



ALBERTA BEEF  
PRODUCERS GETS  
ITS CHECKOFF WISH

But crop commissions plan to stick with the voluntary version of the levy » PG 3



CONSERVATIVE PUNDIT  
MAKES THE CASE FOR A  
CARBON TAX

Done right, a carbon levy is the ideal free-market solution, says Andrew Coyne » PG 3

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EXPRESS

GROWING UP:  
Vertical farming  
comes of age

Growing food without sunlight or soil is now a reality, but the economics leave little room for error

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
AF STAFF / OLDS

Olds-area greenhouse operator Wayne Lohr and business partner Ulf Geerds are dreaming big — they want to grow an acre of strawberries. That may not sound like a big deal until you consider that acre will take up just 360 square feet and produce strawberries year round. And even though they're grown in racks on a shed, these berries will, the duo says, taste just as good as ones picked fresh

SEE VERTICAL FARMING »page 6

The solar power math  
is starting to add up

A steep drop in solar prices is giving a new meaning to 'green' power — and giving Alberta farmers a way to cut energy costs



Cattle grazer Steve Kenyon and wife Amber Kenyon have gone almost completely off-grid with a solar system purchased on the online classified site Kijiji. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
AF STAFF / OKOTOKS

Cory Nelson isn't what you might call a 'tree hugger.' But the Grassy Lake-area farmer is a businessman, and to him, solar energy just makes good financial sense.

"We view it as an investment," said Nelson,

who grows a variety of crops under irrigation on his southern Alberta farm. "Our best math said it was going to take around 15 years to pay back. After that, we think we'll probably get another 20 or 25 years of benefit from it. At that time, we think we'll be making pretty decent money on that investment. "If I buy a piece of land, it's typically going to take a long time to pay it back as

well. We don't mind viewing things in the long term." Nelson was looking for ways to stabilize his irrigation pumping costs last year, and solar panels seemed like "a novel idea." Last spring, he started the process of installing solar panels on two pieces of his land — one system with a capacity of

SEE SOLAR POWER »page 7

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# It's not Toronto but Alberta land prices are still shooting skyward

FCC had expected a big slowdown last year but now says there should be a 'soft landing' in 2017

BY ALLAN DAWSON  
STAFF

The price of farmland is still going up sharply, but the rate of increase slowed last year.

That trend was seen both in Alberta, and across Canada as a whole, with both easily outpacing the gain one could expect from holding a bank GIC, according to Farm Credit Canada.

The average value of Alberta farmland increased 9.5 per cent in 2016, following gains of 11.6 per cent in 2015 (and 8.8 per cent in 2014), Farm Credit Canada says in its 2016 Farmland Values Report. It's a similar story across much of the country.

"The rate of increase continues to slow down and we continue to think about that soft landing that we have been talking about for a number of years now," said FCC's chief agricultural economist J.P. Gervais.

Farm cash receipts, the main factor driving farmland prices, have fallen from peaks set in 2012 and 2013. Those years saw 19.5 and 22.1 per cent increases in the value of Canadian farmland — although Alberta was more restrained at 13.3 and 12.9 per cent in those years.

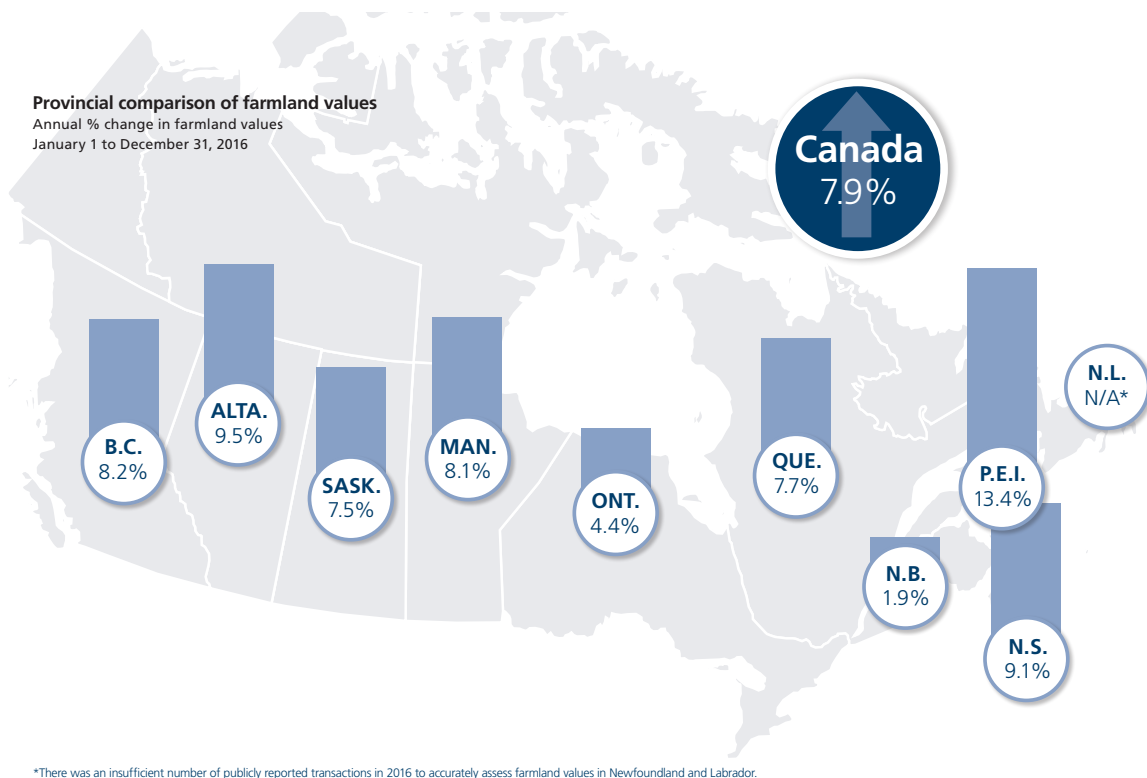
Although the final numbers aren't in, FCC expects 2016 Canadian crop receipts to be up two per cent with Alberta's forecast to rise six per cent, despite challenging growing conditions.

Manitoba's crop receipts are expected to increase by 14 per cent but Saskatchewan's are predicted to drop six per cent as bad weather downgraded crops and prevented farmers from harvesting some crops last fall.

### Still buying

Despite the less bright outlook for Saskatchewan, FCC has been doing a brisk business lending money for farmland purchases so far this year, said Scott Sahulka, FCC's senior director of valuation and environmental risk. While he couldn't say if Saskatchewan land values will rise as much in 2017, so far "things aren't selling any cheaper."

A year ago FCC predicted Canadian farmland values would rise two to four per cent in 2016. Gervais said while he was surprised they turned out to be twice that,



it fits with the higher-than-forecast crop receipts farmers are expected to earn.

FCC predicts Canadian farmland values will, on average, rise three to four per cent in 2017, assuming stable crop receipts and interest rates and a 75-cent Canadian dollar.

FCC monitors farmland in 51 regions, estimating market value using comparable arm's-length sales. Because land prices vary significantly, FCC measures land value trends using a percentage instead of price per acre.

In 2016, just seven regions across the country didn't see land values rise, Gervais said.

FCC breaks Alberta into four regions. The biggest increase — 11.8 per cent — was in the northern region.

"Buoyed by grain sector expansion, land values in the northern region saw a recovery from 2015, recording the highest average land value increase in the province at 11.8 per cent," the FCC report says. "Land sales took place mostly through auction sales or sealed bids, as grain producers continued to compete for less productive land."

Land price increases in the southern region were second highest at 9.0 per cent.

"Most of this region experienced good growing conditions, which



*"The rate of increase continues to slow down and we continue to think about that soft landing that we have been talking about for a number of years now."*

J.P. GERVAIS

resulted in a good harvest. Larger farms continued to expand, creating strong demand for all types of land in all areas of the southern region."

Land buyers in central Alberta (where prices were up 8.6 per cent) were "aggressively competing for any land that became available," the report said.

"This aggressive purchasing was observed in a majority of the areas in the region, while there was some divestment of land near urban centres, which sold at significant discounts."

The Peace saw the smallest increase at 7.7 per cent.

"Some adverse weather, as well as depressed oil and gas prices, placed downward pressure on

farmland values, while large farm expansion and competition between beef and grains sectors in some areas helped boost the value of marginal cultivated forage or pasture acres."

Overall, Alberta's farmland value increase was the second highest in Canada. The biggest jump — 13.4 per cent — was in Prince Edward Island with Nova Scotia and B.C. rounding out the top four with increases of 9.1 and 8.2 per cent, respectively.

That was followed by Manitoba, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick at 8.1, 7.7, 7.5, 4.4 and 1.9 per cent, respectively.

There wasn't enough data to assess Newfoundland-Labrador land values.

### Future bright

Despite the slower increase in Canadian farmland values, Gervais is still upbeat about Canadian agriculture.

"I believe the demand for Canadian ag products remains really strong both at home and abroad," he said. "That is supported by a low Canadian dollar, low interest rates as well. From a producer's standpoint you don't want to be overly confident about what the markets are going to bring."

"The bottom line is we also have realistic expectations... We've basically doubled cash receipts mostly across the country... but I think it would be a little bit unrealistic to expect the next 10 (years) are going to be like the last 10. Yes, I am absolutely confident that we can sustain farmland values that we have seen and recorded in 2016 if indeed we are able to sustain farm income. That is the critical variable to monitor as we move forward."

In contrast, farmland values in the United States have been falling. Gervais blames a 30 per cent drop in U.S. farm income in three years. And based on current price projections American farmers won't be profitable in 2017, he said. Canada's lower dollar has helped shield Canadian farmers, he said.

Although western Canadian farm income has been weakening, farmers are still generally financially strong, Gervais said. The debt-to-asset ratio is lower than the long-term average, which means farmers will have more flexibility with lenders should revenues fall more than expected.

"So I think we are still in a very strong financial position, liquidity position, if you look at working capital as the first line of defence, is very strong on the Prairies given the amazing years we have had over the last five, six, seven years. I think that is reassuring from the standpoint if we do indeed see the Canadian dollar appreciate... or a bit of a softening from an income standpoint given our strong financial position."

FCC doesn't expect a higher Canadian dollar or rise in interest rates in 2017, although borrowing costs could increase later this year, Gervais said. — *With staff files*

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# Carbon tax 'is the best way' forward, says free-enterprise pundit

And just because the Americans don't have one doesn't mean Canada will be less competitive, says columnist Andrew Coyne

BY ALLAN DAWSON  
STAFF/CALGARY

If Canadians want to cut carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, a carbon tax is the most efficient way to do it, according to a political columnist known for his fiscal conservatism.

"My economics training tells me that's the best way to approach this," Andrew Coyne told the Canadian Global Crops Symposium here earlier this month.

"Carbon pricing I guarantee you is cheaper by multiple factors than the alternatives that are often proposed. Subsidizing people to use less carbon is really a cost-ineffective way to do it.

"And regulation is impossible to enforce. I know people are having to grapple with the challenge that it presents, but if we are going to do something about this international problem well then that's the way to go."

Under the Paris agreement to mitigate climate change, Canada promised to cut its greenhouse gas emissions 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. To that end Ottawa says every province must have a \$10-a-tonne price on carbon dioxide starting in 2018, rising \$10 a year to \$50 by 2022. Revenues collected remain with the provinces.

Coyne, who espouses market-based solutions, said provincial governments can make a carbon tax revenue neutral. If governments collect more revenue when people fuel up their cars, governments can cut income taxes, he said.

"If you use the revenues from a carbon tax to lower other taxes maybe it could be salable," he said.

Coyne disagreed with Alberta Wheat Commission chair and farmer Kevin Auch when he said a carbon tax would make Canadian farmers uncompetitive with the United States.

"I'm not of the school that says we can't do it if the Americans don't," Coyne said.

In 1988 some argued Canada couldn't enter into a free trade deal with the U.S. because Medicare would make Canada uncompetitive.

"This is simply not true," Coyne said. "Countries with different cost structures can still trade and still compete and the thing that guarantees it is the exchange rate. If you're not competitive at 78 cents, you will be at 75 cents or 72 cents. There is a level at which costs get evened out.

"And all you can really do as a society is to make sure that you're not overly burdening one sector. What is really involved with trade protectionism is not pitting one country against another country. It's pitting one sector against another."

Moreover, Trump is unpredictable and is floating a trial balloon, hinting at a carbon tax, while some states are introducing their own carbon taxes, Coyne said.

He also disagreed with Auch's contention that the carbon tax is similar to the manufacturer's tax (which was replaced by the Goods and Services Tax). That tax only affected the manufacturing sector, which put Canadian manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage to imports, Coyne said.

"(Pricing carbon) is the cheapest way to do it from the perspective of the country as a whole," Coyne told another questioner. "It's going to have a larger impact on some sectors than others and maybe you can lobby as an agricultural sector to try and have some of that alleviated... but then it's going to fall on somebody else.

"And if you're in government your job is to balance those interests and do it the fairest way possible."

Coyne said he believes Canada should fulfil its international commitments to reduce carbon emissions and if it doesn't it "may face penalties..." But being a free rider and not meeting the targets is an option, he added.



Andrew Coyne told the Canadian Global Grains Symposium in Calgary that a carbon tax is the most efficient way to discourage carbon emissions because it's market driven instead of regulatory. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

"We're 1.6 per cent of world emissions," he said. "The fate of the planet does not rest on what Canada does."

Environmental policy doesn't necessarily have to override policies to encourage innovation, Coyne said in answer to a question from Stuart Symth, the industry-funded Agri-Food Innovation chair at the University of Saskatchewan.

"They are both ultimately about minimizing waste. Whether you want to minimize waste to save the planet or to minimize waste to get rich it is ultimately the same idea."

Coyne, whose columns appear in most major daily newspapers in Canada, was questioned on a number of other key ag issues.

One was the thorny issue of increasing trade with China.

China is a major buyer of Canadian agricultural products and is pushing Canada for a free trade agreement. But it has one of the worst human rights records in the world, Coyne said.

"Do we want to have free trade treaties with governments with such terrible policies? But they are also the world's largest country and if we don't trade with them other countries are going to," Coyne said.

"We can't change China, but what we can do in these negotiations is to not allow it to change us."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's economic advisory panel has concluded agriculture and food processing can be key drivers in the Canadian economy. That's good news for an important sector that sometimes feels overlooked, Canadian International Grains Institute CEO JoAnne Buth told Coyne.

But Coyne said he wasn't pleased by the report.

"The notion that the government should pick certain sectors as being key sectors and should target industrial aid, or what have you, to those sectors I think is a fallacy," he said. "Nobody knows what the industries of the future are going to be.

"For your sake I hope agri-food is a big one, but I don't know and frankly neither do you. Nobody knows."

Many of today's biggest industries didn't exist 20 years ago, Coyne said. And some of the important industries of the future don't exist today.

"That's the nature of an economy," he said. What governments should do is remove policies that hold industry back, Coyne added.

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## Alberta Beef Producers applauds return of non-refundable checkoff option

The Alberta government will allow commodity commissions to hold a plebiscite on whether checkoffs should be refundable or not

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
AF STAFF

The return of a non-refundable checkoff is welcome news for Alberta Beef Producers, which loses nearly one-quarter of its annual service fees to refunds.

"We've always believed that decisions about funding a commission should be made by producers," said executive director Rich Smith.

"What (the provincial government's) announcement does is really allow producers to make that decision in the future."

Amendments to the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act would allow each of the province's 13 agricultural commissions to decide whether their checkoffs should be refundable or non-refundable — if approved by eligible producers in a plebiscite.

This amendment will "put control back in the hands of producers," said Smith.

"That's what we've always believed should be the way that these decisions are made. At our fall meetings, we heard significant support for a non-refundable service charge, and our delegates have voted in favour of that. So we'll be looking at seeing if that's the prevailing view among producers across the province.

"Certainly, we've heard from producers that they would support this, but we'll have to see what would happen in a plebiscite."

But other commissions were quick to rule out going down that road.

"Alberta Canola was Alberta's first refundable checkoff commission and has no intentions of changing that status," said general manager Ward Toma, a sentiment echoed by the provincial wheat, barley, pulse, and pork commissions.

"The Alberta Wheat Commission has no intention of pursuing a non-refundable wheat checkoff," said general manager Tom Steve. "We believe the ability to request a refund gives our farmers a mechanism to hold the commission accountable."

"While we recognize that other organizations have challenges, we prefer to demonstrate value and maintain the ability of barley producers to have a choice," said Alberta Barley general manager Rob Davies.

Alberta Beef Producers has struggled financially since checkoffs were made refundable in 2009. While refund rates for the major crop commissions ranged from 4.3 per cent to 5.9 per cent, Alberta Beef Producers had to give back 22.7 per cent. That's \$2.4 million in refunds, most of which went to feedlots.

"It's a significant amount of money. I don't think any of the



*"It's a significant amount of money. I don't think any of the other commissions are close to that level."*

RICH SMITH

other commissions are close to that level," said Smith. "We have some very large operations in our industry, and many of them take refunds. When they do, that accounts for a lot of money."

That loss of revenue reduces funds for market development and research initiatives, said Smith.

"It's pretty clear in all the work that's being done that there's a very substantial return on investment when producer dollars are invested in market development and research initiatives," he said.

Once the bill is passed (expected this spring), each commission will have an opportunity to hold its own plebiscite. Smith doesn't yet know what that will look like or when a vote might be held.

"We'll engage with all producers and associations we're working with to see how that could be set up properly," he said. "It seems that more producers don't take refunds than take refunds, so we'll see what the producers say."

The legislative changes will apply to the alfalfa seed, barley, beekeepers, canola, elk, oat, Peace region forage seed, pork, pulse, and wheat commissions as well as Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Lamb Producers, and Potato Growers of Alberta. — With staff files

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# OPINION



BY HANNAH KONSCHUH

As we enter another growing season, farmers are raising concerns over the federal government's intention to review the option to defer cash purchase tickets — something that came with no warning prior to its mention in the federal budget.

From where I sit, a mid-size incorporated family grain farm, we know that the reversal of this option will have a drastic impact on our profitability and bottom line.

In the recently released report by the federal government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth (

*Unleashing the Growth Potential of Key Sectors*), agriculture and agri-food was named as a key sector to increase economic growth for Canada. The report cites "the large natural endowment of water and arable land" and "exposure to favourable global market trends including demand from fast-growing Asian economies" among a number of other factors.

According to the same report, the agriculture sector employs 2.1 million Canadians and accounts

for 6.7 per cent of GDP "with lots of potential for growth" — numbers we don't dispute. We know the resiliency of our agriculture industry makes it a key sector for economic prosperity.

But do you know what will impede this cited opportunity for economic growth?

Placing grain producers, who are key to the economic growth in this sector and this country, at a distinct disadvantage.

Grain producers are unique in that we must buy our inputs retail and sell our grain products wholesale. We are price takers. We do not have the opportunity to pass on increased costs that we shoulder. We are also unique in that our income is not stable — our yields and subsequent profits vary from year to year. But this shouldn't be new information.

One of the key ways to manage cash flow and fluctuating yields is to be able to defer cash tickets out to the following year. As small family businesses (which is the majority of farm operations), we can ensure income stability in the next year and manage tax paid in the current year.

Let's be clear on this — we are not avoiding tax, we are simply deferring it to the following tax year.

Though the response to this issue has largely been that of great concern for the loss of this key management tool, it's also been suggested that the benefits of deferring income are inflated. For incorporated farms, it's conceptually true that dividends can be taken to ensure a lower tax rate on income incurred over the small business threshold of \$500,000. But this is not a realistic fiscal management practice for several reasons. There are limits to personal dividends that can be taken from a farm corporation, and most importantly, the opportunity for growth would be lost in a year of higher revenue (i.e. increasing farm capital and assets). Instead of taking a dividend, income over \$500,000 can be deferred and used by the farm corporation the following year.

The pressure on our margins is ever increasing (for example, Alberta's carbon tax) and should this option be removed, we'll feel it even more.

As it currently stands, we choose

to sell our grain into the top of the market, no matter what tax year this sale may occur. Should this option be removed, we'll likely find ourselves forced to sell our product at less than desirable prices to manage tax that is paid. Not to mention the potential ripple effects of grain moving (or not moving) through the value chain, essentially stifling any economic growth targets.

The Advisory Council report cites that it wants Canada to grow to be the second-largest agricultural exporter on the world stage — targeting an eight per cent share of global ag exports and more specifically, targeting pulses and oilseeds as key export areas for growth.

I believe the sector will respond with a resounding yes in support of trying to reach these goals. But we can't do that if producers are at odds with our government.

The reaction and response of producers and industry to this review speaks for itself. Agriculture needs a seat at this consultation table, hopefully across from policy-makers who are willing to listen.

*Hannah Konschuh farms east of Strathmore.*



BY GORD GILMOUR  
MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR EDITOR

What would possess someone of the pioneer era to try to farm here?

This thought was much on my mind the Easter weekend as I drove to the family farm in Saskatchewan for a holiday gathering.

In mid-April, when the winter wheat is already well on its way in Kansas and Nebraska, here the Canadian Prairies are still fighting off the grip of winter. Snow flurries continue to blanket the fields unexpectedly and a cold night can still freeze the muddy fields hard enough for a tractor to pass over them without leaving a mark.

It's a place where, in a good year, a farmer might hope to get a third of the calendar without frost. Torrential rainstorms, hail, drought, insects, crop disease, all line up to take a healthy bite from a farm's productive capacity. It's a place of isolation, of hard work, and too frequently, of little reward.

Were they a little crazy or driven to it from sheer desperation? Or were they simply endless fonts of misplaced optimism? Likely the answer is yes to all three in varying proportion depending on the individual. It took a very special kind of person to carve a life in this "Last Best West" as

the marketing materials of the time breezily described it.

In the early decades, there was wave after wave of new arrivals. First the Ontarians, steeped in the British traditions, and the English and Scottish. Some concluded upon their arrival that this land would support agriculture in the style of the British countryside.

Perhaps the best known of these follies is Cannington Manor, near Kenosee, Saskatchewan. It was an attempt to recreate that society here complete with fox hunts, dramatic societies, poetry clubs, croquet, cricket and tennis. For a short time it was a merry life, funded in no small part by remittances from wealthy families back in the U.K., but by the turn of the 20th century, reality had caught up with this foolhardy experiment. Manorial homes were hard enough to heat in the comparatively balmy climate of the British Isles, and all but inhabitable in the depths of a Prairie winter.

Despite these early failures there was no turning back. The completion of the transcontinental railroad, the Dominion Lands Act of 1872, the formation of the famed "Mounties" of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, all set the stage for the settlement of the region.

It was Sir Clifford Sifton, Canada's minister of the interior from 1896 to 1905 who was the animating force

behind much of this settlement. With a wary eye on the encroaching Americans, he set about to fill the west with non-traditional settlers who, nonetheless, would be loyal to the British Crown.

Sifton shifted the focus of recruitment efforts to mainland Europe and particularly to central and eastern Europe where he was certain there were potential settlers who would be better suited to this harsh region. He wanted settlers with more than a romantic idea of agriculture and the rural lifestyle, people long used to coping with a harsh climate.

Sifton famously observed that the region required "... a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat, born on the soil, whose forefathers have been farmers for 10 generations, with a stout wife and a half-dozen children..."

As well as seeking settlers already acclimatized to similar settings, Sifton also consciously chose to court rural people. He didn't want urban populations settling the region, and gathering in cities, rather than developing homesteads and the rural economy.

This led to waves of immigration from groups that still make up many of the core members of the farming community in Western Canada: Ukrainians, Hungarians and Menonites, just to name a few. While

some in the Canadian establishment fretted over the influx of these 'foreigners' over more 'desirable' British immigrants, Sifton stayed the course, convinced it was the right path.

The results were quickly evident as the Prairie population exploded. In 1886, Winnipeg was a scant 20,000 people clinging to the banks of the Red River. By 1911 it was home to 150,000 and the "Gateway to the West," with fortunes to be made supplying the flood of new arrivals.

There's little doubt the less-than-holy trinity of mild insanity, desperation and optimism played a role in bringing each to the region. Not all stayed, but those who did built a new society, one that continues to evolve and grow and welcome new arrivals.

At some point every January, I suspect most of us have paused to wonder what life might have been like had our great-grandparents decided to settle Australia. But then we zip up our parka and get on with life.

After all, this place has become home, seeping into the souls of all who live here.

As our winter finally winds down, the optimism will win out. After all, if this is next-year country, next year is here.

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## What on earth drew the pioneers to this unforgiving landscape?

**The Prairies were an unlikely place to build a new society, but that is exactly what our ancestors did**



# OPINION



## ‘Rich’ farmers aren’t a bad thing

People may not appreciate how tough it is to build a farm business, but we should still celebrate those successes

BY GLENN CHEATER  
ALBERTA FARMER EDITOR

It was just one line in a 25-page report, but it stood out: “It is a popular misconception that farmers are making a lot of money in agricultural enterprises.”

As a journalist, I’ve never had to worry that people will think I’m wealthy. But, according to the report, the notion of “rich farmers” is widely held. And something that concerned the farm leaders I asked to comment on the report (which, ironically, is mostly about how virtually all farms — even big ones — rely on off-farm income to make ends meet).

“The ‘rich farmer’ meme is hurtful and petty,” Kevin Auch wrote in an email reply to my questions.

I’d asked him, and some other Alberta farm leaders, about off-farm income and whether it was unfair that farming alone isn’t enough to make a living.

“It can be upsetting for us farmers when those who don’t understand farming start maligning us because farms have accumulated what seems like excessive amounts of assets and equity,” said Auch, who is chair of Alberta Wheat (but who stressed, like the others who were contacted, that he was just giving his personal view).

“There are very sound reasons why farmers down through the ages have had to have

seemingly large amounts of fixed assets, especially compared to the small margins those assets generate.”

Those reasons are familiar to anyone who farms — but Alberta Barley chair Jason Lenz summed it up nicely.

“There is an extreme lack of understanding of the low-margin, high-risk business that farming is,” he said. “While it is surprising that after all these years this perception still exists, any equity that has been built up in a farm has more than likely come from generations of ‘squeezing nickels’ and long-term financial planning.”

Actually, I expect that perception is only going to grow stronger.

We live in a time when people are obsessed about property values. Sure, the focus is mainly on insanely high prices for homes in Toronto and Vancouver. But people can do the math — they know farm size is now measured in thousands of acres and the ‘price of dirt’ has gone up and up and up. And while they may not know the price of a combine or tractor, they’ve got a pretty good idea that they don’t come cheap.

So this perception of “rich farmers” will likely only become more entrenched. It’s something that farm leaders have to be ever conscious of when dealing with issues such as farm programs, especially farm income support.

But the farmers I contacted are way ahead on that score.

None took a bite on my leading question (sue me, I’m a journalist) about whether “there was something wrong with the picture” of needing off-farm income to balance the budget.

That’s just “a reflection of how farm families are no different than other families in our society,” said Alberta Canola Producers chair Greg Sears.

“The number of families that rely on a single source of income — whether it is farming or teaching or whatever — continues to decline,” he said. “Part of that is economics but it’s also a reflection of education, lifestyles, and career choices that people now make. The farm family is no longer a farmer, his wife, and kids working solely on the farm.”

Like the others, Sears said he’s not looking for government support — other than financial risk management programs — even though the federal government says it wants to make agri-food a key driver in the economy.

“The ‘economic foundation’ of farming is something that is really established by market fundamentals — supply and demand,” he said. “I don’t see the government having either the resources or political will to influence that part of the equation.”

In fact, the main thing government can do is get out of the way, he and others said. Lenz again summed up that view in a memorable way.

“We need to be competitive with others in the world and the regulatory pit that we live in here in Canada is far more stringent than what many other jurisdictions have,” he said. “In many cases, these regulations act as a barrier for us if we want to take advantage of a changing marketplace.”

It’s worth remembering that this view wasn’t always widely held. I’ve been in journalism long enough to remember the days when farm leaders spent much of their time organizing ‘tractor demonstrations’ and lobbying governments to spend billions on payouts because the marketplace was so unfair.

Today, the attitude is, ‘Bring it on — we’re ready, able, and eager to compete with anyone.’

Yes, that will mean that on most farms, someone will need to be pulling in a steady paycheque from an off-farm job and that most of the public will have no idea of how tough it is to build a successful farm business.

But it also means that if governments are sincere in wanting agriculture to be an even bigger driver of economic prosperity in Canada, they’ve picked the right partners.

*If you want to read the Off-farm Income in Alberta report, it can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca) — search for ‘off-farm income.’*

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## Choosing to laugh along the way can, umm, lighten the load

Inspired by a return to school, columnist Brenda Schoepp decides there are a few other things she wants to change in her life

BY BRENDA SCHOEPP  
AF COLUMNIST

As I write this, it is week four of my master of arts in global leadership program at a university near Victoria, British Columbia.

After 40 years of being out of school, I can honestly say that I have met my challenge. So tired by day’s end, I collapse on my foam bed.

Not one to be deterred by change, I embraced the West Coast life and decided that three hours of exercise daily would rejuvenate my foggy brain and perhaps peel off those 40 extra pounds that followed me. Into the program I leapt, walking 10 kilometres a day. No worries on that one, the Galloping Goose trail is just outside the door. When I had conquered walking, I decided to mountain climb (puffer in hand) and added floor exercises and some light weights. Easy.

The campus I attend is beautiful, sitting right on the ocean and I love studying there. Being

introduced to the recreation centre ignited my desire to ‘sculpt’ this flabby form. And being one who bores easily, I joined the Bollywood dance/exercise class (a combination of East Indian dancing and intense exercise) in addition to sculpting class. As the room is mirrored it is pretty painful to watch and my instructor was encouraging me to “wake up my brain.” (What? I’m working on the difference between left and right!)

Anyway, through this exhilarating process I tore something in my, uh, derriere, and was grounded in excruciating pain. My first ‘sports injury.’

Last week, I tried a new set of weights and found myself stranded in the middle of the room without being able to get out. As the pain in my arms increased and my heart threatened to leave the room (calling me overzealous as it left), I abandoned the gratification of weightlifting to buying shirts with long sleeves to hide the extra set of wings under my arms. (I swear I could take off in a good wind.)

Not one to give up, I took to surfing Twitter feeds during my recovery to see what others were up to in their fitness program and found the perfect solution in the post of a cattle feeder friend who suggested simply taking a pencil shrink. Problem solved. I feel four per cent lighter already.

It does not, however, fix my caboose. But I remain downgraded to floor exercises and walking in the brilliant green of the rainforest. Not too hard to take, but my appetite is still Prairie sized, as though I was saddling up and checking fence or working in a large yard.

I decided if I lived on the West Coast, I should try paying a little more attention to the grocery aisle and curbing those large meals. My first purchase was Stephano’s Secret Stash Pumpkin Hemp Glory. The package read “Love, Peace & Granola” and claimed the product is vegan. Put that together with local yogurt and some eggs (available by the honour system at the end of a driveway) and I was set. When loneliness sets in I simply eat the

whole package. (Back to the floor exercises.)

I then decided that perhaps exercise clothing would guilt me to stay away from the secret stash. There were a few unsuccessful attempts to get in those spandex/‘stretch to Jerusalem’ pants. After they screamed for mercy I contemplated giving up. But then I thought, “There has to be a secret to this — other women can get these things on. Maybe if I lay on the floor?”

So with my feet sticking out the change room door, I tried again. In the end, I bought the pants. (I was informed they were sold because I ruined the seams. I also traumatized the young salesperson after getting stuck under the door.)

As for the other adjustments of going back to school, most everything is online. No worries, I have the IT department on speed dial and I can almost hear them rolling on the floor laughing over some of my dilemmas. (Ha. Laugh all you want — the councillor is in the next building and she understands!)

I also chose to join a 300-voice choir because I cannot sing or read music and figured in a group that size, they won’t notice me. My practices to date have caused my landlady to come running, ready to dial 911, as she fears I have been seriously wounded. A choir member herself, she threatens eviction if I keep “disturbing” her and the other residents. It’s not going well.

As for my education, I am fascinated by my classmates and totally engaged in the work. Global leadership requires adaptability and a high level of resilience, and I have those along with courage in spades. People are lovely wherever one goes and this is true here as I am greeted warmly and with care.

Whatever the challenge, it is important to laugh along the way and this I have found myself doing often — at the joy of living and at my ever-improving self.

*Brenda Schoepp is a farmer from Alberta who works as an international mentor and motivational speaker. She can be contacted through her website [www.brendaschoepp.com](http://www.brendaschoepp.com). All rights reserved. Brenda Schoepp 2017*



## VERTICAL FARMING ▶ from page 1

in the field on a nice summer day.

"They taste like they're from the field because they actually get the same treatment as from the field. We mimicked the environment that's outside," said Geerds.

"At the end, you'll end up with a crop that has the same taste as from the field, but you can have it year round."

The duo is talking about vertical farming, a relatively new industry birthed by the advent of LED lights and 'aeroponics' — rather than soil and sunlight — to produce fruit and vegetable crops in a small indoor area.

What was, until fairly recently, the stuff of science fiction is now a reality. Sales of produce grown via this method topped US\$1 billion in 2015, and with production increasing by nearly 30 per cent annually, sales are forecast to surpass \$15 billion by 2025.

And although it's touted as a way to grow food in cities (as well as in countries where land is in short supply), vertical farming has also arrived in Alberta. And it's winning over traditional growers such as Lohr and wife Carolyn, who have been in the greenhouse business (mostly growing ornamentals) since 1982. They got into vertical farming a year and a half ago, forming Lohr-A-Lee Indoor Gardens with Geerds and his wife, Sangeetha Varghese.

They started small, with two integrated upright systems purchased from Indoor Farms of America. The vertical panels take up a floor area of about 16 square feet in one of Lohr's out-buildings, and have 650 plants in total. That's an incredibly dense 40 plants per square foot of floor space — normally strawberries need one square foot per plant. At that density, their plan to scale up to 360 square feet will give them the equivalent of an acre of strawberries. (Aeroponics means there is no growing medium and roots are kept moist by misting.)

The pair has tried their hand at lettuce, basil, kale, arugula, Swiss chard, and bok choy, but so far, strawberries are the real star. There are no weather, disease, weed, or insect pressures, and with "total control of the environment," the strawberry plants will grow for up to 14 months before needing to be replaced.

Normally, the growing season for strawberries is two months, so the potential yield per plant is much higher.

"Effectively, you create an environment that's consistent, so as far as this plant's concerned, it's July 15 every day," said Lohr. "The target is to get four pounds per plant per year. We feel that that's more than achievable. That's the target. The goal is to beat it."

"We don't need to import this stuff. We can grow it here."

**'Lots of unknowns'**

Despite their belief in vertical farming's future, both men warn that this is not a way to make a quick buck.

That view is echoed by horticulture consultant Cees VandenEnden, owner of HortiSource Consulting in Mountain View County.

"I truly believe that 50 per cent — or maybe even more — of the startups will not see their fifth anniversary," VandenEnden said at a workshop last month. "There are plenty of opportunities. I'll be the last one to say this is not working. But there are some big question marks."

But VandenEnden is being "optimistic," said Lohr, who expects 80 to 90 per cent of startups will fail in their first year.

While vertical farming has many attributes — including a reduced carbon footprint, zero pesticide use, high nutritional value, good water-use efficiency, and local production — anyone taking a "romanticized" view will be in for a rude awakening, said Geerds. VandenEnden agrees.

"There's a lot going on, and I think it has a lot of potential — it's 'sexy,'" said VandenEnden. "In the public mind, local produce and knowing your producer is good."

"(But) this piece of the industry is attracting people who have no agricultural background and no growing knowledge. Your learning curve is tremendous and very costly. There are hyped-up expectations, and your startup cost is high. Making an income is not easy."

In addition to the typical challenges associated with agriculture, such as labour and marketing, vertical farming comes with its own set of problems, including picking the right growing system, climate controls, light sources, watering systems, and product mixes.



Partners Wayne Lohr and Ulf Geerds have turned their extensive experience in agriculture and horticulture into a growing vertical farming venture near Olds. PHOTOS: JENNIFER BLAIR

"There's a lot of thinking and problems to solve," said VandenEnden.

"At this point in time, it's new, so we do not know what works and what doesn't," added Geerds.

**Ready for takeoff**

Figuring out the market is even trickier. Geerds points to lettuce, which is an "easy" crop to grow.

"Lettuce grows very well in here. In 26 days, we have a crop that we can sell, but the demand is not there," said Geerds. "We want to grow what the market wants. Strawberries make a lot of sense to us because there's a high demand and the quality is very poor from the imports."

Lohr and Geerds have partnered with a retailer for "significant volumes of strawberries weekly" for a small price premium.

"We're getting a reasonable premium over what they're paying wholesalers, but it's not huge," said Lohr. "Economics will ultimately take the premium away, so it comes down



Each vertical panel, which costs \$8,800 each, can accommodate around 325 plants, or 40 plants per square foot.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 9 ▶

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SOLAR POWER ▶ from page 1

92 kilowatts and the other about 45 kilowatts.

“The one site is built for the equivalent of watering two quarters of land and then the bigger one is based on watering four quarters of land,” said Nelson.

The Enmax program Nelson operates under requires him to run a “net-zero system,” where he produces enough power to offset the power he uses at the sites to run his pivot and his pump. This type of ‘grid-tied system’ — an on-grid solar energy system that connects to an existing power grid — allows Nelson to use as much power as he needs in the summer while refilling the ‘bank’ in the winter.

“In the summer when I’m using power, I’ll be using power from the grid and it will be slightly supplemented. I’d be getting two-thirds of my power from the grid on a given day and producing one-third,” he said. “In the winter, I’ll slowly whittle away at that bill.”

(The efficiency of solar systems actually increases when the temperature drops.)

The other financial factor is that Nelson no longer has to worry about a hike in electricity rates.

“If the price of power goes up 10 or 20 years from now, it doesn’t affect me. I’m producing my own power.”

Growing interest

Those long-term cost savings have sparked a surge of interest in solar panels among Alberta farmers, said Rob Harlan, executive director of the Solar Energy Society of Alberta.

“A lot of the growth is being driven by pure economics, and we don’t think that momentum is going to change too much,” said Harlan.

Compared to other forms of energy in the province, solar power generation is still “minuscule” but growing, said Harlan, who spoke at a Foothills Forage and Grazing Association workshop in mid-March.

“In the last three years, the installed capacity in Alberta has pretty much increased by 100 per cent per year, and we really anticipate that that growth is going to continue even steeper.”

Right now, there are about 1,800 grid-tied solar systems in Alberta generating almost 20 million kilowatt hours of energy a year. (It’s impossible to know how many off-grid systems there are.) The goal is to have 10,000 systems installed by 2020 — a jump from about 17 megawatts of generating capacity to around 100 megawatts.

“The biggest factor is the cost per watt of solar modules themselves. In 1977, the cost per watt was US\$76. In 2015, it was US\$0.54 per watt,” said Harlan.

“That trajectory continues to drop. It’s all about economy of scale. The larger the market gets, the more efficient it is to produce these things.”

But make no mistake — solar energy systems still come with a hefty price tag. Nelson likens the price of his system to that of a quarter section of dryland in his area.

“It’s expensive. You’ve got to come up with the money in the first place,” said Nelson.

“There was a little bit of funding from the government, but it’s fairly minimal.”

While producers can access Growing Forward 2 funding from the government of Alberta, they should expect to spend around \$3 a watt for a roof-mounted system and \$3.50 a watt for a ground-mounted one.



Southern Alberta grain farmer Cory Nelson was looking for a way to manage his irrigation costs when he installed his solar energy system. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

“If it’s a 10-kilowatt system, a roof mount is \$30,000 and a ground mount is \$35,000,” said Harlan.

“As systems get bigger, the costs drop. If they’re really small, the price per watt might increase.”

Finding deals

But ‘turnkey system’ costs have become “competitive,” and producers can expect to see a return on their investment as early as nine years, depending on site conditions, degradation, utility price changes, govern-

ment support, and other factors.

“That’s why it takes patience with these things. The investment really comes in over time,” said Harlan.

“Once the system is amortized, the savings can be quite good.”

And there are some deals out there, if you know where to look. Rancher Steve Kenyon has gone almost completely off-grid for around \$10,000 by scouring Kijiji for sales. (His

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE ▶

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

system, which includes batteries, would have cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 new, he said.)

“For us, it basically came down to cost,” said the Busby-area custom grazer. “We’re trying to lower our overall living costs. We got tired of the big mortgage and all the bills.”

Kenyon first dipped his toes into using solar energy “years ago” with solar watering systems for his cattle, but after selling their house, the Kenyon family decided to take their operation completely off-grid.

“To get power in was \$27,000, so we decided to go with solar,” said Kenyon. “We bought a bunch of used solar systems and put them all together.

“It’s not all brand-new equipment by any means, but we’ve put together solar panels and batteries off Kijiji, and we got an inverter (which turns solar energy into usable energy) from a company that’s been helping us.”

Kenyon would “jump on” any solar equipment he found on Kijiji, and once he had amassed a variety of panels, he worked with a consultant to design a system

that would work for his needs — 15 wall panels at 140 watts each. After that, he installed the system himself with some buddies.

“I basically mounted all the panels on the side of the shop. We didn’t use fancy mounting brackets or anything. We made it work farmer style.”

*“If the price of power goes up 10 or 20 years from now, it doesn’t affect me. I’m producing my own power.”*

CORY NELSON

The system will not only power the shop but the new home the Kenyons are building this year.

“Our only utility bills are cell-phones and Internet,” he said.

Reduced risk

Right now, Kenyon is running his shop — complete with three

deep-freezes for his direct-marketed beef — and even his electric fencing off solar panels. But come summer, his new house will be run off solar power too.

“It’s pretty new. We’ve got it up and running, but we’re still testing it. So far, it’s nice not to have a generator running,” said Kenyon of the month-old system.

“On our current system with our batteries, if we went three days without any sun, we’d still have power. After three days of cloud, we might have to start the generator at our current load.”

Despite that, Kenyon actually finds his solar generation system more reliable than the electrical system he used to be on.

“In my old place, we had two deep-freezes go down because the power system failed, and each time, it was at least \$1,500 worth of meat that we lost,” he said. “I’m in control of it now; before I wasn’t.

“If need be, I’ve got a tank full of fuel here and I can run my generator as a backup. Our deep-freezes will still run if the power goes out for six hours. To me, it’s lowering my risk, not increasing it.”

In addition to the cost savings,

Kenyon appreciates the ability “to do everything remotely.”

“I don’t have to bring in power poles and a transformer to get power to the place. Solar is portable. It can go anywhere. If I get more land, I can move a fence over there. Everything is temporary and portable.”

And while Kenyon is sold on solar power, the jury is still out as to whether it will be a good fit on Nelson’s operation. Right now, about one-quarter of his farm is powered by solar energy, but he wants to see how his system (which was up and running in October) operates for a full season before deciding to expand.

“It was an expensive venture, so it’s something you have to spend a little bit of time looking at the numbers and decide whether it’s going to work for you or not,” said Nelson.

“In the case of irrigation, it just seemed like a really good fit. We’re fairly confident it will be a good long-term investment.

“If it works well, we’ll definitely evaluate it and see if there’s another investment we’d like to make.”

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Wondering if solar might be a fit on your farm?

Before signing a contract for a solar installation, the experts strongly advise doing some serious homework first.

It’s not only a big investment, but there are a lot of factors to consider and you’ll possibly be living with your decision for decades.

A good place to start is [www.solaralberta.ca](http://www.solaralberta.ca), which has an extensive database of information ranging from how solar power works and basic FAQs to information on grants and how to select a solar contractor.

Olds College to create ‘smart agriculture’ centre

Olds College has been given a \$16-million donation it will use to create an institute specializing in ‘smart agriculture.’

The Werklund Agriculture Institute will use big data, technology, and enhanced Internet connectivity to increase the quality and quantity of agricultural production. The funding is a gift from David Werklund, an entrepreneur best known for his success in oilfield services, and his partner, Susan Norman. It is the largest-ever personal donation to an Alberta college or technical institution. The donation consists of \$2 million in cash, matching funding for other donations, and a \$10-million estate gift.

The institute will provide a hub for companies, entrepreneurs, investors and students to demonstrate, develop, and scale up smart agriculture technologies, products and services. It will also include a mentorship program; a ‘gate to plate’ agriculture and food learning enterprise (where students engage in business decision-making and management); and offer advice on smart agriculture technology. — Olds College

*The funding is a gift from David Werklund, an entrepreneur best known for his success in oilfield services, and his partner, Susan Norman.*



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Lohr-A-Lee Indoor Gardens started small with its system, with plans to scale up with an additional 24 panels in the next few months.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to production efficiencies and cost efficiencies.”

VandenEnden predicts the fledging industry will quickly scale up.

“It took over 100 years for the greenhouses to go from small entities to the big greenhouses you see nowadays,” he said. “But (vertical farming) will not take 100 years to get to that point. It’s probably closer to five years or maybe even faster.

“When that volume comes on the market, your premium prices are gone. You’ll have to produce for regular market prices.”

Competition is already growing in Alberta, he added.

“I was surprised to learn how many people are already doing this in Alberta. That will only increase,” said VandenEnden. “Big producers will develop fairly soon, and they will basically drive the prices.”

When that happens, production will be “the least of your problems” when compared with marketing, he said.

“It takes time to grow, but it takes a lot of time to market as well,” he said. “I’ve seen very few people who are excellent

at growing and do a good job of marketing, too. Most of the time, one of the two is mediocre.”

But ultimately, marketing vertically farmed produce is much the same as marketing any other crop, said Lohr.

“Know what it costs you to produce it, know what kind of returns you want, and that tells you what price you need to make money.”

A costly venture

Production costs will vary based on the crop and the system used to grow it.

“If a traditional crop costs \$1 to produce, the closed environment systems are costing between \$1.40 and \$2,” said VandenEnden. “That’s something we have to work on because that is not sustainable.”

Generally, the cost of equipment is related to the size of the system, he added, and there will be power and labour costs on top of that.

“With the right setup, there are good prospects, but what is the right setup? You need to go over that in your mind to make the right decision,” said VandenEnden.

Geerds agrees.

“There are plenty of opportunities. I’ll be the last one to say this is not working. But there are some big question marks.”

CEES VANDENENDEN



“You can pretty quickly sink a lot of money into the system, and if you don’t do it right, you will definitely lose.”

Producers should look at the price per square foot of growing area rather than simply the price per square foot when costing out a system, said VandenEnden. Because vertical panels do more with less space, the growing area square footage is typically about double the actual square footage. The panels at Lohr-A-Lee Indoor Gardens cost \$8,800 each, and Lohr and Geerds are in the process of scaling up with an additional 24 panels.

“It’s not cheap, and it does scare the financial world. The big system that would go in the whole building is about the same dollars as a new combine today,” said Lohr.

“We’ve done some pretty elaborate cash flow projecting but again, you’ve got to look at this on a per-plant basis. They’re still big numbers and the bill still has to be paid, but on a per-unit basis, it’s not near as scary.

“The ROI is definitely there. You’ve just got to make it produce.”

The test unit they’ve been running for the past year has helped them verify their cost of production — data that isn’t available for this new type of farming.

“Because it’s the first commercial system that we’ll have, the next system will tell us, do we make money or don’t we?” said Geerds, adding they have a few other ideas of crops they can try if strawberries don’t pan out.

“We’ve talked to a lot of people who want to grow very big very fast. I don’t think that’s the right way to approach it. You have to find the sweet spot. You don’t want to be too small but because the science is just developing, we have to really see where the sweet spot is. We’re not sure what that is yet.”

Lohr’s advice is to “start small and learn as you go.”

“Do your homework. Otherwise, there’s going to be a lot of roadkill.”

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The rise in the Russian ruble against the U.S. dollar is weighing on the country’s wheat exports. Russia is also expected to reduce grain exports to 3.1 million tonnes in April due to lower supplies to Turkey, the second top buyer of its wheat after Egypt. Russia exported 29.3 million tonnes of grain, including 22.6 million tonnes of wheat, between July 1 and April 13, down 0.5 per cent year on year. Moscow is forecasting a 2017 grain crop of at least 110 million tonnes, while market watcher SovEcon expects it at 113 million tonnes, including 69 million tonnes of wheat. — Reuters

POTASHCORP HEAD SEES PRICES ON THE RISE

Canpotex is pressing Chinese buyers to pay a “material” price increase for their next potash purchases, as spot values in other markets rise off multi-year lows, said Canpotex’s chief executive. Ken Seitz said the global market for potash is “much improved” from a year ago and Chinese potash inventories are lower. He declined to say what price increase Canpotex is seeking, but said prices in recent BMO report — \$5-per-tonne price increases from Chinese and Indian buyers, to \$224 and \$232 per tonne respectively — are “well below” his expectations. Canpotex is owned by PotashCorp, Mosaic and Agrium. — Reuters

MARKETS



Supply fears push canola values to the \$500-per-tonne mark

As old-crop canola starts to disappear, the likelihood of shortages is starting to weigh on the market

BY DAVE SIMS

ICE Futures Canada canola contracts chopped around for much of the holiday-shortened week before fund positioning pushed the front-month contracts up \$5 on April 13. The spike left the May contract perched at the technically important \$500-per-tonne mark. One of the main factors underpinning the canola market continues to be the idea that stocks of old-crop canola are beginning to disappear, and shortages could be an issue before the new crop is ready. Combines had been rolling across Alberta during the early portion of the week taking off crops left over from the fall, before rain and snow ground that to a halt on Thursday. Long-range forecasts also indicated more wet weather could be on the way before the month of April is over. Intermont spreading was a key feature too, as farmers rolled out of May and into July. Spreads were narrowing, which could be an indication that supplies are tightening.

Slow farmer selling added to the upside and cash basis levels were said to be improving slightly across Western Canada. On the other side, weakness in Malaysian palm oil weighed on the market, along with the rapidly advancing harvest in South America. Some questions were also raised about falling crush margins in China and what that could mean for future demand. Traders were estimating Statistics Canada’s first acreage report of the year (due to be released April 21) range from 20 million to 22 million acres for canola. Last year 20.4 million acres were seeded. While a few analysts may think more acres will be planted than most expect, one participant said he thinks that will be difficult as many farmers are leery of over-rotating canola. It was a volatile week for U.S. soybeans as the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s latest monthly supply/demand report projected larger-than-expected world and U.S. soybean ending stocks. Prices temporarily plummeted before correcting higher. The

front-month May contract finished roughly 14 cents per bushel higher. Corn futures also posted gains to end the week, climbing four cents per bushel. Wet weather in portions of the U.S. Midwest delayed planting in certain areas, which was supportive for prices. It also raised ideas that farmers may switch out acres to other crops if the season does become shortened. Wheat prices on the Chicago Board

of Trade finished a cent higher as record-low acreage in the U.S. kept prices supported. However, wet weather in the U.S. southern Plains has helped replenish soil moisture levels in several parched regions, which was bearish. Dave Sims writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market reporting.

For three-times-daily market reports from Resource News International, visit “ICE Futures Canada updates” at [www.albertafarmexpress.ca](http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca).



Prairie wheat bids rise, tracking Minneapolis futures

Cash durum and CPRS wheat prices in the West held steady on the week

BY DAVE SIMS AND PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN  
CNS CANADA

Hard red spring wheat bids in Western Canada were slightly stronger during the week ended April 14 as advances in U.S. futures pointed the way higher. Depending on the location, average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat prices were mostly higher, rising by \$1 to as much as \$9 per tonne across the Prairie provinces, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points compiled by PDQ (Price and Data Quotes). Average prices ranged from about \$217 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as \$239 in northern Alberta. Quoted basis levels varied from location to location and ranged from about \$31 to \$44 per tonne

above the futures when using the grain company methodology of quoting the basis as the difference between U.S. dollar-denominated futures and Canadian dollar cash bids. When accounting for currency exchange rates by adjusting Canadian prices to U.S. dollars, CWRS bids ranged from US\$163 to US\$179 per tonne. That would put the currency-adjusted basis levels at about US\$16-\$32 below the futures. Looking at it the other way around, if the Minneapolis futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$21 to \$42 below the futures. Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat bids were steady, with prices ranging from \$156 to \$169 per tonne. Average durum prices held steady, with bids ranging from C\$253 to C\$258.

Average (CWRS wheat) prices ranged from about \$217 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as \$239 in northern Alberta.



The July spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts in Canada are based, was quoted April 13 at US\$5.3875 per bushel, up by 11.75 U.S. cents from the previous week. Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPSR



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

in Canada. The July K.C. wheat contract was quoted April 13 at US\$4.3925 per bushel, up by five U.S. cents compared to the previous week. The July Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled

April 13 at US\$4.4275, up by 6.5 U.S. cents on the week. The Canadian dollar settled April 13 at 75.03 U.S. cents, up by nearly half a cent relative to its U.S. counterpart compared to the previous week.



# Warnings issued over E. coli flour recall

Baking, not milling, is the ‘kill step’ in flour, which can contain bacteria and microbes, miller warns

**STAFF**

Federal public health officials and flour miller Ardent Mills are warning Canadians to follow “safe flour-handling practices” as an E. coli-related flour recall widens from one specific batch of Robin Hood flour to include several other Ardent-made products.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s food recall warnings include several lots and types of Robin Hood flours and mixes and Creative Baker all-purpose flour.

The original recall in late March included only 10-kilo-gram bags of Robin Hood original all-purpose flour with a certain lot code, UPC code and best-before date, sold in the four western provinces.

That recall later expanded nationwide — and then expanded again to include other certain products sold under the Robin Hood, Creative Baker, Golden Temple and Brodie brands.

The recalls follow “reported illnesses associated with flour,” CFIA said, but added “there have been no confirmed illnesses associated with the products identified in this food recall warning.”

The Public Health Agency of Canada is looking into 26 cases of E. coli 0121 with a matching genetic fingerprint, including 12 in British Columbia, five in Newfoundland and Labrador and four each in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The illness onset dates range from November 2016 to February 2017, it said, noting six individuals have been hospitalized and “have recovered or are recovering” and no deaths have been reported.

Several individuals who became ill reported having contact with Robin Hood flour and in the ensuing food safety investigation, samples of Robin Hood flour were collected and tested positive for E. coli 0121.

‘Kill steps’

The outbreak and recalls, the public health agency said, “are a reminder that it is not safe to taste or eat raw dough or batter regardless of the type of flour used.”

Denver-based Ardent Mills, which has Canadian facilities in Montreal, Saskatoon, Mississauga and Brampton, Ont., also emphasized that milling alone isn’t enough to keep pathogens out of flour.

Flour, the company said, “is a raw agriculture commodity made from wheat, which is grown outdoors where bacteria and microbes, such as E. coli 0121, are often present.”

The normal milling process, Ardent said, does not have a “kill step” to eliminate microbes. Common “kill steps” applied in food prep include thoroughly boiling, baking, roasting, microwaving and/or frying, which render microbes and bacteria harmless.

That’s why “it is important that consumers note public health warnings not to taste raw dough or batter and that eating a small amount could make people sick.”

Consumers, Ardent said, should also use hot water and soap to wash bowls, utensils and/or surfaces on which flour was used, and to wash their hands after handling flour.



The Robin Hood flour recall has prompted warnings that eating cookie dough “is not safe.” PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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Canada's beef cattle industry will be 'Sharing Common Ground' at the second annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference in Calgary on Aug. 15-17. The conference is unique because it brings together participants from across all regions and sectors of the beef industry. Program highlights include a look at the National Beef Strategy with a focus on connecting with consumers, 'Bov-Innovation' educational workshops, a pre-conference farm tour, and the Cattlemen's Young Leaders selections and graduation. For more information on the conference and events, go to [www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com](http://www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com). — CBIC

## UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS SITUATION

The number of bovine tuberculosis cases remains at six, but 44 premises and about 8,500 animals are still under quarantine. Thirty sites have been released from quarantine including low-risk trace-out feedlot cattle, fenceline contact herds, and some trace-out herds (the bulk of trace-out herds have been identified and tested). Preliminary laboratory testing of all current samples should be completed soon, but culture results will take significantly longer to complete. To date, all culture results have been negative. Because of calving season, it is expected that the bulk of trace-in testing will occur in the fall of 2017. — ABP

## LIVESTOCK

# Half of nitrogen from feedlots is lost to ammonia emission

**Mitigating emissions from feedlots isn't easy, but there are 'simple' steps to reduce nitrogen losses and save money**

BY JENNIFER BLAIR  
AF STAFF

Feedlots have come a long way in reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions in recent years.

But a new federal research study has found that nitrogen losses in feedlots are still significant — and can significantly affect the bottom line.

"We're losing about 50 per cent of the nitrogen to ammonia loss in a feedlot, and there are economic implications of that," said Sean McGinn, a research scientist at the Lethbridge Research and Development Centre.

"Once you realize that 50 per cent of the nitrogen is lost to ammonia emission and that nutrient is then not available for crop growth, that can be recognized as real cost savings."

McGinn and colleague Tom Flesch launched the two-year study as a way to track nitrogen emissions from feedlots, mainly in the form of ammonia.

"We know beef feedlots are 'hot spots' of ammonia emissions on the landscape, but we didn't know as much about the dynamics of ammonia emissions from feedlots," said McGinn.

"For example, we didn't have real numbers from actual feedlots on how much is emitted, how much is deposited on nearby soil, and how much re-emission occurs when that happens."

Using open-path lasers, a state-of-the-art measuring technique that is used in the oil and gas industry to measure emission concentrations, McGinn was able to show that "a large portion of the nitrogen fed as crude protein is volatilized from the feedlot's cattle manure." And about 14 per cent of the emitted ammonia was deposited on land adjacent to the feedlot.

"That 14 per cent is a large amount considering a typical feedlot emits one to two tonnes of ammonia per day," said McGinn.

## Lost dollars

The implications of that are "enormous," says a leading Canadian expert on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

"Nitrogen is valuable," said soil scientist Mario Tenuta, a researcher at the University of Manitoba. "Farmers pay for it in terms of fertilizers, and it would be wonderful to keep the nitrogen in the manure and not in the atmosphere."

Tenuta was not involved in the research study, but said he believes it shows "solid evidence" about how much



Using open-path lasers (pictured), federal research scientist Sean McGinn found between 50 to 60 per cent of nitrogen in a feedlot is lost to the atmosphere as ammonia. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

nitrogen is being lost from feedlots. From there, it's much easier to "calculate the dollar value of that nitrogen."

"It's really a dollar value that's lost, and somebody could potentially be making money off that dollar," said Tenuta. "There's an opportunity there for somebody to step in with an innovation and figure out how we could trap the nitrogen before it gets into the atmosphere and then get it back onto the land."

The study also reinforces that feedlots — and producers — need to find ways to keep nitrogen out of the atmosphere, said Tenuta.

"How do we improve our manure handling or animal rearing to trap the nitrogen and keep the nitrogen from volatilizing?" he said.

"Do we have something that's quick and easy right now? No. If it was quick and easy, it would be used at the moment."

## 'Simple' steps

But there are practical steps that cattle feeders can take right now, added McGinn.

"There's some simple things that can be done in terms of reducing the loss of ammonia, which I'm sure producers would like to see. There's a cost to that loss," he said.

First, reduce the amount of crude protein in the cattle ration.

"In feedlots, we see an increase in methane as crude protein increases, so reducing crude protein would be a big benefit," said McGinn.

Next, incorporate manure into the land whenever possible.

"When manure is applied to land, if it's at all possible to incorporate it, we could see a drastic reduction in ammonia loss," said McGinn.

Next, feeders need to expand their composting programs, said Tenuta.

"A key thing will be to tie up the nitrogen with carbon material, like straw, to get it into an organic nitrogen form that can then be stabilized as a compost that could be hauled and applied to farmland," said Tenuta, adding that feedlots are already composting, "which is fantastic."

"Now we just need to continue along that line and try to trap more nitrogen

as soon as it comes out of the animal and get it into an organic nitrogen form."

And finally, if you farm near a feedlot, get your soil tested.

"If you're a farmer close by to a feedlot, you need to consider that you're going to get nitrogen input from the feedlot and then be careful not to apply too much nitrogen. You may not need to be applying as much," said Tenuta.

"I would encourage those farmers to be relying on soil testing as a practical means to taking advantage of the nitrogen that's been dropped in."

These steps will help reduce some emissions, and save feeders some money in the process, but the real work in this area lies ahead, said Tenuta.

"There's always going to be more work to be done in this area, unfortunately," said Tenuta.

"The ultimate goal, somewhere down the line, is to go to zero emissions of direct and indirect greenhouse gases. We have lots of work and lots of innovation to do."

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BY ROY LEWIS DVM

Over the years, many of the effective treatments for bacterial scours and some for pneumonia in newborn calves have been taken away from us.

You all remember products such as synergistin, gentomycin and baytril which have either been discontinued or prescribing them is highly frowned on for a number of reasons I won't get into here.

Other antibiotics used in conditions such as viral scours are simply precautionary to prevent secondary bacterial invasion. Some newer veterinary products allow us to be effective in our treatment. They generally have a wide spectrum of effectiveness (most are used subcutaneously) and most recently much longer-acting products have been developed.

However, the importance of that calf's first suck in the first six hours of life for the transfer of immunoglobulins and natural protection from disease can't be stressed enough. We all know calves that get sick early in life — for whatever reason — and even if they don't carry forward chronic problems are often 100 or so pounds lighter than herdmates at weaning.

In the past, most products (antibiotics) given for sickness were daily intramuscular shots. This often meant that to complete the treatment, calves had to be run down and caught (snared, cornered, trapped, legsnared, jumped or whatever means possible) in order to give the final treatment. This alone can be stressful enough to impede the calf's recovery.

Today, by selecting the right treatment regime, most times the initial treatment is all that is given. If a second treatment is necessary, it is given several days later depending on the efficacy of the initial treatment. Less handling results in the calves doing better and it is much easier to control biosecurity. And you are not spreading disease by handling the calves so much.

Depending on the disease situation, your veterinarian may or may not recommend segregation or isolation to minimize the risk of spreading it to others. Calf scours is an example of a disease where isolation or segregation would be practised, whereas navel infection is often an individual event and the calf is treated and left with its herdmates. (Although navel infection could point to a problem in the calving area where cleaning and disinfection could be necessary.)

Most of the longer-acting products give at least four days' worth of protection and are given subcutaneously. It is hard to find much muscle on newborn or young calves anyways. Giving shots subcutaneously supports Verified Beef Production program guidelines, and we avoid the muscle damage caused by intramuscular shots.

Even some of the injectable selenium is approved for subcutaneous application nowadays. One antibiotic product, called Excede, has seven days of effectiveness and is currently approved in Canada when applied at the base of the ear. However, talk to your veterinarian as these sorts of products have an extremely long withdrawal time before treated cattle can enter the food chain (because of the risk of residues). But meat

# An ounce of prevention is worth 100 pounds

Calves that get sick early in life struggle to catch up with their herdmates and are prone to getting ill again



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

withdrawals are really a non-issue when treating these young calves.

Specific conditions such as coccidiosis require a diagnosis as treatment is fairly specific (consisting of sulfa products and intestinal protectants such as kapectate or activated charcoal). This is another reason for having a good relationship with your veterinarian, as they can keep you updated on the latest products for treating calf issues. One case may lead to prevention for the rest of the herd. There are now vaccines for certain diseases such as pneumonia or scours which can be used on penmates to prevent spread.

Good bedding and keeping the calves from being chilled also help to ward off disease. Calves having a creep area allows them to avoid stress and find a quiet place where they can rest when the need arises.

Your veterinarian may prescribe prophylactic antibiotics at birth. This will depend on the disease prevalence, the confinement the calves are born under, weather conditions, and many other variables. This is why it is best if you and your herd veterinarian confer on whether prophylactic medication is necessary.

The most common antibiotic given prophylactically is tetracycline in order to prevent, if possible, navel infection if it is a problem. As with all disease conditions of neonatal calves, if incidence arises then you and the herd veterinarian need to look at forms of prevention. This may include such things as disinfection, stricter biosecurity, immunizing the cow (so protection is passed down in the colostrum), moving the calving area, and/or starting a new location for recent pairs.

Again, the big issue of calves getting sick — besides the obvious death loss — is that the weaning weight will be much lower for calves that suffer an early illness. That is dollars lost. They may have permanent lung or intestinal damage and are much more likely to be sickened by the same disease at a later date. This has been proven time and again with colostrum-deficient calves.

Watch calves closely during those first few weeks as many major infectious problems can be eliminated by recognizing the clinical signs early followed by aggressive treatment. The reward is healthy, salable large calves come weaning time.

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

*However, the importance of that calf's first suck in the first six hours of life for the transfer of immunoglobulins and natural protection from disease can't be stressed enough.*



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# Ergot an ongoing problem for cattle producers

Wet weather, low-till and uncut ditches all help create an environment where ergot can thrive

BY SHANNON VANRAES  
STAFF

Ergot is an issue for cattle feeders this year, and even the best testing may miss it. The good news is more feed companies are rigorously testing for it, says Dr. Barry Blakely, a professor with the University of Saskatchewan’s veterinary biomedical department. The bad news is even the best testing could miss it because the nature of the infection means it will be unevenly distributed in the infected crops. The problem is widespread and in particular feed pellets seem to be a factor in ergot poisoning cases. Ergot is impossible to detect in pellet feed without laboratory analysis, Blakely said. A problem further compounded by the fact that feed pellets are made with screenings, which often contain elevated levels of ergot. Broken, ergot-infected grain kernels are often mistaken for weed seeds, then end up in screenings. “Two years ago, with 75 per cent of the diseased cattle that had ergot toxicity the history was that they were feeding them pellets that contained screenings,” said Blakely. “It’s high energy and good protein and it’s fairly cheap so a lot of guys want to feed that. But the problem is all you need is a little bit in there and it really messes things up. So that is impacting on the feed companies because they can’t get rid of their cheap screenings it you want to call them that, the way they used to.”



FILE PHOTO

There’s evidence the testing is working too, but that’s cold comfort to affected producers. “The number of clinical disease cases has actually gone down,” Blakely said. “But the amount of contamination is still pretty high. “We are seeing lots of it all over Manitoba, as well as Saskatchewan and Alberta, and we’re seeing it in all types of different grass-type crops, so it’s not just in rye... we do see it in wheat and barley and occasionally in oats, as well.” Ergot is also appearing in native pastures, which is highly unusual.

“What happens with the native pastures, typically, is that the animals... graze it down to near the ground level so the crop or the grass never heads out, and that is where the ergot invades,” he said. And while successive wet years have created an ideal habitat for ergot, some management practices are also facilitating its spread. “What’s happened is that when the ascospores are on the surface of the ground, or the ergot sclerotia and so forth, then the next year they germinate,” Blakely said. “But if you let them sit on the top of the

soil they spread all over the place and invade.” That means that no-till or low-till fields are more susceptible because soil microbes break down the ascospores when they are buried below the surface, rendering them unviable, he said. Uncut ditch grass can also provide habitat for the fungal disease. Crop rotation plays a crucial role in keeping ergot under control, but Blakely noted it takes at least three years of non-susceptible crops to get rid of the fungus. “And some guys are saying,

*“The number of clinical disease cases has actually gone down, but the amount of contamination is still pretty high.”*

DR. BARRY BLAKELY

‘I can’t go that long without making any money and maybe sort of breaking even,’” he said. “But the crops that are making them money are the ones that contain ergot... and if your neighbour doesn’t rotate, you’re wasting your time, because it spreads.” In cattle, ergot poisoning can lead to lower performance, reduced milk production, inability to lower body temperature, muscle spasms, reduced circulation and the sloughing off of tails, ears and hooves. New research has also found that some strains of ergot have greater toxicity than others, calling previous ergot guidelines into question. Ergot contamination guidelines developed in warmer climates don’t always fit with conditions on the Canadian Prairies either, Blakely said. shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com

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# Smithfield makes move on market for pig-human transplants

Pig organs are very similar to human ones, making them an obvious target for transplant hopes

REUTERS

Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer, has established a separate bioscience unit to expand its role in supplying pig parts for medical uses, with the ultimate goal of selling pig organs for transplantation into humans.

Routine pig-human organ transplants are years away, but recent scientific advances are breaking down barriers that frustrated prior attempts to use pigs as a ready supply of replacement parts for sick or injured people, making it an attractive new market.

"Our bread and butter has always been the bacon, sausage, fresh pork — very much a food-focused operation," Courtney Stanton, vice-president of Smithfield's new bioscience unit, told Reuters in an exclusive interview.

"We want to signal to the medical device and science communities that this is an area we're focused on — that we're not strictly packers," she said.

Smithfield, the \$14-billion subsidiary of China's WH Group, in its first move has joined a public-private tissue engineering consortium funded by an \$80-million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. Smith-

*"We want to signal to the medical device and science communities that this is an area we're focused on..."*

COURTNEY STANTON

field is the only pork producer, joining health-care companies including Abbott Laboratories, Medtronic and United Therapeutics Corp.

Transplants are used for people diagnosed with organ failure and who have no other treatment options. Transplants from animals could help close a critical gap to help those in need. The United Network for Organ Sharing estimates that, on average, 22 people die each day while waiting for a transplant.

Smithfield already harvests materials for medical use from the 16 million hogs it slaughters each year. The company owns more than 51 per cent of its farms and hopes to sell directly to researchers and health-care companies, which now typically buy from third parties.

# Cattle have a surprisingly light hoofprint when grazing

Nebraska researchers say grazing, even at excess rates, isn't a major contributor to soil compaction

STAFF

It makes sense that a 1,200-pound cow would place quite a lot of pressure on the ground on which it walks.

But a new study shows that even these heavy animals can't do much to compact common soils — if they're grazed responsibly.

Those are the results of a 16-year-long study, established in 1997 by Terry Klopfenstein, a professor of animal science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and carried on by soil scientist Humberto Blanco. The study was examining soil ecosystems and how changes in soil properties affected subsequent corn and soybean yields.

"We did not see any negative effects of grazing residues on soil properties except compaction," Blanco said. "Compaction increased with grazing as expected, but it was not high enough to reduce yields. The level of compaction was too small to adversely affect corn or soybean yield."

This is good news, Blanco said, especially as the team performed a "worst-case scenario" in their springtime condition with more than usual cattle on the field.

The researchers stocked cattle in cornfields after harvest in the fall and in spring before planting and found soil com-



Researchers found that grazing crop residue could actually improve certain soil properties and that compaction concerns were overblown. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

paction was only slight. The compaction was slight even with more cattle than what experts would recommend on wet spring soil. Fall and winter grazing, when the ground was frozen, did not compact soil.

"We did not see many negative effects," Blanco said.

Blanco said that it appears grazing cattle on corn residues in the field could have a slightly positive impact on soil quality, such as soil microbial community structure.

Compaction was still seen in high-traffic areas like around water and feed sources.

# U.S. chicken industry deploys wet wipes, oregano

The untraditional measures are in response to increased demand for chicken that's raised without certain antibiotics

BY TOM POLANSEK AND LISA BAERTLEIN  
REUTERS

To meet increasing demand for meat raised without certain antibiotics, top U.S. chicken company Tyson Foods Inc. and rival producers are turning to sanitizing wipes, bacteria-reducing fog, and even oregano to keep birds healthy.

Some have spent years of trial and error on new techniques to figure out replacements for human drugs, part of a fight against the rise of dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria in people.

Yum Brands Inc.'s KFC became the last of the big three U.S. chicken restaurants to move away from antibiotics important to human medicine in an announcement earlier this month. McDonald's and privately held Chick-fil-A had already made similar commitments.

Nationwide, more than 42 per cent of the U.S. chicken industry has already committed to reducing the use of antibiot-

ics, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. With KFC's move, that number is set to grow.

KFC U.S. president Kevin Hochman called the chain's move a "major milestone" that should significantly increase the supply of bone-in chicken raised without medically important antibiotics. It should also open the door for smaller chains to follow KFC's move, he told Reuters.

KFC, which sells more than 65 million buckets of chicken a year, estimated that one-third of its suppliers were already transitioning to chicken raised with fewer antibiotics.

The company said it was late to shift away from human antibiotics because it had to persuade suppliers of bone-in chickens it uses to make the change.

The chain typically only buys up to one-third of birds in a flock because the others do not meet its specifications. That meant its suppliers needed to find other buyers before being able to curb use of the drugs to satisfy KFC, the company said.

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EL NIÑO MAY MAKE A QUICK RETURN

El Niño could make a return visit to the North Hemisphere in late summer or early fall, according to a U.S. government weather forecaster. The Climate Prediction Center said in its latest monthly forecast that while neutral conditions are favoured to continue through at least the spring, there are increasing chances of El Niño developing toward the second half of 2017. It pegged those chances at 50 per cent from August through December. The last El Niño, a warming of ocean surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific that typically occurs every few years, went away in 2016 and was linked to crop damage, fires, and flash floods. — Reuters

FORMER EPA BOSS LAMENTS TRUMP’S PROPOSED CUTS

The U.S. is falling behind as the rest of the world marches on toward climate action, according to the former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Proposed cuts to the U.S. federal agency will hamper its work while other nations are tackling climate change by cutting carbon emissions, said Lisa Jackson, EPA administrator from 2009 to 2013. Jackson spearheaded the agency’s crackdown on carbon dioxide emissions by giving it the authority to regulate CO2 emissions from mobile and stationary sources. President Donald Trump, a climate change doubter, has proposed cutting the agency’s budget by 31 per cent. — Thomson Reuters

WEATHER



Weather school is back in session – here are the basics of thunderstorms

How does solar energy result in thunderstorms?  
The answer lies with conduction, convection, and latent heat

BY DANIEL BEZTE

With temperatures slowly starting to heat up across the Prairies, thoughts turn towards summer and summer weather, and in my case, I begin thinking about thunderstorms.

After a very active summer last year, I thought it might be time to look at this topic again. I also thought it would be a good idea to take a more detailed look at the topic this year.

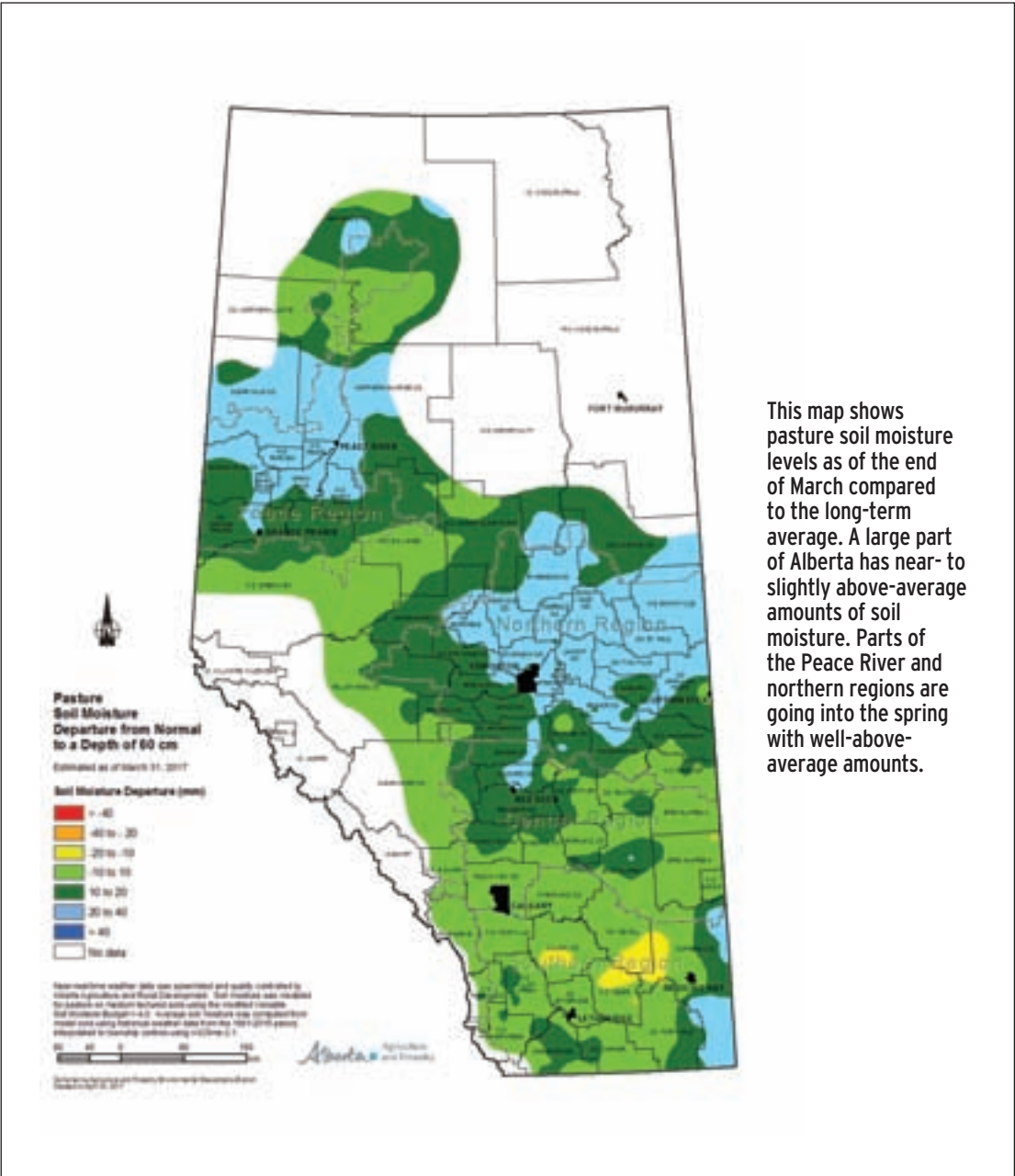
With that in mind, I am going to start with the basics: What happens when solar energy is absorbed and how does this energy eventually result in the development of thunderstorms?

When solar energy is absorbed by an object, the molecules in that object are excited, which causes them to vibrate quicker. The faster they vibrate the warmer the object. So it is fairly apparent why objects will get warm, but now the question is: How does this heat energy get transferred from the object to the atmosphere? The answer lies within four different processes — conduction, convection, advection, and latent heat transfer.

Conduction is the simplest process to understand as it is the transfer of energy from one molecule to the next. As solar energy strikes a surface, the molecules in that object gain energy and they begin to vibrate faster and faster — the object warms up. If you were to put your hand on that object, the molecules on the surface of the object would be vibrating next to the molecules on your hand and some of that energy would be passed onto the molecules in your hand.

Now because the molecules in your hand are vibrating faster, your hand will begin to feel warm. This is conduction of heat.

When we are looking at the Earth, solar energy striking its surface causes the molecules



This map shows pasture soil moisture levels as of the end of March compared to the long-term average. A large part of Alberta has near- to slightly above-average amounts of soil moisture. Parts of the Peace River and northern regions are going into the spring with well-above-average amounts.

to vibrate and heat up. The molecules in the air immediately over the ground surface begin to vibrate faster too as they come into contact with molecules in the ground and thus the air heats up. This process will only be able to heat about the bottom two centimetres of the atmosphere, so now the question is: How does this heat get transferred throughout the atmosphere? You guessed it — this is where convection, advection, and latent heat transfer come in.

Basically, convection and advection are very similar. They both refer to the physical mixing of the atmosphere. Convection is when the mixing occurs primarily in a vertical direction and advection is when it is occurring in a primarily horizontal direction. How convection takes place has to do with density and the fact that less dense objects are more buoyant.

When part of the atmosphere is heated through conduction, the molecules are vibrating faster and that faster motion

also means they need more space around them. Taking up more space means there will be fewer molecules in a given area. Since density is calculated by dividing mass by volume, fewer molecules (less mass) in a given volume of air would result in a lower density of that air. Since the air is now less dense than the air above it, that air will begin to rise, taking heat energy from the surface of the Earth and moving it into the atmosphere. Once this heat energy is in the atmosphere, currents of air (wind)

can move the heat horizontally from one area to another. This is known as advection.

The final process for moving heat energy around is by latent heat transfer. The term ‘latent’ means that something potentially exists, but is not currently in existence or realized. In latent heat, we have heat that exists, but is not actually present yet as heat.

So how does this work?

It has to do with water and the fact that it takes heat energy to turn water from a liquid to gas. As water absorbs solar energy, the molecules get excited and vibrate faster and faster. Eventually, the molecules at the surface of the water droplet will vibrate fast enough to break free from the rest of the water molecules and float away — they are now a gas. What is interesting is the heat energy it took to cause the liquid water molecule to become gas molecules is still contained within those gas molecules — the potential energy is there.

The gaseous water molecules float away from where they acquired their heat energy and at some point begin to lose some of their energy and cool down. As they cool, they eventually condense back into liquid water, and at that point, release all of the heat energy they absorbed to become a gas (or evaporate) in the first place.

Since it takes a lot of heat to evaporate water, it releases a lot of heat when it condenses. This is one of the main driving forces behind the major storm systems that we see, and plays a huge factor in the development of thunderstorms.

We’ll explore this more in future articles as we continue our annual look at thunderstorms.

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



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# CROPS

## It's not business as usual when it comes to fertilizing this year

**Unharvested crops mean there's more nutrients in the soil and if you have to broadcast, there's a chance to top up the nutrient bank**

BY MADELEINE BAERG  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

**N**utrient management is a challenge even in average years — but a million unharvested acres mean this year will be far from average.

Step one is determining available nutrients.

In a cereal crop, the vast majority of the nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur and about one-fifth of the potassium taken in by the plant are contained in the grain rather than the straw. Wheat requires 2.2 pounds of nitrogen per bushel, which means a 50-bushel crop contains a total of 110 pounds of nitrogen.

In a normal year, approximately 75 of these pounds would be removed in the grain, leaving about 35 pounds to be recycled back into the field through residue. If the crop is not removed from the field, however, expect all of its nitrogen, less about 10 per cent for winter loss, to be available for future production.

"If they don't harvest anything, the previous year's crop will effectively act like a slow-release fertilizer," said Tom Jensen, director for North America with the International Plant Nutrition Institute.

Adjusting fertilizer rates to account for increased nutrient recycling is challenging though.

"If a farmer is used to putting on 100 pounds of nitrogen to grow a wheat crop, a lot of them will just use normal rates even though they don't need to," said Jensen. "In

reality, I think it's fair to say that farmers in this situation could cut back nitrogen application rates by at least 20 per cent and probably as much as 50 per cent in some cases and still have adequate nitrogen available for the next crop."

Farmers should also analyze what nutrient application will optimize their crop for the coming year, adjusting application rates according to this year's unique requirements. Those seeding late may be wise to select shorter-season crops to ensure the plants have enough growing days to reach maturity. Careful nutrient management can also help crops successfully to achieve maturity.

"In a year like this, you really need to be paying attention to phosphorus and nitrogen," said Mark Cutts, a crop specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. "Phosphorus is associated with enhancing maturity in crops. Some producers may be seeding on the late side, so a maturity benefit may be critical. I'd see what the phosphorus recommendation is on a soil test and then stick with it. Definitely don't underapply."

"With nitrogen, I'd try not to overapply, because it could delay maturity across all crops."

If wet fields squeeze the seeding window, some farmers may opt for less-than-ideal seeding options to speed the process. Given the choice, most producers apply fertilizer in two bands at seeding: one right alongside the seed and the other a few inches from the seed. Farmers facing a time crunch may



**If you've plowed down or otherwise incorporated unharvested crops, you can reduce nitrogen, says Tom Jensen of the International Plant Nutrition Institute.** PHOTO: SUPPLIED

opt for the short-term time savings of getting seed into the ground with only partial or even no fertilizer.

"There are options to fertilize after seeding, but none are perfect," said Cutts. "There is potential to broadcast fertilizer even after the crop has emerged. But if you don't get precipitation to move it into the soil, a portion of the applied nutrients, especially in the case of nitrogen, could be lost."

"Foliar applications get some nitrogen into a plant but much, much less than the crop requires — typically only a few pounds. Banding at seeding is definitely the best: all other options are compromises."

Some growers may choose to broadcast both seed and fertilizer. In broadcasted fields, nitrogen

should be incorporated into the soil with a harrow, disk, or other method of disturbance in order to limit nutrient losses to volatilization (gassing off). Because phosphate is not mobile in soil, it should be broadcast at twice the rate one might band.

Though broadcasting seed increases the risk of poor establishment, it does offer certain benefits in addition to speed. Most growers have a maximum amount of fertilizer product they can handle through their seeder. A floater doesn't have that issue. It might need to pull up to the truck more often but it can apply as much nutrient as a farmer requires, points out Keith Gabert, an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada.

"If there's a nutrient you've been a bit short of in the past, this might be an opportunity to broadcast it at a higher rate," he said. "Farmers who are worried about crop left out in the field from last year might not think now is the time to talk about long-term nutrient investment. But if you can look at the big picture, broadcasting provides an opportunity to apply a higher rate of a nutrient like phosphate."

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, soil test for optimized crop results.

"Producers really need to do them. It's not the most popular practice but if you have information from a soil test, you can make good decisions," said Cutts. "That's return on investment regardless of the crop."

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# Farmers adjust fertility plans after tough fall

There are still plenty of opportunities to get nitrogen on if you missed the fall application window

BY GORD GILMOUR  
STAFF

If you usually put fertilizer down in the fall but weren't able to last year, you'll need to adjust your practices this spring.

It's a challenge, but not an insurmountable one, according to John Heard, a crop nutrition specialist with Manitoba Agriculture.

"There are a number of options for people who normally put their nitrogen on in the fall," he said.

If you have rutted fields from last fall, you can kill two birds with one stone by combining fertilizing with tillage.

"If they're going to have to do some tillage to fill in the ruts, maybe banding N is part of one of those passes to level things off," said Heard. "For some farmers, it's going to be the reality this spring that they're doing some amount of tillage."

That would be the ideal solution, he said, because it places the product into the soil where it's more accessible to the crops, and prevents losses through volatilization into the atmosphere.

"It also reduces immobilization through interaction with crop residue that's on the surface," Heard said. "As the bacteria and microbes break down and decompose the residue, they take the N and use it to break down straw. You eventually get it back, but not soon enough for crops like wheat and canola that need N early in the spring."

**Broadcasting**

Another well-known option is a surface application either immediately before seeding or just after.

This is a fast way to get N on, with applicators able to get down as much as 1,000

acres in a single day. Of course there is the potential for loss to the atmosphere until the fertilizer is either incorporated or moved into the soil with precipitation, particularly in the case of granular applications.

"Nitrogen on the surface still needs rain-fall to get into the soil," Heard said.

Timing is also important. For farmers looking to maximize yield potential, applications should be made on the earlier side N before the third-leaf stage or any significant elongation for cereals and prior to significant bolting for canola.

Heard said he expects most farmers will use a combination of methods to get their fertilizer down this season, including more in the seed row. Most are well aware there's a tight limit to what can go down without the risk of damage to seed and seedlings. However, there may be a technological element that eases that risk.

"Environmentally safe nitrogen (ESN) allows some flexibility to apply more," he said. "It has a physical coating on it, that helps protect the crop. If they want to do this, and get more in the seed row, that's an option. It's built in some flexibility. They can't meet all the crop's needs, but it's a good safe way to place it, and it's an option we didn't used to have."

**Banding**

Many producers have already made the investment in side-banding equipment that allows them to place nitrogen beside and below the seed.

These include simple systems where liquid nitrogen is dispensed through a tube on the seed opener and mixed with the soil as it falls back into place over the seed, boots that apply fertilizer in a separate band and systems with a completely separate boot for fertilizer applications at the mid-row.



Crop nutrition expert John Heard says many farmers are being forced to adjust their fertility strategy after a tough fall. FILE PHOTO

"For the people who have this equipment, spring applications were always Plan A, and they'll continue on with that," Heard said.

For producers considering taking the plunge now that they're forced into shifting their applications, there are a few wrinkles that should be taken into account.

First and foremost, a 1x1-inch separation between seed and fertilizer might not be large enough to ensure crop safety under Prairie conditions.

Mid-row banding between every second row at seeding demonstrates the most reliable crop safety. Disc-type mid-row band-

ers can achieve it with less soil disturbance and greater moisture retention, compared to knife type.

Liquid fertilizers are easier to work with than granular or ammonia applications because the equipment used to apply them is often easier to work with and simpler to modify.

Anhydrous can be safely applied with side-banding and mid-row-banding equipment, so long as separation from the seed is maintained, and is a relatively low-cost source of nitrogen. One issue to watch for, however, is the risk that the gas travels through soil pores and fractures to the seed, where it can cause damage.

A new tactic that's starting to gain currency among innovative producers is banding nitrogen immediately following seeding. Years back researchers did this on a plot scale and got good results, but only lately has the technology caught up to the strategy, Heard said.

"An increasing number of innovators are actually running coulter units into established cereal crops and putting down N when the crop is up because of the availability of good guidance systems," Heard said. "It's kind of like what they do with corn and is very interesting."

Heard noted both the late Guy Lafond of the Indian Head Research Farm and Byron Irvine of the Brandon Research Centre looked at this 10 or 15 years ago, with good results. But they flagged some technical challenges.

"Now we've arrived," Heard said. "The technology is at the stage that innovative farmers are doing it."

*For more information on this topic, check out a fact sheet on spring fertility co-authored by Heard and University of Manitoba soil science professor, Don Flaten. It can be found at [www.canolawatch.org](http://www.canolawatch.org) (search for 'Spring-N-options').*



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# Broadcast seeding: A last-resort option may gain traction this season

It's far from ideal, but broadcasting may be the only choice for some this seeding season

BY MADELEINE BAERG  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

All winter, many Albertan crop producers have had the distinct displeasure of driving past acres — in some cases, the many acres — they were unable to harvest last fall.

In a best-case scenario, there will be enough time to harvest any redeemable crop, manage residue, and still seed in a timely fashion. But some may have to consider a riskier seeding method such as broadcast seeding.

"Everyone knows the old adage: 'You can have it fast, you can have it good, or you can have it cheap.' You can't really have all three at once," said Keith Gabert, Canola Council of Canada agronomy specialist for central Alberta south.

"Broadcast seeding is definitely fast, but it's unlikely to be described as a good way of doing things. It should be viewed as a plan of last resort for when the ground is just too wet and you're going to make a mess with ruts or smearing the soil rather than place the seed nicely with a seeder."

Logistics are everything at seeding, added Trent Meyer, executive vice-president at SeedMaster.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see people go with broadcasting, either with a spreader bar, a spin spreader, or another option," he said. "And on the residue management side, you'll see them utilizing methods they wouldn't prefer because they don't have a choice, whether that's an additional pass with a heavy harrow, some kind of high-speed disk, or what have you."

"They simply have to manage what they have to deal with today, and they'll clean up the mess tomorrow in terms of going backwards from a soil management perspective. Our company was founded on conservation, but we understand that this year isn't like most years."

Broadcast seeding covers a lot of acres in a hurry, and can allow planting of hard-to-access low, wet, and otherwise challenging terrain. That said, the risk of poor stand establishment is at least double that of seeding with a drill, said Gabert.

"If you seed into the ground (with a drill) and get that seed packed in nicely with good moisture, you can typically get adequate germination 99 times out of 100. You can get good establishment from broadcast seeding too — some producers blow on oats, canola, barley every year with good success — but there are more variables, so more risk."

Broadcast seeding success depends on seed-to-soil contact, usually achieved via pre-seeding tillage or other soil disturbance as well as a post-seeding pass with a heavy harrow or disk. Establishment also requires adequate post-seeding precipitation. Even in moist soil conditions, a decent rainfall goes a long way towards firming the seed into the ground.

"I like to joke with guys that half an inch of rain after seeding makes us all look really smart," said Gabert. "If you put on too much fertilizer, if you seeded too shallow or too deep, if you had to broadcast instead of getting those seeds properly placed, a rainfall tends to fix it all."

## Broadcast considerations

Broadcasted fields require crop input adjustments — increase phosphorus application rates to account for that nutrient's inability to move through soil, and increase nitrogen because surface or shallowly applied nitrogen is more prone to gassing off (volatilization). Most importantly from a risk management perspective, increase seeding rate to achieve adequate establishment and reduce risk.

Farmers considering broadcast seeding should pre-think the logistics. It is much less stressful to cancel a booking with a custom applicator than to be a late addition on a long list of others requiring that service.

Finally, double-check crop insurance timing and establish-



*"I like to joke with guys that half an inch of rain after seeding makes us all look really smart."*

KEITH GABERT

ment requirements. The application deadline for crop insurance is April 30. Certain crops, such as field peas and potatoes, must be seeded by specific dates to qualify for crop insurance. Others, including canola, wheat and barley, have recommended rather than required seeding dates.

In addition, "non-conventional seeded crops such as broadcast seeding are reject(ed) for insurance when the seed is not mechanically incorporated and conditions for seedling establishment are poor," said Mustafa Eric, spokesperson for Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. "The crop

will be rejected if it has germinated poorly and the plant stand is too thin to produce a normal crop. An acceptance or a special inspection may be conducted on crops that are broadcast seeded."

Gabert recommends only broadcasting if the seeding window is very tight, fields are very wet, and more precipitation is forecast.

"Back in 2012, we had huge amounts of excess moisture in my local area — lots of producers were sure they wouldn't be able to plant," he said. "But that was the year the Slave Lake Fire took off due to wind. We got that same wind and within five days, the excess moisture just disappeared and seeding was right on time."

"You don't need long with sunshine and wind to dry things up."



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# Bigger yields, not tight rotations, key to 2025 canola production goal

Experts are advising longer rotations for canola in the face of disease pressures, but the canola council says it won't affect its production goals for 2025

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD  
STAFF

The Canola Council of Canada says advice to lengthen rotations will not change its 2025 yield goals of 52 bushels an acre for a total 26 million tonnes.

Typical wheat-canola rotation has fallen out of favour with agronomy experts, who argue that longer rotations are needed to manage disease such as blackleg, verticillium wilt or clubroot.

The 26-million-tonne goal is based on projected demand, said Curtis Rempel, Canola Council of Canada's vice-president of crop production and innovation.

"The question is, can we supply that demand? When we factored in our analysis, we knew that the number has to come from increasing yield per acre," he said.

"From our perspective, it's increasing yield per acre, increasing profitability, increasing sustainability, and reducing production risk. It's not yield at all costs."

Some producers have hit a yield ceiling due to blackleg and are no longer seeing the increases they previously enjoyed with new varieties, said Anastasia Kubinec, an oilseed specialist with Manitoba Agriculture.

"Farmers have seen that they've had reduced canola yields or they're seeing higher disease pressures or disease pressures regardless of the tools that they're using," she said. "They're not able to just kind of deal with it the way that



The Canola Council of Canada says production goals and longer rotations can both happen. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

they used to be able to deal with some of those disease issues, but they are finding if they throw in another crop and have a bit longer crop rotation, then they are getting a handle on the disease."

Blackleg is widespread in Prairie canola, partially because of tight rotations.

"Resistance for blackleg isn't immunity; it's resistance. It can be broken," Kubinec said. "What we have been finding is what resistance is available in the varieties and what the

actual races or pathotypes are in the field aren't always necessarily matching up."

However, the 2025 target is still doable even with longer rotations, she said.

Rotation was considered in the Canola Council of Canada's road map to 2025, Rempel said. The council recommends at least one year between canola crops, with two or three years preferred.

The "52 by 2025" strategy expects to add eight bushels an acre of yield due to genetic

improvements — three additional bushels from improving seeding practices; another three from fertility management; and two from a combination of integrated pest management and harvest management.

Straight cutting, harvest timing, pest control thresholds, encouraging beneficial insects and 4R nutrient management (right source applied at the right rate at the right time and in the right place) are among the practices advocated by the canola council.

*"From our perspective, it's increasing yield per acre, increasing profitability, increasing sustainability and reducing production risk. It's not yield at all costs."*

CURTIS REMPEL

"We're really working at biodiversity and what is the dollar value of conserving wetlands and headlands and those sorts of things in terms of building up beneficial insects," Rempel said.

Breeding advancements will bring increased ability for plants to absorb environmental stress, said Gregory Sekulic, a sustainability specialist with the canola council,

"What we're really seeing is increases in yield potential, absolutely, but also huge increases in how these cultivars and varieties deal with weather-related stress and weather- and insect-related stress as well," he said. "So I think more what we would be looking at in the variability across the Prairies is more of an increase in consistency than an equalization of yield across the Prairies."

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# Palmer amaranth taking herbicide resistance to new heights

## Two new mechanisms for herbicide resistance have been found in what is already one of the most resistant weeds on the continent

## STAFF

Scientists are continuing to discover just what a difficult foe the weed Palmer amaranth can be.

It can cause yield losses as high as 80 per cent for soybean growers and has already developed resistance to six classes of herbicide since its discovery in North America 100 years ago. It's recently been found in North Dakota, likely after being brought there in conservation seeding mixes.

Now researchers at the University of Illinois say it appears to have two new tricks up its sleeves. They were using a common test

designed to screen for a common type of resistance, only to find it wasn't present, despite field observations of resistance, said molecular weed scientist Patrick Tranel.

“We started to suspect there was another mechanism out there,” he said.

Tranel and his colleagues decided to sequence the affected gene in plants from Tennessee and Arkansas to see if they could find additional mutations. Sure enough, they found not one, but two.

Almost all of the resistant plants tested had either the known gene deletion or one of the two new mutations, he said.

“None of the mutations were found in the sensitive plants we tested,” Tranel said.

Tranel said it is too early to say what that could mean for those plants. In fact, there is a lot left to learn about this resistance mechanism.

The team is now growing plants to use in followup experiments. Tranel hopes they will be able to determine how common the three mutations are in any given population.

“That way,” he said, “when a farmer sends us a resistant plant... we will be able to tell him how likely it is that he’s dealing with another one of these mutations.”



**Herbicide-resistant Palmer amaranth can devastate crop yields.**  
PHOTO: PATRICK TRANEL

# Passengers heighten the risk of an ATV tragedy

## STAFF

A four-year-old's death in an ATV accident in Manitoba this spring is a warning for others, say safety officials.

The 32-year-old father told police his daughter had been seated in front of him while they were travelling up a hill on an ATV, when it flipped over backwards and continued rolling down the hill. The father was unhurt but the child later died from her injuries.

Larry Redmond, director of road safety with Manitoba Safety Services, which offers educational programs for safe handling of ATVs, said this is the kind of thing he and his colleague brace to hear about every spring.

People want to get out and enjoy riding their machines but so many things can go wrong, said Redmond.

"It's very tragic. We hear about it a lot."

Many injuries occur when there is more than one person on an ATV as passengers disrupt the balance and stability of the machine. This particular incident also points to the heightened risk associated with driving hills and rough terrain, Redmond said.

"You have to be a very experienced rider to know how to handle a hill," he said.

*"You have to be a very experienced rider to know how to handle a hill."*

LARRY REDMOND

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# Answer the tough questions before asking for a loan

Lenders want details of what you want the money for, how you will repay it, and what your backup plan is

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

Looking for a loan or an increase in your line of credit? Here are five key questions you should be able to answer before talking to your lender:

What are you going to do with the money?

“First off, do you have a clear plan of what you are going to do with the money?” said provincial farm financial specialist Rick Dehod. “Is it for operating, is it to buy land (how many acres, what buildings) or machinery (new or used)? How does this relate back to your business plan and overall farm investment strategy? Is your goal to expand, stay current with evolving technology, or just continue to operate? Is it a business decision or an emotional decision? Are your business partners in agreement? Does the potential return on equity by leveraging borrowed capital meet your goals and objectives?”

How much do you want?

It’s important to decide how much cash and how much borrowed money is needed.

“Using all your cash will impact your farm’s liquidity and possibly its ability to meet all of your commitments as they come due. Large payments on borrowed capital can affect your working capital position and your ability to



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

manage risk. How much of your current equity are you willing to put at risk?”

How long do you want the money for?

“Look at the loan amortization length, and resulting loan payments to see if the payments meet your cash flow and your ownership goals. A longer loan

amortization with a prepayment privilege may provide less stress on cash flow should margins tighten. Agriculture markets are cyclical.”

How are you going to repay the money?

A lender will want to know how you will service additional debt, said Dehod.

“Your past income and expenses is

a good benchmark to determine your future repayment ability,” he said. “Using this as a base, you can do a projection of what your future income and expenses will be and what your debt service requirement can be.

“Doing a sensitivity analysis by decreasing your income 10 per cent and increasing your expenses by 10 per cent will give you an indication of your repayment risk and your ability to make your payments, should things go not as planned.”

What are the alternative sources of repayment in the event of something going wrong?

“Life happens,” said Dehod. “People have accidents or illnesses that make them unable to manage their farms on a timely basis. People divorce.”

These sorts of issues not only make operating a farm more stressful, but can also tax its financial resources.

“Agriculture is a risk business. Weather can’t be controlled but can be managed. Agricultural markets fluctuate. All of these can affect the farm’s ability to generate the revenue required to make its payments and meet all of its commitments. What is your risk mitigating strategies should any of these events happen? We can’t foresee everything, but we can plan to manage life’s risks.”

If you can answer all of these questions, and are comfortable with your answers, the next step is to go to the bank, Dehod concluded.

## ATTENTION: MEN OVER FORTY

In Alberta, 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, but when diagnosed early, it is very treatable. All men age 40 and over are invited to visit the Man Van during the scheduled clinic times and receive a free baseline PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test.

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**BANFF**  
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**BROOKS**  
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## You won’t raise a glass to this invasive weed

BY JORDON SMITH  
AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN,  
RED DEER COUNTY

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Prevention through proper grazing management is the best way to keep absinthe wormwood out of pastures. PHOTO: DOW AGROSCIENCES

A tough, semi-woody perennial plant native to Europe and Asia, absinthe wormwood typically grows in stems and forms in a clumping habit. The most distinguishing feature of the plant is its finely divided leaves combined with a silvery-grey colour.

Absinthe wormwood also has a very strong and distinct odour which is very similar to sage. It is one of the major ingredients in the namesake alcoholic beverage popular in the bohemian culture of 19th- and early-20th-century France.

The compounds responsible for this odour cause animals to avoid grazing it and can even give cow’s milk an ‘off-taste.’ It is most commonly found in dry, open waste areas, as well as overgrazed pastures and roadsides. Since it mainly invades overgrazed pastures and other disturbed areas, the best method of control is through pre-

vention by means of proper grazing management.

Once established, there are still some control options. Tillage can be effective in cropped areas. Mowing can prevent seed production but will need to be repeated several times and will not reduce an infestation. Hand pulling is not recommended because of its deep taproot. Several herbicide options are available.

For more information on this or any invasive plant, contact your local Agricultural Fieldman ([www.aaaf.ab.ca](http://www.aaaf.ab.ca)) or the Alberta Invasive Species Council ([www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)).

Contact your local fieldman at [www.aaaf.ab.ca](http://www.aaaf.ab.ca)

For more information on noxious weeds: [www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)



# A 'new conventional' approach to crop production

Organic and no-till farmers, once polar opposites on the farming spectrum, are finding common ground – in their soil

BY LAURA RANCE

FBC EDITORIAL DIRECTOR/REGINA

**D**erek Axten can cite a long list of advantages to incorporating cover crops, companion planting and intercropping into his farm plan.

He has practically eliminated the use of insecticides and seed treatments, his herbicide and fertilizer use is dramatically reduced and the need for fungicides almost nil.

Yet his yields have never been better, his crop quality is good and his weed populations are dropping.

"I'm having more fun, I know that," the Minton, Sask. farmer said in an interview. "I think a lot of it is reduced risk and reduced stress. I don't have to get all that money back."

The Axtens began transitioning away from tillage on their clay loam soils in the mid-1990s.

"Our land is so fragile we don't want to till ever," he said noting that even though he's reduced inputs he's not keen on going organic. "I don't want to give up the tools; I don't want my decisions to be driven by that paradigm."

"But it's funny, we're getting closer to organic a little bit every year."

Close enough that Axten was one of the keynote speakers at the SaskOrganic annual meeting last month.

"We are still conventional farmers," Axten told the 150 farmers



**Derek Axten isn't planning on going organic, but is getting closer to eliminating artificial inputs every year.** PHOTOS: LAURA RANCE

in attendance. "But I haven't had the need to use insecticides or seed treatments on the farm for six years." The one exception has been pre-treated chickpea seed.

## Soil sense

It seems organic and no-till farmers, once polar opposites on the farming spectrum, are finding common ground — in their soil.

By improving the health of their soils, no-till farmers are finding they use fewer herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. Organic farmers are finding they don't need to plow as much.

"The point is, that they are both



**Soil scientist Jill Clapperton met with farmers at the SaskOrganic annual meeting in Regina last month.**

trying to do the same thing. They are both trying to have healthy biologically active soils. They are just choosing different ways to get the same end point," said soil scientist Jill Clapperton.

She describes Axten's approach as the "the new conventional" in agriculture.

"I'm talking about the farmers who are choosing not to be organic but also choosing to reduce or not use chemicals," the former Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researcher says. "They are looking to create an agro ecosystem in their farming practices."

"They are trying to meet in the

middle where they are saying, I want every tool in the tool box just in case, but if I don't need to use it, I'm going to choose not to," she said.

While organic farmers will find it difficult to eliminate tillage entirely, the less disturbance they do to their soils the better their soil quality will become.

Axten told his audience he is always a little stumped by the frequently asked question: what is your crop rotation?

"I don't have a rotation," he said. He plants lots of different crops. "In 2016 we had 16 crops, but that's way too much."

His goal is to keep his soil covered with growing plants for as much of the year as possible, and with as much biodiversity as he can muster.

"Living roots and diversity are what we are shooting for," he said. The objective is to keep nature guessing. "So we're making sure there's no pattern."

He has started intercropping pulses and oilseeds after hearing about fellow Saskatchewan farmer Colin Rosengren's experiences with it. He's been equally pleased with the results. He's worked with Clearfield canola and peas, as well as lentils and brown mustard and says yields are routinely 110 per cent of normal yields.

"We're spending less and getting more," he said.

Organic farmers don't typically grow canola because GMOs are not allowed in the organic system. But they might mix brown mustard with a pulse crop.

"I really like the idea of permaculture, where something is growing all the time," he said.

"Plants will sequester five to 50 per cent of the carbon they synthesize into the soil," he said.

"That's our goal. Carbon is what drives the system. We want to get more into the soil."

Axten said there's a lot of things going on in his soils that he doesn't yet understand. "We just need to keep pushing the boundaries to find out where those lines are," he said.

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# Trade minister sees the glass half full in new deal with Europe

There are many dairy farmers in Philippe Champagne’s Quebec constituency who aren’t happy with the deal’s impact on their sector

BY ALEX BINKLEY  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Trade Minister François Philippe Champagne likes to talk about how the proposed trade deal with Europe will eventually see most Canadian exports to the continent enter duty free.

At the same time, his political circumstances make him well aware of rural concerns about the deal’s impacts, he told the Senate foreign affairs committee.

In addition to dairy farmers in his Quebec riding, he has an award-winning cheese maker FX Pichet.

To cope with increased imports of European cheese — and to top into export opportunities in the EU market — producers and manufacturers alike need to tap into a \$350-million federal program to assist the dairy sector, he said.

The government needs “to work with small- and medium-size farming communities to make sure these programs are leading to the results you would expect because what we want to see — and why we have been able to negotiate free market access in Europe — is to give them a chance to do more,” Champagne said.

Having more cheese coming in shouldn’t be a concern, he said.

“The big prize for us is having our producers taking the opportunity they have now to export in Europe,” he said. “I would hope to work with them to make sure that these investments in plant and equipment would allow them to access the primary consumer market for these products in Europe.”

Champagne said he recently attended GulFood Fair in Dubai and attendees there were looking at Canadian products in a very favourable way.

“Food safety is a big thing in the world, and I would hope through the measures we’ve put in place now that our cheese producers will be able to export in Europe and benefit from this market access which is not present today because of the import duty,” he said.

Ottawa is also working to keep the door open with Britain as that nation plans its EU exit.

“Obviously, the U.K. is our largest trading partner within Europe, that through provisional application (of the deal with Europe), Canada and the U.K. will have a free trade agreement,” said Champagne. “They have been one of the strongest



The trade deal with Europe will give cheese makers more tariff-free access to Canada, but Trade Minister François Philippe Champagne said the dairy sector here should focus on new opportunities to sell into the EU. REUTERS FILE PHOTO/FRANCOIS LENOIR

proponents in the EU with regard to CETA.”

British officials can’t yet negotiate a separate free trade deal with Canada but discussions between the two sides continue, he said.

“We want to offer predictability, stability,” Champagne said. “We understand it is in both nations’ best interests. We want the good trading relationship to continue after they fin-

ish their process with Europe. I can assure you that’s something which we’re looking at very carefully.”

With CETA fully implemented, 99 per cent of the more than 9,000 European tariff lines will be duty free for Canadian goods.

“That is the message that I repeat to small- and medium-size businesses everywhere I go in Canada. There are enormous opportunities for Canadian businesses ahead of us.”

When fully implemented the deal will cover 99 per cent of the tariffs between Europe and Canada as well as 99 per cent of the trade, said Steve Verheul, Canada’s chief negotiator for the European deal.

“The only items not covered at the request of both sides was poultry and eggs,” he said. “On our side, the only dairy products we covered were cheese and milk protein substances. Those were the only issues where we completely exempted complete tariff elimination on our side. On the EU side, we have tariff quotas on products like beef and pork, but there is a tariff if those quotas are exceeded.”

Still beef and pork should eventually have access to European market worth \$1 billion.

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# Carbon tax could derail bid to boost agri-food exports, say farm groups

Pricing carbon now ignores all the work farmers have been doing for years to reduce agriculture’s environmental impact, groups argue

BY ALEX BINKLEY  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

The federal government’s budget goal of boosting agri-food exports to \$75 billion annually by 2025 could be derailed by its carbon pricing policy that doesn’t recognize what farmers have accomplished in recent years.

As it’s now cast, the carbon pricing policy could place farmers “at competitive disadvantage compared to other leading food exporters,” Cam Dahl, president of Cereals Canada, told the Senate agriculture committee.

“With increased costs and lower income, producers will be forced to consider business and cropping alternatives that may not have the same level of contribution to environment sustainability as modern agricultural practices,” he said.

They also wouldn’t be producing enough to achieve the \$20-billion export increase.

“Canadian grain farmers and exporters face fierce competition around the world,” Dahl said.

Governments need to “recognize the contribution that agriculture is making and be aware of unintended con-

sequences and that that contribution — if there are policies that make agriculture production more expensive and less economically sustainable — may have the reverse impact.”

Since the carbon policy was announced last fall, farm organizations have been seeking government recognition for the sector’s contribution to carbon emission reductions and its ongoing need for fuel. So far, there has been no acknowledgment of those concerns.

“In the last 20 years, the amount of fuel used to produce a tonne of wheat has gone down by 39 per cent while farmers produced more grain from every acre of land,” he said. “This is an incredible story, especially at a time when governments around the world are searching for policies to reduce energy use.

“At the same time, Canadian farmers are improving the health of their soils by increasing organic matter,” he said. “Every bit of that increase in soil organic matter is sequestered carbon. Farmers are locking away carbon while improving soil health. They do this without any government regulation forcing them into action.”

Dahl estimated the value of the current amount of carbon dioxide sequestered in farmland at just under \$1 billion.



Saskatchewan farmers store carbon storage in 23 million acres – “the equivalent of taking 1.83 million cars off the road every year,” says the Barley Council of Canada.  
PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Agriculture “is inherently sensitive to climatic changes” and farmers have adopted many measures in recent decades that have “improved and increased the amount of CO2 that is effectively removed from the atmosphere and stored for sequestration

in the soil,” said Phil de Kemp, executive director of the Barley Council of Canada.

In Saskatchewan alone, the carbon storage in 23 million acres is “the equivalent of taking 1.83 million cars off the road every year,” he said.

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## China clears ChemChina’s Syngenta deal

ChemChina’s US\$43-billion planned takeover of Swiss pesticides and seeds group Syngenta has received approval from China’s Ministry of Commerce, the two companies said.

“This represents a further step towards the closing of the transaction, which is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2017,” they said in a statement.

China’s approval comes without any conditions, Syngenta said. The deal still requires regulatory approval from India, after U.S. and European Union competition authorities gave conditional approval. Canada’s Competition Bureau issued a “no action” letter on the deal in February and Mexico’s antitrust commission has also approved the deal, on the condition that Syngenta divests five products in order to avoid risks to competition. The products in question weren’t named.

The deal is one of several reshaping the agricultural chemicals and seeds market, even as such tie-ups prompt fears among some farmers that bigger, more powerful suppliers could push up prices and economize on developing new herbicides and pesticides.

*“This represents a further step towards the closing of the transaction, which is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2017.”*

# Water out of thin air? It can be done, say scientists

**A box filled with a powdery sand-type material can produce several litres of water in just a few hours**

BY J.D. CAPELOUTO  
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION/  
LONDON

People living in arid, drought-ridden areas may soon be able to get water straight from a source that’s all around them — the air, say American researchers.

Scientists have developed a box that can convert low-humidity air into water, producing several litres every 12 hours, they wrote in the journal *Science*.

“It takes water from the air and it captures it,” said Evelyn Wang, a mechanical engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and co-author of the paper.

The technology could be “really great for remote areas where there’s really limited infrastructure,” she said.

The system, which is currently in the prototype phase, uses a material that resembles powdery sand to trap air in its tiny pores. When heated by the sun or another source, water molecules in the trapped air are released and condensed — essentially “pulling” the water out of the air, the scientists said.

A recent test on a roof at MIT confirmed that the system can produce about a glass of water every hour in 20 to 30 per cent humidity.

Companies like Water-Gen and EcoloBlue already produce atmospheric water-generation units that create water from air. What is special about this new prototype, though, is that it can cultivate water in low-humidity environments using no energy, Wang said.

“It doesn’t have to be this complicated system that requires some kind of refrigeration cycle,” she said.

An estimated one-third of the world’s population lives in areas with low relative humidity, the sci-



Even air with very low humidity can contain a lot of water. Capturing that water can be invaluable in times of severe drought. REUTERS/ROBERT GALBRAITH/FILE PHOTO

entists said. Areas going through droughts often experience dry air, but Wang said the new product could help them still get access to water.

“Now we can get to regions that really are pretty dry, arid regions,” she said. “We can provide them with a device, and they can use it pretty simply.”

The technology opens the door for what co-author Omar Yaghi called “personalized water.”

Yaghi, a chemistry professor at University of California, Berkeley, envisions a future where the water

is produced off-grid for individual homes and possibly farms using the device.

“This application extends beyond drinking water and household purposes, off-grid. It opens the way for use of (the technology) to water large regions as in agriculture.”

In the next few years, Wang said, the developers hope to find a way to reproduce the devices on a large scale and eventually create a formal product. The resulting device, she believes, will be relatively affordable and accessible.

*Scientists have developed a box that can convert low-humidity air into water, producing several litres every 12 hours.*

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# STUBBLE BUFFET DRAWS A BIG CROWD



This elk herd is giving the heads-up, as it grazes in a snow-free stubble field, near Priddis. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

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## Bison industry considers video auction

The Manitoba Bison Association is eyeing video auctions to improve safety and public engagement during sales. The system would replace the sales ring with video taken of animals within their pens and then uploaded online. Online bidding would also be available.

“There’s zero stress on the animals,” said Nolan Miller, president of the Manitoba Bison Association. “Basically, running them through the sales ring for people to bid on them is, to me, kind of pointless. If the animals are right there in the pens for the buyers to look at, I don’t see the need to run them through the sales ring. You run the risk of injuring the animal or, also, one of the handlers.”

The association previously ran a video auction during the 2016 Regina Agribition. It was a positive experience, said Miller.

“I think the price would’ve been the same either way if we would’ve run them through the ring or by video,” he said. “The prices held up real good and everyone we talked to thought it went well. I know before the sale there were some people who were concerned that it might not go as well, because there’s always people who are leery of change.” — Staff



Nolan Miller, president of the Manitoba Bison Association, pitches the idea of a video auction during the organization’s recent AGM. PHOTO: ALEXIS STOCKFORD



FOCUS ON IRRIGATION

# The threat of invasive mussels draws ever closer to Alberta

Water officials on high alert after positive samples for larval mussels were found in two nearby Montana reservoirs last year

BY KRISTI COX  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Lakes closed to watercraft; shores fouled with sharp shells and a rotting mollusk smell; millions of tax dollars going to clean up irrigation and hydro-electric infrastructure — that’s the future if quagga or zebra mussels find their way into the province.

For decades, Alberta has been protected by a buffer of mussel-free provinces and states — but that defensive line was breached in October when state officials found larval mussels, known as veligers, in the Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs in Montana.

“Tiber Reservoir is considered positive for mussels because there were five different samples for mussels that came back positive and they came from all different areas of the reservoir,” said Kate Wilson, an aquatic invasive species specialist with Alberta Environment and Parks.

“In Canyon Ferry, they are considering it suspect because they received only two positives back, and there was a chance that they could be false positives.”

While both reservoirs are close, Tiber Reservoir is only 60 kilometres from the Alberta border. But irrigation officials say the risk was already significant.

“Though they are closer, that doesn’t mean that we are all that more at risk,” said Ron McMullin, executive director of Alberta Irrigation Projects Association. “We are still within a day’s drive of Lake Winnipeg or some of the reservoirs in Utah that have them. Whether it’s a two-hour drive or a 12-hour drive, it’s still within a day’s drive.”

The province’s response to the threat is focused on three main areas: Helping Montana keep the mussels out, increased inspection station presence, and increased monitoring.

Cindy Sawchuk, the provincial K9 Conservation Lead recently took her dog — which is trained to sniff boats for the presence of mussels — down to Montana to help do a shoreline survey. There have been no adult mussels found at either of the at-risk reservoirs, so using dogs to confirm water sample detection could be a very useful tool if a positive shows up in another jurisdiction.

“Right now, she’s in Lake Powell (a reservoir on the Colorado River) working on training the dogs to do exactly that,” Wilson said in an interview earlier this month. “That’s a new thing for the dogs to be looking along the lakeshore.”

There will be additional watercraft inspection stations this season, and they will operate with increased hours. Watercraft inspections are for all boats, motorized and not, and the station at Coutts (on Highway 4 at the Montana border) is operating 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Dunmore and Vermilion (on the Trans-Canada and Yellowhead highways respectively) will operate on extended hours as well. As well, two new stations have been proposed for the southern border.

There have also been measures to improve screening.

The Canadian Border Services Agency has agreed to have every boat that crosses the border fill out a form that obtains the same information collected at inspection stations.

“They send us the form and we’ll be able to follow up with anyone who has a high-risk boat or who for any reason we need to get in touch with,” Wilson said. “We’ll have all the info we need to do that.”

Additionally, there will be increased monitoring of the waterbodies in Alberta.

“We obviously need to do more monitor-



*“Though they are closer, that doesn’t mean that we are all that more at risk.”*

RON MCMULLIN

ing, particularly in the south,” Wilson said. “Partly because of the proximity, but also because those irrigation reservoirs are very vulnerable.”

The provincial government monitors using two methods: A substrate check, using items such as a PVC pipe placed in the water and regularly checked for adult mussels, and water-quality monitoring that includes checking for veligers. A local lab processes water samples, which has greatly decreased the turnaround time from sample collection to results.

“We used to send to Ontario and now we do this right in Edmonton with a private lab,” Wilson said.

Private citizens can also contribute to mussel monitoring and data collection, through an online app called EDDMaps. If citizens spot any invasive species, they can report it through the website [www.eddmaps.org/Alberta/](http://www.eddmaps.org/Alberta/) or mobile app. They can also report a negative. Some people will report when they pull their dock out of the water, others choose to hang a PVC pipe or brick off their dock and check more frequently. As often as they check, they can report their findings.

Alberta is also continuing its Clean, Drain, Dry promotions and enforcing the Pull the Plug law. Anyone who sees something suspicious in the water or on a boat is urged to call the hotline 1-855-336-BOAT (2628).

While the hope is to keep mussels out of the province’s waterways, contingency plans are being made.

“There is work going on so that someday if we get these things we’ll be able to cope with them better,” McMullin said. “Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment are working on getting potash registered to kill the mussels.”

It was an approach that was tried — unsuccessfully — in a Lake Winnipeg harbour in 2014. The method might work better in a pipeline system and the Eastern Irrigation District is working with Alberta Agriculture to figure out how to get the concentration of potash high enough to be lethal to mussels. But there are 4,000 kilometres of irrigation pipeline delivering water to farms, and an additional 4,000 kilometres of irrigation pipe on the farms themselves. These are ideal places for the mussels to attach and grow. Estimates put the cost of control, should mussels end up in Alberta, at \$75 million per year.

McMullin is hoping that costly effort won’t ever be needed.

“We need to be cautious when moving any sporting equipment or fishing equipment or watercraft from lake to lake,” he said. “Everything needs to be cleaned and dry before it goes to another water body.”



Both inspections and monitoring are being stepped up this year in the ongoing war to keep invasive mussels — which may be just 60 kilometres from the border — out of Alberta’s waterways. PHOTO: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

## LET’S KEEP INVASIVE MUSSELS OUT OF ALBERTA!

Invasive mussels are getting close: they are now in Montana. Irrigation districts are doing their part to keep these clam-like pests out of our Province. We’ve paid for training of mussel-sniffing dogs to help with boat inspections at Alberta’s borders, paid for “Clean Drain & Dry” signs at boat launches and along highways, and helped with research to find safe treatments to kill invasive mussels.

Do your part: Clean, Drain & Dry your boat, pull your bilge plug, stop at inspection stations and encourage others to help keep invasive mussels out of Alberta. A message from the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association: visit us at <http://aipa.ca/whats-new>.

- Have you heard about the damage mussels cause?**
- 1) They attach to water pipelines and community water structures and can plug them up,
  - 2) Their sharp shells on beaches and the shores of local lakes and reservoirs are hazardous,
  - 3) They coat boats and docks with shells,
  - 4) They eat good algae while leaving toxic algae to accumulate in water supplies,
  - 5) They change the ecology of lakes, impacting fish.





## FOCUS ON IRRIGATION

# Hemp's prospects are on the upswing

Growing hemp under irrigation can boost yields by a third or more, and demand appears poised to grow too

BY KRISTI COX  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

**Y**ou can't get high with hemp, but your profit margins might get a lift if you choose to add it to your irrigated rotation.

And recent changes are making hemp even more attractive in Alberta, including a new hemp-processing facility slated for Nisku and a long-hoped-for easing of regulations by Health Canada.

"Up until last year, all hemp was carried to Manitoba where the major processors are," said Jan Slaski, who wears many hats as senior researcher and team lead for crop development and management at InnoTech Alberta, a Crown economic development agency.

"I'm pretty much positive 2017 will be a record-breaking year as far as (hemp) production is concerned."

That optimism stems largely from the decision of Hempco Food and Fiber Inc. to build a new 56,000-square-foot grain-and fibre-processing facility at Nisku. The company is publicly traded, but the majority of shares are still owned by founders Charles and Angela Holmes. Hempco has been processing hemp seeds since 2008 and has a

line of hemp-based foods, snacks and oil sold under the brand name PlanetHemp.

The company, which has oil presses in Saskatchewan along with hulling and milling facilities in Manitoba, is preparing for long-term growth with its Nisku facility, said CEO Charles Holmes.

It has contracted more than 10,000 acres this year, he said.

"That produces for us about 1,000 pounds per acre," said Holmes. "So if you say 10,000 acres, that's about 10 million pounds of product."

But that is just this year's goal. "The facility we have has the capacity to do six times that," he said. "That's what our goal is over the next two to three years. We are building a facility that will be able to process any expansions in the industry, quick or slow, in the next two to five years."

#### Less paperwork

After years of lobbying by the Hemp Canada Trade Alliance, Health Canada is relaxing regulations that have required growers to jump through hoops aimed at ensuring no one uses hemp production as a cover to grow marijuana, its soon-to-be decriminalized cousin.

In November, Health Canada made two significant changes. First, although seed growers will



Jan Slaski predicts this will be a record-breaking year for hemp production.

PHOTO: COURTESY JAN SLASKI

still have to test for THC levels (the psychoactive chemical in marijuana), commercial growers won't have to for most hemp varieties. This not only saves costs, but also removes the risk of having to delay seeding while waiting for approval.

"Producers don't have to wait until late June to put seeds in the ground if they want to plant in May," said Slaski, who is also a director with the Hemp Canada Trade Alliance.

That can be key as agronomic studies by Farming Smarter found

hemp can perform very differently, depending on seeding dates. The studies, all done on irrigated land, found there's a sweet spot for seeding: Seed too early and you get tall plants (and lots of stalks and

**SEE HEMP** ▶ page 31



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## FOCUS ON IRRIGATION

## HEMP ▶ from page 30

other residue to deal with later). But wait too long, and yields are reduced.

“When folks are targeting grain, they’re also seeding their hemp quite late — end of May beginning of June,” said Ken Coles, general manager of Farming Smarter. “They’re doing that so the crop doesn’t grow as tall and it doesn’t really impact the grain yield as much.”

And growing hemp under irrigation offers a major boost.

“Hemp can be grown on dryland and on irrigated land,” Slaski said. “You can get 30 to 40 per cent more grain yield on irrigated land.”

The other big Health Canada change gives producers field rotation flexibility — producers now only need to provide GPS coordinates and legal land description of hemp fields after seeding rather than with the initial licence application.

Health Canada has also hired more people so it takes less time from application submission through to licensing.

## Fibre potential

While grain is the big money-maker in hemp production right now, advocates of the crop have long touted the potential of fibre. Long fibre can be used for biocomposite materials and the core portion is used for biobuilding materials and animal bedding. Currently, InnoTech Alberta has the only decortication plant in North America, a pilot plant capable of processing one ton of straw per hour.

“A commercial facility would be seven to eight tons per hour input,” said Slaski.

Hempco’s Nisku facility will be approximately half fibre processing and half food processing.

There is some demand for InnoTech Alberta’s fibre in Alberta, although it’s limited. TTS – Sustainable Biocomposite Technologies processes ‘biofibres’ (such as wood, hemp, and straw) used to make mats, panels, and other products at its facility in Drayton Valley while Just Bio Fiber in Calgary is using biofibres for construction materials.

Some varieties are suitable for grain production while others produce both grain and fibre.

“Varieties like Finola that have very short stature and not a lot of biomass tend to be the preferred varieties (for grain) because (farmers) don’t have to deal with the huge amounts of biomass going through their combines,” Coles said. “X59 is a nice dual-purpose plant. It’s in between on biomass and still good on grain.”

The Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance is also working with Health Canada to access another part of the hemp plant as a revenue source.

“We’re talking about using flowers and leaves for extraction of bioactive compounds, specifically non-narcotic cannabinoids,” Slaski said. “The most popular non-narcotic cannabinoid is CBD. This is a great revenue stream because CBD sells for extremely high prices.”

Processed as an oil, CBD (short for cannabidiol) is touted to have health benefits, including as a treatment to control epileptic seizures.

Currently, CBD-rich chaff, leaves, and flower parts are left on the ground.

“However, we could have a chaff collector to collect this part of the plant and extract the non-narcotic

cannabinoid for medical applications and pharmaceutical uses,” said Slaski.

Hempco is prepared for CBD processing.

“We’re leaving a small section there for doing CBD processing,” Holmes said. “As soon as the legislation changes, we can have that available to us.”

In the meantime, Hempco is installing fibre-processing machines and awaiting some rezoning to accommodate the food-processing portion.

“We will have 12 to 15 people there this summer,” said Holmes. “We’re moving our office out of Vancouver, shutting that down, and moving everything to Alberta. By the fall, we should be set up with at least 20 to 30 people working there.”

For this year, Hempco has filled all of its contracts of conventionally grown hemp, but is still looking for more organic acres.

“I can take almost all the organic acres that can be made out there,” Holmes said. “There’s lots of demand.”



Hemp grown for fibre makes for an impressive sight, but it’s grain that is in the highest demand. PHOTO: COURTESY JAN SLASKI

# DEADLINE REMINDERS

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0900

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Equipment & Tools Auction, Lerry & Janet Davis, Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10:00AM, Castor, AB. Partial listing includes: 2002 JD Custom 770CH Series II grader w/rebuilt motor; Cat 816 compactor/packer; Hyster 8000 lb. forklift; 1986 Bobcat 643 skid steer; Ditch Witch, model #R65D trencher w/backhoe, 1991 IH 4900 truck w/ 7900 lb. picker crane, 2000 GMC 1 ton service truck w/4500 lb. picker crane; 2002 Ford 1 ton dually dump truck; 1985 Chrysler LeBaron convertible car; 1978 Buick Riviera car w/new paint job; 1984 Oldsmobile Tornado car; 1991 Blue-bird bus; 1965 JD 4020 tractor w/FEL & grapple; Degelman 12' front dozer blade; 16' t/a steamer trailer; Building moving beams w/wheels; Quads; 40' seacans; Versatile 555 4WD tractor (needs motor work); Huge list of shop equipment, tools, & inventory. For info, contact owners at: 403-740-6727 or Dunkle Auctions at: 1-877-874-2437. Full listing & pictures at: www.dunkleauctions.com PL# 209769.

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### TRUCKS

1600

1979 **FORD** 9000, tandem, 671 Detroit, c/w 22' steel B&H, \$14,500. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

1984 **FORD F600**, 14' wood B&H, roll tarp, 52,700 kms, 920 tires, original owner, shedded, \$9800 OBO. 780-361-7947, 780-352-2818, Gwynne, AB.

2012 **FREIGHTLINER TANDEM**, fully loaded, remote tailgate and hoist, elec. taper, 20' Courtney Berg box w/Harsh hoist, auto. trans., pintle hitch, 450 HP Detroit/Mercedes 13L eng., 21,000 kms, exc. cond., always shedded; 1980 **F700** Louisville, 16' box w/roll up tarp, 370 eng., 82,000 kms., nearly new radial tubeless tires and rims. 780-889-3788, Heisler AB.

**REMOTE CONTROL ENDGATE AND hoist systems** can save you time, energy and keep you safe this seeding season. Give **Kramble Industries** a call at 306-933-2655, Saskatoon, SK. or visit us online at: **www.kramble.net**

**30+ TANDEMS:** Standards & Automatics, \$46,000 and up. Yellowhead Sales, 306-783-2899, Yorkton, SK.

1975 **GMC** 6000 3 ton, 350, 31,269 mi., 14' steel B&H, rollup tarp, plumbed for drill pit, \$7000. 306-372-4509, Luseland, SK.

**AUTOSHIFT TRUCKS AVAILABLE:** Boxed tandems and tractor units. Contact David 306-887-2094, 306-864-7055, Kinistino, SK. DL #327784. **www.davidstrucks.com**

1994 **FREIGHTLINER FL80**, 8.3L Cummins, 10 spd., aluminum grain box 8.5'x20' c/w Shur-Lok tarp, remote chute opener and hoist, white, original 283,000 kms, exc. condition. 306-677-7400, Hodgeville, SK.

**ALLISON AUTOMATIC TRUCKS:** Several trucks with auto. trans. available with C&C or grain or gravel box. Starting at \$19,900; 2002 IH 4400 DT466, Allison auto., 20' B&H, \$56,900. Call **K&L Equipment**, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK. DL #910885. **ladimer@sasktel.net**

**CAB AND CHASSIS:** 2000 Sterling tandem, 435 HP Cat, 10 spd. trans, will take 20' box, extremely low kms, \$19,900. Call **K&L Equipment**, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK. DL #910885. **ladimer@sasktel.net**

**GRAVEL TRUCKS**  
1676

**ATTENTION GRAVEL HAULERS:** 6 tandems in stock, 1998-2007; 2013 Cancade tri-axle end dump; Tri-axle 18' dump. Yellowhead Sales, 306-783-2899, Yorkton, SK.

2012 **IHC TRANSTAR**, low pro, Max 300 HP diesel Allison auto. trans., single axle, loaded cab, 13' Armstrong landscape dump, \$39,900; 2006 **CHEV 1 TON** dump truck w/10' gravel dump, \$14,900. **K&L Equipment and Auto.** Call Ladimer, 306-795-7779, Ituna SK. DL #910885.

**SEMI TRUCKS**  
1677

1995 **WESTERN STAR** Conventional w/2007 tri-axle GravHaul endump trailer, \$38,000 plus GST; 1994 **Mack CH613** w/1990 Midland TA endump, \$13,000 plus GST. 403-651-8407, High River, AB.

2006 **WESTERN STAR**, Series 60 Detroit, 18 spd. trans., 46 rears, 450,000 kms, \$7,000 work order, fresh CVIP \$39,000. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

2013 **MACK RAWRIDE**, auto. trans., heavy rear end, 505 HP c/w 2015 Etnyre Black Hawk **equipment trailer**, 10'W, tridem lift axles, alum. wheels, pullouts. Great for Farm Dealership. Sell as unit or separately. Call 780-720-4304, Willingdon, AB.

2006 **FREIGHTLINER** Columbia, 425 HP Mercedes 10 spd., wet kit, 2-way diff. locks, \$17,500; 1997 Volvo daycab, 375 HP 13 spd., \$12,500; 1996 **KW N14** Cummins, 500 HP 18 spd., 2-way lockers, \$27,500. 306-596-4231, Regina, SK.

### BERGEN

306-363-2131  
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BUILDINGS2601



**Neyaskweyak Group of Companies Inc. ("NGCI")**, on behalf of the **Ermineskin Cree Nation**, seeks an experienced partner or group of partners to take over existing farming leases, amalgamate our lands and develop Ermineskin Cree Nation's land to its best and highest use.

Ermineskin Cree Nation (on reserve) lands consists of 16,500 acres of cultivated chernozemic (black soil) and 3,500 acres (off reserve) non-cultivated forest and pasture located within the County of Wetaskiwin (the "Lands"). The Lands are valued in excess of \$60 million.

The mandate of NGCI is to achieve self-sufficiency and sustainability through long-term investments and business development. NGCI's mission is to promote and maintain viable and profitable businesses and investments that create employment and enhance human capacity.

**Scope of Work**

The proposed engagement may include, without limitation, the production of oilseed, grain, forage and pulse crops; grow vegetable and greenhouse crops and establish dairy, beef, hog, poultry, sheep herds or other agricultural products (the "Work").

All other terms relating to the performance of the Work, payment, profit sharing, the amount of the Lands to be cultivated, the exact nature of the Work is to be negotiated.

**Responding to the Request for Interest:**

Those who have interest in performing the Work should contact NGCI to express interest.

NGCI will provide further information relating to the Lands upon request.

Please address any inquiries in writing to  
**Mr. Sam Minde, President & CEO of NGCI,**  
**E-mail: [sam@ngcinc.ca](mailto:sam@ngcinc.ca) no later than June 30, 2017.**

**Please Note:** This request for interest is not intended to create contractual relations of any kind and is a request only for interested parties to provide further information and to solicit expressions of interest in performing the Work. NGCI shall not be responsible of any costs or expenses incurred by interest parties in responding to this request for interest.

COVER-ALL 40x60' TRUSS arch shelter, dismantled. Offers. Phone 306-563-6022, Canora, SK.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES2800

**MANUFACTURING BUSINESS:** Welding and light fabricating. One-of-a-kind product. Mainly Ag. Peak sales Sept - March. Owned for 30 years, room for growth. Relocatable, \$195,000 plus inventory; 50'x70' shop, \$350,000. 306-446-4462, North Battleford, SK. [gileas@hotmail.com](mailto:gileas@hotmail.com)

**LARGE BUILDING AND** property on Broadway Ave, Yorkton, SK.; Large building in Prince Albert, SK.; 3 lots on South service road, Weyburn, SK.; Tempo/Tire shop #48 Hwy. Windthorst, SK, independent auto repair business for sale in Regina; Hotel and restaurant on Hwy.#48; 160 acres near Regina w/yard and business opportunity; SW SK. restaurant, lounge incl, 15 room motel. Brian Tiefenbach, 306-536-3269, Colliers Int. Regina, SK. [www.collierscanada.com](http://www.collierscanada.com)

**SAND AND GRAVEL BUSINESS:** Close to Regina (on primary), very good pit lease, new cone crusher and 3-deck screener, lots of newer equipment, trucks, genset, inventory. Customer base and over \$1,000,000 gross 2016, \$1,750,000. 306-536-5055, [norm@skynorth.com](mailto:norm@skynorth.com)

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CONSULTING2901

BUILDINGS2601

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BUSINESS SERVICES

FINANCIAL/LEGAL2902

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CUSTOM SEEDING3527

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CONSULTING2901

CUSTOM SEEDING3527

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**LARRY'S EQUIPMENT HAULING:** Farm machinery and construction equipment. Serving Western Canada. 780-720-4304.

**EQUIPMENT TOWING/ HAULING.** Reasonable rates. Contact G H Wells Services and Trucking, 306-741-9059, Morse, SK.

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**LONG LAKE TRUCKING,** two units, custom hay hauling. 306-567-7100, Imperial, SK.

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**FOR SALE:** Used telehandlers, boom lifts and skid steers. Call 403-396-7078, [www.dbequipmentsales.com](http://www.dbequipmentsales.com)

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**2004 CAT D7R XR** hyd. angle tilt dozer, 3 shank ripper, very good condition. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

**CAT TELEHANDLER,** 8000 lbs., good condition, \$31,000. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

**2008 CAT D6NLP** Crawler loader, 9800 hours, w/ripper, 6-way dozer. Please call 780-983-0936 for price. Clyde, AB.

**2007 JD 200** and **JD 330** trackhoes, \$55,000 ea Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

**HYD. PULL SCRAPER** 621 conversion, exc. machine. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

**JD 844J** wheel loader, 14,000 hours, exc. condition. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

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**2013 JCB 550-140 TELEHANDLER,** bought new in 2015, 1825 hrs., diesel power, PS trans., 4 WD, 4-way steering, very good, tires, 10,000 lb. capacity, 45' reach height, hydraulic outriggers, full cab w/heat and A/C, c/w 1.8 yard bucket and pallet forks. 3 yd. bucket optional. Andrew, AB. Call Bill, 780-365-2020, 780-210-0800.

**2015 TM320 JCB,** 938 hrs., diesel power, PS, 4WD articulating steering, excellent condition, 7500 lb lift, 17' lift, full cab with heat & AC, c/w 3 yard bucket. Warranty Expires Oct 27, 2017. Andrew, AB. Call Bill, 780-365-2020 or 780-210-0800.

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4000

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4103

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4112

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CB 2150 GAL. Pattison liquid cart, John Blue twin piston pump, 2" Honda pump, \$17,000; PLS 4200 gal. Pattison liquid cart, hydraulic pump, 3" Honda pump, used 2 seasons, \$46,000. 306-885-4545, 306-537-2563, Sedley, SK.

2003 VALLEY PACKING SYSTEM 2000 liquid cart c/w autorate, 1 season on re-built John Blue pump, Honda 2" fill pump, good cond. \$15,000 OBO. 306-675-4566, 306-795-7382, Leross, SK.



2005 PETERBILT STAHLY, Cummins, Allison auto, New Leader L3020 G4, monitor, New Leader controller, Starlink GPS 4145 hrs, \$78,000; 2004 Peterbilt, Cummins, Allison auto, 1800 gal stainless, 80' boom, Raven controller, Raven AutoSteer, Raven section shutoff, 4270 hrs, \$65,000. USD prices. 406-576-3402, 406-466-5356, Choteau, MT. www.fertilizerequipment.net

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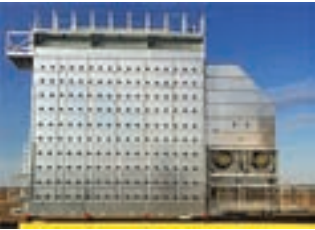
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2010 JD 568 baler, new belts, reconditioned PU, net wrap, Greenlighted, asking \$24,500. Henry 403-588-0958, Alix, AB.

NH 1033 STACKLINER bale wagon, in working condition, can deliver if need be. 306-882-3141, Rosetown, SK.

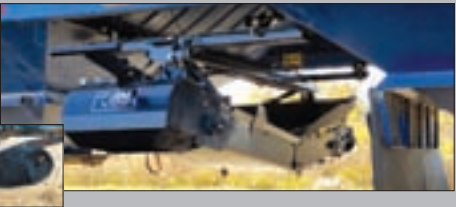
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COMBINES

CASE/IH 4160

CASE/IH 1482 PT combine w/reverser and Victory PU, always shedded, vg cond., 1200. 306-210-8186, Reward, SK.

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

2000 CASE/IH 2388 w/1015 header, \$165,000; 2004 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$115,000; 2006 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$130,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

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BALING EQUIPMENT 4139

JOHN DEERE 4178

UNRESERVED AUCTION: Two 1993 John Deere 9600 SP combines w/JD 914 13' PU's, hydro, chopper, buddy seat, shedded, recent Greenlight, 1 has 1783 sep. hrs., 2796 eng. hrs. & long auger; 1 has 3093 sep. hrs., 4,207 eng. hrs., & chaff spreader, excellent cond. Auction April 26, 2017, Sedgewick, AB. For info: owners phone, 780-385-1289 or Dunkle Auctions: 1-877-874-2437. Full details & pics at: [www.dunkleauctions.com](http://www.dunkleauctions.com) PL# 209769.

2009 JD 9770 with 615 Pea header, Auto HHC, grain tank extensions, 2600 GreenStar display monitor and StarFire receiver incl., less than 100 hrs. since Greenlight, 1523 sep hrs., duals, excellent condition, always shedded, \$188,000 OBO. Call 780-877-2518, Ferintosh, AB.

2008 JD 9870 STS, Greenlighted from 2012-2016, no peas, always shedded, \$65,000+ work orders in last 5 years, Serviced at Agland, Lloydminster. GreenStar ready, 1838 eng./1227 sep. hrs., \$205,000 OBO. Call 780-205-4423, Lashburn, SK.

1990 JD 9500, 4100 eng. hrs., 912 PU header, many new parts, harvest ready, \$22,000 OBO; JD 930 rigid header w/hyd. adjustable reel, good cond., \$4000 OBO. 306-946-7928, Watrous, SK.

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

2000 JOHN DEERE 9650, walker, fine cut chopper, long auger, shedded, \$39,000. Call 306-524-4960, Semans, SK.

COMBINE ACCESSORIES

COMBINE HEADER 4199

MACDON 960 36', PU reel, Case 2388 adapter, good shape; Case 1020 flex, 25'. Call 403-485-3535, Vulcan, AB.

JD 930 DRAPER header, c/w PU reel, new pea auger, built-in transport, prem. cond., limited use. 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

BALING EQUIPMENT 4139

H/H VARIOUS 4151



COMBINE HEADER 4199

2009 MACDON D60 35', upper cross auger, single knife, transport, canola closure kit, header done 7- 8000 acres, Case or NH adapter, \$45,000 OBO. Ph. 403-588-9497, Bashaw, AB

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

2-2009 JD 630D headers, field ready. One set up for older JD combines. Raymore, SK. 306-726-3203, 306-524-4567.

COMBINE PICKUPS 4202

WANTED: 30' PU reel for CI or MF 200-220; Also want SS liquid fertilizer storage tank. 306-960-3000, Borden, SK.

MISC. ACCESSORIES 4205

RECONDITIONED COMBINE HEADERS. RIGID and flex, most makes and sizes; also header transports. Ed Lorenz, 306-344-4811, Paradise Hill, SK. or web-site: [www.straightcutheaders.com](http://www.straightcutheaders.com)

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SCHULTE GIANT 2500 rockpicker, exc. condition. 306-592-4449, 306-592-2029, Buchanan, SK.

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PT SPRAYERS 4238

NEW HOLLAND SF115, 1200 gal., 90' susp. boom, windscreens, 2 nozzle bodies, chem. mix tank, rinse tank, always shedded, \$19,500. 780-618-7990, Peace River,

PT SPRAYERS 4238

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BRANDT 1000 QF, 800 gal. tank, 100' booms, brand new tires on tank, new boom nozzles, good shape. Best offer. 306-243-4810, 306-860-7477, Outlook, SK

BRANDT QF 1000, 80' hydraulic driven PT sprayer, 800 gal. tank, field ready, \$3500 OBO. 306-946-7928, Watrous, SK

FLEXI-COIL 65, 100' boom, hyd. pump, 800 gallon tank, autorate control, mix tank, very good shape, \$4000 OBO. 306-533-2114 after 5 PM, Pangman, SK.

BRANDT QUICK FOLD 1500, 100', 800 gal. plus chem. tank, asking \$5000. 306-836-4730, Simpson, SK.

2000 BRANDT QF1000 80' PT sprayer, 800 gallon tank, wind cones, disc markers, \$2200. 306-762-4723, Odessa, SK.

2009 CASE/IH SRX160, 100', high clearance susp. boom, 1600 gal. tank, always shedded, field ready, pristine condition, \$33,000. 306-567-7080, Craik, SK.

SP SPRAYERS 4241



HEAVY DUTY WHEEL DOLLY. Change your sprayer tires in less than an hour! Over 250 units sold. Perfect tool for safely and quickly moving or changing large wheels and tires, \$1499. Phone 403-892-3303, Carmangay, AB., [www.hdwheeldolly.com](http://www.hdwheeldolly.com)

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1996 SPRA-COUPÉ 3630 70' high clearance, 300 gal., triple nozzle bodies, timing belt changed last fall, 2313 hrs., tow hitch incl., excellent condition, \$25,000 with Cultiva ATC Guidance, or \$22,000 w/o. 306-231-6763, Lake Lenore, SK.

2009 SPRA-COUPÉ 4660, 80', OutBack steering, crop dividers, duals, 630 hrs., \$85,000. 306-947-4603, 306-947-7550, Hepburn, SK.

1998 JOHN DEERE 4700, 4500 hrs., \$32,000 Greenlight, \$69,000 firm; Also, 2001 JD 4710, all options, approx. 3100 hrs., \$99,000. 306-948-7223, Biggar, SK.

1999 ROGATOR 854 high clearance, 90', w/factory AutoSteer, 2700 hrs., 2 sets tires, \$79,000. 306-648-5394, Ferland, SK.

1999 CASE 4260, 3180 hrs., 97' booms, 2 sets tires, 1200 gal. SS tank, Outback GPS and Raven monitor, asking \$95,000 OBO. Call 306-552-4905, Eyebrow, SK.

1999 CIH 4260, 90' sprayer, 1000 gallon SS tank, AutoBoom, AccuBoom, Raven AutoSteer, Envisio Pro monitor, 2 sets of tires, 5 sets of nozzles, fenders, 3867 hrs., 400 hrs. on new engine, Redlighted yearly, shedded, \$75,000. 306-885-4545, 306-537-2563, Sedley, SK.

2013 APACHE 1020, 470 hrs., duals, 100', 1000 gal. tank, AutoSteer, AutoBoom, Auto Section. Meticulous one owner unit, \$220,000 OBO. 306-591-1133, Pense, SK.

2009 MILLAR CONDOR 40, 100' boom, 1000 gal. tank, 100 gal. rinse tank, AutoBoom, AutoSteer, AutoHeight, 2 sets rear tires, crop dividers, 1600 hrs., new diff. and planetary, good cond. 306-769-8887, 306-276-7788, Arborfield, SK.

2008 JOHN DEERE 4730, SS tank, loaded, 2 sets tires, field ready, exc. cond, 2800 hrs., \$145,000. 306-577-8771, Carlyle, SK.

2013 NH GUARDIAN SP240F XP 100' boom, 1200 litre SS tank, IntelliView IV monitor, luxury cab, 6.7L Cummins, 275 HP only 420 hours, asking \$330,000. 306-524-2109, Semans, SK.

1998 PATRIOT WT, fully loaded, field ready. Call 306-592-4449, 306-592-2029, Buchanan, SK.

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FLOATER TIRES: Four 24.5x32 fits Rogator 1254, \$5000; Four 20.8x42 fits Case/IH, \$6000. 306-922-8155, Prince Albert, SK.

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

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AIR DRILLS 4250

39' FLEXI-COIL 5000 drill, 9" spacing, w/Flexi-Coil 4350 mechanical air cart, \$80,000. 403-391-3669, Lacombe, AB.

2005 BOURGAULT 5710, 40', 10" sp, DS, blockage monitors, NH3 equipped, field ready. 2006 Bourgault 6350, air tank c/w hitch, \$60,000; Avail. twin NH3 cart, 5 yr certification. Dave 403-556-3992, Olds, AB

2012 NH 2050, 430 bu. air cart, 10" sp., exc. cond., stored inside, \$120,000 OBO. 403-854-3946, 403-857-8899, Hanna, AB.

MOON HEAVY HAUL pulling air drills/ air seeders, packer bars, Alberta and Sask. 30 years experience. Call Bob Davidson, Drumheller, AB. 403-823-0746.

2006 FLEXI-COIL 5000 HD 51', 10" spacing, 5" rubber packers, single shoot, \$24,500; 2001 Bourgault 5440 dual fan, air seeder hopper, \$29,000. 403-665-2341 Craigmyle, AB.

FLEXI-COIL 2320 TBT air cart, c/w monitors, in good condition, asking \$14,000. 780-926-6354, La Crete, AB.

2007 JD 1830 50', single shoot, 10" spacing, c/w 5" rubber packers, w/wo JD 1910 270 bushel TBT cart, single shoot, excellent. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

UNRESERVED AUCTION: Flexi-Coil 5000 58' air drill w/Flexi-Coil 2320 air tank, new openers, single shoot, 9" spacing, rubber packers, 230 bu. tank. Auction April 26, 2017, Sedgewick, AB. For info: owners phone, 780-385-1289 or Dunkle Auctions: 1-877-874-2437. Details & pics: [www.dunkleauctions.com](http://www.dunkleauctions.com) PL# 209769.

2009 FLEXI-COIL 5500 70', fold back, 12" spacing, 4350 TBT variable tank, 4.5" boots, done approx. 20,000 acres, nice shape, SPECIAL \$89,500. 780-386-3979, 780-385-6449, Loughheed, AB.

MORRIS 7130 air tank, SN #7130100505, clean unit, good hyd. fill auger, hyd. air motor, good rubber, rebuilt metering rolls, c/w new hoses and Universal mounting hitch, exc. unit for seed plot use or small farm, \$8000. 780-363-2215, Chipman, AB.

2003 BOURGAULT 5710 29' air drill, DS, Stealth paired row openers, 9.8" spacing, 4300 tank, \$55,000 OBO. 780-771-2155, 780-404-1212, Wandering River, AB.

FLEXI-COIL 6000 disc drill with Morris 7240 tank, extra parts, discs and scrapers in good shape, \$29,000. 306-741-0247, Swift Current, SK.

2011 JD 1870, 56', blockage, w/1910 TBH air cart, 430 bu., 520/85R42 duals, conveyor, excellent condition, asking \$195,000. 306-260-8969, Turtleford, SK.

2011 BOURGAULT 3310, 55' DS, v-packers, 6550 tank, 4 tank metering, \$191,000. Stk. 020803. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2007 BOURGAULT 5710, 64', 9.8" spacing, 3.5" steel packers, MRB's, \$110,000. Stk# 016344. 1-800-667-9761, Saskatoon, SK. [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2010 CASE/IH ATX700, 70', rubber packers, high float tires, DS, VR cart, Stk# 020407 \$94,000. 1-888-576-5561, Swift Current, SK. [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2013 SEED HAWK 60-12, 60', twin wing, DS, sec. control, 10" auger, 800 TBH, Stk# 017840, \$335,000. 1-844-323-3003, Prince Albert, [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2009 SEED HAWK 72-12, 72", 12" spacing, twin wing openers, 600 TBT cart, Stk# 021477, \$205,000 1-844-323-3003 Prince Albert, [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2012 BOURGAULT 3320 QDA, 66', 10" NH3 kit, MRB's, duals, deluxe auger, \$295,000. Stk# 023175. 1-800-667-9761, Saskatoon, SK. [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2010 CASE/IH PH800, 70', 10" spacing, new Dutch paired row, SS, duals, Stk #012985, \$109,000. 1-800-535-0520, Lloydminster, [www.redheadequipment.ca](http://www.redheadequipment.ca)

2010 BOURGAULT 3310, 55', 12" spacing, v-style packers, MRB's, \$216,000. Stk# 0



AIR DRILLS 4250

2008 SEEDMASTER SXL 2100 50", 12", 300 bu. seed, 2100 gallon fert. all on-board. Smart Hitch, 4 cameras, 1 owner \$100,000 Must sell. Call 306-591-1133, Pense, SK.

1993 MORRIS 39" air drill, 781 TBH tank, new hoses, DS, 12" space, carbide Gumbo boots. 3-1/2" steel packers, field ready, \$20,500 OBO. Retired. Call 306-252-2810, 306-567-7281, Kenaston, SK.

JD 35' AIR SEEDER, 12" spacing, on 1610 tool with floating hitch and Morris gang packers, 2.5" Eagle beak openers w/777 JD 160 bu. tank, w/cab cam, field ready, \$7500. 306-331-8388, Fort Q'Appelle, SK.

2006 JD 1820, 61", 10" spacing, single shoot, steel packers, new hoses, exc. cond, \$16,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2009 BOURGAULT 3310 PHD 75", 10", single shoot, MRB, 4.5" pneumatic packers, block sensor, exc. cond., \$110,000 OBO. 306-861-4592, 306-722-3228, Fillmore, SK

2003 FLEXI-COIL 3450 air tank, TBH, 10" auger, good cond., \$22,500 OBO. 306-861-4592, 306-722- Fillmore, SK.

2008 60' SEEDMASTER, 12" spacing DS, low acres, very nice tips, new manifold, new hoses, excellent condition, \$75,000. 306-861-4592, 306-722-3228, Fillmore, SK

2002 BOURGAULT 5710 47", 10" spacing, MRB's, Dickey John, autorate, c/w 2320 w/3rd tank, seeds 220 acres of canola per fill, \$42,000. 306-873-8301, Tisdale, SK.



2003 40' MORRIS Max II, 7180 tank, SS, NH3, MRB's, 10" spacing, A1 cond., 12,000 acres, 1 pass machine, trades welcome, \$46,900. 306-862-7524 or 306-862-7761, Nipawin, SK. www.agriquip.ca

2007 SEED HAWK 44", 12" sp., 267 tank, NH3 kit, autorate, Agron block monitors, winch, \$95,000. 306-923-2231 Torquay SK

2010 BOURGAULT 3310 65", Paralink, 12" spacing, mid row shank banding, DS, rear hitch, tandem axles, low acres, \$140,000. 2002 49' Morris Maxim air drill, 12" space, w/7240 Morris grain cart, \$45,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

2011 SEED HAWK 50", 12" sp., tool bar with 600 cart dual wheels auger and bag lift. \$229,000; 1997 39' Morris Magnum air drill, 10" spacing, Atom openers w/Morris 180 cart, \$23,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

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2006 EZEE-ON 7550 40", 10" spacing, single shoot, 5" rubber capped packers, 4" carbide tip openers with 3115 tank (2005), \$35,000 OBO. 306-452-7004, Parkman, SK.

41' BOURGAULT 5710, 3/4 MRB's, packers and chemical spreader, double shoot, 9.8" spacing, \$6000 OBO. 306-842-4808

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

2008 BOURGAULT 3310, 65", single shoot, \$79,000 OBO. 306-563-8482, Yorkton, SK.

BOURGAULT 5710, 54', 3225 air cart, single shoot, 3" steel packers, Knock-on liquid boots, liquid kit, loading auger, rear hitch, \$30,000. 306-742-4429, Langenburg, SK.

2016 BOURGAULT 76" 3320 QDA, MRB's, 10" space, anhydrous, high flotation, DS, 4.5" pneumatic packers, w/wo 7950 Bourgault tank. 306-743-7523, Langenburg, SK.

800 FLEXI-COIL 33", DS, w/1720 tank, (last 800 made), 12" spacing, 550 lbs. shanks, Poirier seed boots, low acres, tank shedded until this year. 306-745-7505 or 306-877-2014, Dubuc, SK.



2004 JD 1910 430 bu, 8 run, dbl shoot, tow behind, 12" conveyor, vari-rate, with JD brown box...\$19,800

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AIR SEEDERS 4253

BOURGAULT 3195 seed tank, \$8500 OBO; Bourgault 40' seed row packers, 8" space, \$2500 OBO. Frank 403-317-4924 Taber AB

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FLEXI-COIL 820 seeding tool with 2320 air cart, 46" 5-plex, 550 lb trip w/sweeps and harrows, low acres, \$30,000 OBO. Phone 306-463-3257, Kindersley, SK.

AIR SEEDERS 4253

FLEXI-COIL 3450 TBT air seeder tank, var. rate, special 4 tank model holds 400 bu. Junop Brothers 306-493-7605, Delisle, SK.

1993 BOURGAULT 8800 air seeder, 36', 3195 tank, Valmar spreader, packers, \$10,000 OBO. 306-946-7928, Watrous, SK

28' BOURGAULT MULTI-PURPOSE 210 series FH428-32 cultivator, 2155 tank (shedded), Kohler motor, pull behind harrows, extra shovels and knives, \$15,000 OBO. 306-921-7688, Saskatoon, SK.

2011 BOURGAULT 6700 air cart X20, 4 tank meter, bag lift. Possible trades. \$125,000 OBO. 306-563-8482 Weyburn SK

1996 BOURGAULT 40' 8800/3195, harrows and packers, \$16,000. Call 306-563-8482, Rama, SK.

HARROWS/PACKERS 4256



**SPRING DISCOUNTS** on new and used rollers, all sizes. Leasing and delivery available. 403-580-6889, Bow Island, AB.

46' FLEXI-COIL 75 packer bar, P20 packers. Call Junop Brothers, 306-493-7605, Delisle, SK.

60' HARROW PACKER w/P30 packers, in good condition. Taking offers. Phone 306-287-3563, Watson, SK.

50' FLEXI-COIL HARROW packers w/P30 packers, \$3800; 36' Wilrich vibrashank cult w/harrows, \$1300. 306-210-8186, Reward

**LAND LEVELER**, 10' wide c/w mounted V-ditch closure, field ready, exc. cond. 306-682-2338 leave msg., Humboldt, SK.

**70' FLEXI-COIL** System 82 harrow, grey 5-bar spring tooth, \$5500. 306-960-3000, St. Louis, SK.

2013 RITE-WAY HEAVY HARROW, 90', approx. 20" harrows, adjustable pressure and angle, \$38,500. 306-948-7223, Biggar, SK.

NEW 2017 70' DEGELMAN Strawmaster w/Endura tips, hydraulic tine adjustment Odessa Rockpicker Sales, 306-957-4403, Odessa, SK.

70' SYSTEM 82 FLEXI-COIL harrows, good teeth, spring pressure type, \$2800. Call 306-577-8771, Carlyle, SK.

2011 RITE-WAY 7150 heavy harrows 50', with 2255 Valmar applicator, \$34,500. 306-554-2511, Wynyard, SK.

2005 BOURGAULT 6000 mid harrows, 70', low acres, excellent condition, \$22,000 OBO. 306-745-8880, Langenburg, SK.

SEEDING VARIOUS 4259

40' BOURGAULT 9200, 12" spacing, new harrows and hoses, floating hitch, Honey-Bee live rod, herbicide kit; Bourgault 3195 tank, sandblasted and repainted inside, calibration system, all new bearings and chains; 3 different sets of banding or seeding boots for cult.; Bourgault 4000 40' coil packer w/extended hitch. For more info and prices, 780-889-3788, Heislser AB.

36' MELROE 204 press drill, w/factory mover, markers, fertilizer and grass attachment. 306-428-2405, Chociceland, SK.

JD 9350 HOE DRILLS, 30", mover, transport and marker, good shape, seed 6" or 12", \$1800. Call 306-625-7939, Kincaid, SK.

1987 CIH 7200 28' hoe drills, factory hyd. mover, always shedded, not used since 2002, low acres, field ready, \$5900 OBO. 306-475-2677, Kayville, SK.

1984 IH 6200 press drills 2-12", shaft monitors, shedded; Laurier 24' drive thru drill or swather carrier; Prairie Built drill fill system, 2-200 bu. hoppers, hyd. augers. Best offer. 306-338-2927, Wadena, SK.

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BOURGAULT 6000 med harrows 90', \$25,000; Flexi-Coil 340 32' chisel plow c/w 4 bar harrows, anhydrous kit, \$16,000; Flexi-Coil 340 40' chisel plow, with 4 bar harrows, \$25,000. Dave 403-556-3992, Olds, AB.

JD 2625 WIDE FOLD disc, 30"8" wide, disc blade size 26"x .250, hyd. wing control, wing stabilizer wheels, rolling basket harrows, \$59,000. 403-633-0573, Brooks, AB.

2013 JOHN DEERE 2623 vertical tillage unit, 40", excellent shape, \$82,500. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

35' MORRIS MAGNUM II cultivator with Haukaas molehill shovels, \$4500. Call 306-528-7712, Nokomis, SK.

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

2014 33' SUNFLOWER 1435 tandem disc, has new plain blades, \$55,000. Call A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

TILLAGE/SEEDING VARIOUS 4265

FOR PARTS: JD 9350 hoe drill, 30' w/32" back-on hyd. driven drill carrier; Co-op 45' harrow bar with harrows. 780-837-0592, Girouxville, AB.

TILLAGE/SEEDING VARIOUS 4265

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TRACTORS 4277

1984 AC 6060, FWA, bucket and bale spike, 9756 hrs., new engine at 4500 hrs., original owner, shedded, \$16,000 OBO. 780-361-7947, 780-352-2818, Gwynne, AB

CASE/IH 4286

CASE 9280 4WD, 375 HP 4590 hrs., c/w GPS, \$80,000. Phone 403-391-3669, La-combe, AB.

2006 CIH STX375, powershift, PTO, 1917 hrs.; 2009 STX335, c/w 6-way Degelman blade/guard, 1281 hrs.; Two 2013 Magnum 260, FWA, deluxe cab, leather, 320 hrs; 2015 Magnum 280, FWA, CVT, deluxe cab, leather, 608 hrs; 2014 Versatile 250, FWA, GPS, etc. Ph Dave 403-556-3992, Olds, AB.

2016 CASE MAXIM 145, 150 HP FWA, loader, grapple, like new, \$178,000 OBO. 780-352-8858, Bittern Lake, AB.

CASE/IH 9150, powershift, new tires 2 yrs. ago, 8250 hrs., return line, no PTO, \$45,000 OBO. 780-608-9024, Tofield, AB.

CIH 9270 4WD, duals, 20.8x42 radials, four hyd. remotes, hot box and standard trans., 4444 hrs. on 330 HP Cummins eng., 780-889-3788, Heislser AB.

2003 MXM 130, SN# ACM201322, 1950 hrs., like new condition, rear tires 520/85R 38, 420/85R 28's @ 95%, suspended cab and front axle, air ride seats, 3PTH, bar axles, 4 hyd. outlets, need more power selling for \$59,000 or will consider low hour CIH 7110 or 7120 with PTO on trade. 780-363-2215, Chipman, AB

**WANTED:** 4788 IHC, 1980 and newer in good condition. Call 780-635-2527, St. Vincent, AB.

1983 CASE 2290 w/Leon 707 FEL, 4700 hrs., rebuilt PS and diff., 4 remotes, dual PTO, good tires, duals, \$18,500. Prince Albert, SK. 306-922-8155, 306-960-3230.

CASE/IH 450 HD, 3PTH, 2012, 1820 hrs., PS, 800 Firestone's, loaded, no PTO, 35 month - 1500 hr. extended PowerTrain warranty, Pro 700/372 AutoSteer, \$278,000 OBO. Call 306-960-3230 or 306-981-3281, Prince Albert, SK.

LIZARD CREEK REPAIR and Tractor. We buy 90 and 94 Series Case, 2 WD, FWA tractors for parts and rebuilding. Also have rebuilt tractors and parts for sale. 306-784-7841, Herbert, SK.

2011 CIH 500 HD, full load without PTO, 1572 hrs., twin pumps, 800 Michelins, \$285,000. Ron 306-648-5394, Ferland, SK.

1995 CASE/IH 7230 Magnum, 2975 hrs., nose weights, always shedded off season, vg cond., \$40,000 OBO. Davidson, SK. Call 306-567-4360 or 306-567-8338.

1991 CASE/IH 7110, 2WD, 3157 hrs., currently has Raven EnvisioPro w/Smart-Track and Ultraglide boom, exc. shape, asking \$45,000. 306-567-7080, Craik, SK.

2013 140A FARMALL Case/IH w/loader, 1800 hrs., \$82,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

1999 CASE 9380, quad track, 9000 hrs., PTO, 400 hrs. on new track, S3 AutoSteer, \$68,000. Call 306-524-4960, Semans, SK.

CATERPILLAR 4292

2006 CHALLENGER MT765, 6500 hrs., 3 PTH, PTO, very nice, cond. Delivery avail. \$129,500 Cdn OBO. Call 218-779-1710.

JOHN DEERE 4295



2012 9510R, 960 hrs., PS, 17' 6-Way blade, premium cab, 9030 lbs. cast, no PTO, ext. warranty, many extras. Reduced! \$325,000. 780-808-3141, Lloydminster, AB

JOHN DEERE 8570, 4 WD, 6000 hrs., very clean, \$61,000. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

2014 JD 9360R, 4 WD, 18 spd. powershift, 5 hyd., 620x42 Michelins, 670 hrs., exc., \$280,000. 780-679-7795, Camrose, AB.

JOHN DEERE 9630T, 18 spd, PowerShift, 5 remotes, 1803 hrs., GPS, mint condition, \$265,000. 780-888-1258, Loughheed, AB.

1977 JD 4430 w/606 PT mower behind, very low hrs., always shedded, exc. cond., \$29,000 OBO. 306-717-2971 Saskatoon SK

**SOLD THE FARM:** 1975 JD 4230, Quad Shift, never had FEL, new paint, \$14,500; JD 2130, new tires, always shedded, new motor, \$9000. Both in very nice shape. 306-545-5007, 306-726-8137, Cupar, SK.

1996 JOHN DEERE 8570, 4450 hrs., 24 spd., PTO, very good condition, asking \$67,000. 306-421-0679, Estevan, SK.

JOHN DEERE 4430 w/JD loader; Massey 275 w/FEL. 306-283-4747, Langham, SK.

TILLAGE/SEEDING VARIOUS 4265

JD 4630, loader, cab; Case 2870, 4x4, Degelman dozer; Cockshutt 550 gas; 1981 GMC 17" B&H. 306-238-4411, Goodsoil, SK.

2003 JD 9420, 5261 hrs., 24 spd., Green-star ready, 710-70R42, \$129,000. Earl Grey, SK. 306-939-4800 or 306-726-7807.

JD 4650, powershift, 10,500 hours, good rubber, very reliable, \$29,000. Call 306-873-8301, Tisdale, SK.

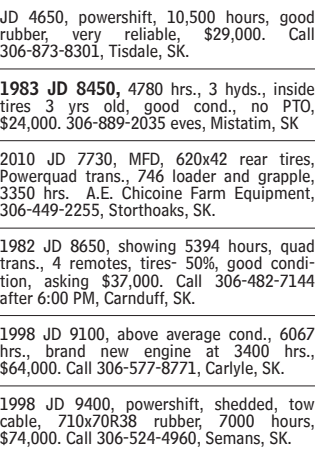
**1983 JD 8450**, 4780 hrs., 3 hyd., inside tires 3 yrs old, good cond., no PTO, \$24,000. 306-889-2035 eves, Mistatim, SK

2010 JD 7730, MFD, 620x42 rear tires, Powerquad trans., 746 loader and grapple, 3350 hrs. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

1982 JD 8650, showing 5394 hours, quad trans., 4 remotes, tires- 50%, good condition, asking \$37,000. Call 306-482-7144 after 6:00 PM, Carnduff, SK.

1998 JD 9100, above average cond., 6067 hrs., brand new engine at 3400 hrs., \$64,000. Call 306-577-8771, Carlyle, SK.

1998 JD 9400, powershift, shedded, tow cable, 710x70R38 rubber, 7000 hours, \$74,000. Call 306-524-4960, Semans, SK.



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MASSEY FERGUSON 4301

1982 MASSEY 4800, 3 spd. powershift, PTO, 230 HP, 18.4x38 tires, \$20,000 OBO. 306-648-8144, Gravelbourg, SK.

NEW HOLLAND 4304

2009 T9040 HD, 1864 hrs., 435 HP 800x38 Michelins, luxury cab, exc, \$215,000 OBO. 403-854-3946, 403-857-8899, Hanna, AB.

**UNRESERVED AUCTION: 2004 NEW HOLLAND TJ425 4WD tractor**, 2391 hrs, 710/70R42 duals, 425 HP 5 hyd., 12F/4R, rear weights, shedded, excellent condition. Auction April 26, 2017, Sedgewick, AB. For info: owners phone, 780-385-1289 or Dunkle Auctions at: 1-877-874-2437. Full details & pics at: [www.dunkleauctions.com](http://www.dunkleauctions.com) PL# 209769.

FORD 4307

1991 FORD 846, 7800 hrs. (500 on rebuilt eng.), 4 remotes, no PTO, std. trans., w/wo 14' Degelman blade, asking \$40,000. 306-648-8144, Gravelbourg, SK.

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VERSATILE 836, POWERSHIFT, PTO, 4 new tires, very clean unit. Call 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

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1978 835, 8470 hrs, big 1000 PTO, 4 hyd., 4 new 18.4x38 rears in 2016, 3 front tires- 70%, 1 - 50%, new batteries and alt., \$25,000 OBO. 306-452-7533 Storthoaks SK

1992 FORD/VERSATILE 946, 20.8x42 duals, AutoSteer JD Globe and monitor, very nice, \$52,500 Cdn. OBO. Delivery available. Call 218-779-1710, Minnesota

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WANTED: **ARMS** FOR 3 PTH for Ford 5000 tractor. 306-276-5770, White Fox, SK.

WANTED: **LOAD AUGER** for 6130 Morris air seeder, c/w all brackets. 306-735-7093, Wapella, SK.

WANTED: **NH BALE WAGONS** & retrievers, any condition. Farm Equipment Finding Service, P.O. Box 1363, Polson, MT 59860. 406-883-2118.

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**WWW.NOUTILITYBILLS.COM** - Indoor & outdoor - coal, grain, multi-fuel, gas, oil, pellet, propane and wood fired boilers, cook stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, heaters and stoves. Athabasca, AB, 780-628-4835.

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**WATER IN THE WRONG PLACE:** Used pumping motors, PTO carts, 6" - 10" alum. pipe. 50 years experience. Call Dennis 403-308-1400, Taber, AB.

**WESTERN IRRIGATION:** CADMAN Dealer. We **BUY** and **SELL** traveling guns, pumps, pipes, etc.; 1 Cadman 4000S wide body big gun, like new; Selling used pipe trailers and 6" pipe. 306-867-9461, 306-867-7037, Outlook, SK. [derdalreg@hotmail.com](mailto:derdalreg@hotmail.com)

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LAWN/GARDEN 4988

NH T224DA, SENSITRAC 4 WD, 3 PTH, 166 hrs., 4' rototiller, 5' finishing mower, \$10,000. 306-694-1963, 306-631-7058, Moose Jaw, SK.

MISCELLANEOUS 4325

NURSERY/GARDENING SUPPLIES 4990



**SPRUCE FOR SALE!!** Beautiful locally grown trees. Plan ahead and renew your shelterbelt or landscape a new yardsite, get the year round protection you need. We sell on farm near Didsbury, AB, or deliver anywhere in Western Canada. 6 - 12' spruce available. Now taking spring orders while supplies last. Phone 403-586-8733 or visit: [www.didsburysprucefarms.com](http://www.didsburysprucefarms.com)

BISON/BUFFALO

BISON/BUFFALO 5001

**BISON WANTED** - Canadian Prairie Bison is looking to contract grain finished bison, as well as calves and yearlings for growing markets. Contact Roger Provencher at 306-468-2316, [roger@cdnbison.com](mailto:roger@cdnbison.com)

**HARMONY NATURAL BISON** buying all types of bison. Call or text 306-736-3454, SE Sask. [dean@harmonihealthyfoods.ca](mailto:dean@harmonihealthyfoods.ca)

**OFFERS BISON RANCH.** Approx. 200 head North Interlake, Fisher Branch, MB. 780-887-7144. Email [blckbison@yahoo.ca](mailto:blckbison@yahoo.ca)

**BUYING:** CULL COWS, herdsire bulls, yearlings and calves. **Now dealer for Redmond Bison mineral.** Call Elk Valley Ranches, 780-846-2980, Kitscoty, AB.

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

**WANTED:** MATURE BUFFALO bulls. Contact Bentley Brown at 306-845-7518 or 306-845-2444, Turtleford, SK.

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

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

**WANTED ALL CLASSES** of bison: calves, yearlings, cows, bulls. Willing to purchase any amount. [dreyelts1@rap.midco.net](mailto:dreyelts1@rap.midco.net) Call 605-391-4646.

CATTLE

BLACK ANGUS 5010

**SELLING OFF THE farm** reg. Black Angus 2 year old and yearling bulls. Moderate birthweights, semen tested, reasonably priced. Phone 306-460-8520, Kindersley, SK. View: [www.dolittleangus.com](http://www.dolittleangus.com)

MISCELLANEOUS 4325

BLACK ANGUS 5010

**OLE FARMS** is offering a large selection of Black and Red Angus 2 year old bulls. Call 780-689-8324, Athabasca, AB.

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

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



**JOHNSTON/ FERTILE VALLEY** Private Treaty Bull Sale. All JFV bulls will be sold off the yard this year. Over 125 thick, easy fleshing good haired yearling and 2 year old bulls selected from 600 low maintenance, high production cows. They are sired by the leading A.I. bulls in the industry including Regard, Resource, Renown, International, Ten Speed, Glanworth 57U, Special Focus and Brilliance. Many of these bulls are suitable for heifers. All bulls are semen tested with complete performance info. available. Deferred payment program with 60% down and 40% interest free due Dec. 1, 2017. Come and see one of the most respected cowherds in Canada. Select the bull or group of bulls that you really want at your leisure without the pressure of a sale. David and Dennis Johnston 306-856-4726, Conquest, SK. View the cowherd online at website: [www.johnstonfertilevalley.com](http://www.johnstonfertilevalley.com)

**AFFORD-A-BULL** REGISTERED YEARLING and 2 year old Angus bulls, some from AI sires, EPD's available. Semen tested. Hightree Cattle, Wilkie, SK., 306-843-7354 or 306-843-2054.

**BLACK ANGUS BULLS**, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. [www.skinnerfarms.ca](http://www.skinnerfarms.ca)

**COW/CALF PAIRS.** Purebred Angus. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. [www.skinnerfarms.ca](http://www.skinnerfarms.ca)

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

**30 BLACK ANGUS** 2 year old bulls. Calving ease and performance lines. Board and delivery available. Rob Garner 306-946-7946, Simpson, SK.

**SENIOR ANGUS HERDSIRE** 5 years old, docile, excellent breeder, light BW first calves. Sold cows. Also 2 yr. old and yearling Angus bulls. 306-345-2046, Pense, SK.

**GOOD QUALITY PB** Black Angus 2 yr. old bulls, semen tested and guaranteed breeders. Phone David or Pat 306-963-2639 or 306-963-7739, Imperial, SK.

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**VIDEOS: WWW.DKFANGUS.CA** Select now. Get later. Great selection. Superior quality. **DKF Black And Red Angus bulls** at DKF Ranch, anytime. Gladmar, SK. Scott Fettes 306-815-7023 or Dwayne 306-969-4506.

BLACK ANGUS 5010

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**QUIET TOP QUALITY** 2 yr. old and yearling Purebred Black Angus bulls. Call Spruce Acres, 306-272-3997, Foam Lake, SK.

RED ANGUS 5015

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

**RED ANGUS and SIMM./Angus** cross yearling and 2 year old bulls. Call LVV Ranch, 780-582-2254, Forestburg, AB.

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**REG. RED ANGUS** bulls born Feb./Mar. 2016, calving ease, good growth. Coming 3 year old Red Angus herdsire, used on purebred herd. Little de Ranch, 306-845-2406, Turtleford, SK.

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

**AFFORD-A-BULL**, Registered Red Angus 2 year old and yearling bulls, some from A1 sires, quiet, semen tested, IBR shots, ready to go. Hightree Cattle, Wilkie, SK., 306-843-7354 or 306-843-2054.

**RED ANGUS BULLS** with excellent hair and exceptional feet. Rugged cow bulls and beefy heifer bulls. EKW Red Angus, Elmer Wiebe, 306-381-3691, Hague, SK.

**COW/CALF PAIRS.** Purebred Angus. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. [www.skinnerfarms.ca](http://www.skinnerfarms.ca)

**RED ANGUS BULLS**, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. [www.skinnerfarms.ca](http://www.skinnerfarms.ca)

**20 RED ANGUS** 2 yr old bulls. Calving ease and maternal lines. Board and delivery avail. Rob Garner 306-946-7946, Simpson

**2 YEAR OLD** & yearling bulls, semen tested & delivered. Call Guy Sampson, Davidson, SK., 306-567-4207 or 306-561-7665.

**FOR SALE BY Private Treaty:** Yearling and 2 year old Red Angus Bulls. **Arm River Red Angus**, 306-567-4702, Davidson, SK.

**REGISTERED BULLS** for sale, low BW's, very gentle, grown slowly, reasonably priced; Yearlings and 2 herdsires. Call Roger 306-221-1558, Minton, SK.

**VIDEOS: WWW.DKFANGUS.CA** Select now. Get later. Great selection. Superior quality. **DKF Red And Black Angus bulls** at DKF Ranch, anytime. Gladmar, SK. Scott Fettes 306-815-7023 or Dwayne 306-969-4506.

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

**QUIET TOP QUALITY** 2 yr. old and yearling Purebred Red Angus bulls. Contact Spruce Acres, 306-272-3997, Foam Lake, SK.

**2 YEAR OLD** and yearling purebred Red Angus bulls for sale. High Caliber Angus, 306-745-3786, Esterhazy, SK

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500 HP, 36" tracks in 75% condition, 4 hyd's, 3PH, 9798 hrs, clean & well maintained

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35', flex draper, hyd header tilt, AHHC, pea auger, transport, new fingers, knife & guards, excellent condition.....

\$67,800

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535 HP, 5204 hours, 16 speed p/s, weights, front 30" tracks NEW, nice cab .....

\$182,800

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140 HP, FEL w/ grapple, 6153 hrs, 5 hyd's, 3PH, 540/1000 PTO .....

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3182 hrs, PTO, LH rev, powershift, weights, rear duals .....

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1477 hrs, 75 HP, FEL, 3PH, 7' box scraper w/scarifier, 2WD, canopy .....

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430 bu, 8 run, dbl shoot, 12" conveyor, vari-rate, w/JD brown box .....

\$19,800

1998 JD 1900

350 bu, 6 run, dbl shoot, tow behind, 8" auger, clean unit .....

\$17,900

2007 BOURGAULT 5725 SERIES II

47', coulter drill, 9.8" spacing, sgl shoot, MRB, NH3 .....

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2013 SUMMERS 2510DT

18' tandem diamond disc, 23" notched discs, very good condition .....

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2010 JD 9870 STS

1715 hrs, Contour Master, bullet rotor, nice condition, pick-ups available .....

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\$79,900

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\$147,800

2004 NH CR940

2029 hrs, AHHC, lat tilt, Trimble Autosteer, chopper, long auger, pickups avail .....

\$54,800

2010 MD FD70

40' flex draper, transport, DKD, AHHC, hyd tilt, pea auger, JD/CNH/ Agco/Lexion kits avail. ....

\$59,800

2003 HB SP36

36' rigid draper, transport, pea auger, UII PUR, for CNH, Agco available .....

\$18,900

NEW MD PW8

16' pickups for CNH & JD, trades wanted! .....

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2011 JD 615P

16', header and pickup, nice belts, auger & floor 80%, overall very good condition ...

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2001 INGERSOLL-RAND SD70F

Vibratory padfoot packer, 2902 hrs, 3.9L Cummins, 66" drum .....

\$32,800

2008 INGERSOLL-RAND P185WJD

Air compressor, 2430 hrs, 185 CFM, JD 3.9L .....

\$10,800

2004 VOLVO G780B

16' moldboard, snow wing, 11,216 hrs, good tires, nice condition .....

\$64,800

1994 LIFT KING

6000 lb RT forklift model 6M22, 20' lift, cab, side shift, 2WD, runs well .....

\$11,800

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Quiet, easy calving, low to moderate birth weights, good growth, E.P.D.'s available, guaranteed breeders (vet checked & semen tested). From 10 Herd Sires. Selling quality bulls for heifers & cows since 1992.

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BLONDE D'AQUITAINE5035

POLLED YEARLING BLONDE BULLS for sale, Estevan, SK. area. Phone 306-634-2174 or cell 306-421-6987.

CHAROLAIS5055

REG. CHAROLAIS YEARLING and 2 yr. old bulls, reds, whites. Yearling heifer calves. Richard Smith 780-846-2643, Kitscoty, AB.

CHAROLAIS BULLS, YEARLING and 2 year olds. Contact LJV Ranch, 780-582-2254, Forestburg, AB.

YEARLING & 2 YEAR old Charolais bulls, Creedence Charolais Ranch, Ervin Zayak, 780-741-3868, 780-853-0708 Derwent, AB

MACMILLAN CHAROLAIS

Purebred reg. yearling bulls available. Bred for growth, easy keeping and market demand. Thick bulls with good feet, lots of hair and very quiet. Bulls are semen tested and can be kept until May 1. Call Lorna 306-227-2774 or 306-931-2893, Saskatoon, SK.

POLLED PB YEARLING Charolais Bulls,

performance and semen tested. Can keep until May, \$3000. Charrow Charolais, Bill 306-387-8011, 780-872-1966, Marshall SK

2 YR OLD and yearling bulls, polled, semen tested, guaranteed, delivered. Prairie Gold Charolais, 306-882-4081, Rosetown, SK.

RED WHITE TAN Charolais bulls, yearling and two year olds, Canyon Timeout, and Landmark bloodlines, semen tested and delivered. Wheatheart Charolais, Rose-town, SK., 306-882-6444 or 306-831-9369

REGISTERED POLLED YEARLING Charolais bulls for sale. Call Larry 306-883-2169 evenings, Spiritwood, SK.

2 YEAR OLD polled Charolais bulls. Also Charolais yearling bulls polled and horned, semen tested and delivered. Call Layne and Paula Evans at 306-252-2246 or 306-561-7147, Kenaston, SK.

GOOD QUALITY YEARLING and 2 year old Charolais bulls. Mostly A1 sired. Semen tested. Some Red Factors. Will feed until breeding time. Contact Bar H Charolais, Grenfell, SK. Kevin Haylock, 306-697-2901 or 306-697-2988.

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

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

DEXTER5065

OLDER DEXTER COWS, bred Speckle Park, due April; Polled Red Dexter 2 yr. old bull; Speckle Park/Dexter cross 2 year old bull. 403-845-5763, Rocky Mountain House, AB.


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GELBVIEH BULLS

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POLLED YEARLING and 2 year old bulls, quiet, good haired. Call Selin's Gelvieh 306-793-4568, Stockholm, SK.

HERFORD5090



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Yearlings and 2 yr olds. All bulls semen tested, guaranteed sound. Bulls sired by MHPH 521X Action 106A and Glenlees 68Y Indeed 39A. Call Darren 306-228-7462 or Kari-Rae 306-893-8148, Senlac, SK.

EXCELLENT SELECTION of 2 yr old bulls.

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2 YR OLD polled Hereford bulls. Crittenden Bros. 306-963-7880, 306-963-2414, Imperial, SK. Email h.s.crittenden@sasktel.net www.crittendenbros.com

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POLLED RED AND Black Limousin 2 year old bulls. Board and delivery available. Rob Garner, Simpson, SK., 306-946-7946.

GOOD SELECTION OF stout red and black Limousin bulls with good dispositions, calving ease. Qually-T Limousin, Rose Valley, SK. 306-322-7563 or 306-322-7554.

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MAINE-ANJOU BULLS, solid reds and blacks, yearlings and 2 yr olds. We have a good selection of red yearlings. Selected for calving ease and beef production. Semen tested and guaranteed. Rocky Lane Farms, Alex and Mary-Ann Jensen, 403-368-2114, 403-742-9835, Rumsey, AB

YEARLING FB MAINE-ANJOU bulls for sale. RFI tested. Bulls at Cattleland, Strathmore, AB. Ph Kristine, 403-333-5607

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Best selection of the real Maine bulls in Canada. Gary Graham, 306-823-3432, Marsden, SK. grahamgs@sasktel.net

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RED POLL BULLS.

Registered yearlings; two yr olds; easy calving, naturally polled calves. 780-892-3447, Wabamun, AB.

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POLLED PUREBRED THICK Butt Salers yearling bulls, exc. disposition, also replacement heifers. DynaRich Salers, Rich-ard Andersen. 403-746-2919. Eckville, AB.

SHORTHORN5200

RED, WHITE AND ROAN polled Shorthorn bulls, 2 year olds and yearlings. Call 780-679-4719, Ohaton, AB.

SIMMENTAL5205

PUREBRED SIMMENTAL HEIFERS and bulls, blacks and reds for sale. Call 780-853-2223, Vermilion, AB.

2016



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

BLACK AND BLACK BALDIE Simmental Bulls, good selection of yearlings 2 year olds. Excellent quality with good hair coats and disposition second to none! Semen tested. Delivery available. Call Regan Schlacter 306-231-9758, Humboldt, SK.

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SIMMENTAL & SIMMENTAL CROSS

Red Angus yearling bulls. Polled. Semen checked and delivered. Reasonable birth weights. McVicar Stock Farms Ltd., Colonsay, SK. 306-255-2799 or 306-255-7551.

SPECKLE PARK5215

7 SPECKLE PARK, 6 cows, 3 with calves, 3 to calf, and 1 yearling bull. Call 306-594-2904, Norquay, SK.

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REG. TEXAS LONGHORN bulls, pairs and open heifers. Call Dean at Panorama Ranch, 403-391-6043, Stauffer, AB.

FOR SALE: YEARLING 7/8 and 15/16 percentage solid red polled bulls. Bred up from polled Herefords & Red Angus. Easy calving, ideal heifer bulls. Regina View Farms, 306-586-9851, Regina, SK.

WELSH BLACK5235

WELSH BLACK- The Brood Cow Advantage.

Check www.canadianwelshblackcattle.com Canadian Welsh Black Soc. 403-442-4372.

WELSH BLACK POLLED yearling bulls, black and red. A few 2 yr old bulls, yearling heifers, black and red. Call Scott Farms, 403-854-2135, Hanna, AB.

CATTLE VARIOUS5240

HERD DISPERSAL: 400 Angus cross pairs, started calving March 1st. 403-485-3535, High River, AB.

150 BRED COWS mostly Wesch Black, Hereford cross, due to calve end of Apr/May. Stan 403-588-0140, Bluffton AB

100 YOUNG TAN cow/calf pairs. Calves tagged and ringed, \$2800 OBO. 780-679-8935, Viking, AB.

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

300 RED & BLACK Angus bred heifers. Can sell as bred or calved. Call 306-773-1049, 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

CATTLE VARIOUS5240

FOR SALE: YEARLING 7/8 and 15/16 percentage solid red polled bulls. Bred up from polled Herefords & Red Angus. Easy calving, ideal heifer bulls. Regina View Farms, 306-586-9851, Regina, SK.

CATTLE WANTED5245

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

AUCTION SALES5305

2017 WILD ROSE DRAFT HORSE SALE,

May 5th and 6th, Cow Palace, Olds, AB. Draft horses sell May 6th 10:00 AM Sharp! Tack, harness, collars and horse drawn equipment for light and heavy horses are welcomed consignments. Contact Barb Stephenson 403-933-5765, 8 AM- 8 PM, www.wrdha.com

SASKATOON ALL BREED Horse & Tack Sale, May 30. Tack 11:00 AM, Horses to follow. Open to broke horses (halter or riding). Sale conducted at OK Corral, Martensville, SK. To consign call Frederick, 306-227-9505 bodnarusauctioneering.com

HORSE SALE, JOHNSTONE Auction Mart, Moose Jaw, SK, Thursday May 4, 2017. Tack sells: 2:00 PM; Horses sell: 4:30 PM. All classes of horses accepted. Next regular horse sale is June 1, 2017. Please call 306-693-4715. PL#914447, www.johnstoneauction.ca

QUARTER HORSE5415

FOR SALE 5 year old running bred black AQHA stallion, 15.2 HH, offers. 306-242-8209, Grandora, SK.

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HORSE COLLARS, all sizes, steel and aluminum horsehoes. We ship anywhere. Keddies's, 1-800-390-6924 or keddies.com.

SINGLE HORSE BUGGY, original, stored inside, good cond. \$800. Ph/text 306-921-7688, Melfort, SK.

SHEEP

SHEEP VARIOUS5590

PLAN TO ATTEND

The 11th Annual Pound Maker Ram Sale, 120 yearling rams sell by auction Thursday, May 18, 2017 at Fort Macleod, AB. Suffolk, Dorset, Hampshire, Charolais, Ile de France, Rambouillet, North Country Cheviot and Coloured. Call Warren Moore 403-625-6519 or check our website: www.poundmakerrams.com Catalogue on the website after May 1st.

SELLING LAMBS AND GOATS? Why take one price from one buyer? Expose your lambs and goats to a competitive market. Beaver Hill Auctions, Tofield, AB. Sales every Monday, trucks hauling from SK, BC, AB. www.beaverhillauctions.com Call: 780-662-9384.

POULTRY

POULTRY VARIOUS5740

EXOTIC BIRD AND SMALL ANIMAL sale at Johnstone Auction Mart, Moose Jaw, SK, Sunday May 7, 2017 at 11:00 AM. Accepting peafowl, guineas, bantams, ducks, geese, pigeons, birds, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, rabbits, ferrets, miniature horses, donkeys, etc. All small animals must be boxed and in yard before 10:00 AM. Visit www.johnstoneauction.ca 306-693-4715, PL #914447.

PUREBRED AND CROSSBRED Bird and Small Animal Auction, Sunday, May 14, 11:00 AM at the Weyburn Ag Society Building, Exhibition Grounds, Weyburn, SK. To consign call Charlotte 306-861-6305.

SPECIALTY

ELK5260

ELK WANTED!

If you have elk to supply to market let AWAPCO be your first choice. For pricing call our office today, 780-980-7589, info@wapitiriver.com

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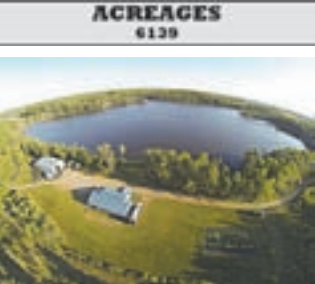
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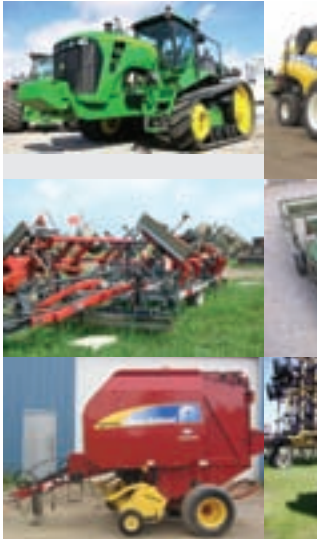
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**HAY TECH** COMMON alfalfa seed, bred for hybrid vigor, \$3.65/lbs. Dennis Dylke, 780-374-3877, Daysland, AB.

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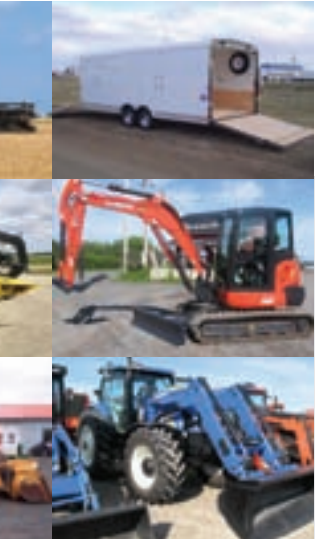
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6925

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8002

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Schuler, AB

We are currently looking for a **NANNY** to care and nurture our children (ages 2 and 10).

We live on a large grain farm with some cattle near Schuler, AB. Looking for a live in, or out nanny, who would be willing to care for our home and children.

CPR and child care experience required. Wages/salary negotiable. Accommodations negotiable.

Email your resume and references to: [nseitzzranrn@live.com](mailto:nseitzzranrn@live.com)

FARM/RANCH  
8016

**SENIOR LEVEL FT EMPLOYEE** required for specialized grain farm in scenic western AB. Possible accommodation. Must have experience with grain production, machinery operation, maintenance and service. Mechanically inclined a must. Duties include all aspects of field work, loading and weighing trucks, cleaning bins, keeping records, and general farm maintenance. Salary will depend on experience and performance. Partnership or shares possible. Flexible hours and days in non peak times. Phone/tx 403-994-2609. Email resume to: [info@mastinseeds.com](mailto:info@mastinseeds.com)

**FARM MANAGER:** 5000 acre farm in Uganda, East Africa requires a farm manager immediately. Location is remote (1.5 hrs. from nearest large center). Compensation reflects the opportunity. Equity participation can be part of the package. If you are looking to farm on one of the last agricultural frontiers with 2 complete seasons contact Randy Sohnen by email: [randysohnchen@gmail.com](mailto:randysohnchen@gmail.com)

**HELPER WANTED** On mixed farm. Steady job for right person. Room and board avail. 403-631-2373, 403-994-0581, Olds, AB.

**STABLE MANAGER** NEEDED for trail ride operation in Lake Louise. Duties include horse care and health, staff supervision, schedules, training horses and guides, guiding trail rides, generally facility maintenance. Experience required. Housing included. Opportunity for year round job. Please send resume with references to: [horses@brewsteradventures.com](mailto:horses@brewsteradventures.com)

**PERMANENT RANCH HAND POSITION** available for experienced individual or couple on large cow/calf operation in SE AB. Duties include: calving and moving cattle on horseback, calving cows, haying, fencing and winter feeding. Must have valid drivers license, be motivated & reliable to able to work w/o supervision. We offer competitive wages, a bonus system and a house on a school bus route. Fax resumes to: 403-868-2600 or email: [jbarj@shaw.ca](mailto:jbarj@shaw.ca)

**GRAIN FARM SEEKING FT seasonal farm equipment operator/general farm labourer.** Must have valid driver's license, Class 1 an asset. Looking for someone to commit for entire farming season. Must have farming experience (combines, swathers, sprayers, etc.) Position will include the safe and efficient operation, repair & trouble shooting of farm machinery. Must be able to perform physical duties & work long hours during peak times. We offer housing and flexible hours during non-peak times. Top wages. Peace Country, AB. 780-864-0135. E-mail resume with references to: [albertafarm2012@gmail.com](mailto:albertafarm2012@gmail.com)

**FARM LABOURER REQUIRED** for mixed farm to operate machinery, cattle handling and general farm duties. Driver's license required. Single or family accommodations including utilities. Ph 403-575-0712 or fax resume 403-577-2263, Consort, AB.

WATER PUMPS  
7150

FARM/RANCH  
8016

**Albrecht Green Acre Farms**  
Schuler, AB

We are currently looking for **FARM WORKERS**

Farm and mechanical experience required. Class 1 license an asset.

Job will include agricultural equipment repair and trouble-shooting, equipment service and preventative maintenance in the shop and the field, knowledge of GPS and other agriculture electronics, equipment operation during fertilizing, seeding, spraying, haying, harvesting time, and as needed. Physically, mentally and emotionally able to work long hours with our family and other help, at seeding, spraying, haying and harvest time.

We strive to include new agricultural technologies and strategies into our current farming operation.

We are seeking highly motivated, agricultural minded and skilled persons to join our team on a contractual basis.

Wages/salary negotiable. Accommodations negotiable.

Email your resume and references to: [nseitzzranrn@live.com](mailto:nseitzzranrn@live.com)

**FULL-TIME HELP WANTED** on bison, cattle and custom haying farm. Must be self-motivated, have exp. w/livestock and haying equipment. Ph. 780-808-1592 Kitscoty, AB

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**REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY:** Grain farm labourer, we seek farm experience, familiarity operating modern seeding and harvesting equipment, Class 1A licence. We are located easy commute 16 miles SE of Regina. 306-539-2376, Regina, SK.

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**POSITION AVAILABLE,** Cypress Hills, SK. area. Background yearling grasser operation and cow/calf. Modern facilities and equipment. Good working environment. Class 1 preferred. Wages negotiable depending on experience. Ph. 306-295-7473.

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**FULL-TIME FARM HANDS** required for large family farming operation. Previous experience with latest JD equipment and grain farming an asset. Must be reliable, self-motivated and have a valid drivers license. Wages negotiable. Call 306-648-8024, Shamrock, SK. Fax resume to: [hawkinsbros@306-648-2689](mailto:hawkinsbros@306-648-2689) or email [hawkinsbros@sasktel.net](mailto:hawkinsbros@sasktel.net)

**SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN FARM** seeking energetic souls for seasonal or full-time roles. 306-776-2510, Rouleau, SK. Email: [candice\\_zinn@hotmail.com](mailto:candice_zinn@hotmail.com)

**LARGE SE SASK** grain farm hiring experienced equipment operators. Class 1A an asset. Competitive wages. Housing available. Phétext 306-421-1110. Email: [duaneforrester@sasktel.net](mailto:duaneforrester@sasktel.net)

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**2 SEASONAL FARM MACHINERY** operators required. Must be able to operate grain cart, tandem grain truck, FWA tractor w/rockpicker, 4 WD tractor for harrowing. Also manual labour for upkeep of leafcutter bees and general servicing of equipment. May 1 to October 31. \$15-\$18/hr. 101008187 SK Ltd., 303 Frontier Trail, Box 372, Wadena, SK., S0A 4J0. Fax: 306-338-3733, phone: 306-338-7561 or email: [cfehr9860@hotmail.com](mailto:cfehr9860@hotmail.com)

**MOTIVATED FARM EQUIP.** Operators required near Kamsack, SK. for seeding, spraying, spring tillage. Successful candidates may need to work long hours and weekends, but will be offered a competitive wage. Call 306-590-8537 or email resume to: [bcgeerts@execulink.com](mailto:bcgeerts@execulink.com)

HELP WANTED  
8024

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FARM/RANCH  
8016

**Albrecht Green Acre Farms**  
Schuler, AB

We are currently looking for **FARM WORKERS**

Farm and mechanical experience required. Class 1 license an asset.

Job will include agricultural equipment repair and trouble-shooting, equipment service and preventative maintenance in the shop and the field, knowledge of GPS and other agriculture electronics, equipment operation during fertilizing, seeding, spraying, haying, harvesting time, and as needed. Physically, mentally and emotionally able to work long hours with our family and other help, at seeding, spraying, haying and harvest time.

We strive to include new agricultural technologies and strategies into our current farming operation.

We are seeking highly motivated, agricultural minded and skilled persons to join our team on a contractual basis.

Wages/salary negotiable. Accommodations negotiable.

Email your resume and references to: [nseitzzranrn@live.com](mailto:nseitzzranrn@live.com)

HELP WANTED  
8024

**AGRICULTURAL HELICOPTER PILOT** Jet Ranger: Duties of position are to make agricultural aerial application with helicopter on farms in western Canada. Basic supervising and record keeping of jobs, loading helicopter and spraying jobs. Provincial pesticide licence will be required but can be obtained in house prior to commencement of work. 400 hrs minimum required, with 200 hrs min. experience performing agricultural row crop spraying. Turbine time is an asset. Experience operating SatLock or AgNav GPS required. Must be insurable through our insurance company. This is a season position based in Leask SK., working in the northern Saskatchewan agricultural areas. Duration of work from approximately June 10th to October 5th. Dates may fluctuate slightly. Training and familiarization required prior to commencement of these start and end dates. English language proficiency required. This is a full time seasonal position working 40 hours per week, minimum of \$50/hr plus holiday pay. Bonuses based on performance. Workers compensation provided. Accommodations and vehicle provided. Please contact by sending resume and hrs of experience breakdown by email to: [provjobs@provincialhelicopters.com](mailto:provjobs@provincialhelicopters.com) Suitable candidates will be contacted back by email or by phone, so please include that information in your resume.

**PERMANENT POSITION**  
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**FARM EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**  
on a commercial grain & seed farm  
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**Duties:**

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Willing to train the right candidate. Career advancement opportunities. Would consider ag students for summer employment.

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PROFESSIONAL  
8032

**PART-TIME CONTRACT HR PERSON** for farm in Central Alberta. Duties include: Interviewing staff and candidates, writing and reviewing job descriptions, recommending staffing needs, and conducting performance reviews. Ph 403-507-5031.

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8046

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**OWNER OPERATORS REQUIRED** to haul cattle- Western provinces. Based in SK but can reside anywhere. Ph. 306-371-1818.

**FULL-TIME TRUCK DRIVERS** required for large family farming operation. Previous experience an asset. Must be reliable, self-motivated and have a valid Class 1A drivers license. Wages negotiable. Please fax resume: [hawkinsbros@306-648-2689](mailto:hawkinsbros@306-648-2689) or email to [hawkinsbros@sasktel.net](mailto:hawkinsbros@sasktel.net) Call 306-648-8024, Shamrock, SK.

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## USED EQUIPMENT

### USED COMBINES

2007 NH CR9070, 1516 rotor hrs	\$165,000
2015 NH CR8.90, 150 thr hrs, stone trap, guidance MacDon pick-up	\$485,000
2013 NH CR8090, 966 thrs hrs	Coming In
2014 NH CR8090, 741 thrs hrs	Coming In
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### USED HEADERS

2010 NH 36' 94C, draper header	<b>SOLD</b> \$54,000 <b>Reduced to \$39,000</b>
2011 NH 94C, 36' DK	\$49,000 <b>Reduced to \$39,000</b>

### USED TRACTORS

2012 New Holland T8.330 MFWD, 915 hrs, pwr shift, 3pth, MINT	\$225,000
2006 New Holland TZ18, compact tractor, 54" mower, 50" tiller	\$10,000
1994 NH 8870, 180 hp Row crop super steer 5900hrs	\$70,000
2012 Boomer 50 Compact Tractor	\$28,000
NH TC 18, compact hydro, 4WD, 60 belly mount deck	\$7,200
1997 NH 3930, MFD, c/w loader, no cab, 45 hp	Coming In
2012 John Deere 7130, MFWD, 2800 hrs, H380 ldr & grapple	\$125,000

### USED SWATHERS

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MacDon 2940, C/W 30' header	\$48,000
2012 MacDon M105, c/w 30' D65	\$125,000
MacDon M200, c/w R80 disc header and D60 30' header	\$128,000
2015 M155, 150 hrs, 25' Dbl D65	\$150,000
(2) 2014 MacDon M155, c/w D65 30ft header, 450 hrs	Coming In
2005 New Holland HW325, c/w 30' header	<b>SOLD</b> Coming In
2005 New Holland HW325, windrower c/w 30' draper header	Coming In \$38,500
2015 New Holland HS16, hay header	Coming In
2003 MacDon 9352, 30' DBL, 2800 hrs	\$42,800 <b>Reduced to \$38,000</b>

### USED SPRAYERS

2011 NH SP365F, 1600 gal, 120', Auto Steer, c/w 3 Year Power Train Warranty Limited Time Offer	\$282,500 <b>Reduced to \$253,000</b>
2008 NH SF216, suspended 1600 gal, 100ft	\$24,500

### USED FORAGE & HAYING

2000 Hesston 4910, 4X4 square baler 30,000 bales	\$35,000
2011 NH BR7090, 9700 bales	\$21,000
CIH DCX131, 13' pull type disk mower conditioner	\$16,900
CIH RBX562, round baler	\$23,500

### MISC

2014 C238 Tracked Skid Steer Loader	Call
Kongsilde grain vac	Call
Supreme 900T, pull type	\$42,000

### SEEDING/TILLAGE

2015 NH ST830, 62' cultivator as new 9" spacing	\$110,000
Flexi Coil 3450, var rate air cart TBH	\$38,000
2000 New Holland P2070, precision drill 60'	\$49,500
Salford 5129, 29' High speed Disc completely rebuilt	\$99,900
2006 NH SD440A, 51' 10" paired row 5" rubber C/W 20011 P1060 430 bu cart	\$125,000 <b>Reduced to \$110,000</b>
Flexicoil 5000, 45', 9" spacing, double shoot c/w New Holland P1060 430 bush cart	\$69,000



**CALL**

2014 C238 Tracked  
Skid Steer Loader



805223

**\$23,500**

2003 Case RBX562  
Round Baler



**\$485,000**

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2009 Bourgault 3310, 65', 10" .....	\$128,000
2008 Bourgault 3310, 55', 10" .....	\$99,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 76', 12" .....	\$198,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 75', 12" .....	\$139,000
2013 Bourgault 3710, 50', 10" .....	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720, 70' 12" .....	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720, 70', 12" .....	\$189,000
2002 Bourgault 5710, 29", 10" .....	\$32,000
2008 Bourgault 5710, 64', 10" .....	\$69,000
2000 Flexi-Coil 6000/3450, 40', 10", Piller Openers .....	\$115,000
2010 Flexi-Coil P2060, 60', 10" .....	\$68,000
2011 NH P2070, 70', 12" .....	\$85,000
2005 NH SD440, 45", 10" .....	\$48,000
2015 CIH 700, 70', 12" spacing .....	Call
2008 Seedmaster 5010 .....	\$72,000
2008 Seedhawk, 50', 10", Leading Air .....	\$89,000

**AIR TANK/CART**

2015 Bourgault L7800, TB, TRKS, SDLT .....	\$226,000
2012 Bourgault 6450, .....	\$115,000
2008 Bourgault L6450 .....	\$72,000
2015 Bourgault L7800 .....	\$239,000
2008 Bourgault 6450 .....	\$65,000
2005 Bourgault LFC 2000 .....	\$15,000
2011 NH P1070, Tow Behind .....	\$98,000
2015 CIH 3580, Tow Behind VR Cart... Call	
2008 CIH 3430 .....	\$39,500
2008 CIH ADX3430, Mech, No Rust .....	\$45,000
2015 L7800, TB, TRKS, SLDT .....	\$226,000
2000 Flexi -Coil, 6000/3450, 10" .....	\$115,000
1995 Flexi -Coil 5000/1330, 33', 9" .....	\$19,500
2003 Flexicoil 3450 .....	\$48,000
2002 Bourgault 5440 .....	\$48,000

**BALER/ROUND**

2003 Hesston 956, .....	\$12,500
2005 NH BR780, .....	\$13,500
2003 NH BR780, .....	\$11,800
2006 NH BR780A, .....	\$14,500
2004 CIHRBX562, 12,600 Bales ...	\$13,800

**BLADES**

2015 Grouser 770HD, 14', 8-way...\$45,000	
2007 Leon 4000 STX425- Frameless\$13,800	
2011 Leon Q5000 STX Quad .....	\$30,000
2013 Leon Q5000, .....	\$33,000

**COMBINE**

2012 NH CX8080, 1037/748 hrs ..\$278,000	
2012 NH CX8080,1005/746 Hrs...\$268,000	
2011 NH CX8080, 1438/1030 hrs \$238,000	
2010 NH CX8080, 1875/1348 hrs \$228,800	
2010 NH CX8080, 1755/1237 hrs \$228,800	
2010 NH CX8080, 1722/1240 hrs \$228,800	

2009 NH CX8080, 2014/1535 hrs \$215,000	
2010 NH CX8080, 1000/900 hrs ..\$238,000	
2007 NH CX8080, 1972/1539 Hrs\$179,000	
2014 NH CR8090, 921/728 hrs ....\$349,000	
2013 NH CR8090, 651/501 hrs ....\$365,000	
2013 NH CR8090, 655/488 hrs ....\$365,000	
2012 NH CR8090, 1144/917 hrs ..\$289,000	
2012 NH CR8090, 1314/1041 hrs \$299,000	
2004 NH CX860, 2688/2035 hrs ..\$119,000	
2004 NH CX860, 3685/2869 hrs ...\$98,000	
2004 NH CX860, 2528/1924 hrs ..\$138,000	
1997 NH TX66, 3754/2781 hrs.....\$28,500	
1998 NH TX66, 2796/2188 hrs.....\$48,000	
1996 NH TR98, 2931/2211 hrs.....\$39,000	
1997 NH TR98, 2740/1934 hrs.....\$38,000	
1997 NH TR98, 2391/1622 hrs.....\$39,000	
2008 NH CR9070, 2279/1562 hrs \$228,000	
2010 NH CR9070, 1622/1199 hrs \$179,500	
2007 NH CR9070, 948/780 hrs ....\$198,000	
2007 NH CR9070, 1710/1253 hrs \$179,000	
2008 NH CR9070, 1434/1023 hrs \$189,500	
2008 NH CR9070, 1489/1020 hrs \$195,000	
2008 NH CR9070, 2251/1583 hrs \$169,500	
2009 NH CR9070, 1597/1208 Hrs\$179,000	
2010 NH CR9070, 1300/1153 hrs \$198,000	
2010 NH CR9070, 1616/1190 hrs \$189,000	
2007 NH CR9070, 1510/2267 hrs \$148,500	
2009 NH CR9070, 1554/1137 hrs \$198,000	
2009 NH CR9080, 1347/980 hrs ..\$249,000	
2011 NH ,CR9070, 985/749 hrs, ..\$259,000	
2011 NH CR9090, 1311/967 hrs ..\$299,000	
2012 NH CR9090, 868/632hrs .....	\$339,000
2012 NH CR9090, 811/576 hrs ...\$369,000	
2014 NH CR9090, 561/460 hrs ....\$398,000	
2014 NH CR9090, 575/480 hrs ....\$398,000	
2014 NH CR9090, 512 hrs .....	\$410,000
2014 NH CR9090, 476 hrs .....	\$420,000
2013 NH CR9090E, 680 Thr Hrs ..\$379,000	
2013 NH CR9090E, 304/239 hrs ..\$298,000	
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1128/804 Hrs\$369,000	
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1204/815 Hrs\$369,000	
2005 NH CR970, 2459/1821 hrs ..\$138,000	
2006 NH CR970, 1861/1300 hrs ..\$149,000	
2006 NH CR970, 1495/1159 hrs ..\$178,000	
2006 NH CR970, 1547/1219 hrs ..\$159,000	
2015 NH CR8.90, 620/414 hrs ....\$483,000	
2013 NH CR8090, 1162/904 hrs ..\$289,000	
2015 NH CR10.90, 272 hrs .....	\$578,000
2012 Case IH 8230, 1304/962 hrs\$278,000	
2000 CIH 8010, 1728/1322 hrs ....\$189,000	
2013 CIH 8230, 700 thr hrs .....	\$298,000
1995 JD 9500, 2250 thr hrs .....	\$39,500
2011 John Deere T670, 833 hrs, ...\$239,500	
2013 JD S680, 933/653 hrs.....\$387,000	
2010 JD T670,1132/807 hrs.....\$198,000	

**VERTICAL TILLAGE**

2015 Salford I-4160, 60' .....	\$178,000
2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30' .....	\$68,000

**FEED WAGON/BALE PROCESSOR**

2005 Haybuster 2650 .....	\$14,900
2003 Lucknow 285 .....	\$12,800

**GRAIN AUGER/HARROW**

2008 REM 2700 .....	\$13,000
2007 Bourgault 6000 .....	\$25,800
2011 Degelman 7000, 70' .....	\$33,000

**HEADER COMBINE**

2010 Honeybee, HB30, Gleaner adaptor, 30' .....	\$49,500
1999 Honeybee SP36, 36' .....	\$29,000
2007 Honeybee SP36 .....	\$29,800
2013 Honeybee HP30 .....	\$52,000
1994 Honeybee SP30, .....	\$9,800
2009 NH 88C, 42' .....	\$68,000
2001 NH 94C .....	\$29,000
2006 NH 94C .....	\$29,500
2008 NH 94C .....	\$29,500
2010 NH 94C, 30 CX/CR .....	\$36,500
2003 NH 94C, 30 CX/CR .....	\$29,500
2005 NH 94C .....	\$39,500
1998 NH 994 CX/CR .....	\$19,000
2009 NH 94C, 36 CX/CR .....	\$39,500
2008 NH 94C-36, .....	\$39,500
2003 NH 94C-36, .....	\$39,500
1999 NH 994-30, .....	\$29,500
1998 NH 994-36, .....	\$19,000
1995 NH SP25 .....	\$15,000
2011 JD 630D, 30' .....	\$58,000
2012 JD 635D, 35' .....	\$68,000
2010 MacDon, 30', CR/CX .....	\$68,000
1998 MacDon 960, .....	\$25,000
2010 MF 5100-35, .....	\$58,000
1997 Westward 9030 .....	\$4,000
2010 Macdon Fd70, 40' .....	\$79,000
2010 CIH 2142, 35' .....	\$58,000
2010 Macdon FD70, 45' .....	\$69,000
2014 Macdon CR/CX, 35' .....	\$69,000
2014 Macdon, 35' .....	\$69,000

**MOWER CONDITIONER**

2004 NH 1475, Toung only .....	\$6,500
2006 NH 1475, .....	\$21,500
2002 NH 1475, Toung only .....	\$2,000
1995 NH 2216, .....	\$7,500
1995 NH 2216, .....	\$9,500
2012 NH H7460 .....	\$33,500
1999 MF 670 ,16' Hay Head .....	\$10,000

**SKID STEER/ COMP. TRACTOR**

2003 Bobcat 763 .....	\$26,500
2002 Bobcat S185, Loader .....	\$23,500
2006 Bobcat T300, 3080 hrs .....	\$39,800
2010 Kubota BX1860, c/w mower ...\$9,000	
2006 Kubota B3030, w/loader .....	\$15,800
1996 Kubota B4200 .....	\$5,900
2006 Kubota L4630 .....	\$23,500

**SPRAYER/HIGH CLEARANCE**

2013 NH SP240, 1000 Hrs, 1200 Gal, 100" .....	\$309,000
2012 NH SP240 .....	\$258,000
2011 NH SP240F .....	\$208,000
2011 NH SP240F, 1920 hrs .....	\$185,000
2009 Hagie STS16, 1600 Gal, 120' .....	\$209,000
2009 Spraycoupe 4660, 440 gal, 80' .....	\$84,500
2009 Rogator 1084, 3160 hrs.....	\$159,000
2011 JD 4830, 1820 hrs .....	\$218,000

**SWATHER**

2011 MacDon D60, 35' .....	\$34,000
2013 MacDon D65, 40' .....	\$49,500
2011 MacDon M150, 35' .....	\$118,000
2010 MacDon M150, 950 Hrs ....	\$109,500
2010 MacDon M150, 2053/1440 hrs .....	\$85,000
2010 MacDon M150, 35', 1848/1213 hrs .....	\$85,000
1998 MacDon 960, .....	\$9,500
1998 MacDon 960, 25' .....	\$9,500
2013 MacDon M155/D6540, 520 hrs .....	\$138,000
2013 MacDon M105, 170 Hrs ....	\$138,000
2014 NH SR200/440HB .....	\$169,000
1999 NH 994, 25' .....	\$15,000
2007 NH HW325, 1200hrs .....	\$58,000
2014 NH SR200 .....	\$175,000
2012 MF 9740, .....	\$98,000
2003 Premier 2952, 2098 Hrs.....	\$48,000

**TRACTOR**

2011 NH T7.235, .....	\$145,000
2012 NH T7.170 .....	\$109,000
2011 NH T7.270 AutoCommand - LDR, 2360 hrs .....	\$178,000
2012 NH T7.170 .....	\$118,000
2009 NH TV6070 - LDR, Eng Hrs: 4660 .....	\$95,000
2012 NH T7.235, 1819 hrs .....	\$198,000
2012 NH T7.235, 2341 hrs .....	\$168,000
2006 NH TN60SA, 990 hrs .....	\$29,800
2012 Case IH, U105, 3622 hrs .....	\$59,000
2011 Case IH 210, 1290 Hrs, .....	\$148,000
2011 Versatile 305, 1800 hrs .....	\$149,500
2012 NH, T7.235, 5800 hrs .....	\$109,000
2006 McCormick MTX120, 6700hrs .....	\$54,000

**TRACTOR 4WD**

2009 CIH STX535Q, 3103 hrs .....	\$278,000
2002 NH TJ450, 9000 hrs .....	\$138,000
2012 NH T9.505 .....	\$339,000
2013 NH T9.670 , 1090 hrs .....	\$360,000
2007 NH, TJ430, 2350 hrs .....	\$179,500
1994 NH 9880,710/38 GPS.....	\$75,000

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## DON'T GO TOO FAR OUT ON A LIMB

Planning to plant some of the less common crops such as flax, camelina, or hemp? Then start small, says provincial crop specialist Harry Brook. "Use the first year as a chance to learn the agronomics and particulars of the new crop," he said. Also, it's "imperative to get a contract first before you grow it." You need to know there is a home for the crop. When there was significant acreage of borage in 2005, contracts only accounted for a small part of the crop. It took a long time to find a home for the majority of it. With hemp, there is paperwork required from Health Canada required before you can grow it." — AAF

## NEW ONLINE CALCULATORS FOR CANOLA SEEDING

There are two online calculators at [www.canolacalculator.ca](http://www.canolacalculator.ca) for determining correct plant density and seeding rate. For stand density, position sliding scales to determine the level of risk for various factors that influence plant stand targets. (If weed competition is very low, for example, the calculator will set a lower target stand.) The second calculator has three modes — one for seeding rate, one for plant survival, and one for plant density. Studies show that survival can vary widely and that 50 to 70 per cent is fairly typical, so the default seed survival is 60 per cent. If yours is different, change the value given in the calculator. — CanolaWatch

# FOCUS ON SEEDING & TILLAGE

## PLANT 2017: It's all about making the best of a bad situation

It was never going to be good, but crop specialists say this seeding season may not be as bad as feared

BY JEFF MELCHIOR  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

To say that last year's harvest season in Alberta was unusual would be putting it mildly.

The exceptionally wet fall resulted in 967,569 unharvested acres reported to Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) this past winter, representing millions of dollars in seed and inputs that have yet to be recouped.

So the big question this spring has been: What now?

The two most important things are to not make any rash decisions and double-check on crop insurance requirements, said Harry Brook, crop specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

"You don't want to do something only to find your claim's been denied because you did this, this or this," he said. "You need to be very clear with crop insurance as to what you're planning to do and find out if it will affect your coverage."

Also, do not assume anything about the quality of your unharvested crops — they often come through winter surprisingly well.

"Don't write it off," said Brook. "Once you've got settled with crop insurance, I'd strongly recommend getting a representative sample and testing it."

"People have harvested in February during warm breaks and were surprised that the quality of the crop that was coming off was not garbage. It may be a No. 2."

Reports of canola crushers not accepting spring-harvested canola are discouraging but, again, don't give up hope, he said.

"In 2008 there was quite a bit of canola that went through the winter. Some of it went No. 1. It depends on the individual situation. It may not be all doom and gloom. Don't just plow it under thinking, 'Oh, it's garbage.' Or, God forbid, 'burn it.'"



For many, this seeding season will be the most stressful they have ever encountered. FILE PHOTO

Buyers won't refuse spring-harvested crops if the quality is good, he added.

"If it's No. 1 canola, whether it's seeded late or early it doesn't matter to the buyer."

### Huge losses

The financial impact of last year's incomplete harvest is coming into focus and it is significant. As of early March, AFSC had assessed 1,708 claims covering 616,412 unharvested acres and had issued \$29,543,920 in payouts up to that point.

The costs of putting in a crop add up quickly. Provincial agriculture officials estimated the cost of putting in a feed barley crop in 2016 ranged from \$176 to \$233 per acre depending on the soil zone while canola production costs were pegged from \$230 to \$323 per acre.

The full financial picture, which

also includes finding a home for a flood of poor-quality feed grain, won't be known for months but it will be "weighing pretty heavy" on many producers, said Mark Cutts, a provincial crop specialist in Stettler.

"Most farmers have been saying they've either never had to deal with a situation like this or, if they have, it's been nowhere near this scale," he said. "Some producers have as high as two-thirds of their crop still out."

Both he and Brook say only consider burning once all other options have been exhausted.

"If you can't do anything else with it and you don't want to plow it down, which at least recycles the nutrients, use burning as your very last-ditch effort," Brook said. "It's not something I would recommend because it's so destructive to the organic matter. It's such a waste."

### Late seeding

Late seeding will require producers to choose a late-season variety if possible, said Brook.

"All they can do is pick the shortest-season variety possible and accept the fact they've limited their yield potential," he said. "Normally the rule of thumb is that if you seed it early you maximize yield, so seeding late you tend to give up some of the yield potential."

"The thing with later seeding, especially with canola or with the cereals, is the crop is maturing when there is declining daylight. It's pushing the envelope."

Not surprisingly, the success of late seeding largely comes down to the weather, said Brook. "You need to have a good summer with lots of heat and lots of light to push it along. Sometimes if it's a drier-than-normal summer, which we haven't had for

*"Most farmers have been saying they've either never had to deal with a situation like this or, if they have, it's been nowhere near this scale."*

MARK CUTTS

a while, it would tend to speed up maturity. Otherwise it's not quite mature in September when we start getting cold periods and frost. It's going to be more susceptible to green seed in canola and in cereals because they're not quite mature yet."

However, late seeding has its advantages.

"You should be able to avoid any late-frost damage (in spring), so that's a plus. The soil should be warmer so it should emerge fairly quickly."

However, the risk of fusarium head blight is higher this year. Although this has not appeared to have affected producers' ability to get non-infected seed for the growing season, that does not mean fusarium won't be a potential risk as the growing season progresses, said Brook.

"When it comes to disease it's all about weather," he said. "If we continue on the way we have in the past few years with a lot of moisture and humidity, fusarium is going to continue to grow and become a bigger and bigger problem."

"The last few summers we've had significantly higher humidity than we normally do. If it decides to change this year that will probably have the biggest effect on fusarium and other diseases."





## FOCUS ON SEEDING &amp; TILLAGE

# Lack of maintenance could bite you hard this seeding season

Breakdowns hurt even more during a narrow seeding window — here's some advice on last-minute servicing

BY MADELEINE BAERG  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Efficiency is likely to be more important this seeding season than ever for many Alberta farmers.

To squeeze as many acres into the tight seeding window as possible, the temptation is to jack up travel speed and many wonder if they should invest in higher-tech equipment.

Those farmers will be looking in the wrong direction to improve efficiency, say equipment experts. The single biggest factor that will make or break one's ability to seed quickly and effectively is equipment maintenance.

"The biggest challenge during seeding is the unknown — and that's generally an equipment breakdown," said Trent Meyer, executive vice-president at SeedMaster. "You can't take off a good crop unless you seed it. In order to seed it you have to have equipment that is operational. Any equipment, even old equipment, can be reliable if it's well maintained. Unfortunately, you don't realize how important maintenance is until you really need it."

In a typical year, farmers have about four weeks to complete seeding. That seeding window



Ideally, maintenance should be done before you head into the field. And once you're there, resist the urge to speed up. FILE PHOTO

often feels tight, but four weeks is usually enough time. This year, however, the seeding window may become uncomfortably constricted for many.

"In a year like this, any equipment breakdown will be a big,

big deal," said Meyer. "If you're operating older equipment, your dealer might not have replacement parts on hand, so waiting for a part to come in can set you back extra days. It's at times like this that not having your equip-

ment well maintained going into the season can really increase stress levels."

Ideally, routine maintenance should happen immediately after seeding, before machinery is put away.

"Unfortunately, let's face it — no one wants to hear about drill maintenance when it's time to get on the sprayer," said Meyer. "But post-seeding is definitely the best time of year to do maintenance, because parts are the cheapest and you can still remember what worked and what didn't work during seeding."

"I'd say most producers don't do enough post-seeding equipment maintenance," added Chris Bettschen, international business manager for Seed Hawk. "If it's been a challenging year for seeding, they usually just want to walk away from the seeder and decompress, or jump on the next piece of equipment and get on with the next job. Farms are busy places: routine maintenance doesn't always get done when it should."

Everyone should pull their seeding equipment out of storage at least a week before seeding begins in order to complete a pre-seeding inspection.

In addition to topping up oils and fluids, inspecting and servicing all grease points on the tank and toolbar, and assessing and fixing any obviously worn or damaged components, producers should complete a full walk-around inspection to check all hydraulic lines, search for any leaks and look for pinched electrical harnesses. Remember that a small drip or a little wear on the outside often means significantly worse damage on the inside. On older machines, pay special attention to the toolbar, since frame cracks can happen over time.

The most important area to inspect on a seeder is the ground



*"In a year like this, any equipment breakdown will be a big, big deal."*

TRENT MEYER

engagement point: the seed knife and, if separate from the seed knife, the fertilizer knife.

"You want the opener to be in good condition, without excessive wear, and with all the bolts and attachments in firm, factory condition," said Bettschen. "That area is the highest point of wear on any machine, so it'll be the first point a problem is likely to show up."

Finally, visually inspect all seals on pressurized air cart tanks, then turn on fans, and pressure up to assess whether any air leaks have developed.

"Maintenance matters a lot," said Bettschen. "I've seen four- or five-year-old machines that look brand new and I've seen one-year-old machines that look really rough. Servicing and maintaining your equipment will save you a lot of money and a lot of time."

Certain equipment dealers and manufacturers, including both SeedMaster and Seed Hawk, offer training clinics for owners and operators.

"Our customers only use the equipment for four or six weeks per year, so they might not know all the finer details of it," said Meyer. "We run free operator and maintenance clinics annually as a way to help them be successful. We talk through best practices, show them what to keep an eye on, explain which parts you need to check and when."

Once seeding begins, many producers may be tempted to increase their speed to get their crop into the ground as quickly as possible. Experts recommend against. Not only is attempting to seed too fast hard on equipment, it will negatively affect equipment's ability to seed consistently and at the proper depth.

"Going a mile an hour faster will push the limits of keeping your butt in the seat, let alone getting seed into the ground effectively," said Meyer. "Older equipment simply wasn't made to go that fast and even newer equipment has operating limits."

"The important thing to remember is that there's very little benefit to going faster. It's much more useful to put your efforts into avoiding a breakdown — that's where the efficiency will come from."



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## FOCUS ON SEEDING &amp; TILLAGE

# Seed will be available for late planting, say marketers

But popular varieties will be in short supply, and germination and fusarium are going to be key issues

BY JEFF MELCHIOR  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Nearly a million acres of unharvested crops to deal with means late seeding will be common this year. But will there be enough seed to meet the demand?

Yes, say marketing reps, but farmers need to act quickly and keep their expectations realistic.

"This spring, more than ever, timing is going to be of the essence," said Mark Hagen, regional manager with BrettYoung. "From the growers I've met with and talked to, as soon as they finish doing what they will with the crop that's out there they're going to want to seed the next day. We're trying to get supply of the earlier-maturity varieties on hand at our retailers and distribution facilities so if they're late in their seeding they have enough Roundup Ready and Clearfield options."

Trent Whiting, Alberta marketing representative for SeCan, said there will likely be enough seed to go around for most crops. However, producers may not be able to access the most in-demand varieties.

"If you tried to find AAC Brandon hard red spring wheat right now there might only be two (SeCan) members in the whole province who will have it for retail just because it's been the hot variety," he said in an interview earlier this month. "But there's AC Stettler and other older varieties around that can take its place — it's not like the system's dry."

## Seed challenges

If there's one prevailing theme around this year's growing season, it's uncertainty.

"A lot of growers don't know the right solution to deal with their crops that are in the field," said Hagen. "Guys aren't sure if they're going to be baling it or cutting it for silage as cattle feed or if they're going to be able to get in and harvest. I've heard rumours of potentially burning some crops just to get the fields cleaned up so they can get in and seed it at a decent time."

Barley is a common late-spring, early-maturity option. Whiting warns farmers who clean their barley and oat seed that germination quality could be a problem this year.

"Farmers who typically clean their own barley for seed could get a rude awakening in terms of quality. I'm hearing the germs are starting to fall off on the 2016 barley so they might be scrambling to find seed barley."

"Even if harvest conditions in the fall were decent, our members are telling me in specific areas the germination on their barley was 95 per cent off the combine and now it's 65 per cent. I think a lot of farmers are in that same boat. The co-op seed plants have been promoting getting your germinations



There should be enough seed to go around, but the most popular varieties have been sold out for a while. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

done a couple of times — once early in the season and once now to see what you really have for the quality of the seed grain in your bins."

Good-quality oats may also be in short supply.

"There wasn't a lot of carry-over from 2015 and some of the 2016 crop is still in the field — like some barley. Getting a current germination on whatever you are planning to seed is critical going into spring seeding 2017."

## Fusarium a factor

There has also been a higher percentage of fusarium head blight (FHB) detected in seed throughout Alberta this spring. The province's zero-tolerance fusarium regulation could mean tight seed supplies, particularly for durum, said Whiting.

"That's probably the most limiting of anything," he said. "Across the board there's more fusarium, which in Alberta's environment means it will potentially cause local issues where supplies might be limited."

And because the other Prairie provinces are having their own problems with fusarium, he doubts there will be much seed available for import from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

"I definitely don't see anything moving out of Saskatchewan our way this year to supplement us if we're short in Alberta production," he said. "We're going to have to live with what we have."

Still, Whiting is optimistic that there will be enough seed to meet most needs this year.

"There was carry-over from 2015 that should supplement our 2017 needs. I still think there's more than enough seed to go around this year for most crops."

## Anticipating trends

So what are farmers likely to be planting this season, late or otherwise?

BrettYoung is rallying its supplies of glyphosate-resistant

canola in anticipation of a big year for those products, said Hagen.

"We expect the Roundup Ready market share to be the largest portion of late-season

"Farmers who typically clean their own barley for seed could get a rude awakening in terms of quality."

TRENT WHITING

sales just due to the fact that glyphosate is a great product for controlling the extra weeds and volunteers from last year's crop that might still be out there," he said.

Whiting said his members are seeing a lot of interest in hard red spring wheat and canola but there is not as much enthusiasm for barley.

"The market is telling everybody to grow spring wheat or canola again this year. There may be varieties of spring wheat that are short but overall there's a decent supply of wheat."

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## FOCUS ON SEEDING &amp; TILLAGE

# Here are some options for late-spring seeding this year

Crop specialist Harry Brook says it's worth taking a look at Polish canola, and checking historical frost dates for your area

BY JEFF MELCHIOR  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Seeding in late spring is fraught with variables beyond producers' control, but there are some things they can do to hedge their bets, says a provincial crop specialist.

Most come down to plant and variety selection, and canola in particular features some strong options, said Harry Brook.

"There are varieties out there that do fairly well — not compared to standard hybrid canola like Roundup Ready or Liberty Link or the Clearfield canolas — but they will produce decently because they're still doing some breeding work on them."

In some ways, late-season seeding is a return to a common practice in farming's past. Prior to the era of selective herbicides, seeding was often delayed as producers took weed control steps beforehand. From those days we know which crops thrive better when planted late. Barley, for example, can be sown later than wheat or oats and still mature before the first frost.

So the first step is to take a look at which crops are most likely to thrive despite being planted later in the season.

"Your options are going to be short-season crops: barley, perhaps some of the early varieties of oats, and canola," said Brook.

Alberta Agriculture recommends seeding barley no later than June 1 in the Peace River area, June 10 in central Alberta and June 20 in the south, although yield and quality will



Seeding late is a big worry but there are crop choices that can reduce the risk. FILE PHOTO

likely be reduced upon maturation.

If seeding cannot take place until June, Brook recommends looking into Polish canola.

"Thirty years ago a lot of people planted Polish canola. In those areas where we had short growing seasons everybody grew Polish because you still got canola but it was a lot shorter season and it matured quickly. There were some benefits even with disease."

Polish canola differs from today's commonly used Argentine varieties in that they are not true hybrids, said Brook.

"Today's Argentine varieties take a line of male sterile and female sterile and mix it together so that they can only breed together — that provides the hybrid seed but it doesn't breed true. If you kept that seed after harvest you would get some of both parents as well as the progeny and that's why

hybrid seed has to be bought every year.

"Synthetic Polish varieties are developed using two or three parental lines grown together. Seed from this is a mixture of the parental lines plus their hybrids."

Today's Polish canola tends to produce more than its predecessors, said Brook. And although it's not as productive as Argentine canola, it can compensate somewhat for a shorter growing season.



*"Thirty years ago a lot of people planted Polish canola."*

HARRY BROOK

"Like anything else, the longer the maturity the greater the yields, so with Polish being a short-season crop you tend to sacrifice yield with it. The advantage though is it can mature quickly if you are tight for time."

The shortest-season Argentine varieties of canola are also suitable for later planting and early harvesting, said Brook. The key is beating the first killing frost, which is almost impossible to predict.

"Even if you're planting an Argentine variety and trying to get the shortest season possible, the real kicker becomes, when is the first killing frost coming this fall? Nobody knows."

"On our website we have the Alberta Climate Information Service where you can actually get frost probability for 370 sites in the province. You can use the tool to figure out the probabilities of getting the crop to harvest. Nobody can predict the weather, but we're really good at looking behind us."

The Current and Historical Alberta Weather Station Data Viewer can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca) (search for 'weather data viewer').

Pulses such as peas and lentils are also short-season crops worth considering for late seeding. Trade with India, the biggest buyer of Canadian pulses, was recently disrupted over India's insistence pulses be fumigated with methyl bromide prior to leaving their countries of origin. Canada's long-standing exemption to this requirement was extended to June 30. Whether the issue will hurt marketing efforts this fall isn't known, but Brook points out that Canada has science on its side.

"It doesn't make sense (to fumigate) because the insects they're looking at are not in our crops," he said.



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# HEARTLAND

Community news  
and events from  
across the province

## Family sawmill a link to the pioneer days of Alberta

BY TONY KRYZANOWSKI  
AF CONTRIBUTOR

It's well known that the Leonardo DiCaprio movie "The Revenant" was filmed in southern Alberta. What's not is that a lot of building materials used to create the West of 1820s came from the Brooks Sawmill near Cochrane.

The film is one of several westerns the sawmill has supplied among its highly eclectic client list.

"Pretty much every movie that has been filmed here that is a western, we've supplied most, if not all their timber," said David Brooks who operates the enterprise with wife Marcie.

Lumber from the custom sawing operation has also helped build Cochrane and the surrounding area. Nestled in the picturesque foothills west of the town, the sawmill is now surrounded by million-dollar ranches and oil-money mansions. But chances are lumber for the corrals and outbuildings, the beautifully knotted and burlled gateposts leading to the stately houses, and even wood for furniture were supplied by the operation.

While the area is highly prosperous now, the fictitious, hinterland backdrop shown in "The Revenant" movie was daily life for decades for the Brooks family. Now a mere half-hour drive from town, it was wagon trails and pioneer living in the early days. The property where the sawmill is located was purchased by Brooks' great-grandfather Frank Brooks in 1901. The sawmill was established in 1923 and is likely the oldest, continuously family-owned, sawmill business in the province. It started with manual felling and horse logging.

"When my great-grandfather started the business, they were producing a lot of ties for the



Many of the wooden corrals, gateposts, and log homes in the foothills west of Calgary were supplied by Brooks Sawmill near Cochrane. The family business has been in operation for nearly 100 years. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

mines around Canmore and farther east," said Brooks.

The way of doing business was different, too. The community only had one telephone (at a local general store), so customers would call the store and pre-order loads of lumber in fall. It would be sawn in winter and customers would show up in spring in their horse-drawn wagons. The Brooks provided a bunkhouse so that customers could rest up overnight before returning home the next day. This practice carried on for years.

"Grandpa would ride down every week to the store and pick up the papers of what he needed to saw, and he would just stockpile it all," said Brooks.

His mother, MaryLou, described

the road to Cochrane as a 'goat trail.' When she called to ask if a bus could be sent to the sawmill to take her children to school, the school office asked how she expected the school bus to get there. To solve the problem, she became the school bus driver.

In the 1930s, the family acquired a steam engine from an old Canmore coal mine.

"There was a drought in those days, so there was only enough water to saw for half a day," recalled Brooks. "We'd run the engine 'til we ran out of water."

It was later upgraded to a TD14 diesel engine, which powered the sawmill till 1990, when it was replaced with a Detroit diesel engine.

The Brooks Sawmill has sup-

plied everything from timbers and lumber to authentic-looking hanging trees and biscuits (from the ends of logs) for wedding decorations.

The couple, who also has a small herd of 30 cattle, employs four people in the sawmill along with nine part-time employees in the firewood division, which supplies area campgrounds and hotels. The lumber side produces everything from eight-foot-long 1x4s to massive timbers as long as 32 feet and 14 inches square.

And when the phone rings these days, they never know what the customer will ask for.

"In addition to a lot of movie sets, we've shipped material, such as heavy timbers as far as Texas," said Brooks.

## what's up

Send agriculture-related meeting and event announcements to:  
[glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com](mailto:glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com)

**April 28-29:** Alberta Human Ecology and Home Economics Association conference, Stewart Creek Golf & Country Club, Canmore. Contact: AHEA office 780-914-6638

**May 2-5:** HTST/VAT Pasteurizer Operator Licensing Course, Food Processing Development Centre, Leduc. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

**May 4:** Cows, Crops, Culverts & Fish (Heart River Watershed Restoration Plan update), Nampa & District Museum, Nampa. Contact: Jen Allen 780-835-6799

**May 8:** Working Well Workshop, in Summer Villages of Sylvan Lake, and May 25 in MD of Crowsnest Pass. Contact: Sarah Mielke 780-307-0586

**May 23:** Soil School featuring Nicole Masters, Claresholm Community Centre, Claresholm. Contact: Rachel McLean 403-995-9466

**June 8:** Plant Hop, Farming Smarter Lethbridge site, Diamond City. Contact: Claudette Lacombe 403-317-0022

**June 12-14:** Jim Gerrish 3-Day Grazing School, Gem Register: [jimgerrishgrazing.eventbrite.ca](http://jimgerrishgrazing.eventbrite.ca)

**June 13-14:** The Original Grazing School for Women, Lakeland College, Vermilion. Contact: Linda Boyd 780-657-3358

**June 20:** Nicole Master's Soil Health Master Class, Ferintosh Community Rec Centre, Ferintosh. Contact: Takota Coen 780-781-5929

**June 27-29:** Farming Smarter Field School, Farming Smarter Lethbridge site, Diamond City. Contact: Susan Lacombe 403-317-0022

## Church 'built on Alberta beef' seeks public's help

AIRDRIE UNITED CHURCH  
RELEASE

Airdrie United Church is seeking help to uncover the mystery of a decades-old cattle brand registered to the church.

Rev. Karen Holmes, the church's minister, came across the brand certificate when going through old church records for a 115th anniversary event being held this month.

"Some folks say we were the first church in Canada to have a registered brand. Others think we may be the only church with its own brand," said Holmes. "We're hoping someone out there knows for sure."

The brand — made up of the letters AUC and to be used on the animal's left rib — was likely first registered in the 1960s. It was renewed at Alberta Agriculture's Office of Brand Recorder in Stettler in 1984 and appears to have lapsed at some point in the 1990s.

According to Dan McKinnon, a retired rancher and old-time church member, cattle were an important income source for the pioneer church, which is older than Airdrie itself. The church bought feedlot calves from members who had cattle, and several farmers fed them for the church, including the McKinnons and other founding families in the area. When the cows were sold, the church received the money.

*"Turns out we built our church on Alberta beef."*

REV. KAREN HOLMES

"Turns out we built our church on Alberta beef," said Holmes. "It's a great reminder that we have deep agricultural roots, and it's such a great way to raise funds in cattle country."

Anyone with information on the brand is asked to call Holmes at 403-519-4955 or stop by the church.

## It's easier than ever to apply for a Century Farm and Ranch Award

Applying for a Century Farm and Ranch Award has got easier.

"We can now, in most cases, find the supporting documentation on people's behalf, so they don't need to find their own homestead record or current land title," said Colin Gosselin, senior project co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. "All we need the applicant to do is fill out the form and we can take it from there."

In order to qualify for the award, a family has to have continuously owned and actively operated the same land for 100 years or more.

"As well, a family member has to be still actively farming the land at the time of application, and the quarter section you're applying for can't have been subdivided or cash rented to a non-family member during its 100-year history," said Gosselin.

It takes about six to eight weeks to produce the plaque, so it's recommended families submit their application well in advance of any celebrations or family gatherings they might be planning for receiving the award.

For more information, contact Susan Lacombe at 780-968-6557, or go to [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/centuryfarm](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/centuryfarm). — AAF



# Soy protein concentrate a replacement in weanling pig diets

It’s a functional – and less expensive – alternative to animal protein sources

STAFF

Animal nutritionists have long known that plant-based protein sources are less expensive for swine feed rations.

But until recently they’ve worried over some anti-nutritional factors that can negatively affect gut health and growth performance in weanling pigs.

Recent research from the University of Illinois has shown that soy protein concentrate (SPC) may be partly or fully substituted for animal protein with no adverse effects.

“We determined digestibility of crude protein, amino acids, and energy in SPC ground to three particle sizes,” said Hans H. Stein, an animal sciences professor. “We also investigated the effects of substituting SPC for animal proteins on weanling growth performance.”

Soy protein concentrate is derived from defatted soy flakes by removing soluble carbohydrates and other non-proteins.

In the group’s first experiment, pigs were fed diets containing soybean meal, fish meal, or SPC ground to one of three particle sizes.

Diets with SPC more finely ground had greater crude protein digestibility than the traditional protein sources.

In a second experiment, weanling pigs were fed corn mixed with each of the



Weanling pigs can thrive on plant-based protein diets, a recent study shows.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

protein sources used in the first experiment. The goal was to measure apparent total tract digestibility of gross energy and the digestible and metabolizable energy in each diet. Again the SPC diets performed well, especially at finer particle sizes.

“Results of this experiment indicated that diets based on soybean meal and SPC can be fed to weanling pigs without negative effects on growth performance during the initial four weeks after weaning,” Stein said.

## Travel the world as a Nuffield scholar

Applications for 2018 Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarships are due April 30.

“The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship provides innovative Canadians with the funding to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context,” said Kelvin Meadows, chair and 2011 scholar. “We are focused on developing leadership capacity for Canadian agriculture through scholars who have access to the best production, management and marketing systems around the world.”

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are awarded to Canadians from any aspect of agriculture and agribusiness, with a desire to expand their knowledge, pursue new ideas and share their findings with others for the betterment of the industry. Applicants should be in mid-career, between the ages of 25 and 45 (guideline) with a minimum of five years of agricultural business or farming experience. Scholars must be able to travel for a minimum of 10 weeks, with a minimum of six consecutive weeks in one leg of their travel. For more information, go to [www.nuffield.ca](http://www.nuffield.ca).

## New COO coming to Canadian Grain Commission

Jocelyn Beaudette will be the next chief operating officer of the Canadian Grain Commission.

In her 26-year career with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaudette has worked in marketing and trade, strategic policy and program delivery.

Her most recent role was as director general of the Farm Income Programs Directorate, delivering national programs at the regional level, including the recent Canadian Wheat Board Transition Costs Program.

Beaudette will replace Gord Miles in June. — Staff

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