... a way to support our farmers and stop stubble burning," he said.

The \$500-million venture would employ as many as 300 people, producing 215,000 tonnes of paper each year, Golfman said.

It would also need straw — between 300,000 and 400,000 tonnes each year, requiring input from an estimated 400 to 500 farmers.

"It would mean a huge amount of cash for farmers in Manitoba," he said. "Right now straw doesn't go for very much, maybe pennies on the dollar, most of it is tilled or burned."

Exactly how much farmers

would be paid for their straw
remains to be determined.

So does whether or not the state-of-the-art facility moves ahead and when. Prairie Pulp & Paper's next move depends on the public's reception of the straw-based product, sold under the name Step Forward Paper.

Golfman said it would take a paper “connoisseur” to notice the difference between the straw-based paper and one made using primarily wood fibre, adding the straw-based product has an advantage over its wood-based competitors.

"There's less dust," said Golfman.

That means printers stay cleaner and require less maintenance, he noted. Step Forward Paper also caused far fewer paper jams than conventional paper during product trials.

“Paper made from leftover straw produces high quality

and performance that compares with other copy and printer papers," said Pete Gibel, a vice-president with Staples Canada, the exclusive Canadian retailer of the product.

"It's an easy and cost-effective way for consumers and small businesses to conserve our world's forests without sacrificing quality," he said.

Retailing at \$6.99 for a 500-sheet package, the president said the paper is priced on par with other environmentally friendly stationery products.

But for Gofman, who developed Winnipeg's blue box program 22 years ago, the development of straw-based paper is about marrying environmentalism with sound and sustainable business practices, while supporting rural economies.

"These things can work together," he said.

Fourteen years in the mak-

ing, Step Forward Paper is currently being manufactured in India, but the company hopes to assess whether there is enough consumer support to build a plant in Canada within the next year or so.

The next phase of production would also move to paper manufactured with a 100 per cent straw content. Currently, 20 per cent of Step Forward Paper is made from Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood fibre.

Other Manitoba companies have also turned to agricultural byproducts in an attempt to protect old growth forests.

Schweitzer-Maudit's plant outside of Carman is the largest flax fibre-processing plant in North America. The fibre it produces is used to make paper for cigarettes and religious texts.



Step Forward Paper is made with 80 per cent straw, and is sold at Staples Canada.

"Right now straw doesn't go for very much, maybe pennies on the dollar, most of it is tilled or burnt."

JEFF GOLFMAN

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com

NEWS

Alberta smells a rat as rare infestation spotted

CALGARY / REUTERS / Alberta is going all out to rid itself of an infestation of the vermin discovered in a landfill.

Sixty Norway rats have been killed so far in a garbage dump outside Medicine Hat in the province's southeastern corner, and officials are taking steps to eradicate the rest of the colony.

"We've got them isolated in a specific area within the dump and we have the dump also contained," said Vaughn Christensen, the province's rat control chief. "And then... for a number of miles surrounding the dump we have an active baiting program."

There are occasional rat sightings in Alberta, which has billed itself as being rat free for more than seven decades, but rarely of this size.

"If we recover 60 rats above ground, then it's logical to assume, because they (live) primarily underground, there's more there," said Christensen. "But I think we're talking hundreds, not thousands."

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Researchers look to composting to improve manure as fertilizer

The goal is to make hog manure less bulky, easier to handle, cheaper to transport, and improve the consistency of its nutrient package

By Gord Gilmour
FBC STAFF

It's a valuable nutrient source — but the problem is pig manure comes in a terrible package for enriching soil.

Hog manure is bulky, hard to handle, enormously costly to transport, and its quality varies widely from load to load, University of Manitoba soil science professor, Mario Tenuta said at a recent soil and manure management field clinic at the U of M's Glenlea Research Station.

"Hog manure is notoriously variable," Tenuta said at the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives event recently.

These realities, combined with regulations that now require spreading to be done on the basis of phosphorus content rather than nitrogen levels, presents a major challenge for Manitoba hog producers. Unless a stable product that is easier to handle, cheaper to transport and has more reliable nutrient levels is found, producers risk running out of land to spread manure on — and that could determine just how viable the industry is in the future.

But even a cursory examination of composting systems shows it can address many of those concerns, said Tenuta.

When properly managed, composting reduces the overall volume of material, kills weed seeds and pathogens, eliminates odour during field application, and stabilizes nutrients so they won't gas off, wash away or leach into groundwater. It also produces a product that is much easier to transport and

may even have market potential.

But the devil is in the details, said graduate student Jolene Rutter, who is conducting research with Tenuta on manure management.

It's critical to create the right conditions for the small micro-organisms that make composting happen, she said.

"It's the work of these micro-organisms, and you've got to keep them happy," she said.

The first step is ensuring they have the right balance of nutrients, and a source of carbon is particularly important. Too much slows down composting, but too little doesn't allow the process to get underway. In the case of hog manure, carbon always has to be added.

"I've been using sawdust, a combination of sawdust and wood chips, and wheat straw," Rutter said.

The appropriate carbon-to-nitrogen ratio appears to be somewhere between 20:1 and 40:1, she said. This is tricky because nutrient levels vary from batch to batch, Tenuta said.

"You're going to have to do some pencil work to figure out volumes," he said.

Another critical variable is moisture. Too little and micro-organism activity can cease in the compost pile. Too much and oxygen can't get to the organism, and something called anaerobic digestion begins to occur, rather than the aerobic digestion of composting.

"Anaerobic decomposition is very smelly," Rutter said. "Temperatures decrease and the rate of decomposition slows."

Getting the moisture level right is a matter of experience, and the best test is actually the simplest — picking up a handful and giving it a squeeze. Too little moisture will result in a dry, grainy mix while too much will result in a torrent of water running from your hand. Just the right level is going to feel like a sponge that's been wetted and had most of the moisture wrung from it — it will produce just a small dribble of free moisture.

So is composting too labour and management intensive for the average farm?

No, says Tenuta.

"Everyone can compost — it's a matter of learning how," he said. "Of course, for larger, commercial operations it will probably be like anything else and custom services will develop."



University of Manitoba soil science professor, Mario Tenuta and graduate student Jolene Rutter show various compost methods. PHOTO: GORD GILMOUR

STILL ON THE JOB



Not every piece of equipment in the field is new. PHOTO: LISA NEWTON

NEWS

Kenya land clashes kill 48

MOMBASA, KENYA / REUTERS / Attackers armed with machetes, bows and arrows and spears killed at least 48 villagers and set houses ablaze in Kenya's coastal region overnight in an attack over land and water, police said Aug. 22.

"They were armed with crude weapons: machetes, bows and arrows and spears. Some had guns. As a result we have lost 31 women, 11 children and six men, all totalling to 48. Sixty cattle were also killed," Robert Kitur, Coast deputy police chief told Reuters by telephone.

Cattle rustling and clashes over grazing and farming land and water are relatively common among pastoralist communities in the arid patches of east Africa and often escalate into revenge attacks.

USDA supports energy crop facility

Chemical and biofuels engineering company Chemtex has announced a partnership with enzyme manufacturer Novozymes and the United States Department of Agriculture to build a \$99-million energy crop facility in North Carolina.

The USDA is providing a loan guarantee of \$3.9 million under its Biomass Crop Assistance Program to support the establishment of more than 4,000 acres of miscanthus and switchgrass in North Carolina. The feedstock will be part of the biomass supply for the facility, which is planned to produce 20 million gallons of ethanol a year.

Novozymes, the world's largest manufacturer of enzymes, says the plant will use the same technology it is providing to a cellulosic ethanol plant in Italy due to open this year, and to three more planned for Brazil.

The North Carolina plant is slated to open in 2014.

FESTIVALS

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

- Aug. 31-Sept. 1:** Pembina Threshermen's Reunion Days, Winkler. For more info call 204-325-7497 or email info@threshermuseum.com.
- Sept. 2:** Manitoba Great Western Harness Racing, 1:30 p.m. post time, Miami. Call 204-435-2288 or email janmoody@mymts.net.
- Sept. 7-9:** Double B Rodeo and Fair, Beausejour. Call 204-205-0723 or email doublebrodeo@highspeed-crow.ca.
- Sept. 14-16:** Harvest Moon Festival, Clearwater. Visit <http://hmf-temp.nostripes.com>.

- Sept. 15-16:** Russell High School Rodeo. Call 204-773-4743 or email lwitty@mts.net.
- Sept. 22-23:** Brokenhead Ag High School Rodeo. Call 204-755-2924 or email doublebrodeo@highspeed-crow.ca.
- Oct. 6:** Roland Pumpkin Fair. Call 204-343-2314 or email artccam@gmail.com.
- Nov. 1-4:** Manitoba Livestock Expo, Brandon. For more info call 204-726-3590 or visit brandonfairs.com.

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Rain arrives too late for ailing Black Sea crops

Lower yields in Siberia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan

By Polina Devitt and Pavel Polityuk
MOSCOW/KIEV/REUTERS

Falling yields are painting an even bleaker outcome than anticipated for Russia's wheat crop, while longed-for rainfall in Ukraine and Kazakhstan won't rescue drought-hit harvests across the Black Sea area, forecasters and analysts said last Thursday.

Declining yields in Siberia and the Urals region prompted Moscow-based analyst group SovEcon to cut its Russian wheat crop forecast to 39 million tonnes from 39 million to 41 million tonnes.

"With a sharp decline in the contributions from Siberia and the Urals, estimates for the Russian wheat harvest are falling significantly — lower, perhaps, than even the most conservative market

expectations," SovEcon said in a note.

Wheat yields in Siberia and the Urals have fallen below one tonne per hectare (15 bushels per acre). Citing ministry data, SovEcon pinpointed yields in Chelyabinsk region at 0.6 tonnes per hectare and in Omsk region at 0.8 tonnes per hectare.

The Federal Hydrometeorological Centre predicted frost in parts of Siberia last week, and said the possibility of wildfires remained very high in the Novosibirsk and Altai regions, despite forecast rain.

Sharply reduced crop forecasts from Russia — which harvested 94 million tonnes of grain last year, including 56.2 million tonnes of wheat — have given rise to concerns the country might once again ban exports, helping drive global prices higher.

Russia banned grain exports for almost a year after a severe drought two years ago, the catalyst for a surge in grain prices and related political instability in the import-dependent Middle East and North Africa regions.

Russian Agriculture Minister Nikolai Fyodorov earlier ruled out such a ban, and reiterated his position in an interview with state TV channel Rossiya 24.

"We are categorically against any measures which would destroy the market," he said. "We need to make very cautious moves."

Ukraine and Kazakhstan

Drought during the winter sowing campaign and severe frosts in January and February hit winter grain yields in Ukraine, which fell to an average of 2.60 tonnes per hectare

"We are categorically against any measures which would destroy the market."

NIKOLAI FYODOROV
Russian agriculture minister

(39 bu./ac.) in 2012 from 3.06 tonnes per hectare (46 bu./ac.) last year.

Ukraine, targeting a 2012 grain crop of 45 million tonnes, has harvested its early grains, mostly wheat and barley.

Its wheat harvest fell to 16.3 million tonnes from 22.3 million tonnes in 2011, while the barley harvest fell to 7.2 million tonnes this year from 9.1 million tonnes.

Hot weather in July could also have damaged output of late grains, analysts said, with recent rainfall and a drop in temperature unlikely to improve crop conditions significantly.

Kazakhstan's Agriculture Ministry forecasts a 2012 grain crop of 13 million tonnes, less than half of last year's post-Soviet record 27 million tonnes.

The ministry said that Kazakhstan had harvested grain from 4.29 million hectares, or nearly 28 per cent of the sown area, as of Aug. 22. The country had threshed 3.1 million tonnes, with yields so far averaging only 0.73 tonnes per hectare.

WHAT'S UP

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

- Sept. 1:** Dauphin Agricultural Club Threshing Day — harvesting the old-fashioned way, vintage machinery displays. Five miles north of Dauphin on #20 highway. Info: 638-7632 or 638-7515.
- Sept. 29-30:** Manitoba Plowing Association provincial match, two miles west of Kemnay, 1.5 miles north of Highway 1. For more info email mb.plowing@hotmail.ca or call 204-534-6451.
- Oct. 4-6:** Canadian Plowing Championships, two miles west of Kemnay, 1.5 miles north of Highway 1. For more info email mb.plowing@hotmail.ca or call 204-534-6451.
- Oct. 17-18:** Canadian Swine Health Forum, location TBA, Winnipeg. For more info visit www.swinehealth.ca.
- Oct. 23-24:** International Wolf and Carnivore Conference, Riverlodge Place, Thompson. For more info visit www.thompsonspiritway.ca.
- Oct. 30:** Harvest Gala fundraiser benefiting Red River Exhibition Association scholarships and Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. For tickets call 204-888-6990.
- Oct. 30:** Manitoba Turkey Producers semi-annual meeting, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info call 204-489-4635.
- Nov. 2-3:** Organic Connections conference and trade show, Conexus Arts Centre, 200 Lakeshore Dr., Regina. For more info call 306-543-8732 or email info@organicconnections.ca.
- Nov. 7:** Manitoba Pork Council fall producer meeting, location and time TBA, Portage la Prairie.
- Nov. 8:** Manitoba Pork Council fall producer meeting, location and time TBA, Niverville.
- Nov. 15:** Manitoba Turkey Producers annual turkey management and health seminar, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info call 204-489-4635.

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LIVESTOCK MARKETS

EXCHANGES:
AUGUST 24 2012

\$1 Cdn: \$ 1.008 U.S.
\$1 U.S: \$0.9920 Cdn.

Cattle Prices				
(Friday to Thursday)		Winnipeg	August 24, 2012	
SLAUGHTER CATTLE				
Steers & Heifers		95.00 - 106.00		
D1, 2 Cows		70.00 - 75.00		
D3 Cows		64.00 - 75.00		
Bulls		80.00 - 88.25		
FEEDER CATTLE (Price ranges for feeders refer to top-quality animals only)				
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	110.00 - 126.00		
	(801-900 lbs.)	120.00 - 133.00		
	(701-800 lbs.)	120.00 - 140.00		
	(601-700 lbs.)	125.00 - 145.00		
	(501-600 lbs.)	130.00 - 150.00		
	(401-500 lbs.)	135.00 - 157.00		
Heifers	(901+ lbs.)	95.00 - 114.00		
	(801-900 lbs.)	100.00 - 118.00		
	(701-800 lbs.)	105.00 - 125.00		
	(601-700 lbs.)	110.00 - 133.00		
	(501-600 lbs.)	115.00 - 135.00		
	(401-500 lbs.)	115.00 - 135.00		
SLAUGHTER CATTLE		(\$/cwt)	Alberta South	Ontario
Grade A Steers		(1,000+ lbs.)	\$ 110.00 - 111.00	\$ 105.25 - 117.95
Grade A Heifers		(850+ lbs.)	109.60 - 112.25	102.02 - 116.53
D1, 2 Cows			73.00 - 85.00	56.67 - 75.24
D3 Cows			65.00 - 76.00	56.67 - 75.24
Bulls			92.75 - 92.75	75.52 - 87.32
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	\$	118.00 - 129.00	\$ 120.30 - 140.09
	(801-900 lbs.)		120.00 - 138.00	123.19 - 140.03
	(701-800 lbs.)		128.00 - 144.00	108.26 - 137.86
	(601-700 lbs.)		135.00 - 149.00	123.64 - 152.82
	(501-600 lbs.)		140.00 - 155.00	123.44 - 159.28
	(401-500 lbs.)		145.00 - 163.00	130.10 - 168.62
Heifers	(901+ lbs.)	\$	—	\$ 109.26 - 117.77
	(801-900 lbs.)		115.00 - 125.00	119.43 - 128.79
	(701-800 lbs.)		120.00 - 134.00	116.21 - 132.79
	(601-700 lbs.)		128.00 - 139.00	119.13 - 134.59
	(501-600 lbs.)		—	115.31 - 139.75
	(401-500 lbs.)		—	122.38 - 146.81

Futures (August 24, 2012) in U.S.					
Fed Cattle	Close	Change	Feeder Cattle	Close	Change
August 2012	120.32	-0.53	August 2012	141.27	0.95
October 2012	124.92	-0.63	September 2012	143.47	0.60
December 2012	128.40	0.33	October 2012	144.82	0.70
February 2013	132.25	0.80	November 2012	145.92	0.65
April 2013	136.05	0.95	January 2013	148.40	0.90
June 2013	133.05	1.18	March 2013	151.35	0.85

Cattle Slaughter			Cattle Grades (Canada)		
	Week Ending August 18, 2012	Previous Year		Week Ending August 18, 2012	Previous Year
Canada	54,217	57,751	Prime	343	245
East	12,057	14,875	AAA	22,621	22,997
West	42,160	42,876	AA	23,030	22,897
Manitoba	NA	NA	A	1,570	1,903
U.S.	643,000	669,000	B	1,104	933
			D	4,470	3,434
			E	469	413

Hog Prices			
(Friday to Thursday) (\$/100 kg)		Source: Manitoba Agriculture	
MB. (\$/hog)	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year (Index 100)
MB. (All wts.) (Fri-Thurs.)	173.00E	179.04	192.22
MB. (Index 100) (Fri-Thurs.)	159.00E	163.78	177.13
ON (Index 100) (Mon.-Thurs.)	159.01	164.35	182.73
P.Q. (Index 100) (Mon.-Fri.)	165.36	170.78	191.05

Futures (August 24, 2012) in U.S.		
HOGS	Close	Change
October 2012	72.57	-3.05
December 2012	70.60	-2.30
February 2013	78.25	-2.25
April 2013	86.70	-1.50
May 2013	95.70	-0.52

Other Market Prices			
Sheep and Lambs			
\$/cwt	Winnipeg	Toronto	SunGold Specialty Meats
Ewes		66.74 - 99.41	40.00 - 60.00
Lambs (110+ lb.)	Next Sale	118.79 - 135.72	
(95 - 109 lb.)	is	130.01 - 144.68	
(80 - 94 lb.)	Sept. 6	133.29 - 149.95	
(Under 80 lb.)		139.14 - 211.57	
(New crop)		—	

Chickens		Eggs	
Minimum broiler prices as of May 23, 2010		Minimum prices to producers for ungraded eggs, f.o.b. egg grading station, set by the Manitoba Egg Producers Marketing Board effective June 12, 2011.	
Under 1.2 kg	\$1.5130	New	Previous
1.2 - 1.65 kg	\$1.3230	A Extra Large	\$1.8500 \$1.8200
1.65 - 2.1 kg	\$1.3830	A Large	1.8500 1.8200
2.1 - 2.6 kg	\$1.3230	A Medium	1.6700 1.6400
		A Small	1.2500 1.2200
		A Pee Wee	0.3675 0.3675
		Nest Run 24 +	1.7490 1.7210
		B	0.45 0.45
		C	0.15 0.15
Turkeys		Goats	
Minimum prices as of August 26, 2012			
Broiler Turkeys (6.2 kg or under, live weight truck load average)		Winnipeg (\$/cwt)	Toronto (\$/cwt)
Grade A	\$2.055	—	74.92 - 209.29
Undergrade	\$1.965	—	—
Hen Turkeys (between 6.2 and 8.5 kg liveweight truck load average)		—	104.42 - 207.46
Grade A	\$2.045		
Undergrade	\$1.945		
Light Tom/Heavy Hen Turkeys (between 8.5 and 10.8 kg liveweight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$2.045		
Undergrade	\$1.945		
Tom Turkeys (10.8 and 13.3 kg, live weight truck load average)			
Grade A	\$2.005		
Undergrade	\$1.920		
Prices are quoted f.o.b. farm.			
		Winnipeg (\$/cwt)	Toronto (\$/cwt)
		—	17.41 - 40.00
		—	24.41 - 45.71

COLUMN

High feed costs pressure Manitoba cattle prices

Demand is winding down in tandem with barbecue season

Terryn Shiells
CNSC



Activity at auction yards across the province started to pick up during the week ended Aug. 24, as many markets opened their doors again after being closed for the summer.

Most of the yards that took summer holidays have now reopened for sales, but not all of them were able to provide market reports because of low volume.

Heartland Livestock Services at Brandon had a steady amount of cattle for sale compared to the previous week, with about 150-160 at its sale held Aug. 21, said Kyle Howarth, marketing representative with the company.

The Internet sale that Heartland in Brandon held on Aug. 23 saw about 400 cattle sold, he said.

The Internet sale is becoming more and more popular, he said; an online sale saw over 700 cattle sold on Aug. 16.

Howarth said bringing cattle into the ring to sell them is still a good option for producers, especially those who want to send large loads of cattle to auction, but it all depends on personal preference.

“Some guys like the Internet sale because they know what they’ve got and then if it’s not what they want they have the option to toss them out,” he said.

Activity should start to get back to normal in early September, Howarth said, noting some producers have already been calling to pre-book cattle for sales during that time.

When farmers decide to start sending their cattle to the auction yards will vary, because everyone’s feed and pasture situation is different, he said.

“Some guys are running out of grass and having to pull their cattle and some are just putting their cattle on light feed until they send them to sale,” he said. “If you get looking around here (western Manitoba), some places are severely dry, and the next spot has enough moisture to get the farmer through.”

Prices across the province were fairly steady to slightly lower during the week, as high feed prices put some downward pressure on the market.

A crop tour in the U.S. Midwest earlier in the week showed corn yields were more damaged than originally anticipated, which caused prices in the U.S. to skyrocket. Canadian feed prices followed along with the U.S., which caused many buyers to lower their bids during the week, Howarth said.

“We had some feeder steers that weighed

TABLE: CATTLE MARKET SCHEDULES	
Ashern	Now closed until August
Gladstone	Now closed until August
Grunthal	Sales continue throughout the summer
Brandon	Sales continue throughout the summer
Virden	Slowing down to biweekly sales in July and August (Note: no butcher sales on Mondays until fall 2012)
Killarney	Regular biweekly sales throughout the summer
Ste. Rose	Now closed until fall
Taylor	Closed from June 21 to August 21
Winnipeg	Sales continue throughout the summer

around 865-875 pounds and they were bringing in about \$132-\$133 per 100 lbs., which was not quite as high as last week,” he said.

General firmness in the value of the Canadian dollar, as it stayed above parity with the U.S. dollar during the week, also caused some people to lower their bids, analysts said. Prices remained mostly steady, though, because strong demand helped to underpin values.

A lot of the demand came from the East, despite the deteriorating feed grain crop situation there, Howarth said. The Ontario corn crop has been described as extremely damaged by hot temperatures and little rain, industry officials said.

Howarth said about two-thirds of the cattle that were sold during the Internet sale on Aug. 23 were sent east, and the other third was sent west.

Butcher cattle prices were fairly steady during the week as well, while volume and demand started to drop off as the summer approaches an end.

Howarth said demand for slaughter cattle is starting to slow now because barbecue season is winding down.

Once kids start going back to school, he added, the demand for slaughter cattle will start to drop off even further.

“When all the kids go back to school, the demand for the box beef starts going down because everybody’s getting bills for school supplies and everything,” he said. “So disposable income is not necessarily there to be buying some of the higher-priced beef anymore.”

Prices for the fall are still looking fairly good, though they won’t be as strong as they were in the fall of 2011, he said.

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

NEWS

Canada to export cattle to Ukraine

WINNIPEG / REUTERS Canada has gained market access for live cattle exports to Ukraine, the latest in a series of trade breakthroughs for the Canadian livestock industry. Shipments of purebred live cattle for genetics and breeding purposes could be worth

close to C\$12 million (\$12.1 million) over the next three years, Canadian Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and International Trade Minister Ed Fast said jointly August 27, 2012. Canada’s swine industry recently gained similar access to Ukraine. The Canadian cattle industry has in the past year gained market access for cattle to the Philippines, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan and access for beef to South Korea and Peru.

Looking for results? Check out the market reports from livestock auctions around the province. » PAGE 16

GRAIN MARKETS

COLUMN

Statistics Canada calls for record canola output

The agency’s estimate was below trade expectations

Dwayne Klassen
CNSC



Strong advances were seen in canola contracts on the ICE Futures Canada platform during the week ended Aug. 24, with renewed demand from the commercial sector and a smaller-than-expected production estimate from Statistics Canada stimulating the upward price momentum.

Gains in canola were additionally linked to the continued soybean production deficit in the U.S. and the tight global oilseed supply situation.

Canola values easily gained \$9.50 to \$25.50 during the reporting period, with the nearby November future leading the push to higher ground.

StatsCan estimated Canadian canola output at a record 15.4 million tonnes. However, this fell below pre-report expectations that ranged from 15.5 million to as high as 17 million tonnes. Canola output in 2011-12 totalled 14.2 million tonnes.

Weather issues, disease and pest problems were all linked to the smaller-than-anticipated yield potential, and in turn production.

Participants who are still adamant about the production survey underestimating canola output in Canada were quick to point out that StatsCan, in its August and September outlooks, comes in with low numbers and then raises the projection in the later stages of the fall.

For three-times-daily market reports from Commodity News Service Canada, visit “ICE Futures Canada updates” at www.manitobacooperator.ca.

They were also quick to point out that the Sept. 7 stocks in all positions report from the government agency will reveal that canola output in 2011-12 was a lot higher than the number they were working with. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, much of the commercial interest that resurfaced during the week was linked in part to the reduced production forecast for canola. Domestic crushers, citing improved profit margins, stepped up to the plate during the week and started buying. There was also speculation that China had purchased unspecified amounts of Canadian canola, but confirmation was lacking.

A broker, who watches the export front, noted that when China is busy buying U.S. soybeans, there also tends to be Canadian canola business. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported heavier-than-normal Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans during the reporting period.

Milling wheat futures on the ICE Canada platform experienced some actual trade during the reporting period, with commercials the dominant participants. Those values generally lost ground as Minneapolis wheat values also lost ground.

No actual trades were reported in the durum and barley contracts. In fact, the new barley contract has not seen any actual trades now for a couple of months.

CBOT (Chicago Board of Trade) soybean futures posted some significant price advances during the week. The strong gains

were associated with the fact that export demand for U.S. soybeans remains aggressive and there does not appear to be any slowdown in this buying, despite the fact values continue to move up. Domestic usage of soybeans in the U.S. also continues to run at an amazing pace, further facilitating the need to push soybean futures up in hopes of finally curtailing this demand.

Chart-related speculative buying interest helped to exaggerate the upward price push seen in soybeans. Crop tour participants on the U.S.-based ProFarmer excursion also revealed that soybean yields in the main growing areas were worse than feared, which only served to further amplify the price advances in Chicago.

The taking of profits did slow the price advances temporarily.

Corn futures on the CBOT moved to both sides of the plus/minus line during the reporting period. The upside in CBOT soybean futures did spill over to encourage some strength, but any push to higher ground was met by profit-taking and the lack of follow-through demand. A late-week downturn in cash bids for corn from a number of locations in the U.S. interior and exterior also prevented the commodity from pushing to higher ground.

The extremely tight supply situation also provided a firm floor for U.S. corn futures.

Wheat futures in Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City continued their push downward during the week. News that the U.S. spring wheat harvest was in its final stages helped to influence some of the price weakness. The timely arrival of beneficial precipitation in the U.S. Winter Wheat Belt also was an undermining price influence. The rains come just as farmers in the U.S. are preparing to seed the U.S. winter wheat crop.

Canada’s all-wheat production estimate from StatsCan also initiated some selling in the U.S. wheat markets. All wheat output in Canada in 2012-13 was pegged by the government agency at 27.013 million tonnes, which was in line with pre-report projections that ranged from 26 million to as high as 28.2 million. In 2011-12, all wheat output totalled 25.261 million tonnes.

The losses seen in U.S. wheat values, however, were offset by estimates from the International Grains Council, trimming its world wheat output forecast by at least three million tonnes. The tight world wheat supply situation helped to keep a firm floor under U.S. wheat values as a result.

Most market participants are confident that CBOT soybean and ICE canola futures will continue to push their way to higher ground, although the push upward will not be a direct line. Harvest operations in the U.S. and Western Canada will ensure that new supplies prevent the price advances. At some point domestic processors and oilseed importers will also back off, hoping values will ease somewhat as a result.

However, it is also hard to ignore that once the new supplies of soybeans in the U.S. and canola in Canada have been absorbed, supplies of both commodities will be extremely tight, until at least the planting of the South American soybean crop begins.

When that supply tightness hits, there have already been suggestions, although a bit lofty, that CBOT soybean futures could topple the US\$20-per-bushel level. With US\$20 soybeans come ideas that ICE canola values will hit that elusive C\$700-per-tonne level.

Is it a pipe dream to believe that these prices can hit those levels? Maybe, but it sure doesn’t hurt to think it.

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

Export and International Prices

All prices close of business August 23, 2012	Last Week	Week Ago	Year Ago
WHEAT			
Chicago wheat (nearby future) (\$US/tonne)	321.29	316.61	278.21
Minneapolis wheat (nearby future) (\$US/tonne)	338.19	338.56	343.43
COARSE GRAINS			
US corn Gulf (\$US)	—	—	—
US barley (PNW) (\$US)	—	—	—
Chicago corn (nearby future) (\$US/tonne)	318.40	314.07	288.29
Chicago oats (nearby future) (\$US/tonne)	251.26	248.67	238.62
OILSEEDS			
Chicago soybeans (nearby future) (\$US/tonne)	634.59	608.51	509.22
Chicago soyoil (\$US/tonne)	1,237.45	1,169.53	1,225.98

Winnipeg Futures

ICE Futures Canada prices at close of business August 24, 2012		
WESTERN BARLEY	Last Week	Week Ago
October 2012	264.50	264.50
December 2012	269.50	269.50
March 2013	272.50	272.50
CANOLA	Last Week	Week Ago
November 2012	633.60	608.10
January 2013	637.20	612.40
March 2013	635.30	614.30

Special Crops

Report for August 27, 2012 — Bin run delivered plant Saskatchewan			
SPOT MARKET		SPOT MARKET	
LENTILS (Cdn. cents per pound)		OTHER (Cdn. cents per pound unless otherwise specified)	
Large Green 15/64	21.00 - 23.50	Canaryseed	21.00 - 24.00
Laird No. 1	20.00 - 23.50	Oil Sunflower Seed	—
Eston No. 2	20.00 - 22.00	Desi Chickpeas	24.20 - 25.50
FIELD PEAS (Cdn. \$ per bushel)		BEANS (Cdn. cents per pound)	
Green No. 1	9.50 - 10.50	Fababeans, large	—
Medium Yellow No. 1	8.50 - 9.00	Feed beans	—
FEED PEAS (Cdn. \$ per bushel)		No. 1 Navy/Pea Beans	—
Feed Pea (Rail)	4.80 - 5.00	No. 1 Great Northern	—
MUSTARDSEED (Cdn. cents per pound)		No. 1 Cranberry Beans	—
Yellow No. 1	34.75 - 36.75	No. 1 Light Red Kidney	—
Brown No. 1	30.20 - 31.75	No. 1 Dark Red Kidney	—
Oriental No. 1	24.75 - 26.75	No. 1 Black Beans	—
Source: STAT Publishing		No. 1 Pinto Beans	—
		No. 1 Small Red	—
		No. 1 Pink	—
SUNFLOWERS		Fargo, ND	Goodlands, KS
Report for August 24, 2012 in US\$ cwt			
NuSun (oilseed)	27.50	27.30	
Confection	—	—	
Source: National Sunflower Association			

Japan boosts domestic wheat price to \$17.30/bu.

Farm Ministry resells imported product to domestic millers

Japan will raise the price at which it sells imported wheat to domestic users by an average three per cent from Oct. 1 to reflect the recent rally in prices of Chicago wheat, marking the first price hike in a year, the Farm Ministry said Aug. 22.

Japan, the world’s sixth-biggest wheat importer, buys five types of milling wheat from the United States, Canada and Australia through import tenders and sells to millers at prices set twice a year.

The Farm Ministry usually revises the price of each wheat type based on a weighted average of its purchase prices in the six months to February for the

first year-half and those in the six months to August for the second year-half.

The only exception after the ministry introduced the current market-oriented price-setting scheme in April 2007 was in October-March 2008, when it subsidized to curb a rise in the prices after Chicago wheat reached record highs.

The ministry’s wheat-selling price to flour millers for the October-March period will be an average 50,130 yen (\$630 per tonne, \$17.15 per bushel) compared with 48,780 yen in the previous six-month period and 57,720 yen in the same period a year earlier.

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COLUMN

Prairie Swine Centre continues to find answers

Centre’s practical research can generate big savings for pork producers who take advantage of its research findings

Bernie Peet
Peet on Pigs



As it enters its 20th year of operation, the Prairie Swine Centre continues to help find solutions to industry challenges, particularly in its key areas of expertise — engineering, manure management, ethology (animal behaviour) and nutrition. As the industry provides both board members and significant funding, the centre responds to the needs of the producers, both in the short and longer term. Its 2011 Annual Report highlights some of the ongoing research projects and their potential benefits to producers.

The engineering department has been looking at ways of reducing water usage, especially the type of drinking system used and the design of nozzle used for pressure washing. Water is a significant cost in pig production and a great deal of wastage occurs, leading to high manure disposal costs. Three different drinking systems were compared in grow-finish pens: A conventional nipple drinker, a nipple drinker with side panels to reduce interference from other pigs while drinking, and a trough with side panels and a constant water level. The latter had 60 per cent less wastage, using just 1.27 litres per day per pig. The nipple drinker used 3.77 l/day-pig and the nipple with side panel used 3.57 l/day-pig. One disadvantage of trough drinkers is contamination with feed and sometimes manure, leading to lower water intake, which can compromise performance. In this trial, contamination with organic matter did occur, but it did not appear to impact feed intake or growth rate of the pigs.

The trial on cleaning equipment compared water sprinkling prior to washing with no sprinkling and measured the water use of several different types of pressure washer nozzles. As might be expected, sprinkling resulted in higher water consumption, but also reduced washing time significantly in part-slatted pens. Also, the use of a conventional nozzle led to the lowest water consumption and time spent washing.

An economic analysis, which took into account the cost of water and manure disposal, showed the cost of water was reduced from \$3.77 for the conventional nipple drinker to \$1.27 for the water trough. Similarly, the manure disposal cost was reduced to \$4.90 per pig from \$9.11, resulting in an overall cost saving of \$9.23 per pig, a 56 per cent reduction in favour of the trough drinker. Such significant savings cannot be ignored, although the potential impact of contamination



PHOTO 1
The three types of drinker used in the trial on water usage:
1. Regular nipple drinker
2. Nipple with side panels
3. Drinking trough

in troughs needs to be considered, especially in nursery pigs. With the correct trough design and daily management to keep drinkers as clean as possible, changing from nipple drinkers to troughs can have a big impact on the bottom line.

Loading market hogs is one of the most stressful procedures for both pigs and people. Researchers Harold Gonyou and Jennifer Brown looked at loading facilities in Saskatchewan to identify aspects of their design and handling practices that result in the fastest and smoothest loading. They looked at the dimensions of pens, alleyways and doorways, in addition to light intensity, ramp angle, presence of corners, flooring changes and obstacles. Handling of pigs was video recorded and analysed.

The 10 farms observed had ramp inclines ranging from zero to 11 degrees (the maximum recommended incline is 20 degrees) and all worked well. Lighting levels on the farms varied considerably and the report recommends loading facilities be well lit, ideally with diffused incandescent lighting, which reduces contrasts and shadows.

“When moving into a new area such as the truck, lighting should ideally change from darker to lighter, as animals may balk if required to move into darkness,” the report states.

The researchers found using “manways” outside the movement alley (which allows handlers to move around and past the pigs without affecting their movement) improved both pig flow and handler safety. Also,

the use of loading pens, where selected pigs are moved up to a week prior to shipping, reduced mixing stress at transport and made the loading process much faster and less stressful.

In terms of handling practices, group size was important, with small groups of five to 10 pigs being easier to move. A common distraction, which can cause pigs to slow, balk or turn back, is too many handlers, or handlers who get ahead of the pigs. The researchers noted handler technique and attitude are very difficult to define and measure. However, they recommended minimizing prod use, using behavioural principles such as the “flight zone,” and maintaining a calm and consistent attitude.

“Prod use on the farms observed was very low — in fact, the farm with highest prod use actually had the longest loading time,” the report stated. “This is because when the prod is used frequently, pigs become less capable of responding and attempt to turn back.”

This observation, measurement and analysis approach to commercial loading facilities has yielded a lot of very practical advice that will help producers to improve their own loading practices. It is a good example of research yielding benefits in the short term to the pork industry.

In my next article I will review some of the nutritional research results from the Prairie Swine Centre.

Bernie Peet is president of Pork Chain Consulting of Lacombe, Alberta, and editor of Western Hog Journal.

“When moving into a new area such as the truck, lighting should ideally change from darker to lighter, as animals may balk if required to move into darkness.”

FROM THE PRAIRIE SWINE CENTRE’S ANNUAL REPORT



Sheep show and sale draws large crowd

Glut of lambs hitting market due to drought, high feed prices, expected to clear by year’s end

By Daniel Winters
CO-OPERATOR STAFF / RIVERS

The Manitoba Sheep Association’s annual show and sale saw a strong turnout, with around 20 exhibitors bringing in 60 sheep.

“There was a good turnout of sheep and a good turnout of people,” said Sarah Lewis, event co-ordinator and association director from Elkhorn.

Some 70 bidders attended the auction which wound up the two-day event. The Supreme Champion, a Suffolk ram, brought \$670 and top ewes fetched \$350-\$400.

Ed Hunter, a longtime shepherd from Lenore who served as judge for the show, said the quality of the stock was very good.

He based his decisions on commercial attributes, with top marks going to the best “money-makers.”

Lewis said that the recent dip in lamb prices hasn’t dampened enthusiasm for the sheep industry.

Prices had gotten “too high,” and in face of consumer resistance, were due for a correction back to the long-term average of \$1.35-\$1.50 per pound for market lambs.

“Everybody’s happy at around that,” said Lewis.

Further depressing prices is the drought in Ontario and the U.S., which has driven up the price of feed grains.

Brian Greaves, a shepherd from Miniota who serves on the board of the Canadian Sheep Federation, said that during a recent visit to Ontario he saw widespread “dumping” of lambs due to drought and the prospect of high feed prices.

That, and the traditional seasonal July-September price slump, has led to an “overcorrection” that has caught the industry by surprise.

“Ontario is a big market, and there are a lot of underweight lambs being sold and the feedlots are full down there,” said Greaves, adding that in Alberta, five to six semi-loads of unfinished, 80-pound lambs from south of the border are coming in each week and fetching just \$1.10/lb.

“Why should they pay more, when they can get all they want?” he said.

Backgrounding encouraged

Once the current glut clears, a shortage of lamb by early next spring may bring prices back up almost to where they were last year.

“We’re encouraging producers to background their lambs a little bit longer by not putting them on heavy feed and hold them off if they can,” said Greaves.

A scheduled fleece sale had to be cancelled due to a lack of consignments.

Greaves, the local representative for Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, said that economic uncertainty in Europe has caused prices to slip this year.

“It’s supply and demand,” he said. “It’s holding, and we’re trying to get producers to concentrate a bit more on their wool to get better returns on it.”

Icelandic breed

Icelandic sheep made an appearance at the show, brought by Katy Neuman,

whose family raises sheep near McCreary.

The hardy, dual-purpose, multi-coloured, horned sheep are raised under near-feral conditions on the tiny, volcanic island in the Atlantic. Their wool is prized by spinners, said Neuman, because it features long guard hairs and a soft undercoat that curiously resembles a beaver pelt.

“They have minimal amounts of lanolin, so they’re not that itchy,” said Neuman. “I’ve never eaten one, but apparently they taste good.”

With some 15 head, the Icelandics are an “interesting, beautiful” sideline to their operation of 70 purebred Dorsets and commercial Texel-cross sheep.

Neuman’s mom is an avid spinner and knitter, and so far has used up all the fleece, leaving none for sale, she added, with a laugh.

Shepherds looking for a wide range of specialty sheep production supplies from the Canadian

Co-operative Woolgrowers catalogue can now save on freight charges by sourcing them at a new Manitoba distributor.

Candice Wadham, of JM Beef Consulting, said the farm’s warehouse near Virden has added sheep products to its existing range of beef nutrition products and silage supplies.

daniel.winters@fbcpublishing.com

“We’re encouraging producers to background their lambs a little bit longer by not putting them on heavy feed and hold them off if they can.”

BRIAN GREAVES
Canadian Sheep Federation Board



Katy Neuman holds an Icelandic sheep that she brought to the Manitoba Sheep Association’s annual show and sale in Rivers. PHOTO: DANIEL WINTERS



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Cattle herd declines slightly

By Ryan Kessler
COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE CANADA

Canada's cattle herd was slightly smaller as of July 1, 2012, compared to head counts at the same time last year. Cattle inventories reached their lowest level since 1994, according to figures released on August 21 by Statistics Canada.

As of July 1, 2012, Canadian live-stock producers had an estimated 13.52 million head of cattle on their farms, which compares with 13.53 million at the same point a year ago, StatsCan said.

The only provinces to post increases in herd size were British Columbia, which saw 0.8 per cent population growth and Saskatchewan, whose herd increased by 0.3 per cent. The largest declines in cattle inventories came from Quebec (eight per cent) and Manitoba (four per cent), according to the livestock survey.

The number of Canadian farms that reported beef or dairy cattle was also down over the year ended July 1, falling 2.2 per cent to 84,040, the report said.

StatsCan also reported the Canadian dairy herd was down by 0.1 per cent, but a 0.5 per cent decline in dairy cow inventory was offset in part by a 0.6 per cent increase in replacement dairy heifers.

During the first half of 2012, according to the livestock survey, 1.6 million head of cattle were slaughtered in Canada, which was 2.2 per cent fewer than the same period in 2011, and 13.6 per cent fewer than the same period in 2010.

Exports during the first six months of 2012 were up 6.6 per cent from the same period in 2011, the report said. However, it also mentioned that exports were still 36 per cent less than the first half of 2010.

Animal welfare — act now, or have someone else do it

The National Farm Animal Care Council is comprised of members from both animal welfare groups and agriculture

By Sheri Monk
FBC STAFF / CALGARY

Livestock producers need to both walk the walk and talk the talk on standards for animal welfare, or have someone else set the agenda for them. That was the message from two speakers at the recent International Livestock Congress here.

Dr. Mike Siemens, leader of animal welfare and husbandry for Cargill, emphasized that the industry must be proactive. "We're very reactive. I know we try to do some programs and put things in place, but we're afraid of the issue because the issue gets framed for us on a routine basis," Siemens said.

"We've got to try to interject facts, and try to counteract lies and mistruths, and that's a hard thing to do."

Siemens said the Internet has changed the landscape, allowing animal rights groups inexpensive access to the public through social media. "That's given our critics a huge venue to infiltrate the public persona, to get to them and given them information, be it accurate, or more times inaccurate, or partial truths."

Siemens said the push by rights groups really started to get intense in the mid-1990s, which resulted in individual fast-food chains being protested until welfare concessions were made.

Recently, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) came to an agreement with the United Egg Producers to radically change the industry to make it more humane. The agreement came at a time when several states were contemplating legislation regarding cage size, and amid mounting public concern.

"They found no other way to resolve that so they struck a deal with HSUS," said Siemens, adding the other commodity groups were opposed to the precedent set by the direct negotiations between the two groups.

Siemens said fallout from leaked videos from slaughterhouses and feedlots is always



Attendees at the recent International Livestock Congress in Calgary. PHOTO: IRIS MECK COMMUNICATIONS

in response to animal abuse, not to routine protocol. He said the solution is to remove the cause.

"We need to identify those in the animal protein supply chain who abuse animals and help them exit gracefully out of the industry," said Siemens.

Too busy farming

Ryder Lee, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) manager of federal and provincial relations, also emphasized the need to be proactive rather than reactive.

"Are we telling our story? I don't think so — we're too busy raising cattle," said Lee. "We've seen the result of not being out there, telling our story about our sensitive areas when we get clobbered by things like lean finely textured beef which came to be known as 'pink slime,'" he said. Lee said the pink slime controversy reduced the price of beef by as much as \$40 per head, and reduced the supply of lean beef so much, increased imports from outside of North America were required to fill demand.

Lee represents the CCA on the National Farm Animal Care Council, which consists of members representing industry, government, retail, consumers, and animal rights advocates. He said the organization is unique in the world, and may help stave off some of

the battles over animal welfare seen in other nations.

"We're talking in a civilized way rather than combatively in court fighting ballot initiatives and in MPs' offices," said Lee. "We're all talking about how farm animals are raised in Canada."

Currently, a new beef industry code of best practices is being developed through the National Farm Animal Care Council, and when it's unveiled in 2013, it will have been approved by all the organizations it represents.

Lee says producers and the industry have to do a better job of letting the public and animal rights groups know what is being improved, such as using smaller brands, different castration methods, using pain medication, and other innovations such as two-stage weaning.

He said that unless the industry is continually improving animal welfare and communicating those improvements, government could step in with costly new regulations. Even retailers could demand new protocols that producers would have to comply with.

Lee said the industry can lead on animal welfare, and circumvent outside intervention.

"That's what we want to avoid and if we become more talkers and more doers about animal care, I think we can get there."



Reminder Notice Of Public Hearing

Applicant: Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation

HEARING:

The Public Utilities Board (Board) will hold a public hearing of an application from Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) for approval of rates and premiums for compulsory vehicle and driver insurance as of March 1, 2013. The hearing would take place at the Board's Hearing Room, 4th Floor, 330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB (commencing at 9:30 a.m.) on September 25, 2012.

RATE IMPACT:

The Corporation is requesting approval for Basic Autopac vehicle and drivers licence rates effective March 1, 2013, which, if approved, would result in no overall change in MPI's Basic premium revenue (excluding the impact of vehicle upgrades and an increased overall driver and vehicle population).

Actual vehicle and driver premiums would vary depending on claim and driving experience, insurance use, territory and vehicle rate group. Full particulars, including the rate impact and application, can be found on the Manitoba Public Insurance website www.mpi.mb.ca.

PARTICIPATION:

Parties wishing to submit a brief or to express comments at the hearing should contact the Board Secretary (204-945-2638 OR 1-866-854-3698, toll free).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Interested parties should take note that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the MPI lines of business denoted as Extension or SRE, or as to MPI's Driver and Vehicle Licensing operation.

Persons seeking further information as to MPI's application, or with respect to the Board's process, and/or wishing to address the public hearing in French should notify the Board Secretary by August 31, 2012. As well, interested parties may examine MPI's application and supporting materials, either at the offices of the Corporation or on its website, or the Board's office.

DATED this 14th day of August, 2012.

H. M. Singh

Secretary
The Public Utilities Board



Five days notice required.



Wheelchair access is available.



Eight Manitobans receive FarmLink scholarships

Eight Manitoba students are among 19 Prairie-wide who have received \$500 scholarships from FarmLink Marketing Solutions's Farming Futures program.

The plan funds high school scholarships for students in agriculture, post-secondary research in grain marketing, and community projects and initiatives to help farm families faced with sudden hardship related to natural disasters.

Rural scholarships in the amounts of \$500 were given to graduating students with an average of 80 per cent or above, who intended to pursue higher education within an agricultural-, business-, arts- or science-related field.

In 2012, FarmLink has allocated \$25,000 to be distributed to youth and community-based projects in Western Canada.

Manitoba recipients include Jordana Penner, Altona; William de Martines, Beausejour; Jeff Steen, Carberry; Rebecca Turner, Boissevain; Shane Walker, Carman; Desiree Penner, Elm Creek; Kevin Milne, Emerson and Jenica Grant, Oak River.

Feedlots
hardest hit
by price
increase

By Shannon VanRaes
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

Manitoba beef producers are feeling the pinch as feed prices continue to climb.

“There are very significant pressures right now, especially on the feeding industry in the province,” said Cam Dahl, general manager for Manitoba Beef Producers.

Severe drought south of the border is the primary cause of rising prices, he said.

“There are parts of the province that are dry too, but not like the significant drought in the U.S.,” said the general manager.

Beef prices have also dipped as slaughter numbers increase in especially hard-hit areas.

“That may be a result of producers in the U.S. having to liquidate some of their herds,” said Dahl.

Manitoba does have some shelter from the storm though, Dahl said, as most producers in the province rely heavily on their own forage production.

“That’s one of the reasons Manitoba is an attractive place to produce livestock, because of the price of feed,” he said.

But that doesn’t benefit the province’s feedlot operators, who rely heavily on grains such as corn.

“This has been totally negative,” said Jim Abbott. “Every time you raise the price of feed it lowers the value of feeder cattle.”

The owner of Abbott Cattle Company near Carman, which processes about 1,000 head of cattle a year, said a greater-than-usual number of cattle are heading to market right now, meaning there may be a shortage or slump in the coming months.

“This is happening when the U.S. should be rebuilding their herds, and now they are going to have to liquidate them simply because there is no feed,” he said.

Early this year, analysts predicted corn prices would drop to about \$5 per bushel this fall, instead prices are now over \$8 per bushel.

“It’s a two-edged sword for us,” said Abbott. “We sell feeder cattle, but we also buy calves back, so calves are definitely going to be cheaper.”

Hay prices are also going up, said Dahl.

“Hay is twice as valuable this year as it was last year, and that again is because of pressure from the U.S. market,” he said.

Dahl said some American producers have been buying hay from Manitoba producers, a situation he described as “not normal.”

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com

George Morris report explores
origins of supply management

It’s important to understand why it exists before choosing to change it

By Alex Binkley
CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR / OTTAWA

It is essential to understand the roots of supply management before engaging in a debate on changing the marketing system, says the George Morris Centre.

In the first of a series commissioned by the Conference Board of Canada, the report says the much-criticized system has “largely met its primary policy objectives of reducing the industry’s chronic milk surpluses and providing both increased and stable returns to farmers.”

However, the dairy industry has lost its overall economic competitiveness and has become a regular sore point in international trade negotiations, adds the report. The industry also had to contend with market changes brought about by substitute dairy products.

The centre is aiming to approach the issue from the per-

spective of the dairy industry, not the usual right wing business economist maligning of it.

Therese Beaulieu, spokeswoman for Dairy Farmers of Canada noted the report zeros in on the problem of imbalance in supply and demand in Canada in the 1950s and ’60s, which remains a problem in United States and Europe.

The report traces the origin of supply management from the government response to chronic surplus milk production after the end of the Second World War. Future reports will consider the dairying systems in other countries.

“As it has evolved to changes, Canada’s milk supply management regulation has created some unintended costs and burdens,” said Al Mussell, co-author of the report. “The challenge for the Canadian dairy industry — and policy-makers — is to foster

changes in the supply management system that reflect today’s market conditions and economic policy context without handicapping industry stakeholders, including dairy farmers, processors and consumers.

Canada is under pressure in trade talks to change the protection granted its supply-managed industries, the report notes. But whether changes are marginal, dramatic or somewhere in between aren’t clear.

Before discussing the extent of change, the public and politicians have to understand why supply management came to be, and how it is presently working in the context of today’s industry, and domestic and international interests.

“Canada was a dairy product exporter in the early 20th century and was a significant supplier (especially of cheese) to the United Kingdom during the Sec-

ond World War. Following the war, as continental European dairy production recovered, Canadian cheese exports declined sharply.

“The Canadian dairy industry responded by shifting production to serve the domestic market,” it noted. “But the transition led to milk supply surpluses and depressed dairy farmer incomes. In response to these market conditions, postwar federal and provincial governments intervened to stabilize markets. As the government costs of surplus removal became burdensome, policy shifted to limit the production eligible for subsidy, and later to limit production as a means of directly stabilizing prices.”

Fragmented federal and provincial policies began to coalesce into a national supply management system beginning in the mid-1960s, it said. The federal government established the Canadian Dairy Commission in 1967.

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Weight Category	Ashern	Gladstone	Grunthal	Heartland	Heartland	Killarney	Ste. Rose	Taylor	Winnipeg
				Brandon	Virden				
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	Aug-21	Aug-22	n/a	Aug-23	n/a	Aug-24
No. on offer	n/a	n/a	n/a	150	229	n/a	56	n/a	97
Over 1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.00-115.00
900-1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	118.00-127.00	118.00-129.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	108.00-128.00
800-900	n/a	n/a	n/a	125.00-134.00	127.00-138.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	110.00-133.00
700-800	n/a	n/a	n/a	128.00-138.00	134.00-144.50	n/a	120.00-140.00	n/a	115.00-137.00
600-700	n/a	n/a	n/a	135.00-146.00	139.00-149.00	n/a	120.00-145.00	n/a	120.00-140.00
500-600	n/a	n/a	n/a	140.00-151.00	144.00-155.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	125.00-145.00
400-500	n/a	n/a	n/a	145.00-159.00	150.00-163.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	130.00-150.00
300-400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	159.00-174.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	135.00-155.00
Feeder heifers									
900-1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.00-116.00
800-900	n/a	n/a	n/a	115.00-125.00	116.00-125.75	n/a	n/a	n/a	105.00-122.00
700-800	n/a	n/a	n/a	120.00-133.25	123.00-134.00	n/a	110.00-120.00	n/a	110.00-127.00
600-700	n/a	n/a	n/a	128.00-137.00	128.00-139.00	n/a	117.00-125.00	n/a	115.00-133.00
500-600	n/a	n/a	n/a	130.00-140.00	131.00-146.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	115.00-135.00
400-500	n/a	n/a	n/a	130.00-143.00	136.00-150.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	120.00-140.00
300-400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120.00-145.00
Slaughter Market									
No. on offer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85	n/a	90
D1-D2 Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	70.00-75.00	71.00-75.00	n/a	71.00-77.00	n/a	70.00-77.00
D3-D5 Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	62.00-70.00	61.00-71.00	n/a	62.00-70.00	n/a	62.00-72.00
Age Verified	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	73.00-77.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Good Bulls	n/a	n/a	n/a	85.00-94.50	80.00-96.00	n/a	84.00-95.00	n/a	82.00-90.00
Butcher Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102.00-105.75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Butcher Heifers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.00-103.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feeder Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	73.00-83.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	75.00-85.00
Fleshy Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lean Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	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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CROPS

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

Buyer beware for fertilizer additives

Farmers need to research how products work

By Gord Gilmour
FBC STAFF

Persistently high nitrogen prices are prompting farmers to look for ways to stretch their fertility buck, and protect that investment once it's in the ground.

Simultaneously, the CFIA is pulling back from its role of ensuring efficacy for fertilizers and fertilizer additives.

John Heard, a soil fertility specialist with MAFRI, told the Soil and Manure Management Field Clinic at the University of Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station recently it has created a situation in which farmers really need to do their homework before making any buying decisions.

"Now that the CFIA isn't requiring efficacy testing, it's the Wild West out there," he said.

It's not that there aren't some products out there with advantages; some are quite well understood and do in fact offer benefits during certain field conditions. Others are less well examined. And some are flat out fly-by-night proposals. Sorting through them can be a challenge, and Heard took the opportunity to do a roundup of some of the options and what farmers might expect.

"We all know about ESN, or environmentally safe nitrogen," Heard said. "It's basically urea with a bag. It has a polymer coating that over time will allow moisture in and nutrients out."

It's a product that seems to do its job when conditions are right. For example, during a spring with adequate moisture, it will slow the release of nitrogen until later in the growing season and prevent leaching and off-gassing. During a dry season, however, it could also potentially delay release until too late in the season.

During the group discussion, soil science professor, Mario Tenuta noted that ESN was only intended for incorporation and should never be surface applied.

"Don't apply it on the surface — just send John and I a cheque instead," he said, suggesting it would be about as effective and at least somebody would be happy.

The other major family of nitrogen efficiency products are the



MAFRI soils specialist John Heard says now that there's no requirement for efficacy testing for fertility additives it's going to be very important to do your due diligence.

PHOTO: GORD GILMOUR

nitrification and urease inhibitors. Agrotain is a urease inhibitor, and Super U and Agrotain Plus are both a urease and a nitrification inhibitor. They function by delaying the conversion of stable nitrogen sources to the less stable but plant available nitrate and ammonia forms. By doing so they limit leaching, denitrification and off-gassing losses.

"These products are good with surface broadcasting," Heard said.

Other products include N-Serve and Instinct, which are both formulations that rely on the active ingredient nitrapyin, which is a nitrification inhibitor.

"N-Serve is the original nitrogen efficiency product, it was first registered back in the 1980s," Heard said. "It's for anhydrous and Instinct is a new formulation for UAN."

Though it was registered, little was ever sold in the region.

Another product that's likely to be seen in the Canadian market is Nutrisphere, which is a product unrelated to the others, using

a unique active ingredient that's a very specific type of salt. It's been evaluated in much of Canada and the U.S. Heard says it's shown little success either as a nitrification or urease inhibitor.

Heard also stressed that there's other products likely to hit the market now that they're essentially unregulated, and that nobody's tracking them.

"These are just the ones we know about," he said. "Who knows what's being flogged on the grid roads?"

"These are just the ones we know about," he said. "Who knows what's being flogged on the grid roads?"

JOHN HEARD
MAFRI

Goss's Wilt in corn

Symptoms of the bacterial disease, Goss's Wilt, have been reported in cornfields, Manitoba Agriculture's latest insect and disease report says.

The disease causes a leaf and vascular blight which can result in severely wilted plants and significant yield loss.

Initial symptoms include water-soaked lesions on the leaves later accompanied by "freckling." Symptomatic leaves often appear shiny due to the bacterial exudate present on the leaf surface.

Management of Goss's Wilt includes tillage, crop rotation, removal of grassy weed hosts (green foxtail, barnyard grass, etc.), and genetic resistance. Fungicides are not effective against this disease as it is caused by a bacterial pathogen.

Late blight spreads in potatoes

New infections of late blight have been reported in the RM of Cypress a few kilometres from the site of the season's first outbreak, Vikram Bisht, a plant pathologist with Manitoba Agriculture, Foods and Rural Initiatives says.

Growers in the region are advised to tighten spray schedules and include translaminar-systemic fungicides along with contact protectant fungicides. In some cases it may be appropriate to apply fungicides by ground rigs in areas close to trees or under power lines.

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Swiss farmer Kari Gisler carries a bundle of hay as he practises wild haying on a steep hillside on the mountain Rophaien in the Swiss village of Flueelen, some 75 km (47 miles) south of Zurich August 20. The tradition of wild haying in central Switzerland dates back around 200 years and is practised from mid-July until mid-September on higher grounds with steep hillsides which cannot or only hardly be reached with animals. REUTERS/MICHAEL BUHOLZER

CWB to market canola

First new crop added

Staff

CWB announced August that it will add canola to its marketing program for the first time in its 63-year history, a release from the organization said.

The farmer sign-up for the new CWB canola pool is now open, the release said. CWB added the program to its marketing mix because farmers were interested in using the pool programs to hedge their risk.

“Farmers have been telling us they want CWB to run canola pools to help manage their price risk and provide them with reliable returns through a system they can trust,” said CWB president and CEO Ian White.

The pools for canola will work the same way as those for wheat and will be just as beneficial, White said.

“The farmer benefits of pooling apply just as successfully to canola as to wheat. Farmers retain all the profits generated from their grain sales, instead of simply taking a flat price at the elevator. It also means they can spend more time on their crops instead of chasing the commodity futures markets,” White said.

Initial payments for canola pools are expected to be announced in early September. The Pool Return Outlook, that will be issued later in the day on Thursday, is \$640 per tonne (basis in-store Vancouver or Thunder Bay).

Farmers will also benefit from being able to choose from one of 42 delivery points across the country, with additional delivery points expected to be added as the program progresses, the release said.

CWB was formerly known as the Canadian Wheat Board, and rebranded its company on August 1, 2012 when it lost its single-desk monopoly over the marketing of wheat in Western Canada.

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CROP REPORT

Lack of rainfall helps harvest

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives – Report for August 27, 2012

Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest of spring cereals is approximately 65 per cent complete in the Southwest Region, 50 per cent complete in the Northwest Region, 95 per cent complete in the Central, 100 per cent complete in the Eastern Region and 95 per cent complete in the Interlake Region.
 - Canola harvest is 25 per cent complete in the Southwest Region, 45 per cent complete in the Northwest Region, 50 to 85 per cent complete in the Central Region, 85 per cent complete in the Eastern Region and 95 per cent complete in the Interlake Region.
 - Harvest of flax and edible beans started over the past week.
 - Grain corn, sunflowers and soybeans continue to mature and would still benefit from precipitation to aid in the final stages of grain filling.
 - Seeding of winter wheat occurred in the Central and Eastern Regions.
- Proteins are generally over 14 per cent. Barley is ranging from 40 to 60 bu./acre and oats from 60 to 130 bu./acre; bushel weights are average but variable.
- Approximately 40 to 50 per cent of canola is combined; yields are ranging from 20 to 50 bu./acre with overall averages at 25 to 27 bu./acre. Around 20 per cent of canola remains to be swathed. Occasional periods of high winds late in the week caused canola swaths to move and pile up with some localized losses due to shattering.

Silage corn, buckwheat, hemp and soybeans crops in the Dauphin, Ethelbert and Ste. Rose areas are advancing to later growth stages under favourable conditions and continue to show good yield potentials.

Southwest Region
Scattered showers during the past week delayed harvest progress in the Southwest Region.

Heavy wind over the weekend moved canola swaths which will impact yields.

Pasture productivity is being affected by heat and dry conditions. Some producers are starting to supplement feed. Dugouts are 65 per cent full.

Northwest Region
Above seasonal daytime temperatures favoured good harvest progress throughout the Northwest Region. Conditions deteriorated only slightly late in the week with an unstable weather system interrupting harvest with occasional light thunderstorms and scattered rainshowers with precipitation totalling 10 to 15 mm.

The generally good weather and field conditions allowed greenfeed and native haying operations to continue with average overall yields. Some localized shortages are expected in those areas having had excess moisture issues. Silage corn harvest has not begun. Second-cut forages are completed with average quality and yields. Across all areas, good quantities of straw are baled in good condition. Pas-

ture conditions are generally adequate; however, some are beginning to decline under drier fall conditions or have not recovered from earlier excess moisture.

Central Region
Hot and dry weather continues to prevail in the Central Region as most areas saw little to no rainfall. Western parts of the region report zero to five mm, most of the eastern areas were similar, with Altona and Letellier reporting 10 mm, and a pocket southwest of St. Jean received 35 to 40 mm and hail. Most of the region is waiting for rain to aid in fall field work and improve seedbed and germination conditions for fall cereals.

There are reports of areas in soybean fields that are prematurely ripening. These areas are typically in the transition areas from field drains to ridges and can be attributed to saline areas and low soil moisture levels.

Field work is progressing slowly due to dry conditions. Some field ditching is being done. Winter wheat seeding has begun.

Livestock water continues to decline in most areas with some pumping occurring to fill dugouts. Pastures that were grazed hard are showing the most stress and lack of growth. Third-cut alfalfa has begun in some areas, while second-cut hay continues in others; yields are below normal. Some producers are taking second-cut alfalfa, keeping in mind the critical fall harvest period.

Eastern Region
In central and southern districts of the Eastern Region, varying amounts of rainfall occurred with amounts ranging from six to over 25 mm. The drier southern districts were noted as receiving 12 to 25 mm. In the northern districts, no appreciable general rainfall was noted but there were some isolated severe hailstorms in some northern and central districts.

In regards to winter feed supply level, hay is rated as 25 to 50 per cent adequate, straw at 80 to 90 per cent adequate, green-feed at 70 per cent adequate and feed grains ranged from 25 to 80 per cent adequate. The condition of the majority of pasture lands in the region is rated as poor to very poor. Availability of livestock water is still considered well below normal.

Interlake Region
Warm and sunny days allowed for good harvest progress through the week in the Interlake Region. Scattered showers over the weekend resulted in minimal harvest delays.

Soybeans are beginning to mature in the southern areas, while acres in the northern areas are showing only slight colour change.

Fall tillage and fall herbicide application started.

Hay harvest continues with native hay access quite good in some areas. Forage seed and cereal straw harvest is general which should provide a valuable feed source. Third cut is underway for dairy-quality hay. Most producers are reporting adequate pasture with enough grass and water to complete the grazing season.

BRIEFS

Brazilian corn being shipped to U.S.

SAO PAULO / REUTERS / Bunge is exporting small quantities of Brazilian corn to the United States this year and could export more if damage to the U.S. crop from drought worsens.

But a company official said he doesn't expect a permanent reordering of the global grain trade.

Brazil has just finished harvesting a record crop this year of 72.8 million tonnes of corn. The U.S. corn crop is now pegged at 300 million tonnes, significantly short of a previous projection of 350 million, and year-end stocks are expected to fall to a six-year low of 115 million tonnes.

Nominees sought for pollinator protector award

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Pollinator Partnership, with support from the Canadian Honey Council, are looking for nominees for the 2012 Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award.

This award recognizes an individual or family in the farm and ranch community in Canada who has contributed significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation on working and wild lands.

The recipients of the 2012 award will be recognized during an evening reception at the Canadian Embassy on Wednesday, October 13, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Washington, D.C., or in their hometown if they are unable to attend.

For details visit www.cfa-fca.ca/node/1835.

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STAFF / Growers who are using Lorsban or the generics Citadel, Pyrinex and Nufos to control insects are advised they must observe the pre-harvest interval (PHI) of a minimum of 21 days before direct combining or swathing.

“Our canola industry relies on exports, and countries that we export to have strict regulations on the types of trace residues they allow in canola. These residues are detectable and could be traced back to individual farms in parts per billion,” the Canola Council of Canada says in a producer alert. “That amounts to nine seeds in a super-B. Please protect the quality of your load and our canola exports by always following PHIs.”

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U.S. drought expected to increase farm debt, curb surging land values

Although land price increases are slacking off, many states have seen large over-year increases

By Carey Gillam
REUTERS

Crop-withering drought is eating into U.S. farm income, slowing the rise in farmland values and raising the likelihood farmers will borrow more money in the third quarter, according to a Federal Reserve Bank report issued Aug. 15.

Farmland values across an area of the U.S. Plains, which includes Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and parts of Missouri, rose less than three per cent during the second quarter, roughly half the rate of growth at the beginning of the year, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

The slower growth could indicate formation of a “plateau” in what has been skyrocketing prices for farmland, said Jason Henderson, vice-president and Omaha Branch executive with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

“We’ve seen slower gains now. Bankers expect this slower pace of growth to continue to the end of the year,” said Henderson. “After this rapid growth over the last few years, we might be forming a plateau.”

The pace and pricing of seasonal fall land sales will give bankers a better idea of the farmland value trend, he said.

Despite the slower pace of increasing value, farmland values in the Federal Reserve’s 10th district, which also includes Colorado, Wyoming and parts of New Mexico, were up 26.4 per cent for non-irrigated land over a year ago. Irrigated land values were up 28.2 per cent and ranchland values were up 16.2 per cent over this time a year ago.

Largest year over year

Nebraska had the largest year-over-year rise, with cropland prices up more than 35 per cent and ranchland values almost 27 per cent higher than this time a year ago.

In Kansas, a top producer of U.S. wheat, non-irrigated farmland value was up 23.5 per cent; irrigated land was up 25 per cent and ranchland was up 18.3 per cent over a year ago.

Oklahoma bankers reported the smallest year-over-year gains in farmland values — 15 per cent for non-irrigated; 10.9 per cent for irrigated and 10.6 per cent for ranchland — as many areas of the state endured a second year of extreme drought.

Farmland values are expected to



A highway sign and a retail sign detail the current drought and extreme temperatures currently plaguing the southwest U.S. in Fort Worth, Texas. The drought is cutting into farm incomes and curbing the rise in land values. REUTERS/MIKE STONE

hold at current levels during the rest of the growing season, the Federal Reserve report said.

Strong demand for farmland has boosted interest in more marginal tracts of land with production potential, the report said. Although the number of farmland sales remained low during the growing season, some bankers expect the number of sales to rise after harvest.

The drought has hit U.S. livestock producers particularly hard, the Fed report said. Higher feed costs and lower cattle prices from forced herd liquidations have cut cattle profits, and rising corn prices are also increasing costs for hog, dairy and poultry enterprises.

Financial losses to ranchers spill over into the economy and is hard for an area to recover from, said Todd Adams, CEO of Adams Bank & Trust in the western Nebraska town of Ogallala.

“The ranchers have been hit the hardest, Adams said. “Even if they get good rains you wonder if the pasture will come back for next year. And when they sell off their momma cows... they are getting rid of what acts as their factories. Every day they just go out and watch

a little more of their livelihood burn away.”

Access to water is increasingly a key component of land valuation as farmers and ranchers struggle through another season of drought, Henderson said.

Despite the weaker outlook for farm income, loan repayment rates were expected to hold near year-ago levels, bankers said.

Strong U.S. winter wheat production was a boost for many farmers in the Plains states. In addition, land lease revenues for mineral rights continued to rise.

“When they sell off their momma cows... they are getting rid of what acts as their factories. Every day they just go out and watch a little more of their livelihood burn away.”

TODD ADAMS
aCEO Adams Bank and Trust

NEWS

Drought misses legumes, may spur demand

WINNIPEG / REUTERS / The devastating hot, dry conditions that have scorched U.S. corn and soybean crops have largely missed North American legume-growing areas, says Alliance Grain Traders.

Softening demand, due to a lack of credit for importers of legume crops such as lentils, chickpeas and peas, hurt Alliance’s earnings earlier this year, but

crop problems are stimulating demand, said chief executive Murad Al-Katib.

“Our North American crops look very positive as we have been relatively unaffected by the drought conditions,” he said.

The drought’s impact on U.S. crops, as well as diminished farm prospects in India due to lower rainfall than usual, look to raise the average cost of protein sources globally, the company said. Alliance’s second-quarter profit rebounded to \$1.7 million, following a \$3.9 million loss a year earlier.



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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

CONNECTING RURAL FAMILIES

Oft-troubled neighbourhood welcomes market

A farmers’ market in Winnipeg’s North End hits a note that resonates with locals and visitors alike

By Shannon VanRaes
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

It’s a busy Friday afternoon on North Main in Winnipeg — the Elvis Pawn Shop’s steel shutters are open inviting customers in, not to be outdone by its competitors Pawndora or Economy Pawn, and business is brisk at the Yale Hotel, where king cans of beer seem a popular choice.

But in the parking lot of the old California Fruit Market across the street — soon to be Neechi Commons — something is decidedly different. There, small tents shelter vendors selling fresh produce, crafts and baked goods, while a DJ spins out beats that draw people in.

“As summer has gone on we have gotten more and more vendors and now we have a DJ, and it’s pretty wicked,” said Jasmine Tara, organizer of the Main Street Farmers’ Market.

The North End Food Security Network founded the fledgling market in June, adding an afternoon dance party called “Drop the Beet” in August.

But all fun aside, Tara said the market’s goals are important and wide ranging.

“Our mandate is to have an equal right to food for everyone, regardless of what their background is, or where they live,” she said.

At the moment, some consider Winnipeg’s North End to be a “food desert” where good food is hard to come by, especially for individuals without access to transportation.

The wide availability of unhealthy food is also an issue.

“One of the challenges the North End faces is the small number of grocery stores and the large amount of convenience stores,” said Tara. “Convenience stores have much higher prices than grocery stores and the selection of food is not fresh.”

Even when fresh food is available and affordable, it takes edu-

“Convenience stores have much higher prices than grocery stores and the selection of food is not fresh.”

JASMINE TARA

cation and time to get people making healthy food choices, which makes the market a valuable resource where people can talk about food and learn how to use fresh produce in meals.

Room to grow

Operating with four to 10 regular vendors, the market still has room to grow.

“You could just pull up and sell out of the back of your truck if you wanted to,” said Tara, adding there is no vending fee.

Currently, much of the market’s fresh produce is provided by Food for Folks, an unregistered non-profit organization run by youths looking to turn the city’s vacant lots into community gardens.

Iain Brynjolson said the organization began three years ago after a brainstorming session at Folkfest.

“We wanted to do something to make fresh food available,” he said.

And the idea has proven popular with youth from neighbourhoods like North Point Douglas, who help grow, harvest and sell produce.

“Our sales have been really good, and the kids like running the tables,” said Rayanna Chartrand, as she dished out fresh chard and zucchinis to customers.

She said the group hopes to have enough money raised by the end of summer — Sept. 14 is the last day for the market — to install new community garden plots in an empty lot on Main St. just north of the CP tracks.

Chartrand estimates between 100 and 200 people turn out each Friday for the weekly market.

“I do all my grocery shopping I can here during the summer,” said Carolin Bund, who stopped by the market to browse.

Tara estimates that 50 per cent of the market’s customers are local residents, while the other half are people who commute along the central artery and stop to see what the fuss is about.

“If you check it out you’ll see, we have amazing prices... it’s not like any other farmers’ market I’ve been to,” she said.

For hours and vendor information, email jasmine@necrc.org.

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com



A DJ spins at Winnipeg’s Main Street Farmers’ Market. The market began in June, and will remain open on Friday afternoons until September 14. PHOTOS: SHANNON VANRAES



A DJ spins at Winnipeg’s Main Street Farmers’ Market as organizer Jasmine Tara (r) and a friend dance. The market began in June, and will remain open on Friday afternoons until September 14.



Jasmine Tara the organizer of Winnipeg’s Main Street Farmers’ Market. The market began in June, and will remain open on Friday afternoons until September 14.



Members of Food for Folks, including Iain Brynjolson (in green) and Rayanna Chartrand (r), sell produce at the Main Street Farmers’ Market in Winnipeg.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

RecipeSwap

Send your recipes or recipe request to:

Manitoba Co-operator
Recipe Swap
Box 1794,
Carman, Man. ROG OJO

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PHOTOS: LORRAINE STEVENSON

A thousand apples a day (almost)

Lorraine Stevenson
Crossroads Recipe Swap



There's another bountiful crop coming in this month — apples. My mother-in-law's apple trees are unusually heavy this August with beautiful Carrolls, Goodlands, Lubsk Queens and Norkents. It's astonishing to see and taste so many crisp, juicy apples, knowing they're the lasting legacy of the Prairie fruit-breeding programs at nearby Morden and the efforts of patient, persistent, local growers who wanted a future generation to be able to enjoy abundant cold-hardy apples.

And what abundance it is in 2012! We're eating way more than one a day around here and we're scrambling to make sure we'll be eating these lovely apples well into winter too. We put in a couple of late nights last week peeling and turning apples into yummy applesauce and pie fillings, and a trip to Landmark saw four large crates transformed into nearly 30 two-litre jugs of delicious juice at Apple Junction, a small apple-processing company there. The place was whirring with activity as customers lined up with their own plentiful apples in bags and boxes, excitedly watching the processing.

Here's a couple of recipes I've randomly chosen this week featuring apples. Enjoy!

Recipe Swap...

I'm always happy to hear from readers with your recipes and suggestions for columns! Write to:

Manitoba Co-operator Recipe Swap
Box 1794, Carman, Man. ROG OJO

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APPLE PIE FILLING

I've used this recipe for several years — when I've had apples — to create a delicious, easy-to-freeze filling for quick pie making later on. I find making half the recipe is easiest. A half-recipe makes four medium-size freezer bags of pie filling.

- 18 c. thinly sliced apples
- 3 tbsp. lemon juice
- 4-1/2 c. white sugar
- 1 c. cornstarch
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 10 c. water

In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice and set aside. Pour water into a Dutch oven over medium heat. Combine sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. Add to water, stir well, and bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add apples and return to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until apples are tender, about 6 to 8 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes.

Ladle into 5 freezer containers, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Cool at room temperature no longer than 1-1/2 hours.

Seal and freeze. Can be stored for up to 12 months.

APPLE AND WALNUT COUSCOUS SALAD

- 1 c. water
- 2/3 c. couscous
- 2 stalks celery
- 1 apple, diced
- 1/2 c. roasted walnuts chopped
- 1-1/2 tbsp. fresh parsley chopped
- 2 tbsp. green onions, chopped
- 2 tbsp. canola oil
- 1 tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp. maple syrup or honey
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Bring water to boil. Add couscous. Remove from heat, cover and let sit for five minutes. Fluff with fork and cool completely. In large bowl, toss cooled couscous, celery, apple, walnuts, parsley, and green onions. In small bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, maple syrup, mustard, salt and pepper. Toss with coucous.

Makes 4 servings.

BEET AND APPLE SALAD

The two following recipes are from the *Prairie Fruit Cookbook*, featured on these pages last spring when we told you about its Winnipeg author, Getty Stewart, and her Fruit Share. Two years ago the home economist began helping Winnipeggers get organized to harvest, use and share fruit from backyard and boulevard trees and bushes that might have been overlooked and wasted. Fruit Share volunteers harvested 1,600 lbs. of fruit that first year, so with 200 volunteers lined up at the start of this season you can be certain plenty more fruit has been saved and savoured. You can read more about Fruit Share or the *Prairie Fruit Cookbook*, by logging on to www.prairiefruit.ca.

- 3 - 4 beets
- 2 apples
- 1 tbsp. fresh dill, chopped
- 1/3 c. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp. honey.
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tsp. caraway seed
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook beets in boiling, salted water until tender. Peel and dice. Wash, core and dice apples, do NOT peel. Mix beets, apples and dill in salad bowl. In large bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, mustard, honey, garlic and spices. Toss with beets and apples.

Makes 4 servings.

ROYAL DUTCH APPLE LOAF

It's a busy time of year so you may want to tuck this recipe from the *Carman Palliative Care Cookbook* away for when you have a little more time to attend to a baking project. I made this last winter and it produced a beautiful, sweet, chewy loaf. — LS

- 1 tbsp. yeast
- 2 c. warm milk
- 6 c. unbleached all-purpose flour (approx.)
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp. honey or sugar
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 apples, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 c. raisins
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- Pinch cinnamon
- Pinch mace
- Pinch allspice
- 1 tsp. salt

Dissolve yeast in milk. Add 2-1/2 c. flour. Mix well. Let rest 30 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and work into a dough. Knead for 6 to 7 minutes. Return dough to mixing bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about 1 hour). Divide the dough into 2 equal halves and shape each piece into a loaf. Set the loaves on a baking sheet that has been lightly greased. Cover the loaves and let rise for 50 minutes. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 F for 50 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from baking sheet and let cool on a rack.



Take a day trip to Morden

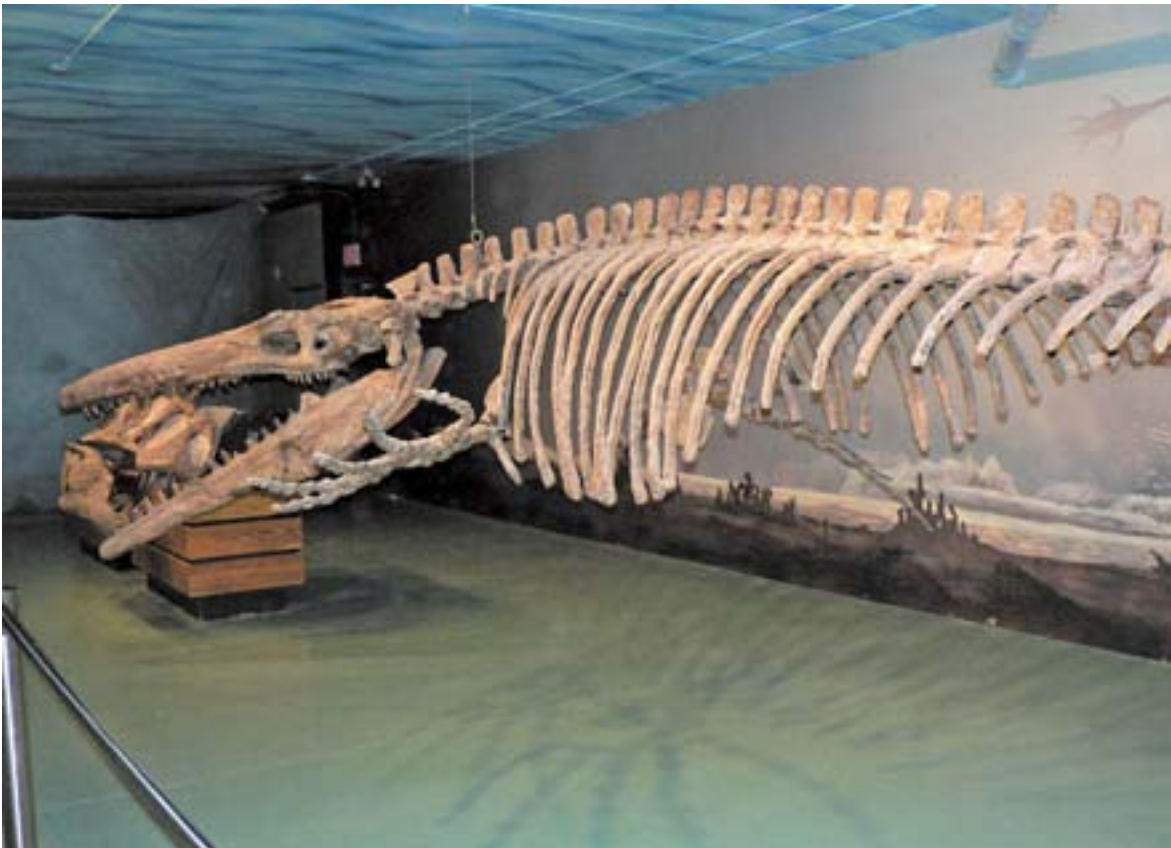
From fossils to flowers, baseball to beach, this area has it all

By Donna Gamache
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

If you're looking for a day trip to finish off your summer travels, or an early-autumn excursion, consider Morden as a destination. This town — which has now reached city-size in population — is well worth a trip. My husband and I recently spent a couple of days there, and found plenty to interest us.

Tops on your visit should be the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, located in the lower level of the Morden Community Centre at 111-B Gilmour Street. The discovery centre has the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada, and is listed by *Maclean's Magazine* as one of its top five recommended destinations. Over 600 specimens of fossils are catalogued within the museum, including numerous exhibits of mosasaurs and plesiosaurs that are 80 million years old! Of these, the chief attraction is "Bruce." The largest mosasaur found in Canada, Bruce is 13 metres (43 feet) in length, a very impressive specimen. If you or your children are interested in dinosaurs or prehistoric marine creatures, Bruce is a must-see. He was discovered in 1974 in a farmer's pasture at Thornhill, just a few kilometres west of Morden.

The discovery centre is wheelchair accessible and there is a small gift shop for souvenirs. It is open year round, seven days a week. Summer hours (until the end of September) are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and off-season hours are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults or \$12 for a family of five. For more information call (204) 822-3406 or visit www.discoverfossils.com.



Bruce is the largest mosasaur found in Canada. PHOTOS: DONNA GAMACHE

For budding paleontologists or others who are interested, the centre also offers "Fossil Dig Adventure Tours" that search for "prehistoric sea monster fossils at an active dig site." The tours are of varying lengths, from half a day to five days in length. (Half-day tours start at \$50 for adults, and should be booked a week in advance, until early October.) Participants join an actual excavation team as it conducts digs in the nearby Manitoba Escarpment. We didn't try this, as it was very hot when we visited, but it sounds intriguing. The centre's pamphlet advertises that the tours have a 100 per cent success rate at finding fossils, since 2008.

While you're at the community centre, visit the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum on the main floor. It can be visited seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call (204) 822-4636 for more information, or see www.mbhof.ca. The museum recognizes outstanding players, coaches and teams, and displays memorabilia including uniforms from the past and present. If you're a baseball fan, this will interest you.

For those more interested in agriculture or gardens, a visit to the Agriculture Canada Research Station on the east side of Morden could be next on the list. The station special-

izes in testing and developing flax and pulse crops such as field peas, beans and soybeans, as well as landscape plants for the Prairies. Visitors are welcome to tour the arboretum and grounds there. Although spring blossom time is when more visitors arrive, summer and fall are still worthwhile. We enjoyed wandering through the trees and beds of flowering roses and lilies, and I took a peek in one building where someone was working with bean plants. Shaded picnic tables offer a place to eat your lunch, if you have it with you.

A drive around downtown Morden reveals another attraction: six murals. It's worth hunting for these, as different historical features are shown, including one depicting a long line of oxen-pulled covered wagons used by the Boundary Commission in 1873, and a mural of the Morden Centennial Rose, developed by Dr. Henry Marshall at the research station. Pick up a Morden pamphlet at the discovery centre or the tourist centre, for a list and location of all six murals.

For those with more time to explore, drive 1-1/2 kilometres west of town on Hwy. No. 3 for some time at Lake Minnewasta and Colert Beach. Even if swimming season is past, you can take a walk along the Buhler Boardwalk or along the scenic hiking/cycling path. I particularly enjoyed being able to cycle or walk through the golf course, as well. Since I don't golf, it gave me the opportunity to view part of this very scenic course.

Although we were there a couple of days, we only sampled the attractions of this region. A large variety of festivals attract visitors at various times, including Apple Blossom Week in the spring; the Canada Day Beach Blast at Colert Beach; the Corn & Apple Festival held on the fourth weekend in August; and the Pembina Valley Artist Studio Tour on September 8 and 9. Perhaps we'll manage to take in some of these in the future.

Donna Gamache writes from MacGregor, Manitoba



Take a walk on the boardwalk at Colert Beach.

For those more interested in agriculture or gardens, a visit to the Agriculture Canada Research Station on the east side of Morden could be next on the list.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

A Manitoba heritage site

Strathclair Museum housed in former CP Rail Station

By Darrell Nesbitt
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

The sights and sounds of a passenger train rolling into Strathclair and braking at the CP Rail Station, just as it did years ago, can be relived today by walking through the village's museum.

Located in the former CPR station, the museum contains countless railway, household and farm artifacts that bring to life the history of the village and the area it encompasses.

The official name of Strathclair was created by combining "Strath," meaning valley in the Scottish tongue, and "clair" in honour of Duncan Sinclair the area surveyor.

Based on information from the Strathclair history book, the CPR decided to close the station and freight shed and tender the buildings for sale in the fall of 1971. When it became known, it was suggested by Mary Basler that council should try to purchase the building for a museum — as the building was a museum in itself — being the only original station left on this part of the Bredenbury Subdivision.

"Built in 1900, the station was purchased by the Rural Municipality of Strathclair for \$125 and moved from the CPR property to its present site facing Main Street in 1972," said Willard Moffett, chairperson of the Strathclair Museum Committee. "The museum was officially opened on July 6, 1974 and has been converted into one of the larger museums along the Yellowhead Highway."

The importance of the passenger train era is easily visible upon walking through the museum's door, as the station office highlights a wealth of information and equipment from that time. The former

Located in the former CPR station, the museum contains countless railway, household and farm artifacts.

Manitoba and Northwestern Railway Station, which was later operated by the CPR, is among Manitoba's heritage sites posted on the Canadian Register of Historic Places at historicplaces.ca.

Next door to the former train station is St. George's Anglican Church, which was moved onto the site from a location south of Menzie in the fall of 1974. The first interfaith service held in the Anglican country church took place in July 1982 and drew a capacity crowd.

Moffett said that the committee has also brought forth a blacksmith shop containing pioneer farm machinery, school van on sleighs and much more.

"I can remember the station — the lifeblood of Strathclair — being a beehive of people and an assortment of wares being on- and off-loaded when the train rolled to a stop," said Moffett, an 82-year-old retired farmer. "My mother and I went by passenger train in the winter to Shoal Lake to see my aunt. As a young lad, I got a real kick out of the smoke rolling past the windows of the passenger car."

Making sure these stories of the past are kept alive, the Strathclair Museum Committee, assisted by David Gamey, has launched a new project that will bring history to the modern era. Assisted by a \$23,900 federal grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, a project



As a young lad, chairperson Willard Moffett, can remember visiting the station and riding the rails to Shoal Lake to visit a family member. PHOTO: DARRELL NESBITT

titled "Telling the Stories" will involve documenting and recording important and interesting information about various museum artifacts, improving the museum's records and archiving documents and photographs important to the history of Strathclair and surrounding areas.

MP Robert Sopuck, who visited the museum earlier this spring was impressed with the building, said Moffett, who is joined on the committee by Graham Switzer (vice-chair), Helga Gerrard (secretary/treasurer), and members-at-large Tess Halliday, Doreen Roberts, Verna Lou Martin, and Gamey in a technical role.

Supported by fundraising and grants,

the committee is seeking volunteers to help out with different aspects of the latest project, kick-started in 2011 and expected to continue to April 2013. Area citizens who have knowledge of items in the museum are urged to contribute what they know.

"It's very important to document the history of the area," said Gamey. "The story behind the artifact or picture makes the museum piece that much more important to today's generation."

Information or donations can be mailed to the Strathclair Museum Association, Strathclair, Man. R0J 2C0.

Darrell Nesbitt writes from Shoal Lake, Manitoba



Goldenrod is often seen as a harbinger of autumn.

PHOTO: ALBERT PARSONS

Goldenrod for the landscape

Domestic cultivars are not so unruly as native ancestors

By Albert Parsons
FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

I know that autumn is approaching when I see goldenrod blooming in the ditches as I drive through the countryside. The wild goldenrod is a bit too unruly to include in a domestic planting unless it is used in a large rural property in a naturalized way. It works well planted along a shed or machine shop or near the edge of a dugout or pond. It is not suitable for inclusion in flower borders because it is simply too invasive and would take over the whole border in no time.

Luckily, plant breeders have developed domestic cultivars of goldenrod that are better behaved and suitable for use in flower borders in the landscape. They will still self-seed to some degree and do "travel," but are more clump forming and less invasive than native varieties. These plants have the same lovely golden flowers, strong, self-supporting stems, and resilience as their native ancestors, but some of them are shorter. Often goldenrod is simply labelled "Solidago" in greenhouses, but in a few places you will see a cultivar name such as "Golden Baby" or "Early Bird," listed on the plant tag.

The old belief that goldenrod is the cause of suffering for hay fever victims is not true. Grains of its pollen are large and sticky and require insects to move them from flower to flower. The pollen is not windborne. Goldenrod is very attractive to bees, which is a good thing, as having bees in our gardens increases the pollination that goes on, including in the vegetable patch whose productivity is dependent on pollination.

Solidago is a tough, resilient plant with characteristics resembling those of its native parents. It does require lots of sun; plants grown in too much shade will be elongated and the stems will be weak and may not be self-supporting. It is not prone to disease or insect attacks although some stems might develop swellings or galls which are really an indication of the plants' self-defence system. When attacked by an insect the plant grows a gall that surrounds the insect, thus ending the attack. Wasps and birds have learned to use these galls for their benefit: the wasps by laying eggs in them where the resulting larvae will feed on the encased insect; and the birds simply peck into the gall, remove the insect and eat it.

Most hardy goldenrod cultivars are quite tall, at one to 1-1/2 metres. This makes the plant a good one for the back of the border. It is drought tolerant and not at all fussy about soil type. It combines well with heliopsis, sages and veronicas, tall monardas, verbascums and lilies. Although it can be mass planted, clumps of solidago are usually incorporated into a mixed border where its lovely golden flower spikes act as a counterpoint for the red, orange, blue and violet blooms of nearby plants. Goldenrod also makes a great cut flower with a long vase life. I use it as a filler in arrangements and bouquets. Its fluffy golden flower heads combine well with the rather stiff spikes of gladioli in an arrangement. Goldenrod is indeed a useful and versatile plant.

Albert Parsons writes from Minnedosa, Manitoba

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Entertainment
Fertilizer

FARM MACHINERY
Aeration
Conveyors
Equipment Monitors
Fertilizer Equip
Grain Augers
Grains Bins
Grain Carts
Grain Cleaners
Grain Dryers
Grain Elevators
Grain Handling
Grain Testers
Grain Vacuums

HAYING & HARVESTING
Baling Equipment
Mower Conditioners
Swathers

Swather Accessories
Haying & Harvesting
Various

COMBINES
Belarus
Case/IH
Cl
Caterpillar Lexion
Deutz
Ford/NH
Gleaner
John Deere
Massey Ferguson
Versatile
White
Combines Various
Combine Accessories
Hydraulics
Irrigation Equipment
Loaders & Dozers
Parts & Accessories
Salvage
Potato & Row Crop Equip-
ment
Repairs
Rockpickers
Snowblowers/Plows
Silage Equipment
Specialty Equipment

SPRAYING
Sprayers
Spray Various

TILLAGE & SEEDING
Air Drills
Air Seeders
Harrows & Packers
Seeding Various
Tillage Equipment
Tillage & Seeding Various

TRACTORS
Agco
Allis/Deutz
Belarus
Case/IH
Caterpillar
Ford
John Deere
Kubota
Massey Ferguson

New Holland
Steiger
Universal
Versatile
White
Zetor
Tractors 2WD
Tractors 4WD
Tractors Various
Farm Machinery Miscel-
laneous
Farm Machinery Wanted
Fencing
Firewood
Fish Farm
Forestry/Logging
Fork Lifts/Pallets
Fur Farming
Generators
GPS
Health Care
Heat & Air Conditioning
Hides/Furs/Leathers
Hobby & Handicrafts
Household Items

LANDSCAPING
Greenhouses
Lawn & Garden

LIVESTOCK CATTLE
Cattle Auctions
Angus
Black Angus
Red Angus
Aryshire
Belgian Blue
Blonde d'Aquitaine
Brahman
Brangus
Braunvieh
Buelingo
Charolais
Dairy
Dexter
Excellerator
Galloway
Gelbvieh
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Holstein
Jersey
Limousin
Lowline
Luing
Maine-Anjou
Miniature
Murray Grey
Piedmontese

Pinzgauer
Red Poll
Salers
Santa Gertrudis
Shaver Beefblend
Shorthorn
Simmental
South Devon
Speckle Park
Tarentaise
Texas Longhorn
Wagyu
Welsh Black
Cattle Composite
Cattle Various
Cattle Wanted

LIVESTOCK HORSES
Horse Auctions
American Saddlebred
Appaloosa
Arabian
Belgian
Canadian
Clydesdale
Draft
Donkeys
Haflinger
Miniature
Morgan
Mules
Norwegian Ford
Paint
Palomino
Percheron
Peruvian
Pinto
Ponies
Quarter Horse
Shetland
Sport Horses
Standardbred
Tennessee Walker
Thoroughbred
Warmblood
Welsh
Horses For Sale
Horses Wanted

LIVESTOCK SHEEP
Sheep Auction
Arcott
Columbia
Dorper
Dorset
Katahdin
Lincoln
Suffolk
Texel Sheep
Sheep For Sale

Sheep Wanted

LIVESTOCK Swine
Swine Auction
Swine For Sale
Swine Wanted

LIVESTOCK Poultry
Poultry For Sale
Poultry Wanted

LIVESTOCK Specialty
Alpacas
Bison (Buffalo)
Deer
Elk
Goats
Llama
Rabbits
Emu Ostrich Rhea
Yaks
Specialty Livestock Vari-
ous
Livestock Equipment
Livestock Services & Vet
Supplies
Miscellaneous Articles
Miscellaneous Articles
Wanted
Musical
Notices
On-Line Services

ORGANIC
Organic Certified
Organic Food
Organic Grains
Personal
Pest Control
Pets & Supplies
Photography
Propane
Pumps
Radio, TV & Satellite

REAL ESTATE
Vacation Property
Commercial Buildings
Condos
Cottages & Lots
Houses & Lots
Mobile Homes
Motels & Hotels
Resorts

FARMS & RANCHES
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
Pastures
Farms Wanted

Acreages/Hobby Farms
Land For Sale
Land For Rent

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES
All Terrain Vehicles
Boats & Water
Campers & Trailers
Golf Carts
Motor Homes
Motorcycles
Snowmobiles
Recycling
Refrigeration
Restaurant Supplies
Sausage Equipment
Sawmills
Scales

SEED/FEED/GRAIN Pedigreed Cereal Seeds
Barley
Durum
Oats
Rye
Triticale
Wheat
Cereals Various

PEDIGREED FORAGE SEEDS
Alfalfa
Annual Forage
Clover
Forages Various
Grass Seeds

PEDIGREED OILSEEDS
Canola
Flax
Oilseeds Various

PEDIGREED PULSE CROPS
Beans
Chickpeas
Lentil
Peas
Pulses Various

PEDIGREED SPECIALTY CROPS
Canary Seeds
Mustard
Potatoes
Sunflower
Specialty Crops Various

COMMON SEED
Cereal Seeds
Forage Seeds
Grass Seeds

Oilseeds
Pulse Crops
Common Seed Various

FEED/GRAIN
Feed Grain
Hay & Straw
Hay & Feed Wanted
Feed Wanted
Grain Wanted
Seed Wanted
Sewing Machines
Sharpening Services
Silos
Sporting Goods
Outfitters
Stamps & Coins
Swap
Tanks
Tarpaulins
Tenders
Tickets
Tires
Tools

TRAILERS
Grain Trailers
Livestock Trailers
Trailers Miscellaneous
Travel
Water Pumps
Water Treatment
Welding
Well Drilling
Well & Cistern
Winches

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba

CAREERS
Career Training
Child Care
Construction
Domestic Services
Farm/Ranch
Forestry/Log
Health Care
Help Wanted
Management
Mining
Oil Field
Professional
Resume Services
Sales/Marketing
Trades/Tech
Truck Drivers
Employment Wanted



Manitoba Co-OPERATOR Classified Ad Order Form

MAIL TO:
Manitoba Co-operator,
Box 9800, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3K7

FAX TO:
204-954-1422

PHONE IN: TOLL FREE IN CANADA:
1-800-782-0794
Or (204) 954-1415 in Winnipeg

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Even if you do not want your name & address to appear in your ad, we need the information for our files.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD BELOW: _____

Classification: _____ ☐ *I would like to take advantage of the Prepayment Bonus of 2 FREE weeks when I prepay for 3 weeks.*

No. of words _____ x \$0.45 x No. of weeks _____ = _____

☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTERCARD** **Minimum charge \$11.25 per week**

Card No. _____ Add \$2.50 if being billed / Minus 10% if prepaying: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Add 5% GST: _____

Signature: _____ **► TOTAL:** _____

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
NOON on THURSDAYS
(unless otherwise stated)

ADVERTISING RATES & INFORMATION
REGULAR CLASSIFIED

- **Minimum charge — \$11.25 per week** for first 25 words or less and an additional 45 cents per word for every word over 25. Additional bolding 75 cents per word. GST is extra. **\$2.50 billing charge is added to billed ads only.**
- Terms: Payment due upon receipt of invoice.
- **10% discount for prepaid ads.** If phoning in your ad you must pay with VISA or MasterCard to qualify for discount.
- Prepayment Bonus: **Prepay for 3 weeks & get a bonus of 2 weeks;** bonus weeks run consecutively & cannot be used separately from original ad; additions & changes accepted only during first 3 weeks.
- Ask about our Priority Placement.
- If you wish to have replies sent to a confidential box number, please add \$5.00 per week to your total. Count eight words for your address. Example: Ad XXXX, Manitoba Co-operator, Box 9800, Winnipeg, R3C 3K7.
- Your complete name and address must be submitted to our office before publication. (This information will be kept confidential and will not appear in the ad unless requested.)

DISPLAY CLASSIFIED

- Advertising copy deviating in any way from the regular classified style will be considered display and charged at the display rate of \$32.20 per column inch (\$2.30 per agate line).
- **Minimum charge \$32.20 per week + \$5.00 for online per week.**
- Illustrations and logos are allowed with full border.
- **Spot color: 25% of ad cost, with a minimum charge of \$15.00.**
- Advertising rates are flat with no discount for frequency of insertion or volume of space used.
- Telephone orders accepted
- Terms: Payment due upon receipt of invoice.
- Price quoted does not include GST.

All classified ads are non-commissionable.

Published by
Farm Business Communications,
1666 Dublin Avenue,
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0H1

WINNIPEG OFFICE
Manitoba Co-operator
1666 Dublin Avenue,
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0H1
Toll-Free in Canada 1-800-782-0794
Phone 204-954-1415 in Winnipeg
FAX 204-954-1422 Mailing Address:
Box 9800, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3K7

AGREEMENT
The publisher reserves the right to refuse any or all advertising for any reason stated or unstated.

Advertisers requesting publication of either display or classified advertisements agree that should the advertisement be omitted from the issue ordered for whatever reason, the Manitoba Co-operator shall not be held liable. It is also agreed that in the event of an error appearing in the published advertisement, the Manitoba Co-operator accepts no liability beyond the amount paid for that portion of the advertisement in which the error appears or affects. Claims for adjustment are limited to errors appearing in the first insertion only.

While every endeavor will be made to forward box number replies as soon as possible, we accept no liability in respect to loss or damage alleged to a rise through either failure or delay in forwarding such replies, however caused, whether by negligence or otherwise.

CAUTION
The Manitoba Co-operator, while assuming no responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns, exercises the greatest care in an endeavor to restrict advertising to wholly reliable firms or individuals. However, please do not send money to a Manitoba Co-operator box number. Buyers are advised to request shipment C.O.D. when ordering from an unknown advertiser, thus minimizing the chance of fraud and eliminating the necessity of a refund where the goods have already been sold.

At Farm Business Communications we have a firm commitment to protecting your privacy and security as our customer. Farm Business Communications will only collect personal information if it is required for the proper functioning of our business. As part of our commitment to enhance customer service, we may share this personal information with other strategic business partners. For more information regarding our Customer Information Privacy Policy, write to: Information Protection Officer, Farm Business Communications, 1666 Dublin Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3H 0H1. Occasionally we make our list of subscribers available to other reputable firms whose products and services might be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please contact us at the address in the preceding paragraph, or call 1-800-782-0794.

The editors and journalists who write, contribute and provide opinions to Manitoba Co-operator and Farm Business Communications attempt to provide accurate and useful opinions, information and analysis. However, the editors, journalists and Manitoba Co-operator and Farm Business Communications, cannot and do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication and the editors as well as Manitoba Co-operator and Farm Business Communication assume no responsibility for any actions or decisions taken by any reader for this publication based on any and all information provided.

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES
Antiques For Sale

1 COMPLETE SET OF mule harness w/cable tugs attached; 1 complete set of parade harness w/Breechen; neck yokes & eavensers; buggy poles; brass bells; scotch tops; ivory spread rings; several large leather halters, good condition. (204)242-2809 Box 592 Manitou, MB R0G 1G0

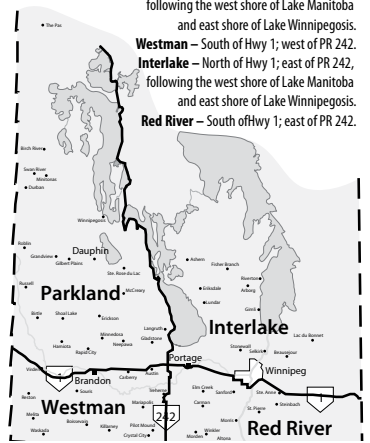
AUCTION DISTRICTS

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

Westman – South of Hwy 1; west of PR 242.

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

Red River – South of Hwy 1; east of PR 242.



AUCTION SALES

AUCTION SALES
Manitoba Auctions – Parkland

FARM AUCTION SALE For Mr Ken Bull, Sat Sept 1, 10:00am sharp. Location 2-mi E of Rapid City on Hwy 24, signs will be posted. Featuring: 3020 gas JD tractor w/cab & Allied loader, plus 3-PTH (tires very good, just over 7000-hrs on the clock); DC4 Case new large air compressor; 50-ton hyd press; 7-ft snowblower w/PTH; 240 Forne welder; new electric generator; 15-ft CCIL deep tiller; 7-ft finishing mower, PTH hitch; 2 row plow, PTH; plus several other older units; a large selection of power tools, parts for cars, Studebaker, GMC, etc. A real good 6-hr sale. For sale bills, Phone:(204)826-2092 or write Hyndman's Auction service, Box 12 Rapid city, R0K 1W0

AUCTION SALES

AUCTION SALES
Manitoba Auctions – Westman

ELECTRICIAN'S UNRESERVED ESTATE AUCTION for the Estate of Michael C. Yablonski at Holland Arena, Sat, Sept 8th at 10:30am. Good selection of Power Hand Tools, Shop Tools such as Rigid Pipe Threaders, Scaffolding, Jacks, Torches & other items, a quantity of shop and electrical supplies, Some Outdoor yard Equipment, Household Furniture & Appliances, and a few new household fixtures. A 1990 dodge window Van is also on offer. **ALL ITEMS UNRESERVED.** For inquiries call Linda Yablonski (204)834-2140. Sierns Auctions (204)744-2364 or (204)526-5047. Pictures & full list on internet www.sierensauction.com

AUCTION SALES

AUCTION SALES
Manitoba Auctions – Red River

FARM, WELDING SHOP & Household Auction for Joan & Tom Wood Sat., Sept 15th, 2012. Elm Creek, MB. Details at: www.gauthierauctions.com Gilbert Gauthier Auctions (204)379-2826

Advertise your unwanted equipment in the Classifieds. Call our toll-free number and place your ad with our friendly staff, and don't forget to ask about our prepayment bonus. Prepay for 3 weeks and get 2 weeks free! 1-800-782-0794

AUCTION SALES

Auctions Various

AUCTION SALES

Manitoba Auctions – Red River

MCSHERRY AUCTION SERVICE LTD Huge Auction Sale Jim Gregory Sat., Sept 8th 9:30am Sandilands, MB. #27 -11th St. Auction Note: This is a partial listing! Things are Stacked to the Roof in the Sheds. The List will grow w/more Vintage Tools & Antiques! Contact: (204)429-2216. **Vehicles:** 98 Chev Cavalier **Yard Modern & Vintage:** JD 56 R Mower; JD 60 R Mower; Case 155 hyd w/Frt Mt Snowblower; Case 195 w/Case FEL; MF 24-ft. R Mower; Gilson S12 w/Dozer & Removable Cab; 2) Murray 11-HP 36-ft. R Mower; Murray 8-HP 36-ft.; MTD 8-HP Lawn Flite R Mower; MTD 13-HP 38-in. R Mower; MFR Mower; Dynamark 10-HP; Trailer gas Wood Splitter; Simplicity Walk Behind w/Sickle Plow, Scuffer Attach; 3) Toro 6-HP 24-in. Snowblower; 2) Roto Tillers; Metal Shed 8x12; 25-ft. Wind Mill; 3 Wheel Pedal Bike; Pedal Bikes **Tools:** "Lager" Model 200 24-in. Metal Lathe; 2) Power Metal Band Saw; Scroll Saw; Lincoln Mig Welder; Arbor Press; 2) Floor Drill Press; HD Hyd Press; Acetylene Torches; Upright Air Comp; Port Air Comp; New 8-HP 5000W Generator; Kohler Propane Generator; Onan Gas Generator on Trailer; Radial Arm Saw; Wood Band Saw; Metal Band Saw; Port Cable Plate Jointer; Foley Model 200 Grinder; Shop Crane; Hyd Press; Engine Stand; Pedestal Tire Changer; Magnetic Drill; Battery Charger; Many Power Tools; Bench Grinder; Chop Saw; Mitre Saw; Drills; Angle Grinders; Elec Impact; Saws; Sanders; Specialty Tools; Air Tools; Floor Jacks; Hyd Jacks; Jackall; Slide Hammer; Lge Amt Hand Tools; 3/4 Drive Socket Sets; Gear Pullers; Tap & Die Set; Punch Sets ; Micrometer; Drill Bits; Milling Bits; Reamers; Porter Cable Plate Jointer; Sand Blaster **Misc:** 6) Convair Engines; Boat Seats; Fishing Rods; New Ice Auger; Key Cutting Machine; 3.5-HP Techumesh; B&S Engines; New 6.5-HP Engine; Lge Amt Shop Supplies; Auto Small Engine; Kick Start Engines; Bolts; Nails; Jobsite Service Panel; Over Head Hydro Wire; Elec Motors; Hyd Pumps; Hyd Cyl; Chains & Hooks; Load Binders; Welding Material; Pipe; Channel; Angle; New Oils & Lubs; Various Tires; 40-ft. Radio Tower; Gd Shop Shelving; Over 6 Cords Stove Lgth Firewood; Birch; Poplar; Pine; Shop Wood Heater; Construction Heater; Shelving **Antiques:** Fairbanks Model Z Stationary Engine; Int 3-5 HP Double Fly Wheel Stationary Engine S#14711; Oliver 62 Sq Baler; MH Hse Sickle Mower; Hammer Mill; 4) Older Snowmobiles; Alloutee XL 20E; Skirolle R400; 2) Motor Skis; Inboard & Outboard Motors; 1953 Old Steering Wheel w/Auto Car Watch; Danion Motors Thermometer; Ignition Cabinet; License Plates; Auto & Motorcycle; Hub Caps; Oil Cans; BA; Castrol; Quaker State; Texaco STP; 3 Star Imperial; Federal Moquill Clock; 2) Wood Stoves; Grandfather Clock; 2 Sets Snow Shoe; Pioneer Chain Saw; Fireman's Axe; Blow Torch; Toy Cast Wood Stove; 2) Train Sets; Wood Telephone; Sad Irons; Lanterns; 1957 Motion Lamp Vintage Car; Poplar Science Books & Mags; Blown Glass Butter Churn; Vintage Pioneer Chain Saw; Manual Honey Extractor; Vintage Snowblower Seat; Dieter Lantern; Vintage Horn; Wood Telephone; Air Scout Radio; Cuckoo Clock **GUNS:** 177 Cal Pellet Gun; Cooney Model 82 22 Cal S/A. Stuart McSherry (204)467-1858 or (204)886-7027 www.mcsherryauction.com



www.cropchatter.com

Ag industry news, directly to you.

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AUCTION SALES

Auctions Various

AUCTION SALES

Manitoba Auctions – Red River




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280 ACRES MORE OR LESS SOUTH ½ OFF 5-3-7 W IN RM OF PEMBINA ½ MILE SOUTH OF JCT 3 AND 31 HWYS DARLINGSFORD MB

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Terms 10 % non Refundable on Auction site
Payable to Gilmour law office, balance within 30 days at Closing

See our website
www.billklassen.com
or call 204-325-4433 cell 6230
Bill Klassen Auctioneers
bill@billklassen.com



RETIREMENT FARM AUCTION REMINDER FOR JOHN & MARY ANNE NICKEL
SAT., SEPTEMBER 8th 10:00 AM
Location: From Gardenton, MB 1 3/4 Miles South on Lord Roberts Rd, then 2 Miles East on 4N

Live Internet Bidding

TRACTORS, TRUCKS, ATV

- 1997 John Deere 6400 Diesel Tractor, MFWD, 640 JD Self-leveling Loader & Quick-Attach Bucket, Cab, 3 PTH, 12,001 hrs
- 1994 John Deere 6300 Diesel Tractor, Cab, 3 PTH, 5373 hrs
- 1978 GMC 6500 Grain Truck w/ 16ft. Steel B&H, 51,518 kms
- 1997 John Deere 535 Round Baler w/ Bale Kicker
- 2001 12ft. 499 New Holland Haybine
- 860 Gehl Forage Harvester, 2 Row Corn Header
- 10ft. PTO Drive Stone Rake
- Schulte Reel Type Stone Picker
- 80ft. Great Northern Field Sprayer w/ Poly Tank

PLUS HAY FORAGE, TILLAGE & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT SHOP TOOLS & HOUSEHOLD GOODS & MUCH MORE!!

Full listing at www.pennerauctions.com
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www.pennerauctions.com

AUTO & TRANSPORT

AUTO & TRANSPORT

Auto & Truck Parts

FOR SALE: (BULL BAR / Moose catchers) for 2010-2012 Volvo truck, also 1 for a 95 Freight liner. We are selling them cheap! Can Deliver. Phone: (204)868-5040

REMANUFACTURED DSL ENGINES: GM 6.5L \$4,750 installed; Ford/IH 7.3L \$4950 installed; GM Duramax/Ford 6.0L, \$8,500 installed; new 6.5L engines \$6500; 24V 5.9L Cummins, \$7,500 installed; other new/used & reman. engines available. Thickett Engine Rebuilding, 204-532-2187, Binscarth. 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

AUCTION SALES

Auctions Various

BUILDINGS



STRONGEST POSTS INDUSTRY-WIDE

McDiarmid Lumber FARM & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Toll Free: 1-877-239-0730
www.mcdiarmid.com/farm

AUTO & TRANSPORT

Trucks

1993 F250 EXTENDED CAB, 7.3 engine, auto trans, would make good service truck; 1975 GMC grain truck, 8x16 box & hoist, safetied. Phone Alfred (204)745-2784

2001 FREIGHTLINER 120, C15Cat, 13-spd, good cond, \$12,500 OBO; 1996 30-ft high-boy, \$4200 OBO. Will do custom hauling in MB w/32-ft goose-neck trailer. Phone:(204)252-2266 or (204)871-1185

FOR SALE DUE TO quit farming: 1989 Freightliner FL112 semi truck, 3406 Cat, 13-spd trans, air ride suspension & air ride cab, sleeper, very good Michelin rubber, Diff lock, very clean truck good for farm or the oil patch. \$13,900; Price negotiable, for more information contact Claude (204)744-2501 home or (204)825-0001 cell

AUTO & TRANSPORT

Semi Trucks & Trailers

JOURNEYMAN TRUCK TRANSPORT MECHANIC w/service truck is available for work on highway trucks & trailers at your location. Quality work & fair pricing. Estimators are available for jobs if required. Knapper's Mechanical @ (204)461-0512 or email knappersmechanical@hotmail.com

AUTO & TRANSPORT

Vehicles Various

OVER 200 VEHICLES LOTS OF DIESELS www.thoens.com Chrysler Dodge (800)667-4414 Wynyard, SK

BUILDING & RENOVATIONS

BUILDING & RENOVATIONS

Roofing

PRICE TO CLEAR!!

75 truckloads 29 gauge full hard 100,000PSI high tensile roofing & siding. 16 colours to choose from.

B-Gr. coloured.....**70¢/ft.²**
Multi-coloured millends.....**49¢/ft.²**
Ask about our blowout colours...**65¢/ft.²**

Also in stock low rib white 29 ga. ideal for archrib buildings

BEAT THE PRICE INCREASES CALL NOW

FOUILLARD STEEL SUPPLIES LTD.
ST. LAZARE, MB.
1-800-510-3303

BUILDINGS

AFAB INDUSTRIES IS YOUR SUPERIOR post frame building company. For estimates and information call 1-888-816-AFAB(2322). Website: www.postframebuilding.com

CONCRETE FLATWORK: Specializing in place & finish of concrete floors. Can accommodate any floor design. References available. Alexander, MB. 204-752-2069

C.S.A CONSTRUCTION, SPECIALIZING IN concrete, flatwork & foundations. We also postframe & frame buildings. Anywhere in Manitoba. Phone:(204)212-2970 or Email:csapenner11@hotmail.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SALE: MORRIS AUTO body, Glenboro. Selling Auto body shop, including all equipment. Storage shed, metal clad 40x80; tow truck. Shop has Geo Thermal heat. Owner retired, priced for a quick sale. Call Dave Mooney (204)824-2094 Agent, Countryland Realty

BUSINESS SERVICES

BUSINESS SERVICES

Crop Consulting

FARM CHEMICAL SEED COMPLAINTS

We also specialize in: Crop Insurance appeals; Chemical drift; Residual herbicide; Custom operator issues; Equipment malfunction; Yield comparisons, Plus Private Investigations of any nature. With our assistance the majority of our clients have received compensation previously denied. Back-Track Investigations investigates, documents your loss and assists in settling your claim. Licensed Agrologist on Staff. For more information Please call 1-866-882-4779

CONTRACTING

CONTRACTING

Custom Harvest

WILL DO CUSTOM HARVESTING: Peas, cereals, canola, & soybeans. Flex heads, straight heads & PU headers. Professional operation fully insured. Phone:(204)371-9435 or (701)520-4036

Do you want to target Manitoba farmers? Place your ad in the Manitoba Co-operator. Manitoba's best-read farm publication.

BUILDINGS

CONTRACTING

Custom Work

C & C DIGGING, ditching, dug outs, clean outs, lagoons, demolition, land clearing, disking, heavy disc rentals, manure stockpiling, verticle beater manure spreading, dirt & gravel hauling w/track hoes, long-reach track hoe, bulldozer, loader, trucks, laser & brush cutter. Phone:(204)749-2222 (204)856-3646

CT CONSTRUCTION LTD, FIELD Drainage w/Laser, Dugouts, Lagoons, Fence Brushing/Land Clearing, Demolition, Driveways, Septic Tanks/Fields, Cartage, Gravel & Fill Strippings. Terry (204)268-5361. Clint (204)205-2031. ctconstruction160@gmail.com www.ctconstructionmb.com

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

2007 621D CASE WHEEL loader, 3 yd bucket, ride control, VGC. Call (204)447-0184

CASE 450 CRAWLER DOZER, 6-way blade, \$17,500. Cat 931 crawler loader, Powershift trans, pedal steer, good undercarriage, \$13,500. www.waltersequipment.com Phone (204)525-4521

EARTH SCRAPER FOR SALE, Letourneau-M scraper, 6 yard stock capacity, VGC, Jack Fehr hyd. conversion w/sequencing valve, \$7,900 OBO. Phone:(204)427-2261

HYD PULL SCRAPERS, 6-40-YDS caterpillar A.C./LePlant, LeTournau, etc. PT & direct mount available. Bucyrus Erie, 20-yds, cable, \$5000. PT motor grater \$14,900; tires available. Phone: (204)822-3797. Morden, MB

FARM MACHINERY

FARM MACHINERY

Grain Augers

FOR SALE: 8X52 (1600) Sakundiac grain auger, Power take-off, belt drive, VGC. Phone (204)773-2868

FOR SALE: WESTFIELD MK 100.61 auger w/hydraulic lift & swing hopper. Phone:(204)842-3626

FARM MACHINERY

Grain Bins

3 2000-BU WESTEEL ROSCOE bins w/air, \$500 ea. Phone:(204)324-6398

BIG BINS & FLOORS at old prices, 20,000-56,000-bu. bins holding prices until spring. NEW MOISTURE CABLES! Call Wall Grain for details (204)269-7616 or (306)244-1144 or (403)393-2662

CUSTOM BIN MOVING Book now! Fert Tanks. Hopper Bins/flat. Buy/Sell. Call Tim (204)362-7103 or E-mail Requests binmovers@hotmail.com

Sukup Grain Bins - Heavy Duty, hopper or flat bottom, setup available, good pricing. Call for more info. (204) 998-9915

Two 19' Bins - 4700 bushels per bin
Four 21' Bins - 5900 bushels per bin (with .094 aeration floors).

ONLY \$1500 A PIECE!

Located in the Oakville area
come and get 'em!
Contact Dave, Blaine or Ron at
Wall Grain at 204-269-7616
for more information.



WALL GRAIN

BUILT RIGHT. ON TIME.

FARM MACHINERY

Grain Carts

472 BRENT GRAINCART 500-BU, in excellent shape, \$11,900; 400-Bu UFT graincart, \$6500. Phone:(204)529-2046 or (204)529-2091

FARM MACHINERY

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Machinery Miscellaneous

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Machinery Miscellaneous

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22-28-15; NW 16-28-15; NW 28-28-15; SW
29-28-15; SW 9-29-15; W1/2 1-29-15; NW
14-28-15; SW 23-28-15; NE 2-29-15; SW 33-28-15;
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34-28-15; NW 25-28-15; NE & S1/2 36-28-15; SE
35-28-15; SE 1-29-15; SE 2-29-15; SE 11-29-15;
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31-28-14 by 3 unit transfers. If you wish to com-
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MAFRI, Agriculture Crown Lands PO Box 1286,
Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0 or e-mail Robert.Flem-
ing@gov.mb.ca

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND (NE +
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ply for the unit transfer, contact the lessee at PO
Box 248 Eriksdale, MB R0C 0W0, or Phone:
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to this unit transfer write: Director, MAFRI, Agricul-
tural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa, MB
R0J 1E0 or email Robert.Fleming@gov.mb.ca

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND (SW
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culture, Food & Rural Initiatives for transfer to the
purchaser of the private lands listed as these lands
are part of the ranch unit held by Collin Gamache of
Laurier. If you wish to purchase the private land &
apply for the Unit Transfer contact the Lessee or
agent at Gilbert & Colleen Soucy of Laurier Mani-
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One more week of summer weather

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Daniel Bezte
Co-operator contributor

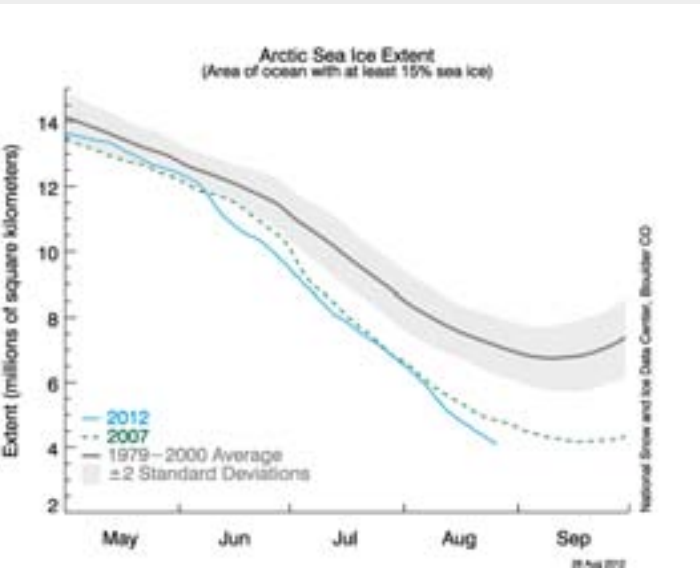


A couple hundred kilometres can make a big difference in the weather, and that is what we saw last week. A large area of low pressure was forecasted to form over Saskatchewan last weekend and that is exactly what happened. But the low formed and moved several hundred km farther north than expected. This resulted in much warmer air over southern and central regions of Manitoba, along with little in the way of precipitation over the weekend. The only big effect we saw or felt from this low was the strong wind.

This forecast period will start with a building ridge of high pressure. This will give most regions plenty of sunshine along with warm late-August temperatures. The warmest day looks to be Wednesday, with highs expected to be pushing into the low 30s. A cold front will push through on Thursday and may bring the odd thunder-shower, especially to more northerly regions. Temperatures will cool down behind this front with highs expected to be in the mid-20s on Thursday and Friday.

It looks like we'll see a weak area of low pressure move through southern Manitoba on Saturday and Sunday, which will bring a mix of sun and clouds along with a chance of the odd shower. This low will be replaced by a weak area of high pressure on

SEA ICE COVERAGE IN THE ARCTIC



For this issue's map I figured I would take a break from looking at precipitation amounts over the Prairies and instead take a look at the amount of sea ice coverage in the Arctic. One image shows the actual extent of the sea ice (area in white) with the orange line showing where the average extent of the ice would be. The other image is a graph showing the trend in the amount of Arctic sea ice over the last four months. The grey line is the 1979-2000 average extent of sea ice, the dotted line is 2007 which was the previous record-low year, and the blue line is this year.



Monday, bringing a return to plenty of sunshine. Sunday will likely be the coolest day, with highs only around 20 C. By Monday we should see highs back into the mid-20s.

Looking further ahead, the weather models are showing the warm temper-

atures lasting until the middle of next week before they show cooler conditions moving in — just in time for the start of school!

Usual temperature range for this period
Highs: 17 to 28 C
Lows: 5 to 14 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.

Less than four million sq. km of ice left in Arctic

Above-average temperatures are expected to produce a record low level of sea ice

By Daniel Bezte
CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR

In the last few issues I've discussed pressure patterns and in particular, meridional and zonal flows. I mentioned that the difference in temperature between northern and southern regions has some control over whether we will see meridional or zonal flow patterns, and that with warming conditions over the Arctic, it is not surprising that we are seeing more meridional flow patterns. With that thought I figured it was time we took a look at just what's been happening in the Arctic this summer.

For those of you who follow what is going on in the Arctic weather- and ice-wise, you'll know that going into this spring and summer the amount of ice in the Arctic was actually near the long-term average. Several people jumped on this proclaiming that everything is fine in the Arctic, as ice conditions are "back to normal."

What most people don't realize is that while the coverage of ice in the Arctic was near average by the end of the winter, the amount or volume of ice was running well below average. This is due to the fact that over the last 10 or so years a lot of the old, thick, multi-year ice has melted. Over the winter, ice coverage increases as the Arctic Ocean freezes, but this ice is thin first-year ice that can melt very rapidly in the summer.

This is exactly what happened once June rolled around. During June the amount of sea ice in the Arctic saw a rapid decline, and by the end of the month sea ice coverage was at or even below the previous record low.

During the first half of July the rate of sea ice loss slowed a bit as cloudy conditions prevailed over large areas of the Arctic. Ice melt then increased significantly later in July, and this rapid pace of ice melt has continued into August. By late July the amount of Arctic sea ice hit a new record low and

it has been tracking at record-low levels ever since.

According to the National Snow and Ice Data Centre, on Aug. 13 the amount of sea ice coverage in the Arctic was sitting at 5.09 million square km, which was 2.69 million square km below the 1979 to 2000 average and was a remarkable 483,000 square km below the previous record low for that date which occurred in 2007.

In previous years, when record-low ice has occurred it was usually accompanied by unusual weather patterns in the Arctic that brought perfect ice-melting conditions. This year, while it has been warmer than usual in the Arctic, the overall weather patterns have been fairly typical. This means that this year's record ice loss was not brought about by the perfect combination of events, but rather is a result of continued warmer-than-average conditions, along with plenty of thin first-year ice that is subject to quick melting.

Typically the melt season in the Arctic ends sometime between

Unless something really strange happens this year, it looks like 2012 will easily break the record for lowest ice coverage since satellite records began.

the first and third week in September and it is at this time that we see the lowest amount of sea ice coverage. So we still have a few weeks left in this year's melt season. The record low for sea ice coverage occurred in 2007 with last year (2011) coming in a close second.

Unless something really strange happens this year, it looks like 2012 will easily break the record for lowest ice coverage since satellite records began. In 2007, the minimum sea ice coverage occurred on September 16 and was measured at 4.17 million square km. As of Aug. 25 of this year, Arctic sea ice coverage has

fallen to about 4.2 million square km and is still declining. This means that the 2007 record will probably be easily broken, and it is likely that the total ice coverage will fall below four million square km for the first time ever in recorded history.

Of interest is that once again, both the northwest and northeast shipping passages are open again this year. Up until the last five or so years, this is something that has never been recorded in over 400 years of fairly reliable data. Don't forget that finding a shipping route through northern Canada was considered the Holy Grail of shipping.