Canadian Western Agribition will set records this year, say organizers.

“This has been a benchmark year for us in a lot of ways,” said chief executive officer Chris Lane as the 47th annual show wrapped up last week.

Cattle entries were up by more than 200 to fill the facilities to capacity.

Attendance was strong and will top the 120,000 mark.

Canadian Western Agribition will set records this year, say organizers.

The big indoor cattle show, held Nov. 23, brought out larger-than-usual crowds, including more than 305 registered international buyers. The second calf went to a Mexican purchaser. All told, the sale brought in $241,750. | MICHAEL RAINE PHOTO

Cattle exhibitors used words like awesome, tremendous and outstanding to describe the ITC.

Carlos Ojea from Argentina, who judges cattle around the world and did so at the RBC Beef Supreme Challenge, said the ITC is state-of-the-art.

“This is really as good as you can get anywhere in the world,” he told the crowd.

Cattle exhibitors used words like awesome, tremendous and outstanding to describe the ITC.

Salty problem
Soil salinity getting you down? Start with water management. | Page 23

Weed seed predators
Some critters like eating weed seeds; make them welcome. | Page 50

Agribition makes the most of its brand new facilities

‘Benchmark’ year for annual livestock show will set records, say organizers

Exhibitors and visitors alike were impressed with the new International Trade Centre, which replaced old buildings with a modern, well-lit space that put the entire show under one roof. The show was able to use part of the space last year and the full 150,000 sq. ft. this year.

Lane said that interconnectivity helped with the goal of making it easier for people to see more of the event.

Cattle exhibitors used words like awesome, tremendous and outstanding to describe the ITC.

SEE AGRIBITION, PAGE 4

World’s farmland total bigger than expected

Satellite map shows 4.62 billion acres are farmed

Farmers around the world are growing more crops than previously thought, according to a new high-resolution satellite map.

Researchers at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have pieced together a map using Landsat satellite imagery with 30-metre resolution that identifies every plot of land under cultivation around the globe.

The map shows that 4.62 billion acres are being farmed, which is 15 to 20 percent higher than previous estimates.

That finding did not surprise Prasad Thenkabail, USGS research geographer and principal investigator of the Global Food Security Support Analysis Data project.

He knew the higher resolution satellites would pick up on areas never before mapped or were inaccurately identified as non-crop lands.

SEE WORLD FARMLAND, PAGE 5
MYCOTOXIN ALERT: Farmers are urged to test their feed despite low commodities.

NEONIC BAN: Health Canada won’t decide on whether to ban imidacloprid until late next year.

FARM LIVING
THINKING BIG: An Alberta community thinks big with its new hall.
ON THE FARM: Three generations work together on this northern Alberta farm.

PRODUCTION
WEED PREDATORS: Farmers should lure weed seed-eating critters to their land.
IT’S A REVELATION: New Holland tweaks its latest class of combines.

LIVESTOCK
AGRIBITION SUPREME: A Limousin bull and Charolais female win at Agribition.
AGRIBITION PUREBRED: Four breeds took home banners at Agribition purebred shows.

AGFINANCE
SOYBEAN PLANT: A coalition of Manitoba groups is making plans to woo a company to build a soybean processing plant in the province.

MARKETS
FEWER PEAS: Pea acres are expected to shrink because of India; canola will win.
SOY YIELDS: Increasing soybean yields should keep up to Chinese demand.

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BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Alberta dairy farmers seem largely unfazed by American demands for an end to the supply management system as negotiators from Canada, the United States and Mexico continue talks over two weeks into the North American Free Trade Agreement. At Alberta Milk’s annual conference Nov. 22, producers learned from provincial officials that Canada is holding firm on supply management and the dairy lobby group, called for an end to the system in September. And, as well, little, if any, progress has been made in resolving their differences.

“With NAFTA we’re holding our ground,” he said. “It’s way too important to give into these outrageous demands.”

Dairy farmers at the event received news that the talks were going well. “It’s been really reassuring, from the Canadian government and provincially, that they are 100 percent behind us,” said Jake Vermeent, ALBERTA DAIRY PRODUCER.

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

It’s tall. It’s nasty. It’s invasive. “It scares the crap out of us,” said Todd Green, director of agricultural services for the County of Newell.

Green was speaking about Phragmites australis, a member of the reed family that was found in the county last year and has since been seen in 13 other reporting locations.

Phragmites has spread widely in Ontario and elsewhere in the United States, but is assumed to be a relative newcomer to Alberta, although Green said there’s no way of telling how long the pest had been growing in the province before it was identified.

Alberta has native varieties of Phragmites, but australis is an introduced species that can choke out other plants and destroy wetland ecosystems. It reduces habitat for fish, and wildlife, and its dead stalks can be a fire hazard.

The species is not listed under the Weed Control Act, which is a complicating factor that limits prescribed action against the weed. However, it is listed as a threat in the fisheries act, which provides for Alberta Environment involvement in control and eradication efforts.

Green speculated that Phragmites australis arrived in the County of Newell, which is the region around Brooks, Alta., aboard a train because the first patch was found along the Canadian Pacific Railway right of way.

“We assume that it’s how it came in was from a CPR train that dropped off either a seed or a part of a plant,” he said.

“It’s very close to an EID (Eastern Irrigation District) canal, kind of a slow drain into a wetland, and there’s a major canal just to the south, not so good news for us.”

In 2016, county personnel cut down and removed a large patch of the reed within the EID using garden shears and tree trimmers. Four truckloads of the plant were buried in a landfill.

“With American aid, they’ve seen a stand of Phragmites australis should contact the agriculture culture services board in the region so quick action can be taken.”

Vulnerable

However, the National Milk Producers Federation, a major U.S. dairy lobby group, called for an end to Canada’s supply management system in September. In the latest round of NAFTA discussions in Mexico City on Nov. 22, negotiators made no progress on resolving their differences.

U.S. President Donald Trump’s threat to pull out of NAFTA has some worrying about the damage that might cause to Canadian exports, especially beef. Others suggest trade wouldn’t change immediately because both arms of the U.S. Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives, support NAFTA.

Most Canadian dairy farmers aren’t worried if the U.S. pulls out of NAFTA because virtually all dairy is produced by Canadian farmers because of the supply management system. As well, little, if any, is exported.

Simmelink said things won’t likely change quickly if NAFTA dies.

News

Phragmites australis chokes out other plants, destroys wetland ecosystems and can pose a fire hazard when it dies.

TODD GREEN
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF NEWELL

Edmonton Bureau

BY JEREMY SIMES
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DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF NEWELL

Edmonton Bureau
Federal agriculture minister Lawrence MacAulay has announced that Ottawa plans to spend $1 billion on federal agriculture programs and share the $2 billion cost of federal provincial initiatives. The programs under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership begin April 1, 2018, after Growing Forward 2 programs expire.

However, some of the programs will take effect before then.

“These programs will roll out starting the first of the year,” he told reporters at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, where he made the announcement Nov. 24.

“What we heard is the agricultural sector did not want a gap in the programs. With that, we’re going to be able to start well before April to make sure that the money will start flowing to the sector as soon as possible.”

The federally funded programs under CAP include AgriMarketing, AgriCompetitiveness, AgriScience, AgriInnovate, AgriDiversity and AgriAssurance.

MacAulay said they address the three broader priorities of increasing trade, the sustainable growth of the sector and supporting diversity.

AgriDiversity is designed to help under-represented groups such as women and First Nations become more involved in agriculture.

The AgriScience component includes the research clusters, for which funding applications are now being accepted.

AgriAssurance is for national industry associations and small and medium enterprises to make verifiable claims about the health and safety of products.

MacAulay said there is no better place to announce support for agriculture than at Agribition. It represents trade, innovation and adaptation, he said.

“It’s not that some picture?” he said, referring to the cattle display visible behind him.

Earlier in the week, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart announced the province would renew its $50,000-a-year funding arrangement for Agribition for the next four shows.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership to focus on trade and sustainability

BY KAREN BRIERE

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAWRENCE MACAULAY

Federal government announces new ag programs

Canadian Agricultural Partnership to focus on trade and sustainability

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Hemp growers in Canada may soon be able to sell the whole plant. Health Canada currently prohibits growers from selling the leaves and flowers of hemp plants. Those parts of the plant can be used to make cannabinoids (CBD), compounds that provide pain relief and have anti-inflammatory properties.

On Nov. 21, Health Canada announced that it plans to reverse that rule.

“It is proposed that industrial hemp licenses would authorize the intra-industry sale of leaves, flowers and branches (or the whole plant),” Health Canada said in a document that details the federal government’s proposed approach to the regulation of cannabis.

In April, the feds introduced Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act, that permits the production and use of industrial hemp, cannabis plants that contain less than 0.3 percent THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is included in the regulations.

“Health Canada will continue to regulate the production of industrial hemp, and growers will still have to apply for a licence to grow the crop. As well, industrial hemp producers are still required to go through a criminal background check. The CHTA and other players in the trade say it’s time to move away from such regulatory nuisances. Industrial hemp should be treated like other crops, where it’s under the purview of Agriculture Canada. “I don’t think we’ve quite been given the latitude that we’d like,” Crawford said. “Why not let it stand on its own, as an agricultural crop?”

The public and industry groups have until Jan. 20 to comment on the proposed regulations. The CHTA plans to make a submission, asking for changes to the regulations for industrial hemp.

robert.arnason@producer.com
MARKETS

India’s 50 percent import duty on peas will likely reduce Canadian acres but one analyst expects the lower prices will attract new buyers.

Falling pea, lentil prices likely to take toll on acreage: analysts

Pea prices have plummeted and some experts expect a 30 percent drop in acres

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Pulse acres are expected to plunge next year, losing ground to competing crops like canola and wheat, say analysts.

Brian Clancey, editor of Stat Publishing, forecasts that peas will be down about one million acres in the wake of India slapping a 50 percent import duty on the crop.

He said with India unlikely to be a big customer until 2019, farmers should probably cut back by two million acres to prevent a burden-some carryout but he doubts that will happen.

Farmers will still want to grow peas for rotational purposes and yellow pea prices have held up nicely after the initial $2 per bushel drop following India’s surprise announcement.

“The other thing is that historically whenever pea prices get low we always seem to find new demand somewhere,” said Clancey.

He doesn’t yet have a lentil planting estimate but believes there will be a substantial drop in reds, with some of those acres going to greens.

There is no Indian duty on lentils yet but exports are way down because India has a large stockpile of pulses and what looks to be a big

rabri or winter crop on the way.

Clancey said reducing pulse acres might not be such a bad thing because there have been agronomic challenges with peas and lentils due to the spread of root rot.

Chuck Penner, analyst with Left-Field Commodity Research, agrees with Clancey’s pea estimate. He believes farmers will plant about three million acres, down from 4.1 million this year.

“You get these statements, ‘nobody is going to plant peas,’ but the reality is there are always enough contrarians out there,” he said.

Penner also agreed that with red lentil bids of 16 cents per pound, a steep reduction in seeded acres is likely.

“For the past, I don’t know how many years now, pulses have kind of been at the top of the ranking for gross margin projections and this year they’re closer to the bottom,” he said.

Hard red spring wheat, canola, oats and flax are all crops farmers may choose instead.

Penner believes growers may also switch out of red lentils and into greens because with prices above 30 cents per lb., greens remain profitable. But that is risky.

“If people rush from one side of the boat to the other, from reds to greens, you can swamp the boat,” he said.

Brennan Turner, president of FarmLead, forecasts at least a 30 percent reduction in peas, or 1.2 million acres.

He believes canola will pick up the most of those acres because the current pace of exports and crushing volume means tight 2017-18 carryout stocks of about one million tonnes and that means continued profitable prices.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if you saw even another record year of acres in 2018 for canola in Canada simply because the price continues to support it,” he said.

Turner differs from the other analysts on lentils. He doubts farmers will reduce red lentil plantings because they can still make money on the crop at today’s prices and it is more attractive than malt barley or spring wheat.

He added the caveat that many things could happen between now and spring of 2018 that could alter his forecast.

“There could be something that changes with the Indian market between now and March. You might see a terrible rabi crop, ‘ he said. Turner.

Canada’s canola marketers are talking up the crop’s unique oil benefits and better-than-expected meal benefits in China.

The Canola Council of Canada has also been holding seminars about canola oil and meal with Chinese processors and nutritionists.

As well, it has held what it called a “canola dialogue” in Beijing.

The canola council hopes it becomes the first of an annual canola dialogue with the Chinese industry and government, said CCC president Ian Maxwell in a conference call from Beijing.

Fortunately for Canada, Chinese importers and processors have not raised worries about blackleg, the disease the Chinese government cited as the reason for restrictions on imports of Canadian canola.

Blackleg was discussed at the meeting, but only in the context of explaining the efforts of Canada and China to study and limit the impact of any blackleg that arrives with Canada’s canola shipments.

India’s big domestic pulse crops and its 50 percent tariff on pea imports has hit Canadian pea exports and prices hard.

Analysts say as much as a million acres of peas in Canada might switch to other crops next year, likely most of them to canola, driving the oilseed up to a new record high well above 23 million acres.

Canola oil’s positive human health benefits and the value of canola protein and meal are not well understood in China, Everson said.

China bought $2.7 billion of Canadian canola last year, but Chinese consumers do not generally perceive the seed’s oil as having a premium health value. Nor do pig feed companies and farmers realize that canola meal can make up to 30 percent of their rations.

In a seminar with the Chinese feed industry, University of Manitoba feed scientist Martin Nyachoti and a Chinese scientist explained that canola meal can make up to 30 percent of a swine ration.

“IT was pretty new news to them,” said the CCC’s market development vice-president, Bruce Jowett. “It’s about double what they’re putting in the ration (now.)”

The seminar highlighted canola oil’s ability to provide fat that is not unhealthy, a focus that should find growing interest in China because cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death. Diabetes is climbing in China, said Jowett.

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China’s soybean demand will eat higher U.S. yields

The growing appetite for more meat products will require feed imports — good news for U.S. soybean growers as yields top 50 bushels per acre

BY ED WHITE
WINNIPEG BUREAU

Soybean production in North America has likely started to surge, but that is OK because China’s demand will keep pace.

Those thoughts were floating around the Grain World conference Nov. 15, as analysts and grain trade players tried to spot future trends.

Bill Lapp of Advanced Economic Solutions said he suspected soybean yields have begun diverging from their long-term growth trend, with increasing gains in recent years.

“It does appear that, even with sub-optimal weather, we’re getting a boost in yields. I think we might be in a new trend.”

BILL LAPP
ADVANCED ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS

American soybean yields in the past few years have come in above the long-term trend line, even with less than ideal weather. Some analysts believe better crop genetics will lead to a steeper upward tilt in the trend in coming years.

U.S. soybean yields (bu./acre):

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<th>Year</th>
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Source: USDA | WP GRAPHIC

Bill Lapp of Advanced Economic Solutions said he suspected soybean yields have begun diverging from their long-term growth trend, with increasing gains in recent years.

“‘It does appear that, even with sub-optimal weather, we’re getting a boost in yields,’ said Lapp during an oilseeds outlook panel.

“I think we might be in a new trend.”

U.S. soybean yield grains have trailed behind impressive gains in corn, with average yields in the mid-1980s of 32 bushels per acre reaching 42 bu. per acre by the early 2010s.

However, since 2013 several crops have surpassed that trend line, reaching to the 50 bu. level.

Crop production analyst Kurt Ahrens of Grainbot had earlier predicted that world soybean yields will grow by about 25 percent in the next 33 years.

Continued soybean production growth will depend on moving ever greater quantities of the crop, but Felix Muller of COFCO said that shouldn’t be a problem. Chinese people are eating ever more meat and protein products,

and that will demand a continued growth in soybean imports for feed.”

“When people ramp up their consumption of meat a little bit more similar to the United States or Europe, you have a massive demand growth on top of what we see now,” said Muller.

And what is seen now is steady growth in soybean import demand, as a growing Chinese feed industry sources raw materials from the world.

Chinese consumers already eat similar amounts of pork as Europeans, but they eat only a fraction of chicken or dairy products that Europeans and Americans eat.

Muller said even the slowdown in Chinese economic growth hasn’t cramped the growth of Chinese soybean imports.

ed.white@producer.com
Low soybean yields may discourage growers

BY ROBERT ARNASON

Soybean acres in Western Canada jumped a phenomenal amount this year to 9.53 million in 2017 from 1.8 million in 2016. But acres will likely shrink in 2018 because low yields were below average in Manitoba and awful in Saskatchewan.

Dennis Lange, Manitoba Agriculture Agriculture soybean and pulse expert, holds that opinion. He projects 2018 area at two million acres in the province, down from 2.29 million in 2017.

“I think we’ll see a bit of a drop this year. Just because of how dry things were… yields were a little more than 40 bushels per acre,” said Lange at a November meeting in Brandon on the potential of a soybean crushing plant being built in western Manitoba.

Lange said average yields in Manitoba will likely be 34 bu. per acre but Statistics Canada’s final production estimates won’t come out until December. His estimate will likely prove close to the final actual numbers because most producers reported yields from 20 to 50 bu. per acre.

“I think we might end up somewhere in the middle of those numbers for average yield, like around 35 bushels,” said Cassandra Tchakch, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers production specialist, said in October.

A smaller Australian crop is good news for Canadian exports

BY SEAN PRATT

Bulk barley exports are more than double last year’s pace despite a smaller overall crop. Canadian exporters shipped out 542,000 tonnes of the crop through Week 15 of the 2017-18 crop year, compared to 240,000 tonnes the same time last year.

That is a 128 percent increase despite a drop in total supply of the crop to 9.53 million tonnes from 10.29 million tonnes last year.

Neil Townsend, senior market analyst with FarmLink Marketing Solutions, said farmers can thank China for the brisk export pace.

“One of the concerns probably in China is the smaller crop out of Australia,” he said.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences is forecasting eight million tonnes of Australian barley production, a 40 percent drop from last year’s record crop.

The Australians have stolen market share from Canada in China by selling what they call fair average quality (FAQ) barley that is not quite malting quality but much better than feed. It has been a big hit with maltsters in southern China, who are not as discerning as some other maltsters around the world.

“That has really disrupted the market over the last say eight or nine years in barley exporting to China,” said Townsend.

Canadian growers harvested a top-notch crop this year, and the country has plenty of barley that fits into the FAQ category, he said. That’s what is being shipped to China, he added.

Townsend estimates Canada will export one million tonnes of barley to China in 2017-18. He figures half of that is already been shipped.

“That’s quite a dramatic improvement over what we’ve done in the last three or four years but not unprecedented,” he said.

If exports stay at the same pace for the rest of the campaign, it would result in a 1.9 million tonne shipping program, but that doesn’t include the barley-equivalent of malt exports, said Bruce Burnett, director of markets and weather with Glacier FarmMedia.

In 2016-17, those malt exports amounted to the equivalent of about 845,388 tonnes of barley shipped overseas.

Assuming similar numbers for this year, that would be a total export program of 2.75 million tonnes.

Agriculture Canada is forecasting 2.25 million tonnes of exports. Burnett said it is unlikely barley exports will maintain the torrid early-season pace because Australia is now entering the market, so the Agriculture Canada number might be closer.

“It is setting up for a fairly tight barley S&D coming into next year,” he said.

That could help boost prices toward the tail end of the year, but feed prices are going to be kept in check by the plethora of U.S. corn on the market, said Burnett.

That is a concern shared by Errol Anderson, analyst for ProMarket Wire.

He believes 500,000 to one million tonnes of corn will come into southern Alberta from Manitoba and the United States this year.

Growers in Alberta who are holding out for malt will also be hitting the feed market with rejected malt barley in the new year.

That will likely keep a lid on feed barley prices unless it is a bitterly cold winter and cattle need to eat more than usual.

“If we get a rough winter, barley prices could go up, but if it stays benign, we’re not going nowhere,” said Anderson.

China has been busy importing feed barley in addition to malt-type product. China imported seven million tonnes of barley between January and September, up 80 percent from the same time a year ago.

One possible explanation for the huge increase is that China is in the midst of a trade war with the U.S. over distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS).

China has imposed anti-dumping and countervailing duties on U.S. DDGS in addition to ending any exemption on value added tax. Those measures have hindered U.S. DDGS exports to China.

Exports have plunged to 739,212 tonnes in 2016-17 from five or six million tonnes annually a few years ago. However, China recently reversed its stance on the VAT, announcing it was going to allow U.S. DDGS to enter the country without having to pay the 11 percent tax.

Tom Sleight, president of the U.S. Grains Council, applauded the policy shift in a recent news release.

“This change will immediately improve the competitiveness of U.S. DDGS in what was once our top market, which is a very positive thing,” he said.

China to subsidize grain transportation, storage

The government wants to increase storage capacity and reduce grain losses due to spoilage.

BEIJING (Reuters) — China plans to subsidize grain transportation and storage facilities in the latest push by Beijing to modernize the world’s largest agriculture sector.

Beijing will subsidize projects upgrading or building facilities to load and receive grains along main railways and ports for major waterways including the Yangtze and Pearl rivers, a document issued by China’s National Development and Research Commission (NDRC) said Nov. 24.

“With the completion of all the projects, the transportation capacity for grain has caused backlogs in the north where corn and wheat are produced and spiked prices in the past, while poor storage facilities are a major cause of grain losses in China, which aims to improve its grain logistics system and boost storage capacity by 2020, will also subsidize grain facilities that offer storage, processing, trading and quality inspection services,” the NDRC document said.

These so-called logistic parks must occupy at least 50 acres of land and have more than 100,000 tonnes of storage capacity, the document said, adding that a single project could receive as much as US$15 million. 
Canadian processors strangely quiet on online grocery opportunities

MARKET WATCH
D’ARCE McMILLAN

It appears consumers around the world are increasingly turning to online venues to do their shopping.

The headlines out of the United States about the big Black Friday retail push this past weekend emphasized the growing market share of online retail.

Groceries are not excluded from this trend, and major food companies are starting to gear up to sell more online at home and abroad.

GIANT CHINESE online retailers are leading the charge in their home markets. Online sales in China top $800 billion a year, and that is expected to rise rapidly.

There are more than 500 million active e-commerce users in the country, which is more than the combined population of Canada and the United States.

The biggest online retailer in China is Alibaba.

This summer, the huge European online grocery site Dr. Danish Crown signed an agreement to sell its pork on one of Alibaba’s e-commerce sites.

Danish Crown is planning on increasing its sales of pork in China, the world’s largest pork consumer, by building a feed plant near Shanghai to supply the pork it sells through Alibaba.

Alibaba’s rival in China is JD.com.

The Montana Stockgrowers Association this fall signed an agreement with JD.com and the Bank of China that will see JD.com buy up to 2 million of Montana beef, the equivalent of about 90,000 head, over the next three years.

The deal is fairly small, but proponents hope it will lead to bigger things in the future, including a beef slaughtering facility in the state.

U.S. Smithfield Foods, which was bought by China-based WH Group in 2013, also said this fall it will start selling pork products in China through JD.com.

In the first half of 2017, gross merchandise volume from direct sales of meats on JD increased more than 780 percent year-on-year, according to the news release announcing the Smithfield deal.

Alibaba held a big educational day in Toronto in September this year to promote its platforms to Canadian companies.

A key sector that Alibaba target-ed was Canadian agribusiness.

You might have heard of one success from a few years ago when 90,000 Canadian lobsteriers were sold through Alibaba in a single day during one of its big annual promotions.

Those annual promotions are amazing. In Singles Day sale on Nov. 11 this year, a sort of anti-Valentines Day that celebrates singles in China, generated $28 billion in sales in 24 hours.

Here in North America, online food retailing is also a growing business. Amazon bought the Whole Foods grocery chain this summer, underlining its commitment to building its market share in food retailing.

Online grocery shopping is a pretty small category in Canada with sales around $2 billion a year focused mainly in the Toronto and Vancouver markets.

Offerings will likely grow with Walmart saying it plans to expand its home delivery service as well as Loblaws, but it could be a slow roll-out because Canadians have been less quick to adopt online shopping than Americans.

However, just because online groceries are not top of mind here does not mean Canada’s food processors can ignore the trend, particularly in China.

There will be hurdles to overcome. Designing a supply pipeline for fresh, chilled food to get from Canada directly to Chinese homes will be part of it, but Alibaba and JD say they are prepared to help make it happen.

It is a massive market opportunity, one that Canada can’t afford to miss.

Follow D’Arce McMILLAN on Twitter @darcemcmillan or email darce.mcmillan@producer.com

MARKETS

FEED CATTLE RISE

The Canfax weighted steer aver-age was $149.96 per hundredweight, up $2.50, and the heifer average was $148.06, up $1.40.

The fed market regained all that it lost the previous week, and in the process fed steer prices established new second half highs.

Fed prices had rallied 13.8 per-cent from the September lows, which is close but not all the way to the five-year average of 15 percent, so a little upside might be left in the market.

Feedlots were willing sellers because of stronger fed prices and basis levels. The Alberta to Nebraska cash basis was $2.30 from 4.52 the previous week.

Sale volumes were lightest with most of the dressed sales reported at $252 per cwt. delivered.

Alibaba Group executive chair Jack Ma and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hold lobsters, representing one of the most popular Canadian foods available on the giant Chinese online retail platform.

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Packers were looking for cattle to be delivered in the two following weeks. Quick lift times are helping keep weights from getting too far out of hand.

Weekly western Canadian slaughter to Nov. 18 totalled 33,110 head, the smallest non-holiday slaughter since the first week in April. However, slaughter for the year is nine percent larger than last year and 18 percent larger than the five-year average.

Weekly fed cattle exports were strong at about 8,000 head.

Prices for delivery in January are stronger than in December and some feedlots might push sales into the new year.

In the United States, live sales in Colorado and Nebraska ranged from US$120-$120.50, while dressed sales were reported from $188-$190. Prices in the northwere steady during the previous week.

COWS LOWER

Large volumes of non-fed cattle overwhelmed demand, pressuring prices lower. D1, D2 cows ranged C$78-$92 to average C$84, down $2.83. D3 cows ranged C$65-$83 to average C$76, down $2.50.

Rail grade cows were $163-$168. Slaughter bulls were $93.88, down $3.12.

Western Canadian cow slaughter fell to 8,000 head, but it should be strong for the next two to three weeks.Cow prices have risen into December in eight of the past 10 years.

FEEDERS LOWER

Calf and feeder prices fell for the third week. Heavy steers were under the most pressure.

Steeer calves were mostly $2-$4 per cwt. lower, while heifers were down $1-$3.

The fall run is winding down and sales fell by 20,000 head. Some feedlots are full while others still have ample space. Ontario buyers are still active in the West.

The market’s premium over last year’s prices is narrowing. Calves were $50-$60 per cwt. higher than year ago at the end of October, but the premium is now down to $30.

Barley prices are well supported, which has added some caution to the market. Bred cattle volumes are starting to rise.

While calf prices are well above last year, the bred market has not risen due to ample supply and fairly light feed supplies.

Bred cows were $1,400-$2,300 per head. Bred heifers were $1,750-$2,500.

U.S. BEEF MIXED

U.S. Choice to Nov. 22 was down $1.23 to US$208.01 and Select was up 81 cents at $188.64. Rib and loin products will continue to be weak.

In Canada, the AAA cutout to Nov. 18 was C$249.28, down 68 cents, and AA was $240.64, down 2.70.

This cattle market information is sold exclusively by Canfax, a division of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association. Additional analysis and statistics are available by becoming a Canfax subscriber by calling 403-275-5110 or at www.canfax.ca.

WP LIVESTOCK REPORT

HOGS DOWN

Packers were cautious buyers while they waited to see the U.S. Thanksgiving demand for pork.

The U.S. national live price aver-age for barrows and gilts was US$44.17 per hundredweight Nov. 24, down from $45.68 Nov. 17.

U.S. hogs averaged $57.10 on a carcass basis Nov. 24, down from $56.30 Nov. 17. The U.S. pork cutout was $82.32 per cwt. Nov. 24, up from $80.96 Nov. 17.

The estimated U.S. weekly slaugh-ter to Nov. 25 was 2.163 million, down from 2.46 million the previous week. Slaughter was 2.152 mil-lion last year at the same time.

In Canada, the average Signature Five price for the week to Nov. 25 was $1.41 per 100kgdams, down from $1.44.91 the previous week. The average price was $63.96 on a per cwt. basis, down from $65.73 the previous week.

LOONIE WEIGHTS ON BISON

The Canadian Bison Association said Grade A bulls in the desirable weight range sold at prices up to C$6 per pound on hot hanging weight with reasonable briskets. Bases were 70-cent over the market. U.S. buyers are offering US$4.75 or more with returns dependent on exchange rates, qual-ity and export costs.

Grade A heifers sold up to C$6. U.S. buyers are offering US$4.50.

LAMBS STRONGER

Ontario Stockyards Inc. reported that 936 sheep and lambs and 83 goats sold Nov. 17. Good new group lamb solds at a premium. Heavy lambs sold spotty at barely steady prices. Good lambs sold $45-$50 per cwt. higher while other were steady. Good lambs were steady.

Beaver Hill Auction in Tofield, Alta., reported that 663 sheep and 96 goats sold Nov. 20.

Wool lambs lighter than 54 pounds were $184-$20 per cwt., 55-69 lb. were $210-$230, 70-85 lb. were $194-$220, 86-105 lb. were $186-$209 and 106 lb. and heavier were $174-$184.

Wool rams were $100-$129 per cwt.

Hair lambs lighter than 54 lb. were $150-$190 per cwt. 55-69 lb. were $194-$215, 86-105 lb. were $170-$196 and 106 lb. and heavier were $168-$178.

CANCAN REPORT
India’s pea import duty best addressed by closer ties

There is justifiably much concern about India’s sudden decision to impose a 50 percent import duty on peas, leaving Canadian farmers wondering what hit them. While the size of the duty — rather than the policy itself — was a surprise, how it was initiated is not.

The government is using import duties available to it under World Trade Organization rules to bolster its push for self-sustainability in some agricultural products. Wheat, vegetable oil and soybeans are also being hit with higher duties, albeit not at the level as peas.

It’s easy to see why this is a shock to Canadian exporters. Canada ships $1 billion worth of pulses to India annually, and India is the largest market for Canada’s pea exports. There is now fear that lentils may also be targeted for import duties.

India changes its policies to accommodate its domestic politics — often determined by monsoon seasons — and to address its domestic politics. (The U.S. could do so as well.) As President Donald Trump gets his way in the North American Free Trade Agreement talks.)

Canada also faces fumigation fees for pulses that result in higher costs, which looks suspiciously like a trade impediment since the pest in question doesn’t exist here.

Canadian yellow pea prices have dropped 25 percent since India’s announcement, and several producers were already out of peas, so they could be subject to the new duty.

There have been calls for Canadian officials to bow to the hills to broadcast their wrath to India, but screeching voices won’t carry the day. Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, who is from Saskatchewan, said Canada was raising the issue “aggressively” with India, and he expects Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to do so as well.

Canada and India have been working on a trade agreement since 2010. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, presumably, would help to address this kind of thing in the future. There is a fair amount of communication in trade between India and Canada. Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay was in India earlier this year, and three senior ministers visited just after the import duty on peas was announced.

India produced a record pea crop last crop year, and this year’s production is expected to be similar. With such abundance, prices were falling below the minimum support price for farmers, hence the import duty to keep Canadian peas out of the Indian market.

It’s short-term thinking. From 2013-15, the value of pea exports to India increased 40 percent to $547 million, in part because pulses are becoming more popular with Canadian farmers, and India faced difficult monsoon seasons that damaged crops.

Now it looks like Canadian farmers will plant 30 percent fewer acres of peas next year. These acres will likely go into other crops, leading potentially to oversupply that will hurt Canadian farm incomes.

If India’s monsoon disappoints next summer, hurting crop yields, it won’t be able to turn to Canada to top up its supply. Prices of the staple food will rise, hurting the poor.

The market will eventually play a role in addressing India’s behaviour.

Regardless, it is a challenge to trade with a country that acts in such a mercurial manner. But the opportunity presented by trade with India is too tempting to ignore. India’s economy is growing so fast, about 7.2 percent this year, that Canadian farmers saw an opportunity to meet the growing demand for pulses.

Canadian officials can bow to import duties if they want, but deepening our relationship with India — especially through a trade agreement — will have the better outcome.

Bruce Dyck, Barb Glen, Brian MacLeod, Diana McMillan and Michael Raine collaborate in the writing of Western Producer editorials.

SALLY SOIL

If you do anything to manage your soil salinity, you have to think about your water table. And if you’re managing your water table, you’re managing your salinity.

MARLA REESEMAN

MANTICORA AGRICULTURE’S AG RESOURCE BRANCH, PAGE 23

Life without NAFTA? Canada, U.S. ag sectors brace for worst

It is time to start preparing for a post-NAFTA world?

Canadian, American and Mexican negotiators gathered in Mexico City for a fifth round of North American Free Trade Agreement talks earlier this month. They met without their political counterparts — a scenario observers had hoped would help de-politicize the ongoing Canadian negotiations, allowing for some substantive progress.

Instead, the stalemate — and its resulting trade uncertainty — continues.

The Americans continue to dig in their heels, staunchly defending their numerous non-starter asks.

They’re demands that Canada and Mexico will never agree to in areas including dairy, dispute resolution, government procurement, rules of origin for automobiles and a five-year sunset clause on the entire trade deal.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland used a news conference in Ottawa to repeat Canada’s insistence that any renegotiation of NAFTA must be fact-based. “It’s important for us to be approaching these negotiations in the spirit of goodwill, a spirit of seeking win-win solutions and compromises and that is what we are doing,” Freeland told reporters.

“Having said that, I think our approach is to hope for the best and prepare for the worst, and Canada certainly is prepared for every eventuality.”

Every eventuality — including a U.S. withdrawal from NAFTA. It’s an outcome several provincial ministers, including Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart, have warned is a real possibility.

What Ottawa’s preparations look like remains anyone’s guess. International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne has said his mission is to diversify Canada’s trade portfolio and broaden its market access.

However, in an increasingly protectionist world, that’s easier said than done.

International trade rules prohibit countries from signing sector-specific trade agreements — forcing nations to negotiate overarching trade agreements that usually take several years to complete. Longstanding trade issues and spats over such issues as regulatory compliance show no signs of resolution, while others are escalating.

For example, there is a three-minister trade trip to India in mid-November failed to secure an extended fumigation exemption for Canadian pulses.

A surprise 30 percent tariff on pea imports, a major Canadian export to the region, also remains in place.

Ottawa has floated the idea of negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with India.

Still, a U.S. withdrawal from NAFTA would deliver a severe economic punch — one that will shock the North American economy regardless of how many alternative trade deals are signed.

Even the Americans are reportedly preparing for a possible NAFTA doomsday. Earlier this month, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue told Politico he and his staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are working on a contingency plan for farmers and ranchers should U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration pull the plug on NAFTA.

He later pulled back his comments, saying he misspoke.

Whether he misspoke, or simply let the cat out of the bag too early, is unclear.

Perdue, a staunch supporter of free trade, is acutely aware of the economic blow a NAFTA withdrawal would deal to the agriculture sector.

Remember, he was the cabinet member who managed to walk back Trump from the NAFTA withdrawal cliff the first time.

At least 80 U.S. farm groups have publicly warned that the slightest sniff of a NAFTA withdrawal will send commodity markets crashing. In a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, they said a NAFTA withdrawal would cost the American agriculture and agri-food industry 50,000 jobs and deliver a $13 billion hit in gross domestic product for the farm sector alone.

North of the border, Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay won’t say whether Ottawa is working on a contingency plan that’s agriculture-specific.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Canada insists Ottawa remains focused on ensuring NAFTA is successfully renegotiated. The department would not say whether a post-NAFTA contingency plan for Canadian farmers, ranchers and processors is in the works.

Kelsey Johnson is a reporter with Politics, www.ipolitics.ca.
Consumers are receiving mixed messages

Farm and Food Care organization is trying to educate the public about what goes into their food. So does Agriculture in the Classroom. Farm Credit Canada has had great success with enlisting industry partners in its Ag More Than Ever campaign. At industry-government roundtables, public trust is now regularly on the agenda. Farmers, by most counts, are only two or three percent of the general population, but when it all comes to social media, open our farms to public tours and keep our noses clean, collectively we’ll be able to manage this public trust challenge, right?

The approach has a great deal of merit, but as a farming community we’re not all on the same page. Actions speak louder than words and dissenting actions are visible in the plethora of ways in which food is being promoted.

Products are often being labelled non-genetically modified even when the ingredients clearly contain no GM crops. Why do we need a non-GM label on wheat or oat based breakfast cereal when there is no GM wheat or oats?

Labels proclaiming meat to be hormone-free, antibiotic-free, beef isn’t even Canadian. Most consumers can’t explain the difference between all-natural, organic and sustainably produced, but they’re pretty sure those labels somehow make a food healthier. At the same time, the companies and ultimately for the consumer, there’s room in the marketplace for everyone. We need to work with all our stakeholders to create a balanced story.

Unfortunately, every non-GM label makes consumers believe that GMOs must be bad. Every claim for meat that’s hormone and antibiotic free has consumers certifying the meat is free of any badness, no matter how much of a stretch. Organic has become a “super” or adult children made a “meaningful” contribution to the business. This is the same agency that recently said that GMOs must be bad. Every claim for meat that’s hormone and antibiotic free has consumers certifying the meat is free of any badness, no matter how much of a stretch. Organic has become a “super” or at the very least, a healthier choice. At the same time, the companies and ultimately for the consumer, there’s room in the marketplace for everyone. We need to work with all our stakeholders to create a balanced story.

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EU sticks with glyphosate

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Reuters) — Germany defeated its key European Union ally France in a very tight vote Nov. 27 to clear the use of glyphosate for the next five years after a heated debate over whether it causes cancer.

After months of indecisive votes among the 28 member states in Brussels, Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel has yet to form a new coalition after a September election, came off the fence after abstaining in previous meetings. It said it backed a European Commission proposal against the wishes of France.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who was elected in May on a platform of pursuing deeper EU integration alongside Germany, had wanted a shorter extension and a rapid phasing out of the product, which is a mainstay of farming across the continent.

The commission, which is the EU’s executive arm, said in a statement that 18 countries had backed its proposal to renew the chemical’s license, with nine against and one abstaining — “a positive opinion” by the narrowest of possible margins under rules requiring more than a simple majority.

Europe has been wrestling for the past two years over what to do with the chemical, a key ingredient in Monsanto’s top-selling Roundup, whose licence was set to expire Dec. 15.

Farmers have used the chemical for more than 40 years, but its safety was cast in doubt when the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded in 2015 that it probably causes cancer.

The EU agreed to roll over the licence for 18 months pending the results of a study by the European Chemicals Agency, which said in March this year that there was no evidence linking glyphosate to cancer in humans.

However, protest groups seized on the IARC report, questioned the science in other studies and complained about the influence of big business.

“The people who are supposed to protect us from dangerous pesticides have failed to do their jobs and betrayed the trust Europeans have placed in them,” Greenpeace said after the Nov. 27 vote.

In theory, the commission could have pushed through a licence extension, but it said it wanted governments to make the call on an issue that has become so politically charged. After a series of indecisive votes, they finally produced a clear majority in favour of the commission’s proposal.

“Today’s vote shows that when we all want to, we are able to share and accept our collective responsibility in decision making,” said Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis.

The farmers association Copa-Cogeca said it was glad a decision had been taken, but regretted the licence renewal had not been for 15 years, given strong scientific evidence of EU agencies.

The key swing vote came from Germany, whose government is still operating in an acting capacity following an indecisive September election. Berlin abstained earlier but threw its weight behind a decision opposed by France.

Poland, Bulgaria and Romania all did likewise, leaving only Portugal still on the fence Nov. 27. Had any of the others continued to abstain, the deadlock would have continued. An extension required 16 states representing 65 per cent of the EU population to vote in favour. The 18 supporters account for 65.7 per cent.

The German vote exposed internal divisions in Berlin, where Merkel is preparing for talks this week on renewing a coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD). Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks from the SPD accused the chancellor’s centre-right group of reneging on a deal to continue abstaining.

French Agriculture Minister Stéphane Travert told reporters that Paris would push to change farming practices that embraced alternatives to glyphosate so that its use could be ended.

OPEN FORUM

PIPESLINES NEEDED

To the Editor:

Canada should run an appraisal on its unlimited natural resources with the inclusion of prime agricultural, food-producing land.

Canada’s northern region, with thousands of square miles, possesses only a non-economic, surface covered with moss. Beneath its surface exists one of the world’s richest undeveloped mineral and energy fields in the world. Financial reports by the Fraser Institute detail financial debt and reckless spending by the various forms of government. In addition, the cancellation of pipeline transport and sea-port infrastructure has added to high taxation and deep national debt. In consideration of Canada’s surplus minerals and energy, every form of production requires an upgrade in management at higher levels: especially Canada’s federal government, with natural resource development neglect. Canada could be a country in acceptable financial condition, free from debt, with reasonable taxation. We must consider trillions of dollars of Canada’s undeveloped northern wealth and relate it to Canada’s combined debts.

Thoughts must return to 1974, whereby the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, a corridor to the north, was cancelled. Today, after 43 years of delay, the northern gateway corridor is again being discussed. Canada has a distinct advantage to access the Asia Pacific markets involving populated density of countries like China and India. If delivery and portloading facilities were available, major benefits would follow. It must always be remembered, Canada has the third largest energy field in the world next to Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Unnecessary delays in future Canadian energy development should be forbidden.

Please inform your MP.

John Seierstad
Tisdale, Sask.

A funny thing happens when you use a leader. You become one.

LETTERS POLICY:

Letters should be less than 300 words. Name, address and phone number must be included for verification purposes and only letters accepted for publication will be confirmed with the author. Publication of a letter does not imply endorsement by The Producer.
Imidacloprid decision expected Dec. 2018

BY ROBERT ARNASON
BRANDON BUREAU

Health Canada proposed last November to ban imidacloprid, an insecticide applied to fruit, vegetables, potatoes and many other crops across the country.

Twelve months have passed since the announcement, but Canadian farmers who use the insecticide will have to wait another year to know if it’s banned or not.

“It is too early to tell what impact this will have on the final decision,” a Health Canada spokesperson said.

“Once this information is reviewed, the proposed decisions will be subject to a public consultation period and final decisions are anticipated by December 2018.”

Health Canada’s Pest Management and Regulatory Agency has proposed phasing out agricultural and outdoor uses of imidacloprid over three to five years. The PMRA said the phase-out is necessary because the insecticide was accumulating in water near agricultural land.

The concentrations in water were reportedly putting aquatic insects at risk and threatening animals that rely on those insects for food.

The mode of action of imidacloprid is similar to two other neonicotinoids: clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Those products are used as a seed treatment on nearly every canola and corn crop grown in North America and a portion of the soy crop.

PMRA scientists are also reviewing those insecticides to determine if they threaten aquatic life.

A number of agricultural groups have said banning imidacloprid is an extreme response because other pesticides could limit the use of the insecticide and reduce the threat to aquatic insects.

Many growers depend on the Bayer product for insect control. Fruit, vegetable and potato producers are the main users of imidacloprid, but prairie growers use it on wheat crops to control wireworm.

The PMRA is going slow with its decision on imidacloprid, which gives scientists time to publish new research on the insecticide.

In November, toxicologists at the University of Saskatchewan released a paper on imidacloprid and songbirds in Scientific Reports.

The scientists fed canola seed coated with imidacloprid to white-crowned sparrows. They observed detrimental effects in birds that consumed only four canola seeds.

“These chemicals are having a strong impact on songbirds,” said Margaret Eng, a post-doctoral researcher who led the U of S study.

“We are seeing significant weight loss and the birds’ migratory orientation being significantly altered.”

The toxicologists said exposure to imidacloprid could compromise the health of songbirds and their ability to reproduce.

A spokesperson for Bayer said the study is misleading because it doesn’t represent real-world conditions for white-crowned sparrows.

“The repellent properties of the insecticide seed treatment would normally deter birds from ingesting whole canola seeds treated with imidacloprid,” said Paul Thiel, vice-president of product development and regulatory science for the crop science division of Bayer in Canada.

Previous studies of caged birds indicated a lack of interest in imidacloprid treated seed if other food sources were available.

Thiel said imidacloprid is rarely used as a seed treatment for canola, reducing the chance of birds eating such seeds.

A Health Canada spokesperson said PMRA scientists are considering the U of S study.

“It is too early to tell what impact it may have on the final decision.”

robert.armason@producer.com

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“It is too early to tell what impact this will have on the final decision,” a Health Canada spokesperson said.

“Once this information is reviewed, the proposed decisions will be subject to a public consultation period and final decisions are anticipated by December 2018.”

Health Canada’s Pest Management and Regulatory Agency has proposed phasing out agricultural and outdoor uses of imidacloprid over three to five years. The PMRA said the phase-out is necessary because the insecticide was accumulating in water near agricultural land.

The concentrations in water were reportedly putting aquatic insects at risk and threatening animals that rely on those insects for food.

The mode of action of imidacloprid is similar to two other neonicotinoids: clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Those products are used as a seed treatment on nearly every canola and corn crop grown in North America and a portion of the soy crop.

PMRA scientists are also reviewing those insecticides to determine if they threaten aquatic life.

A number of agricultural groups have said banning imidacloprid is an extreme response because other pesticides could limit the use of the insecticide and reduce the threat to aquatic insects.

Many growers depend on the Bayer product for insect control. Fruit, vegetable and potato producers are the main users of imidacloprid, but prairie growers use it on wheat crops to control wireworm.

The PMRA is going slow with its decision on imidacloprid, which gives scientists time to publish new research on the insecticide.

In November, toxicologists at the University of Saskatchewan released a paper on imidacloprid and songbirds in Scientific Reports.

The scientists fed canola seed coated with imidacloprid to white-crowned sparrows. They observed detrimental effects in birds that consumed only four canola seeds.

“These chemicals are having a strong impact on songbirds,” said Margaret Eng, a post-doctoral researcher who led the U of S study.

“We are seeing significant weight loss and the birds’ migratory orientation being significantly altered.”

The toxicologists said exposure to imidacloprid could compromise the health of songbirds and their ability to reproduce.

A spokesperson for Bayer said the study is misleading because it doesn’t represent real-world conditions for white-crowned sparrows.

“The repellent properties of the insecticide seed treatment would normally deter birds from ingesting whole canola seeds treated with imidacloprid,” said Paul Thiel, vice-president of product development and regulatory science for the crop science division of Bayer in Canada.

Previous studies of caged birds indicated a lack of interest in imidacloprid treated seed if other food sources were available.

Thiel said imidacloprid is rarely used as a seed treatment for canola, reducing the chance of birds eating such seeds.

A Health Canada spokesperson said PMRA scientists are considering the U of S study.

“It is too early to tell what impact it may have on the final decision.”

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Livestock producers are urged to test feed for toxins and mould that can cause cattle to lose weight and lead to reduced milk production. | FILE PHOTO

Mycotoxin testing urged despite dry year on Prairies

Areas that harvested high-moisture grain and forages could contain DON.

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Farmers should be testing their grains and forages for mycotoxins before feeding them to livestock, says an animal nutrition company.

Canadian harvest samples submitted for Alltech’s 2017 analysis show that grains and forages contained mixtures of mycotoxins such as deoxynivalenol (DON), zearalenone (ZEA) and T-2/HT-2.

“On average there was higher levels of DON than previous years,” said Alexandra Weaver, Alltech’s mycotoxin management technical specialist.

Mycotoxin testing is not non-essential on the Prairies,” said Beswitherick.

“I would be surprised if there are any levels of DON.”

Ochratoxin A (OTA) can develop in the bin, but again he doubts that will be a problem.

“With this year’s crop being as dry as it was when it was harvested, that lowers the likelihood of having OTA in this year’s crop,” said Beswitherick.

Weaver acknowledged that most of the samples Alltech has analyzed come from an Ontario lab, and it was a wet growing season in that province.

However, it has also looked at samples from the prairie region and some mycotoxins are appearing.

For instance, recent barley samples from Alberta and Manitoba contained average DON levels of slightly more than one part per million.

Weaver said Saskatchewan had lower than average DON levels in grains but higher than average in forages, while Manitoba was the reverse.

She said there are pockets of clean grain and then some areas where it is highly contaminated, which is why growers should have their grain tested.

Alltech offers tests that range from a simple US$10 on-farm test for one specific type of mycotoxin to a sophisticated $250 lab test for 40 mycotoxins.

Feeding DON-contaminated feedstuff to cattle can lower dry matter intake, change rumen function and gut health and lead to reduced milk production.

Alltech encourages growers to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to managing mycotoxins.

Proper storage of feed, especially silage, reduces the risk of further mycotoxins developing.

“Although they can’t really do anything with what they already have from the field, if they can prevent further moulds and mycotoxins, that’s really helpful,” said Weaver.

Alltech Canada is hosting two webinars Dec. 6 to discuss its 2017 harvest results.

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‘It was a panic situation,’ says rancher of B.C. fires

COMMUNITIES ARE STILL REBUILDING FROM THE ASHES AFTER WILDFIRES TORE THROUGH THE PROVINCE THIS SUMMER

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

The wildfires that rocked British Columbia earlier this summer were still in the minds of ranchers who attended Farmfair earlier this month.

Even though they consider themselves among the luckier ones, they recall it being a fight they won’t ever forget.

“It was pretty scary,” Rob Swaan of Pinnacle View Limousin said in an interview during the Edmonton farm show Nov. 10.

Swaan lives near Quesnel, B.C., where lightning strikes sparked 19 fires that merged into one massive blaze in July. It was roughly 4,674 sq. kilometres, the largest wildfire in B.C. history.

Though the fires came close to his ranch, Swaan didn’t lose any cattle or structures. He did, however, help some of his neighbours who were in a worse situation.

“That night a bit of wind was moving fast and different directions,” he recalled. “It’s not a panic situation, but you try to get prepared the best you can.”

Erin Kishkan, who’s also with Pinnacle View Limousin, said she and her father prepared for the blaze.

She said when they first learned of the fire on the news, they rushed to the store and bought two pumps and as many fire hoses as they could.

“We had to be fully prepared because it was seven or eight kilometres away,” she said.

“It was basically a fire storm and it was a panic situation.”

She said they moved their cattle to an area that was safer for them and opened the gates in case they had to flee.

As well, they turned on their irrigation system to soak everything.

“We were very blessed to be where we were,” she said. “We actually thought we were safe, but the fire was so aggressive that it was jumping the Fraser River and Highway 97.”

“That couple of days was absolute chaos. People were running everywhere. Fortunately for us, we were on evacuation alert. We were never ordered to leave, but we were prepared to stay because this is our livelihood.”

Other communities were not so lucky.

There are no official numbers on how many cattle died, but it’s estimated that hundreds of the 35,000 head in the fire-affected regions were scorched.

“We pretty much prepared ourselves to help anyone who needed it,” Kishkan said.

Communities are still rebuilding from the ashes, and funding through AgriRecovery is helping ranchers with feed costs for breeding livestock and compensation for dead stock.

As well, funding is being applied to help with labour costs for rebuilding fences, for preconditioned calves in poor condition that wandered, vet bills and the replacement of infrastructure.

Swaan commended the efforts of neighbours, community volunteers and firefighters.

“It’s one of those things you can deal with and they’ve been improving in their reaction to fires because there has been so many,” he said.

Kishkan echoed that.

“There were losses and maybe there were decisions made that resulted in losses, but overall there was so much saved,” she said. “I cannot thank those firefighters and those people who didn’t sleep for a week for so much of their help.”

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That couple of days was absolute chaos. People were running everywhere.

Fortunately for us, we were on evacuation alert.

ERIN KISHKAN, PINNACLE VIEW LIMOUSIN
BY ED WHITE
WINNIPEG BUREAU

Canada’s international wheat marketers are enjoying making their sales calls this year.

“It’s a much better story than we’re telling customers,” said Cam Dahl, Cereals Canada president, after arriving at an airport in South Korea. “This year really is one of the best crops from a quality perspective that I have ever seen.”

As usual for this time of year, Canadian grain industry representatives, including farmers, are fanning out across the globe to update Canada’s customers on the qualities and quantities of the 2017 crop.

Kevin Auch, a Carmangay, Alta., farmer who is chair of the Alberta Wheat Commission, said he enjoyed filling people in on this year’s crop compared to the damaged 2016 crop that couldn’t meet some clients’ needs.

“We’re really happy with the uptake,” said Auch, as he waited at the Lima, Peru, airport for a flight to Colombia.

“We can assure them what they’re looking for we can provide.”

This year, 95 percent of Canada Western Red Spring wheat is grading No. 1 or No. 2. Last year, only about 50 percent of it graded that high.

Durum this year is about 75 percent No. 1 while last year only nine percent hit the top grade. In fact, the biggest challenge this year might be finding Canadian grain for buyers who want lower qualities.

“One was asking for lower quality than what we have,” said Auch, who has also visited Chile on this trip.

In South America, Canadian high-quality grain is often used to blend up lower quality domestic grain or cheap imported grain.

In Asia, most buyers in Japan and South Korea want top quality grain to produce top quality products.

“Pesticide residues do come up,” said Dahl. “That’s something we need to pay attention to.”

Glyphosate has become a particular concern for buyers, not because of problems with too-high residues, but because of growing consumer concerns about the chemical.

Buyers also bring up concerns about ochratoxin A, deoxynivalenol (DON), and general pesticide residues.

Canada is not having a particular problem with these crop quality concerns, but is noting the heightened concern from buyers, Dahl said.

Being able to go out to customers overseas with a high-quality, relatively abundant crop is a relief to the fears that Dahl and many others expected while crops in some parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta were being scorched by drought this summer.

“If you go back 20, 30 years, if we would have had the same level of drought there would have been no crop,” said Dahl. “That’s a testament to modern agriculture.”

Cam Dahl
CEREALS CANADA PRESIDENT

Pesticide residues do come up. That’s something we need to pay attention to.

A high-quality crop this year is making it easy for Canadian grain marketers to make deals abroad.

Ninety-five percent of Canada Western Red Spring wheat is grading No. 1 this year, compared to only 50 percent last year.

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Alberta community builds a legacy

The hall that almost never got built is now a jewel of the Peace region

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

DEMMITT, Alta. — The Demmitt community is breathing easier these days after years of tension, persistence and sweat.

It’s been two years since they built the grandiose Demmitt Hall, an energy efficient, straw walled and timber-framed community centre in one of the Peace Region’s most secluded areas.

It’s a project some believed would never get built. They thought it was too big for their little community, too outside-the-box and too isolated to bring in enough people from larger towns and cities.

However, there were others like Peter von Tiesenhausen who believed in the hall project.

“This has been one of my wildest dreams,” he said, sitting beside the hall’s crackling fire during a snowy November afternoon.

“I feel like I can sit back and say, ‘OK, we’re OK.’”

The idea to build the hall was spurred some 10 years ago when the community debated demolishing the aging and usually vacant Quonset hut built 30 years earlier.

“Everything was collapsing. The building was done and almost all of our members left,” he said.

“You couldn’t rent the hall for $100.”

Members decided it was best to shutter the old space, but von Tiesenhausen realized he needed to increase the membership to convince people a larger space was needed.

That’s where Lance Cornock, the current board chair of the Demmitt Cultural Society, came into the picture. Von Tiesenhausen recruited him to work the sound systems for Demmitt’s new open stage nights, the initiative he had hoped would draw in crowds.

“We needed a way to bring in membership,” he said.

“There’s only 30 or 40 people living in this valley in a four-mile radius, so we needed the help of (Cornock) and other members to spread the word and bring people here.”

Within one year of launching open stage nights, the cultural society had about 200 members. People were coming mainly from nearby Beaverlodge, Alta., but some came from other communities in the province and nearby British Columbia.

“People really wanted a place to go out to,” Cornock said. “They wanted live music.”

Now all the cultural society needed was cash, donations and volunteers to get their new community hall off the ground.

Von Tiesenhausen said there was a lot of misinformation during construction.

“They got $735,000 in funding from all levels of government, $300,000 cash from corporations and private donors, lumber from the pine trees affected by the pine beetle, a donated crane and countless hours of volunteer work.”

The building is valued at $2.5 million and was built for $1.3 million, von Tiesenhausen said.

“That really shows how much volunteer work we got.”

As well, the building has been turning a profit for each year since it opened. Money to support the hall comes from weddings, which occur at least once a week during the summer, as well as private functions such as yoga sessions and pizza nights.

“Our costs are pretty low for a space this size,” Cornock said, noting that the hall is equipped with compostable toilets and solar panels.

“But people wouldn’t come here for weddings and events if this was just a box. It all ties together in that this is a welcoming place for people to come together.”

Lance Cornock stands inside the new community hall in Demmitt, Alta. He says the building, valued at $1 million more than it cost to build, is the culmination of private and public fundraising efforts and volunteer labour.

LANCE CORNOCK, DEMMITT CULTURAL SOCIETY

But people wouldn’t come here for weddings and events if this was just a box. It all ties together in that this is a welcoming place for people to come together.
Three generations going strong in Peace region

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

RYCROFT, Alta. — Keegan Milkovich said he tries not to take what he has today for granted because he realizes his grandpa had it tough in the farm’s early days.

“People say you worked hard, but you really didn’t because all you did was put a lot of hours in. There are so many stories where people actually worked hard, like Grandpa, so you really do have an appreciation,” he said.

Keegan’s mother, Colleen, said younger ones don’t realize how tough the older ones had it.

“They knew it was hard but, when they hear the personal stories, that’s when they really understand what life was really like,” she said.

At the Milkovich home at Rycroft, Alta., three generations of farmers sit around the dinner table and discuss how life on their land has changed drastically since 1923.

That’s when Nick, now 94, was born. He grew up remembering the Peace region as a place with lots of bush and countless rocks that he had to clear.

“Being tough roots and, in those days, at 12, you had to work,” he said.

“There were no tractors to work the field. We had horses and oats was the source of energy, not gas. Nick’s son, Nicholas, remembers a similar experience. When his parents bought the land he now farms, they also had him digging out roots at a young age.

“Ew was good because we all had to work,” Nicholas said. “We picked roots after school and on weekends, helped with the chores and that was life.”

Nick’s wife, Anne, would likely be doing the laundry by hand, milking the cows, feeding or butchering the chickens, watching over her garden and later preparing dinner for the family while the men were out harvesting on the field.

“Nothing was bought,” Anne said. “We lived off the land and everyone was hungry.

The family didn’t get electricity until 1955, and Nick got his first tractor about 10 years earlier. The John Deere Model D still sits in their yard.

If he wants to move somewhere or grow his trucking company, that’s fine. The land will never be sold and there’s always someone looking to rent.

COLLEEN MILKOVICE
ALBERTA FARMER

“(Nick) would fall asleep out there,” said Colleen.

“He would have to be on the wagon. It’s life, and the young ones sometimes don’t realize how tough it was in the olden days. It’s really amazing. Things had to get done.”

As time went on, the family would try to keep up to date on equipment without breaking the budget.

“I was always afraid of debt, so I stayed out of it,” Nick said.

For the most part, lots of work was done by hand such as shovelling grain into a wagon. Horses would help haul lumber from the nearby valley to build granaries.

With help from Nick, Nicholas would eventually begin farming his own land in 1978 after his grandfather bought him a quarter section.

He would then acquire more land in 1977, farming cereals, peas, lentils, flax and clover while also working in the oil patch.

Nicholas and Colleen raised three children: Keegan and twins Whitney and Rebecca. Colleen handled much of the house work, while Nicholas worked mainly outside.

Nicholas used the newer combines and equipment that Nick still feels somewhat wary of using today.

“Going from what they had in the 30s and 40s to what we have now was intimidating,” Colleen said.

“(Nick) just isn’t comfortable with all the buttons and lights and is still fine with that old and dusty one.”

In 1995, Nicholas and Colleen took over Nick and Anne’s farm. Keegan, now 26, has his own small farm nearby. Nick bought him that land a few years ago. It’s become a tradition in the family, where the grandfathers buy land for a grandson.

The generations help each other out by sharing equipment and investing in one another.

“It all just works,” said Keegan, who works mainly in his family’s trucking business. “Nobody nickels and dimes.”

The family has now begun talking about succession planning, with Keegan hoping to take over his parents’ farm one day.

“It’s his choice and we told him from the get-go that he doesn’t need to feel like he always has to be here,” Colleen said.

“If he wants to move somewhere or grow his trucking company, that’s fine. The land will never be sold and there’s always someone looking to rent.”

His sisters are also welcome to move up, but have careers offfarm. Whitney works as a dental hygienist while Rebecca’s an optometrist.

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Speaker credits 4-H for award-winning delivery technique
Lois Schultz suggested using well-known public figures to join the campaign against global food waste

BY KAREN MORRISON
SAKAKAWIA NEWSROOM

Lois Schultz wants people to focus more on feeding the hungry rather than obsessing about food choices in the grocery store.

She made food waste, its global impact and creating change the topic for her winning speech in the senior event at the 2017 Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition in Toronto this month.

Schultz launched her speech by reporting that one-third of food produced is wasted globally.

“It is a bit of a shocker. I want to get people to pay attention.”

In France, supermarkets are not allowed to throw out waste food, she said, noting that unsold or excess products can then be donated to soup kitchens and food banks.

She suggested using influential well-known and respected figures such as Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield to share the food waste message and help create change.

“It hurts me to see consumers being really picky about food when so many people don’t have any.”

LOIS SCHULZ
CANADIAN YOUNG SPEAKERS FOR AGRICULTURE WINNER

“If he said we really needed to work on this, people would listen,” she said.

Schultz is troubled by good food going to waste because of misconceptions.

“Just because it’s not organic or genetically modified free doesn’t make it bad,” she said.

“It hurts me to see consumers being really picky about food when so many people don’t have any.”

She credits 4-H for her winning speech techniques, including an opening “shocker” statement, an introduction and addressing key points before wrapping it all up within the seven minute time limit.

“Instead of ramming on these few points, if you can start it up and draw it to a close, people will take home those three points and remember them. That’s my success,” she said.

Schultz, who participated in the Coal Lake 4-H Light Horse Club, now belongs to the Rosebrier Beef Club near Virden, Man.

In an interview, Schultz offered irradiation as one technology that could extend the shelf life of food and make food resistant to mould, E. coli and salmonella.

“They’d be safe and usable even if people wouldn’t buy them at the store,” she said.

Schultz, who is also Alberta 4-H’s current public speaking champion, competed against 14 others during the competition held during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Schultz was homeschooled since Grade 2 and is currently completing high school online. She hopes to attend university and work in agriculture marketing.

Rosemund Bagelit of the Head- ingly 4-H Club in Manitoba was named the junior champion.

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ON THE FARM

THE MILKOVICH FAMILY
Rycroft, Alta.

JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

Visit us online at
www.producer.com
to see a video about this story.
Little remains of rural community

Echoes and Sentinels: Jackfish, Sask., a once-thriving town

BY DUANE MCCARTNEY

FREELANCE WRITER

JACKFISH, Sask. — The road sign on Highway 26, the church with the historic bell and Rev. Father Leon Bondoux’s log cabin are all that remain of the once thriving Saskatchewan community of Jackfish.

The first missionaries in the area were Oblates of Mary Immaculate, with Bondoux forming the first mission in 1890-92. Roman Catholic families from Quebec and France settled in the area where Bondoux built a log house that served as a rectory and a chapel.

In 1904, a church was built and a church bell was shipped from France in 1904. The bell from the old church was damaged but is now preserved on a special stand outside the new building.

Situated at the north end of Jackfish Lake, the community has a European history dating back to 1857. Geologist James Hector of the John Palliser expedition and his accompanying men visited the area in the dead of night on Dec. 16 of that year.

The Pioneers of the Palliser Expedition talks about the group seeing a small twinkling light across the lake and following it to the campfire of William McMurray, an early fur trader with the Hudson’s Bay Co.

The Footsteps in Time history book from the district indicates that nothing much happened in the area until 1881 when John Macoun, a professor of agriculture and an explorer, reported: “Saskatchewan grasses growing in the area would fatten cattle.”

That year, Robert Wyld and Fred Bourke trekked 75 head of Durham herds from Calgary.

Farms along the north end by 1881, the development of the livestock industry was hampered by a heavy federal import duty on livestock entering the area that was once part of the Northwest Territories.

Fortunately, the import duty was dropped and Wyld and Burke convinced other would-be cattle producers in the North Battleford River Valley that raising cattle was a viable enterprise.

By 1892, Wyld had a large herd of purebred cattle, employed several local labourers and had contracts for beef with several federal government departments. He also bought local cattle and kept the money in the community where it was most needed.

In 1894, The Saskatchewan Herald published an article predicting a future for the area with many small ranches and families raising small herds of cattle and making a good living.

By the 1890s, there was a growing settlement along the north end of today’s Jackfish Lake. It was a ranching community with hay flats along the lake, a stopping house, a North West Mounted Police barracks and a flourishing creamery.

In 1897, Moise L’Heureux opened the first post office for the area in his home. He travelled east and brought back a Clydesdale stallion and two mares but the stallion died.

The next year, he brought a grey Percheron stallion and four purebred Percheron mares.

Two of the mares died while making hay on a hot day before he realized that the mares were too fat and shouldn’t have been worked so hard.

Moise skinned the mares, tanned the hides and used their colourful dapple grey hides as accents on his front room chairs.

Undaunted, he continued raising horses and within a few years, the countryside was full of gray and white horses.

The Saskatchewan church bell was shipped from France in 1904.

Agriculture flourished in the area, with the Herald in 1900 reporting fresh baled hay selling for $5 per ton, dressed beef at five to seven cents per pound and No. 1 wheat at 66 cents per bushel.

Records indicate that 16-year-old Joe L’Heureux in 1908 helped drive 300 head of cattle to Saskatoon from St. Walburg.

It took four people one month to herd the cattle for their payment of $1.50 each day. Their cook was a 14-year-old who travelled in a covered wagon with the grub.
Keep holiday plans simple and enjoy your company.

TEAM RESOURCES
Jodie Mirosovsky, BSHEc

FARM LIVING
November 30, 2017
The Western Producer
WWW.PRODUCER.COM
THE WESTERN PRODUCER

I t’s no fun spending time alone in the kitchen preparing an elaborate meal during the holidays. Instead, make the menu simple and invite guests to the kitchen island or table to help prepare, plating and chatting over a cocktail. Try to use fresh ingredients that are not processed. I recently picked up a food item that was advertised as “made fresh for you,” with a label of ingredients that included artificial flavour and coloured flour. Check labels and avoid extra ingredients when cooking. Be mindful and stick to the basics and shop mainly on the grocery store’s perimeter where fresh menu options are found. Bring seasonal colours to the table with red and green fruit and vegetables.

DRINKS TO START

Since receiving a carbonated drink system for my house, I love experimenting with beverages. Simply bubble your water and add pure fruit juice. In a glass or container, mix three-quarters water with one-quarter cranberry juice (no sugar added), with a squeeze of fresh lime, ice and a garnish of berries. Kick things up with a shot of vodka or gin, if desired. Club soda can also be used.

GREEN SALAD WITH SOUR SWEET OIL DRESSING

Toss a high fibre fresh green salad to accompany the main course.

8 to 10 c. fresh torn
2 L to 2 1/2 L
salad greens (lettuce, spinach or kale)
1/2 c. dried cranberries 250 mL
1 carrot shredded
1/2 small red onion thinly sliced bacon bits, optional

Combine the first five ingredients in a large salad bowl. Set aside.

In a jar or shaker, thoroughly mix the dressing ingredients together and pour over the greens when ready to serve. Serves eight.

Store leftover dressing in the refrigerator for later use.


ONE PAN ROAST CHICKEN DINNER

Chef Michael Smith shared this comforting dish at a recent conference I attended. It reminded me of the tradition of Sunday night chicken that many families gather for, but

with the ingredients all in one pan. He said to forget being perfect and just experiment. The procedure is so simple and the beauty of this dish is that the taste comes from the roasting chicken.

Start with a five pound (2.2 kg) roasting chicken and about three pounds (1.3 kg) of your favourite roasted vegetables prepared and cut into bite-sized pieces.

To begin, preheat your oven to 375 F (190 C). Rinse and dry the chicken. In a large roasting pan, toss your vegetables and season with salt and pepper.

The vegetables should cover the bottom of the pan in an even layer. Be sure that there is enough for each of your guests to have a large spoonful, then season the chicken with salt and pepper and place on top of the vegetables.

Roast for approximately 90 minutes in the oven until all is golden and a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh and breast reads 170 F. When the roasting is complete, remove from the oven and let the chicken dish rest.

Before serving, use tongs to pull the meat from the bones of the chicken and stir into the vegetables. This pan meal serves six people.

Garnish with green onions or parsley or dill weed. Offer cranberry sauce, pickled beets or asparagus and buns.

Note: Make broth by putting the bones into a stockpot, covering with water and a lid and simmering for one hour.

Strain and discard the bones, then add in chunks of leftover chicken meat, chopped onion, vegetables, seasonings and egg noodles. Simmer until the vegetables are tender and serve this home-made chicken soup.

OLD-FASHIONED APPLE PIE CRUMBLE WITH TART CRANBERRIES

This less fussy dessert is an alternative to traditional apple pie. The aroma while baking is tantalizing.

8 to 10 peeled cored and sliced apples, (I like Granny Smith, but any variety will do)
1/2 c. fresh or frozen cranberries
1 tsp. cinnamon 5 mL
2 tbsp. flour 30 mL
dash of salt
1/4 c. broken pecan 60 mL or walnut pieces, optional

PUMPKIN ANGEL FOOD CAKE

1 pkg. angel food cake mix
1/8 tsp. ground ginger .5 mL
1/2 tsp. nutmeg 2 mL
1/2 tsp. cinnamon 2 mL
1 tsp. vanilla 5 mL
1 c. canned pumpkin 250 mL
1 tbsp. vanilla extract 5 mL
1/2 tsp. nutmeg 2 mL
1/4 tsp. ground cloves 1 mL
1/8 tsp. ground ginger .5 mL
1 pkg. angel food cake mix

Mix a fourth of the batter into the pumpkin mixture; gently fold in the remaining batter. Gently spoon into an ungreased 10 inch (25 cm) tube pan. Cut through batter with a knife to remove air pockets.

Bake on the lowest oven rack at 350 F (180 C) for 38 to 44 minutes or until top is golden brown and cake springs back when lightly touched and entire top appears dry. Immediately invert pan, cool completely.

Run a knife around side and centre tube of pan. Remove cake to a serving plate. Garnish each slice with one tablespoon (15 mL) whipped topping, then sprinkle with cinnamon if desired. Yields 14 servings.

Source: Light and Tasty Magazine.

LENTIL OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIPPERS

Here’s a tasty way to introduce people to lentils.

1 c. brown sugar 250 mL
3/4 c. buttermilk 175 mL
1 egg
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla 7 mL
3/4 c. lentil puree 175 mL
1 1/2 c. flour 375 mL
1 1/2 tsp. salt 5 mL
1 tsp. baking soda 5 mL
2 c. rolled oats 500 mL
1 1/2 c. dark chocolate chips
1 c. chopped walnuts, 250 mL pecans or almonds

Preheat the oven to 375 F (190 C) and grease a cookie sheet. Cream sugar and butter, then add the egg and mix. Add the vanilla and puree. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, salt and soda together.

Add the flour and mix a third at the time to the creamed mixture. Then add the oats, chocolate chips and nuts. Drop by the spoonful onto the cookie sheet about an inch apart and flatten slightly with your hand or a fork. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 36 cookies.

Source: The Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board.

SNACKS

Incorporate healthy lentils to add nutritional value.

PULSE PUREE

1 c. lentils 250 mL
2 1/2 c. water 625 mL
Wash dry pulses, then place in a pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil and then simmer for 40 to 50 minutes.

Drain reserving stock. Blend purées adding only enough stock to make a puree similar to canned pumpkin. This makes 1 1/2 (375 mL) to two cups (500 mL) and freezes well.

ROSETOWN, SASK., and a member of Team Resources. Contact: team@producer.com.

TOP CLOCKWISE: Sour sweet oil dressing adds tang to a green salad. One pan roast chicken dinner makes cleanup easy. Cranberries add colour to this bubbly drink. Finish the meal with old-fashioned apple pie crumble.

| Jodie Mirosovsky | Photos

REVISED!
Inability to finish tasks

SPEAKING OF LIFE

JACKLIN ANDREWS, BA, MSW

Q. Four years ago, my husband and I got into a terrible row after he came home from an evening in the bar. It was so bad that he hit me. That scared both of us. My husband is a gentle man. The thought of him hitting someone, especially me, is simply right out of character. That night, my husband, the alcoholic, stopped drinking. He joined Alcoholic Anonymous and I joined Alanon and the two of us have put that awful moment behind us.

But now we have a different problem. My husband is a stonemason and makes fireplaces, stone walls and driveways. The problem is that he does not finish what he starts. He must have at least a half dozen fireplaces that need attention, our own driveway is half done and countless other commitments are not being met. He is so unreliable that people do not want to hire him. We need him to work to help support our home and children. What can I do?

A. Many alcoholism researchers believe that alcohol abuse may have a genetic base to it. In other words, some people inherit a disposition to alcohol addiction that is stronger than the average and you cannot do much about that. That does not mean that all alcoholics are the same. I think that it is important to understand that alcoholism is a generic term that can refer to any number of different kinds of alcohol abuse.

For some, the road to alcoholism has been a neurological journey. They get some kind of a neurological blast when they drink and the hit is so rewarding they keep on drinking in hopes that it will continue. That leads them into addictions.

For others, alcoholism is a substitute for growing up and maturing into those responsibilities expected from any reasonable family/professional person. Their addictions are diversions to continued irresponsibilities.

There are also those whose commitment to alcohol abuse is an irrational attempt to resolve other psychological problems. Alcohol is self-medicating. These alcoholics do not admit to or try to resolve psychological or emotional problems they are experiencing. Alcohol eases their problems enough for them to carry on with whatever it is that they need to do. Without the alcohol, they would be more lost than they are with it.

The most common difficulties alcoholics try to resolve through substance abuse are personal depression and attention deficit disorders.

Your husband may fall into the third category. He may have been self-medicating all of these years, trying to resolve an attention deficit disorder. Now that he is sober, he is unable to stick with a task. He does not know what to do and spends a great deal of time wandering from chore to chore without accomplishing anything.

If he continues as he is now, the chances of him trying again to self-medicate through alcohol are high. The best bet is for you and your husband to make an appointment with your family doctor and ask for both an assessment from a neurologist and a referral to your local mental health clinic.

With an appropriate prescription and continued counselling and support from a mental health therapist, your husband can continue his journey to recovery, finishing those tasks he has started and helping raise the children in a peaceful home setting.

Jacklin Andrews is a family counsellor from Saskatchewan. Contact: andrews@producer.com.

On a blustery November day near Lacombe, Alta., Nick Kuipers operates a skid steer at his parents’ dairy, Royal Hill Farm, to move straw bales that will be ground and added to grain or silage for cattle feed. | MARIA JOHNSON PHOTO
SHARING BODY HEAT

A herd of donkeys on Burro Alley Ranch near Millarville, Alta., bask in the morning sun after a night of temperatures dropping to -15 C. | Wendy Dudley photo

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH RECEIVES FUNDING

The University of British Columbia will receive $1.8 million in federal funding to determine carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions and develop beneficial management practices for increasing the efficiency of fertilizer use in blueberry, potato and forage crops.

The research team will use state-of-the-art instrumentation and automated measurement techniques to quantify annual greenhouse gas emissions.

The joint project is one of 20 new research projects supported by the $27 million Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Program, a partnership among universities and conservation groups.

The program supports research into greenhouse gas mitigation practices and technologies that can be adopted on the farm.

FCC BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

The federal government has made several appointments to the board of directors of Farm Credit Canada. They have experience in fields related to the agriculture industry, including farming, finance, law and science.

- Del Anaquod: newly appointed as director for a three-year term
- Bertha Campbell: newly appointed as director for a four-year term
- Laura Donaldson: newly appointed as director for a four-year term
- Michele Hengen: newly appointed as director for a three-year term
- James Laws: newly appointed as director for a three-year term
- Govert Verstralen: newly appointed as director for a four-year term
- Jane Halford: re-appointed as director for a three-year term

SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY HELPS MANAGE FEED CROPS

A study to explore the use of new technology that tracks hay and pasture production will receive $988,000 in federal funding.

The Warren Centre for Actuarial Studies and Research at the University of Manitoba’s I.H. Asper School of Business will work with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association on a project that consists of collaborative research with Alberta Beef Producers to use new satellite-based technology to estimate forage growth at the farm level in each province.

It will develop a forage production index that would form the basis for the development of new insurance tools.

Grass and hay insurance participation rates on the Prairies are much lower than for annual crops. Perennial crops may be moved closer to a competitive balance with annual crops for insurance programs offered.

SASK. CHIEF VET WINS PREMIER’S AWARD

Dr. Betty Althouse has been awarded the Saskatchewan Premier’s Award for Excellence in the Public Service.

The chief veterinary officer with Saskatchewan Agriculture was one of six recipients of the award.
Salinity solutions begin with water management

Farmers may need to consider managing their crops from a different perspective and financial bottom line

BY WILLIAM DEKAY
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Farmers who want to manage their soil salinity must first manage their water, a land management specialist told participants at a farm stewardship meeting.

“If you do anything to manage your soil salinity, you have to think about your water table. And if you’re managing your water table, you’re managing your salinity,” said Marla Riekman from Manitoba Agriculture’s ag resource branch.

Salinity can be subtle or in places very obvious. It’s not typically seen in wet years, but excess moisture raises the water table, which brings salts closer to the surface, Riekman said at the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association’s meeting in Yorkton, Sask., Nov.16. She described Saskatchewan as “pothole country” and many areas suffer from high salinity as seen by the “bathtub ring effect around the wetlands,” compared to the flatter land and milder salinity around Manitoba’s Red River Valley.

Riekman compared it to variable rate irrigation that divides the soil based on upper, middle and lower slopes instead of going up and down the field in a straight line. “If you’re willing to give up yield in that area, you just keep farming through it, but if you’re not, you might have to drive around that spot,” she said.

“If you can manage that little spot and the salinity draws down every year, is it worth it to drive around the rest of it. It’s a different kind of math.”

However, before planting forages, farmers should test their soil in several locations to understand each field’s salinity levels and plant accordingly.

PASS THE SALT

Researchers have categorized forage grasses, weeds and crops according to their soil salinity tolerance. Farmers should test their soil in several locations to understand each field’s salinity levels and plant accordingly.

Very saline (>8 dS/m):
- tall wheatgrass
- beardless wild rye
- sea blight

Moderately saline (6-8 dS/m):
- slender wheatgrass
- Alti wild rye
- Russian wild rye
- western wheatgrass
- tall fescue
- kochia
- foxtail barley
- Russian thistle

Slightly saline (4-6 dS/m):
- alfalfa
- sweet clover
- birdsfoot trefoil
- s. bromegrass
- meadow fescue
- crested wheatgrass
- intermediate wheatgrass
- barley
- wheat
- fall rye
- oats

Non-saline (2 dS/m):
- clover
- red clover
- white clover
- timothy
- rye
- meadow brome
- perennial and annual ryegrass
- reed canary grass
- canola
- soybeans
- beans
- corn
- flax
- peas
- safflower

Riekman urged producers to do the research to see if the legume you’re dealing with at the current time, she said.

Wheat and canola handle saline conditions much better than field corn and particularly better than soybeans.

Did you know …

Saskatchewan is usually measured in a lab, where soil is mixed with water at a 1:1 ratio and an electrical current is passed through the solution. The results are reported in decSiemens/metre (dS/m).

Marla Riekman from Manitoba Agriculture’s ag resource branch spoke about managing soil salinity at the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association’s annual general meeting and conference in Yorkton, Sask., earlier this month. | WILLIAM DEKAY PHOTO

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2017 SUBARU WRX

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- **2005 CHI AXE 8810**
  - 1800 hrs, 6th, enlarged extension, headers & pickup available...
  - $69,800

- **2007 GLEANER A75**
  - 1420 hrs, 866A, CT meter, Redtop cylinder, AHIC, pickup & 5 duties available...
  - $89,800

- **2010 JD 4400**
  - 36’, 1/2, 726 hrs, Generator ready, 15x62, steer, gauge wheels...
  - $57,800

- **2012 BRENT 832 GRAIN CART**
  - 850 bu, 1600-FTD, hyd. spout, 300 bushels, very good condition...
  - $37,800

- **2006 KORELCO SR290LC**
  - Escavator, 5167 hrs, tracks & undercarriage 75%, good pins, dipper arm, good condition...
  - $59,800

- **2013 CAT TL643C**
  - Telehandler, 1417 hrs, 8000 lb, 43’ reach, 4WD, 4- cylinder, Assy, new hyd.
  - Excellent condition...
  - $89,800

- **2012 Western Star 4964**
  - Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit Diesel engine (450) HP, Eaton Fuller transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 650000 km, 46000 lbs rear axle capacity, 4-Way rear lockup, A/C, Truck has 650,000km new speedo. Brandon, MB
  - $59,900

- **2015 JD 270C LC**
  - Hydraulic excavator, 15,644 hrs, 12 axle, Q/C bucket...
  - $69,800

- **2009 International ProStar**
  - Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit S60 engine, Eaton Fuller transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 535 HP, 5340 hrs, NEW front tracks, 57gpm, 30” tracks, 16 spd, weights, field tested & ready to go...
  - $49,400

- **2014 Challenger MT765D**
  - 620 hrs, 310 HP, Traline-Autopilot, 14’ tracks, PTO, 3PH, 31’ track, avail. excl. cost...
  - $299,400

- **2009 CM MAXXTRM 115 MFD**
  - CALL US!

- **2015 JD 6140R MFD**
  - $169,000

- **2014 JD 6370R MFD**
  - $289,000

**CONSTRUCTION**

- **2013 CAT TL943C**
  - Telehandler, 1417 hrs, 8000 lb, 43’ reach, 4WD, 4 cylinder, Assy, new hyd.
  - Excellent condition...
  - $89,800

- **2013 FARESIN HX700-10P**
  - Telehandler, 10,650 hrs, 7000 lb, 4WD, 4 wheel steer...
  - $44,800

- **2009 Kenworth T800**
  - Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit S60 engine (455/475) HP, Eaton Fuller D/O transmission (18 Speed), Air brakes, 346638 km, Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Cummins ISX engine (475) HP, Eaton Fuller O/D transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 346638 km, Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit S60 engine (455/475) HP, Eaton Fuller D/O transmission (18 Speed), Air brakes, 346638 km, Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit Diesel engine (455/475) HP, Eaton Fuller transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 650000 km, 46000 lbs rear axle capacity, 4-Way rear lockup, A/C, spec good log hauler. Winnipeg, MB
  - $89,900

- **2009 International ProStar Premium**
  - Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Cummins ISX engine (450) HP, Eaton Fuller transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 575000 hrs, 116000 lbs front axle capacity, 40000 lbs rear axle capacity, 4-Way rear lockup, A/C, heavy spec. “B” big буков Winnipeg, MB
  - $289,000

**TRUCK & TRAILER**

- **2013 CAT TL943C**
  - Telehandler, 1417 hrs, 8000 lb, 43’ reach, 4WD, 4 cylinder, Assy, new hyd.
  - Excellent condition...
  - $89,800

- **2012 Western Star 4964**
  - Tandem Axle Day Cab Tractor, Detroit Diesel engine (455/475) HP, Eaton Fuller transmission (18 speed), Air brakes, 577000 hrs, 117000 lbs front axle capacity, 40000 lbs rear axle capacity, 4-Way rear lockup, A/C, Truck has 650,000km new speedo. Brandon, MB
  - $39,800

- **2008 VALLUNGA TRUCK**
  - Low box, 110,490 lbs, aluminium, 12 compartment, hyd control, very good condition...
  - $54,900
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**OFFER EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 2017. All rebates to dealer. Vehicles depicted may not be exactly as shown, other conditions may apply. See dealer for details.**

### New 2017 Vehicles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Stock #</th>
<th>Engine Details</th>
<th>Exterior Color</th>
<th>Interior Color</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
<th>Sale Price</th>
<th>Offer includes freight, air tax and fees. GST extra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 ESCAPE 4 DOOR SE AWD</strong></td>
<td>T17854</td>
<td>2.0L EcoBoost, 6 Speed Automatic, Shadow Black, Charcoal Black Cloth.</td>
<td>Oxford White</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$32,669</td>
<td><strong>$30,495</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 72 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 EDGE SEL AWD</strong></td>
<td>T17552</td>
<td>3.5L V6 Ti-VCT Engine, 6 Speed SelectShift Trans, Magnetic, Ebony Black Cloth.</td>
<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather</td>
<td>$45,799</td>
<td><strong>$38,995</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F150 4X4 SUPERCREW XLT</strong></td>
<td>T17818</td>
<td>6.7L Powerstroke V8 Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic, Magnetic, Ebony Black Leather.</td>
<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$83,474</td>
<td><strong>$69,995</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F250 4X4 CREWCAB LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17202</td>
<td>6.7L Powerstroke V8 Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic, Magnetic, Ebony Black Leather.</td>
<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$70,995</td>
<td><strong>$65,874</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 48 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F350 4X4 CREWCAB LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17364</td>
<td>6.7L Powerstroke V8 Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic, Magnetic, Ebony Black Leather.</td>
<td>Oxford White</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$83,979</td>
<td><strong>$71,995</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 48 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F150 4X4 SUPERCREW LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17510</td>
<td>2.7L EcoBoost, 6 Speed/Electronic Trans, White Platinum, Black Leather.</td>
<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather</td>
<td>$43,589</td>
<td><strong>$39,995</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F350 4X4 SUPERCREW LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17538</td>
<td>6.7L V8 Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Oxford White, Black Leather.</td>
<td>Oxford White</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$56,524</td>
<td><strong>$47,995</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F150 4X4 SUPERCREW LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17552</td>
<td>6.7L Powerstroke V8 Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic, Magnetic, Ebony Black Leather.</td>
<td>Oxford White</td>
<td>Black Leather Interior</td>
<td>$63,349</td>
<td><strong>$55,824</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F250 4X4 CREWCAB LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17748</td>
<td>2.0L EcoBoost, 6 Speed Automatic, Shadow Black, Charcoal Black Cloth.</td>
<td>Shadow Black</td>
<td>Charcoal Black Cloth</td>
<td>$32,689</td>
<td><strong>$30,495</strong></td>
<td><em>0% up to 60 Months</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017 F350 4X4 CREWCAB LARIAT</strong></td>
<td>T17838</td>
<td>6.7L Powerstroke V8 Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic, Magnetic, Ebony Black Leather.</td>
<td>Magnetic</td>
<td>Ebony Leather</td>
<td>$83,979</td>
<td><strong>$71,995</strong></td>
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<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather</td>
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<tr>
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<td>T17510</td>
<td>2.7L EcoBoost, 6 Speed/Electronic Trans, White Platinum, Black Leather.</td>
<td>White Platinum</td>
<td>Black Leather</td>
<td>$43,589</td>
<td><strong>$39,995</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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4.25’x6’ Rd Treated Post $61
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4.25’x8’ Rd Treated Post $91
5.25’x7’ Rd Treated Post $101
5.25’x8’ Rd Treated Post $131

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GL4040: 4X4, ONLY 2,000KM, BETTER THAN NEW, NO PST!

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GL4032: 8.6L DIESEL, LOADED, PST PD
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GL3928: CREW CAB, 6.5 BOX, 5.3L, 4X4, 50KM
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GL43904: DUALLY, 67KM, SEMI ANNUAL PAYMENTS, 0 DOWN MUST GO PRICED TO SELL!!

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GL4053: LOADED, DIESEL, MANY HEMI 2500 ALSO IN STOCK
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### COMBINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stk:</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH 9240</strong></td>
<td>620 Duals, Lux Cab, Lat Tilt w/Rocktrap, Accuguide, 50 Ft Folding Unload, Magnet Chopper, Standard Auger, Deluxe Cab, Leather Seat, Pro 700, Accuguide Ready</td>
<td>022940 (SC)</td>
<td>$499,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH 8240</strong></td>
<td>520 Duals, Lat Tilt, Rocktrap, Ext Wear Rotor, Standard Chopper, Deluxe Cab, Leather Seat, Pro 700, Accuguide Ready</td>
<td>022117 (SC)</td>
<td>$405,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014 Case IH 8230</strong></td>
<td>900 Singles, Lat Tilt, Deluxe Cab, GPS, Folding Auger, Pivot Spout, HD Fold Hopper Cover, 865 Engine &amp; 640 Rotor Hrs</td>
<td>025289 (SC)</td>
<td>$335,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013 Case IH 9230</strong></td>
<td>620 Duals, Lux Cab, Lat Tilt w/Rocktrap, Accuguide, Hyd Grain Tank Cover, Magnet Chopper, HD Lights, Stk: 021990 (ES)</td>
<td>021503 (PA)</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Case IH 9120</strong></td>
<td>2016 P/U Header, 900/60R32 &amp; 600/65R28, Pro 600 Monitor, Deluxe Cab</td>
<td>024410 (LL)</td>
<td>$269,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2010 Case IH 7230</strong></td>
<td>520 Duals, Lat Tilt, Ext Wear Rotor, HD Folding Cover, Std Chopper, HD Lights, Accuguide, Air Compressor</td>
<td>022117 (SC)</td>
<td>$299,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2010 Case IH 8120</strong></td>
<td>900/75R32, Ext Wear Rotor w/Bars &amp; Spikes, Fine Cut Chopper, Leather, HD Lights, Folding Cover Stk: 024410 (LL)</td>
<td>024410 (LL)</td>
<td>$189,900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2009 Case IH 7120</strong></td>
<td>520 Duals, Lateral Tilt, Accuguide, Power Mirrors, Std Cut Chopper, 3016 Header w/SwatMaster Pickup Stk: 205692B (LL)</td>
<td>024410 (LL)</td>
<td>$189,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2006 Case IH 8010</strong></td>
<td>17' CIH 2016 Pickup, 520 Duals, Rocktrap, Pro 600 Monitor, Std Rotor, Mauser Tonne, Fine Cut Chopper, Long Auger Stk: 021412 (ME)</td>
<td>021412 (ME)</td>
<td>$155,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013 John Deere 6640</strong></td>
<td>680 c/w JD 615 Pickup, 520 Duals, 28L Rear Tires, AutoSteer, Folding Hopper Stk: 024688 (SA)</td>
<td>024688 (SA)</td>
<td>$355,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008 New Holland CR9700</strong></td>
<td>c/w 76C Pickup, 20.8/42 Duals, MAV Chopper, Color Display, 7.3 M Unload Auger, Deluxe Cab Stk: 025314 (LL)</td>
<td>025314 (LL)</td>
<td>$149,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2003 New Holland CR960</strong></td>
<td>c/w NH 76C Pickup Header, Beacon, Service Lights, Yield &amp; Moisture Stk: 023071 (PA)</td>
<td>023071 (PA)</td>
<td>$102,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPRAYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stk:</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH 4440</strong></td>
<td>120 Ft, AIM Pro, Active Susp, Pro 700, Accuguide, Accuboom, AutoSteer, Front Fill, Wide Fenders, Trelleborg 710’s Stk: 022565 (SA)</td>
<td>022565 (SA)</td>
<td>$495,000</td>
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<td><strong>2014 Case IH 4430</strong></td>
<td>120 Ft, Lux Cab, Active Susp, HD Lights, AutoBoom, Accuboom, Viper Pro Monitor, AIM Pro, 380’s &amp; 620’s, Raven SmartTrax Steering Stk: 023711 (PA)</td>
<td>023711 (PA)</td>
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<td><strong>2013 Case IH 4430</strong></td>
<td>100 Ft, Deluxe Cab, AIM, Pro 700, 372 Receiver, 2 Sets Of Tires, HD Lights, AutoBoom, Accuboom Stk:024786 (SC)</td>
<td>021959 (ME)</td>
<td>$305,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Case IH 4420</strong></td>
<td>120 Ft, AIM, 1200 Gallon, Norac Boom Height Control, Deluxe HD Lighting, Accuboom, Accuboom Stk: 022510 (LL)</td>
<td>022510 (LL)</td>
<td>$249,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2010 John Deere 4830</strong></td>
<td>100 Ft, 1000 Gallon Tank, Autosteer, Swath Pro, Autoboom, 2 Sets Of Tires, Crop Dividers Stk: 021959 (ME)</td>
<td>021959 (ME)</td>
<td>$213,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2014 New Holland SP240F</strong></td>
<td>120 Ft, 1200 Gallon SS Tank, Intelliview IV Monitor, AutoBoom, AutoSteer, 2 Sets Of Tires Stk: 024111 (LL)</td>
<td>024111 (LL)</td>
<td>$299,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2009 Apache AS1010</strong></td>
<td>100 Ft, 1000 Gall, Raven Control &amp; GPS, 5 Way Nozzles Bodies, 1800 Hrs Stk: 026632 (SC)</td>
<td>026632 (SC)</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1998 Regator 854</strong></td>
<td>100 Ft, 800 Gall SS Tank, Ez-Guide Auto Steer, Rate Controller, Rinse Tank Stk: 023420 (LL)</td>
<td>023420 (LL)</td>
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### TRACTORS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stk:</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2014 Case IH Steiger 620</strong></td>
<td>Quadtrac Luxury Cab, PT0, Twin Flow Hyd, 36” Tracks, 6 Remotes, Pro 700, Accuguide, HID Lights Stk: 025532 (ME)</td>
<td>025532 (ME)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2010 Case IH Steiger 535</strong></td>
<td>800 Duals, Accuguide, 4 Remotes, Weight Pkg, Tow Cable, 2300 Hours Stk: 025747 (ES)</td>
<td>025747 (ES)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH Steiger 580</strong></td>
<td>Quadtrac Lux Cab, LED Lights, Pro 700, Accuguide, 2 Hyd Pumps, 6 Remotes, PTO, 36” Auger, Tow Cable Auger</td>
<td>022922 (SC)</td>
<td>$565,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2014 Case IH Steiger 550</strong></td>
<td>Quadtrac Luxury Cab, Dual Hyd Augers, PT0, HD Lights, Tow Cable, HID Lights, 6 Remotes, Viper Pro, Raven AutoSteer Stk: 023176 (PA)</td>
<td>023176 (PA)</td>
<td>$481,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH Steiger 500</strong></td>
<td>520 Triples, Deluxe Cab, HD Lights, Accuguide, Pro 700, 4 Remotes, Hi-Cap Hyd, 342 hours Stk: 023022 (SC)</td>
<td>023022 (SC)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 Case IH Steiger 420</strong></td>
<td>520 Triples, Deluxe Cab, HID Lights, Pro 700, Accuguide, 4 Remotes, High Capacity Hyd PTO Stk: 023173 (SC)</td>
<td>023173 (SC)</td>
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<td><strong>2009 Case IH Steiger 485</strong></td>
<td>Quadtrac Dlx Cab, Hi Cap Hyd, PTO, 30” Tracks, Cab Suspension, Accuguide Stk: 023118 (SA)</td>
<td>023118 (SA)</td>
<td>$255,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012 John Deere 9510RT</strong></td>
<td>36 Tracks, Leather Seat, 4 Remotes, SF2 GPS, Greenstar Display, High Capacity Hyd 58 GPM, 2070 hours Stk: 023450 (SC)</td>
<td>023450 (SC)</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2013 New Holland T9.615</strong></td>
<td>120 Ft, Dlx Cab, 380’s &amp; 650’s, HID Light, Air Comp, Viper Pro, SmartAuto Steer, AutoBoom, Accuboom, Crop Dividers, Fan Reverser Stk: 021959 (ME)</td>
<td>021959 (ME)</td>
<td>$213,000</td>
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Maria Zieba knows when U.S. President Donald Trump has tweeted about the North American Free Trade Agreement.

“For hours after the tweet, Zieba’s cellphone doesn’t stop beeping,” said Zieba, director of international affairs with the National Pork Producers Council in Washington, D.C. “And I get hundreds of text messages from producers saying, ‘what’s going on, Maria?’”

Zieba and many other people in Washington are trying to find out “what’s going on” when it comes to NAFTA.

They are confused because the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and nearly every agricultural association in the United States supports NAFTA, even as the Trump administration seems determined to kill the deal.

“Our producers are really concerned,” Zeiba said. “They really want us to be involved and active (on NAFTA).”

Representatives of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. met in Mexico City earlier this month for the latest round of NAFTA re-negotiations.

The three countries began formal talks to update and modernize NAFTA in August after Trump promised to rip up or renegotiate the deal during his 2016 campaign.

Analysts are concerned the U.S. is on track to terminate NAFTA because American negotiators have put forward proposals that are untenable for Canada and Mexico, such as changing rules of origin around automobile manufacturing so that half of all content comes from the U.S. and eliminating a mechanism to resolve disputes.

There was minimal progress in Mexico City to push a deal forward, and hog farmers in the U.S. are getting worried, Zieba said.

“They are really scared about withdrawal,” she said. “They’ve looked at the numbers and (it’s) $12.40 per pig lost if we withdraw from the NAFTA market. It’s going to put a lot of people out of business.”

Pork producers and many other American farmers are worried that if NAFTA falls apart, competitors will step in and seize their two best markets for exports.

In mid-November, before the negotiations in Mexico City, 168 agri-food groups and businesses sent a letter to all 50 U.S. governors. The letter, signed by Fortune 500 companies such as CHS, Cargill and John Deere, reminded the governors of the importance of NAFTA and the consequences of a U.S. withdrawal.

“(It) would fuel additional uncertainty among our North American trading partners, creating a sense of urgency to explore non-U.S. origin sources of supply,” the letter said. “Contracts would be renegotiated or cancelled, sales would be delayed or lost altogether, able foreign competitors would rush to seize our export markets, and litigation would abound even before withdrawal took effect.”

The letter even contained estimates of economic impacts, assuming the U.S. pulls out of NAFTA.

“(The result would be) a net loss of at least 56,000 jobs in the U.S. food and agriculture industry and a drop in GDP of $13 billion from the farm sector alone,” it said.

U.S. farmers and agricultural groups may be getting more and more frustrated with Trump’s position on NAFTA, but so far they haven’t marched through the streets of Washington.

Zieba said that’s unlikely to happen — for now.

The sector wants the NAFTA renegotiation to succeed and is willing to give the administration a chance to get it right.

“We want to give room to our negotiators,” she said. “(But) if there is a complete breakdown I think you will see more movement from our side.”

robert.arnason@producer.com
Sask Pool reignites push in 1992 to amalgamate prairie wheat pools

FROM THE ARCHIVES

BRUCE DYCK

The Western Producer takes a weekly look at some of the stories that made headlines in issues of the paper from 75, 50, 25 and 10 years ago.

75 YEARS AGO: NOV. 26, 1942

The Dominion government was urged to begin negotiations a trade deal with the Soviet Union that could see Canada ship 300,000 head of cattle a year to that country for the next 10 years.

Donald G. McKenzie, chief commissioner of the Board of Grain Commissioners, said Ukraine’s livestock herd had been “pretty well depleted” by war, which presented Canada with significant export opportunities.

Leonard D. Nesbitt, director of publicity for Alberta Wheat Pool, made an argument for Canadian wheat and urging the Canadian Wheat Board to deal with the Soviet Union that had made such a move necessary three years ago still existed.

50 YEARS AGO: NOV. 30, 1967

New federal Progressive Conservative leader Robert Stanfield weighed in on wheat marketing, criticizing a lack of markets for Canadian wheat and urging the country to not be stampeded into selling top quality crop at bargain basement prices.

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool president Charles W. Gibbings said farms were getting bigger every year but added large corporation farms continued to be more efficient.

25 YEARS AGO: NOV. 26, 1992

Provincial governments were considering a federal proposal to pay 90 percent of the $721 million transportation subsidy to farmers, pay 90 percent of the $721 million domestic needs for two years. The dominion government was spending $50 million a year to carry this wheat, he added, which could be better spent paying farmers bonuses to graze or summerfallow their land or grow other crops.

10 YEARS AGO: NOV. 29, 2007

The hog industry warned the federal government that the sector would begin melting down if quick action wasn’t taken to get financial assistance to producers. High feed costs and a strong dollar meant producers were losing $50 a hog.

Shipping wheat by rail to Mexico was proving to be lucrative for the Canadian Wheat Board, but it was having trouble finding enough cars to meet the demand.

“We’re maximizing what we can ship there by rail, and once that capacity’s gone, then basically that’s it,” said CWB wheat and barley marketer Rhys Doyle.
Alberta councillors reject OHV registration

Sixty percent of rural delegates opposed the resolution for licensing, saying the fee would hurt rural residents and involve more government red tape

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Alberta’s rural leaders won’t be lobbying the provincial government to institute a licensing system for off-highway vehicles anytime soon.

The decision came about following much debate during the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties’ annual convention on Nov. 15.

Rod Shaigec, the mayor of Parkland County, brought forward the resolution to lobby the province to launch a licensing system for OHVs.

He said the system would work like car licensing, where recreational users pay fees to operate OHVs. Non-recreational users, like farmers and ranchers, would be exempt from fees.

Shaigec said a licensing system is needed because the number of OHV users is increasing but there is little in place to ensure people comply with rules and are not disrupting land or wildlife habitats.

“They are not respecting our municipal reserves, our environment reserves and our agriculture community,” Shaigec said.

Many farmers are calling him “the Caribou Cowboy” for his efforts to protect caribou and other wildlife in western Canada. Those in favour of this resolution argued that planning hasn’t been collaborative and that might force the issue, he said.

Going forward, Shaigec said it might come to the point where Parkland County might have to ban recreational OHV use to curb the problems.

“It’s what we might have to do, and that might force the issue,” he said.

jeremy.simes@producer.com

A resolution was defeated at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties convention asking to lobby government for off-highway vehicle licensing.

AAMD&C discusses lottery funding, workplace safety

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Alberta’s rural leaders spent much of the recent convention debating what they will and won’t advocate for when dealing with the provincial government.

Here’s a breakdown of some of the key topics that were discussed:

• Rural representatives voted in favour of requesting that the province implement a communication plan to advise the agriculture sector of changes to workplace legislation. The mover of the resolution argued that without an effective communication plan, farmers and ranchers may not fully understand the proposed changes and could be penalized for things they weren’t aware of.

• Rural leaders voted in favour of the AAMD&C advocating for the government to provide long-term financial supports to agriculture boards and societies through the Alberta Lottery Program. Those in favour of this resolution said agriculture boards and societies provide economic and social benefits to their communities. The societies and boards work on challenges involving weeds, pests, invasive species, soil erosion and other environmental issues. The societies recently received emergency funding from the province, and there is no word yet on if more funding will become available for the long term.

• AAMD&C delegates voted in favour of municipalities and counties collaborating on issues involving caribou recovery in Western Canada. Those in favour of the resolution argued that planning hasn’t been collaborative, and that caribou travel across multiple districts, so it would make sense for rural communities to work together.

• Rural representatives hotly debated the issue of merging with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. Those against the resolution argued that while they weren’t in favour, the language of the resolution could give the impression that rural folks don’t want conversations with city dwellers. However, those in favour of the resolution argued they still want a relationship with AUMA, but don’t want to merge because they felt rural voices could get drowned out. The resolution to refuse a merger passed with 70 percent.

• AAMD&C delegates voted in favour of lobbying the provincial government to create and staff a health unit that would provide specialized clinical counselling and therapy for distressed emergency first responders. Those for the effort argued that current counselling services in place aren’t adequate. They said healthier first responders mean better services for the people they serve.

• Rural representatives were overwhelmingly in support of a resolution that called for the AAMD&C to advocate for the return of the pesticide Lindane. Those in favour of Lindane’s return argued it would be allowed only by certified seed cleaning plants and it would help control the spread of wireworms. Those opposed said the pesticide is bad for the environment and does more harm than good.

jeremy.simes@producer.com

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Alberta premier vows to cut spending as debt mounts

The province is expected to run a $10.3 billion deficit in 2017-18 spending as debt mounts, Alberta premier vows to cut spending reductions.

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley told rural representatives earlier this month that the province will "carefully and compassionately" tighten its belt on spending next year as it gears to balance the books by 2024.

Notley made the remarks during her speech at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties annual convention on Nov. 16.

She said that while much has been done to rein in spending, there's still more work to do. She hasn't yet said what government departments will be affected by the spending reductions.

"I would call it a reality," she told reporters following her speech, pointing to numerous economic indicators that show Alberta is leading the country in economic growth.

"As the indicators change, as the economy is growing, we obviously have an important obligation to continue that strategic approach in our fiscal plan to find a responsible and careful way into bringing the budget into balance. That's always been our plan."

The Alberta NDP has faced mounting pressure to get its fiscal books in order, following its election win a little over two years ago.

The province is slated to run a $10.3 billion deficit in 2017-18, and debt is projected to climb to $71.1 billion in three years.

Lots of that money has gone to rural infrastructure, she told reporters, following her speech.

"Lots of that money has gone to rural infrastructure is modern, everyone's interest to make sure our rural communities, " she told reporters.

"It's not going to be perfect, but I think it's improving and maybe we see a tiny bit that as people get more familiar with who we are."

She also discussed her plans to promote the Trans Mountain pipeline as part of a cross-country tour.

Jeremy.simes@producer.com

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Canadian farmers could better deal with climate change if new technologies were approved more quickly, industry representatives told the standing agriculture committee.

Dennis Prouse, vice-president of government affairs for CropLife Canada, said farmers have been dealing with the effects of climate change for years. The next steps is to help them be more sustainable and more productive on less land.

They will need new technologies to do that but Prouse said the regulatory system is too slow.

It takes two to three years for approvals, he told the committee, and sometimes an application dies for a year before it is even looked at.

He said it would be better to get approval time down to a year to get the technology into farmers' hands sooner. Simply eliminating that 12-month wait in a file could do that.

"The reality is that the regulatory system is too slow," he said.

"We've seen the most time-consuming part of getting a biotech trait to market is actually outside the developer's control. The cost and time involved in regulatory science and registration has increased 50 percent in the last decade."

Prouse said that the predicted introduction of new biotech crops hasn't happened and 84 percent of crops grown are still among the four majors.

"What's more, the growth we had expected to see in public sector-developed products has not materialized," he said. "Seventy-five percent of commercialized products are still coming from the leading private sector technology developers."

He said all types of traits are in development to deal with all types of issues, including those that will come about due to the changing climate.

Private sector developers can afford the extra time and cost that the regulatory system imposes but public sector developers cannot.

Conservative committee vice-chair Luc Berthold noted that the industry talks about increasing production, and the government has targets to do so.

"We've seen the most time-consuming part of getting a biotech trait to market is actually outside the developer's control."

DENNIS PROUSE
CROPLIFE CANADA

"When people talk to us about those objectives, they say nothing about the constraints associated with climate change," he said. "Everything seems fine and dandy and there seem to be no fears as to the ability to double production, to deliver the product and to achieve the objectives."

Prouse agreed that industry is excited about taking Canada from the fifth top agricultural exporter in the world to number two.

"That's a tremendous goal," he said. "But there needs to be a road map to get there."

"There won't be that expansion without a regulatory system that is responsive enough."

NDP agriculture critic Ruth Ellen Brosseau asked what the turn-around time is in the United States. Ian Affleck, executive director of plant biotechnology at CropLife, said it is slightly shorter, but that country also has a process that allows new technologies similar to existing products to be approved in four to six months.

Karen.briere@producer.com

Speedier new technology approvals could help with climate change: CropLife

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

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karen.briere@producer.com
OTTAWA — Preliminary work indicates that existing provincial environmental farm plans align fairly well and that could make it easier to establish national EFP stands, a recent conference heard.

The idea isn’t to replace the provincial programs but ensure they are equivalent by establishing a base line. A national EFP is one way that Canada could assure sustainability to customers and consumers. A committee established after last year’s first meeting on the topic chose to measure the Ontario plan against the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform’s Farm Sustainability Assessment tool to see if the provincial plans could meet a standard.

SAI Platform is a voluntary membership global organization of about 90 stakeholders, including farm organizations, end users and processors working together on on-farm sustainability. It is already used in 25 countries.

“We’re talking about setting a basic benchmark for what is sustainable on farms and how can we help farmers do that,” said Nick Betts of SAI Platform program. The FSA tool is a 112-question document designed so that farmers around the world are able to answer them. Standards in Africa will vary from those in South America and those in Canada, he said.

The Ontario plan was assessed against the bronze criteria. Bronwynne Wilton of Wilton Consulting Group said it was a bit tricky because the FSA tool uses a yes or no answer system while the EFP uses a scale of one to four. However, the benchmarking did find that the EFP could meet at least the bronze level. Wilton said there were still gaps even when assuming that a farmer answered a three on the one-to-four, worst-to-best scale for every question.

Part of the issue is that the FSA tool also includes economic and social sustainability questions while the EFP’s only focus is on the environment. She said gaps are partially filled by Canadian legislation.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture president Ron Bonnett asked how the FSA tool deals with regulations in different countries. For example, Europe has a different position on genetically modified plants than North America. Betts said one of the industries already using the tool is the European sugar beet sector. In Europe, GM beets aren’t allowed while in North America they are preferred.

“The challenge that we face is, to be sustainable you also have to meet local regulations,” he said.

Wilton is also working with the Sustainable Farm and Food Initiative in Ontario, which is a collaboration of farm organizations and food processors who are looking at all the sustainability pillars, not just environment.

She said a national EFP could definitely be the environmental pillar, but there are data sharing and verification issues to address.

“We know and hear anecdotally that Canada is known for its trusted sustainable based food supply, but where’s the piece of paper?” she said.

The SFFI wants to increase transparency and reduce duplication in assuring sustainability.

Wilton said stakeholders say they want a unified approach across provincial, national and international borders.

“Twenty-five years ago when EFP was initiated, the food system wasn’t as integrated world-wide,” she said.

The Western Producer
Cold winter forecast, plentiful snow may offer needed moisture

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Farmers can expect a “wild ride” this winter, according to The Weather Network’s 2017 winter forecast.

“It is potentially a very harsh winter ahead with widespread below seasonal temperatures and lots of shots of Arctic air,” said meteorologist Michael Carter.

The Prairies will experience the worst winter weather in the country with below normal temperatures throughout much of the region.

A developing La Nina event in the equatorial Pacific is responsible for the chilly forecast because it will affect the strength and positioning of the Pacific jet stream.

“We’re going to get parting shots of cold air that will last for a few days and then perhaps the pattern will relax for a little while,” he said.

La Nina winters tend to have a bit of reprieve from the cold air somewhere around midwinter.

Predictions for above average snowfall in southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba may provide a silver lining to the forecast.

Carter said an area from about Edmonton and Saskatoon south to the United States border will have plenty of snow.

“It’s going to put us in a good position heading into the spring in terms of the soil moisture that is going to be available. Certainly, that is a relief after a very dry season through much of 2017,” he said.

The temperature forecast is consistent with AccuWeather’s winter forecast calling for prairie temperatures 1°C to 4°C below normal.

“We’re most confident this is going to be a colder than usual winter,” meteorologist Brett Anderson said in October when AccuWeather released its winter forecast.

AccuWeather’s precipitation forecast differed slightly from The Weather Network. It said Arctic air is dry, so while the cold will bring snow it won’t contain much moisture. Western Alberta will get decent winter moisture but the eastern Prairies will not. Areas that were dry heading into winter will be dry coming out of it.

AccuWeather said biting winds will accompany the frigid Arctic air. sean.pratt@producer.com
Farmers must foster weed seed eaters

Crickets and ground beetles are effective predators, often found in shelterbelts and outer strips of the field.

**BY ROBIN BOOKER**

SASKATCHEWAN BUREAU

If farmers hear crickets out in their fields they should consider themselves fortunate because that’s the sound of nature’s free weed control.

“If you hear the crickets, that means the carabids are out. All of the sounds you hear in the evenings, that’s weed-seed predation,” said Chris Willenborg during his presentation at the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Pulse and Soybean Agronomy Workshop in Saskatoon.

Willenborg said weed-seed predation is responsible for up to 90 percent of all weed-seed losses. Weed-seed predators are so effective at managing weed seeds, that some scientists are beginning to re-examine their assumptions on why cover crops are so effective at suppressing weeds.

“The debate in the weed science world of whether these cover crops are competing with the weeds, or whether that better weed control is a function of increasing habitat for seed predators. That’s how effective they are,” Willenborg said.

Weed-seed predators include earthworms, carabid beetles, invertebrates, voles, mice, rodents and farm birds such as sparrows and chickadees.

In Western Canada, the most effective weed-seed predators are crickets and ground beetles.

“For ground beetles, there is a specific type of ground beetle called a carabid beetle. There are about 900 of these species across Canada, 400 of them are carabid species and 30 are present in your fields,” Willenborg said.

The amount of seed predation seen on a field depends on the crop. In corn and soybean fields, trends tend to be less seed predation than in smaller grain crops such as wheat or canola. Alfalfa tends to give even better weed-seed predation.

Weed-seed predators can be abundant, but their timing varies based on the time of year.

“They peak activity is late July through August and declines throughout early September,” Willenborg said.

Carabid beetles are located on field margins that provide wide habitat. They also tend to be where the actively growing weeds are located, more so than where weed seeds are on the field, Willenborg said. This is likely because they tend to go where the seeds will be shed, or because they are seeking cover from their predators.

Studies on how to encourage carabid beetles have been conducted through Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, and they show diverse crop rotations bolster the carabid beetle activity.

Different types of beetles feed at different times of the year, and the timing of peak seed predation also varies depending on the crop.

“By incorporation of these diverse crop rotations you are essentially, over a three or four year period, maximizing the different niches these seed predators are occupying so you can maximize the amount of seed predation,” Willenborg said.

Another way to encourage weed-seed predation by beneficial insects is by using a beetle bank.

“This is essentially a trap crop or a trap strip usually generated in nature, some form of broadleaf or grassy strip in the centre of a field that provides habitat. This is becoming common in Europe,” Willenborg said.

These beetle banks, often seeded every 100 metres, allows beneficial insects to congregate and overwinter. Shelter belts and field margins serve the same purpose, although many of these areas have been removed in Western Canada and it is unknown how their removal has affected seed predators, he said.

Covers crops also help promote weed-seed predation by sheltering seed predators.

“These cover crops are providing protection for our seed predators because they are on the menu for many of our different predators, especially birds of prey when it comes to rodents, and farmland birds when it comes to insects.”

Decreasing tillage helps increase seed predator numbers, and multiple studies show seed predator activity is substantially lower on tilled fields.

Willenborg said seed predators require four things: food, water, overwintering habitat and shelter from adversity, and when soils are tilled three of these four things are removed.

“You bury the seeds usually to a depth so that they can’t access them. You remove overwintering habitat because you strip the land bare, there is no shelter.”

Willenborg is working with a graduate student who is looking into how the timing of canopy closure also affects weed seed predator activity. They are examining if the wider row spacing now commonly used affects seed predators.

“We think is happening, by providing a narrow row spacing or a confined spatial arrangement you change the microhabitat... things like soil moisture, ambient humidity, relative air temperature. All of these things matter to our weed-seed predators,” Willenborg said.

Carabid beetles can significantly benefit crop production beyond eating weed seeds. They also consume many common pests.

Carabid beetles can consume up to their body weight daily, and in doing so can significantly decrease cost associated with pest control.

For more information on carabid beetles in agriculture, visitbit.ly/1ZcISUr.

*robin.booker@producer.com*
Bearing: grease ’em and grease ’em again

Autogreaser gives grain cart bearings a shot of lubricant every hour

BY RON LYSENG  
WINNIPEG BUREAU

FARGO, N.D. — In a perfect world, we would stop every hour to shoot a spot of grease into the bearings. But it’s not a perfect world, so maybe let automation do the job for you.

The automated greasing system is called Autogreaser, and it’s standard equipment on every Unverferth grain cart equipped with Equalizer rubber tracks, says Unverferth’s Shawn Berry.

“It’s not that guys don’t want to grease their equipment. Just the opposite. They do. They understand the importance of regular greasing,” said Berry.

“But if you give it five shots of grease in the morning and then nothing until the next morning, that’s not what the bearings want.”

“Autogreaser gives the bearings a small shot of grease every hour, throughout the day, as long as the cart is in the field working. Five years down the road when your main pivot points are starting to get a little loose and need replacing, you’ll see that those bearings have been well lubricated their whole life.”

The half-gallon reservoir holds enough grease for 160 hours of field work. The system automatically engages only when the cart is working. All main pivot points are greaseable in the Autogreaser system.

Berry said temperature at the time of greasing is also a factor. If you do your greasing in the morning, as many farmers do, the bearings and hubs are cold. Even if the grease itself is warm, it doesn’t flow as well against the cold steel. On the other hand, when the cart is in the field working, the bearings are turning and generating heat, thus allowing grease to flow and fully penetrate every microscopic nook and cranny in the hub.

Another thing is our bogey wheels and large end wheels. You grease these manually. It’s not the cheapest way to build tracks, but definitely worth the money."

ABBREVIATION: TTS

Camso’s upgraded tow tracks designed for durability

A long working life is important in the highly competitive rubber track industry

BY RON LYSENG  
WINNIPEG BUREAU

FARGO, N.D. — When Camoplast Solideal did a name change two years ago to become just plain Camso, it also did a complete re-engineering job on its popular TTS series of tow tracks.

The upgrades are intended to increase the longevity of the bearings, says Troy Amundson of Premium Ag Solutions in Hitterdal, Minn.

Amundson brought the TTS to the Big Iron farm show in Fargo so that farmers could inspect the new design for themselves.

“This was a complete re-think to make the system more robust. For example, they’ve gone away from the turnbuckle design completely and put all the strength into the module itself,” said Amundson.

“They’ve gone from greaseable bearings to all oil bath hubs, which stretches the longevity of every thing else. Most other tracks on the market still have greaseable bearings. That’s a major maintenance issue for farmers.

"There’s been a minor increase in price, of course, because it costs more to build like this. But that’s more than offset by the increased durability and longer working life of the tracks."

TTS tracks are available in widths of 15 to 30 inches with load capacities of 40,000 to 100,000 pounds. The unit on display had 15 inch tracks and 40,000 lb. capacity.

“In any line of farm equipment, guys are looking more and more at the time and money spent on maintenance,” Amundson said.

“Things like oil bath bearings go a long way toward keeping your cart working without major maintenance.”
New Holland tweaks latest class of combines

Peak horsepower on the Revelation will be 700, compared to 653 h.p. on its previous model

By Robin Booker

**Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists**

**Is Your Advisor a Licensed Professional?**

You may be at Risk by not using a professional

Kim DeCorby, PAg
Crop Production Advisor
Crop Production Services
Balcarres, SK

Kim consults with producers to assist them with annual crop planning, focusing varieties, fertility and pest management choices. He offers a range of crop production products, at a competitive market price, and recommendations that best suits the producers needs.

“The professional agrologist (PAg) designation assures my customers that they can trust the information I provide because it comes from an ethical standpoint and has their best interest’s first.”

Kim was born in Estevan and grew up in Rose Valley. He received a BSA in administration & management.

Prasanna Yennawar, AAg
Environmental Project Consultant
Outcome Consultants Inc.
Saskatoon, SK

Prasanna is contracted by Outcome Consultants Inc. as a project control manager for environmental projects across Canada. His responsibilities include soil, water and soil sampling, inspections, field safety, project operations such as record keeping and cost tracking, and he provides support for project management.

“Being registered as an agrologist (AgA) provides a networking platform to generate and develop new business contacts within the agrology industry, and builds me accountable to upgrade my knowledge.”

Prasanna was born and raised in India. He received a PhD in Environmental Biology from India and is currently taking a few classes at the College of Agilloy at the University of Saskatchewan. Prasanna has over 20 years of combined experience in environmental biological research, aquatic biodiversity, site evaluation and impact assessment, compliance and project administration & management.

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**New Holland claims the updates in the CR Revelation improves capacity by up to 10 percent and lowers the power needed to separate the grain by up to 75 horsepower over the previous Elevation series of combines.**

**New Holland Photos**
Farm machinery sales may shift out of reverse

Global sales of farm equipment are improving, despite low commodities

BY MICHAEL RAINE
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

HANOVER, Germany — Tough times on the farm caused by poor crop prices have left the farm machinery industry struggling under the weight of shareholder expectations and market instability.

Many in the industry hope that recent improvements in sales might be marking a turning point. “Farmers have to make some investment choices. Not just in North America, but also around the world … and we can see that North America is performing better than expected, lately. But times have been challenging,” said Hermann Lohbeck of Claas, during the Agritechnica farming event in Hanover.

Overlooking a sea of farmers, industry watchers and other machine companies from a second-floor vantage point at the big farm show, Lohbeck said European Union farmers are spending again, despite lower grain and oilseed prices and a loss of supply management in the dairy sector. “That is stable with some growth. In Kazakhstan, Turkey, the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), we did better than expected. North America was acceptable, under the circumstances it was a good year,” he said.

“Farmers are seeking out new technology that improve their efficiency but also their soils and future productivity,” he said. Klaus Braunhardt agrees with the sentiment that farmers are looking for technology “not just power to replace power.”

“And we are seeing those investments, especially in places like Western Canada, where the economy is a bit better and farmers are seeking new ways to increase margins with each generation of machinery,” said Braunhardt, head of precision agriculture for John Deere in Europe. Previously, he worked in North America and focused on machinery design for markets like Western Canada.

He said farmers are looking for less down time, and telematics technology, which can provide remote diagnostics and data transfer, delivers on that.

“But you need the latest equipment to fully take advantage of it,” he said, while showing off Deere’s European Technology Innovation Centre in Kaiserslautern, Germany, earlier this month.

Deere last week reported its first increase in year-over-year sales in four years. The company forecasts an improving revenue picture for 2018 that includes boosts to sales and earnings.

Jim Wood handles operations at Rocky Mountain Equipment in Western Canada and feels production and overall profit potential. “We are starting to turn in machinery that has been out in the field for as many as four or five seasons.”

“It’s been reliable for them, but there is better technology available, the value of the trades is important. But ensuring that they won’t be facing service issues in-season and that they can take advantage of all the latest tools is becoming a bigger part of their business plans,” said Wood, whose company deals in Case IH and New Holland.

“For sure the (telematics) side of things is starting to become more important in their plans. We know how big it is in construction. It’s starting to show how it pays and so it makes it onto their balance sheets,” he said.

Martin Richenhagen, head of Agco, said the North American market presents a challenge for all equipment companies because of low grain and oilseed prices. However, his company has also seen improvements in sales despite this, especially in Western Canada. At the AgriTechnica show, he said sales had improved in most markets, except Germany.

As Deere reported its numbers, Tony Hugel of the company’s investor relations department confirmed the trend of farmers having to once again start investing. “The strength that we’re seeing in large ag is not coming from improved fundamentals (related to profits from farm production).”

He said machinery sales have been generally very low, “so the equipment has begun to age a bit. Deere said North America will be the hot spot for 2018 farm machinery sales, climbing as much as 10 percent overall. He predicted European and South American sales would each rise five percent, while Asia will remain flat after some relatively strong seasons.

For the company itself, Deere expects to see a 22 percent increase in 2018 sales.

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Agribition recognizes excellence

Limousin bull makes an impact as supreme champion at Canadian Western Agribition showdown

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

REGINA — Two elated families made history at Canadian Western Agribition Nov. 25 when they won the supreme championship award. Prairie Cove Charolais of Bowden, Alta., won the top female banner with PZC Lily 5013 Et and her calf at side, while Greenwood Limousin and Angus of Lloydminster, Sask., won with a two-year-old red Limousin bull named Canadian Impact.

The parade of champions, which was held Nov. 25, had 36 females and 37 bulls from livestock exhibitions across Canada.

Tyler Bullick led out the structurally correct white cow-calf pair, which has been campaigned across the West and won wherever they were shown.

The pair was declared national Charolais champions at Manitoba Ag-Ex in October and two weeks ago won supreme champion at Edmonton Farmfair.

“I couldn’t be more excited. I have never won this before and I didn’t think I would ever win it,” said Bullick.

His father, Tim, appreciated the achievement for a family that has been in the Charolais business since 1967.

“There are more cattle here from all over the country so this is extra special. I am not sure if it has been done very often to win both Supremes,” he said.

The calf was sold privately to another Charolais breeder during Agribition, but the cow is going back to the farm in central Alberta. She will never be for sale, said Tyler.

The Limousin bull, Greenwood Canadian Impact ET exhibited by Scott and Jackie Payne’s Greenwood Limousin and Angus, was also a multiple winner. This is the first time a Limousin bull won the Agribition showdown.

“Never expected this. We just try our best, and that is about all you can do,” said Jayden Payne, who led the big red bull into the show ring, which is owned with Nordal Limousin of Simpson, Sask.

“We never expected this. We just try our best, and that is about all you can do,” said Jayden Payne, who led the big red bull into the show ring, which is owned with Nordal Limousin of Simpson, Sask.

“We already have calves from him and we have full sisters that are exceptional cows,” he said.

The family has stood in the top 10 spotlight multiple times but never won the Agribition supreme. The bull also won the supreme at Farmfair and was grand champion at Lloydminster Stockade Roundup.

Five judges evaluate the cattle and score each of the entrants. These cattle have been champions at shows across Canada and many of them are multiple winners. Judge Carlos Ojea of Argentina, a cattle consultant who has judged 72 shows in the last 10 years, was full of praise for the quality presented in Regina.

“I have been honoured to judge almost every big show in the world and this is as good as it can get,” he said.

“The genetic pool you have here in your country is so powerful, it (is) so good, it was worth travelling 23 hours to get here. We travel here every year searching for new genetics to take back to our country.”

barbara.duckworth@producer.com
A 2016 Simmental was in the winner’s circle for top female, while a Charolais took top spot in the bull calf show

Reputation nets Merit Cattle Co. high selling Angus calf

CONGRATULATIONS were given all around for Baxter Blair of McLean, Sask., and his reserve champion Red Blair’s Monique 572D in the First Lady Classic interbreed competition at Canadian Western Agribition. [Karen Briere photo]

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Four different breeds took home banners from Canadian Western Agribition’s first purebred beef show of the fall season.

The interbreed First Lady Classic and President’s Classic each drew more than 80 entries.

Rising to the top on the female side was SFI Miss Seein Purple, a 2016 Simmental entry from Wrenland Co. at Bienfait, Sask., and additional owners Schaeke Farms and Michelson Land and Cattle. Riley Lafrentz from Wheatland said winning the Classic was a great way to kick off Agribition.

“We exhibit cattle at various shows, and Agribition is our big meeting to get as many of our cattle in front of as many people as we can,” he said.

The family has won the Classic before and taken reserve honours several times. Lafrentz said the wins make all the hard work at home worthwhile.

The Lafrentzes run about 240 purebred Simmental and Angus cattle. They have an on-farm bull sale in March and show at Agribition as a marketing tool.

Lafrentz, who is 23, said he has been attending the show since he could walk. He just returned to the farm full time after obtaining an animal science degree at Kansas State University, where his brother, Cody, is currently in third year.

Both of them chose the school for its livestock judging program.

Another young exhibitor showed the reserve champion red Angus female, Red Blair’s Monique 572D. Baxter Blair, 15, is from Double B Angus at McLean, Sask.

The First Lady also includes a futurity. The winner was a Black Angus, Merit Socialize 5121C, with calfs at side, Merit Sting 7047E, from Merit Cattle Co. of Radville, Sask.

Red-Ton Diamond Mist 26C with calf Red-Ton Red Six Mile Misty 7E, was the reserve winner. The exhibitors were Red-Ton Farms from Forestburg, Alta., and Six Mile Ranch of Ft. Mountain, Sask.

A shorthorn veteran took top honors in the bull calf show. Mike Eldor from Eldor Charolais Farm at Conrach, Sask., said his win with Eldor’s Hunch 72E is good for the breed.

“Our Charolais tan calves and buckskins and the silver calves are top of the market right now, so it’s very, very good for the Charolais breed,” he said.

The Elders run about 150 registered females and have their own bull sale in March.

“We’ve been coming (to Agribition) for 25 years and we’ll continue to come for 25 years,” he said.

The Elders normally sell about 50 Angus per show, but this time they sold 14,000.

“We just decided to jump into the Angus market piece sale and buy a popular calf offered by the Liebreich family at McLean, Sask., and sold a half interest, full possession in Merit Sting 7047E by the American bull, EKAR One Irene 380B.

“It is mind-boggling for a heifer’s first sale,” he said.

He has already sold semen on the bull.

Feige normally sells about 50 bulls a year and sees this calf as a feature sire.

“It seems like a lot of money now, but realistically, in the big picture, it is not that much,” he said.

The Liebreichs were keeping a special calf, said Janelle Carles-Liebreich.

The mother was the 2017 First Lady Classic Futurity champion at Agribition, grand champion Angus at the Lymbury Stockland Roundup and grand champion at the Junior Angus Showdown open division held this summer. The calf was champion bull calf at the same event.

The Liebreich family runs about 200 Angus cows at Radville, Sask.

Everyone in the family is involved full-time in the ranch.

Their dream is to open up the business to enable the three children, Macy, Garrett and Carson, to join in the future.

“We are extremely fortunate and blessed to do what we do,” said Carles-Liebreich.

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

REGINA — When the bidding reached $52,000, Kelly Feige decided to jump into the Angus market piece sale and buy a popular calf offered by the Liebreich family at Merit Cattle Co. of Radville, Sask., before and liked their program. This young prospect could be even better, he said.

“I think his heifer is going to be good. I loved the mom and it is fresh genetics and nobody else has those fresh genetics.”

The young cow is named Merit Socialize 5121C and the calf is Merit Sting 7047E by the American bull, EKAR One Irene 380B.

“His mother was the 2017 First Lady Classic Futurity champion at Agribition, grand champion Angus at the Lymbury Stockland Roundup and grand champion at the Junior Angus Showdown open division held this summer. The calf was champion bull calf at the same event.

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Speckle Park breeders in it for the beef

Father and son ranchers use Speckle Park genetics to get better beef grades from commercial herd

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

REGINA — Curtis and Dustin McAleer think like commercial beef producers when it comes to raising their Speckle Park purebred cows.

“We were commercial cattlemen as long as the family has been around,” said Dustin.

The family homesteaded at Neilburg, Sask., around 1913-14 but did not get into the purebred business until 2012 when Dustin wanted to raise registered cattle.

They knew Speckle Park breeders in their area who could sell them bulls, but weren’t sold on the breed until they tasted the beef from the animals, which were officially recognized as a breed in 2006. After selling to them, they could cut Speckle Park steaks with a fork. McAleers were dubious but were so impressed after a single meal, they decided this was the breed for them.

“I ate that whole steak and never once used a knife,” said Curtis.

They started using a Speckle Park bull on their mixed breed commercial cows. Their commercial cattle with Speckle Park breeding yielded better and graded AAA or Canada Premium.

The purebred herd is 35 females and Dustin transferred 27 embryos into recipients to expand the herd. He was able to jumpstart the herd when a retiring breeder wanted to disperse and he bought out the cows.

Dustin started showing four years ago.

“When you go to these shows, you never know what is going to happen,” he said. We knew we had improved our cattle from last year, but then so did everybody else,” said Dustin.

“You don’t know what the judge is going to be looking for, so when he likes your animals it is definitely a good feeling and a nice surprise,” he said.

Judges Daryl and Leila Hickman of Vermillion, Alta., awarded the McAuleers with grand champion bull and female, reserve bull calf champion and best pair of bulls at Canadian Western Agribition held Nov. 20-25 in Regina.

Their grand champion bull was also champion at the recent FarmFair International show in Edmonton.

The McAuleers sold semen rights on the champion bull earlier this year and have started marketing embryos.

After Agribition, the McAlear operation moves into calving. The purebreds start in February and commercial cows calve from April to June.

Dustin wants to shift the purebred calving period to January and February so the cattle are starting to mature by the end of the year. When it comes to management, all have to thrive under local conditions.

“We raise them like commercial cattle. Our females don’t see any grain and they have to produce on hay in winter. If they don’t produce enough, we have to get rid of them,” he said.

Early next year they plan to offer 10 bulls at a special Speckle Park sale at Veteran, Alta.

The Speckle Park sale at Agribition held Nov. 22 drew an international crowd.

The high seller from Outback Farm of Sturgeon County in Alberta sold for $20,000 to a syndicate of buyers called Global Speckle Park Elite Ltd. for a March 2017 heifer named Outback Ms Flash Dancer 112E.

Other high sellers included a bred female from River Hill Farms of Neilburg, Sask. It sold for $17,000.

A homozygous polled heifer from Colgan’s Cattle Co. of Lashburn, Sask., fetched $15,000 from a New Zealand buyer.

Bison sale sees more animals, higher prices

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Brian and Eleanor Brown bolstered their bison herd last week after taking home both the grand champion bull and the high selling female.

Sixty-seven animals sold during the Canadian National Sale at Canadian Western Agribition Nov. 21.

The Browns have operated High Plains Drifters at Hodgeville, Sask., since 1998. Brian Brown said he spent money on good quality sires for his 150 cows because he had previously bought from the consignor and knew he would get results.

He spent $25,000 on a two-year-old bull and $18,000 for the grand champion, a yearling bull, from XY Bison Ranch from Fort St. John, B.C.

“I like the conformation and stuff,” Brown said. “I’ve bought from him in the past and they’ve performed well.”

The sale averaged $7,935, down just slightly from last year’s $8,032. However, prices for bred heifers were much higher than last year, averaging $9,350 compared to $5,085.

Sale manager and consigner Nolan Miller said the prices were generally consistent within the categories of animals.

“We had lots more animals than last year and it was good to see that there was lots of different buyers as well,” he said.

Two-year-old bulls averaged $11,458, yearling bulls averaged $10,107 and yearling heifers averaged $5,038.

Pens of two bred heifers averaged $7,125 while yearling pens were $4,075.

Miller said meat prices have been steady for a few years, which gives producers confidence to spend money on quality stock and increase their herds, which is what the industry needs.

He said there are about 230,000 head in Canada and twice that in North America.

Brown has raised bison long enough to have gone through the tremendous ups and downs as the industry established itself.

“There was a time that we really struggled,” he said.

“Prices have rebounded now. I hope that this isn’t going to be one of like the times I got into it that the price is high, high and then the bottom dropped out and you could hardly get rid of animals.”

Brown said he thinks market demand is strong enough now so that won’t happen.

Asked why he stuck with the industry through the rough times, his wife, Eleanor, said, “he believed in the animal.”

Added Brown: “I listen to the wife.”

In the show ring, the reserve champion male was a two-year-old bull from Silver Creek Bison, which is Miller’s family operation at Binscarth, Man.

The champion female was a two-year-old bred heifer from Bison Spirit Ranch of Oak Lake, Man., and the reserve was also a two-year-old bred heifer from Prairie-land Bison of Hodgeville, Sask.

The champion female sold for $18,000 to Shale Creek Bison of Russell, Man.

Live cattle and embryo packages sold to buyers across Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, Oklahoma and New York State.

The sale totalled $222,000 and 14 female lots averaged $11,634.

Eleven embryo packages averaged $5,113.

Auctioneer Brennin Jack appears between the big screen and the small screen during Agribition’s bison sale. For the second year in a row the bison were filmed in their pens and shown to bidders by video.

Barbara.duckworth@producer.com
ANIMAL HEALTH
ROY LEWIS, DVM

Many techniques are being researched around early detection of respiratory disease. Many of these techniques have to do with determining body temperature. This is true for many bacterial and viral cattle diseases. Temperature is by no means the only measurable change, indicating either response to treatment or a further worsening of the disease. Temperatures should be taken initially if disease is expected and then later after treatment to measure response.

Devices such as rumen temperature boluses, temperature-recording ear tags and thermography cameras make this task easier. Thermography cameras can measure inflammation but can also detect elevated temperatures around the eye as a predictor of impending body temperature increase. These cameras can also measure the internal and external temperatures of other parts of the body such as the scrotum or udder. The scrotum is normally below body temperature.

Normal temperature in cattle is generally 38.5 to 39.5°C. Cattle can become hyperthermic on a warm day or if exerting themselves, so veterinarians will use a different cut-off to decide when to initiate treatment. Temperatures of 39.5 to 40°C may even be considered in the grey zone, and many feedlot veterinarians’ protocols start after 40°C. Below 38°C is heading toward hypothermic.

Ambient outside air may alter the reading and produce a false low if the animal has diarrhea and sucking air or if a rectal exam was just conducted. If in doubt, take the temperature again later. False readouts are rare but do happen. Check with a second thermometer if in doubt. I always carry a spare thermometer in case the original is lost (hopefully not inside the cow) or broken or if the batteries go dead.

The thermometers are flared on the ends, which allows most of them to be pushed in and left until ready to be read. Disinfect between uses with a cloth wipe. Temperature can indicate the degree of sickness or the acuteness. The response to treatment and a lowering of temperature can indicate a better prognosis. We always tie this back to clinical signs, but temperature is a very objective measurement and repeatable. I have never seen a thermometer out of calibration, but suppose that is always possible.

Increased body temperature is what essentially makes the cattle sick and off feed. That is why many veterinarians prescribe non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs either by themselves or as an adjunct to antimicrobials to bring the temperature down. You can often measure a change as soon as a couple hours after administration. As well, there are situations where body temperature goes down normal, which is also not good.

For example, body temperature will fall during toxemias in situations such as severe mastitis, cel- lulitis or clostridial disease. This shock situation often occurs because of the toxins that are pro- duced. One must warm up the animal, but the temperature will often continue to drop, and a coma situation may occur before death.

It is always good to take the temperature of a severely dehydrated scouring calf in early spring. Poor circulation because of the dehydration means we must do what we can to warm up the calf as well as treat the disease if body temperature is very low. This may involve warm fluids either intravenously or orally, blankets, hot water bottles or blowing warm air. You may see shivering if all these things start working. This is a good sign because the calf is then starting to shiver to warm itself up. If shivering does not happen, it means the calf was very cold and prognosis is a lot poorer. The only time temperature may be misleading is if cattle are pulled very early and have some signs but body temperature is still normal. It is body temperature normal but heading to hyperthermia or hypo- thermia? We either treat on a hunch or recheck the temperature in a few hours. A change indicates closer examination.

We can learn a lot and make many decisions on treatment when we use temperature as one of the clinical signs. An inexpensive thermometer and only a little effort will give us a number that means a lot. Have a thermometer or two on your place and use them whenever possible. The decision to treat or not is often based on it.

The temperature, together with respiratory rate and rhythm, heart rate and rhythm and rumen motil- ity, tells us many things. If veterinarians and producers have only one sign to go on, most would pick body temperature. Know I would. Next time an animal is sick, record and report its body temperature.

Roy Lewis works as a technical services veterinarian part time with Merck Animal Health in Alberta.
Bulls not equally prolific in the pasture

Study found one bull sired only one calf while another produced 53; the average was 21 per bull. For example, one might be responsible for calving difficulties and could be removed to prevent dystocia. It has been found that of all the calves that die at or around calving, more than half had a difficult birth. Calving difficulty may be the fault of either the bull or management.

Producers looking for specific traits such as improved weaning weights could trace that quality back to a specific bull. Parentage testing could also prevent inbreeding and be another way to remove non-prolific sires. “He still costs the same room and board, so it may be a way to get rid of those freeloader bulls,” said Domolewski.

Bulls can depreciate like any other asset. The cost of a bull includes purchase price, feed, bedding, veterinarian bills and minerals. A bull that sires only one calf does not cover the cost of its upkeep. The WBDC offers a herd sire calculator to figure out the costs on an operation and whether an individual bull pays its way.

Producers also want improved weaning weights because they are paid on a per pound basis. The assumption that some bulls may sire fewer calves but pass on desirable traits such as improved weights may not be enough. This research found that the most prolific also had the highest calving percentage and more calves survived to weaning.

The study also looked at the age of...
EPDs not high on the list for commercial bull buyers

Though they contain valuable information, EPDs are among many factors that go into decisions about sires

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

It’s impossible to say how many commercial cow-calf producers consider the expected progeny difference (EPD) statistics of bulls they plan to buy.

Dr. John Basarab, beef research scientist with Alberta Agriculture, suspects that it isn’t very many. He thinks EPD data is a few levels down on the list of bull-buying considerations.

First on that list is a bull that fits the herd’s management and environment.

Then it’s breed selection and desired characteristics.

Next is consideration of the breeding objective, whether to raise replacement heifers and expand the herd, or raise calves for the beef market. Maybe both.

After that, reputation of the breeder comes into play; whether that breeder has similar management style or whether bulls purchased from that person in the past performed well in the buyer’s herd.

Then, and maybe only then, EPDs enter the equation.

“Some very astute cow-calf managers will look at a variety of EPDs, everywhere from calving ease to performance within the first 21 days for a production cycle. Researchers wanted to know if certain bulls were responsible for producing the most calves in the year. Researchers wanted to know if certain bulls were responsible for producing the most calves in the year. Researchers wanted to know if certain bulls were responsible for producing the most calves in the year.

Sixty percent of the herd should be the most calves, but there was still considerable variation among the yearlings, two year olds and mature sires. The mature sires used were often the least prolific while the yearlings were producing more. In the second year of the study yearlings sired the most, but there were still variations in their success.

The first year of the study found a group in which the yearlings sired the most, but usually the mature bulls were producing more. In the second year of the study yearling bulls were often the least prolific while the two years olds produced the most calves.

While the mature bulls seemed to sire more calves, further research is needed to see if yearlings develop and become more prolific as they age. The researchers also want to know if a bull that was highly prolific in one season repeats that performance the following year.

All the bulls in the study had to pass a breeding soundness test that assessed scrotal circumference and sperm scores.

Researchers also looked at the production cycle. Sixty percent of the herd should be calving within the first 21 days for a more consistent set of calves, and cows should then rebreed as soon as possible to produce a calf every year. Researchers wanted to know if certain bulls were responsible for producing the most calves in the early part of the season, but this needs more work.

They also need to look at cattle management, dominance of certain bulls and libido.

intake and RFI, residual feed intake,” said Basarab.

He estimated about 85 percent of commercial cattle producers use purebred bulls, for which EPD data is available. But when those bulls are used in a commercial herd, which may have a variety of crossbreds, EPD data is less reliable in terms of outcome.

“The EPD has been trained on a purebred population, so that’s fine. The genetic effect should still be there. But when I take it to an unknown crossbred cow, the predictability is down.”

The results of breeding an Angus bull to a mostly Angus cow are highly predictable, said Basarab in giving an example. Results from that same bull, used in a herd of crossbred Hereford, Angus and Simmental cows, are much harder to predict.

“The resulting offspring, their performance is going to be less than predictable from the EPD,” he said.

The next thing is, hybrid vigour comes in there and messes things up.”

An Angus bull bred to a Hereford-Simmental crossbred cow will provide a high hybrid vigour boost, especially in fertility traits. EPD’s don’t account for that. Unpredictable results like these, and other surprises, might be why relatively few commercial cattle producers rely on EPDs.

“Over the years, cattle producers observe this and maybe some of the more skeptical ones go, ‘EPDs don’t work.’

“Well, they work, but in a variable cross breeding program they may be less predictable, or there needs to be more variables coming into play before you can actually predict the performance of the offspring.”

The result is that cow-calf producers rely more heavily on what they know, what they’ve observed over the years and what they’ve learned from other experienced cattle people, said Basarab.

“We would hope that our EPDs would become more useful for commercial cattle producers and of course those are some of the things we’re working on.”

And although the quality of the Canadian cow herd has improved over the years, it said he has been relatively slow, especially compared to the dairy industry where genomic technology has been embraced.
Who’s your daddy? Find the answers via sire parentage verification

BY WILLIAM DEKAY
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

LANIGAN, Sask. — A sire parentage verification study is beginning to bear fruit for researchers and ranchers.

“The producers co-operating in this study have learned as much as well as us,” said Karmen McNabb from the Western Beef Development Centre in Lanigan.

Year two of the three-year study just wrapped up, which is evaluating the use of DNA sire parentage verification in multi-sire breeding pastures.

For the 2015 through 2017 calf crops, five co-operating ranches across Saskatchewan plus one breeding pasture at the beef and forage research centre have been providing DNA samples of their calves for sire parentage at Quan tum Genetix Lab in Saskatoon.

The bull to cow ratio varies between operations depending on a number of factors (like bull’s age), but generally it’s about 25 cows to a bull, said economist Kathy Larson.

“Some of you push the limit and put out 40 to 50 cows for a bull. Depending on topography, maybe you’re at 17 cows per bull,” she said.

Larson said WBDC’s breeding pasture put out 100 cows and four bulls.

“We had a breeding pasture here at 25 to one and I guess the expecta tion is if we had four bulls out there that each of them is going to service 25. What we’ve learned through DNA parentage testing is that just isn’t so,” she said.

“So the whole point is we make assumptions on these 25 calves per cow, but we may end up in situa tions where that bull is costing us significantly more.”

Testing is anywhere between $12 and $20 per animal and in order to make the investment pay it depends on the bull’s purchase price related to the number of cows serviced.

Larson said the Y-Tex ear tagger, tiny plugs of flesh are punched from the calf during tagging, branding, vaccinating or any rou tine management process. Samples then need to be kept cold and dry for accurate lab analyze.

Collecting DNA from a bull is done using hair samples from the tail. The hair must be attached for accurate testing.

“They prefer tissue samples on the younger animals because they can get a better DNA sample from it simply because the tail hair isn’t as developed as a root bull to grab the DNA from,” she said.

A large variation between bull performances is one of five key points researchers and producers have learned over the past two years in study.

“We had as low as 15 calves per bull on our 100 cow pasture, but we had operators that had bulls that only sired one calf. So they’re going out there expecting to sire 25 to 30 and they only threw one,” said Larson.

However, she said they also expected some bulls would sire well over 25 and that did occur. One bull sired 66 calves.

“So it’s not unreasonable to expect your bulls to breed that 50 cows, but some of the producers have said they expect that the way they make their breeding pastures,” she said.

Good record keeping is a prereq uisite in order to make the best use of the DNA parentage testing.

Breed ing groups need to be recorded to provide the lab with potential sires for each calf. Calf date of birth, birth weight and wean weight is also helpful.

However, record keeping was one of the biggest challenges in making the parentage testing work, said Karmen McNabb.

She and her husband, Jason, were one of five of the ranches that partnered with the WBDC during the three-year study.

They have a 450 commercial cow-calf and backgrounding operation in the Cypress Hills. Typically, they use four breeding groups with three to seven bulls in each group.

Calving is on pasture, newborns are tagged daily and they use a calf table for branding. Calves are usually kept until approximately 900 pounds.

“I thought I had pretty good records, I had a little calf book and I took that information and put it in an Excel spreadsheet. So if you had stuff listed out pretty well, but if you’re going to do this in detail — this seems crazy, but you need to actually know which cows gave which calves. And if you’re calving on pasture that’s not as easy as it looks,” she said.

McNabb said 98 percent of the time they would know which cow had which calf.

“The other two percent — there’s one wandering over there or there’s a twin from over there — so there are some that are a lot tougher than it looks,” she said.

Another issue for complete accuracy is knowing which breeding pasture the cows were in the previous year.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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ENHANCING CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE WHOLESOMENESS OF BEEF
It's been suggested by previous researchers if you just test the calves born in the first 21 days you can get results back in time and still end up with results that can tell you which are the most prolific sires in your group.

**KATHRYN LARSON**

“...It’s fine for 95 percent of your cows, but the fine detail is a little bit tougher,” she said.

She said if a producer really wants to know how many calves the bulls threw, then dead calves also need to be sampled, which isn’t easy.

“On our place sometimes a dead calf doesn’t last long. There’s not much left of it by the time you find it. So you pick out a piece that doesn’t have too much coyote DNA on it and bring it home,” she said.

Tight timelines are another key factor to consider in getting calf samples. Larson said producers will not be able to get results back before the next breeding season if testing all calves after a 60 day breeding season.

“It’s been suggested by previous researchers if you just test the calves born in the first 21 days you can get results back in time and still end up with results that can tell you which are the most prolific sires in your group,” she said.

Another major point learned is that non-matches do occur and it happens 5.4 percent on average in every herd.

“What that means is that we’ve used sibling bulls in our breeding pastures. You’ll end up with inconclusive results,” said Larson.

She said submission of dam DNA can help resolve the issue.

“Some of you make selections like that, buying bulls that are brothers because you want a more uniform calf crop and might end up in a little bit of a hurdle to get through,” Larson said.

Larson uses a bull prolificacy index (BPI) to compare “apples to apples.”

She said producers are using cow to bull ratios and different lengths of breeding seasons, but the BPI brings all the data sets and different operations together to compare them.

The BPI is essentially the number of calves that a bull sired divided by the number of calves he was expected to sire, adjusted for conception.

“So if the bull threw you 25 calves and that’s kind of what his equal share would have been — you had him in a field of 100 cows and four bulls — then his BPI would be one,” said Larson.

“(The data) showed that there was definitely a lower number of calves sired by the younger bulls and more sired for the older more mature bulls but there was also more variations amongst the older bulls.”

“Some very interesting results there,” McNabb said after the samples come back from the lab it’s important to put the data to work.

“There’s two main avenues you’re looking at. One would be the how many calves are those bulls siring, but the next thing is, now that you know who actually sired those calves, maybe you could use that data as well,” she said.

“We can help resolve the issue. Some of you make selections like that, buying bulls that are brothers because you want a more uniform calf crop and might end up in a little bit of a hurdle to get through,” Larson said.

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Ferdinand bad example of acceptable bull

Bulls that pack on a few extra pounds may not have the stamina to breed the needed number of cows

BY BARB GLEN

LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

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Ferdinand, the bull famous in children's fiction, just wanted to sit and smell the flowers.

With that kind of attitude, Ferdinand wouldn't be wanted in commercial beef herds. In fact, Ferdinand would sooner find himself in a bunch of boleagnas than in the shade of a tree.

There are several reasons bulls may not be doing the job cow-call producers want, namely breeding cows and siring healthy and vigorous calves.

Maybe Ferdinand is too fat.

“You have a bull that's over-conditioned, he's just overfat, what's going to happen is, for the first 30 days of the breeding season, if that is in June or July, all he's going to want to do is maybe breed a few cows but he's going to sit under a tree in the shade and burn off his fat. He's not going to do his work,” said Alberta Agriculture livestock specialist Barry Yarem-cio.

“He can have a higher core body temperature than one that's a little bit thinner, so that may impact the quality of the semen.”

However, a thin bull isn't desirable either.

“You put a bull out with 30 cows, at the end of a breeding season he's pretty thin. There's not much extra weight on him because he's spending all his time working rather than eating so that can be a problem as well,” Yarem-cio said.

A number of factors come into play when deciding how long to keep a bull in the herd. Performance is naturally the biggest factor. Genetic tests can tell producers how many calves a bull has sired, although that can be expensive.

“Sometimes a bull will get bit thinner, so that may impact the quality of the semen,” said Yarem-cio.

Providing bulls with blue salt over the winter is not sufficient, and without trace minerals, semen quality may be insufficient for conception.

Attention must also be paid to vitamias A, D and E, Yarem-cio added. Vitamin E is particularly important because it is often deficient in western Canadian feeds.

Bull size in relation to the size of the cows or heifers in the herd is another consideration. They should be relatively compatible in size or injuries can result.

Temperament is another factor.

“Sometimes a bull will get snarky. There's been too many people injured or killed by rangy bulls. We don't need that,” Yarem-cio said.

A bull's success in the herd is also greatly affected by its winter feeding program. Bulls need trace minerals — copper, manganese, zinc, selenium, iodine and cobalt, to name a few, and those are typically deficient in western Canadian feeds.

Buying bulls with blue salt over the winter is not sufficient, and without trace minerals, semen quality may be insufficient for conception.

Attention must also be paid to vitamins A, D and E, Yarem-cio added. Vitamin E is particularly important because it is often deficient in commercial mineral programs.

He also advised caution when buying an older bull at auction or from someone else's herd.

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Attention must also be paid to vitamins A, D and E, Yarem-cio added. Vitamin E is particularly important because it is often deficient in commercial mineral programs.

He also advised caution when buying an older bull at auction or from someone else's herd. Though this can save money, it comes with risk.

“You have to know the health history of the previous herd so that you're not bringing in something that's going to create troubles for you in the long run.”

Buyers should ask for health records on the bull and inquire about herd health issues in the bull's former herd in the recent past.

The National Animal Disease Information Service notes on its website that bull purchase is a common way for disease to enter a farm.

Too many farms think they are closed but buy bulls. A bull is as likely to be infected with an important disease as a cow and, because of the close contact during mating, far more likely to spread it,” NADIS reports.

barb.glen@producer.com
MacDon’s legendary harvesting performance is now available on an extra large scale with the all-new DIXL Draper Header. DIXL Drapers feature an ultra deep deck with 50” wide drapers, available in header sizes from 30 to 45 feet wide. These wide drapers perform with ease in big, bushy, high-volume crops, and deliver up to 30% increased capacity in heavy crop conditions. Designed to take full advantage of M1 Windrower features, operators will have precise control and customization of the header lift, height, tilt, knives, reel, and draper. Setting a new standard in draper header technology, the DIXL takes harvesting performance to the next level.

The Harvesting Specialists. MacDon.com
Push is on for soybean plant

Investors are being sought to build a processing facility to provide western Canadian hog producers with meal

BY ROBERT ARNASON
BRANDON BUREAU

Farmers in Manitoba and Saskatchew an grew more than three million acres of soybeans this year. Almost all of those beans are exported to places like China, where they are processed into soybean meal and fed to livestock.

Meanwhile, every year hog farm ers in Western Canada import hundreds of thousands of tonnes of soybean meal from the United States to mix into feed rations for their pigs.

Since Western Canada is exporting a product it needs for livestock feed, it seems logical to build a soybean crushing plant on the Prairies and produce soybean meal for the regional market.

The logic is straightforward, but a few questions must be answered first, including the most important one: who is going to invest $330 million in the plant?

The Western Opportunities Leadership Group (WOLG), a coalition of community leaders in western Manitoba, is hoping to convince a company to build a soybean processing plant in the region.

For now the WOLG is focused on building a co-operative, which would make a comprehensive pitch to prospective investors.

“To ensure the best case possible is made to the companies,” Richard Pauls, a consultant working with the group, said at a mid-November WOLG meeting in Brandon about the soybean plant.

Bob Woodward, another consultant for WOLG, presented specs for the potential plant at the meeting.

It would process 2,500 tonnes of soybeans per day, which is about 850,000 tonnes of beans a year.

Construction cost would be around $330 million, including rail access, hydro and water infrastructure.

Manitoba and Saskatchew an farmers produced about 2.7 million tonnes of soybeans this year, based on Soy Canada data, so the proposed plant would need about 30 percent of soybean production.

Soy acres are predicted to expand, particularly in Saskatchewan, but the plant would still require a substantial chunk of all the beans in Western Canada.

“One thing you absolutely have to do, if you’re going to have a successful plant here, is you have to control the bean supply,” said Rob Stroup, a soybean processing plant expert from the United States, who spoke at the meeting.

“You can’t decide you’re going to build the plant and then (approach farmers),” Stroup said one solution is forming a co-operative, which would act as the soybean supplier to the plant.

Another concern is that existing oilseed plants in Western Canada can crush soybeans, so a new plant might have to compete for beans.

“You should know that in York ton, at least the Louis Dreyfus plant, is what we call a switch plant,” Stroup said.

“Why would soybean crushers try to poach the supply away from a plant that’s exporting?” said Andrew Dickson, Manitoba Pork Council general manager.

Dickson estimated that Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers produce two million and three million pigs, respectively.

“They buy soy meal as well — now you start to see a marketplace for this (plant).”

However, it’s unlikely that a soybean cracker in western Manitoba would capture 100 percent of the hog market in the region. Plant operators would need to find buyers in North Dakota and Montana or poultry and other livestock buyers in Canada.

“Of course, it’s premature to fret about the supply and who will buy the meal because the plant is still hypothetical.”

The crucial part of the process is making a business case to a major investor. The WOLG is still getting its ducks in a row, but representatives of the group have approached a few companies, Pauls said.

“We’re talking to them now … in a preliminary way.”

robert.arnason@producer.com

Construction costs for the proposed soybean processing plant, with a capacity of 850,000 tonnes per year, is about $330 million.
Desired future, reality must align

**PERSPECTIVES ON MANAGEMENT**

**TERRY BETKER**

There are two futures for farms and farm families. One is the future that is defined by what will happen, simply due to the course of events, over a given period of time. The other is the future that is defined by what farm families set out to purposefully work to accomplish.

One isn’t necessarily any better than the other, but they are quite different approaches. I think it depends on how farm families think about their businesses and their situations.

I have no statistics upon which to base this opinion, but I think most people would prefer the future that they could try to make happen as opposed to accepting the future that was “dealt” to them.

The inherent challenge is that individual family members will each have ideas and opinions about the future that they would like to see. That, in part, is what makes the process of working within family to define a desired future difficult not impossible, but difficult. I think it’s worth the effort.

There are rewards in situations where a future has been defined and where progress toward it has been made. Farm families can celebrate successes when a plan comes together.

There will often be changes associated with the defined future. The more substantive the changes required, the greater the need for planning.

The planning should keep three important components in alignment: business direction, financial performance and management structure.

**Business direction**

This alignment consideration is about strategic direction. Farm families should have written statements that provide longer-term direction. They define what farm families are working toward: vision and goals and a common purpose. Consensus on purpose is an extremely important part of the planning process.

**Financial performance**

All farms have a financial direction. The reality is that they are headed somewhere financially.

For most farmers, this is a reactive function, meaning that their financial position in the future—say five years from now—will be an outcome of what will happen over that time frame.

The preferred approach is to define what they want, or need, their financial position to be, and then determine what needs to be done to achieve it. It can be thought of as being a financial vision and should include financial management goals and targets.

There is a business adage that says you can’t manage what you can’t measure. How do you know if you are moving to where you want to be financially if you haven’t defined the goal?

Logically, there should be a significant degree of alignment between a business vision and a financial vision. I find myself in discussions with farm families where there sometimes is a disconnect between their ideas of where they want their farm to be in the future and their ability to get there financially.

Having a dream and then after a time realizing you can’t afford it can be discouraging.

**Management structure**

The importance of understanding a farm’s management structure as farms get bigger and straddle generations has never been greater.

The basic management functions on a farm are mostly unchanged, but what’s involved in attending to those functions has changed and is changing. For many farms, this is a new and evolving reality.

Simply stated, what does the management structure of a farm need to look like five years from now so that it is appropriately aligned with the stated financial and business vision?

Putting same structure around the management functions on a farm can be a very powerful exercise and doesn’t have to be overly complex.

Start by drawing an organizational chart that best represents how the business is being managed. Determine who has responsibility for operations, marketing and financial and human resource management. Next, define what the tasks are in each of those management areas and then repeat the process that best represents the management structure that will be required five years from now.

Successful outcomes correlating to a desired future will be positively affected by keeping the three planning components outlined above in alignment.

Terry Betker is a farm management consultant based in Winnipeg. He can be reached at 204-782-8200 or terry.betker@blackwheat.com.
### Cattle & Sheep

#### Slaughter Cattle ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Live Nov 17-Nov 23</th>
<th>Previous Nov 16-Nov 24</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steers</td>
<td>900-1099</td>
<td>170-185</td>
<td>175-190</td>
<td>185-195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Veal f.h.c. feedlot, r.l.f.h. plant.</td>
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</table>

#### Feeders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 18</th>
<th>Fed. Inspections only Canada U.S.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920-2050</td>
<td>2050-2100</td>
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#### Cattle Slaughter

**Nov 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1700-2000</td>
<td>1900-2100</td>
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### Poultry & Eggs

#### Canadian Beef Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Million lb.</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Hogs

**Fixed contract $/kg**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Hams)</th>
<th>Maple Leaf</th>
<th>Thunder Creek Pork</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200-1399</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1599</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1799</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1999</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.20</td>
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#### Hog Slaughter

**To Nov 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Fed. Inspections only Canada U.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500-1600</td>
<td>1600-1700</td>
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#### Hogs & Pork Trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>260-270</td>
<td>270-280</td>
<td>280-290</td>
<td>290-300</td>
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#### Chicago Hogs Lean ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>YTD Age</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alta</td>
<td>220.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>211.5</td>
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#### Soybeans (Jan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/23</th>
<th>1/30</th>
<th>1/6</th>
<th>1/13</th>
<th>1/20</th>
<th>1/27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.19-2.40</td>
<td>2.40-2.75</td>
<td>2.55-2.95</td>
<td>2.60-3.00</td>
<td>2.75-3.20</td>
<td>2.90-3.35</td>
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#### Spanish Lentils (Grade A Live)

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.20</td>
<td>26.33</td>
<td>30.40</td>
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#### Minnesota Nearby Futures (60c)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98.81</td>
<td>99.67</td>
<td>100.44</td>
<td>101.21</td>
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### Grains

#### Minneapolis Wheat ($/bu.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 18</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114.80</td>
<td>114.14</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Pulse and Special Crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 18</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### U.S. Cash Grain ($/bu.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 18</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Canola ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>3.65</td>
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#### Wheat:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 18</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114.80</td>
<td>114.14</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Feed Wheat (Lethbridge)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

#### Barley ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>3.65</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Oats ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Corn ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.85</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>4.75</td>
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</table>

#### Buckwheat ($/cwt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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#### Elevation & Shipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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#### Markets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Note:** Due to wide reporting and collection methods, it is misleading to compare hog prices between provinces.
### Saskatchewan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature Last Week</th>
<th>Precipitation Since Nov. 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assiniboia</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>-23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadview</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>-23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastend Cypress</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>-21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estevan</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>-19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindersley</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Creek</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Lake</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>-16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melfort</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipawin</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Battleford</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Albert</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockglen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swift Current</td>
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<tr>
<td>Val Marie</td>
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<td>Weynvard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yorkton</td>
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### Alberta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature Last Week</th>
<th>Precipitation Since Nov. 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks</td>
<td>15.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>-22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Lake</td>
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<td>-16.1</td>
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<td>Coronation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
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<td>High Level</td>
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<td>-10.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegreville</td>
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<td>-21.8</td>
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### Manitoba

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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon</td>
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<td>Gimli</td>
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<td>Morden</td>
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<td>Winnipeg</td>
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### British Columbia

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Precipitation Since Nov. 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranbrook</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>-20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort St. John</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>-24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamloops</td>
<td>14.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelowna</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince George</td>
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<td>-9.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Temperature Forecast**

**Precipitation Forecast**

**Weather The Western Producer**

**WEATHER**

**WWPC**

**WWW.PRODUCER.COM**
“We’ve moved millions of bushels with Meridian augers and they’ve never let us down.”

Dustin and Tyler Klym - Rolo Farm
Regina, Saskatchewan

Meridian Manufacturing offers producers Storage and Handling Solutions designed to last for generations. To hear what more producers like Dustin and Tyler have to say about Meridian products, visit Meridianmfg.com/testimonials.