



STILL NO ZEBRAS – OR QUAGGAS – IN ALBERTA

But just one boat contaminated with invasive mussels could spell disaster » PG 2



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Your provincial farm and ranch newspaper

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EXPRESS

Carbon credit program ain't what it used to be

A rising carbon tax should put more money in farmers' pockets, but participation rates have gone down

BY JEFF MELCHIOR
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Greenhouse gases were on the minds of many Alberta farmers a decade ago when no till offered good cash from selling carbon offset credits.

Fast-forward to 2017 and things have changed.

Although there is still a lot of participation in the province's carbon credit trading and sequestration program, many believe it has become too demanding, too restrictive, and less beneficial to

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Imagine your canola, w

Clubroot's arrival in the Peace region has farmers flirting with di

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF / LACOMBE

In the war between canola producers and clubroot, clubroot is winning.

"The clubroot-infested area is spreading at roughly about 30 kilometres a year, and we're only managing it at 20 kilometres a year," said Dan Orchard, agronomy specialist for the Canola Council of Canada.

"We got an appreciation this year for just how fast it can spread. We're way behind it — chasing it out rather than choking it in."

Clubroot was first discovered in central Alberta in 2003, and since then has spread to more than 1,000 fields in over 30 counties. Last month, it was discovered for the first time in the Peace region (in Big Lakes County). Canola industry officials are still trying to trace how the disease moved into the area, as well as which strain of clubroot it is.

But for Sexsmith-area producer Greg Sears, that rapid spread is a wake-up call.

"Anything as ominous as clubroot is worrying when it's spreading at any rate — but certainly, it's covering a lot of ground quickly, and it doesn't give us a lot of time to look at our practices and make the changes we need to," said Sears, chair of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission.

Even so, Sears calls clubroot's spread north "inevitable."

"There's nothing magical about our soils that would prevent clubroot from migrating here," he said. "It's unfortunate that

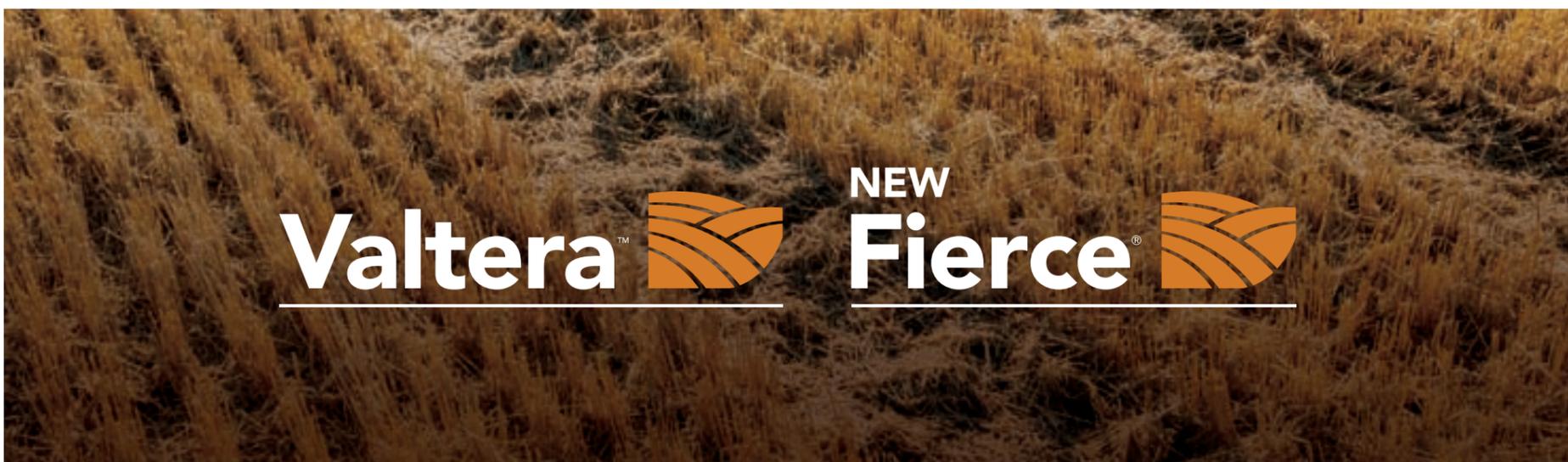
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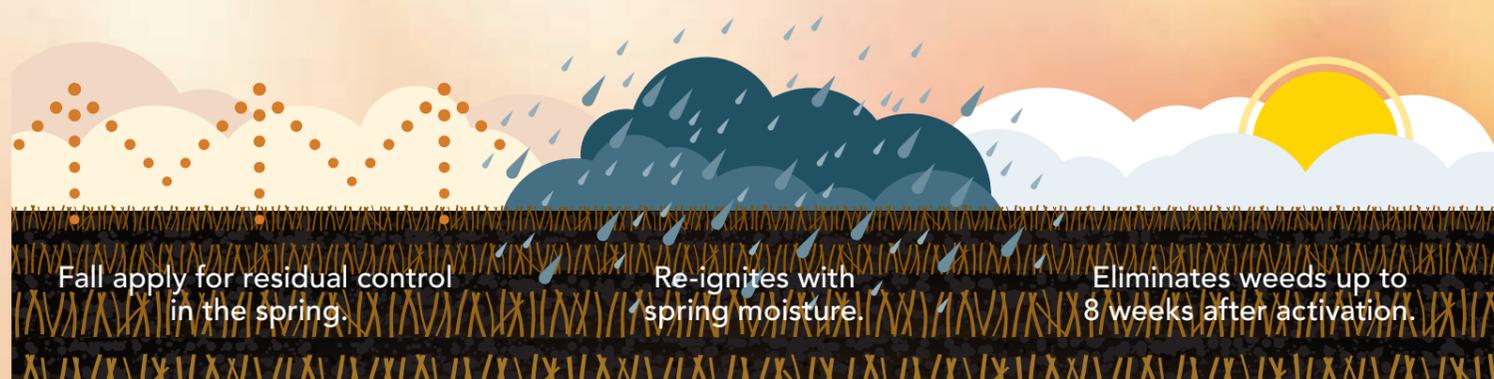
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THE RIGHT STUFF OR A WASTE OF MONEY?

Too often it's the latter, says agronomist and fertilizer expert Ross McKenzie » PG 24

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Imagine you couldn't grow canola, warns farm leader

Clubroot's arrival in the Peace isn't a shocker, but it's another sign farmers are flirting with disaster, say canola experts

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF / LACOMBE

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Even so, Sears calls clubroot's spread north "inevitable."

"There's nothing magical about our soils that would prevent clubroot from migrating here," he said. "It's unfortunate that



If you're growing non-resistant canola varieties, you could wake up one day to find 'astronomical' levels of clubroot spores, says agronomist Dan Orchard. PHOTO: JENNIFER BLAIR

it's been identified, but I think it was inevitable."

That's partially because "there's a certain level of denial" about clubroot, especially in areas that haven't been affected by the disease in the past.

"There are a lot of crossed fingers that clubroot isn't going to make it into the area," said Sears.

But crossed fingers aren't enough to slow the spread of the disease, and many producers don't want to risk losing canola

as a cash crop by changing their management practices or extending their rotations.

"Canola-cereal rotations have become a very desirable rotation," said Sears. "Canola works well on people's operations. It's a great crop to grow, both from a revenue standpoint and with the herbicide options for cleaning up land."

"It's pretty hard to give that up."

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Trio of groups propose Alberta-based agri-food 'supercluster'

Agrium, Olds College, and MDA apply for federal program aimed at boosting key economic sectors

STAFF

Agrium, Olds College, and global satellite communications corporation MDA have submitted an application to the federal government to form an agri-food 'supercluster.'

The Liberal government committed up to \$950 million (over five years) in its March budget to create hubs that would focus on key economic sectors in an effort to kick-start investment, boost exports, and create jobs.

The proposed Smart Agri-Food Super Cluster "is intended to create a pan-Canadian platform to help the sector's diverse, and sometimes disparate, 'silos' align more coherently to identify and resolve challenges in the agri-food value chain," its three proponents said in a news release.

"We felt it important to create something that constructively brings together all the players that comprise the ways we do farming and food," said Bill Whitelaw, chair of the group's steering committee. "Our approach is intended to resolve some of the fragmentation dynamics that often hinder innovation efforts."

The group's goals include promoting innovation in cropping, livestock, digital and agri-food processing technologies, the news release stated. If successful in obtaining federal seed money, the cluster would seek to involve businesses, not-for-profits, research organizations, and post-secondary institutions in projects that create new jobs, export opportunities, and safer and more sustainable food production.

"Ottawa would like to see innovation as the driving force that significantly improves Canada's already strong ag and food leadership position globally," said Whitelaw, a senior executive with Glacier Media Group (the parent company of *Alberta Farmer*).

"Moving the country upward in global export rankings could create billions of new economic impact."

If its proposal is funded, the Smart Agri-Food Super Cluster would be administered from Calgary but would seek out partners from across the country, he said.

The supercluster concept has been successfully applied in California's Silicon Valley, Canada's Kitchener-Waterloo region, and cities such as Berlin and Tel Aviv, the federal government said in announcing the program.

The creation of superclusters will depend on what proposals are submitted, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains told the *Toronto Star* earlier this year. But he identified agri-food — along with areas such as advanced manufacturing, digital technology, and health/biosciences — as sectors where Canada is well positioned to become a stronger global player.

Calgary-based Agrium is in the process of merging with Potash Corp. to form a new company to be called Nutrien. MDA (formerly known as MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates) is based in Vancouver and has annual revenues of more than \$2 billion.

Efforts to keep out invasive mussels working – for now

A dozen contaminated boats have been found so far this year and officials warn zebra and quagga mussels are cunning hitchhikers

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF/CLEARWATER COUNTY

Zebra and quagga mussels are not in Alberta yet, but the threat continues to grow.

"This is becoming a huge issue in our world — the more we travel and carry things around — whether we know it or not," said Janine Higgins, community engagement lead with Alberta Environment and Parks.

The two invasive species, originally from Russia, made their way into the Great Lakes in the 1980s in the ballast water and bilges of cargo ships. They've since spread across the continent, with zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Winnipeg in 2013.

"That was a really big heads-up to us, now that we know they can survive in Canada," said Higgins.

Since then, Alberta has bolstered its invasive species program.

People can stop the spread of aquatic invasive species — including mussels and whirling disease (a microscopic parasite that infects trout, whitefish, and other species) — by cleaning, draining and drying their boats. Removing drain plugs is critical.

"If you are transporting a boat, you need to actually remove the drain plug while you are transporting it," Higgins said at a recent West County Ag Tour. "It is now a law and we have that law so you don't end up moving any water around."

Zebra and quagga mussels can survive attached to a boat for up to a month.

"So if you can imagine how far people are driving their boats in a month, these zebra and quagga mussels are surviving. Then, when people launch their boats back into the water, we have an infestation."

The larval form, called a veliger, can't be seen with the naked eye and the mussels have no natural predators in Alberta. While zebra and quagga mussels have not been found in B.C. and Alberta yet, they have been detected in Montana, about 45 kilometres from the border.



Keeping invasive mussels out of Alberta is critical, says Janine Higgins of Alberta Environment and Parks. PHOTOS: ALEXIS KIENLEN



This model shows how quickly mussels grow. Lake Mead, located southeast of Las Vegas, is the largest reservoir in the U.S.

"We need to keep working to keep these species out."

JANINE HIGGINS

"It is very close to us, which raised the flag for us," said Higgins. "We need to keep working to keep these species out."

People can help prevent the invasion of the mussels by making sure they don't move any water, plants, or mud, and by going through boat inspection stations. Anyone whose boat leaves the province, or who takes their boat into a provincial park, may have to go through a boat inspection. This includes a boat check, questioning, and a search for mussels.

Inspection stations have been set up around the borders of the province, and 12 boats have been found with mussels attached to them this year.

The mussels hide in dark, damp places in the boat. In a recent case, mussels were found hiding in areas where screws attach onto the boat. Alberta inspectors also have a team of three sniffer dogs that are trained to find mussels. In addition, Alberta Environment and Parks has tested more than 100 water bodies in search for the mussels and has been

working closely with the irrigation districts.

The mussels are prolific — one female can lay a million eggs in a year.

"If these mussels were to get in all of our irrigation pipes that we use for watering our crops, for watering our cattle, everything like that, we're estimating that it would cost us \$75 million annually in losses from revenue, in maintenance, in boat loss — all that sort of stuff," said Higgins.

At boat inspection stations, inspectors collect standing water inside boats and send samples to labs to look for veligers. Any boat with standing water is washed immediately. If the boat is really dirty or looks as though it contains mussels, it will be quarantined for 30 days — the length of time it takes for the mussels to die.

It is mandatory to stop at inspection stations when they are open, but some people are still skipping them. Anyone caught bypassing a station faces a fine as high as \$100,000 or up to one year in jail.

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Donation will spark conservation projects across southern Alberta

A \$500,000 gift from philanthropist David Bissett will fund 186 projects on 39 farms and ranches

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

A \$500,000 donation will create almost 1,000 additional acres of conservation land in southern Alberta.

"This funding pretty clearly identifies ALUS's niche," said Bryan Gilvesy, CEO of ALUS Canada, the organization receiving the donation.

"This program isn't about the traditional environmental ethics of protecting existing features. This harnesses the skills and energy of farmers and ranchers across Canada to create more ecosystem services that have benefits for Canadians."

The donation from Alberta philanthropist David Bissett will create 'The Bissett Action Fund,' which will fund 186 projects in more than 10 southern Alberta communities, between the County of Vermilion River to the east and Lac Ste. Anne County and Parkland County to the west. These projects include wetland restorations, buffer zones around croplands, riparian zones with pollinator habitat, and wildlife-friendly fences that keep cattle out of streams to protect water quality.

"It highlights the ability of ALUS Canada to create funding with specificity," said Gilvesy.



David Bissett (r), and ALUS Canada CEO Bryan Gilvesy announced a \$500,000 donation for conservation projects in southern Alta. on Aug. 29. PHOTO: ALUS CANADA

"Just like the farmers and ranchers of Canada, we are producing outcomes. We say that ALUS is the next generation of conservation in that it moves beyond protection and into production.

"By harnessing the skills and energies of our farmers and ranchers, we're producing more — more clean air, clean water, and biodiversity."

ALUS (pronounced Alice and short for Alternative Land Use Services) compensates farmers and

ranchers for providing 'ecosystem services' on their land — both through the upfront costs of the project and the ongoing maintenance of the land.

After starting in 2006 in Manitoba, ALUS came to Alberta in 2010 through a pilot project in the County of Vermilion River, before spreading to Parkland County in 2012 and Red Deer County in 2013. Today, there are 11 counties in Alberta that support ALUS programs. Across Canada, there are

"It's a really lovely synergy that's going to happen between our producers and corporate partners."

BRYAN GILVESY

more than 18,000 project acres in 20 communities, with a target of 150,000 acres in 75 communities by 2025.

That growth has been made possible by funders like Bissett (who was a major player in the financial services sector) and grocery magnate Galen Weston, whose foundation donated \$5 million to ALUS Canada in 2016. But the next phase of growth is "very specifically targeted at corporate Canada," said Gilvesy. The New Acre project allows corporations to sponsor environmental projects on farms and ranches in participating ALUS communities.

"We believe that corporate Canada has a very important role to play to fund these projects, and we believe we've developed the mech-

anism that will be very appealing to them," said Gilvesy.

"We're harnessing the productive natures of producers and turning that to environmentalism, and that is really, really interesting to them.

"It's a really lovely synergy that's going to happen between our producers and corporate partners."

The New Acre project is just getting rolling, but Gilvesy thinks that the "grassroots program" will be appealing to corporate partners across Canada.

"We think that we've struck the right tone with corporate Canada," he said.

"This is a truly productive approach. Producers produce. Through our program, we can have producers providing more environmental benefits for Canadians."

Historically, producers have not been compensated for their efforts to protect the environment, but as it grows, ALUS Canada will continue to work to change the perceived value of ecosystem services.

"These ecosystem services that our producers provide have value. Part of the mandate of ALUS Canada is to unearth that value in the marketplace," said Gilvesy.

"It's an exciting program. I think we're striking the right notes for a lot of people, so hopefully we can continue that momentum."

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There's lots of money being left on the packing plant floor

Quality defects exceed \$60 per head and reducing those losses will boost the bottom line for producers, says expert

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF/CALGARY

National Beef Quality audits prove that Canadian beef is pretty darn good.

But they also show that producers could be putting more money in their wallets by reducing defects that show up at the packing plant, says Mark Klassen, director of technical services with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

The last audit, conducted in 2010-11, found that quality defects added up to \$61.80 per head.

"It's a significant loss of money. Ultimately these costs impact the entire supply chain, but it's often producers in particular," said Klassen.

A new audit is currently underway and full results won't be ready until next year, but Klassen shared some early findings at the recent Canadian Beef Industry Conference. The news is both good and bad.

Horns are one source of economic loss, but the new audit found 90 per cent of cattle are polled compared to 88 per cent the last audit.

However, 79 per cent of the carcasses had manure and mud on the hide — which is called tag — compared to 74 per cent in 2010-11. Removing tag can damage the hide and there are food-safety concerns.

"The research is a bit controversial, but some people say that having excess tag can increase the risk of contamination," said Klassen.

Liver damage is another issue. A liver is worth about \$10 to a packer

and liver problems can affect an animal's growth and the quality of the carcass.

"Eighteen per cent of livers that we looked at had significant abscesses," said Klassen, noting that's up sharply from the 10 per cent incidence in the last beef quality audit.

"It's not an easy issue to address, but it does have consequences, especially at the packing side," he said.

Injection site lesions show up in two ways — on the surface, and then inside the steak itself. About five per cent of carcasses had visible injection site lesions compared to two per cent in the 2010-11 audit.

There was also a slight increase (13 per cent versus 12 per cent) in the use of brands.

"When the hide has a brand on it, obviously, you don't want that on your leather jacket or your car seat, so that area has to be removed," said Klassen.

Lenders often request producers use brands to identify their animals, but "as we all know, that management practice is considered an animal welfare issue by some people," he added.

Bruises are another significant issue and can lead to a lot of trimming. Thirty-six per cent of cattle had bruises. Most were minor, which is one way that auditors can measure progress on animal welfare issues, said Klassen.

Given the high price of beef, reducing quality problems may be the best way for producers to make more money, he said.

"It's probably not going to be as easy to increase the average



"Ultimately these costs impact the entire supply chain, but it's often producers in particular."

MARK KLASSEN

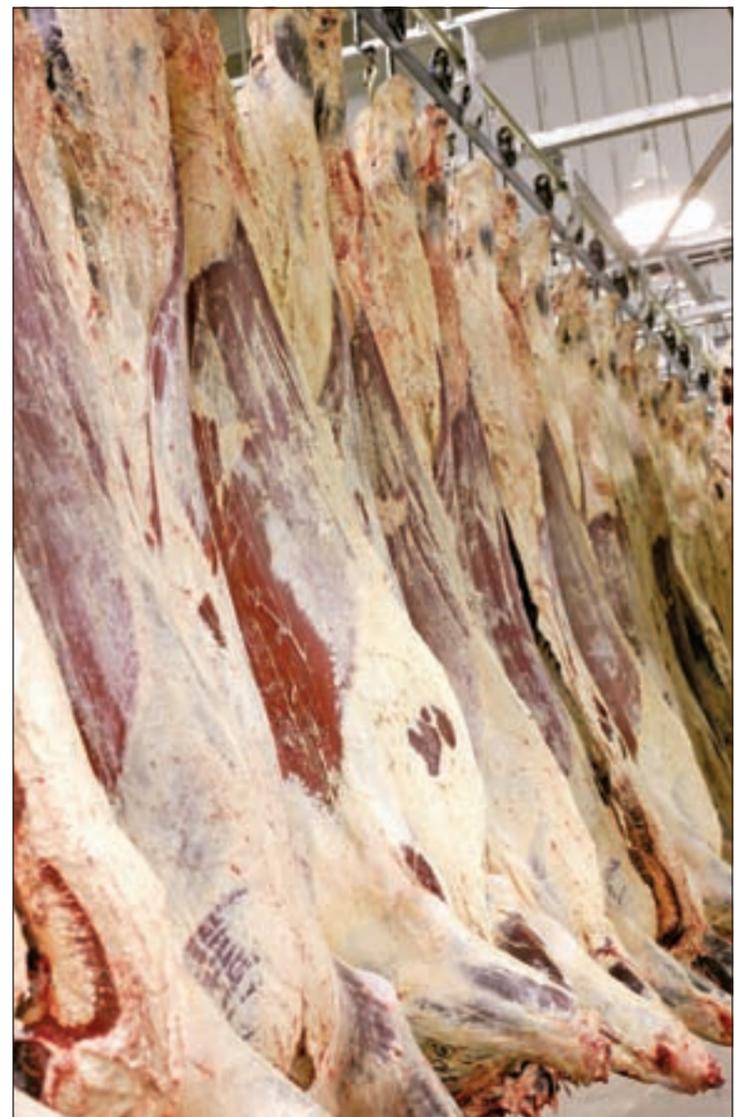
retail beef prices, especially when chicken is more affordable," he said.

Klassen also highlighted carcass weights in his presentation, pointing to Canfax data that shows they have been rising by about eight pounds annually.

"At this point and in years past, we do tend to be heavier than the U.S. — particularly for the last three years, by about 22 to 77 pounds," said Klassen.

"This increase in weights has helped us maintain our beef production, while recognizing that we have fewer animals," he said. "It's been essential, but how long it can continue is really in question."

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Carcass defects are costly, and much of that cost ultimately works its way back to producers. PHOTO: CANADA BEEF

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Canada

OPINION



BY GORD GILMOUR
MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR EDITOR

There are few industries that feature a concentrated and ongoing effort like harvest time on a farm.

The culmination of an entire season's work rests on your efforts between now and the arrival of winter. It really is sometimes now or never.

That was certainly the case at times on our family's operation. My hometown is at roughly the same latitude as The Pas so seasons are short and winter is often all too early. Throw in a little inclement weather and you can suddenly be staring at a hard deadline from Mother Nature.

One of the first harvests when I was old enough to more fully contribute to the family's efforts was like this. Ongoing rain had virtually all the crop still out in mid-October, when the weather suddenly cleared. Not waiting for an invitation, the crew swarmed into action, even if it meant drying every bushel. One of my lasting memories of that season is the first load we took off. It was so wet that it had begun to harden in the corners of the box before we got it into the yard and we were forced to chip away at it with a scoop shovel to get it out and up the auger and into the dryer.

You are not an inexhaustible machine

How many close calls have you had at harvest simply because you've run yourself ragged?

The days after that we ran long, so after about three weeks we were in much better shape, albeit all exhausted and run ragged. But then the forecast changed yet again. Suddenly the weather reports were calling for snow, and everyone dug just a bit deeper. That night, with conditions still relatively dry and dew free, we kept running, vowing only to stop when we were forced to.

By 4 a.m., saying I was tired was an understatement. I was struggling to keep my eyes open. Leaving the field in our old cabover '66 Ford, I headed down the familiar dirt road and promptly ran right through the intersection where I was supposed to turn. It took me a couple of seconds, through my exhaustion, to realize what I'd done.

I was lucky. The road on the other side of the turn was definitely poorer. If what I'd been on was a dirt road, this was more like a goat path. But at least it was there. If I'd overshot some of the corners out there, there'd only have been a steep drop-off to greet me. Instead, I was able to simply put the truck in reverse, back slowly through the intersection and take the proper turn. I finished unloading, parked the truck and caught a few winks in the cab before getting back on my way.

Over the years I've heard of more than one accident that happened exactly the same way. A grain cart and tractor that wound up at the bottom of a ravine, for example, or a pickup truck that was found having plunged down an embankment, just to name two. Generally they've shared one common trait — operator exhaustion. We might pretend we're inexhaustible machines, but the truth is we're all fallible flesh and blood. Tire any of us out enough and mistakes will be made. Sometimes we get away with them, but other times the result is tragedy.

When that sort of tragedy does strike, it is sudden and irrevocable. A corner that might have seemed fine to cut is suddenly the source of endless trouble and sorrow in many cases.

I nearly had a brush with that a few years ago on the Yellowhead Highway. It was harvest and I was heading home for a visit with my young daughter in the car. I like her to see the farm every harvest so she understands the business both sides of her family are in. It was dark when I pulled up behind a combine going down the highway in road high, with lights flashing. Pulling out to pass, I suddenly found myself looking at a header that didn't have any lights on it.

Again, we were lucky. I noticed the reflectors shining my head-

lights back at me just in time to veer hard left and clear the machine. I won't repeat what I had to say about the incident here. I'll just say it was so colourful and adjective filled my daughter still comments on it years later.

I can understand the chain of events that likely led to the situation very clearly. I'm willing to bet the operator only had a short trip down the highway, it was late in both the season and day, and he or she probably thought "it's not worth the hassle." For my part, I'm no stranger to the equipment I was passing, I should have known better. I should have slowed down more, pulled out further and been prepared for the header to be there, regardless of regulation or design.

Safety is one of those community projects we all need to be prepared to contribute to. Farmers need to remember that cutting a corner can be disastrous, and to take care of themselves and not get too exhausted. Members of the non-farming public, including myself, need to respect what you're doing and do what we can to keep everyone safe.

With just a few more weeks until winter's inevitable arrival, let's all do what we can to have a productive, profitable and safe harvest.

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BY ALAN GUEBERT
FARM & FOOD

Play, watch or listen to any baseball game and, sooner than later, what you thought was a strike will be called a ball by the home plate umpire.

Most times, it's not a big deal. There are, after all, hundreds of pitches in any game and the balls and strikes called by the men in black almost always, in the end, even out for both teams. This built-in fairness makes a very imperfect game almost perfect to its fans.

That's how politics used to be played. Facts, ideas, and debating points were tossed up and swung at in the public arena until everyone's business — roads, national defence, international treaties, taxes, a budget — was ultimately decided.

It probably isn't the best way to run government, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, except when compared to all other ways. The proof is it usually works.

American politics is a mess, but politicians aren't the problem

Dysfunctional Washington is the creation of a public that has forgotten that problems get solved by working together

Usually, not always. There were several times like today when political discourse bordered on collapse (McCarthyism in the 1950s, for example) before it rediscovered its balanced centre.

There was also one time when what was wrong was so wrong — slavery — that politics failed completely. War then became the anvil and blood the hammer by which was forged, Abraham Lincoln hoped, a new nation.

But often (as Charlottesville proves again) we fall woefully short of his hope and our promise because we fall short in our politics. We get so caught up in arguing balls and strikes that the game becomes unplayable.

That's where we in the United States are now — in the middle of an ugly, almost unplayable game where long-honoured rules of civility, facts, and mutual respect have been overrun by fervour, rancour, and lies.

And I'm not referring to Congress or the White House. I'm referring to the American public

because our public institutions reflect us, the public, not the other way around.

We, the people, after all, put these people into office because that's who we now are. We've also allowed our never-perfect system to be undermined and corrupted by more imperfections.

Then we claim the system is so broken we can't fix it.

That's cowardly bull. We know the game and its long-standing rules well enough to find common solutions to common challenges. We are the umpires here and we need to get back into the game.

What's all this have to do with farm and food policy? A lot.

Today's American farmers and ranchers face some of the toughest weather and financial conditions in a generation. The best way to get through them is to get through them together. We need local and national leaders, regardless of party, race, gender or background, to publicly discuss and debate what the federal response should be.

And then they need to come together with legislation that benefits all. Everyone. America's entire rural community.

Other short-term needs are equally pressing.

By the end of September, Congress must raise the federal debt ceiling and pass a budget. Both will be difficult tasks for a body fuelled by puffery, consumed by partisanship, and needled by a president who continues to advocate for action that will have enormous, mostly harmful, impact on rural America.

All of this, however, depends on us. We must reassert our role as the "public" in the work of our "public servants." We must also reassert the rules that we live by out here so our leaders follow them out there.

And we all must keep our heart in the game and our eye on the ball.

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OPINION



BY **BRENDA SCHOEPP**
AF COLUMNIST

China represents opportunity for Canadian beef producers

Beef is increasingly on the menu for China's growing middle class and the country can't keep up with demand

The numbers are staggering — 854 million people in China are expected to be regular beef eaters by the year 2030.

Despite their large land base, cattle numbers cannot keep up with the demand for beef that has been increasing by 15 per cent per year.

What has happened? Where does the beef come from?

China's middle class is hungry for beef. They are flush with cash and because beef is a status symbol, they want to be seen eating it. Expats used to account for 90 per cent of the beef consumed in steak houses — now 90 per cent is being ordered by middle-class Chinese. Beef consumption is linked to growth in GDP — the stronger the economy, the more beef is eaten.

When steak houses and restaurants first started serving imported beef, they did so in the manner in which the country of origin was used to eating it: Large portions and a little pink in the middle. This was culturally offensive (and

still is) because rare is seen as vulgar and unclear. The Chinese consumer will, however, devour well-cooked beef that comes in a smaller portion. The younger generation has travelled and is more open to try a piece of beef, such as rib-eye, that is more flavourful. And because dining with guests is very much a part of the business culture, some companies are looking to offer their guests an exclusive experience that includes beef.

China produces about seven million tons of carcass beef a year, which is significant. But beef farmers in China have been swept into mass urbanization. There are fewer farmers and farm labourers than before. Urbanization has resulted in significant losses in farmland, which has translated into huge gains for traders as the wholesale price of beef doubled between 2008 and 2013. It was not enough to spark a spring in domestic beef production, although there is a trend favouring branded Chinese product. Even that is a tough sell as the Chinese people don't trust their domestic supply and would rather buy imported food products.

Environmental concerns have

also been hard on beef production and governments have been convinced that raising beef will deplete air quality and water supplies. In 2016, the Chinese government issued dietary guidelines which recommended beef consumption be cut by 50 per cent. But it didn't gain much traction and the demand for beef kept growing.

Where does China's beef come from?

'Local' beef often comes from cattle of European origin sourced in inner Mongolia and dry aged. The bulk of imports come from Brazil, followed by those from Uruguay, Australia, and Argentina. The preference is still for grass fed and what is called 'hormone'-free beef. Much of it is for domestic use and is competitively priced. China is also courting beef from India. Like Canadian beef, that has found its way to China in previous years, water buffalo from India (or carabeef as it is called) comes into grey markets via Vietnam. However it gets into China, there is a market for price point and for quality beef products.

Although a big importer of pork

and chicken, China also has a taste for imported beef. How much is imported also depends on what happens domestically with their own food safety concerns, and with world markets. Australia's drought was costly in terms of exports and it lost market share. The JBS scandal was costly for Brazil. The recent case of a BSE cow in the U.S. may be costly for its beef exporters. It is an ever-revolving door, but the GDP growth in China signals buying power.

There will be little fluctuation in GDP because Chinese culture will not allow for such an embarrassment. Certainly, there are issues in the country that are specific to rural farms and the relocation of people, but the newly minted middle class will always seek a way to display their wealth — be that a car, clothing, or on the plate.

China lifted its 13-year-old ban on Canadian beef last fall and Canada is currently in free trade negotiations with the Chinese government. This would increase the potential of Canadian beef being sold into China, but the high cost of our product

limits the better cuts to high-end consumers near port.

Showcasing Canadian product and its versatility through the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence has been foundational in communicating to our export partners as has the ability to show how we can identify individual animals. The requirements for shipping beef into China from Canada were updated this year and can be found at www.inspection.gc.ca, the website of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. (Use the Food pull-down menu, then click on Meat and Poultry followed by Manual of Procedures; Chapter 11; and finally the China section of section 11.7 Special Requirements by Export Markets.)

It is hard to break a good habit like eating beef. Export partners of China, such as Canada, are counting on the increased desire for beef on the plate in China.

Brenda Schoepp works as an international mentor and motivational speaker. She can be contacted through her website www.brendaschoepp.com. All rights reserved. Brenda Schoepp 2017

Free trade works — but most people don't know how or why

Trade enhances productivity, improves wages, and grows economies but it's also an easy scapegoat for protectionists

BY **JUSTIN BEDI**
TRADE SPECIALIST

Renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement has got underway. Canada, Mexico and the United States have begun a complex, time-consuming and difficult process that could change everything — or almost nothing.

For all countries involved, the risk and uncertainty outweigh the potential rewards, because we already had the ultimate reward: free trade.

Only the U.S. wanted to renegotiate NAFTA and President Donald Trump's election campaign clearly brought the reason to light: We have failed to educate the world on the merits of free trade. People just aren't buying it.

Mainstream trade discussion is no longer about economics — it's about politics. Trade enhances productivity, improves real wages, and grows economies. But not enough people know how or why.

Trade discourse, and government policy-making, are about

one thing: growing exports. There's been a regression back to the age of mercantilism, where exports are 'good' and imports are 'bad.' This is the attitude of many in the White House.

In truth, imports are just as important to an economy as exports: they provide cheap inputs for value-added manufacturing, access to goods and services we can't produce efficiently (or at all) domestically, and a greater selection of products at lower prices for consumers.

It's discouraging to see influential individuals and world leaders incorrectly use concepts such as current accounts, trade balances, dumping and subsidies as guises to hurt international business and argue for protectionism.

Current account deficits and negative trade balances aren't inherently bad; many countries have consistently had both for decades, including Canada and the U.S., and both are G7 countries at the top of the industrial world.

Dumping and illegal subsidies are legitimate threats to global trade and should be treated as such. However, too often both

We have failed to educate the world on the merits of free trade. People just aren't buying it.



anti-dumping and countervailing duties are applied simultaneously and without sufficient evidence. That was the case when the U.S. applied duties on Canadian softwood lumber earlier this year, even though it has previously been demonstrated that Canadian lumber producers are guilty of neither trade offence.

Ironically, part of why trade discourse has come to this point is the dominance of industry in trade policy. Almost every government is far more likely to listen to the concerns and wishes of industry than those of consumers, and will enact policies to shield their domestic industries

against international competition.

Part of this is our fault; industry is well organized and consumers are generally not. There are a few successful consumer groups but they have nowhere near the power of industry groups. And to be honest, as a single individual it's more difficult to get up and push for different trade policies than it is for industry.

If a country reduces tariffs on an import — say avocados — the benefit for one person could be as little as \$10, or perhaps as high as \$100 a year if they purchase many avocados. In contrast, the negative impact on a business from the same tariff reduction could mean thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in lost revenue. Given the math, it's not hard to see why industry is more organized when it comes to trade.

Collectively, protectionist trade policies such as tariffs and quotas have been proven to have a greater effect on consumers than on producers. But individually, it's difficult to conceptualize the benefits of pushing for freer trade when it may

only mean a few dollars in savings annually.

NAFTA renegotiations could improve trade in North America through greater regulatory co-operation, improved dispute resolution and the elimination of technical barriers to trade, provided duty-free access is maintained.

However, fixing these issues didn't require drafting an entirely new agreement.

NAFTA is being renegotiated under very questionable terms and certainly not for economic reasons.

International trade, in its simplest terms, is just a commercial transaction between a foreign buyer and a foreign seller.

If more of us thought about trade that way, we wouldn't be spending millions of dollars and hours renegotiating NAFTA. And we could focus on growing trade elsewhere — like within Canada.

Justin Bedi is a trade expert who specializes in international monetary economics. He holds a master's degree in international trade from the University of Saskatchewan's Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

CARBON CREDIT ▶ from page 1

producers. At the same time, the regulations guiding carbon trading could take away one of the program's most popular protocols: conservation cropping.

So what happened?

In 2012, Alberta Environment and Parks, which regulates the carbon trading program, made changes to the regulations, including requiring more record-keeping and removing the ability to claim historical credits for previous years.

"It's a more rigorous verification process, including measuring various aspects of your equipment," said Greg Sears, chair of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission and a Grande Prairie-area producer.

"I think we've seen participation rates drop. I don't know what the latest numbers are but I think we were getting to where 15 per cent of producers were participating, which is certainly far less than maybe it once was — and far less than should be participating."

More paperwork

The offset credit system, created in 2007, uses a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in one area to cancel out greenhouse gases created somewhere else. The goal was to reduce emissions by allowing large greenhouse gas producers to buy offset credits from smaller-scale emitters such as agricultural operations.

The system includes about 30 offsets spanning a wide range of industries — 10 of which are dedicated to agriculture. For Alberta crop producers, the conservation cropping protocol (which was called tillage prior to 2012) has proven to be one of the most popular.

"It basically rewards reduced tillage," said Paul Jungnitsch, greenhouse gas offset agrologist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. "The plants are taking carbon from the air and putting it into the roots and reduced tillage keeps that carbon in the soil."

An added attraction of this credit is that producers don't have to record the actual amount of carbon being sequestered.

"With the conservation crop protocol, you're basically recording a practice — not measuring the carbon itself," said Jungnitsch. "The rationale behind it is if you do this particular practice, on average you'll capture such and such an amount of carbon. That was



Leaving stubble builds up carbon levels in soil, but fewer farmers have cashed carbon credit cheques since 2012 because of increased paperwork and the elimination of historical credits. FILE PHOTO

the genius behind that particular protocol."

At the height of its popularity, producers could claim up to 10 years' worth of zero-tillage practices. That changed after the 2012 regulations, which increased the burden of proof, said Jungnitsch.

"It's basically changed from what they call 'limited assurance' to 'reasonable assurance.' They tightened up the records for that practice so the record-keeping requirements for your seeded field size, your tillage implement, your annual crop, and your land ownership all went up. For farmers, time is money — so they have to judge whether those extra records are worth the income from the system."

And the entire no-till offset program may soon be scrapped because regulations include a clause requiring "innovation" in carbon sequestration practices. That is measured, in part, by how many producers have adopted the practice.

"Once the offset practice gets a certain level of adoption — usually around 40 per cent — they may not be qualified anymore," said Jungnitsch. "No till is getting pretty close. By definition anything that gets adopted enough will reach an end in the offset system. (Alberta Environment) can look at the adoption figures and say, 'That's enough.'"

But producers should continue to receive an incentive for their zero-till activities, said Sears.

"I think there's a certain benefit to incentivizing best practices, but there is also a service being provided by producers on an ongoing basis — that being sequestering carbon in their soils," he said. "There should be a continued benefit to producers because of that."

Renters and middlemen

Another issue affects producers who rent land. Under the regulations, the money for offsets defaults to the landowner unless the producer can work out some sort of arrangement.

"The farmer has most of the records so mostly it's the guy who's farming the land that claims the offsets," said Jungnitsch. "But if you rent a lot of land from a lot of different landowners, you have to get a lot of landowners to agree to sign that over to you or divide it. If you own your land it's easier."

This regulation is "really discouraging" to a lot of producers, said Sears.

"I've talked to several people who've said it's a significant impediment. The farmer makes the investment in the reduced tillage equipment and everything required to follow the protocols, yet may not be able to receive any of the benefit from the sequestration."

Another development in recent years has been the maturation of the carbon credit aggregation industry.

Aggregators buy offset credits from smaller greenhouse gas

emitters (such as farmers) and package them together for sale to larger emitters. There's a popular misconception that the provincial government buys offsets from producers when it's actually these private aggregators that do most of the buying and selling, said Jungnitsch.

"The money in the system comes from the big, regulated private companies such as the big power producers, coal plants, and fertilizer producers. You need a company that collects all the offsets from the individual producers, collects their records, follows the system for getting it into an acceptable product, processes them, verifies them, checks them, and then posts them in a large enough quantity that a big company would be interested in. A big gas company doesn't want to write a cheque for 10 or 20 tonnes — it wants to write a cheque for 100,000 tonnes and have that meet all the specifications that are required."

Aggregators are necessary because of the sheer number of farms involved.

"In agriculture, the challenge for aggregators is they have a lot of different operators and a lot of different records," said Jungnitsch. "Because there are so many different producers and different kinds of producers, their records are more difficult by their very nature. But it looks as though the aggregators have done a good job getting all these various farmer records together."



"Once the offset practice gets a certain level of adoption — usually around 40 per cent — they may not be qualified anymore."

PAUL JUNGNITSCH

Carbon tax

The need for aggregators is in itself a sign of the system being too complex, said Sears.

The system also means farmers are losing out as the provincial carbon tax rises, said Sears. (The rate, currently \$20 per tonne, will increase to \$30 on Jan. 1 and eventually to \$50 by 2022.)

"As carbon credits become more valuable with the current carbon tax scheme, (aggregators) prevent farmers from taking advantage of any marketing opportunities due to the escalation in the price of credits," he said.

"Right now, the aggregators can basically stockpile those credits in speculation of future increases in price. Farmers do not currently have the ability to do that. We are basically forced to sell credits whereas it might be more valuable if we were able to hold on to them for several years and take advantage of the higher prices on our own."

Historically, producers have received two-thirds of the selling carbon price, said Jungnitsch. "The last time I checked with the aggregators back in the end of March they were paying around \$13/tonne for the 2016 year credits, which would match similarly with the official rate of \$20/tonne that emitters are liable for, for 2016 emissions. That works out to about \$1.47/acre to a farmer in the Parkland and half that in the dry prairie. Prices are expected to go up with the \$30/tonne pricing for 2017 industrial emissions."

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Farmers who know the ropes stay with the program

It takes time and effort to fulfil the record-keeping requirements for the carbon trading program

BY JEFF MELCHIOR
AF CONTRIBUTOR

It's difficult to track exactly how many farmers participate in the province's carbon trading program.

The tonnage of carbon traded by producers has been constant in the last few years, but there's likely been a drop-off since 2012 when the ability to claim historical carbon credits ended, said a greenhouse gas agrologist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

"The 2012 to 2015 numbers are fairly steady at about 650,000 tonnes," said Paul Jungnitsch. "Before that it's a little bit complicated by the fact that there were probably a lot of cheques written in 2011 and 2012 based on offsets from the previous 10 years. Just from talking to farmers there were a lot of guys who

found it worthwhile when they could get 10 years of records together and they could get a decent-size cheque.

"Since then the record-keeping requirements went up a bit and the effective yield went down a bit."

Jungnitsch said he still receives a lot of phone calls from farmers expressing interest in the offset program and those who get through the first rounds of paperwork tend to stick with it.

"The system is more mature," he said. "The aggregation companies have been in operation longer. There's more awareness of the whole carbon thing."

"Guys who are in the system find it quite OK to stay in it because once you get to that point you're just modifying what's already there and you're probably dealing with the same aggregator and everything."

CLUBROOT ▶ from page 1**'Going to hurt'**

But the rapid spread of clubroot may soon force their hands.

"In the Peace Country, we've relied quite heavily on canola as a good-income crop, and if we don't get on top of it early, we're going to see our ability to grow it on a regular basis diminished," said Sears. "When you're used to having canola income every two or three years off a piece of land and you end up going to every five or six because clubroot becomes that much of a problem, that is a significant issue.

"That's going to hurt quite a bit, especially up here in the Peace Country where we don't have a lot of alternative crops."

Clubroot "isn't going to go away in a heartbeat," added Canola Council agronomist Gregory Sekulic, who's based in the Peace.

"It's something we're going to have to manage quite aggressively in the short term, and honestly, we're going to have to do a better job of managing it than we have been," he said.

"It's not a surprise that we found it, but now that it's here, growers do need to be that much more cognizant of managing it.

"We really want growers to assume that all fields have clubroot."

The first step is growing a resistant variety.

"Once the disease has been identified on your field, look into resistant varieties immediately," said Sekulic. "You need to switch all of your varieties to resistant varieties. Period. That goes for growers in the immediate vicinity as well."

Orchard agrees.

"These fields we're now finding are all susceptible varieties," he said. "By the time they're discovering it, the crop is dead in huge areas. The amount of spores in the soil is astronomical, and it now becomes a difficult disease to manage.

"When other counties are diligent and finding it really, really early, the management list is far more extensive."

Managing disease resistance

But producers also need to manage disease resistance in their varieties.

"Use the same resistance too often and it won't work. It's like an antibiotic that you repeatedly take that eventually doesn't work," said Orchard.

"That's what's happening in the areas with really high spore loads and canola every second year with the same genetics."

It only takes about two crops of a resistant variety for the pathogen to start to shift to overcome it, said Murray Hartman, provincial oilseed specialist.

"If you start growing a resistant variety before you know there's any symptoms, you can probably grow that crop three or four times," he said. "But if you wait until you've got the patches, you're only going to grow it twice before you've got these new strains."

That's why officials say "don't grow a resistant variety more than once every four years."

"Two crops would give us almost 10 years to breed new varieties," said Hartman. "Unfortunately, we had guys growing them back to back, and within three years, the resistance was starting to fail in spots."

Extending the crop rotation "isn't so much about yield penalties or agronomics — it's to protect resistance," said Orchard.

"If you're on a two-year rotation, then it's four years before your resistance doesn't work anymore," he said.

"The longer you stretch out your rotation, the longer you'll have until the resistance doesn't

work. You'll get the same number of canola crops out of that field. It's just whether you want to stop growing canola in four years or eight."

Other best practices

Extending the crop rotation comes with other benefits as well, said Sekulic.

"For disease management, a longer rotation is going to be better," he said. "We definitely want to encourage growers to introduce as much diversity into their fields as possible. The longer a field is out of canola, the fewer spores that will be in it.

"Once clubroot is found, we absolutely need to stretch our rotations to at least one in four."

Sanitation should also be "first and foremost in producers' minds," he added.

"When they're travelling from field to field, they need to make sure their soil stays at home," he said. "And when we're bringing equipment in from other parts of the province, we really want to make sure that it's been pressure washed aggressively, ideally with a bleach solution to kill any spores."

Incorporating those management practices might be a hard sell for producers who can't afford to extend their rotation or stop dur-



"Once the disease has been identified on your field... you need to switch all of your varieties to resistant varieties. Period."

GREGORY SEKULIC



"It's covering a lot of ground quickly, and it doesn't give us a lot of time to look at our practices and make the changes we need to."

GREG SEARS



"Unfortunately, we had guys growing them back to back, and within three years, the resistance was starting to fail in spots."

MURRAY HARTMAN

ing a busy harvest to sanitize their equipment. But ultimately, the future viability of canola as a crop may depend on it, said Sears.

"It is hard to stop at the end of the field before going to the next one and get rid of all the excess dirt. And it is hard to try a new crop," said Sears.

"But clubroot is a very significant and very real issue for us in Canada, and I think you just have to close your eyes and imagine what your farm would be like if you couldn't grow canola.

"It's one of those tough choices that we need to make."

And those tough choices need to be made sooner rather than later.

"You can't switch from a one-in-two rotation to a one-in-four rotation overnight. We need to start making those changes right away so that we're ready for it."

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HARVEY HAS SMALL IMPACT ON GRAIN MOVEMENT

Cargill CEO David MacLennan said Hurricane Harvey's impact on ag commodity freight through the Gulf of Mexico should be minimal. Operations at Houston's ports were impacted but were to be fully open this week following plant inspections and the resumption of rail freight service. MacLennan said freight movement down the Mississippi River and into the Port of New Orleans wouldn't be seriously impacted. Ocean container rates "might spike over the short term" but increases will likely be temporary and the company had not seen any increase in rail rates, a Cargill official said. — Reuters

INDIA'S BUMPER CROP PROMPTS IMPORT LIMITS

India's total pulse production outlook for 2016-17 has been increased by 550,000 tonnes to 22.95 million tonnes, a 40 per cent increase from last year — and 5.32 million tonnes higher than the five-year average. Total food grains production is forecast to be a record 275.68 million tonnes. Estimates for the summer (or kharif) crop and for the larger rabi (winter) crop were both increased. The increase forecast for pulse production came despite a 3.5 per cent decline in the area planted to the crops. The government hopes to support domestic prices by limiting imports of some pulses, including moong dal, pigeon peas and toor dal. — CNSC

MARKETS



U.S. soy, corn growers take stock after Harvey

StatsCan's outlook didn't get a big reaction but confirmed there's more canola in the system than official numbers indicate

BY DAVE SIMS

The effects of Hurricane Harvey on soybean-growing weather and energy markets made for a choppy canola market during the week ended Aug. 31.

The frenetic week ended with Statistics Canada's production estimates, which made for an interesting question: Was it bullish or bearish?

The initial response seemed to indicate investors were mildly reassured by the numbers, which failed to dip too heavily one way or the other. StatsCan pegged the 2017 crop at 18.2 million tonnes, which was within trade estimates.

However, the agency also hiked its 2016-17 production number from 18.4 million tonnes to 19.6 million. That confirmed what most analysts had been saying for a while, that Canada has more canola in its system than the official numbers indicate.

With the report in the books, canola will likely keep its focus on soybeans, weather and the direction of the Canadian dollar.

Harvest is well underway, with better-than-expected yields being reported in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. There are some ideas that when results start coming in from the central and northern portions of the western Prairies, the size of the crop could rise even more.

Soybean farmers in the U.S. Midwest likely had Sept. 6 circled on their calendar. Temperatures are expected to be cool due to a full moon and there is an outside chance of frost. Weekly export data has been reasonably solid, though, and there are few indications the world has stepped back from its insatiable demand for oilseeds. Once the effects of Hurricane Harvey subside, growers in the Mississippi Delta will undergo damage assessments.

The corn market chopped around for the majority of the week before ending relatively flat. There were some ideas Hurricane Harvey could actually turn out to be a positive force for plant development as the storm pushed rain into corn-growing regions during the critical filling stage. However, there was speculation it could reduce the basis right when old-crop supplies began to make their way

to market. Farmer selling and new-crop sales were both light.

As expected, Canada's all-wheat harvest will be down significantly from last year. The agency pegged this year's crop at 25.5 million tonnes, compared to 31.7 million last year. The shortage, coupled with drought-like conditions in Australia and India, has helped make life slightly easier for U.S. exporters. The U.S. crop

has also suffered from drought stress this year. Both the Chicago and Kansas City markets' front-month futures are trading above the US\$4-a-bushel mark while Minneapolis this week is closer to US\$6.50.

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.



Hard red wheat bids drop with U.S. harvest pressure

Lower MGEX wheat futures and a rising loonie also drag on cash prices

BY PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN
CNS CANADA

Hard red spring wheat bids in Western Canada moved lower for the sixth straight week during the week ended Sept. 1, as an advancing U.S. harvest, declines in Minneapolis futures, and a rising Canadian dollar all weighed on local prices.

Depending on the location, average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat prices were down by \$11-\$13 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 \$234 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as \$250 in eastern Manitoba.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but generally softened by about \$2, to range from

about \$7 to \$22 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\$189 to US\$202 per tonne. That would put the currency-adjusted basis levels at about US\$25-\$38 below the futures.

Looking at it the other way around, if the Minneapolis futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$31 to \$47 below the futures.

Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat bids posted small gains in most regions, with prices ranging from \$153 to \$165 per tonne.

Average durum prices were

steady to down by as much as \$16 per tonne, with bids in Saskatchewan coming in at about \$281-\$284 per tonne.

The December spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts in Canada are based, was quoted Aug. 31 at US\$6.4025 per bushel, down 29 U.S. cents from the previous week.

Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPSR in Canada. The December K.C. wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.3625 per bushel on Aug. 31, up four U.S. cents compared to the previous week.

The September Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.345 on Aug. 31, down 0.75 U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar was trading on Sept. 1 at 80.74 U.S. cents, up roughly three-quarters of a cent on the week.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Slumping fertilizer producers gear up to fill truck demand

Tighter emissions standards are driving demand for urea-based diesel exhaust fluid

BY ROD NICKEL
REUTERS

Fertilizer companies, coping with a stubborn price slump, are banking on tighter emissions standards for diesel trucks in the United States and Europe to buoy their balance sheets.

Nitrogen fertilizer producers including CF Industries and Agrium are accelerating output of diesel exhaust fluid (DEF), a water and urea solution used to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide. The niche market offers premiums of \$50 to \$100 per short ton over the crop nutrients they sell at prices that are depressed due to excessive supplies.

DEF demand has risen since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set tighter emissions controls in 2010 for diesel trucks. The European Union, where DEF is known as AdBlue, introduced similar legislation in 2013.

Fertilizer companies have increased DEF output this year to coincide with openings of several new or expanded U.S. nitrogen plants, and as lower-emission trucks replace aging vehicles on the road.

"We love it — it's a great business for us," said Bert Frost, CF Industries' senior vice-president of sales, market development and supply chain.

CF Industries started production this year in Louisiana to turn 400,000 tons of urea annually into DEF. Altogether, CF, the larg-

est North American producer by capacity, can convert 800,000 tons of urea into DEF annually.

Doubling demand

Total U.S. demand for DEF is about one million tons of urea equivalent, a fraction of North America's annual consumption of 14 million tons of urea, Frost said. But he added that DEF demand is likely to double within five years as 60 per cent of U.S. heavy diesel trucks are replaced by models with lower-emission engines.

Engine technology called selective catalytic reduction (SCR) uses DEF to trigger a chemical reaction that converts nitrogen oxides, a pollutant, into natural components of air that are then expelled through the tailpipe.

The market hinges on the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which pulled the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement, continuing the country's move to lower-emission trucks.

The U.S. administration is unlikely to roll back emissions standards because trucking companies benefit from using more fuel-efficient vehicles and manufacturers have made huge investments in technology, said Allen Schaeffer, executive director of Diesel Technology Forum, a non-profit group.

Global consumption of DEF may reach 10 million tonnes of urea equivalent annually by 2027 from two million currently.



A urea-water mixture promises to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from large trucks.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Long-serving ag minister, Gerry Ritz calls it a day

The former agriculture minister says dismantling of single-desk marketing was his greatest accomplishment

STAFF

Longtime federal agriculture minister, Gerry Ritz is done with federal politics.

Ritz has been the MP for Battlefords-Lloydminster since 1997 and served as ag minister for nine years in the former Conservative government.

Ritz, 66, told the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* that with the party undergoing a "generational change," it was time to finally keep a long-standing promise to spend more time with family.

"My wife tells me she's got a 'honey do' list that'll take me three years if I roll up my sleeves and hurry, things that have been sort of let slide at home and around," he told the paper.

He said eliminating the single-desk marketing power of the Canadian Wheat Board was his greatest accomplishment.

"Farmers are doing extremely well because they now control their own destiny," he said.

Fellow Saskatchewan Tory MP Randy Hoback thanked

Ritz via Twitter, saying "made being a farmer profitable and cool." B.C. Tory MP Dan Albas tweeted that the party will miss Ritz's "stand-up get-it-done style" in caucus.

Ritz, who lives at Brightsand Lake, about 125 kilometres north of North Battleford, most recently served as the Conservatives' critic for international trade. He was not on the shadow cabinet roster recently announced by the party's new leader, fellow Saskatchewan MP Andrew Scheer.

A farmer, general contractor and newspaper publisher, Ritz's career in federal politics dates back to before the 1993 federal election, when he served as campaign manager for Elwin Hermanson, the Reform Party MP for what was then Kindersley-Lloydminster.

After the 1993 election, Ritz first served as constituency co-ordinator for Hermanson and then ran for federal office when Hermanson moved to provincial politics. He ran successfully under the Canadian Alliance banner in 2000 and has been the Conservative MP since 2004.

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CATTLEMEN'S YOUNG LEADERS CHOSEN

Albertans account for half of 16 people in the 2017-18 Cattlemen's Young Leaders program. The program provides mentoring; a \$2,000 travel budget to attend meetings and events; and industry-specific training for young producers between the ages of 18 and 35. Judges selected the final 16 from 24 semifinalists who gathered at an event in Calgary last month and they participated in roundtable discussions on specific themes. The Albertans chosen for the program are Ashely Gaudet, Matt Kumlin, Ben Wilson, Lee Creech, James Jenkins, Melissa Lee, Cale Toews, and Lacey McCrae. — Canadian Cattlemen's Association

BEEF AGENCY ELECTS BOARD FOR COMING YEAR

Jeff Smith and Doug Sawyer will represent Alberta on the board of the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency for the coming year. The agency promotes the marketing and production of beef cattle, beef and beef products through Canada Beef and conducts and promotes research activities through Beef Cattle Research Council. Sawyer will chair the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off Division Committee. Linda Allison of B.C. returns as board chair and Manitoba's Heinz Reimer will again be vice-chair. — Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency

LIVESTOCK

Keep calm – and stay on the left – when working cattle

Nebraska veterinarian says the top priority is to demonstrate that people – a.k.a. 'coyotes' – are not really a threat

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF/CALGARY

Stay on the left side of cattle and treat them right.

That was demonstrated by Dr. Kip Lukasiewicz during a live animal-handling session at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

"People create the interaction and the guidance," said the Nebraska veterinarian and consultant who often works with feedlots on animal handling and facility design.

What's important is always using a positive manner, he told his audience at the Agrium Western Event Centre.

"When we arrive cattle at the feedlot, we always have people to greet the cattle off the truck," he said. "That's their first impression of the coyote on the place."

Coyotes is Lukasiewicz's term for humans — or rather his description of how cattle view people.

Cattle's instinctive mistrust of people is why it's important not to use prods or sticks.

"When you greet cattle, they can see that, right off the bat," said Lukasiewicz, who teaches handlers to use only their voice and arm movements.

He tries to work on the left side of cattle because they will typically move to the left and therefore watch you from their left eye.

In his demonstration, he moved 15 head through a set of chutes and a squeeze, using a bud box.

"We'll bring them in, as if they are coming in the truck," he said. "I'll put them in the calving pen over there and then I'll bring them out and I'll do a dry run through the bud box in the chute and the squeeze."

"The whole time, when I take them out onstage again, what you'll notice about me on that left eye — I will teach them to stay in single file, coming by me."

This is all preparation for what happens next. Everything that is done with cattle is about preparing them for the next stage of life, he said.



Dr. Kip Lukasiewicz showed how to move cattle without the use of force or prods during a session at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

PHOTOS: ALEXIS KIENLEN

The cattle, that had never seen the veterinarian before, were just like feedlot cattle and were "pretty workable."

A good dog can also be a benefit when working cattle.

"I'm not as good as a collie or a keltie that can get out under the fences and come through. If you watch a good cattle dog work, they're not nipping at heels, per se, they're just back and forth."

If Lukasiewicz finds cattle in an arrival pen are skittish, he works with them before they go through processing. He focuses on an animal that has its head up and is looking at him.

"If this was a bigger pen, I'd start here and I'll put all the pressure I could on that red baldy face," he said as he moved that animal off of the other ones, and pulled him out.

"I can put pressure down on them and if I need to get it off, I just pull it off," he said.

All of this is preparation to send them through the bud box or tub system.

"When we arrive cattle at the feedlot, we always have people to greet the cattle off the truck. That's their first impression of the coyote on the place."

KIP
LUKASIEWICZ

Lukasiewicz said that cattle always signal with their ears first, and then their eyes.

"See his ear, he just turned and gave me his eye," said Lukasiewicz, who studied with the late Bud Williams.

"It's going to be a challenge, when these cattle came before, they didn't see all the coyotes up in the stands," he said, referring



to his audience. "So this is what I mean by, just get off their eyes."

"Sometimes cattle will turn back on their handlers in an alley, which is a sign that the handler needs to change focus. Draw back, don't make a commotion." Cattle should be given space and taught they can move past people in a calm manner, he said.

However, some pressure is sometimes needed.

"If the cattle start turning and trying to find me, then I'm too far off. I have to get right over on his eye, slow the pressure on his eye," he said.

The secret is not about working very hard — just being with the cattle and teaching them that humans are OK.

"Just teaching these cattle that everything we're doing to them is just to settle them down," he said.

Reducing stress while handling livestock can result in better cattle health, and fewer treatments when the cattle enter the feedlot pen, he said. It can also improve respiratory health, and reduce lameness and toe abscesses.

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Up and down is becoming the norm for Canadian beef producers

Demand for beef is strong and prices have been good for cow-calf producers, but the market is increasingly volatile

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF/CALGARY

The markets can be a roller-coaster, but one thing is for sure — the Canadian cattle herd is not expanding.

“Heifer retention numbers are not enough to drive any expansion across Canada,” Brian Perillat, manager/senior analyst with Canfax said at the recent Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

Fewer cattle are being shipped south of the border but premium prices here have seen Canadian slaughter go up by 16 per cent, he said.

“Local demand has been fairly strong for these cows and that’s what’s driving the cow market,” he said.

Last month, the Canadian herd had the biggest weekly slaughter number in seven years. That’s partially due to the addition of Harmony Beef in Balzac.

“Despite our cow herd numbers being flat all the time, our slaughter numbers and our plant utilization rates have been very positive and well used,” said Perillat.

The packing industry is enjoying good margins, and its demand for cattle is positive for the entire industry.

“There is some opportunity there, but when you get too caught up in buying some of these high-priced calves again, when the market turns, it’s a bit of a risk,” he said.

Still, prices are historically strong, and things are fairly positive overall.

Regional differences

Price volatility has also varied by region. Ontario prices are usually stronger than Alberta’s by a few dollars but earlier this year, Alberta had the strongest prices in North America.

“Alberta prices were \$20 to \$25 a hundredweight above Ontario,” said Perillat.

Culled cow prices have come down quite a bit since peaking in early June and exports have been fairly strong — although the majority of Canadian cattle are slaughtered at home.

This summer’s dry conditions

haven’t resulted in big volumes of cattle coming to slaughter.

“I think there’s a lot of carry-over grass and pretty good subsoil moisture coming into this year,” said Perillat. “We haven’t seen a flush of cows being liquidated by any means, and that’s despite the fact that we are seeing these prices coming down.”

The feedlot sector has had to adjust to margin swings, but has continued to be profitable, he said. Fed cattle prices have come down but despite this, feedlots are still doing well, which is supporting the feeder markets.

But cow-calf producers have been the big winners for a few years now, and have been more consistently profitable. Hay and feed costs will be up this year, but most of that will be factored into next year’s calf prices, said Perillat.

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PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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“Despite our cow herd numbers being flat all the time, our slaughter numbers and our plant utilization rates have been very positive and well used.”

BRIAN PERILLAT

“It’s encouraging them to slaughter a lot of cattle and help work through the supplies,” he said. “They really do support the market.”

Even though slaughter is up substantially, beef production only increased by four per cent. That’s because average carcass weights have been as much as 40 pounds less than a year ago, he said. Rising carcass weights have concerned many industry watchers and Perillat noted “a lot of those carcass weights are in fatty trim products — there’s not a lot of value.”

Prices have also been swinging widely and there’s been a \$700-per-cow spread between high and low prices this year, he said.

“And I’m not completely sure it’s at max level yet,” said Perillat. Price rallies are nice but also present a challenge.

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Get as much health information as you can when buying cattle

Producers are doing a good job of caring for their cattle but often this information is not passed on to buyers

BY ROY LEWIS DVM

When purchasing or selling livestock, their health status — preventive shots given, deworming, and other relevant information — can be determined by a few simple questions.

But these questions are seldom asked in cattle transactions these days. With cattle being of higher value, and often traversing long distances through different geographic areas, this information is extremely valuable.

When purchasing cattle, it is imperative to get the complete vaccination history for several reasons. Firstly, you need to confirm the initial and booster shots were given for the diseases most prevalent in your specific area. Have vaccinations for all the diseases you need to be protected from been administered or are there other things you need to carry out from a preventive medicine standpoint? Will these diseases have to be boosted? If something new shows up on the vaccinations, you may want to include that protocol in the revaccination. A good example of this would be leptospirosis, which is more common in Eastern Canada but relatively rare out west.

Make sure you recognize other hidden things on your purchases, such as checking for internal para-

sites. Knowing the area the cattle have come from may give you some idea of other things one has to protect for from a biosecurity standpoint.

With any new purchases, a standard quarantine is a good idea for at least a couple of weeks. If, for instance, a respiratory disease is incubating and becomes evident during the quarantine, it can be treated. This is not indicative or caused by the original location but rather the stress of transporting, exposure at auction facilities, weather changes, commingling, and potential exposure to what may be on your farm. Common microorganisms on your farm allow the cattle to have natural exposure and immunity develops over time. Cattle being brought in could be exposed to organisms your cattle are carrying which they are not immune to.

Other diseases may not show up for several years. So ones such as bovine leucosis (a bit more prominent in Eastern Canada) and Johne's can be tested for if there's a possibility of it being introduced to your herd.

The absolute worst time to purchase and introduce animals to your herd is just before calving season — yet this is when many purchases are made. The issue here is the bred animals may not develop protection in their colostrum for the scour organisms and other micro-

organisms present on your farm. If you do purchase commercial or purebred cattle, make sure to find out if scours prevention was given so you have some idea of what protection the newborn calf is going to have in the mother's colostrum.

Just because the purchase comes from a high-reputation herd does not guarantee the vaccination program is as comprehensive as you want, or need, on your premises. If you isolate the purchase, that gives you time to start a vaccination program — especially when it comes to scours prevention. The reverse could also be true whereby purchased animals can expose your herd to infectious agents. If it's a new organism and your herd is essentially naive, infection is a possibility.

The measuring stick for good management is often how comprehensive an owner's vaccination program is, such as whether parasite (both internal and external) control is given in a strategic manner.

It is too bad RFID tag information from the CCIA can not be passed down, but some tracking programs (such as BIXS, Herdtrax, and ViewTrak) are allowing information to be shared between purchaser and seller.

In the event of purchases from purebred sales, a better job could be done describing what has been done to the cattle. If possible, sim-

ply ask the question directly of the seller. If this communication network could be fine-tuned, it would be great. This would allow purchasers to add in what was needed without redundancy of duplication. (If information is lacking, definitely revaccinate to avoid any risks.)

The more information that is shared, the better. I know that feedlots bringing in and mixing cattle from all over, vaccinating with their protocols on entry is a must. It would still be good to know from a disease prevention standpoint if cattle had been pre-immunized (and with what vaccines). With the pressure to use less and less antimicrobials, communication of health information will go a long ways to help us work towards using less antimicrobials in cattle production.

Redundancy happens a great deal, and I am sure this is another cost we, as producers, must bear — whether from overvaccinating and overdeworming to giving too many metaphylactic drugs. This could be reduced if we communicate the great things we do down the line when we market cattle.

Preconditioned sales are one way this communication happens on a local level, but we also need to toot our own horn and really express what preventive things are done to our cattle. Whether it's in sales catalogues, in satellite and internet auctions, or at the

cattle auction markets, we must all accurately express all the great preventive and management procedures the cattle have benefited from. This will also minimize the necessity for antimicrobial usage and keep resistance at bay. Cattle producers are a responsible group — we just need to clarify this in all our cattle transactions.

When purchasing (especially purebred cattle), we look at phenotype, genetics, EPDs, growth, and so on. But health requirements are often overlooked.

Always ask questions as the health of your herd could be at stake. Vaccinations and other preventive management tasks need to be outlined, and it's extremely helpful to know the dates when these measures were administered. By doing this, we also keep up to date on the latest vaccines and other technologies that are out there. For example, there are now several intranasal vaccines and painkillers that bring down fever and immune stimulants.

We can always learn something new from these discussions. Here's to a healthy fall run for your cattle and those that you may purchase.

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

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College opens state-of-the-art dairy centre

The \$9.5-million facility will be used by hundreds of students annually and also offer short continuing education courses

STAFF

A new \$9.5-million dairy facility at Lakeland College will offer students cutting-edge learning opportunities in areas such as calf management, feed and nutrition, cow comfort, dairy-specific software, and manure management.

About 500 people turned out for the recent official opening of the 46,600-square-foot facility at the college's Vermilion campus.

"The Dairy Learning Centre replaces Lakeland's previous dairy facility which was built in the 1980s, and puts Lakeland in the ideal position of reflecting the highest industry standards," the college said in a news release. "It features state-of-the-art technology in robotic and conventional milking and feeding systems.

"With these systems, Lakeland students will have the opportunity to delve into what it takes to lead in the dairy industry. They'll work with a herd of 280 head, including 120 Holstein milk cows, replacement heifers and young stock."

The facility will primarily be utilized by animal science technology (AST) students taking a dairy major but will also be used by students in other programs.

"AST students in other majors will have access to the facility during animal-handling labs; agribusiness students will study livestock production systems, AHT (animal health technology) students will apply their developing skills in hands-on labs such as blood collection and injection procedures, veterinary medical assistant students will work with the herd to get experience handling large animals, and crop technology students will learn about manure disposal and growing silage," the news release stated.

The facility has one robotic milking parlour and a double-eight parallel parlour, and utilizes Herd Navigator technology, which automatically samples milk for mastitis, reproduction, metabolic disorders, and feed protein balance. The centre also features an automatic sort gate, triple foam mattresses, and FAN manure separator. It also has LED lighting with auto dimming, plate heat exchangers (which lowers the temperature of milk from the udder and transfers that heat for other purposes), and ventilation and heating systems that monitor outside conditions and make necessary adjustments inside for cow comfort.

The facility will also be used for continuing education opportunities such as short-term courses on dairy production. Alberta Milk, which provided the use of additional milk quota, will provide input on future courses and training opportunities.

"Alberta Milk is pleased to be working closely with Lakeland College to enhance dairy education programming in Western Canada," said Tom Kootstra, chairman of Alberta Milk.

The federal government contributed \$3.4 million to the project.



The Dairy Learning Centre is packed with a range of state-of-the-art technology. PHOTO: LAKELAND COLLEGE



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Agenda Highlights

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Sylvain Charlebois,
Dalhousie University



Bruce Muirhead,
University of Waterloo

BENCHMARKING MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE: HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?



Heather Watson,
Farm Management Canada



Terry Betker,
Backswath Management Inc.

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE GREATEST RISK FACING THE FAMILY FARM



Brenda
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CLIMATE CHANGE LINKED TO ROAD DEATHS

A new study blames climate change for an unusual spike in U.S. road deaths. The study said people might have used their vehicles more frequently to avoid increasingly bad weather, such as rising temperatures and heavier rainfall. After falling for five decades, U.S. road deaths jumped 7.2 per cent in 2015 and eight per cent in the first nine months of 2016. Using data from the 100 most populated counties and computer models, the study found driving for the average motorist increased by 95 kilometres for each 0.5 C rise in temperature and by 105 kilometres for every additional inch of rain. — Thomson Reuters Foundation

HURRICANES CAN HAVE BIG IMPACT ON FUEL PRICES

Hurricane Harvey sent gas prices soaring after it caused Gulf Coast refineries to shut down or reduce production. At one point, a quarter of the region's refining capacity was shut down, sending gas prices up sharply and oil prices down. Energy companies were able to get much of that capacity back online, which reversed the price changes. But weather officials noted that September is peak hurricane season in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico region, and there may be further disruptions to shipping channels, oil pipelines, and refineries. — Reuters

WEATHER



There are extreme rains, and then the deluge caused by Harvey

Some parts of Texas received more rain in 24 hours than Prairie centres have seen in their wettest-ever month

BY DANIEL BEZTE

As fairly quiet weather continues across the Prairies, the big weather story recently has been Hurricane Harvey, which came ashore in Texas late on Aug. 26.

Harvey rapidly strengthened in the 12-hour period leading up to landfall and came ashore as a borderline Category 4 hurricane, with top winds of 210 kilometres per hour. It wasn't the winds that ended up being the problem with this system, but rather the rains.

Hurricanes and tropical storms typically bring with them copious amounts of rain. Totals will often be in the 100- to 200-millimetre range with amounts sometimes pushing into the 300- to 400-millimetre range. What helps to determine just how much rain will fall is the speed that the system moves through. Typically, these systems pick up speed as they travel northwards and get picked up by the mid-latitude westerlies. This helps to limit just how much rain can fall on any given area.

This didn't happen with Harvey.

Instead of picking up speed as Harvey moved inland, the mid- and upper-level steering currents around it collapsed, which essentially caused Harvey to stop moving. This set up the perfect conditions for a major history-making rain event to develop over southern and eastern Texas.

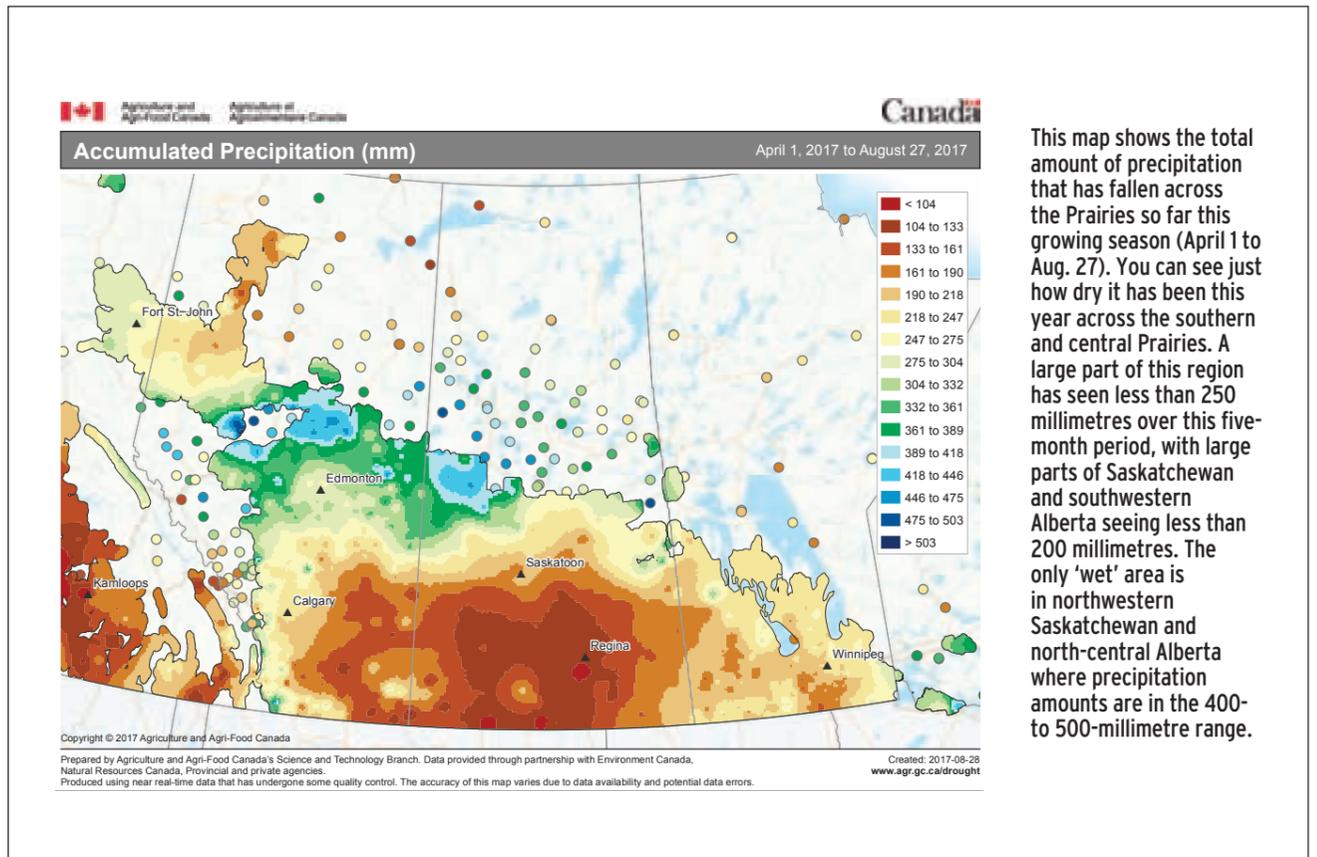
With Harvey stalled out right near the coast, it was still able to tap into the huge amounts of moisture over the Gulf of Mexico and pump it inland. Computer models, which did a very good job of predicting rainfall totals early on, predicted some regions would see as much as 1,250 millimetres of rain. In fact, an area east of Houston received 51.88 inches or 1,317 millimetres. That's right, more than 1.3 metres of rain!

That beat the U.S. record of 1,220 millimetres of rain that fell from Tropical Storm Amelia in 1978.

The two upper charts show some of the earlier rainfall totals measured over the Saturday and Sunday time period around the Houston region.

Let's try to put these values into some kind of perspective (see the lower two charts).

Total yearly rainfall for Winnipeg is on average about 500 millimetres, for Calgary it is around 400 millimetres. The largest single rain event that I know of was the 325 millimetres of rain that fell in High River over a 48-hour period in June of 2013. This was part of the historic flooding that occurred across parts of southern Alberta in that year.



This map shows the total amount of precipitation that has fallen across the Prairies so far this growing season (April 1 to Aug. 27). You can see just how dry it has been this year across the southern and central Prairies. A large part of this region has seen less than 250 millimetres over this five-month period, with large parts of Saskatchewan and southwestern Alberta seeing less than 200 millimetres. The only 'wet' area is in northwestern Saskatchewan and north-central Alberta where precipitation amounts are in the 400- to 500-millimetre range.

OFFICIAL NOAA/NWS/SPC SITES (TWO-DAY TOTALS)

697 mm	Dayton (0.2 mi. E)
696 mm	Santa Fe (0.7 mi. S)
680 mm	Dixie Farm Road
630 mm	First Colony (4 mi. WSW)
623 mm	South Houston (4 mi. SSW)

Trying to dig out multi-day rain events is tough to do. Here is a list of single-day record rainfalls for the main centres I use across the Prairies followed by the largest monthly total rainfalls ever recorded. (Data source: Environment Canada.)

From this you can see that we really have no idea just how much rain fell across Texas from Harvey. There are places that received — in just one 24-hour period — three times more rain than we have seen in a record wet month!

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.

MEASUREMENTS FROM PERSONAL WEATHER STATIONS (PWS) - ALL VALUES IN MILLIMETRES

Total	Sunday	Saturday	
937.5	733.3	204.2	Baytown, Texas (Country Club Oaks)
857.0	701.5	155.5	Dayton, Texas (Winter Valley)
797.6	538.0	259.6	La Porte, Texas (Westend La Porte/SJJC)
794.5	584.5	210.0	Seabrook, Texas (Baybrook)
788.9	523.2	265.7	League City, Texas (South League City)

DAILY RECORDS

Calgary	95.3 mm	July 15, 1927
Edmonton	75.6 mm	July 3, 1990
Peace River	53.0 mm	May 4, 2000
Saskatoon	96.6 mm	June 1, 1892
Regina	160.3 mm	June 15, 1887
Dauphin	100.0 mm	June 18, 1956
Brandon	102.9 mm	June 2, 1953
Winnipeg	83.8 mm	August 11, 1962

MONTHLY RECORDS

Calgary	247.6 mm	June 2005
Edmonton	204.6 mm	July 1982
Peace River	137.4 mm	July 1964
Saskatoon	186.5 mm	June 1942
Regina	212.1 mm	July 1901
Dauphin	226.7 mm	June 1944
Brandon	225.0 mm	June 2005
Winnipeg	255.7 mm	June 1901

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Many producers have told us that it's useful to have grade and quality information on samples before delivering their grain. Participants in the Harvest Sample Program receive dockage assessment on canola; an unofficial grade; protein content on barley, beans, chickpeas, lentils, oats, peas and wheat; oil, protein and chlorophyll content for canola; oil and protein content and iodine value for flaxseed; and oil and protein for mustard seed and soybeans. Samples are accepted until November. For more info, go to www.grainscanada.gc.ca and click on the Harvest Sample Program link on the left side of the home page. — Canadian Grain Commission



CROPS

Prepare this fall to manage blackleg in canola next spring

A new diagnostic test will make it easier for producers to match the right kind of blackleg-resistant seed to the specific race in their fields

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF / LACOMBE

There are things you can do this fall to reduce your risk of blackleg next spring — and the first step is to scout for it.

"The more you can identify it, the more you're going to know whether you're successful at controlling it," said Clint Jurke, agronomy director for the Canola Council of Canada.

"When you know what's killing your plants, you can make plans for it the next time you put canola in that field."

Blackleg became a trade issue between Canada and China in 2010, mainly because China does not yet have the blackleg pathogen in its own canola crop. The risk of spreading the disease from Canadian canola to Chinese is "fairly low," but the "trade dispute between the two countries persists," particularly since the levels of blackleg in Canada have been on the rise since 2010.

"In the last round of trade negotiations, the way we were able to keep that \$5-billion market open is that Canada has committed to reducing the amount of blackleg infection that we have here," said Jurke.

"What we need to do is come up with a new strategy to bring that blackleg level back down so that we can keep the trade flowing and remain profitable as a canola industry."

One of the best times to scout for



Crop rotation and disease-resistant varieties are the best ways to manage blackleg in canola, said canola council agronomist Clint Jurke. PHOTO: JENNIFER BLAIR

blackleg is in the fall, said Jurke, who spoke at a CanolaPALOOZA pre-harvest event in late August. During swathing or combining, producers may spot some lodging, and when the stems are cut, the blackened tissue inside the crown of the stem is easy to see.

And once blackleg has been identified, "genetics and rotation are our best controls."

"When resistant genetics came into play in 1995, the blackleg incidence dropped right off. Resistance works fantastically, but crop rotation is your other big control mechanism," said Jurke.

Canola residue can take four years to decompose completely in the field, and "that's where the fungus hides out," he said.

"In the intervening years after you've grown that canola crop, it starts shooting spores out and that's what infects your crop," said Jurke.

"If you're on a four-year rotation, most of this canola residue completely decomposes, and therefore, you don't have a blackleg problem."

While resistance has been "working really well" up to this point, a resistance label on a bag of seed may not paint an accurate picture of how that variety will work in an individual farmer's field.

"Those R ratings are an average of how that variety performs across the entire Prairies," said Jurke. "It gives you an idea of how stable it is, but on your particular farm, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be R rated."

Complicating matters further, each resistant variety will have a specific resistance gene, which then has to match up with a particular race of fungus in the field.

"If that resistance gene cannot recognize that the fungus is in your field, that resistance doesn't work," said Jurke. "The ideal system is to match up your particular resistance gene with the particular race that you have in the field."

A new voluntary resistance labelling system has been launched this year, and some seed companies are now labelling their bags with the type of resistance found in the seed.

"It will tell you what resistance gene is in that variety so that you

can pick which one is going to be best," said Jurke.

"Say you had a disaster of blackleg. You can look at the variety and say, 'Son of a gun, the resistance didn't work. I know it was resistance gene C that I had in this variety. Next time I plant canola in this field, I do not use resistance gene C because it doesn't work.'"

But what happens if you don't know which resistance gene was in your last variety?

"There's a new tool that's coming online right now at some of the diagnostic labs where you can take your old canola residue and send it into the lab," said Jurke, adding that those tests should be available later this year.

"They'll screen it with genetic markers and tell you exactly which race you have, and then you can choose which resistance gene is going to work the best."

So when making next year's cropping plans, producers who have identified blackleg in their fields should consider stretching out their rotations, have their residue tested, and select the right seed to combat the disease in their field.

"If we have blackleg, we can start bringing that back down," said Jurke.

"When you reduce the amount of blackleg, you have better yield, and it makes sure our trade continues so that the industry can remain profitable."

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Degraded soils cost farmers billions annually

Soils degraded in the past simply don't regenerate quickly – and more fertilizer and better genetics only mask the problem



Bob McIntosh, who farms in Perth County, says it can take a lifetime or longer to repair degraded soils. PHOTO: LAURA RANCE

BY LAURA RANCE
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR/GUELPH, ONT.

Farmers have reduced the amount of soil they lose through annual cropping practices, but they continue to carry a costly legacy of degraded soils, a University of Manitoba soil scientist says.

David Lobb used crop production data and computer models to estimate how much lost productivity has occurred over the past four decades due to soil erosion.

The numbers he came up with were startling.

“When we did the analysis, looking at the accumulated soil loss and its impact on yield accounting for changes in tillage systems, cropping changes that have occurred across the country the actual loss in production, the actual loss in associated economic value is about \$3.1 bil-



“We have reduced soil loss but we haven't reduced the history of soil loss.”

DAVID LOBB
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA SOIL SCIENTIST

lion on an annual basis,” Lobb said in an interview following his presentation to the Soil Conservation Council of Canada soil summit here.

“If you looked at what cumulatively would have occurred from the 1970s to now you are probably looking at between \$40 billion and \$60 billion lost in terms of economic potential for the ag industry,” he said. Increased applications of fertilizer and better genetics may help mask some

of the effects, but they come at a cost, too.

The cost is actually much higher because Lobb only looked at the direct effects on crop production.

“We didn't look at the inefficiencies associated with higher input use like pesticides and fertilizer that commonly occurs in highly degraded landscapes, and we didn't look at any of the off-field effects like sedimentation in ditches and navigable waterways or any ecological services associated with algal blooms or eutrophication of surface waters,” he said.

“The indirect costs associated with off-site impacts and water quality is often assumed to be equal if not larger than the on-site effects,” he noted.

Perceptions

Lobb said he wanted to quantify the cost of degraded soils in economic terms to hammer home the message that even though progress has been made on reducing erosion, little has been done to address the damage that has already been done.

“I think there was a perception that if you want to no till and you stopped the soil erosion, the soil would regenerate or restore itself,” he said.

But that doesn't happen on its own, at least not for a very long time.

Bob McIntosh, a Perth County farmer who has been practising zero tillage for 27 years, said restoring degraded soils is a “lifelong” process with mediocre results. His experience mimics the results of long-term cropping studies in the area that show gains in soil organic matter, even under careful management, are slow. He said efforts must continue to reduce tillage and incorporate cover crops into farming systems.

Lobb said farmers in some areas are trying to speed up the natural soil-building process by applying high organic matter inputs, such as adding high rates of manure to their eroded knolls, growing forages or cover crops.

The economics also support transporting soil that has been moved by tillage and water erosion into low spots back onto the tops of knolls.

Adam Hayes, an extension adviser with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), told participants in the summit tour farmers can recover the cost of landscape restoration within four to six years through increased productivity. Restoring eroded knolls in that fashion can result in yield improvements of between 40 and 130 per cent in dry years and two to 33 per cent in wet years.

Lobb said governments and farmers need to realize that every soil loss event has long-term implications for a farm's productivity,



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Planting winter wheat into canola stubble this fall?

Eliminate the 'green bridge' to prevent the crop from being infected by wheat streak mosaic

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

If you're seeding winter wheat into canola stubble, break the "green bridge" to prevent wheat streak mosaic infections.

"We're definitely at a stage this year where we can get out and get some winter wheat acres planted," Lionel Kaskiw, a farm production adviser with Manitoba Agriculture, said during a recent webinar. "(It would be) some of the earlier plantings we've had in the last few years."

Wheat streak mosaic is a viral disease that attacks barley, corn, and some grasses but is most common, and potentially damaging, on winter and spring wheat. While oats and rye can be infected they don't appear to be seriously damaged, according to Manitoba Agriculture's website.

Wheat streak mosaic is spread



Before seeding winter wheat this fall eliminate the "green bridge" — living cereal plants that can host the wheat curl mite, which spreads wheat streak mosaic, says Manitoba Agriculture farm production adviser Lionel Kaskiw. Wheat curl mites are in the bottom left-hand corner of the photograph. PHOTO: LIONEL KASKIW, MANITOBA AGRICULTURE

by the wheat curl mite. Killing the mite's host plants before the newly seeded winter wheat emerges in fall is key to prevent-

ing wheat streak mosaic infection.

To that end, Kaskiw advises spraying herbicides to control

weeds, including volunteer cereals, in canola fields right after the canola has been harvested and before the winter wheat is seeded.

"You need seven to 12 days of time where there's no green (host plant) material for the mite to live on for it (mite) to actually die off," Kaskiw said.

"Some (herbicide-tolerant) canola fields that only got one application of Liberty or one or two applications of Roundup, still might have some patches in the field where you might have volunteer cereals that maybe germinated later on... so these mites can be living on these plants right now."

There are no pesticides to control wheat streak mosaic or the mite that spread it.

Infected wheat plants may die, fail to set seed, be stunted, or be unaffected, depending on when they are infected. Damage usually ranges from noticeable yield losses to crop failure.

In winter wheat the symptoms — leaves with dashes, streaks or yellow stripes parallel to the veins — rarely show up until spring.

Leaves become increasingly mottled until the green areas disappear and the leaves die. Infected plants are stunted. The amount depends on how early the infection took place.

Wheat infected at the early-tillering stage stops growing and produces few or no heads. Infection at late-tillering to early-jointing stages results in head formation but the flowers may be sterile. With late-season infection during jointing to boot stage, the flowers are fertile but kernels are smaller.

Fall-infected winter wheat plants do not produce grain the following season. One study found that stunted and diseased plants yielded 78 per cent less than healthy plants, and seed milling quality was reduced substantially.

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SOILS DEGRADED ▶ from page 16

yet soil conservation seems to be falling through the cracks.

"There has been a steady decrease in interest in soil conservation," he said.

Farmers' best defence is a good offence, avoiding the loss of soil in the first place, he said.

Don Reicosky, a retired soil scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, told the conference that in his view, the term "conservation tillage" is an oxymoron. Conservation tillage is defined as retaining 30 per cent residue cover on the surface. "That means there is 70 per cent bare soil," he said.

Man-made tillage in any form destroys the soil's structure and is catastrophic to the micro-organisms living within it, he said.

Conservation agriculture

True conservation agriculture focuses on building carbon in the soil, not its steady depletion. "CO2 loss is proportional to the volume of soil disturbed," Reicosky said.

"The solution lies in conservation agriculture, which brings together innovation, new technology and systems concepts focused on carbon management," he said.

Don Lobb, a retired Ontario farmer who was inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame in 1992 for his support of research to better understand soil health, said part of the problem is the industry's focus on increasing production. He's calling for "an agronomic shift in focus" from crop production to soil care.

"This is essential for reliable, sustainable, environmentally friendly food production," he said.

He also noted that past civilizations who mismanaged their soil resources simply moved to a new frontier when their soils became unproductive. "We are on a familiar path," he said, noting that with most of the world's productive land already in use, and with most of it at various stages of degradation, there may be nowhere to go.

"The only remaining 'new frontier' is intensive, scientifically sound, responsible soil management," he said.

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Richardson buys two crop input retailers in northeastern Alberta

Webb's, Agro Guys staff to join Richardson Pioneer's growing network of input outlets

STAFF

Two independent crop input retailers in northeastern Alberta are now part of Richardson Pioneer's ag retail chain.

Richardson has purchased Webb's Crop Services Ltd. at Vermilion and Agro Guys Inc. at Forestburg (about 170 kilometres southwest of Vermilion) for undisclosed sums.

Webb's Crop Services is one of the Webb's family of businesses in the Vermilion area, including New Holland equipment dealer Webb's Machinery and auto dealer Webb's Ford. It expanded into the crop input business starting as an Elephant fertilizer dealer in 1943.

Agro Guys started operations in 2004 and expanded to its current site at Highways 53 and 36 in 2009, where it set up its dry fertilizer blending facility plus a larger chemical shed and added more anhydrous delivery units and wagons.

Both operations will provide customers with inputs and services in their local catchments, Richardson said, but noted producers in that region of Alberta also have access to grain han-



PHOTO: AGROGUYS.COM

dling and merchandising through Richardson Pioneer's ag business centres at Lamont, Lavoy and Legacy Junction and at Marshall, Sask.

Privately held Richardson bought a southeastern Saskatchewan input dealer in January, opened another new retail site in southwestern Saskatchewan this year, and has two more Saskatchewan retail sites under construction.

The company is "focused on aggressively growing our retail crop inputs network across the Prairies," Tom Hamilton, its vice-president for agribusiness operations, said in a news release.

Prairie wheat commissions to collaborate on research funding

New research coalition open to other interested producer groups or private sector companies

STAFF

The three Prairie wheat commissions have set up a new not-for-profit research body.

The Alberta Wheat Commission, Sask Wheat, and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association formed the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition to "facilitate long-term investments aimed at improving profitability and competitiveness for western Canadian wheat farmers."

The commissions, in a joint release, said their new coalition will "facilitate a collaborative approach to producer funding

of regional and national research projects in variety development and agronomy, including the next Canadian National Wheat Cluster and core wheat-breeding agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and universities."

Other "regional" projects that line up with the coalition's variety development and agronomic priorities will also be considered for funding, they said.

The research council's project funding will be shared on a proportionate basis based on checkoff revenue. The commissions' structure allows for more producer or private sector groups to join as "organizational members," providing a platform for the coalition to pursue what it described as "public, private, producer partnerships (4Ps)."

Administration will be rotated every three years, starting with Sask Wheat. Alberta Wheat chair Kevin Auch along with directors Jason Saunders and Terry Young will sit on the research council's board. (Other board members are Sask Wheat's Ken Rosassen, Glenn Tait and Laura Reiter along with Cale Jeffries and Dylan Wiebe from Manitoba.)

"Most of the best-performing wheat varieties available to farmers are the result of producer-funded wheat-breeding efforts," Auch said in the news release.

"I look forward to working with my provincial counterparts to continue this work with the goal of seeing new, high-performing varieties that result in better returns and increased competitiveness for farmers."

The commissions took on an expanded role in handling check-off funding after the Western Canadian Deduction — created following the demise of the Canadian Wheat Board to continue wheat and barley research and marketing efforts — sunset on July 31. Their individual check-offs cover both their own work and provide funds for the Western Grains Research Foundation, the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre, and Cigi (the Canadian International Grains Institute).

The Western Grains Research Foundation will remain a separate entity with its own board of directors. It has already charted a four-year transition plan providing about \$18 million per year in research funding out to 2020. It said its transition plan has the commissions' support and will "ensure the stability of core breeding programs" at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba out to 2020.

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MEET YOU AT THE GATE



A posse of donkeys greets a visitor at the livestock gate, on Burro Alley Ranch near Millarville PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

FCC pledges flexibility for soaked Ontario, Quebec growers

Farm Credit Canada says it will reduce “financial pressure” on its farming clients in rain-soaked areas of western Quebec and eastern Ontario.

The Regina-based lender didn’t offer specifics but in the past has offered loan payment schedule adjustments or deferrals to help producers with short-term cash flow problems.

Producers in this case “are facing a cash shortfall since they were unable to seed or were forced to replant due to extreme rainfall, while others face additional costs from having to purchase feed as a result of reduced yields of corn, soybeans and hay,” FCC said.

“Excessive rainfall has certainly impacted the growing season in parts of Eastern Canada and, in some cases, caused financial challenges for farm operations, as well as personal hardship and stress,” FCC CEO Michael Hoffort said in a release.

“We want our customers to know we stand by them and will show flexibility to help them through challenging times.”

In the past, FCC has offered customer support programs to growers in dry areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan; poultry producers affected by B.C.’s avian flu outbreak in 2015; and hog producers up against low market prices and high feed costs in 2012.

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A new day for grain transportation?

Grain movement records are being set, but the real test may be how the railways perform when the spotlight dims

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

The great grain backlog of 2013-14 was a disaster, costing western Canadian farmers billions.

But there's a silver lining: since then, grain movement has never been better.

"I think it really was a wake-up call for a lot of parties, especially governments and people who aren't necessarily as close to the (grain transportation) issue," said Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association.

Because of the backlog, grain companies widened the basis — the difference between port and country grain prices — costing farmers \$5 billion to \$6.7 billion, according to an estimate by University of Saskatchewan agricultural economist Richard Gray.

Sobkowich's organization doesn't agree with Gray's analysis, but agrees farmers and its members, the major grain companies, suffered financially through lost and delayed sales.

Three crop years later, Canadian grain terminals handled 35.945 million tonnes, setting a new all-time record in the 2016-17 crop year.

The grain gridlock of 2013-14 was "a turning point," Sobkowich said.

His association as well as farm groups agreed the brutally cold winter that year was a factor, but argued the backlog was worse than



More collaboration and better communication are credited with improving Western Canada's grain-handling and transportation system. One example of better communications occurred last fall when Doug MacDonald, CN Rail's vice-president of bulk (standing top centre), and other CN officials, met with western Canadian farm leaders at the Port of Vancouver. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

it should have been because the railways lacked residual capacity, and claimed it wouldn't have happened if the rail market was competitive.

Despite finger pointing that sometimes got personal, grain transportation has improved. Railways and shippers agree more collaboration and better communication played a big part.

"It has helped build our understanding at CP of the key elements required to move grain from the

producer to the port," said John Brooks, CP Rail's senior vice-president and chief marketing officer.

"I think we've been able to educate the grain companies a lot too on what are the challenges at the railway and what do we need from them to help them understand so we can do a better job also. And I think because of that discussion and collaboration it has allowed us to manage better and think how we resource coming into the crop year."

Has grain transportation turned a corner? Brooks thinks so.

"There are endless qualifiers, but I think the bottom line is the industry and the supply chain as a whole has done a really good job over the last few years and we're certainly, at CP, anxious to deliver another record year in (20)17-18," Brooks said.

The elevator association is wary. Prairie grain transportation may have turned a corner, but it's too early to say for certain, said Sobkowich.

"It has helped build our understanding at CP of the key elements required to move grain from the producer to the port."

JOHN BROOKS

There are lots of unknowns. The railways have been under a microscope since 2013-14 when complaints prompted the federal government to order them to ship a minimum volume of grain weekly or be fined. That was followed by the Fair Rail for Farmers Act, formalizing government intervention. The government launched a review of the Canada Transportation Act a year early, which led to Bill C-49, the Transportation Modernization Act. The act, currently before Parliament, will allow shippers to seek reciprocal penalties if the railways fail to meet service agreements.

No guarantees

But Sobkowich wonders what will happen when the spotlight on rail performance dims and shipments

SEE GRAIN TRANSPORTATION
▶ page 21

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GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

► from page 20

of other commodities and goods go up.

"We need some experience that we are operating in a new era before saying that we are," he said.

Both CP and CN Rail say non-grain business is increasing, but it won't hurt grain shipping.

Meanwhile, the railways are boosting shipping velocity with bigger cars and longer trains. Hauling 134 cars per train instead of the standard 112 adds 20 per cent more capacity, Brooks said. If 268,000- or 263,000-pound-capacity cars are replaced with 286,000-pound-capacity cars that can hold 100 tonnes or more each, that adds a further 30 per cent more capacity.

Proposed changes in the maximum revenue entitlement recognizing each railway's investment in new cars will encourage replacement of the current aging car fleet, say both the major railways.

Last crop year CN Rail, on average, ran 9,500-foot-long trains, Doug MacDonald, CN's vice-president of bulk shipping, said in an email. CN has also combined two, 100-car trains near ports.

"When practicable, this has improved network fluidity by doubling the volume of grain flowing through each train slot, and improved asset utilization, which put empty hopper cars back in the country faster for the next grain load," MacDonald wrote.

But CN also wants the federal government to invest in infrastructure to improve grain movement at the Port of Vancouver (see sidebar).

CP Rail's Dedicated Train Program (DTP) will account for more than 75 per cent of CP's grain service, the company said in a news release.

"In the 2017-18 crop year CP will look to expand the DTP's power-on component, improving cycle times and efficiency by ensuring locomotive power is available as soon as loaded grain cars are ready to be moved," the release says.

Under the program grain shippers book a train for the shipping season, giving them more certainty and control.

"If they can load them fast and unload them fast they can get more capacity," Brooks said.

CN's innovations include guaranteed car supply contracts, which accounted for about 70 per cent of its grain business in 2016-17.

Another change welcomed by the elevator association is CN's decision to state the number of cars it will provide — 5,500 per week, except in the winter when it falls to 4,000.

"My members have told me for years they sell to rail car capacity," Sobkovich said. "The first question they ask themselves is, can they get the cars? If they are getting inaccurate information on how many cars they should expect, they are selling based on inaccurate information."

"As important as an issue of adding capacity is making sure that we have accurate information on the existing capacity."

Sobkovich hopes the West's grain-handling and transportation system is in a new era, but knows there's no utopia. Natural and human-caused problems never end. And just like with the internet, the more capacity the railways provide, the more grain shippers will seek.

"We are always striving to improve," he said. "You are never there. You are always trying to get there."

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New grain system priorities: data collection, infrastructure

Railways want Ottawa to invest more in Vancouver's rail corridor while grain companies say robust data is key

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

The next two big priorities concerning grain movement are data collection and infrastructure, says the executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association (WGEA).

"Any time you have a supply chain you have a bottleneck somewhere," said Wade Sobkovich.

He said members welcome the longer trains CN and CP Rail are increasingly running, even though some country elevators don't have the space to load without breaking them up.

"I have never heard a grain company complain about that," Sobkovich said. "They are just happy to get the extra capacity and they will work with it however they can

in order to accommodate that longer train."

Both railways note they have invested billions of dollars in making their networks more efficient. In a recap of the 2016-17 crop year CN Rail notes a lot of grain company investment has, and is, being made too.

For example, construction of nine new country elevators was completed in 2015 and 2016, and a further seven new elevators have been announced with completion dates in the coming 18 months.

Work is also underway to boost West Coast terminal capacity, including the Ray-Mont Logistics grain stuffing facility planned for Prince Rupert, a grain export facility at Fraser Surrey Docks on the Fraser River in Greater Vancouver, and G3's proposed loop-track facility on Vancouver's North Shore.

But CN says these investments will create more rail bottlenecks and it wants the federal government to invest money announced for the National Trade Corridor Fund in Vancouver.

"The challenge is that the majority of the traffic moved to the North Shore (where CN handles grain train logistics) is done so at rates that are regulated by the maximum revenue entitlement for grain, or at rates regulated under the CTA (Canadian Transportation Act) interswitching provisions," a CN official said in an email. "Those regulated rates are simply insufficient to cover the significant investments that are required."

The current system for collecting data on moving western Canadian grain, including rail performance, is "light years"

ahead of other commodities, Sobkovich said. The federal government pays Quorum Corporation to monitor the grain pipeline, which it has been doing since 2000. Ottawa also helps fund the Ag Transport Coalition, which tracks weekly car orders and fulfillment.

But the federal government is proposing a new system to monitor all rail traffic.

"We don't want to lose the data systems we have in place," Sobkovich said. "It is certainly our objective to keep and further enhance the data that we have in place today through the process that we are expecting to come forward on creating a new data platform for rail service for all industries."

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WINTER'S COMING, TIME TO LEAVE THE NEST



A fledgling barn swallow prepares to take its first flight from its clay and grass nest in a barn near Priddis. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition



Join the young Canadians who are speaking up for agriculture!

Are you passionate about agriculture? Do you enjoy sharing your views with others?
Join the upcoming Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition!

As part of this unique competition, contestants prepare a five-to seven-minute speech on one of five agriculture-related topics and present it in public. Cash prizes are available for two age groups:
Junior (11 to 15) and Senior (16 to 24).

The 33rd annual Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition takes place on
Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario.

For competition rules, a list of speaking topics and accommodation assistance please visit www.cysa-joca.ca.

The application deadline is Sept. 30, 2017.



Inspired Voices Driving Change



New bee study points finger at neonicotinoid

A commonly used neonicotinoid pesticide is being blamed in a new report for increasing bumblebees' risk of extinction.

Ontario researcher Nigel Raine, at the University of Guelph, said thiamethoxam can reduce the chances of bumblebee queens starting new colonies by about 25 per cent.

Bee populations have been falling worldwide, with parasites, climate change, and pesticides regarded as leading causes.

Raine and his colleagues exposed more than 300 queen bees to stressors commonly found in the environment, including parasites. Half of the bees that emerged from hibernation were fed syrup with pesticides at levels similar to what the bees might find in the environment. The queens given the pesticide were far less likely to lay eggs than the half that had the parasites only.

Thiamethoxam is used as a seed treatment for soybeans and corn and other crops.
— CNS Canada

Half of the bees that emerged from hibernation were fed syrup with pesticides at levels similar to what the bees might find in the environment.

Researchers find canola genes switch on or off when drought hits

Looking at the plants' day and night cycles is shedding light on how plants respond to moisture stress

STAFF

Your canola crop could hold the key to understanding how plants react to drought stress.

That's according to researchers at Dartmouth University who are looking at how early drought stress affects brassica rapa.

Their research looks at the full day and night cycle of the plants to see how they react when drought stressed. By looking at early reactions to less severe conditions, the researchers hope to see early reactions.

"Even before a plant shows visible signs of wilting, there are extensive changes in terms of gene expression and physiology," said C. Robertson McClung, a professor of biological sciences at Dartmouth College. "This research

considers all the factors in early drought response."

The team withheld water from the plant for four days and recorded observations during the third and fourth day. By tracking the plant's reactions to water stress throughout the 48-hour period, the research team was able to identify nighttime plant activity indicating that brassica may respond to early-stage drought by closing the stomata more fully at night. Stomata are pores on a plant that allow for the exchange of carbon dioxide and water.

During the same observations, the team identified genes that responded to drought, but that also switched on and off consistently according to the time of day even when well watered. During drought, the normal behaviour of these genes was either amplified or muted.

"Even before a plant shows visible signs of wilting, there are extensive changes in terms of gene expression and physiology."

C. ROBERTSON
MCCLUNG

"Many genes are turned on or off at different times of the day based on the circadian clock," said McClung.

Eventually the research may lead to drought-tolerant crops.



U.S. researchers hope canola plants will show how plants react to early drought stress. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



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*Source: Bayer DSTs (2016).
†2016 BPI (Business Planning Initiative) Data.

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O-68-07/17-10797940-E

Proceed with caution when it comes to micronutrients, says agronomist

It's not hard to spend thousands of dollars on micronutrients that aren't needed or produce little benefit, says Ross McKenzie

BY JEFF MELCHIOR
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Farmers need to put on their critical thinking caps when dealing with micronutrient claims — or risk spending lots of money for no or marginal results.

There is a lot of hype surrounding supplemental micronutrients right now, said Ross McKenzie, a retired agronomy research scientist. However, not all micronutrients are created equally; some of the most crucial micronutrients — such as copper, manganese, zinc and iron — are already abundantly available in most soil in the province.

"Micronutrient fertilizers are often emphasized beyond their true significance," said McKenzie. "A farmer might get a recommendation for two or three micronutrients. It may not seem like a lot of money at first but if the total cost is \$15 per acre and a farmer has 5,000 acres, suddenly that becomes very significant. And if it isn't returning any yield benefit and you're spending this money, that's the biggest concern."

Some fields in central Alberta might be deficient in copper for growing cereals, and zinc deficiency can be an issue when growing dry beans on some irrigated

fields with sandy soil in the south. But those are rare instances, said McKenzie, who worked as a provincial agronomist for 38 years, primarily in fertilizer and agronomy research.

More often, micronutrient trials done in the province — such as boron applied to canola — find little, if any, benefit, he added.

Alberta research

Before trying micronutrients, do your homework.

This starts with soil testing followed by a "skilful interpretation" of the results. If you get a recommendation for a micronutrient, consider doing some comparative on-farm replicated strip testing to determine the benefit on your farm, he said.

Crops require 16 essential elements in order to grow properly. These include macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulphur) and micronutrients (boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc).

The term micronutrient doesn't mean these elements are less important — just that only small amounts are required for plant growth. And rarely are they in short supply in this province.

SEE MICRONUTRIENTS ▶ page 25



Ross McKenzie heard a lot of micronutrient claims during his lengthy career as a provincial agronomist and researcher, but the vast majority couldn't be substantiated. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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MICRONUTRIENTS

▶ from page 24

“As a general rule we do not have widespread micronutrient problems,” said McKenzie. “We have 25 million acres in Alberta that are cropped annually. With copper, for example, we have probably a million acres that would fall under the category of being deficient periodically when wheat or barley are grown. But that’s one million acres out of 25, so it’s a relatively small percentage.”

“Those tend to be on soils in central and north-central Alberta or either the black or grey in colour or the grey-black transition soil zones. These soils will almost always be sandy and often they tend to have a low soil test for copper. It’s only really the cereal crops that would show some copper deficiency, so wheat and barley would be the two crops we’d be most concerned about on those soil types.”

As for zinc deficiency, growers mostly have that in hand.

“We identified a deficiency of zinc in the late 1980s in southern Alberta but only on sandy, irrigated soils or farms that were growing dry beans under irrigation, especially in spring in cooler-weather soils. Most bean growers now put on a small amount of zinc just to make sure they don’t run into a deficiency.”

Boron overblown

One micronutrient receiving a lot of attention lately is boron as a canola supplement. However, McKenzie said there is little scientific evidence that supplemental boron makes any difference.

“We know that canola is more prone to boron deficiency, but we did a lot of work in southern Alberta over the years with a number of crops — including canola — and even with very low soil tests we could never get a response to boron. There’s been work done in Lacombe and other

The term micronutrient doesn’t mean these elements are less important — just that only small amounts are required for plant growth. And rarely are they in short supply in this province.

places and very rarely do we see responses to boron with canola.”

McKenzie attributes this push on boron to enthusiastic micronutrient salespeople.

“This summer even the Canola Council of Canada was promoting it in one of its newsletters to help reduce heat stress and promote seed set in canola,” he said. “However, that’s based on extremely limited research in Ontario.”

“In Alberta, we had heat stress but those fields also had drought or moisture stress. If you don’t have water, putting on a little bit of boron isn’t going to make up for severe moisture stress.”

He is similarly skeptical about claims being made about chlorine. While he said there have been studies touting the benefits of chlorine in certain circumstances, he wonders if farmers could get equally good results by changing their cropping practices.

“There was some good work done in Alberta in the late ’80s with chlorine and its benefit for reducing root rot in barley, but in many cases a farmer would be better off just using better crop rotations rather than grow barley on barley on barley and then develop root rot,” he said.

Get the facts before spending big dollars

These four steps will let you know whether you actually have a deficiency problem on your farm

BY JEFF MELCHIOR
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Think you might have a micronutrient deficiency in your fields?

Take these four steps before spending any money on micronutrient fertilizer, says Ross McKenzie, who became the province’s best-known fertilizer authority during his lengthy career with the province.



“In fact, probably a third of our soils in southern Alberta would test low for boron, but field research has not shown any benefit when applied.”

ROSS MCKENZIE

Scout

“I always encourage farmers to walk their fields at least once a week looking for anything unusual. Sometimes diseases and micronutrients can be related. For example, copper deficiency is associated with stem and head melanosis. Also, look for deficiency symptoms that tend to affect wheat and barley in the vegetative growth stages and you’ll see that the flag leaves will actually start to twist and curl like a pig’s tail.”

“If you see that in some areas in your field, that doesn’t mean conclusively that it’s copper deficiency. But that would be a clue that you might have some deficiency showing up and need to investigate further.”

Soil test

“That works fairly well for copper, iron, manganese and zinc. I don’t put a lot of faith in the boron or chloride soil tests. We don’t really have a good soil test for molybdenum and we’ve never seen a response to it.”

“Boron is the one I’m most concerned about. The present soil test we use for boron is called the hot water soluble method and we’ve found it doesn’t really do a good job of predicting the need for boron.”

“In fact, probably a third of our soils in southern Alberta would test low for boron, but field research has not shown any benefit when applied.”

In some cases, a tissue sample may be necessary as well.

“If you see areas that might be suspicious during the growing season, tissue sample and soil sample those areas separately to see if you can notice anything uniquely different between the poor growth area in the soil test and the tissue test versus the good areas.”

“Remember that tissue testing is also not that reliable as it depends on the stage of plant growth and plant parts sampled. Also, most tissue research data that is available to labs is 30 to 40 years old.”

Get a second opinion

Some labs and agronomists have different ideas of what defines a “critical deficiency” of micronutrients.

“A lot of the micronutrient salesmen and soil testing labs will use a higher critical level for making recommendations. For example, some people will use two parts per million (ppm) as the critical level for soil copper on wheat and barley while others use one ppm.”

“Most of the work done in Alberta and Saskatchewan has shown that as long as your soil test levels are above 0.5 ppm, then there’s really no need to put on copper. Depending on your soil type, the micronutrient and the crop you’re growing, you want to carefully interpret the soil test to decide if a micronutrient is really required.”

Producers should get a second or even third interpretation of their soil test from someone who is not in the business of selling micronutrients, said McKenzie.

“Call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276). Also, most of the agronomists with P.Ag (professional agrologist) or CCA (certified crop adviser) designations out there are also very reputable.”

On-farm trialling

Finally, if you think there’s a micronutrient deficiency on your fields, do a real-world test.

“Rather than do your whole field, start out by doing some test strips because sometimes the soil test might be in the marginal range. Do your own on-farm trial to see if you get a response or not before you start spending a lot of dollars on a lot of acres.”

Soil-borne pests are survivors

New research findings highlight the biosecurity risks of trade and travel

STAFF

Female lesion nematode in white clover roots, having invaded from soil stored for 13 months.

PHOTO: LEE T. AALDERS/AGRESEARCH

Those soil-borne nematodes that attack crops may be able to survive far longer than previously thought, according to a recent study.

Scientists at the New Zealand government research body AgResearch say they’ve found surviving organisms after more than three years of storage in dry conditions.

The findings give new insight into the biosecurity threats posed by passenger travel and trade between countries, the scientists said.

In the study, soil collected from a native forest and an organic orchard was stored separately in cupboards at room temperature for a period of 36 months.

Samples were then taken at regular intervals to see if any nematodes could be recovered from the soil and, if they could, whether they were able to infect plant hosts.

“In the study we used different methods to detect nematodes — including a water misting technique to draw them out of

the soil, and a baiting method — where we grew white clover and ryegrass plants in pots containing a soil sample,” wrote the authors.

“One of the organisms we looked at was the root lesion nematode. What we found was that lesion nematodes were able to successfully invade the roots of ryegrass even after 36 months,” said AgResearch nematologist Lee Aalders.

This means that given the right conditions, nematodes in soil, which are carried on sea freight, footwear or used machinery, and protected from sun or extreme heat, will survive if they end up near a suitable host plant. This is a result that may not be detected using an extraction test like misting.



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Community news
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Alberta's newest meadery takes a different approach

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF/CLEARWATER COUNTY

Alberta's newest meadery is doing things a little differently.

Along with a traditional honey wine, Tamarack Jack's Honey and Meadery also produces a variation that might tempt those who prefer a brewskie to the so-called 'drink of the gods.'

"We are a small apiary turned into a meadery just recently," Katie Kingdon, manager of the family-owned operation, said during a recent ag tour organized by Clearwater County.

In addition to raw honey, spiced honey, bee pollen, and beard oil (a conditioner for facial hair), Tamarack Jack's offers two types of mead.

"Buzzsaw is a traditional carbonated mead. Sawyer has added hops to it — they drink like a beer," said Kingdon.

Like almost all beer makers in Alberta, the family is forced to go out of province — B.C. and Ontario are the big producers — to get their hops. But they hope to blaze a trail on that front, too, and are growing a test plot of hops.

"There are only one or two other growers of hops in Alberta due to the fact that they're very hard to grow in Alberta," Susan Kingdon, another family member involved in the operation, said as she showed off the test plot.

Hops don't do well in chinooks and don't like Alberta winters, she said.

"They would probably prefer a Zone 4 and up," she said. "We're a Zone 2, so we have to get some hardy ones."

Hops are a perennial which need about three years before they're established and able to produce a decent crop. Tamarack Jack's is testing a variety called Nugget and it's grown very well this summer. However, aphids and spider mites love hop plants and quickly discovered the newest (vegetative) resident of Clearwater County. Since they want



Katie Kingdon, manager of Tamarack Jack's, talks about the products being brewed at Alberta's newest meadery.
PHOTOS: ALEXIS KIENLEN

to market Sawyer as a chemical-free product, the family is using sage and dish soap to concoct their own natural insecticide and that's been working well, she said.

Even though their meads only went on sale last month, the test plot of hops — which can grow a foot or two a week during summer and reach 30 feet in height — has drawn a steady stream of craft beer makers.

A 7,000-litre batch of mead requires five to 10 pounds of hops (which resemble green pine cones), and is brewed in a mead house. The facility is kept at 35 C as it allows the yeast to work faster and cuts the production time to three weeks (instead of four months).

The ingredients (which are just honey, water, and yeast) are put into tanks and sit for two to three weeks.

"When it reaches eight per cent alcohol content, that's when we run it through a filter into our carbonation tanks," said Katie Kingdon.

The end result is sold at their meadery located near Caroline, one liquor store in Didsbury, and farm-



Sawyer and Buzzsaw are the two kinds of mead brewed at Tamarack Jack's, a new meadery in Clearwater County.

ers' markets — although there's been a lot of interest from local restaurants and pubs. It retails at \$8 a bottle (or \$195 for a 20-litre keg).

"Naturally, this misconception of mead is that it needs to be sweet," she said. "So everybody expects mead to be a sugary, really sweet product. Ours is more dry."

The taste varies according to the type of honey used.

"The cool part of being in Clear-

water County is we produce the better quality of honey," said one of the beekeepers at the operation. "With the wildflowers, you can stay away from canola because it really doesn't flourish so much here."

The family has 450 hives (with 30 colonies per quarter section of land) and the bees forage clover, alfalfa, fireweed, and other wildflowers.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

what's up

Send agriculture-related meeting and event announcements to:
glenn.cheater@fbcpublishing.com

Sept. 15: Safety by Choice Not by Chance – Farm Safety Awareness Day, Sundre Curling Rink, Sundre. Contact: Sundre & District Ag Society 403-638-4466

Sept. 18-20: Public Trust Summit: Tackling Transparency – The Truth about Trust, The Westin, Calgary. Contact: Canadian Center for Food Integrity 519-265-4234

Oct. 14: ALP On-Farm Euthanasia Workshop, Best Western Sunrise Inn & Suites, Stony Plain. Contact: Alberta Lamb Producers 403-948-8533

Oct. 17-18: Livestock Gentec Conference, Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton. Contact: Andrea H. 403-948-1528

Oct. 19: Off-Site Waterers & Watershed Management, Standard Community Hall, Standard. Contact: Foothills Forage & Grazing Association 403-995-9466

Oct. 19-21: Alberta Sheep Breeder's Association 2017 Symposium, venue t.b.a., Red Deer. Contact: ASBA 1-866-967-4337

Oct. 21: Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers AGM, Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge. Contact: Donna Zeman 613-257-2714

Oct. 24: Essentials of Selling Local Food, Wildwood Recreation Complex, Wildwood. Contact: Eileen Kotowich 780-853-8223

Oct. 26: Farming Smarter Cypress Conference, location t.b.a., Medicine Hat. Contact: Claudette Lacombe 403-317-0022

Oct. 26: Getting into Farming Information Session, Airdrie Agriculture Centre. Contact: Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Nov. 3: Ag for Life Harvest Gala, BMO Centre, Calgary. Contact: Ag for Life 403-931-2951

Nov. 15: Alberta Barley, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat regional meetings, Acme Memorial Centre, Acme (ABC and AWC only). (Also all three commissions on Nov. 16 in Lacombe, Nov. 21 in Grande Prairie, Nov. 22 in Westlock, and Nov. 23 in Viking.) Contact: Barley, pulse growers, and wheat commissions.

Nov. 16-17: Green Industry Show & Conference (landscaping and greenhouse sector), BMO Centre at Stampede Park, Calgary. Contact: Valerie Stobbe 780-489-1991

Dec. 5-6: Farming Smarter Conference, Coast Hotel Lethbridge, Lethbridge. Contact: Claudette Lacombe 403-317-0022

Dec. 5-7: Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing, Radisson Hotel Edmonton South, Edmonton. Contact: Vicki Heidt 780-878-4101

Dec. 6-7: Prairie Barley Summit (formerly Alberta Barley AGM), Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Banff. Contact: Alberta Barley 800-265-9111

Alberta groups receive funding for community projects

FCC RELEASE

More than a dozen Alberta communities and organizations have received funding from Farm Credit Canada's AgriSpirit Fund.

The fund awards between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for community improvement projects such as hospitals and medical centres; fire and rescue equipment; playgrounds; food banks; libraries; arenas; swimming pools; recreation areas; and community centres.

There were 1,214 applications this year with 78 community

groups receiving a total of \$1.5 million. Over the past 14 years, the FCC AgriSpirit Fund has given more than \$12 million to support almost 1,100 projects.

The next application period opens in spring 2018. Registered charities and non-profit organizations interested in funding can visit www.fccagrispiritfund.ca for eligibility requirements and to apply online.

The Alberta projects that received funding this year are: Rosemary Community Agricultural Society (\$25,000 to enlarge the Rec-Plex lobby and upgrade bathrooms, kitchen, and fire

system), Foremost Firefighters Association (\$25,000 to purchase upgraded fire turnout gear), Bezanson Agricultural Society (\$25,000 towards a new multi-use community centre), Town of Falher (\$25,000 to resurface the Falher Regional Swimming Pool), Alhambra Community Recreation Area (\$22,500 to purchase building materials for ball diamonds and community recreation area), Ponoka County Regional Fire Services (\$22,500 to purchase water tenders), Municipal District of Acadia No. 34 (\$21,000 to enlarge and enhance a community arena), Kingman Recreation Association

(\$20,000 to build an outdoor arena for hockey and skating in the winter, riding and 4-H kids in summer), Athabasca County (\$20,000 toward construction of a new fire hall), City of Wetaskiwin (\$20,000 to complete construction of a fire training facility), Village of Bawlf (\$19,000 to expand the village fire hall), Neerlandia Sports Committee (\$15,000 to build a multi-use sports pad), La Crete Community Equine Centre \$15,000 (to construct indoor bathroom facilities), and Friends of the Mirror Library Society (\$5,000 for shade structures for community farmers' market).

Intercropping project fights hunger in Zimbabwe

Growing crops such as corn and legumes together battles drought and boosts yields

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF/MIAMI, MAN.

If you had four children but only enough food to feed one, how would you choose?

It's a choice that Vurayayi Pugen's mother had to make when he was growing up in Zimbabwe. Fortunately it's not one mothers face today in Pugen's village — thanks in part to intercropping expertise from Western Canada.

Martin Entz, a professor of cropping systems and agronomy at the University of Manitoba, and Alden Braul, an agronomist with Hemp Production Services, and others designed an intercropping system which incorporates legumes and provides food security for farmers in that country.

"There's also food diversity in the food people eat because the legumes are giving people opportunity to have diversified foods," said Pugen, who works on African development programs for the Mennonite Central Committee out of Winnipeg and with the Zimbabwean-based NGO Score Against Poverty.

At a recent organic hemp field day here, Pugen described how the system works and how intercropping makes crops more resilient.

"For example, our farmers say lablab (a type of bean) is so drought resistant even in the worst drought year they are assured of



Vurayayi Pugen says an intercropping project designed on the Prairies has brought food security to his Zimbabwean village. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

a harvest. The other thing is that yields are increasing because of the cover crops — because of the intercrops are working as cover crops and they are also fixing nitrogen in the soil and for that reason the cereal yield is actually looking good."

Intercropping also suppresses weeds, which makes life easier for mothers who get stuck with the weeding.

"So we are already seeing the gender impacts of this work that is helping people adjust to climate change and food insecurity," he said.

The project started with four farmers, expanded to a dozen, and now has more than 100 participants.

"This next year it will be probably in the hundreds," said Braul, adding Hemp Production Services and its Saskatoon-based parent (Hemp Genetics International) have been supporting the project technically and financially.

"We'd like to take some of our (Canadian) farmers to visit these projects and encourage farmers and others to also support this project because it has a lot of good things going for it."

"We believe it is really important to support farmers also in developing countries who are challenged just simply to have food security."

ALDEN BRAUL

The two hemp companies, majority owned by farmers, have always been committed to international development, Braul said.

"This is just part of who we are," he said. "We believe it is really important to support farmers also in developing countries who are challenged just simply to have food security. We will continue to support organizations like the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, but also this is a unique opportunity to work directly with Score Against Poverty."

"We often talk about being global citizens, but we are also global farmers. The more opportunities we have to understand the plight of farmers in other countries will help us be better people."

So much of agricultural innovation is "centrally planned," in a laboratory and then expected to

be replicated around the world, Entz told attendees at the field day.

"But cropping systems need to be designed where the farmers live," he said. "They (farmers) are very smart, they are very intuitive and that's what we are doing — working with them and empowering people. We're giving them a tool box and saying, 'Let's work together and apply what you want to do.'"

Farmers in the program are gaining the confidence to experiment "and are not so afraid of mixing crops together," said Pugen.

The program is also making more land available to women, who traditionally sow their legumes in plots close to home. But with legumes now being intercropped with maize — a crop grown by men on bigger acreages — men and women are working together.

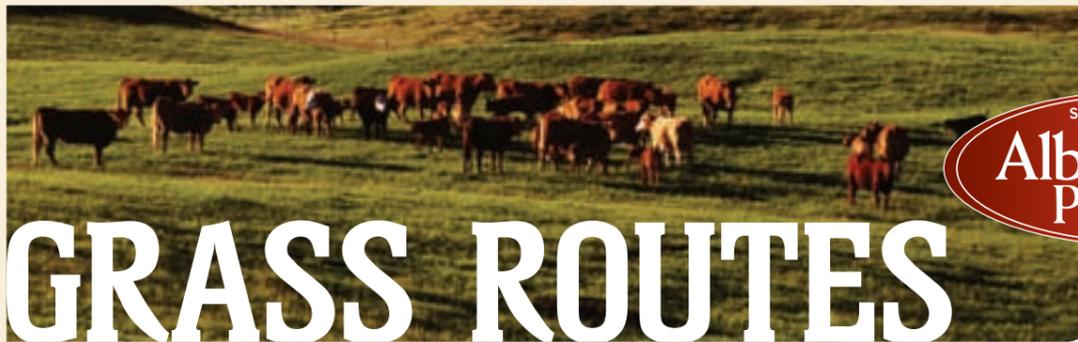
"And who wins? The ladies are like, 'Yeah, I have more land for my legumes,'" Pugen said. "So women now have more access to land."

Pugen said he thanks God every day for bringing him to Canada.

"This is a land that is so blessed and people here are so fortunate to have food and to have food in abundance," he said. "So as you break your bread every day think about people all over the world who are hungry, particularly think about Score (Against Poverty)."

allan@fbcpublishing.com

HEARTLAND Marketplace



SEPTEMBER UPDATE

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PRODUCER CONSULTATION NEEDED ON PROPOSED TAXATION CHANGES

The Government of Canada has released proposed changes to the taxation of private corporations, purported to close loopholes aimed at the wealthy. However, many family farms are also private corporations and, if implemented, the proposed tax changes will have a significant negative impact on cattle producers and farm families across Canada.

Our national organization, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is working to ensure lawmakers in Ottawa are aware of cattle producers' concerns about the proposed tax changes and stand ready to work with the Federal Government to examine whether changes are needed and offer solutions. The CCA would like to think these unfair consequences for farm families

are an unintended outcome of the proposed tax changes; The Barton Report, recommendations from the Government of Canada's Advisory Council on Economic Growth, highlighted agriculture as a primary industry for growth and exports, with an objective to increase agricultural exports to at least \$75 billion annually by 2025.

The Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness represents more than 30 organizations, including the CCA, is recommending the government take the proposed changes off the table and launch meaningful consultations to address any shortcomings in tax policy without unfairly targeting independent businesses.

Producers are encouraged to participate in the 75-day consultation period on the proposed tax changes before it closes on October 2, 2017: fin.gc.ca/activity/consult/tppc-pfsp-eng.pdf

Due to the potentially severe impacts this policy change could have on the farming and ranching community, it is critical that grassroots cattle producers' voices are heard. Producers are encouraged to also contact their Member of Parliament (ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members) and voice concerns about the proposed tax changes before they return to Ottawa in mid-September.

As outlined in MNP's comprehensive overview of the proposed tax changes, "Potential Impacts of Changing Tax Regulations on Ranching Operations (albertabeef.org/uploads/MNPTaxpdf.706.pdf)," the three most notable areas of change for private corporations, including family farms, are:

- income sprinkling;
- passive income in a corporation;
- capital gains.

If this proposed tax changes are implemented, small business owners such as ranchers will be restricted from sharing income with family members within the farm corporation. Additionally, the proposed changes could limit certain types of saving within a small business, putting cattle producers at more risk during volatile economic conditions and reducing their ability to invest in innovative practices and growing their business in the future.

Changes to capital gains rules will also make it more problematic for cattle producers and farmers to transfer the operation to the next generation. The added complexity created by these proposed tax changes could undoubtedly make it harder to keep multigenerational farms within the family and make succession planning increasingly difficult. ▼

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MRC

USED EQUIPMENT

BALERS

NH BR780 2005 AW, reg pickup, 1000 pto	\$13,300
NH BR780 2005 NW, Reg pickup, 1000 pto	\$13,855
Hesston 856A 2002 AW, Wide pickup . .	\$15,496
NH BR7090 2011 NW, Specialty Crop, rebuilt pickup, new apron belts	\$35,000
NH 664 1997 Twine Only, reg pickup . . .	\$6,500
NH 664 1997 Twine Only	\$6,500
NH 664 1996 Twine Only SOLD	
NH BR780 2003 Twine Only, reg pickup .	\$8,500
JD 568 2008 Net & Twine, Megawide Pickup, 21.5Lx16.1 tires.	\$29,060
NH BR7090 2010 Net & Twine, reg pickup, hyd pickup lift, 1000 rpm	\$23,260
NH BR7090 2012 Twine, reg pickup, hyd pickup lift, gathering wheels	\$25,600
NH 560 2015 Specialty crop, 1000 rpm, 21.5x16.1 tires, hyd bale ramp, 5 bar solid tine pickup, premium laced belts	

MOWER CONDITIONER

NH H7460 2010 16', shock pro hubs . . .	\$28,400
Macdon R116 2016 16', cutterbar shear pins, road transport	\$48,500

RAKES

Jiffy 912 2008 12 Wheel (all new wheels w/spare used)	\$15,000
Jiffy 912 2005 12 Wheel.	\$14,500
Snapper 7800952 2016 33" deck, double bagger.	\$3,640

SQUARE BALE STACKERS

NH 1033 1977 100 Bale Capacity	SOLD
Highline CFR651 2017 Large Tires, right hand discharge, 3 remotes, Chain Feeder	\$22,500
Haybuster 2650 2014 Right Hand discharge, large tires, 3 remotes, chain feeder	\$22,500

SWATHERS

Macdon M155 2015 30' D65 header, double swath, A40D 16' sickle header	\$205,000
NH HW305 2007 16' Sickle header	\$65,000
NH 2550 1995 25' 994 draper header. . .	\$40,000

COMBINE HEADERS

Macdon D65S 2013 35', CR/CX Adapter, slow speed transport, pea auger, pickup reel end finger kit	\$85,000
Macdon D65S 2013 35', CR/CX Adapter, slow speed transport, pea auger, pickup reel end finger kit	\$80,000

GRAIN VACS & AUGERS

Brandt 5000EX 2007	\$17,500
Rem VRX 2014	\$22,000
Wheatheart BH36-10 10" x 36' auger w/mover	\$9,000

DISCS

Kello 210 1988 Consists of 2 - 12 foot discs, smooth blades	\$32,500
Kello 225 2013 12' knotted blades	\$22,500

CONSTRUCTION

NH B110C 2013 Engine - 100 hp, 4.72M Dipperstick, front counterweight, Pilot controls, Cab heat & A/C, glide ride, Rear hammer circuit, hand tool circuit	\$80,000
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Working alone? STARS smartphone app could be a lifesaver

Push of a button connects you to emergency centre,
which calls both 911 and neighbours you've
listed as emergency contacts

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
STAFF

A new smartphone app won't make harvest safer, but it could make it easier to get help if emergencies occur.

Farm workers who are working alone in remote locations now have access to a new technology developed by Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS).

SOLUS is a new smartphone app that enables a person to receive 24-7 emergency assistance anywhere in Canada where a cell signal can be received. When activated, the paid service connects the individual with a live person in the STARS Emergency Link Centre. The operator ensures emergency responders are dispatched and also notifies the people on an emergency contact list created earlier by the user. Mapping software provides the location of the person in trouble.

The integration with STARS' Emergency Link Centre is what sets it apart from other apps that monitor individuals, said Grant Therrien, base director for STARS in Manitoba.

"When you activate the button you are connected directly to Emergency Link Centre that then connects you to the 911 call centre in your area and to emergency service personnel if that's what you require,"

said Therrien. "It's certainly not a way to bypass 911. It's more of an enhancement."

An additional feature of the service is STARS' Neighbour Helping Neighbour safety network as often neighbours get there before first responders. The SOLUS app (solus is a latin word for 'alone') is a personal version of the safety and monitoring services STARS offers larger companies, among the 4,000 registered sites with its Emergency Link Centre.

"Our goal for this app is the same as always... to help someone on what is likely their worst day, possibly saving their life," said STARS' director, business development, Erin Sharp.

The app is suitable for anyone working, travelling, or playing alone in rural or dangerous environments. It's an important safety tool for farmers, Therrien said.

"We've already started responding to unfortunate incidents related to that sector," he said. "We just want producers to be safe and know we're there if something happens."

Users can subscribe online for \$9.99 per month and download the app from iTunes and Google Play stores. For more info, go to www.stars.ca and click on the 'What We Do' pull-down menu, then 'STARS Emergency Link Centre,' and then 'Emergency contact centre.'

lorraine@fbcpublishing.com



STARS is best known for its rescue service, but its new app can speed the arrival of first responders in your area – and neighbours – if you have an accident while working alone. FILE PHOTO

Dow, DuPont wrap up merger

Ag division will be run as a separate company
and DowDuPont says it will produce
new and better farm products

AGCANADA.COM

With Dow Chemical and DuPont now officially a married couple, the two companies' agriculture businesses are scheduled to clear out of the house within the next year and a half.

As per the terms of the merger-of-equals deal they first announced in late 2015, the two companies' shares have ceased trading in favour of those in the new merged company, dubbed DowDuPont.

The combined company said it's now working on organizing its three merged spinoff divisions — agriculture, materials science, and specialty products — which will operate independently of the parent company.

Its merged, spun-off agriculture company is to be headquartered in DuPont's hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, with "global business centres" at Johnston, Iowa, and Indianapolis, Indiana — the home bases for DuPont Pioneer and Dow AgroSciences respectively.

Agriculture assets set to be shed, to get antitrust regulators' approvals for the

merger, include DuPont's Canadian cereal crop broadleaf and pre-seed burn-off herbicide portfolio; its PrecisionPac herbicide dispensing system; its experimental farm at Hanley, Sask.; and its packaging plant in Calgary. Those assets, among others, are being sold to Philadelphia-based FMC Corp.

Farmers will benefit from "superior solutions and expanded product offerings" by a combined firm that "will be able to respond faster and more effectively to rapidly changing conditions with innovative products and greater choice," DowDuPont said.

DowDuPont said it envisions the merged agriculture business as "bring(ing) together the strengths of DuPont Pioneer, DuPont Crop Protection and Dow AgroSciences to better serve growers around the world with a superior portfolio of solutions, greater choice and competitive price for value."

Their combined capabilities and "innovation engine" are expected to allow the ag business to bring a broader suite of products to the market faster, "so it can be an even better partner to growers, delivering innovation and helping them to increase their productivity and profitability," the company said.

NEW HOLLAND DEALERS



'12 NEW HOLLAND CR8090 ENG HRS 1655 SEP HRS 1208, 520/85R42, DELUXE CHOPPER, HID LIGHTS, 350 BU, 449 HP, **TABER \$310,000**



'05 NEW HOLLAND CR960 ENG HRS 2954 SEP HRS 2175, 900/60R32, 600/65R28, DELUXE CHOPPER, 300 BU, 330HP, **MOOSE JAW \$99,000**



'14 NEW HOLLAND CR8090 ENG HRS 614 SEP HRS 448, 620/70R42 DUALS, DELUXE CHOOOPER, HID LIGHTS, 410 BU, 442 HP, **SWIFT CURRENT \$425,000**



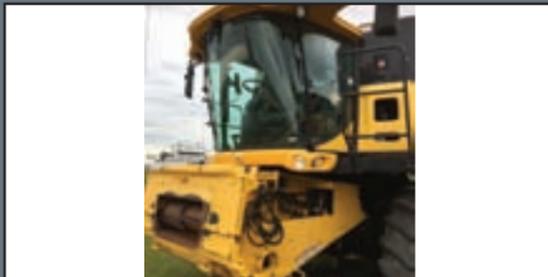
'13 NEW HOLLAND CR9090 ENG HRS 950 SEP HRS 810, 620/70R42 DUALS, LEATHER, LATERAL HEADER TILT, 355 BU, 523 HP, **TABER \$335,000**



'09 NEW HOLLAND CR9060 ENG HRS 2580, SEP HRS 2210, DLX CHOPPER, EXTRA HD LIFT CYLINDERS, 900/60R32, 340HP, 315 BU, **MOOSE JAW \$149,000**



'13 NEW HOLLAND CR8090 ENG HRS 1169 SEP HRS 890, 520/85R42 DUALS, LEATHER, EXT WEAR PKG, DLX CHOPPER, 350BU, 442HP, **MEDICINE HAT \$349,000**



'09 NEW HOLLAND CR9060 ENG HRS 1597, SEP HRS 1310, 900/60R32, DELUXE CHOPPER, LONG UNLOAD AUGER, 340HP, 315 BU, **MOOSE JAW \$159,000**



'13 NEW HOLLAND CR7090 ENG HRS 1173, SEP HRS 767, 520/85R42 DUALS, LEATHER SEAT, DELUXE CHOPPER, HID, EXT WEAR PKG, 402HP, 315BU, **BROOKS \$250,000**



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AIR DRILL

2009 Bourgault 3310, 65', 10"	\$128,000
2008 Bourgault 3310, 55', 10"	\$99,000
2007 Bourgault 3310, 55', 10"	\$89,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 76', 12"	\$198,000
2013 Bourgault 3710, 50', 10"	\$189,000
2015 Bourgault 3720, 70', 12"	\$189,000
2003 Bourgault 5440	\$38,000
2002 Bourgault 5710, 29", 10"	\$32,000
2008 Bourgault 5710, 64', 10"	\$69,000
2000 Flexi-Coil 6000/3450, 40', 10", Pillar Openers	\$115,000
2010 Flexi-Coil P2060, 60', 10"	\$68,000
2004 Flexicoil 6000, 40', 10"	\$39,000
2011 NH P2070, 70', 12"	\$85,000
2005 NH SD440, 45", 10"	\$48,000
2008 Seedhawk, 50', 10", Leading Air	\$89,000
2014 Seedmaster CT80-12/520 Tank	\$279,000

AIR TANK/CART

2012 Bourgault 6450,	\$115,000
2008 Bourgault 6450	\$68,000
2008 Bourgault 6450	\$79,000
2005 Bourgault LFC 2000	\$15,000
2011 NH P1070, Tow Behind	\$98,000
2008 CIH 3430	\$39,500
2008 CIH ADX3430, Mech, No Rust	\$45,000
1995 Flexi -Coil 5000/1330, 33', 9"	\$19,500
2004 Flexicoil 3850, Tow Behind DS	\$39,500
2003 Flexicoil 3450	\$48,000
2002 Bourgault 5440	\$48,000

BALER/ROUND

2014 NH RB560, Wide, BC, Net, Spec	\$45,800
2013 NH BR7090	\$39,800
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
2013 Leon Q4000	\$16,800

COMBINE

2012 NH CX8080, 1037/748 hrs ..	\$278,000
2012 NH CX8080, 1005/746 Hrs...	\$268,000

2011 NH CX8080, 1438/1030hrs ..	\$238,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1875/1348 hrs ..	\$228,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1755/1237 hrs ..	\$228,000
2010 NH CX8080, 1722/1240 hrs ..	\$238,000
2008 NH CX8080, 1726/2348hrs ..	\$238,000
2007 NH CX8080, 1341/1949 hrs ..	\$215,000
2013 NH CX8090, 1151/832hrs ..	\$359,000
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
2011 NH CR9070, 1519/1153hrs ..	\$239,000
2009 NH CR9070, 16731238hrs ..	\$198,800
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, 1616/1190 hrs ..	\$189,000
2007 NH CR9070, 1510/2267 hrs ..	\$148,500
2009 NH CR9070, 1554/1137 hrs ..	\$198,000
2011 NH CR9080, 1522/1063hrs ..	\$228,000
2010 NH CR9080, 1659/1150hrs ..	\$228,000
2009 NH CR9080, 1347/980 hrs ..	\$249,000
2011 NH CR9070, 985/749 hrs	\$280,000
2011 NH CR9090Z, 1311/967 hrs ..	\$289,000
2012 NH CR9090Z, 868/632hrs ..	\$339,000
2012 NH CR9090Z, 811/576 hrs ..	\$369,000
2010 NH CR9090E, 1187/1703 hrs ..	\$269,000
2010 NH CR9090E, 1064/1518 hrs ..	\$268,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 680 Thr Hrs ..	\$379,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1484/1138 hrs ..	\$298,000
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1128/804 Hrs ..	\$369,000
2005 NH CR970, 2459/1821 hrs ..	\$138,000
2006 NH CR970, 1547/1219 hrs ..	\$159,000
2015 NH CR8.90, 620/414 hrs	\$483,000
2016 NH CR8.90E, 327/266 hrs ..	\$485,000
2013 NH CR8090, 1162/904 hrs ..	\$289,000
1996 CIH 2188, 3451/2547 hrs	\$28,000
2004 CIH 2388, 2547/2146 hrs	\$98,000
2010 CIH 7088, 1784/1316 hrs	\$187,000
2012 CIH 8230, 1304/962 hrs	\$278,000
2013 CIH 8230, 700 thr hrs	\$298,000
2011 JD T670, 833 hrs,	\$239,500
2013 JD S680, 933/653 hrs	\$387,000
2010 JD T670, 1132/807 hrs	\$198,000
2012 CLASS 770, 1131/657 hrs ..	\$369,000
1990 JD 9500, 3347/4748hrs	\$19,800
1994 JD 9600 3277/2760hrs	\$39,900
2001 NH TX66, 2270/3018hrs	\$58,000

VERTICAL TILLAGE

2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30'	\$68,000
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FEED WAGON/BALE PROCESSOR

2005 Haybuster 2650	\$14,900
2003 Lucknow 285	\$12,800

GRAIN AUGER/HARROW

2014 REM, VRX	\$22,800
2008 REM 2700	\$13,000
2007 Bourgault 6000	\$25,800

HEADER COMBINE

2010 Honeybee, HB30, Gleaner adaptor, 30'	\$49,500
1999 Honeybee SP36, 36'	\$29,000
1994 Honeybee SP30,	\$9,800
2009 NH 88C, 42'	\$68,000
2009 NH 94C	\$28,000
2008 NH 94C, 30'	\$29,500
2007 NH 94C	\$28,000
2003 NH 94C, 30 CX/CR	\$29,500
2005 NH 94C	\$39,500
2004 NH 94C	\$29,500
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'	\$49,500
2012 JD 635D, 35'	\$68,000
2014 MacDon D6530G	\$69,800
2014 MacDon D6530G	\$69,800
2010 MacDon, 30', CR/CX, D6030	\$68,000
1998 MacDon 960,	\$25,000
2010 MF 5100-35,	\$58,000
1997 Westward 9030	\$4,000
2010 CIH 2142, 35'	\$58,000
2010 Macdon FD70, 45'	\$69,000
2014 Macdon, 35', D6535G	\$69,000
2003 NH 94C	\$29,500
2005 NH 94C	\$429,500
1998 H 994, 30' TX/TR	\$18,000
2013 Macdon D6535G	\$69,900
2014 Macdon D6535G	\$469,900
2012 Macdon FD7045, 45'	\$79,000
2015 Macdon FD75	\$98,500
2014 CLASS 1200, 35'	\$59,500

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
2007 NH 1475/HS18	\$23,800

2012 MacDon A40D 18'	\$23,800
2008 CIH SCX100, 18"	\$23,800

SKID STEER/ COMP. TRACTOR

2003 Bobcat 763	\$26,500
2010 Kubota BX1860, c/w mower ...	\$9,000

SPRAYER/HIGH CLEARANCE

2013 NH SP240, 1000 Hrs, 1200 Gal, 100"	\$309,000
2011 NH SP.240F	\$208,000
2011 NH SP240F, 1920 hrs	\$185,000
2009 Spraycoupe 4660, 440 gal, 80'	\$84,500
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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
2014 NH SR200/440HB	\$169,000
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2007 NH HW325, 1200hrs	\$58,000
2008 NH H8040/HB36, as is	\$69,000
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1995 MF 200	\$15,000
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Alberta Agriculture is reminding farmers to do a full inspection on any equipment they plan to use, including a walkabout, before turning it on. That should include a “full 360-degree walk” around equipment and “looking for damage, excessive wear, loose or missing bolts, debris build-up, damaged or missing safety signs, leaks, tire inflation and fluid levels,” said safety specialist Blair Takahashi. He also recommends cleaning windows, removing garbage from the cab, and making sure mirrors are adjusted properly. – AAF

ALBERTA CANOLA SEEKING FOUR DIRECTORS

Alberta Canola Producers Commission is seeking growers to serve as directors in four of its 12 regions. Directors are needed in Regions 2, 5, 8, and 11, and those elected or acclaimed will serve three-year terms. The board meets quarterly and is guided in its decision-making by five committees – governance and finance; government and industry affairs; grower relations and extension; market development; and research. Anyone who has paid a service charge on canola to Alberta Canola since Aug. 1, 2015 is eligible. For more info, call the ACPC office at 780-454-0844. – ACPC

MORE NEWS

More bang – and more beef – for the buck with mob grazing

Manitoba rancher knew he ‘could do better,’ but even he was surprised by the boost in productivity

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD
STAFF/BRANDON, MAN.

After a three-year mob grazing experiment, Brian Harper says he has no intention of going back to his old system.

In fact, the Manitoba rancher says he’s already planning how to build on the system and take even more advantage of the gains.

“Next year, I plan to put even more beef over there,” he said. “We leave more grass behind now than we ever grew 10 years ago, so there’s definitely room there for more animals.”

Harper was approached by Michael Thiele, Ducks Unlimited grazing clubs co-ordinator, who wanted to have a project exploring mob grazing’s soil health and production benefits. He pitched the idea of measuring the practice’s actual impact in the field.

Harper, who ranches near Brandon, Man., agreed and in 2014, abandoned his usual eight-acre paddocks rotated every four days (a system he had used since 2003), in favour of half-acre paddocks, moved twice daily.

“I’d been to different producers who were doing high stock density and I just saw the better results and the improvement in the soil health and it just kind of morphed from there,” Harper said. “I knew I could do better than I was doing.”

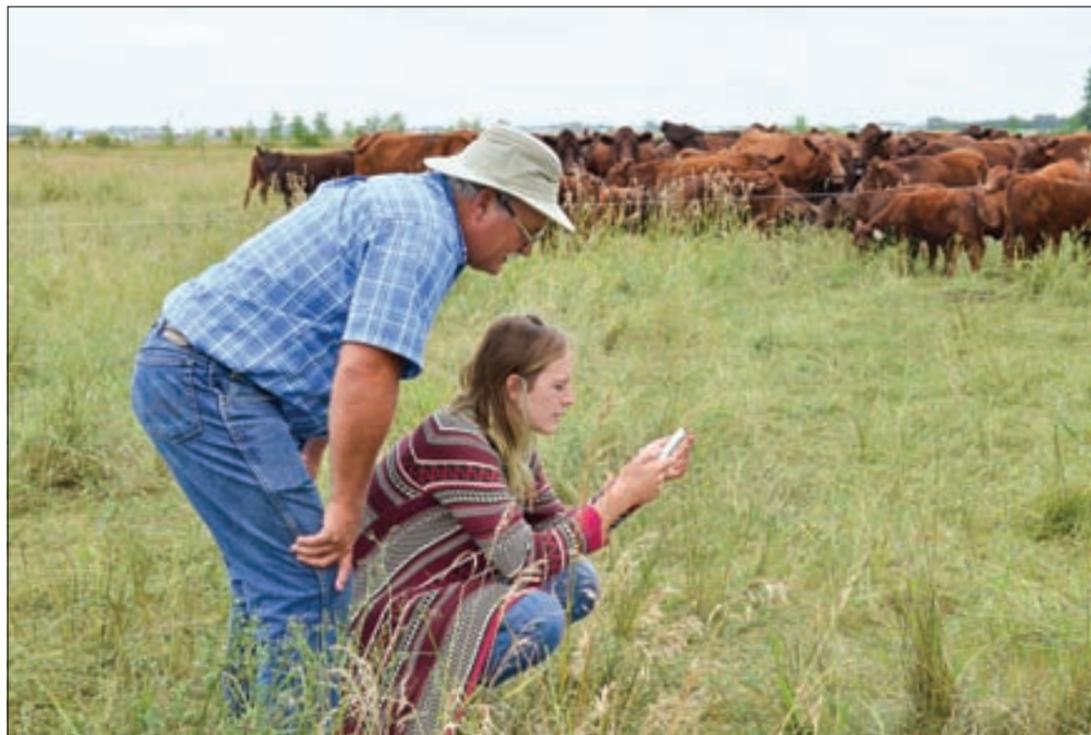
Within three years, the parcel of land went from running out of grass after 120 days of grazing to moving cattle off the land after 155 days with hay to spare.

Harper immediately saw an increase in beef production. The first year, the pasture’s population jumped from 32 cow-calf pairs to 37 pairs and eight heifers, and Harper took off almost 4,000 pounds more beef than the previous year. By 2016, Harper had moved 44 pairs and 12 heifers into the same space, more than doubled his forage production and took off 6,970 more pounds of beef than he did in 2013.

Getting better

Despite the heavier use, however, soil tests implied the land was under less strain.

The pasture averaged 26.6 (or “low”) on the first Solvita carbon tests in 2014 despite being rotationally grazed for the previous 10 years. By 2017, however, Solvita results had risen to 71.7, or “high” carbon. Organic matter results



Brian Harper (l) gets down to ground level as attendees at a recent grazing workshop tour the high stock density grazing experiment on his land. PHOTOS: ALEXIS STOCKFORD

“We leave more grass behind now than we ever grew 10 years ago, so there’s definitely room there for more animals.”

BRIAN HARPER

had, likewise, increased from an average 3.6 to 4.3 per cent.

Total organic carbon had decreased from 271.8 to 205.8 parts per million on average, but those lower results may be due to higher temperatures and more microbe activity leading to more carbon consumption. Tests showed that living microbial biomass change from 2014-17 ranged from a 29 per cent decrease (the only negative result) to a 347 per cent increase.

The experiment found increases in both nitrogen and phosphorus mineralization. In 2014, soil tests averaged 3.9 parts per million of nitrogen released. By 2017, that was up to 11.3 parts per million. Phosphorus likewise jumped an average three parts per million from three to six.



A recent grazing workshop showcased the high stock density grazing experiment on Brian Harper’s land north of Brandon, Man.

Nitrogen-fixing rhizobia microorganisms were also shown to be on the rise. In 2014, tests showed a “total absence” of the bacteria, but by 2017 all tests showed evidence of rhizobia. The balance of fungi to bacteria also rose from a 0.172 ratio to almost 1.38.

When all those numbers are added up, the result is higher forage production and dramatically higher stock density rates.

Beginning gradually, over a three-year period, the stock density was dramatically increased. It rose from a starting point ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 pounds an acre per day to as high as 86,000

pounds per acre per day. Most producers would expect to see changes to their pasture with those numbers — but they might not expect the changes to be as positive as they have been.

“We’ve increased forage production, we’re producing more beef per acre, Brian’s making more money, we’ve pumped carbon into the soil, the biology’s functioning better and at balance, we’ve lowered the pH and there’s more wildlife,” Thiele said, summing up the major changes.

The association counted five times as many birds and twice

as many bird species by the end of the experiment.

Thiele noted that pH is still higher than ideal (ranging from 7.1 to 7.7), despite lower measurements.

Early concerns

Harper may have plans to intensify his already intensified system, but he was initially anxious about increasing stock density so dramatically, worried he might overgraze each paddock.

It is a common concern, and one that Thiele says he fights regularly when introducing high stock density grazing to producers.

“It was all sort of figuring out how to do all this,” Thiele said. “How big should the paddocks be? How many cows? How long a rotation? All this kind of details stuff. The basic principles, like I say, are very simple — just higher stock density, short grazing period, long recovery.”

“You’re just trying to mimic the way this grassland has been managed by nature for the last 10,000 years.”

Mob grazing has become an increasingly popular topic at forage workshops and soil health initiatives.

Proponents argue that the system mimics the large herds of grazing animals, such as bison, which would move into an area, graze it intensely, and then leave for long periods of time. Studies have linked the practice to deeper root systems, which in turn break up compaction and increase organic matter in soils.

Harper’s advice is to start slow, halving existing paddocks or pastures if producers are concerned about overloading land and adjusting from there.

“I know a lot of people give up,” Harper said. “They try it for one year and say it didn’t work. You have to have patience. You can see on our place over there, it’s only been three years and the difference we’ve made and the increase both in forage and in beef production is well worth doing it.”

“There’s also a learning curve for both the producer and the cattle,” he added. “Bear with it and observe.”

Harper said producers with questions on high stock density grazing can reach him at harper4@goinet.ca.

astockford@farmmedia.com

There's a bright future for biomass — but more research is needed

It's amazing what you can build out of straw, hemp, cellulose, and even 'rammed' earth, but uptake remains slow

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

It looks like any other shipping container, but what's inside could one day boost food security in remote areas of the country.

Biosystems engineers at the University of Manitoba are perfecting a self-contained unit which includes a biomass boiler that produces up to 56 kW of heat. The unit also has a Stirling engine integrated into the system that utilizes the heat to generate up to five kW electricity, which will be used to power an LED lighting system in a greenhouse.

The unit, a first of its kind in Canada, is part of research into using straw, hemp, and other plant material as pellets for biomass fuel in a combined heat and power unit.

"There are other biomass boilers out there but this is the only one that we're aware of in Canada that's combining electrical power generation with heat," said Kris Dick, associate professor in the university's biosystems engineering department.

Dick is also the founder of a 1.5-acre site on the campus called the Alternative Village, which began with a straw bale building that is now a research centre examining non-conventional build-



Kris Dick, founder and director of the campus's Alternative Village, speaks to a visiting delegation about the site's hempcrete research.

PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

ing materials such as straw, flax, compressed earth, hemp, and biocomposites.

"We provide a way to come in and do a little exploratory research to see if an idea is worth taking to the next stage," Dick said during a recent tour. "My initial intent was that this would be a facility for small business and small industry, that do not have deep pockets, to come and investigate their ideas."

The site now has multiple small structures where that research helps answer questions for those writing building codes, insurers,

and financial institutions who have clients wanting to use alternative building materials.

There is a greenhouse modelled after designs used in China featuring a back wall of 18 inches of straw and six inches of rammed earth designed to absorb (and then slowly release) solar energy. Even on a -20 C February day, temperatures can rise to 45 C in the rammed earth back wall if it's sunny. But, of course, it's not always sunny — hence the biomass unit able to produce heat and power.

There is a greenhouse modelled after designs used in China featuring a back wall of 18 inches of straw and six inches of rammed earth designed to absorb (and then slowly release) solar energy.

That site is used to evaluate moisture movement through the building's wall system as well as studies on heat transfer through various wall systems, Dick said.

"I've done studies that have compared the thermal resistance (R value) of structural insulated panels, dense-pack cellulose and concrete with exterior foam, compared to typical wood frame construction with fibreglass batt insulation."

Other materials being studied include recycled fibreglass, experimental biocomposite windowpanes, siding made completely of recycled wood, and an alternative cement floor that actually has no cement in it. It's made strictly from chemical and stone and is very sensitive to temperature.

"It pours out looking just like soup and will set up in 20 minutes," said Dick.

A recent conference at Alt Village attracted engineers and other experts from around the world, and many speakers were asked why the biomass industry isn't further ahead. Their answer was that these products are somewhat 'ahead of their time' and customers are still unfamiliar with them. There also needs to be 'readily available' standards for using these products and grading standards for biofibres.

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Opposition grows to Ottawa's proposed corporate tax changes

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture wants the consultation period extended past harvest time

STAFF

Ottawa needs to extend consultations on proposed tax changes for incorporated businesses, including farm corporations, says the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

The farm group, which has joined the 42-member Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness, is calling on producers to voice their concerns about changes it says will hurt farm business planning. It also says a proposed deadline of Oct. 2 for the consultations is far too soon.

"These tax proposals represent transformative changes that would bring about major uncertainty for farms that are incorporated, especially for multi-generational family farms," CFA president Ron Bonnett said in a news release. "The government must recognize that small-business owners face unique risks and costs, especially in agriculture where farmers must plan for a wide range of factors that can affect their operations from year to year."

The Finance Department announced the proposed changes in mid-July and allowed for a 75-day consultation period,

much of which is during farmers' busy harvest time.

If implemented, the proposals will restrict small-business owners from sharing income with family members, limit certain forms of saving in the business, making the firm more vulnerable in bad economic times and less able to innovate and grow, and change capital gains rules which could make it more difficult for owners to transfer their business to the next generation, the coalition, led by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said in a news release.

In a letter announcing the proposed changes, Finance

Minister Bill Morneau said the government wants to ensure Canada has a fair tax system.

"(O)ur government... is taking steps to address tax planning strategies and close loopholes that are only available to some — often the very wealthy or the highest income earners — at the expense of others," he wrote. "Currently there are signs that our system isn't working as well as it should, specifically when it comes to private corporations. There are worrying trends. There is evidence that some may be using corporate structures to avoid paying their fair share, rather than to invest

in their business and maintain their competitive advantage."

But according to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, under the proposals farmers will face higher costs with fewer options to manage business risks. The complexity of the changes could also lead to other unintended consequences.

"The added uncertainty could discourage business investments right at a time when farmers are making plans to position their operations toward meeting the ambitious targets outlined in the 2017 Federal Budget, which identified agriculture as a key growth sector," it said.

Expert advice on tap in webinar series

There are seven online learning events in this winter's lineup from the Beef Cattle Research Council

STAFF

Up your pregnancy rates, reduce forage diseases, and find out which bulls aren't doing their job.

Those are three of the topics in this winter's webinar series put on by the Beef Cattle Research Council.

The council is urging producers to register for the entire series as registrants will receive reminders as well as a link to recordings of the webinars once they're available.

Here is this winter's lineup (all start at 7 p.m. Alberta time except for the Dec. 6 webinar on forage diseases):

Oct. 12: Corn grazing

Bart Lardner, senior research scientist at the Western Beef Development Centre, will discuss the latest corn grazing recommendations and how this extended grazing practice can be used to maintain good profitability and animal performance.

Nov. 16: Are your bulls actually siring calves?

Stacey Domolewski, science and extension co-ordinator at the Beef Cattle Research Council, will discuss research that shows a surprising variation in the number of calves sired by each bull in large pastures with multiple bulls. She will also look at how DNA parentage testing can help determine sire value.

Dec. 6: Understanding and managing forage diseases

Linda Jewell, a plant pathology researcher with Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, will discuss pathogens that produce diseases in forages along with management strategies to help prevent disease. (Webinar at 5 p.m. Alberta time.)

Jan. 23: Preventing reproductive wrecks

Dr. Cheryl Waldner of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine will offer tips to increase and maintain high pregnancy rates with information on everything from mineral intake to disease management.



Want more of these and better ways to feed them? Beef Cattle Research Council webinars can help. PHOTO: CANADA BEEF

Feb. 7: Canada's Beef Quality Audit: What have we learned?

Mark Klassen, director of technical services with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, will examine results of the latest National Beef Quality Audit and what beef producers can do to prevent costly carcass defects.

Feb. 20: Soil health for growing forages

Henry Janzen, a research scientist with Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, will discuss what soil health means, the role of soil organic matter, and the importance of perennial forage systems in improving soil health.

March 28: Getting the most out of your corn silage

Karen Beauchemin, a ruminant nutrition researcher with Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, will offer the latest recommendations on making and storing corn silage.

Joining the live event gives participants the chance to interact and ask questions of the speakers. To register, go to www.beefresearch.ca, and then click on the Research pull-down menu and on Webinars. There are registration links for each webinar and each one gives users the option of registering for the entire winter series. The site also has archived webinars.

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LIVESTOCK TRAILERS 1510

2017 FEATHERLITE LIBERTY LQ 9821-3118, #HCL46273, \$94,450. 3 horse/booth dinette! Call 1-866-346-3148 or shop online 24/7 at allandale.com

2018 FEATHERLITE 8127-7624, 7'x24', #JCL47021, 3 compartments, \$28,900. Edmonton/Red Deer. Call 1-844-488-3142 or shop online 24/7 at allandale.com

2018 MERRITT HOG trailer, 53', 4 deck, new safety. 403-625-4658, Claresholm, AB

2009 MERRITT HOG trailer, 53', 4 deck, new safety. 403-625-4658, Claresholm, AB

CALL GRASSLAND TRAILERS for your best deal on quality livestock trailers by Titan, Duralite and Circle D. 306-640-8034 cell, 306-266-2016, gm93@sasktel.net Wood Mountain, SK.

Go public with an ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds. Phone 1-800-667-7770.

2012 TROJAN GRAVEL quad, new brakes, new safety. Call 403-625-4658, Claresholm, AB.

HAWK EQUIPMENT TRAILER, 10'W, tridem lift axles, aluminum wheels, pullouts. Great for Farm Dealership. Call 780-720-4304, Willingdon, AB.

2002 TRAIL-EZE TA machinery trailer, 48', hyd. tail, certified, pull out steel extensions. 780-753-2550, Provost AB.

BEHNKE DROP DECK semi style and pintle hitch sprayer trailers. Air ride, tandem and tridems. Contact SK: 306-398-8000; AB: 403-350-0336.

3 TRIDEMS, 3 TANDEM stepdecks; S/A 28' stepdeck; tandem, tridem and Super B highboys; 28' to 53' van trailers. Tanker: tandem alum. 8000 gal., single axle and tandem converters. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL #905231. www.rbisk.ca

30 GRAVEL TRAILERS, END dumps, clam dumps, cross dumps, side dumps. Check prices on: www.trailerguy.ca Call 306-222-2413, Saskatoon, SK.

SEMI COMBINE TRAILER, TRI-AXLE, 2000 Janzen, 12' wide, Sask. safety, \$18,700. Call 306-222-2413, Saskatoon, SK. www.trailerguy.ca

PRECISION TRAILERS: Gooseneck and bumper hitch. You've seen the rest, now own the best. Hoffart Services, Odessa, SK. 306-957-2033 www.precisiontrailers.ca

HAUSER GOOSENECK TRAILERS: Feat. 2 trailers in 1, use as HD gooseneck trailer and/or round bale transporter. Mechanical side self-loading. LED lighting. Ramps optional. Hauser's Machinery, Melville, SK. 1-888-939-4444, www.hausers.ca

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

Go public with an ad in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds. Phone 1-800-667-7770.

PATTERSON'S AUCTIONEERING SERVICES LTD.

Consignment Auction
September 16th @ 10AM
Accepting consignments now!

Location: From Hwy. 16 turn on to Junction 748 North, drive for approx 1.5 km then turn right at stop sign onto Hwy. 748, drive for approx 1.3 km and turn left into our auction yard. (Auction yard is on the west side of the highway).
Auction Yard address is: 53412 HWY 748 E

Current Listings:

1998 Freightliner Red Diesel 650750 km, 2001 High boy trailer Black, 1999 26' Vanguard Holiday Trailer, 2013 CarogMate 24' Enclosed trailer,

Cultivator (brand not verified yet), Disc (brand not verified yet), John Deere Spittfire Sled (fixer upper), Metal pull behind 4 wheel grain cart, John Deere 3pt. hitch weight box (green), Frontier 66" 3pt. hitch disc model # DH1066 (green), Farm King 7' 3pt. hitch blade (black/green), Woods 3pt. hitch brush cutter model # R105-2 (yellow), Farm King 100" 3pt. hitch drag harrows c/w draw bar (green), Frontier 6' 3pt. hitch snow blower (green), Howard 6' 3pt. hitch rototiller model # E70 (orange), (2) pallets of spring tooth harrows "both pallets sold together", Jari Monarch grass mower w/sickle blade, John Deere D100 riding mower 42" deck (works good), John Deere tractor model # 4105 w/ 300CX front end loader and bucket 386.8 hours, Frontier landscape rake model # LR2084 (green), Behlen landscape rake (red), Frontier pallet fork set (John Deere style, not universal style), 2015 Loadtrail gooseneck dump trailer, John Deere riding mower 54" deck model # LA150, 1989 Ford Travellaire Motorhome 119461 km (very clean inside), 2009 Ford Mustang convertible V6 47006km (dark blue), Selection on NEW and Used Tires, NEW never used Tanks 100-200 gallon, NEW never used Chain Hangers, Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor, New mig wire in Box, wrench cases, leg vise, STIHL chainsaw, Torque wrench, Chain hoist, Air chisel, Tile cutter, Ladder, Metal work carts, Angle grinder, Circular saws, jig saws, Large tow rope, Compressors, Generators, Seeder, Engine hoist, Press, Tool chests, Rollers, Winch, Wooden ATV carts, Pressure washer, Car topper boat, Black Leather Couch and Loveseat combo, Complete Oak Bedroom set, great selection of collectible coins and currency, Acoustic Guitar Signed By Aaron Lines and So Much More!

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"Proudly Serving the Yellowhead County!"

UNRESERVED BANKRUPTCY AUCTION

FURTHER TO THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM DELOITTE TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY FOR

NOMAD ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LTD

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 10 A.M.
SITE: 8909 - 96 ST, PEACE RIVER, AB.
PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SPECIAL MENTION ITEMS: 2013-PETERSONS SMIDE AB TWO MAN BASKET FOR CRANE OR PICKER, S/N 13100, MOD SP800. * 2-40' TWO LEVEL SEA CONTAINER STORAGE SYSTEMS WITH STAIRS, PALLET PLATFORM AND LIGHTING * BW MICRODOCK II TEST SYSTEM (BUMP CHECK, CALIBRATE AND DATA TRANSFER) FOR 22-GASALERTMICROCLIP XT SNIFFERS * TRUCKS: 2012 FORD HARLEY DAVIDSON EDITION F-150, 76,000 KM., XTRA CLEAN, ALL OPTIONS, S/N 1FTFW1E64CFA30826 * 3-2012 FORD F-350 XLT CREW CAB. LONG BOX. 4 X 4 PICK-UPS, H.D. ALUMINUM GRILL GUARDS * 2008 FORD F-350 DECK TRUCK, 4X4 10' DECK WITH ALUMINUM FUEL TANK WITH ELECTRIC PUMP, HEADACHE RACK, 296.239 KM. S/N * 2008 FORD E-350 VAN. CARGO DIVIDER INSTALLED WITH SHELVES FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE, LADDER RACK * COMPLETE SET OF WEATHERGUARD ELECTRIC CONTRACTOR VAN RACKS AND DRAWERS * SKIDSTEER AND TRAILERS: 2011 JOHN DEERE 320 D SKIDSTEER LOADER, 1160 HOURS, WITH BUCKET * DOZER AND PALLET FORK ATTACHMENT FOR SKIDSTEER * 2015 PJ 39' TANDEM AXLE, DUAL WHEEL GOOSENECK TRAILER (39' PIN TO TAIL) 30' DECK, SPRING LOADED BEAVER TAILS, BALL STYLE PIN * 2011 CHARMAC 27' (23' INSIDE VAN) ENCLOSED T/A TRAILER * CONTINENTAL 15' (12' IN THE VAN) T/A ENCLOSED TRAILER WITH WATER TANK AND HIGH PRESSURE TEST PUMP INSTALLED, INFRARED HEATER, DEWALT AIR COMPRESSOR, TOOL BOXES AND FLARE STACK * 1998-48' ARROW TRI-AXLE HI-BOY TRAILER, LAST INSPECTION ENDS 06/17 * COMPLETE SET OF 2008 FORD F-350 C.C. BODY PANELS, DOOR GLASS, SEATS ETC. * 9' TRUCK DECK WITH TOOL BOXES, FOLDING SIDES, REMOVABLE LADDER RACK * EQUIPMENT: 100-SPECIAL ELECTRICAL TOOLS, INSTRUMENTATION, INSTALLATION AND TESTING EQUIPMENT * HYDRAULIC CRIMPERS * LADDERS * PRESSURE TEST SYSTEMS * HAND AND POWER TOOLS * 19 SECTIONS EZE-RECT SHELVING * MILLER 251D MIG WELDER * LINCOLN IDEAL ARC 250 STICK WELDER * OXY- ACET TORCHES * X-STREAM TRIPLEX HIGH PRESSURE PRESSURE WASHER * PICK-UP TRUCK TOO BOXES * TIDY TANKS AND PUMPS * INVENTORY: 300 LOTS INSTRUMENTATION, H2s DETECTION, 25-ARGUS PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS * FLAME AND LEVEL CONTROLS, LIGHTING INCLUDING 4 L.E.D. STREET LIGHTS, WIRE AND CABLE, HEAT CABLE, BREAKERS, CONDUIT AND BOXES, TRANSFORMERS, STARTERS, FUSE PANELS AND MUCH MORE OFFICE: TALKSWITCH TELEPHONE SYSTEM * DESKS AND CHAIRS * COFFEE MAKER AND GRINDER * CANON 4035 IMAGERUNNER PHOTOCOPIER * 10 LAPTOP AND PC COMPUTERS AND MAIN FRAME NETWORKING HUB * WATCH WEB SITE FOR UPDATES THIS IS A BIDSPOTTER AND LIVE AUCTION

SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS * EVERYTHING SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS WITH NO WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES OFFERED OR IMPLIED. * CASH * VISA * MASTERCARD TO \$3,000 WITH NO NO CREDIT CARD FEES, 3% OVER \$3,000 * BANK DEBIT CARD * CERTIFIED CHECKS WITH CASH DEPOSIT SALE DAY * CHECKS WITH LETTER FROM BANK GUARANTEEING PAYMENT * SETTLEMENT ON SALE DAY, NO EXCEPTIONS!!! * 13% BUYERS PREMIUM ON ALL PURCHASES *

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TRUCKS

NEWEST TO OLDEST
1995



2017 RAM 1500 SPORT, crew cab, loaded, sublimed green, MSRP \$65,240, all taxes paid for \$52,500 total. Call Hoss 306-554-7063 or 1-800-667-4414.

2015 DODGE RAM SLT, 4x4, 50,000 kms, V6 auto., 5th wheel hitch, running boards, back-up camera, as new, under warranty, \$26,500. Call 403-804-4506, Cayley, AB.

2010 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT, quad cab, 4x4, 5.7L V8 Hemi, 28,500 kms., \$26,500 firm. Greg 306-883-2568, Spiritwood, SK.

2009 DODGE 5500, 4x4, crew cab, Cummins diesel, auto transmission. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

1977 FORD F100, not used and shedded last 4 years, like new tires, very little rust, offers. 306-278-2542, Porcupine Plain, SK.

GRAIN TRUCKS
1673

1985 FORD 700 tag axle grain truck, gas motor, \$7500. Call 780-875-5195 or text 780-808-3816, Lloydminster, AB.

2013 FREIGHTLINER TANDEM, automatic trans., 20' Courtney Berg grain box, silage gate, remote hoist, grain door silage extension, LED lights, powder coat, Michelin tires, 25,000 kms., \$125,000. Call Dave at 403-556-3992, Olds, AB.

2001 IHC 4700, single axle, 466 dsl., 16' B&H complete motor overhaul, very good cond., \$27,500. 780-877-2425, Edberg, AB

2007 MACK, 10 speed Eaton auto., new 20' CIM B&H, 940,000 kms., fresh Sask. safeties. Call 306-270-6399, Saskatoon, SK. www.78truxsales.com DL #316542.

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

20+ TANDEM: Standards & Automatics. Yellowhead Sales, 306-783-2899, Yorkton, SK.

2005 IH 4400, Allison auto., 19' BH&T, low kms; 2008 IH 7600 tandem, ISX Cummins 10 spd., new 20' BH&T; 2007 Peterbilt 330 S/A, Allison auto., new 16' BH&T. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, DL #905231. www.rbisk.ca

1976 GMC 6500 3 ton, real nice truck, always shedded, 16' Lux BH&T, \$7500. 306-233-7305, Cudworth, SK.

RETIRED: 1977 FORD F600, steel B&H; 1979 F600, steel B&H. Both in good cond. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

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

1980 MACK TANDEM, 18' B&H, roll up tarp, good condition. Phone Bill Gordon 306-768-2879, Carrot River, SK.

ALLISON AUTOMATIC TRUCKS: Several trucks with auto. trans. available with C&C or grain or gravel box. Starting at \$19,900; Call K&L Equipment, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK. DL #910885. ladimer@sasktel.net

TANDEM AXLE GRAIN trucks in inventory. New and used, large inventory across Western Canada at www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer 1-888-986-2946

1998 FL80 FREIGHTLINER grain truck, box added 5 years ago, 424,688 kms., SA, 400 bu., 3126 Cat eng., \$9000. 403-870-0091, Prince Albert, SK. gleia@wolffleia.ca

GRAVEL TRUCKS
1676

2005 IH 4400 tandem, new motor, Allison auto., gravel box; 16' IH 9200 Detroit, 10 spd., 16' gravel box; 2013 Decap tridem belly dump; Used tridem end dump. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL 905231. www.rbisk.ca

2012 IHC TRANSTAR, low pro, Max 300 HP dsl., Allison auto. trans., S/A, loaded cab, 13' Armstrong landscape dump, price reduced \$29,900; 2010 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.

TANDEM AXLE GRAVEL trucks in inventory. New and used, large inventory across Western Canada at www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer 1-888-986-2946

SEMI TRUCKS
1677



2009 IH PROSTAR, 500 HP Cummins, 18 spd., 46,000 rears, 4-way locks, 485,000 kms \$41,000. 780-206-1234, Barrhead, AB



2008 PETERBILT 386, 46K rears, 18 spd., 525 HP Cummins, Inframe, deleted, 1.5M kms, \$39,500. 780-206-1234, Barrhead AB

2006 KENWORTH W900, 565 Cummins, 18 spd., 46,000 rears, double highrise bunk, \$38,000. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

TRI-DRIVE 2012 KENWORTH T800, newly rebuilt motor, new safety, with or without gravel box. 403-625-4658, Claresholm, AB.

NEED LEASING OR FINANCING for all types of equipment? Call Horizon Leasing at 306-934-4445, Saskatoon, SK.

SEMI TRUCKS
1677



2009 VOLVO 430, D16 535 HP 18 spd., 46,000 rears, 4-way locks, 290,000 kms, PTO, \$68,900. 780-206-1234, Barrhead AB

TWO 2007 IHC 9400, Cat 500, 18 spd., 46 rears and lockers, 51" sleepers; (2) 2009 Mack, 485 HP 18 spd., 46 rears and lockers, 51" sleeper; 2008 Freightliner, 515 HP 18 spd., 46 rears and lockers, wet line kit. Yellowhead Sales 306-783-2899, Yorkton.

KENWORTHS: 2007 T800 500 Cat 18 spd., 46 diff. lockers; 2009 T660, new pre-emission, 525 ISX, new 18 spd, and clutch, 46 diff., lockers; 2008 T800 daycab, 500 Cat, 18 spd., lockers, new clutch and trans; 2014 Western Star 4900, 46 diff. Detroit, 18 spd., 4-way locks; 2008 Freightliner Cascadia, daycab, Detroit 515, 18 spd., lockers; 2007 IH 9900i, 525 ISX, 18 spd, 3-way lockers; 2007 IH 9200 daycab, 450 ISX, 13 spd; 1996 T800, Cat, 13 spd., rebuilt trans., diffs and injectors; 2006 Pete 379, daycab, 500 Cat, 18 spd., lockers, new rebuilt eng., new clutch; 2005 Mack CH613, 18 spd., lockers, wet kit, 450,000 kms; 2- 1996 FLD 120 Freightliners, 425 Cat, 430 Detroit, lockers, Ron Brown Implements, Delisle, SK., 306-493-9393, DL 905231. www.rbisk.ca

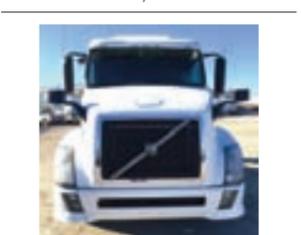
LOOK HERE



2015 INT. LONESTAR, eng./emission warranty till 2020, 270,000 kms, 550 ISX Cummins, 46 rears, 3.90 ratio, 4-way lockers, much, much more, including 2.5 years warranty left. Reduced! \$133,500. More info. Dan 306-233-7488, Wakaw, SK.

2010 PETERBILT 388, safety up to date, TNT 4" pump, newer tires, new engine (2015 install), new trans and clutch (2016 install), \$65,000. 306-228-3251, Unity, SK.

SLEEPERS AND DAY CABS. New and used. Huge inventory across Western Canada at www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer, 1-888-986-2946.



2012 VOLVO VNL 630 - A great truck & trailer combo for \$90,000 OBO. 2008 Wilson Super B trailers. Truck specs: 46,000 lb rear, 500 HP D13, 3.55, 744,000 kms. Trailer specs: Alum, grain trailers w/tires 75%+. 204-795-0950, Winnipeg, MB.

SPECIALIZED TRUCKS
1680

1986 KW W900 TA water truck, 3406 Cat, mechanical, 13 spd., air ride, certified, new 3" buoy pump. 780-753-2550, Provost

TOW TRUCK, 1993 F700, 10 spd., Vulcan towing unit (will separate). Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030 anytime North Battleford SK

DECKS, DRY VANS, reefers and storage trailers at: www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer, 1-888-986-2946.

1975 GMC TREE Spade truck, 350 auto, with Vermeer TS44T, clean unit, 73,000 kms, \$21,000. 306-276-2080, Nipawin, SK.

SPORT UTILITIES
1682

SPECIAL PURCHASE OF new and near-new 2014-2015 Crosstrek XVs. Save up to \$5000. Come in quickly!! 1-877-373-2662. www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

2016 SUBARU FORESTER name top pick for 2016. Starting from \$29,360. Great selection to choose from!! 1-877-373-2662, www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

VARIOUS
1685

SPECIAL PURCHASE OF new and near new 2014-2015 Crosstrek XVs. Save up to \$5000. Come in quickly!! 1-877-373-2662. www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

2008 IH 7600 tandem 24' van body, power tailgate, 10 speed ISX; 2007 Freightliner auto. trans., 24' flatdeck. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL #905231. www.rbisk.ca

SLEEPERS AND DAY CABS. New and used. Huge inventory across Western Canada at www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer, 1-888-986-2946.

VANS
1700

DECKS, DRY VANS, reefers and storage trailers at: www.Maximinc.Com or call Maxim Truck & Trailer, 1-888-986-2946.

BUILDING/RENOVATIONS

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2520

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CONTINUOUS METAL ROOFING, no exposed screws to leak or metal overlaps. Ideal for lower slope roofs, rinks, churches, pig barns, commercial, arch rib building and residential roofing; also available in Snap Lock. 306-435-8008, Wapella, SK.

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2601

www.windandweathershelters.com COMMERCIAL GRADE Wind and weather shelter buildings available in widths from 20' to 90'. Prices starting at \$2495. If you have bought an auction building and need to upgrade to more durable material or parts, we can help! Contact Paul 306-641-5464 or Ladimer 306-795-7779. Located in Yorkton, SK.



STEEL STORAGE SHED, 34'x72'x16' walls. Bi-fold door is 32' wide, side overhead door is 12'x12'. A walk-in door is incl. Everything is disassembled, ready to move, very good condition, \$20,000. Call 306-230-6879, Vanscoy, SK. shockeyfarms@sasktel.net

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
2800

BARBER SHOP FOR SALE: North Battleford SK. Excellent clientele, only shop in town! Easy parking. 2 chairs, includes 1 sideline, everything goes. Expandable. Owner retiring. E-mail: possibilities789@gmail.com

LARGE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING in heart of Balchen oil play for lease/sale; Development lands around Regina/Saskatoon; Large building and property on Broadway Ave, Yorkton; 3 lots on South Service road, Weyburn; Tempo/Tire shop #48 Windthorst; Hotel & Restaurant on #48. Brian Tiefenbach, 306-536-3269, Colliers Int. Regina, SK. www.collierscanada.com

OUTFITTING ALLOCATIONS FOR SALE, Ministiquan Lake, SK. 25 bears, 25 deer. Call 306-837-4731, pposipil@sasktel.net

BUSINESS SERVICES

FINANCIAL/LEGAL
2902

TROUBLED WITH CREDIT CARD BALANCE? Maxed out your credit cards? We can pay off your credit card debts or line of credit! With low rates from 1.99% Bad credit okay. Call 780-566-1349 or 1-800-917-3326, Edmonton, AB.

DEBTS, BILLS AND charge accounts too high? Need to resolve prior to spring? Call us to develop a professional mediation plan, resolution plan or restructuring plan. Call toll free 1-888-577-2020.

FARM/CORPORATE PROJECTS. Call A.L. Management Group for all your borrowing and lease requirements. 306-790-2020, Regina, SK.

CONSULTING
2901

CONSULTING
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CONTRACTING

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3510

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CUSTOM BALING
3520

CUSTOM COMBINING. Booking acres for the 2017 crop. Call Stan at 306-309-0080, Pangman, SK.

ROY HARVESTING is now available for the 2017 harvest season, with full support equipment. Call Chuck 306-642-0055, Chris 306-642-0076, Glentworth, SK.

CUSTOM HARVESTER looking for acres to harvest. 6- new JD S series combines, grain carts and Peterbilt semis. Headers for all crops. No job too big or small Will travel anywhere. 306-421-9270 leave msg., Bromhead, SK.

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3530

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CUSTOM TRUCKING
3550

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

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

CUSTOM WORK
3560

REGULATION DUGOUTS: 120x60x14', \$2000; 160x60x14', \$2950; 180x60x14', \$3450; 200x60x14', \$3950; Larger sizes available. Travel incl. in Sask. Gov't grants available. 306-222-8054, Saskatoon, SK.

MULCHING- TREES, BRUSH, Stumps. Call today 306-933-2950. Visit us at: www.maverickconstruction.ca

BRUSH MULCHING. The fast, effective way to clear land. Four season service, competitive rates, 275 HP unit, also avail. trackhoe with thumb, multiple bucket attachments. Bury rock and brush piles and fence line clearing. Borysiuk Contracting Inc., www.bsisk.ca Prince Albert, SK., 306-960-3804.

NEUFELD ENT. CORRAL CLEANING, payloador, Bobcat with rubber tracks and vertical beater spreaders. Phone 306-220-5013, 306-467-5013, Hague, SK.

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3600

RECLAMATION CONTRACTORS: Bigham 3 and 4 leg mechanical trip 3 pt. hitch Paratilis in stock; parts for Bigham and Tye Paratilis. Call Kelloughs: 1-888-500-2646.

KELLO DISC BLADES and bearings: 22" to 42" notched. Parts: oilbath and greaseable bearings to service all makes of heavy construction discs. Call: 1-888-500-2646, Red Deer, AB. www.kelloughs.com

CONSULTING
2901

CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.
3600



2018 LANDMASTER PD18 DOZERS: Call for pricing. Lease to own, zero down, semi-annual payments, terms of up to 72 months. Gord- 780-913-7353, Stony Plain, AB. www.landmaster.ca

2000 JD 624H Loader, 3 yard, 20.5 tires, one owner, good condition, \$32,500. 403-291-1010, Calgary, AB.

1994 VOLVO 150 wheel loader, good cond., \$35,000. 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

JD 544E WHEEL LOADER, low hours, excellent overall condition, \$27,000. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

HITACHI EX200 hyd., excavator, large digging bucket, excellent undercarriage, \$37,000. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

CAT 966C WHEEL loader, new front rubber, very good cond., very tight machine, \$23,000. Call 780-983-0936, Clyde, AB.

CLIFF'S USED CRAWLER PARTS. Some older Cats, IH and Allis Chalmers. 780-755-2295, Edgerton, AB.



1990 CHAMPION 740 Grader, exc. cond., new rubber, new AC system, perfect glass. bailiffservices@sasktel.net Saskatoon SK.

YELLOW ROSE CONSTRUCTION has a Gen-set tower van 45', 3406 Cat eng., 400 KW genset, 25 electrical cord outlets and switches in the tower, from 5-150 HP and 1100 gal. belly fuel tank, excellent cond., ready to go!; 2008 Ingersoll Rand L120 generator light plant with 2 extra 30 amp. plugs and 75' of extra electrical cord, very few hrs.; Shop van with welder, tools, drill press, vice, working benches and lots of shelving; 1996 JD 644G loader, 4 yd. bucket, A1 condition. Call Bill McGinnis, 306-567-7619, Craik, SK.

1984 CHAMPION 740 grader, in good shape, asking \$23,500. Call 306-236-5031, leave message, Meadow Lake, SK.

1990 D6D DOZER, wide pad, winch; 1993 D37 P6 6-way dozer, cab. 306-304-1959. Goodsoil, SK.

HYDRAULIC SCRAPERS: LEVER 60, 70, 80, and 435, 4 to 30 yd. available. Rebuilt for years of trouble-free service. Lever Holdings Inc. 306-682-3332 Muenster, SK.

LEON 550 SCRAPER, good cond., \$12,000 OBO. 306-931-2587, 306-260-3407, No Sunday Calls. Martensville, SK.

ROAD GRADERS CONVERTED to pull behind large 4 WD tractors, 14' and 16' blade widths avail. 306-682-3367, CWK Ent. Humboldt, SK. www.cwcenterprises.ca

SKIDSTEER ATTACHMENTS: Buckets, rock buckets, grapples, weld-on plates, hyd. augers, brush cutters and more large stock. Top quality equipment, quality welding and sales. Call Darcy at 306-731-3009, 306-731-8195, Craven, SK.

CONSULTING
2901

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2015 JD W150 with 40D- SPI, Stock #190202, \$145,000. Call 306-682-2574, Humboldt, SK. www.pattisonag.com

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2002 CASE/IH 2388, PU, long auger, hopper top, chopper, field ready, priced to sell! Call 306-654-7772, Saskatoon, SK.

1991 CASE 1680, reconditioned w/lots of new parts, field ready, c/w 1015 header, \$25,000; Also 1010 straight cut hdr., 30', batt reels, fore&aft, skid plate, \$8500 w/transport. Both in exc. cond. and always shedded. 306-661-7477, Fox Valley, SK.

2012 CIH 8230, 1301 eng. hrs., 868 rotor hrs., exc. cond., field ready. 780-872-8209, 306-823-4456, Neilburg, SK.

CIH 8010 CAB complete, in good condition, \$13,800. Call 1-800-667-4515 or visit www.combineworld.com

1990 CIH 1680, all updates, vg cond, 4500 hrs., PU & PU header. Norm 306-857-2117, 306-867-3998, Strongfield, SK.

1995 CASE/IH 2188 combine, 3044 reg. 3957 eng. hrs., 1015 header, Rake-Up PU, new drapers, chopper, Kirby spreader, pea concave, hopper extension, long auger, new parts, (feeder house drive and reverse), oil change, new batteries, excellent rubber, field ready and stored inside. Retired! \$34,500 OBO. Call 306-252-2810 or 306-567-7281, Kenaston, SK.

1994 1688 CIH, 4200 hrs., 395 Melroe PU, AFX rotor, internal chopper, tires are good, field ready, lots of work done by Young's Equipment, asking \$20,000 OBO. Call 306-539-4564, Francis, SK.

1997 CASE/IH 2188, 3000 sep. hrs, auto HHC, chopper plus ready cut chopper, hopper extension, very good tires, rock trap, long auger, 2015 Swathmaster PU header, excellent, condition, \$29,500. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

1998 2388, 4200 eng., hrs., 3200 threshing hrs., \$26,000; 2002 30' 1020 flex header, \$9500, 306-567-3128, Bladworth, SK.

2000 CASE/IH 2388 w/1015 header, \$65,000; 2004 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$115,000; 2006 2388 w/2015 PU header, \$130,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

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

2004 CASE/IH 2388, 1850 rotor hours, field ready, good condition, \$75,000. Call 306-745-7653, Stockholm, SK.

2012 CIH 8120, 1070 hrs, Pro 700, 262 rec., AutoSteer, fold top, rebuilt threshing, duals, \$202,000. 403-443-0591, Trochu AB.

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4166

2002 MACDON 872 ADAPTER for Cat Lexion and Claas, \$5500. 306-693-9847, Moose Jaw, SK.

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FORD/NH
4172

2005 CR960, 2600 hrs., c/w PU header and Swathmaster, \$34,000 w/o, field ready, \$74,000. 403-749-2373 Lousana AB

NH TR99, SWATHMASTER pickup, factory duals, Redekop MAV chopper, all options, shedded, field ready, \$43,500. 403-350-9088, Delburne, AB.



2017 NH CR9.90 elevation, UNUSED!; 2012 NH CR9090, 860 sep. hrs., vg condition. Both have duals, leather, well equipped. Call 780-878-1479, Camrose AB.

2009 NH 9070, 1793/1474 hrs, Intelli-View II display, Y&M, remote sieve adjust, elec. stonetrapp, duals, diff. lock, long auger, PSD, deluxe chopper, chaff spreader, c/w 76-C 14' Swathmaster PU plus 2003 NH 94-C 36' draper header, fore/aft, split PU reel, single knife drive, gauge wheels, transport, all stored inside, \$180,000 OBO. Call 780-608-9290, Strome, AB.

TR85 HYDRO, always shedded, 2500 hrs., near new rubber, \$7900. Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030 anytime North Battleford SK

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LIKE NEW 2014 CR8090, loaded, only 300 sep. hrs., \$299,000 Cdn OBO. Call 218-779-1710. Delivery available.

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2000 JD 9750-STS, 2980 separator hrs., 3966 engine hrs., w/dual wheel kit, \$60,000. 306-896-2311, Langenburg, SK.

LATE MODEL 5670, 680 & 690 combines, various hours and options. Starting at \$230,000 Cdn OBO. Call 218-779-1710. Delivery available.

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2009 JD 9870, farm equip. dispersal, 1475 hrs., 1070 sep. hrs., exc. cond., \$205,000 OBO. 780-623-1147, Lac La Biche, AB.

2006 JD 9860, 615 PU, 900/60R32, Contour-Master. New in 2016: Feeder chain, chopper, grain elevator chain, rear beater, good cond., \$102,500 OBO. 306-540-9339 Raymore, SK. tbenson@sasktel.net

2003 JD 9750STS, Contour Master, 914 PU, upgraded air cleaner, 2016 Greenlight, big top, GreenStar, duals, \$112,500; 2008 630F Hydra Flex header, 2016 AWS, fore/aft, lentil/pea dividers, Trailtech flex carrier, exc. cond., \$32,500. 306-230-2417, Alvena.

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2000 JD 9650STS, 2957/4123 hrs., 914 PU, 2016 Greenlight, big top, shedded \$64,500, 930F, AWS air reel, fore/aft, lentil/pea dividers, Trailtech flex carrier, exc. cond., \$14,500. 306-230-2417, Alvena, SK.

MASSEY FERGUSON
4181

1994 MF 8460 Conventional, 2850 hrs., Mercedes, Rake-Up PU, shedded, good. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

1975 MF 750 SP diesel combine, chaff spreader, straw chopper, PU, shedded, exc. shape. 306-549-4701, Hafford, SK.

MF 9790, w/4000 header, Swathmaster PU, 2953 eng. hrs., 2080 sep. hrs., S/N 9790HM36152. 306-736-2850, Kipling, SK.

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2002 CASE/IH 1042 (962), 30', PU reel, hydraulic fore/aft., 2388 adapter, \$18,000 OBO. 306-240-6787, Meadow Lake, SK.

2013 JD 635 draper header, factory transport, poly skids, Greenlights, last year, \$45,000; 2011 Roadrunner 536 36' header trailer, lights and dual brakes, \$7500. 306-621-4950, Yorkton, SK.

2005 JOHN DEERE 936D- as is, Stock #180684, \$26,500. 306-542-2816, Kamsack, SK. www.pattisonag.com

2014 JOHN DEERE 635D, Stock #186759, \$57,700. 204-734-3466, Swan River, MB. www.pattisonag.com

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COMBINE HEADER
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INTERNATIONAL 30' 810 rigid header, batt reel, good shape, \$3000 OBO. Call 306-539-4564, Francis, SK.

MACDON 974 36' flex straight cut header, slow mover, split reel, fore/aft, pea auger, Case/IH and NH adapter. 306-862-5993, 306-862-7138, Nipawin, SK.

2011 JD 635 flex platform, hydra flex 35', poly skids, single point hookup, Cray air reel system, field ready, \$33,000; 2010 JD 635 flex platform, hydra flex, single point hookup, Cray air bar system, field ready, \$31,000. Gerald or Glenn Walkeden, 306-861-6849, 306-861-7782, Tribune, SK.

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1998 CASE/IH SPX3185 90', 2 sets tires Stk: 017817, \$79,000. 1-888-905-7010, Saskatoon, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

2015 CASE/IH 4440 120', AIM, AutoBoom, AccuBoom, Pro 700 Stk: 023153, \$475,000. 1-888-905-7010, Swift Current, SK. www.redheadequipment.ca

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29' 225 DOW Kello- Bilt Tandem Disc, 28" smooth front & rear blades, 10.5" spacing, oil, both bearings, as new.....\$60,000
47' 820 Flexicoil Chisel Plow, 4 bar harrow, low mileage.....\$67,500
8-1400 (46') Meridian Grain Auger 27 HP Kholer, E-Kay mover, belt tightener, power steering, lights, no spill hopper, spout, as new.....\$12,800
13" X 95' FarmKing Hydraulic Swing Auger, reverser, low profile hopper, spout, full bin alarm, 1 season.....CALL
10"-50' Sakundiak Hydraulic Swing Auger.....\$1,750
New E-Kay 7", 8", 9" Bin Sweeps available.....CALL
3 Used E-Kay Bin Sweep Extensions.....CALL
8" Wheat Heart Transfer Auger, hydraulic drive, good condition.....\$1,000
New Outback S-Lite guidance.....\$1,250
Factory Recon. Outback STS GPS and Mapping.....\$2,250
New Outback STS Guidance, c/w E-Drive TC & VSI steering wheel.....\$7,000
New Outback STS Guidance, c/w E-Drive TC & hydraulic kit.....\$6,000
New STX Guidance, c/w E-Drive XD & hydraulic kit, 3 year ESP.....\$9,200
Used Outback E-Drive Hyd. kits.....\$500

*Outback GPS Systems, E-Kay Custom Augers, Movers, Clutches, Bin Sweeps & Crop Dividers, Kahler, Robin Subaru & Generac Engines, Headlight Harvesting Solutions, Greenomics Sprayer Auto Boom Height, Kello-Bilt Discs**

MISCELLANEOUS
4325

WANTED
4328

WANTED: USED, BURNT, old or ugly tractors. Newer models too! Smith's Tractor Wrecking, 1-888-676-4847.

WANTED
4328

MF #36 DISCERS. Will pay top dollar and pick from anywhere. Phone Mike 306-723-4875, Cupar, SK.

WANTED: NH BALE WAGONS & retrievers, any condition. Farm Equipment Finding Service, P.O. Box 1363, Polson, MT 59860. 406-883-2118.

FENCING
4100

ONE TIME FENCING, sucker rod fence posts (solid steel), steel corners for sale. www.onetimefencing.ca 1-877-542-4979.

MULCHING- TREES, BRUSH, Stumps. Call today 306-933-2950. Visit us at: www.maverickconstruction.ca

GUARANTEED PRESSURE TREATED fence posts, lumber slabs and rails. Call Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., ask for Ron 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK.

FIREWOOD
4173

BLOCKED SEASONED JACK Pine firewood and wood chips for sale. Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK. Will deliver. Self-unloading trailer.

SEASONED SPRUCE SLAB firewood, one cord bundles, \$99; half cord bundles, \$65. Volume discounts. September Clearance Special - Buy 2 get 1 free! Call V&R Sawing, 306-232-5488, Rosthern, SK.

GENERATORS
4725

450KW MARATHON GENSET, 628 hrs., S60 dsl. engine - infrared, load tested. Sold with warranty. \$44,500. On Track Company Inc. 780-672-6868, Camrose, AB

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
4850

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.

IRON/STEEL
4960

2 7/8 tubing at \$40/Jt.; 2 3/8" tubing at \$36/Jt.; 3/4" sucker rod at \$6/Jt. Whitecourt, AB. 780-648-3950, ron@rptl.ca

BISON/BUFFALO
5001

KEEP JOBS IN CANADA. Elk Valley Ranches a Canadian Co. finishes bison in Canada. We are now buying cull cows, cull bulls, yearlings and calves. Paying top \$ with prompt payment. Kitscoty, AB, Frank at 780-846-2980. elkvalley@xplornet.com www.elkvalleyranches.com

BUYING: CULL COWS, herdsire bulls, yearlings and calves. Now dealer for Redmond Bison mineral. Call Elk Valley Ranches, 780-846-2980, Kitscoty, AB.

OFFERING 8 PROVEN bison cows with breeding bull prospect, calves at side. Call Dr. Marshall Patterson, Kirkwall Moor Ranch, 306-475-2232, Moose Jaw, SK.

HAGMAN'S TRUCKING for all your bison transport. Local and long distance. Humane and ease of loading/unloading. Can haul up to 50,000 lbs. to the USA. Call 306-773-5909, Swift Current, SK.

NILSSON BROS INC. buying finished bison on the rail, also cull cows at Lacombe, AB. For fall 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. dreyelst1@rap.midco.net Call 605-391-4646.

10 BRED BISON heifers, Pure Plains heifers bred to a high end Woods/Plains bull from Irish Creek Bison. First come first serve. \$6000. Can deliver. 587-217-0425, Pincher Creek, AB. trentdenalewis@gmail.com

CATTLE
BLACK ANGUS 5010

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

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

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

RED ANGUS 5015

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

CHAROLAIS 5055

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

DEXTER 5065

OLDER DEXTER COWS, bred Speckle Park, due Apr; Speckle Park/Dexter cross 2 year bull. 403-845-5763, Rocky Mtn. House, AB

HIGHLAND 5100

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

LIMOUSIN 5115

SPRINGER LIMOUSIN has very quiet yearling Purebred Limousin bulls. Red or Black. Call Merv at 306-272-4817 or 306-272-0144, Foam Lake, SK.

LOWLINE 5118

BIG ISLAND LOWLINES Premier Breeder. Selling custom designed packages. Name your price and we will put a package together for you. Fullblood/percentage Lowline, embryos, semen. Black/Red carrier. Darrell 780-486-7553, Edmonton, AB.

SALERS 5185

PB BULL CALVES, \$1900 and heifer calves, \$1700 for sale in Oct. w/w papers. Call Art or Betty, 780-542-5782, cell 780-621-6407. Drayton Valley, AB.

POLLED PB THICK Butt Salers long yearling bulls, exc. disposition, tested. Bred replacement heifers. DynaRich Salers. Richard Andersen, 403-746-2919, Eckville, AB.

SPECKLE PARK 5215

4 SPECKLE PARK. 1 cow, 4 heifers, bred to Speckle Park Bull. Call 306-594-2904, Norquay, SK.

TEXAS LONGHORN 5225

ALBERTA TEXAS LONGHORN Association 780-387-4874, Leduc, AB. For more info. www.albertatexaslonghorn.com

TEXAS LONGHORN PRODUCTION Consignment And Ranch Horse Fall Select Sale, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, 1:00 PM, Crossroads Centre, Oyen, AB. All classes of Longhorns: Reg., commercial and cross breeds. Also ranch broke horses 3 yrs. old and older. Entry date by Sept. 15th. For entry form/ info. call Ron Walker, Redcliff, AB. 403-548-6684 res., 403-528-0200 cell, walkersru7texaslonghorns@gmail.com Website: www.walkerslonghorns.com

WELSH BLACK 5235

WELSH BLACK- The Brood Cow Advantage. Check www.canadianwelshblackcattle.com Canadian Welsh Black Soc. 403-442-4372.

CATTLE VARIOUS 5240

100 THIRD TO FIFTH Black Angus cow/calf pairs. 306-773-1049, 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

300 RED AND BLACK Angus 1250 lbs. heifers with calves. Call 306-773-1049, 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

HERD DISPERSAL: 70 Black Angus cross pairs and 70 mixed pairs. Full herd health program. Reduced! \$2600 per pair firm. Call 306-335-7875, Lemberg, SK.

QUARTER HORSE
5415

REDUCTION SALE OF REG. QH's for J.W. Quarter Horses Inc. N over Lazy left V left thigh. The mark of excellence! Selling: weanlings, yearlings, 2 and 3 yr olds started and unstarted. All reg., branded, dewormed and halter broke. Bloodlines: King Leo Bar, Lynx West, Doc Bar. \$1000 and up. John Isley 780-674-3446, Barrhead, AB. Email jwquarterhorses@xplornet.com Website: www.jwquarterhorsesinc.com

HARNESSE/VEHICLES 5470

HORSE COLLARS, all sizes, steel and aluminum horseshoes. We ship anywhere. Keddies, 1-800-390-6924 or keddies.com

SHEEP
AUCTION SALES 5505

ANNUAL PRE-SORT FALL SALE: Hosted by SSDB, Sat., Sept. 23/17 at 1 PM, Saskatoon Livestock Sales. All pre-booked stock must be in by 4 PM on Friday, Sept. 22rd. Ph 306-933-5200, web: www.sksheep.com or e-mail: sheepdb@sasktel.net

POULTRY
POULTRY VARIOUS 5740

BROWN AND WHITE Novogen Layers, ready end of August. Hardy and good egg production. 306-225-4446, Hepburn, SK.

SPECIALTY
ELK 5760

ELK WANTED! If you have elk to supply to market let AWAPCO be your first choice. \$11.50/kg. Call our office at 780-980-7589, info@wapisriver.com

WANTED: 400 plus bull elk and reindeer bulls. Shewchuk Seeds, Blaine Lake, SK. 306-497-3576 or text 639-317-4645.

LIVESTOCK VARIOUS 5785

COWS WANTED for winter feeding, feed and space for 300 head. Call for details 306-360-7000, Guernsey, SK.

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT 5790

FROSTFREE NOSEPUMPS: Fully sustainable livestock watering. No power required to heat or pump. Prevents contamination. Grants available. 1-866-843-6744. www.frostfreesequip.com

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

HI-HOG CATTLE SQUEEZE. Call 306-773-1049 or 306-741-6513, Swift Current, SK.

STEEL VIEW MFG. Self-standing panels, windbreaks, silage/hay bunks, feeder panels, sucker rod fence posts. Custom orders. Call Shane 306-493-2300, Delisle, SK. www.steelviewmfg.com

CATTLE SHELTER PACKAGES or built on site. For early booking call 1-800-667-4990 or visit our website: www.warmanhomecentre.com

72" ROLLERMILL WITH power take off, portable on trailer. Call 306-475-2664, Kayville, SK.

FREESTANDING PANELS: 30' windbreak panels; 6-bar 24' and 30' panels; 10', 20' and 30' feed troughs; Bale shredder trucks; Silage bunks; Feeder panels; HD bale feeders; All metal 16' and 24' calf shelters. Will custom build. 306-424-2094, Kendal, SK.

GREG'S WELDING: Freestanding 30' 5 bar panels, all 2-7/8" drill stem construction, \$450; 24"x5.5" panels, 2-7/8" pipe w/5-1" sucker rods, \$340; 24"x6" panels, 2-7/8" pipe with 6-1" rods, \$365; 30' 2 or 3 bar windbreak panels c/w lumber. Gates and double hinges avail. on all panels. Belting troughs for grain or silage. Calf shelters. Del. avail. 306-768-8555, Carrot River, SK.

1001 NDE VERTICAL cutter mixer, good condition, \$25,000 firm; Vermeer 605M round baler, monitor, kicker, new PU, good condition, field ready, \$12,000 OBO. 306-335-7875, Lemberg, SK

MISC. ARTICLES 5850

LINDEN POST POUNDER, 540 PTO, \$750. Call 306-567-3128, Bladworth, SK.

OILFIELD EQUIPMENT 5925

2002 WELLSITE 10'x30' trailer, propane pig, AC, bdrm. w/bunk beds, Fresh CVIR \$38,800. Stk #UV1026. On Track Company Inc. 780-672-6868, Camrose, AB.

GRAINS
5942

Bioriginal

Bioriginal Food & Science Corp. is actively purchasing:

- Organic Flax Seed
- Organic Hemp Seed and;
- Borage Seed

(from the 2016 crop year)

We are also contracting for the upcoming growing season.

For more information please contact: Sandy Jolicoeur at (306) 975-9251 or email crops@bioriginal.com

PERSONAL
PERSONAL ADS 5955

Personal Advertisements will not be accepted over the telephone. Only those advertisements carrying the written signature of the advertiser will be published. (Although name and address will not appear in one's ad, we must have this information for our files.) Full payment must also accompany Personal Ads. Replies to Western Producer box numbers will be forwarded for two months.

PETS
THE ANIMAL PEDIGREE ACT

No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof within six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further information contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobicoke, Ont.

NON REGISTERED 5971

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVERS, 3 males ready to go, 1st shots and dewormed. Great family & hunting dogs. Mother is a great bird dog, both upland and water. \$800. 306-861-6196, 306-861-2510, Weyburn SK.

WORKING DOGS 5973

GREAT PYRENEES/AKBASH CROSS pups, born May 2, with sheep, both working parents, \$250. 306-845-2404, Livelong, SK.

REAL ESTATE
B.C. PROPERTIES 6110

4500 SQ. FT. HOUSE on 11 acres in Crawford Bay, BC. Call for more information 250-227-9696.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS/LAND 6115

COMMERCIAL LOT, READY to develop. 100' frontage x 300'. High elevation w/no flood issues & lots of fill for landscaping. Services adjacent to property. 2017 taxes paid. \$45,000. Candle Lake, SK., 306-960-6253, 306-922-6232, thecorrigals@sasktel.net

CONDOS/TOWN HOUSES 6120

IMMACULATE & BRIGHT Top Floor Corner Condo, built in 2005, 1272 sq. ft., 2 bdrm + den, 2 bath, wrap around balcony, underground parking and car wash, will self furnished or unfurnished, \$324,999. 306-491-0901, Wildwood - Saskatoon, SK.

COTTAGE/LOTS 6125

RESIDENTIAL LOT, ELBOW, SK for sale. Lot 7, Blk 2, Plan 88MJ16836, 125 Putters Lane. One block from golf course. 24.5 Meter frontage. Serviced by town. Will consider trade of RV, boat, truck, car, etc. \$29,500. Call Gerry 403-389-4858.

TO BE MOVED: Cabin or hunting cabin, 16x24 square timber, open rafter, w/loft. 306-240-6003, Dorintosh, SK.

HOUSES/LOTS 6126

DWEIN TRASK REALTY INC. Great selection of quality affordable homes in rural SK. Check out 901 Ave. O South in Perdue. MLS#SK701830; 119 6th Ave E. in Delisle, MLS#SK612719; Klassen acreage in Grandora, MLS#SK608373. For further info on these lovely homes and many more call Dwein Trask 306-221-1035; Amanda Colber 306-221-5675; Victoria Bester 306-270-9740.

LOG AND TIMBER HOMES, Saskatoon, SK. Visit www.backcountryloghomes.ca or call 306-222-6558.

MOBILE HOMES 6127
SELLING

WWW.MEDALLION-HOMES.CA modular homes/lake houses/RTM's. Visit our sales lot, or check online for stock, homes and all other plans. Factory direct orders built to your specs! Trade-ins welcome, buy and sell used homes. Hwy 2 South, Prince Albert, SK. Call 306-764-2121 or toll free 1-800-249-3969.

2007 HOMARK C536, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 16'x80' plus 12'x20' 2 room addition. F/S/WD/DW, water softener with reverse osmosis system, skirting, 504 sq. ft. deck, includes electric furnace. \$70,000 firm. 306-830-9335, Edam, SK.

READY TO MOVE 6128

HOME HARDWARE RTM Homes and Cottages. Phone 1-800-663-3350 or go online for floor plans and specs at: www.northbattlefordhomehardware.com

J&H HOMES: Save \$10,000-\$17,000 on select RTM showhomes like the "Paloo" shown here - www.jhohomes.com 306-652-5322.

RTMS AND SITE built homes. Call 1-866-933-9595, or go online for pictures and pricing at: www.warmanhomes.ca

PERFECT COTTAGE OR Granny Suite. 384 sq. ft., 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 16'x30' built in 2011 w/covered entry. Metal roof, vinyl siding. New furnace, duct work and insulated crawl in 2016. Very cozy! All appliances included. \$35,000. Prince Albert, SK., 306-940-7780, 306-922-6232, tannerc_@hotmail.com

RECREATION PROPERTY 6130

PARK MODEL for sale, friendly smaller park in Yuma, AZ. Includes Arizona room, carport, fully furnished, 2 pools, rec hall. Call 780-467-1915, Sherwood Park, AB.

FARM & RANCHES
ALBERTA 6132

DRYLAND FARM TO Rent, 1100 acres, located between Tilley and Suffed, AB. Easy access off Highway #1. \$15 acre/year. 403-703-2832. andrewcouch@hotmail.com

BY TENDER: SE-24-45-14-W4, Killam, AB. 158.1 acre farmland, 110 acre cultivated in grain, in Flagstaff County. No surface lease. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders. Deadline Oct. 31, 2017. E-mail for any questions or for bidding guide. Email: Albertafarmer01@gmail.com

TURNKEY BISON OPERATION: 7 quarter sections of mixed bush/open ac. 2 developed yard sites, barn shop, auto. waterers, Bison herd, equipment, annual hay already in stack yard. Ready to move in and carry on. Must sell due to health issues. Peace River. 780-618-7007, Jbar12@icloud.com

SASKATCHEWAN 6133

RM OF SPIRITWOOD No. 496: Located 8.5 miles NE of Spiritwood, SK. is this 36.8 acre acreage with a 2100 sq. ft. 2 storey family home and double attached garage built in 1992. A well sheltered groomed yard, 32x48 natural gas heated workshop with cement floor and insulated walls. 40x60 high profile quonset, dirt floor. 2 water wells, 2 water bowls, older bird roofer barn and corals with underground power. All major appliances remain and are natural gas. This acreage is a must see as it has so many possibilities! MLS# 610213. For viewing call Lloyd Ledinski at RE/MAX of the Battledords, 306-446-8800 or 306-441-0512.

BIG RIVER, SK. AREA: This gorgeous home/lodge is approx. 3100 sq. ft. on 3 levels including attached garage, with lots of open wood, large windows and local natural wood staircase. The home is heated with in-floor propane plus wood fireplace, solar panels and windmill. Most furniture is included. The quarter is 154 acres mainly bush, of which 140 acres is fenced w/8' game fence and 1 electric wire. The sellers also have a contract for raising organic chickens. There is just so much about this property to see and enjoy! MLS#611536. For viewing call Lloyd Ledinski, RE/MAX of the Battledords, 306-446-8800 or 306-441-0512.

RM BENSON #35: For rent or crop share 80 acres hayland, brome/alfalfa mix for baling. For information call 306-931-6660.

2.7 ACRES ADJACENT to Ministkwan Lake, SK. Fully serviced. Call for information. 306-837-4731, pospsil@sasktel.net

COTTAGE/LOTS
6125

RESIDENTIAL LOT, ELBOW, SK for sale. Lot 7, Blk 2, Plan 88MJ16836, 125 Putters Lane. One block from golf course. 24.5 Meter frontage. Serviced by town. Will consider trade of RV, boat, truck, car, etc. \$29,500. Call Gerry 403-389-4858.

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WANTED
4328

WANTED: USED, BURNT, old or ugly tractors. Newer models too! Smith's Tractor Wrecking, 1-888-676-4847.

WANTED

MF #36 DISCERS. Will pay top dollar and pick from anywhere. Phone Mike 306-723-4875, Cupar, SK.

WANTED: NH BALE WAGONS & retrievers, any condition. Farm Equipment Finding Service, P.O. Box 1363, Polson, MT 59860. 406-883-2118.

FENCING
4100

ONE TIME FENCING, sucker rod fence posts (solid steel), steel corners for sale. www.onetimefencing.ca 1-877-542-4979.

MULCHING- TREES, BRUSH, Stumps. Call today 306-933-2950. Visit us at: www.maverickconstruction.ca

GUARANTEED PRESSURE TREATED fence posts, lumber slabs and rails. Call Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., ask for Ron 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK.



16' PEELED RAILS. SPECIAL 2-3" \$3 ea., 125/bundle; 3-4" \$9.25 ea. 100/bundle. Vermette Wood Preservers, Spruce Home, SK., 1-800-667-0094. info@vwpltd.com

SOLIDLOCK AND TREE ISLAND game wire and all accessories for installation. Heights from 26" to 120". Ideal for elk, deer, bison, sheep, swine, cattle, etc. Tom Jensen ph/fax: 306-426-2305, Smeaton, SK.

FIREWOOD
4173

BLOCKED SEASONED JACK Pine firewood and wood chips for sale. Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd., 306-763-4232, Prince Albert, SK. Will deliver. Self-unloading trailer.

SEASONED SPRUCE SLAB firewood, one cord bundles, \$99; half cord bundles, \$65. Volume discounts. September Clearance Special - Buy 2 get 1 free! Call V&R Sawing, 306-232-5488, Rosthern, SK.



BLOCKED AND SEASONED FIREWOOD: \$180 per 160 ft.± cord; bags \$80 (incl. refundable deposit for bag). Bundles of 4'-5' or 6'-5' also avail. Vermette Wood Preservers 1-800-667-0094, Spruce Home, SK.

GENERATORS
4725

450KW MARATHON GENSET, 628 hrs., S60 dsl. engine - infrared, load tested. Sold with warranty. \$44,500. On Track Company Inc. 780-672-6868, Camrose, AB

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
4850

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.

IRON/STEEL
4960

2 7/8 tubing at \$40/Jt.; 2 3/8" tubing at \$36/Jt.; 3/4" sucker rod at \$6/Jt. Whitecourt, AB. 780-648-3950, ron@rptl.ca

TUBING FROM 1-1/4" to 3-1/2". Sucker rod 3/4", 7/8" and 1". Line pipe and Casing also available. Phone 1-800-661-7858 or 780-842-5705, Wainwright, AB.

2-7/8" OILFIELD TUBING, \$40 each; 3/4" sucker rods, \$6 each. Truckload quantities only. Call 306-861-1280, Weyburn, SK.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT
4980

Used pumping motors, PTO carts, 6" - 10" alum. pipe. Call Dennis to discuss your needs! 403-308-1400, Taber, AB.

WESTERN IRRIGATION: CADMAN Dealer. We BUY and SELL traveling guns, pumps, pipes, etc.; Also EcoSmart water purification systems, no salt, no chemicals. Phone 306-867-9461 or 306-

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6133

TOM@SASKFARMLAND.COM Hunting Quarter. Heavy big game activity. Meadow Lake, SK. area. Quick possession for the hunting season, \$89,500. Call anytime for information package. MLS® Tom Neufeld, 306-260-7838, Coldwell Banker Signature.

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NORTH BATTLEFORD AREA: 644 acres riverfront property, 2 log cabins, fenced, fantastic views, \$875,000; Near Elrose: 4 quarters deeded, 8 quarters leased, new home, complete yard site w/outdoor riding arena, \$1,850,000; South of Kindersley: 160 acres with 2880 sq. ft. log home, shop, garage, beautiful property, \$990,000. Could be subdivided as an acreage, \$690,000. Arlene Boisjoli, Royal LePage Wheat Country Realty, Kindersley, SK., 306-463-4910 or 306-460-7785. Email royal3@sasktel.net View listings at www.royallepagekindersley.ca

KINDERSLEY AREA: 123 acres, 2 homes, 2 shops, Kindersley waterline, cash renter in place, \$695,000. Arlene Boisjoli, Royal LePage Wheat Country Realty, Kindersley, SK., 306-463-4910, 306-460-7785, email royal3@sasktel.net Amy Greenwood, 306-460-8692, amygreenwood@royallepage.ca www.royallepagekindersley.ca

TAKING OFFERS FOR the following lands: W 1/2 of 36-22-06 W3, yard site; E 1/2 of 01-23-06 W3; NW 01-23-06 W3; NE 12-23-06 W3, grass; S 1/2 of 12-23-06 W3; NW 06-23-06 W3 lease grass; SE 06-23-06 W3, lease grass; SW 06-23-06 W3; SW 07-23-06 W3, lease grass. All land is adjoining and in the RM of Maple Bush No.224. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. Closing date September 30th, 2017. "Land to be sold as a unit". Please send offers to: PO Box 57, Riverhurst, SK., SOH 3P0. Leases subject to qualification.

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GRAIN LAND TO RENT, 35 mile radius of Rouleau, SK. Call 306-776-2600 or email: kraussacres@sasktel.net

FARMLAND NE SK(Clemenceau) 4 quarters plus 36 acre riverside parcel w/5 bdrm. home. Featuring: bins on concrete with direct hit on railroad cars, 40 acres of mostly mature spruce timber, 2 farmyards- 1 bordering Etomami River and 50 miles of provincial forest, excellent elk hunting and other big game and goose. 580 acres wheat, mustard, barley & peas. Full line of farm and sawmill equipment also available Will separate. Reg Hertz, 306-865-7469.

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2 quarters in the R.M. Of Buffalo (#409)

- NW 06-40-21 W3. 6 miles East of Unity, 1/2 mile South on Cut Knife Road.
- SE 07-40-21 W3. 7 miles East of Unity, 1/4 mile South on Tako Road.

Not necessarily the highest or any tender will be accepted.
Tenders can be for one quarter only.
Please respond by October 13, 2017

Send tenders to:
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Box 282 Unity, SK S0K 4L0
Phone: (306)228-8879
ritzic13@gmail.com

MANITOBA
6134

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6136

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WANTED
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ACREAGES
6139

CENTRAL ALBERTA, 10 acres, 1974 mobile with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathroom, great location, close to the town of Viking, now reduced to \$119,000. MLS #CA0072708, Call Barb Chrystian, Swan City Realty, Email: bcriver1@gmail.com

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TOP QUALITY CERTIFIED alfalfa and grass seed. Call Gary or Janice Waterhouse 306-874-5684, Naicam, SK.

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6510

ROUND ALFALFA/ALFALFA GRASS solid core greenfeed 5x6 JD hay bales for sale. Call 306-237-4582, Perdue, SK.

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36" LONG SQUARE bales made of Alfalfa, Brome, Timothy, weighing around 60-80 lbs.; 36" long square bales made of Brome, weighs around 40-50 lbs. All bales are sold as is. Call 403-740-3089, Settler, AB.

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ROUND BALE PICKING and hauling, small or large loads. Travel anywhere. Also hay for sale. 306-291-9658, Vanscoy, SK.

HAY/STRAW
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RANCH HANDED WANTED: 1000 cow ranch, all aspects of ranching, haying, operating equipment and knowledge of pivots a plus. Top wages and housing included. Alexis Creek, BC. Call 250-394-4623, Email: c1ranch99@gmail.com

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HELP WANTED for cattle and grain operation. Seeking self-motivated person, potential for year round work. Goodeve, SK. Call 306-795-2710 or 306-795-5210.

FARM/RANCH
8016

FULL-TIME FARM LABOURER HELP. Applicants should have previous farm experience and mechanical ability. Duties include operation of machinery, including tractors and other farm equip., as well as general farm laborer duties. \$25/hour depending on experience. Must be able to cross US border. Location: Pierson, MB/Gainsborough, SK. Feland Bros. Farms, Greg Feland and Wade Feland, Box 284, Pierson, MB. ROM 1S0. 701-756-6954.

WANTED: CARETAKING POSITION. Retired bachelor wanting rural caretaking or rental position. Preferably in SA mountains. No vices, two horses, mega references. Email: blackdoghorse@telus.net

FARM TRACTOR OPERATORS: Custom Farming Operation looking for tractor operators to drive Fendt or JD tractors w/silage and manure wagons as well as Payloader Operators in Central AB. Experience w/ equipment and GPS is an asset. Job requires operation, maintenance and daily log of equipment. Visit us on Facebook "Holtrap Enterprises Farming Ltd." Email ludzholtrop@aol.com 403-782-9730.

FARM HAND NEEDED: PB cattle operation looking for help from Sept 1 to May 1. 306-307-0055, 780-214-2273, Marwayne, AB. www.familytiesangus.com

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LOG TRUCK DRIVERS wanted for winter run. Tractor/trailer experience a must. Will train for logs. Ph 780-836-2538. Send resume to: Albert Greschner Holdings Ltd., Box 447, Manning, AB. TOH 2M0.

AZ DRIVERS NEEDED to haul freight to western Canada and cattle to Ontario. No US loads. Settlement upon arrival. Willing to train qualified personnel on cattle portion. Fax resume to 519-923-3108, e-mail: faye.ryan@bell.net or call 519-923-3879.

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