FEDERAL CERTIFICATION EXPECTED

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Manitoba Co-operator

FEBRUARY 19, 2015

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MANITOBACOOPERATOR.CA

Sask. Wheat says wide basis costing wheat growers billions

Economist Richard
Gray says elevator
prices are down
even though f.o.b.
Vancouver prices
have remained
steady to higher since

By Allan Dawson CO-OPERATOR STAFF

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development C o m m i s s i o n (SWDC) says export wheat prices are similar to or higher than last October, but farmers are receiving about \$20 per tonne less.

"Rail transportation and handling capacity have not improved and this is being reflected in even lower returns for producers and a lower share of export values as the year progresses," SWDC chair Bill Gehl said in a news release.

"We were forecasting this would cost farmers \$2 billion (this crop year) but it's likely to be closer to \$3 billion now if this keeps up," Gehl said during an interview.

See **EXPORT WHEAT** on page 7 »



Norma Windle was one of 15 participants in the workshop led by microbiologist Gary Graumann. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

The meat of the matter in making sausage

Workshop at Food Development Centre helps both professionals and amateurs learn the craft of sausage making

By Lorraine Stevenson

CO-OPERATOR STAFF/PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

tto Von Bismarck famously once said, "Laws are like sausages; it is better not to see them being made."

But the Prussian statesman wasn't in the sausage-making business.

Those who are, or simply experimenting at home with new methods, ingredients or recipes, need to know — and seeing is believing.

That's what drew 15 participants from across Manitoba to a full-day workshop at the Food Development Centre here earlier this month.

They came to hear MAFRD meat microbiologist and food systems risk-mitigation specialist Gary Graumann talk about protein binders, smoking, piston stuffers, cooking temperatures and other things sausage makers need to know, such as the kinds of cracks and holes listeria likes to hide in and why.

That underlines why these are serious subjects for secondary meat processors who need an in-depth understanding of best practices for recipe formulation, production materials, processing equipment and techniques.

Sausage making is an ageold tradition with many prized family and cultural recipes. But there are also many critically important considerations for safe handling of processed meat.

They emphasize that point. Graumann noted that the word botulism is derived from the Latin word botulus, meaning "sausage." That's not a coincidence.

"I hope I've educated people on the safety aspect of it, and the functionality of all the ingredients, from what you're adding and why, and provided a rationale," he said.

Hands-on training

Graumann didn't just stuff heads with sausage theory.

After time in the classroom, workshop participants donned white lab coats, hair and beard nets, and slipped fastidiously clean hands into bright-blue rubber gloves and got right to the meat of the matter, making an uncooked coarse-ground sausage (bratwurst), and a fully cooked, ready-to-eat frankfurter (hotdog) in the Food Development Centre pilot plant

Some were there to update themselves, or train their staff.

Greg Woods, an experienced meat processor from Cypress River, said he's confident about their sausage-making recipes

See **SAUSAGE** on page 6 »

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Co-operator" in the pull-down menu when running your search.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Small farms maintain crop diversity

Rather than preserving 'heirloom' varieties, they participate in an ongoing process of outcrossing

Staff

as much as 75 per cent of global seed diversity in staple food crops is held and actively used by a wide range of smallholder farms, many of which are close to urban areas, says a geographer from Penn State University.

Karl Zimmerer and his colleagues looked at new census data from 11 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. According to a Penn State release, the data shows that small farmers, in many cases women, are the ones preserving landraces of food crops.

A landrace is a locally adapted, traditional variety. Depending on the crop, farmers may plant anywhere from one to 15 different landraces.

"For maize, farmers plant one to three varieties because this crop readily outcrosses to form new varieties, producing too many new hybrids for the farmers to evaluate," Zimmerer said in a release. "But the next farm over would probably plant different landraces, so for some more diversity is available."

He said that while these farmers are often portrayed as protecting vestiges of "heirloom crops," in fact they are participating in "emergent agro-biodiversity systems."

Zimmerer spoke to the American Association for Advancement of Science



Landraces of Andean maize in one of this crop's global agro-biodiversity hot spots in a peri-urban area near Cochabamba. PHOTO: KARL ZIMMERER, PENN STATE

annual meeting Feb. 13. He said that "periurban" farms — small farms close to cities — are important in maintaining this ongoing outcrossing and diversity. They have good access to urban markets where restaurants prefer local foodstuffs, like maize and quinoa varieties in Peru. But in marginal locations with declining populations in remote rural areas, there are not enough growers and during drought or other disasters, there may not be sufficient seeds to replenish the base of diversity.

READER'S PHOTO



PHOTO: SUZANNE PADDOCK

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

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PUBLISHER Lynda Tityk lynda.tityk@fbcpublishing.com 204-944-5755

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER/ EDITORIAL DIRECTOR John Morriss

john.morriss@fbcpublishing.com 204-944-5754

laura@fbcpublishing.com 204-792-4382 **MANAGING EDITOR** Dave Bedard

EDITOR Laura Rance

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 Jennifer Paige

204-730-2570 jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com

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

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NATIONAL ADVERTISING

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RETAIL ADVERTISING

Terry McGarry trmcgarr@mts.net 204-981-3730

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BRIEFS

Ritz announces \$3.4 million for **Ontario** pasta plant

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz has announced \$3.4 million for a Brampton, Ont. company to purchase equipment to make macaroni and cheese and other pasta products.

In a release, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada said the grant to Italpasta Ltd. under the Growing Forward 2 (GF 2) framework will "enable the company to become a leader in the production of macaroni and cheese products and provide more retailers with madein-Canada pasta products. It is also expected to create eight full-time jobs and increase the demand for locally produced semolina (durum flour) and

Italpasta was founded in 1989, and has more than 220 employees.

CropLife America joins climate alliance

CropLife America (CLA) has joined the North **American Climate Smart** Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA).

The alliance says it aims to educate agricultural and forestry leaders, help producers make informed decisions and manage new risks, mobilize leaders to advocate for beneficial changes in land-use practices and inspire engagement in the broader climate change discussion.

"We look forward to joining the diverse representation in NACSAA and being part of a meaningful discussion on climate change. The contributions of our crop protection sector already enable farmers practising conservation tillage using modern herbicides to sequester significant carbon in soil — and the tillage reduction saves 558 million gallons of fuel per year," CLA CEO Jay vroom said in a release.

The North American alliance is led by Solutions from the Land (SfL), a non-profit entity focused on land-based solutions to global challenges. Ernie Shea, president of SfL and former CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts, said that "climate change is a real issue for U.S. agriculture and one which we must address.'

Other members of the alliance include the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Soybean Association, the National Corn Growers Association, Western Growers Association, American Farmland Trust, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

True North on the verge of official federal certification

At full capacity the plant will be able to kill 1,000 cattle per week

By Jennifer Paige CO-OPERATOR STAFF/BRANDON

anitoba is within weeks of having a modern federally certified livestock slaughter plant, says Calvin Vaags, owner and operator of True North Foods near Carman.

"We are currently operating right now as a provincial plant but we are actively working towards our federal certification and it shouldn't be that far away. I am estimating a month to six weeks," Vaags told the recent annual meeting of Manitoba Beef Producers.

"We are currently just waiting on completion of the paperwork. Achieving federal certification is certainly not a small job but by the time we are all said and done we should have a facility with the capabilities of shipping beef anywhere in

Vaags said the facility has been designed to meet all criteria for Canadian, European, Chinese and American markets.

The 35,000-square-foot plant has been designed to accommodate multiple species with the capacity to kill approximately 210 cattle per day or 1,000 head per week.

'We have created a facility that is large enough to be efficient but small enough to effectively manage risk," said Vaags. "The new plant has been open since August and we are currently killing about 75 to 125 cattle or cattle equivalent per week but that is nowhere close to capacity."

The facility currently employs approximately 25 staff but at full capacity is expected to employ 80.



Calvin Vaags, owner and operator of True North Foods, stands outside the soon-to-be only federally certified beef-processing plant in Manitoba. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

The facility will manage cattle, bison, elk, sheep and goats, as well as offer heavy

Vaags said the facility boasts enhanced traceability.

carcass capability, accom-

modating even the largest

"At our plant we have everything traced to the CCIA tag and it goes right through the entire plant. What that means on an individual basis is you can get yield and carcass data — carcass quality data, not just on load lots but on each individual animal."

Plains Processors expansion

Vaags' path to opening a federally certified beef facility began in 2004 when he opened the Carver's Knife, a retail meat store and wholesale beef distribution company in Winnipeg.

The Carver's Knife quickly became the biggest cus-

tomer for Plains Processors processing plant between Carman and Elm Creek, which led Vaags to purchase the plant in 2008. In 2012, recalling the BSE border closure, Vaags was motivated to pursue the creation of a federally certified facility here in Manitoba and brought a number of interested investors to the table.

"True North Foods has 13 shareholders who are all Manitoba residents," said Vaags. "It is privately owned, but of course we do have funds coming from both the federal and provincial governments, as well as some commercial debt.

"We know that the day we get our federal stamp we have a significant amount of business lined up right here in the Winnipeg and southern Manitoba area," said Vaags. "There is a lot of interest to buy all types of beef product out of our

"We are currently waiting on completion of the paperwork. **Achieving federal** certification is certainly not a small job but by the time we are all said and done we should have a facility with the capabilities of shipping beef anywhere in the world."

CALVIN VAAGS

plant once it is officially

Vaags notes that Manitoba producers who look to utilize the local facility should benefit from reduced freight costs and handling time as well as the ability to access international markets and niche market opportunities.

We are going to kill and process whatever animals make us the most viable and the most successful. We do plan getting involved in a significant amount of work for the bison and elk communities, as well as some of the niche markets — natural beef, organic beef, grass-fed

Vaags said pricing for the True North Foods facility will follow the pricing from Western Canada, with a basis off fat cattle prices and Alberta markets.

Jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com



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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Cupcakes, and mac and cheese



John MorrissEditorial Director

A griculture Minister Gerry Ritz's announcement machine seems to be at full speed recently — as of Monday there had been 21 so far this year. Several have been for projects where government support is entirely appropriate — research into pulses, soybeans, sustainable beef production and others.

On the other hand it should be noted that such announcements mask the reality of federal support for agricultural research. A few hundred thousand one day and a couple of million the next may sound

impressive, but in fact they are already budgeted or tied to matching industry support. In total, federal support of agricultural research is actually on a sharp decline.

Amounts notwithstanding, supporting research is a good thing if it benefits farmers or industry as a whole. That doesn't apply to some of Mr. Ritz's recent announcements, which have nothing to do with the industry as a whole and everything to do with getting Ontario votes in the impending federal election.

It started Feb. 10 with an "investment" — though in this case a repayable loan of \$3.7 million — for fibre-separation technology at Integrated Grain Processors Cooperative, an ethanol plant in Aylmer, Ont. A useful improvement no doubt, but there are other ethanol plants in Canada — why support only this one?

Next up on Feb. 11 in Mississauga was a rather vague announcement of \$3 million — no mention of it being repayable — to "a new research cluster led by the Canadian Food Innovators" and which "will help the food- and beverage-processing industry in developing new processes that enhance quality while managing food safety risks, as well as new products that deliver health and wellness attributes marketed to health-conscious consumers."

Hard to argue with health and wellness. But the next day Mr. Ritz was in Scarborough to announce an "investment" — also no mention of it being repayable — of \$4.9 million in new "state-of-the-art" pastry-processing technology for Tradition Fine Foods, a manufacturer of frozen pastry. The release was accompanied by a photo of the company's products. They certainly look tasty but it must be said that they are pretty much fat and sugar bombs, hardly in keeping with the previous day's health and wellness theme. And as any of us who have ever visited a supermarket know, there is no shortage of sugar- and fat-laden pastries from other manufacturers. Why support this one?

But the real howler was the announcement between the last two — "Harper government invests in pasta-processing industry." One almost hesitates to raise this, as it may lead to more pointless corpse prodding by those who think they can bring the Canadian Wheat Board back to life. But we can't let this by.

It will be recalled that one of the persistent criticisms of the old CWB was that it discouraged value-added processing, and that it was responsible for the absence of a pasta plant in the heart of Saskatchewan durum country. It will also be recalled that in 2011, Alliance Grain Traders CEO Murad Al-Katib, accompanied by Prime Minister Harper and Mr. Ritz, said he would build such a plant once the CWB monopoly ended. In 2012 it was announced that the project was on hold.

So where is the pasta plant where the Harper government is investing \$3.4 million (no mention of a repayable loan)? Brampton, Ontario.

The release says investment in Italpasta will "assist in the purchase and installation of pasta packaging and production equipment required for the manufacture of macaroni and cheese and long goods." It's expected to create eight full-time jobs and "increase the demand for locally produced semolina and cheese."

Semolina is a type of coarse flour made from durum wheat, of which little if any is grown in Ontario. But the Saskatchewan farmers who do grow durum should not resent the pasta plant being in Ontario. That's exactly where it should be, because it's close to the population where most of the pasta is consumed. It has never made economic sense to make pasta — which is full of holes and air — and ship it halfway across the country. It makes even less sense in these times of limited transportation capacity (a point of which Mr. Al-Katib, now the grain industry representative on the national transportation review, will no doubt appreciate).

However, Saskatchewan durum growers or any other taxpayers have to question why their money is being given to an already-successful company to gain market share. As the government release tells us, Italpasta has grown from 10 employees in 1989 to 220 today. Why does it need more help?

The funds for these announcements are coming from the Growing Forward 2 "AgriInnovation" program. A new variety of fusarium-resistant wheat or bloat-free alfalfa would qualify as innovation. Cupcakes or macaroni and cheese don't.



Transport review rep willing to look at the revenue cap

By Laura Rance

CO-OPERATOR EDITOR

He's been called Saskatchewan's prince of the pulse crops, but Murad Al-Katib was putting on no royal airs when he spoke to farmers attending the recent Keystone Agricultural Producers annual meeting.

Far from it, the founder and CEO of Alliance Grain Traders Inc., one of this country's global success stories, was just a guy from Davidson, Sask. who is as interested as anyone in agriculture these days in making sure Canada can deliver the goods.

Al-Katib has a special vantage point though, as the federally appointed grain adviser serving on the committee reviewing the Canada Transportation Act. A comprehensive review of the act was part of the federal government's response to last year's grain transportation fiasco.

During his dialogue with delegates, he offered a few glimpses of where he's coming from for getting the system back on track.

For starters, he reminded delegates that the focus of the review extends far beyond grain — and that's a good thing. "It's the economic agenda for the country," he said. "I like that focus more than a focus on grain."

That means the whole country has a stake in the outcome. He also pointed out that Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier is in jeopardy and that the ability to get grain to market is an essential ingredient in the country's growth as an exporter.

Those were comforting words to farmers who fear their interests are getting lost in the shuffle.

But he also pointed out the grain sector stands out among other exporting sectors as being somewhat disparate and prone to finger pointing, rather than pulling together. In other words, blaming the railways alone for last year's problems doesn't cut it. "We have people on this advisory committee who are shocked at how grain is organized," Al-Katib said. "We are famous as the ones who don't know how to act together."

And he made some in the room downright nervous when talk turned to the Maximum Revenue Entitlement, a.k.a. revenue cap.

Al-Katib said it comes down to three options: leave it alone, eliminate it, or modernize it. "My gut says it is probably not the right answer to leave it alone," he said.

But he said nothing can be decided without undertaking a full review of what it is costing the railways to provide service to the grain sector, which hasn't been done since 1992. "I want to know the truth," Al-Katib said. "Once I know the truth, I'm willing to pay more if it means getting better service."

He noted one of the "unintended consequences" of the federal government's decision last year to require the railways to move a certain volume of grain per week or face fines was that grain only moved east and west on corridors with the quickest car turnaround times. Exports of flax or oats south or of feed grains into the British Columbia interior fell by the wayside.

"I am not in favour of overregulation — be careful what we ask for," Al-Katib said. "We want to incent competitive behaviour on all sides."

As the industry learned last year, the costs of getting it wrong are staggering. But the potential from getting it right is huge. "If we get it right, it lays the groundwork for foundational growth."

laura@fbcpublishing.com

OUR HISTORY: February 1898



he February 1898 issue of *The Nor-West Farmer* featured this photo of threshing oats on the farm of Wm. Ryan, about four miles south of Ninga. The stone foundation was nine feet high, and the barn on top 13 feet high with a driving floor. All machinery was run by a windmill.

An article below by J.B.K. of Fairfax discussed the ideal system of barn ventilation, and discussed

the efficacy of removal of carbolic acid gas through shafts at different distances from the floor.

Rob Roy of Campbellville, Man. wrote on the necessity of stock raising in Manitoba agriculture, warning against the practice of summerfallow and how it exhausts the soil. "Picture to yourself what it will be like say five, 10 or 15 years hence with your last patch of virgin prairie broken up and getting pretty well on the downhill road... to secure (fertility) we must have rotation of crops, the land alternately under grain, hay and pasture."

A section of lighter notes might not be considered so light today. Among a listing of "Women Who Should Not Marry" were:

- The woman who thinks it is cheaper to buy bread than to make it;
- The woman who would die rather than wear a bonnet more than two seasons old;
 The woman who reads chean povels and dreams.
- The woman who reads cheap novels and dreams of being a duchess or a countess;
- The woman who thinks she is an ornament to her sex if she wins at a progressive euchre prize.

COMMENT/FEEDBACK

Cloudless Texas skies stifle herd expansion

High cattle prices and low grain prices mean little without grass to graze

By Tom Polansek

ZUEHL / TEXAS / REUTERS

exas rancher Jim Rackley would like to add more cattle to his herd of about 50 to take advantage of sizzling beef prices and growing demand from health-conscious consumers for his grass-fed beef. But the prospect of cloudless skies keeps him cautious.

Rackley's worries over a lack of rain are typical of many U.S. beef cattle producers trying to restock after a yearslong drought, which peaked in 2011, decimated ranches built up over generations and shrank the nation's herd to its smallest in more than 60 years.

Now a combination of record-high cattle prices and cheap grain has prompted ranchers to start adding back cattle earlier than expected. But the rebuilding will still be long and slow.

Producers like Rackley worry the drought will return, shrivelling scant pasture and sending grain costs soaring again. At the same time, there is no guarantee Americans will continue to consume beef at the current rate, given high prices.

"Every time we think we're coming out of the drought, we get hit again," said Rackley, a former high school football coach in Texas, where the sport and beef are state passions.

Feeder cattle futures trading about 20 per cent higher than a year ago at

"Every time we think we're coming out of the drought, we get hit again."

JIM RACKLEY

199.45 cents a pound, and corn futures trading 13 per cent lower near \$3.85 a bushel, are providing obvious incentives for ranchers to rebuild their herds.

Still, the decision to expand is proving complicated for many, with the price for buying new cattle at nearly \$3,000 a head and pasture still patchy in places. The topic was a focus at a recent cattle conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The nation's herd edged up one per cent to 89.8 million head by Jan. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), stunning analysts who had predicted a decline and prompting some to bring forward to late 2016 from 2017 their expectations of when beef supplies will increase.

The cattle population was larger than in 2013 and 2014, but still the third smallest since 1952, said University of Missouri livestock economist Ron Plain.

"Herd rebuilding is on the way, but putting a calf into the herd today will take at least a year and a half before you get anything out of it," said Jack Salzsieder, owner of Iowa-based brokerage firm JRS Consulting, referring to the time required to bring a calf to maturity to be processed.

Drought dilemma

In Oklahoma, Joe Smith wants to rebuild his cattle herd after selling three-fourths of his animals in 2011.

Smith said he was being "very cautious" in his attempt to expand production, holding back 10 cows of his 100-head herd to breed, instead of sending them to slaughter. His ranch in Duncan, Oklahoma, still needs more rain to grow grazing grass.

About 33 per cent of the southern United States, including the big cattle states of Texas and Oklahoma, was in some form of drought as of Feb. 5, down from about 37 per cent a year earlier, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

However, 8.7 per cent of Texas was considered to be in extreme or exceptional drought, the two worst categories, up three percentage points from a year ago.

It may be 2018 or 2019 before increased supplies start to significantly

push down beef prices, said Derrell Peel, an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University, adding there are "a lot of places that are vulnerable to go backward in a hurry" if conditions turn dry.

In the meantime, beef prices are likely to stay high, squeezing consumers in grocery stores and restaurants and prompting some Americans to eat less beef.

Per capita consumption fell to an estimated 54.3 lbs. (24.6 kg) in 2014 from 56.3 lbs. (25.5 kg) a year earlier and is forecast to slip to 52.7 lbs. (23.9 kg) in 2015, according to the USDA, even though overall consumption still outstrips domestic production.

Beef processors like Cargill Inc. and National Beef Packing Co. are desperate to see production rise. They have shuttered beef-processing plants in recent years and may still need to close more facilities, said Pete Anderson, director of research for cattle nutrition company Midwest PMS.

One of the few processors investing in expansion is JBS USA LLC, which is sinking \$75 million into a Utah beef plant. But the company is looking to include dairy cows to raise its output there.

Meanwhile, in drought-hit California, rancher Kevin Kester plans to reduce his 300-head herd further after cutting it from as many as 500 head he had back in 2010.

"Everybody wants to expand," he said. "We're looking for Mother Nature to co-operate."

etters

We welcome readers' comments on issues that have been covered in the *Manitoba Co-operator*. In most cases we cannot accept "open" letters or copies of letters which have been sent to several publications. Letters are subject to editing for length or taste. We suggest a maximum of about 300 words.

Please forward letters to Manitoba Co-operator, 1666 Dublin Ave., Winnipeg, R3H 0H1 or Fax: 204-954-1422 or email: news@fbcpublishing.com (subject: To the editor)

CWB building owned by farmers

The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) building asset sold below value is a gift to a property company who can now capture capital gain. This is pork barrel politics with the farmers' CWB assets.

Harper and Ritz have given the CWB \$320 million of taxpayer money. Absolutely a waste on a CWB with reduced and crippled benefit.

Farmers have not asked to gift/partner the remaining CWB assets (which we farmers paid for) to a grain company that is our competitor.

The real Canadian Wheat Board with single-desk selling proved a valuable asset to farmers, to the Prairie ag service business, and provincial GDP. It earned farmers premium grain prices for quality branded Canadian wheat that paid the farmers' bills through maximizing the value of our grain.

Harper, Ritz and White's crippled CWB is just another grain company buying cheaply from farmers and selling to export customers for its own profit.

Ian Robson Deleau

Forget everything you ever heard about eating fat

Historic U.S. and U.K. dietary advice on fats 'should not have been introduced'

Staff

ational U.S. and British advice for citizens to cut fat consumption to reduce heart disease lacked any solid trial evidence to back it up, and "should not have been introduced," concludes research in a journal published in conjunction with the *British Medical Journal* and the U.K. National Cardiovascular Society.

Dietary guidelines issued in 1977 and 1983 recommended reducing overall dietary fat consumption to 30 per cent of total energy intake, and saturated fat to 10 per cent of total energy intake.

Writing in the online journal *Open Heart*, researchers said they carried out a systematic review and meta-analysis of the randomized control trial data that would have been available to the U.S. and U.K. regulatory committees at the time.

They found six relevant trials, covering seven different dietary interventions, spanning an average of five years, and involving 2,467 men. All the trials had been published before 1983 and had looked at the relationship between dietary fat, serum cholesterol, and the development of coronary heart disease.

A *British Medical Journal* release said the pooled data revealed a total of 740 deaths from all causes, and 423 from coronary heart disease.

"There was no difference in deaths from all causes between



It's not the fat that kills you, it's just eating too much of everything. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

the 'treatment' and comparison groups, with 370 deaths in both. And there was no significant difference in deaths from coronary heart disease, with 207 in the 'treatment' groups and 216 in the comparison groups."

The researchers highlighted several caveats in the evidence available at the time: no women were included, no trial tested the dietary recommendations and no trial concluded that dietary guidelines should be drawn up.

"It seems incomprehensible that dietary advice was introduced for 220 million Americans and 56 million U.K. citizens, given the contrary results from a small number of unhealthy men," the researchers wrote.

They concluded: "Dietary advice not merely needs review; it should not have been introduced."

But in a linked editorial, Rahul Bahl of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, sounded a note of caution and said that while the data was limited, there is some evidence suggesting a link between dietary fat and heart disease.

"There is certainly a strong argument that an overreliance in public health on saturated fat as the main dietary villain for cardiovascular disease has distracted from the risks posed by other nutrients, such as carbohydrates," Bahl wrote.

FROM PAGE ONE

SAUSAGE Continued from page 1

used at Cypress Meats and More, which he and his family have operated for over 18 years. "But you can always learn more," he said.

Others were there to improve the techniques they use at home.

"We're making our own at home right now and looking at ways to improve our home product," said Norma Windle of McCreary.

Virginia Enriquez of Winnipeg and Owen Byron from Lundar came to explore ideas for new product development.

"I want to make something very healthy," said Enriquez who is currently developing several fish products.

"I'm here to learn about secondary processing for our underutilized species of fresh water," added Byron, a commercial fisherman on Lake Manitoba.

There's always room for more made-in-Manitoba sausages. Manitobans love them, and quickly become loyal to local processors' products. There's virtually no limit to what these small companies can create, with plentiful ingredients and tried-and-true recipes that can always be tweaked to make something new.

Nitrite concern

But developing or reformulating any recipe isn't so simple. Safe sausage making is more than a matter of simply knowing the recipe and which ingredients to use, but why those ingredients are used, says Graumann.

Use of nitrites is a case in point. Some consumers limit consumption of processed meat altogether out of health concerns that nitrites contained in them may contribute to cancer. The dilemma for a sausage maker, however, is that nitrites stop the growth of potentially harmful bacteria, enhance meat flavour and give it the characteristic pink colour that consumers expect.

"Processors sometimes want to remove nitrites from their recipes but aren't sure why they're adding them in the first place," said Graumann. "You're not adding them just for the sake of adding them."

The Food Development Centre workshop also provided participants with an overview of all the services it can offer small-scale meat processors, as well as funding sources for those who want to make use of them.

This was a way to help a few more people familiarize themselves with the FDC and what it and the food commercialization branch of MAFRD can offer those wanting to start up a small-scale processing business, said Jayne Kjaalgaard, business development specialist in food commercialization and marketing with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD).



Norma Windle of McCreary (I) and Virginia Enriquez of Winnipeg inspect the freshly stuffed frankfurter made in a meat-processing workshop at the Food Development Centre. PHOTOS: LORRAINE STEVENSON

This is the first time hosting this kind of workshop, and there was so much interest, they hope to do it again, Kjaalgaard said.

"I really think there's a demand for this."

Funding through Growing Forward 2 helped subsidize the event, keeping costs for participants to \$100 per person. Every seat in the house was full.

So were workshop participants. They ate their hotdogs later in the day.

lorraine@fbcpublishing.com



FDC staff in background instruct workshop participants on how the process will unfold during the morning.



EXPORT WHEAT Continued from page 1

Recent numbers prepared by University of Saskatchewan agricultural economist Richard Gray show that even though wheat prices f.o.b. Vancouver are unchanged to slightly higher than in October 2014, country elevator prices have dropped \$20 a tonne.

The excess basis cost for producers, relative to the posted costs for rail freight and primary and terminal elevator charges, is now more than \$62 a tonne compared to \$40 in October, the SWDC release says.

Gray says grain companies want to export almost all Western Canada's wheat from the West Coast because that's where prices are highest. He hypothesizes that so long as there's more wheat than can be exported through the West Coast in a crop year, prices will continue to be discounted at country elevators.

"As long as there's this idea that there's going to be grain left over at the end of the year, nobody is bidding for it very hard," Gray said in an interview.

Still, Gray said he was surprised the basis has widened given grain has been moving to export relatively well this crop year. He said that could be due to farmers expecting that not all grain will move by the end of the year, so they are taking every chance they can to deliver.

"What we really need... is that farmers be there so we can make sure that we have a good system..."

RICHARD GRAY

Grain buyers use basis to signal to farmers how badly they want to make a purchase. The basis last crop year widened when many elevators were too plugged to take deliveries.

More capacity needed

Gray says Western Canada needs more West Coast export capacity to reduce the difference between country and port wheat prices. But there are huge barriers to entry. Not only is it expensive to build terminals, there isn't much room along Vancouver's waterfront, he said. Prince Rupert has space and is a couple of days closer to a number of Asian markets, but is only served by CN. Grain shippers don't want to rely on just one railway. However, that could be countered if the federal government allowed other railways to use CN's line for a compensatory fee.

The SWDC wants more farmer participation and planning in grain movement, Gehl said.

"What we really need, and what we asked for in our CTA (review) submission, is that farmers be there so we can make sure that we have a good system that has the capacity and the coordination to make sure it's not just the railroads and grain companies that are making all the money," he said.

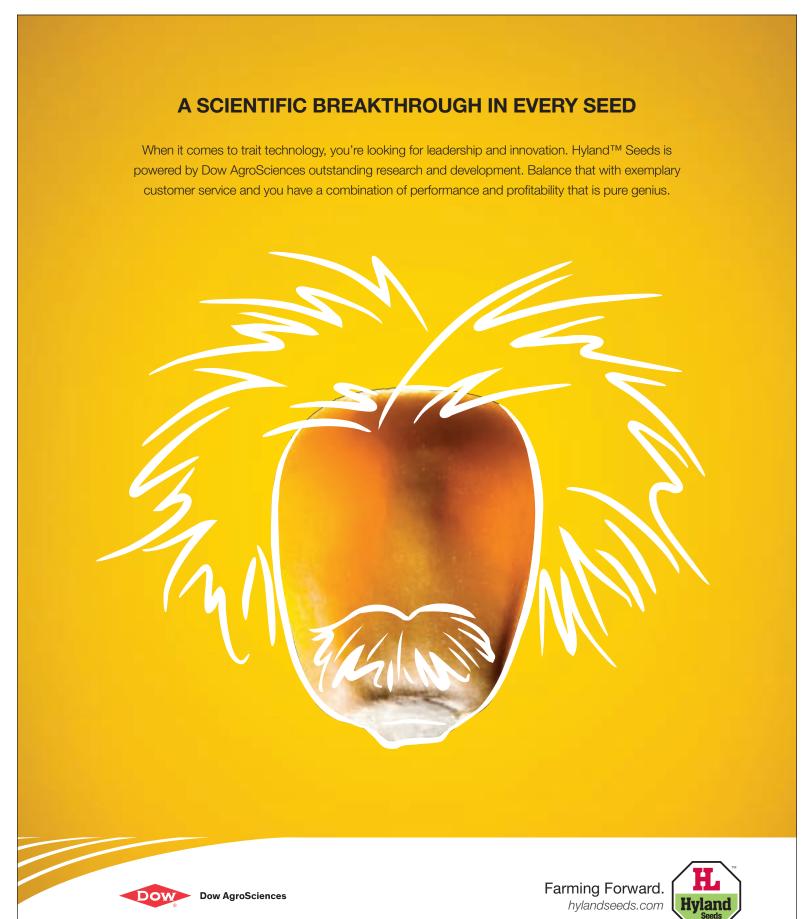
Last year the SWDC formed a coalition with the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission and Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan to fund Gray's research on basis levels.

BACKS TO THE WIND



7

One of the reasons that producers like bison is for their natural ability to handle a harsh Prairie winter. PHOTO: HERMINA JANZ



LIVESTOCK MARKETS

EXCHANGES: FEBRUARY 6, 2015

\$1 Cdn: \$0.832 U.S. \$1 U.S: \$1.2449 Cdn.



Cattle Prices (Friday to Thursday) Winnipeg February 13, 2015 **SLAUGHTER CATTLE** Heifers 163.00 - 168.00 D1, 2 Cows D3 Cows 125.00 - 134.00 115.00 - 124.00 140.00 - 146.00 **FEEDER CATTLE** (Price ranges for feeders refer to top-quality animals only) (901+ lbs.) (801-900 lbs.) \$ 200.00 - 223.00 210.00 - 234.00 (701-800 lbs.) 220.00 - 261.00 (601-700 lbs.) 245 00 - 285 00 (501-600 lbs.) 275.00 - 322.00 (401-500 lbs.) 300.00 - 337.00 Heifers (901 + lbs.)180.00 - 202.00 (801-900 lbs.) 200.00 - 213.00 (701-800 lbs.) 210.00 - 235.00 220.00 - 261.00 (601-700 lbs.) (501-600 lbs.) 255.00 - 305.00 (401-500 lbs.) 280.00 - 307.00 SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt) Alberta South Ontario Grade A Steers (1,000+ lbs.) Grade A Heifers (850+ lbs.) 158.66 - 197.70 D1, 2 Cows 125.00 - 145.00 102.57 - 134.22 115.00 - 130.00 102.57 - 134.22 Bulls 138.08 - 163.10 \$ 223.00 - 235.00 \$ 210.28 - 235.90 (901+ lbs.) (801-900 lbs.) 230.00 - 243.00 213.03 - 239.67 (701-800 lbs.) 245.00 - 264.00 222.95 - 259.73 221.12 - 288.63 250.72 - 313.55 (601-700 lbs.) 273 00 - 292 00 298.00 - 320.00 (501-600 lbs.) (401-500 lbs.) 325.00 - 351.00 269.45 - 318.77 Heifers \$ 206.00 - 220.00 181.93 - 211.20 (901+ lbs.) (801-900 lbs.) 218.00 - 227.00 202.21 - 223.22 (701-800 lbs) 230.00 - 241.00 199.46 - 231.72 (601-700 lbs.) 247.00 - 261.00 (501-600 lbs.) 268.00 - 292.00 210.70 - 258.92 (401-500 lbs.) 290.00 - 316.00 214.21 - 278.58 Futures (February 13, 2015) in U.S. Change Fed Cattle Close Feeder Cattle Close Change February 2015 150.100 March 2015 April 2015 4.45 151.12 3.10 April 2015 200.30 June 2015 3.88 May 2015 August 2015 August 2015 142.07 1.07 203.35 3.23 3.40 September 2015 October 2015 144.77 0.87 202.57 December 2015 145.37 0.55 October 2015 201.80 Cattle Slaughter **Cattle Grades (Canada)** Week Ending February 7, 2015 Week Ending **Previous Previous** February 7, 2015 4,456 111,066 Canada 48 889 52 899 Prime 605 11,859 12,534 AAA23,941 East West 37,030 40,365 AA70,031 14,870 N/A 2,033 604 Manitoba N/A 535 8,637 544,000 563,000 В D 46.435

(Friday to Thursday) (\$/100 kg)		Source: N	lanitoba Agricultur
E - Estimation			
MB. (\$/hog)	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year (Index 100
MB (All wts.) (Fri-Thurs.)	162.00 E	172.56	176.31
MB (Index 100) (Fri-Thurs.)	150.00 E	160.34	164.27
ON (Index 100) (MonThurs.)	146.51	155.77	170.03
PQ (Index 100) (MonFri.)	152.83	163.29	172.00
Futures (February 5, 2015) in	U.S.		
HOGS	Close		Change
February 2015	61.95		-1.32
April 2015	64.50		-1.77
May 2015	74.65		0.05
June 2015	78.50		0.45
July 2015	79.05		0.35

Other Market Prices

S	hee	эp	and	Lam	bs

Shee	p and Lamb	os		
		Winnipeg (Hd)		SunGold
\$/cwt	O	Wooled Fats	Toronto	Specialty Meat
Ewes Lambs	Choice (110+ lb.)	— No	101.21 - 134.23 188.92 - 207.05	_
Larrius	(95 - 109 lb.)	February 13th	209.90 - 225.09	
	(80 - 94 lb.) (Under 80 lb.)	report received	216.64 - 242.15 255.47 - 296.86	
	(New crop)	—		
Chick	ens		Eggs	

Minimum broiler prices as of April 1	3, 2010
Under 1.2 kg	\$1.5130
1.2 - 1.65 kg	\$1.3230
1.65 - 2.1 kg	\$1.3830
2.1 - 2.6 kg	\$1.3230

Turkeys

Grade A...

Undergrade.

Minimum prices as of February 8, 2015

Broiler Turkeys (6.2 kg or under, live weight	truck load average)
Grade A Undergrade	
Hen Turkeys	
(between 6.2 and 8.5 kg liver	weight truck load average)
Grade A	\$1.945
Undergrade	\$1.845
Light Tom/Heavy Hen	Turkeys
(between 8.5 and 10.8 kg liver	weight truck load average)
Grade A	\$1.945
Undergrade	\$1.845
Tom Turkeys (10.8 and 13.3 kg, live weigh	t truck load average)

Prices are quoted f.o.b. producers premise

Eggs

Minimum prices to producers for ungraded eggs, f.o.b. egg grading station, set by the Manitoba Egg Producers Marketing Board effective November 10, 2013.

	New	Previous
A Extra Large	\$2.00	\$2.05
A Large	2.00	2.05
A Medium	1.82	1.87
A Small	1.40	1.45
A Pee Wee	0.3775	0.3775
Nest Run 24 +	1.8910	1.9390
В	0.45	0.45
C	0.15	0.15

Goats		
	Winnipeg (Fats)	Toronto (\$/cwt)
Kids	_	107.52 - 357.34
Billys	_	_
Mature	_	97.06 - 285.54
Horses	•	

. \$1.885

1101303		
	Winnipeg	Toronto
	(\$/cwt)	(\$/cwt)
<1,000 lbs.	_	24.91 - 41.51
1,000 lbs.+	_	36.45 - 54.86

COLUMN

New BSE case's impact on markets still to be seen

Demand for Manitoba cattle continues from all angles

Phil Franz-Warkentin CNSC



anitoba cattle auction yards saw another week of strong prices during the week ended Feb. 13, but news of a new BSE case in Alberta could throw a wrench in the market heading into the second half of February.

The latest BSE case only came to light Friday morning, and marks the first discovery in the country since 2011. Sporadic discoveries are to be expected, and should be seen as a sign that the system is working. However, perceptions in the marketplace often hold more sway than facts and the impact on prices remains to be seen.

The BSE discovery "spoiled our morning, but we had a wonderful sale this week with the highest prices of the new year," said Robin Hill of Heartland Livestock Services in Virden on Friday.

"There's demand coming from all directions," he said, noting the weaker Canadian dollar was contributing to demand from U.S. buyers, while eastern and western feedlots were also in the Manitoba market.

Hill said U.S. futures were showing some volatility, but local prices were outpacing the U.S. market and showing some independent strength.

On the butcher front, "we saw our highest cow and bull averages ever," he said. Volumes were solid as well, although adverse weather did slow some movement. He expected there were at least three more weeks of good volumes before activity slows down for the spring.

"We had a lot of positive things happen during the week, but I don't imagine (the BSE case) will be great for our marketplace."

ROBIN HILL

Some producers are marketing their cattle a little earlier this year, which is partially due to the strong market but also due to tight feed supplies in some areas, said Hill. However, he added, the mild winter has been helping conserve feed supplies.

"We had a lot of positive things happen during the week, but I don't imagine (the BSE discovery) will be great for our marketplace.'

While he wasn't expecting the BSE development to seriously disrupt the market, it could lead to some uncertainty and increased volatility, at least in the short

In 2011, there wasn't much of a ripple effect beyond a few days, he said.

Winnipeg Livestock Sales holds its weekly sale Friday, making it the only facility to see some movement following the BSE announcement. Both the feeder and butcher markets were fully steady to higher during the week, with demand continuing to come from all directions.

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

BRIEFS

BSE case sets back 'negligible risk' designation

AgCanada.com

Anyone hoping Canada had shut the book on BSE in its cattle nerd and could someday soon regain "negligible risk" status has been dealt a new setback.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed late last week that a beef cow in Alberta is Canada's 19th homegrown case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the country's first such case since 2011.

Not much else is yet known about the animal, including its age, its history or how or where it may have acquired the disease, but CFIA emphasized that no part of the animal's carcass entered any food or feed system.

CFIA said it's already launched an investigation to confirm the cow's age and travelogue, focusing mainly on the feed supplied to the cow in its first year of life.

As has been the case in previous findings of BSE, CFIA will also trace out any animals of "equivalent risk" to the beef cow. Equivalentrisk animals will be ordered destroyed and tested for BSE.

In the eyes of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Canada remains a "controlled risk" country for BSE. The new case thus shouldn't affect exports of Canadian cattle or beef to any country recognizing OIE criteria, the agency said.

New cases of BSE in Canada have slowed to a trickle in recent years. Case 18, confirmed in February 2011, was a 77-month-old dairy cow in Alberta, while Case 17 was a 71-month-old beef cow in Alberta, confirmed in February 2010.

OIE criteria allow for a country that's had cases of BSE in domestic animals to level up to "negligible risk" for the disease, if any infected domestic animals were born more than 11 years ago.

The new case's age isn't yet known, but Case 18's birth date was Aug. 23, 2004 which would have put its 11th birthday this summer.

Countries the OIE assesses as "negligible risk" or "controlled risk" for BSE must notify the OIE in writing in November each year whether their epidemiological situation for BSE has remained unchanged.

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

GRAIN MARKETS

COLUMN

Canola beats resistance as traders seen going long

A ceasefire in Ukraine is seen as bearish for wheat

Terryn Shiells

CNSC



CE Futures Canada canola futures broke above key resistance levels and made new seven-month highs during the week ended Feb. 13.

The March contract climbed to the \$467.60-per-tonne level, a point not reached since July 2014 — though focus is shifting over to the May contract, which has higher open interest than March and generally saw larger traded volumes during the week.

Reports of fresh export demand for Canadian canola from China and Pakistan were helping to push the market higher. Traders were also said to be going long canola and short soybeans, with the spread benefiting the Canadian futures.

The weak Canadian dollar remains a factor underpinning canola futures, though it had a volatile week. Traders expect the loonie to remain on the soft side in the intermediate term, which should keep canola fairly well supported.

Strength in outside oilseed markets, including Chicago soybean and soyoil futures, also lifted canola during the week.

Chicago soybeans moved higher, despite weather conditions favouring an expected record-large soybean crop in South America.

Continued good demand for U.S. soybeans, with generally positive weekly export sales data and news of a fresh sale to China for 2015-16, was behind the advances. At this time of year, buyers generally turn to South America to source their soybeans, as the continent's supplies are generally less expensive than those of the U.S.

Smaller-than-expected U.S. ending stocks for 2014-15 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly supply-and-demand report, released Feb. 10, were also bullish. Supplies are still very large in both the U.S. and the world, however, which should continue to overhang the market going forward.

Corn futures in Chicago ended moderately higher, going along for the ride with soybeans and wheat. While corn stocks in the U.S. are expected to be relatively tight, the global

For three-times-daily market reports from Commodity News Service Canada, visit "Today in Markets" at www.manitobacooperator.ca.

supply situation remains very large, and will overhang the market going forward.

Expectations of a smaller planted acreage for U.S. corn this spring limited the downside and could provide underlying support for the market through late winter and early spring.

Watching the ceasefire

Wheat values in the U.S. were mostly higher, with support coming from optimism that U.S. prices have fallen far enough to encourage fresh export demand.

A ceasefire agreement on fighting in Ukraine, made between officials from Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France, was slightly bearish for the market. Traders were waiting to see if the agreement actually holds true before reacting in the wheat markets.

Worries about unfavourable weather damaging the U.S. winter wheat crop were also supportive, and will be watched going forward. Cold weather in the southern U.S. Plains could cause winterkill to some crops just coming out of dormancy.

Until spring seeding in the U.S., the export demand situation for U.S. wheat will remain in focus. The markets may also be moved by any changes in weather for winter wheat crops, and any news about the political situation in the Black Sea region.

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

Export and International Prices Week Ago All prices close of business February 5, 2015 Year Ago Chicago wheat (nearby future) (\$US/tonne) 213.39 Minneapolis wheat (nearby future) (\$US/tonne) 211.00 212.75 234.52 **COARSE GRAINS** Chicago corn (nearby future) (\$US/tonne) 150.78 151.67 174.40 Chicago oats (nearby future) (\$US/tonne) 177.18 186.58 296.00 OILSEEDS Chicago soybeans (nearby future) (\$US/tonne) 361.47 360.55 487.13 Chicago soyoil (\$US/tonne) 705.82 699.21 852.45

Winnipeg Futures

ICE Futures Canada prices at close of business February 13, 2015

BARLEY	Last Week	Week Ago
March 2015	195.00	195.00
May 2015	197.00	197.00
July 2015	199.00	199.00
CANOLA	Last Week	Week Ago
March 2015	462.90	459.60
May 2015	459.00	456.00
July 2015	456.90	452.00

Special Crops

Report for February 17, 2015 — Bin run delivered plant Saskatchewan

	SPOT MARKET		SPOT MARKET
LENTILS (Cdn. cents pe	r pound)	OTHER (Cdn. cents per potherwise speci	
Large Green 15/64	40.50 - 44.00	Canaryseed	23.00 - 26.00
Laird No. 1	37.50 - 44.00	Oil Sunflower Seed	_
Eston No. 2	24.00 - 29.00	Desi Chickpeas	15.20 - 16.00
FIELD PEAS (Cdn. \$ per	bushel)	BEANS (Cdn. cents per p	pound)
Green No. 1	8.80 - 9.25	Fababeans, large	_
Medium Yellow No. 1	8.15 - 9.50	Feed beans	_
FEED PEAS (Cdn. \$ per	bushel)	No. 1 Navy/Pea Beans	28.00 - 28.00
Feed Pea (Rail)	4.75 - 4.85	No. 1 Great Northern	44.00 - 44.00
MUSTARDSEED (Cdn. c	cents per pound)	No. 1 Cranberry Beans	44.00 - 44.00
Yellow No. 1	34.00 - 34.50	No. 1 Light Red Kidney	56.00 - 56.00
Brown No. 1	25.00 - 25.50	No. 1 Dark Red Kidney	74.00 - 74.00
Oriental No. 1	29.50 - 31.00	No. 1 Black Beans	37.00 - 37.00
		No. 1 Pinto Beans	25.00 - 32.00
		No. 1 Small Red	46.00 - 46.00
Source: STAT Publishing		No. 1 Pink	46.00 - 46.00
SUNFLOWERS		Fargo, ND Go	oodlands, KS
Report for February 13,	2015 in US\$ cwt		
NuSun (oilseed)		19.25	_
Confection		Ask	_
Source: National Sunflo	wer Association		

Mild EU winter raises hopes for good harvest

Conditions rated good in EU's top four producing countries

HAMBURG / REUTERS

he mild winter so far in the European Union's main wheat-producing countries is raising hopes for a large harvest in summer 2015, observers said Feb. 17.

"So far wheat is looking good with the warm weather meaning frost damage is hardly a problem in many EU regions," one German analyst said. "Frost damage can still occur for about four to six weeks so the danger is not over yet, but optimism is rising that the crop will be large if we get normal spring weather."

In the EU's largest wheat producer, France, farm agency FranceAgriMer said 92 per cent of soft wheat crops were in good or excellent condition as of Feb. 9 against 74 per cent last year. Crop development continued to run ahead of its usual pace.

After a mild autumn and early winter, French temperatures dropped several degrees Celsius below the seasonal norm earlier this month.

"This fall should largely be beneficial for the crops and (reduce) concern around high parasitic presence in the spring," analysts Strategie Grains said in a report.

Yet freezing weather had not been severe enough to threaten frost damage in Grain Belts and temperatures have since risen in the past week In Germany, the EU's second-largest wheat producer, the warm winter also means wheat is developing well.

"Frost damage or winterkill is hardly a theme so far this season," one German analyst said. "The preconditions have been laid for a large harvest this summer. But frost damage is possible until well into March so the picture could still change suddenly."

The crop in third-largest producer Britain appears in good condition.

"We've had a relatively mild winter, a few frosts which didn't hurt but no really deep cold and the crops are looking pretty good," said Guy Gagen, chief arable adviser to the National Farmers' Union.

He added: "The potential exists

and it is all a matter of what happens in the spring and summer that will define what the quality and yield will be."

In the fourth-largest wheat producer, Poland, the mild winter also means winter wheat is in satisfactory condition, said Wojtek Sabaranski of analysts Sparks Polska.

High temperatures for mid-February caused protective snow cover in Poland to melt rapidly, he said.

"Due to freezing temperatures at nights, winter crops are to some extent exposed to thermal stress," Sabaranski said. "However, it seems that the recent night temperatures were not low enough to cause serious winterkill."

Recognize a teacher of agriculture

Ag in the Classroom seeks nominations for agriculture literacy

Staff

A g in the Classroom-Manitoba is asking for nominations for an award to teachers which show leadership in agriculture education.

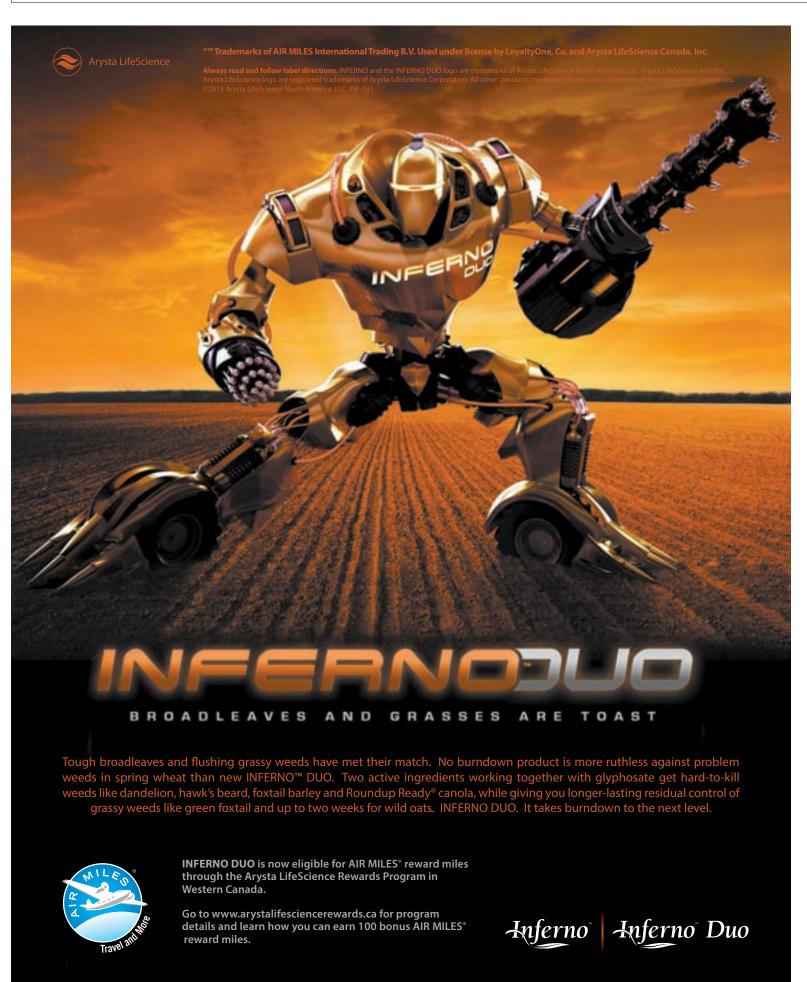
The Teacher Driver Award is given out annually in April at the AITC-M annual general meeting to a teacher who has initiated a unique agriculture literacy project.

Last year's winner was Dave Leochko, a teacher at Robert H. Smith School in Winnipeg. His class examined many communities across the province and how farming and agriculture formed the backbone of these areas. He has also started indoor and outdoor gardening projects at the school.

More information and a nomination form are available at http://aitc.mb.ca.



Johanne Ross (I) and Diane Mauthe of AITC-M presented last year's Teacher Driver Award to Dave Leochko of Robert H. Smith School in Winnipeg. Photo: AITC-M



WHAT'S UP

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

Feb. 23-24: Wild Oats Grainworld conference, Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg. For more info call 1-800-567-5671 or visit www.wildoatsgrainworld.com.

Feb. 24-25: Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting, Delta Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St., Ottawa. For more info call 613-236-3633 or visit www.cfa-fca.ca.

Feb. 25-26: Manitoba Young Farmers Conference, Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Ave., Brandon. For more info visit www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/business-and-econom ics/events-and-deadlines/young-farmers-conference.html or call 204-266-2930 or 204-697-1140.

Feb. 26: Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Forum, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Keystone Centre, 1175-18th St., Brandon. For more info visit https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/events.html.

March 1-3: Warming of the North: Implications for Arctic Transportation, Supply Chain Management and Economic Development, Ottawa Convention Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. For more info visit http://umani toba.ca/faculties/management/ti/.

March 3-5: Canola Council of Canada convention, Fairmont Banff Springs, 405 Spray Ave., Banff, Alta. For more info visit http://convention.canolacouncil.org.

March 5: Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association annual meeting, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Community Hall, Miami. For more info call Les McEwan at 204-744-2344 or email mcewan_les@hotmail.com.

March 6-7: Manitoba Direct Farm Marketing Conference, John R. Brodie Science Centre, Brandon University (18th Street and Louise Avenue), Brandon. For more info visit www.directfarmmarketing. com.

March 10-12: Canadian Cattlemen's Association annual general meeting, Delta Hotel, 101 Lyon St. N., Ottawa. For more info visit www.cattle.ca.

Farmers key in effort to win hearts and minds of consumers

American expert says the public tunes out scientists, so it's up to producers to convince consumers

By Glenn Cheater

STAFF

ike it or not, it's up to you, farmers.

Producers must lead the line in the battle to convince consumers that GM crops, pesticides, and other ag technologies are good things, attendees at the FarmTech meeting in Edmonton were told last month.

"We in the ag sector have made a big mistake in not getting in front of this," said Julie Borlaug, associate director of external relations for the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University.

"We thought scientists could do the talking for us and they would help push the cause forward, and unfortunately that's not what happened."

Even her famous grandfather Norman Borlaug known as the father of the Green Revolution — was "awful" at defending the scientific advances that have fuelled the massive rise in food production in the last half-century, she said.

"He would get in an argument with what he called a 'Greenie' and it didn't go well," Borlaug said after her presen-

"Typically, he would put up



Bringing high-yielding varieties to developing nations and promoting modern production practices earned Norman Borlaug the title of 'father of the Green Revolution.'

with you.' Well, we're not winning anyone when we do that."

It's not just that being defensive and angry doesn't work, it's that so many consumers aren't persuaded by experts in science — they've got their own trusted sources, said Bor-

"Remember, we're talking to people who are far removed from agriculture," she said. "We're talking about moms who believe everything their 20-year-old yoga instructor tells them and everything Facebook tells them."

But farmers are welcome his hand and say, 'I'm done participants in the conver-



Julie Borlaug, pictured at a symposium in Washington last year, says farmers need to reach out to consumers. PHOTO: USDA

sation about topics such as genetic modification, use of chemicals, and food safety if they are open, honest, and genuine, she said.

However, they also have to be savvy and meet consumers on their own ground, which today is located on the Inter-

"You have to make your conversations personal," she said. "We really have to ask farmers to step up and join social media and start conveying the message about what they do. We have to say that farming is not easy and it is a business, but we have to have farmers talking about the role of technology. Scientists just can't do it — their messaging just doesn't come across.'

When Borlaug talks to people about the efforts of the Borlaug Institute to combat hunger in impoverished countries, she focuses on how modern varieties coupled with synthetic fertilizers and farm chemicals could radically improve the lives of women, who do most of the

"I ask, 'How can you be for women without being in favour of bringing innovation and technology to developing countries?"

She takes the same approach when talking about agriculture in North America. For example, she points to the threat of citrus greening. The bacterial disease has infested much of Florida's citrus groves and her university is working on a genetically modified orange that could be that industry's only hope.

"I ask moms how many give orange juice to their children every morning and then ask, 'Are you ready not to have orange juice or are you ready to pay triple the price?" she said. "I talk about tangible things that are important to them.

Borlaug offered several suggestions on how farmers can reach out to consumers (see sidebar) but her main plea was not to get angry and refuse to

'You have to take this ridiculousness seriously," she said.

glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com

Tips on reaching out to consumers

ere are some of Julie Borlaug's tips for reaching out to consumers.

Watch your language

Some words commonly used on farms have hugely negative connotations for urbanites, she said.

"The moment we talk about how GMOs will lessen the amount of inputs such as pesticides or herbicides, you have shut the conversation down. I know that is inane, but for most people, the word pesticide or herbicide means cancer or something that's going to kill you. Can't we use the words weed killer or insect repellent?"

Be patient

Many companies boast their products don't contain GM wheat, but the marketing deception doesn't end there. Borlaug said she's also come across non-GM beef and even GMO-free salt.

The best response is to patiently explain genetically modified wheat is not grown anywhere, there is no such thing as a genetically modified cow, and that salt is a mineral.

Invest the time

In the last couple of years, farmers have gotten better at using social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, to reach out to consumers.

But it's not enough. Critics of modern agriculture were



early adopters of social media and "we've got 10 years to make up," said Borlaug.

And every farmer needs to be present in the online world, she added.

"I've heard farmers say, 'If I'm on Twitter, then I'm not making a living.' My response is, 'You can do it at night, you can even do all your messages on Sunday and then slowly put them out over the week.' But you have to make time for it because it's your customer base... And if you can't make time for it, then get a son or daughter or someone else to do it for you."

Hone your message

Think about your core messages and work on them, just as a salesman would for an elevator pitch.

"If I'm on an elevator with a mom for 90 seconds and I can't convey a message that's comprehensible for her, then I've done nothing."

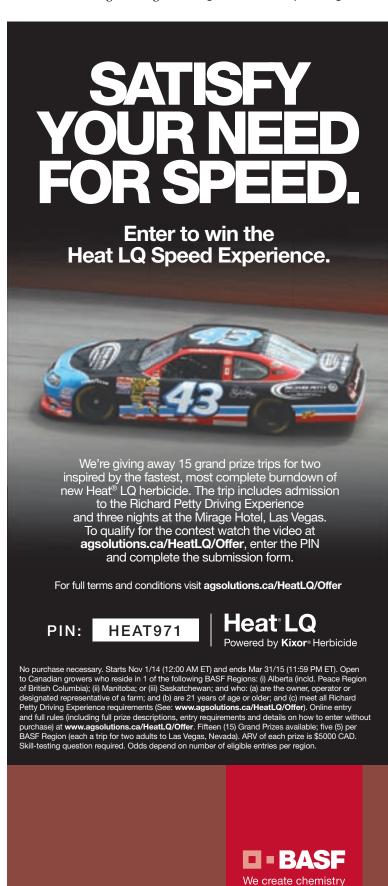
Be hopeful

Don't worry that your voice will be drowned out in a sea of misinformation, said Borlaug.

Being open, honest, and willing to engage is a powerful way to challenge the picture painted by the critics of modern agriculture — namely that corporate farms are either dupes of big chemical and seed companies or willing to sacrifice healthy, wholesome food for a quick buck.

"We need to take every opportunity to spread our message," she said. "I think we will slowly win the day.'

glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com



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PEDv is now a 'new normal' for hog producers

Swine seminar participants told that despite its virulence, the disease can be managed

By Ron Friesen

CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR

Por Dr. Sue Burlatschenko, the most striking thing about porcine epidemic diarrhea virus in swine is the eerie silence when you enter infected nursery barns, because the baby pigs are either sick or dead and the sows are too ill to rise.

"You walk into a barn at feeding time and you won't hear a sound," she said.

Burlatschenko was the first veterinarian in Canada to diagnose this silent killer called porcine epidemic diarrhea when it was detected on an Ontario farm a year ago. Since then, she and the pork industry have worked to contain the virus which kills nearly all infected piglets under seven days of age.

But it's an uphill battle because PEDv is a "stinky" virus which is difficult to work with immunologically. As a result, scientists have yet to develop a vaccine for it, Burlatschenko said.

For now, the best producers can do to prevent its spread is to practise strict biosecurity, emphasize sanitation and control anything going in and out of their barns, she said.

Burlatschenko, who operates a swine veterinary service in Tillsonburg, Ontario, updated producers on PEDv during a presentation at the recent Manitoba Swine Seminar in Winnipeg.

PEDv is a coronavirus producing severe diarrhea in pigs. It has a very high mortality rate of up to 100 per cent in suckling pigs. The PED virus is present in parts of Europe and in many Asian countries.

Originated in China

The first North American case of PEDv was detected in the United States in May 2013. According to genetic tests, the strain originated in China but no one knows how it crossed the ocean. Since its arrival, PEDv has carved a deadly swath through the U.S., killing millions of baby pigs and inflicting huge losses on producers. As of last month, 33 states had at least one confirmed case of PEDv.

The disease has inevitably crossed the border into Canada. According to the Canadian Pork Council, Canada has had nearly 100 cases of PEDv since its discovery in Middlesex County, Ontario on January 22, 2014. Most are in Ontario, with other reported cases in Manitoba, Quebec and P.E.I.

Interviewed after her presentation at the swine seminar,



PEDv has a mortality rate of up to 100 per cent in suckling piglets. FILE PHOTO

Burlatschenko said Canadian producers received a heads up from the situation in the U.S. They realized the disease was coming and were able to "batten down the hatches" in preparation.

When PEDv finally did arrive in Canada, the industry had biosecurity measures in place to limit its spread, she said.

"I think we have just been amazingly successful because we haven't had the big explosion like the U.S. had to endure."

The PED virus is primarily spread through manure. It is highly concentrated and virulent. Scientists believe one thimble-full of feces could contain enough virus to infect all the pigs in the U.S.

Provincial hog-marketing boards and the Canadian Swine Health Board stress the importance of sanitation and limiting access to farms in order to control the spread of the disease.

There's also some suggestion PEDv can be spread through infected feed. Burlatschenko said one surge of cases involv"You walk into a barn at feeding time and you won't hear a sound."

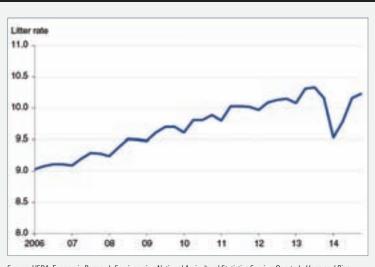
DR. SUE BURLATSCHENKO

ing 17 Ontario herds may have originated from a batch of creep feed containing dried blood plasma protein infected with PEDv.

The PED virus survives and spreads well in cold weather. Burlatschenko said producers had hoped the worst was over when the number of cases dropped last summer. But they spiked again in recent weeks, especially in Quebec and Ontario which are experiencing a cold winter.

Burlatschenko said pork producers need to get used to the idea that they have yet another virus to deal with, along with TGE, PRRS and circovirus. She expressed confidence PEDv can be managed because the

U.S. HOG INDUSTRY QUARTERLY LITTER RATES 2000-14



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using National Agricultural Statistics Service, Quarterly Hogs and Pig

industry has developed techniques to handle it.

"It's become our new normal," Burlatschenko said. "It's not one I like. But as with circovirus, PRRS or anything else, we learn to adapt to the virus, work with it and deal with it.

"It is a new virus in North America, yes, but it's not the end of the world. We can work with it, we have the technology, we can manage it. There are far more serious things out there than PEDv. Keep it in perspec-

BRIEFS

Two Manitoba finalists for CYL program

STAFF / Breanna Anderson of Swan River and Wilco van Meijl of Brandon are among 24 semi-finalists vying for 16 mentorship positions in the 2015 Cattlemen's Young Leaders (CYL) program.

The program is a national youth initiative of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA). It provides industry-specific training and mentorship opportunities to young producers. Participants can explore a potential career choice or involvement with a provincial/national producer organization, while gaining the expertise and business acumen necessary to sustain the cattle industry into the future.

The semi-finalists were selected from a pool of nearly 70 who submitted online applications which were evaluated by a panel of judges. The finalists will be selected at the CYL Spring Forum March 26-28 in Saskatoon.

Visit www.cattlemensy oungleaders.com for more information.

Learn more about cattle rumen health

BCRC RELEASE

When a beef animal's digestive system isn't balanced and functioning properly, feed intake and ability to utilize nutrients may decline, and the likelihood of health problems and carcass value discounts can increase. A better understanding of the rumen can help to prevent or resolve problem situations and manage feeding to economically meet production

On Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. CST the Beef Cattle Research Council is offering a free webinar to learn about:

- What is rumen health: balancing the needs of the microbes and beef cattle;
- The direct and indirect links of rumen health and productivity;

Strategies to optimize

rumen health and productive outcomes. BCRC webinars are available and free, thanks to guest speakers who volunteer their time and expertise to support advancements in the Canadian beef industry, and through the Knowledge Dissemination and Technology Transfer project funded by the national checkoff and Canada's Beef Science Cluster.

For more information or to register visit www.beefre search.ca.



A look at international opportunities for beef

Shipping beef to the EU requires adherence to strict protocols, but the premium may make it worthwhile

By Jennifer Paige CO-OPERATOR STAFF

reakout sessions and informal discussion at the 36th annual general meeting of Manitoba Beef Producers in Brandon earlier this month focused on the possibilities of capitalizing on the European Union and Asian markets.

"The markets are changing and as producers we need to adapt. Whether you want to go to the EU, China, or you're sourcing out different markets with different plants, you need to do your homework," said Tod Wallace, a farm production extension specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU has sparked quite a bit of interest.

"The EU market has been in the limelight for the past few months and I think it does support some tremendous opportunity for us," Wallace said.

However, while the CETA final text was signed last September, the agreement still needs to be reviewed by lawyers and ratified by the European Parliament as well as the 28 member states. Wallace warns that these markets may not become a reality until 2017.

It's estimated that when implemented, CETA will provide Canada with duty-free access for 35,000 tonnes of fresh and 15,000 tonnes of frozen beef for a value of about \$600 million by 2022.

"The Canadian Cattlemen's Association is esti-



MAFRD farm extension specialist Tod Wallace discusses new international markets during the 36th Manitoba Beef Producers annual general meeting in Brandon earlier this month. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

mating that this will require adding 500,000 head of cattle from Canada, but they will have to be raised according to European standards — no hormone implants or betaagonists (ionophores such as rumensin)," Wallace said.

Animals must also be slaughtered and processed in a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) federally registered establishment to be eligible for export to the EU.

"CFIA will inspect your farm, go through the protocol and will give you a certificate but it is only good for one year. The first year will be most difficult but after that it should be a matter of renewing paperwork," Wallace said. "Cattle for the EU also need to be managed separately from

your conventional or domestic-raised cattle."

The CCA website offers interested producers a detailed summary of the EU protocol requirements.

"To be EU certified as a producer it is going to cost on average 20 to 25 per cent more to raise that animal from calf to slaughter. But then, there is said to be a 20 per cent higher premium. At the end of the day profitability is key so watch the bottom line and try to source the premium wherever you can get it," Wallace said.

Asian opportunities

There is also more interest in selling beef to the Far East following the federal government's announcement last

"The Chinese market is poised for vigorous growth and will only become more important for Canadian beef and veal exporters going forward."

TOD WALLACE

November of creating four new Canadian trade offices in China.

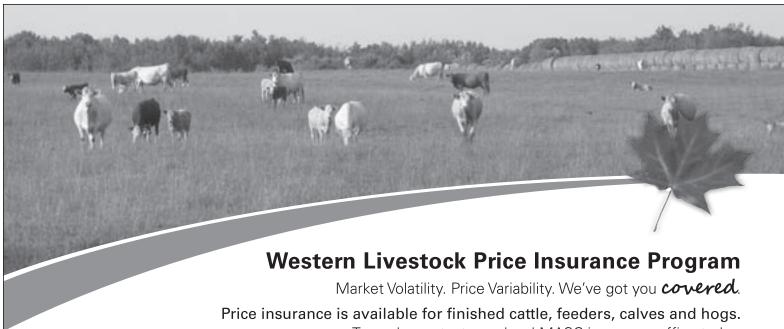
'The Chinese market is poised for vigorous growth and will only become more important for Canadian beef and veal exporters going forward. With the Chinese market you've got a huge population base and rising per capita beef consumption," Wallace said.

Canadian beef exports to China have grown rapidly since 2012. Exports to mainland China from January to September 2014 are up 60 per cent in volume to 5,850 tonnes, just under the annual volume for 2013 of 6,000 tonnes.

"The protocol for Asian markets is much more lenient than the EU. There are currently no official protocols and no ban on hormones or antibiotics," Wallace said.

Currently stipulations for the Chinese markets include animals under 30 months of age and restricted use of ractopamine.

jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com



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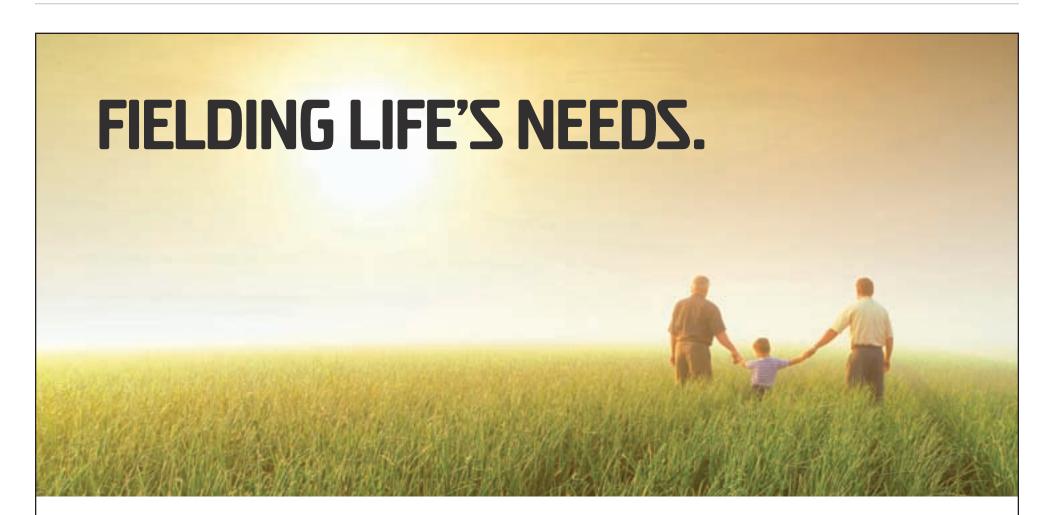


14

LIVESTOCK AUCTION RESULTS

Weight Category	Ashern	Gladstone	Grunthal	Heartland	Heartland	Killarney	Ste. Rose	Winnipeg
				Brandon	Virden			
Feeder Steers	Feb-11	Feb-10	Feb-10	Feb-10	Feb-11	Feb-09	Feb-12	Feb-13
No. on offer	1,090*	845*	575	967*	2,136*	932*	1,350	945
Over 1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
900-1,000	n/a	205.00-216.50	n/a	210.00-229.00	216.00-230.00	n/a	210.00-225.00 (229)	200.00-221.0
800-900	219.00-240.75	215.00-241.00	200.00-232.00	228.00-244.00	228.00-247.00	225.00-240.00 (247)	225.00-239.00 (245)	210.00-239.0
700-800	205.00-260.50	220.00-256.00	220.00-255.00	245.00-266.00	238.00-259.00	240.00-260.00 (265)	235.00-259.00 (263)	225.00-263.0
600-700	240.00-297.50	260.00-286.00	245.00-290.00	265.00-294.00	265.00-302.00	265.00-290.00 (296)	265.00-292.00 (301)	250.00-285.0
500-600	183.00-323.00	280.00-322.00	275.00-335.00	275.00-328.00	285.00-315.00 (320)	290.00-320.00 (329)	285.00-320.00 (325)	280.00-312.0
400-500	287.00-340.00	310.00-335.00	300.00-345.00	320.00-357.00	310.00-346.00	325.00-350.00 (357)	275.00-310.00 (315)	300.00-328.0
300-400	n/a	300.00-336.00	300.00-350.00	340.00-395.00	n/a	330.00-362.00	270.00-295.00 (325)	300.00-360.0
Feeder heifers								
900-1,000 lbs.	n/a	175.00-206.50	n/a	185.00-210.00	186.00-204.00	n/a	n/a	185.00-211.0
800-900	206.50-225.00	200.00-221.50	185.00-210.00	200.00-219.00	199.00-214.00	n/a	200.00-215.00 (217)	200.00-218.0
700-800	200.00-238.50	210.00-233.50	200.00-233.00	217.00-234.00	212.00-235.00	215.00-229.00	225.00-252.00 (265)	210.00-234.
600-700	210.00-257.00	230.00-254.00	230.00-267.00	235.00-267.00	235.00-260.00	230.00-245.00 (253)	250.00-290.00 (310)	227.00-263.0
500-600	200.00-304.50	260.00-311.00	260.00-307.00	267.00-309.00	255.00-288.00	260.00-290.00 (305)	270.00-320.00 (325)	240.00-300.0
400-500	210.00-257.00	290.00-323.00	285.00-315.00	285.00-320.00	285.00-314.00	290.00-320.00 (325)	275.00-300.00 (315)	270.00-311.0
300-400	200.00-322.50	290.00-318.00	300.00-350.00	310.00-345.00	n/a	310.00-325.00	275.00-300.00 (315)	290.00-330.0
Slaughter Market								
No. on offer	n/a	175.00-206.50	n/a	185.00-210.00	186.00-204.00	n/a	n/a	185.00-211.0
D1-D2 Cows	206.50-225.00	200.00-221.50	185.00-210.00	200.00-219.00	199.00-214.00	n/a	200.00-215.00(217)	200.00-218.
D3-D5 Cows	200.00-238.50	210.00-233.50	200.00-233.00	217.00-234.00	212.00-235.00	215.00-229.00	225.00-252.00 (265)	210.00-234.
Age Verified	210.00-257.00	230.00-254.00	230.00-267.00	235.00-267.00	235.00-260.00	230.00-245.00 (253)	250.00-290.00 (310)	227.00-263.0
Good Bulls	200.00-304.50	260.00-311.00	260.00-307.00	267.00-309.00	255.00-288.00	260.00-290.00 (305)	270.00-320.00 (325)	240.00-300.0
Butcher Steers	210.00-257.00	290.00-323.00	285.00-315.00	285.00-320.00	285.00-314.00	290.00-320.00 (325)	275.00-300.00 (315)	270.00-311.
Butcher Heifers	200.00-322.50	290.00-318.00	300.00-350.00	310.00-345.00	n/a	310.00-325.00	275.00-300.00 (315)	290.00-330.
Feeder Cows	n/a	n/a	71.00-78.00	n/a	72.00-84.00	n/a	n/a	75.00-80.0
Fleshy Export Cows	n/a	n/a	68.00-72.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lean Export Cows	n/a	n/a	59.00-65.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heiferettes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

(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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SEPIA TONE



These brown cattle against a background of frost and snow remind of an old-style sepia tone photo. PHOTO: JEANNETTE GREAVES

Public funding needed for animal welfare research

Specialist says the industry has to better articulate that animal welfare is a high-priority area

By Alex Binkley

CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR

The federal government has essentially withdrawn from funding animal welfare research even as controversy rages on several related topics, says David Fraser, an animal welfare professor at the University of British Columbia.

The result is that industry is left trying to pay for research, which is often dictated by government policy or public concerns and provides little direct benefit to farmers, Fraser said in an interview.

'The federal government cut back animal welfare research funding severely in the 1990s and has moved since then from being the main provider of research funding to relatively a non-player," said Fraser, a member of the board of the National Farmed Animai Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC).

Unlike the National Farm Animal Care Council, which is developing codes of conduct to guide the humane raising of farm livestock, the NFAHWC is focused on the science and research needed to ensure livestock are properly treated, Fraser said.

"Animal welfare is a highpriority area for the public and governments need to contribute to the research that's going on," he said.

The council is hoping to come up with a plan for later this year on how to bring Ottawa and the provinces back into animal welfare research.

"Right now there's nothing to cover the public good and government policy demands being placed on farmers," he said. "At the same time, the industry has to better articulate that animal welfare is a high-priority area."

The NFAHWC also wants Ottawa to improve adminis-



A University of B.C. animal welfare professor says the original cost of non-confinement systems may not be higher than conventional, but the cost of conversion discourages producers. FILE PHOTO

tration of the limited research funding so its administrative rules stop forcing scientists to spend more time on paperwork for bureaucrats than studying animai benaviour, Fraser said.

"They couldn't have made it more difficult for scientists to get important work done if they'd tried," he said. "We need to standardize the application and reporting process instead of having every program under completely different rules. The scientists spend far too much time applying for and administering grants.'

Include commodity groups

Another priority for the NFAHWC during 2015 is to convince commodity groups to make sure their research projects include the social and economic aspects of farm animal welfare issues and not just the biology and technology of livestock production systems. "Hopefully we'll have something for 2016," Fraser said.

Action is needed because the livestock industry suffers "from blind spots. For example, the public is opposed to the use of confinement systems for livestock." But the industry responds too slowly to their concerns and doesn't explain why they were adopted.

There were good economic reasons for their introduction decades ago, Fraser said. "Now we have to look for other systems that would work for farmers. We need more economic analysis of alternate methods. Often they're not more expensive in operation than what producers now use. However, the cost of converting to them discourages many farmers. This is an area we hope to address.'

The Animal Care Council has agreed to take charge of developing better co-ordination among existing animal research initiatives, getting all livestock groups involved and connecting them with government policy proposal, Fraser said.

Responding to growing concerns about antimicrobial resistance in humans that could be linked to the use of the same medicine in humans and animals is one area where the livestock industry has to make its record clearer, he said.

"Animal welfare is a high-priority area for the public and governments need to contribute to the research that's going on."

DAVID FRASER

Cattle prices seen continuing strong

Modest herd expansion has begun, causing prices to trend lower

NCBA RELEASE

CattleFax outlook presentation at the recent 2015 U.S. National Cattlemen's Beef Association said fed cattle prices were averaging in the mid-\$150s, slightly higher than last year. Prices will trade in a range from near \$140 at the lows to near \$170 at the highs in the year ahead (all figures U.S.), while early-year highs for 550pound steers will range from near \$285 to lows near \$235. Analysts cited the improved forage situation, lower grain prices and record margins in 2014 for feeders and stockers as the primary reason cow-calf producers will remain in the driver's seat for the year ahead.

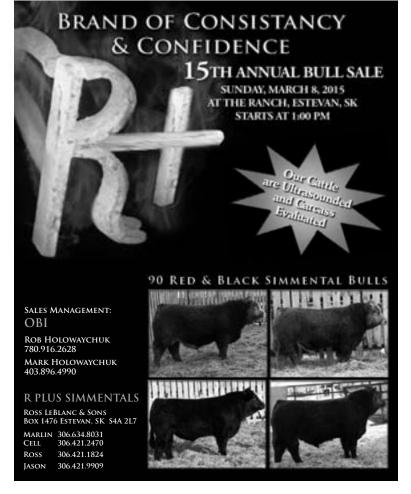
Despite exceptional prices in 2014, CattleFax CEO Randy Blach said he expects the market peak is behind the cattle indus-

"We put the top in the market in the past year and the signal for expansion has been transmitted," he said. "We will begin to see some modest expansion in herd numbers now and that will cause prices to trend lower in the years ahead than what we saw in 2014."

He explained that growing supplies of cattle and beef over the next several years will rebalance the normal price and margin environment among industry segments.

"Prices will then retreat back to the lower end of the new trading range," said Blach.

Despite the adjustment, he explained that cow-calf producers will continue to see relatively strong returns over the next four to five years, aided by corn prices expected to average \$3.60 per bushel in 2015 and an improved forage production picture.



WEATHER VANE

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



Arctic high pressure continues to dominate

Issued: Tuesday, February 17 · Covering: February 18 - February 25, 2015

Daniel BezteCo-operator contributor



ur weather over the last week was dominated by arctic high pressure as predicted, but those highs didn't track quite the way the weather models indicated they would, resulting in only a mediocre forecast. This issue's forecast begins where last week's left off — with cold arctic high pressure dominating.

The first and strongest of what looks to be a series of three arctic highs will slide across the Prairies Wednesday and Thursday, bringing sunny skies and cold temperatures. Temperatures will definitely run at or even slightly below the bottom end of the usual temperature range. Once this high slides off to the southeast Friday, we should see a little milder air work its way in as our winds become southerly on the backside of the high.

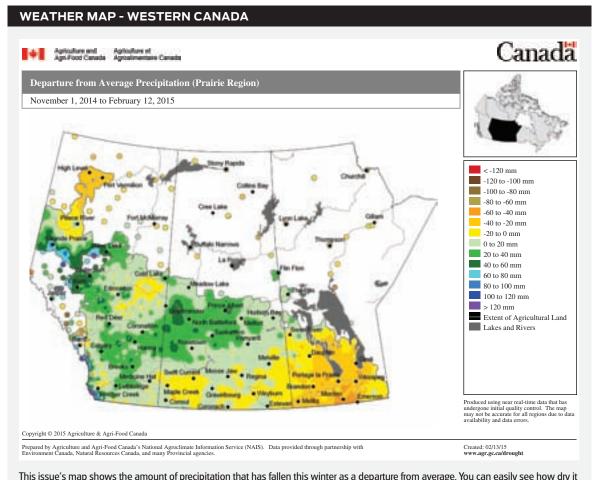
A second and slightly weaker arctic high is then forecast to drop southward over the weekend. This will keep our skies mostly clear, but even with the strengthening late-winter sun-

shine, daytime highs will still be near the low end of the usual temperature range. This high, like all the others, is then forecast to slide to the southeast. This should result in a westerly flow developing across the Prairies late Sunday, lasting into the early part of next week. Temperatures under this westerly flow should moderate toward the middle of the usual temperature range, and we could see a few more clouds.

A third and hopefully final arctic high is then forecast to work southward around the middle to latter half of next week, bringing with it another shot of cold air. Looking beyond this period, there are some hints that the cold pattern we've been in over the last couple of weeks will start to change toward a warmer but stormier pattern. After all, we are heading toward March, which can be the snowiest month of the winter!

Usual temperature range for this period: Highs, -16 to -1 C; lows, -29 to -10 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.



has been across nearly all of agricultural Manitoba so far this winter. A good part of this region is 20 to 40 mm below average, with some areas seeing values in the 40-60 mm range. Farther west it has been wetter, with parts of western Saskatchewan and scattered parts of Alberta reporting 20-60 mm above average.

Understanding troughs and ridges

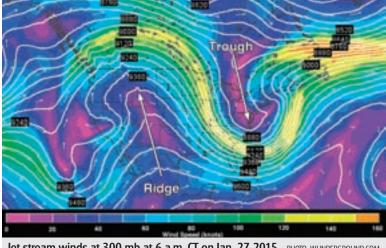
Systems coming off the Pacific weaken against a high-pressure ridge before reaching us

By Daniel Bezte

CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR

In the last issue I talked about atmospheric rivers and finished off by saying we would take a look at why the West Coast has been so warm and dry, while the East Coast has been digging itself out of record-breaking snows and freezing butts off in the process.

If you've followed the weather across North America this winter, you've probably heard about the persistent ridge of high pressure over the West Coast and the trough of low pressure that has stubbornly refused to move from the East Coast. While troughs and ridges are all a part of what makes up our weather, these two features have been a little unusual for two reasons. First of all, they have been very persistent, especially the West Coast ridge. Typically, these types of features will only last two to six weeks before they move on. The West Coast ridge has been in place, for the most part, for well over a year now. The second unusual aspect of these features has been the amplitude they sometimes develop; this means the ridge and trough have been stretching much farther north and south than what we typically see. There have been more



Jet stream winds at 300 mb at 6 a.m. CT on Jan. 27, 2015. $\,$ Photo: WUNDERGROUND.COM

and more weather articles coming out discussing how the wave pattern across the Northern Hemisphere appears to be becoming more amplified. I know I have looked at this in the past and may revisit this topic soon

To begin to understand what's going on, I figured the best place to start would be with an image of just what's happening. I pulled this image from Jeff Masters' weather blog and it nicely shows the strong ridge of high pressure over the West and a deep trough of low pressure over the East. The colour coding is the wind speed at the 300-mb level, roughly

where the jet stream is. Areas to the south of the jet are seeing warmer-than-average weather, while those north are colder than average. On this particular date the western ridge was a little farther east compared to where it is right now, which is why we saw warm weather during the second half of January. To understand our basic weather so far this winter, you just have to picture a see-saw battle between these two features. The western ridge gains and weakens in strength and drifts back and forth, and the same thing happens with the trough to our east. How each behaves will determine which side of the warm/cold dividing line we'll be on.

Most of you reading this article are probably already aware high pressure is associated with sinking air, and that usually results in clear skies with little or no precipitation. Troughs, on the other hand, have rising air, which usually gives way to clouds and precipitation. It makes sense that it has been warm and dry along the West Coast (California in particular) and wet out to our east. That said, this only partly explains what's going on. To really understand, we need to look at how the atmosphere, particularly the jet stream, behaves as it travels over the ridge and dives down and around the trough.

Picture a storm system travelling along the jet stream coming in off the Pacific. From the position of the jet, most of the energy is being deflected to the north. More importantly, the jet is curving up and over the ridge. As it does so the air starts to bunch up (think of a highway filled with cars coming to a fairly sharp bend; the cars will start to slow down and bunch up). The bunched-up air has to go somewhere and one of the places it goes is downward, causing sinking air, which, as we know, doesn't promote the formation of precipitation.

What it does is weaken the storm system.

This weakened storm then zips down toward the trough, where again the air bunches up, preventing the storm from intensifying, but once this air rounds the bottom of the trough it can speed up and spread out very rapidly. This helps to pull air upward, allowing the storm system to intensify. Combine this with the cyclonic spin imparted on the system from the trough and warm, moist air off the East Coast, and you get rapid intensification of the storm systems. Add the cold air flowing southward in the trough and you get big snowstorms.

In our region the systems coming in off the Pacific have lost a lot of their energy due to the ridge. Some reintensification occurs as the systems round the top of the ridge, and we have seen evidence of this farther west over Alberta and Saskatchewan. As these systems move into our region they start to run out of their limited moisture and begin moving into the hostile environment ahead of the trough, then the systems just seem to fizzle out or bring less snow than anticipated.

Hopefully, this has helped to shed some light on our weather situation so far this winter.

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

You need a multipronged plan to deal with this deadly foe

There's no silver bullet for combating ergot, but mowing grasses near fields and good agronomics can make a big difference



By Alexis Kienlen

rgot is a rising threat on the Prairies, and plant researchers are trying to figure out the best way to combat the disease.

Everyone is concerned with fusarium head blight, but ergot is right up there in terms of danger," said Jamie Larsen, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge.

Rye and triticale are most susceptible to ergot, but the disease also infects wheat and barley. In 2011, up to 30 per cent of Alberta wheat deliveries to the elevator were rejected or downgraded because of ergot. The fungal disease infects grasses during the flowering stage, destroying the flower and replacing it with an ergot particle known as a sclerotia.

Incidence has been steadily rising across the Prairies since 2004, possibly due to cooler springs, reduced rotations, and minimum or zero till.

Research scientist Kelly Turkington likens the disease to a "puzzle."

"There are a number of different pieces and there's nothing that is one huge piece that addresses all the issues with it," said Turkington, who works at AAFC's Lacombe Research Centre in Alberta.

Nor is there a silver bullet for dealing with it and that includes fungicides.

"What they have found in some trials is that you can get a slight reduction in ergot, but for the most part, fungicide trials have not been effective in reducing ergot levels in grain and economically, it's just not worth it," said Jim Menzies, a scientist at AAFC's Morden Research

"If you're planning to go into a field, and you're worried about ergot, you need to be thinking a year ahead," added Larsen. "Once those sclerotia are there, you can't control them."

Spotting an infestation

Ergot can be found in the grasses around fields and in ditches. As the plant matures, ergot bodies fall to the ground. Those bodies germinate the following spring, releasing spores that land on florets, and then hijacking the florets to produce noneydew about a week after anthesis.

"Your field will be full of flies, which will be landing on the honeydew and going from head to head, and that's how secondary infection is spread around," said Larsen.

Twenty-five days after heading, producers will



Ergot is 'right up there' with fusarium as a crop threat, says Jamie Larsen, research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



"If you're planning to go into a field, and you're worried about ergot, you need to be thinking a year ahead."

JAMIE LARSEN

start to see black, finger-like protrusions growing outside of the florets.

to reduce the threat of ergot, producers should mow grasses in the ditches the year before planting a cereal crop, as well as the year they grow a cereal crop. Mowing is most effective just before

If the crop is infected, the outside edges of the

field — which typically see the heaviest infestation — can be harvested separately. A rotation that is three years or longer also helps to break down the disease inoculum.

A strong nutrition program and doing what you can to encourage uniform emergence (late tillers are most at risk of being infected) are also recommended.

"The sooner the seed gets fertilized, the sooner it becomes resistant to infection by ergot," said

Eight days after fertilization, the plant can no longer become infected. It's also important to take care with herbicide and pesticide application to prevent flowers from becoming sterile, as they are more susceptible to ergot.

Over the last couple of years, copper has been touted as a cure-all, which is not the case.

Livestock producers also need to be aware of the threat — especially if they are harvesting silage, swath grazing or standing grazing wheat or triticale — because cattle can get quite sick from eating ergot.

Plant breeders are trying to create cultivars resistant to ergot, but they aren't available yet.

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MASC adding pedigreed seed field inspections to its service in 2015

Manitoba pedigreed seed growers will have six field inspection service providers to pick from

By Allan Dawson

CO-OPERATOR STAFF

anitoba pedigreed seed growers have another option for getting their seed crops inspected this year.

The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC), which administers Manitoba's crop insurance program, is offering the service privatized last year by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

"We have this great group of around 150 (crop insurance) adjusters around Manitoba and they have lots of ability to do different things so we're slowly trying to build the things where we can use those guys," David Van Deynze, MASC's manager of claim services said in an interview Feb. 6. "Ultimately the

goal is to help the producers of Manitoba in any way we can so if we see a need somewhere where there is an inspection we can help out with we try to get into that."

In 2014 five companies offered pedigreed seed field inspections in Manitoba and adding MASC this year will make six, said Dale Adolphe, executive director of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

Last year there were 24 companies providing the service in various parts of Canada and this year it's expected there will be 27. Besides MASC getting into the business in Manitoba, new providers are coming to Saskatchewan, Quebec and southern Alberta and British Columbia, Adolphe said

MASC had three pedigreed seed inspectors trained last year and expects to add three to five more this year, Van Deynze said.

MASC will charge competitive prices for its service, he added.

"We're not going to be undercutting anybody," he said. 'That's not the idea here at all. It's really to make sure there are enough people in the game... in all areas of the province. Perhaps some of the private guys won't have people in all areas of the province like we do. We might end up being cheaper in some cases, not because our rates are cheaper but because we have a guy closer by. We've tried to pick the guys doing this in every corner of the province so hopefully we're not too far away from any farmer."

Crop insurance adjusting, like inspecting fields of pedigreed seed, is seasonal work. There will be times when both are a high priority, but MASC expects to be able to handle it, Van Deynze said.

MASC is sending farmers details about its pedigreed seed inspection service in crop insurance confirmation notices this month. Seed growers can get more details from their local MASC office.

Until last year CFIA inspected fields of pedigreed seed crops. The switch to private inspectors was prompted by cuts in the federal government's 2012 budget.

CFIA remains responsible for training, certifying and auditing private seed inspectors.

Both CFIA and other seed industry officials said in

Home Grown, World Class.

interviews last fall the switch occurred more smoothly than expected.

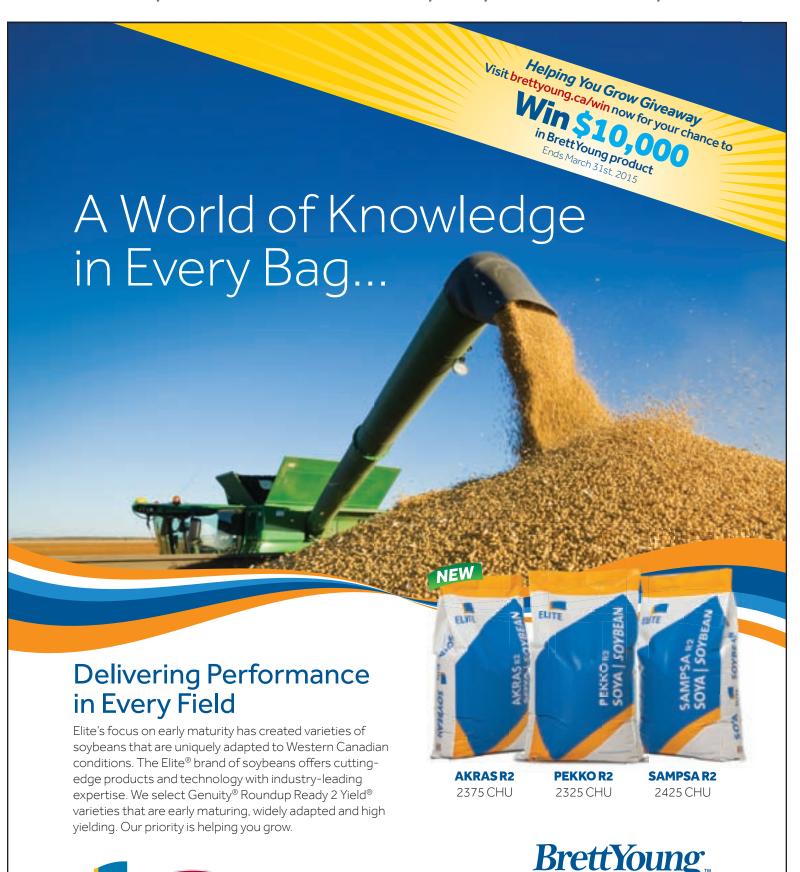
The goal was getting private company inspectors to inspect 75 to 80 per cent of Canada's pedigreed seed acres in 2014. They did 89.5 per cent, plus 52 per cent of Canada's seed plots.

"We exceeded our expectations in the first year," Mike Scheffel, CFIA's national seed section manager, said in an interview Oct. 29.

Most seed growers were pleased with the transition too, Adolphe said.

The main complaint was inspection fees doubled in cost, but the increases were lower than expected probably because of competition.

allan@fbcpublishing.com



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BRIEFS

Hot, dry conditions to affect S. Africa's maize crop

JOHANNESBURG /
REUTERS / A quarter
of South Africa's maize
(corn) crop could be
ruined, as extreme heat
and dry conditions
sweep through its producing regions, industry
experts said Feb. 12.

Africa's biggest grain producer planted 2.656 million hectares for the 2015 season, according to January estimates, and shortages may result in reduced exports to some of its southern African neighbours.

The price of white maize, which is a staple among 90 per cent of South Africa's population, has spiked to 2,636 rand (US\$224) a tonne, its highest level in a

"Prices have skyrocketed, they have gone up by 33 per cent in two weeks," said Piet Faure, a soft commodities analyst at CJS Securities.

Soaring temperatures in the North West and Free State provinces have caused maize and other grains such as sunflower and soybeans to deteriorate, head of the producer group GrainSA said.

"We have seen large areas where the damage is already irreversible," said Jannie de Villiers, GrainSA chief executive reported.

The rolling power cuts that have gripped Africa's most advanced economy are also affecting the crops as irrigation systems stop when the power is turned off.

Exploring the transition to organic farming

Organic is becoming mainstream, and current premiums make it worthwhile, said two speakers at Ag Days

By Jennifer Paige

CO-OPERATOR STAFF / BRANDON

ransitioning to organic farming presents challenges, but the benefits may outweigh them, said speakers at a session on organics at Ag Days last month.

"If we take a look at the grain price estimates of hard spring wheat, a staple in Canadian organic farming right now, it is being said that organic wheat in 2015 will be sold at \$22 per bushel. That is almost four times higher than the conventional wheat this fall," said J. Wallace Hamm, founder of Pro-Cert Organic Systems and former director of the Saskatchewan Soil Testing Lab.

Hamm said that after examining market trends over a number of years, he has concluded that there is a definite advantage in pursuing organic practices. "If we look at historical relative grain prices, there has always been an advantage in organics and now we are finding those advantages are getting bigger."

Another advantage is lower input costs. Hamm said that on average, Prairie organic farmers spend half as much per acre in order to make twice as much as their conventional neighbours. He said the land, building and equipment needs of a viable, sustainable organic farming operation are substantially less than those for a conventional farm with the same net annual returns.

"Given that organic farmers can net twice as much per acre as their conventional neighbours, they only need to own or rent half as much land for the same net income. As well, there is a complete absence for the need for fertilizer and pesticide storage, transportation, application and equipment," said Hamm.

He noted that those costs are slightly offset by the greater need for traditional tillage equipment such as "If we look at historical relative grain prices, there has always been an advantage in organics and now we are finding those advantages are getting bigger."

J. WALLACE HAMM

discs for legume plow-down, and light-duty cultivators and rod weeders.

Jennifer McCombe, agronomist with Growers International Organic Sales Inc., said 58 per cent of Canadians report purchasing some organic product at least once a week

"Organic foods used to be a niche thing that you would have to go to a specialty store for but now your average grocery store has entire aisles dedicated to organic products," said McCombe.

She said her company has been working in organics since 1985 and has recently begun to offer transitional contracts to producers as well.

In organics there is no futures market, there is no basis. Historically organic prices were related to the conventional market and in the past they have been 50 to 100 per cent premium over the conventional market, but now the price is completely related to supply and demand." She said her advice when diversifying into organics would be to manage your risks, grow what you know how to grow and plan your rotation based on agronomics and marketing.

"Make sure there is a market for the crop you are growing and know who you can sell it to and that the logistics make sense."

Jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com

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J. Wallace Hamm told an Ag Days crowd that organic prices are consistently higher over the years. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

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CTA review yields early findings

By measuring transportation success by the number of cars delivered, regions farthest from port suffer

By Shannon VanRaes

CO-OPERATOR STAFF

he Canada Transportation Act (CTA) review is still 10 months away from completion, but already some things are becoming apparent.

Speaking at Keystone Agricultural Producers annual meeting in Winnipeg, Murad Al-Katib said that it's clear that the federal government's attempt to ensure smooth rail transportation has resulted in some new complications.

"The words 'unintended consequences' are in every-body's vocabulary in Ottawa today, and the unintended consequence of the order-incouncil is that the north-south movement has shut down," said Al-Katib, who is the grain industry adviser for the CTA review.

Al-Katib is president and CEO of Saskatchewan-based

"I want accountability on all sides, I want collaboration, I want to stop the finger pointing."

MURAD AL-KATIB

Alliance Grain Traders, the world's largest pulse-processing and -trading organization.

He said he's been shocked to see vessels coming through the St. Lawrence Seaway to bring European oats to U.S. customers, as processors there struggle to import Canadian oats

The minimum grain shipments mandated by the federal government have also caused some regional problems. Measuring success by the amount of grain delivered — or by velocity turns — means rail companies have less incentive to provide cars

to locations farthest from ports. Al-Katib said Saskatchewan has been most affected by this issue.

"The question is, how do you balance it?" he told producers. "If there are going to be targets there has to be a debit and credit system."

Reviews of the Transportation Act are mandated by law, but after the problems experienced during the 2013-14 winter, the federal government chose to begin this review one year ahead of schedule.

Lisa Raitt, minister of transport, made the announcement in Winnipeg last June.



Murad Al-Katib Photo: Shannon Vanraes

"We need to create the right conditions for a system that has the capacity and flexibility to respond to global and domestic demands," she said at the time.

To that end, the review is not only looking at how transpor-

tation and rail systems function in Canada, but also how those systems interact with systems in the United States and across North America, said Al-Katib.

Use producer cars, but...

"Connectivity between Canada and the U.S., and you know, north-south shipments are a part of our future, they need to be reliable, because that market will be every year, year after year," he said.

Producers also need to do their part to make sure producer cars can be maintained as a viable part of the system.

"I heard it loud and clear...
producer car loading is a fundamental right that all of you
want maintained, you want it
reliable and my response to you
is, 'OK, but don't abuse it,'" said
Al-Katib. "Don't let the grain
companies in the U.S. that don't
have assets use producer cars in
a way to circumvent the system
then, because that's not fair...
if producers aren't vigilant in
the way they use producer cars,
then that window is likely not
going to be as open."

But the review isn't about laying blame, he stressed. It's about finding solutions and improving the way commodities are transported in Canada.

"I want accountability on all sides, I want collaboration, I want to stop the finger pointing and I really want to invent the railways to truly deploy capital into capacity that is delivered to the users, and I want them to make money for it, I'm a free enterpriser, that's the way I was born," said Al-Katib.

That doesn't however, mean that producers and processors should stop their lobbying efforts. He noted that all the time and money farm groups like Keystone Agricultural Producers have spent developing transportation policy have been invaluable to the process and the review, helping to ensure they have good ideas on the table.

"It is paying off," he said.

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Agriculture Canada bullish on farm income prospects

But Manitoba net farm income seen down 13 per cent from 2014

By Alex Binkley

CO-OPERATOR CONTRIBUTOR / OTTAWA

A griculture Canada says there is enough strength in the livestock and crop markets and stability in input costs to predict solid national farm income this year, although not as high as 2014.

In an outlook released Feb. 13, department economists said total net farm income for 2014 should reach the \$14-billion range and slip back to \$13 billion this year, mainly because of lower world grain prices.

"Growing strength in the cattle and hog industry, strong crop sales resulting from high carry-in stocks despite softening grain prices, and relatively stable input costs produced a record farm income in 2014 and will continue to sustain the agricultural economy in 2015," they told a briefing for reporters.

On an individual farm basis, average Canadian net operating income was forecast to be an all-time high of \$78,139 for 2014, they said. They didn't predict a 2015 figure but said it should be lower, in line with the forecast

In Manitoba in 2014, net income dropped to \$437.2 million from \$1.4 billion in 2013 as higher commodity prices were offset by increased operating expenses and lower support program payments. It is expected to reach \$536.7 million this year.

However, the average net operating income per farm in Manitoba rose to \$95,677 in 2014 from \$75,942 in 2013. It's forecast to fall to \$66,111 for this year.

Lower world prices

The drop in 2015 income will be led by lower grain and oilseed prices due to the U.S. bumper crop in 2014, the forecast said. High world stocks will also be a drag on prices. "However, a weakening of the Canadian dollar makes our products more competitive and will temper some of the declines in crop prices," the government release said.

While costs for gasoline, diesel and natural gas have dropped in recent months,

"the recent volatility in crude oil markets makes it difficult to estimate the full impact on fuel costs. Similarly for the exchange rate, a weaker dollar improves revenues of producers, but the recent volatility in the exchange rate makes estimating the full impact uncertain."

The income prospects for Canadian farmers during the next few years are positive, the forecast noted. "Rising global economic growth and increasing incomes in large emerging countries will continue to spur demand side growth and Canada will continue to be an important supplier in many of these markets."

Cattle and hog prices hit records last year "due to low North American supplies,

and weakening feed grain prices also contributed to higher incomes," the forecast said. "Although total livestock receipts will not change significantly in 2015, cattle receipts will continue to benefit from tight markets and higher prices. Cattle producers, who normally operate on relatively low margins, will see record profits as live animal prices remain at high levels and feed grain prices continue to be soft."

Hog farmers have lived with volatile prices for the last decade. "Increased availability of slaughter hogs in North America in 2015, and its effect on prices, will lead incomes to return to long-term average levels following the income surge in 2014."

North Dakota drone tests get go-ahead

Initial tests focus on soil and crop quality

REUTERS

he U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said Feb. 10 it has expanded the area in North Dakota where research flights of small drones are permitted as the drone industry eagerly awaits rules on commercial use of the unmanned aircraft.

Flights under the auspices of the Northern Plains UAS Test Site, a research facility based in Grand Forks, will now be allowed in most of northeastern North Dakota, FAA said in a statement, adding that it soon expects to authorize flights in about two-thirds of the state.

Flight operations at the Northern Plains site, one of six FAA-authorized test sites in the country, began in May and were limited to a small area of several square miles.

The North Dakota flights have initially focused on aiding agricultural research, including checking soil quality and the status of crops.

The six sites have given companies, universities and others a place to test small drones, defined as less than 55 pounds (25 kg), for a variety of uses, including package delivery and aerial surveying.

The FAA is months late in developing small drone regulations. A draft FAA rule, under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget, is expected to be published soon, kicking off a year or two of comment and revisions before it takes effect.

The FAA rules will cover commercial drone uses, which are now mostly banned. They will not apply to hobbyists operating model aircraft. Congress granted these users an exemption from rules in 2012.



WALKING THE TIGHTROPE



Cats use their tail for balance in the same way a tightrope walker uses a pole on the high wire. PHOTO: STEPHANIE NIKKEL



Canola council offers tips for better establishment

New video offers tips for seeding rate and depth, and other factors which produce an optimum stand

Canola Council of Canada release

he Canola Council of Canada has a new video that describes key stand establishment steps using animated video and a question-and-answer format with growers.

The video describes how uniform stands of seven to 10 plants per square foot act as insurance, preserving yield potential in the face of early-season threats from frost, insects and seedling disease.

"Achieving this target stand often requires seeding rate adjustment based on seed size and soil conditions," says Justine Cornelsen, agronomy specialist for the canola council.

Seed with higher thousand seed weights will have fewer seeds per pound, so heavier seed may have to be planted at higher pounds per acre to achieve the target stand. And if soil moisture conditions are favourable and seed survival is 80 per cent, canola will only need nine to 13 seeds per square foot to reach the target. However, if survival is 50 per cent, a minimum of 14 seeds per square foot are required.

The video also describes how seeding too fast for the drill or soil conditions can lead to uneven seed placement row to row. Drills tend to sacrifice precision placement when operated too fast, and back rows of openers will throw more soil over the front rows, creating uneven soil cover for each seed row. Uneven seed depth results in uneven emergence.

The video can be found by going to www.youtube.com and typing 'canola stand establishment' in the search box.

Other factors in stand establishment include straw and chaff management to create an even layer; seed depth of one-half to one inch for more rapid emergence; and more seedling vigour, and safe rates of seed-placed fertilizer. The definition of "safe" varies based on soil moisture and seedbed utilization, but the general recommendation is to apply no more than 20 pounds per acre of phosphate in the seed row and place all other fertilizer in a band away from the seed, said Cornelsen.

Plant establishment is one of the key components to boosting yields in the canola council's strategic plan, which targets an average yield of 52 bushels per acre by 2025, up from the three-year average of around 34 bushels per acre. Improved plant establishment agronomy could add three bushels per acre. Improved fertility management is forecast to add another three bushels; with two bushels per acre each coming from advances in integrated pest management and harvest management; and eight from genetic improvement.

Canola and barley markets offer opportunities in a time of low crop prices

Fundamentals favourable for canola and barley but not other grains and oilseeds, says commodity strategist

By Alexis Kienlen

STAFF / EDMONTON

n a time of flat or falling prices, canola and barley offer a little ray of hope, according to Moe Agostino, chief commodity strategist with Farms.com Risk Management.

Tight supply is positive for canola, but the key is strong demand fuelled by the plunge in the Canadian dollar, Agostino told the FarmTech conference here last month.

"That's why the canola price is bucking the trend. That's why canola is moving higher," he said.

Farmers in the European Union didn't plant as many canola acres and Europe's ban on neonicotinoid insecticide

pressure in 2015 and further tighten supplies, said Agostino, who has a canola price target in the range of \$465 to \$490 a tonne.

"That's where I think prices are going," he said.

Supply is the driver on the barley side, he said. Barley acres were down 17 per cent last year while yield fell by 13 per cent and that's fuelling predictions of supply shortages, said Agostino, who forecasts prices to stay above \$200 and to potentially hit the \$240-a-tonne mark by summer.

But his outlook isn't as bright for other crops.

Oat prices will remain weak and the global supply of wheat is high and that will continue

is expected to increase disease to weigh on prices unless futures can be risky, it's importhere is extensive winterkill in the U.S. or a weather wreck in a major wheat-producing area, he said. Agostino is also bearish on soybeans.

There will be more acres of pulses planted and ending stocks are expected to double, which is bearish for prices. The carry-out and stocksto-use ratio for dry peas is expected to jump dramatically, he said.

Hedging diesel

Lower diesel prices are coming, but unlike producers in Ontario, Prairie farmers don't have the ability to book diesel forward. So Agostino recommends hedging diesel or using futures, but since using tant to use a consultant or broker for guidance.

"You have to always ask yourself what's the risk or reward," he said, adding a call option should minimize the risk of margin calls.

He predicted fertilizer prices to be stable as strong supply is being matched by strong demand.

And while the low loonie pumps up the price Canadian farmers receive for exported grain, it has the opposite effect when buying anything imported from the U.S. Demand for American goods in Canada is "just going to fall off the cliff," he said.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com



Moe Agostino PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Forecaster sees late spring in the Corn Belt

But warmer conditions expected to speed maturity in August and September

NCBA RELEASE

n a presentation to the recent U.S. National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Art Douglas, professor emeritus at Creighton University, provided an outlook for moisture conditions in the United States through the summer.

"El Niño conditions have again built across the Pacific and this will fuel a split jet stream pattern into the southwestern United States. Moisture will gradually increase in February from southern California to the southern High Plains," said Douglas.

"Snowpacks in the northern Rockies are expected to remain well below normal at 50 to 70 per cent levels while the southern Rockies should gradually build their snowpack through March. As the jet stream heads east it will pick up Gulf moisture and lead to above-normal rainfall throughout the southeast.

"The pesky ridge in the West will gradually weaken during February and by the spring this will allow moisture to increase in the Pacific Northwest," he said. "A strong Great Lakes trough is forecast to keep a broad portion of the United States colder than normal through the spring and early summer.'

Douglas said this pattern should lead to delayed planting in the Corn Belt with possible threat of late frosts into the late

"The cool temperatures are likely to persist into early summer and this will slow crop progress but be ideal for corn pollination in July. The silver lining in the forecast is that the Midwest should turn warmer by August and September and this will help speed up crop maturation," he said.



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The recipe has to be just right when fertilizing your crops

Phosphorus and potassium work well when placed in the seed row — but nitrogen and sulphur are mobile

STAFF / EDMONTON

itrogen may be the first thing producers think of when they want to bump up their yield — but don't neglect the other nutri-

"In order to get the maximum benefit out of all of our fertilizer nutrients, we need to have a balanced supply," University of Saskatchewan soil scientist Jeff Schoenau told the FarmTech meeting here

"That's where phosphorus, sulphur, and potassium come

Every year, Schoenau drives home the point about balanced nutrition to his soil fertility students by conducting a little experiment. Working with brown and grey soils, the students look at how canola responds to nitrogen alone, nitrogen plus phosphorus, and nitrogen plus phosphorus and sulphur.

In the brown soil, the "main limitation" in crop yield is usually phosphorus.

"Nitrogen alone didn't give us much of a yield response, but with phosphorus present, we got a big yield gain, and a little bit of sulphur added on top of that gave us the highest yield," said Schoenau.

Phosphorus "wasn't really an issue" in the grey soil, but sulphur was.

"When we added nitrogen, we got a little bit of a yield gain, and nitrogen plus phosphorus wasn't much higher than just nitrogen," he said.

"But where we had the nitrogen, the phosphorus, and the sulphur together, that's where we got the highest yield. That's the importance of balanced nutrition for fertility."

Placement is tricky

So where's the best place to put that fertilizer? That depends, said Schoenau.

'Optimum placement of these nutrients is very much related to the mobility of the nutrient," he said.

Phosphorus and potassium are immobile nutrients, while nitrogen and sulphur move

"Phosphorus and potassium will only move a few millimetres or centimetres in the soil from where they're placed," he said. "Placement, especially of immobile nutrients, means you need to have it

"Placement, especially of immobile nutrients, means you need to have it close to where that root is in order for it to be available."

JEFF SCHOENAU

close to where that root is in order for it to be available.'

Sulphur is a different story. "Sulphate will move long distances — literally metres - in the soil to that root," he

"You don't need all the sulphate there available for uptake right away."

Producers also need to consider "how much nutrient fertilizer can we safely place in that seed row before we run into injury issues?'

"Nearly all fertilizers are salt, so one of the negative impacts of too much fertilizer in the seed row is that, because of the salt, it holds back water from the germinating seed and seedling," said Schoenau.

Tolerance varies

Using a controlled environment with "typical Prairie soil," Schoenau tested the effects of seed row-added phosphorus, potassium, and sulphur on cereals, oilseeds, and pulses.

Cereals were the most tolerant to the added nutrition in the seed row.

"Cereals, like wheat and barley, can tolerate upwards of 40 pounds of P2O5 (phosphorus) per acre," he said. "Above that, you start to see some significant drops in emergence. You throw some potash in there, there's somewhat of a negative effect, but it's not huge.

Oilseeds such as canola had moderate tolerance to seed row-placed fertilizer.

"For canola, around 25 pounds of P2O5 per acre seems to be about the maximum safe rate," he said. "And when you throw some potash in there, you have to reduce the amount of phosphorus accordingly in order to avoid

And while some pulses, including pinto beans and chickpeas, were quite tolerant to the added nutrition, peas weren't.

"Of the crops that we evaluated, pea was one of the most sensitive to high rates of phosphorus placed in the seed row," said Schoenau.
"When you put some potash in there, it significantly reduced the germination and the emergence."

Test for sulphur

High rates of sulphur can also cause reductions in emergence, he said, so producers should test their soils for residual sulphur before adding any more.

And even then, there's really no advantage to placing sulphur in the seed row, said Schoenau.



Jeff Schoenau PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"Because sulphate is mobile, I'd say the best place for ammonium sulphate is not in the seed row but somewhere else — a mid-row band or a side-row band away from the seed," he said.

"Putting it away from the jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

seed row would be my preference to avoid that potential for injury. If you're forced to choose between phosphorus or sulphur in the seed row, I'd go with the phosphorus."



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Solutions for the Growing World

HERBICIDE

Tandem

Farmers urged to take lead on resistance

Weed scientist says producers need to extend rotations, not overuse glyphosate, and employ the most effective tank mixes

By Alexis Kienlen

STAFF / EDMONTON

erbicide resistance is like a forest fire — only you can prevent it.

That was the message from weed scientist Linda Hall, who said producers need to step up to prevent a situation like that in the U.S. where glyphosateresistant weeds are now epidemic in corn, soybeans and cotton crops.

"It's easy to say that Roundup Ready crops cause Roundup Ready weeds, but in fact that's not what happens," the University of Alberta professor told the FarmTech meeting here last month.

The problem is overuse of the herbicide as well as not using an appropriate tank-mix partner or full rates of application.

"You need to do everything to control those weeds, including spraying when those weeds are young," she said.

Studies in the United States have shown that mixing herbicides in the tank is better than using them in sequence.

Weakly resistant weeds often survive in the perimeters of fields because they receive lower "I'm really keeping an eye on annual sow thistle, which has just been identified as glyphosate resistant in the U.S."

LINDA HALL

doses of spray because end nozzles aren't delivering a full rate. Field perimeters don't get the overlap from the double nozzle, and receive one-third of the rate of the rest of the field.

Best practices

Hall also told producers to lengthen their rotations, scout early, and get on top of weed patches in their fields before they become well established.

Researchers are currently looking for more herbicides to mix with glyphosate as glyphosate resistance continues to rise.

"What we're really thinking about is a tank mix or multiple applications and that has to



Sow thistle is already resistant to Group 2s, so resistance to glyphosate would be even more of a concern. PHOTO: ALVESGASPAR/CREATIVE COMMONS

include soil-applied herbicides," said Hall.

Finding a tank mix is not easy, especially in crops like canola. Both components of a tank mix have to be effective, as wild oats, green foxtail and cleavers have already developed resistance to

Group 1 and Group 2 herbicides. "I'm really keeping an eye on annual sow thistle, which has just been identified as glyphosate resistant in the U.S.," said Hall. "If we have that one blowing around, it's already resistant to Group 2s in Alberta."

Back to the future?

There are approximately 7.7 million hectares of resistant weeds across Western Canada, said Hall. And since there haven't been any new herbicides developed since the 1990s, researchers are

going back into the vault to see if any older chemical compounds could be mixed with glyphosate to slow resistance.

Hall and other Alberta researchers have started to look at Group 14 and Group 15 herbicides. These can be applied in fall or as pre-emergents in the spring, and fit well into direct-seeding systems.

Because these herbicides are soil applied, they are affected by organic matter, soil moisture, and soil texture. They are also residual herbicides, so producers need to watch their recropping restrictions. Group 14s and 15s can be used in a variety of crops, including wheat, peas and sunflower, to combat cleavers and wild oats.

"If we get a dry spring, these things get held up in the soil and they're not effective," said Hall.

In order to make the herbicides work in a tilled field with deep seeding conditions, an enhanced rate of application may be necessary.

Researchers are currently investigating non-herbiciderelated weed management strategies, such as inter-row tillage and weed seed harvesting.

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AND SAVE BEFORE MARCH 20th

UPOV '91 isn't just good for plant breeders

Commissioner of plant breeders' rights says farmers will see better varieties and more choice

By Jennifer Blair

STAFF / EDMONTON

It's a mistake to think that enhanced plant breeders' rights only benefit seed companies, says the commissioner of plant breeders' rights with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"The net benefit, at the end of the day, is really going to be for farmers," said Anthony Parker at the FarmTech meeting here in January.

The federal government is poised to pass new plant breeders' rights legislation that will bring Canada in line with UPOV '91 (an acronym for the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties).

"It will bring increased investment, new sources of varieties coming into the marketplace, and increased choice for farmers in sourcing the varieties they need to be competitive," said Parker.

With the legislation expected to come into effect in April, a "number of interesting things" will occur because of the improved intellectual property protection that will come with the shift, he said.

"We are not even past the goal line yet, but we have seen applications coming in from other countries that we have not seen before," he said. "We have seen new investments in Canada already as those companies are trying to position themselves under a better intellectual property framework."

That will bring greater competition into Canada's breeding programs — another boon for producers, he said.

"Breeders have an incentive to develop better varieties, be it for yield, for disease resistance, for stress tolerance, or for enduse characteristics," said Parker.

"You get an increased number and diversity of crops, as well as varieties. This equates to more choice for farmers."

And as long as farmers aren't selling — or buying — brownbag seed, there are no drawbacks to moving to UPOV '91, he said.

"Under the current framework, it's an infringement to sell brown-bag seed. With this new provision, it's both an infringement to sell as well as to purchase," said Parker, adding a breeder will also be able to collect royalties off any grain harvested from brown-bag seed.

"When the infringement happens, the breeder is not just going to be seeking compensation on lost royalties. They're going to be seeking damages, like court costs and investigation costs. That can increase costs quite significantly."

The take-home message is "don't engage in brown-bag sales," said Parker.

"It's a bad idea — not just because it's breaking the law, but because it's denying the breeder an ability to collect and reinvest in breeding programs," he said.

"There are no negative impacts on farmers who obtain seed legitimately; so long as you made that initial qualifying purchase of certified seed and paid into the system, you're fine. Use it as long as you like on your farm."

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

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NEWS

Heritage Co-op purchases Westman Aerial Spraying site

Heritage Co-op has purchased a retail ag site from Westman Aerial Spraying Limited, which supplies for aerial spraying services, crop supplies and farm equipment near Brandon.

In its announcement, Heritage Co-op said all of the same services offered by Westman Aerial Spraying will continue to be offered at the Heritage Co-op Agro Centre, with the exception of aerial spraying, which will continue to be operated at the site by Bonnie and Jon Bagley.

All employees from Westman Aerial Spraying have been offered similar employment and will continue to be employed with Heritage Co-op at this site.

Heritage Co-op serves more than 22,000 members with approximately 300 employees in Minnedosa, Brandon, Wawanesa, Erickson and Sandy Lake. **COLUMN**

4-H reports

emo to 4-H club reporters: Be sure to email your reports to us at daveb@fbcpublishing. com or fax to the *Co-operator* (att'n: Dave) at 204-954-1422.

Rapid City Beef

The club held its reorganization meeting Nov. 20 at Trent and Lesley Hedley's house, with 10 members present. Wyatt Inglis was elected president, Thijs VanDeLangemheen as vice-president, Drew Horner as secretary and James Reid as treasurer. The requirements for achievement were reviewed and will be adhered to this year. A discussion was held on allowing a younger member into the club and creating a peewee class for him. We agreed and are looking into finding a few more little ones for him to show with.

The club held its first weigh day of the year on Dec. 7 at the Horners, where members brought steers and heifers to be weighed and recorded. On Dec. 18 the club met at Huggy's for its Christmas party. All members and their families enjoyed bowling and pizza on four lanes. We even got to try glow bowling!

The club held its first meeting of 2015 on Jan. 13. Calf scramble forms were presented to members of ages 14-16. A discussion was held on having a speaker come in

for our March meeting; members are to give ideas at our next meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 at the library basement.

— Brooklyn Hedley

Happy Rock Horseshoes

The club had its meeting Jan. 21 at the Plumas Legion. We had a special guest speaker, Karl Teichrib, talk to us about public speaking and things to do while giving a presentation. (A few tips on public speaking: Speak loudly and clearly. Wear appropriate clothing. Do not slouch.)

Following the meeting, we worked on our project books, then played musical chairs. We also had hot cocoa and cookies.

The club will have its public speaking night on Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Gladstone United Church. Everyone is welcome.

— Madison Teichroeb

Volunteer leaders recognized

4-H Canada and The Co-operators recently announced the national and provincial recipients of the 2014 4-H Volunteer Leader of the Year Award. The award was created to recognize the significant and pivotal role volunteer leaders play in the 4-H program.

The call for nominations for the awards took place in the fall of 2014 and was driven by member reference letters and recommendations. A total of 11 provincial winners were selected from the pool of applicants. The provincial winners were then put forward to a national judging panel, which selected the national winner.

The 2014 4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year is Jeanette Gallant of the Evangeline 4-H Club in Prince Edward Island. Manitoba's 4-H Provincial Volunteer Leader of the Year is Fleurette Geirnaert of the Mariapolis-Baldur 4-H Club.

"4-H is a fantastic program for youth, and I am very proud to be a part of it," Gallant said in a release. "4-H has certainly helped me become the person I am today, and I am happy and grateful to continue my involvement with this great program that gives me so much in return."

Each provincial winner will receive \$100 and a prize package. As the national winner, Gallant will receive \$1,000 and an invitation to the 2015 4-H Canada Leadership Summit in Ottawa

FCC's 4-H Club Fund

Farm Credit Canada's 4-H Club Fund will put up \$130,000 this year for 263 4-H clubs across Canada, including \$16,200 for 33 clubs across Manitoba, to support various local events and activities. The fund awards up to

\$500 for projects such as horse clinics, field trips, public speaking workshops, beef clipping clinics and purchases of equipment. The next application period will open this fall.

Funding recipients in Manitoba this year include Alexander, Binscarth Homettes, Poplar Hill, Westman, Roseland, Dauphin Plains, Coulter Western Trail Riders, Anola Northern Lights, Minerva, Eastman Ghostriders, Decker Country Riders, Grande Clairiere Beef, Prairie Pride Riders, Kenton Kraftsmen, La Riviere Beef, LaSalle, Graysville Light Horse and Pony, Minnedosa Western Riders, Oak Lake Busy Buddies, Gainsborough Combined, Rapid City Rodeo, Rapid City Beef, Neepawa Silver Spurs, Rivers and District Beef, Rorketon Variety, Starbuck Combined, Swan Valley Easy Lopers, The Pas Helping Hands, Pipestone 4-H Beef, Dolly Bay Beef and Woodmore Combined 4-H clubs, as well as the Eastman Area Council and Brandon Zone.

"FCC's support enables us to provide unique and valuable programming for our members," 4-H Canada CEO Shannon Benner said in a release. "Club grants help young leaders reach their full potential and these opportunities would not be possible without FCC's generosity."



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Move huts off mitigation areas

Without a heavy blanket of snow to insulate it from the cold, ice on Manitoba's rivers and lakes is actually thicker than it was last year

By Shannon VanRaes

CO-OPERATOR STAFF

7 hile it might be warmer this winter than last, higher average temperatures haven't resulted in less ice on Manitoba waterways.

Darrell Kupchik, director of operations for North Red Waterway Maintenance, said areas that only had 14 inches of ice in 2014 now have 24 inches.

"Last year is kind of the year that sticks in everyone's memory, being so cold with so much snow. With the extreme cold we thought that it would be a factor that would give us heavy ice last year, but surprisingly with that heavy snow blanket, we actually saw thinner ice conditions," said Kupchik.

In addition to providing an insulating layer, last winter's heavier snowpack also pushed ice downwards, fracturing the surface while also reducing the ice's thickness.

Not so this winter, Kupchik said.

"We just haven't had the snowfall we had last year, so we didn't get that insulating blanket of snow... and ice thickness has increased because of that," he said.

Ice cutting began on the Red River in early February, and Amphibexes began breaking ice this week between Netley Creek and Netley Lake in an effort to reduce the risk of ice jamming and flooding during the spring melt.

Cutting and breaking equipment will then begin to

"It's still awfully early for us to make any predictions on how things are going to play out for us this spring."

DARRELL KUPCHIK

move towards the City of Selkirk. Once that community is reached, the equipment will be deployed to other areas of the province.

"Once we're done on the Red River we'll pull the equipment out and go to other areas in Manitoba that are at risk of ice-jam flooding, or locations where ice can be an issue, such as the Portage Diversion," said Kupchik. "Then we'll do some cutting and breaking of the 48-inch-thick ice on Lake Manitoba, right at the outlet."

The Whitemud and Assiniboine rivers are usually next in line. In previous years the director of operations said ice has been cut and broken on the Brokenhead, Fisher, Carrot and Icelandic rivers, as well.

"We go wherever there is a need for us," he said, reminding people to heed any warning signs in the areas where work is occurring, or where ice has been cut or broken.

Provincial officials also remind any ice fishers to remove huts from areas covered by the ice-mitigation program.

As for whether or not thicker ice will mean a greater risk of ice jamming and related flooding this spring, Kupchik said it is too early to tell. He noted that a lot can happen over the next couple of months, and that one storm could change everything.

Whether or not there is a rapid melt will also affect the situation.

"It's still awfully early for us to make any predictions on how things are going to play out for us this spring, so we'll just do what we have to do and get that ice broken," he said.

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com



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Tuesday, February 24 3 to 8 p.m. Seine River Banquet Centre 80A Arena Rd.

Headingley

Wednesday, March 4 3 to 8 p.m. Headingley Community Centre 5353 Portage Ave.

Oak Bluff

Thursday, March 5 3 to 8 p.m. Oak Bluff Recreation Centre 101 MacDonald Rd.

Richer

Wednesday, March 11 3 to 8 p.m. Richer Young at Heart Community Club Dawson Road at Hwy. 302

Dugald

Thursday, March 12 3 to 8 p.m. **Dugald Community Club** 544 Holland St.



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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

CONNECTING RURAL FAMILIES

Rare and 'last copy' history books donated to Legislative Library

The books are now a protected resource for those researching their family or community history

By Lorraine Stevenson CO-OPERATOR STAFF

Those who may be researching their family's roots or just love reading about rural Manitoba's diverse and vibrant past now have a few more resources to guide their search at the Manitoba Legislative Library.

Twenty-seven rare and last copy local history books from the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) have been donated to the Manitoba Legislative Library for public research. The books, published anywhere between 1910 and 2005, include histories of communities such as Winnipegosis, Minto, Oakburn and Riverside, as well as Winnipeg communities such as St. Norbert and East Kildonan-Transcona.

"These books are a very good account of each of a large number of families and there are often photographs. For someone trying to do genealogical research they are a gold mine."

HARRY DUCKWORTH President, Manitoba Historical Society

"The Manitoba Historical Society has a proud tradition of collecting historically significant objects and we are pleased to entrust these books to the care of the province," said MHS president Harry Duckworth in a news release.

"Our books and artifacts help document and chronicle the history of our province and we are pleased to see that history will be preserved and available for future generations to study and learn from."

The books had been in storage at the MHS when consultations with Legislative Library staff revealed the library either did not have a copy of some of these titles, or copies they did possess were becoming a little too well thumbed to last much longer.

Fourteen of the 27 donated titles that have now become part of the library's Local History Collection at 200 Vaughan St. have never been available there until now.



Minister of Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection Ron Lemieux (far right) and Manitoba Historical Society president Harry Duckworth eye a display of the 27 local histories donated by the MHS to the Manitoba Legislative Library last week. Also pictured are assistant deputy minister Veronica Dyck, Jason Woloski, Manitoba Legislative Library's head of collections and development and librarian Meghan Hansen. PHOTO: PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

The donated books include such titles such as *Minto Memories*, *Tales of Sperling*, *Bridging Brenda: the History of Brenda Municipality and Area*, *The Fox's Tale: The History of Foxwarren and the Consolidated School District #525*, and *Crocus Country: A History of Mather and Surrounding Districts*.

In an interview Duckworth said it's estimated about 1,000 local histories in total have been published across Manitoba and they are found in a variety of libraries around Manitoba.

However, many times these books were never widely marketed, and although still in the hands of those who still live the communities they were written for, can be much harder to find elsewhere, Duckworth said.

It's important to ensure a copy is in an accessible public place so those in future can continue to research and trace their roots.

"Everyone has their own reason for being interested in history and it usually has to do with their own family," he said. "These books are a very good account of each of a large number of families and there are often photographs. For someone trying to do genealogical research they are a gold mine."

To help increase accessibility to more local histories in 2009 the MHS together with the Manitoba Legislative Library undertook an ambitious project to digitize and make local history books available worldwide through the website www.Manitoba.ca.

To date approximately 300 history books have been digitized and posted online and it's hoped several hundred will be added in the next five years, Duckworth said. The MHS is also digitizing local newspapers to make these widely accessible to the public as well

Last week Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection Minister Ron Lemieux welcomed these 27 donated local history books to the Legislative Library.

"I encourage all Manitobans to explore their heritage and the unique stories that shaped Manitoba in the rich collection of the Legislative Library," said Minister Lemieux.

A complete list of donated titles is available at www. manitoba.ca/leglib/pdfs/MHS_Donation.pdf.

lorraine@fbcpublishing.com

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Prairie Fare









Save some bread with these tips

Julie Garden-Robinson

FOOD AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

1

"Does the bread have seeds in it?" my 11-year-old daughter asked.
"The bread has no seeds," I responded as I flipped the slices

of french toast on the griddle.

I am well aware that my youngest child does not like bread with

added ingredients such as seeds and nuts. Usually she picks out all the non-bread material and sets it by her plate, much to my chagrin.

I thought she might be OK with the cinnamon and nutmeg in the french toast egg mixture, though.

"Is this going to be mushy like the chocolate bread pudding?" she

"Is this going to be mushy like the chocolate bread pudding?" she asked, wrinkling her nose. She had a definite idea of what the texture of pudding should be: smooth and creamy.

"No, the french toast won't be mushy. The chocolate bread pudding was supposed to be kind of mushy, by the way. Everyone else liked it," I responded a bit defensively.

My daughter brings out my "inner sixth grader" sometimes.

I was testing some bread recipes for a publication about using "stale" bread, which local food pantries have requested. My home kitchen experiments reminded me of my days as a cereal chemistry graduate student, but I have no lab equipment in my kitchen.

Stale bread usually is firmer and may crumble readily, so people might opt to toss it instead of using it in novel ways.

Bread is a good source of complex carbohydrates, B vitamins and iron. Using day-old bread can help you stretch your food dollars. If you choose whole grain bread, you have the added nutritional benefit of fibre and phytochemicals (beneficial "plant chemicals") because the germ and bran are present.

Have you ever had a loaf of bread become mouldy or stale on your countertop? At some point in our lives, most of us have found a colourful, fuzzy surprise when we opened a bread bag.

Storing bread in the refrigerator will slow down the rate at which bread will grow mould. However, refrigerating bread actually speeds staling. Refrigerated bread becomes stale six times faster than bread at room temperature. Freezing bread, on the other hand, delays staling.

If your bread becomes mouldy, you need to throw it away. However, stale bread can be "revived" by toasting or otherwise heating it.

The staling of bread originally was studied in the early 1850s. Staling is not merely the loss of moisture. The early food scientists sealed the bread in containers and measured the moisture content. They noted no change in moisture content, so the water was still present in the stale bread.

During staling, the bread becomes firmer as the tiny starch granules in the crust change their alignment in the bread. The starch granules squeeze out the water into other areas of the crumb.

That was the chemistry lesson of the day. Here are some practical tips to save some bread:

- Freeze the bread. Seal it in an airtight bag, then label the package with the date you froze it. Usually, bread will remain at high quality for about three months in your freezer.
- Make croutons or bread crumbs. Simply cut the bread in cubes or tear into small pieces, and bake at 350 F until it is dry and brittle. To make crumbs, use a rolling pin to crush the bread to the desired size. You can add your favourite salt-free seasonings, such as garlic powder, if you like.
- Use bread as a meat extender. Some recipes call for soft bread crumbs and others call for toasted cubes. Add the bread crumbs to ground beef to make meat loaf or meatballs. Top casseroles with toasted bread crumbs for a little crunch or in place of crackers.
- Try making recipes with day-old bread such as french toast, egg bake, bread pudding, stuffing/dressing, grilled cheese sandwiches, egg salad on toast or garlic toast.

Chocolate Bread Pudding

Four out of five Robinsons and our neighbour enjoyed this bread pudding recipe. I served it with whipped topping, strawberries and blueberries. Add a drizzle of chocolate syrup if you want to be extra fancy.

- 3 c. fat-free milk, divided*
- 1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 tbsp. margarine or butter
- 8 slices white or whole wheat bread
- (day old, cubed)
 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon (optional)
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten

Fresh fruit such as strawberries or raspberries, whipped topping (optional)

*Be sure to follow the recipe directions for addition of milk.

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 1-1/2-quart baking dish and set aside. In a large saucepan, combine 2 cups milk, chocolate, sugar and margarine. Stir over medium heat until chocolate and margarine (or butter) are melted. Remove from heat and stir in cubed bread, vanilla, cinnamon (if desired) and remaining 1 cup of milk. Add eggs and mix. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until a knife inserted in the centre comes out clean. Serve warm with a dollop of whipped topping and berries

Makes 12 servings (about 1/2 cup per serving). Each serving has 220 calories, 9 grams (g) of fat, 31 g of carbohydrate, 7 g of protein and 150 milligrams of sodium.



Made in Manitoba

Early spring is harvest time for Glenda and Rory Hart.

That's when the Grand Marais couple heads to the woods and begins tapping anywhere from 2,000 to 2,500 birch trees on their property to start annual production of their company's three signature birch syrups.

The Canadian Birch Company started up in 2012.

The sap harvest period lasts between three to four weeks and usually falls between late March to mid-May, depending on spring weather.

The first sap of the season becomes their Amber Gold syrup, a sweeter and distinctly golden syrup with notes of honey and apricot. Mid-season sap is used for their full-bodied, subtly fruit-flavoured Amber Birch syrup while the last sap of the year goes into their richer-flavoured Dark Birch syrup.



Amber Gold is an excellent topping for ice cream, cheese-cake and other desserts, while the two mid- and later-season syrups work very well in glazes for meats and vegetables.

Running a syrupmaking company is a lot of work, but all worth it, say the Harts who love the lifestyle that's accompanied with building a business around a combination of love of nature, innovation, and intimate knowledge of their trees and processing techniques used in a sustainable sap harvest.

Learn more at http://www.canadianbirch-company.com.

— Co-operator staff

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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Reader's Photo



Careful out there! PHOTO: LILLIAN DEEDMAN

Reena answers questions

Plus, a tip to make a Chocolate Floral Bouquet

Reena Nerbas Household Solutions



Dear Reena,

Your column is great and covers so many topics. I have been trying to clean out some excess items in my house and have some old (dead) Christmas lights that I would like to recycle. I know that the copper wire is valuable, but if there isn't a place that will pay for them, I would just like to find a place that will recycle them as I don't want to just put them in the garbage. Thanks for your help.

— Barb

Dear Barb,

options: Depending on the lights that you own, you can take a small work knife or an old paring knife and carefully strip the plastic from the wire. Check out a variety of places that buy and sell copper online or in your area. Another option is to donate your Christmas lights just as you would old clothes. Even if the lights don't work, someone might want to use them as craft supplies. It beats tossing them!

Dear Reena,

I have burnt a pot very badly. It had red cabbage in it and I cannot remove the black from the bottom. Can you give me a solution for this? Thank you.

— Jean

Soak the pan with dishwasher detergent and hot water for a couple of hours; scrub with a steel wool pad. Or (and this is what I like to do) into your pot pour baking soda, dish soap and enough water to cover the bottom. Boil the contents for five minutes. Let sit just until cool enough to handle and scrub with an S.O.S pad. Some people use oven cleaner for this purpose and leave it overnight, but I prefer baking soda.

Dear Reena,

Would you be able to tell me how I can get mould off of the white rubber seal around our fridge door? This is on a bar fridge that was stored in a base-You have a couple of ment where the humidity was very high. I am not sure if someone tried to remove the mould before, so I don't know if any cleaning products have been used. Any help you would be able to give me would be much appreciated.

> — Donna Dear Donna, Sounds like you need to begin by checking to see if the seal needs replacing. You should not be able to slide a piece of paper between the rubber seal and the wall of the refrigerator (or freezer). If the piece of paper slips between the seal and the wall, the seal is not tight enough and the gasket requires replacement. To clean the seal, combine five drops tea tree oil, and white vinegar. Spray and scrub.

Feedback letter:

Hi Reena,

With regards to cleaning 'Kitchen Craft' cabinets: "For clarification we do not recommend anything except as you noted mild soap and water (just a damp clean cloth and not excess water, drying immediately). The Murphy's Oil, Cabinet Magic, detergents and abrasive cleaners can have a deteriorating effect on the finish over time and is not recommended and will void warranty.

Over time waxing and polishing compounds may build up on the surface and cause a hazy streaking appearance."

Submitted by: Kitchen Craft Cabinetry Marcus (bike store owner)

Cnocolate up of the week:

To make a Chocolate Floral Bouquet: Glue two Chocolate Kisses together (bottom to bottom). Insert a piece of six-inch (15-cm) wire into one of the pointed ends of the double kiss. The wire tip may need to be heated using the flame of a candle. Wrap a four-inch (10-cm) square of cellophane around the Chocolate Kisses "roses." Cover the stems with floral tape and attach artificial leaves to stems. Tie all of the "roses" together with a bow. Tip: Coloured cellophane will look even better.

I enjoy your questions and tips, keep them coming. Missed a column? Can't remember a solution? Need a corporate presenter on the topic: Harness the Power of Words? Check out my website Reena.ca.

Rolling River 4-H'ers

New group started up last fall and is perfect fit for community

By Cindy Murray

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

olling River First Nation youth are learning to do by doing, thanks to volunteers who have organized the community's first 4-H club.

Known as the Rolling River 4-H'ers, the group started up last fall after representatives from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Aboriginal Programs met with both adults and children in the community to see if there would be interest in a 4-H program. It was a perfect fit for community members who were searching for activities that the children could learn from and engage in.

A total of 12 children came to the first meeting in October,

and that number quickly grew to about 30 members who meet twice a month, under the guidance of leaders Victoria Blackbird, Karen Huntinghawk, Roseanne Gaywish, Lana Gaywish and other parent volunteers. Meetings always end with a discussion about what 4-H stands for and its motto, "Learn to do by doing."

"The group has generated quite a bit of excitement and lots of support in the community," said Blackbird, explaining that the program is all run on donations and volunteer help, with support from the chief and council who let the group use the South Quill Hall rent free.

Cindy Murray writes from the Erickson, Manitoba area



The 4-H group made Christmas crafts last December then divided into groups for a sleigh ride. PHOTOS: CINDY MURRAY



COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Battle against the bugs

Don't wait for infestation to happen — prevent it in the first place

By Albert Parsons

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTOR

ardening always has its challenges, and indoor gardening is no exception. One of the challenges we houseplant collectors face is how to guard against infestations of insects and how to prevent them from happening in the first place.

I have basically three indoor gardens: the plants in the main living spaces of my home, my all-season sunroom where I not only have houseplants but many plants that I winter over for use in my outdoor garden, and my light garden in the basement furnace room. Each location requires a different strategy to keep the bugs at bay.

I have few problems with insects in the main living areas of the home because most of the plants there are not prone to insect attack. Here I grow mainly low-light foliage plants such as Chinese evergreens (Aglaonema), heart-leaf philodendrons, baby tears, and plectranthus as well as a large Boston fern. None of these plants is susceptible to insect attack, although I am careful to sprinkle some insecticidal powder on the soil surface whenever I pot them up to deter fungus gnats. I do bring plants into the main living areas from the sunroom for display when they are in bloom, including the huge Christmas cactus, my clivia, amaryllis, streptocarpella, and assorted other flowering ones.

Removal of plant debris, spent flowers and dead leaves is an ongoing task, but good hygiene in any garden will help to prevent insect problems. Whenever I bring such a plant in from the sunroom I always check it over carefully, make sure the soil surface has been powdered, and I might even give the plant a quick spray with insecticidal soap if I am worried that it harbours insects — although I only do this if I have had a problem in the sunroom, which doesn't happen often. I take the same precautions when I buy a new plant or a gift plant arrives.

In the sunroom, I again ensure that every potted plant has had some dust sprinkled onto its soil — including the many plants that I bring indoors and pot up in the fall. When I bring these many plants in from the outdoor garden I examine them carefully for signs of insects. Most of them, such as geraniums, are cut back severely when they are brought in so there is little foliage on which insects might hide. I spray particularly susceptible plants with insecticidal soap and any cuttings, such as coleus, are swished around in a container of insecticidal soap before they are planted. I keep a close eye on these plants and give them another spray of insecticidal soap if I spot trouble.

Removal of plant debris, spent flowers and dead leaves is an ongoing task, but good hygiene in any garden will help to prevent insect problems as plant debris is one of their favourite places to hide or lay eggs. Another precautionary action I take is that about every six weeks I spray the sunroom with an aerosol insecticide. I do not like to use chemicals but in the enclosed space of the sunroom, I can spray it and then leave and not enter the room for a day or so.

I use my light garden as a germination chamber and a place to raise bedding plants in the spring. I am careful to keep it clean and I use sterile soilless mix and don't bring any mature plants into the light garden so there is little chance of insect infestation. I check plants regularly and take suitable action if a problem occurs. As you can see, my strategy for deterring insects in my indoor garden is based mainly on good



To combat insect problems, have a plan that might include sprinkling soil surfaces with insecticidal powder, and a backup plan that may involve insecticidal soap.

PHOTO: ALBERT PARSONS

preventive measures with a solid backup plan in place if a problem occurs. This approach seems to work for me; perhaps you will use some of these techniques in your indoor garden. After all, we do have to succeed in our battle against the bugs!

Albert Parsons writes from Minnedosa, Manitoba

Co-operator barn series revival

Do you know this barn?

If you do, a Manitoba historian wants to hear from you. In early 1981 the *Co-operator* worked with provincial Manitoba Historic Resources Branch staff to photograph and publish a series on rural buildings in Manitoba. Each week a photo and a story were published about why each of the buildings were rare or unusual.

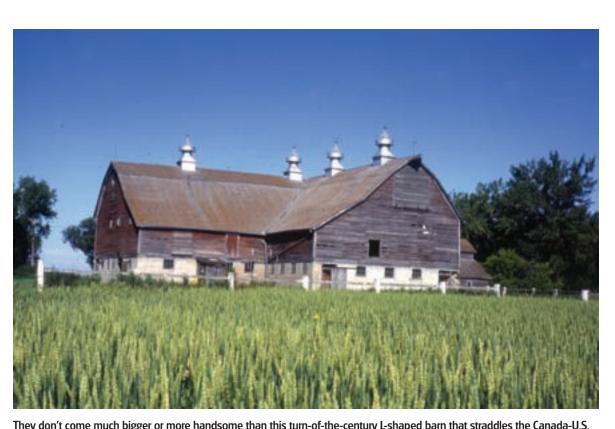
Now Gordon Goldsborough, webmaster and journal editor with the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) is looking for *Co-operator* readers' help to relocate these barns. He has looked for them during road trips in rural Manitoba, but because the site's location details are scant, he has been unable to find them. He wants to include the buildings, with their GPS co-ordinates on a map of historic sites being prepared for the MHS.

This photograph was taken by now-retired *Co-operator* editor Bob Hainstock who took the photo in the 1980s for the earlier project. Many of the photos were eventually included in Hainstock's 1986 book *Barns of Western Canada: An Illustrated Century.*

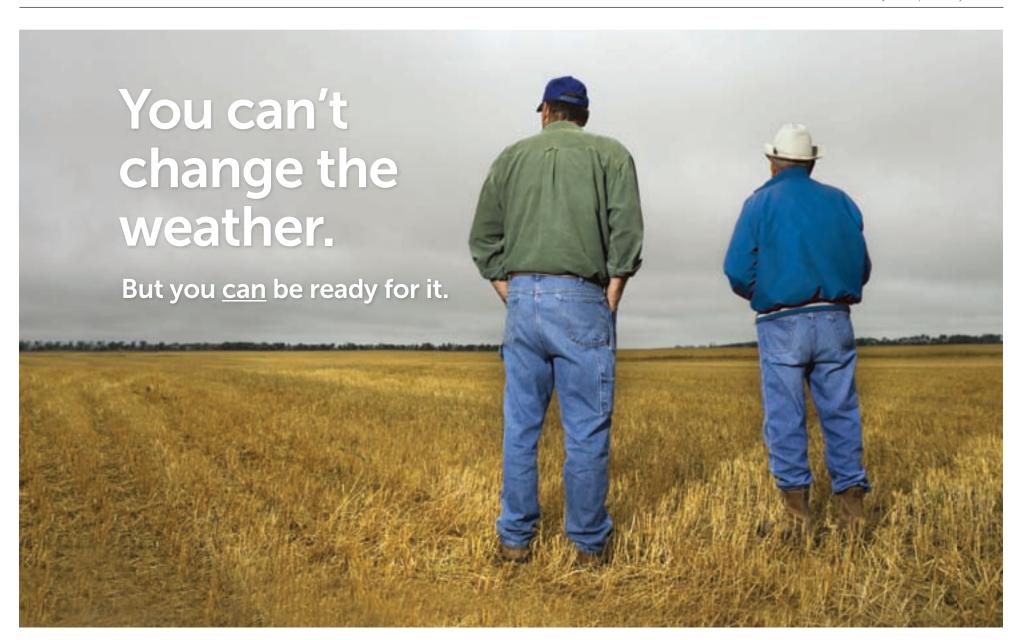
We are including the original "caption" that ran with his photo, hoping a reader can answer these questions:

- 1. Does the building still stand?
- 2. If so, where is it?
- 3. What are its GPS co-ordinates?
- 4. What other information can you provide on its state of preservation or other details about its history since the original story in the 1980s?

Please send your responses to Gordon Goldsborough at: email: gordon@mhs.mb.ca Telephone: (204) 474-7469 Mail: 2021 Loudoun Rd. Winnipeg, Man. R3S 1A3.



border near Snowflake. George Motheral left Plattesville, Ontario for Manitou in 1880. His son Isaac continued to Snowflake and began farming there in 1897. Three years later this large 80x80-foot barn was put up by friends and neighbours under the supervision of a master carpenter. The 12-inch-square beams had been cut and milled near Altamont and then skidded across nearly 25 miles of snow-covered fields and roads. This massive system of beams was mortised and pegged, with the square nails used only in exterior sheeting. In its day, the Motheral barn was considered one of the biggest and most modern in the area. With 32 horses working the fields in teams, and another 30 more head of stock in the main barn, the large loft was called upon to shelter sufficient feed for an entire winter, including 6,000 bales. The loft had an Ontario-style earth ramp to allow full wagons into the upper area. The lower level featured individual stalls for livestock, as well as front and rear passageways for cleaning and water in front of each animal. A 40x24-foot pig barn was also built on the north (right) side of the barn. One of the features of the main barn that still attracts visitors along Highway No. 242 is the four large gleaming cupolas that have not required paint since being installed nearly 80 years ago. As part of the "King Ventilating System" these enormous cupolas were at one time attached to ventilating shafts that served more than 14,000 square feet of floor space. They were later disconnected because of interference with the hay mows. In 1933, Isaac's sons Ralph and Lloyd took over the Motheral farm and in 1968, Wayne took over from his uncle and father Ralph.





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Giving farmers a role in variety development

Should farmers just provide a little assistance, or form their own breeding company?

By Allan Dawson

CO-OPERATOR STAFF

hat role should farmers play in developing new wheat and barley varieties?

It's a question Western Canada's cereal groups are tackling together, says Brent VanKoughnet, a consultant working with the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association (MWBGA), one of the groups involved in the project.

Directors and staff from eight organizations, with some funding and support from the Western Grains Research Foundation, have formed a working group to frame a study, which will then be handed off to a consulting firm to flesh out the reasonable options for producer involvement.

"That whole spectrum needs to be explored so we understand the risk and benefits of any of those choices," Van Koughnet said in an interview.

"In some cases it might be a little more assistance to a public breeding program, to being much more aggressive and saying, 'Would we actually take some ownership position in a breeding company?'"

The future of western Canadian wheat and barley variety development is uncertain, David Rourke, an MWBGA director and farmer from Minto, Man., told the Manitoba Seed Growers Association's annual meeting in Brandon in December.

"(Agriculture) Minister (Gerry) Ritz has made many changes and we're not entirely sure what the implications of all those changes are, but we're trying to figure it out," Rourke said. "I think eventually we'll try to come up with a strategy where we are in a position to lead in that area, so we have to look at the evolution of public research — how it will be funded, is it sustainable?"

Federal role already reduced

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has already said it plans to hand off new varieties at an earlier stage rather than taking them to registration.

Meanwhile, federal legislation to adopt UPOV '91, an international agreement giving plant breeders more than in any other part of control of the decirity of the part of control of the part of the part of control of the part of the part of control of the part of the pa

"So I want to make sure we don't just get out of the road of private industry and pay more for seed and not get that much more value. We need to be really careful there."

DAVID ROURKE

protection over their varieties, is before the Senate and is expected to soon become law.

The move, applauded by private plant-breeding companies and many farm groups, has given rise to speculation the government will further reduce its wheat variety research anticipating the gap will be filled by private firms that currently dominate in corn, soybeans and canola.

"Wheat is quite different from corn or soybeans or canola in terms of genetic potential and some of the things that might be able to be done," Rourke said.

"So I want to make sure we don't just get out of the road of private industry and pay more for seed and not get that much more value. We need to be really careful there. We need to devise how producers can fill some of the gaps that may or may not exist."

Developing improved varieties of wheat and barley is important to keep western Canadian farmers competitive, VanKoughnet said.

"You could starve the beast for a couple of years but you don't see the negative impact for a decade and then all of sudden you've lost breeders and research capacity," he said, adding that reinvesting then puts farmers almost a decade behind because that's how long it takes to develop new varieties.

"You really have to have a much more forward-looking plan in breeding than in any other part of our industry. You really have to be dedicated to the long game, or you will pay."



Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association director David Rourke says it will do most of its research on joint projects with other provinces. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

Larger provincial role

The new provincial wheat and barley associations have the potential to see farmers more engaged and have more influence than ever, VanKoughnet said.

The new associations were created in part to fill some of the gaps created when the Canadian Wheat Board's sales monopoly ended and its mandate changed, Rourke said.

"It's a little bit like Humpty Dumpty," he said. "Somebody pushed Humpty Dumpty off the wall and it's up to us to try and find the pieces and put them all back together. That's what we're trying to do."

Western wheat and barley growers used to fund research through a voluntary checkoff on final wheat board payments. The money went to the farmer-run Western Grains Research Foundation, which then decided how it was spent. A temporary checkoff continues to fund the WGRF and the Canadian International Grains Institute but ends Aug. 1, 2017. The wheat and barley associations are working towards a seamless transition, Rourke said.

"Because we're (MWBGA) kind of the small players on the Prairies, particularly compared to Saskatchewan, we need to collaborate as much as possible to leverage our dollars the best we can."

Rourke said 70 to 80 per cent of the Manitoba research budget would be spent on joint projects with other provinces.

About 10 per cent of the total budget will be on market development, mostly through Cereals Canada.

Rourke, who took part in a trade mission to promote Canadian wheat in South America in November, said Canadian grain needs to be promoted.

"If we're not in front of our customers somebody else will be," he said. "The U.S. Wheat Associates, which is kind of the marketing arm (for American wheat) has a head office staff of 19 and... 17 permanent offices around the world. And we have a bunch of volunteers that go around once a year. I think we're pretty effective but not to be there really is not a good option at all if we want to maintain relationships with those customers."

allan@fbcpublishing.com



French wheat sector adopts new grades

French traders are alarmed by poor falling numbers



French wheat may be fine for baguettes, but overseas buyers want a bit more loaf volume. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

DADIC / DELITED

rench wheat producers, traders and processors have adopted a new classification for soft wheat to be used on the cash market in a bid to boost quality in European Union's top wheat exporter, grain sector group Intercereales said.

Intercereales had already pushed for protein content, which has become a weakness for French wheat on international markets, to be included in commercial contracts.

"To progress on the various quality criteria is a necessity to meet all markets' requirements, both in France and abroad," Intercereales chairman Philippe Pinta said in a statement. After a steady decline in protein content over the last decade, French traders were alarmed by poor

"To progress on the various quality criteria is a necessity to meet all markets' requirements, both in France and abroad."

PHILIPPE PINTA Intercereales chairman

readings for Hagberg falling numbers, another measure of wheat's suitability for bread making, in a rain-affected 2014 harvest.

Average protein content in the 2014 French harvest was 11.1 per cent, the lowest since at least 2009 and scarcely meeting the minimum requirement of major export clients.

Russia to have 20 million to 30 million tonnes of grain for export in 2015–16

Poor winter grain conditions could cut production

By Polina Devitt

Russia, one of the world's largest wheat exporters, may export between 20 million and 30 million tonnes of grain in 2015-16 marketing year which starts on July 1, the Agriculture Ministry said Feb. 4, having narrowed its 2015 crop forecast.

Prospects for the 2015 crop look weak compared to a near-record crop of 104 million tonnes in 2014, due to poor winter grain conditions, import costs and higher interest rates caused by a slump in the ruble, analysts said.

Russia imposed a wheat export tax from Feb. 1 that lasts to June 30. The tax amounts to 15 per cent of the customs price plus 7.5 euros and will be no less than 35 euros per tonne.

The ministry expects a 2015 crop in a range of 85 million to 100 million tonnes, Pyotr Chekmaryov, head of the plant-growing department, said in comments sent to Reuters.

His comments follow a report by Interfax that quoted Chekmaryov as saying that Russia could harvest 68 million to 100 million tonnes of grain in 2015.

The low end of the range, 68 million tonnes, is based on a pessimistic scenario for winter grains, which usually account for about 40 per cent of Russia's annual crop, Interfax said.

The high end, at 100 million tonnes, is an optimistic scenario targeted by the state development program for the agriculture sector.

The ministry declined to comment on the pessimistic scenario to Reuters.

A 68-million-tonne crop would be insufficient to cover Russia's domestic demand of more than 70 million tonnes a year but several analysts said the estimate was too gloomy.

SovEcon agriculture consultancy will not change its 2015 crop forecast of 86 million tonnes until the condition of winter grains becomes clear in the spring, Andrey Sizov, the head of SovEcon, said.

Russia's winter grains were sown on an area of 16.8 million hectares last autumn and about 21 per cent were in bad condition at the start of the winter, Chekmaryov told Reuters.

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Australia sharply tightens foreign farmland purchases

Foreign buying has been a controversial issue, and Prime Minister Abbott seeks to fend off more attacks

By Colin Packham

SYDNEY / REUTERS

A ustralia has tightened rules over foreign ownership of its agricultural land amid concerns that it is losing control of its own food security, slashing the amount beyond which land purchases would require regulatory approval.

From March 1, foreign purchases of agricultural land over A\$15 million (C\$14.5 million) will be subject to regulatory approval from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

Previously, Australia had only required regulatory approval on foreign purchases of agricultural land of more than A\$240 million.

"This is not saying that we don't want foreign investment," he told reporters.

"We do want foreign investment but it's got to be the right investment, the right investment that serves our purposes. It needs to be transparent," Abbott said.

The tighter rules will also prevent multiple purchases below the threshold, with regu"We do want foreign investment but it's got to be the right investment, the right investment that serves our purposes. It needs to be transparent."

TONY ABBOTT Australian prime minister

latory approval being required as soon as total transactions by one purchaser pass \$15 million.

Australia's Bureau of Statistics said last June 90 per cent of agricultural land is fully owned by Australians, although Abbott promised greater scrutiny after the rural sector expressed skepticism about those findings.

Foreign ownership of Australian land has been a controversial issue. By announcing the tighter rules, the embattled Abbott will win favour from some. He is looking to tighten his grip on power after narrowly surviving an internal party challenge to his leadership.



If you want to buy some emu pasture worth more than \$15 million, you'll have to check with the government. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

BRIEFS

IGC raises forecast for 2014-15 world corn output to record

LONDON / REUTERS
The International Grains
Council (IGC) has raised
its forecast for the 201415 world corn (maize)
crop, mainly reflecting
bigger than previously
forecast crops in Argentina, Brazil, the EU and
Ukraine, but a reduced
figure for the United
States.

Global corn production was forecast to total a record 992 million tons, up from a previous forecast of 982 million and above the previous season's 991 million, it said Jan. 22.

The IGC, in a monthly report, left unchanged its estimate for the 2014-15 global wheat crop at a record 717 million tons.





Time to go into the concrete business in Egypt?

Russians want to help Egypt build enough storage for a year's production

REUTERS /STAFF

t's not quite seven years' production, but it seems the Russians want to help Egypt follow the biblical example of Pharaoh putting up stocks for lean times.

Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, is considering building an eight-million-tonne grain silo, and Russian companies could take part, Russian Agriculture Minister Nikolai Fyodorov said in a Reuters report from Cairo last week.

As a comparison, Canada's total country and terminal commercial grain storage capacity is about 12 million tonnes. Egypt produces about eight million tonnes of wheat a year.

Egypt and Russia have long discussed co-operating over the construction of



President Putin, like the pharaoh mentioned in the Bible, thinks it's a good idea to have some grain on hand for emergencies. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

the grain silo, which Cairo hopes will help it become a trading hub. The capacity though, is significantly larger than Egypt had previously planned.

"This question is being discussed now. We have requested the project parameters," Fyodorov told reporters in Cairo, where he is part of a Russian delegation led by President Vladi-

Fyodorov gave no further details on the silo.

Officials in Cairo have said storage capacity is vital for Egypt to make better use of its domestic wheat production and reduce its need for

Egypt, the second-largest buyer of Russian wheat, has been hit by Moscow's curbs on grain exports as the Kremlin seeks to cool domestic prices amid an economic crisis.

In the biblical story (Genesis 41), Pharaoh has a dream of seven healthy and seven shrivelled heads of grain. Joseph interprets the dream as a sign to collect the grain from seven good years and store it for the seven lean years to follow.

New Zealand declares partial drought, offers farm assistance

Farmers face an additional challenge due to plunging world dairy prices

By Naomi Tajitsu WELLINGTON / REUTERS

ew Zealand has declared a drought in parts of the country's South Island, offering financial assistance and tax relief to farmers after dry conditions have cut dairy production and increased sheep and beef slaughter rates.

The government on Feb. 12 said medium-scale drought conditions were affecting the east coast of the South Island, which

CONTACTS
Eric McLean

204-365-7412

includes a major dairy region, adding that it would offer extra funding immediately through rural trusts.

"It's clear that conditions are only going to get tougher as the seasons change and we need to prepare now," Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy said in a statement, adding that he was also monitoring parched regions in the North Island.

The announcement comes after a drier-than-average sum-

Drought was last declared in 2013, when it shaved about 0.3 per cent from real GDP in a country where farmers account for more than 55 per cent of

Some analysts said the economic impact from the latest drought was likely to be smaller, given that fewer regions had so far been affected.

However, industry experts said dairy farmers faced a bigger challenge in recovering from the current drought com-

Direct

pared with 2013, as plunging global prices have cut cash

Facing a benchmark payout of NZ\$4.70 per kilogram (US\$3.45 per kg) of milk solids this year, the lowest since 2008, farmers have already cut back on milk production and sent cattle to the slaughterhouse.

This is in stark contrast with 2013, when a record-high dairy payout in the following season enabled farmers to lift milk production to an all-time high.



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NEWS

Midwest flooding is more frequent

STAFF / Floods have become increasingly frequent in the U.S. Midwest and surrounding states including North and South Dakota over the past halfcentury, according to a study from the University of Iowa.

Researchers based their findings on daily records collected by the U.S. Geological Survey at 774 stream gauges in 14 states from 1962-2011.

They found that 264 (34 per cent) of the stations had more floods, while only 66 stations (nine per cent) showed a decrease.

Their study was published Feb. 9 in the advance online edition of the journal Nature Climate Change.

"It's not that big floods are getting bigger, but that we have been experiencing a larger number of big floods," Gabriele Villarini, UI assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering said in a release.

The researchers said analysis revealed that most of the flood peaks in the upper Midwest occur in the spring and stem primarily from snowmelt, rain falling on frozen ground and rain-on-snow events. Interestingly, spring — in addition to being a season with increasing frequency of heavy rainfall — also has the strongest increase in temperature over most of the northern part of the region studied.

The release said the findings jibe well with current thinking among climate scientists about how the hydrological cycle is being affected by global warming. In general, as the atmosphere becomes warmer, it can hold more moisture. One consequence of higher water vapour concentrations is more frequent, intense precipitation.

However, the current study did not attempt to link the increase in the number of episodes to climate change.

Global corn output sets new record

LONDON / REUTERS / The International Grains Council (IGC) has raised its forecast for the 2014-15 world corn (maize) crop, mainly reflecting bigger than previously forecast crops in Argentina, Brazil, the EU and Ukraine, but a reduced figure for the United States.

Global corn production was forecast to total a record 992 million tons, up from a previous forecast of 982 million and above the previous season's 991 million, it said Jan. 22.

The IGC, in a monthly report, left unchanged its estimate for the 2014-15 global wheat crop at a record 717 million tons.

EARNING THEIR KEEP



These cats are on the lookout for other critters in the Bennie barn near Waskada. PHOTO: SHARI FNF BENNIF

China expected to boost imports of protein-rich wheat

But overall, 2014-15 wheat imports seen down 60 per cent due to ample supply

By Niu Shuping and Naveen Thukral

BEIJING/SINGAPORE / REUTERS

I hinese wheat buyers are likely to step up imports of higher-quality grains to meet a domestic shortfall even though total overseas purchases are forecast to tumble this year due to bumper production at home, analysts and traders said.

China, the world's biggest wheat producer and consumer, has seen output climb to record levels in recent years, but it faces a shortage of the high-protein wheat it needs to meet growing appetite for noodles, bread and other baked products as incomes rise.

"Hard red spring wheat is in extremely short supply here in the domestic market because China's own production of high-quality wheat was not satisfactory despite higher output," said an analyst with an official think-tank who declined to be identi-

More demand for high-protein wheat could bolster prices for spring wheat traded on the Minneapolis Grains Exchange.

China has bought about 120,000 tonnes of hard wheat in the past few days, European traders said Jan. 4. The origin is unclear but may include some Australian and U.S. wheat.

"We are seeing more business being done to China in containers and bulk than we have seen in a long time, said one grains trader in Sydney.

"The Australian dollar has weakened and it is attracting business," he added. The Aussie hit its lowest in over five years Jan. 3.

"There is plenty of feed wheat of average quality around, but if you are looking for high-protein wheat you will have to pay a premium," said a Singaporebased trader.

Keeping control

China exerts control over import volumes by issuing quotas that limit how much wheat buyers can take from overseas. In the coming weeks, it is expected to issue a 2015 quota level unchanged from last year's 9.6 million

Private mills are likely to bid keenly for the 10 per cent they are expected to be allocated.

China's overall wheat imports are forecast to fall by around 60 per cent to about three million tonnes in 2014-15 from a year ago, China National Grain and Oils Information Centre has estimated, thanks to all-time-high produc-

In addition to higher output, China's overall appetite for wheat is likely to take a hit as authorities suspend buying for state reserves after a bumper harvest refilled stocks.

China's wheat imports more than doubled to 6.77 million tonnes in 2013-14 from a year after adverse weather damaged crops in key producing regions.

But the country is expected to churn out a record 126 million tonnes in 2014-15, up from 122 million tonnes a year ago, the National Bureau of Statistics has said.

Beijing will offer two million tonnes of domestic wheat from state reserves this week.



This Country Called Agriculture is a new on-demand video series that delivers relevant news & information on the agriculture industry. Host Rob Eirich interviews ag pioneers, professionals and academics that offer insight into today's trends and what the future holds for agriculture on and off the farm. Video topics include:

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Rob Eirich talking with Tom Lynch-Staunton of Livestock Gentec, and Colin Coros of Delta Genomics, about the

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FARMER'S

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Classification

Your guide to the Classification Categories and sub-listings within this section.

Announcements Airplanes Alarms & Security Systems

ANTIQUES

- Antiques For Sale - Antique Equipment
- Antique Vehicles
- Antiques Wanted

Arenas

AUCTION SALES

- MB Auction Parkland
- MB Auction Westman - MB Auction Interlake
- MB Auction Red River
- SK Auction
- AB Auction Peace
- AB Auction North
- AB Auction Central - AB Auction South
- BC Auction
- Auction Various - U.S. Auctions
- **Auction Schools**

AUTO & TRANSPORT

- Auto Service & Repairs
- Autos
- Trucks
- Semi Trucks & Trailers - Sport Utilities
- Vans
- Vehicles Various - Vehicles Wanted BEEKEEPING
- Honey Bees
- Cutter Bees - Bee Equipment

Biodiesel Equipment

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- /Specialty wear Collectibles Compressors Computers

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 - Custom Seeding - Custom Silage
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 - Construction Equipment Crop Inputs Dairy Equipment

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- Fertilizer Equipment - Grain Augers
- Grain Bins
- Grain Carts
- Grain Cleaners
- Grain Dryers
- Grain Elevators
- Grain Handling
- Grain Testers
- Grain Vacuums
- Hydraulics - Irrigation Equipment
- Loaders & Dozers - Parts & Accessories
- Potato & Row Crop Equipment
- Repairs
- Rockpickers Salvage
- Silage Equipment
- Snowblowers/Plows
- Specialty Equipment
- Machinery Miscellaneous
- Machinery Wanted

HAVING & HARVESTING

- Baling Equipment
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- Belarus
- Case/IH - C1
- Caterpillar Lexion
- Deutz
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- Massey Ferguson - Versatile
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Manitoba Co-operator Classified Ad Order Form

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TRACTORS

- - Agco Allis/Deutz - Belarus
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 - Kubota - Massey Ferguson
 - New Holland - Steiger
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 - Versatile
 - White
 - Zetor
 - 2-Wheel Drive

 - 4-Wheel Drive – Various

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Most equipment has been purchased new. Major equipment begins selling at 11:30 AM. Live online bidding available on major equipment.

TRACTORS

2013 Case-IH 500 Quadtrac, luxury susp. cab. leather buddy seat, powershift, 6 hyd., high cap. pump, 1-3/4" PTO, Trimble 372 receiver unlocked for RTK, integrated auto steer, Pro 700 display, front & rear diff lock, HID lights, power mirrors, front cast bumper w/tow cable, Goodyear 30" tracks, 360 hrs., warranty until March 31, 2016 or 2,000 hrs., S/NZDF138313

2012 Case-IH Steiger 350HD, luxury susp. cab. leather. buddy seat, powershift, 6 hyd., high cap. pump, 1-3/4" PTO, Trimble 372 receiver unlocked for RTK, integrated auto steer, Pro 700 display, front & rear diff lock, HID lights, power mirrors, front cast bumper w/ tow cable, rear weight bracket, Firestone 480/80R50 duals,

1,351 hrs., S/NZCF130488

WHEEL LOADER **& ATTACHMENTS**

loader, CAH, Ride Control, aux. hyd., JRB hyd. quick tach adapter, 2 cu. yd. bucket w/ bolt-on cutting edge, block heater. Titan 20.5-25 tires. 593 hrs., ext. premier warranty until Aug. 31, 2015 or 3,000 hrs., S/NNCF211837 MDS RB2000 Rock Badger

rock/root digger, JRB quick Shoule SHB-9 rock bucket, 9', 4" space, 1-1/2" teeth, JRB quick tach mounts

GPS EQUIPMENT JD 2630 display, SF1, Swath Pro. 403 hrs. S/NPCGU2UD472869

JD Starfire 3000 receiver HARVEST EQUIPMENT 2013 JD S680. Contour-Master.

premium cab, deluxe controls,

AutoTrac ready, 7" GS3 touch

screen color display, Pro Drive with Harvest Smart, JDLink, 5 spd. heavy duty feeder house, custom cutter ext, wear pkg., diff lock, 26' high cap. unloading auger, power fold hopper, Redekop chopper knives, PowerCast tailboard, power mirrors, HID lights, corn & small wire concaves, Goodyear 650/85R38 duals, 28L-26 rear tires, 598 sep. hrs., 812 engine hrs., engine warranty until Sept. 2, 2015 or 2,000 hrs., ext. powertrain warranty until Sept. 1, 2016 or 1.500 hrs., emission warranty until Sept. 2, 2018 or 3,000

hrs. S/N1H0S680SAC0755101 2013 JD 640FD flex draper head, fore/aft, finger reel, HydraFlex, AHH & wheat sensors, S/N1H0640FDCD0755351 corn head, 12x30", AHH, RowSense, poly snouts,

2013 JD 612C non-chopping opposed knife rolls, hyd. deck plates, outer gathering ext., stubble lights, 3,500 acres S/N1H00612CHDX755695 **GRAIN CART**

2014 Brent Avalanche 1596 tandem axle grain cart, 1,500 1999 Freightliner Century, bu., 6-way adi, unloading auger & spout, 22" auger, LED lights, joystick controller, 1-3/4" 1000 PTO, single owner, used one season. S/NB32540159

PLANTER 2012 JD DB90, CCS, 54x20", hyd. drive, vari-rate, XP units, Yetter trash whippers, pneumatic down pressure, TruCount air clutches, AccuCount seed tubes SeedStar monitor less display and radar, ProMax 40 seed discs w/knock-out wheels. bean discs, Dawn row closer, Refuge Plus tank, liquid fertilizer, New Totally Tubular in-row fertilizer tubes, rear

hitch, 455/50R22.5 tires, New discs, blades, scrapers. and seed rebounders, 2,000 acres on rebuilt closing wheels & bushings, 9,000 acres total, S/N1AODB80YPCF750108 (108) MudSmith MSHDJ33 packer gauge wheels, New

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

2014 Wishek 842N tandem disc, 16', 28" blades, 11" space rock cushion, scrapers, heavy duty 3-bar harrow, 5/8"x28" harrow teeth, 12.5L-15 tandem tires, single owner, 250 acres, S/NAGCW0842EX036103 2014 RiteWay F346 land roller. 46', 42" drums, 1/2" thick, single owner, S/N14-2083 2013 Horsch Anderson Joker RT270. 27'. 20" notched blades, hyd. down pressure, 14.9-24 tires, single owner, 750 acres, S/N310027014013 Case-IH 5600 chisel plow, 27', 12" space, walking tandems across, Summers 3-bar harrow Gates Magnum heavy sections, auto fold, 5/8"x28"

SEMI TRACTORS & TRUCK

60" flat top integral sleeper 3406E Cat, Rockwell 10 spd., engine brake, air ride seats & susp., air slide 5th, diff lock, cruise, dual aluminum fuel tanks, Ali Arc front aluminum bumper, SS half fenders, 240" 837.131 miles. 15.000 miles on New transmission 1989 Peterbilt 379, tandem

axle, 60" flat top removable sleeper, 400 Cummins, 10 spd., engine brake, air ride seats & susp., air slide 5th, diff lock, dual aluminum fuel tanks. 252" WB, SS full rear fenders, 285/75R24.5 tires, front aluminum and rear outside aluminum rims

1989 IHC 8300, tandem axle, 315 Cummins, Eaton 9 spd. engine brake, 20'x96"x62" steel box, 3 pc. endgate,

SRT II roll tarp, diff lock, 234" WB, rear pintle hitch, air & electric, 11R24.5 front tires on aluminum rims, 11R22.5 rear tires on aluminum outside rims, 357,641 miles, remfg. motor,

extensive reconditioning **PICKUPS**

2006 Chevrolet 2500HD crew cab, 6-1/2' box, 6.0 liter gas, automatic, 4WD, LT pkg., power windows, locks, & mirrors, nerf bars, tow pkg B&W turnover 5th wheel hitch, brake controller, 63,478 miles 2003 Chevrolet 2500HD crew cab. 6-1/2' box, 6.0 liter gas, automatic, 4WD, LS pkg., power windows, locks, & mirrors, nerf bars, tow pkg.

2011 Timpte tandem axle hopper bottom, 40'x96"x78" air ride, an hoppers, EXT hard-tipped teeth, S/N0353348 Conversion electric roll tarp, air scale front & rear ladders & catwalks, double row lights, 11R24.5 tires, aluminum outside rims

2004 Frontier steel hopper **bottom**, 40'x96"x64", ag hoppers, air ride, EXT Conversion electric roll tarn, side chutes for air seeder, 11R24.5 tires. aluminum outside rims 22.5 tires, aluminum rims, 1995 Wabash step deck. 48'x102", steel frame, wood

deck. 11' top deck w/bulk head. 37' main deck. 10' spread, air ride, 2,500 gal. poly tank on rear, 3,000 gal. Enduraplas black leg bottom sump tank on front, 2" plumbing, Briggs & Stratton motor, 2" pump, 50 gal. poly mix cone, 225/70R22.5 tires on steel rims F&S 30 gal. mix cone, 2" J&M Mfg. tandem axle header trailer, 40', ext. pole, lights,

or Brad Olstad of

or 701.238.0240

front fenders, torsion susp. brakes

Unverferth HT Roadrunner tandem axle header trailer, 35', torsion susp., front fenders, flex & corn head brackets. (2) tie downs 2011 B&B tandem axle trailer 15', spring ride, 1,200 gal. Enduraplas leg bottom sump

tank, Honda GX160 motor,

2" pump, (2) 8,000 lb. axles, 215/75R17.5 tires, steel rims 2012 Thunder Creek ADT750DEF tandem axle fuel/def trailer, 750 gal. fuel/100 gal. def, 6.5 hp. electric start motor w/pump for fuel, electric pump for def, hose reels for both, LED lights 2-5/16" hitch, 235/80R16 tires

SELF-PROPELLED SPRAYER

on aluminum rims

brake controller, 168,866 miles propelled sprayer, buddy seat, 100' boom, 1,000 gal SS tank, 20" spacing, AIM Command, Norac boom Ag Leader screen, Trimble 252 receiver, integrated auto steer, chemical inductor, hyd. tread adj., SS spray bar, 1,247 hrs., single owner, recent UPtime maintenance, S/NXY8T023014 Set 20.8R38 flotation tires & rims, for SPX 3320

FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT Mobility 800 ACJ fertilizer

spreader, 8 ton, roll tarp, twin spinner, high clearance, 540 or 1000 PTO, adj. tread spacing 380/90R46 tires, single owner, 1.000 acres. S/N121077 2013 Montag C09B steerable cart, 2-wheel, 9 ton, L03B tank kit, 1,700 gal. poly cone bottom tank, lights, 480/80R42 tires, New, S/NC14054

GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT OTHER EQUIPMENT PARTS

plumbing, New

LEON & SUSAN ZIEGLER Steffes Group, 701.237.9173 701.851.0404 or 701.423.5528

Steffes Group, Inc., 2000 Main Ave East, West Fargo, ND 58078 Brad Olstad ND319, Scott Steffes ND81, Bob Steffes ND82, Ashley Huhn ND843, Eric Gabrielson ND890, Randy Kath ND894 701.237.9173 | SteffesGroup.com



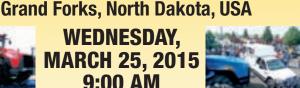
advertising. \$35 documentation fee applies to all titled vehicles. Titles will be mailed. Canadian buyers need a bank letter of credit to facilitate border transfer.

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BREAKING DISCS. KEWANEE 12, 15, 16-ft; Towner 18-ft, Wishek 14, 26, 30-ft. Feeder wagons, Roorda 300-bu, \$2000; Kelly Ryan, \$2000; Gehl 130, \$900; Auger feeder, \$750; Phoenix harrows, 35, 42, 53-ft; Flexi-Coil 50-ft winged packer, \$9500; Oval 340 loader, \$2000; Allied # 2795, \$4500; Gehl 400-bu spreader, \$7500; Knight slinger spreader, \$3500; JD Double auger snowblower, \$1250; Single auger, \$1000. Call (204)857-8403.

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DISCS JD 16-FT, \$5000; Terra 15-ft, \$4500; Krause 15-ft, \$3500; JD 28-ft 330, \$10,000; Bushog 25-ft & 28-ft, \$7500; IH 490, 24-ft, \$7500; Wishek 15-ft, 26-ft, 30-ft breaking discs, Kewanee 12-ft, 15-ft, Versatile 36-ft, \$25,000; JD 8-30 planter, \$7000; 8-36, \$6500. Phoenix harrows 35-ft, \$9500; 42-ft, \$10,900; 53-ft, \$12,000; 48-ft Flexi-Coil fold-up packer, rock cushion, \$9500; AW Mixmill, \$1500; Henke 30-in Rollermill, \$3500; Peerless 20-in, \$2000. (204)857-8403

FOR SALE: 1998 FLEXICOIL 5000, 28-ft Airseeder w/1700 Air Cart, Liquid Green Drop Kit, Atom Jet Openers, on board Seed Treater, 3 rollers & Monitors. Never had fertilizer in tank. Asking \$30,000 OBO; 1980 4386 IHC 4WD Tractor, 4,700-hrs, good tires, plumbed for Airseeder. Asking \$15,000 OBO. 1985 Case IH 1460 Combine, 466 engine, 2,952-hrs, no chopper, always shedded. Asking \$15,000 OBO. Call: (204)867-0315 or (204)867-0367 or Email: rhop@mynetset.ca.

NEW 400-BU GRAVITY WAGONS, \$7400; 600-bu, \$12,500; 750-bu, \$18,250; Used Gravity wagons 350-750-bu. Used Grain carts, Brent 772, \$17,500; 672, \$15,000; 874, \$22,000; Ficklin 650-bu, \$14,000. Others up to 1100-bu. Used fertilizer spreaders \$3000 up; Valmar 1655, \$3300; NoJet applicator, \$1500; Grainvacs REM 2500 HD, \$9500; Brandt \$4000-\$8000; 9-ft 3-PH blade, \$950; 10-ft Land leveller, \$2450; 12-ft, \$2650. (204)857-8403

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SEED CLEANING EQUIPMENT: 620 screen machine, parallel flow 245, 3 #3's aspirator & 6 lights. Phone: (604)491-3513.

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COMBINES

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Your sister baked the cake Looks nice but be easier to cut granite with a rubber chisel.

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TRACTORS Case/IH

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TRACTORS John Deere

FOR SALE: JD 1840, hi/low, 3-pt; JD 2130, hi/low, 3-pt, w/FEL; JD 2750, 2-wd, O.S., 3-pt, Hi/Low shift w/146 FEL; JD 3155, MFWD, CAH, 3-pt, w/740 FEL, grapple; JD 4055, MFWD, PS, 3-pt; JD 4240 Quad shift; JD 4440, (2) Quad shifts; JD 4640, Quad, add on 3-pt, w/FEL; JD 6400, MFWD, CAH, 3-pt, PQ, w/640 FEL; JD 6420, MFWD, 3-pt, 24-spd w/LHR, loader; JD 7710, MFWD, PS, 3-pt, w/740 FEL. All tractors can be sold with new or used loaders. Mitch's Tractor Sales Ltd St. Claude, MB (204)750-2459 (cell), Mitchstractorsales.com

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1994 3660 MF, front wheel assist, 140-hwp, loader & grapple, good rubber. Asking \$23,000 OBO. Also, triple axle 48-ft flat deck trailer, \$5,000. Phone:

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LIVESTOCK

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MAR MAC & GUESTS (Downhill Simm & Perkin & Cattle) would like to personally invite you to their 11th Annual Bull Sale. Wed., Mar. 11th, 2015 at Mar Mac Farms, Brandon. 80 lots of Beefy Simm, Red Angus & Black Angus Bulls that have went trough a strict culling process w/calving ease, ease of fleshing, performance & structural soundness taken consideration. View videos & sale broadcast at cattleinmotion.com View catalog at www.marmacfarms.net or call (204)728-3058.

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SPECIAL RANCHERS SALE Mon., Feb. 23, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. (Call Market Reps For Details)

REPLACEMENT HEIFER SALE Fri., Feb. 27, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. (In Conjunction With Regular Sale)

SHEEP, LAMB & GOAT SALE
Wed., Mar. 4, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.
Sale Will Feature
A Flock Dispersal Of
35 Suffolk X Hamp
Ewes, Vaccinated,
200+ lbs, 3 to 5 Year Old,
Over 200%

Lambing, Start March 15 Lambing

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Saturday, March 7th, 2015 At the Ranch, Carievale, Sask. at 1:00 p.m.

150 Bulls Sell...

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- 45 Black Polled Simmental
- 10 Red & Black Simm/Angus
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View Catalogue at: mrlranch.com Performance & Calving ease bulls in every category

LIVESTOCK Cattle – Angus

45 RED & BLACK Angus 2-yr old bulls, suitable for heifers & cows, private treaty at the Ranch. Info sheets available. Contact Triple V Ranch. Dan: (204)522-0092 or (204)665-2448. Matthew: (204)264-0706. wvranch.com

D.B. MICHIELS RED ANGUS purebred two-year old bulls for sale. Catalogue information available by email at DBMREDANGUS@gmail.com. Contact David at (204)723-0288 or Brian at (204)723-0474.

EDIE CREEK ANGUS has 35 Meaty, Moderate, Maternal, Black & Red Angus bulls for sale. March 14th at Ashern Auction Mart will be our 8th Annual Sale. Easy Calving, Easy Fleshing. Developed as 2-yr olds to breed more cows for more years! Great temperaments, many suitable for heifers. www.ediecreekangus.com (204)232-1620

HAMCO CATTLE CO. 17TH Annual Angus Bull Sale, Sat., March 21st, 2015 (1:00pm) at the farm South of Glenboro, MB. Selling approx. 65 yearling & 25, 2-yr old Red Angus & 45 yearling & 6, 2-yr old Black Angus bulls. Many are Al. Semen tested, free delivery, delayed payment plan. Call for catalogue or view online at: www.hamcocattleco.com. Albert, Glen & Larissa Hamilton (204)827-2358 or (204)822-3054.

RED & BLACK 2-YR old & yearling Angus bulls for sale; we have 10 bulls @ the Douglas Bull Test station; visit our website: ridgesideredangus.com Call Don:(204)422-5216. Thank you, have a great day!

LIVESTOCK Cattle – Black Angus

20TH ANNUAL CATTLEMANS' CONNECTION Bull Sale, March 6th, 2015, 1:00pm. Heartland Live-stock brandon. Selling 100 Yearling Black Angus Bulls. For Catalogue or more information call Jack Hart, Brookmore Angus (204)476-6696 or email brookmoreangus@gmail.com Barb Airey manager HBH Farms (204)566-2134 email rbairey@hotmail.com Sale management Doug Henderson (403)782-3888 or (403)350-8541.

BULL SALE WED., MAR-25TH. 50 Black Angus 2-yr olds & select yearlings. Bar H Land & Cattle Co. Langenburg SK. Robin (306)743-2840, cell (306)743-7490. Sales Manager Chris (306)933-4200.

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OSSAWA ANGUS AT MARQUETTE, MB has for sale: yearling & 2 yr old bulls. Also 3 yr old & 6 yr old herdsire. For more info call (204)375-6658, cell (204)383-0703.

REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULLS for sale. Low birth weights & quiet. Buy now & save, no disappointments! EPD's & delivery available. Phone Amaranth (204)843-2287.

STEWART CATTLE CO & GUESTS BULL SALE 50 Black Angus & Simm/Angus Bulls View catalogue online: www.stewartcattle.com Email for catalogue: stewartcows@wificountry.ca Phone: (204)773-6392



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FARMS FOR SALE: 640-ACS of pastureland east

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GRAIN/MIXED FARM-GRANDVIEW: 1,944 total

Ac. 1,294 cultivated. Most of the land is in a block. 2 yardsites. Some of the land is fenced. Karen

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BY TENDER

In the RM of Macdonald.

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The E½ of the S½ of the

N½ of Section 2-9-1 FPM

consisting of approximately

160 cultivated acres is hereby

offered for sale.

Tenders must be received no later than

February 27, 2015 and must include a

deposit of 10% of the tendered price

paid by certified cheque to D'Arcy

& Deacon LLP.

Highest or any tender not

necessarily accepted.

Closing of the sale and transfer

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be March 6, 2015 or earlier by

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Tenders should be submitted to:

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3B 0X7

Attention: John C. Stewart

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to 400-450 cow/calf pairs. There is a small bunga

LIVESTOCK Cattle - Red Angus

FORSYTH F BAR RANCH have for sale 20, 2 yr old & 5, 3 yr old PB Red Angus bulls. For more info & prices contact Roy Forsyth (204)448-2245

WILKINBIDGE STOCK FARM ANNUAL Bull sale 1:00pm April 11th at Ridgeville Hall. Sale will in-clude 16 yearling Red Angus bulls, 1 yearling Black Angus Bull, 2) 2-yr old Red Angus Bulls. There will be a good selection of Red & Black Maine Anjou Bulls & 18 Charolais bulls from Walking Plow Char-lais. Sale catalogue & videos will be online www.dlms.ca as we get closer to sale time. Sale will be by video w/online bidding available. For more info call Sid Wilkinson (204)373-2631.

LIVESTOCK Cattle - Charolais

CLINE CATTLE COMPANY HAS for sale PB Char yearling & 2 yr old bulls, White & Red factor. Call Brad (204)523-0062 www.clinecattlecompany.ca

THREE 2-YR OLD PUREBRED Registered Charolais bulls, Very good dispositions, will be easy calving, born in April & May, will be semen tested & guaranteed. Also 2-yearlings (Bluegrass grandsons). Phone:(204)748-1024, Virden, KEH Charo-

WALKING PLOW CHAROLAIS HAS 18 yearling Charolais bulls consigned to Wilkinridge Stock farm Bull Sale 1:00pm April 11th at Ridgeville Hall. Also in the sale will be Red Angus & Maine Anjou bulls. Sale catalogue & videos will be online www.dlms.ca as we get closer to sale time. Sale will be by video w/online bidding available. For more info call Cliff, Warren Graydon (204)427-2589.

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT selection of PB Charolais bulls, both Red & white yearling & 2-yr olds.
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LIVESTOCK Cattle - Hereford

WLB LIVESTOCK 11TH ANNUAL Bull Sale 2:00pm. March 24th, 2015. 55 Polled Herefords & Black/Red Simmentals sell. ALL BULLS SEMEN TESTED. Free board till May 1st. Catalogue & video available online, www.wlblivestock.com or call Bill Biglieni (204)763-4697 or (204)729-7925.

LIVESTOCK Cattle - Maine-Anjou

WILKINRIDGE STOCK FARM ANNUAL Bull sale 1:00pm April 11th at Ridgeville Hall. Sale will include 18 yearling Red & Black Maine Anjou bulls, as well as 1) 2-yr old & 1) 3-yr old herd sire. There will also be 2) 2-yr old & 16 yearling Red Angus bulls. Walking Plow Charolais have 18 yearling Charolais bulls in the sale. Sale catalogue & videos will be online www.dlms.ca as we get closer to sale time. Sale will be by video w/online bidding available. For more info call Sid Wilkinson (204)373-2631.

LIVESTOCK Cattle - Shorthorn

IF YOU ARE LOOKING to buy or sell Shorthorn bulls or females, contact Monty Thomson at (204)870-0089, the Manitoba Shorthorn Association Field man. www.manitobashorthorns.com

LIVESTOCK Cattle - Simmental

PROUDLY WESTERN BULL SALE, Sat., Mar. 21st, 1:00PM, at the Whitewood Auction Barn, Whitewood, SK. Selling 50 yearling & 2 yr old, Red, Black & Fullblood Simm bulls. Wintering & delivery avail. For a catalogue or more info contact T Bar C Cattle Co. (306)220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.buyagro.com

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT group of Red & Red Blaze face Polled, Simm Bulls for sale. Your bull c/w a full guarantee & is semen tested, fed, insured red & delivered when you need him all at our cost. Call Ray Cormier (204)736-2608 & you can visit our website at www.riverbankfarms.com

WLB LIVESTOCK 11TH ANNUAL Bull Sale 2:00pm. March 24th, 2015. 55 Black/Red Simmentals & Polled Herefords sell. ALL BULLS SEMEN TESTED. Free board till May 1st. Catalogue & video available online, www.wlblivestock.com or call Bill Biglieni (204)763-4697 or (204)729-7925.

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300 BRED COWS FOR sale 2/3 Black 1/3 Red. Bred to Purebred Black bulls, start calving mid April. Call (204)638-5581.

> LIVESTOCK **Cattle Wanted**

TIRED OF THE **HIGH COST OF MARKETING YOUR CALVES??**

300-700 LBS. Steers & Heifers Rob: 528-3254, 724-3400 Ben: 721-3400

800-1000 LBS. Steers & Heifers Don: 528-3477, 729-7240

Contact: D.J. (Don) MacDonald Livestock Ltd. License #1110

LIVESTOCK **Horse Auctions**

MANITORA STABLE KEEPERS AUCTION Sale for the horse called "Cody" for non-payment of board, vet & farrier bills. Feb. 21st, 2015 Showing at noon at Poco-Razz Farm, 130 Greenview Rd, Wpg, MB (www. pocorazzfarm.ca for instructions on how to get there). Sale at 1:00pm. Cody is a 7 yr old 15.1HH white appaloosa gelding that is not registered but could be. He is up to date on all shots & farrier services. He does well in a herd, loves people & would make a great trail horse, working horse or a show prospect (w/additional training Trailers should park on Greenview Rd or St. Mary's Rd & should not enter the property. Cash only. Minimum bid \$1,687.00 Contact Jim Shapiro (204)255-4717.

ROCKING W HORSE Spring Horse & Tack Sale, Sat., Apr. 25th, 2015, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. Phone (204)325-7237 www.rockingw.com

LIVESTOCK **Sheep For Sale**

FOR SALE: ARCOTT, DORSET, TEXEL cross market lambs, grain fed, \$200 per lamb; one bred ewe, \$250; 8 ewe lambs, \$200. Call (204)723-0747 cell, (204)749-2018 home.

LIVESTOCK Swine Wanted



WANTED: BUTCHER HOGS

FOR EXPORT P. QUINTAINE & SON LTD. 728-7549 Licence No. 1123

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ALTERNATIVE POWER BY SUNDOG SOLAR, portable/remote solar water pumping for win-ter/summer. Call for pricing on solar systems, wind aeration. Carl Driedger, (204)556-2346 or (204)851-0145, Virden.

FOR SALE: (2)BOB SLEIGHS, complete w/pull double tree neck yoke for horse. 1 smaller bob sleigh for smaller horses, complete. Hobby Farm for sale. Phone:(204)866-4141.

FOR SALE: POLY-CAST SLEIGH, 24-in x 48-in x 12-in high; Small calf-squeeze w/head holder, 15 x 30 x 40-in high; Budd calf de-horner; Cattle shock prod; Birdizzo; Stop-Doctor medicine injector; Lawis cattle oiler. (204)825-8354, (204)825-2784.

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

LIVESTOCK SCALES made to fit in your chute or alley. We have a variety of sizes to choose from, no electrics. Also bale scales, hopper feeders in vari-ous sizes. Elias Scales:(306)445-2111 www.eliasscales.com

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The following dealer and agent have applied for a licence under the Livestock Dealers and Agents Licencing regulation, which comes under the Livestock and Livestock Products Act. (C.C.S.M. c. L170)

LIVESTOCK DEALER LICENCE

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READY TO MOVE HOMES- 1520-sq.ft, 3-bdrm, \$85,000; 1320-sq.ft, 3-bdrm, \$75,000; 1320-sq.ft, 3-bdrm w/dormers & covered front porch, \$85,000. All homes completely finished including cabinets terior woodwork, light fixtures, bath fixtures, 200-amp service, painted. Flooring not included. Will also custom build your plan. Call for quote. MARVIN HOMES (since 1976) (204)326-1493 or (204)355-8484 Steinbach area, www.marvinhomes.ca

RUSSELL: 316.92TOTAL AC. Approx. 230 cult. ac. Class B soil. Eaton's home, established bed & breakfast - great revenue property. 2nd house is 3 bdrm bungalow. Various outbuildings. Treed. Land-scaped. Includes equipment. Karen Goraluk, Sales-person. (204)773-6797. NorthStar Ins. & Real Estate, MLS#1417127

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1604 sq. ft. 2 storey **\$319,900** in Niverville, 20 min. south of Wpg. 3+1 BR. 3.5 bath. Modern open concept main floor w. espresso finished hardwoods. Gas fireplace. Island &



steel appliances, under cab. lighting. Huge master w. tray ceiling, WIC + bath. 2nd flr. Laundry w. front load appl. Fin. bsmt. 12x20 deck, dble detached garage. Must see!

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50 QUARTERS OF PASTURE near Crane River sale or rent, very reasonal (204)638-5581, Dauphin.

REAL ESTATE Land For Rent

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are presently available for rent for cropping. These lands are situated in the Rural Municipalities of:

ALEXANDER, CARTIER. LAC DU BONNET, ROSEDALE

Closing date for Cropping Tenders is 10:00 a.m. on March 6, 2015 at 308-25 Tupper Street North, Portage la Prairie. Manitoba, R1N 3K1.

lease contact your nearest Crown Lands District Office for more information or call 1-866-210-9589.

A listing of Crown lands District Offices can be found online at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/ land/crown-land/agricultural-crown-landsdistrict-offices.html

A complete listing of Agricultural Crown Lands available for rent can be found online at: www.clp.gov.mb.ca/leases_and_permits/ properties.html#agLeasePermit or at any Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development office, RM office or First Nation Band office.



REAL ESTATE Land For Sale

SW. MB. LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER. NW 1/4: 18-5-24W. being approx 157.37-acs Highest or any Tender not necessarily accepted For information & Tender Forms contact: Grant Tweed, Century 21 Westman.com (204)761-6884 Email: grant.tweed@gmail.com

TAKING TENDERS on the following land: 160-acs of the NE5-12-10W (including building thereon); 80-acs of the NW5-12-10W; Also 22.97-ac of the SE5-12-10W until 3:00PM Feb. 27th, 2015. Separ ate tenders accepted. 10% of tender required payable by certified chg to Christianson TDS, Balance to be paid on possession date by certified chq. bank draft or solicitor's trust chq. The Tenderer will pay the applicable GST or provide an acceptable undertaking to self-assess. Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. Send tenders to Christianson TDS, 316 Saskatchewan Ave E. PO Box 940, Portage la Prairie MB, R1N 3C4. For further particulars call (204)857-7851, Leandro Zylberman, Christianson TDS.

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND is being of fered for sale: NW 09-24-03W; NE 10-24-03W; NW 11-24-03W. The following Crown lands have been approved by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for transfer to the purchaser of the private lands listed as these lands are part of the ranch unit held by John Chikousky of Fisher Branch, MB. NE 11-24-03W. If you wish to purchase the private land & apply for the Unit Transfer contact the Lessee John Chikousky at Box 489, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0. If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this Unit Transfer write the Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0; or Fax (204)867-6578.

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND is being of fered for sale: SW 33-22-11W; NW 28-22-11W; NW 35-22-12W. The following Crown lands have been approved by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for transfer to the purchaser of the private lands listed as these lands are part of the ranch unit held by Edward & Angela Jarvie of Kinosota, MB. SW 17-22-11W; NE 30-22-11W; SE 32-22-11W; SW 32-22-11W; NE 33-22-12W; NE 34-22-12W; NW 34-22-12W; SE 34-22-12W; SW 34-22-12W; NW 02-23-12W; SE 02-23-12W; SW 02-23-12W; NE 03-23-12W; NW 03-23-12W; SE 03-23-12W; SE 10-23-12W. If you wish to purchase the private land & apply for the Unit Transfer contact the Lessee Edward & Angela Jarvie at GD Kinosota, MB R0H 0L0. If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this Unit Transfer write the Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa, MB ROJ 1E0; or Fax (204)867-6578.

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REAL ESTATE

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER, RM of Westbourne:

Sealed bids for the purchase of the following parcels of land, located in the RM of Westbourne, Manitoba, will be received up to 5:00 pm on March 10, 2015 at the offices of CanadianFarmRealty.com, Attention: Dolf Feddes, Box 2046, Carman, MB, ROG 0J0

SE 33-16-11W 161 ACRES EAST HALF OF SW33-16-11W 80.9 ACRES

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- 1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property
- Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a certified cheque or bank draft of 5% of the amount offered, payable to Royal le Page Riverbend Realty in Trust. Deposit cheques accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- The purchaser(s) shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
- The Purchaser(s) will be responsible for payment of the 2015 property taxes.
- Successful bidders will be asked to enter into a formal Purchase agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale
- 7. Land to be sold as one complete package.
- 8. Tenders will be held in confidence and not be released to the public.

Any questions regarding these parcels or this tender can be directed to: **Dolf Feddes, REALTOR** CanadianFarmRealty.com 204-828-3371 (office) or 204-745-0451 (cell)

REAL ESTATE Land For Sale

The Following **Private Land** is being offered for sale: SE 06-25-12W, SE 07-25-12W, NE 07-25-12W. The following **Crown lands** have been approved by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for transfer to the purchaser of the private lands listed as these lands are part of the private lands listed as triese lands are part of the ranch unit held by Alfred Klein of Ste. Rose du Lac, MB. NE 32-24-12W, NW 32-24-12W, NE 05-25-12W, SE 05-25-12W, SE 19-24-13W, SW 20-24-13W, NE 03-25-13W, NW 20-24-13W, NE 03-25-13W, NW 20-24-13W, NE 03-25-13W, NE 0 03-25-13W, SE 03-25-13W, SW 03-25-13W, NE 04-25-13W, NW 04-25-13W, SE 04-25-13W, SW 04-25-13W, SE 10-25-13W, SW 10-25-13W. If you wish to purchase the private land and apply for the Unit Transfer contact the Lessee Alfred Klein at PO Box 681, Ste. Rose du Lac, MB R0L 1S0. If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this Unit Transfer write the Director, MAFRD, Agricultu-Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or fax (204)867-6578.

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND is being of fered for sale: SE 33-22-11W, NE 32-22-11W, NE 21-22-11W, NW 34-22-11W. The following Crown lands have been approved by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for transfer to the purchaser of the private lands listed, as these lands are part of the ranch unit held by Tom Anderson of Alonsa, MB: NE 31-22-11W EX Áoad Plan No. 616 PLTO, NW 31-22-11W, NW 32-22-11W, NW 35-22-11W, SW 05-23-11W, SE 06-23-11W, SW 06-23-11W, NE 28-23-11W West of Lake EX Road Plan No. 555 PLTO subject to MHYD Easement, NE 29-23-11W, NW 29-23-11W, SE 29-23-11W, NE 35-22-12W, SE 35-22-12W, SW 35-22-12W subject to MHYD Easement, NE 36-22-12W. If you wish to purchase the private land & apply for the Unit Transfer, contact the Lessee Tom Anderson at PO Box 114, Alonsa, MB R0H 0A0. If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this Unit Transfer, write the Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0: or Fax:(204)867-6578.

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE LAND is being offered for sale: NW 27-25-12W; SE 27-25-12W; SW 26-25-12W; W1/2 34-25-12W; S1/2 03-26-12W; NE 03-26-12W; S1/2 10-26-12W; SW 11-26-12W; W1/2 12-26-12W; SW 13-26-12W; E1/2 14-26-12W; SE 23-26-12W; N1/2 26-26-12W; SE 26-26-12W; SW 35-26-12W. The following Crown Lands have been approved by Manitoba Agriculture. Food & Rural Development for transfer to the purchaser of the private lands listed as these lands are part of the ranch unit held Wilhelm, Gudjon & Norman Finney of Ste Rose du Lac, MB. NW 03-26-12W, NE 11-26-12W; NW 11-26-12W; SE 11-26-12W; NE 12-26-12W; NE 13-26-12W; NW 13-26-12W; SE 13-26-12W; NW 14-26-12W; SW 14-26-12W; NE 23-26-12W; NW 23-26-12W; SW 23-26-12W; NW 24-26-12W; NE 35-26-12W: NW 35-26-12W; SE 35-26-12W. If you wish to purchase the private land & apply for the Unit Transfer, contact the lessee: Wilhelm, Gudjon & Norman Finney at Box 4, Grp 20, RR #1, Ste Rose du Lac, MB ROL 1SO. If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this Unit Transfer, write the Director; MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or Fax (204)867-6578

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I'm farming or ranching I own a farm or ranch but i'm not involved in it's operations or management

If you're not the owner/operator of a farm are you:

■ In agri-business

(bank, elevator, ag supplies etc.)

Other

Total farm size (including rented land)

My Main crops are: No. of acres

,	
1. Wheat	
2. Barley	
3. Oats	
4. Canola	
5. Flax	

6. Durum 7. Rye 8. Peas

9. Chick Peas Livestock Enterpise No. of head

1. Registered Beef 2. Commercial Cow

3. Fed Cattle (sold yearly) __ 4. Hog Weaners (sold yearly) _____

_ Year of birth_ My Main crops are: No. of acres 10. Lentils

11. Dry Beans 12. Hay 13. Pasture 14. Summerfallow 15. Alfalfa 16. Forage Seed

18. Other (specify) Livestock Enterpise No. of head

5. Hog farrow-to-finish (# sows) 6. Finished Pigs (sold yearly) 7. Dairy Cows

8. Other Livestock (specify)___

17. Mustard

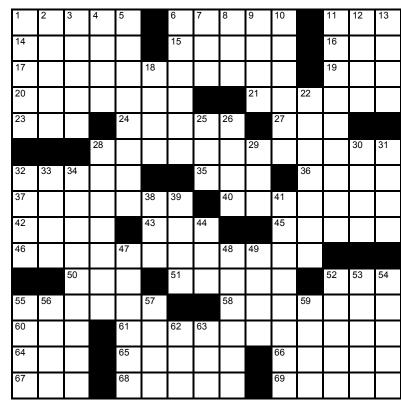
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Crossword

by Adrian Powell

A Discouraging Word?



ACROSS

- Thespian Bernhardt Will, Biblically
- 11 Hula hoops were one
- 14 Cooper of rock
- 15 The big brass?
- 16 You and me, once 17 What a 1910 John A. Lomax song classic demands
- 19 Tennis great Emerson
- 20 What shingles do
- 21 Sparta's rival
- 23 Predetermined 24 Tiny part of an archipelago
- 27 Yolk
- 28 1910 Lomax song classic activities
- 32 Action film sequence 35 Word heard in a herd
- 36 Apple, for one
- 37 Disqualifies oneself
- 40 Go-between 42 Thole mates?
- 43 One of the Worcestershire sauce partners
- 45 Consecrate
- 46 It's never an Environment Canada forecast in the 1910 Lomax song
- 50 Bit of barnyard banter 51 Teapot feature
- 52 Grade sch. advisory gp.
- 55 Slow on-line connection 58 Wedding reception hiree
- 60 Boiling

- 61 What goes on outside in the 1910 song classic
- 64 "Wheel of Fortune" buy, maybe
- 65 Internet missive
- 66 Washroom sign
- la Ronge 67 Saskatchewan's
- 68 Where this puzzle theme may be located
- 69 Counselled, old style

DOWN

- Indonesian palms
- Wanted poster word
- Metal fastener Gateway Computers' parent
- Ups and downs of fashion
- 6 Basic foodstuff
- "What?"
- Aussie native, slangily
- Monk from Lhasa 10 Sleeping sickness fly
- 11 React to a mortgage default
- 12 Shakespeare's town
- 13 Calendar squares 18 Labrador's direction, for most
- 22 With pleasure
- 25 "Nightmare" street of films 26 Home Depot purchase
- 28 Per normal procedures
- 29 Taro root concoction

34 Like someone who does

- 30 One of the Minor Prophets
- 31 Hankerings
- 32 Hook's nemesis
- 33 Convalesce
- 59 Europe's largest avian raptor 62 Huge supporter 63 Newton's filling

56 Remote Scottish isle

___ and dangerous

38 Cambridgeshire cathedral

39 Tasman and Chukchi, e.g. 41 Steer's last stop

44 Bernese mountain

48 Scene of any event

53 Play the coquette

55 Indian lentil dish

57 Jaguar cousin

47 Amateurish artist

town

49 Twofold

52 Peacock-like



Last week's answer

1 4 3 8 5 8 1 3 2 7 5 4 6 9 4 7 5 6 9 8 1 2 3

5 8 1 3 6 7 9 4 2

6 2 9 5 1 4 7 3 8

3 4 7 8 2 9 5 1 6

9 3 8 4 5 2 6 7 1

7 6 4 9 3 1 2 8 5

1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4

TAKE FIVE

Sudoku

	6		4		5			
2				9			6	4
2 4 3				3		2		
3						7	9	
		6	9	8	3	4		
	1	9						6
		7		1				5
8	3			4				7
			7		2		4	

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Here's How It Works:

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

The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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0225 per lb Feed test avail Also have 2nd & 3rd cut alfalfa priced according to feed value. Delivery avail. Phone (204)362-6486, Altona, MB.

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Syd



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