Bill 24 to allow new hog barns

A diverse group of individuals and organizations spend two nights making the case for and against the hog industry

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

Untreated manure is good for the soil, anaerobic digesters are ineffective, hogs will poison Lake Winnipeg, farm expansion has ignored Treaty Land Entitlements and immigration relies on the pork industry.

Those are just a sampling of the varied opinions heard by an all-party committee of the

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff / Oak Hammock Marsh

Purple fuel won’t be subject to Manitoba’s proposed carbon tax, but that exemption may not be extended to heating for barns, greenhouses and grain dryers.

The plan calls for Manitoba to bring in a flat $25-a-tonne carbon tax coming next year, rather than the federal government’s $10-a-tonne levy that would rise over time to $55 a tonne.

“Why do you say the farm sector is critical to the province,” Premier Brian Pallister told reporters here Oct. 27 at the unveiling of his “Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan,” adding purple fuel was exempted because most farmers can’t pass the tax on.

But the climate and green plan, more than a year in the making following extensive consultations, is “much, much, much more” than a carbon tax, Pallister stressed.

The plan says climate change is real — something Pallister himself has said repeatedly.

The plan’s goal is to — over the next five years — cut Manitoba’s carbon emissions by between 2.4 million and 2.6 million tonnes, half of which will result from the carbon tax and the rest from measures such as a possible increase of the biodiesel mandate to five per cent from two, encouraging energy conservation and diverting organic waste from landfills. (See sidebar for more plan details and what it means for farmers.)

“We haven’t quite got that (heating and dryer fuel part) finalized,” Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler told reporters. “That is part of the consultation process... in discussion with Manitoba Pork and Keystone Ag and other sectors.”

Agriculture emits 32 per cent of Manitoba’s carbon, second only to transportation at 39 per cent. But much of agriculture’s contribution comes from applying nitrogen fertilizer and livestock, which no other jurisdiction has levied a carbon tax on, partly because emissions vary and are hard to link to individual farmers.

The plan also says agriculture can help sequester carbon.

“Rural communities have been heard, especially farm communities.”

See BILL 24 on page 8

See CARBON TAX on page 6

Purple farm fuels exempted from Manitoba carbon tax

The government is emphasizing the newly released ‘Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan’ is much more than just a carbon tax and is seeking citizen feedback
Early intervention
Humans appear to have influenced crop plants far earlier than previously understood

Data update
Big Data isn’t quite down on the farm yet, but it’s coming

CROPs
Organic insurance
Organic grain growers call for better crop insurance

LIVESTOCK
Corn grazing
Some dos and don’ts for grazing standing corn

STAFF

READER’S PHOTO

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Early research demonstrates evidence of einkorn being affected up to 30,000 years ago, and rice has been shown to be affected more than 12,000 years ago. Furthermore, emmer wheat is proved to have been affected 25,000 years ago in the Southern Levant — and barley in the same geographical region over 21,000 years ago.

The researchers traced the timeline of crop evolution in these areas by analyzing the evolving gene frequencies of archeologically uncovered plant remains. Wild plants contain a gene which enables them to spread or shatter their seeds widely. When a plant begins to be gathered on a large scale, human activity alters its evolution, changing this gene and causing the plant to retain its seeds. The researchers examined crop remains and made calculations based on the level of non-shattering genes found, pinpointing the origins of the selective pressures leading to crop domestication much earlier, and in geological eras considered inhospitable to farming.

The wheat-like cereal einkorn was one of the earliest crops to show evidence of human influence. PHOTO: CREATIVEAG.COM

CROSSROADS
Smak Dab
Local mustard maker says passion drives success

The Manitoba Co-operator | November 2, 2017

2
Province marks Beef Week
Beef Week was proclaimed the same week Ag Ex brought in cattle from far and wide to Brandon

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD
Co-operator staff

Beef producers got a pro-

motion and public trust efforts during the last days of October.

Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler proclaimed Beef Week Oct. 24, one day ahead of Ag Ex in Brandon, one of three major fairs run by the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and host to Manitoba’s largest all-breeds cattle show.

“We’re just encouraging more people to think about growing beef in Manitoba in light of our soils and ability to be able to adapt to our grasslands to take advantage of them,” Eichler said.

Last year, Eichler said he would like Manitoba’s beef herd to reclaim levels not seen since the BSE crisis in 2003 when the province boasted about 750,000 beef cattle. The herd would have to almost double to reach that goal, industry said last year.

“It’s exciting for us and it’s important for us to have these sorts of events where it draws attention to our industry and draws attention to our industry for the right reasons,” Brian Janson, Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) general manager said of the week. “Social media and the rest, it’s far too easy for people to get some misinformation and it’s an opportunity to draw attention to the good work that our industry does and the good work that our producers do and we certainly support that further and the minister of agriculture taking the time and drawing attention to our industry by signing the proclamation that this week is Beef Week.”

Beef Week has historically been tied to Ag Ex, the most cattle-focused event put on by the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and host to Manitoba’s largest all-breeds cattle show.

“Beef Week has historically been tied to Ag Ex, the most cattle-focused event put on by the Provincial Exhibition. This year is no exception.

Over 700 commercial and purebred cattle arrived on the Keystone Centre grounds Oct. 25-28. This year’s Ag Ex also hosted the Canadian National Charolais Show, drawing participants from Ontario to Alberta.

“Livestock Expo, or Ag Ex, is an important event for our industry,” Lemon said.

“While it’s focused mostly, I guess, more so on the purebred breeds, those are the seedstock for the commercial herds. It is all part of the beef industry.”

Beef Week 2017 also lined up with the start of Manitoba Beef Producers district meetings. Members will meet at 14 locations across the province by mid-November.

MBP president Ben Fox also attended the proclamation signing Oct. 24. Fox pointed to producer-led environmental efforts, something the industry often faces backlash from the public on in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

Fox, however, pointed to ongoing efforts on forage management, carbon sequestration, soil health and sustainable agriculture. MBP has recently joined projects like the Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives, a research site exploring grazing systems and soil, among other environmental studies.

“As has been well documented, these properly managed pastures lands act as carbon stores, are critical for water management and flood mitigation and also provide vital habitats for many species of plants and animals,” he said.

“Producers in our province take great pride in producing world-class beef, but they also take pride in the practices they use each and every day on the farm.”

The proclamation echoed a similar announcement by Brandon Mayor Rick Chrest Oct. 11. He also named Oct. 23-28 Beef Week.

“Agriculture is the bedrock of Brandon and area, and livestock production is an ever-important sector to our economy,” he said in an Oct. 11 release. “We are pleased to help showcase all of those who continue to make beef production such a growing and progressive industry.”

Manitoba Beef Producers has not launched a specific hashtag for the week, but Lemon urged the public to use their regular hashtag, #MBBeef, on social media.

CORRECTION
A story published October 26, 2017 in the Manitoba Co-operator incorrectly stated the southeastern Manitoba company, Shepherd’s Dream, operates near Rosa. The business is located at Rizeau River, Manitoba.

Manitoba Beef Producers awards 2017 bursaries
One of the goals of the annual awards is to encourage students to study agriculture-related fields or trades

STAFF

The Manitoba Beef Producers has announced the recipients of its annual $500 educational bursaries to members of the organization or their children. All awards are made to individuals attending university, college or other post-secondary training, including students pursing a trade.

Preference is given to those students pursuing a field of study related to agriculture, or those acquiring a skilled trade that would be of benefit to the rural economy.

Ben Fox, MBP president, said that policy fits in with the goal of growing the provincial beef herd.

“For that to occur we need to make sure that our rural communities have the skilled labour and professionals that our industry, and others, require,” Fox said.

The students were asked to submit a 600-word essay on what the beef industry means to them, their family, community and Manitoba at large. Students were also asked to include the reasons they enjoy being involved in agriculture. The winning essays were published in the September issue of Cattle Country.

The six recipients of the MBP bursaries for 2017 are:

• Naomi Best – Harding, District 6;
• Bethany Lewis – Wickliffe, District 6;
• Cassandra Gordon – Stony, District 6;
• Allison Sorrell – Kenton, District 6;
• Karyn Davey – Westbourne, District 8.

Ag Days charitable giving program

Ag Days is reminding eligible organizations and individuals the application deadline for its annual charitable giving program is drawing near.

Non-profit groups and Assiniboine Community College agribusiness students have until Nov. 15 to apply for the 2018 Manitoba Ag Days Gives Back community giving program and an annual scholarship program.

Up to $2,000 is awarded each year, with recipients announced at the show in Brandon, which runs January 16-18.

The non-profit program was launched in 2015, to expand on Ag Days‘ efforts to support the industry through scholarships and support for the Agriculture In The Classroom initiatives.

In 2015 the board expanded the program to include community giving grants focused on agriculture, heritage, culture and history initiatives and safety and emergency services in the rural communities,” said Kristen Phillips, Ag Days general manager.

Communities with plans to build playgrounds, renovate recreational facilities, and purchase new emergency equipment or with ongoing annual events such as an agriculture fair which needs financial support are encouraged to apply.

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The American press was equally baffled by the White House’s most recent take-no-prisoners approach in the ongoing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks. Even the typically friendly editorial page of The Wall Street Journal threw some hard punches at the president’s NAFTA demands. “If the bullying was just a ‘negotiating tactic’ in an effort ‘to settle for much less and claim victory,’ the Journal noted, then fine. If it’s for real, however, then ‘Mr. Trump is just playing a game of chicken he can’t win.’ In fact, ‘blowing up’ NAFTA, ‘could be the worst economic mistake by a U.S. president since Richard Nixon trashied Breton Woods,’ the Journal wrote. “An agreement that tied major currencies, including the dollar, to gold, ‘and imposed wage and price controls.’ Both were market sins so egregious that the Journal has neither forgiven nor forgotten either even after 50 years later.”

As badly as the recent round of talks began Oct. 15, they ended worse just two days later. Canada’s lead negotiator, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, publicly chided U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer for American demands that would “severely disrupt supply chains,” weaken North American productivity, and “jeopardize thousands” — really millions — “of jobs in all three countries.”

Lighthizer, in turn, tried to make light of the tough talk that had been dealt as Trump’s helmet-tact trade talk. Now it looks like negotiations will continue into 2018, something no one wants. Even worse, the talks could collapse.

That would not be just the neighbours’ hugging, according to the Journal “... the biggest victims will be Mr. Trump and his trade policy-makers.”

Gord Gilmour
Editor

Food income, or the lack of it, dominated our pages in the fall of 1999. The November 4 issue reported on angry comments from a group of western farmers who had visited Ottawa to ask for $13 billion in aid. They met with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Agriculture Minister Lyndel Vanclief and other ministers, and were reportedly told by Vanclief that farm income was not as bad as it seemed. “You are the Premier Garfield, and you have the Premier Larry,” Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow also reacted angrily, with Romanow warning that refusing assistance was fueling the flames of western alienation.

U.S. politicians apparently needed less convincing — on Oct. 22 President Bush signed into law $8 billion in new farmer aid, including $5.54 billion in direct cash to grain and cotton growers. At a KAP general council meeting in Portage, there was discussion of addressing the low price problem by following the law of supply and demand, and president fer Wishart floated an idea to pay farmers for setting aside farm land to reduce overproduction. Livestock producers were also facing problems — a round of “citizen hearings” on the pork industry heard many criticisms from the general public, and producers attending Manitoba Cattlemen’s Association local meetings heard that the organization’s coffers were being drained by its $400,000 share of the legal bills in fighting U.S. anti-dumping duties.

Our History:
November 1999
The pursuit of convenience

Food costs are falling but many Canadians are paying as much or more ever

BY SYLVAIN CHARLEBOIS
DePaul University. He writes regularly about food and agriculture.

Food inflation contin-
ues to be an illusion in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, food prices have
dropped once again over the
last month, by almost one per cent.

Food prices are below the gen-
eral inflation rate, just as they
have during the past 28 years.

But last year’s U.S. carry-out slimmed
down anyway, as much of the global
supply has built in South America.

When the local 2016-17 soybean mar-
ket year ends in March 2018 for
USDA’s initial May 2016 figure for last
year’s ending stocks of 305 million bush-
els, the closest to any of the other
estimates is certainly limit-
ations for early-October harvest and
weather conditions, but this cannot be
generalized as the performance of early
years versus late varieties both regionally and
year by year.

This is what is happen-
ing right now. These are spec-
mulae for costs. But to prepare for what is
remaining competitive.

Essentially, this unique phe-
nomenon can be explained by
how consumers view and man-
age their relationship with food
during the next 12 months and
thereafter. Retailers need to
reassess the way they source
products, reduce waste and
inventory and manage costs.

It’s no longer about setting up
tables and menus, but rather
about how to remain competitive.

What all this suggests is that we truly
might be in uncharted waters with
2017’s soybean carry-out
mark (all figures U.S. funds)
for the first time since Aug. 1.

Some analysts believe that if USDA’s
October soybean forecast was perhaps
less meaningful than usual given that
harvest pace is at a three-year low, thus
reducing the amount of results the
agency could use to compile its yield
estimate.

The fear is that if earlier-planted
beans fared better than the later planted
ones, national yield could drop even
further in November or January as those
results are realized.

Earlier-planted crops are often
at less risk because they are not
pollinated and fill under less stressful
weather conditions, but this cannot be
generalized as the performance of
a,
carry-out in 2017-18 at 96.05 million
tonnes, which is the amount of soy-
bears the world is predicted to have
approximately one year from now. This
would be an all-time high, narrowly top-
lasing last year’s 94.8 million.

However, USDA’s global
trading trend was massively violated in
2016-17 as carry-out has swollen nearly 40
per cent since the initial numbers were pub-
lished, the result of substantially higher
weather and market changes.

But Canadian consumers may in
fact be spending more on food,
despite deflationary pressures.

Americans reached the 50/50
mark just last year. Consumers in the U.S. are now spending
equally at restaurants and at retail.

Eating at home has always helped
people save. These days though,
eating out. But if you are looking for
affordable options.

Similar to the U.S. stocks, USDA has
just reduced carry-out
was up
in Sept.
2016.

Acreage is up but production down in the latest USDA monthly crop production report

Karen Braun is a Reuters market analyst. The
views expressed here are his own.

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ties, in the fact that there is an exemption to the carbon tax in that sector," said Ian Mauro, an associate professor of geography at the University of Winnipeg and co-director of the Prairie Climate Centre. “I think initially that makes a lot of sense.

Don’t penalize the people who ultimately support society and create the food that we all eat.

“But we all have to realize though that there are significant changes coming and this is a first step.”

Manitoba’s new carbon tax will cost non-farmers an extra 5.2 and 6.7 cents a litre for gasoline and diesel, respectively.

It will add an extra 4.8 cents per cubic metre to the price of natural gas, which many city residents use to heat their homes.

Pallister wouldn’t say when in 2018 the carbon tax will be implemented. The date will likely be announced in the spring budget.

Local plan

If Manitoba doesn’t have its own carbon tax, it can provide a clear economic incentive to cut carbon emissions contributing to climate change. Ottawa will impose its own carbon tax, starting at $10 a tonne in 2018 and rising to $50 — twice as much as Manitoba’s — by 2022.

Manitoba’s plan is better because it will cost less, cut emissions by an extra 80,000 tonnes and let Manitobans decide how to spend the estimated $258 million in annual revenue the tax will raise, Pallister said.

A higher carbon tax to start should be more effective in encouraging people to reduce emissions, he said.

Pallister said his government will be accountable for reaching emission targets, which will be carried over into reaching emission targets, “ment will be accountable for emissions, he said.

Revenue the tax will raise, Pallister said.

Whether Manitoba’s bigger carbon tax is just a $5 a tonne cheaper than Ottawa’s. The Manitoba plan says in the ‘green plan, green plan at www.manitobagreenplan.ca.”

If they exceed the limits they pay the carbon tax on the average. If under they’ll get credits, which can be applied to future averages or sold.

Mazer is pleased the plan is finally available for KAP members to discuss.

A year ago KAP started developing its plan on pricing carbon, triggering backlash from farmers who wanted KAP to oppose the tax.

KAP’s position called for a fuel and government on provinces, but a agreement and use targeted actions to get even more emissions lower by recognizing these early Hydro investments actually result in 80,000 tonnes fewer emissions reduced.

“Because Manitoba is already ‘clean’ with its hydro-electric power grid, it will require higher carbon prices to achieve equivalent emissions reductions compared to other provinces,” the plan says. “That would mean higher fuel costs for Manitobans and if we can save some money doing it and manage the money ourselves... I think that’s pretty significant.”

The federal government is less impressed.

“Rural communities have been heard, especially farm communities, in the fact that there is an exemption to the carbon tax in that sector.”

Ian Mauro

“The carbon price schedule has to be $50 by 2022, which is well beyond the price of $25 per tonne that Manitoba is proposing,” the Canadian Press quoted federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna as saying last week.

Ottawa can impose a carbon tax on provinces, but a legal opinion rendered for the Manitoba government concludes Manitoba can legally defend its own carbon tax, Pallister said, adding he hopes the matter doesn’t end up in court.

“I don’t think they’d win in court, but I would prefer that in the court of public opinion it be made clear to Ottawa that our better plan is the one supported by Manitobans,” he said.

The federal carbon tax doesn’t credit Manitobans for their huge, ongoing investment in hydro electric power, Pallister said.

Without hydro Manitoba’s current emissions would be 42 megatonnes a year — double the current level.

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The federal government is less impressed.
Agriculture major player in ‘Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan’

Increasing the biodiesel mandate could cut up to 431,000 tonnes of carbon by 2022, second only to reductions expected from the $25-a-tonne carbon tax.

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff / Oak Hammock Marsh

Agriculture’s role in reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment comes large in the provincial government’s, Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.

The word “agriculture” appears 34 times in the 68-page document.

“Manitoba’s farmers are at the forefront of solutions we need to address climate change,” the plan says.

The Manitoba government is committed to working with producers and consumers alike to identify and develop the solutions we need to make agriculture an integral part of our vision of a clean, green and climate-resilient province.”

One suggestion is to create the Manitoba Centre for Sustainable Agriculture to provide research and support to farmers in cooperation with industry, universities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The plan not only proposes programs to assist farmers to reduce and store carbon emissions, but suggests policies that could increase crop demand.

It suggests increasing Manitoba’s biodiesel mandate to five percent of the current two percent.

It estimates that would cut carbon emissions over the next five years by 360,000 to 431,000 tonnes. That would be the second-largest cut behind the 1.07-million-tonne reduction expected from the $25-a-tonne carbon tax.

Canada is an ideal feedstock for biodiesel production.

However, the plan doesn’t say the province will increase the biodiesel mandate.

When asked to clarify, a government official said everything is on the table.

“None of these measures will be enacted until after peasant the plan to Manitobans, receiving their feedback.”

The plan also suggests encouraging the “voluntary” use of non-bioethanol. That would increase the demand for wheat and corn.

Agriculture produces 32 percent of Manitoba’s carbon, second only to transportation.

“While agriculture is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural soils and biomass can also serve as effective carbon sinks, helping to lower harmful carbon emissions in the ground and prevent carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere,” the plan says.

During a technical briefing a government official told reporters it’s difficult for farmers to cut emissions quickly, but they can over time.

The following are some of the plan’s proposals for agriculture:

- Implement an ecological goods and services program based on the Alternate Land Use Services model to reduce flooding, improve water quality and nutrient management and enhance biodiversity to benefit society.
- Support on-farm practices that provide climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Expand precision farming to improve fertilizer efficiency.
- Support natural fibres for biocomposites.
- Evaluate and address risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities facing agricultural due to extreme weather events and climate change.
- Explore a carbon offset program for agriculture, wetlands and forests.
- Use a watershed approach through conservation districts to retain water and restore wetlands to improve water quality and mitigate floods and drought.
- This could be done through GROWing Outcomes for Watersheds (GROW). It would be delivered in partnership with landowners, NGOs and federal and municipal governments.
- Reduce the barriers to tile drainage, but also consider potential negative downstream and water-quality effects.
- Work with the Keystone Agriculture Producers, conservation districts and others to implement the 48 fertilizer program (right time, amount, place and source).
- Map wells and aquifers.
- Encourage wetland and grassland preservation and restoration, rotation grazing, cover crops and zero till.
- The climate and green plan lists other ways Manitoba can cut emissions:
  - The creation of Efficiency Manitoba, an agency to promote cuts in electrical and natural gas consumption through “green” innovations.
  - Diverting organic, methane-emitting waste, from landfills.
  - Phasing out Manitoba’s last coal-fired generator ahead of schedule in 2018.
  - A rebate to encourage retrofitting heavy-duty diesel truck engines.
  - Measures to manage goods containing ozone-depleting substances.
  - Replace 100 city diesel buses with electric ones.
  - Reduce the Manitoba government’s emissions.
  - Convert propane-heated homes in Churchill to electric.
MBP sees producer data on predation losses

Beef operators are urged to fill out a survey and help assess the extent of the problem.

**By Lorraine Stevenson**

*Co-operator staff*

Manitoba Beef Producers needs members to put some numbers to what they say is the impact predators have on having the provincial beef herd.

They repeatedly heard about losses and producers now make impassioned pleas to have something done about the pressure on herds, particularly from wolf attacks, said Beef Producers chairman Brian Lemon told district meetings this fall.

“It’s a very serious threat to livestock producers’ livelihoods. Our experience is there’s a big file on our board or issue that’s missing, so that’s something we need to get the public on board with,” he said at the District 9 meeting at Stonewall last week.

The problem is defined the scope meeting.

Directors raise the issue at all board meetings, and MBP talks about it at every meeting they get with the provincial ministers of agriculture and sustainable development.

Lemon said.

But then they asked the question they can’t answer.

“They’re asking us, ‘how big is the problem?’” he said. “Our answer right now is, ‘we don’t really know.’”

Directors have gathered plenty of information through phone calls and conversations. “But it still ends up being fairly anecdo- tally and not statistically valid. That’s the problem we have.”

“They’ve tried to work with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) but their data isn’t capturing the full pic- ture either. MASC’s Wildlife Management Program only compensates producers who can provide sufficient evi- dence of a predator kill,” he added.

So what’s frustrating for pro- ducers is not being able to make claims because wolf kills seldom leave carcasses. “There’s no evidence to make the claim.”

“Not until you go to collect the carcass and find out you’re missing a lunch, he said.”

The survey MBP is circulating at all district meetings this fall asks producers to provide infor- mation on herd size, numbers of cattle lost to wolves, coyotes and other predators, to report manurings and scat, and doc- ument numbers also lost to theft or hunters. There’s also a box to tick off if there are no cattle losses to report.

“The aim is to gather the grass- roots data together so MBP can make a better case that the pro- vincial beef herd is under pres- sure from predators, Lemon said.

There’s a lot of debate going on as to why predation from wolves is on the rise, but the general feel- ing is they’re going after cattle as well as hooves and whitetail deer popula- tions decline.

“‘The moment we start spread- ing more manure than crops can use it’s no longer fertilizer, it’s a waste product to be disposed of and as such poses a risk to our water supply.”

**Michael Stanton**

Lake Winnipeg Foundation

“Without data, industry, govern- ment, regulators and concerned citizens cannot accurately quan- tify the current impact of Mani- toba’s hog industry on water quality,” he said. “We just don’t know.”

Bill 24 would also strike the win- ter manure application ban from the Environment Act, although winter application would contin- ue prohibited at all Livestock operations in Manitoba under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation.

Several presenters, including Stanton, asked the committee to keep the ban on winter applica- tion enshrined in legislation.

“Lake Winnipeg Foundation agrees that Bill 24 be amended so as to not repeal Section 40.2 of the Manitoba Environment Act,” Stanton said, calling it the most important environmental pro- tection afforded Lake Winnipeg in the last two decades. “The ban on winter spreading of all manure should be maintained in legisla- tion, the highest form of protec- tion for Manitoba’s water.”

Finance Minister CPU last week responded to concerns about the proposed change by stressing that removing the provision from the legislation was about eliminating “redun- dancy,” not weakening environmental protections.

“Let me clarify one thing for you, our government has no plans to allow for a change in terms of winter manure spreading,” he said.

But opposition MLA Michael Al- len pushed back against the as- surents.

“Let’s talk to the farmers to figure out how to address this. The problem is that you can’t ban using manure as a fertilizer at all, related to the waste product than a waste product. “Livestock manure is a very valuable resource to me as a farm- er,” she said. “As a high-quality, or- ganic fertilizer it provides superior nutrition for growing crops, con- tributes significantly to the build- ing of healthy soils in the long term and of course is a local product which reduces transport.”

Lynne Cypres spoke to the hog manure as being something else all together — commu- nity. She came from Neepawa in 2009 to work for Hy- Life Foods as a temporary foreign worker.

She told the committee she was one of the more than 1,000 immigrants who have come to the small town to work in the industry in the hope of a better life than the one they left behind.

“They had their lives and their family’s lives changed through the pork industry,” she said. “We are grateful for this chance,” she said, “but we are here to see the pork industry flourish.”

“Make it understood that the wild- life’s farm systems otherwise support us, is this point in time, creating a threat to people’s live- lihoods and it’s a problem that needs a solution,” Lemon said.

“It’s going to be a delicate thing to talk about that,” he said.

That’s part of the task ahead for the Livestock Predation Working Group which will be looking at what other provinces are doing to deal with the problem.

Beef producers currently call on professional trappers with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA) to remove problem preda- tors, a service that’s not always able to go out anymore because of per- manent solutions.

“We need to bring in more incentive into this whole program,” Lemon said.

For now, the main thing pro- ducers themselves can do is fill out the survey and give MBP the data it needs to quantify the predation, and reinforce the seri- ousness of the situation.

“The more you can do to help the more the better we’re going to be,” Lemon said.
Winter cereal acres down but looking good

A dry fall caused Prairie producers to hesitate before pulling out the seeding rig in late September about seeding winter cereals in dry conditions. Acres are down but crops seeded in Western Canada are doing good heading into the winter.

Low moisture is required in the fall to get that seed to germinate and start growing, especially if it’s been sealed shallow,” said Amanda Swanson, a southern Saskatchewan winter wheat agronomist with Ducks Unlimited.

The final crop report from Manitoba Agriculture, released Oct. 16, said germination and stand establishment of winter cereal crops was good but seeded acres were down across the province.

In mid-September reports from southern Saskatchewan and Alberta said limited acres of winter cereals had been seeded due to dry conditions. A brief reprieve happened in the second half of September as rain fell.

“We always recommend guys to seed first and then usually the rains will come. Even if the rains don’t come and it doesn’t germinate in the fall it will germinate, come up in the springtime,” Swanson said.

If moisture doesn’t come until spring it doesn’t mean the crop won’t come up, Swanson said, adding it’ll just act more like a spring wheat than a winter wheat.

Last fall farmers in Western Canada seeded 355,000 acres of winter wheat, eventually harvest 318,000 acres, according to Statistics Canada. Production in the three Prairie provinces came in at 546,400 tonnes, which was well below the 1.02 million tonnes grown in the previous year.

Swanson has been speaking to producers across southern Saskatchewan and those who seeded winter cereals have said their crops are now at the two-leaf stage. It’s ideal if it’s been seeded shallow,“ said Amanda Swanson, a southern Saskatchewan winter wheat agronomist with Ducks Unlimited.

The seeding date didn’t really make a huge difference this year just with the conditions being so dry. The crop stages for the majority are at the same stage across the board regardless,” she said.

Swanson has heard from colleagues in northern Saskatchewan though that the situation is different, with the area not having been as dry. “There were a lot of unused acres in the north and guys had fields that they wanted to get back into production and they were doing (them to) winter wheat,” she said.

Swanson is estimating while winter cereal acres seeded in southern Saskatchewan may be down, they could have increased in the north, balancing it all out.

In Manitoba, Jake Davidson, executive director of Winter Cereals Canada, is waiting for numbers from Statistics Canada on seeded acres to be released but from what he has heard he thinks crops are doing well.

“It just stayed warm so long for people. We had people (seeded) calf-stallow, stubble and their crops are up excellent,” he said.

Some directors with Winter Cereals Canada are based in western Manitoba and from what Davidson has heard from them he thinks winter cereal acres seeded north of the Trans-Canada Highway should be good.

WHAT’S UP

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

Nov. 6-8: SPARK 2017 bio-industrial conference, Show Conference Centre, 3751 Jasper Ave., Edmonton. For more info or to register visit spark2017.ca.

Nov. 8: Manitoba Pork Council fall producer meeting, 12 p.m., Heritage Centre, 100 Heritage Trail, Niverville. Lunch included. For more info or to register email info@manitobapork.com or call 204-237-7447.

Nov. 8: Manitoba Pork Council fall producer meeting, 1:30 p.m., Cana Inn, 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W., Portage la Prairie. Supper included. For more info or to register email info@manitobapork.com or call 204-237-7447.

Nov. 14: 16th Annual Grain World conference, Keystone Convention Centre, 375 York Ave., Winnipeg. For more info visit 204-825-5254.

Nov. 15: Western Canada Canola Processing and Marketing Conference, Four Points by Sheraton Winnipeg South, 2935 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg. For more info visit www.wccpmc.com or call 204-673-7000.

Dec. 5-7: Western Canada Conference on Soil Health/Western Canada Grazing Conference, Radisson Hotel Edmonton South, 4400 Gateway Blvd., Edmonton. For more info call 780-836-3354.

Dec. 14: Crop Connect Conference, Keystone Inn, 1185-18th St., Brandon. For more info visit cropconnectconference.ca.

March 2: Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Forum, 12-4:30 p.m., Keystone Centre, 1185-18th St., Brandon. For more info visit www.fcc.ca/caling/knowledge/events/fccforum.html.

By Ashley Robinson

Manitoba Co-operator | November 2, 2017

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## Cattle Prices

**Grade A Steers (550+ lbs.)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Oct 21st</th>
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<td>MB (All wts.) (Fri-Thurs.)</td>
<td>174E</td>
<td>160.57</td>
<td>141.25</td>
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**Slaughter Cattle**

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<tr>
<td>D3 Cows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steers (901+ lbs.)</td>
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<td>$162.00 - 200.00</td>
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**Feeder Cattle**

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<tr>
<td>Steers (901+ lbs.)</td>
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## Hog Prices

**Hog Prices**

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## Other Market Prices

### Sheep and Lambs

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### Chickens

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<tr>
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### Eggs

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<th>Previous Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Large</td>
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### Turkeys

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<th>Previous Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>B Grade (401-500 lbs.)</td>
<td>200.00 - 233.00</td>
<td>195.00 - 227.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>(501-600 lbs.)</td>
<td>195.00 - 227.00</td>
<td>190.00 - 220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(601-700 lbs.)</td>
<td>185.00 - 200.00</td>
<td>180.00 - 200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(801-900 lbs.)</td>
<td>162.00 - 190.00</td>
<td>157.00 - 175.00</td>
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### Goats

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Previous Week</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kids</td>
<td>129.17 - 217.63</td>
<td>94.32 - 229.34</td>
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### BRIEFS

**Cargill to buy natural feed maker**

By KARL Plume, Reuters

Cargill is buying a maker of animal natural feed, another in a string of deals to capitalize on rising demand for high-quality, natural foods and antibiotic-free meat and dairy products.

Cargill’s latest push by privately held Cargill, including the Oct. 24 deal for landmark DiamonD V, has centred on its animal nutrition and protein segment, which has posted higher profit in five straight quarters and is a major focus of the company's long-term growth strategy. "We anticipate that we will continue to invest in this space," Cargill's Cargill said, "and Cargill's premia and nutrition business, said in an interview. Cargill invested in feed additive company Delacon in July, bought the animal feed business of U.S. Firm co-operative Southern States in August and expanded feeding mill in Thailand in September.

### Looking for results?

Check out the market reports from livestock auctions around the province. » PAGE 14

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**EXCHANGES:**

October 27, 2017

1 Cdn: $0.7776 U.S. $1

U.S.: $1.2874 Cdn.
ICE Futures Canada pulls the plug on barley and wheat futures

The Manitoba Co-operator | November 2, 2017

CNSC

ICE Futures Canada finally announced it was pulling the plug on two key wheat and barley contracts and, as such, effectively shutting the Canadian grain futures market. U.S. dollar trade and Canadian farmerDAQ

For three-times-daily market reports and more from Commodity News Service Canada, visit the Markets section at www.manitobacooperator.ca.

PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN

CNS Canada

E U.S. biofuel trade fight benefits canola futures

ICE Futures Canada pulls the plug on barley and wheat futures.

CE Futures Canada contracts climbed to their highest levels in more than two years during the week ended Oct. 27, as declines in the Canadian dollar and gains in U.S. soy oil provided double the support.

The currency was the biggest driver, falling below 78 U.S. cents for the first time since July. The drop in the loonie was tied to the Bank of Canada’s decision not to raise interest rates and its accompanying statement, which took a bit of a softer stance in the possibility of future rate hikes.

As for soyoil, the gains were tied to news that the U.S. was officially imposing anti-dumping duties on soy-based biodiesel from Argentina. Preliminary duties have already been in place since August, effectively shutting the South American fuel out of the U.S. and creating opportunities for domestic biodiesel producers.

Even with canola posting solid gains during the week, the combination of the sinking loonie and rising soy oil still saw crush margins improve by about US$10 per tonne, to $84 above the January contract.

However, milling wheat is a different case and the lack of a Canadian futures market is detrimental to farmers from a price discovery standpoint. Grain companies were already comfortable dealing with the Minneapolis spring wheat futures for their hedging needs, which meant a Canadian market always had an uphill battle in front of it. While it may be true that there’s only enough spring wheat grown in North America to support one futures contract, the fact that the contract is based in the U.S. can distort price signals from a Canadian perspective.

Daily volumes were large in the canola market during the week, as participants were busy rolling out of the nearby November contract and into January ahead of the expiry of the front month.

The calculations to figure out the true market values are not that hard, but the optics presented and the fudge-factor in calculating exchange rates create difficulties for the Canadian farmer that could have been at least somewhat rectified by a functioning domestic futures market.

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

Wheat bids rise across Prairies as loonie dips

December spring wheat bids were up 5.75 U.S. cents on the week in the Winnipeg region.

BY ASHLEY ROBINSON

AVERAGE (CWRS) PRICES

As at Tuesday, October 24, 2017 ($/CWT)

Grain is quoted at a currency-adjusted level based on the futures market.

Average (CWRS) prices ranged from about $23 per tonne in western Manitoba to as high as $256 in southern Alberta.

Looking at it the other way around, if the Winnipeg futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS futures basis levels across Western Canada range from $36 to $40 below the futures.

Saskatchewan and western Manitoba coming in at about $251-271 per tonne.

The December spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, off of which most CWRS contracts Canada are basis off of, was quoted Oct. 27 at US$66.18, up 5.75 U.S. cents from the previous week.

Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPSB in Canada. The December K.C. wheat contract was quoted at US$4.2525 per bushel on Oct. 27, 2.5 U.S. cents compared to the previous week.

The December Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US$5.4275 on Oct. 27, up 2.5 U.S. cents on the week.

The Canadian dollar settled Oct. 27 at 78.36 cents, down 1.8 U.S. cents on the week.

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The Canadian dollar settled Oct. 27 at 78.36 cents, down 1.8 U.S. cents on the week.
Standing corn can be a viable option for Manitoba producers to extend their grazing season, but there are a few things to watch for.

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD
Co-operator staff

I f a cow is grazing, you don’t have to feed it. It’s a deceptively simple statement, and the basis for many cattle producers looking at extending grazing to cut costs. Farmers have looked at bale grazing, forage stockpiling and swath grazing, among others; but another grazing system has caught the interest of some beef producers, standing corn. More commonly a cash crop in Manitoba, researchers and farmers have honed in on corn for grazing, hoping to capitalize on its high yield and ensilage potential.

Bart Lardner, senior research scientist with the Western Beef Development Centre in Langland, Sask., is among those who would like to see more cows in the cornstalks during winter.

“Why would you graze standing corn? Well, you’re doing two things,” he said during an Oct. 12 webinar on the subject, put on by the Beef Cattle Research Council. “You’re trying to reduce the cow cost per day. We’re all after you to capture those manure nutrients.”

In a test of five corn varieties this past growing season, Lardner found standing corn yielded an average of 25 tonnes of dry matter per acre, about double the dry matter from cereals, and grazing costs ran between $1.79 cents and $1.42 per head per day.

The Western Beef Development Centre estimates corn grazing is 26 per cent cheaper than moving cattle back into the lot and feeding bale grazing hay. It’s a practice it estimates is right per cent cheaper than drylot overwintering. Swath grazing, however, drew almost even with corn at 25 per cent cheaper than drylot.

In an industry where feed cost is among the greatest expenses, those numbers appeal.

Energy, likewise, highlighted corn.

According to 2015 data out of the University of Saskatchewan, total digestible nutrients in corn averaged 64.6 per cent over three years, compared to 60.6 per cent in swath grazed barley and 57.2 per cent in bale-grown hay.

Protein, however, fell short.

Lardner’s corn variety trials echoed that trend. His plants averaged 7.4 per cent protein and 69.4 per cent total digestible nutrients.

“Protein is a little bit low on the corn, especially for a grazing beef cow coming into calving,” Lardner said.

Intercropping legumes may be an answer to that problem, he later told his online students. Otherwise, some protein supplements may be needed.

Good for the soil

Overwintering systems in general have been a good news story for soil nutrition.

In a comparison of bale grazing, bale processing and applied manure, the Western Beef Development Centre found that overwintering cattle had a larger increase of nitrogen in the first six inches of soil than either a 30-ton-per-acre manure application or 10 tons per acre of compost. The next year, cattle overwinter sites increased forage dry matter yield by 270 per cent which compared to a 60 per cent increase on sites where nutrients were applied.

Lardner’s research suggests that grazing corn can, likewise, help recover nutrient-deficient land.

Growing corn is not without challenges, particularly in a province where not all farmers are familiar with the crop and the risk of early frost may make some beef producers balk.

It is a high-input crop, Larder warned, urging producers to seek out agronomists and seed reps to choose the right variety and management.

Lardner referred to the “milkline,” the point where a corn plant moves starch into the kernels out from the cob’s core. The resulting colour change is easily seen when a cob is cut in half.

In grazed corn, that milkline should be halfway through the cob at freezing for the best nutrition, Lardner said. Variety should be chosen with that in mind.

“I strongly, strongly suggest if you’ve never grown corn, start small — five to 10 acres in year one,” Lardner said. “Get comfortable with it. You have to get used to growing corn. You have to be comfortable with it. The cows have to be comfortable with grazing it. Manitoba’s brutal winter adds in another wrinkle. Stalls alone will not provide enough wind relief in a climate where wind chills commonly dip below -30 C and windbreaks and a better wintering fence will be a critical part of the making the system work, Lardner said.

Adjusting cattle to corn

For cattle, a cornfield is often unexplored territory.

“Our cows certainly weren’t used to grazing corn when we first put them out there,” Lardner said. “In fact, what they did is they grazed the dead grass around the fence post and they avoided those cornstalks like you wouldn’t believe. About 24 hours later, one cow went over and took a bite and guess what? It tasted pretty good.”

Farmers may want to add round bales to help transition. Animals should be fed in with the familiar feed and several rows of corn. The herd can then be weaned off hay.

Once cattle get a taste for corn, there is a different problem. Cows will be drawn to the energy-rich cobs first, and most cobs in a paddock will be consumed after the first day, Lardner said. After that, cattle will aim for the husks and leaves and will not stoop to eating the stalk until last.

Rotational grazing will keep cattle from gorging on cobs, Lardner advised. After three days, cows should have stripped 90 per cent of edible material in a paddock and be ready to move.

“These guys are very secretive about what structure on the paddock they’re going to consume,” he said. “They will go after cobs first. They will figure out that’s the ice cream part of the plant. If you give them 40 acres, if you give them 100 acres, they’re going to go out and eat cobs for two to three days. Then you’re going to wind up with issues.”

You much cob can lower stomach pH, in some cases below the 5.5 baseline for rumen function, according to Lardner’s work.

The potentially fatal illness can cause animals to lose condition, go off feed and experience diarrhoea, higher breathing and heart rates, depression and lethargy.

That risk puts a higher priority on transition. Animals should be adapted for a week to 10 days before being exposed to corn and cattle should be fed before going out to the field. Fibre supplements or limiting grazing at first may also lower the risk.

Brian Lemun, Manitoba Beef Producers general manager, said corn grazing is, “not very common, but growing,” in the province.

“It’s certainly something that offers an opportunity for our producers to not bring their animals back in but to graze them for a longer period of time,” he said. “Grazing standing corn, obviously there’s a number of benefits, both in terms of economics — if you can graze your cattle, you’re not feeding them — but also environmentally. The grazing of the animals is just a more sustainable method of raising cattle. When you graze, you put the nutrients right back where they came out of and return them to the soil in a lot more of a closed loop. It’s something that we’re watching.”

astockford@farmmedia.com
Workshops pitch less stress for cattle and farmer

By Alexis Stockford

It’s time to start thinking like cattle when it comes to moving animals. That’s the message Tom Noffsinger had for cattle producers during a string of low-stress cattle-handling workshops and talks near Brandon through the end of October. Three events were put on through Merck Animal Health, including a public talk Oct. 16 and field workshops hosted by Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives (MBFI) north of Forrest.

Handlers should focus on leading, not driving cattle, Noffsinger said, a method he says is more aligned with cattle’s natural instincts and will therefore take less time and reduce frustration for both human and animal.

Understanding prey and predatory behaviour is part of that, he told attendees of the Oct. 16 talk. Approaching directly, speaking and stalking all deter predator behaviour, while a handler should also take proper distance from cattle, body position, posture, angles and speed of movements into account.

“Apply pressure to initiate a response; release pressure to reward a positive response,” his presentation stated.

The concept has also been used on the idea that cattle will return to where they came from if met with an obstacle and will half-turn around a handler if they’re led forward, Noffsinger said. To advise an animal to be positioned in front of a corner if cattle need to turn.

In line with his views on leading cattle, Noffsinger believed in approaching cattle from the front.

“Presence at all events urged participants to make eye contact with the animal in the front of the herd and shift position until the animal is pointed in the right direction. The handler then moves alongside the animal to encourage it to step past and in the right direction.

“In order to create voluntary cattle movement, what we do is go to the front of the group and satisfy their instinct to see what is guiding them,” Noffsinger said. “We just go so we’re available to their eyes and we create a relationship with the front influential animals and get them to volunteer to go, and then all we have to do is encourage the front of the herd to move and orderly cattle movement is a happened.

I hope that they respond to the smallest change — as they approach cattle and the cattle aren’t doing anything, the minute the animals change, that they respond in a positive (way),” Noffsinger said.

The events’ information was based on the work of Bud Williams, a well-known stockmanship expert through the ‘90s and 2000s in North America. Williams developed his methods in the field from the mid-20th century onwards and helped spearhead the concept of low-stress cattle handling before his death in 2012.

Noffsinger combined Williams’ work with his own observations and testimony from Australian producers.

“The leading thing is very confusing,” he admitted. “What the Australians do is they create a relationship with the front of the herd in such a way that when cattle go somewhere, whether the handler is in front of them, beside them, out here, in their minds they’re being led.”

Canadian interest

There has been further interest in the technique in his region and they are considering their own low-stress handling event, he added.

Noffsinger introduced attendees to the “bud box,” a method of moving cattle through a chute or into a trailer that was later echoed at the Merck Animal Health workshops.

“I don’t think it’s novel,” he said. “I think we’ve lost a lot of intergenerational transfer of knowledge, because there’s less and less kids growing up and taking on the farms and operations, but we’ve also removed ourselves from being real hands on because we’re drawn away, because there’s financing programs and there’s a lot more office work nowadays and stuff. You don’t just go out and feed the cattle and work with the cattle all day.”

There has been further interest in the technique in his region and they are considering their own low-stress handling event, he added.

Noffsinger introduced the basics of low-stress cattle handling after hearing Bud Williams present in Regina.

“I don’t think it’s novel,” he said. “We just go so we’re available to their eyes and we create a relationship with the front influential animals and get them to volunteer to go, and then all we have to do is encourage the front of the herd to move and orderly cattle movement is a happened.”

“The system got positive reviews when workshop attendees put in practice days later at MBFI,” Noffsinger, however, urged producers to avoid building a bud box unless handlers are trained to lead cattle rather than driving.

“You would teach them never to put cattle in that bud box if there wasn’t room for them in that alley,” he said. “You would teach them to never expect movement until they shut the gate, step over to the side and hesitate three to seven seconds to harness the energy of cattle coming back where they came from and you just guide the front (of the) alley.”

Common mistakes include getting behind cattle in the bud box rather than guiding the front, something Noffsinger says only fosters confusion.

The technique also calls for producers to run animals, particularly calves, through the chute without interfering several times before locking in the headgate for vaccination or treatment.

The practice is meant to familiarize calves with the chute and delay negative connotations, Merck argues.

“It’s a method that works, I think,” said Penny Rooke, one of the participants at the MBFI-hosted event. “How to approach cattle with a carrot idea rather than a stick.

“Keeping everyone safe is really important and it’s been very informative about not only actually handling the cat- tle, but other products that are on the market to make life easier on the farm,” she added.

The all-women workshop Oct. 19 branched out into vaccination, drive and equipment as well as handler safety. The remaining event is open to all producers.

[Image 209x215 to 800x434]
## LIVESTOCK AUCTION RESULTS

### Weight Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Category</th>
<th>Ashern</th>
<th>Gladstone</th>
<th>Grunthal</th>
<th>Heartland</th>
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<th>Killarney</th>
<th>Ste. Rose</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feeder Steers</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
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<td>1,250*</td>
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<td>3,206*</td>
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### Feeder Heifers

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<th>Grunthal</th>
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### Baker Heifers

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### Lean Export Cows

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### Heiferettes

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(Note all prices in CDN$ per cwt. These prices also generally represent the top one-third of sales reported by the auction yard.)

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### Brandon hosts Ag Ex and affiliated events

The annual gathering has a strong livestock focus and attracts participants from across the West

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**STAFF**

It was an action-packed few days at the Keystone Centre in Brandon with Ag Ex and affiliated events attracting participants from across Western Canada.

The activities included agriculture education events, the Charolais national breed show, an all-breed cattle show, horse shows and the Manitoba Finals Rodeo, just to mention the highlights.

Freelance photographer Sandy Black was in attendance and filed these images from the event.

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Jennifer Getz, of Balgonie, Sask., captured the top honours this year as the ladies’ barrel racing champion.

Kati-Leigh Hussey and her granddaughter, Harry Airey of Rivers were two of the 60 judges that participated in the Charolais Wheat King Jackpot bull show, part of the breed’s national show at Ag Ex.

Brent Stewart, of Russell’s Stewart Cattle Company, leaves the show ring with a red ribbon. By the end of the show the animal was awarded the reserve champion junior bull banner in the black Angus division.

Holding on for all he’s worth, Calder Peterson of Glenworth, Sask. completes his eight seconds in the saddle bronc class.

PHOTOS: SANDY BLACK
New dairy plant will churn out butter, other products

As demand for butter fat continues to grow, Western Milk Pool to eliminate SNF/BF ratio

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

Manitoba dairy producers will no longer have to ship milk across provincial borders, thanks to an increased processing capacity at home.

The $100-million MDI dairy-processing plant is up and running in Winnipeg’s South End, increasing Manitoba’s dairy-processing capacity by about 40 per cent. The 80,000-square-foot retrofitted egg-processing facility will now process 180 million litres of milk each year.

“It’s definitely going to improve things in Manitoba,” said David Wiens, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba chair. “We’ve been able to issue more quota in Manitoba now and increase our production.”

Over the last year and a bit, Wiens said dairy production in Manitoba has increased by 12 per cent in anticipation of the MDI plant opening. However, dealing with increased milk production in the lead-up to the plant’s opening was a challenge.

“We’ve been moving milk to Quebec or to Saskatoon, just trying to find a home for all of the milk,” Wiens said. “So yes, it was a challenge but we wanted to ramp up production in the province before the plant opened. And we were glad to have co-operation from other provinces in order to receive the milk.”

As soon as the facility began accepting milk on October 5, milk shipments into Saskatchewan came to a halt. Once the plant is at top speed, milk currently being cascaded into Quebec will also be redirected to the Winnipeg facility.

Wiens said, “So in fact, what we’ll see now is more milk in Manitoba flowing towards this plant and eventually there may be milk from parts of Saskatchewan ending up in Brandon at the dairy plant there, because of the way we cascade milk.”

“In the past we have also had to skim some of the components of the milk and we simply weren’t able to find a home for that, now of all that can be directed towards the plant.”

Being able to process all of the province’s milk at home will also help lower transportation costs for producers.

Opened and operated by Vitalis Nutrition and Gay Lea Foods, the Manitoba Dairy Ingredients (MDI) Holdings Corporation will produce a full range of high-value milk proteins, including MP, N, MPI 90 and buttermilk powders, as well as butter.

Steve Dolson, an Ontario dairy farmer and chair of Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Board of directors, described the plant as a “unique collaboration” defying geography at the official plant opening last week.

“What this plant really represents is how our industry can come together, can work together to creatively address shared concerns, capitalize on opportunities and jointly position ourselves and our industry for future growth,” he said. “This plant is many things to many people.”

The expansion of Gay Lea into Manitoba, also gives Manitoba dairy farmers the opportunity to join the Ontario-based co-operative, which expanded even farther west in recent weeks with the purchase of Alberta Cheese Company.

“With increased milk production and plants ramp up production and greatly increasing Manitoba’s dairy-processing capacity, it’s important to ensure that that’s going to have an impact on our ability to always supply the domestic market.”

Ralph Sihler, Manitoba’s minister of agriculture, was also on hand for the official opening, noting that increased processing capacity in the province will support the sustainability of the dairy industry and draw in new entrants.

“The new processing facility also enables Gay Lea Foods, as Canada’s leading butter producer, to better service our valued retail and food-service customers, growing the Canadian food manufacturing sector across Canada,” added Gay Lea president and CEO, Michael Barrett.

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“What makes this day so exciting for Manitoba! Companies see Manitoba as a desirable place to make dairy-processing investments in new innovative processing, utilizing a growing protein demand,” said Eichler.

Further expansion of Manitoba’s dairy-processing capacity is expected in the coming months and years, as existing plants ramp up production and smaller processors enter the market.

But nothing on the scale of the MDI plant, Wiens said.

“We are still having to catch up,” he said. “In the past we have also had to skim some of the components of the milk and we simply weren’t able to find a home for that, now of all that can be directed towards the plant.”

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Back to more typical weather

Issued: Monday, October 30, 2017 · Covering: November 1 – November 8, 2017

BY DANIEL BEZTE
Weather Vane

It’s looking more and more like winter is moving in early this year. Last year, at this time, we were looking at several weeks of warm record-breaking temperatures; this year, while not record-breaking cold, it looks to be much more like winter. Last week’s forecast played out pretty close to what was expected, with the main difference being the temperatures running on the cooler side of the forecast.

To begin this forecast period well deal with an area of low pressure during southwest Montana, south-central Alberta and south-central Saskatchewan. This system is expected to continue moving south and east with a change in the current forecast could result in the first widespread significant snows of the season.

Forecasted temperatures for the middle to end of next week depend on whether or not this system drops snow or rain. Areas that see significant snow will remain on the cool side, with daytime highs expected to stay below 0°C and overnight lows of around -10°C.

This issue’s map shows the total amount of precipitation that has fallen across the Prairies as a percentage of average over the 30 days ending Oct 26. Nearly all of agricultural Manitoba was dry during this period, with a large area receiving around 50 per cent of average. Further west, most of Saskatchewan, along with eastern, southern and north-central Alberta, were very wet, with some areas seeing more than double the average.

I’m about to discuss cold precipitation over the last couple of weeks does not mean it is my fault that the weather has done an early turn to cold and snowy. As I have always said, “If I was able to consistently forecast the long-range weather, I would be a very rich person.” According to Environment Canada, there is a slightly better than even chance for above average temperatures along with above-average amounts of precipitation during November and December. This then transitions to near to even slightly below-average temperatures and precipitation to begin the new year.

Finally, my forecast. With the current change in the weather pattern it looks more and more like we’ll see below-average temperatures in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, along with near-average amounts of precipitation.

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The Manitoba Co-operator  |  November 2, 2017

CROPS

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD
Co-operator staff

Organic Alliance says crop insurance needs an update on organic production

Organic growers argue that insurance excludes critical production practices, but change may come with some real logistical problems, according to MASC.

Organic farmers in Manitoba hope a new working group will help solve long-standing crop insurance issues.

The body will have members from both the Manitoba Organic Alliance (MOA) and Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC).

“‘There’s definite improvements that need to be made, so we want to know what the timeline on that is,” MOA president Kate Storey said.

“Can we do those improvements now? Do we have to wait until there’s a certain number of organic acres?”

MASC introduced organic insurance in 2005 for wheat, oats and flax, three crops that had passed the 5,000-acre minimum acreage needed for a crop to become insured.

Coverage is based on a producer's 16-year history with that crop, although the corporation has added a five-year “fast track” for new organic producers.

The streamlined option weighs each year by 20 per cent until probable yield is based totally on the individual.

The company sets coverage at 50 per cent of conventional yield to 100 per cent (in years without data), something Doug Wilcox, MASC manager of insurance program development, says is in line with provincial averages.

Organic wheat averaged 45.3 per cent of conventional yield from 2005-16, according to MASC. Oats and flax were similar at 46.3 per cent and 47.1 per cent respectively.

Those three crops remain the only insurable organics, although other crops can be covered under conventional insurance.

Organic producers have pushed back against that requirement, arguing that conventional policies include an unrealistic weed management expectation and the value of grain doesn’t reflect what they can get in the market.

However, organic insurance considers early-season weeds a “designated peril” for reseeded acres and have more tolerance for fertility issues, MASC claim services manager David Van Deynze has said in the past.

Coming crops?

The MOA hopes to add barley, rye and peas to the list of insurable crops, although MASC says none of those three approaches minimum acreage.

According to MASC’s Wilcox, 4,194 acres of organic barley were grown in 2012, dropping to 1,964 last year. Rye, meanwhile, dropped from 4,198 in 2012 to 2,991 in 2016.

No data was collected on organic peas.

Wilcox drew numbers from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s Annual Report in 2016.

Of Manitoba’s organic crops, only forage and pasture land approach the necessary acres, Wilcox added.

“We’ve been asked once or twice in the past to potentially insure those crops, but we’re worried about taking on a large acreage of organic crops when, with the core programs we have right now having high losses, we’re hoping to get those programs organized and straightened out before we expand to forages or barley or hemp or whatever is recommended we go forward with next,” he said.

The company has paid out more than it has taken in premiums for its organic policies. From 2005-15, the company paid out $2.8 million, compared to $2.5 million collected.

Because of that loss, MASC considers early-season weeds a “designed peril” for reseeded acres and have more tolerance for fertility issues, MASC claim services manager David Van Deynze has said in the past.

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MASC, however, considers this an overreaction. The corporation has labelled intercrops too risky for insurance, something that has also frustrated conventional farmers experimenting with the practice.

Wilcox notes that intercrop acres are low, making MASC’s minimum acreage an issue. He also cited possible mismanagement and confusion over which crop is the primary crop to be insured.

“Then it comes time to harvest, are there going to be management issues related to harvest that insurance shouldn’t pay for because one crop has matured much earlier than the other, for example, and then you get crop loss during harvest as a result of mismatching maturity?” he posed.

A “novel crops” insurance has been suggested to solve both the green manure issue and lack of covered crops. Wilcox’s team has designed a prototype program, although it has yet to be approved by MASC.

Price gap

Payouts have been another sticking point for organic producers, who say that insurance does not recognize their premium market price.

Currently, organic oats and wheat are paid out at 150 per cent of conventional crop price, while flax is valued at twice the conventional price.

According to Storey, those numbers should all be two times or more, if market prices were reflected. Saskatchewan, a province with 500,000 organic acres compared to Manitoba’s 100,000, offers a multiplier of 1.9, the MNO president said.

“It’s the same market,” she said. “So we need to actually work on improving that price and that will draw organic farmers into the program, because that’s what many of them look at when they make their decision whether to buy crop insurance or not or organic crop insurance or not. They look at the numbers and if they can see the numbers are not accurate, then they’re not going to participate and that hurts everybody, because then the program is not getting accurate data, the farmers don’t have a program that works as well as it could. It’s in everybody’s interest to get a little accuracy in there.”

Wilcox acknowledged the gap, but said MASC is reluctant to increase payouts, given their current costs.

Solutions have already begun to float on the issue, including higher buy-in from producers to increase MASC’s pool and lower risk.

“One of the solutions that has been proposed in the past is that we use contract prices producers have been offered for the coming year, but we’ve had problems in that the timing of when we can collect that information and incorporate it into our programs is too late,” Wilcox said. “We have to try and find some alternative approach or get a better system to collect contract pricing for the coming year. Maybe in our discussion with the working group, we can find those solutions.”

There has been no timeline announced for the working group so far.

Manitoba Organic Alliance names agronomist

Katherine Stanley will take on the term position over the next year

BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD

Manitoba’s organic farmers now have an agronomist to call their own— even if it’s only for a year.

The farmer organization the Manitoba Organic Alliance has teamed up with the University of Manitoba and the provincial Agriculture Department to create a one-year term position for an organic agronomist. Katherine Stanley has been named to the position.

The researcher will split her time between research at the University of Manitoba and consultation with farmers and the Manitoba Organic Alliance. Farm visits are possible if the producer requests them, she said.

“My role is to really build the knowledge capacity and the production capacity with what is already existing in the province,” Storey said. “There’s a lot of really well-educated, great farmers, it’s a matter of pulling all that together to make sure that information can be translated to all corners of the province.”

It is unclear how much time the new agronomist will spend on farm, something that both she and Manitoba Agriculture organic specialist Laura Telford say will depend largely on the program’s uptake.

Stanley added that she expects the role to adjust as both she and the organizations involved get a better idea of where need is greatest.

“I think that there are a lot of organic producers,” she said. “There’s also a lot of information on organic research and sometimes connecting those two and bridging that knowledge gap can be challenging.”

Stanley hopes to develop a more formalized communication network within the industry during the year.

A product of the University of Manitoba’s natural systems program, Stanley has spent much of the last two years working with Dr. Martin Entz on organic production systems.

“It’s always weeds and soil fertility,” she said of the main issues facing organic producers, issues she expects to run into in her new role.

“I have a background in organic weed management and mechanical weed control, so hopefully I can take the research capacity and work with farmers into their specific contexts and their specific fields,” Storey said.

“It is in everybody’s interest to get a little accuracy in there.”

Katherine (K) has been named as the Manitoba Organic Alliance’s first agronomist.

The researcher will split her time between research at the University of Manitoba and consultation with farmers and the Manitoba Organic Alliance.

Photos: Courtesy Katherine Storey
The Prairies has become a hotbed for ingredient manufacturing based on the crop

**BY ASHLEY ROBINSON**

The French company Roquette may have kicked off the pea party when it announced a protein-processing facility at Portage la Prairie earlier this year—but it’s no longer the only one.

In September, Academy Award-winning director James Cameron announced he would be investing in a new multimillion-dollar pea-processing plant in Vancoucy, Sask. As well, there is talk of a $100-million pea-processing facility to be built in Moose Jaw, Sask., and other possible pea-processing facilities in Alberta.

The news hasn’t upset Roquette’s plans at all, however.

“We know that (the market) can absorb new capacities and that we are satisfied that there are other investments, which have confirmed the market trend is robust,” said Pascal Leroy, vice-president of pea and new proteins business line with Roquette.

At the end of September, Roquette held a sod turning for its $400-million pea-processing plant in Portage la Prairie, Man. The plant, which will employ 350 people during construction and 150 people when operating, will need 125,000 tonnes of peas a year.

According to Leroy, the project is on track for a tentative opening mid-year 2019.

“At the end of the day what is quite important for Roquette is to be close to the customer, markets, to develop the right grade for all the applications that we serve,” he said.

The pulse protein market is expanding as consumer eating habits shift. According to Leroy, the pea protein market is expected to grow by 15 per cent per year.

“Pea protein has value and can be eaten in a lot of meals like yoghurt, meat substitutes and so forth. And it addresses consumer concerns like non-GMO,” he said.

The French starch processor has been in the pea-processing business since 2005, when it opened its first plant north of the French capital of Paris.

Since then the company has worked to refine its process for extracting pea protein.

“We have developed a unique process to develop protein with good attribute in terms of nutrition properties and functionalities as well,” Leroy said.

With the expansion into North America Roquette is considering future growth opportunities within the pulse industry.

“You need time to be in a position to master a new crop... so for the time being we are quite happy to work on pea and pea protein,” Leroy said.

“Having said that, for sure we are as well looking for new proteins, but again we know Canada has a good potential for that.”

**Low costs**

Pulse industry groups say the recent spate of announcements is partly due to the region’s growing reputation as a pulse producer, but mainly the focus on peas boils down to the costs of doing business.

“It’s a combination of the tonnage available and then, what is the cost? And given that they’re producing protein isolate, it becomes, what’s the cost per tonne of protein isolate?” said Gordon Bacon, CEO of Pulse Canada.

Yellow peas are currently trading at $8 per bushel (22 cents per pound), according to Richelea No. 1 lentils at 35 cents per pound, which are grown as well in the Prairies.

Richelea electronic trading manager Gordon Kehrig said there has been a lot of focus in the last decade on developing pulse ingredients especially peas.

“Work is being done on lentils and other pulses as well and we expect to see some kind of drive in the ingredient utilization of those as we move into the future. Right now peas are kind of opening that door for everyone,” she said.

Bacon said as well, consumer interests drive the processing industry. There has been an explosion of interest in plant-based proteins as people are looking for gluten- and soy-free products, due to allergies. As well, some companies are interested in GMO-free and environmental sustainable products.

“You have companies that are looking for cost advantages relative to other sources of protein and you have people who are looking for novel ingredients,” Bacon said.

Bacon said there is opportunity for other pulse processing.

Fababean have a higher protein content than yellow peas but currently fababean production is much less than peas.

“You’re not going to build a plant for something that doesn’t yet get produced in Western Canada. But I think for sure it’s the combination of price availability and then the functionality of the protein as well,” Bacon said.

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**DATA UPDATE**

**Littlefarm on the big database**

Plenty of farmers would like to get their heads into the cloud. So what’s keeping them grounded?

**BY ALEXIS STOCKFORD**
Co-operator staff

**“Two years ago, the complaint on imagery was not enough imagery. I can guarantee you that the complaint going forward will start to be too much imagery and that data that were different approaches (fit) in terms of providing alerts to the growers...”**

**PATRICK CRAMPTON**
Chief operating officer

When it comes to big data on the farm, final destination is sunny, but the road ahead is full of bumps.

That’s according to NDSU’s David Saxowsky, a professor of agriculture who’s written on the topic of data and its coming importance.

Saxowsky imagines a time where farmers are so well informed about their land that they can tailor seeding rates and inputs not just according to field, but according to patches within the field.

Likewise, the farmer can predict the impact of those variations not just on yield, but on profit by taking cost data into account. But at the same time he concedes the concepts remains exactly that — unrealizable.

“I don’t think we’ve figured out yet how to do that,” he said.

Despite that fact, Saxowsky remains optimistic and sees big data as one of the key trends that will affect the farm of the future.

**Better technology**

Data management is not a new conversation in agriculture. By 1994, U.S. company Sanholt had already released aerial mapping software, about the same period that the first farms integrating GPS in Canada began to appear.

That said, the conversation has picked up steam as technology improves, data-based agriculture gains traction and practical applications emerge.

Today’s farmers are using historical and current weather to predict soil and insect health. Farmers can identify spots with too many bugs and see where to measure the effect of input level on production and track soil nutrients per acre.

Most recently, Manitoba company Farmers Edge announced that customers would be able to access daily satellite imaging, once an unheard of luxury, to measure the impact of farming practices, monitor crop stress and predict yield.

But despite this growth and that event of the mainstream, which puts much of the necessary data in the farmers’ back pocket through a growing number of available apps, there are still major challenges in the way of the average farmer embracing big data.

**No connection**

Broadband internet is a basic service, according to 2016’s ruling for rural Canada, but rural internet access is still a problem in many areas.

A report out of Brandon University in late 2016 found large parts of the internet service and speed along the U.S.-Canada border, through the Co-operative Grain terminal and widespread through the northern part of agricultural Manitoba.

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“A huge amount of this information, this whole logic around ‘Ag 4.0’ or digital agriculture evolution or whether crazy exciting terms you want to put on it, it’s predicated on being able to get data on and off the farms and if a combine harvester or whatever is connected to the internet, it can’t do that,” said Evan Fraser, scientific director with the University of Guelph’s Food Institute.

“The federal government announced $76.6 million in September 2016 to launch Food From Thought, tasking it with advancing the ‘digital revolution’ in agriculture and food production. That mandate extended into big data and how it could be used to reduce inputs, monitor crops, and track critical information.”

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Farmers have been frustrated with inconsistent data over brands, Crampton said, adding that issue is among the company’s priorities.

At the same time, researchers are concerned about data quality and the number of farms begins to feed in.

Mike Duncan, a precision agriculture expert and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Nserc) research chair holder at Niagara College, is among those concerned.

In a 2016 interview with the Manitoba Co-operator, he pegged the need for robust data at the farm scale.

“Often how is the average yield monitor calibrated, for example? he posed at the time.

“If you want really good data, it should be calibrated before you start every field. I doubt that will happen and I bet that most yield monitors aren’t even calibrated once a season.”

**More accurate**

Different brands may also give different results. Duncan raised the need for a more standardized system before true “big data,” can be used at more than just a farm level.

“At a lot of the benefits that we imagine coming out of these technologies are only going to be realized if we can start pooling multiple farms’ worth of data,” he said.

The idea of identity preservation requires a whole lot of players — farmers, grain handlers, shippers, the whole value chain has to be agreed to a common set of metrics and a common set of protocols.

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**Finding meaning**

Farmers may face a steep learning curve as technology presents them with more and more information. As a result, producers have to sift through layers and lay down what customers will be looking for at the grower, saying, “Hey, check out this field,” instead of having to sift through layers and layers of information. I think any grower looking to get started needs to look for a partner that has that sort of simplification.”

Data may also hit a wall when projects designed by experts or academia fail to live up to the expectations once they hit the farmer’s field, something Fraser says he hopes to avoid by integrating farmers in development.

“History is littered with examples of experts coming up with solutions to problems that farmers don’t have, or the solution doesn’t fit and whatnot.”

**Regulation and ownership**

Agriculture is one of many sectors to face the larger debate on data rights and ownership. Who owns the data? Who has rights to access it? Who has rights to share it?

The answers are still largely unclear and, at least according to Fraser, that uncertainty is putting up another barrier to farm data use.

“Many of the farmers that I’m talking to, are understand-ably, very suspicious about giving away the data that then becomes ‘monetized’ and sold back to them,” he said. “I’m just necessarily saying that’s what’s happening, but there’s a perception that could happen, and that’s a very legitimate concern.

Unless we get decent data shar-ing and data governance agree-ments sorted out, this will for-ever be a potential technology and never be real.”

Agritruth relates to both sides of the equation. Its name in research has grown over the last five years driven by farm-ers looking for field-scale data and companies looking for third-party research. At the same time, Gur and Vajdik are farmers.

Ownership has come up in conversation, Vadik said, although Agritruth has avoided any major debates over unac-ceptable use so far.

“We have taken steps to pro-ect data with user agreements and terms of use,” he said.

“Industry professionals will say that if they want to use our data in their presentations, as we believe they understand the value of the data. If people are blatantly posting information it is meant to be private, then there are legal measures that can be taken, but that is a last-resort option and fortunately one we haven’t had to use.”

(Continued on next page)
Continued from previous page

All parties should be clear on what data is being collected, what it is to be used for and who has the right to share it when entering a business arrangement, he urged.

**Going global**
Answers become even more blurred when data begins to travel across international borders.

Crampton said there have been times when a copy of Farmer's Edge data had to be held within one of the five countries they operate in.

"Working with global partners like Microsoft or Amazon, you understand how you need to store the data in certain areas and follow those regulations," he said. "The biggest concern in my mind that we hear is, of course, around the whole data privacy issue, etc., and that's where we pride ourselves in, growers owning their data." He says the company aggregates data to provide insights, but growers control permissions and how data is shared. There have also been instances where a customer has requested their data remain on a Canadian server.

"It's their agronomic right that they want to have access to, with their local retail partner... they give those permissions and then we enable ourself in, growers owning their data." He says the company aggregates data to provide insights, but growers control permissions and how data is shared. There have also been instances where a customer has requested their data remain on a Canadian server.

Five years ago, we weren't talking about this," Fraser said. "This wasn't even a conversation. Now we're having the conversation. Five years from now, what will this conversation look like? What will the data landscape look like? I think it'll be very different. I think it will be more integrated with the consumer. It'll be very different. I think that producers are likely to see in the next five years as ownership and data rights become more clear.

Like most things around big data, it is still unclear what that will ultimately mean for farmers. Both Sadowsky and Fraser are of the opinion that agriculture has yet to really explore the type of changes that producers are likely to see in the next five years as ownership and data rights become more clear.

"I guess the real question is will this go like Facebook or Google where there are less farm specific and more generic," said Sadowsky. "It will be more integrated with the consumer. It'll be very different. I think that producers are likely to see in the next five years as ownership and data rights become more clear.

"We don't always have good evidence and good information on the potential impacts of these technologies," he said. "But that can prevent folks from incorporating it into their decisions."

While the drawbacks of using a needleless injector may quickly become apparent because of a sore wrist (or an achy back from bending over ever more often), the perils of other new technologies may not be.

"Whole body vibration is a risk factor for back disorder and back pain and so is extensive static sitting," said Trask. "There's a lot of routine work on farms and a lot of incidents happen because of routine," said Dain Stehbooner, a regional service manager with Lely North America.

"My approach in training, when I'm talking to technicians and also with end-users, is to explain why we spend a lot of time in our trainings to explain the why of these things. Just putting a sticker somewhere that you can lose your finger doesn't seem to be as effective as always training, and repeating that."

New technology in agriculture is also bringing new hazards.

"We don't always have good understanding of the computers' thoughts or what the animals' thoughts are or what the animals' behaviours are, so it's another level of training that we need to getting into the workplace," he said.

Bringing automation to barns can also result in unintended consequences, including having operators who have not completely understanding of computers and technology, but less exposure to livestock and farm life, he said. As well, people designing equipment for farming activities often don't really understand what goes on at a farm, he said.

New technology is creating "an industrial revolution" on farms and "there's a good reason we're thinking about this situation for farms and technology," he said.
When Kansas farmer John Giessel drove over a deer carcass and punctured a tire on his combine during harvest this fall, he did not have the time or money to fix it. He borrowed his neighbour’s tractor to finish.

U.S. farmers are cutting costs any way they can to compete against cheaper producers in Argentina and Brazil.

Four years of global oversupply have pushed down grain prices, reduced agricultural revenues and put more expensive producers under financial pressure.

In response, U.S. farmers have bought cheaper seeds, spent less on fertilizers and delayed equipment purchases as they seek to ride out the downturn. But more bumper harvest forecasts and rising energy prices herald another tough year for farmers in 2018. “The logical thing to do is stop farming,” said Giessel, 64, who farms about 5,500 acres and has worked on the land all of his adult life.

Giessel has cut spending on what he can control — seeds, chemicals, fertilizer, rented land and labour hired through his farm’s savings. He says he paid about $30 an acre for 2014 U.S. funds, or nearly $15,000, on one cornfield alone this year.

“My burn rate is a raging fire and I am not different than anyone else out here,” Giessel said.

Some farmers have had to sell assets to keep afloat. Others have gone into bankruptcy.

U.S. farmers have taken another hit this year because of rising prices of labour, fuel and rapid advances in technology. They have cut spending on the farm and in the United States in Canada to be down another five per cent this year, and CNH said in July that sales in North America were down.

Crop prices, yield

Prices in crop prices have outpaced the cuts farmers have made in spending.

Corn futures have dropped about 12 per cent during 2017 from 2014 averages while soybean prices are 17 per cent lower and wheat has tumbled 24 per cent.

Farmers cut $40.20 billion to bring total costs down to $350.49 billion between 2014 and 2016, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Economic Analysis. The downturn in spending has hurt farm equipment manufacturers.

Sales in the agriculture division at Deere & Co. and CNH Industrial fell sharply during 2015 and 2016. Deere expects farm equipment sales in the United States and Canada to be down another five per cent this year, and CNH said in July that sales in North America were down.

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Manitoba's sunflower harvest is in high gear and yield and quality are looking good despite an arid summer.

“The quality of the sunflowers seems to be very good, the yields are reasonably good. I think they’re going to be a good solid average,” said Ben Friesen, senior market manager with Scoular Special Crops.

Friesen estimates sunflower harvest is more than half done, with it a few weeks ahead of schedule due to the warm weather. The final Manitoba crop report released Oct. 16 said sunflower harvest was ongoing with yields being reported in the 1,800- to 2,600-pounds-per-acre range. As well some mid-stock rot had been reported.

According to Friesen, due to the dry weather, reports of mid-stock rot have been down from recent wet years. The quality of confection sunflowers has been good, according to Friesen. The actual seed size however, is a bit smaller due to the dry weather.

Oilsed sunflowers have had no quality issues and the bushel weights have been good as well, according to Friesen.

Prices for sunflowers have been fairly level with original confec-tion contracts from Scoular having been between 32 and 35 cents per pound. For oilseeds the contracts have been similar at between 22 and 24 cents per pound.

Manitoba farmers planted 65,000 acres of sunflowers in 2017, 5,000 less than the previous year, according to Statistics Canada. However, according to Friesen, in years previous to 2016 sunflower crops had been down as well.

“We feel at this time that we should be in pretty good shape because with the harvest coming in and to have yields coming in at average or in some cases a bit above average... I don’t think we’re going to have a large overage and also not a large shortage,” Friesen said.

Sunflower crops in Argentina and China, which affect the North American market, are both looking good as well, from what Friesen has heard.

“We’re offering prices into some of the Middle East areas, and we’re not getting them because China’s offering lower prices,” he said.
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PotashCorp profit disappoints ahead of merger

Potash prices are stable but haven’t risen much off of eight-year lows seen late last year.

**BY ROD NICKEL AND AKSHARA P**

The PotashCorp of Saskatchewan has reported smaller-than-expected quarterly profit and narrowed its full-year forecast, pressuring its stock. The company, set to merge with rival Agrium to withstand a fertilizer slump, released its regular quarterly results Oct. 26.

Prices for potash have levelled off this year after hitting eight-year lows late last year due to low crop prices and excessive production capacity.

The slump, which has extended to nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers, has led PotashCorp to seek consolidation and idle capacity.

Potash said the all-stock merger with Agrium, valued at $25 billion (all figures U.S. funds) when it was announced last year, was on track for completion by the end of the year, forming a new company called Nutrien.

New York-listed shares of Potash dipped 1.7 per cent to $19.34.

Pressure on Potash stock is likely to be short lived as investors quickly turn their attention to the merger, combining PotashCorp’s fertilizer capacity with Agrium’s network of stores to sell fertilizers and seed to farmers, said Brian Madden, portfolio manager at Goodreid Investment Counsel, which owns Potash shares.

“The bigger prize is the combination of the two businesses,” Madden said. Nutrien “is going to be bigger, and less volatile.”

India last month approved the merger, contingent on Potash divesting stakes in fertilizer companies ICL Israel Chemicals, SQM and Arab Potash Co. Plc.

PotashCorp tightened its full-year adjusted earnings to 48 cents to 54 cents per share from 45 cents to 65 cents.

PotashCorp’s sales volumes exceeded expectations, but the opening of new mines owned by K+S AG and EuroChem will add competition early next year, said BMO analyst Joel Jackson.

The company’s third-quarter revenue rose 8.6 per cent to $1.23 billion, helped by higher sales volumes and average realized prices of potash.

However, the cost of goods sold rose five per cent in the quarter, resulting in a smaller profit.

Net income fell to $53 million, or six cents per share, from $81 million, or 10 cents per share, a year earlier.

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Ag Ex brings on the breeding stock with national Charolais show

Brandon’s Ag Ex was host to the Canadian National Charolais Show and Sale

By Alexis Stockford

Brandon had the full focus of Canada’s Charolais industry Oct. 26-27 as gates opened on the National Charolais Show and Sale. Breeders from Ontario to Alberta arrived at Brandon’s Keystone Centre for the event, part of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba’s Ag Ex.

“A national show for us is huge,” Ag Ex cattle show committee co-chair Shannon Carvey said. “It gives us the opportunity to showcase our facility and our show to breeders from all across Canada, because a national show will draw breeders from all the provinces.

“Once they see what we have, we often get them back, which is really important to our show to keep the numbers growing and keep getting bigger and bigger.”

Numbers are up from last year, according to exhibitors and organizers. In 2016, the Ontario Charolais Association reported just over 100 entries at the national show in Toronto. This year, entries easily broke the 100-head mark.

“It’s great to have so many Charolais cattle show up for a national event,” Andre Stepper, a Manitoba farmer and chair of the 2017 National Show Committee, said. “It’s one of the highest-entered shows that we have had in Manitoba for quite a few years and we’re excited to have people from southern Ontario all the way to Alberta. Stepper was one of several Manitobans in the winner’s circle by the end of the two days, taking home the 2017 reserve champion senior heifer calf and reserve champion junior female title.

The Miami farm adds that to their existing national record. In 2014, Stepper Farms walked away from the national show (also held in Brandon) with the reserve grand champion female title.

Bully for Manitoba

It was a Manitoba sweep for the bulls. C2 Charolais out of La Riviere and Brooksdale’s JMB Charolais heat out all comers for the Grand Champion Bull national title.

“We go to our local little fairs, some of them, too, but it’s nice to get away farther and see other cattle. When you’re just in Ontario, you just see the Ontario cattle and it’s the same cattle, usually, all the time. It’s nice to come out here and see the western cattle.”

Craig Cotties

Crawford, ON

“Be honest, I don’t know if it’s quite set in yet,” Jeff Cavers of C2 Charolais said. “It’s unbelievable. We bought the bull to breed cows, and that’s what we did with him, and thought in the back of our minds all the time (that) we could bring him out to show him and everything that we had imagined and kind of played out in front of us.

It’s a real surreal dream come true.”

Bred by JMB Charolais out of Brooksdale, the animal had already claimed the 2016 Ag Ex championship and Charolais division at Aghirriini’s President’s Cup by the time Cavers purchased him in December 2016. JMB owners Judy Hart and Bert McDonald, however, have kept a stake in the bull.

Cavers says he expects the bull to be a “game changer” for his operation, with the animal’s first calves expected in January.
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Passion for food behind successful mustard product company

Push doubts aside, find resources to help and go for it, young entrepreneur tells attendees at the 9th annual Take the Leap conference

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
Co-operator staff/DAUPHIN

A young Manitoba who started cooking up mustard recipes at home and three years later is selling across Canada says a favourite quote helped muster her courage to start — and keep going.

“It’s anything possible if you’ve got enough nerve,” says Carly Minish-Wytinck. The quote is from J. K. Rowling.

“I mean, I make mustard for a living,” she told a rural entrepreneur conference where she was keynote speaker October 25.

Originally from Minstona, Minish-Wytinck is founder of Smak Dab Mustard, a family-owned business that creates a line of culinary mustards now sold in 75 retail stores in Manitoba, used in 20 restaurants and sold to another 25 outlets across the country.

Her product has earned prizes at the Great Manitoba Food Fight and she was recently a Rising Star award from Food and Beverage Manitoba.

It might make being successful look effortless, but as she told the 9th annual Take the Leap conference in October, it is anything but. Originally from Minstona, it was a love of food fostered by a family that cooked and ate together that made her decide to pursue Red Seal chef training while friends and high school headed to university to earn degrees as engineers and teachers, she said.

“It’s not easy going against the grain at a young age,” she said. “But it was natural to follow some passion.”

She worked at Fusion Grill in Winnipeg after earning her chef’s credentials and it was there that she started to see something missing from Manitoba’s kitchens — locally made mustard — which she also knew made good food great.

That prompted her to cook up a batch — flavoured with ingredients such as beer, honey and maple syrup and give out as gifts to family and friends, who raved about it and urged her to try selling.

Minish-Wytinck muddled over for over a bit, but was keen to try. Choosing her catchy business name and eventually took a few days in 2014 to St. Norbert’s Farmers’ Market.

“I was incredibly nervous but told myself I had to go for it,” she told the Dauphin gathering. “I’ll never forget my first sale. And at the end of that first day we sold almost half of what we brought. I was over the moon with the excitement.”

Smak Dab Mustards are all made with local ingredients at the Swan River Food Processing Centre in a family-owned business.

Her key advice to conference-goers was to set doubt aside when you have a really good business idea.

She wouldn’t have built Smak Dab Mustard stirring pots of mustard at home and listening too much to uncertainty about going forward, she said. Instead, she made doubt work for her.

“Doubt makes you dive into the heart of your fears,” she said. “Doubt gives you opportunities to do things right.”

The theme of the 2017 “Take the Leap conference was rallying your resources. Minish-Wytinck said its key to pull together a team to help start up on the right note.

Recognize early what you’re good at and like to do — and where other people can best help you, she said. As soon as she could she hired professionals to handle her accounting and help her with a website blog posts and photography.

Finding a mentor is critically important too, she said.

“Find someone you trust and someone you can really learn from.”

The Swan River Food Processing Centre, opened in 2012, is a smaller version of the Food Development Centre in Portage la Prairie.

She sought help from organizers such as Entrepreneur Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to growing the economy one entrepreneur at a time, and the Women’s Enterprise Centre of Manitoba.

Yet, it all boils down to willing-
Pizza party

Don’t feel guilty, well-chosen toppings can make your pizza a healthful menu option

BY JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON
NDSU Extension Service

Do you recall your first experience with pizza? The first time I tried pizza, at about age five, I was not sold on it. In fact, I couldn’t imagine why anyone wanted to eat it on a regular basis.

I was entranced by TV ads that said pizza made from the kit being advertised was “scrumptious.” I wasn’t exactly sure what that word meant, but I figured that meant it was pretty good.

Making a pizza at home supposedly was easier than going out for pizza. The nearest pizza restaurant was about an hour away from my home, so making a pizza at home definitely was easier than a two-hour round trip. I wasn’t a child during the time of covered wagons or the Model T. By the way, I asked my mom to buy a pizza kit and she agreed. I eagerly opened the pizza kit box at home. It contained a crust mix, a can of tomato sauce, an envelope of spices and a packet of Parmesan cheese.

We made it just as the package directed, and I helped mix the crust, which had a nice yeasty aroma. I spread the can of sauce on the crust. We didn’t add any “optional ingredients” such as mozzarella cheese or other toppings.

Imagine a pizza without stringy cheese, just a lot of tomato sauce on a soggy crust with a sprinkle of oregano, basil and Parmesan cheese. I ate a piece and didn’t ask for another pizza kit. However, later I changed my mind about pizza.

Now I live fairly close to several restaurants that serve pizza. Plus, making personalized homemade pizzas with a buffet of toppings is our family’s New Year’s Eve tradition. I always have plenty of mozzarella cheese and lots of veggies and protein options, not just sauce and herbs.

We have many options to create our own pizzas at home, including pre-made crusts and freezer cases full of all sorts of pizzas. Pizza sometimes is viewed as unhealthy or even as “junk food,” but well-chosen toppings can make your pizza a healthful menu option. Pizza can vary greatly in the number of calories per slice, depending on the toppings chosen and type of crust, so ask if your favourite restaurant provides nutrition information online or at the store.

Try creating personalized pizzas with each of the food groups represented and a range of topping choices. Here are some steps to making a pizza at home:

• Start with a whole grain crust. We are advised to make half of our grain choices whole grains to get the benefits of fibre and a range of vitamins and minerals.

• Add a sauce. Tomato-based pizza sauce is an obvious choice, but we have many other options. Spread the crust lightly with hummus (seasoned chickpea dip), barbecue sauce, Alfredo sauce, Asian peanut sauce, salsa or pesto (made up of basil, olive oil and other ingredients) for a flavour change.

• Add some veggies, such as diced onion; sliced mushrooms; spinach leaves; diced red, yellow and green peppers; shredded carrots; diced tomatoes; or artichoke hearts.

• Try some fruit on your pizza. Add some sweetness with thinly sliced apples or pears or chunks of pineapple.

• Add some protein, such as sliced grilled chicken, black or white beans, shredded pork, cooked and drained ground beef or Italian sausage, shrimp or your other favourites.

• Don’t forget the cheese. Besides mozzarella and cheddar, consider adding some other flavourful cheeses, such as a little feta or Swiss cheese. You might want to sprinkle on some Parmesan, too.

• Be sure to bake pizza in a hot oven at 450 F or above. Go light on the sauce to avoid a soggy crust. Adjust your baking time, depending on the number of toppings. Consider baking your pizza on a grill to impart a smoky, grilled flavour.

Here’s a pizza crust recipe from the North Dakota Wheat Commission (http://www.ndwheat.com) ready to inspire your creative choice of toppings.

Whole wheat pizza crust

2 tsp. active dry yeast
3/4 c. warm water (105 to 115°F)
1 c. whole wheat flour
3/4 c. bread flour (For best results, use part bread flour and part whole wheat flour)
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. olive oil

In a medium bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Stir in both types of flour and salt. Add oil and mix. Turn out on a floured surface and knead about five minutes or until smooth and elastic. Place dough in a greased bowl, turning dough to coat the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place about one hour; until doubled in size. Punch down and let rest 10 minutes.

On a floured surface, roll dough into a large rectangle for a thin-crust pizza or to fit a 12- or 14-inch pizza pan for a thicker crust. Place on a baking sheet or pizza pan sprinkled with cornmeal. Pinch edges to form a lip. Top with your favourite sauce, veggies, meat and cheese. Drizzle with olive oil. Bake in a preheated 450°F oven for about 15 minutes. The baking time will vary, depending on the thickness of the crust and the toppings.

Makes eight servings of crust. Each serving has 110 calories, 2.5 grams (g), 4 g protein, 11 g carbohydrate, 2 g fibre and 150 milligrams sodium.

Julie Garden-Robinson is a North Dakota State University Extension Service food and nutrition specialist and professor in the department of health, nutrition and exercise sciences.
Protecting plants from winter damage

BY ALBERT PARSONS

L are October/early November is the ideal time to start preparing going to protect vulnerable plants from our severe winter. The first step has hopefully already been taken where you have chosen most of your plants that are hardy to your climate zone. Many gardeners, however, like to try a few “challenging” hardy to your climate zone. Many gardens, south and west sides will shade them from the sun, preventing desiccation and sunscald, while a sturdier barrier on the north and west sides will protect the plants from harsh winter winds. All perennials benefits from going into the winter with adequate water around their roots because wet soil holds more heat than dry soil. Not only evergreen trees and shrubs, but other trees and shrubs as well as perennials should be watered thoroughly before freeze-up.

Wrapping the lower trunks of valuable deciduous trees with burlap offers protection from the sun and will prevent the bark from splitting. Winter sun can be damag- ing not only because it causes desiccation but also because the freezing-thaw cycle that sunny winter days produce is very dam- aging to plants. Some people plant very tender plants against the south wall of the house, thinking this is the most sheltered spot in the garden. It might be, but the con- stant freeze-thaw cycle that is created in such sheltered spots causes a great damage to plants during the winter. Another reason to wrap the trunks of trees and shrubs is that but with a more substantial material than burlap — to offer protection from dam- age done by rabbits.

The best way to protect plants from windchill due to low temperatures is to keep the soil temperature constant and to keep it as high as possible by having good snow cover. Erect snow fences and use branches to catch snow so that deep drifts cover plants during the whole winter. This works well if there is significant early snowfall, but often, an outburst of very cold weather occurs before there is significant snow cover. In this case, mulches will serve the same purpose. A thick layer of mulch of an organic material such as dry leaves will provide insulation around plants to moderate the changes in the temperature of the soil. Whether dry leaves, straw, or another material, it must be kept dry to retain its insulating ability. Therefore such mulches are often covered with a plastic or Styrofoam cover. I have had good luck fill- ing large plastic bags (originally held mat- teress) with dry leaves and placing these bags on top of Oriental lilies.

Dry soil or peat moss can be mounded up over tender plants. Use as much as is needed. Wire cages can be made to hold a covering for the mulch. Tender plants such as a hydrangea can be cut back and then have a large cardboard box (bottom removed) placed over it. The box is next filled with dry leaves and the top closed and covered with plastic to make it waterproof. Perrenials borders ben- efit from having a thick layer of organic mulch tucked in around the plants before freeze-up. I have a large basswood tree that supplies just such a mulch every year to a nearby flower border.

Never leave plants in containers as frost will enter the soil from all sides and the severe cold will kill them. Keel in ever- greens and perennials into the garden that you have had in containers for the summer and put mulch around them. Offer extra protection to plants located in raised beds or planters for the same reason. If you must leave a plant in its pot, bury the pot up to its rim and then cover the whole thing with a thick layer of mulch. All of this effort at winterizing your garden will be worth it when you see your plants emerge next spring. A few evergreens, however, will wear no matter how severe the winter.

By Rollin Penner
The Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) is gathering information on the disappearing “Prairie sentinels.” In the 1950s, there were over 700 grain elevators in Manitoba. Today, there are fewer than 200. You can help to preserve the legacy of these disappearing “Prarie sentinels” by providing information about the elevators you know of.

MHS Gordon Goldsborough webmaster and Journal editor has developed a website to post your replies to a series of questions about elevators. Collaborating with the Manitoba Co-operator, Goldsborough has developed a website to post your replies to a series of questions about elevators. Readers willing to share their stories can leave messages at 204-474-7469. You will receive a response, by email or phone call, confirming that your submission was received.

Goldsborough is interested in hearing all sorts of experiences about the elevators — funny, sad, or anything in between. Readers willing to share their stories can leave messages at 204-474-7469.

Dear Reena, We have rediscovered a relative’s china-ware from the ’50s. The style is quite amazing for that period of time. However, there is no mention as to whether or not it is dishwasher safe. I’m thinking it isn’t just because of its age and the lack of automatic home dishwashers at that time. So, the question is what is the difference between being dishwasher safe and not being dishwasher safe? What happens if you wash the dishes in the dishwasher? Would it matter if we turned off the heated dry cycle? Your comments would be appreciated. — David

Dear David,

This is one of those long-standing debates where china owners differ. Some experts claim they can actually tell the difference between china washed in the dishwasher several times, versus hand-washed china. Hand washing is the safest method for cleaning china unless your dishwasher happens to offer a button specifically designed for fine china. Harsh detergents containing bleach along with high water temperature can play a big part in damaging china, specifically hand-painted china or weakened china containing small cracks. Dishes with gold accents may become damaged from high water temperature or water force. If you choose to place dishes in the dishwasher, select cold water, mild dishwasher detergent and air-dry.

Dear Reena,

My mom is turning 72 this week and I am trying to make a home spa for her birthday. Can you give me an idea for a cheap home-made face mask treatment? — Vera

Dear Vera,

Nice idea! Combine 1 tbsp. regular plain yogurt with 1 tsp. soft honey. Apply to face and leave for seven minutes. Pat and rinse with a clean, hot washcloth.

Dear Reena,

We recently moved into a new home. When I unpacked my silk flower collection, I was horrified to see that they are completely squished and wrinkled. How can I remove the wrinkles? — Darrina

Dear Darrina,

Soak the flowers upside down in a bucket of warm sudsy water for 15 minutes. Allow them to dry and reshape them when damp. Another option is to let the steam from a hot shower draw out the wrinkles or use a heat gun. However, a heat gun is less effective and more time-consuming.

Reader feedback

W: Car windows and stove grease

Dear Reena,

With regards to the car, the absolute best way to clean everything inside a car (and deodorize it at the same time) is to use coffee! Take the remaining coffee from your pot and two washcloths and go to town! You can literally clean everything with this, including door panels. As for the grease on the floor around the stove, purchase a container of waterless GOJO and spread it out on the grease. Give it a couple of minutes, and then use a damp cloth to wipe it up! This also works fantastic for cleaning marks off walls, fridges and everything else and makes your kitchen smell incredible. — Robert

Tips from readers

• Here is a good idea for people with dogs. When someone comes to the door, all dogs want to see who it is. Purchase a baby gate and mount it between the inside and outside door. When mounting the gate, make sure that the dog can’t squeeze underneath. Then you can open your door to see who is there and the dog cannot get out! — Submitted by Robert

• We head down south every winter and always shut off our water to avoid flooding messes. One additional step that we take before leaving is to plastic wrap our toilet. Doing this prevents unwanted pests from crawling up pipes and living in our home (the lid doesn’t always deter pests). Stay warm. — Miranda

• When I burned my hand with hot butter, I sliced a russet potato, placed the slices over the burn and wrapped my hand with a kitchen towel. The starch in the potato stopped most of the blistering and eased the pain. — Submitted by Pat

• Note: Every user assumes all risks of injury or damage resulting from the implementation of any suggestions in this column. Test all products on an inconspicuous area first.

Reena Nerbas is a popular motivational presenter for large and small groups. Check out her website: reena.ca. Ask a question or share a tip at reena.ca.

This Old Elevator

In 1951, United Grain Growers constructed a 35,000 bushel wooden grain elevator at the Cawdor siding on the CNR Oakland Subdivision, near the Whitewood River in what is now the Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone. Grain volumes shipped from the elevator did not meet the company’s expectations so, in 1954, it was moved to Westbourne, the first time that a UGG elevator was moved intact rather than being disassembled and rebuilt. — Source: University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections.
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- 2017 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA: Cat 13L 435, Automatic, 88” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 3,400,000kms., $40,000. Contact Ken 306-237-4212, Rosthern, SK.

- 2017 DODGE 5500 dualie, tire 12%, called Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 FREIGHTLINER: Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 1,500,000kms., $29,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2016 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA: Cat 13L 435, Automatic, 88” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 1,400,000kms., $40,000. Contact Ken 306-237-4212, Rosthern, SK.

- 2015 FREIGHTLINER: Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 1,300,000kms., $29,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**GRAVEL TRUCKS**

- 2017 INTERNATIONAL 9200I, 370hp, loaded, tires 90%, 1,200,000kms., $36,000. Pardoe, 306-741-9059, Morse, SK.

- 2015 NEW HOLLAND: 510hp, Automatic, loaded, tires 90%, 1,000,000kms., $36,000. Pardoe, 306-741-9059, Morse, SK.

**SEMI TRUCKS**

- 2015 FREIGHTLiner, Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 1,100,000kms., $28,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 FREIGHTLINER: Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 1,000,000kms., $28,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 FREIGHTLINER: Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 900,000kms., $27,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 FREIGHTLINER: Cat 11L 350, Automatic, 48” sleeper, loaded, tires 80%, 800,000kms., $26,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**VARIOUS**

- 2017 DODGE 5500, loaded, tires 90%, 800,000kms., $40,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 DODGE 5500, loaded, tires 90%, 700,000kms., $35,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 DODGE 5500, loaded, tires 90%, 600,000kms., $30,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2015 DODGE 5500, loaded, tires 90%, 500,000kms., $25,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**SPECIALIZED TRUCKS**

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER CENTURY Class 9, 60” Sleeper, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 5,400,000kms., $35,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**GRAVEL TRUCKS**

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER CENTURY Class 9, 60” Sleeper, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 5,300,000kms., $34,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER CENTURY Class 9, 60” Sleeper, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 5,200,000kms., $34,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**GRAVEL TRUCKS**

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 4,200,000kms., $30,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 3,800,000kms., $29,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 3,500,000kms., $27,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 3,200,000kms., $26,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

**GRAVEL TRUCKS**

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 2,900,000kms., $25,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 2,700,000kms., $24,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 2,500,000kms., $23,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 2,300,000kms., $22,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.

- 2017 FREIGHTLINER: Caterpillar 11L, Automatic, loaded, tires 80%, 2,100,000kms., $21,000. Contact Terence 306-388-6131, Yorkton, SK.
Excellent cond! 306-529-2871, Southey, SK

2013 140A FARMALL Case/IH w/loader, tires, buddy seat, gd cond., $248,500 OBO.

2008 Maxim 140 w/loader. 204-522-6333, Melita, MB. www.redheadequipment.ca

3255 Valmar w/tarp, Valmar platform, Killaly, SK.

$159,000. Call 306-821-2566, Watson, SK.

2009 NH T9060, PS, GPS, 800 metric tires, 2677 hrs., exc. cond., $510,000.

STEVE'S TRACTOR REBUILDER


1995 JD 8100, 159 HP, 1400 hrs., $22,000 OBO, 204-867-5363, Minnedosa, MB.


1998 JD 9430, duals, 2775 hrs., $258,000.

2009 JD 9560R, duals, PTO, 2250 hrs., 306-723-4875, Cupar, SK.

1980 JD 4440, duals, dual hyds., PTO, 1-800-667-0094. Email Spruce Home, SK.. 1-800-667-0094. Email"
Crossword

by Adrian Powell

Those Pungent Bulbs

ACROSS
1. Weep
2. Clutch tightly
3. ‘71 NY prison riot site
4. One of TV’s Walton girls
5. Trombone forerunner
6. Couch potato’s spot
7. Completely off base?
8. Where the farmer lives, in song
9. Subatomic particle
10. Air Force One, for one
11. Big news in Alice Springs
12. Venous African breast
13. Ultra-orthodox Jewish adherent
14. Enter your user name
15. Clod breaking tool
16. Hits head-on
17. Site of a ‘71 NY prison riot
18. Promo appointment, perhaps
20. Be grateful for small onions?
21. Reason for a CAA call
22. Story of your life, in brief
23. Graduation day attire
24. Marvellous
25. Comparable (to)
26. Dressed to the nines
27. Something to add to the vichyssoise recipe?
28. Air Force One, for one
29. Dressed to the nines
32. Complace (to)
33. 68’s “Harper Valley ___”
34. Noisy
35. 68’s “Harper Valley ___”
36. P T A
37. Clay, after 1964
38. Saskatchewan’s ___ la Ronge
39. 1-800-667-7770
40. Homer Simpson’s dad
41. Jacques, in a kids’ song
42. Preparation used by bards
43. Foreign policy overtures
44. Pre-postal cooking chive
45. Saskatchewan’s ___ la Ronge
46. Dressed to the nines
47. Enter your user name
48. “You ___ My Sunshine”
49. Onion in a pita with a roguish feeling?
50. Preparation used by bards
51. Familiarity
52. Location of many trimmers
53. Bulgarian moola
54. Orchid-like flower
55. Not any
56. Not any
57. Sleazy
58. One of TV’s Walton girls
59. Manitoba Co-operator classification ad order form
60. 1-800-667-7770
61. Fling forcefully
62. Preparation used by bards

DOWN
1. Invitation to a party
2. “Csi: Miami” star David Caruso’s dad
3. It would be of interest to you
4. Be grateful for small onions?
5. Preparation used by bards
6. Preparation used by bards
7. Where the farmer lives, in song
8. Subatomic particle
9. Subatomic particle
10. Subatomic particle
11. Subatomic particle
12. Subatomic particle
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56. Subatomic particle
57. Subatomic particle
58. Subatomic particle
59. Subatomic particle
60. Subatomic particle
61. Subatomic particle
62. Preparation used by bards

Sudoku

TAKE FIVE

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Here’s How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!