

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

Farm safety

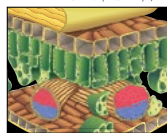
Kids and equipment are a deadly combination on the farm. | P. 17



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When less is more
Scientists discover a gene that helps plants limit photosynthesis | P. 76

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



Stacey Cornet ropes a calf while practising with his son, Colt, and daughter, Jordyn, at their ranch near Brant, Alta., Oct. 5. Cornet competes in pro rodeo while his kids practise for a high school rodeo in Magrath, Alta., in two weeks. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

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ELECTION 2015

Parties reveal ag platforms

The days of major agricultural promises are over; platforms are now announced more quietly

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

With the exception of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and concern about the trade deal's effect on supply management, agriculture has not made election campaign headlines.

The days of agricultural platforms, announced by each party at a geographically and politically advantageous location, seem to be over.

This time, leaders made their obligatory stops at farms and all

pledged their support for supply management, but agricultural promises were released quietly and generally late in the campaign.

Conservative candidate and agriculture minister Gerry Ritz said the sector is naturally included in initiatives designed to boost the economy, trade and infrastructure, and farmers don't necessarily need their own platform.

For example, an early Conservative campaign promise would boost broadband access in rural areas.

Ray Price, president of the Sun-

terra Group, said that might be true, but he would like to see more politicians talking about agriculture and food.

He sits on the Canadian Meat Council board and said members have started to meet with politicians to help them better understand the industry.

"We've always felt that everybody knows about food," he told the recent Canadian Farm Writers' Federation conference. "We're realizing now that very few people know what goes on in the food system."

Price said the meat business

employs more than 60,000 people across Canada, buys from 200,000 producers and exports \$6 billion worth of product a year.

Auto parts suppliers employ 80,000 people and have a much higher profile.

"So we should be out there saying it's the economic impact, it's the job impact," he said.

"It's the export-driven business that we have. We have to focus the message more on the impact of what agriculture is and what it can be."

SEE AG PLATFORMS, PAGE 4

SURVEY

Sask. vows to close loopholes in owning land

KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Saskatchewan will likely introduce legislation this fall to tighten the province's farmland ownership laws, agriculture minister Lyle Stewart said Oct. 7.

The results of an online survey conducted in summer found that most respondents, 62 percent of them farmers, opposed allowing investors such as Canadian pension funds to own land.

"People were pretty clear about what they think," Stewart told reporters.

"While this isn't a referendum, I've said that the government will be guided in our policies by what this survey showed, and I think the results are fairly clear."

Three-quarters of the more than 23,200 people who responded to the survey said they were opposed to pension funds owning land.

SEE FARMLAND SURVEY, PAGE 5



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