

A GLOBAL VIEW, YOUTHFUL **ZEST, AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS**

International youth summit was an eye-opener, says young Albertan » PG 40



AlbertaFarmer

Your provincial farm and ranch newspaper

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 24

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

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Dishing the dirt on soil health a big draw

It will be a packed conference hall when soil health experts gather in **Edmonton next month**

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN

oil health continues to be a hot draw — at least for a portion of Alberta's farm com-

This year's edition of the Western Canadian Soil Health and Grazing Conference looks certain to sell out all 500 attendee spots repeating the feat accomplished when the inaugural edition was held two years ago.

"Soil health or regenerative agriculture has gained a lot of popularity and interest," said conference chair Nora Paulovich, manager of

SEE SOIL HEALTH → page 7

Government cash makes it a sunny day for solar power

Growing Forward 2 has put extra dollars on the table, but they're expected to be snapped up in a hurry

BY JEFF MELCHIOR

f you want to get into solar, there's now more government cash on the table but you'll have to hurry.

The On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics Program now offers 75 cents per watt for projects of 100 kilowatts or less, and 56 cents per watt for installations that are between 100 and 150 watts. Both have maximum amounts for government funding (35 per cent and 27 per cent of project costs, respectively) and the installations have to be tied into a power grid.

Interested producers need to start the application process ASAP, said Diana Bingham, on-farm stewardship coordinator with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

"The current programs associated with Growing Forward 2 — and the whole Growing Forward 2 program — comes to an end March 2018 so all of the systems we fund have to be installed, complete, and operational by February 2018," said Bingham.

"I've been telling guys they need to get their applications in well before the as our funding is limited."



The 200-kilowatt array on Nelson Family Ranches is big enough to supply electricity to both its feedlot operation and irrigation pivots. PHOTO: NELSON FAMILY RANCHES

There's a good chance there will be a rush to take advantage of the cost-sharing program.

More and more Alberta farmers and ranchers — especially if they are sigend of December if they want to have a chance. But we may have to close earlier nomic rule over solar power and liked what they saw.

That was the case at Nelson Family Ranches, which has cow-calf, crop, and gravel-crushing operations near Stirling, southeast of Lethbridge. It recently had a large, 200-kilowatt grid-tied solar photovoltaic system installed.

SEE GOVERNMENT CASH > page 6



COLUMNISTS



THIS SPUD'S FOR YOU... AND YOU AND YOU AND YOU

Farm couple's potato giveaway taps into something 31 unexpected and special



POACHERS BEWARE -IT'S GOT EASIER TO **REPORT YOU**

Option of online reporting makes it simple to call in suspicious activity

STUDY SAYS CATTLE TAX IS UNFAIR, BUT **ROAD LEVY NEEDED**

LIVESTOCK



Study dissects controversial tax but can't find a ready

OUR BEST PULSE CUSTOMER THROWS A BIG CURVEBALL



new tax on peas 'has surprised us all,' said Pulse Canada head Gordon Bacon



BRENDA SCHOEPP

'BOYS' SHOULDN'T GET A FREE PASS WHEN IT COMES TO AGGRESSIVE **BEHAVIOUR**



GORD GILMOUR

SHOULD FARMERS GET A CARBON TAX BREAK FOR PRACTICES SUCH AS

DANIEL BEZTE IS THERE A WEATHER ENTHUSIAST 14

ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST? THEN

Feds backpedal on plans to scrap cash ticket deferral system

The federal government has changed its tune on cash ticket deferrals

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

ean Gallimore breathed a big sigh of relief when he learned that the federal government had scrapped its plans to eliminate the cash ticket deferral system.

"This is a relief in a big way," said the chartered accountant. "I was very concerned that they were going to scrap the system. Farmers could deal with that, but it would just be another level of complication that they would have to deal

Deferred cash tickets help smooth the ups and downs in annual farm income, such as when much of a bumper crop is sold in the year it was grown or when a price spike prompts producers to empty their bins. Deferring some of those sales allows a portion of that money to be taxed in the following year.

"The nature of farming is a bit of boom and bust. Commodity prices can be good, or they can be bad," said Gallimore.

"What this allowed farmers to do was manage their income. It's a planning tool to allow them to run their businesses and continue to produce food for all of us.'

The federal government had removed the cash ticket deferral system as part of the 2017 budget, but quietly backpedalled earlier this month as part of a larger announcement of "additional tax support for Canadian farmers.'

"We're pleased to see the reversal on that decision," said D'Arcy Hilgartner, chair of Alberta Pulse

"Deferred cash tickets have always been a useful tool for farmers to help them change how their income was applied.'

But Gallimore isn't holding his breath that more tax relief is coming for producers — particularly when it comes to the proposed changes to the federal Income

"I'm not sure if we're going to see much more changes," he said. "They've already reversed a bunch of things — thank the lord, because there were some pretty ugly ones in there — but I am concerned that they're probably going to proceed with what they've got."

These changes — which Gallimore calls "some of the most onerous changes that I've seen in 30 years of my practice" included regulations around lifetime capital gains deductions, income splitting, and incorporating farms, among other things, when it was announced in mid-

Ottawa has cancelled proposed changes to capital gains exemptions — one of the most controversial components of the tax changes for farmers, Gallimore said at the Alberta Crops Breakfast earlier this month.

"It was just a nightmare. Thank god they've announced that they're backing away from that.'

Under the original tax proposals, using a child's capital gains

"Until we actually see some draft legislation, it's difficult to assess what the actual risks are."

D'ARCY HILGARTNER



deductions would come with various restrictions. Children under the age of 18 who receive a capital gain would not be able to use their deduction on any property, and capital gains allocated from a family trust would no longer be eligible for a deduction.

Children would also not be able to use their capital gains deductions on the appreciated value of eligible farm property that built up before their 18th birthday. And a 'reasonableness test' would be applied to capital gains that were realized through farm partnership interests or shares.

'A lot of people were panicking, thinking they were going to have to transfer their land to their child before the end of December," said

'The good news is the panic is off the table — they're not going ahead with it.'

The original proposal also included an 'anti-avoidance' provision that would prevent converting dividends to another form of income at a lower tax rate, which was broad enough to include things such as selling farm assets to a corporation.

"There was a big concern that that was no longer going to be allowed, but thank god that's off the table."

Tax uncertainty

The federal government has also "backed off a little bit" on its proposed plan to tax investment income at a high rate, said Gallimore. Initially, the tax rate on investment income could have been as high as 70 per cent, but that plan has been adjusted.

"What they've said is that they're going to allow you to have up to \$50,000 of investment income taxed under the old rules — at 50 per cent, not 70 per cent. So every year, you can have some investment income," he said.

"They've also said that existing investments will not be caught by

this rule. For those of you who are retired or semi-retired and have a bunch of money invested inside your corporation, they've said you're OK.

"That's a bit of relief. We'll have to stay tuned to see where that goes.'

But right now, the proposed tax regulations are still up in the air, and that's making it hard for producers and accountants alike to prepare for the changes.

'We don't yet have the complete legislation to look at the details and know for sure what they're doing," said Gallimore.

Hilgartner agrees.

"A lot of these things are just 'what-ifs,'" said Hilgartner, who farms near Camrose.

"Until we actually see some draft legislation, it's difficult to assess what the actual risks are. There have been a lot of ideas put out there, and then brought back, so the unknowns become a bit of a challenge.

"We have to do the best we can with the information that's available.'

That's why it's critical for producers to sit down with their advisers and get a handle on their financial planning sooner rather than later.

"Every circumstance is different," said Gallimore.

"I can't emphasize enough that you need to get some advice from someone who understands these

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Ag and food exports: We're good but we can do better

Agriculture is a Canadian success story but taking it to the next level requires smart and sizable investments, says economist

BY JENNIFER BLAIR AF STAFF

sticking to the status quo isn't good enough to propel Canada into the uppermost ranks of global agricultural exporters.

"Over the past year, there's been quite a bit of optimism around food and agriculture. It's been identified as one of the main sectors to grow in this country," said J.P. Gervais, chief agricultural economist for Farm Credit Canada.

"That means something, but at the same time, it doesn't mean we don't have any challenges in front of us. The status quo will allow us to remain where we are, but it's not going to allow us to grow."

Canada is currently the fifthlargest exporter of agricultural commodities and the 11th-largest exporter of manufactured food products in the world, according to two trade ranking reports that FCC released earlier this month.

Gervais said he expects demand for Canadian ag products will grow, but the country still has a ways to go to reach the ambitious targets set out in the Advisory Council on Economic Growth's report Unleashing the Growth Potential of Key Sectors. The federal report, released earlier this year, sets a target of becoming a top three exporter of ag commodity exports and No. 5 (up from 11th spot) in manufactured food exports.

That's doable, but not easy, said Gervais.

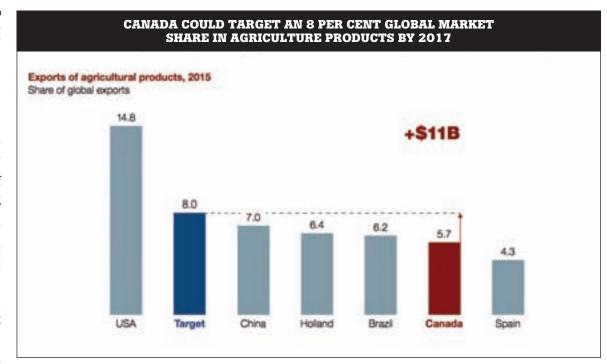
"The reason we've been so successful is because we've raised our productivity. But the low-hanging fruits are gone. Our rate of productivity is still increasing, but at a slower pace."

Investment is key

Improving productivity means innovating — not "simply putting more land into production."

"Sustainability issues are at the forefront of the discussion when it comes to ag, so we need to rely on innovation, infrastructure, and efficiency to remain competitive," he said.

"I have no doubt we can be successful doing it, but that's



going to require us to do things a little differently from everybody who's invested in the supply chain."

Investment is key, but that's already happening, Gervais said.

He pointed to water-efficient wheat varieties as a prime example of innovation. Improved genetics allowed many wheat growers in drought-hit parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta surprisingly good yields.

"That investment in innovation directly resulted in our ability to be more competitive and to raise income when it comes to agricultural production," said Gervais.

Another example is the big investment in grain-handling facilities, export terminals, and canola crush and pulse fractionation plants in recent years.

But more work needs to be done on increasing processing efficiency.

"In Canada, we've been really good at product innovation. Now we have to be as successful on process innovations," said Gervais.

"We've got a tight labour supply right now, and it's not likely to improve. Automation is the obvious solution when it comes to food manufacturing."

Long-term view

It can be hard to see where farmers fit in the big picture — but they're actually the driv-

"The reason we've been so successful is because we've raised our productivity. But the lowhanging fruits are gone."

J.P. GERVAIS

ing force behind these industry advances, he said.

"Producers are the ones who are controlling this rate of growth and productivity by the investments they make into the equipment, technology, and management practices they bring on the farm."

But rising costs in the past three years are a looming issue.

"The margins have been good going back over the past three or four years, but now, margins are getting a little bit tighter," he said. "For producers, the challenge is, how can we make investments that are going to return a positive profit and continue to sustain our competitive position.

"It's hard to understand how opportunities in world markets turn into profit."

That means taking a longterm view of the opportunities coming down the pipe and building a bit of a five-year plan.

"They need to be thinking about where they want to take their farm. Is it growing bigger? Is it scaling back? Is it diversifying into other sectors?" said

"We can't just take a shortterm view of the next few months and the market prices we're seeing out there. We have to take a long-term view and look at where the growth is likely to be coming from."

"The low-hanging fruits are gone, and for us to take the next step to that next level, we have to look at how we can remain competitive."

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The numbers – and the potential – are big

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

There were few surprises in Farm Credit Canada's annual ranking of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exports.

We remain the world's fifth-largest agricultural commodity exporter for the sixth straight year, and have also held steady as the No. 11 exporter of manufactured food products.

But "potential" abounds, says FCC's chief agricultural economist J.P. Gervais.

"There are plenty of commodities where there is potential to grow," he said. "That speaks to the strength of the industry. It's a strength of ours that we have the diversity that we have."

Canada exported US\$24.6 billion of ag commodities (6.3 per cent of the global total) last year. But we are No. 3 in some of the world's fastest-growing commodities — including pulse crops, soybeans, and canola.

However, that increased demand doesn't always translate into increased prices — at least not in the short term.

"We've identified pulses as one of the sectors that is likely to grow quite a bit, but that's not to say that the sectors we've identified as ones that will grow are necessarily profitable right now," said Gervais.

"The potential demand needs to be factored in over the long term."

Changes to NAFTA could "bring some disruptions," and not just because the U.S. buys a lot of Canadian ag commodities and food products, said Gervais.

"It's also about having integrated supply chains and relying on pricing signals out of the U.S. We have a vested interest in seeing that the border remains open."

Only about a quarter of Canada's crop exports go to the U.S., but more than 90 per cent of Canada's livestock exports and 75 per cent of manufactured food product exports go south of the border.

"The U.S. is a big market for us. There's no denying that. So we're just going to have to wait and see."

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THE ALBERTA FARMER EXPRESS is published 26 times a year by Glacier FarmMedia LP.

Publications mail agreement number 40069240

CANADIAN POSTMASTER: Send address changes and undeliverable addresses (covers only) to Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 9800, Winnipea. MB R3C 3K7

ISSN 1481-3157

Call 1-800-665-1362

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.



OPINION



Could a lower carbon tax be a better option?

Manitoba's different approach with its carbon levy raises issues that need to be fully considered

BY GORD GILMOUR

anada's current debate over carbon pricing — and the Manitoba government's response to the federal requirements—highlight the complexities of making public policy.

The federal Liberals want Canadian businesses, households, and individuals to emit less carbon. That's going to mean burning fewer fuels, using what we do use more efficiently, and many other changes large and small throughout our society.

Some contest whether this is really necessary, including those who accept climate change is real, yet don't believe it's caused by human activity. Others say we should be taking this path regardless, because in the end we'll all be better off for it. A more efficient society will be more resilient and less susceptible to things like oil price shocks.

To the surprise of many who view conservatism and conservation as two mutually exclusive things, the government of Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister appears to have invested considerable effort into understanding the issue and formulating a response. The head-line-catching number was the province's plan to implement a flat

\$25-a-tonne levy. Ottawa's plan calls for a \$10-a-tonne carbon tax starting next year and rising to \$50 by 2022.

But Manitoba says its plan will cut emissions more than the federal plan and it's also shown considerable leadership in tackling a thorny question that's sure to exhaust at least some political goodwill amongst its voting base.

One of the thorniest sticking points appears to be just how carbon production will be reduced and from what point the measurement and tracking will begin. To understand this, we need to understand how governments incentivize citizens to take desired action.

In simplified form, they pick a behaviour they want to modify or encourage, start from a baseline and begin piling on penalties and incentives to punish and reward. In some ways it makes a lot of sense, as it will surely result in a modification of the desired behaviour.

However, some critics point out that it's a bit of a blunt instrument approach which assumes a black and white world, where nothing is already being done to try to prevent the problem. Too often it can punish those who are already doing the right thing.

That's really, in many ways, one of the central themes of the Manitoba government's climate proposal. It wants the province's already considerable investments in things such as hydroelectric generation taken into account, saying that the raw carbon emission numbers already tell the tale of our smaller footprint.

Premier Pallister has a point. Alberta and Saskatchewan, have a far higher carbon footprint per capita. According to the Conference Board of Canada, in 2013 Saskatchewan emitted 67.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, and Alberta 66.7. Compared to that, Manitoba's annual per capita emissions, at 16.9 tonnes per capita, were positively miserly.

But those raw numbers don't tell the whole tale. One thing that's frequently conveniently left out of the discussion is that Alberta and Saskatchewan are outliers. In fact the Conference Board went so far in its analysis to note that our Prairie peers "are in a league of their own. With per capita emissions of over 65 tonnes CO2e, these provinces are the lowest ranked across all jurisdictions and score 'D-' grades."

Partly the problem for these provinces is they're still burning coal and other fossil fuels to generate electricity. If Manitoba hadn't invested in hydroelectricity, it would have been just as coal dependent.

The other part of the problem is the provincial economies are largely dependent on energy, mining and agriculture — all energy-intensive businesses that have the commensurate high greenhouse gas emissions, the conference board states.

If we want to improve that showing, changes will need to come, and here's where it gets really complex, and with some unintended consequences.

For example, many contend agriculture should get credit for its changes to management practices such as adopting lower tillage, which sequesters carbon. That might be nice, but is it fair or necessary?

After all, the early adopters of the system might have been chasing its soil conservation benefits. But most farmers adopted it because it made more economic sense. It makes sense to use an ALUS-like program, as the Manitoba government is suggesting it may, to reward producers for taking uneconomic actions, but less sense to reward prudent financial decisions.

One thing that is certain is this debate is far from over. While the Manitoba government has made the concession of taking action on this file, the federal government has already stated it's not enough.

They can quibble over the numbers, but Manitoba's approach merits a thorough airing before being rejected out of hand.

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Everyone needs to be a trade policy expert

Time for those who have benefited from free trade to stand up for it, says American farm leader

BY TOM SLEIGHT U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL

I nattention, indifference, and inaction are no longer options for those in agriculture with regard to U.S. foreign policy.

Free trade has remained a key, philosophical driver for U.S. feed grains for decades, benefiting corn, barley, and sorghum growers — among many other commodities. Now, agriculture must answer the call to defend trade and the rewards reaped from free trade-driven policies.

Simply put: When trade works, everyone wins. Exports of feed grains in all forms to the 20 countries with which the United States has a free trade agreement have increased by nearly 24 per cent over the last 10 marketing years, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture trade data.

Free trade agreement partners now represent 49 per cent of total U.S. exports of feed grains in all forms.

In no other case has the benefit of open trade been more apparent than in our relationship with Canada and Mexico through the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA provided the trade policy underpinnings that resulted in the most efficient

and effective interregional grain and livestock value chain in the world.

The provisions in NAFTA complement the natural geographic advantages of close proximity. As a result, agricultural trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico occur duty free, and trade has grown increasingly more integrated.

Mexico was the largest export market for U.S. corn in the last full marketing year, purchasing 13.3 million tons (524.4 million bushels), in addition to 606,127 tons (23.86 million bushels) of sorghum, 115,000 tons (5.3 million bushels) of barley and 1.9 million tons of distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS).

Our trade agreements have also been a good deal for our trading partners who have invested significantly in expanding their own feed, livestock and transportation industries while relying on the U.S. coarse grains industry.

This cycle of increasing sales and then expanding operations results in even more demand for U.S. feed grains and co-products. And as existing end-users advance to more sophisticated buyers, the council can expand efforts to assist underdeveloped sectors like conducting DDGS trials with livestock producers in northeastern Mexico. This overall effect is a win-win scenario on both sides of the border.

Our largest and most loyal customers are at risk of taking their business elsewhere.



At the same time, the basic tenets of free trade are now up for debate in the United States. The upheaval of this philosophy is forcing U.S. agriculture into a defensive mode. We all must engage to help achieve conclusions in our trade negotiations that provide us and our customer's long-term certainty and create a new platform for growth and integration.

Of course, modernizing or examining the provisions within trade agreements is good business. But we must recognize agriculture is a traditional target for retaliation in trade disruptions, a clear and present danger. "Do no harm" for U.S. feed grains and co-products means avoiding these retaliatory measures at all costs.

As a result, members of the grain and feed industries must monitor trade policy negotiations in any sector with a careful eye. Farmers, members of the agriculture supply chain and negotiators alike must understand how important our markets — and trade — are to agriculture's profitability.

While we defend and demonstrate the mutually beneficial trading relationships we have built to domestic audiences, our competitors are making their own good deals and eroding our competitive advantages.

Our largest and most loyal customers are at risk of taking their business elsewhere.

We are no longer the only option for world grain demand. As a result, it is up to all of us in U.S. agriculture to make sure trade liberalization continues at all levels, lest we no longer will be the ones in the race, let alone winning.

We in agriculture cannot afford to stay humble, silent observers. All of us are needed to send a strong message to our customers and our competitors that the United States is in the global marketplace to stay.

The U.S. grains sector has significantly benefited from more liberalized trade in the past 30 years, and expanding access to export markets will continue to drive the success of American agriculture for years to come.

Tom Sleight is president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the U.S. Grains Council

OPINION



Will boys always be boys? Not if we teach them proper boundaries

Around the world, boys are taught that aggression towards females is OK — it's not, and must not be accepted

BY BRENDA SCHOEPP

was at the beach and there was a family on either side of me. On my left was a father and his four boys. On my right was a father and his four girls.

The four girls played quietly doing make believe and building sand castles. Their father listened to music and watched for their safety when they neared the water. It is an idealistic scene.

The four boys tormented each other and played wildly: Sand, seaweed, stones, and shells whirled over my head as I tried to relax. Dad was asleep on a log. There was chaos.

One could sit back and assume that is the difference between boys and girls, but I think it had more to do with boundaries. Girls can play rough and tumble, and boys can play quiet and imaginative games.

The child is who the child is — we do not parent to tame them, but to channel that spirit into a positive stream, give them reasonable boundaries, and encourage positive growth.

The boundary was crossed when the boys tore over and without cause, ruined the girls' sand castles. This was a clear act of destruction and a violation of the girls' space and creativity; it was not invited nor welcome. The boys' father remained asleep on the log. The girls' father offered them comfort.

There are greater questions behind gender energy here that we need to ask. Why is it that we accept a boy's destructive behaviour as 'boys just being boys'? What has evolved in our families to bring us to that point of acceptance? And why are girls not given the tools to defend against male aggression?

I recall the horror of a young girl in her village in Fiji. The boys were 'being boys' and for sport were trying to pull her into the water and lift her dress. She was clearly frightened and did not welcome that attention. With a shrug, life went on (until I went to her aid). As she ages we can assume that as a teenager, the unchecked actions may become more pronounced. Those boys did not have a right to physical aggression — at any age.

An equal world starts at home - where boys and girls understand the boundaries of behaviour, and are taught respect and accountability. The boys in this story could have inquired about those sand castles (girls make great engineers) or offered to add a few extra to the kingdom (teamwork) or asked the girls to play catch (although they were throwing stones). There was a host of positive interactions that could have happened given the right culture of growth for boys and girls. Whatever the choice of engagement, those boys first needed to seek permission or invitation to walk into the space of those little girls.

Cultural norms can be deeply imbedded and influence how boys and girls act. On a street in Argentina with my male friends we encountered a soccer team of boys about age 10. We asked where the girls were as there were no girls playing on the team, in the park, or on the streets. The boy who answered said, "In the house where they belong." We asked, "Do you not play soccer with the girls?" That

child's eyes just about popped out of his head and he backed away as though there was a bad odour. They were shocked to learn that I played soccer, and that other boys and girls could—and did—play soccer together.

The year before I was in India where the caste system is particularly hard on girls as they are born into a life of slavery and virtual non-existence. The lack of birth certificates is a problem but the way they are treated is shocking.

We walked into this dark, dirt floor hut where lower-caste girls were splitting coconuts. As is the case in most of my travels, the girls want to communicate with you. Approaching the first child I asked, "What is your name? How old are you?" Immediately her male employer put himself between us saying, "She has no name. She has no birth."

These are not extreme examples but vignettes of reality that demonstrate that a lack of respect for a female can spread from the family to the community, and finally strangle the female gender of a nation.

Read carefully the plea from Canadian father Glen Canning who lost his daughter to suicide after being raped by teenage boys: "Speaking of accountability, thankfully four in five Canadians (79 per cent) feel 'boys will be boys' is an outdated attitude. So that means, from a young age, we must hold our boys accountable for their behaviour. Our boys can be shown how to embody empathy and compassion. We must make no excuse for toxic masculinity to get embedded in our next generation."

I have a high regard for the persons of each gender and believe that gender equality is standing up for the excellence of the other so that both may contribute in the way in which they are gifted. This starts from the first breath of that baby. How we shape their world depends on our own examples of equality and our healthy respect of boundaries.

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

NAFTA death will cost U.S. agriculture

An open letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilber Ross from farm associations and agriculture businesses

Dear Secretary Ross:

We are writing to respectfully share information relevant to your recent observation that there is "not a world oversupply of agricultural products" and that harm to American food and agriculture interests from a potential NAFTA withdrawal is an "empty threat"

We recognize that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has not benefited some sectors as it has American food and agriculture. The food and agriculture industry is the heart of rural America, providing employment all along the value chain, including associated industrial and manufacturing industries, to ensure that U.S. and global consumers have access to high-quality, safe, and affordable food and agricultural products.

We respectfully submit that notification of NAFTA withdrawal would cause immediate, substantial harm to American food and agriculture industries and to the U.S. economy as a whole. Under NAFTA, American food and agriculture exports to Canada and Mexico grew by 450 per cent. In 2015, the United States held a 65 per cent market share for agriculture products in the NAFTA region, and in 2016, we exported nearly \$43 billion (all figures U.S. funds) worth of food and agriculture goods to Canada and Mexico, making our NAFTA partners the largest export consumers of U.S. agriculture.

According to a study by ImpactECON, if Canada, Mexico, and the United States return to "most favoured nation" (MFN) tariff rates upon any withdrawal from NAFTA, the negative impact on the United States will far outweigh any benefits from higher U.S. tariffs, including a net loss of 256,000 U.S. jobs, a net loss of at least 50,000 jobs in the U.S. food and agriculture industry, and a drop in GDP of \$13 billion from the farm sector alone. NAFTA withdrawal would also disrupt critical industry supply chains, close markets, eliminate jobs, and increase prices for the basic needs of American consumers.

Of course, market conditions change over time and we submit that long-term trade relationships should not be based on temporary market conditions. The adverse effects of issuance of a notice of NAFTA withdrawal would be abrupt and particularly severe for America's farmers, food manufacturers, and agribusinesses. For instance, the world grain market currently is experiencing the greatest oversupply of production since the 1980s - with the U.S. facing increasing competition from foreign competitors - and net U.S. farm income has declined to half what it was just five years ago. 2018 would be an

VALUE OF U.S. NAFTA

Commodity	Annual sales
Corn	\$3.2 billion
Soy	\$3.0 billion
Pork	\$2.4 billion
Beef	\$1.7 billion
Fruit & Veg	\$7.2 billion
Dairy	\$1.0 billion
Animal feed	\$2.3 billion

especially damaging time to lose America's two largest food and agriculture product markets.

Agricultural exporters from Brazil and Argentina, especially, are already moving aggressively to take advantage of the perceived opportunity to access our North American markets due to NAFTA negotiation rhetoric. In addition, the European Union is aggressively negotiating an updated FTA with Mexico to expand its sales there by seeking reduced Mexican tariffs on competitive EU export areas and the incorporation of rules creating de facto barriers to trade to advantage those products at the expense of U.S. suppliers. We trust you appreciate how harmful it would be for the U.S. to become the supplier of last resort of major commodities. Accordingly, we submit that it is imperative that America preserve and grow access to markets

We respectfully submit that notification of NAFTA withdrawal would cause immediate, substantial harm to American food and agriculture industries and to the U.S. economy as a whole.

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like Mexico and Canada where we have a competitive advantage over other global suppliers, notably integrated supply chains facilitated by over 7,450 miles of shared borders.

Notice of withdrawal from NAFTA would result in substantial harm to the U.S. economy generally and food and agriculture producers, in particular. While it has been asserted that negotiations could be completed and a new agreement approved subsequent to issuance of notice of withdrawal, but prior to actual withdrawal, that observation gravely underestima

tes the business complexity and contracting periods involved. We are sadly confident that issuance of a notice of withdrawal from NAFTA would trigger a substantial, immediate response in commodity markets as market-specific focus would turn to a sched-

uled return to trade-prohibitive tariff rates. Contracts would be cancelled, sales would be lost, able competitors would rush to seize our export markets, and litigation would abound even before withdrawal would take effect.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the administration continue to seek positive engagement that would advance America's economic interests by opening new export opportunities and by tackling non-tariff concerns our industries have identified. That forward progress must begin by maintaining the "do no harm" pledge toward food and agriculture trade within NAFTA renegotiation.

This letter, which has been edited for length, was signed by more than 80 U.S. commodity organizations and agriculture and food-related businesses 6 OFF THE FRONT

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GOVERNMENT CASH ➤ from page 1

"I've just always been interested in solar so I crunched the numbers on it and it looked like a pretty decent payback," said Josh Smith, chief financial officer of the sixth-generation family farm.

"What we wound up doing was leasing the solar panels from Enmax for 15 years and at the end of the lease we own them. They take care of any problems in those 15 years. If there are issues they deal with that and they monitor it. It's pretty cool."

In a grid-tied system, producers get a credit for feeding power into the grid when they have more than they can use. Those credits are used to pay for power drawn from the grid on days when they need a lot of power, or when it's cloudy and their solar system isn't generating enough electricity.

That was the option best suited to the needs of the ranch, said Smith.

"We need electricity when we need it, so we didn't want to rely 100 per cent on our solar," he said. "But over the course of a year, (solar) will produce all the electricity we need for our feedlot and for the irrigation pivots that grow the corn for our feedlot."

What you need to know

The first step for interested producers is to obtain written verification from their energy retailers of the distribution rate class for the site ID on which the system will be installed. This information can sometimes be found on utility bills. The distribution rate class determines whether an applicant applies to the On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics Program or the Residential Commercial Solar Program.

"Even if the applicant doesn't understand what the rate class is, all they have to do is send that document to myself and I will be able to tell them what the rate class is and which program they need to apply to," said Bingham.

need to apply to," said Bingham.
Rate classes are not always obvious and that's why it's important to know this information before proceeding, she said.

"They might be a farm right now but they might be classified as something different depending on what they've operated as before, whereas a non-farm rural residence might still be under a farm rate class because it was previously a farm."

Interested producers will also need to find a solar contractor to help them source equipment and install the system. The solar contractor must be listed on the Solar Energy Society of Alberta website (www.solaralberta.ca) in order to be eligible for funding.

"It's not difficult for a contractor to get on that list but they do have to be registered," said Bingham.

Getting a good solar contractor is Smith's No. 1 piece of advice. He praises his own contractors — Solar Optix of Lethbridge — for guiding him through the process. He doesn't recommend producers attempt to install a grid-tied solar photovoltaics array by themselves

selves.
"I wouldn't even consider doing it myself and we're pretty crafty," said Smith. "There are 50 employees who work on our operation and we have all sorts of mechanics, electricians, and plumbers.

"But this is a specialized thing. I don't think you should do it all by yourself. You need to have somebody."

Producers also need to apply for a grid-tied microgeneration agreement with their local electrical utility (which is formally called a Wire Service Provider). "This program isn't designed to fund commercial production



Josh Smith (on left) is the CFO of Nelson Family Ranches. Other family members in the operation are (from left) Shawn Nelson, Kevin Nelson, Grant Nelson, Jeff Nelson, and Jimmy Nelson. The five of them manage the farm with feedlot manager Mike Smith. Josh credits his father-in-law Grant, who has turned the farm over to the next generation, for being an advocate of diversification. PHOTO: NELSON FAMILY RANCHES

of solar energy," said Bingham. "The intent is for the system to be grid-tied and it really only needs to supply enough energy to deal with the peak energy use of that operation."

A recent bill for one month's electricity is also required as part of the application, as well as a

quote for the solar photovoltaics equipment they intend to install.

Finally, don't go out and buy any equipment before your application is approved.

Along with aligning the On-Farm Photovoltaics Program with its residential and commercial counterparts, a major change was to end the funding of solar projects retroactively.

"The biggest thing we have to get across to as many people as possible is that we do not cover retroactive projects," said Bingham. "Applicants have to apply and be approved before they buy anything."

"I've been telling guys they need to get their applications in well before the end of December if they want to have a chance."

DIANA BINGHAM



Bingham encourages interested producers to keep track of program developments in case funding runs out sooner than expected. The easiest way to do this is to go to the Growing Forward 2 web page at www.growingforward.alberta. ca—click on 'Programs' and then 'On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics,' and finally on the 'Subscribe to Receive Program Announcements' on the upper right section of that page.

"If we need to close early we'll put it on the website right away and they will receive an email notification," Bingham said.

To contact for inquiries about the program, email AF.FarmSolar PVProgram@gov.ab.ca.



SOIL HEALTH → from page 1

the North Peace Applied Research Association.

"I think producers as a whole are looking for answers as to how they can improve the health of their soils and reduce their reliance on inputs."

Many of the topics, and even some of the speakers, were on the agenda at the 2015 conference, but learning to build soil health takes time, said a rancher from Longview. Even if you've heard a presenter before, you'll learn more the second — or third — time around, said Alex Robertson, a director of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association.

"You have to hear it enough to know it, and know that it's working," said Robertson, who recently travelled to New York state to take a course on soil health and grazing.

"Soil is the life of our production," he said. "If we can reduce the inputs by increasing the microbial activity in the soil, then you will cut down your inputs and have more production."

That's been the case on his ranch, where he and wife Carol raise 250 cattle and about 80 acres of oats. They used to spend about \$1,500 annually on chemi-



"Without good soils, you won't have grazing. You can rely on artificial nutrients, but that's not sustainable either."

ALEX ROBERTSON



cal fertilizer, but over the last 20 years have just about eliminated the use of that input. By incorporating legumes, cover crops for swath grazing, and rotational grazing, there's been no drop in productivity.

"We're getting the same days (of grazing), but with less inputs," he said

But understanding just what's happening in the ground beneath his boots is challenging, he added.

"It's not instant, it's gradual. It's not that you do it one year and you see your soils improve, and that's one of the things that's hard to measure."

Soil tests have shown a big increase in organic matter in his soils, but Robertson is looking for other ways to measure soil health. That's one of the reasons he'll be at this year's edition of the soil health conference in Edmonton, which runs from Dec. 5-7.

"Can you look for earthworms in the soil rather than going for soil tests? As carbon increases in the soil, you can see that. But what else can you measure how you're improving?"

He suspects that "bugs in the rhizosphere" would be another good indicator and plans to question an expert at the Edmonton conference who will be speaking about that soil zone (which has high numbers of soil microorganisms attracted by root secretions)

These are not discussions that are likely to come up when talking to an input dealer or fertilizer



Nora Paulovich

sales rep, and that's why producers should attend conferences, presentations, and courses on soil health, he said. And it's great this year's edition of the soil health conference is being combined with the Western Canadian Grazing Conference, he added.

"Without good soils, you won't have grazing," said Robertson. "You can rely on artificial nutrients, but that's not sustainable either."

Combining the two topics in one event is more efficient for producers, who "only have so much time to attend conferences," said Paulovich.

"Since we feel that soil health

and grazing are integral to each other, we decided to amalgamate the two conferences," she said.

This year's event will feature scientists and experts from across North America, including well-known names such as Jim Gerrish and Gabe Brown. Brown will give two presentations and also do the conference wrap-up.

"Many people are coming because he is so well known on his journey to regenerative soil health," said Paulovich. "He is very passionate and he is an excellent presenter."

There are more than a dozen other speakers and each day will feature a producer panel.

"Producers always enjoy and learn so much from listening to other producers and their experiences on their farm," she said.

The soil conference, which is organized by seven of the province's applied research and forage associations, is also being held in conjunction with a meeting of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. That group will launch its verified sustainable beef framework at the conference.

For more information on the conference, see www. absoilgrazing.com.

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Strankman named ag critic for newly merged UCP

STAFF

Alberta's new provincial opposition United Conservative Party has gone to the former Wildrose bench for its agriculture critic.

New leader, Jason Kenney selected Drumheller-Stettler MLA Rick Strankman, a farmer and rancher from Altario, near the Saskatchewan border.

Strankman served as secretary/ treasurer of the Western Barley Growers Association (1999-2011) before seeking provincial office in 2012. As a member of the protest group Farmers for Justice, he served a week in jail in 2002 after taking wheat across the U.S. border in 1996 in a challenge of the Canadian Wheat Board's single marketing desk. He received a pardon in 2012 from then prime minister Stephen Harper, following the deregulation of the CWB's single desk.

Strankman was Wildrose ag critic from 2014 to 2016 and then shadow minister for property and surface rights until the party's merger with the Progressive Conservatives. He takes over the ag critic role from David Schneider, a farmer and Little Bow MLA, who will be his party's forestry critic. — *Staff*



Rick Strankman

Everest 3.0

NEWS >>> MARKETS NOVEMBER 20, 2017 • ALBERTAFARMEXPRESS.CA

CROP MANAGEMENT NETWORK SELLS STAKE

Agrico Canada is acquiring a 50 per cent stake in the Crop Management Network, which was established in 2007 and consists of locally owned retailers operating an integrated logistics company. Located in central Alberta, CMN is the largest independent retail network in the province, with locations in Edberg, Daysland, Vegreville, Fort Saskatchewan, Holden, and Camrose. Agrico Canada, a wholly owned subsidiary of La Coop fédérée, is a leading wholesale distributor of crop input products to agri-retailers across Canada and the U.S. James Mitchell, CEO of Crop Management Network, will stay on and will continue to manage the business. – Agrico

BARLEY MARCHES 'LOCKSTEP' WITH CORN

The western Canadian feed grain market continues to take strength from consistent demand and a lower-size crop in 2017. "The market has changed (got stronger) from last year when high-vomitoxin wheat was trading at a discount," said Jim Beusekom of Market Place Commodities in Lethbridge. Feed barley and wheat compete against U.S. corn, and more corn will come into the market if barley and wheat prices continue to rise, he said. Some feeders have already brought in corn from the U.S. and producers should "just watch the corn market" to see where prices are headed, he said. "The market is lockstep with U.S. corn right now," he said. - CNS

MARKETS



USDA report surprises oilseed market

Traders were expecting a lower yield number and when they didn't get it, they reacted

BY DAVE SIMS

CE Futures Canada canola contracts may have finally topped out after the USDA's monthly supply-anddemand report put the entire oilseed sector under pressure.

Canola futures began climbing back in the early part of September, eventually rising above the \$520-per-tonne mark. However, that changed on Nov. 9, when the USDA left its prediction for soybean yields in the U.S. untouched. Traders had generally been expecting the yield number to fall slightly, but when that didn't happen they started selling almost immediately.

The front-month January contract fell \$5.30 on the day. It could have fallen more, but seemed to find a level of technical resistance at the \$515 mark.

Demand for canola remains strong though and growers have been moving some supplies. Crushers and buyers have been putting on a few "specials" too, in order to keep things moving.

Many in the industry want to get some more canola out of the bins before the dead of winter sets in.

Crush margins have been improving recently as the Canadian dollar has softened a bit from a few weeks ago.

In the U.S., both the soybean and corn markets were pressured by the USDA's monthly supply-and-demand report. The agency surprised many in the oilseed industry by leaving the yield number untouched. The USDA also issued a slight revision to the carry-out in the U.S. which further undermined prices. On the international scene, soybean production estimates for Brazil and Argentina stayed relatively neutral, although rain in northern Brazil has improved growing conditions for the soybean crop. Brazil is expected to produce around 108 million tonnes while Argentina's output is pegged at 57 million tonnes.

The corn market dropped from its usual perch near the US\$3.50-perbushel mark after the report came out. The USDA raised its yield estimate by a larger amount than expected. The agency pegged yields at 175.4 bushels an acre, up from the previous estimate of 171.8 bushels. If that prediction holds true it would be the biggest national average yield ever. The USDA also raised its estimate for the U.S. carry-out to 2.487 billion bushels, up from the October estimate of 2.295 billion bushels.

Chicago wheat futures continue to be pressured by the increasing size of the Russian wheat crop. SovEcon consulting agency raised its projections for Russian wheat production to a record 82.9 million tonnes. That exceeds the USDA's prediction and comes at a time when the Russian ruble is relatively weak.

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.

Wheat bids follow U.S. lead and rise across Western Canada

CWRS saw jumps of \$8 to \$9 per tonne but CPRS bids were anywhere from \$1 higher to \$6 lower

BY ASHLEY ROBINSON

ard red spring wheat bids in Western Canada rose **L** for the week ending Nov. 9, following increases in the United States markets.

Depending on the location. average Canada Western Red Spring (13.5 per cent protein CWRS) wheat prices were up \$8 to \$9 per tonne across the Prairie provinces, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points compiled by PDQ (Price and Data Quotes). Average prices ranged from about \$245 per tonne in western Manitoba, to as high as \$269 in northern Alberta.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but generally held steady to range from about \$7 to \$24 per tonne above the futures when using the grain company methodology of quoting the basis as the difference between the U.S. dollar-denominated futures and the Canadian dollar cash bids.

When accounting for currency exchange rates by adjusting Canadian prices to U.S. dollars



(C\$1=US\$0.7879) CWRS bids ranged from US\$193 to US\$212 per tonne, which was up on a U.S. dollar basis on the week. That would put the currency adjusted basis levels at about US\$26 to US\$45 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 \$33 to \$57 below the

Canada Prairie Red Spring (CPRS) wheat bids were anywhere from \$1 higher to \$6 lower. Prices across the Prairies ranged from \$165 per tonne in southeastern Saskatchewan to \$185 per tonne in northern Alberta.

Average durum prices rose \$3 to \$6, with bids in Saskatchewan and Manitoba ranging from about \$268 to \$279 per tonne.

The December spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, which most CWRS contracts Canada are based off of, was quoted at US\$6.48 per bushel on Nov. 9, which was up by 23.25 U.S. cents from the previous week.

The Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, which are now traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPRS in Canada. The December Kansas City wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.29 per bushel on Nov. 9, up by 2.25 U.S. cents compared to the previous week.

The December Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.29 on Nov. 9, which was up by 3.25 U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar settled at 78.79 U.S. cents on Nov. 9, which was up by roughly half a cent compared to the previous week.

Ashley Robinson writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market

Long-running checkoff battle may be coming to an end

An agreement on an industry development fund is key to a tentative deal between Alberta Beef Producers and cattle feeders

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN

It's not finalized yet, but the organizations representing cattle producers and feeders say they're close to creating a fund to advance the province's beef sector—and ending a nearly decade-long checkoff.

"The Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund is a concept that would be able to be implemented with a non-refundable service charge," said Rich Smith, executive director of Alberta Beef Producers (ABP).

The money for the development fund would come from a portion of a non-refundable \$3 checkoff. Currently, the \$2 provincial part of that checkoff is refundable and a big portion of that money — \$2.5 million in 2016 — has gone to refunds, mostly to cattle feeders.

"We're losing about 35 per cent right now, which works out to about 70 cents a head," said Smith. "Our idea would be that a significant part of that 70 cents would be allocated to that fund, and another part of that money would be allocated to the Alberta Cattle Feeders."

If producers didn't want the money to go to the cattle feeders' association, they could direct it to the Beef Industry Development Fund, which would be used for marketing, education, research and industry collaboration, said Smith. Other beef groups could apply to the fund as well.

The money would be allocated through a council with representation from ABP, the cattle feeders' association, and the Western Stock Growers' Association.

"We obviously need more work on the final terms of reference and how it would look," said Smith.

The Alberta government made the provincial checkoff refundable in 2009, and ABP has been lobbying the province to reverse that decision ever since. That effort finally produced a partial result in April when legislation allowing non-refundable checkoffs was passed. But it requires a plebiscite, and Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier wants to see "a fair bit of alignment in the industry before he has a plebiscite," said Smith.

"I suspect the government wouldn't even conduct a plebiscite if it thought it was going to be a problem," he said.

The cattle feeders' association has concerns because making the checkoff non-refundable could have an impact on the revenue it's currently receiving from its members, he added.

"They would be looking for some allocation of money from a non-refundable service charge to them, to maintain their operations," Smith said. "We believe we can justify allocating some funding from the service charge revenue to that organization."

Creating a development fund was discussed at the fall producer meetings and the boards of both organizations back the concept. ABP plans to meet with the cattle feeders' association at the end of the month to work out details of how the fund would operate.

"Once we've done that, I suspect that before they would join us in asking for a plebiscite, they might want to go to their members," said Smith, adding details of any tentative agreement would be brought to his organization's semi-annual meeting next month.

The two organizations have agreed on how a \$2 non-refundable checkoff would be split.

"It would work out that 25 cents per head would be directed to the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association," said Ryan Kasko, vice-chair of that group.

Another 40 cents would go into the industry development fund, which would work along the lines of the now-defunct Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency.

"We think that it's nice — we've been striving for a long time to



have a directed checkoff and this

does allow people to have some

choice," said Kasko, who runs

Kasko Cattle Company feedlots

near Coaldale.

"Our idea would be that a significant part of that 70 cents would be allocated to that fund, and another part of that money would be allocated to the Alberta Cattle Feeders."

RICH SMITH

"We want to make sure that our industry and our organizations are funded to deal with all the issues that come up.

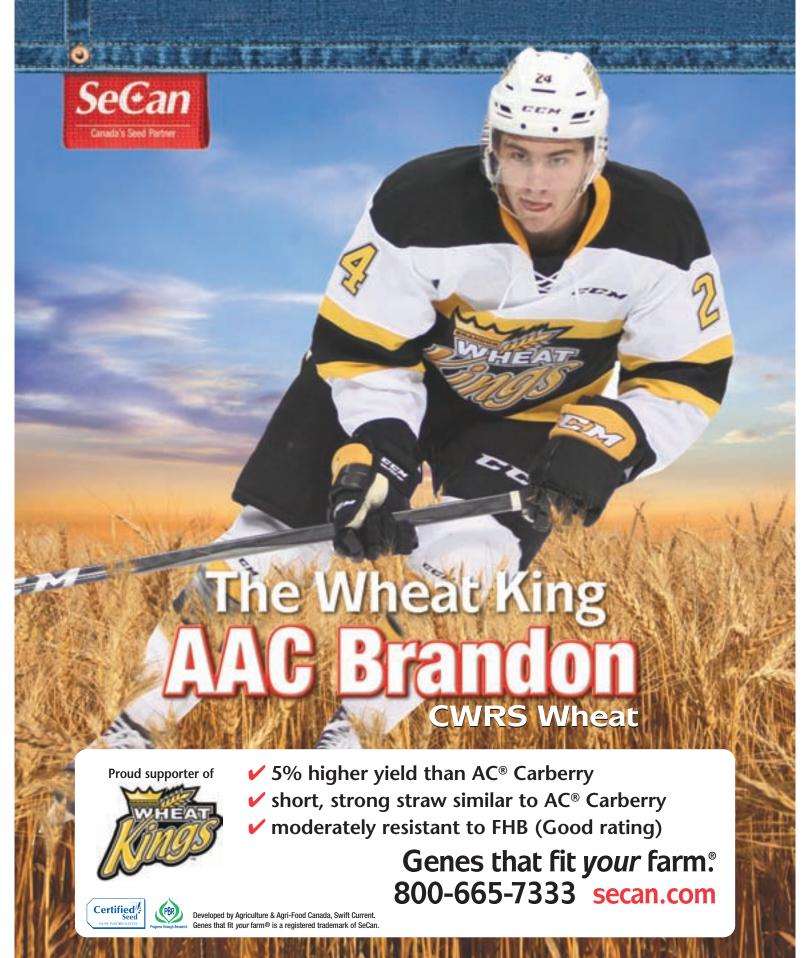
"The response has been quite



Ryan Kasko

positive and we've had little push-back to the idea. Both organizations are feeling really good and hoping we could make this a good solution."

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RESULTS OF ABP DELEGATE ELECTIONS

Here are the delegates elected or acclaimed during Alberta Beef Producers' fall meetings: Brad Osadczuk (Jenner), Kevin Stopanski (Jenner) and Kody Traxel (Seven Persons) in Zone 1; Sheila Hillmer (Del Bonita), Tyler Sawley (Nanton), and Kayla Weston (Fort Macleod) in Zone 2; Tim Smith (Coronation), Nicole Viste (Hanna), and Jesse Williams (Hanna) in Zone 4; Charlie Christie (Trochu), Cathy Sharp (Lacombe), Stuart Somerville (Endiang), and Cam McLerie (Red Deer) in Zone 5; Ralph Buhler (Armena), Kolton Kasur (Bashaw), and Tim Sekura (Rocky Rapids) in Zone 6; Colin Campbell (Bon Accord) and Ken Stanley (Westlock) in Zone 7; Blair Anderson (Minburn), Gordon Graves (Iron River), and Melanie Wowk (Beauvallon) in Zone 8; and Lorrie Beck (Teepee Creek), Linda Messner (Berwyn), Mike Nadeau (Beaverlodge), and John MacArthur (Fairview). — ABP

CALLING ALBERTA DEER HUNTERS

The University of Calgary faculty of veterinary medicine is looking for help from deer hunters. Researchers at the faculty are conducting a study on gastrointestinal parasite diversity in deer. For that, they need fresh feces samples. Hunters who see deer defecate are asked to collect samples and send by courier to the department. Samples can also be collected from carcasses. The study is looking at barber's pole worm and whether deer might transmit this parasite to sheep. For more information, contact Collin Letain at 403-210-6678 or cletain@cwhc-rcsf.ca. — UCVM

LIVESTOCK

A taxing situation — study says there's no easy fix to county's cattle tax

The levy on feedlot cattle has some justification, a lot of drawbacks, and no trouble-free alternatives, says new study

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

ethbridge County's head tax is unfair for cattle feeders — but there's no easy alternative.

Those are the key takeaways from a new study that looked at both the impact of a percow tax, and how the county could raise badly needed funds for maintaining and repairing its roads.

"If you're a cattle feeder and you have a lot of capacity in your feedlot, you're looking at a substantial tax bill," said economist Mel McMillan, who co-authored the paper with Bev Dahlby and Mukesh Khanal of the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy.

"If you've got several thousand head of capacity in your feedlot, you're looking at several thousand dollars of tax."

The \$3-per-head business tax — more commonly referred to as a 'head tax' — was imposed on area feedlot operators in April 2016 in an effort to raise \$3.5 million annually over 35 years to cover road and bridge maintenance. The tax was set to climb to \$4 per head in 2017, but was instead dropped to \$2.50 per head.

A group of feedlot operators in the county challenged the tax, but a Court of Queen's Bench judge ruled in April that the county had the "delegated taxation powers" laid out in the Municipal Government Act. That was good news for the county's road budget but a blow for cattle feeders.

"Assuming that other counties do not implement a similar tax, cattle-feeding operations in Lethbridge County are going to be somewhat less competitive," said McMillan.

"It's certainly going to have some effect."

While estimating its impact is difficult, it could slice profits by one-fifth, he said.

"A 20 per cent cut into your profit margin is substantial," said McMillan, adding the feeders don't have a way to pass on the extra tax cost to



You can make a user-pay argument that feedlots should contribute to road maintenance costs but Lethbridge County's head tax on cattle could prompt some feeders to move elsewhere, or even close down PHOTO: CANADA BEEF

either cow-calf producers or consumers.

"It does raise costs to this particular group of people, and they're an important part of the Lethbridge County economy. It may have some consequences there."

However, McMillan is quick to point out that cattle feeders weren't necessarily taxed fairly before the levy was imposed.

"Feedlots can put a lot of use on roads, hauling feed and hauling cattle," he said.

"If a quarter section that's all feedlot is taxed the same as a quarter section that's all in barley, there's a considerable difference in the utilization of roads and other services that are provided by the municipality."

And their research found that Lethbridge County has a "legitimate case for generating more revenue."

"We found that the county is not a big spender in large part, and it's probably not investing enough in its roads right now to maintain them to the standard that is necessary," said McMillan. "The county does have to spend some more money on roads, and some money should probably be coming out of the confined feeding operations.

"So we have to take a more balanced look at it. It's a question of how do you do it?"

Three alternatives

The trio came up with three potential alternatives, but all had their drawbacks.

One was to charge truckers for the use of county roads based on mileage — using GPS technology and basing tolls on truck weight, location, and distance travelled.

"This is possible. It's been used in New Zealand and Oregon, so it would be conceivable to do. New technologies make it workable," said McMillan.

"But that would require provincial co-operation and trucking industry co-operation as well. That would be a fairly significant item and something the municipality could not do on its own."

Option No. 2 was to levy a

charge on cattle feeders based on their use of county roads, working from the assumption that feedlots located closer to provincial highways would use county roads less, and vice versa. Around 72 per cent of feedlots in Lethbridge County would see their tax burden reduced if this sort of usage charge were put in place instead of a head tax.

"Some feeders that are on provincial highways would pay nothing, and those that are sitting on 10 miles of county roads before you get to a provincial highway would be paying more," said McMillan.

"But that may be considered unfair by some of the cattle feeders."

The final option looked at giving breaks to feedlots that produce most of their own feed

"Some of these cattle-feeding operations would have a considerable amount of farmland associated with them, and an operation that produces all of its own feed doesn't use much more local roads than if you were a grain

"There is a risk that some feeder operations that are on the margins of profitability may decide to reduce or even end their operations."

MEL MCMILLAN

farmer hauling grain," said

"The county could look at how much farmland was associated with a given feedlot, and the feedlot would be charged only for the number of head that it produced that were beyond the feeding capacity of the farmland that it owned."

But it's tough to say which is the best option, said McMillan.

"What do people regard as fair and an equitable distribution? How easily can it be managed?" he said.

"You want equity, you want efficiency, you want administrative ease. All of that would have to be balanced out by the municipality, the voters in the county, and the feeders."

But the bottom line is the bottom line, he said, and Lethbridge County should revisit the tax before cattle feeders start moving on to greener pastures.

"There is a concentration of feedlots in that area, and presumably they're there because there's some advantage to them being there," said McMillan.

"There is a risk that some feeder operations that are on the margins of profitability may decide to reduce or even end their operations."

The entire report can be found at www.policyschool. ca/publications.

jennifer.blair @fbcpublishing.com

Alberta rejoins the flock with new national chicken quota deal

A decade-old dispute over quota allocation is finally settled, and producers are already expanding facilities

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

A lberta is back in the federal-provincial agreement for allocating broiler chicken quota after exiting it in 2013.

"I'm thinking they should hire us for NAFTA now," Alberta Chicken Producers' chair Erna Ference said with a laugh.

"This was a huge effort. We started back in 2008 with this, and it took a lot of producers and the processing industry in Alberta to accomplish this new agreement.

"Obviously, it was a give and take — and all of the provinces worked really, really hard. It shows that we can work together and accomplish something. It's a success story.

The new deal concluded Nov. 2 when the Farm Products Council of Canada ruled that the new agreement could proceed without first getting Governor-in-Council approval — that is, approval from the federal cabinet through the Governor General.

"We're excited to have all our provinces back on board," Benoit Fontaine, chair of the Chicken Farmers of Canada, said in a release.

Alberta Chicken Producers left the federal-provincial agreement in 2013 due to the unfair alloca-



Four years after leaving the national chicken organization, Alberta Chicken Producers has a new quota deal and is back in the fold.

GRAPHIC: ALBERTA CHICKEN PRODUCERS

tion of quota, said Ference, who raises chickens west of Okotoks. At the time, her organization estimated it was getting only 80 per cent of what would be a fair share of quota allocation.

"Our population had been increasing exponentially compared to other provinces, and we were getting a smaller and smaller percentage share of that growth based on population," said Ference. "We felt that needed to be addressed."

The organization didn't exit the stage entirely. It continued to be involved with the national producer body, but wasn't allowed a vote at the table.

"Now we're back in the family fold. I think it's a good place to be," said Ference. "We have more of a say, and that's a good thing."

The new arrangement means provinces will still have a base amount of quota, but a percentage of new growth will be allo-



"Going back in, I have the confidence that what we fought for and what we wanted is going to be respected."

ERNA FERENCE



cated based on 'comparative advantage,' including population.

"Out of the new growth in the country, we'll get a percentage of that new growth until we're able to supply 90 per cent of our population, and once that's done, the factor will drop off," said Ference.

"Going back in, I have the confidence that what we fought

for and what we wanted is going to be respected. Those are all really good things from a producer's point of view."

From 2014 to 2017, Alberta's share edged up slightly, from producing enough chicken to supply grew 80.4 per cent of the province's needs to 81.5 per cent. That growth will only continue under the new agreement, said Ference.

"That's significant, but you can imagine how great it's going to be moving forward, as long as there's growth in the industry," she said. "Chicken is the No. 1 meat in Canada, and there seems to be an increasing appetite for that. Our general expectation is that we're going to see increased growth."

Chicken producers in the province are already getting ready and there's been a "huge increase" in building activity, she added.

"There's been a lot of new barns built in the province, not just in broiler chicken production but also in hatching egg production," said Ference, pointing to new and upgraded facilities in Calgary and Lethbridge.

"There's a lot of investment along the value chain, and all of that is benefiting Alberta chicken producers."

jennifer.blair@fbcpublishing.com

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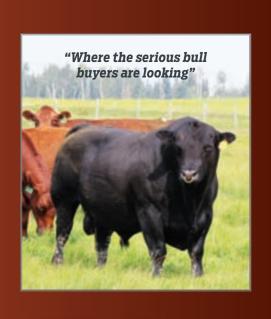


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Product for reducing shrink during transport worth considering

A feed supplement that counteracts dehydration offers animal welfare benefits and an economic return

BY ROY LEWIS DVM

We all know that when handling, transporting and shipping cattle, stress is increased and weight loss and carcass changes occur.

A new, or should I say reintroduced product, is back on the market after having been shelved by Agriculture Canada for many years. The product is called DeStress and is currently being marketed by a Wetaskiwin feed mill. In a way, it provides instant returns to the feedlot finisher through increased yield and reducing dark cutters in half. And it is simply the right thing to provide from an animal welfare perspective.

It is a way to manage antemortem stress. Dr. Al Schaefer of Lacombe Research Centre and others worked on derivatives of this product, relying on 15 to 20 years of published research to get the formulation right

get the formulation right.

This article will provide an explanation of the product, how it benefits the cattle, and the expected financial benefit. (There are probably other areas in cattle, swine or equine production and performance where feeding of this product could provide huge benefit.)

There is no doubt that transport of cattle (regardless of the distance) produces stress that causes shrinkage, dehydration, and the loss of electrolytes and



FILE PHOTO

amino acids. Some types of animals have this to lesser or greater degrees than others. Genetics of the cattle; weather conditions; and excitability or docility of the cattle method of handling will all determine what the final shrinkage and meat quality will be at the packing plant.

Some of these things are under our control and others simply are not. Once the cattle leave the farm/feedlot, the owner has no control. Feeding a product before transport to replace the expected losses of these necessary nutrients means the cattle will arrive in better health with less shrink and less dark cutters, and potentially grade better.

When transporting cattle either to a plant or auction market or home from pasture, we all have looked at the proverbial

shrink that occurs. We know there will be some weight loss (or shrink) because of fecal loss. urine loss, sweat, etc. It is when this amount gets exces sive and climbs well above the two to four per cent we are hoping for, that we recognize the significance. Some freshly weaned, transported and held-overnight cattle at auction markets can shrink by 10 per cent or even higher. If this is not replenished quickly after the stressful event, cattle are more prone to get sick from other things — or in the case of slaughter animals, the number of dark cutters will increase. If we can retain some of that shrink by feeding a nutritive supplement before shipping which replaces these lost nutrients, it will be a positive experience for the cattle and will return economically for

the producer.

DeStress came on the market a decade ago under the name Nutricharge, but then was released to the United States and lost to Canada for a long period of time. It is considered a nutritive supplement so has no slaughter withdrawal period and is not considered a pharmaceutical in any way.

It contains a combination of electrolytes, amino acids, and certain blood sugars. So it is similar to giving an electrolyte to counteract dehydration to a scouring calf or a stress diarrheic show bull. In this case though, it is given to healthy cattle to counteract the dehydration that occurs during transport. It is easy to administer as it is a feed supplement and can be mixed into feed 24 hours before the stressful event.

Dr. Schaefer and his researchers found it lessened shrink by about two per cent compared to control animals, which is statistically significant. Improvements in carcass yield and grade were also noticed. These all go hand in hand — two per cent less shrink would convert into 20-plus pounds (depending on the size of the cattle).

With transportation coming under more public scrutiny, this should make cattle more comfortable — kind of like us There is no doubt that transport of cattle (regardless of the distance) produces stress that causes shrinkage, dehydration, and the loss of electrolytes and amino acids.



having Gatorade after a period of intense exercise.

While the focus has been transportation of cattle headed for sale or for slaughter, benefits are found after weaning or when transporting show cattle. Severely shrunk cattle are much more stressed and definitely more likely to get BRD (bovine respiratory complex) among other infectious diseases.

We all need to get around the expectation that we want shrunk-out cattle. Stressful conditions such as parturition or recovery from illness will benefit from something like DeStress. Even shipping cull cows should benefit, (although to a lesser degree than feedlot cattle) as they are subject to potentially higher levels of stress because they are more fractious animals. With feeder cattle having more energy, they will need fewer treatments after arriving at their final destination. This product is also formulated for swine, and different rates have been tried on other minor farmed species such as elk and bison.

Reducing morbidity or mortality with a non-prescription product that is a supplement is a win for the cattle industry. In the future, there may be more specific guidelines regarding type of cattle, temperament, distance travelled, and ambient temperature as to whether a nutritive supplement may be mandatory. Dr. Schaefer's group even fine-tuned it to the extent to determine that the top and front of cattle liners cause more shrink on average in cattle.

There was an average of more than eight per cent shrink on 900-pound feeders which converts to over 70 pounds. The nutritive supplement will significantly reduce some of these losses.

Adoption of a nutritive supplement program relies on ease of administration, and feeding this product fits this requirement. A dose is about a couple of pounds per 1,100 pounds of cattle.

I would suggest going to the website www.destress-nutrition. com for more complete information. This is one more tool to ensure healthy well-treated cattle are being raised on Canadian farms.

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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No dice yet on precision pig feeder

The technology has been in development for years, but don't expect to see one soon

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD

STAF

he science of precision pig feeding has come along nicely, but the manufacturing industry has been slow to climb on board, according to the project's lead researcher.

Candido Pomar, of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, was set to bring his pig-specific feeder to commercial trials in 2016 but says there has been little industry movement.

"The research is going on very nicely," he said. "We are improving the system... new concepts and so on. This part is going quite well."

It's the technology transfer to industry Pomar describes as "... going very slowly." They've had a hard time convincing feeder manufacturers to take the project on.

The research aims to cut out extra feed cost and reduce the amount of manure in hog barns by tailor mixing feed for each pig, based on a history of feeding habits and growth. The feeder could lower feed costs by 10 to 15 per cent without lowering carcass performance or size.

Farmers feed to the highest common denominator, which ensures that no pigs are underfed but also overfeeds other pigs, he said.

His research uses a computer model to collect information on body condition, weight gains and growth and feed intake to determine the most efficient feed amount and quality for each individual pig. Each animal has an electronic chip implanted in the ear,



The developer of this precision feeder has yet to find a manufacturer to make a commercial version. PHOTO: AAFC/FILE

which allows the feeder to identify it and dispense the right amount and mix of feed.

Feed data is taken from the feeders themselves, while several scale configurations are being considered to track the pig's progress, including a scale in front of the feeder to weigh the pig as it feeds, or a scale that animals must pass over to reach the feeder.

Automatic systems would take daily weight measurements, although the researcher argues that once a week should be enough for commercial operations.

The system is not yet sophisticated enough to measure indi-

vidual ingredients, but combines two feed mixes, a low-nutrient mix and a higher-nutrient mix, which includes higher soybean protein, minerals and vitamins.

"What we call the 'rich' feed is similar to a feed that the industry formulates for young pigs at the beginning of the growing period," Pomar said.

He estimates his system will save producers \$8 per pig in feed, equating to 23 kilograms of soybean meal and 0.6 kilogram of phosphate over the growth period. More efficient feed also leads to less manure, with trials finding up to 40 per cent less nitrogen is excreted. Pomar expects

a 25 to 30 per cent drop in phosphorus.

But there has been little interest in bringing the feeder to market in Canada.

"The industry would need not just to buy the feeders. It will need also to find the optimal way to use all these feeding approaches," he said. "It's not just adding something to what it is doing. It is going to have to change the way it is feeding pigs."

However, three European companies have shown interest and Pomar expects them to start applying his concepts by as early as next year.

"The industry would need not just to buy the feeders. It will need also to find the optimal way to use all these feeding approaches. It's not just adding something to what it is doing. It is going to have to change the way it is feeding pigs."

CANDIDO POMAR



"I think there's a clear interest and I'm quite sure that in five to 10 years, this technology is going to be applied somewhere."

But without industry partners, it is hard to say how much a precision pig feeder will cost or how long it will take for efficiencies to offset equipment cost. Precision feeders in Europe cost thousands of dollars, Pomar said, although they are targeted for niche research use rather than the commercial production.

"For commercial purposes, I expect that the feeder itself should be much, much lower than that, but we don't have it, so I don't know how much it may cost."

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EXTREME WEATHER TAKES A BIG TOLL

Haiti, which was hit last year by its strongest hurricane in 50 years, has been ranked the country worst affected by extreme weather in 2016. Next on the Climate Risk Index were Zimbabwe, which suffered severe drought followed by floods, and Fiji, which was hit by the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the island nation. Between 1997 and 2016, more than 520,000 people died in over 11,000 extreme weather events including storms, floods, and heat waves, said research group Germanwatch, which creates the index. Nine of the 10 worst-affected nations in that period were developing countries, with Honduras, Haiti and Myanmar topping that list. — Thomson Reuters Foundation

LA NIÑA LOOKING MORE LIKELY

A U.S. government weather forecaster says La Niña conditions are predicted to continue through the Northern Hemisphere this winter. The Climate Prediction Center, an agency of the National Weather Service, now pegs the chance of La Niña developing at about 65 to 75 per cent — up 10 percentage points from its October estimate. "La Niña is likely to affect temperature and precipitation across the United States during the upcoming months," the agency said. La Niña emerged last year for the first time since 2012. Characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, it is linked with floods and droughts. — Reuters

WEATHER



Santa will have many choices for the weather fan on his list

There are literally hundreds of different weather instruments available, including a big range of low-cost weather stations

BY DANIEL BEZTE

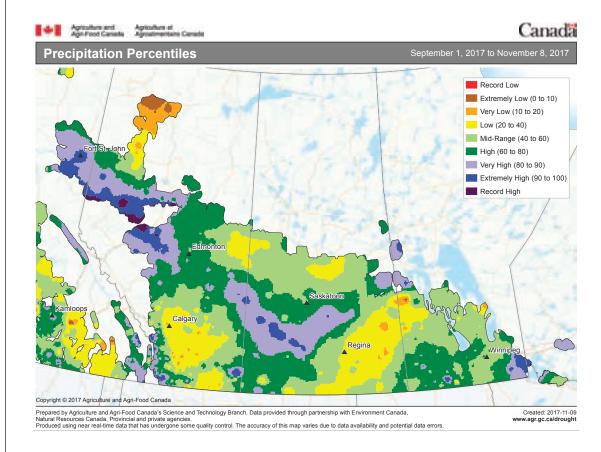
must begin with a bit of an apology. I had promised for this issue that we would be looking at trends in overnight temperatures across the Prairies, but we will not be able to cover that in this issue.

As I was working on the final crunching of the data I realized that I had made a mistake early on in my analysis, which had a significant impact on the final results. Combine this with an earlier-than-usual deadline and I just didn't have the time to recrunch the numbers. I promise that we'll look at this in the next article.

For this article, I thought we could begin with a look at some weather gift ideas for the upcoming holiday season.

For those of you interested in a full-blown weather station, the top choice once again is the Davis Vantage Vue system. Running between \$500 and \$700, this station has consistently ranked as one of the best. It pretty much measures everything you would want and is easy to install. While there are cheaper systems out there that do the same thing, I can say from experience, the Davis stations just keep on working year after year, with minimal maintenance. In fact, I could probably count on one hand the number of times my Davis station has caused me problems since I bought my first one back in 1998.

If a big-budget station is not what you are looking for, then there are plenty of low-cost stations out there. Over the last five or so years there has been an explosion of these relatively low-cost stations. It has got to the point now that it is almost next to impossible to review all of them. Most have an indoor console to display the data and simply measure indoor/outdoor temperatures, humidity, and barometric pressure. As well, they will often also give basic forecasts based on this data. Canadian Tire often has these systems on sale for some great prices. Just remember,



This map shows the total amount of precipitation that has fallen across the Prairies so far this fall as percentiles. So far it has been an interesting mixture of wet and dry conditions, especially across Alberta. Southern Alberta, minus the foothills, has been relatively dry while north-central regions extending northwestwards into the Peace River region has been wet to near-record values in some areas. Extreme northern regions have been the exact opposite with precipitation amounts ranging from low to extremely low.

just like most things in life, you get what you pay for. If you buy a weather station for \$20 or \$30 then don't be surprised if it ends up only working for a couple of years before something goes wrong.

Finally, there are the traditional style of weather instruments ranging from simple rain gauges to flashy barometers. One of the most interesting ones that I came across is the Fischer Instruments 115.01 laboratory-grade outdoor thermometer with human hair hygrometer. It runs for around \$100, looks nice, and is iust a neat, accurate, conversational weather instrument. It is claimed that the use of human hair to measure humidity is one of the most accurate methods available. The hygrometer has a non-linear scale that allows you to get a more accurate measurement when humidity levels are low.

As I have said, there are literally hundreds of different

If a big budget station is not what you are looking for, then there are plenty of low-cost stations out there."



weather instruments availtropical Pacific. The NOAA/ NWS Climate Prediction Center able, along with many different websites and stores that sell has issued an advisory declarthem. One website that has a ing that La Niña conditions are very comprehensive listing of now in place and that there is a 65 to 75 per cent chance weather instruments, along with good to very good descripthat these conditions will last tions, is ambientweather.com. throughout the upcoming winter. Currently, it looks like it will As an FYI, I have no affiliation with this website, it just carries be a weak La Niña, much like the largest collection of weather we saw last winter. hardware that I know of. La Niña means that there are

To finish up this issue, it is looking more and more certain that there will be a La Niña episode this winter across the entropical Pacific. This setup historically results in a colder-

and wetter-than-average winter across Western Canada and the northwestern U.S. If we use last year (which also had a weak La Niña) as a comparison, the winter ended up being a mixed bag. December was very cold, January relatively mild, and February mild in the central and northern regions while southern regions were colder than average. Precipitation over central and northern regions was near to slightly below average, while southern regions saw above-average amounts.

I will keep an eye on just how strong this current La Niña becomes over the next month or so and give everyone an update when I revisit the winter forecast in early December.

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.

NEW DIRECTORS FOR CROP COMMISSIONS

Three producers have been acclaimed to the board of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission. Andre Harpe of Valhalla Centre will replace outgoing director Greg Sears of Sexsmith in Region 2 while John Guelly of Westlock has been acclaimed in Region 5 and Dale Uglem of Bawlf acclaimed in Region 11. Region 8 received no nominations so an election will be held at FarmTech on Jan. 30. Directors can serve two consecutive three-year terms. Meanwhile, Hannah Konschuh of Cluny and Justin Bell of Rosebud were acclaimed as directors of the Alberta Wheat Commission in Region 2 while Todd Hames of Marwayne, and John Wozniak of St. Paul were acclaimed in Region 4. Konschuh, Bell, and Hames are new directors and Wozniak will serve a second term. Departing the board are chair Kevin Auch of Carmangay, Greg Porozni of Mundare, and Gerry Good of Carstairs. — ACPC/AWC



CROPS

Out of the blue — India's tax on peas hits growers here

India is our top customer for pulses but the pea tax and ongoing fumigation issue make for 'a challenging situation'

STAFF

ndia's sudden decision to impose an immediate 50 per cent duty on pea imports has Canadian pulse officials scrambling to find answers — and figure out what comes next.

'This sort of moves us beyond even where India has been before in pulse import duties... more than a decade ago we were at 10 per cent," Pulse Canada CEO Gordon Bacon said after the Nov. 8 announcement. "So to sort of move to the maximum allowable for peas under WTO (World Trade Organization) rules has surprised us all."

Reuters reported the tariff was meant to support India's own pea growers after prices fell below a support threshold set by the Indian government.

The move came just as Bacon and Lee Moats, chair of Pulse Canada, were heading to India where the top issue had expected to be whether the country would extend a fumigation exemption for Canadian pulses. That exemption expired in October and the Indian government had said nothing on the matter, throwing into question the ability of Canada to export to its top pulse customer.

The pulse industry was anxiously waiting to find out what's up on both issues, said Leanne Fischbuch, executive director of Alberta Pulse

In the meantime, producers wanting to sell peas have limited options, Fischbuch said on Nov. 14.



India's decision to impose a 50-per-cent tax on peas surprised the Canadian pulse sector. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

"If they're talking to their dealers and their dealers are looking at alternative markets, that's another option," she said. "But otherwise, if their dealer is not looking to sell anything at the time, farmers have to bear with it at the moment.

'Until we learn more and the trade sees that there's opportunity for movement, we're in a challenging situation."

One major Prairie pulse exporter used stronger language.

"That is very horrible news for us as exporters," said Meiyun Li, general manager with ADM Ag Indusbiggest buyer of pulses, of peas. So the drought but "they cannot conif India doesn't want to buy, where will our yellow peas go?"

Last year, India's pea imports mainly from from Canada, Russia, the U.S., and France — soared by 41 per cent to a record of 3.17 million tonnes. But shipments were already well off that pace this year, with total Canadian pea exports at 849,000 tonnes as of Oct. 29 — half a million tonnes behind exports from the same time last year. Li said demand in China is also down while big pea crops in the Ukraine and Russia are driving down prices.

The only place where there is interest for Canadian peas is in the U.S., according to Li. The U.S. tries in Saskatoon. "India is our pea crop is down this year due to sume all of our pea production," she said.

"Until we learn more and the trade sees that there's opportunity for movement, we're in a challenging situation."

LEANNE FISCHBUCH



Drought in recent years had been driving India's imports of pulses and wheat but the return to nearnormal monsoons has changed the scenario.

That will also have an effect on wheat markets.

Along with the pea tax, the country simultaneously doubled its tax on wheat to 20 per cent. That's expected to slash wheat imports, which means both Ukraine (India's biggest wheat supplier) and Russia will be looking for new destinations for that crop.

"Twenty per cent is basically a prohibitive tariff, and we are likely to leave the (Indian) market," said Yelizaveta Malyshko of UkrAgoConsult consultancy.

Ukraine had expected to sell as much as 1.6 million tonnes of wheat to India, but that's now expected to fall to one million tonnes. — With files from Commodity News Service Canada and Reuters

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Crop research partnership maps two lentil genomes

The genetic information will hasten the development of higher-yielding varieties with better quality and more vigour

STAFF

partnership between University of Saskatchewan crop scientists and genomic big data company NRGene of Israel has successfully sequenced two wild lentil genomes — the largest legume genomes ever assembled.

The research was part of the \$7.9-million Genome Canadafunded "Application of Genomics to Innovation in the Lentil Economy," led by U of S scientists Kirstin Bett and Bert Vandenberg, the university said in a press release. Now with the help of NRGene's genomic technology, their research will be aimed at enhancing lentil yield and

'NRGene's technology has dramatically accelerated our research, which aims to shed light on lentil domestication and adaptation," said Bett. "Through identifying beneficial traits from wild relatives and integrating them into the genome of the domesticated lentil, we can now develop lentil varieties with much improved vigour, resilience and productivity. Maintaining sustainable lentil production will play an important role in addressing the world's need for an ecologically sound protein source that is also highly nutritious."

Bett's group leads the international lentil genome sequencing initiative which has resulted in the release of a complete genome sequence for a Canadian-cultivated lentil variety. Now with additional genomic informa-



Crop scientists Kirstin Bett and Bert Vandenberg examine lentil plants. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

"NRGene's technology has dramatically accelerated our research, which aims to shed light on lentil domestication and adaptation."



tion from wild lentil species, the researchers have a much broader view of genes and pathways that enable lentils to thrive in volatile climatic conditions.

She noted that to date, breeders have only been able to access a small fraction of the total germplasm diversity in existence, which hinders Canadian producers' ability to meet growing global demand. With its focus on wild lentil genomes, the project is aimed at introducing genetic diversity with great precision and speeding up the breeding cycle to provide breeders with faster access to better lentil varieties.

The U of S Crop Development Centre, which has developed 400 commercial crop varieties, is working with NRGene to sequence several of the world's major crops.

A huge step forward in crop genomic research was the release this year of the wild Emmer wheat genome sequence, generated using NRGene technology and involving U of S scientists. Emmer wheat is the wild form of all the domesticated wheat in the world.

Farms don't just feed Canada, but power the economy

Latest stats show agriculture and agri-food pumped more than \$110 billion into the GDP and employed one in eight workers

new report from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada says agriculture has contributed more than \$110 billion to Canada's GDP in 2016 — 6.7 per cent of the national total.

And farming and agri-food is becoming a larger and larger contributor — growing by 11 per cent in the past five years compared to the 7.8 per cent increase for the entire economy.

In 2016, it also employed 2.3 million people — or one in eight workers.

Exports from the agriculture sector rose to \$56 billion in 2016. On a value basis, it is estimated that last year just over one-half of the value of primary agricultural production in Canada was exported either directly or indirectly through the manufacturing sector.

The food and beverage processing industry is the largest manufacturing industry in Canada, accounting for 16.4 per cent of the total manufacturing sector's GDP in 2016. As well it accounted for the largest share of jobs in the manufacturing sector at 17.3 per

Farm market receipts remained at a record high of \$57.6 billion in 2016. Between 1971 and 2016 farm market receipts have grown on average by 5.8 per cent. This has been driven by grain and oilseed receipts, which have increased by 6.5 per cent annually over the same period.

Net farm operating expenses dropped to \$44.2 billion in 2016, which was a 0.9 per cent decrease from the previous year. This was the first decline in six years and was due to lower fertilizer, machinery fuel and cattle prices.

The federal government spent an estimated \$5.4 billion in support of the agriculture and agrifood sector for the fiscal year of 2016-17. This accounts for 24.2 per cent of agricultural GDP. Public funding of research for agriculture was estimated to be at \$557 million for the fiscal year of 2016-17.



Farms are generating big dollars for the entire country. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

It's another bin buster for U.S. corn "It's all of our responsibility to speak up for agriculture." **REUTERS**

mmett Sawyer, Agvocate 4-H Member and Farmer

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S. corn production will be higher than expected as harvest yields came in at record levels, according to the latest USDA report.

Exports forecasts are also up, but not enough to prevent stockpiles from rising. The USDA now pegs the corn crop at 14.578 billion bushels, based on an average yield of 175.4 bushels per acre. That's well up from its October estimate of 14.280 billion bushels and an average yield of 171.8 bushels per acre.

Analysts had been expecting a corn production figure between 14.250 billion bushels and 14.459

billion bushels, based on estimates given in a Reuters survey. Analysts' yield estimates ranged from 171.7 bushels per acre to 174.0 bushels per acre.

If realized, the government's corn yield projection would top the previous record of 174.6 bushels per acre reached in 2016.

In Iowa and Illinois, the two largest production states for corn, USDA boosted its average yield by six bushels per acre from its October estimate.

For soybeans, USDA pegged the crop at 4.425 billion bushels, topping the average of analysts' estimates but in line with forecasts that ranged from 4.375 billion bushels to 4.467 billion bushels.



A cranberry harvest is unlike any other

Farming cranberries is big business in Quebec but it's unlike anything you see on the Prairies

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN AF STAFF / SAINT-LOUIS-DE-BLANFORD,

fyou're ever looking for a completely different harvest experience, Quebec is the place to

Cranberries are a big deal in La belle province and getting a closeup look at the harvest was a highlight for a group of ag journalists during a recent Canadian Farm Writers' Federation tour.

Yes, a tractor is involved — but only briefly and then it's time to flood the bank-enclosed fields, corral the fruit, and turn on the suction pumps to hoover up the bright-red berries.

But then, pretty much everything about growing cranberries compared to grain is as different as can be.

It costs about \$40,000 an acre (mostly for irrigation) to establish a cranberry crop and you have to wait about five years for plants to mature and produce their full yield. But the payoff keeps com-

Once you plant the cranberry, you can keep it up to 100 years," said tour guide Rejean Leblanc, a cranberry producer and ag economist in the pork sector.

However, the bush-like vines need constant care.

"Through the summer, every year, you need to water the cranberry," said Leblanc. "The cranberry needs water every day, but it doesn't like to be sitting in water... (and) if you put on too much water in the summer, the plant will just grow and will not focus on making the fruit."

Leblanc waters his cranberries with sprinklers. Excess water goes down a drain and then back to the reservoir in a closed system. The fields are flooded in the winter to protect the plants.

'That's what makes it expensive to establish. It's digging the pond and the drain and the pipe. But once it's done, it's good for a long time.'

Plants must be pollinated between June 20 and July 15 by honeybees or bumblebees. Then the fruit will appear at the end of July or the beginning of August. Cranberries are biannual crops that bear fruit, rest during the fall, and then make their buds for the next year the following August.

"The goal for a producer is to be able to manage the fruit and the buds you're making for the following year," said Leblanc. "If you give too much nitrogen, the plant will

make new seeds and will not bear too much fruit."

The plant also needs to be stressed so that it focuses on making buds, and not on growing.

To find the equilibrium between water, stress and everything, that's the challenge for cranberry producers," he said.

The amount of nitrogen given is critical.

"If you give too much water or too much nitrogen, the plant will just grow and she will not bear fruit or will bear less fruit," said Leblanc. "You have to find the balance in your farm to be able to have a good harvest every year."

Cranberry pests include caterpillars that eat buds along with wild turkeys and Canada geese, which can damage plants in the frozen ponds.

Harvest is a complex process involving a lot of water and time. First, fields are flooded with eight inches of water, and then there's a bit of tractor time. It pulls an implement with blades that shake the berry plants so their fruit falls off. Then the fields are flooded up to 20 inches deep, the fruit floats to the top, and wind pushes the berries into one corner where they are sucked up.

And although there are only about 10,000 acres of cranberry production in Quebec — mostly in the Centre-du-Quebec region near the provincial capital — it's big business. Last year, the province's 82 cranberry producers harvested about 215 million pounds of cranberries — production that is second only to Wisconsin.

But there's no organic production in the U.S., while Quebec has embraced that market. Conventional cranberries fetch 25 cents a pound, while Quebec's 30 organic producers receive about 60 cents.

That price differential prompted Leblanc to switch from conventional to organic production. He now brings in Mexican workers to hand weed his bogs and fertilizes with chicken compost.

'A good conventional farm, last year, some had 50,000 pounds an acre, and the best organic was 30,000," he said. "The average organic was 22,000 and the average conventional was 40,000. You have to take that into account."

And because the fruit is biannual, one year's harvest is bigger than the next. This year's harvest is estimated to be about 100 million pounds less than last year's harvest.

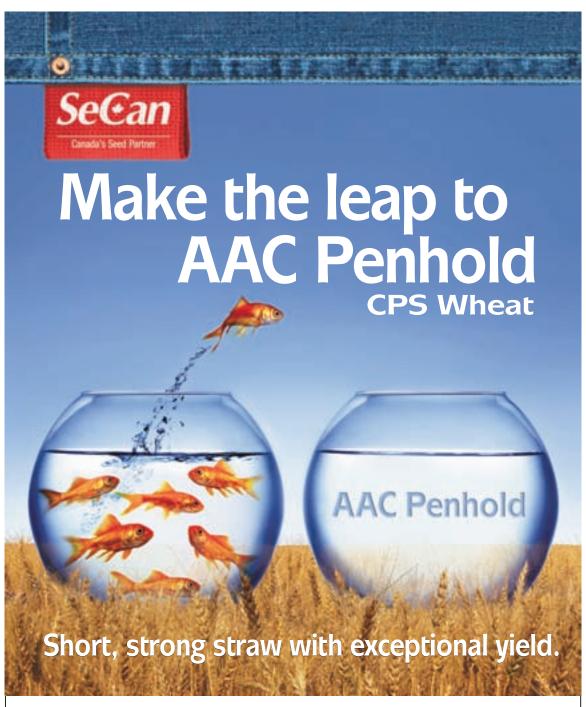
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Producer Rejean Leblanc gives the lowdown on cranberry farming to a group of visiting ag journalists. PHOTOS: ALEXIS KIENLEN



A worker walks across a field of flooded cranberries during harvest.



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Co-op offers farmers chance to be paid for straw and stover

Farmers are being promised \$83 to \$88 an acre for the material, which will be turned into an industrial product



The Cellulosic Sugar Producers Co-operative will do all the mowing, baling and transportation for the co-op members. PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

BY JOHN GREIG GLACIER FARMMEDIA

A new co-operative in Ontario is offering farmers in that province a chance to be paid for their corn stover and wheat straw.

The co-op has about 40 per cent of the acres committed that it needs by next fall, when it plans to harvest its first crop of stover, said Brian Cofell, general manager of the Cellulosic Sugar Producers Co-operative. The stover will be turned into sugars for industrial uses.

"There is a lot of momentum with the co-op right now," said Cofell. "A lot of people are excited. You know things are turning when people are reaching out to you and calling

you and asking you to speak to them."

Farmers will have to be members of the co-op in order to deliver to the Comet BioRefining Plant in Sarnia, Ont. Membership will cost \$500 and then farmers will have to put in \$200 per acre committed and will have to commit 100 acres minimum. They also have to grow 1.5 tonnes per acre of corn stover and 1.2 tonnes per acre of wheat straw. For that production they will be paid \$25 per tonne for corn stover and \$40 per tonne for wheat straw.

Comet BioRefining has committed to a preferred dividend of \$50 per acre. Cofell said that means corn stover and wheat straw will pay about \$83 to \$88 per acre per year.

The dividend has improved in the past few weeks, said Cofell, which has helped drive more interest in the co-op.

Farmers have to be within 125 kilometres of Sarnia in order to qualify.

"We believe there are enough acres to handle the co-op in that area," he said.

"A lot of people are excited. You know things are turning when people are reaching out to you and calling you and asking you to speak to them."

BRIAN COFELL



The co-op will own 27.5 per cent of Comet BioRefining, which plans to build a plant in Sarnia, to start up in 2019. Comet will be creating high-purity dextrose, hemi-cellulose and lignin from the corn stover, as part of the move to creating high-value chemicals from biomaterials instead of petrochemicals.

The co-op will do all the harvesting and movement of the stover.

"We think cost-wise it is very efficient for us to do it ourselves," said Cofell. "That way we know that the right product will come to the plant. There are certain specs we want inside of the bale. We want to control the flow of the biomass coming in as well."

Convincing farmers that the co-op will take good care of their land while they are harvesting the stover is important, said Cofell. The co-op is showing farmers what that will look like with a series of stoverharvesting demonstrations and offers additional info at www.cspcoop.com.

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Machines plant, care for, and harvest barley crop

British researchers have put automation to test in a small field using scaled-down equipment

STAFF

U.K. research project has planted, tended, and harvested the first crop — of spring barley — that's never seen direct human labour.

Hands Free Hectare was aiming to test the concept in the field and consciously chose smaller machinery, said Jonathan Gill, a researcher at Harper University.

"There's been a focus in recent years on making farming more precise, but the larger machines that we're using are not compatible with this method of working," Gill said. "They're also so heavy that they're damaging farmers' soils."

Another reason the researchers decided to go small was the reality of short windows to complete work, often around weather. When human operators are necessary, bigger is better, but when they're removed, many smaller machines

managed by a single farmer are likely to be better.

"We believe the best solution is that in the future, farmers will manage fleets of smaller, autonomous vehicles," Gill said. "These will be able to go out and work in the fields, allowing the farmer to use their time more effectively and economically instead of having to drive up and down the fields."

Martin Abell, mechatronics researcher for the company Precision Decisions, the key corporate partner for the project, said the project has proven what's possible and affordable.

"The whole project cost less than 200,000 British pounds (C\$341,960)," Abell said. "We used machinery that was readily available for farmers to buy; open source technology; and an autopilot from a drone for the navigation system."

Not only was the crop successfully raised and harvested, it also yielded decently, at 4.5 tonnes per hectare (67 bu./acre).



This small combine was the final operation in a season-long experiment in autonomous farming. PHOTO: HANDS FREE HECTARE



CN says it is beefing up capacity to catch up

Railway has struggled to fulfil grain car orders, but says it will soon have more crews and trains

BY ALLAN DAWSON

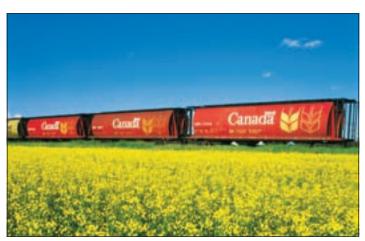
N Rail is still struggling to fulfil grain car orders in Western Canada, but says it is beefing up its handling capacity.

The company has ramped up hiring and will add another 250 new crew members this quarter, spokesperson Kate Fenske said in

"We're completing delivery of 22 new AC locomotives and are in the process of injecting 100 more locomotives into our fleet that were in longterm storage," Fenske wrote. "We've increased our capital spending for the year by \$100 million, including investments in our Edmonton to Jasper corridor.'

Fenske blamed a number of factors for service problems, including a derailment in Alberta caused by strong winds, reduced unloads at Prince Rupert because the grain terminal is not operating seven days a week, and increased shipments of other commodities.

"CN continues to see increased demand across several business segments including intermodal, metals, coal and frac sand," Fenske wrote. "Following more than a year of declining vol-



CN says it's ramping up hiring and adding locomotives because there's been an upsurge in business this year. FILE PHOTO

umes, dating back to 2015, our economy has turned around.'

Grain companies and farmers are gun shy after a huge backlog of grain occurred in the 2013-14 crop year, which by one estimate cost farmers more than \$5 billion in lower prices over two crop years.

The Western Grain Elevator Association, which represents the major grain companies, is also concerned about CN's recent performance, but is willing to cut it some slack given its recent challenges and that it's adding crews and power, said executive director Wade Sobkowich.

'CN is trying to manage the issue," he said. "We do recognize that it will probably take them a while to recover, even if they could bring on power and crews right away. So we're going to try and work with that.'

Since part of the problem is increasing volumes of nongrain traffic, measures need to be taken to better predict railway demand, Sobkowich

"Intermodal is a more competitive industry than the grain industry," he said, alluding to how containers can more easily move from one railway to another. "Both railways tend to want to put more resources into shipping containers than grain cars and that doesn't work for us.'

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New grain transportation bill hailed

The legislation isn't perfect, say farmers and grain companies, but it's an improvement and they hope it will become law quickly

BY ALLAN DAWSON

ill C-49, the Grain Modernization Act, has passed third reading in the House of Commons and now goes to the Senate for debate.

Farmers and grain companies hope if it becomes law the railways will be obliged to sign level-of-service contracts backed by financial penalties.

"It's clear that the federal government has listened to our industry," Alberta Wheat Commission chair Kevin Auch said in a news release. "With Canada's agriculture sector working to increase its export capacity, AWC has pressed hard to ensure a more efficient and accountable transportation system."

The wheat commission wants the Senate to make passing C-49

'While we didn't get some key amendments we had asked for, including improvements to long haul interswitching, the legislation is still a major step forward for farmers," Auch said.

The Western Grain Elevator Association has a similar view.

"We're going to see if we can appear before the Senate... and inform it about some of the areas where the bill may not accomplish what was intended," said executive director Wade Sobkowich. "But at the end of the day... we need to get it passed



"It's clear that the federal government has listened to our industry."

KEVIN AUCH



so that we can begin using the provisions."

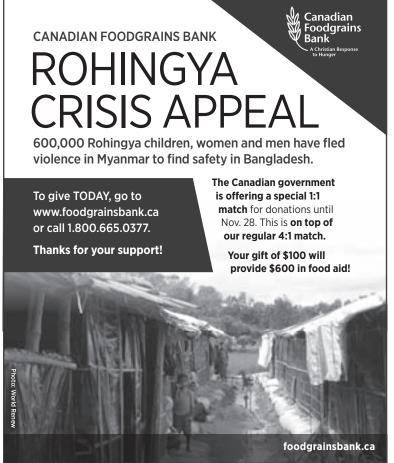
His association wanted the bill to give grain companies the right to move grain to a competing railway within 160 kilometres of an interchange. That measure, introduced as an emergency provision from 2014 to this summer, worked well and would be effective in encouraging competition, he

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PHOTO: ISTOCK





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'Feed the world' doesn't resonate with affluent consumers

There's a small section of society driving the food conversation and productivity isn't one of their concerns, says economist

BY JOHN GREIG

here are larger issues driving food trends that should give farmers opportunities to open conversations with people in the food movement.

The challenge is starting that conversation.

The future of food is going to be strongly influenced by people who are younger, urban, have higher incomes, and who are often involved in the food movement, said Jayson Lusk, the head of the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University.

Not only are farmers a small

minority in North America, 80 per cent of agricultural output comes from only 7.5 per cent of producers, Lusk said in a recent presentation at the University of Guelph.

"There are a lot of people with less knowledge of where food comes from," he said.

There are other areas where farmers have little influence, but are important to understanding the complexities of food conversations.

The first is that there's increasing inequality and divergence in food preferences of the rich and the poor.

"The people influencing the conversations in food and agri-

culture are eating out of a very different bowl than people affected by food movements," said Lusk.

That means while some people pay more for niche foods — including organic and non-GMO — others are just trying to get enough food into the mouths of their family. They are motivated by price

It's not just the quantity of food that's the issue, but the quality of food. A higher diversity of diet is related to the healthfulness of a diet.

"Advocating for food systems that are more expensive is not a big deal to higher-income people, but it is a much bigger deal to lower income," said Lusk. A third issue affecting communication with the food movement is diverging population growth in high- and low-income countries.

The ag industry says productivity increases are needed to feed nine billion people by 2050, but that argument doesn't resonate in Canada and the U.S., where population is stagnant.

"If you are producing food that you want people to buy, you might want to think about what this narrative is saying to them," he said. "We need to feed the world, but it's hard for people in relatively rich countries to feel that message.

"Productivity is the forgotten cornerstone of sustainability."



Jayson Lusk

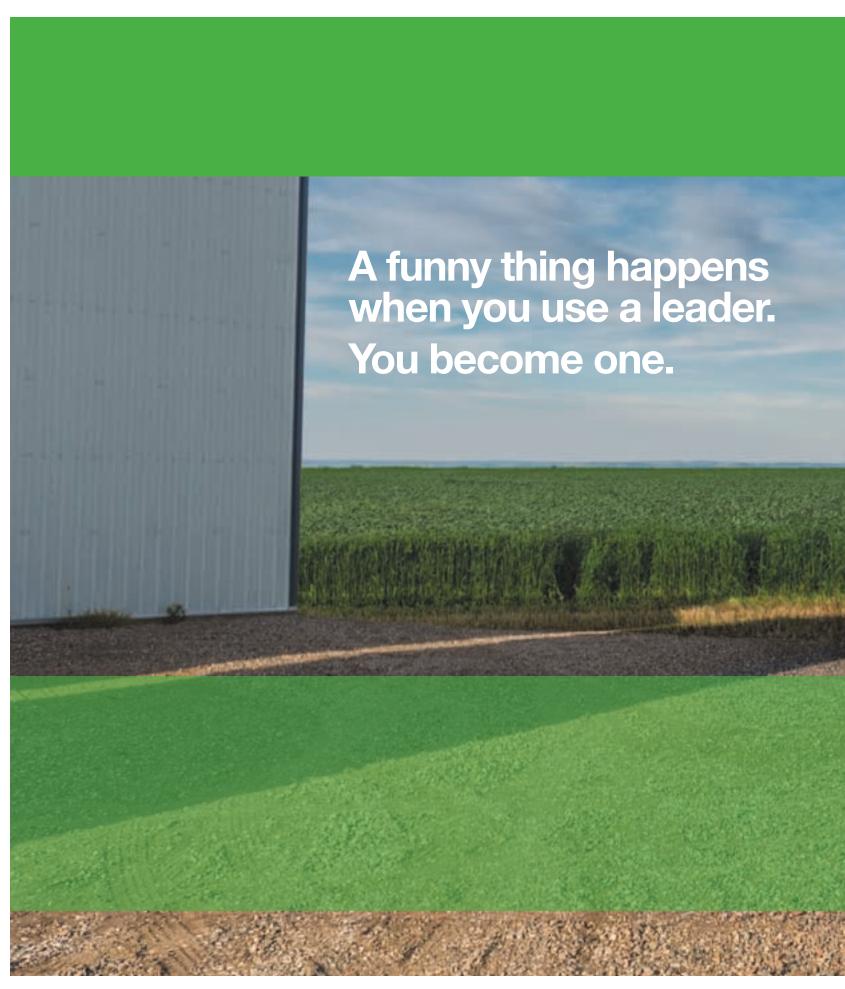
Agrium sells U.S. plants to ease PotashCorp merger concerns

Agrium will sell its Idaho phosphate production facility for US\$100 million to fertilizer company Itafos, to address concerns of U.S. regulators about its merger with PotashCorp.

The combination of Agrium and PotashCorp is expected to close by year-end, and requires U.S. approval. Agrium did not specify what concerns U.S. regulators have, but Potash is already one of the biggest U.S. phosphate producers. China's Commerce Ministry said it has approved the merger on the condition that Potash divest certain stakes in other companies.

The merger combines
PotashCorp's fertilizer
production capacity, the
world's largest, with Agrium's network of farm supply stores, the biggest in the
United States. — Reuters





Farmers face tough questions — and magazine has the answers

Real Dirt on Farming answers consumers' questions about farming and food with easy-to-understand stories



The new cover of the *Real Dirt on Farming* was unveiled at the Farm & Food Care Harvest Gala in Toronto by chair Brian Gilroy (I), Christine Schoonderwoerd, vice-chair, and representing funder Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd., Pierre Petelle, president of CropLife Canada. Farm & Food Care executive director Kelly Daynard is at the nodium. Photo: John GREIG

BY JOHN GREIG GLACIER FARMMEDIA

he latest edition of the *Real Dirt on Farming* is out, and it continues to be a printed copy success story in a digital world.

There are more than three million copies of the agriculture information resource in print and the demand doesn't appear to be dropping.

Farm & Food Care Ontario creates the publication designed to answer consumers' questions about farming and food with forthright, easy-to-understand stories.

The content is based on surveys with 2,500 Canadians on their biggest questions about farming in Canada, said Kelly Daynard,

executive director of Farm & Food Care Ontario.

Some topics that been taken out of the publication—no one seems concerned about BSE anymore—and new ones added, including urban gardening, alternative protein sources like insects, and sea farming.

But the big four concerns haven't changed in a decade—genetically modified organisms, pesticides, antibiotics, and hormone use. And old-fashioned print format endures, too.

"In 2006 with this online world, we thought we wouldn't need print, but it's a lasting document," said Daynard. "They want to keep it around. They want it handy. I can give it to somebody. I'm not sending them to a website that they may or may not go to."

The organization blankets the country, sending copies to teachers, registered dietitians, mayors and other municipal leaders, along with inserting the document in major urban newspapers.

"It's the stories. It's the guy who takes it on the plane and leaves it in the seat pocket. It's the person who leaves it in their doctor's office. It's something we create and then everybody owns," said Daynard.





"In 2006 with this online world, we thought we wouldn't need print, but it's a lasting document.
They want to keep it around. They want it handy. I can give it to somebody. I'm not sending them to a website that they may or may not go to."

KELLY DAYNARD

The resource is popular with farmers and industry workers because it helps them deal with the difficult questions they get from consumers, family, and friends.

"People want to own it because they are asked tough questions. We're in an industry where we're asked tough questions. Sometimes they are afraid to answer. They can say this book will have the basic answers you're looking for, with way more resources if you want anything else."

The document can also be downloaded at www.realdirton farming.ca. The publication and website are supported by \$100,000 donations from Wallenstein Feed & Supply and CropLife Canada.



High-tech tracker to battle ancient wheat plague

Wheat rust early detection is critical and a surprising source is providing new hope

BY THIN LEI WIN

THOMPSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

he tracking technology used to halt the deadly Ebola and Zika viruses could now be turned against wheat rust as scientists try new ways to stop the fungus devastating world grain crops.

Wheat rusts are nothing new ancient Romans honoured the rust god Robigus, hoping to protect their fields — but they are adapting to outwit man and pose an evergrowing global risk.

So now technology is stepping in, in the form of a pocket-sized tracking device invented by a British company with the hope that early detection can limit the damage of any outbreak.

Early detection is "the most critical part" of tackling any type of wheat rusts, said Fazil Dusunceli, plant pathologist at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Caused by fungal pathogens, the rusts can devastate the world's most widely grown crop, the source of food and livelihoods for more than one billion people in developing countries.

Key to halting the devastation is stopping its spread.

"People can walk through an infected field, unknowingly pick up a few spores on their clothes, then get on a plane and accidentally take the disease to other countries or continents," said Dave Hodson, senior scientist with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Ethiopia.

"With globalization, we are



Farmers in Africa and other locations have been battling resurgent wheat rust infections, which are now **spreading.** PHOTO: REUTERS/MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY

increasingly seeing this happening. In addition, wheat rusts are continually evolving so we're seeing new strains appearing all the

According to FAO, the risks posed by wheat rusts are growing, with modern versions of the fungus becoming ever-more virulent, evolving to adapt to the earth's higher temperatures.

There are only two ways to control wheat rust diseases — planting varieties that are resistant to rusts or using chemicals to kill the fungi. But as rusts mutate and produce new strains, resistant varieties may only be effective for a couple of years. In addition, the fungi are airborne, meaning the spores can spread rapidly over large distances.

In February, the FAO sounded an alarm, saying wheat rusts old and new are appearing in new countries, including Italy, Morocco, and Scandinavian countries.

Yellow rust is considered the most economically damaging,

leading to annual losses of nearly 5.5 million tonnes of wheat, according to research published in 2015.

This translates into a loss of about US\$1 billion a year, said Hodson, who is leading a technology project to tackle the rust.

The new method proposed by Hodson could cut yellow rust disease diagnosis from months

Currently, only specialized labs can do the diagnosis and the process could take months.

"By the time we've got the answer to that question (of whether we have a potentially damaging new race), the damage could already have been done," Hodson said. "That's what we want to change."

He is banking on MinION, a pocket-sized device that used sequencing technology to help

"People can walk through an infected field, unknowingly pick up a few spores on their clothes, then get on a plane and accidentally take the disease to other countries or continents."

DAVE HODSON



track Ebola and Zika outbreaks in Guinea and Brazil by providing real-time diagnosis.

Developed by a British-based firm, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, the device connects to a laptop via a USB cable, creating a mobile lab that can generate DNA sequences directly from samples collected in the field.

These are then compared to a range of known DNA sequences to diagnose their particular strain of rust, with results visible in just a few days.

"If successful, the initial platform could be immediately deployed for yellow rust surveillance all around the world," Diane Saunders, a plant pathologist at the British-based John Innes Centre who built the database of known DNA sequences, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Hodson is planning to test the device next summer in Ethiopia, where more than 500,000 hectares of wheat were affected by yellow rust in 2010.

Deploying the device widely would not be cheap — the Min-ION, which weighs 100 grams, costs \$1,000. However, top-end sequencing equipment costs and weighs much more, Hodson added.



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American officials can't keep up with dicamba herbicide complaints

Monsanto and BASF say the herbicides are safe when properly applied, but there's been a flood of damage reports

BY TOM POLANSEK

REUTE

S. farmers have overwhelmed state governments with thousands of complaints about crop damage linked to new versions of dicambabased herbicides.

Monsanto is banking on weed killers using dicamba — and seeds engineered to resist it — to dominate soybean production in the U.S. Both Monsanto and BASF say the herbicides are safe when properly applied, but there's been a flood of complaints after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approved them last year for use during the growing season. Previously, farmers used dicamba to kill weeds before they planted seeds, and not while the crops were growing.

However, the EPA approved such use only until Nov. 9, 2018, because "extraordinary precautions" are needed to prevent dicamba products from tainting vulnerable crops, a spokesman said. Next year, the agency will determine whether to extend its approval by reviewing damage complaints and consulting with state and industry experts. States are separately considering new restrictions on usage for 2018.

Major soybean-growing states, including Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois, each received roughly four years' worth of complaints about possible pesticide damage to crops this year due to dicamba use, state regulators said.

"We don't have the staff to be able to handle 400 investigations in a year plus do all the other required work."

PAUL BAILEY

Now agriculture officials face long backlogs of cases to investigate, which are driving up costs for lab tests and overtime. Several states had to reassign employees to

handle the load.

"We don't have the staff to be able to handle 400 investigations in a year plus do all the other required work," said Paul Bailey of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

In Missouri, farmers filed about 310 complaints over suspected dicamba damage, on top of the roughly 80 complaints about pesticides the state receives in a typical year, he said.

Nationwide, states launched 2,708 investigations into dicambarelated plant injury by mid-October, according to data compiled by the University of Missouri.

States investigate such complaints to determine whether applicators followed the rules for using chemicals. Those found to have violated regulations can be fined

Monsanto has said that U.S. farmers spraying this past summer failed to follow detailed instructions of up to 4,550 words printed on labels. The companies will change usage instructions in

hopes of avoiding a repeat of the past summer's problems.

"With significant adoption and a lot of interest in this new technology, we recognize that many states have received a number of reports of potential off-target application of dicamba in 2017," said Monsanto spokeswoman Charla Lord.

State investigators try to visit fields within days after farmers report possible damage to take photos before signs of injury, such as cupped leaves on soybean plants hit by dicamba, disappear. They question farmers and the people who applied the herbicide, and often gather samples from plants to test.

In Arkansas, farmers filed about 985 complaints associated with dicamba, the most of any state. Investigators are probing about 1,200 total complaints involving pesticide use, which includes weed

killers, said Terry Walker, director of the Arkansas State Plant Board.

Arkansas delayed inspections of animal feed and allowed overtime to handle the dicamba cases, which is not normal practice, he said.

Monsanto is betting on dicambatolerant soybeans to replace those that withstand glyphosate, a herbicide used for decades but which is becoming less effective as weeds develop resistance. The company aims for its dicamba-resistant seeds to account for half the U.S. soybeans planted by 2019.

Monsanto, which is in the process of being acquired by Bayer for \$63.5 billion (all figures U.S. funds), said it plans to open a call centre to help customers use dicamba next year and is talking with states about the product. The company and BASF already face several lawsuits from farmers alleging damage to plants from dicamba used by neighbours.



Soybean plants demonstrating the leaf cupping that is typical of dicamba damage. PHOTO: BOB SCOTT, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS





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Blue jays, known to be quite raucous, show their polite side, seemingly waiting for the other to eat first at this feeder, near Priddis. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY



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Aaron Pritchett, after dinner diversion









Ukraine winter wheat sowing near complete

Ukrainian farmers have sown 5.9 million hectares of winter wheat for the 2018 harvest, or 96 per cent of the expected area of 6.15 million hectares, the Agriculture Ministry said on Nov. 1.

Ukraine plans to sow 7.2 million hectares of various winter grains for next year's harvest, including the wheat, 926,000 hectares of winter barley and 161,000 hectares of rye.

At the same date a year ago Ukraine sowed 5.7 million hectares of winter wheat and 772,000 hectares of winter barley.

Ukraine has completed the 2017 wheat harvest, threshing a total of 26.6 million tonnes.

Ukraine harvested a record 66 million tonnes of grain in 2016 and exported 43.9 million tonnes in the 2016-17 season, which runs from July to June.

This season, Ukraine plans to harvest between 61 million and 63 million tonnes of grain and 2017-18 exports could total up to 45 million tonnes. — *Reuters*



U.S. farm study finds no firm cancer link to glyphosate

Findings came out of long-term study tracking health of tens of thousands of agricultural workers and farmers

REUTERS

A large long-term study on the use of glyphosate by agricultural workers in the United States has found no firm link between exposure to the pesticide and cancer.

Published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, the study found no association between glyphosate "and any solid tumours or lymphoid malignancies overall, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and its subtypes."

It said there was "some evidence of increased risk of acute myeloid leukemia among the highest exposed group," but added this association was not "statistically significant" and would require more research to be confirmed.

The EU decision has been delayed for several years after the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer reviewed glyphosate in 2015 and concluded it was "probably carcinogenic."

The findings are likely to impact legal proceedings taking place in the U.S. against Monsanto, in which more than 180 plaintiffs are claiming exposure to Roundup gave them cancer — allegations that Monsanto denies. The findings may also influence a crucial decision due by the end of the year on whether glyphosate should be relicensed for sale across the European Union.

The EU decision has been delayed for several years after the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer reviewed glyphosate in 2015 and concluded it was "probably carcinogenic" to humans. Other bodies, such as the European Food Safety Authority, have concluded glyphosate is safe to

The research is part of a large and important project known as the Agricultural Health Study, which has been tracking the health of tens of thousands of agricultural workers, farmers and their families in Iowa and North Carolina.

Since the early 1990s, it has gathered and analyzed detailed information on the health of participants and their families, and their use of pesticides, including glyphosate.

Low-protein U.S. soy crop dents meal quality

This year's crop profile could result in higher feed costs

REUTERS

protein shortfall in this year's U.S. soybean crop has forced processors like Bunge to cut the amount of the nutrient they can guarantee in soymeal, prompting concerns that animal feed costs and meat prices could rise.

Adverse crop weather this summer likely dragged down the protein content of soybeans, prompting concern that the soymeal produced at crushing facilities will be light on protein and other key nutrients, traders and agriculture experts said.

Soy plants can tweak processing steps to maximize protein yields and animal feeders can alter rations to include other feeds and supplements. But consumers may ultimately feel the pinch in higher poultry and pork prices as the steeper production costs are passed along.

"The pig doesn't care if it's a low-protein crop or not," said Charles Hurburgh, professor of agricultural engineering at Iowa State University. "The pig just wants the protein so the nutritionist has to adjust rations. They will probably end up with a little bit more expensive rations."

"The pig doesn't care if it's a low-protein crop or not."

CHARLES HURBURGH

Hurburgh is gathering samples for the United Soybean Board's annual soy quality survey. Early data suggests the U.S. crop would average about 34 to 34.5 per cent pro-

tein, down from 35 per cent normally, he said.

That may translate to lower-protein soymeal.

High-protein soymeal that typically is sold with 47.5 to 48 per cent protein is being offered at 46.5 or 47 per cent instead, traders said.

"In general, the industry is seeing lower protein content in new-crop soybeans," said Deb Seidel, spokeswoman for Bunge North America. "Bunge, along with most other operators, have adjusted protein specs (in soymeal) to ensure we are accurately reflecting the product we sell to our customers."



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Mixing and matching inputs and rotations

An 18-year study compared three different levels of inputs with three crop rotation diversities

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD

STAFF

arming for short-term yield will be different than long-term soil benefit.

That's not a new idea, but it has been driven home by 18 years of research spearheaded by researcher scientists Alan Moulin and Taras Lychuk of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research station in Brandon, Man.

From 1994-2003, the pair's team cross-compared organic, reduced-input no till, and high-input management with three six-year rotations. There was a low-diversity rotation of wheat and summerfallow, plus one year of canola, diversified annual grains (which mixed canola, fall rye, peas, barley, flax and wheat) and an annual-perennial mix, which took canola, wheat and barley and finished off the rotations with three years of alfalfa.

High inputs largely echoed conventional agriculture, while reduced-input systems applied fertilizer according to soil tests and yield goals and herbicides were applied to manage weeds.

At the Scott, Sask. research site, Moulin and Lychuk found reduced inputs and a rotation of diverse annual grains produced the greatest benefits.

"This combination may offer a sustainable solution, at least for that particular location we were looking at, in terms of soil organic carbon contents, the crop yield, nitrogen and phosphorus," Lychuk said.

Limiting inputs made for the lowest nitrogen losses and highest phosphorus content, while reduced tillage, increased cropping frequency and "appropriate combinations of fertilizer input and diversified cropping" helped build carbon and organic matter and maintain soil nutrients.

"I'm not saying that following the zero tillage and including grain crops in the production will be a 100 per cent solution for farmers to pursue in the future," Lychuk added. "It will just help alleviate the negative impacts of climate change on crop and environmental quality in the region."

At the same time, the mix promised to be the most economical.

High inputs gave the most raw yield out of the three management systems and, within that system, low diversity and annual grain rotations outperformed the annual-perennial mix. Reduced-input no till, however,



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

was close behind. The lower inputs averaged 95 per cent of high-input yields in wheat.

Organic plots dropped behind with only 77 per cent of high-input yields, a pattern that would repeat throughout the study.

Results were similar in barley, but yields leaned more towards diversification. Both annual grains and annual-perennial crops yielded high when mixed with the two highest input levels.

The study noted, however, that yield increased in all three input systems over time.

Downside

Soil quality data was not as kind to conventional agriculture.

Data from the second cycle (2001-06) found that fallow systems, like in any form of the low-diversity rotation or organic annual grains, had more nitrate in the 90-centimetre-deep rooting zone and more leaching into the subsoil.

High-input systems had a similar problem. Plants didn't need or use the amount of nitrogen fertilizer added, which also increased nitrate in the rooting zone, the study found, although some years showed little nitrate difference between high- and reduced-input soil nitrate.

High-input plots averaged 84.7 kilograms of nitrate in the first 90 centimetres of soil from 2001-06, while reduced input and organic sat at 76 and 74 kilograms per hectare respectively.

"Our results suggest that conventional soil testing is not robust enough to detect overapplication of fertilizer N, particularly during dry cycles," the study's final report read. "Under such conditions, some mechanism is needed to adjust rec-

ommended fertilizer rates downward to account for this."

Carbon, likewise, favoured reduced-input no till, in no small part due to the reduction in tillage.

The lower-input system averaged 36 grams of aggregate organic carbon per kilogram of soil, compared to 31 grams per kilogram in highinput plots and 30 grams per kilogram in organic.

There was no impact on total organic carbon across either inputs or rotations, but light fraction carbon, light fraction organic matter and light fraction nitrogen were all highest in reduced input and, within the three rotations, in annual grains and annual-perennial plots.

"Light fraction carbon accumulates at the surface of reduced tillage because the roots and the crop residue aren't mixed thoroughly into the soil," Moulin said. "In organic systems, with cover crops, that's a different equation."

Soil stability

Reduced-input plots had the highest wet aggregate stability (54.4 per cent compared to 42.6 per cent in conventional plots and 40.6 per cent in organic), something Moulin attributed to less tillage. Both annual grains and annual-perennial rotations (46.9 and 46.3 per cent, respectfully) beat out low-diversity plots' 44.3 per cent aggregate stability

The study did not take organic cover crops into account, Moulin added, something that might add into the soil health equation when comparing reduced input and organic systems in the field today.

For Stephen Crittenden, one of the Brandon research stations' experts in nutrient management and soil

health, the study's results become a matter of long-term versus shortterm gain.

"Researchers looking at soil health might say that sometimes producers might take a hit in terms of yield in the short term," he said.

Crittenden, who has delved into reduced tillage and is currently looking at biological soil health indicators like water movement, soil carbon, organisms like earthworms and water infiltration, argues that building soil health and soil structure will add capacity to the system and better buffer against environmental changes.

"These are indicators which, over the long term, the idea is they will build resistance to change," he said. "So if they have a drought year and yields go down, you hope that the management practices that you implemented to try and improve your soil health will, in that case, give you a better yield."

Organic's nutrient struggle

Organic systems were generally nitrogen and phosphorus deficient.

Organic plots averaged 19 kilograms of extractable phosphorus per hectare in the first 90 centimetres of soil from 2001-06, compared to an average 24.3 kilograms per hectare in high-input systems and 25.5 kilograms per hectare with reduced input. Phosphorus was as high or higher in reduced input as in conventionally managed plots.

"One fundamental process in agriculture is that if you don't add nitrogen and phosphorus and you continue to crop the soil, you're going to remove nitrogen and phosphorus," Moulin said. "So mining the soil in a system without replacing those plant nutrients will certainly reduce

nitrogen and phosphorus in the soil. Other systems that use fertilizer and soil test recommendations for fertilizer will maintain nitrogen and phosphorus in the soil. That said, with organic systems — if you have a system that has green manure, for example — green manure can fix nitrogen and that nitrogen will be added to the soil and certainly reduce the loss of nitrogen."

The study noted green manure helped limit both nitrate in the rooting zone and leaching, since the crop stored nitrate and used up more water that would have otherwise drawn the nutrient down.

Legumes and composted manure also helped make up for removed nitrogen, although Moulin's team warned that organic producers should be on the watch for dropping nutrients.

Environmental factors important

Farmers can play with combinations of inputs and rotations, but it might not matter in wet or dry years, Moulin and Lychuk said.

In both of those cases, environmental factors like terrain and rains took the lead.

"It has nothing to do with your inputs or crop diversity in that particular year," Lychuk said. "That's why we were looking at many years of simulations in climate change so that we can get a better signal based on average by averaging out the dry spells and wet spells in the long-term yield and N (nitrogen) and P (phosphorus) and carbon."

Despite elevation varying only 3.5 metres across the field, the Scott study found that only 56 per cent of yield variation could be explained by input or diversity in 1998, the driest year of the study and terrain featured heavily into the difference. At the wettest point in 2010, about 66 per cent could be explained by input and diversity and in 2005, when crops were following a wet year, almost all wheat yield variation was attributed to terrain.

Likewise, a "primary yield driving factor" in the study was not input or diversity, but April rain. The early precipitation was cited for 18.5 per cent of total yield variation and, when combined with June rain, accounted for more yield variation than input and diversity changes.

The researchers argued taking those environmental factors into account during long-term field trials would lead to better data analysis.

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Study finds tillage in organic systems is complex

Long-term research finds fewer large soil aggregates in organic fields, but they were surprisingly stable

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD

STAFI

onventional wisdom says less tillage is better when it comes to soil structure, but the issue is more complex when comparing organic soil health to zero till, according to researcher Alan Moulin.

Moulin's team looked at "soil aggregates," or how soil particles bind together into larger groups, under high-input conventional till, reduced-input no till, and organic production (where tillage was the main means of weed control).

The analysis was part of an 18-year study comparing different levels of input and tillage with three six-year crop rotations (a low-diversity rotation, a mix of annual crops and a rotation including both annuals and perennial forage). The team explored soil aggregation during the second of three six-year rotations.

Less tillage means a 'stronger' soil structure that's less prone to wind and water erosion, the thinking goes, and, in fact, zero-tilled plots have the highest stability.

Reduced-input plots averaged 54.4 per cent wet aggregate stability across rotations, compared to 42.6 per cent in high-input and 40.6 per cent in organic systems.

That does not mean that tilled organic soils are automatically unhealthy, said Moulin, a researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

"When you consider aggregation in organic soils, you'll often find a lower proportion of large aggregates but those aggregates are quite resistant to pressure — quite stable — and the reason that they're stable under organic agriculture, at least agriculture that we did in this particular study, is because of the tillage," he said. "The tillage dissolves or affects those aggregates that aren't very stable; they don't have a lot of cohesiveness. They disintegrate quickly."

At the same time, results showed a much higher accumulation of large aggregates at the surface in zero till, an indicator of soil health that is in line with conventional wisdom on preventing erosion.

Organic production beat out high-input systems on soil aggregate size, but still fell well behind reduced-input no till. An average 23.6 per cent of aggregates in organic soil were under five millimetres and just over 31.5 per cent of aggregates lay within the 1.3-millimetre erodible soil fraction.

In comparison, just over 21 per cent of reduced-input aggregates measured under five millimetres and only 27.9 per cent of aggregates lay under the 1.3-millimetre threshold. More tellingly, 28.7 per cent of aggregates measured between 12.7 and 38 millimetres, the most out of the three cropping systems (25.7 per cent in high input and 22.9 per cent of organics).

Between rotation systems, annual grains in reduced-input no-till plots had the highest number of large aggregates (over 12.7 millimetres) and the smallest number of fine, easily winderoded, aggregates (smaller than 1.3 millimetres) in the first five centimetres of soil, something the study attributed to both cropping diversity and the use of tillage.

Both soil carbon content and soil aggregation are among Moulin's top indicators of soil health, he said, and yet both aggregate stability and the number of large aggregates may be considered signs of healthy soil.

The report concluded, however, that reducing or eliminating tillage, along with increased cropping frequency and "appropriate combinations of fertilizer input and diversified cropping," would benefit soil.

Moulin added that the length of the study might have weighed results against organic production. There have been many changes to the industry since his study started in the mid-'90s, he said.

"The impact of organic systems may not be as dramatic as the systems that we included in this study that was started in 1994 and I think cover crops, to a certain extent, may have some significant influence on sustainability and soil health in these organic systems," he said.

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GLOBAL GIANT BUYS ALBERTA COMPANY

Global seed-testing company SGS has purchased BioVision Seed Research of Sherwood Park. BioVision, which also has additional facilities in Winnipeg and Grande Prairie, is a leading seed, grain, and soil-testing laboratory in Western Canada. Founded in 1996 and privately owned, BioVision has 20 employees and revenues of more than \$3.4 million. SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing, and certification company. It has more than 90,000 employees and operates a network of more than 2,000 offices and laboratories around the world. Its global headquarters are in Geneva. — SGS

AFA QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT MOVE

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture wants to know why the province is dissolving the Agriculture Operation Practices Act Practice Review Committee. The move would eliminate "the pool of farmers and ranchers who can be designated to hold an inquiry should there be a nuisance complaint lodged against a farming operation," said federation president Lynn Jacobson. While the committee has not been called to action in several years, his organization doesn't want to see "only government staff or non-farmers/ranchers being appointed to judge an agricultural operation," he said. — AFA

MORE NEWS

Couple's generosity sends ripples far and wide

Mark and Yanara Peters couldn't stand to see a crop go to waste — and that was the start of something magical

BY SANDI KNIGHT

ow does it feel to give away 35,000 pounds of potatoes in just under

"It was awesome ... a lot of fun," farmer Mark Peters recalled with a wide smile.

Last month, Peters and wife Yanara, who grow certified seed potatoes near Portage la Prairie, Man., brought in two potato trucks and a conveyor to a vacant lot in town and set up for their second Community Potato Give-Away.

Word about the event spread throughout the week and people were already lined up by 8:30 – a half-hour before the giveaway was slated to start. While many had driven, others walked, pushed strollers, rode bikes or scooters. As the potatoes were unloaded from the truck onto the 36-foot conveyor, folks gathered around filling bags, boxes, containers of all sizes, and even backpacks.

Volunteers worked alongside the Peters, helping load and carry the spuds as well as encouraging those who were unsure of what to do to find a place along the conveyor and help themselves. The atmosphere was light and

It didn't matter who you were, or where you came from, everyone was welcome to as many potatoes as they wanted.

"What I loved about it, is that we're not just targeting one sector of our community. We had people of all ages, all income brackets and walks of life stop by," said Mark.

Many people on fixed incomes and social assistance came up to him to express just how much this was helping them out, shake his hand and thank him. Others stopped by out of curiosity or because they knew the couple. Some didn't even need the potatoes but just thought it was a cool

For Yanara, the feeling of community was incredibly gratifying.

"Discovering how people are there for each other, like those taking potatoes for perogy fundraisers to support other needs in



Mark and Yanara Peters say a community potato giveaway has been fun and fulfilling. PHOTO: SANDI KNIGHT

our area. Or the grandmothers Getting back to basics who cook extra meals for the children in their community,' she said. "We're all the same and we all have a story.

"You had people who come back two or three times," Mark added. "But they're not coming back for themselves. They're coming back for their neighbours, their friends, their families."

Inadvertently, the event also bridged the farmer-consumer gap.

The young ones in the crowd often opened up the best conversations. "Why are the potatoes dirty?" "How come there are so many different shapes and sizes?" "Why are you giving them away?'

Many discussions ensued on food waste, what happens to produce before you find it on your store shelves, and why it feels good to give back when vou can.

The inaugural event in 2016 was a result of circumstance.

Seed potato production standards are very precise and that year, some of the Peters' crop did not meet seed specifications but was perfectly suitable for the consumer market. However, without a contract to sell consumer potatoes, there was no place for those spuds to go. They could have left them in the field and avoided incurring any more costs, but that type of waste didn't sit well with the Peters. They opted to dig the crop and the Community Potato Give-Away was born.

Being cognizant of local vegetable fundraisers in the community, they waited until those were over before proceeding. The event was a success, in more ways than the Peters could have imagined. The heartfelt gratitude and connections made were powerful and lasting.

"It was always on my heart," said Mark. "I really wanted to

do that again." However, this past summer rains eluded his area. Only the smaller of his two potato fields had access to irrigation. The potatoes in the larger field suffered under the intense summer heat, not looking healthy at all. Peters worried, unsure if he would even have enough to fill his seed contracts

Once harvest was underway, those worries slowly receded. Whether it was divine intervention or answered prayers, that field with little to no rain produced amazingly well. On the last day of harvest, Mark had a good idea of what was left in the field and didn't think it could all fit in his storage bin. The giveaway would happen.

He set up a sizer to separate the larger potatoes (less desirable for seed) as they were unloaded. One and a half truckloads were set aside for donation. Along with the Portage la Prairie event, six 2,000pound totes were filled to be delivered to remote reserves across the province. The fact that the Peters don't even mention the effort, cost and time that goes into this, speaks

Many asked if this will be an annual event. When it comes to farming, it all depends on the year and success of the crop. The Peters remember and appreciate how generous people were with them when they were young adults, so when they are in a position to give back, they definitely will.

"It's only potatoes, but it just brought so much to the community," Mark said. "It's a great opportunity to interact with people and hear their stories. The most basic need is being met with the most basic vegetable."

Success in the lamb business isn't complicated, says lamb packer

Simcoe Street Meat Packers begins with the customer and works all the way back to farmer partners

BY JOHN GREIG

Tahab Zamani's family knows what it wants in a lamb. And family members go to great lengths, partnering with sheep farmers, to get it.

The Zamani family runs Simcoe Street Meat Packers and processes lamb in Kawartha Lakes, Ont. for its retail stores in Toronto. They specialize in "truly halal products," he told the Ontario Sheep Convention as part of a panel on marketing lamb.

Zamani, an accountant who studied economics at the University of Guelph, said that working directly with farmers they know and who want to supply top product means a better product for their customers.

"We are consumer-centric," said Zamani. "We figure out what consumers want and then we do everything in our power to get them that. We go to demand and work backwards."

Their ability to supply what consumers want is aided by building strong relationships with supplying farmers.

He said their success hasn't been complicated.

"Take that really nice product that those consumers want and price it fairly and then your business grows."

However, market forces push faster and cheaper production, which has meant Zamani, like people who work in most family businesses, has had to pull out the welder and modify equipment and create new processes.

"My dad's first dozen lambs took him three hours (to process). I wonder how he stayed in business."

Zamani was asked what made an ideal lamb for him and he had a rapid-fire and detailed response, including dressing at 48 pounds, with at least a quarter-inch — but no more than an inch — of fat. The stomach will have less than 1.5 pounds of suet and the lamb



Wahab Zamani and his family run Simcoe Street Meat Packers. PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

will be leaner looking than many of the lambs he is seeing. It will be a light-pink colour and well framed. He encouraged more crossbreds.

"Straight Rideaus and straight Suffolks will not make the cut," he said.

Bill McCutcheon, a sheep farmer who also co-ordinates a lamb value chain between producers and processors, said Zamani's numbers are accurate. He said lambs should be 20 to 24 kilograms warm dressed weight with a GR measurement (a tool used to measure fat) of seven to 15 millimetres.

Zamani said he leaves the farming to the sheep experts, but he will tell them what he wants to see arriving at his plant. How they get the sheep to those specifications is up to the farmer.

For example, he appreciates receiving sheared or clean lambs to minimize potential for E. coli contamination.

"Keeping those lambs clean is very important and it starts on the farm. In order to put out a really safe product, we need clean animals," he said.

Unfortunately, the areas that are often most dirty on a lamb are also where processors need to cut into the animal, including the back and down the back legs

"My dad's first dozen lambs took him three hours. I wonder how he stayed in business."

WAHAB ZAMANI



and the area from the neck to the belly.

A producer who gets different definitions of halal from different buyers asked Zamani to define the term for her. Halal is a Muslim standard for meat production.

"The discussion could last for hours on what is halal," said Zamani. "Not all Muslims are the same. What it means to us is that the animal is treated in the most humane, respectable way possible."

Zamani has a window into their kill floor for customers to watch.

"If they don't appreciate it or

"If they don't appreciate it or like how we're doing it, they can go elsewhere," he said.

The focus for Zamani always comes back to the customer.

"The difference is that a really good lamb brings back customers and a poor lamb doesn't."

Work on the basics, expert tells lamb producers

Benchmarking, grading, and research are all needed to move the Canadian lamb sector forward

BY JOHN GREIG

Like a doctor delivering bad news to a patient, Martin Gooch gave it straight to the sheep sector: it continues to be disjointed and inefficient, and lacks benchmarks to drive change.

Like a good doctor, Gooch also delivered some optimism.

"You could double production and have room for growth and that is without expanding the current market for lamb," Martin Gooch, chief executive officer of Value Chain Management International, said in a recent presentation to the Ontario Sheep Farmers.

The organization commissioned a study by Gooch and he found more potential in lamb production than in any other Canadian ag sector.

That's not new—the potential has been there for decades but past attempts at building value-chain models haven't enjoyed great success.

Gooch said there are several foundational steps that need to be taken — and that their global competitors implemented long ago. He said the sector has the characteristics of an emerging industry, with a lack of reliable information, marketing orientation, and collective behaviour.

One problem is a lack of grading system, along with marketing to promote higher-quality lamb. This means superior producers aren't getting a premium for their efforts.

"Lamb is not rewarded according to its value," said Gooch.

Another issue is the lack of benchmarking, which is one reason why there is little understanding of the gold standards, the best ways to produce lamb, and make business decisions accordingly.

Australia has been benchmarking sheep flocks over 1,000 ewes since the 1970s,



Martin Gooch PHOTO: JOHN GREIG

while similar efforts in New Zealand date back to the 1950s, and to 1936 in the United Kingdom.

Meat quality also needs to improve, and that starts with actually measuring it, said Gooch.

"The purpose of grading is misunderstood," said Gooch. "The grading purpose is to provide objective feedback to producers on the value of lamb and how their operations are performing.

It can help to create common language that applies from farm to farm, and rewards producers who create good value and penalizes those who don't.

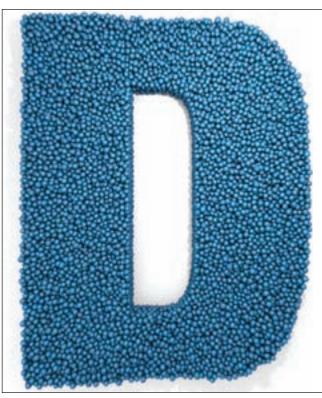
The industry also needs to improve its research and engagement. The sheep industry supports much lower levels of research than other ag sectors, said Gooch.

But through all the inability to fill the Ontario market, shepherds are still getting strong prices for lamb — a disconnect from the global market where lamb is priced lower.

However, that also means suppliers around the world are looking at the Canadian market.

An international marketing group set up a bridgehead in Toronto to figure out how they can get more of their lamb into the Ontario and Canadian market, said Gooch.

"Your market is so good, international competitors are purposely targeting your market," he said. "You have other people stealing your breakfast."





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ou can now report suspicious hunting or fishing activity online.

Until now, the only way to report poaching activity, dangerous wildlife or public land abuse was to phone the Report A Poacher hotline. There is now a Report A Poacher website (go to www.alberta.ca and search for 'poacher') to fill out a form and submit it online. The report goes to fish and wildlife officers so they can follow up and inves-

The more public support we receive through the Report A Poacher program, the more effective we can be in combating fish and wildlife crime and public land violations," said Sgt. Major Adrian Marr of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch.

"Officers cannot be everywhere

at once, and we must rely on the public for their tips so that poachers can be brought to justice."

"It's important that we give people more options to report suspicious or illegal activity," added Ken Kranrod, vice-president of the Alberta Conservation Association. "The message is clear: Hunt and fish responsibly, and don't be a poacher."

Emergencies and incidents that need immediate attention should still be reported through the 24-hour Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. Phoning is still the fastest way to reach an officer, while the new website can be used to report issues that are less urgent. People reporting through either the phone or the web can remain anonymous and could be eligible for a reward, which ranges from \$100 to \$1,000.

Although not required, providing your contact information is helpful as the investigating officer may have followup questions.

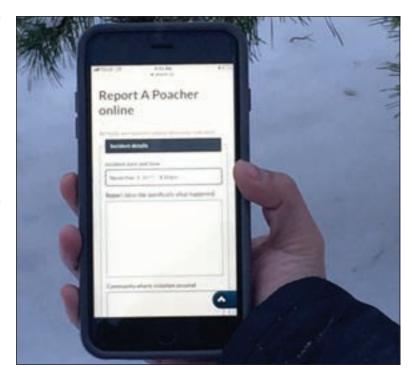
"It's important that we give people more options to report suspicious or illegal activity."

KEN KRANROD VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ALBERTA CONSERVATION

Any personal information provided is kept confidential.

In 2016-17, there were 14,894 calls to the Report A Poacher toll-free hotline. Of those, 3,097 were about suspected illegal activity, with \$108,600 in rewards paid to individuals whose calls and information led to charges.

In total, there were 9,133 enforcement actions — both charges and written warnings issued by fish and wildlife officers.



Using your smartphone is now an option for reporting poaching or SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS. PHOTO: GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Feds announce tax support for farmers

Measures will assist those hit by bovine TB outbreak and in areas affected by drought

STAFF

Alberta and Saskatchewan cattle producers affected by bovine TB outbreak in 2016 and this year will receive additional tax relief.

Farmers who received compensation under the Health of Animals Act from livestock destroyed due to the bovine tuberculosis outbreak in 2016 and 2017 in Alberta and Saskatchewan are eligible for livestock tax deferral provisions. These allow them to defer a portion of their 2017 sale proceeds of breeding livestock until 2018 to help replenish the herd. The cost of replacing the animals in 2018 will offset the deferred income, thereby reducing the tax burden associated with the original sale.

Eligibility for the tax deferral is limited to those producers located inside the designated prescribed areas. Producers can request the tax deferral when filing their 2017 income tax returns.

The federal government also released its 2017 list of designated regions for livestock tax deferral in Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan and Quebec affected by drought, flood or excess moisture. In Alberta, those regions are the counties of Cardston, Clearwater, Cypress, Forty Mile, Lacombe, Kneehill, Lethbridge, Mountain View, Newell, Paintearth, Red Deer, Rocky View, Starland, Stettler, Vulcan, Warner, and Wheatland. It also includes Special Areas No. 2, 3, 4; the city of Calgary, and the municipal districts of Bighorn, Foothills, Pincher Creek, Ranchland, Taber, and Willow Creek.

For more information, go to www.agr.gc.ca and search for 'livestock tax provision.'



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CARTS

COVER CROP SEEDERS

Cattle traceability to pay off in Cargill pilot

Company to test 'birth to burger' auditing, reward participating producers with a 'modest' financial credit



STAFF

argill's Canadian arm says it wants to offer consumers an audited "birth to burger" trail for the beef they buy. And it hopes it will put more money in the pockets of cattle producers.

The year-long Canadian Beef Sustainability Acceleration pilot will both "incorporate and explore" assorted new technologies, to "determine their longterm value," the company said. Those technologies include DNA testing and blockchain (an internet database tool considered to be well suited for secure food traceability).

"Ultimately, the intention is to create a process that is robust while still being practical, scalable, and cost effective," the company said in a release.

Beef customers taking part in the pilot so far include Loblaw. McDonald's Canada, and Cara Operations' Swiss Chalet chain.

Cargill said its pilot will build on learnings from McDonald's beef sustainability program, in which almost 9,000 cattle were tracked last year down the length of the supply chain.

The new pilot is also designed to provide a first-ever test for the standards and guidance developed by the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, of which Cargill is a founding member.

Cattle will be tracked via the BIXS (Beef Info-Exchange System) from the time they are given an RFID tag right through to processing at Cargill's High River slaughter plant. VBP+ (Verified Beef Production Plus) will be the first certification body used to audit cattle producers who choose to participate.

Producers may receive "a financial credit" to partly offset costs of becoming VBP+ certified according to the CRSB framework, Cargill said in an email.

The company said it's too early to say what the value of such a credit, but it will be "modest" and depend on how many cattle go through the "fully certified" supply chain — that is, from a certified cow-calf operation to a certified feedlot to a certified packer such as the High River plant.

"This will increase the volume of beef from certified sustainable sources available to those customers who are funding the pilot, which thereby will increase the credits that are available for distribution back to the supply chain."



"This will increase the volume of beef from certified sustainable sources available to those customers who are funding the pilot, which thereby will increase the credits that are available for distribution back to the supply

chain," Cargill said. The company is open to incorporating "any technology that could potentially make this process better," said Gurneesh Bhandal, Cargill's beef sustainability manager.

The sustainability pilot "will help create the infrastructure needed to implement (CRSB)'s standard in our supply chain,' she added.

Consumer research done by her company has found "a thirst for this type of information."

"Ever-more frequently, our retail and restaurant customers ask us questions about where Canadian beef comes from and how the cattle are raised," Bhan-

Even though its retail, dining and food-service customers can't yet make any "consumerfacing claims," they are willing to fund the pilot and "kick-start this effort," Cargill said in its news release.

Canadian Food & **Drink Summit 2017**

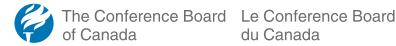
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du Canada



No kidding around – goat expert offers breeding advice

Have some very good fencing, a pregnant-looking animal often isn't, and have a chat with your vet

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN

Proveryone wants their goats to kid, but there are a few things they can do to ensure that breeding is done well, says a leading North American goat expert.

"A female goat likes a choice," Mary Smith said at the recent Alberta Goat Breeders Association conference. "Does do have preferences in which bucks they will want to breed."

Veterinarians should do breeding soundness exams, get a semen sample, and observe the buck in action, she said.

"If he's got the semen, but doesn't know where to put it, it doesn't help a lot," said Smith. Attendees were given indepth breeding advice from the professor at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, including how to measure and evaluate testicles. Turns out the male reproductive glands change in size over the course of the year (they're biggest in October and smallest in February) and you want to ensure there are two (having one testicle is a hereditary trait).

Smith also had pointers for determining whether a doe is in heat — this can include using a hermaphrodite goat or rubbing the buck's horns where the scent glands are and putting the rag in a jar (any doe in heat will be very interested in the rag).

Keeping bucks and nanny goats in adjacent pens isn't a good idea unless you have



"Get the bucks away from the does by three months."

MARY SMITH

97)

a very robust fence as bucks are very determined when females are in heat.

"Get the bucks away from the does by three months," said Smith, noting females are generally fertile at five months — something that often surprises owners of pet goats.

On the other hand, a seem-

ingly pregnant goat may not actually be with kid.

"Pet goats and goats that are not allowed to get bred when they come into heat commonly get a false pregnancy," said Smith. "With a false pregnancy, progesterone is elevated and the goat thinks it is pregnant." Fluid will accumulate in the uterus, and the animal will look pregnant, but an ultrasound or blood test will determine the true state of affairs.

Vaccination protocols for pregnancy are very regional and producers should seek veterinary advice on what to vaccinate for.

"You should suspect an infectious abortion if more than two per cent of your goats abort," said Smith.

There are many infectious causes of abortions in goats, including Q-fever, listeria, and Cache Valley virus. All of these diseases are zoonotic, and can be passed to humans so producers should take proper precautions and use gloves and even a face mask if appropriate.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

Student finds way to slash costs for ethanol production

STAFF

A University of Saskatchewan PhD chemistry student has devised a new and more energy efficient way to separate water from ethanol.

Leila Dehabadi is using starchbased materials such as corn, and can extract the water without using additional energy to isolate the ethanol, which could reduce the cost of biofuels.

"Compared to distillation, this new approach based on green chemistry and engineering will be a significant saving to biofuel and alcohol production in Saskatchewan and globally by changing the way water is separated from ethanol mixtures," said Lee Wilson, U of S chemistry professor and Dehabadi's supervisor.

In traditional distillation methods, fermented plants create a mixture of water and ethanol which is then heated to separate out the ethanol. However, some water remains, Dehabadi said

She solved this problem by using non-toxic starch-based materials that do not require energy to remove water. Her results show the new technology is 40 times more effective than materials previously studied and achieves an efficiency comparable to traditional distillation.

Dehabadi has modified different types of starch (corn) and cellulose (plants) to create materials with varying chemical compositions and textural properties.

During trials, she found that her materials act like "selective sponges," and remove water better than cellulose-based ones.

When immersed in a mixture of water and ethanol, her new materials suck up 80 times more water than ethanol.

"You can repeat the process in a 'loop' to get more ethanol," said Wilson.



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DONKEY TALK



Two donkeys, Raven and Danielle, enjoy a chit-chat on Burro Alley Ranch, near Millarville. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

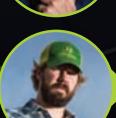


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U.S. lawmakers seek 'well-rounded biofuels policies'

The group says the existing policy has failed to meet its own goals

BY EMILY FLITTER

A bipartisan group in the U.S. House of Representatives has called on the Environmental Protection Agency to recognize "the significant pitfalls and costs" of renewable fuel standards in its future rule making and enact "well-rounded" biofuel policies.

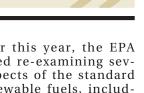
"We look forward to working with you to put forth wellrounded biofuels policies that reflect market realities and benefit American families and businesses," the 64 lawmakers wrote to EPA administrator Scott Pruitt in a letter earlier this month.

The letter says the renewable fuel standard (RFS) had not accomplished any goals it was purportedly designed to meet, like protecting the environment and revitalizing rural America.

"By diverting more than 35 per cent of the annual corn harvest to fuel additive, the RFS has raised the cost of livestock production, increased food price volatility and insecurity, decreased fuel efficiency, damaged smallengine equipment, hurt the environment, and chipped away at household budgets," the letter said.

"By diverting more than 35 per cent of the annual corn harvest to fuel additive, the RFS has raised the cost of livestock production, increased food price volatility and insecurity, decreased fuel efficiency, damaged smallengine equipment, hurt the environment and chipped away at household budgets."

LAWMAKER LETTER TO U.S. EPA



Earlier this year, the EPA proposed re-examining several aspects of the standard for renewable fuels, including whether refiners should be responsible for blending them and whether ethanol exports could be included in a marketplace for renewable fuel credits. But the agency announced last month that it would abandon those efforts after protests from Midwestern lawmakers.

"President Trump pledged to support biofuels during his campaign," Republican U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa said in a statement. "A strong RFS is consistent with that pledge, and President Trump should be applauded for keeping his word to the country."

A Renewable Fuels Association spokeswoman said biofuels "bring about consumer choice by breaking Big Oil's monopoly at the pump."

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TRACTOR	
2012 NH T4040, 952 hrs	\$49,500
2011 NH T7.260, 5387 hrs	
2013 MF 8670, 2535	
2009 Challenger MT765C, 2735 hrs	\$165,000
2003 JD 9420, 5229 hrs	
2007 NH TJ530, 3355 hrs	
2015 NH T9.480HD, 1415 hrs	\$365,000
COMBINE HEADERS	
2013 Michel's ProTech	\$3,300
1994 JD 925F	\$6,500
1994 JD 925F	\$7,500
2004 NH 76C	\$10,000
1998 MacDon 960	\$14,500
2004 JD 630R	\$17,500
2001 HB SP30	\$19,000
2000 HB SP36, 36', cat adaptor	
2005 JD 630F	\$21,000
2004 JD 630R	. ,
2009 JD 635F	
2003 NH 94C, 25' CR/CX	
2007 HB SP36	
2009 NH 72C	
2017 MacDon CA25, CR/CX Adapter	
2003 NH 94C	\$29,000
2008 NH 74C	\$29,000
1999 HB SP36	\$29,000
2000 JD 930D	
2009 JD 635F	, ,
2007 JD 930D	
2009 NH 94C	
2011 NH 94C	
2009 JD 635D	,
2012 NH 94C	\$47,500

	+ ,
2010 MacDon D60S, JD, S & 70 Series Adapter	\$52,000
2011 NH 94C-36	\$52,500
2012 NH 760CG	\$53,500
2011 MacDon D60, JD, S & 70 Series Adapter	\$55,000
2013 NH 760CG	\$59,000
2011 JD 630D	\$62,000
2013 HB SP30	\$67,500
2013 NH 880CF	
2014 Macdon FD75-40, JD, S & 70 Series Adapter	\$87,500
2013 Macdon FD75-35	\$87,000
2015 MacDon FD75-35	\$91,000
2015 MacDon FD75-35	
2014 MacDon FD75-40	
2016 MacDon FD75-35	\$97,500
2017 MacDon FD75-35	
2017 MacDon FD75-35	\$99,000
2017 MacDon FD75-35	\$99,000
COMBINE	
1998 Case IH 2388, 3932/2936 hrs	\$42,000
1994 JD 9600, 3485/2630 hrs	\$55,000
2011 JD T670, 2244/1565 hrs	. \$210,000
2011 JD T670, 2125/1473 hrs	\$210,000
2005 NH CR970, 2200/1700? hrs	\$115,000
2011 NH CR9070, 1091/893 hrs	. \$245,000
2012 NH CR9090, 800/651 hrs	
2011 NH CR9080, 1267/834 hrs	. \$285,000
2013 NH CR9090, 1050/837 hrs	
2013 NH CR9090Z, 1130/840 hrs	. \$359,000
2014 NH CR8090, 974/680 hrs	
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$???
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs2016 NH CR8.90, 394/288 hrs	\$??? \$479,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$479,000 \$505,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$??? \$479,000 \$505,000 \$515,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$??? \$479,000 \$505,000 \$515,000 \$110,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$??? \$479,000 \$505,000 \$515,000 \$110,000
2016 NH CR8.90, 714/560 hrs	\$7?? \$479,000 \$505,000 \$515,000 \$110,000 \$169,000

2013 NH CX8080, 744/596 hrs	\$315,000
2015 NH CX8080, 660/511 hrs	\$369,000
2015 NH CX8080, 654/508 hrs	\$369,000
2016 NH CX8.80, 396/316 hrs	\$419,000
HAYING EQUIPMENT	
2004 NH BR780	\$10,500
2003 CIH RBX562	\$11,500
2002 Hesston 8020	\$11,500
2011 NH BR7090	\$22,000
2004 Hesston 956	\$20,000
2012 NH H7150	\$17,000
2013 NH HS16	\$18,000
2011 CIH DC132	\$37,500
2014 NH H7450	
2013 NH Roll-Belt 560, 9834 Bales	\$51,000
2015 NH DB313R	\$46,000
2014 NH DB316R, 500 hrs	
2013 NH H8040, 750 hrs, 16', SP Haybine	\$99,000
SEEDING EQUIPMENT	
1993 JD 787, 170 Bushel, TBH	\$4,000
200 NH P1050, 380 Bushel, TBH	\$45,000
2009 NH P1060, 430 Bushel, TBH	\$52,500
2009 NH P1060, 430 Bushel, TBH	
2006 NH SD440A/SC430, 51'x10" with 430 Tank	
2011 NH P2060, 70'x10"	
2004/2013 NH SD440A/P1060, 58'x9" w/ 430 Ta	
2012 NH P2060/P1060, 60'x10" with 430 Tank	\$145,000
2009 NH P2060/P1060/P1060, 70x10 w/2-430 T	anks \$175,000
2010 JD 1870/1910, 56'x12"	
2015/2013 NH P2050/P1070, 57x10	
2011 SeedHawk 6510/600TBT	
2012 SeedHawk 6612/600TBT	
2014 John Deere 1870/1910, 56'x12"	
2016 SeedHawk/NH 7012/P4760 8,300 hrs	\$440,000

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U.S. grain handlers cut costs while talking up signs of recovery

Four years of large harvests have weighed in on prices, but the largest grain handlers see some hope

BY TOM POLANSEK AND KARL PLUME

S. grain handlers are making further cuts to operating costs even as they point to signs that a bruising slump driven by a global food commodities glut may be nearing a bottom

Bunge, Archer Daniels Midland, and Andersons have all said conditions appear to be getting better for grains processing and handling, after four years of massive harvests reduced price volatility and clipped margins.

Bunge plans to reduce 2018 capital spending by at least seven per cent to about \$650 million, and ADM says it will decrease outlays by about 20 per cent to \$800 million. ADM has also cut

jobs to become more competitive and said it would shift funds to value-added businesses from its grain-buying and oilseed-crushing operations.

"I'm optimistic that we are, if not at the bottom, very close to it," Bunge chief executive Soren Schroder said on a conference this month after the company posted a 28 per cent decline in quarterly income on flat revenue.

Schröder has made similar comments before, leaving some analysts skeptical of his rosy outlook

"Record harvests that continue to happen year after year do pose a difficult trading environment for Bunge and ADM, and I don't see a sign of that letting up," Morningstar analyst Seth Goldstein said.

Bunge's South American business soured in 2017 because the

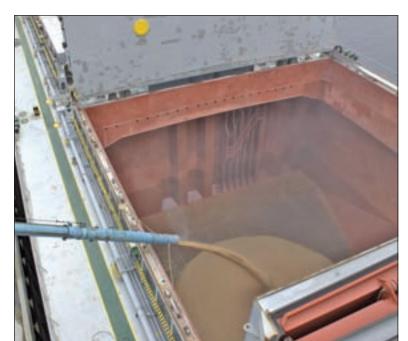
company pre-booked transportation for a rich harvest and farmers opted to withhold soybeans due to low prices.

As a result, next year Bunge will not guess as much on when farmers will sell, according to the company. Market conditions should also benefit from a decline of wheat supplies, it added.

Global inventories of corn and soybeans are expected to tighten too, said ADM's CEO Juan Luciano.

"We're starting to see the possible green shoots of recovery in certain areas," he said after ADM's quarterly earnings tumbled 44 per cent from a year earlier.

But ADM's cost cutting and shifting of funds show its executives are not assuming a robust recovery, according to Farha Aslam, analyst for financial services firm Stephens.



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Forget rice, dish up Aztec pigweed

From Aztec pigweed to dragon beans — several ancient, often forgotten foods are making their way to the dinner table in an effort to diversify the diet of a growing global population.

In an initiative to cut the world's dependency on major crops like wheat and rice — Britain's Prince Charles has launched the Forgotten Foods Network to rediscover long-lost crops, fruit and vegetables.

As rising temperatures wreak havoc on farmers worldwide, scientists are seeking new ways to feed a population that is set to boom to an estimated 9.8 billion by 2050.

Ancient food like pigweed once eaten by the Aztecs can be eaten raw or be ground into flour — one of many crops that could add valuable nutrients to a limited modern diet, say experts.

"We must move beyond the 'business as usual' approach of relying on monocultures of major, well-known crops, and invest in agricultural diversity," Charles said in a video message.

The initiative was developed by Crops For the Future, a Malaysian organization doing crop research. — Thompson Reuters Foundation



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HEARTLAND

Community news and events from across the province

Youth summit gives young Albertans a global view of agriculture

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN

A fter attending a global summit for young ag leaders, Cameron Olson is even more excited about agriculture and its possibilities.

Talking to some of the other 100 youth delegates from 49 countries at the four-day Youth Ag-Summit in Belgium last month was an eye-opening and energizing experience, said the 24-year-old from Rocky View.

"There were opinions expressed that I'd never thought of before, and ways of looking at things that just aren't part of our way of doing things in Canada," said Olson.

"For the duration of four days, we were basically talking about food security and providing food."

The Bayer-sponsored conference challenges young people to develop ideas to establish food security in an environmentally sustainable way for a world that gains nearly a quarter of a million people every day.

The attendees were divided into groups of 10, with Olson's group given the topic of how to retain youth in agriculture. It is, he learned, an issue in both developing nations and the First World—and for much the same reasons.

"If they grew up on a farm, they want to go into the city and find a higher-paying job that is maybe a little bit easier," he said. "If they were born in the city, they aren't exposed to agriculture very often."

However, this problem is especially challenging for poorer

"When somebody leaves a farm in a developing country to go to the city, that impact is a lot more



Cameron Olson brought the view from his family's ranch in southern Alberta to an international youth summit in Belgium last month. $\,\,$ PHOTO: SUPPLIED

dire in a developing country. You can kind of absorb that in Canada, but you can't absorb that kind of loss in developing countries."

Olson's group—which included young people from Thailand, Germany, Guatemala, Uganda, and Belgium—focused on three areas: How to attract young people to agriculture, how to educate them about the sector, and how to encourage them to enter either primary agriculture, or a support industry.

Their solution was both innovative and very practical: Take shipping containers and equip them with everything a small group would need for agricultural output — such as a nursery for plants, a produce-cleaning station, or a place to store herbicides and pesticides. The animal agriculture version was geared towards chickens or goats, such as an egg-cleaning station or a small processing facility.

"If you had a small milk parlour

or milk-processing parlour as well, you could give them the infrastructure they need to attract kids to agriculture or convince them to stay in agriculture," said Olson.

Their project didn't take top honours — that went to a team that included a Canadian from Halifax that focused on gender equality. (Their solution included a website to help Kenyan women get involved in agriculture and the group will receive funding to make that a reality.)

But the goal is to get up-andcoming young leaders thinking about global issues in a big-picture way. Olson said he learned a lot from chatting with other participants, and one of his takeaways was on the need to listen to consumers.

"In order for us to continue to be a sector that is profitable, we have to listen to the concerns of domestic consumers and international consumers," said Olson, whose family raises Limousin cattle and who was active in both 4-H and the Canadian Junior Limousin Association.

While the conference was mostly dominated by crops, Olson did a 60-second interview onstage to tell the attendees about the importance of livestock.

"I did everything I could to make sure it was not forgotten that cattle, chickens, and pork are part of the solution as well," he said.

Olson has a bachelor degree and master's degree in animal science and is currently doing beef cattle research during an internship with Feedlot Health Management Services in Okotoks. In January, he will begin his PhD studies at the University of Alberta.

akienlen@fbcpublishing.com

what's **UP**

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

Nov. 20-21: Ag Drone School, Taber Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Taber. Contact: Markus Weber 780-448-7445

Nov. 21: Alberta Barley, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat regional meetings, Pomeroy Hotel, Grande Prairie. (Also Nov. 22 in Westlock, and Nov. 23 in Viking.) Contact: Barley, pulse growers, and wheat commissions

Nov. 21: Advice From AgInform Professionals (tax, insurance, and safety sessions), Seven Persons Hall, Seven Persons (also Nov. 28 in Brooks, Jan. 16 in Bassano, Jan. 30 in Foremost, and Feb. 6 in Acadia Valley). Contact: Janet Adams 403-527-

Nov. 21: Clubroot Info Session, Lac Ste. Anne Council Chambers, Lac Ste. Anne. (Also Nov. 28 in Leduc County.) Contact: Stacy Berry 780-785-3411

Nov. 21: Powering Your Profits, Dunvegan Inn, Fairview and Coast Hotel & Conference Centre, Lethbridge. (Also Nov. 22 in Falher and Medicine Hat, and Nov. 23 in Strathmore and Grande Prairie.) Contact: Alberta Canola Producers 780-454-0844

Nov. 21: Meat Goat Seminar, Stettler Agri-Plex Pavillion, Stettler. Contact: Battle River Research Group 780-582-7308

Nov. 21-23: Alberta Milk Dairy Conference and AGM, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton. Contact: Alberta Milk 780-453-5942

Nov. 24: Agriculture Education Teachers' Symposium, Cochrane RancheHouse, Cochrane. Contact: Ag for Life 403-481-3632

Nov. 27: EnVigour HX Information Session, Lakeland College, Vermilion. (Also Nov. 28 in Rocky Mountain House and Nov. 29 in Claresholm.) Contact: Delta Genomics 780-492-2538

Nov. 28: Agriculture 101: Trends, Tips and Tidbits (various topics), Community Hall, Blue Ridge. Contact: Dawn Fortin, 780-584-3866

Nov. 29: Beavers in Our Landscape, Summerdale Hall, Barrhead. Contact: Lisa Card, 780-674-8069

Nov. 29: Clubroot Info Meeting, Islay Hall, Islay. Contact: Cathie Erichsen Arychuk, 780-846-3301

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

Eighteen good causes championed by farmers receive grants

MONSANTO FUND RELEASE

hanks to the support of Canadian farmers, 66 rural-based charities and non-profits — including 18 in Alberta — have received a \$2,500 grant from the Canada's Farmers Grow Communities program.

The six-year-old program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, gives grants to schools, libraries, historical societies, health and recreational facilities, rural daycares, senior clubs, 4-H groups, food banks, and other community organizations. To be eligible, the organization must be supported by a local farmer.

One of the Alberta recipients

is the Bay Tree Community Park Association, which will put its grant toward upgrading the local park and playground facility.

"I am a young senior and I can tell you that as a child I played on the equipment that is currently in the park," said local resident Lurind Jeaneaux. "That's a long time to go without any upgrades, so we are thrilled to receive this boost to our fundraising efforts."

That project was supported by Bay Tree-area farmer Garth Thompson.

"A gift of \$2,500 doesn't seem like a lot, but from talking to some of the farmers and the charities themselves it can make a huge difference in their communities," said Trish Jordan, public and industry affairs director at Monsanto Canada.

Other Alberta recipients (and the farmer(s) who supported them) were WINGS of Providence Society (William Heidecker, Calgary), Nose Creek Valley Museum Society (Terrie and Scott Copley, Crossfield), Ponoka & District Health Foundation (Dorothy Ungstad, Ponoka), Stettler Regional Child Care Society (Heather Rowland, Big Valley), Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society (Nathan Strilchuk), Leduc & District Emergency Shelter (Gordon Schneider, Beaver County), La Glace People Deterrent Citizens on Patrol (Nancy Schlauwitz, La Glace), Medi

ine Hat Youth Action Society (Nichole Neubauer, Medicine Hat), Wrentham Fire & Rescue Foundation (Kim Owen, Wren-

tham), Smoky River Palliative Care Society (Jules Aubin, Guy), Société Centre Communautaire De St. Isidore (Alain Lavoie, St. Isidore), Alix Agricultural Society (Carolyn Barritt, Alix), Trochu Playschool (Ernest Gelinas, Trochu), Community Association for Lasting Success (Wesley Antonchuk, Vegreville), Holden Agricultural Society (Maury Micklich, Holden), Friends of the Innisfree Library Society (Randy and Susan Cannon, Innisfree), and the Mannville Historical Society (Jim and Eileen Kitt, Mannville).

The 2018 edition of the program will be open for submissions in February at www. canadasfarmers.ca. Farmers can submit an application for a charity in their area until the end of September.

ALBERTAFARMEXPRESS.CA • NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Alberta speakers wow them with their words

CYSA RELEASE

ois Schultz of Wetaskiwin took top honours in the senior division of the 2017 Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture nationals earlier this month while Quentin Albrecht of Holden was first runner-up in the junior category.

Schultz was 4-H Alberta's representative at the event, which takes place at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The 33rd edition of the speaking contest featured 27 competitors, aged 11 to 24, from across Canada. Chancey Lane of Claresholm also competed in the event.

"This is another exciting year for the competition for two reasons: this is the first time we've had so many juniors participating and it marks another year where participants from all 10 of Canada's provinces are competing," said Ted Young, chair of the CYSA board. "We are so pleased to have all these young people from across our nation come to tell their story about Canadian agriculture."

The organization also announced the topics for the 2018 competition. They are:

- My view on diversity in Canadian agriculture.
- Canadian agriculture needs more people and this is how we're going to get them.

"This is another exciting year for the competition for two reasons: this is the first time we've had so many juniors participating and it marks another year where participants from all 10 of Canada's provinces are competing."



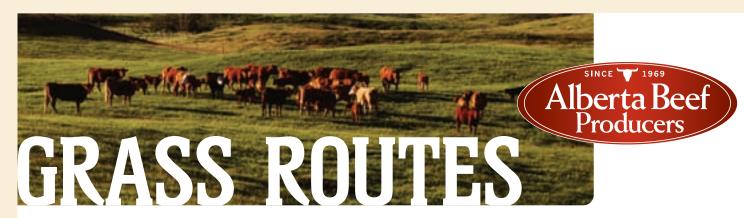
- What is sustainability and why does it matter to Canadian agriculture?
- The next big thing in Canadian agriculture is: _____.
- How can we educate urban populations about where our food comes from and the industry standards involved? For more information, go to www.cysa-joca.ca.

GETTING SOME SUPPER IS GETTING HARDER



A coyote in a field near Millarville, pauses to look back, during its search for small rodents scurrying about beneath the snow. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

HEARTLAND Marketplace



NOVEMBER UPDATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION 165, 6815 – 8 Street NE Calgary, AB Canada T2E 7H7 tel 403.275.4400 fax 403.274.0007 albertabeef.org AllfortheBeef.ca

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS FALL MEETINGS AND DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

Another successful round of Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) Fall Producer Meetings concluded November 6. Twenty-five meetings were held in nine zones across the province with over 900 attendees. Directors in each zone opened the meetings with an engagement session to encourage conversation among producers. Issues varied across the province this year with discussions around drought and wildfires, federal tax changes, Alberta's grazing lease framework and industry funding.

"Good discussions around issues impacting the industry took place during this important time of year when we hear from grassroots producers about concerns, and receive direction for the organization," said Rich Smith, Executive Director.

There were three delegate elections in Zones 5, 8 and 9 during the meetings and the official ballot counting took place November 10. The remaining six zones elected delegates by acclamation with vacancies in Zones 1, 3 and 7.

"We are a producer organization and our greatest strength is the contribution of grassroots producers who become delegates and directors for the organization. Elections are a fundamental element of a democratic organization. We encourage producers to get involved and fill the positions we still have available. We look forward to the fresh input new representatives offer the industry and ABP," said Smith.

ABP represents the collective interests of Alberta's beef cattle producers and is a proud reflection of the industry. Run by producers for producers, ABP is dedicated to enhancing the image of the beef industry, engaging consumers, driving the sale of Alberta Beef, and maintaining a truly sustainable, competitive industry for the benefit of all Albertans.

A full list of delegates can be found on our website at albertabeef.org.

You can sign up for our weekly news updates online at albertabeef.org/page/news/ or by contacting katelynl@ albertabeef.org. We're on Twitter @AlbertaBeef and Facebook @ABBeefProducers. Our accounts engage people sharing information about the industry and their love for Alberta Beef. #AllfortheBeef

ABP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DEC 4-6

Producers, media, industry and all interested people are welcome to attend this year's Alberta Beef Producers Annual General Meeting on December 4-6 in Calgary at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. The three-day session is two half days and one full day that features speakers, industry updates and resolutions debate. Elections will take place for various council, director, chair and executive positions. The 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award will be presented at the Tuesday evening banquet, along with a salute to our outgoing chair, Bob Lowe. For more information and registration go to albertabeef.org. T

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- Alberta Farmer Express, while assuming no responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns, exercises the greatest care in
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL Business Meeting and Convention of the ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN CUSTOM HARVESTERS will CANADIAN COSTON HARVESTERS WILL be held at Coast Lethbridge Hotel and Conference Centre, Lethbridge, AB, from November 28, 2017 to December 1, 2017. All farmers or custom operators are encouraged to attend to discuss information sections to all persent of custom week. pertaining to all aspects of custom work Any information required please contact Lynn Prevost, executive Officer for the Association, 306-322-8200 or 306-322-7901.

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NEW AND USED GENERATORS: 500KW Caterpillar, Perkins, Cummins, Magnum -In stock. Call 250-554-661, Kamloops, BC. Email: denis@bcdieselgenerators.com www.bcdieselgenerators.com

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WWW.NOUTILITYBILLS.COM - Indoor & outdoor - coal, grain, multi-fuel, gas, oil, pellet, propane and wood fired boilers, cook stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, heaters and stoves. Athabasca, AB, 780-628-4835.

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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, cement and plastic lined, \$25. Call 306-861-1280, Weyburn, SK.

DRILL STEM for sale: 200 3-1/2", \$45/ea; 300 2-7/8", \$40/ea. Call 306-768-8555, Carrot River, SK.

CHAINLINK FENCE PANELS, 6x13, fair condition, \$60.403-265-7337, Calgary, AB.

mary@onsitefence.ca

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HARMONY NATURAL BISON buying feeder, finished and cull bison. Call or text 306-736-3454, SE Sask.

QUILL CREEK BISON is looking for finished, and all other types of bison. COD, paying market prices. "Producers working with Producers" Political points in SV and with Producers." Delivery points in SK. and MB. Call 306-231-9110, Quill Lake, SK.

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60 PLAINS BISON CALVES for sale by Tender. Sale will also include 2 yearlings. Free range and grass fed. Please submit tender bids by November 4, 2017. Email to: kylie.garchinski@natureconservancy.ca or phone 306-551-3425, Claydon, SK.

AUCTIONS SALES



BRED SALES

TUESDAY NOV 21 - 200 Head

TUESDAY NOV 28 - 100 Head MONDAY DEC 4 - 400 Head

Six Mile & Customer

400 Red & Black Angus Influence Fancy THURSDAY DEC 7 - 500 Head

Feature: Denis & Arlene Unvoas Dispersal 140 Sim Angus Cross Cows Closed herd, no brands, special rare

opportunity includes 5 herd bulls which were sale toppers when bought.

Maurice Bartzen Dispersal 50 Char Cross Cows. Bred Char. 10 Hfrs, bred easy calving Red Char. July 1st turnout.

Carla Miller Dispersal 60 Char Cross Cows, Bred Char. John & Ruth Magee Purehred **Red Angus Production Sale,** 50 head includes 20 bred hfrs and all the X and Y year cows bull turn out July 22. Sold in groups for commercial

people but papers available. **Darwin Dueck & Marcy Thoresen** Dispersal

16 young Black & Red Cows Colin & Dodie Greenwald 30 home raised powerful black brockle hfrs. No brands. Turn out June 15.

Wittman Farm 30 Black Hfrs - Turn out June 1st. **Wayne Flaherty**

U Red 3-4 yr old cows. **MONDAY DEC 11** 13th Annual Rock Solid Bred Hfr Sale

550 head Canada's Finest *New Location at Bircham Ranch THURSDAY DEC 14 - 600 Head

Tom Graham Production Sale

80 Black Hfrs Steve Gillis - 100 Black Hfrs Gary Chamberlan -120 Red Cow Dispersal Peak Dot Ranch - 35 Cows **Trevor Platt Reduction -**40 Black Cows

Bill McKeriack - 10 Black Hfrs, 20 Tan Hfrs, Bred Red Angus June 15th THURSDAY DEC. 21 - 600 Head

Feature: Norman Amthor (Poverty Valley

Farms) Dispersal 150 Black Cows & 5 Rising 3 yr. Old Herd bulls Lawrence & Kathryn Olson Dispersal

200 Fancy Black Cows + 2 herd Bulls Todd Dunham 40 home raised red hfrs - 1200 lbs.

Turn out June 10. Pulled Aug. 15.

Donnie 306-662-8288 Lee 306-741-5701

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BELDON BISON RANCH is offering 30 Select bred 2 y/o heifers. Call Nathan for more information. 306-812-7092, Nipawin, SK. beldonbisonranch@gmail.com

CATTLE

BLACK ANGUS

RIVERBEND DISPERSAL SALE on Friday December 15th, 2:00 at Innisfail Auction Mart, Innisfail, AB. Offering over 200 PB Angus consisting of: 70 cow/calf pairs, 37 bred heifers, 37 bred cows, 14 long yearling bulls and 25 commercial bred females. Contacts: John McBride 403-505-6607, Bud McBride 403-304-2762 or Mark Holowaychuk OBI 403-896-4990. View online catalogue at: www.cattlemanagement.ca www.cattlemanagement.ca catalogue at: www.cattlem On-line bidding: www.dlms.ca

CROOKED CREEK ANGUS Production Sale, Tuesday December 19th, 1:00PM at Innisfail Auction Mart, Innisfail, AB. Guest consignor K & L Angus, Linda Weins. Offering: 40 top end bred heifers, 20 bred cows, 15 yearling bulls, 15 Red Angus bred cows, 10 Red Angus bull calves. Contact: Rick & Sharon Gabert 780-998-1963, Valentina Gabert 780-916-7218, Linda Weins 780-678-6547 or Mark Holowaychuk OBI 403-896-4990. View online catalogue at: www.cattlemanagement.ca On-line bidding at: www.dlms.ca CROOKED CREEK ANGUS Production ding at: www.dlms.ca

ROYAL ANGUS COMPLETE DISPERSAL Saturday December 16th, 1 PM at SLS, Saskatoon, SK. Selling over 100 head of proven Angus genetics, cow/calf pairs, bred heifers plus bull calves and herd blus Calving ease with performance, For more information or a catalogue contact T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006 or Mel Sisson at 306-852-9047. View the catalogue online at: www.buyagro.com Watch and bid online at: www.dlms.ca PL# 116061

JOHNSON LIVESTOCK FEMALE SALE, Tuesday December 12th, 1:00PM at the ranch near Peebles, SK. This sale features 350 head, which includes 100 bred heifers, cow/calf pairs & bred cows. Mostly AI sired and AI bred. These females will sell individually, and in groups accompodating sired and AI bred. These females will sell individually and in groups accommodating all buyers and all price ranges. There are also 200 commercial bred heifers selling from **D&N Livestock**, many of which are AI sired and AI bred to the great calving ease sire Final Answer. For more information or a catalogue contact Andrew at 306-736-7393 or T Bar C Cattle Co. at 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online at the wave buyagro com. Watch and hid on the control of the cont at: www.buyagro.com. Watch and bid on-line at: www.dlms.ca

29TH ANNUAL Keystone Klassic Black & Red Angus Sale, Saturday December 2nd, 2017 at 1:00 PM, Keystone Centre, 2nd, 2017 at 1:00 PM, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. Offering 75+ females, including an elite selection of foundation bred heifers and fancy heifer calves, herd prospects and cow calf pairs. Junior discounts available. For a catalogue or more info. contact T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-933-4200. View the catalogue online at www.buyagro.com 91 # 116061 at: www.buyagro.com PL# 116061

RIGHT CROSS RANCH Commercial Bred Heifer & Long Yearling Bull Sale December 4, 1:30, Right Cross Ranch sale facility, Kisbey, SK. Offering 20 long yearling Red & Black Angus bulls and 100+commercial Black & Red Angus cross Simmental heifers, bred to calving ease Angus bulls. For catalogue or more info. contact bulls. For catalogue or more info. contact Jim at 306-575-7608 or T Bar C Cattle Co. at 306-220-5006. View the catalogue on-line at: www.buyagro.com PL# 116061

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

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RETIREMENT DISPERSAL of Angus genetics. 305 straws of semen from 7 Angus sires. 45 embryos from 4 high profile Angus cows. Ph/text for list 780-216-0220.

29TH ANNUAL Keystone Klassic Black 291H ANNUAL Reystone Klassic Black & Red Angus Sale, Saturday December 2nd, 2017 at 1:00 PM, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. Offering 75+ females, including an elite selection of foundation bred heifers and fancy heifer calves, herd prospects and cow calf pairs. Junior discounts with the Care architecture and services and contractions of the contraction o counts available. For a catalogue or more info. contact T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-933-4200. View the catalogue online at: www.buyagro.com PL# 116061

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24 RED ANGUS Heifers bred Red **Angus,** start calving April 1st, \$2200 each. 306-421-6416, 306-636-2213, Estevan, SK.

CHAROLAIS

online at: www.wilgenbuschcharolais.com

NO BORDERS CHAROLAIS SALE, Tuesday Dec. 5th, 1:00 PM, Heartland Livestock, Virden, MB. 48 head of registered females from 12 breeders. Polled, Full French, Red Factor from fancy heifer calves to proven producers. For catalogue or info., contact Helge By, 306-536-4261, or view the catalogue online at: www.bylivestock.com

38TH STERLING COLLECTION Charolais Service Collection Charolas Female Sale, Friday, December 1st, 1:30 PM, at Saskatoon (SK) Livestock Sales. Over 54 head of quality breeding stock. Fancy show prospects to proven producers. For catalogue or info., contact Helge By 306-536-4261, or view the catalogue or producers. online at: www.bylivestock.com

HEREFORD



BIG GULLY FARM BULL SALE Thursday, Dec. 14th, 5:00 PM MST. 12 miles North of Maidstone, SK. Horned and Polled, long yearlings and bull calves. FREE wintering, delivery, BSE and carcass ultrasound. Volume Discount of 5% on 2+ head. Repeat Buyer Discount of 2%. View videos, info. and catalogue at: www.biggullyfarm.com Lance Leachman: 306-903-7299 or email: biggullyfarm@gmail.com Online bidding at: www.LiveAuctions.tv at: www.LiveAuctions.tv

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SALERS

POLLED PB THICK Butt Salers long year ling bulls, excellent disposition, tested. DynaRich Salers. Richard Andersen, 403-746-2919, Eckville, AB.

PUREBRED SALERS HERD DISPERSAL. Details at: www.sweetlandsalers.com Ken Sweetland, Lundar, MB., 204-762-5512.

SHORTHORN

WILGENBUSCH CHAROLAIS Volume II 20TH ANNUAL SHORTHORN ALLIANCE 110 BRED RED ANGUS Simmental cross Female Sale, Monday, December 11th, SALE, Thursday December 14th at 1:00 heifers, bred Red Angus for 30 day calving 1:00 PM, at the ranch, Halbrite, SK. 35 PM, Saskatoon Livestock Sales. On offer period, bulls out July 1st. 306-355-2700, bred heifers & 9 heifer calves of breed will be bull calves, heifer calves and bred 306-631-0997, Mortlach, SK. leading genetics from the largest Charolais females. Top genetics from Western Cana-herd in Saskatchewan. For catalogue or in-formation contact Craig Wilgenbusch mercial open and bred heifers from some 306-458-7482 or view catalogue & videos of Saskatchewan's leading commercial of Saskatchewan's leading commercial breeders. For more info. contact Richard Moellenbeck 306-287-7904 or view catalogue on line at www.saskshorthorn.com

SIMMENTAL

DOUBLE R FARMS Complete Dispersal & High Country Cattle Production Sale Monday December 14, 2017 at 2:00PM, Innistail Auction Mart, Innistail, AB. Selling 75 cow/calf pairs, bred heifers plus bull calves. Wintering & terms available on all bull calves. For more information or a catalogue contact T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. 306-220-5006, Rob Young 780-517-0758 or Stacy Young 780-718-0622. Catalogue online at: www.BuyAgro.com PL # 116061

DOUBLE BAR D FARMS Sharing The Herd Fall Female Sale, Wednesday December 6th, 1:00PM, at Double Bar D Sale Barn, Grenfel, SK. Offering 58 lots of the finest Fleckvieh, Red & Black Simmental, & Simm-Angus females available. Featuring fancy open heifers, powerful bred females and exclusive semen packages. For more information or a catalogue contact Ken Dimler 306-697-7204 or T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd. at 306-220-5006. View the catalogue Ltd. at 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online: www.BuyAgro.com PL # 116061

FULL FLECKVIEH & PB bred heifers, most due in Jan., bred to Captain Morgan son, top quality deep heifers. Curtis Mattson, 306-944-4220, 306-231-9994, Meacham.

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5235

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CATTLE VARIOUS

CATTLEMENS FINANCIAL CORP Programs for cow/calf operators and feedlots, pro-ceeds as you sell and equity draws. 780-448-0033 or www.cattlefinance.com

BURNETT 4TH ANNUAL Bred Heifer Sale, Sunday December 3, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the Ranch, 12 miles south west of Swift Current, SK. Featuring 70 Heifers bred to Black Angus and Red Angus; calving ease bulls; 10 purebred Black Angus; 17 FJ Black Angus cross Tarentaise; 10 Red Angus cross Hereford; 3 Black Angus cross Shorthorn. Pregnancy tested, sound and quiet. For Pregnancy tested, sound and quiet. For more info: Wyatt 306-750-7822 or Bryce 306-773-7065, wburnett@xplornet.ca

21 BRED HEIFERS, RWF, BWF, black. Bred Polled Hereford Red Angus, very quiet. Erwin Lehmann306-232-4712 Rosthern SK

21 BRED HEIFERS: 8 true F-1 RA cross 21 BRED HEIPERS: 8 true F-1 KA Cross Simm.; Also 13 straight bred Red Angus. Bred to proven calving ease bulls, with 68 & 72 lbs. birth weights. Heifers weigh 1000-1100 lbs. These are a great set of heifers. Call Harv Verishine 306-283-4666 or 306-281-5424, Langham, SK.

CATTLE VARIOUS

3J SIMMENTAL FARMS has for sale 200 plus Simmental and Simm./Red Angus cross bred heifers, bred to Red or Black Angus. All one iron, excellent quality. They don't come any better! Call Gordon don't come any better! Call Gord 306-327-8005, 306-327-9211, Lintlaw, SK

CATTLE WANTED

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

WANTED: RED OR BLACK Angus cross younger cows, lease to own. References available. 306-542-7007, Veregin, SK.

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SWINE VARIOUS

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MISC. ARTICLES

NEW 8' TRUCK cap, white in colour; Wheelchair new; Scooter; Treadmill, like new. 306-233-5241, Wakaw, SK.

CERTIFICATION SERVICES

WANT THE ORGANIC ADVANTAGE? Contact an organic Agrologist at Pro-Cert Contact an organic Agrologist at Pro-Ceri for information on organic farming: prospects, transition, barriers, benefits, certifi-cation and marketing. Call 306-382-1299, Saskatoon, SK. or info@pro-cert.org

GRAINS

WANTED: ORGANIC LENTILS, peas and chickpeas. Stonehenge Organics, Assiniboia, SK., 306-640-8600, 306-640-8437.

CERTIFIED Organic Red Prosco Cerise millet seed. Wanted: Organic Producers under contract. Reynald 204-878-4839 or 204-794-8550, St. Claude, MB. reynald@milletking.com

PETS

THE ANIMAL PEDIGREE ACT

No person shall, without an express state-ment that the animal's registration, identi-fication or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified to Canada by the person, sall, as requistered in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any anmal without providing to the buyer thereof with-in six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence pun-ishable on summary commiction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable of-tence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further informa-tion contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobi-cole, On. coke, On.

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RM & RANCHES

ALBERTA 6132

COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER for sale by tender with bids closing Dec. 5, 2017. 130.70 titled acres. Current use is pasture. Revenue from one natural gas surface lease of \$2700. Vern McClelland, RE/MAX of Lloydminster, 780-808-2700. Details at: www.forbeslandtender.ca

1/4 SECTION NORTH of Halkirk, AB. Cropland, grass and trees. Natural watercourse. 9 miles from Big Knife Prov. Park. In WMU 204 - one of the most desired big game hunting areas in AB. Phone 403-633-2421.

SASKATCHEWAN 6133

LAND FOR RENT: 132 ac., NW 1/4 5-35-4 W3, RM of Corman Park No.344. 10 miles from Saskatoon. Call/text 403-462-0570.

RM MAPLE CREEK #111. For sale N 1/2 35-11-26-W3. 320 cult. acres, 60x100' steel quonset on 2' cement fdn, power, water for up to 100 head of cattle, 1 mile of Hwy #1 frontage. Call 403-866-2214.

RM OF FOAM LAKE #276 for sale SE-35-28-12-W2 160 acres (approx. 102 cultivated). Call 780-724-3735 for info.

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SASKATCHEWAN

BY TENDER: The Sale of Lands by BKS Trucking Ltd., Shaun & Katie Bassett, Remerge Rehabilitation Inc., and Derek Kurpjuweit. The owners of farmlands will accept offers to purchase, as a block, the following deeded lands briefly described as SW 13-7-6 W3, SE 14-8-6 W3, NE 14-8-6 W3, SW 35-7-6 W3, NW 35-7-6 W3, NW 20-8-6 W3, NW 20-8-6 W3, NW 7-7-5 W3, SW 7-7-5 W3, SE 12-7-6 W3, SW 12-7-6 W3, SW 19-7-5 W3, SE 12-7-6 W3, SW 12-7-6 W3, NW 13-8-6 W3, NW 13-8-6 W3, NE 31-8-6 W3 as well as certain bins all of which are located well as certain bins all of which are located in the RM of Wood River No. 074 and detailed in the Tender Package. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders, and to waive formalities as the interest of the Owner may require without stating reasons. The highest or any Tender may not processarily be accorded. The may not necessarily be accepted. The Owner shall not be liable for any costs, ex-Owner shall not be liable for any costs, expenses, loss or damage incurred, sustained or suffered by any bidder prior, or subsequent to, or by any reason of the acceptance or the non-acceptance by the Owner of any Tender. The bidders whose Tenders have not been precared by the Owner will have not been accepted by the Owner will have not been accepted by the Owner will be notified within a reasonable time after Tender opening. The successful bidder shall pay a non-refundable deposit of 5% of the Tender price to Stringam LLP in trust by way of bank draft or solicitor's trust cheque with the tender submission. The closing date shall be January 2, 2018 the balance of the tender price shall 2018, the balance of the tender price shall be due and payable on said closing date. The taxes shall be adjusted at the closing date. The Owners shall retain all surface lease rentals up to and including the closing date without adjustment and any subsequent payments will be provided to the Purchaser. Tenders shall be marked "BKS Trucking Tonder" and delivered on or be-Purchaser. Tenders shall be marked "BKS Trucking Tender" and delivered on or before 12:00 noon MDT on December 1, 2017 to: Stringam LLP, 35 7th Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB., TIA 1J2, Attention: Kipling B. Wiese. P: 403-488-8200. F: 403-488-8215. Email: kbwiese@stringam.ca and/or colleen@stringam.ca Only tenders for the optice block of narrols for the abovie. colleen@stringam.ca Only tenders for the entire block of parcels for the above lands will be accepted. Separate tenders will be considered for the blocks of bins specified above. In the event that a successful tender is accepted on all parcels. Tenders which are submitted to Stringam LLP may be opened by the owners and accepted by the owners and accepted by the owners prior to December.

LLP may be opened by the owners and accepted by the owners prior to **December** 1, 2017 at the Owners' option. The successful bidder will be notified as such time as stated below. If the owner shall not open or accept tenders prior to December 1, 2017, the owners will notify the successful bidder by email, phone, or fax when the tender has been accepted. FOR RENT: 4 Quarters in the RM of Blucher Phone 306-374-0339. Cash offers only.

OF BLUCHER 343: 2 quarters. 29-35-01-W3M, NW-29-35-01-W3M, SW-29-35-01-W3M, NW-29-35-0310 acres cult. 3 hopper bins 17,000 bus. Call Bob 306-717-1987.

TOM@SASKFARMLAND.COM Kenaston, 958 acres. Individual 1/4's available. Tenant available. \$930,000 MLS. Coldwell Coldwell Banker Signature. Tom 306-260-7838.

TOM@SASKFARMLAND.COM Lake hunting land. Pines, heavy big trails. 160 acres. \$84,500 MLS. Co Banker Signature. Tom 306-260-7838. big game, S. Coldwell

TOM@SASKFARMLAND.COM Interested in the value of your farmland and con-sidering selling? Up to date market evalua-tions done at your farm. Coldwell Banker Signature. Tom Neufeld 306-260-7838.

BY TENDER: RM of Three Lakes, No. 400. NE 14-42-22-W2, SE 14-42-22-W2. 316 acres, approx. 230 cultivated acres. Owner reserves the right to reject highest or any tenders. Deadline is November 30, 2017. Send tenders to: Leo Briens, 33 Hunting-ton Place, Saskatoon SK, S7H 4L7. For in-quiries, call 306-373-4371.



MACK AUCTION CO. presents a land and oil revenue auction for the Estate of Elizabeth Debusschere. Thursday Dec. 7, 2017 at the Stoughton Legion Hall, Stoughton, SK, 7:00 PM. Up for auction are 5 quarters of farm land and pasture in the heart of the oil patch near Stoughton, SK. 1) NE 26-08-08 W2, RM of Tecumseh No.65: 160 titled ac., approx. 110 cult. ac., FVA 77715, 2017 taxes \$331.45, 2017 crop canola, 2 Westeel 1650 bu. bins on wood floors, surface lease revenue \$23,250; 2) SE 26-08-08 W2 PM of Tecumseh No.65: Et zitled ac. lease revenue \$23,250; 2) SE 26-08-08 WZ, RM of Tecumseh No.65: 157 titled ac., approx. 120 cult. ac., FVA 77385, 2017 taxes \$330.05, dugout, surface lease revenue \$6750; 3) NW 06-09-06 WZ, RM of Brock No.64: 160 titled ac., FVA 30420, 2017 taxes \$171.26, pasture, partially fenced, surface lease revenue \$6800; 4) NE 06-09-06 WZ, RM of Brock No.64: 160 titled ac., FVA 54450, 2017 taxes \$306.55, pasture, partially fenced; 5) SW 06-09-06 WZ, RM of Brock No.64: 160 titled ac., FVA 34200, 2017 taxes \$192.55, pasture, partially fenced, surface lease revenue \$6400. 34200, 2017 takes \$192.55, pasture, partially fenced, surface lease revenue \$6400.

10% non-refundable down on sale day, balance due in 30 days. For sale bill & pics visit www.mackauctioncompany.com Join us on Facebook and Twitter. 306-421-2928 or 306-487-7815. Mack Auction Company, PL#311962.

RM CANWOOD #494, 3 quarters: Grain, pasture and hay, 265 acres cult. On school bus route. UG power and phone on 2 good yard sites, 2013 assessment \$203,700. 306-747-2775 after 6 PM, Shellbrook, SK.

-WANTED ✓

GRAIN LAND TO RENT, 35 mile radius of Rouleau, SK. Call 306-776-2600 or email: kraussacres@sasktel.net

LAND FOR SALE by Tender: RM of Hoodoo, NE 14-43-26-W2. Approx. 150 cult. acres. Approx. 6 miles NE of Wakaw. Title clear, taxes paid 2017, currently rented. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Send tenders to: PO Box 302, Wakaw, SK. S0K 4P0. markowskym@gmail.com

RM OF LIVINGSTON: Pelly, SK., 6 miles N. SW and SE 26-34-32-W1. 320 acres, 265 cultivated, \$399,000. Phone 778-848-2535.

SASKATCHEWAN

115 CULTIVATED ACRES and remainder in hay and pasture near City of Humboldt in RM of Humboldt No. 370. SW 12-38-23 W2. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. Mail bids by November 30, 2017 to Box 686, Humboldt, SK. SOK 2A0.

LAND FOR SALE by tender. Approx. 480 acres, RM of Willner #253. N1/2 11-25-3-W3, SW 11-25-3-W3. Grass and pastureland with dugout and some fencing Tenders accepted until December 15, 2017. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Submit written tenders to: Box 134, Loreburn, SK. SOH 2SO

6136

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DWFIN TASK REALTY INC. Saska-DWEIN IASK REALTY INC. Saska-toon/Conquest: Mint 1560 sq. ft. bunga-low on 10 acres. Absolutely all the bells and whistles! 40x60' straight wall shed, c/w 16' wall. Mature yard. MLS SK. 709771 \$599,900; Saskatoon/Asquith: Nicely updated 1504 sq. ft. bungalow on 80 acres, 40x60' dream shop and 32x100' storage building. MLS SK 707238. \$549,900. Call Dwein 306-221-1035.

29 ACRES FOR SALE: South of Craik, SK. 29 ACRES FOR SALE: South of Craik, SK. Well treed yard w/1200 sq. ft. 3 bdrm. bungalow, 45' carport, 1.5 baths, sand point well, high efficiency wood burning fire place, new metal roof & vinyl siding. New septic system. 32x40 heated shop w/new metal roof. Steel quonset 35x50. Garage 25x50 w/cement floor & new me al roof, \$350,000 OBO. Call 306-734-2932.

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2014 POLARIS RANGER Model 570 EPS, side-by-side, half windshield, canopy, powersteering, approx. 600 miles, like new cond. 306-625-7277, Stewart Valley, SK.

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TOOLS 7070

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TOOLS



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\$1500.

FARM/RANCH

FARM BOSS WANTED at Stump Lake Ranch, Stump Lake, BC. Duties include: Seeding/Fertilizing/Irrigation/Harvesting crops for cattle & horse feed; Responsible for care & maintenance of all farm machinery & implements; Winter feeding of livestock; Passion for farming, equipment & ranch life a must: Compensation comments of the compensation commensation comments of the compensation comments of the compensation comments of the compensation comments of the compensation commensation comments of the compensation commensation comme ranch life a must; Compensation commensurates with skills and experience: Other farm duties as may be required. Submit CV/resume to: info@stumplake.com Suitable candidates will be contacted.

PERMANENT FULL-TIME POSITION available on small feedlot grain farm at Crossfield, AB. Experience with livestock and equipment required. Clean Class 3 driver's licence or willingness to obtain a must. Varied work that's never boring. Housing available if needed. Good wages for experienced person. Contact Dan, 403-369-2296, westridgefarm@gmail.com

HELP WANTED on grain & cattle operation. Must have valid drivers license and experience with cattle and machinery. 780-582-2254, Forestburg, AB.

BEEF CATTLE OPERATION in Central SK requires full-time year round help. Please send resume to blacklock@sasktel.net or 306-492-4833.

ALTHOUSE HONEY FARMS INC. 1/2
mile south Porcupine Plain, SK., 500 McAllister Avenue. 7 positions required for
2018 season, May to October. Wages
\$13-\$18/hr. depending upon experience.
Job duties: assisting in spring hive inspection, unwrapping, and splitting, supering,
building supers and honey frames, honey
removal and extracting, fall feeding, applying mite control and wrapping hives for
winter. No education required. WCB coverage. Phone Ron Althouse 306-278-7345,
Email: althousehoney@sasktel.net

FARM LABOURER WANTED near Goodeve SK. Call 306-795-2710 or 306-795-5210.

Round up the cash! Advertise your unwanted equipment in the Alberta Farmer Express classifieds.

FULL-TIME FARM LABOURER HELP FULL-TIME FARM LABOURER HELP. Applicants should have previous farm experience and mechanical ability. Duties include operation of machinery, including tractors and other farm equipment, as well as general farm laborer duties. \$25/hour depending on experience. Must be able to cross US border. Location: Pierson, MB. Feland Bros. Farms, Greg Feland and Wade Feland, Box 284, Pierson, MB. ROM 1SO. 701-756-6954.

FARM/RANCH

resume to: mbarranch@gmail.com

HELP WANTED 8024

CLAYTON AIR SERVICE LTD is seeking 2
Professional Turbine Helicopter Ag Pilots
for the 2018 spray season flying a Jet
Ranger, from June 1st - September 27th,
completing aerial application on fields
across Sask & occasionally other provinces. Requirements: Must be committed to
entire season or make prior arrangements;
Commercial helicopter licence; Provincial
pesticide licence: Current aviation medi-Commercial helicopter licence; Provincial pesticide licence; Current aviation medical; Endorsement on Jet Ranger considered an asset and turbine experience preferred. Turbine experienced pilots will be given preference based on hours of experience, (500 hrs. Ag spraying required). If no suitable candidate is found training, mentorship and/or apprentice program will be considered for the right individual. Strong ability to adapt to changing situations and maintain a positive attitude with customers, co-workers, and supervisors. Strong communication and problem solving abilities, with quality service delivery as the utmost priority. Proficiency in English reading and writing. Capable of operating Satlock guidance systems or equivaating Satlock guidance systems or equiva-lent. Must be insurable. Accommodations lent. Must be insurable. Accommodations and vehicle provided during employment. Wage \$60/hr. 40 hrs./week. Bonuses based on performance. Workers compensation provided. Contact Clayton Rempel, Clayton Air Service Ltd., Box 87, Leask, SK. SOJ 1M0. Phone 306-497-7401, Fax 306-466-9994. Please e-mail resume to: applyclaytonairs/@mail.com applyclaytonairsk@gmail.com

CONTRACTOR INTERNET INSTALLER. Looking for a Contractor in various locations across NE Alberta. Must have or be willing to obtain: Limited Company, Commercial insurance policy; WCB account; Clean Criminal Record; Vehicle suited to perform field work (truck or van); Tools to perform installation. Working Conditions: Primarily outside in weather, also some indoor work, climbing ladders, working on roofs and towers (40'). Responsibilities and required attributes for this position: Mounting equipment on roofs and running cable, self-directed organization, familiarity with tools, computer knowledge. 1-866-390-3928, www.mcsnet.ca CONTRACTOR INTERNET INSTALLER, Look-

HELP WANTED

CLAYTON AIR SERVICE LTD. is seeking 4 Professional Turbine Ag Pilots for the 2018 spraying season, using Air Tractor 502B's. Requirements: All 5 positions from May 16 through to Sept. 11, completing aerial application on Sask fields & occasionally other provinces. Requirements: Must be committed to entire season or make prior mitted to entire season or make prior arrangements. Provincial pesticide licenses arraingements. Fromtical pesticule ilicines required. Current aviation medical. 1000+ hrs. aerial application experience preferred. Training, mentorship and/or apprentice program will be considered for the right individual. Strong ability to adapt the observations and maintains. the right individual. Strong ability to adapt to changing situations and maintain a positive attitude with customers, co-workers, and supervisors. Strong communication and problem solving abilities, with quality service delivery as the utmost priority. Proficiency in English reading and writing. Capable of operating Satlock guidance systems or equivalent. Must be insurable. Accommodations and vehicle provided during employment. Wage \$60/hr. vided during employment. Wage \$60/hr. 40 hrs./week, Bonuses based on perfor-40 ins./week. Bonuses based on performance. Workers compensation provided. Contact Clayton Rempel, Clayton Air Service Ltd., Box 87, Leask, SK. SOJ 1M0. Phone 306-497-7401, Fax 306-466-9994. E-mail: applyclaytonairsk@gmail.com

Looking for a hand around the farm? Place a help wanted ad in the classifieds. Call 1-800-667-7770.

MANAGEMENT

RANCH MANAGER NEEDED: Bar K Ranch is seeking an experienced Ranch Manager with exceptional administrative, planning, communication, veterinary and cattle handling skills. The successful candidate handling skills. The successful candidate will manage all aspects of the cow-calf ranch, calving 1000 cows and farming 8000 acres for feed. Researching new technologies & mechanization is a must. Position is full time with a competitive benefits package, lakefront family home on-site, vehicle and cellphone. Submit your resume to resumes@carrierlumber.ca or fax 750.563.0271 250-563-9371.

OILFIELD

FULL-TIME OILFIELD TRUCK DRIVERS Shock Oilfield Inc. in Elk Point, AB. is hiring Coil Operators, Coil Swampers (prefer Class 1, but must have Class 3), Pressure Truck Drivers, Flushby Operators and Swampers. We offer health care benefits, scheduled shifts and competitive wages. Email resume to cody.shock@hotmail.com or fax to: 780-724-4924.

TRADES/TECHNICAL

JOURNEYMAN AGRICULTURAL FOUTPMENT Technician needed at Pentagon Farm Centre in Lacombe, AB. We need someone who has experience repairing all types of farm equipment. Please send your resume to hr@pentagonfarm.com

TRUCK DRIVERS

EXPERIENCED CLASS 1 DRIVERS wanted to haul livestock or gravel. Health plan and safety bonuses. 403-625-4658. Year round work.

LOG TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED for win ter 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. T0H 2M0

FAVEL TRANSPORT is hiring Leased Operators. Livestock, Bulk, Reefer. Call us at 306-692-8488, Moose Jaw, SK.

NOW HIRING

OTLETELD TRUCK DRIVER Farmers wanted for seasonal employment. Work on the farm during the summer and make extra cash in the winter. Winter season starts in November and ends in March. Earnings average over \$10,000 per month. Must have Class 3 or 1 drivers license. Willing to be away from home for long periods of time. Job training is provided. Submit your resume with driver's abstract. 403-504-1711, sschwab@patsoffroad.com

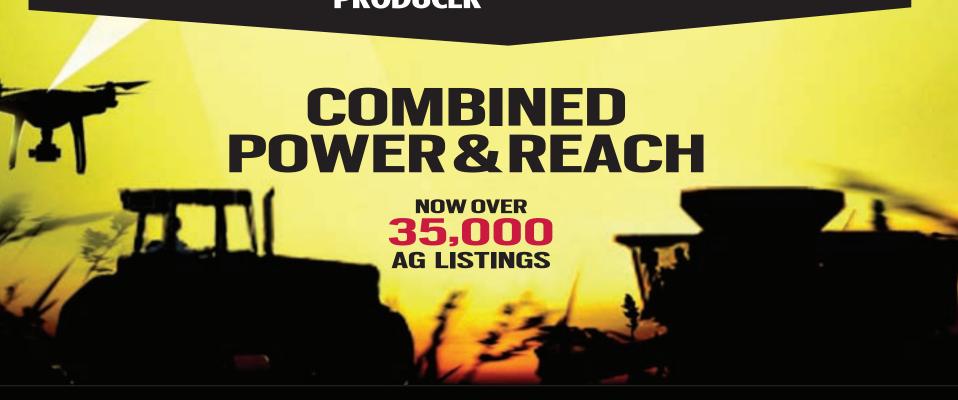


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AIR DRILL

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 2015 Bourgault 3720, 70', 12"\$189,000 2002 Bourgault 5710, 29", 10"......\$32,000 2008 Bourgault 5710, 64', 10"\$69,000 2005 Bourgault 6350.....\$43,800 2015 Bourgault L7800, TB, TRKS, SLDT .. \$226,000 2008 CIH 3430\$39,500 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 2014 FRLCL 350 Call 2010 FlexiCoil 5000.......Call 2017 Valmar 8611......Call

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 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 2003 Bourgault 5440\$38,000 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 2008 NH BR7090\$28,500 2005 NH BR780 Call 2003 NH BR780 Call

BLADES

2012 Leon Q500......\$19,500 2002 NH CX840, 3700/2500 hrs\$78,000 2016 Kubota BB2763 Call

GRAIN AUGER/HARROW

COMBINE

2011 NH CX8080, 1438/1030hrs .\$259,000 2010 NH CX8080, 1875/1348 hrs \$228,000 2010 NH CX8080, 1755/1237 hrs \$228,000 2010 NH CX8080, 1297/939 hrs ..\$238,000 2008 NH CX8080, 1726/2348hrs .\$238,000 2007 NH CX8080.1341/1949 hrs .\$215.000 2013 NH CX8090, 846/627 hrs\$359,000 2013 NH CX8090, 1242/942hrs ...\$359,000 2013 NH CR8090, 1162/904 hrs..\$289,000 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 2001 NH TX66, 2270/3018hrs......\$58,000 1997 NH TX66, 3754/2781 hrs......\$28,500 1998 NH TX66, 2796/2188 hrs......\$48,000 1998 NH TX66, 2921/2344 hrs......\$48,000 2011 NH CR9070, 1519/1153hrs .\$239,000 2009 NH CR9070,1673/1238hrs..\$189,500 2008 NH CR9070, 2279/1562 hrs \$228,000 2010 NH CR9070, 1622/1199 hrs \$179,500 2007 NH CR9070, 948/780 hrs\$198,000 2008 NH CR9070, 1434/1023 hrs \$189,500 2008 NH CR9070, 1489/1020 hrs \$195,000 2008 NH CR9070, 2251/1583 hrs \$169,500 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 2012 NH CR9090, 1046/740 hrs \$345,000 2012 NH CR9090, 2050/1418 hrs... \$315,000 2011 NH CR9090, 1806/1244 hrs... \$269,000 2014 NH CR9090E, 804/556 hrs..... \$379,000 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 2015 NH CR8.90, 620/414 hrs\$483,000 2016 NH CR8.90E, 327/266 hrs...\$485,000 2015 NH CR9.90E. 607/452 hrs...\$559.000 2004 CIH 2388, 2547/2146 hrs\$98,000 2010 CIH 7088, 1784/1316 hrs\$187,000 2015 Grouser 770HD, 14', 8-way...\$45,000 2012 CIH 8230, 1304/962 hrs\$278,000 2007 Leon 4000 STX425- Frameless\$13,800 2013 JD S680, 933/653 hrs.......\$387,000 2011 Leon Q5000 STX Quad\$30,000 1990 JD 9500, 3347/4748hrs\$25,000 2013 Leon Q5000,\$33,000 2012 CLASS 770, 1131/657 hrs...\$369,000 2013 Leon Q4000......\$16,800 2012 CLAAS 670, 764/475 hrs....\$339,000

VERTICAL TILLAGE

2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30'\$68,000

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 2003 NH 94C, 30'.....\$29,500 2005 NH 94C, 30'.....\$29,500 2009 NH 94C, 36' CX/CR.....\$39,500 2008 NH 94C-36',\$39,500 2003 NH 94C-36',\$39,500 2009 NH 94C, 30'.....\$28,000 2008 NH 94C, 30'.....\$29,500 2007 NH 94C, 30'.....\$28,000 2003 NH 94C, 30' CX/CR.....\$29,500 2005 NH 94C, 36'.....\$39,500 2004 NH 94C, 30' CX/CR.....\$29,500 1998 NH 994 CX/CR\$19,000 1999 NH 994-30',\$29,500 1998 NH 994-36',\$19,000 1995 NH SP25.....\$15,000 2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'.....\$69,800 2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'.....\$69,800 2014 MacDon D6530G, 30'.....\$69,800 2014 MacDon D6535G.....\$69,900 1998 MacDon 960, 25'.....\$9,500 1998 MacDon 960, 30'.....\$25,000 2012 MacDon FD70, 45'\$79,000 2010 MacDon FD70, 45'\$69,000 2015 MacDon FD75\$98,500 1997 Westward 9030.....\$4,000 2010 CIH 2142, 35'\$58,000 1998 H 994, 30' TX/TR.....\$18,000 2014 CLASS 1200, 35'.....\$59,500 1994 Honey Bee SP30\$9,800 1997 Westward Adapter.....\$4.000 2009 Case IH 2142......Call 1997 NH SP25...... Call 2007 Honey Bee SP30 CX Call 2015 MacDon FD75\$98,500

MOWER CONDITIONER

2004 NH 1475, Toung only..... 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 2013 NH H7460, 16'.....\$39,800 2007 NH 1475/HS18\$23,800 2012 MacDon A40D 18'\$23,800 2008 CIH SCX100, 18".....\$23,800

SKID STEER/ COMP. TRACTOR 2002 Bobcat S185.....\$23,500

2003 Bobcat 763.....\$26,500 2012 Kubota F2680. please call for pricing 2011 Kubota L3940.....please call 2002 Bobcat 773, 3289hrs.....\$23,500 2013 NH L223 Call

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 2009 Rogator 1084, 3160 hrs......\$159,000 2001 John Deere 4710, 800 Gal, 100'..\$94,000 2005 Sprayer 201 Call

SWATHER

2011 MacDon D60, 35'\$34,000 2011 MacDon D60, 35'\$34,000 2013 MacDon D65, 40'\$49,500 2010 MacDon M150, 2068/1213 hrs ...\$85,000 2010 MacDon M150, 35',

1848/1213 hrs\$85,000 1998 MacDon 960, 25'.....\$9,500 2013 MacDon M155/D6540, 520 hrs.\$138,000 2014 NH SR200/440HB\$169,000 1999 NH 994, 25'\$15,000 2007 NH HW325, 1200hrs\$58,000 2008 NH H8040/HB36, as is\$69,000 2014 NH SR200.....\$175,000 1995 MF 200\$15,000 2010 NH H8060, 30', 1075hrs.....\$104,800 1997 MacDon 690, 36'.....\$9,800 2012 MF WR9740/5200 Call 2004 MacDon 9352 Call 2009 MacDon M150/D60 Call 2000 MacDon 9350 Call

TRACTOR

2011 NH T7.270 AutoCommand - LDR, 2360 hrs\$178,000 2011 Versatile 305, 1800 hrs\$149,500 2012 NH, T7.235, 5800 hrs\$109,000 2006 NH TM175/860TL, 7700hrs...\$58,000 1977 Ford 8700\$12,500 2008 Versatile 2375 Call 2005 CIH MXU 110, 7200hrs\$43,800 2011 Massey 2650 Call 2008 Kubota BX2360, 1257hrs Call

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