



Implement deal

An Ontario auto parts company buys MacDon Industries. | **P. 24**

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Flying farmers

Three Sask. farmers participate in an ambitious fundraiser. | **P. 16**



A FAMILY'S YEARLY CHRISTMAS TRADITION



Doug Richards pulls a freshly cut tree during his family's annual tree cutting event at the Devil's Head Ranch near Morley, Alta., Dec. 9. | PATRICK PRICE PHOTO

Is clubroot spread in Sask. unavoidable?

Province better poised to control disease than Alberta was in 2003

BY BRIAN CROSS
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

There's good news and bad news for Saskatchewan canola growers concerned about clubroot.

The bad news is the disease will likely become more prevalent in the province as annual canola plantings continue to rise.

The good news is that clubroot can be managed if growers catch it early and follow some simple management rules, such as lengthening rotations and adopting good in-field sanitation practices.

"I'm quite convinced that clubroot will come to your farm. It's just too hard to keep it away," said Dan Orchard, an agronomist and clubroot expert with the Canola Council of Canada.

"But you can keep its impact down to a minimum amount by finding it early.... The key is to keep spore loads low."

SEE CLUBROOT IN SASK, PAGE 5 >>

Barley suffers 'dramatic decline'

While other crops steadily improve yields, barley production has dropped 22 percent since 2013

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

BANFF, Alta. — Better yielding and higher paying crops like canola, wheat, oats and durum have displaced barley.

"Farmers are businessmen and they are going to grow crops that have the greatest rate of return. The return on barley is lower than other

crops," David Simbo, research manager for Alberta Barley, said during the commission's annual meeting held in Banff Dec. 6-7.

Barley is Canada's fourth largest crop, but in 2017 production was less than eight million tonnes compared to the 2013 harvest of 10.2 million tonnes. It has been in decline for almost two decades.

"This is a really dramatic decline,

and I think we need to get to the bottom of why are we seeing a 50 percent reduction in barley acres in Canada," said consultant Tyler Bjornson.

Alberta grows about half of Canada's barley crop, and the commission contracted Bjornson to develop a strategy with recommendations to turn the industry's flagging fortunes around.

The strategy will be analyzed fur-

ther in January, said commission manager Tom Steve.

"It is really the first time in a number of years we have really taken a critical look at the market opportunity for barley, the challenges for barley and maybe why farmers are choosing to grow other crops," he said in an interview.

SEE BARLEY DECLINES, PAGE 4 >>



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Private money
There's room for private investment in wheat and barley research. | **Page 15**



Building a better dairy cow
Genomics can help. | **Page 50**



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Festive town: Morinville, Alta., does Christmas up right. See page 17 for story and photos. | JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

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GM-FREE LABELS POLL
General Mills says GM labelling is part of a broader company commitment to become more transparent. What do you think of this move?



FARMER IMAGE POLL
In her Farm Fresh column this week, Nikki Wiart says the popular media characterizes farmers as uneducated, hillbilly bigots. Check it out and tell us what you think.



STRATEGIC TILLAGE VIDEO
Ron Lyseng checks out Lemken's new Heliodor 9 cultivator this past summer at Ag in Motion. The tool can be set up to perform a different task on each field.

VIDEOS

NARROW NUTRIMAX
Ron Lyseng takes a look at the narrowest fertilizer applicator in the industry.



MARKETS WRAP
WP Markets editor D'Arce McMillan looks at the week's top developments in crop markets.



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» **PLUS:** Merry Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year from all of us here at the WP. Check out our holiday video at bit.ly/2AVnj5j.
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KEYNOTE: The Rulers of Underground & How They Plan to Take Over the World - Jill Clapperton, PhD, Chief Scientist of Rhizoterra, Inc., Spokane, Washington



FEEDING FRENZY | Bob Fraser removes the twine from a round bale while feeding bulls on his ranch south of High River, Alta. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

Oats may join \$8 billion plant protein market

Consumers looking for a substitute to meat and dairy have turned to soybeans and peas, but oats have unique benefits

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

BANFF, Alta. — Oats could be part of the plant based protein trend.

University of Alberta researcher Lingyun Chen has been working on extracting protein from grains, and has found oats could join soybeans and peas as a substitute for meat, eggs and dairy products.

Western countries such as Canada will be consuming more plant based protein in the future, said Chen, who holds the Canada Research Chair in plant protein, structure function and nutraceuticals.

"We will have more plant based protein, and we will have less animal based protein," she said at the Prairie Oat Growers Association annual meeting in Banff Dec. 7.

"The reason behind that is health and wellness."

Consumers know they need more fibre to reduce their risk of chronic diseases.

Others cite sustainability as the reason for selecting plants over

meat and dairy because they use fewer resources than livestock.

The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization says the plant based protein market is worth more than \$8 billion and is expected to grow at an annual rate of nearly six percent.

Most people are familiar with soy based products.

"Soya alone is not sufficient to meet the ever growing market requirement for plant based protein," she said.

Soy protein may also be genetically modified, which opens an opportunity for non-genetically modified products such as oats.

It is all non-allergenic, she added. "Oat protein is tolerated by the majority of people who are suffering from celiac disease," she said.

Besides meat substitutes, there is increasing interest in replacing dairy products with beverages, yogurt and ice cream made from soybeans, almonds and oats.

Mayonnaise without eggs uses peas as a substitute, and texturized



Oat protein can be used as a substitute in baking, has good water holding capacity and can be used as a binding agent. | FILE PHOTO

soy protein can simulate lean meat to make veggie burgers and wieners.

Many of these products are already available in grocery stores, and companies such as Ingredion

Inc. are major plant protein suppliers that turns plants into ingredients for food, drinks, brewing and pharmaceutical uses.

Chen's research looks at different crops such as oats to develop pro-

teins for a range of common products.

Oat protein is comparable to some pea varieties and has a neutral flavour, which means it can be used in beverages or as ingredients.

It is also elastic and springy, which means it can hold ingredients together, allowing it to work well as a meat binder. It is almost as strong as egg whites and could be a good ingredient substitute in baked goods. It also has good water holding capacity.

Oat protein's gelling quality could be converted into tiny capsules to carry other products such as probiotics in yogurt.

They could have a health benefit when they enter the stomach rather than being destroyed by stomach acid.

The National Institute of Health in the United States published a paper this past July outlining available protein sources and their place in the future.

It may be seen at bit.ly/2C7ioP7.

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Cutworms can be difficult to identify: look for 'fake legs'

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

There are two things for Alberta farmers to remember about cutworms, says Agriculture Canada entomologist Kevin Floate.

One is that Alberta Agriculture has an online cutworm reporting tool that farmers can use to enter data and see whether cutworms are a problem in a specific area. Find it by visiting www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/listings/cutworm/cutworm_map.jsp.

The other is that the Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies field guide is available free online from Agriculture Canada to



Agriculture Canada's field guide, *Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies*, can be found online. | FILE PHOTO

help farmers identify species and learn about the pests' life cycles. It can be found at bit.ly/2zcNN43.

Floate told those at the Dec. 6 Farming Smarter conference in Lethbridge that different species of cutworm can be difficult to identify, even for entomologists. The field guide can help with that, but in Alberta the key species that damage crops are the redbacked, pale western and dingy species.

"Every year we have cutworm outbreaks caused by different species," said Floate, but severity varies by region, weather and environmental conditions.

"These outbreaks affect all agricultural areas in the province. That's the main message."

Floate said most outbreaks occur in broadleaved crops planted after

cereals, though broadleaves planted after broadleaves are the next most frequent crops affected.

Wireworms, white grubs, scarab beetles and even millipedes are often mistaken for cutworms, but all cutworms are alike in having soft bodies and three main body parts: head, thorax and abdomen.

Cutworms have three pairs of legs on the thorax and "fake legs" on the abdomen that disappear in later development. A full-grown cutworm is 2.5 to three centimetres long.

Different types of cutworm feed differently. Some feed on the surface, some in the crop

canopy and some completely underground. Crop damage occurs when the worms are in the larval stage, Floate said.

Scouting should be done in the early morning or later evening when the worms are feeding.

Beneficial insects that attack cutworms can be encouraged by leaving hedgerows, wetlands and old homestead sites intact to serve as habitat.

Floate recommended spraying in specifically targeted areas rather than an entire field and to select a product with high specificity for the pest involved.

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BARLEY DECLINES

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We have a solid core of farmers who are growing malt varieties and love it. In Alberta it is a major crop, but they are growing under contract to the malt house and they have a good indication their barley is going to go malt.”

Farmers without contracts see the risk in growing malt varieties and the possibility of it ending up as feed with the associated lower price.

On the agronomy side, new high yielding varieties with more disease resistance and improved standability are needed, said Bjornson.

These must be standard traits in all new varieties. Most registered varieties rate as fair.

Other crops have improved yields by 40 percent in the past 10 to 15 years, but barley has lagged. Most of the improvements were achieved without new varieties but with better agronomics and overall improved management.

It is possible to grow 95 bushels to the acre, which should be a standard goal for growers, said Bjornson.

The most common varieties are AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland. There are higher yielding varieties, and malt companies tend to shy away from trying something new.

Maltsters want consistency and do not want high protein varieties. However, China and the growing craft brewing sector may actually want a higher protein, higher enzyme grain.

At least one high protein variety is expected to be registered by 2028.

More resistance to diseases such as fusarium head blight is needed. Alberta has a zero tolerance approach, which is hindering the ability to stop the growth of this fungus and reduce levels through better management.

Market development is needed if production increases.

An increase in barley production to 13 million tonnes would be absorbed by the domestic feeding market, the malt sector, exports to China and potential customers in Saudi Arabia and Mexico.

The domestic market is the strongest, and the barley sector needs to work with livestock to increase demand and invest in research to reinforce feeding barley to hogs, poultry, beef and dairy cattle.

There may not be big returns, but demand will be steady.

Promoting barley as food is a limited opportunity.

“Food is a good niche market for a few players, but it is highly unlikely food will move the dial for the vast majority of the industry,” Bjornson said.

It may not be a good use of resources to work on markets that never materialize, he said.

“The barley sector has put in an extraordinary amount of work and resources into trying to develop the food market,” he said.

“It has remained niche at this point. I think we need to be careful about spending money and time on markets that aren’t necessarily well defined.”

However, the pet food and ingredients sectors use more than 100,000 tonnes of barley a year, so value adding should not be abandoned, he said.

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LOAD IT UP



A Hutterite man from the Brant Colony checks his load of barley to be used for feed on the colony near Brant, Alta., Dec. 7. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

Ottawa addresses ‘income sprinkling concerns’

Advisers warn farmers that proposed tax regulations still tougher than they are now

BY ED WHITE
WINNIPEG BUREAU

Farmers aren’t facing the radical restrictions on income splitting with which white collar professionals are coping.

However, it’s far from business as usual for the family farm, and farmers need to realize that they had better make sure their operations comply with Canada Revenue Agency expectations, say tax experts.

“Definitely this round of drafting of the legislation has helped clear up some of the items that were very nebulous,” said farm accountancy specialist Ron Friesen of MNP in Saskatoon.

“But it’s not like farms are excluded (from many business tax provisions), and you can just do your own planning. You still have some restrictions.”

True to his word, federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced Dec. 13 how the CRA would treat “income sprinkling,” as well as reiterating his government’s decision to withdraw the capital gains tax exemption restrictions that were in the origi-

nal reform proposal.

Farmers will still be able to split income between family members, so long as those members can prove that they are and/or have been deeply involved in the work of the farm.

Farm family members who work an average of 20 hours or more per week during the farming seasons should be exempted from the restrictions on receiving dividends, leaving it up to the farm corporation directors (usually the parents who own the farm) to divide the farm’s income as they see fit.

The previous proposals would probably have required dividends to be paid out more strictly based on hours worked and investment in the farm business — something that would have seen many farms paying a substantially higher level of taxation.

Friesen cautioned that farmers who are paying for their children’s post-secondary education through dividends will need to be careful to ensure that the children qualify to receive the money at their generally lower income tax brackets. That involves looking at

the hours they have been working on the farm, as well as dealing with how the CRA will interpret work over previous years to children attending universities and colleges.

Farmers with non-participating children who are attending post-secondary education might need to quickly do a last dividend payment to children before the end of 2017 in order to dodge the risk of losing their exemption.

The amended proposals allow children who have a certain level of direct, non-trust-based, ownership of farm assets to collect dividends at their own marginal rate, but because most farm tax and structure advisers caution against giving direct farm ownership stakes to children too early, this might be a tricky provision to use.

While the government is pressing ahead with the small business tax changes, the Senate’s finance committee has called on it to step back and do a general overhaul of the tax system.

It argued in a report released on the same day as Marceau’s announcement that piecemeal changes won’t fix the tax code nor

make it any more transparent or friendly toward citizens.

Farm groups were generally relieved to see Morneau’s amendments to his original proposals. Both Grain Growers of Canada and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture praised the preservation of income splitting as a legitimate tool in recognizing the unique role family members play in farms.

Marilyn Braun-Pollon, vice-president for agri-business for Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said her organization is relieved that some of the worst provisions for farmers and fishers have been removed from Morneau’s regulations.

But she echoed the Senate committee’s call for these proposals to be put on hold so the government can instead spend time on an overall tax system overhaul.

“We’re urging the government to slow down... and get it right,” said Braun-Pollon. “Why the rush?”

The provisions will apply from Jan. 1, 2018, so farmers need to make sure they are in compliance.

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FIRE BRIGADE | Fire crews and local farmers extinguish a grass fire southwest of Cayley, Alta., Dec. 13. Warm and dry conditions in recent weeks increased the fire risk, but a Dec. 18 snowfall brought some moisture to the region. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

Canadian agriculture trails U.S. in embracing sustainability

BY ROBERT ARNASON
BRANDON BUREAU

Sustainable practices such as reduced tillage and banding fertilizer with the seed are commonplace in Western Canada and have been around for decades.

However, the Canadian grain and oilseed trade could potentially lose sales opportunities to American competitors because the United States is moving faster on sustainable ag programs, says an Agrium official.

"There is a risk that we're not necessarily set up to meet that need, for those buyers of products that are looking for sustainable sourcing," said Michelle Nutting, manager of agricultural sustainability with Agrium, which has its head office in Calgary.

"We need to get in front of that." Nutting is a board member of Field to Market, an alliance of more than 135 companies and groups in the U.S., including grower organizations, large corporations like PepsiCo and Mars, universities and conservation groups such as the World Wildlife Fund.

Field to Market is a collective effort to define, measure and advance the sustainability of food production for soybeans, corn, cotton, wheat and other commodities. Members of the alliance have developed metrics for crop production around factors such as energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and soil conservation with a platform called Fieldprint.

Using Fieldprint, growers can adopt new practices and see how the changes alter the environmental footprint of a particular field.

Unilever, which has annual revenues of \$76 billion, is part of Field to Market because it has definitive goals around sustainable food.

"We are committed to sourcing 100 percent of our agricultural raw materials sustainably," Unilever said on its website.

The company is not alone.

"Just about every large food pro-

ducer ... like Nestle, or retailers like Walmart and Loblaws, they're all going towards some model (where) they just don't want to buy a commodity on weight and protein," Paul Thoroughgood, Soil Conservation Council of Canada director, said earlier this year.

"(They) want to know something about the consequences of its production."

Nutting, who spoke at the Manitoba Agronomists Conference held mid-December in Winnipeg, said Field to Market is moving forward to meet those corporate expectations.

"They (food companies) are being judged by the conservation groups and they're being judged by the investment community, in terms of the sustainability of their supply chain."

Field to Market has 45 active projects in 22 states, representing 2.8 million acres and thousands of growers.

The alliance plans to enrol many more growers in the sustainability program with the goal of reaching 20 percent of the commodity crop acres in the U.S. by 2020.

Field to Market does have one sizable project in Canada. General Mills has partnered with prairie oat growers and Paterson Grain to create a sustainable supply of oats using the Fieldprint platform.

General Mills has committed to sourcing its 10 priority ingredients, including oats, sustainably by 2020.

Canada does have something similar to Field to Market, called the Canadian Field Print Initiative.

However, Nutting doesn't know how many crop acres are committed to the program.

And unlike Field to Market, the Canadian initiative doesn't have an acreage target.

"There isn't (a goal) because it was really set up with a five year funding horizon, supported by a

small number of companies," Nutting said, adding the Canadian initiative has struggled to attract corporate support.

"What we don't have here in Canada, right now, is a strong membership base from food companies. We're not the head office for a lot of food companies."

As well, Canada exports most of its grain and oilseed production. In the U.S., most grains remain in the country and are turned into food within the U.S, so American farmers have a more direct relationship with companies that are asking for sustainable production.

That might explain why Canada is lagging behind in sustainable agriculture programs.

"I would say that may be true. That the U.S. is ahead of Canada in these efforts," Nutting said.

"But we have to look at who buys our grain and what are the needs of those buyers."

Canada may export a higher percentage of its grain but that doesn't mean that importers are indifferent about sustainability.

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops, a group with a mission of advancing sustainable production, says on its website that buyers do care.

"Sustainability will have an effect on the trade policy of many food importing countries," the website states. "Consideration for how food production affects the well-being of the people and environment where it was grown will begin to impact what can and cannot be imported into a country."

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What's your take? Join us at www.producer.com or follow us on social media.



CLUBROOT IN SASKATCHEWAN

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At a recent oilseed producers' meeting held in North Battleford, Sask., Orchard said Saskatchewan is in a much better position to manage clubroot than Alberta was 10 or 15 years ago.

When clubroot was first discovered in Alberta in 2003, little was known about the disease or how it spreads.

The learning curve was steep in Alberta. By the time growers were learning how to manage the disease, many fields in Alberta's northern grain growing region were already heavily infected.

Saskatchewan growers can learn from the Alberta experience, Orchard said.

The key to successful management is to test for the disease and take action before spore loads become prohibitive.

"There's a whole host of management strategies that you can deploy if you catch it early," he said.

"But if you catch it late, there aren't many options."

Clubroot spores are incredibly small and can spread in many ways. They can be carried by wind, water and wildlife.

They can even survive after being eaten by livestock, meaning manure and manure spreaders are other possible vectors.

The most common method of transmission, however, is via trucks, tires and farm machinery.

Spore loads are typically highest at entrances to fields or along trails that carry machinery, Orchard said.

After establishing a foothold, the spores are typically dragged to other areas of the field during tillage or seeding operations.

Recent research suggests that 95 to 99 percent of the clubroot spores in a field are no longer viable after a two-year rotational break from canola.

However, spore loads are incredibly high in some Alberta locations.

In some areas, rates of one billion spores per gram of soil have been recorded.

At that level, a two-year break would still result in viable spore loads of 10 to 50 million spores per gram of soil, easily enough to have a noticeable impact on canola yields.

In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, documented spore loads are more typically 50,000 to 100,000 spores per gram.

At those levels, a two-year rotational break is an effective management tool.

Although documented cases of clubroot are still relatively few in Saskatchewan, conditions are ripe for the disease to spread.

Over the past two decades, annual canola plantings across the West have been increasing steadily and rotations have been shortened on many farms, said canola council agronomist Ian Epp, who also spoke at the North Battleford event.

Epp stressed the importance of good sanitation and longer rotations as measures that can minimize production risks.

"Your neighbours might have it, but if you have good sanitation practices and good rotations, you're less likely to be affected," he said.

Testing soil for the presence of clubroot spores is an obvious element of any preventive action plan.

Soil tests taken near field entrances are a useful indicator.

Growers should also make an extra effort to control wild mustard, shepherd's purse and stinkweed, which are common prairie weeds that can produce clubroot galls and contribute to the spread of the disease.

Saskatchewan conducts an annual survey to monitor the spread and prevalence of clubroot and other common canola diseases.

Barb Ziesman, plant disease specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, said the survey involves collecting soil samples that are screened for the presence of clubroot DNA.

Only two soil samples have shown spore levels above 1,000 spores per gram of soil over 10 years of testing.

At the same time, the Saskatchewan Clubroot Initiative has confirmed the presence of the disease in fields that were not included in the annual survey.

Two positive cases were confirmed in 2011. The disease was also confirmed in 2017 in an unspecified number of fields in Saskatchewan crops districts 9A and 9B.

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MARKETS



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Noodle eaters in China are among many consumers who could be served by a growing number of yellow pea processors who are producing flour and protein from the pulse and using them in noodles, meat fillers, pet food and other products. | REUTERS PHOTO

Rising China pea demand could revolutionize pulse market

Chinese could start buying more in 2018-19, helping to lessen sting from Indian duty

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Pulse markets are experiencing short-term pain but the outlook is for long-term gain, says the leader of an industry association.

Gord Bacon, chief executive officer of Pulse Canada, recently returned from a trade mission to China where there is no end in sight to the rising demand for peas.

The trade delegation toured one fractionation facility undergoing a massive expansion that will dramatically boost demand for Canadian yellow peas.

"It's not just a blueprint, it's two city blocks of plant already built," he said.

The plant is already consuming 400,000 tonnes of Canadian peas annually and will require an additional 300,000 tonnes starting next year.

That one expansion would increase total exports to China by 30 percent based on 2016 sales of one million tonnes. However, it isn't the only one in the works.

"They're all looking at expanding, and as soon as they get one plant built they're starting on the next one," said Gerrid Gust, vice-chair of Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, who was also on the trip.

"These new plants are as modern as anything you can imagine. The fact that the Chinese are worried about labour costs shocked me."

He said yellow peas are working their way into all sorts of products in China because they are the cheapest pulse in the world.

It was an uplifting trip coming on the heels of an earlier trade mission to India just weeks after the Indian government slapped a 50 percent duty on pea imports, resulting in an immediate \$2 per bushel decline in Canadian yellow pea prices. Prices have since rebounded somewhat.

"We've learned with India that market diversification is absolutely where it's at," said Gust.

Bacon said the new demand from China won't arrive in time to mop up the excess supply from the 2017 crop caused by the temporary loss of the Indian market.

However, it could factor into prices for the 2018-19 crop, which is something farmers will need to consider come spring planting.

"In the intermediate term, the outlook for pulses is still very strong," he said.

Peas were initially used in China as a starch substitute for mung beans in making glassy vermicelli noodles.

"The protein was flushed down the drain and now of course it's protein that is driving everything in China," said Bacon.

Pea protein is shipped back to North America for use in pet and human food.

According to one of the Chinese companies that met with the delegation, the biggest customer of imported Canadian peas is the feed market followed by the protein and starch market.

Peas are also used in snacks, incorporated into meat products, included in bean paste and used to feed racing and meat pigeons.

Bacon said there is a big opportunity to expand pulse use in China to meet government pri-

orities such as the Healthy China 2030 plan and the National Nutrition Plan 2017-30.

The delegation visited a major international biscuit company, one of the biggest meat processors in China, a couple of starch noodle plants, a sprouting facility and the fractionation plant undergoing an expansion.

Pea flour is being used in a variety of products in China, ranging from meat products to biscuits.

Each product has different specifications. For instance, the meat industry is looking for absorbent flour while biscuit makers want low absorption rates.

"It starts to raise the questions about what it is we need to look for through the entire supply chain," said Bacon.

He also wonders if pea protein is undervalued.

"If protein is selling for \$3,000 per tonne, is a pulse protein flour that is eight percent higher than a base grade worth more money?"

Dry weather leaves U.S. Plains wheat vulnerable to freeze damage

CHICAGO, Ill. (Reuters) — A combination of delays to autumn planting and dry conditions in the southern U.S. Plains have left the hard red winter crop vulnerable to freeze damage, crop experts said, which could further tighten supplies of high-protein wheat.

A cold spell is forecast for later in December.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected to show in a Jan. 12 report that farmers have planted even less winter wheat than a year ago, when U.S. acreage fell to the lowest level since 1909.

Global supplies of lower-quality wheat are in abundance, but high-protein wheat is tight. Low protein levels in the last two U.S. hard red winter wheat harvests have sent millers and bakers scrambling to find enough supplies of top-quality grain.

Heavy rain in early October in Kansas and Oklahoma slowed seeding of the 2018 crop, leaving wheat plants less time to produce tillers and secondary root systems ahead of winter dormancy. The under-developed plants are less resistant to the cold.

"We've still got a lot of very small wheat. We are not where we'd like to be at this point as far as plant development (goes)," said Mark Hodges of Plains Grains, a wheat industry group based in Oklahoma.

"I am not saying the sky is falling, but ... we could lose some plants."

While winter freeze damage can at times cause problems, the plants are hard while in dormancy. Greater impacts come when there is spring frost or dry weather once the crop comes out of dormancy.

Hard red winter wheat, the biggest U.S. wheat class, is grown in the southern Plains and milled into flour for bread.

After the heavy rains in October, dry conditions set in.

In Kansas, the biggest U.S. wheat producer, virtually the entire state is abnormally dry and one-fifth of the state is in moderate drought, according to the latest weekly U.S. Drought Monitor, which is compiled by a consortium of climatologists.

"With dry topsoil, we are definitely more exposed to any sharp drop in temperatures," Romulo Lollato, Kansas State University extension wheat specialist, said of the dormant 2018 crop, noting that dry soil cools more quickly than moist soil.

In Oklahoma, the No. 3 winter wheat grower last year, 28 percent of the state is in severe drought and more than half is in moderate drought.

The winter months are typically the driest of the year in the region,

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>

Thriving cash market survives wheat board demise

HEDGE ROW



ED WHITE

This year felt like the year the prairie cash grain market came of age.

As with all situations of life, growth and aging, this one contains elements that have flourished and prospered and those that have weakened and died.

While marketing platforms, marketing advisers and price competition grew more transparent and robust, some post-Canadian Wheat Board hopes sickened and died.

The most remarkable aspect of the five-year anniversary of the end of the CWB's monopoly powers was how unremarked it went this summer, surprising almost everybody with how quickly and quietly the anniversary had crept up.

That was pretty strong proof that the post-CWB grain market has not been a disaster in most farmers' eyes and testament to the argument that the board monopolies weren't playing an essential role in farmers' economic sustainability.

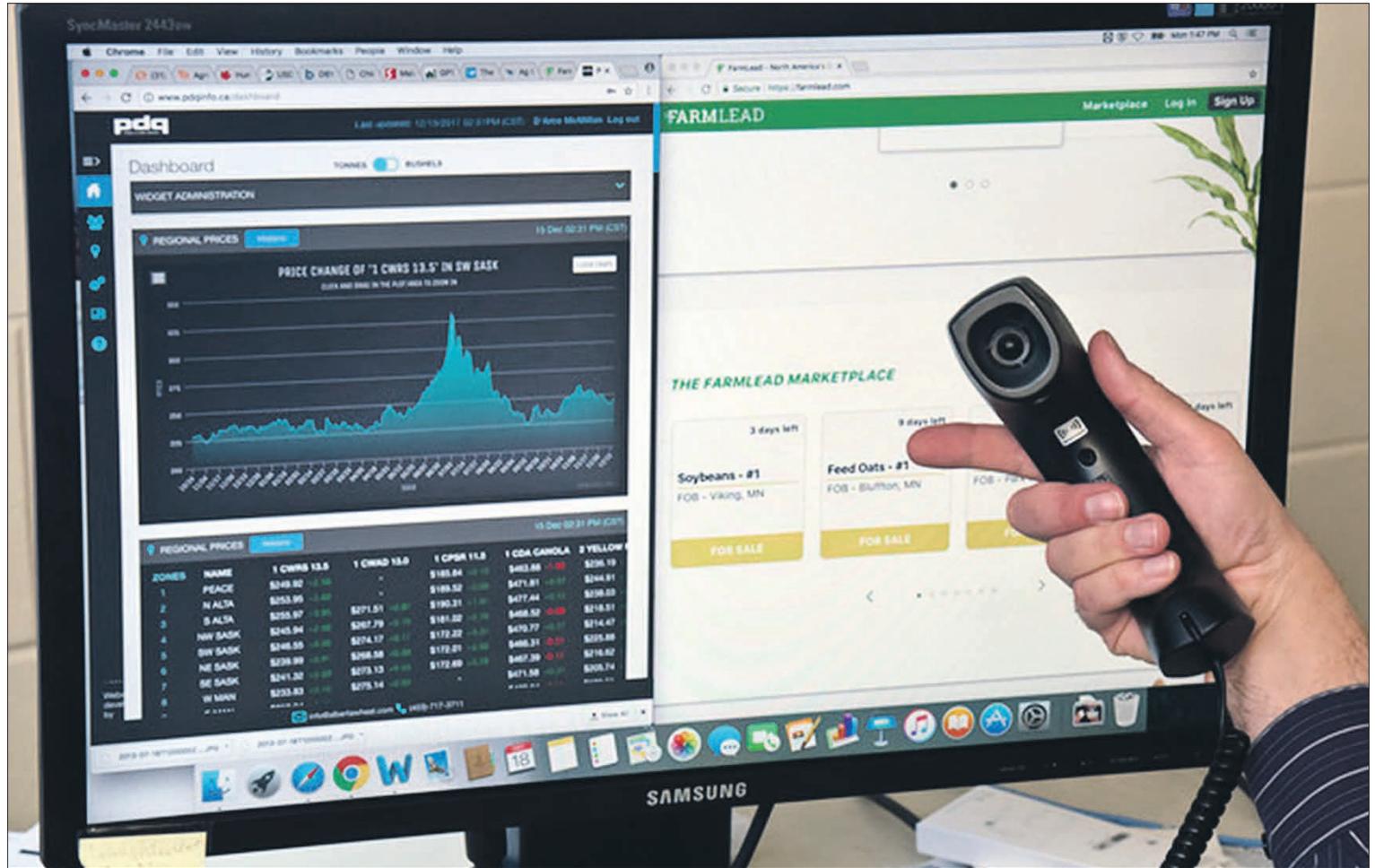
Also mostly unremarked was the burial of Winnipeg's ICE Futures Canada wheat, durum and barley futures contracts, which had never showing anything like real lives.

Lots of work went into creating the contracts, which were designed to represent the main crops that would no longer be marketed by the CWB. Many hoped a Canada-specific grains futures market could be successful.

However, in the end farmers, marketers, processors, importers and traders voted with their grain and money and avoided the contracts.

After being kept on life support for a couple of years, ICE pulled the plug on the contracts Oct. 26.

What the fading of the CWB and the death of Canadian grain futures



New cash market information and marketing services available online provide farmers with the tools needed for price discovery in the post-CWB world. | WILLIAM DEKAY PHOTO

have left behind is a robust and dynamic cash market for grains.

Following a messy couple of years right after the CWB's disestablishment, farmers should now have no trouble finding prices, buyers and accurate price discovery. A plethora of broker marketplaces, marketing firms and price discovery platforms now exist to give farmers a quick and easy way of finding out who wants their grain and for how much.

"Cash is king in the western Canadian grain market," FarmLead founder Brennan Turner said to me during Grain World, the revived Canadian grain industry conference in Winnipeg that almost died along with the CWB.

Turner's FarmLead site allows

farmers to find out what grain like theirs is selling for in their area. It uses real prices and lets a farmer chart present and deferred price trends. It's the kind of thing many thought wouldn't be possible in the post-CWB world, but has flourished. In fact, Turner's foray into cash market price transparency has spread from Western Canada into dozens of U.S. states.

At Grain World, Lyle Ehrmantraut's AgExchange Group marketplace got time in the spotlight.

It's another platform through which farmers have been finding prices and buyers and making the sorts of deals that many feared wouldn't be possible in the post-board environment.

Grain World, once a CWB hall-

mark, is now put on by a marketing advisory firm, FarmLink Marketing. That firm's meteoric rise since 2012 has been amazing.

It's hard to find a more perfect example of grain market evolution than seeing the CWB eliminated, leading to the near demise of Grain World and then its sudden resurrection with the new energy of the dynamic and booming prairie grain market.

AgriTrend has expanded in a similar way, helping fill the CWB void and providing farmers with the kind of customized marketing that is as typical of this new era as pooling was in the old era.

For those who don't want to employ comprehensive marketers such as FarmLink and AgriTrend or

the many independent operators available today, or rely upon the grain companies looking after them, the Alberta Wheat Commission's PDQinfo.ca website offers real regional average grain prices. It's just another information tool that helps an independent farmer when approaching a prospective buyer.

A lot of people worried that the prairie grain market would sink into a dark age as the CWB disappeared with a handful of buyers controlling price information and preventing price transparency from existing in any real way.

However, as we ease into 2018, it's nice to see that the cash market has survived and thrived.

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» CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and moisture will not help dormant plants to grow much. However, snowfall can act as a blanket, protecting the crop from frigid air.

A cold spell is expected in the

Plains in the last week of December, said David Streit, an agricultural meteorologist with the Commodity Weather Group. While it is too early to say how cold it will get, a few forecasting models projected temperatures falling below -18 C,

Streit said.

Some weather models projected late-December snowfall as well.

"I don't think we'll be able to improve the moisture situation substantially, even if we do pick up a snow event out of this, but it (snow)

would be really helpful to avoid the winterkill risk," Streit said.

The shortage of high-protein HRW wheat has sent premiums soaring in the cash market. The premium for HRW wheat with 12 percent protein over the Kansas

City March futures contract last week reached a 9 1/2 year high at US\$2.15 over futures.

The premium for 12 percent protein wheat has doubled since trading at about \$1 above futures in mid-August.



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Canola heads into holiday season on a downturn

MARKET WATCH



D'ARCE McMILLAN

Canola's value compared to soybeans was fairly strong this fall, but its shine has dulled with recent events, particularly the decline in vegetable oil values.

On Nov. 1, the value of January canola was \$11.76 per bushel, while Chicago January soybeans, converted into Canadian dollars were \$12.69, meaning canola's value was about 93 percent of soybeans.

By Dec. 18, canola values had fallen faster than soybeans and were only about 90 percent of the value of soybeans.

But that was still better than last year at this time, when canola was a little less than 88 percent the value of soybeans.

During the autumn, canola's value was well supported by strong demand, expectations of tight year-end stocks, a surprise rally in palm oil values and lack of rain in South America.

January canola peaked at about \$11.80 a bushel or \$520 a tonne in early November, but then a series of issues started weighing it down.

The vegetable oil component of its value was hammered when the surprise rally in palm oil in October was wiped out by India's decision to impose a duty on vegetable oil imports. India is the world's largest vegetable oil importer. Palm oil makes up close to two-thirds of its veg oil imports.

Malaysian palm oil values fell 7.5 percent in November and 3.3 percent so far in December as export expectations had to be scaled back on the news from India. The decline also weighed down soy oil and canola oil.

From Nov. 1 to Dec. 18, soy oil fell about 4.7 percent, while canola seed fell 4.9 percent. Soybeans fell only 2.3 percent as the value of its meal component held on.

The Indian vegetable oil duty was the first shoe to drop. The next was



Falling vegetable oil prices due in part to India's new duty on edible oil imports is one factor contributing to a depressed attitude in the canola market. | FILE PHOTO

the South American situation.

Brazil soybean seeding began under dry conditions but rain through November resolved the problem. Now it looks like it could have another bumper crop.

Argentina stayed dry until last week. But on the weekend, there was rain and more is expected this week, which should allow farmers to seed the remaining one-third of their soybeans.

The next negative factor was a domestic one.

On Dec. 6, Statistics Canada raised its estimate of the canola crop to a record 21.3 million tonnes, about a million more than the trade expected.

Even with robust exports and domestic crush, the new high pro-

duction figure means year-end stocks will wind up larger than expected.

Agriculture Canada's monthly supply and demand spreadsheet for December raised its forecast for year-end stocks to two million tonnes, compared to one million in the November forecast. Last year's stocks were 1.35 million tonnes.

Combine all this with recent talk of a slower pace of export sales and you have the canola market headed into the Christmas holiday period on a down note.

Let's hope the export slowdown is nothing beyond a seasonal thing linked to the holiday period here and the forthcoming lunar New Year in China in February.

Oilseeds generally will face

downward pressure if rain keeps arriving in time for Argentina's crop. But that is not a sure thing. The La Nina in the equatorial Pacific has a firmer grip this month and it has a history of reducing rainfall in Argentina. It is still expected to be weak but it is expected to linger into the March-April period.

Downward pressure could also come from the expected uptick of palm oil production, expected in the second quarter of 2018.

And an expected small increase in American soybean seeding in 2018 could also weigh on oilseeds.

Follow D'Arce McMillan on Twitter @darcemcmillan or email darce.mcmillan@producer.com.

Forecaster sees stable EU wheat, durum

PARIS, France (Reuters) — Farmers in the European Union are forecast to harvest about the same amount of soft wheat in 2018 as they did this year as higher projected yields compensate for a minor fall in seeded area, consultancy Strategie Grains said.

Durum-seeded area is expected to be the same year on year, and with a marginal increase in yield, the total production should be 9.2 million tonnes, about the same as the last harvest.

The forecasts are tentative, as the winter crops seeded this fall won't be harvested until 2018.

The consultancy in early December forecast a canola crop of 22.6 million tonnes, up 900,000 tonnes from 21.7 million tonnes harvested this past summer. The increase was based on a return to trend yields after problems in the last harvest.

Strategie Grains said it expected EU countries to harvest 142.3 million tonnes of soft wheat in 2018, little changed from 142.4 million in 2017.

The forecast reduced its expectation for the area seeded to soft wheat by 494,200 acres to 57.58 million, compared with the figure last month.

The cut in seeded area was mainly due to changes in the Balkans, leading to a fall in output there. Production would also fall in Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Scandinavia compared to the previous year, it said.

But large producers, such as Germany, France, Spain and Italy, were expected to harvest larger wheat crops in 2018.

In contrast, barley production was expected to rise significantly next season, up six percent at 62.2 million tonnes.

The larger crop was due to a rise in both area and average yields with sharp increases expected in Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Latvia and Lithuania, and to a lesser extent in Germany, France, Finland, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Romania, Strategie Grains said.

It expected barley output to fall year-on-year in Britain, Poland and Bulgaria.

MARKETS SNAPSHOTS

U.S. SOYBEAN, WHEAT ENDING STOCKS UP AS EXPORTS FALL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Reuters) — The forecast for U.S. year-end stocks of wheat and soybeans were raised in the monthly U.S. Department of Agriculture supply and demand report because of dwindling export demand for U.S. supplies.

However, the department trimmed its year end stocks estimate for corn because of rising use from the ethanol sector.

The report pegged soybean 2017-18 ending stocks at 445 million bushels, up 20 million from its November outlook and above the average of the trade's expectation of 438 million bu. The USDA lowered its export forecast for the

oilseed by 25 million bu. and raised seed use by five million bu.

U.S. soybean exporters have seen a slow start to the marketing year with the pace of shipments lagging well behind what is needed to meet the USDA's bullish projections. Plentiful supplies from Argentina and Brazil have provided overseas buyers with alternatives to U.S. soybeans.

The USDA pegged U.S. wheat ending stocks at 960 million bu., up from the 935 million bu. forecast in the November report. The trade on average had expected 938 million bu.

The larger than expected crop in Canada is expected to increase competition in foreign markets and hurt demand for U.S. exports.

The USDA lowered its 2017-18 wheat export outlook by 25 million bu. to 975 million bu. It raised its estimate of the Canadian wheat crop by three million

tonnes to 30 million.

The report was mildly positive for corn prices. It cut domestic corn ending stocks for 2017-18 to 2.437 billion bu. from 2.487 billion bu.

Analysts had been expecting corn ending stocks of 2.478 billion bu.

The USDA raised its forecast for corn used for ethanol in the marketing year to 5.525 billion bu. from 5.475 billion bu.

The department noted sorghum exports to China are up, lifting its price in the U.S. and reducing the economics of using it to produce ethanol.

U.S. SOYBEAN PLANTING MIGHT SURPASS CORN FOR FIRST TIME

CHICAGO, Ill. (Reuters) — Private analytics firm Informa Eco-

nomics raised its forecast of U.S. 2018 soybean plantings to 91.387 million acres, a potential record high, and trimmed its 2018 corn plantings projection to 89.675 million acres, according to an Informa client note obtained by Reuters.

If it proves true, it would be the first time that U.S. soybean area topped corn area.

It would be a 1.3 percent increase over last year's soybean area of 90.20 million acres.

For corn, it would be a decline of 0.8 percent from last year's 90.43 million acres.

Informa also lowered its estimate of U.S. winter wheat plantings for harvest in 2018 to 31.093 million acres, down from its month-ago figure of 31.923 million. The new number is down 2.4 percent from last year's seeded area of 32.696. According to records going back to 1909, it would be the second small-

est area, second only to 1909.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is scheduled to release its first estimate of U.S. winter wheat seedings for harvest in 2018, along with revised estimates of 2017 crop production, on Jan. 12.

Reviewing the most recent U.S. harvest, the firm put the 2017 corn yield at 176.6 bushels per acre, above the USDA's last estimate of 175.4 bu., a second Informa client note said.

Informa estimated 2017 corn production at 14.676 billion bu., compared to the USDA's figure of 14.578 billion.

For soybeans, Informa put the 2017 soybean yield at 49.7 bu. per acre, up from the USDA's last figure of 49.5. The firm put soybean production at 4.45 billion bu., compared with the USDA's estimate of 4.425 billion.

CANFAX REPORT

FED CATTLE UP

The Canfax steer average hit a new second half high at \$154.26 per hundredweight, up \$2.27, and heifers jumped \$7.21 to average \$155.54.

Fed steers were 44 cents per cwt. higher than last year.

Tighter market-ready supplies and three packers all aggressively trying to procure cattle supported Alberta fed prices.

Dressed prices were \$5-\$9 per cwt. higher than the midweek bids.

Cattle will be delivered in one or two weeks.

With Alberta rail prices \$20-\$25 per cwt. higher than Ontario, eastern cattle could potentially start moving west.

Two weeks ago, Ontario steer carcasses averaged 957 pounds, 13 lb. lower than last year, while in the West carcasses were 895 lb., 18 lb. lower than last year.

Feedlot inventory is current, but packers this week will be buying for the short holiday weeks.

In the United States, trade in the south was up \$1-\$3 with the top end at US\$120. Trade in the north was not fully developed at press time but had a stronger tone.

Analysts expect record production of meat (beef, pork and poultry) in 2018. Strong exports will be needed to prevent a backup of supply.

COWS STRONGER

For the second week, western Canadian cow slaughter topped 10,000 head. That last happened December 2013.

From their November low, D1, D2

cow prices have risen \$4.75 per cwt. Alberta D1, D2 cow prices remain at a sizable premium to the Ontario and U.S. markets.

Last week D1, D2 cows ranged \$81-\$95 to average \$89.30, up \$2.70. D3 cows ranged \$70-\$87 to average \$79.60.

Rail grade ranged \$170-\$175.

With the holidays coming, packers will want to secure more inventory. Premiums will likely be paid if cows can be delivered over Christmas or New Years.

Packers are seeing good value in cows, suggesting there is more upside to the cow market.

MANITOBA MARKET HOT

Western Canadian calf and feeder values traded steady to lower, but the Manitoba steer calf market was notably strong.

That strength in stockers supported western index values.

Manitoba 550 lb. steers traded at a \$4-\$5 premium over Alberta and Saskatchewan, while 650 lb. Manitoba steers were \$8-\$10 higher.

Heifer calves narrowed the price gap with their steer mates. Heifers 550 lb. were \$26.50 lower than steers. The spread is narrower than last year, which is surprising, considering that barley prices are 29 percent higher.

The Chicago cattle futures market suggests that 2018 prices from first half highs to second half lows will fall eight percent. Second half lows could be near US\$111.

At this point last year, the futures market was indicating a 12 percent decline from spring highs to summer lows.

With more cattle on feed in the U.S. compared to last year, there may be downside risk to the summer futures market.

A one cent move on the futures market can affect Canadian feeder prices by as much as \$2.

Bred cows averaged \$2,025, and bred heifers were \$2,300.

Prices are now slightly higher than last year.

ON FEED REPORT

The number of cattle in Alberta and Saskatchewan feedlots Dec. 1 was 974,881 head, up 12 percent over last year, or about 100,000 head. The number was up two percent over the five year average.

It was the most since 2013.

Placements in November were 321,259, up 19 percent over last year and up 22 percent over the five year average. The increase was mostly in steer placements.

October placements were also strong, and together the two-month tally was the largest since 2005.

Marketings in November were 131,886, up four percent from the previous year.

Marketings will moderate in the first quarter of 2018 but will jump higher in the third quarter because of the large number of calves placed this fall.

BEEF LOWER

U.S. boxed beef prices traded lower with Choice down \$4.04 at \$201.04 per cwt. and Select was down 14 cents at \$183.69.

Christmas buying has mostly wrapped up and the market will be

quiet the next two weeks.

Canadian prices were not available.

This cattle market information is selected from the weekly report from Canfax, a division of the

Canadian Cattlemen's Association. More market information, analysis and statistics are available by becoming a Canfax subscriber by calling 403-275-5110 or at www.canfax.ca.

WP LIVESTOCK REPORT

U.S. HOGS DIP LOWER

Retailers had most of their holiday needs met. Pork buying will slow until retailers measure how sales have gone.

The U.S. national live price average for barrows and gilts was US\$46.60 per hundredweight Dec. 15, down slightly from \$46.94 Dec. 8.

U.S. hogs averaged \$56.47 on a carcass basis Dec. 15, down from \$59.10 Dec. 8.

The U.S. pork cutout was \$77.57 per cwt. Dec. 15, down from \$83.70 Dec. 8.

The estimated U.S. weekly slaughter to Dec. 16 was 2.578 million, up from 2.537 million the previous week. It was 2.502 million last year at the same time.

In Canada, the Dec. 16 Signature Five price was C\$143.62 per 100 kilograms, up slightly from \$143.60 the previous week. The loonie fell back below US78 cents Dec. 15, providing some lift to Canadian prices.

The price was \$65.15 on a per hundredweight basis, up from \$65.14.

BISON STEADY

The Canadian Bison Association said Grade A bulls in the desirable weight range sold at prices up to C\$6 per pound hot hanging weight. U.S.

buyers are offering US\$4.75 or more with returns dependent on exchange rates, quality and export costs.

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

Animals outside the desirable buyer specifications may be discounted.

NEW CROP LAMBS UP

Ontario Stockyards Inc. reported that 1,818 sheep and lambs and 258 goats sold Dec. 11. New crop lambs sold at higher premium prices. Heavier type lambs sold under pressure at \$10-\$15 cwt. lower. Sheep sold \$10-\$15 cwt higher. Good light goats brought a premium. All other goats sold steady.

Beaver Hill Auction in Tofield, Alta., reported that 1,252 sheep and 134 goats sold Dec. 11.

Wool lambs lighter than 54 lb. were \$200-\$245 per cwt., 55-69 lb. were \$200-\$245, 70-85 lb. were \$195-\$224, 86-105 lb. were \$180-\$206 and 106 lb. and heavier were \$173-\$181.

Wool rams were \$85-\$140 per cwt. Cull ewes were \$85-\$141.

Hair lambs lighter than 54 lb. were \$176-\$225 per cwt., 55-69 lb. were \$200-\$235, 70-85 lb. were \$192-\$220, 86-105 lb. were \$180-\$196 and 106 lb. and heavier were \$165-\$178.

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MICROS PLAY KEY ROLL IN BIG YIELDS AND PROFIT

In 1840, J. Von Liebig, a German chemist described as the father of the fertilizer industry, stated that "the rate of growth of a plant, the size to which it grows, and its overall health depend on the amount of the scarcest of the essential nutrients that are available to it."

Since its inception in 1984, prairie-based PowerRich Corporation has embraced Liebig's philosophy and believes it still has a major impact on plant nutrition today. And for 33 years, farmers using PowerRich product have proven the importance of micronutrients.

As a Canadian pioneer in placing a full spectrum of micronutrients in granular PKS fertilizer, PowerRich recognizes that a fertilizer program, like a chain, is only as strong as its weakest link. As growth in all phases is dependent on micronutrients, producers must be aware of micronutrient balance in the soil and its availability to the plant. Each plays a key role. Without these mineral elements being taken into the plant in proper amounts and balance, yields will be limited.

"If your soil is lacking in micros, then the nitrogen or phosphorus you apply will not be fully used and yield is impacted. Wasted inputs mean lost money - and it can be environmentally unfriendly," says Shane Lacusta, agronomist for PowerRich. "Producers are making greater demands on their land to produce more and more, increasing the amount of fertilizers they use each year"

But Lacusta notes that yields have leveled off in some cases, and many producers are asking - why?

"Often the limiting factor can be the micros, which refers to the quantity of a nutrient a plant needs, not that it's less important. At PowerRich, we believe prevention of micronutrient deficiencies is always better than correction after the appearance of symptoms."

Soil is a living organism, and using chemical and salt-based fertilizers can erode fertility. Nutrient imbalances in soil promote weed growth, and unhealthy crops lacking vital micronutrients are more susceptible to insects. In addition to phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur, PowerRich granular starter PKS fertilizer includes the other micronutrients that are



PowerRich Agronomist, Shane Lacusta, inspects crop roots with a customer in Alberta in July 2017. PHOTO BY POWERRICH

either absent from soil or in a form unavailable to crops. It's seed safe and works well with regular nitrogen applications

Other sources of micronutrients depend on root inception, which means the root has to find the nutrient once tie-up in the soil has occurred. PowerRich's proprietary granular micronutrients are complexed which prevents them from being tied up in the soil. This means that PowerRich micronutrients move both laterally and vertically with soil moisture, becoming equally distributed throughout the root zone. Because nutrients remain available, farmers benefit by using far less pounds per acre of PowerRich granular fertilizer to correct nutrient deficiencies.

Greg Grant, general manager of PowerRich, believes in a balanced fertilizer approach so the plant has what it needs, when it needs it.

"Our product proves itself, there's no question," Grant said. "We have over 30 years of proven results. PowerRich is a small custom fertilizer company and we stand behind our high-quality products."

Grant noted that producers appreciate the attention to detail.

"We even vacuum the product before it leaves the plant so it's less dusty for the farmer to handle."

Grant encourages producers to visit the company website or Facebook and check out the testimonials from their best sales team - their customers.

"Many of our agents started with PowerRich as customers. With way less bulk to handle, producers save time and money, and it's better for their land. And, we'll deliver right to the farm which saves farmers the cost of transportation."

We have rebates on until Dec 31st that save you a bit of money and if financing inputs makes sense, PowerRich's association with FCC and Scotia bank can help. And if producers need storage, we can arrange that too.

Try it on a quarter or half section first if you're not completely convinced that PowerRich is right for your entire farm. Whatever you're comfortable with. We get it. The product will do the rest!"

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POWERRICH
TOTAL CROP NUTRITION

Hazard vs. risk analysis a vital distinction to make

The tug-of-war between conclusions based on hazard versus risk studies continues.

The most recent example is the University of Saskatchewan study that shows that canola seed coated with imidacloprid — a type of neonicotinoid — can affect songbirds.

The study found that songbirds showed significant loss of body mass, lethargy, loss of appetite and disorientation when they eat coated seed.

That surely requires a closer look. No one wants to see birds affected in such a manner.

It's alarming, but the study used what's known as the "risk-based" approach — what otherwise is known as laboratory conditions.

On the Prairies, imidacloprid is mainly used on wheat crops to control wireworm. As manufacturer Bayer points out, other studies that are hazard-based — that is, using conditions closer to reality — show birds aren't interested in imidacloprid-treated seeds when other food is available because of the repellent properties of the seed coating.

So, when birds are out in the field, they will look for other sources of food, rather than unhappily ingest seeds coated with imidacloprid and other compounds.

We've also seen this hazard-versus-risk debate play out in the use of glyphosate in farmers' fields.

The World Health Organization said in 2015 that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans" — using the risk-based approach. But other organizations, including the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, looked at conditions that were closer to the real world — the hazard-based approach — and concluded that glyphosate is "unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans from exposure through diet."

Still, the herbicide barely survived in Europe recently because Germany supported its continued use at the last minute, much to the chagrin of France, where

President Emmanuel Macron has promised to ban glyphosate within three years, despite reputable studies that show it is safe when used as recommended.

Lab tests versus real-world conditions is an important debate.

Hassan Azia, associate dean of academic affairs at the College of Arts and Sciences and director of biomedical science at Qatar University, recently wrote a paper on this debate. In this case, he was looking at human behaviour, but his paper shows his observations of field-versus-laboratory research are applicable pretty much across the board.

In a paper published in April, Azia noted that, "whilst field research offers contextual data on settings, interactions, or individuals, controlled laboratory research is basic, repeatable."

He concluded that "the most fruitful overall research approach is usually to use both: laboratory and field research."

"The results of controlled experiments produce new approaches or hypotheses to be tried and investigated in the field. Conversely, observations in the field produce new hypotheses to be tested by controlled experiments."

Health Canada has proposed phasing out imidacloprid over three or five years. A decision on that proposal is pending.

It's important to note there is no alternative chemical replacement to imidacloprid at the moment, though possible alternatives might be on the way.

If Health Canada is going to move on imidacloprid, it could consider restrictions only in regions where there is a real world problem. This would be a practical approach. New studies could then determine the effect of the restricted regions versus where it's still being used.

That way, the full spectrum of science — risk and hazard — would be the determining factor in any further action.

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

CRAIG'S VIEW



FEEDING CATTLE



If you don't have the cornerstones for what you are needing for a proper feed program, it is about as effective as pushing a wagon uphill.

BARRY YAREMCIO
ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, PAGE 49

The unexpected was the norm in 2017, starting with trade

CAPITAL LETTERS



KELSEY JOHNSON

The year 2017 will likely go down in the political history books for being the year of the unexpected.

To say it was a year of surprises would be an understatement.

The arrival of U.S. President Donald Trump on the international political scene delivered a jolt not seen in decades to the way in which the world conducts business and diplomacy.

Almost overnight, the country seen as the beacon for free trade, globalization and international cooperation rejected many of those

ideas in favour of an "America First" policy laden with protectionism.

Suddenly, the future of the World Trade Organization and global, multilateral trade were in jeopardy.

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government (elected on a platform more in line with a world where global diplomatic and trade co-operation were front and centre) found itself devising a negotiating strategy designed to try to salvage the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the original NAFTA brain child, was called upon to lend his expertise and insight. An advisory panel was struck with its membership comprising a cross section of some of this country's brightest minds.

The original goal was to have the NAFTA renegotiation completed by the end of the year. That timeline has been deemed unfeasible, thanks to egregious American

demands, and talks are now expected to stretch into early 2018.

The future of NAFTA remains in jeopardy. These days, uncertainty within the North American business community is simply part of doing business.

This year's unexpected notes aren't limited to the NAFTA front. Canada's attempts to diversify its trade agenda have been marred by miscues and miscommunications.

Relations between Canada and the United States have taken on a chilly undertone thanks to an ongoing and longstanding dispute over softwood lumber. And, who can forget that never-ending, arm-breaking handshake.

Meanwhile, several countries — notably Japan — remain unimpressed with Canada's performance at a meeting of Trans-Pacific Partnership members on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Vietnam this year. Also, Trudeau's visit to China failed to secure the

launch of formal trade talks.

Then there's India, which continues to wreak havoc with Canadian pulse exports by refusing to issue a new derogation order and by imposing a sudden 50 percent tariff on global pea imports. It's an escalating trade dispute no visiting Canadian ministerial delegation has been able to resolve.

While the trade file has been rife with unpredictability, 2017's unexpectedness stretches beyond the world of exports and imports.

Closer to home, the Liberals stunned Canadian business owners by moving ahead with a substantial tax reform plan in the middle of the summer, when most of the country was on vacation, and abandoning an unwritten protocol of cross-party collaboration when it comes to tax reform.

While the government was later forced to abandon many of its proposed changes (including a move that would have impeded the

transfer of family farms from one generation to the next), Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced Dec. 15 he was moving ahead with part of his tax plan, effective Jan. 1.

This, despite a stark warning from the chair of the Senate finance committee, who said Ottawa should scrap its entire tax reform plan — or at least postpone it until 2019.

The committee's report was only the latest in a series of unanticipated moments of resistance from the Red Chamber.

It's a trend that is expected to continue well into the new year unless the Liberals figure out a way to work with the newly independent Senate to ensure their legislation gets passed in a semi-timely manner.

In the meantime, expect political leaders both at home and abroad to continue hitting the reset button. The unexpected is only just beginning.

Kelsey Johnson is a reporter with iPolitics, www.ipolitics.ca.

& OPEN FORUM

University wrong to accept A&W donation

BY R.J.(BOB) EVANS, P.AG.

On Dec. 1 the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources announced a \$5 million donation from A&W to go toward the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

A&W has demonstrated through its fear-based marketing campaign that it is no friend to agriculture or science.

You know the one. The guy in the orange bread truck stops and asks people what they think of their burger and then preys on their lack of knowledge to make them believe A&W burgers are somehow better or safer than the rest.

Let's ignore the laughable notion that any burger is good for us and focus on the two elements that argue against the college accepting this money: science and sustainability.

In June 2014 at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association convention in Moose Jaw, Sask., Trish Sahlstrom, A&W's vice-president of purchasing and distribution, summed it up when she said: "It's not our job to educate consumers."

A&W understands that an uneducated consumer is the best kind of consumer.

It's easy to accept how a cynical fast-food company could think that way, but it is hard to understand why the College of Agriculture and Bioresources would lend its considerable credibility to A&W's marketing campaign.

If the college looked to sell out its



Mary Buhr, right, dean of the University of Saskatchewan's agriculture college, has come under fire for accepting funding from A&W executives. | FILE PHOTO

principles, I would have hoped for a higher selling price.

For A&W, the donation is about marketing. Even worse, it's about marketing foreign beef.

A&W has repeatedly refused to provide data on how much of the beef sold in Canadian restaurants is sourced in Canada.

It's likely well over 90 percent imported from Australia and the United States and it's A&W's right to keep the number secret. It is a private company.

What isn't right is that A&W continues to insinuate that there is something superior about its imported beef compared to locally grown beef because it doesn't buy

beef that has been raised with artificial growth hormones.

There is no science to support that claim.

Farming in the 21st century is a huge success thanks to adoption of modern technology, which often results from the efforts of research universities.

In our lifetimes, we have seen dramatic increases in farm efficiency on any measure.

A&W's anti-hormone message would turn the clock back to the 1950s.

According to Alberta Beef Producers, for farmers and ranchers to produce the same tonnage of beef they do today without hormones

would require:

- 12 percent more cattle
- 10 percent more land
- 11 percent more feed
- four percent more water
- seven percent more fuel

As well, it would generate 10 percent more greenhouse gasses.

On top of that, Alberta Beef Producers estimates cattle prices would need to be eight percent higher than they are today to match today's output.

Canadian beef is safe, thanks in part to ongoing research done at universities like the U of S.

The Canadian beef industry is part of a larger agricultural success story. That story is about efficiency and sustainability.

Mary Buhr, dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, knows this but accepted A&W's blood money anyway.

That's why I sent her the following terse message immediately after learning about A&W's "donation": "I'm so disgusted tonight, Mary, I don't even know where to begin. I'm ashamed to admit I'm an alumnus of the college."

"You have to realize that you have taken blood money. A&W is not a friend of science or agriculture. Shame on you."

Contact Mary if you want to express your opinion of her action.

Bob Evans is a consulting agrologist living in east-central Saskatchewan and a graduate of the U of S, Class of 1979.

This is trade by mutual non-consensus

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK



MICHAEL RAINE
MANAGING EDITOR

Are the days of mutual consensus and multilateral international trade agreements over? The United States said yes last week in Buenos Aires.

It wasn't a coincidence that the U.S., one of the 164 member countries of the World Trade Organization, also refused to sign a letter of understanding that supported WTO-type agreements.

Ironically, it was the U.S. senior trade representative who claimed the event as a victory for global trade.

"(This trade meeting) will be remembered as the moment when the impasse at the WTO was broken," said Robert Lighthizer.

"Many members recognized that the WTO must pursue a fresh start in key areas so that like-minded WTO members and their constituents are not held back by the few members that are not ready to act."

Lighthizer was speaking about a developed world, agricultural exporting nation motherhood and apple pie statement that did come out of the Argentina meeting, but not supported by India and China:

"In order to face the challenge of producing more food in a safer and sustainable way, farmers must be able to access the full range of tools and technologies available for agricultural production. Yet, our farmers' choice of safe tools is increasingly undermined by regulatory barriers that lack a sufficient scientific justification, and this is having substantial negative impact on the production of, and trade in, safe food and agricultural products. We believe in both protecting human health and facilitating access to food, both goals of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.... (It) is needed to support farmers' choice in tools that can expand agricultural production and facilitate access to food and agricultural products, and also to safeguard human, animal and plant health."

So the meeting was valuable, but not in a mutually agreeable way.

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We believe in both protecting human health and facilitating access to food, both goals of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION STATEMENT

Marketing opportunities present themselves

HURSH ON AG



KEVIN HURSH

With the generally soft tone in commodity markets, several new crop opportunities are attracting attention, but they may not last long.

Canola prices have been grinding lower since mid-November, but if you look at a five-year price graph, canola is still above the mid-range.

For fall 2018 delivery, canola prices approaching \$11 a bushel can be locked in. Despite a canola supply that seems to get bigger with each new report, expect canola to capture a big chunk of the acres that will be switching away from red lentils and yellow peas.

While the general price direction for most crops is down, market analyst John DePutter is moderately bullish on the price outlook for flax, believing we could see an

increase to the \$13 or \$14 a bushel range.

The trouble with flax for many growers is yield. If you're only getting 20 or 25 bu. an acre, you need a good price to make any money. However, if flax prices do improve, it's likely to attract acres.

Sticking with the oilseeds, brown and yellow mustard are attracting attention for their relatively strong prices, both on the spot market and for new crop. New crop contracts with an Act of God clause are available at around 37 cents a pound for brown mustard and 40 cents a lb. for yellow.

Oriental mustard isn't in such short supply, and its new crop price is only around 34 cents a lb. However, if too many producers abandon oriental, it could be the star price performer a year from now.

Although mustard can be produced almost everywhere, the main production base has retreated to south-central and southwestern Saskatchewan along with parts of southern Alberta. It is not a viable option on land that has been recently seeded to canola because there's no way to control the canola volunteers.

Despite this limitation, expect an acreage increase in this minor



Canola prices approaching \$11 a bushel can be locked in for fall 2018 delivery. | FILE PHOTO

acreage crop as growers react to the favourable pricing signals.

While field pea acreage will see a significant drop in 2018, there's increased interest in some of the specialty peas, particularly maple peas. Seed costs are high and many of the specialty peas are more troublesome to grow. As well, market niches can be easily oversupplied. Still, there appear to be some profitable opportunities.

In the traditionally dry areas, growers are showing more interest in large kabuli chickpeas than at any time in the past decade. Prices have been in the 60 to 70 cent a lb. range since harvest. With average yields

approaching 1,200 lb. an acre, chickpeas were very profitable this year, even after the high expenditures for seed and fungicide.

New crop chickpea contract prices seem to have slipped over the past month, but price quotes are still around 40 cents a lb. Acreage will be up in southern Saskatchewan and possibly southern Alberta as existing growers expand their area and other growers give the crop another try after past disappointments.

Another minor acreage crop with opportunity is quinoa, but unlike chickpeas, quinoa is suited to wetter regions. NorQuin, based in Saskatoon with a cleaning facility in Melville, Sask., contracts the majority of the quinoa produced in Western Canada. The company says most of its past growers want to grow the crop again and as a result its 2018 contracting program is already full.

In the current pricing climate, growers might be well advised to act on profitable opportunities when they arise because they might not last very long.

Kevin Hursh is an agricultural journalist, consultant and farmer. He can be reached by e-mail at kevin@hursh.ca.

Alta. decides to eliminate three rural ridings

The change, which will take effect in 2019, reflects the fact that the urban population is growing faster than what's occurring in rural areas

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Alberta MLAs have voted to get rid of three rural ridings and add three urban ones in time for the next provincial election in 2019.

Members of the legislature officially made the changes Dec. 13, voting 41-25 for dismantling rural ridings so Edmonton, Calgary and Airdrie-Cochrane each could gain one. Twenty-one MLAs were absent for the vote.

The changes in seat distribution were spurred by the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission, which suggested Alberta's cities are growing at a faster rate than rural communities.

The shift means:

- Four ridings in central northeast Alberta will be combined into three. They include Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and Bonnyville-Cold Lake.
- In west-central Alberta, the five current ridings will be turned into four. They include Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-St. Anne and Stony Plain.

- In eastern Alberta, seven ridings will be turned into six. They include Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

During the debate in the house Dec. 13, all United Conservative Party MLAs voted against the changes, arguing rural Alberta's voice in the legislature will become quieter.

Richard Starke, the lone Progressive Conservative MLA who represents Vermilion-Lloydminster, said that rural MLAs will now have to travel longer distances to meet their constituents.

"When you're there, you're telling them you care," he told the assembly.

"As rural ridings become larger and larger, they become a lot more difficult to travel in, and no amount of teleconferencing is going to change that."

Of the 42 NDP MLAs present for the vote, only two voted against the changes.

Colin Piquette, the NDP MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, said while he understands why cities might need more ridings, many people in the rural communities he

represents told him they were concerned with the changes.

"They were concerned about the dilution of representation, and they urged me that what they wanted to see was the status quo," he told the house.

Al Kemmere, president of the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, had been lobbying the government to maintain the status quo by not changing the electoral map.

He said in an interview Dec. 14 that he's disappointed with the changes but hopes there are more opportunities in the future to enhance rural Alberta's voice in the legislature.

"We need to find ways to work with the government to come up with new tools or better tools," he said.

"That could mean more constituency offices so people can get to their government representative more effectively, or it could mean more innovative tools like connecting over the internet.

"We just have to ensure rural Albertans have more access to broadband if that's the case."

To view the new electoral boundaries, visit www.abebc.ca.

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Sask. may consolidate meat inspection

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

The Saskatchewan government is considering a single meat inspection system for slaughter plants currently covered by two different ministries.

According to Volume 2 of the Provincial Auditor's report released Dec. 12, the health ministry inspects 80 facilities and the agriculture ministry inspects 10.

The health ministry uses public health officials to examine facilities, while agriculture uses third party inspectors to examine the meat produced at the plants for which it is responsible.

There are also federally inspected plants, and farmgate sales aren't inspected at all.

The auditor's office had previously raised concerns about uninspected meat making its way to market, and in 2012 recommended that the province consider updating its regulations. Saskatchewan is the only province that has two systems.

"Having two ministries responsible for this task increases the risk that the government will not know how many animals are slaughtered in the province or how much meat enters the food chain without being inspected," said the 2017 report.

Tim Macaulay, director of environmental health in the health ministry, said work has been done

Having two ministries responsible for this task increases the risk that the government will not know ... how much meat enters the food chain without being inspected.

SASK. AUDITOR REPORT

on implementing auditor recommendations, but they are on hold until a decision is made about the inspection system.

For example, the auditor has recommended that the health ministry draft new slaughter plant standards.

"Our proposed standards are more in line with what agriculture requires," Macaulay said.

"Our goal is to ensure the meat products are safe for the people of Saskatchewan, but we need to be looking closely at what are the implications with any direction that we'll consider going towards."

The auditor also recommended more frequent inspections and making the results of them public. Macaulay said the Public Health Act was amended in 2016 to allow for regulations to be developed, but again this hinges on the final meat inspection system.

A decision is expected next year.

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Irrigation groups plan merger for efficiency

The Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association and Irrigation Crop Diversification Corp. will hold joint meetings with producers next year

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Saskatchewan's two irrigation organizations are considering a merger.

The Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association, which focuses on policy and development, and the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corp., which focuses on research and agronomic practices, have been exploring that idea for the last year.

They intend to hold joint meetings next year with a final decision possible at the annual general meetings of the two next December.

SIPA chair Joel VanderSchaaf said both organizations passed resolutions last year to look at becoming one entity.

"We've seen some general constraints with regard to trying to sustain two organizations for a relatively small industry," he said at the association's recent annual general meeting.

"We see combining our powers to be a more unified voice, a more powerful tool, essentially a more efficient and, I guess, potent voice for irrigation in the province."

Both boards have had challenges

finding members, and they said many larger commodity groups have integrated their research and advocacy sides.

A subcommittee identified potential cost savings of more than \$15,000 a year.

VanderSchaaf said while most are receptive to the idea, some members are concerned that they will be taking on too much.

ICDC vice-chair Anthony Eliason said members of his organization have a similar attitude.

"Our feeling right now is yes, there's definitely benefits to amalgamation," he said.

"Until we finalize our discussions and do a couple of joint meetings, where we can see if we can get through a whole agenda, we'll find out from there."

Another concern is how the budget would be separated for policy and research. SIPA currently assesses a 40 cents per acre membership fee while ICDC collects \$1 per acre.

The subcommittee has suggested that most of the money should continue to go toward research until irrigation acres increase.

Only about 340,000 Saskatchewan acres are irrigated, but there is potential for more than 1.5 million

acres, according to SIPA.

As well, only about one-third of those acres are in irrigation districts.

The province gives \$100,000 a year to ICDC to compensate for the lack of research levy from non-district irrigators, but that could change in the future.

"The province has essentially said that the responsibility for this going forward will fall into the hands of ICDC," said VanderSchaaf.

However, Eliason said ICDC doesn't have an up to date list of non-district irrigators because of privacy legislation, and that has to be worked out before ICDC could consider administering the levy.

Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart introduced amendments to the 21-year-old Irrigation Act last fall, but the legislation has since been withdrawn.

Jason Drury, the ministry's irrigation manager, said there wasn't enough support for the bill, and more consultation will take place.

Most of the concern centred on fears about increased costs and liability to irrigation districts. The government wants to transfer irrigation assets to the districts, but farmers worry about what they would be taking on.



Only about 340,000 acres are irrigated in Saskatchewan, but some say there is potential for more than 1.5 million acres. | FILE PHOTO

"The ministry is still proceeding with doing the legwork required to transfer irrigation assets in five irrigation districts in the latter part of 2018," Drury said.

VanderSchaaf said farmers are nervous and say that if that happens there should be continued

support from government because irrigation benefits go far beyond the farmgate.

Next fall is the earliest the government would reintroduce legislation.

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Food companies embrace GM-free labelling

General Mills has taken this step as part of a plan to be more transparent

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

CHICAGO, Ill. — While the U.S. Department of Agriculture is busy devising federal regulations for labelling genetically modified food, some companies are getting out ahead of the game.

General Mills has been labelling its products for more than a year and now has a label on every product it sells in the United States.

“It was a massive step for our company because we were very concerned about how it would be received,” Catherine Gunsbury, director of sustainability and transparency at General Mills, told delegates attending the 2017 DTN Ag Summit.

“And I will say, it has been received without event, more or less.”

GM labelling is part of a broader company commitment to become more transparent.

The food industry behemoth felt it had to move in that direction because small food company competitors with shorter supply chains were not only telling consumers what was in their food but also where it came from.

“Consumers see that information and they say, ‘well, General

Mills, why can’t you, the \$15.6 billion global food company, tell me where my oats are coming from in my Cheerios box?’ ” said Gunsbury.

So the company is doing just that. This summer it launched a project with two of its biggest brands, Cheerios and Nature Valley, along with four Canadian oat growers.

“We photographed and took video of the entire seeding-to-harvest process,” she said.

“We’re just trying to pull the curtain back and share more about who is behind the food.”

Gunsbury said food companies have done a poor job of telling those stories in the past. She said the farm families were willing participants.

“They all had a very strong interest in sharing their story and helping more people understand what it is that they are doing on their farm.”

She said farmers feel misunderstood by the general public and want to dispel some of the myths surrounding agriculture.

They are still trying to find the best way to tell their story because each form of social media is different, she added, so they need to experiment and find the best fit.

“It really is a first step for us,” said

Gunsbury.

She said it is such a different world from how companies used to relate to their customers. In the past, General Mills would buy ads on television, radio, print or billboards.

“It is no longer us promoting brands and sending the message that we want. It is a two-way dialogue,” said Gunsbury.

That dialogue is not always pleasant, but the company is making the effort to engage and share more, which is a big transition.

Gunsbury said in the past General Mills wouldn’t share something with consumers until everything was perfect. However, with social media it is all about progress rather than perfection.

So these days the company is doing things such as sharing with consumers progress on its climate change, sourcing and water conservation commitments even if it is behind on some of those commitments.

That’s a big change from what was done in the past.

“We would have had a lot more hand-wringing about reporting that we were not meeting those numbers,” said Gunsbury.

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BLACK CHRISTMAS



Ed’s Tire of Carman, Man., took a different take this year on the traditional Christmas tree display. | JEANETTE GREAVES PHOTO

★
Sending wishes for a joyous season, and a prosperous New Year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From all of us at The Western Producer

Farm safety group restructures in Alberta

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

An organization formed to equip Alberta farmers and ranchers with farm safety information and guidance is now in transition.

AgSafe Alberta is an agricultural industry-led group formed after the provincial government enacted the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, previously known as Bill 6, amid much controversy.

Using \$500,000 from the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 program, various commodity groups established an organization to develop materials and assist farmers and ranchers who wanted more guidance on farm safety.

They hired an extension co-ordinator, Donna Trottier, and three advisers who do on-farm safety assessments upon request. The organization has also developed written materials and resources for safety training, safety planning,

hazard assessment and risk management.

Funding for those efforts will run out in February.

"We have all this great material, and a brand built and we don't want to drop the ball on farm and ranch safety so we're going to pass that on to the (newly formed AgSafe Society)," said Brian Kennedy of the Alberta Wheat Commission and a member of the AgSafe working group.

"When our funding expires, what we've built is being passed on to the society and hopefully there will be no gap between the end of the AgSafe working group and the newly formed society."

The AgSafe Society, officially formed in November, has elected Irma-area farmer Kent Erickson as chair and Erna Ference of Okotoks as vice-chair.

"We want to build on the education and awareness and the tools for farmers" that AgSafe has developed, Erickson said.

The society is in the process of setting up its bylaws and administration, and Erickson said it will likely meet again in January to work further on a plan for the future of AgSafe Alberta.

"One thing we do know for sure is that the program has been very well received by the farmers who have done it," said Erickson.

"We very much like the AgSafe program as it sits right now."

Trottier said the transition is being handled by a committee of agricultural commodity groups that are involved in forming the society and planning the program's future.

AgSafe Alberta has given presentations at various agricultural meetings this fall and they have been well received, she added.

Sherri Marthaller, AgSafe adviser, said at a recent meeting that the group's approach of breaking farm safety aspects into smaller components has proven popular.

She has been working with feedlot and livestock operations that



Sherri Marthaller, an adviser with AgSafe Alberta, said breaking farm safety into smaller components has proven popular. | BARB GLEN PHOTO

have requested help to improve farm safety.

"We certainly aren't trying to audit," said Marthaller. "We are there just to be a source of information for different people in agriculture if they've got questions or if they want information or some ideas."

Erickson said the society may try to access grants, government funds

or commodity group money to finance itself in the short term. In the long term, however, he believes industry funding will be more palatable to farmers and ranchers.

"We would really like it to be producer funded because we obviously want to be in control of it."

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Private funds eyed for wheat, barley research

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

BANFF, Alta. — There could be an appetite for private investment into wheat and barley research.

The federal government has designated funds for research under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, but industry is also expected to contribute money.

There is room for private contributions, said Holly Mayer of Agriculture Canada's science and technology division.

"One of the mechanisms that we are looking at to try and get more private sector involvement in breeding is partnerships in all aspects of the breeding continuum," she said at the Prairie Barley Summit in Banff Dec. 7.

"In wheat breeding we would like to move our resources upstream over time. It doesn't mean we are going to abandon variety development quickly, but we need other players to come in and take that space and add some competition," she said.

A working group has been looking at value creation and that is one way to encourage more private investment. The government has considerable resources in germplasm for wheat and barley breeding that could be shared.

"There needs to be an incentive for the private sector companies to come," she said.

"We want your sector to be competitive. We don't want to be seen holding back programs or putting out varieties that are not going to be adopted."

The discussion has been taking place since the end of the Canadian Wheat Board, said Tom Steve, general manager of the Alberta barley and wheat commissions.

"There was always an expectation there might be an environment for more private investment," he said in an interview.

"I think there is certainly in wheat. It is more tentative in barley."

Private companies want to invest in large acreage crops. Wheat acreage is available, but barley plantings have been declining for more than a decade.

Universities and government now handle wheat and barley breeding. Private companies may be interested if there was a good return on investment.

Barley and wheat are biologically different from corn and oilseeds such as canola and soybeans, where considerable work has gone on.

"It is harder to create a distinctive trait in wheat or barley than it is soybeans or canola," Steve said.

The new partnership goes into effect April 1, 2018, and replaces the Growing Forward program. However, the framework is similar with industry participation through research clusters.

Mayer said the CAP offers a \$3 billion investment over five years to expand markets. Science and innovation is one of the priority areas.

There will be federal-only programs as well as cost sharing agreements.

The science clusters continue to address priority themes that are national in scope. The deadline to apply for the next round of clusters is Feb. 1, 2018. Applications for smaller projects will be accepted at a later date.

Clusters are the model for federal research programs. They are unique because the commodities identify research priorities that are implemented by government or academic scientists.

"We as government looked to you as industry to tell us what your research priorities are," Mayer said.

Cluster research outcomes have greater relevance for the industry and have led to increased adoption by producers. They are expected to build scientific collaborations, advance research and provide industry benefits.

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Sask. farmers take flight of a lifetime as fundraiser

Pilots raise money for Hope Air, which provides medical flights for low income Canadians

BY WILLIAM DEKAY
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

While some vacationers head to sandy beaches this winter, three Saskatchewan farmers are taking to the skies to raise money for charity.

Harold Fast of Spiritwood, Colin Rosengren of Midale and Woodrow Stewart of Rocklenn are participating in the fundraising project Give Hope Wings, which kicks off Jan. 2.

That's when two high performance experimental aircraft will depart Kelowna, B.C., on a trip around North and South America to raise money for Hope Air.

They will fly south through the United States, Mexico, Central America and South America before travelling north along the east coast of Argentina and Brazil, and over the Caribbean to Florida and back home to Canada.

"Only the two planes will be flying in formation and in sight of each other for 20,000 miles (32,000 kilometres), 57 takeoffs and landings, through 20 countries, over a period of 60 days," said Bob Vance, one of the participants.

The planes are Vans RV home-built aircraft, which the Portland, Oregon, based company builds and sells in kits with final assembly being done by the owner.

"They can only fly two to four hours maximum. That's why there's so many takeoffs and land-

ings," said Vance.

The planes' owners, Dave McElroy of Kelowna and Russ Airey of Windsor, Ont., who are both accomplished formation flyers, will pilot them.

Now in its 30th year, Hope Air is a national charity that arranges free non-emergency medical flights for low-income Canadians who must travel far from home to access health care.

The fundraiser hopes to raise at least \$500,000 for the charity.

Organizers have divided the 32,000 km into eight segments, ranging from seven to 12 days of flight time.

With about 20 years of logging flights in his own plane, Fast will co-pilot Airey's plane.

"When I heard about Russ and Dave wanting to fly around Central America, it sounded like a good challenge," said Fast, who owns Fast Genetics.

"I'm quite looking forward to it. It's going to be a great way to spend January-February as an alternative to Spiritwood," he said.

Fast said rural Saskatchewan has stepped up and dug deep on several levels for the charitable effort.

"I'm pleased that we've got good ag representation partly on this trip with three participants, but also a lot of support from the ag community, which has stepped up really well and contributed a lot to that \$500,000," he said.

"I think that's good because agri-

culture is sometimes on the back burner."

Rosengren will be a newly licensed pilot by the time he joins the journey from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in February.

For him, the trip is an opportunity to get some international flight time with seasoned pilots and learn about the possibilities for doing an excursion of his own some day.

"To have that time with those guys is a wealth of experience, especially as a new pilot," he said.

"It'll be a great experience — to enlighten us and open the door and let us know the possibilities of what we can actually do with a small plane and a pilot's license."

Rosengren, who is part owner of the Three Farmers food processing business and involved with CleanSeed, will be keeping a eye out for agricultural production while flying over Brazil and may even harvest some ideas to use back home.

"It will be interesting to see what it looks like," he said.

"They're producing a lot of crops now that 20 years ago they weren't even on the radar in agricultural production. It'd be kind of neat to see that from the air and get that perspective of their production, of their infrastructure and see where things are at."

Fast said they may see pedigreed seed being grown for Canada while

FLIGHT ROUTE



Source: Give Hope Wings | DIANNA ROSKO GRAPHIC

flying over countries such as Chile. Canadian seed is often multiplied in the southern hemisphere over the winter, enabling seed companies to gain an extra season of production.

"It's pretty standard, but it's not something you think about when you're sitting in small town Saskatchewan in January that somebody's out there making my hybrid canola," he said.

The fundraiser is expected to garner a lot of media attention.

"Every 15 minutes you can go on Facebook or the website and you can find out where our planes are at any time," Vance said.

"It's going to be traceable."

However, the journey is expected to include its share of curve balls, and participants may have to "wing it" at times.

"Because we're stopping 57 times, we've got to go through customs in mainly Spanish speaking countries, and we're going to have a lot of holdups and waits and problems with guys that are walking down the airstrip with submachine guns," Vance said.

"It's going to be an exciting time."

For information about available seats during the flight, see give-hopewings.ca/volunteer-flight-crew.

william.dekay@producer.com



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FRIDAY AUG 3



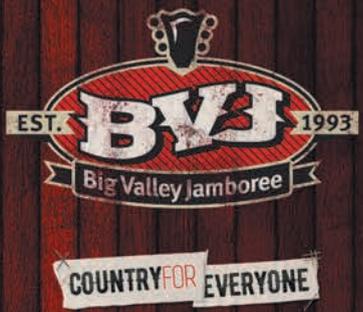
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FARMLIVING

A CHRISTMAS SCENE

The Harfman family have deep roots in their cattle and sheep ranch nestled in the picture postcard setting of British Columbia's Anarchist Mountain. | **Page 18**



FARM LIVING EDITOR: KAREN MORRISON | Ph: 306-665-3585 F: 306-934-2401 | E-MAIL: KAREN.MORRISON@PRODUCER.COM



LEFT: Stacey Buga, programming co-ordinator at the Morinville library, prepares for Christmas activities. | JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

ABOVE: Tianna the Traveller, more commonly known as Miranda Alleny, performs at the Light Up the Night festival in Morinville, Alta.

| TOWN OF MORINVILLE PHOTOS

Adventures of finding the 'perfect tree' bring smile

Looking Back: The hike was a family affair

BY SHERI HATHAWAY
FREELANCE WRITER

The tree is the focal point of any home at Christmas, often displaying sentimental ornaments and always creating cheerfulness and excitement.

For many families, bringing home the tree is a happy and much anticipated tradition.

When I was growing up on a farm near Marwayne, Alta., it was our usual habit to pack up hot chocolate and goodies and stuff us four kids with Dad into his old 1947 International half-ton for the drive to Whitney Lake to cut down a tree for Christmas.

It was before the days of seat belts, something the old blue truck didn't have anyway, and we happily rode along, wedged together, eating and listening to the radio.

At our destination, we waded through snow until we finally settled on our favourite tree and loaded it up for the trip home.

Depending on the depth of snow that year, we may be less picky about our choice. Hip-deep snow meant we chose one of the first trees we waded out to since we soon became too exhausted by the effort to search farther.

Today our prize would be scoffed at and dubbed a Charlie Brown tree, but on those branches hung our memories of the adventure so we loved it.

We proudly trimmed it with tinsel and homemade and/or other sentimental decorations — that is, after Dad untangled and repaired the lights.

Theft of trees out of a shelter belt was an annual downside for my dad. Every Christmas, he would check his windbreak on the east field by the highway and count how many trees had been taken.

Each summer, he tried to replace them but finally gave up. It's a theft that still continues today. The value of windbreaks is in conserving water on farms and providing shelter to domestic and wild animals.

These days, my custom of retrieving my tree involves a trip to the basement for the cardboard box. It's a habit I adopted after the kids grew up and the pre-lit feature held great appeal for me.

The simplicity of it suits me now, but occasionally I think wistfully of a fragrant fresh tree brought in from a memorable drive to the forest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 >>>



Minions made an appearance in the parade that ends with a wave from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Christmas festival lifts spirits, brings community together

Alberta town enjoys a weekend of festivities to 'bring back that small town feel'

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

MORINVILLE, Alta. — A Morinville museum exhibit opened a door into Christmas 100 years ago during the Alberta town's recent Light Up the Night Festival.

It included popcorn garlands, porcelain dolls, old teddy bears sitting around a tea set, ornaments made out of yarn and cookies and candles used as tree lights.

"They had real candles on the tree because there was no electricity," said museum co-ordinator Donna Garrett.

"They were old candles and it was special to light them. I'm sure there was a pail of water close by

just in case."

She said it's important for children today to learn about how the pioneers lived.

"The relationship from the past is getting further away, so if we don't preserve and show it, it will be gone," she said.

"People need to know where they come from and where they are going."

The Town of Morinville hosts its Christmas festival every year to connect neighbours with one another.

This season marked the 23rd annual weekend of festivities that included a Santa Claus parade, fireworks, a Christmas market and family skating.

The event grows each year, a

trend people in town say is consistent with Morinville's larger population.

"It's getting bigger and bigger," said Kathleen Ducharme, the town's events and cultural programmer.

"We try to make sure we give everyone the same fun experience, and there's still room to grow."

Across the street from the museum exhibit, the library hosted a choir and auction and offered a warm place indoors to watch the parade.

"Everyone teams up," said Stacey Buga, the library's programming co-ordinator.

It's a big event for the town that is well supported, with streets full of

people no matter how cold it is.

"I think for the community it is important for everyone to have an opportunity to come together," she said.

"A lot of people leave during this time to visit family or shop, so this is a good way to bring everyone together to bring back that small town feel," said Buga.

Ducharme agreed. "When winter comes in any community, people stay inside more often," she said.

"This is a great way for people to come outdoors and meet friends at the festival. It's a great way to get out and connect the community."

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Family diversifies, direct sells to allow ranch lifestyle

Couples switch to commercial cattle from purebreds

BY KAREN MORRISON
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

BRIDESVILLE, B.C. — Art Harfman recalled the moment he met his soul mate at a 4-H achievement day as a teenager.

"As soon as I laid my eyes on her, I said to myself, 'when I'm ready to marry, that's the girl it will be,'" he said.

A decade later, he married Norah and started raising a family on a purebred Hereford ranch on the Anarchist Mountain where his grandsons continue the 4-H tradition.

When Norah came to the Harfman farm, which was established by Art's parents, Jacob and Marguerite, in 1946, she also knew this was what she wanted.

"I loved it when I was first here," she said.

Art and Norah agreed it was the best place to raise their four sons despite the challenges they faced.

The Harfmans once had the largest purebred herd in the province, but Art cited a marked decline in cattle numbers in the region due to a blue tongue quarantine in the 1970s, followed by high interest rates in the 1980s, BSE in 2003 and high land prices today.

"We just about lost it all," said Norah.

Added Art: "When we get these extreme highs and extreme lows, it's hard on everybody.... You're only going to do it for so long for nothing and you either go broke or just quit."

They sold 800 acres of their original ranch and switched to commercial cattle to reduce the amount of paperwork involved.

"I said no more purebreds. It was a lot of work," said Norah.

Added Art: "We had to bite the bullet or lose everything."

The ranch once housed 700 head and covered 10,000 acres, which included leased crown land.

Art and Norah then started work-

(Jobs) have given us outside money to live off and try to make the ranch hold its own.... That's the story of pretty near everybody around here except the large operators.

ART HARFMAN
B.C. CATTLE PRODUCER

ing off the farm, he as a school bus driver and brand inspector and she as a teacher's aid and custodian.

"We'd never seen that on the farm," said Art of the \$60,000 they made off the farm in one year.

The ranch used to cost them \$300,000 to run.

"We were lucky if we broke even or didn't lose more than \$25,000 to 30,000 in our operation," he said.

Today, the Harfman's son, Grant, and his wife, Holley, are raising sheep and cattle on the 400-acre Circle Two Ranch with help from Art and Norah.

They live across the highway in Grant's grandparents' former home and also work off farm. He works in excavation and roadwork and she is a speech therapist.

In addition, they receive revenue from two rental trailers housed on the ranch.

Grant's grandfather was an immigrant who came to Canada to escape persecution in Yugoslavia.

Finding Manitoba too cold, he ventured further west and settled in British Columbia.

"Dad said if it wasn't for the water, he would have walked back (overseas)," said Art.

His father also earned extra money with sawmill and custom threshing work.

"He worked like heck and he could only think about cattle and farming," said Art. "(Jobs) have given us outside money to live off and try to make the ranch hold its



Grant, left, and Art Harfman take a stroll on their Circle Two Ranch at Bridesville, B.C.

Grant checks on his cattle.

Holley Harfman works on invoices for the ranch.

Norah Harfman treats her grandsons, Callum and Duncan, to after school snacks.

| KAREN MORRISON PHOTOS



ON THE FARM



THE HARFMAN FAMILY
Bridesville, B.C.

own.... That's the story of pretty near everybody around here except the large operators."

The Harfmans credit heavy black soil and a hard clay base that doesn't let the water drain away with helping them weather dry periods.

In addition, Art developed a finish ration for cattle of 80 percent barley mixed with beet pulp pellets, natural protein and minerals that allows for a four-pound daily gain rate.

"They come four to six times a day and eat a little bit and are far more efficient on it," he said.

"A beef animal will not eat more

than two lb. of grain for every 100 lb. of weight."

They keep horses but are more likely to move their cattle down the road to their leased acres by quads and bikes these days.

Grant took over the ranch recently to ensure it didn't get sold, with help from Farm Credit Canada. All names remain on the title with the arrangement giving cash to the elders and a mortgage to the younger couple.

"Once sold, we'd never afford to get it back," said Holley, whose summers off allow her more time to help on the farm with invoices and chores.

"I want to keep (cattle) for the future, but we couldn't make a living or have a lifestyle just on our animals," Grant said. "You always hope that things are going to get better, but I don't think so."

He and Holley do custom grazing, grow feed and often buy hay from his brother. They downsized their sheep herd to 10 from 30 recently because they didn't have enough animals to ship feasibly to markets on the West Coast.

They also keep poultry for their own uses.

"It pays the bills," Grant said.

"We're holding it where it's at. Other businesses are taking off and they pay better."

They direct market their stock off the farm and have spring and fall calves to make good use of their herd bull. They sell mainly by word of mouth and Facebook, are part of the B.C. Beef Net marketing group and are also featured on the B.C. Meats for B.C. Families website.

For 2018, the Harfmans all have winter vacations planned in California.

"Because Grant's business is at home ... most conversations are work based," said Holley.

"It's important to get away, relax and decompress."

Norah and Art plan an extended southern break in their RV.

They agree having two families involved allows each to get away.

The Harfmans look to the future, hoping to see agricultural land left in large tracts for those like them who choose ranching.

"We're not doing it because we have to do it but because we want to do it," said Grant.

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ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: A cranberry pistachio cheese log, bacon cheese dip, Spinnakers baked cheese and feta and lemon dip.
| SARAH GALVIN PHOTOS

Toppings and dips for casual Christmas entertaining

TEAM RESOURCES



SARAH GALVIN, BSHEC

Easy entertaining is the least stressful way to manage the holiday season. Make these ahead and keep in the refrigerator for those unexpected drop-in guests. Keep a selection of crackers on hand. Cheese is loved by almost everyone and dried fruits, honey and nuts complete a welcoming spread.

SPINNAKERS BAKED CHEESE

This was served at Spinnakers Pub in Victoria, B.C., and was a favourite among the customers. It can be frozen before or after baking.

- 1 1/2 lb. cream cheese 750 g
- 1 c. butter 250 mL
- 1 c. sour cream 250 mL
- 1 c. crumbled old white cheddar 250 mL
- 1/2 c. mushrooms, finely chopped 125 mL
- 1/2 c. sundried tomatoes, finely chopped 125 mL
- 1/4 c. chives, chopped 60 mL
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 tbsp. sweet paprika 30 mL

In the bowl of a stand mixer, blend the ingredients. Place in greased baking dishes. Bake at 350 F (180 C) until the cheese is warmed through and the top is golden brown. Serve immediately with crackers or fresh bread. It will keep for up to a week if tightly covered and refrigerated.

Source: adapted from Brewpub Cookbook.

BACON CHEESE DIP

- 1/2 c. sour cream 125 mL
- 4 oz. crumbled blue cheese 115 g
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened 85 g
- 2 tbsp. onion, finely diced 30 mL
- 1/8 tsp. hot sauce .5 mL
- 4 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled

Process the first five ingredients in a food processor until smooth. Scrape down the sides from time to time. Stir in half of the bacon and chill for two hours. Let stand at room temperature 15 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with remaining bacon. Serve with crackers.

CRANBERRY PISTACHIO CHEESE LOG

- Coating**
- 1 c. cranberries 250 mL
- 1 c. shelled pistachios 250 mL
- Cheese Log**
- 8 oz. goat cheese 250 g
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened 115 g
- 1 tbsp. sugar 15 mL
- 1 tbsp. honey 15 mL
- 1/4 tsp. each ground ginger, ground cinnamon, salt, dried thyme, dried rosemary 1 mL
- 1/8 tsp. pepper .5 mL
- 1/2 c. coating mixture 125 mL
- honey to garnish

Coarsely chop cranberries and pistachios. Remove 1/2 cup (125 mL) and add it to a medium bowl. Add all remaining ingredients to the bowl and stir to combine.

Scoop this cheese mixture onto a large piece of plastic wrap and form into the shape of a log. Wrap and freeze for 15 to 20 minutes. The cheese log should be slightly firm so it holds its shape but still soft enough for the coating to be pressed into it.

Place a large piece of parchment paper on the counter. Spread coating ingredients on the parchment paper into a single layer a little larger than the length of the cheese log. Roll cheese log in the mixture until evenly coated, pressing coating into the cheese so it sticks.

The cheese log can be refrigerated at this point until ready to serve or serve immediately or rewrap and refrigerate up to three days or freeze up to two weeks. Bring to room temperature before serving.

Drizzle generously with honey just before serving. Serve with crackers.

CRANBERRY ORANGE CHEESE BALL

This is sweet rather than savoury. It would be good in a dessert course.

- 5 tsp. orange zest 25 mL
- 1/2 c. powdered sugar 125 mL
- 1 tbsp. orange juice 15 mL
- 16 oz. cream cheese 500 g
- 1/2 c. dried cranberries 125 mL
- 1 c. candied pecans 250 mL

Add first four ingredients to the bowl of a stand mixer. Mix until well blended. Chill until firm.

Coarsely chop dried cranberries and candied pecans.

Place the cream cheese mixture on a large piece of plastic kitchen wrap and form into a ball. Chill until firm. Roll in the cranberry and pecans until the outside is fully coated. Wrap in plastic kitchen wrap and refrigerate until serving.

Remove from refrigerator 15 minutes before serving. Serve with crackers.

To make candy pecans, melt one-half cup (125 mL) of sugar in a pan over medium heat. When the sugar melts to a caramelized liquid, add nuts. Toss to coat and turn onto a piece of parchment paper to cool. When cool, roughly chop and use.

FETA AND LEMON DIP

This is so easy to make and can also be used as a topping for baked chicken or fish.

- 1 c. feta cheese, crumbled 250 mL
- 1 tbsp. grated lemon zest, plus more for garnish 15 mL
- 1-2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice 15-30 mL
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 6 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving 90 mL
- pinch of red pepper flakes
- crudites, chips, toasts or pita crisps for serving

Place the feta, lemon zest, one tablespoon (15 mL) lemon juice, garlic and olive oil in a bowl and stir until combined but still slightly chunky. Taste and if it's too salty, add more lemon juice.

Spoon into a serving bowl, drizzle with oil and sprinkle with a pinch of pepper flakes and lemon zest.

Serve with crudites, chips, toasts or pita crisps.

Source: adapted from *Sweet Paul Eat and Make*.

Sarah Galvin is a home economist, teacher and farmers' market vendor at Swift Current, Sask., and a member of Team Resources. She writes a blog at allourfingersinthepie.blogspot.ca. Contact: team@producer.com.



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Old church comes alive with candlelight service

Echoes and sentinels: St. Monica's Anglican church, built in 1895, was restored and is now a gathering place for the community

BY DUANE MCCARTNEY
FREELANCE WRITER

MIRROR, Alta. — A congregation breathed life into an abandoned northeastern Alberta church by holding a candlelight Christmas service this month.

St. Monica's Anglican log cabin church was built in Mirror and shut down 32 years ago but this summer area residents finished refurbishing it.

In the 1990s, Mirror museum

members took on the restoration project and had the grounds and building declared an Alberta historical facility.

Alberta Historical Society funds were available for restoration, but the process had to be documented and monies accounted for, said Dr. Chris Jensen, a retired veterinarian, wheelwright and president of the Mirror and District Museum.

"It is a great piece of history. In the inside of the old log church, you

can still see the stovepipe hole from the original pot belled stove.

The alterations and additions as well as the logs and chinking can be seen through an opening for viewing left in the refinished interior."

Rev. Don Friesen and Pastor Daniel Jefferies, area ministers, presided over the service.

"The church started as an open denominational gathering place in 1895 and again now has no denominational affiliations so it is for the entire community. We wanted the service to be an open community event for social interaction using the historic facility," said Jensen.

In the 1860s, a large settlement of Metis buffalo hunters settled the area around Buffalo Lake at Bios Hill along with a large establishment at Tail Creek.

When buffalo numbers dwindled, those early settlements disappeared and ranchers and farmers moved into the area by the 1890s.

In 1911, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway created a major divisional point at Mirror, named after the *Daily Mirror* newspaper in London, England. It also sat near a lake with clear water that reflected like a looking glass.

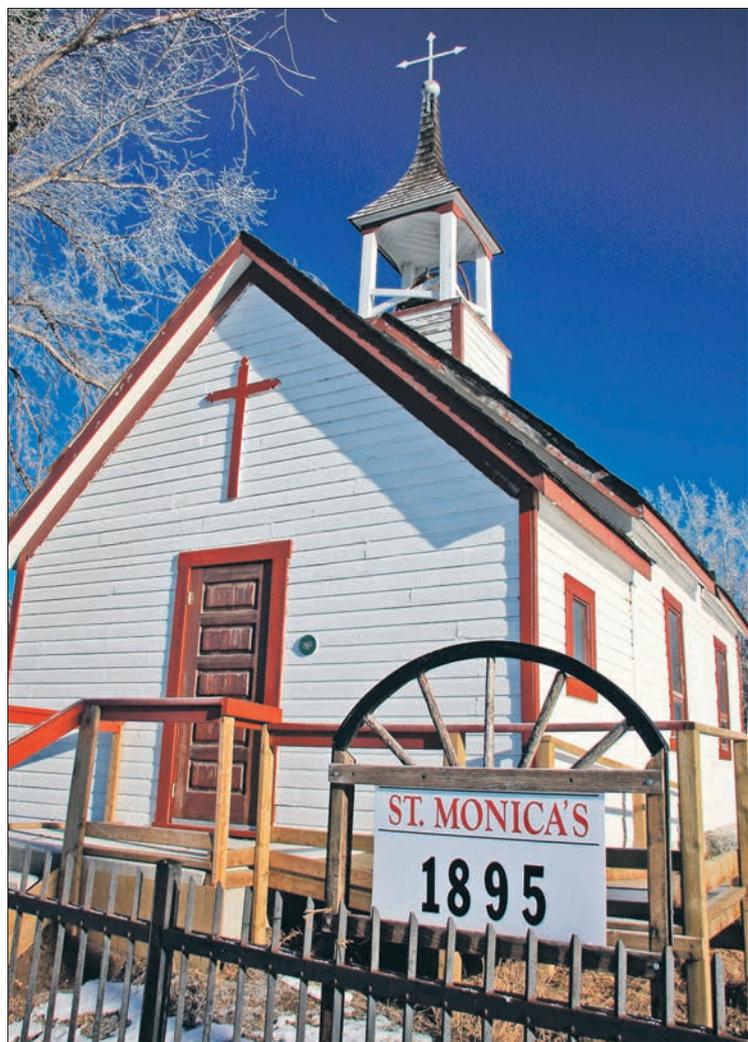
Many street names reflected the newspaper's staff. One colourful early resident was James Gadsby, a Civil war soldier, gunman, Jesse James gang member, prospector, whiskey runner, cowboy, wagon train boss and homesteader.

He helped build the church, and the Gadsby Lake district and school were named in his honor. In February of 1895, he participated in one of the early services led by Rev. H. Goodman. Pioneer missionary Bishop Pinkman dedicated the church on May 16, 1897.

Originally from St Catharine's, Ont., Gadsby made his living by substituting for young American boys that were being drafted into



Christmas carols accompanied by a guitar played by Pastor Daniel Jefferies were sung for the congregation at a Christmas candlelight service held in the Mirror, Alta., church. | DUANE MCCARTNEY PHOTOS



the Union army.

James charged a fee of \$500 and would enlist himself into the army then desert, move to a different area and do the process all over again under a different name until he was recognized by an officer.

He also fought with Lt. Col. George Custer in the battle with Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and tried prospecting in North Dakota before returning to Canada.

He settled on the first registered homestead in the area on a little lake near Lacombe, building a log cabin with a sod roof complete with a tin can chimney.

Gadsby moved goods with his

Red River cart from Lacombe along the old Buffalo Lake trail.

While freighting, he met his Cree wife, whose wagon was stuck in the mud. They drove to a nearby trading post, found a priest to marry them and remained together for the next 40 years.

He was a religious man who prayed daily and had all of his eight children baptized in the log church. One daughter was married there.

Gadsby's family did not receive a formal education because he felt the white man's teachings would change the First Nations' way of life.

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

TIPS FOR CUTTING YOUR OWN TREE ON CROWN LAND:

Don't travel into the woods if it's storming or snowing heavily. Tell someone when you are leaving and where you will be travelling.

Prevent waste. Trees that have been cut down and left in the forest create a summer fire hazard. Be sure of your choice before you cut. Remember some provinces allow only one tree per permit.

Use a sharp axe and cut as close to the base of the tree as possible.

Don't leave your snack or other garbage in the forest.



Christmas 1952: Betty Anne, left, Sheri and Marilyn Hathaway. This picture shows an unusually resplendent tree, not the usual for our family Christmases.

| HATHAWAY FAMILY PHOTO

Most trees are purchased from stores or temporary vendors, but some families still connect special customs to its homecoming.

Others prefer a do-it-yourself option involving a festive drive in the country. They may visit a U-cut business where groomed trails give

access to rows of cultivated trees.

Some prefer roughing it in the bush by taking a drive to crown land where they can get out in nature and chop down a tree.

It is an old custom but some aspects have changed over time. Crown land is managed now by provincial forestry services.

A permit is needed although the cost is minimal and in British Columbia, it is free. Each province's forestry department can advise on areas to go and will give special tips.

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High blood pressure can lead to stroke

HEALTH CLINIC



CLARE ROWSON, MD

Q: I am in my late 60s and I have heard that as you get older, your blood pressure reading can be a little higher than in younger people. Is this true? What is an ideal blood pressure level for people of my age group? I am taking two different blood pressure medications and my reading is 160 and 85. Do I still need to take both medications? I am also a diabetic.

A: In Canada, the recommended acceptable blood pressure for someone with diabetes is 130mmHg over 80mmHg or even less.

The higher number is known as the systolic blood pressure and the lower one is the diastolic.

Your blood pressure is still slightly raised and it could be lot higher if you were not taking your medications. I am guessing that they consist of an ACE inhibitor and a diuretic.

Without them, I am sure your blood pressure would be elevated, and you might be at risk for having a stroke.

Diabetics are already in a high risk group. Some people think that their blood pressure is cured by the medications, but it is only controlled as long as they are taken.

Recent U.S. studies have suggested that you can get away with a slightly higher blood pressure reading if you are an older individual.

According to new guidelines for physicians issued by the American College of Physicians, high blood pressure treatment or anti-hypertensive treatment should be commenced in adults aged 60 years and older who have persistent systolic blood pressure at or above 150mmHg.

"The evidence showed that any additional benefit from aggressive blood pressure control is small, with a lower magnitude of benefit and inconsistent results across outcomes," said college president Dr. N.S. Damale.

This recommendation even applied to diabetics, but the doctor stressed that cardiovascular risk should be assessed on an individual basis.

SEEING STARS?

The opposite of high blood pressure is hypotension. Many people experience a drop in blood pressure when they get up too fast. This is called orthostatic hypotension and dizziness lasts a short time.

Other types of hypotension can be caused by dehydration, medications and allergies.

Clare Rowson is a retired medical doctor in Belleville, Ont. Contact: health@producer.com.

YULETIDE AT THE LAKESIDE



Jackie Majchrowski and Stephen Davidson of Osoyoos, B.C., check out Christmas wreaths, bushes and trees at Garden Works at the Yuletide at the Lakeside Market in Penticton, B.C. Rain and cool temperatures kept crowds to a minimum for activities ranging from pony rides to cookie decorating. Visitors also enjoyed the parade floats, and children had a chance to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus. | KAREN MORRISON PHOTO

How to help son work through nighttime fears

SPEAKING OF LIFE



JACKLIN ANDREWS, BA, MSW

Q: After scrimping and saving for a long time, my husband and I were able to put enough money together to buy a decent sized house for our family. It is great but we have run into a problem.

Since we moved into our new home about four months ago, our six-year-old has developed some kind of a phobia for the house. Almost every night, he ends up in our room, crying to us because he is afraid and markedly determined not to go back to his own room.

We have cuddled him, assured him and talked to him. We have punished and rewarded him. Nothing seems to work. Can you offer suggestions?

A: Let's better understand what is going on with your son. The compartments built in the brain focus on thinking and ideas in addition to emotions or feelings.

When your son is running out of his bedroom, he is in the emotional part of his neurological structure but that is not what he finds when he comes into your room. You and your husband are caught up thinking.

Simple logic tells you that your son has nothing to fear in his bedroom. That is what you are telling him and, in doing so, you are bringing into play the thinking part of the brain.

Here is the problem. The thinking part of his brain has already told him, like you did, that he has nothing to fear but it did not work.

Can you imagine how frustrating it is for your son to think that he is not being heard?

Your best bet is to establish some kind of an emotional contact with your son, with the emotional part of your brain talking to the emotional part of his brain.

When you were a child, you also had fears. How about sharing them with your son, comparing and contrasting your fears with his?

If nothing else, this exchange reinforces your parent-child relationship and that is fundamental to anything you might expect or want from your son.

You cannot let him haunt your bedroom. He has to learn to deal with his own room and he cannot do that when he is crawling under your sheets.

He does not have to challenge his room all by himself but has you on his side. You can lie on his bed and listen to the various noises or sounds he is hearing. You can see the strange configurations of shadows haunting him and understand that this is frightening to him.

That other house might not have been as big or nice as this one is, but it was his home. He knew what the

shadows were and he was familiar with all of those house noises that we tend to ignore.

All of this is intimidating to him, but it does not mean that it is intimidating to you.

I expect that you are quite comfortable in your new setting and that is what he needs.

He needs your comfort in the face

of his fears. Through the security that you are sharing with your son, he will settle himself and shortly go to bed reassured that his fears are not going to chase him down the hallway to his parents.

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



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Sask. leaseholders given incentive to buy crown land

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Saskatchewan has announced another incentive program as it tries to sell agricultural crown land.

This program is being described as “targeted” because it is aimed at current leaseholders of cultivated or formerly cultivated land and offers them a 10 percent incentive until March 31, 2018.

Lessees aren’t obligated to buy, but if they don’t they will see a 45 percent premium tacked on to their formula rental rate. There was a 15 percent premium in 2016 and 30 percent premium this year.

The program is being offered to only the 1,100 people whose leases are subject to the premium.

This includes an estimated 300,000 acres out of the more than six million acres under agricultural lease.

“This focused incentive program supports our government’s consistent approach to putting land in the hands of producers in cases where there is no higher public good from an ecological, environmental, heritage or economic perspective,” Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said in a news release.

The program will not include land used by grazing co-operatives or the former federal pastures, even if they contain cultivated or formerly cultivated land.

Other land previously deemed ineligible for purchase will remain that way.

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300,000

ACRES OUT OF THE MORE THAN SIX MILLION LEASED ACRES ARE AFFECTED

NATURE’S CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



A spruce tree with cones decorated with hoarfrost in a shelter belt near Chamberlain, Sask., makes a nice holiday scene. | MICKEY WATKINS PHOTO

B.C. to continue with Site C dam

Farmers in the Peace River Valley of northeastern British Columbia are dismayed by the decision

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

The British Columbia government is forging ahead with building the controversial Site C dam project, a decision that is leaving ranchers and farmers along the construction route disappointed.

Premier John Horgan announced Dec. 11 that the government will continue to construct Site C, a \$10.7-billion project located on the Peace River near Fort St. John, B.C.

Farmers and ranchers along the construction route are being forced to leave because once the dam is complete, it will divert the river and flood farmland.

The project was initially started

by the previous Liberal government but, when the NDP took power, Horgan promised he would get the B.C. Utilities Commission to review the project’s viability.

Upon reviewing the commission’s findings, Horgan said during a news conference that B.C. had no choice but to go ahead with the project. If the government chose to stop it and remediate the land, it would have cost \$4 billion.

“This is not a project we favour or one we would have started, but we’re three years in,” Horgan said. “But we have to make a decision. It’s not an easy one, but we have to focus on the future and deliver.”

But producers who are losing their

homes and land because of the project say the government should have walked away from Site C.

Ken Boon, president of the Peace Valley Landowners Association, said B.C. doesn’t need this new power source right away, arguing the government could have installed renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal or wind in the future.

“We’re devastated,” said Boon, who farms near Fort St. John. “To flood the only Class 1 farmland for power that we don’t need right now is unfortunate. Constructing dams is becoming more costly and renewables are only getting cheaper.”

Those in favour of the dam have argued the project is necessary

because it will help bring utility rates down and ensure construction jobs aren’t lost.

Horgan said it was tough weighing both sides of the debate, but argued he had to do what was best for the province.

He said if the dam project was killed, average electricity rates would go up by \$198 per year and debt would skyrocket, which would make it more challenging for the government to borrow and build new schools or hospitals.

The dam, which has yet to face another court challenge, has been slated to be complete by 2024. It’s estimated it will produce enough power for 450,000 homes.

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PRODUCTION

WORLD'S BIGGEST PLANT: 5 KM ACROSS

Knowing the honey mushroom can lead to knowing others better, says researchers. | Page 26



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Go narrow or go home

Narrow mindedness is a virtue when designing fertilizer applicators

BY RON LYSENG
WINNIPEG BUREAU

FARGO, N.D. — The split nitrogen trend sent Unverferth back to the drawing board for a new applicator specifically for split application. While there, they made it the narrowest applicator in the industry.

“The NutriMax is definitely a split application machine. That’s what our engineers had in mind when they started with a fresh sheet of paper,” said Unverferth representative Eric Myhre, adding that the narrow width makes it a safer machine in transit.

He said there is a strong trend for ag implement manufacturers to make narrower machines for transit.

“At a fold-up width of just 14 feet, seven inches, it’s the narrowest applicator on the market,” he said.

“We brought this 60-foot NutriMax to (the) Big Iron (farm show in Fargo). It’s folded up now to 14 feet, seven inches, but our 90-foot machine folds up just as tight.”

In terms of safety, a narrow implement should be a safer implement in transit, but NutriMax applicators do not have brakes as standard equipment or as an option.

Myhre said the growing demand for applicators capable of performing in-crop nitrogen application prompted Unverferth to design a new machine from the ground up, specific to the requests they heard from farmers. He said there are two main reasons why producers are switching to in-season fertilizer application: economical and environmental.

“Traditionally, guys put all their fertilizer down in the spring and hoped for rain. If the rain didn’t come on time, they wasted money. Or, if there was a deluge early in the growing season, fertilizer was washed away. Wasted money and nutrients into the waterways,” he said.

“That leads to the second reason for split application: environmental concerns. Putting down more nutrients than the crop can use allows those nutrients to escape into the creeks and rivers and lakes. We can’t do that.”

Myhre said split application address both concerns. In the spring, you put just enough nutrient in the ground to get the crop going. He emphasized using just enough to get it growing. Once it’s up, you assess the crop and soil moisture and then decide how much more fertilizer the crop needs.



Some of our customers doing split application report yield increases of 20 percent to 30 percent. They make sure the crop is properly fed, but not over-fed.

ERIC MYHRE
UNVERFERTH REP

“Some of our customers doing split application report yield increases of 20 percent to 30 percent,” he said.

“They make sure the crop is properly fed but not over-fed.”

The NutriMax was introduced in 2016. The 60-foot machine on display was new for 2017. In the transit mode, the tank is somewhat concealed. It doesn’t look very big at all.

“Looks are deceiving. There’s actually a 2,600 gallon tank in there,” Myhre said.

“In fertilizer applicators, everybody’s looking for bigger tanks. We have tanks at 1,400 gallons, 1,800 gallons and this 2,600 gallon unit.”

Unverferth says that with crop clearance of 36 inches, NutriMax does not quite qualify as a high clearance machine.

In corn, producers use their NutriMax to apply nitrogen in the V4 to V10 stages, which he says

works well. Other growers do split applications in sugar beets and a few have started using the machine for split application in cereals. There is no provision for blending on the go. The liquid must be blended before pumping into the tank.

Coulters are in fixed positions with spacings of 20, 22 or 30 inches.

Myhre said the toolbar is unique to the industry. A farmer can buy one spacing setup to begin with. If his field management changes, he can then change the toolbar over to either of the other two setups.

Getting the last few gallons out of any tank is a problem if you’re working on side slopes. NutriMax addresses that issue with a containment tank that functions as a sump within a sump, so the last 30 gallons are used up.

The tank also has a stainless steel baffle for load stability.

The machine has a three-inch quick-fill for fast loading at ground level. There’s a nine-gallon clean water tank with an eye wash device for quick response. The pump uses pulse-width modulation technology to maintain correct pressure at varying ground speeds.

An optional steerable hitch is available. The steering software is programmed so the applicator



TOP: Unverferth says it has set a new industry standard with their 14-foot nine-inch wide NutriMax fertilizer applicator.

ABOVE: Looks are deceiving. There’s a 2,600 gallon tank hiding inside this compact applicator. The NutriMax has an optional steering system but there are no brakes as standard equipment or as an option. | ROBIN BOOKER PHOTOS

automatically follows in the tractor tracks.

Depending on size and options, prices range from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

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Visit us online at www.producer.com to see a video about this story.

New Gators redesigned for comfort

With a cab worthy of any farm equipment, the new UTV gets heat and air

BY ROBIN BOOKER
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

RED DEER — John Deere has focused on operator comfort in its latest design for the Gator utility vehicle.

The gas-powered Gator XUV835 and the diesel-powered Gator XUV865 have three-wide seating, as well as heat and air conditioning in versions that come equipped with the cabs.

“All the cabs will be plug and play,” said Jim Schielke of Cervus Ag Equipment at the Agri-Trade equipment show held in Red Deer in November.

“It will make installing stuff easier, and the owner will be able to do a lot of it himself.”

Operators accustomed to John Deere tractors will feel at home in the robust and sound dampening cabs on the new Gators.

With heating and the air conditioning, Gators can become a more useful year-round tool.

The passenger seat also hides a large storage with a drain hole in it area beneath it, so operators can store drinks packed in ice inside and have easier clean out.

But the enhanced comfort comes at a cost.

“This unit, in Canadian dollars right now, ballparks around \$32,000. That will get you the power dump and the air conditioning and the heater in the cab.

“When you start getting it down to base models we’re down into the \$22,000 to \$23,000 range.”

He said the top-of-the-line model with cloth seats and brown interior costs more than \$34,000, and the diesel option adds even more.

The gas-powered vehicle has 54 horsepower, while the diesel comes in at 24 h.p. The XUV835 gas vehicle reaches speeds of 72 km-h while the XUV865 diesel offers a top speed of 48 km-h.

Both Gator models have a 454-kilogram cargo box capacity, and a towing capacity of



The John Deere Gators XUV835 and XUV865 now come with a solid cab that will make farm work much more comfortable. | ROBIN BOOKER PHOTO

907 kg.

“John Deere usually doesn’t get too crazy with their towing capacity (with utility vehicles). They don’t want the weight of your trailer to be heavier than the unit that’s towing it. So they do limit towing capacity for safety’s sake,” Schielke said.

Power steering comes standard with both gas and diesel models, but base models can still be delivered with arm-strong steering.

“The top-line models we had before, the 825i, that unit is going to be our base model now and you can get it without power steering,”

Schielke said.

John Deere Gator utility vehicles are designed and built in Horicon, Wisconsin.

“It’s a state of the art factory, that when they get it rolling you will be able to order all the options and get them factory installed, just like

you’re ordering a car or truck,” Schielke said.

The Gator XUV835 and XUV865 utility vehicles are expected to show up at John Deere dealerships on the Prairies early next year.

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Autoparts maker buys MacDon; sees ‘growth potential’ in ag

BY ROBERT ARNASON & MICHAEL RAINE
BRANDON BUREAU

An Ontario company is buying MacDon Industries, a Winnipeg manufacturer of agricultural equipment known for its windrowers and headers, for \$1.2 billion.

Linamar, based in Guelph, Ont., manufactures auto parts, Skyjack lift equipment and since 1992 with the acquisition of Hungarian farm machinery builder, Mezogep, has produced combine headers under the Harvestec brand.

“MacDon is an innovative market leader... They have number one market share in each of their key products,” Linamar chief executive officer Linda Hasenfratz, said in a conference call with media and market analysts Dec. 14.

“We think there is significant growth potential ... because the agricultural market is in the early stages of cyclical recovery ... (and)



MacDon’s history of providing rugged and unique harvest tools for small grains and oilseeds producers stretches back through modern agriculture’s history. Products like this 972 draper header being updated at Rocky Mountain Equipment in Oyen, Alta., are good examples of long-term reliability of brand. | FILE PHOTO

there is a lot of opportunity to grow the business globally. A high percentage of sales today are in North America.”

A purchase price of \$1.2 billion is a relatively small acquisition for

Linamar, the second largest auto parts manufacturer in Canada. The public company has \$6 billion in annual sales, 59 manufacturing plants around the globe and 24,500 employees.

With around 1,400 employees at its Winnipeg plant, MacDon is one of the largest agricultural manufacturers in Western Canada. The company is best known for combine and swather headers, and its products, including forage equipment, are sold in about 40 countries.

“They have a fantastic dealer and distribution network.... They have great relationships with their dealers,” Hasenfratz said. “Over the last five years ... (annual) sales have been in the range of \$550 to \$650 million, with EBITDA margins typically in the range of 20 to 25 percent.”

MacDon announced several years ago, during the biggest run up in commodity prices the industry has ever seen, that it was seeking \$1 billion for the business, but buyers were not found.

Linamar’s main business is auto parts, and diversifying the company into agriculture was appealing, Hasenfratz said.

She said MacDon is known for its

market-leading innovation.

“Their technology is supported by over 100 unique patents and an additional 30 pending, on a global basis,” she said, adding Linamar feels positive about the growth opportunities within global agriculture. “It’s a great time to step into the market and really take advantage of things starting to improve.”

Linamar expects to close its purchase of MacDon in the first quarter of 2018.

Started after the Second World War, Killbrey Industries built a variety of agricultural equipment including sprayers, grain augers, seeders, and cultivators. In 1951 Killbrey produced one of the first self-propelled swathers. In 1971 the MacDonald family bought the company and focused production on harvesting equipment, later changing the name to MacDon Industries.

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Speed and quality outrank size

It's easy to say size doesn't matter when you have the biggest one on the block

BY RON LYSENG
WINNIPEG BUREAU

LANGHAM, Sask. — The vertical tillage equipment introduced to Western Canada a decade ago evolved into the latest generation of high-speed compact cultivators. But the story doesn't stop there.

Lemken has been at the forefront of these changes since 2006, but it says terms like vertical tillage don't apply to its way of thinking about the way steel interacts with soil.

"We prefer to call it strategic tillage," said Laurent Letzter, director of sales for Lemken Canada. Letzter was at last summer's Ag in Motion show to demonstrate to farmers some of the things the Heliodor 9 could accomplish.

"We get asked quite often for a definition of vertical tillage, but there is not a clear answer to that, so we don't use that term. We try to promote the idea of a strategy. The first question should always be, 'what do you want to achieve with your soil?'"

"Is there too much residue because of an exceptional crop? Are there glyphosate resistant weeds you can kill with tillage? Or maybe you have some fields you had to spray because they flooded out. Or bad tire ruts. Before you discuss a machine, you have to discuss the agronomic issues."

Letzter said the wide range of options and adjustments on the Heliodor 9 means the machine can perform a wide range of tasks. He said the machine might not be used on every field every year, but it can be set up to perform a different task on each field.

Many growers now plant canola with a corn planter to attain optimal seed placement, but at the other extreme, some producers use their Heliodor 9 to seed canola in a year that's too wet for their regular seeding rig. The Heliodor can also be coupled to the Lemken Solitaire air drill to do seed bed preparation and seeding in a single pass.

"This machine has the capability to create an excellent seed bed down to 2.5 inches, so you can incorporate seed and work it down precisely to the depth you need," he said.

"So you at least get a crop."

The radical geometry of the discs is noticeable. The disc angle is 10.5 degrees to the soil surface and 16.5 degrees to the direction of travel. Penetration of the 20-inch concave discs is adjustable from two to five inches. Letzter said depth is one of the two main adjustments on the Heliodor. He said many people don't understand that speed is the other adjustment that is often overlooked.

"Everybody is talking about high-speed cultivators, but I'm sorry, it's not just a matter of going fast. Speed is one of your main adjustments. You have different impact on the soil at different speeds," he said.

"You need a minimum speed of about four m.p.h. to cut the soil surface. That gives you a full cut, so



With the depth control rollers at the back and the short distance between them and the working tools, depth control on the Heliodor 9 is very precise, says Lemken's Laurent Letzter. | ROBIN BOOKER PHOTOS



Although the official company line says cultivator speed and quality of job are more important than size, Lemken's Laurent Letzter doesn't mind mentioning that the Heliodor is the biggest compact disc on the market.

Everybody is talking about high-speed cultivators, but I'm sorry, it's not just a matter of going fast.

LAURENT LETZTER
LEMKEN

then you can get into the cutting and mixing. But next you have the crumbling function, and that requires more speed. It won't happen at four m.p.h. If you want good soil contact with the seed, you need a fine textured soil, so that's where speed comes in."

Lemken says the Heliodor easily works at speeds up to 12 m.p.h., but Letzter cautioned that working too fast can turn soil into light fluffy dust that's easily eroded by wind or water. If that's what you see when you get out to check, then you have to slow down.

Finding and adjusting to the right speed is all a matter of trial and error. You keep checking and adjusting.

Letzter thinks a lot of prairie farmers have had trouble accepting the concept of the European style high-speed compact disc

cultivators.

"Farmers have been reluctant because the purpose of these machines hasn't been explained. They weren't properly introduced to the concept," he said.

"For one thing, compared to conventional North American cultivators, the depth of all these machines is controlled by rollers at the back. The American machines are controlled by wheels in the centre, but they leave marks and compaction.

"Distance between the roller and the working tool in the ground is very short so you have very precise depth control. If you want to work at two inches, you need precise control."

Manufacturers of high-speed compact cultivators always emphasize speed and quality of the finished job. They shy away from the most common question asked by prairie farmers: "what's the biggest size you make?"

Letzter said he agrees that emphasis should be on quality of the work rather than on size, but then laughed and added, "our biggest one is 52 feet. That's the biggest size on the market anywhere."

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Heliodor disk geometry is noticeably radical with an angle of 10.5 degrees to the soil's surface and 16.5 degrees to the direction of travel.

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Humungous fungus is largest living organism on Earth

Measuring five kilometres across, the honey mushroom is edible

BY RON LYSSENG
WINNIPEG BUREAU

The largest living terrestrial being on Earth isn't a whale, elephant or giant sequoia. It's a 9,000-year old mushroom that measures 5.5 kilometres across and eats fir trees.

There's a total of 10 trillion or more types of soil bacteria. There

can be more than a million in a teaspoon of soil. When we narrow this general branch of soil bacteria down to soil fungi only, we still have a list of 100 billion types.

One single big parasite in particular, called the honey fungus or honey mushroom, *Armillaria solidipes*, has a strong population in British Columbia, Washington

and Oregon, according to Jesse Morrison, a forage plant breeder at Mississippi State University.

The law of the jungle says "you eat it before it eats you." Loggers in the Pacific Northwest probably feel that way about the honey mushroom because of the fact that it has an appetite for fir trees. The fungus feeds on the very trees needed by the lumber industry, making it a very unpopular part of the local ecology.

It gained notoriety in the late 1990s as the secret killer attacking fir trees on the West Coast. Fir is considered to be the best of the softwood lumber species. The natural action of the fungus has led to widespread die-off in stands of fir.

According to the Soil Science Society of America, honey mushrooms grow to such a tremendous size because individual mushrooms can fuse together into larger mushrooms when they touch. Morrison said these characteristics of the fungi could be put to good use by plant breeders, once they're understood.

"When mycelia from different individual honey fungus bodies meet, either down in the soil or up on the surface, they attempt to fuse to each other," Morrison said.

"The fungi must be genetically identical. When the mycelia successfully fuse to each other, they link very large fungal bodies together. This, in turn, changes extensive networks of fungal 'clones' into a single giant individual."

Mushrooms typically grow on moist logs or saturated soil with wet rotting vegetation. The fungi break down decaying plant material into nutrients that other plants then access to grow.

However, parasites can damage their host organisms. In the case of honey mushrooms, they grow in individual networks called mycelia, which function like plant roots. They draw water and nutrients from the soil to feed the fungus. If there are weakened or stressed trees, the mushroom robs enough water and nutrient to kill them. The larger the mycelia grows, the hungrier it becomes.

However, there is one positive aspect of the underground network of mycelia of all fungi. They help hold soil particles together. Just like plant roots, mycelia work to prevent soil erosion from wind and



The largest living organism in the world is this honey fungus mushroom found in Oregon. The underground network measures 5.5 miles across and is believed to be more than 2,000 years old. |

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO



Perhaps one day, research discoveries about honey fungus could lead to a new medicine, or new ways to grow food. The possibilities are endless."

JESSE MORRISON
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

water. This is especially important in the Pacific Northwest because of the predominance of steeply sloped landscapes.

Morrison said the underground structures are generally not found very deep in the soil. Honey fungi are aerobic organisms, meaning they must have access to oxygen in order to survive. The extent to which they're found is completely dependent on soil structure and texture.

As you dig deeper in the soil profile, you encounter increasingly compact layers of soil, generally too low in oxygen to support fungi. In the deepest forest soils of the Pacific Northwest, they occur as deep as 1 1/2 meters. However, they can colonize around roots of infected trees, so you could potentially find them at depths up to 31/2 metres.

Morrison, who specializes in forage agronomy and plant breeding, said there's an obvious positive aspect of the honey fungus and associated research. In an email interview, he said that understanding how it can develop a massive mycelia system that extends for miles may be the key to breakthroughs in health and agriculture.

"As a plant breeder, I see two types of potential benefits. This is a parasitic fungus, which is generally something we avoid in agriculture. But the traits that make it so effective at taking over individuals such as large trees could be useful in the future of agriculture," he said.

"Geneticists are looking for ways to combat toxic fungi in human food crops. If they can identify and harness the genes responsible for the aggressive nature of honey fungus, it could be of particular benefit in fighting crop diseases.

"Also, these fungi are remarkably adept at breaking down organic compounds, both beneficial and non-beneficial. The opportunities to test honey fungus as a potential candidate in 'myco-remediation' are always present and worth a shot, I think. Perhaps one day, research discoveries about honey fungus could lead to a new medicine or new ways to grow food. The possibilities are endless."

Contrary to popular belief, honey fungus is not named for flavour. It's anything but sweet. It's named for the honey-like colour of its cap, said Morrison.

"It's mildly poisonous to humans in raw form, but it's edible when fully cooked," he said.

"Honey fungus is widely regarded in wild food foraging circles as a highly prized find. Across several European countries, honey fungus is not only considered edible but is held in high regard with a flavour exceeding that of morels and chanterelles. A famous Italian chef, Antonio Carluccio, says it's delicious with spaghetti and red chili."

However, it's not likely that human demand will consume enough of the fungus to solve the fir tree problem in the Pacific Northwest.

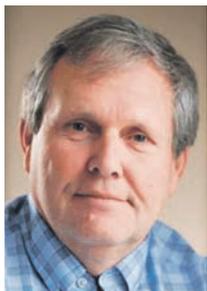
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FMC Corporation
Saskatoon, SK

FMC develops new crop protection products for Canadian farmers. Mitch works with companies to help bring the new products to market. These products are both synthetic and biological, which include herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

"The Professional Agrologist (PAg) designation provides opportunity to network and build relationships with other professionals in the industry."

Mitch grew up in Winnipeg, MB. He received a BSc in Agriculture majoring in plant physiology and an MSc in agriculture with a focus on agrometeorology from the University of Manitoba. Mitch has previous work experience in product development, research, sales and account management, and taught precision agriculture at the community college level.



Karen Patz, PAg
Regional Manager
Environmental Scientist & Project Manager
Arcadis Canada Inc.
Calgary, AB

Karen provides consulting, reclamation and remediation services to public and private sectors, which include mining, transportation, oil and gas, and infrastructure, across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Her services include indoor air quality, due diligence, environmental monitoring, Phase I, II and III, Detail Site Assessments, and Reclamation Certificate Applications.

"Being registered as a Professional Agrologist (PAg) assures clients and the public that I'm qualified and committed to maintain continuing professional development and to following a strict code of ethics and practice standards."

Karen was born in Nanaimo, BC and grew up in Qualicum Beach and Victoria, BC. She received a BSc in Biological Sciences from the University of Calgary. Karen previously worked for Matrix Solutions Inc. and North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc. before joining Arcadis in 2016.

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NIKKI WIART

Judy Hopps is tiny and adorable and has dreamed her entire, short life of being the first ever bunny police officer. As a child and a rabbit in the Disney animated feature *Zootopia*, she's told by the local bully (an unintelligent, overall-wearing fox) she'll never be anything other than a "stupid, carrot-farming, dumb bunny."

Her farming parents tell her the secret to being happy is to give up on her dreams, and settle — settle hard, her mother says.

When Judy is forced to quit her job as a police officer in the enlightened metropolis of *Zootopia*, she heads back to her parents' carrot farm in Bunnyburrow with her once-perky ears flopped and her fluffy tail between her legs.

That's example one. Here's another:

At the beginning of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, Galen Erso, scientist and Death Star mastermind, is found and taken from the agrarian planet of Grange. "You're a hard man to find," Orson Krennic tells him. "But, farming? Really? A man of your talents?"

These characters, Judy and Galen, have two things in common: they have farming backgrounds; and they're considered heroes.

But why aren't the farmers in these stories heroes for being, well, farmers, for growing the life-sustaining magic we colloquially refer to as food?

Popular media characterizes farmers as uneducated, hillbilly bigots. Think Elmer Fudd and Dwight Schrute from the TV series *The Office*.

Even in children's classics like *Babe* and *Charlotte's Web*, where the farmers portrayed are more redeemable characters, they're white males.

Although it's demographically accurate, children who aren't white, and who aren't male, can't see themselves in those roles.

"Those of us who are involved absolutely have to be out there in the public eye, and we really need to coach up those of us who are seen as fringe groups," Andy Overbay, a senior agriculture agent with Virginia Tech in Virginia's Smyth County, told me in a recent phone conversation.

"One of the things I have to be at least cognizant of is I'm out there trying to tell people that it's not a sport for older white guys, yet I'm an older white guy."

Overbay studied the perceptions fourth-grade children had of farmers as part of his PhD research.

What the 40-plus-year-old farmer and educator found was those children identified farmers through the image of Old MacDonald — an old, white male with a beard, wearing a straw hat and jean overalls.

He also discovered that the children believed farmers couldn't read, and if they did, didn't have to read well.

When I made the decision to leave a career in journalism and start a small farm, I was nervous about what my media friends would think: that I couldn't cut it as a journalist; that I was running back to Mom and Dad.

This is what Overbay describes as



Modern producers, such as Allison Ammeter of Alberta, are often at odds with stereotypes perpetuated by Hollywood. | JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

a meta-stereotype — how we perceive the way others perceive us — and it can be just as damaging as regular stereotypes.

"We do a lousy job of selling our industry," Overbay said. "We

always kind of want to pan ourselves off as, 'oh, you know, we're just out here scratching out a living.' We try to downplay it.

"We, as farmers, really need to be aware of how what we do and say

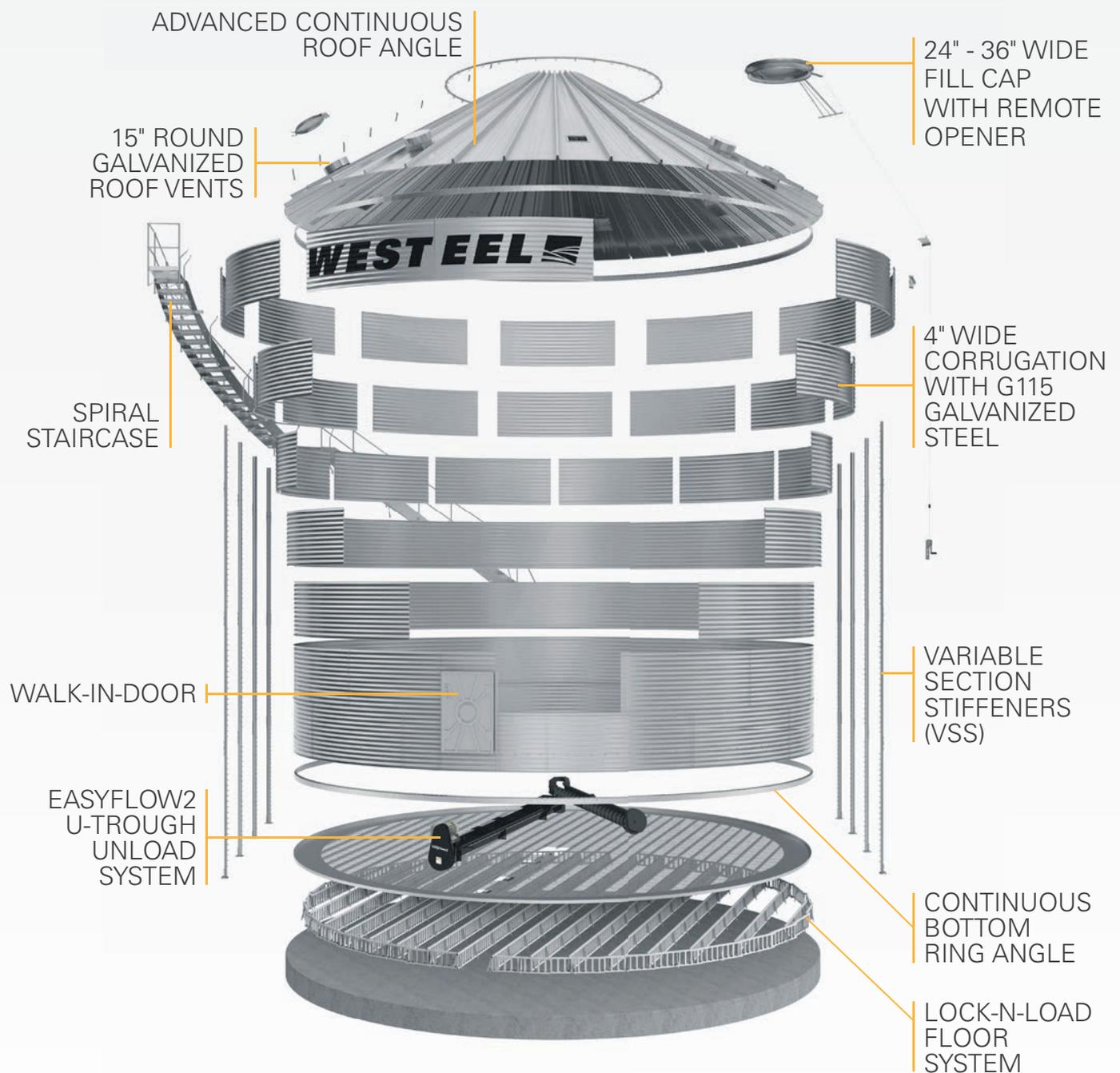
affect that public perception."

We also need to be aware of this because the freeze-dried food astronauts eat aboard their space-ships has to come from somewhere, as does the wheat and fruit that makes the jelly doughnuts scarfed down by the cartoon cops (also grossly caricatured) in *Zootopia*.

These images of farmers wearing overalls and straw hats with wheat between their front teeth, and the images of engineers, scientists, and police officers, who fall back into farming because they failed in their other careers, are tired tropes and ones we need to replace for the sake of our future farmers.

Nikki Wiart is a new farmer living in Castor, Alta., writing when her garden, bees, chickens, and pigs allow

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Sask. gov't studied farmland ownership rules in 1992

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: DEC. 17, 1942

Forcing co-operatives to pay income tax would have dire consequences, said Saskatchewan Wheat Pool president J.H. Wesson. If the company had to pay income tax, he said, it would do so only once. The next year it would inventory its business, estimate crop handlings and costs and reduce its handling and storage charges to the point where there would be no earnings.

This would force private grain companies to follow suit, Wesson said, and within three years 75 percent of the grain trade would be bankrupt.

Farmers attending a meeting in Edmonton said 50 percent of producers in northern Alberta planned to reduce production of milk and hogs because they couldn't hire



An antique swather was put through its paces at the Western Development Museum in North Battleford, Sask., in the summer of 1980. | FILE PHOTO

workers to maintain these war-vital foods at 1942 production levels.

50 YEARS AGO: DEC. 21, 1967

The Farmers' Union of Alberta joined other farm unions across the country in agreeing to seek collective bargaining for farmers. They agreed to "work through a national organization for the purpose of bargaining collectively for and on behalf of all farmers in Canada."

The Alberta government was considering applying property

taxes to farm homes.

Agriculture Minister Harry Strom said Municipal Affairs Minister Edgar Gerhart had made an argument for such a tax that was hard to argue with.

25 YEARS AGO: DEC. 17, 1992

The Alberta Cattle Commission's mandatory checkoff was being challenged in court on the grounds that the organization did not hold a producer vote to receive a mandate for the levy.

The Saskatchewan government

was reviewing its farmland ownership laws.

Agriculture Minister Darrell Cunningham said he wanted to make sure foreign or corporate investors hadn't found ways to get around the existing regulations.

10 YEARS AGO: DEC. 20, 2007

Federal and provincial agriculture ministers rejected the Canadian Pork Council's request for repayable unsecured loans for hog producers on the grounds that it would trigger a trade challenge from the United States.

The council disagreed with that interpretation.

The federal government introduced changes to the Canadian Grain Commission that would eliminate mandatory inward inspection and weighing and ensure that the commission's focus was on helping the industry and not just producers.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association praised the proposals and the National Farmers Union condemned them.

bruce.dyck@producer.com

New agrology definition allows more to practice in area of expertise

BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Legislation governing professional agrologists in Saskatchewan has been updated to better reflect what they do, according to the president of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists.

Blair McClinton said amendments introduced and passed in the recent legislative session bring Saskatchewan in line with other provinces. The SIA has been advocating for the changes.

"The industry has changed significantly since 1994 when the last legislation was brought forward," he said.

"The areas of practice that our members are in have evolved over time and are a much broader scope of practice than what we've had."

For example, more agrologists are working in the areas of bioresources and the environment.

"The proposed new definition of the practice of agrology would allow more qualified persons to deliver services under the Sask-

atchewan Environmental Code," Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said during second reading debate.

The amendments change the membership requirement from a four-year degree to an equivalent in agriculture or bioresources and give the SIA discretion to recognize certain programs.

Previously, those with less than a four-year degree had to practice with supervision as agricultural technologists.

"The big change for us is that we have a number of members who

are agricultural technologists who under our current legislation are not allowed to practice independently," McClinton said before the bill's passing.

"We think that's quite restrictive, and in other provinces the people with diplomas are allowed to practice with restricted licences in their areas of expertise."

He said this would aid with labour mobility.

The amendments updated a number of other measures, including allowing the SIA to enact admin-

istrative bylaws. Stewart said there is no need for the provincial legislature to have that power.

The organization will also be able to legally use email for communication.

"Currently the act requires that the SIA conduct all official communication to its members through the mail," Stewart said. "It's time to bring the act into the digital age."

The province has regulated the agrology profession since 1946.

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CALL GRASSLAND TRAILERS for your best deal on quality livestock trailers by Titan, Duralite (all aluminum riveted) and Circle D. Fall Special in stock - 25' Duralite, \$23,500; 20' Titan smooth wall classic steel stock, \$14,500. 306-640-8034 cell, 306-266-2016, Wood Mountain, SK. Email gm93@sasktel.net



\$500 USD Rebate Valid until Dec. 30th Full line-up of Wilson Trailers also available in BC! Receive a \$500 USD rebate upon the purchase of any Wilson trailer. With almost 2 decades of Sales & Service, we will not be undersold! Bassano, AB., 1-888-641-4508, www.desertsales.ca

20' TANDEM AXLE cattle trailer, lift-off top (converts to open trailer), \$4500 OBO. Call 306-862-8460, 306-277-4503, Gronlid, SK.



2016 EXISS 28' Stock Combo Trailer, (2) 8000 lb. torsion axles, 8 yr. struct. & 3 yr. BTB warranty, \$29,149. Call 780-974-9700, Tofield, AB., www.heritagetrailers.ca

YEAR END CLEARANCE! 2018 Sundowner Horizon, 3 horse, 3HGN8010RS, luxury LQ, #J1HA7099, \$79,900. Shop on-line 24/7 at: allandale.com 1-866-346-3148.

2016 EXISS 28' Stock Combo Trailer, (2) 8000 lb. torsion axles, 8 yr. struct. & 3 yr. BTB warranty, \$29,149. Call 780-974-9700, Tofield, AB., www.heritagetrailers.ca

20' TANDEM AXLE cattle trailer, lift-off top (converts to open trailer), \$4500 OBO. Call 306-862-8460, 306-277-4503, Gronlid, SK.

MISC. TRAILERS 1515

24' GOOSENECK 3-8,000 lb. axles, \$7890; Bumper pull tandem lowboys: 18', 16,000 lbs., \$4750; 16', 10,000 lbs., \$3390; 16', 7000 lbs., \$2975, 8000 lb Skidsteer, \$1990 Factory direct. 1-888-792-6283. www.monarchtrailers.com

TRAILTECH TRAILER: 22', two 7000 lb axles, bumper hitch, hi boy, low boy, beaver tails & tilt, elec. over hyds., winch & picker, bolt rims. 403-346-1718, Red Deer, AB.

1981 NEIL'S 61' double drop flat deck, snap-off neck, 36' working deck, \$7000; 1998 Trailtech tandem 12' sprayer trailer, \$8000. Call 780-221-3980, Leduc, AB.

1995 DOEPKER 48', 102', tandem machinery trailer, single drop, hyd. tail/flip, alum. outriggers, 12,000 lb. winch, good cond., \$30,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.



2011 ARNE'S END DUMP gravel trailer, with new cylinder, tires, brakes, drums and lifting axle. Job ready, electric tarp, new MB. safety, \$45,000. Call 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

PRECISION TRAILERS: Gooseneck and bumper hitch. You've seen the rest, now own the best. Hoffs Services, Odessa, SK. 306-957-2033 www.precisiontrailers.ca

Misc. TRAILERS 1515

130 MISC. SEMI TRAILERS, flatbeds, lowbeds, dump trailers, jeeps, tankers, etc. Check www.traileruy.ca for pictures and prices. 306-222-2413, Saskatoon, SK.

KNIGHT SCISSOR NECK lowbed, 24.5 tires; Tridem belly dump. \$22,000/ea. Call Danny Spence, 306-246-4632. Speers, SK.

3 TRIDEMS, 3 TANDEM stepdecks; tandem, tridem and Super B highboys; 28' to 53' van trailers. Tanker: tandem alum. 8000 gal.; 2012 Manac lowboy tridem, 10' wide, beavertail and flip-up ramp; Single axle and tandem converters. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL #905231. www.rbisk.ca

BEHNKE DROP DECK semi style and pintle hitch sprayer trailers. Air ride, tandem and tridems. Contact SK: 306-398-8000; AB: 403-350-0336.



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TRUCKS

NEWEST TO OLDEST 1595

2015 FORD F250 XLT, Super Duty 4x4 crew cab, 6.7L Diesel, auto., trailer tow package, backup camera, tailgate steps, bronze fire exterior, tan cloth interior. 6 1/2' box with cover and chrome tube rails. 23,900 kms, balance of all factory warranties, \$47,500 firm plus GST. Call Bill 306-726-7977, Southey, SK.



2015 F-150 XLT 4x4, super cab, 51,000 kms., balance warranty to 100,000 kms, EcoBoost, remote start, \$28,900. Cam-Don Motors Ltd., 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.

2014 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE, reg. cab, short box, loaded, \$26,995. Greenlight Truck & Auto, 306-934-1455, Saskatoon, SK. DL #311430. www.GreenlightAuto.ca

2013 RAM 3500 SLT, crew cab, 6.7L, auto, 4x4, dually, 99,900 kms. Sask tax paid, one owner, local trade, \$41,995. Hendry's Chrysler, 306-528-2171, Nokomis, SK. DL #907140

GRAIN TRUCKS 1675

1979 MACK TANDEM, R600 21' grain box, 300 HP, 10 speed, 3rd axle air lift, safetied, \$20,000. 204-324-9300 or 204-324-7622, Altona, MB. E-mail: gpwiebe@snet.ca

2007 MACK, 10 speed Eaton auto., new 20' CIM B&H, 940,000 kms., fresh Sask. safeties. Call 306-270-6399, Saskatoon, SK. www.78truxsales.com DL #316542.

ALLISON AUTOMATIC TRUCKS: Several trucks with auto. trans. available with C&C or grain or gravel box. Starting at \$19,900; Call K&L Equipment, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK. DL #910885. ladimer@sasktel.net

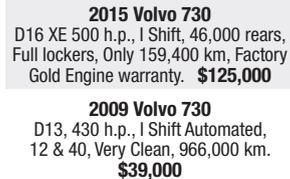
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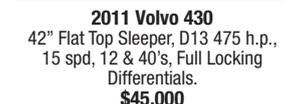
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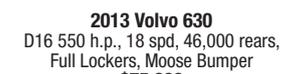
2015 Volvo 730
D16 XE 500 h.p., I Shift, 46,000 rears, Full lockers, Only 159,400 km, Factory Gold Engine warranty. **\$125,000**



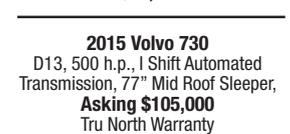
2009 Volvo 730
D13, 430 h.p., I Shift Automated, 12 & 40, Very Clean, 966,000 km. **\$39,000**



2011 Volvo 430
42" Flat Top Sleeper, D13 475 h.p., 15 spd, 12 & 40's, Full Locking Differentials. **\$45,000**



2013 Volvo 630
D16 550 h.p., 18 spd, 46,000 rears, Full Lockers, Moose Bumper **\$75,000**



2015 Volvo 730
D13, 500 h.p., I Shift Automated Transmission, 77" Mid Roof Sleeper, Asking **\$105,000** Tru North Warranty

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GRAIN TRUCKS 1675

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YEAR END GRAIN TRUCK CLEARANCE! 2007 Mack 400 HP, Mack eng., AutoShift, A/T/C, new 20' BH&T, new RR tires, 716,000 kms., exc shape, now \$67,500, **NOW \$63,500;** 2007 IH 9200 ISX Cummins, 430 HP, AutoShift, alum. wheels, new 20' BH&T, fully loaded, 1M kms., real nice shape, was \$67,500, **NOW \$63,500;** 2009 Mack CH613, 430HP Mack, 10 spd., 3 pedal AutoShift, new 20' BH&T, alum. wheels, 1.4M kms. has eng. bearing roll done, nice shape, was \$69,500, **NOW \$65,500;** 2007 Kenworth T600, C13 Cat 425 HP 13 spd., AutoShift, new 20' BH&T, alum. wheels, new paint, 1.0M kms., excellent truck, was \$71,500, **NOW \$67,500;** 2005 IH 4400 tandem, w/570 IH eng., 320 HP 10 spd., new 20' BH&T, alum. wheels, 423,000 kms., very clean truck, excellent tires, was \$54,500, **NOW \$51,500;** 1996 Midland 24' tandem grain pup, stiff pole, completely rebuilt, new paint, new brakes, excellent tires, was \$18,500, **NOW \$16,500;** 1999 IH 4700 S/A w/17' steel flat deck, 230,000 kms., IH 7.3 diesel, 10 spd., good tires, was \$19,500, **NOW \$18,000;** 2005 IH 9200 tractor, ISX 430 HP Cummins, 13 spd., alum. wheels, flat top sleeper, good rubber, was \$22,500, **NOW \$19,500.** All trucks SK. safetied. Trades considered. Arborfield SK., Phone Merv at 306-276-7518 res., 306-767-2616 cell. DL #906768.

GRAVEL TRUCKS 1676

2005 IH 4400 tandem, new motor, Allison auto., gravel box; 16' IH 9200 Tridem, 10 spd., 16' gravel box; 2013 Decap tridem belly dump; Used tridem end dump. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL 905231. www.rbisk.ca

SEMI TRUCKS 1677



2015 Volvo 630
D13 500 h.p., I-shift, 46,000 rears, Full lockers, 730,000 kms **\$68,500**

1995 VOLVO, 350,000 original kms., 9500 hrs., wet kit, 370 HP, 14 spd., one owner, farmer owned, exc. cond., 780-206-1234.



2004 IH 7600 tandem truck, 670,000 kms, 13 spd., 425/65R22.5 front (20,000 lbs.), 11R22.5 rear (46,000 lbs.), \$55,000. 204-743-2324, Cypress River, MB.

2008 PETERBILT 386, yellow, daycab, 18 spd., 850,000 kms., 46k rears full locks, vg cond., \$24,900. 780-206-1234, Barrehead.

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Entertainment Crossword by Walter D. Feener

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Last Weeks Answers

- ACROSS**
- He played Captain Poison in *Blood Diamond* (2006)
 - She played Det. Charlie Marks in season one of *The Listener*
 - Captured girl in *Planet of the Apes* (1968)
 - Belle* director Asante (2013)
 - F

SEMI TRUCKS 1677

2009 Pete 388, 46 diff., 18 spd., lockers; 2003 Pete 379, 6N2 Cat, 18 spd., wet kit; 2013 IH 5900i, 18 spd., full lockers, 46 diff., 400,000 kms.; 2009 T660, new pre-mission, 525 ISX, new 18 spd. and clutch, 46 diff., lockers; 2008 Freightliner Cascadia, daycab, Detroit 515, 18 spd., lockers; 2007 IH 9900i, 525 ISX, 18 spd., 3-way lockers; 2005 Mack CH613, 18 spd., lockers, wet kit, 450,000 kms; 2- 1996 FLD 120 Freightliners, 425 Cat's, 430 Detroit's, lockers. Ron Brown Implements, Delisle, SK., 306-493-9393. DL 905231. www.rbisk.ca



2010 IHC PROSTAR day cab, heavy spec., 800,000 kms., 46R double locks, 18 spd., 485 Cummins, (0 hrs. on factory rebuilt c/w warranty), new clutch (warranty), 10 new 24.5's, nice clean heavy spec Western truck, \$69,900. Will consider farm tractors or trucks on trade. Cam-Don Motors Ltd., 306-237-4212, Perdue, SK.



2011 FREIGHTLINER DAY-CAB, Detroit DD15, 455 HP, 13 spd., 12 front, 40 rear, 175" WB, 715,800 kms., \$44,900. DL# 1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.



2012 MACK CXU613 day-cab, Mack MP8, 455HP Eaton 13 spd., \$39,900. DL#1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.

2013 VOLVO VN630, D13 engine, 13 spd. Eaton trans., new tires, 660,000, 4-way lockers, safetied in June 2017, \$55,000. Call 306-280-9571, Saskatoon, SK.

SANDBLASTING AND PAINTING of heavy trucks, trailers and equipment. Please call for details. Can-Am Truck Export Ltd., 1-800-938-3323, Delisle, SK.

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SWEERITE SR4400, 53,870 kms., S/A, 6' rear broom, Cummins 5.9L, \$7980. 1-800-667-4515, www.combineworld.com

VACUUM SEPTIC TRUCK: 2006 M2 Freightliner, S/A, Cat 10 spd., 1800 gal. tank and pump (4 yrs. old), exc. cond., \$48,000. 306-547-7612, Preeceville, SK.

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2008 IH 7600 tandem 24' van body, power tailgate, 10 speed ISX; 2007 Freightliner auto. trans., 24' flatdeck. Ron Brown Imp. 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK. DL #905231. www.rbisk.ca

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2014 KENWORTH T370 TANDEM GRAIN TRUCK Paccar PX-8 350hp 1000 lbf Torque Allison 6-Spd 3000RDS Air seat, dual pass. seat cloth interior ACT, P.W. P.L. 22" Alum Wheels Front Tires 315/80R22.5 Rear tires 11R22.5 Power-Heated Aerodynamic Mirrors, AM/FM/CD/Bluetooth Radio Full Gauges 100 Gal. Alum Fuel tank 14,600Ft. Axle 40,000R. Axles with Air Suspension Jacobs brake, Cab Corner windows, Trailer Brake Controls, 8 1/2 X 16 X 65" CIM ULTRACEL BOX ELECTRIC TARP, TAILGATE & HOIST, Cloth Interior, Red, 33,579KM Stk #M7323A \$140,395

2013 KENWORTH T370 TANDEM GRAIN TRUCK, Paccar PX-8, 350hp, 1000lb ft, Torque Allison, 6spd, 3000RDS Air seat, dual pass. seat cloth interior ACT P.W. P.L. 22" Alum Wheels, Front Tires 315/80R22.5 Rear tires 11R22.5 Power-Heated Aerodynamic Mirrors AM/FM/CD/ Radio Full Gauges 100 Gal. Alum Fuel Tank 14,600Ft. Axle 40,000R. Axles with Air Suspension Jacobs brake Trailer Brake Controls 8-1/2X20"X65" CIM ULTRACEL ELECTRIC TARP TAILGATE & HOIST, Cloth Interior, Red, 38,035km, Stk#M7368A \$133,395

2009 GMC C8500 REGULAR CAB TANDEM 7.8L 300HP, Allison auto, Ultracel box, remote hoist & endgate, electric tarp, cloth, white, 68,234km, Stk#M7369B \$79,995

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1986 CASE 450C dozer crawler, 6-way blade \$9500. www.waltersequipment.com 204-525-4521. Minitonas, MB.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT 3600

INTERNATIONAL CLOSED DOOR baler, model NA1450; 2 hydraulic pin presses; 1 portable hydraulic track press; 3 Goodman battery locomotive carts w/hundreds of feet of track. Cambrian Equipment Sales, Winnipeg, MB. (Ph) 204-667-2867 or (Fax) 204-667-2932.

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1978 CHAMPION 740 motor grader, Detroit 6 cylinder, showing 2568 hours, 14' moldboard, scarifier, cab, new rear tires, \$16,900. Call 1-800-667-4515, or visit: www.combineworld.com

2011 KOMATSU TC308 excavator, hyd. thumb, guarding, very clean, 5300 hrs., \$145,000. Randy 780-983-0936, Camrose



HYDRAULIC PULL SCRAPPERS 10 to 25 yds., exc. cond.; Loader and scraper tires, custom conversions available. Looking for Cat cable scrapers. Quick Drain Sales Ltd., 306-231-7318, 306-682-4520 Muenster SK



2010 CAT D7R 2 LGP crawler tractor, Packard winch, AC, cab, canopy, sweeps, A-dozer 16.6", 36" pads, UC as new, 6282 hrs., very clean, \$285,000; 2008 JD 850J WLT crawler dozer, c/w ROP'S, 12' 6-way blade, SBG pads, 8700 hrs., \$95,000. 204-871-0925, MacGregor, MB.

4- 2006 JD 400D and 1- 2005 Cat 740 40 ton Art; Rock trucks; 3- 1996, 1997 and 1998 Cat 621F motor scrapers; Coming soon 1972 Cat; D6C LGP crawler. Many more items with prices. Robert Harris, 204-642-9959, 204-470-5493, Gimli, MB. Pics/info. at: robertharris@equipment.com

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2008 G940 TANDEM drive articulated, Volvo D7E eng., net 165 HP HTE 1160, shuttle auto shift trans. (11 fwd. 6 rvs), 14' mold board, 5688 hrs., \$74,800. DL#1679. Norm 204-761-7797, Brandon, MB.

CAT D8-14A WET deck angle dozer, not running; Hoover 12' V-Cutter; Hoover 14' Piler. 306-747-3674, Shellbrook, SK.

2007 CAT D6N LGP Dozer, new undercarriage, 34" pads, diff. steer, 6-way blade, 16,131 hrs., \$94,900. 1-800-667-4515, www.combineworld.com



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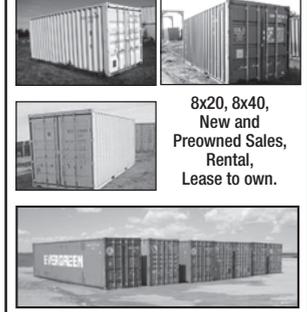
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\$316,900 2013 JD S680, Stk#82134, 1447 eng./1011 sep. hrs., no PU, pre-urea eng., Powercast tailboard, 26' auger, pwr. fold hopper. 403-362-3486, Brooks, AB.

2011 JD 9770 STS, Ser. # 743566, 1 owner, 1047 sep. hrs, 1415 eng., Good Year 520x42 factory duals, Greenlight every year since new (just done Nov. 2017), Sunnbrook concaves, always shedded, c/w JD 615 PU header, \$220,000. Phone Randy, 204-734-8624, Swan River, MB.

\$139,000 2009 JD T670, Stk#81619, 2833 eng./ 2202 sep. hrs., fully reconditioned. New: rasp bars, concave, feeder chain, new PU. 403-854-3334, Hanna, AB.

2009 JD 9770 STS, w/635 Hydra-Flex & air reel, header transport incl., 2134 sep./2853 eng. hrs., extended wear pkg., bullet rotor, 2 sets of concaves, green lighted & shedded every year, JD GPS included, Michel's elec. hopper topper, Contour Master, duals w/upgraded rims, very good condition, \$205,000 OBO. 306-625-7130, Ponteix, SK. Email: lasypranch@gmail.com

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VARIOUS 4193

\$299,000 2012 CLAAS 770TT, Stk# 91847, 825 sep./1374 eng. hrs., lateral tilt, P516 Lexion/MacDon PU, Maxflo 1200 40' draper. 403-485-2231, Vulcan, AB.

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\$33,900 2009 JD 635D, Stk#79828, 35' draper platform, poly-tine PU reel, road transport w/lights, cutterbar w/skid shoes. 403-362-3486, Brooks, AB.

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\$17,000 2005 JD 936D, Stk#77338, 36' draper platform, poly-tine pickup reel, road transport w/lights (sold as is). 403-485-2231, Vulcan, AB.

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\$340,000 2014 CIH 4430, Stk#82674, 1625 hrs., 120' boom, Air Command Pro, 1200 gal., float/skinny tires, crop dividers. 403-280-2200, Calgary, AB.

2011 ROGATOR 1396, 132' alum. recirculating boom, 1300 SS tank, Raven Viper Pro, Raven SmartTrax steering, AccuBoom sec. control, AutoBoom height control, HID lighting, DeKoning air lift crop dividers, both sets of Michelin tires, one owner. 204-937-3429, 204-937-7047, Roblin, MB.

2011 ROGATOR 1194, 2085 hrs., 2 sets of tires, Raven Viper Pro, newer style wheel motors, \$170,000 OBO. 204-723-0236, Rathwell, MB.

2011 CASE PATRIOT 3330, AccuGuide, AccuBoom, AutoBoom, Pro 600, 650 floaters, 5-way nozzle bodies, 1940 eng. hrs., always shedded, exc. cond., \$180,000 OBO 306-338-8231, 306-327-4550, Kelvington.

\$145,500 2009 APACHE AS1010, Stk# 87261, 737 hrs., 100' boom leveling, SS tank, 20' spacing, Triekon crop dividers, GPS. 403-823-8484, Drumheller, AB.

\$209,000 2011 JD 4830, Stk#82768, 2142 hrs., 100' boom, 20' spacing, 1000 gal. SS tank, 380R46 skinny/600R38 floaters. 403-854-3334, Hanna, AB.

2014 NH SP 240F-XP, 275 HP, 120', 1200 stainless, fully loaded incl. AIM Command, both sets tires, \$219,000. 306-948-7223.

2013 JD 4940, 120', 1500 eng, 380 tires & duals on rear, 1200 gal. stainless, all options, \$219,000. 306-948-7223, Biggar, SK

\$254,000 2013 JD 4830, Stk#83194, 100'/boom leveling, 20' spacing, SS tank, 420/80R46 float tires, SF3000, AMS activation. 403-641-3813, Bassano, AB.

2013 RG 1100, Viper Pro, height ctrl., AccuBoom, BCO, deluxe cab, HID lights, remote section ctrl., 2 sets of tires, 2160 hrs., \$255,000. 403-994-7754, Olds, AB.

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2009 JD 9530T, Stk: 91141, 3785 Hrs, 475 hp, 36" Tracks, Deluxe Comfort Cab Package, Guidance-Ready, Cat 5 Wide Swing Bar Drawbar. SASKATOON, SK

\$215,000

2012 Fendt 933V, Stk: 91880, 3790 Hrs, 330 hp, IVT, IF710/70R42 & IF620/75R30 Michelins, 4 SCV, Pilot Steering, Trimble CFX750 Display. STETTLER, AB

\$380,000

2013 CASE IH QUADTRAC 450, Stk: 82672, 1963 Hrs, IVT, 30" Tracks, PTO, Hi-Flow Hydraulics, Guidance Ready, Degelman Blade. CALGARY, AB

\$275,900

2013 Case IH 8230, Stk: 74782, Sep. Hrs: 830, Lat Tilt Feederhouse, PRO 700 Monitor, Yield Monitor. WATROUS, SK

\$285,000

2012 NHT9.560HD, Stk: 88325, 2061 Hours, Powershift, Triples, HI-Flow Hydraulics, Guidance-Ready. MELFORT, SK

\$399,000

2014 John Deere 9510R, Stk: 88825 1850 Hours, 18 Speed Power Shift, Duals, Hi-Flow Hydraulic System, Guidance-Ready. SASKATOON, SK

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2014 JD 6150R, Stk: 77002, 1774 Hours, MFWD, Partial Power Shift, Rear PTO: 540/1000 MELFORT, SK

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2013 JD 1895, Stk: 91881, Acres: 20000, Width: 43', 10" Spacing, Double Shoot, Narrow Gauge Wheels, TBH 1910 550 bu Cart CLARESHOLM, AB

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2008 Case IH ATX400, Stk: 82653, Acres: 40000, Width 52, Spacing: 10", Single Shoot (towers/hoses Dbl Shoot), ADX3430 430 bu Capacity. HANNA, AB

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2009 JD 1830, Stk: 82564, Width: 61', 10" Spacing, Double Shoot, 550 lb Opener, Hose Blockage Warning, TBH 1910 430 bu Cart VULCAN, AB

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2012 Flexi-Coil 5000HD, Stk: 75278, Width: 57', Spacing 10" Double Shoot, 5.5" Packers, w/ JD 1910 Two-Between 430 bu Cart. CALGARY, AB

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2015 Morris C2, Stk: 6742, Acres: 4500, Width: 61', 12" Spacing, Double Shoot, Polymer Boot 4" Wide, 5.5" Orico Packers, 950 VR TBH Cart. DRUMHELLER, AB

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2013 JOHN DEERE S680, Stk: 71451, Sep Hrs: 853, 2WD, Duals, Spreader, Lat. Tilt Feeder MELFORT, SK

\$320,000

2013 CASE IH 8230, Stk: 84053, 886 Engine Hours, Sep Hours: 663, Lateral Tilt Feeder, Yield Monitor. PRINCE ALBERT, SK

\$390,000

2015 JD S680, Stk: 91140, Sep Hrs: 854, 2WD, 615P, Extra High Capacity Air Cleaner, Lat Tilt Feeder, Chopper. SASKATOON, SK

\$172,900

2008 MASSEY FERGUSON 9895, Stk: 78068, Sep Hrs: 1232, 2WD, Duals, 4200 Pickup, 350 bu Hopper w/ Mav Chopper. MELFORT, SK

\$437,900

2015 JD S680, Stk: 74087, 759 Eng/591 Sep Hrs, 615P, Lat Tilt, Small Grains Package, Pwrcast Tailboard, Finecut Chopper, JD Link til Feb 2019. VULCAN, AB

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2015 CLAAS 880, Stk: 88526, 1100 Eng/825 Cut Hrs 659 Corn Header, 15' Grass Pickup, GPS Ready, 3-Year Engine Warranty Remain. PONOKA, AB

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2013 CASE IH 9230, Stk: 81983, Sep Hours: 703, Lateral Tilt Feederhouse, Yield Monitor, Full Autosteer. ROSTHERN, SK

\$250,000

2013 NEW HOLLAND CR8090, Stk: 79298, 1406 Eng/939 Sep Hrs, Lat Tilt, Twin Rotors, Pro 700 Yield & Moisture, Spreader/Chopper. DRUMHELLER, AB

\$279,000

2013 NEW HOLLAND CR9090, Stk: 89606, Sep. Hours: 787, Lateral Tilt Feeder, Yield Monitor. PRINCE ALBERT, SK

\$325,500

2013 JD S680, Stk: 82178, 1423 Eng/1012 Sep Hrs, NO PICKUP, Lat Tilt, Pwrcast Tailboard, Pwr Fold Hopper, 26' Auger, 2630 Display. BASSANO, AB

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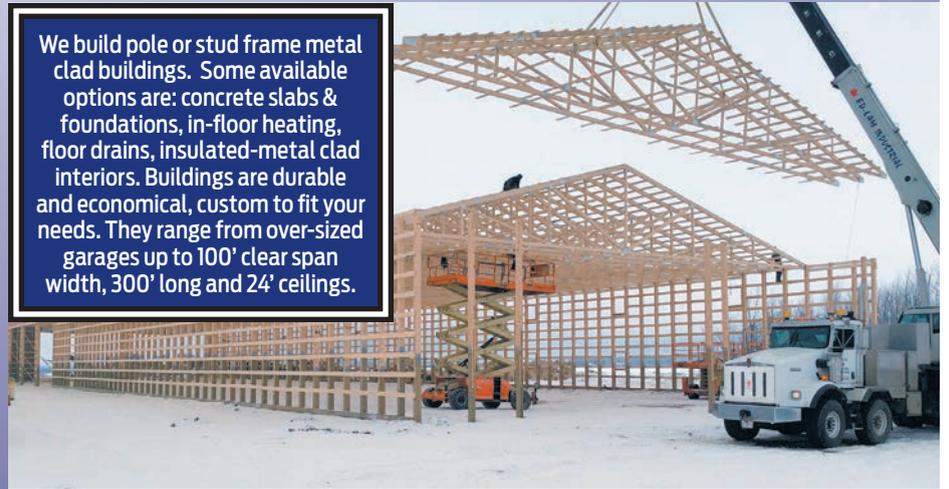
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1200 hrs, AutoSteer, 650 R42 duals, European-built, MacDon/CNH pickups and headers avail. **\$198,000**



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2009 MF 9795
1723 hrs, duals, Fieldstar II, Redekop MAV chopper, pickups/headers available..... **\$89,800**

2003 NH CR940
2588 hrs, chopper, spreader, unload auger extension, 900/60R32 fronts, headers/pickups available **\$49,800**



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GS yield & moisture, AHHC, F/A, 3106 hrs., JD/MacDon pickups & headers available..... **\$59,800**

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1426 hrs, RWA, GTA monitor, Redekop, AHHC, pickups & duals available..... **\$89,900**

TRACTORS



2014 JD 8370R MFWD
370+HP, 1949 hrs., front axle/cab suspension, 3PH, PTO, IVT trans, diff lock, front/rear weights, excellent cond..... **\$289,000**

2015 JD 6140R MFWD
150 HP, 1870 hrs, 20 spd, FEL, 3PH, 540/1000 PTO, diff lock, front axle susp., 50 KPH+ **\$149,000**



2015 CIH PUMA 185 MFWD
1490 hrs, 185 HP, CVT, 540/1000 PTO, 3PH, duals, fact. warranty **\$149,800**

2016 CIH MAXXUM 115 MFWD
686 hrs, 115 HP, L755 FEL, 540/1000 PTO, 3PH, 16 spd, 2 hyd, factory warranty **\$99,800**

HEADERS



2013 MD FD75-D
40' flex draper, transport, pea auger, DKD, lots of new parts, set for JD, Agco, CNH, Lexion available **\$77,800**

2003 NH 94C
30' rigid draper, pea auger, hyd F/A, transport, PUR, for CR/CX/AFX; other kits available **\$23,800**



2014 JD 615P
Hyd., WG w/ air susp, very good cond. **\$26,900**

2008 MD PW7
16', good belts, nice condition, for JD STS combines **\$16,900**

HARVEST



2010 JD A400
36', 1,736 hrs, Greenstar ready, roto-shears, gauge wheels **\$57,800**

2009 CHALLENGER SP115C
30', Swather, Outback AutoSteer, PUR, roller, 2356 hrs..... **\$39,900**



2012 BRENT 882 GRAIN CART
850 bu, 1000 PTO, hyd. spout, 500 bu/minute, very good condition..... **\$37,800**

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90' booms, 4920L tank, 12.4R46 tires, good tubes & booms, SCS 440 Controller **\$9,900**

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375 CFM compressor, trailer mount, JD 3.9L, 6186 hrs **\$9,980**



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Pup trailer, T/A, air brakes, good water hauler **\$6,900**

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2009 1286C Rogator parts, 830 hrs, C9 Cat engine w/radiator, hydros, wheel motors, plenty of other parts. 403-994-7754, Olds.

FLOATER TIRES: Factory rims & tires: JD 4045, 710/60R46, \$20,500; 800/55R46, \$22,500; JD 4038, Case 4420, 650/65R38 Michelin tires and rims. Sprayer duals available. 306-697-2856, Grenfell, SK.

SET OF FOUR 320/90R50 Michelin Agribib sprayer tires w/rims, fit Rogator 1084, 10 bolt, \$6800. 403-994-7754, Olds, AB.

TILLAGE/SEEDING

AIR DRILLS 4250

CIH ATX700, 60", 12" sp., 5.5" rubber packers, Raven NH3, closers and single bar harrow. \$28,000. 204-648-7085, Grandview.

2010 NH/FLEXI-COIL 5500, 70", 10" spacing, 3" paired row carbide atom jet knives, DS, full blockage; 2010 Flexi-Coil 430 bu. TBT cart, 3 tanks, var. rate metering, 20.8x38 duals, 10" deluxe load-in auger. Both units shedded since new and in excellent cond., \$85,000. 306-675-6136, Kelliker, SK.

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FLEXI-COIL 5000 51", 9", w/2320, 4" rubber packers, in-row liquid phos. \$18,500. 306-690-8105, Moose Jaw, SK.

2010 BOURGAULT 3310 66" 12" spacing W/MRB, 6550 cart w/liquid kit. \$190,000 OBO. 306-552-4905, Eyebrow, SK.

2012 BOURGAULT 3320, 76", 10" space, 2" tips, 4.5" packers, DS dry, MRB #3's; 2014 BOURGAULT 7950 air tank, 5 tank meter, saddle, conveyor, scale, rear hitch. \$340,000 for both. 204-648-7085, Grandview, MB.

2008 SEEDMASTER 8012, 2004 NH 430 tank, 3 compartments with 4 rollers, Raven NH3, \$89,000 OBO. 306-272-7225, Foam Lake, SK.

2011 SEED HAWK 50", 12" sp., tool bar with 600 cart dual wheels auger and bag lift. \$229,000; 1997 39" Morris Magnum air drill, 10" spacing, Atom openers w/Morris 180 cart, \$18,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

WANTED: JOHN DEERE 1910 air cart, in decent shape. Call 306-862-8518, Choceland, SK.

2010 JD 1830 drill, 61" 10" spacing, w/430 bu. 1910 grain cart, duals, double shoot, \$79,000 OBO. 306-552-4905, Eyebrow, SK.

2007 SEEDMASTER TXB 66-12, 66", 12" spacing, double shoot, all new manifold and new hoses, mint cond., w/wo JD 1910 air tank. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2012 PILLAR OPENERS on Salford frame, floatation tires 10" spacing, blockage monitors, 2 sets of packer tires, Case 3380 DS variable rate TBT air cart, good cond., \$119,000. 204-534-7920, Boissevain, MB. Darren.e.peters@gmail.com

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WANTED: 42" - 45" air seeder with 7.5" spacing and 330+ lb. trips. Prefer 8810 Bourgault but will consider other makes with 7.5" spacing. Call 306-867-8477 or 306-867-7381, Outlook, SK.



2009 SEEDMASTER 6912, expandable to 80", 300 bu. on frame w/tracks; Bourgault 6550 tank, many extras, CTF ready. 780-206-1234, Barrhead, AB.

2009 SEEDMASTER, 4 product VR, 50", 12" 8370XL 440 bu. Morris TBH, 1600 liq. cart, Raven monitor, \$165,000. For more info, call Arne at 306-335-7494. Lemberg, SK.

HARROWS/PACKERS 4256

2015 DEGELMAN STRAWMASTER Plus, 100", 30" carbide tines, \$78,000. Please call 306-398-7688, Cut Knife, SK.

2012 BOURGAULT 70" 6000 mid harrow & 72" 7200 heavy harrow, vg cond., \$22,000 OBO. 204-734-0144, Minitonas, MB.

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT 4262

2017 DEGELMAN 40" Pro Till, 21 1/2" blades; 2017 DEGELMAN 33" Pro-Till, done 1000 acres; 2017 DEGELMAN 26" Pro-Till 500 acres. 306-441-1684, Cut Knife, SK.

42" BOURGAULT 9800 chisel plow, HD double spring, w/4-bar heavy harrow, \$29,500 Cdn OBO. 218-779-1710 Delivery available

2009 BOURGAULT 9400, 60", 1/2" harrows, tow hitch, 600 lb. trip, quick adapters, \$69,500 OBO. 204-734-0144, Minitonas, MB

45- DUTCH 4" PAIR row low draft openers, approx. 700 ac., \$70 each. 306-861-4355, 306-456-2522, Weyburn, SK.

BREAKING DISCS: KEWANE, 15' and 12'; Rome 12'; Towner 16-18'; Wishek 18' and 30'. 1-866-938-8537.

TILLAGE/SEEDING VARIOUS 4265

2010 MORRIS 8370 TBT variable rate air cart, vg cond., ran through shop, \$75,900. Cam-Don Motors 306-237-4212 Perdue SK

TRACTORS

Agco 4274

2010 FENDT 820, CVT, loader and grapple, 710's, 4 hyd., dual PTO, 200 HP, \$137,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK.

BELARUS 4283

2002 6420, FWA, CAH, 3PTH, 8000 Leon loader w/QA 96" bucket & bale fork, new clutch & block heater - \$5000 this fall, new PTO 1 year ago. Will trade on bred cows or bale truck. 306-386-2490, Cochin, SK.

CASE/IH 4286

2003 CASE/IH STX 450, quad track, 7065 hrs., Cummins, 16 spd. PS, 4 hyd. outlets, plus return line, 30" tracks, exc. cond. \$125,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

1983 CASE 2290, 4700 hrs., rebuilt PS, orig. owner, w/2014 10' front mount Erskine 1080FM snow blower - has been used 10 hrs. 403-529-7134, Medicine Hat, AB.

2015 CASE 580 QT, 1029 hrs., full load, ext. warranty, PTO, eng. break, \$430,000 OBO. 403-575-5491, Brownfield, AB.

CASE/IH 4286

WANTED: 4786 IHC, 1980 and newer in good condition. Call 780-635-2527 or 780-645-1430. St. Vincent, AB.

2009 CASE/IH MAGNUM 215, MFWD, 2500 hrs., big 1000 PTO, 480/80R46 duals, 380/85R34 front, dealer Greenlight, excellent condition, \$110,000. Call 306-459-7604, Weyburn, SK. mdmellon@sasktel.net

\$175,000 2008 CIH 435 Quadtrac, Stk# 87499, 5212 hrs., 30" track, 4 SCV, guidance system, Degelman 7900 14' blade w/silage ext. 403-854-3334, Hanna, AB.

\$375,000 2013 CIH 550 Quadtrac, Stk# 85942, 2846 hrs., powershift, hi-flow hyd., PTO, full GPS, guidance ready. 403-625-4421, Claresholm, AB.



2012 CIH 500HD, 1915 hrs., 4 remotes, tow cable, luxury cab, red leather heated seats, 16 spd. PS, 57 GPM hyd. pump, 710 tires, buddy seat, gd cond., \$228,000 OBO. Ph/tx Brandon 306-577-5678, Carlyle, SK.

2016 CIH FARMALL 75A, MFWD, 20 hrs., 8 forward gears/2 reverse, 3PTH, 540 PTO, \$29,000 OBO. 204-648-7085, Grandview

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686 hrs, 115 HP, L755 FEL, 540/1000 PTO, 3PH, 16 spd, 2 hyd., factory warranty. \$99,800

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\$440,000 2013 CHALLENGER MT965C, Stk# 83676, 834 hrs., 525 HP, hi-flow hyd., 5 SCV, PTO, GPS, Degelman 7900 blade. 403-783-3337, Ponoka, AB.

JOHN DEERE 4295

2000 JD 9400, 425 HP, 12 spd. powershift, 4 hyd. outlets, plus return line, new hyd. pump (48 GPM), 3 yr. old tires, 80% remaining, 710/70R38, mint cond., \$110,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2008 JD 7230 Premium, MFWD, 3 PTH, 3 hyd., w/JD 741 FEL, bucket, grapple, 2677 hrs. vg. 306-625-7277, Stewart Valley, SK.

2 JOHN DEERE 8970's: 5400 hrs., powershift, \$79,000 Cdn OBO; 6800 hrs., 24 spd., \$69,000 Cdn. OBO. Both have PTO and 3PTH. 218-779-1710. Delivery avail.

1992 JD 4055 MFWD, 9032 hrs., great for baler or grain auger, exc. cond., \$40,000 OBO. Kdranch@yahoo.com 306-846-4501, 306-846-7770, Dinsmore, SK.

1997 JD 9400 4WD, 425 HP 8562 hrs., 12 spd., diff. lock, 4 hyd., 20.8x42 triples new 400 hrs. ago, does light duty work, mint condition, always shedded, \$100,000. 306-675-6136, Kelliker, SK.

2015 6140R, MFWD, 150 HP, 1870 hrs, 20 spd, FEL, 3PTH, 540/1000 PTO, diff. lock, front axle susp., 50 KPH+, \$149,000. 1-800-667-4515, www.combineworld.com

2000 JD 7710, 5130 hrs.; 2000 JD 8310; 2001 JD 7810; 2009 JD 7830, 3800 hrs. All MFWD, can be equipped with loaders. 204-522-6333, Melita, MB.

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1983 JD 4450 MFWD w/Ezee-On FEL 2130 grapple, 15 spd. PS, 3 hyd., 7925 hrs showing, 14.9-26F, 20.8R32, duals avail. 306-283-4747, 306-291-9395 Langham SK.

2012 JD 6150R, MFWD, 380 FEL and grapple, bought new in April 2013, 1775 hrs., shedded. Call 306-297-6404, Simmie, SK.

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1978 JD 4440 2WD, 9300 hrs., 1200 hrs. on complete rebuild, meticulously maintained, 134a A/C, Pioneer hyd. coupler conversion, 42" wheels, 50 series hood lights, upgraded steps, fresh eng. & trans. oils, \$40,000. 306-577-9141, Wawota, SK.

2011 JD 9530T, 18 spd. PS, 36" tracks, 4 hyd., plus return line, front weights, end idler weights, AutoTrac ready, mint cond., \$195,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

\$134,900 2009 JD 7830, Stk# 82122, 6906 hrs., 165 HP IVT, new engine in May 2017, 520/R42 & 420R30 tires, AutoTrac ready. 403-362-3486, Brooks, AB.

1992 JD 4255, 2WD, w/265 loader, 3800 hrs., great shape, \$52,000 OBO. Medicine Hat, AB. 403-581-8269 or 306-628-7380.

2013 JD 9410R, 4WD, PS, 1480 hrs., 1000 PTO, high flow hyd. w/5 remotes, leather trim, premium HID lights, 620/70R42's, \$199,500 USD. www.ms-diversified.com Call 320-848-2496 or 320-894-6560.

\$125,500 1997 JD 9400, Stk# 89153, 8100 hrs., 425 HP rebuilt trans., 710 duals, with Degelman two-way blade. 403-280-2200, Calgary, AB.



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JOHN DEERE 4295

UTILITY TRACTOR: JD 6200, 2 WD, open station with loader; JD 5520 MFWD w/ cab & air, 2700 hrs. 204-522-6333, Melita.

\$269,000 2015 JD 7230R, Stk# 80127, 1924 hrs., 230 HP, IVT, IF600/70R30 & IF710/70R42 tires, 5 SCV, SF3000, 4600 display. 403-783-3337, Ponoka, AB.

KUBOTA 4298

2012 M135X, loader and grapple, 3PTH, 16x16 PS trans., 2400 hrs., 20.8x38, 135 HP \$73,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK

MASSEY FERGUSON 4301

2014 MF 7615, Deluxe cab, cab susp., loader & grapple, CVT, 150 HP, 2510 hrs., \$139,900. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK

NEW HOLLAND 4304



2013 NEW HOLLAND TV6070 Bidirectional, 4100 hrs., bought new with loader/grapple and all the bells and whistles good reliable tractor. \$110000. 306-263-3232, Tyvan, SK. youngslandc@gmail.com

2012 NEW HOLLAND T9.450, 2985 hrs., powershift, \$150,000. 204-921-0233, Rosenort, MB. www.equipmentpeople.com

VERSATILE 4310

VERSATILE 836 with Degelman 12' blade, 6000hrs. 403-729-3980, Leslieville, AB.

2014 VERSATILE 2375, 710's, PTO, 4 hyd., 12 spd. standard, 1 owner, \$185,000. 306-682-0738, Humboldt, SK.

1984 VERS. 875 4WD, w/Atom Jet hyd. kit, \$27,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment Ltd., 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

875 VERSATILE SERIES III, 20.8x387 duals, 3400 original hrs., ultra premium condition. Dozer available. 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

1992 FORD/VERSATILE 946, JD Auto-Steer, 6000 hrs., very nice, \$44,500 Cdn. OBO. Delivery available. 218-779-1710.

VARIOUS TRACTORS 4319

\$215,000 2012 FENDT 933V, Stk# 91880, 3790 hrs., 330 HP, IVT, IF710/70R42 & IF620/75R30 Michelins, 4 SCV, Trimble CFX750. 403-742-4427, Stettler, AB.

MULTIPLE HIGH HP track & 4WD tractors. Various options, various hours. All are in excellent condition and priced to sell! Delivery available. Call 218-779-1710.

2014 CHALLENGER MT765D, 620 hrs., 3502 HP, Trimble Autopilot, 18" tracks, PTO, 3 PTH, \$229,800. 1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

2005 MCCORMICK MTX120 with Quicke loader, 3100 hours; 2006 MTX150; MTX 140. Call 204-522-6333, Melita, MB.

2008 JCB 541-70 Agra Plus telehandler, 1028 hrs., original owner, excellent condition, \$89,000. 403-348-7251, Beaverlodge, AB. cdgrinde@gmail.com

ALLIS CHALMERS 8010 4WD tractor w/FEL & 3PTH., \$6500 OBO. Call 306-862-8460, 306-277-4503, Gronlid, SK.

1985 DEUTZ FAHR DX6.50, 135 HP, air cooled, 7018 hrs., 540 PTO & hyd., runs good, great haying tractor, \$8900. 1-800-667-4515, www.combineworld.com

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2 & 7/8" OILFIELD TUBING, cement and plastic lined, \$25. Call 306-861-1280, Weyburn, SK.

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LIVESTOCK

BISON/BUFFALO 5001

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BISON CALVES WANTED. Harmony Natural bison. Call or text 306-736-3454, SE Sask.

BRED BISON HEIFERS for sale. 85 pasture raised, top cut. Ready to go Dec. 15. Call or text 306-495-8800, SE Sask.

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100 BISON COWS, \$5000 each; 100 bison calves (50 heifers and 50 bulls), taking offers. Call 250-263-3152, Melville, SK.

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KEEP JOBS IN CANADA. Elk Valley Ranches a Canadian Co. finishes bison in Canada. We are now buying cull cows, cull bulls, yearlings and calves. Paying top \$\$ with prompt payment. Kitscoty, AB, Frank at 780-846-2980. elkvalley@xplornet.com www.elkvalleyranches.com

20 - 2016 PLAINS Bison females. Average weight December 13th, 749 lbs. \$3750 each. Call 306-441-1408, Meota, SK.

NILSSON BROS INC. buying finished bison on the rail, also cull cows at Lacombe, AB. For winter delivery and beyond. Smaller groups welcome. Fair, competitive and assured payment. Contact Richard Bintner 306-873-3184.

QUILL CREEK BISON is looking for finished, and all other types of bison. COD, paying market prices. "Producers working with Producers." Delivery points in SK. and MB. Call 306-231-9110, Quill Lake, SK.

BISON/BUFFALO 5001

WANT TO PURCHASE cull bison bulls and cows, \$5/lb. HHW. Finished beef steers and heifers for slaughter. We are also buying compromised cattle that can't make a long trip. Oak Ridge Meats, McCreary, 204-835-2365, 204-476-0147.

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WANTED ALL CLASSES of bison: calves, yearlings, cows, bulls. Willing to purchase any amount. dreyelts1@rap.midco.net Call 605-391-4646.

215 - 2017 Bison Calves: Taking offers for December/January weaning, to be picked up. Started calving in March. Started finishing ration November 1st. 306-331-7563, Craik, SK. trewest.whbp@sasktel.net

BREEDING STOCK: BORN 2016 Breeder bulls available March 2018 and bred heifers available for Nov 2018. Visit our website for pictures or call for pricing. 780-581-3025, Vermilion, AB. irishcreekbison@gmail.com irishcreekbison.com

CATTLE

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BLACK ANGUS 5010

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BLACK ANGUS 5010



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BLACK ANGUS BULLS, two year olds, semen tested, guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. 306-287-3900, 306-287-8006, Englefeld, SK. www.skinnerfarms.ca

BRED HEIFERS: 125 black, Black Baldie heifers bred to easy calving Black Angus bulls for March 20 calving. Beautiful. Quiet, one iron heifer, \$2500. 204-841-0605, Neepawa, MB. js.silage@gmail.com

SWAN HILLS RANCH Pure bred Angus/Simmental cows. AI for Feb/Mar calving. 204-734-0210, Swan River, MB.

SELLING: BLACK ANGUS BULLS. Wayside Angus, Henry and Bernie Jungwirth, 306-256-3607, Cudworth, SK.

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SOUTH VIEW RANCH has Black and Red Angus coming 2-year-old bulls for sale. Good selection. Call Shane 306-869-8074 or Keith 306-454-2730. Ceylon, SK.

60 BRED BLACK HEIFERS bred Black, bulls out June 27th. Call 306-629-7575 or 306-629-3594, Morse, SK.

RED ANGUS 5015

RETIREMENT DISPERSAL of Angus genetics. 305 straws of semen from 7 Angus sires. 45 embryos from 4 high profile Angus cows. Ph/text for list 780-216-0220.

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REGISTERED PUREBRED CHAROLAIS bulls: 40+ yearling and 5 coming 2 year olds, for sale by private treaty. Belmont, MB. Brad 204-537-2367 or 204-523-0062 www.clinecattlecompany.ca

TEN PUREBRED CHAROLAIS bred heifers. Layne and Paula Evans, 306-252-2246, Kenaston, SK.

10 PUREBRED BRED Charolais heifers, some are AI. Wood River Charolais 306-478-2520 McCord, SK.

15 PUREBRED CHAROLAIS cows & 10 commercial cows, bred Charolais. Layne & Paula Evans, 306-252-2246, Kenaston, SK.

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DAVIDSON GELBIEH/ LONESOME DOVE RANCH 29th Annual Bull Sale, Saturday, March 3, 2018, 1:00 PM at their bull yards, Ponteix, SK. Complimentary lunch at 11:00 AM. Pre-sale viewing and hospitality, Friday, March 2nd. Selling 100+ purebred Gelbvieh yearling bulls, Red or Black. Performance and semen tested. Vernon and Eileen 306-625-3755, Ross and Tara 306-625-3513, Ponteix, SK. Bidding in person or on-line: www.dlms.com View catalog and video on our websites: www.davidsongelbvieh.com and www.lonesomedoveranch.ca

FANCY PUREBRED HEIFER Calves. Jen-Ty Gelbviehs, 403-378-4898, Duchess, AB. www.jentygelbviehs.com

HEREFORD 5090

PUREBRED HEREFORD FEMALES: Bred heifers and 2 & 3 year olds, bred Hereford, to calve Feb./Mar. Call 204-759-2188, 204-365-7426 or 431-282-3030, Strathclair, MB.

HOLSTEIN 5100

FRESH AND SPRINGING heifers for sale. Cows and quota needed. We buy all classes of slaughter cattle-beef and dairy. R&F Livestock Inc. Bryce Fisher, Warman, SK. Phone 306-239-2298, cell 306-221-2620.

SALERS 5185

PUREBRED SALERS HERD DISPERSAL. Details at: www.sweetlandlancers.com Ken Sweetland, Lundar, MB., 204-762-5512.

SIMMENTAL 5205

LWC RANCH SELLING Simmental bulls by private treaty. 2-year-old, yearling, and off-age bulls. Traditional, reds, blacks, Simmental Cross Angus. Contact Scott at 780-214-1198, or Blaine at 306-821-0112.

PB RED SIMMENTAL 2nd and 3rd calvers. Also red heifer calves. Crocus Simmentals, Swift Current, SK. Call 306-773-7122.

TEXAS LONGHORN 5225

ALBERTA TEXAS LONGHORN Association 780-387-4874, Leduc, AB. For more info. www.albertatexaslonghorn.com

WELSH BLACK 5235

WELSH BLACK- The Brood Cow Advantage. Check www.canadianwelshblackcattle.com Canadian Welsh Black Soc. 403-442-4372.

CATTLE VARIOUS 5240

180 BLACK & RED Angus cross cows, 3-5 years old, bred to top Black & Red Simmental bull. To start calving April 5th, vaccinated with Bovishield FP5, excellent deep square cows; Also 35 Angus cross heifers bred to easy calving Angus bull. Call 204-851-0745, Elkhorn, MB.

25 BLACK BRED heifers, bred Black Angus, easy calving bulls, bulls out 60 days, start calving May 1st, all vaccinations & Ivomec, \$2300. 306-283-4105, Saskatoon, SK.

60 BLACK BRED heifers, bred Black Angus, easy calving bulls, bulls out 60 days, start calving May 1st, all vaccinations & Ivomec, \$2300. 306-283-4388, Saskatoon, SK.

50 SIMMENTAL & SIMMENTAL Cross bred cows and heifers, bred Simmental, start calving March 1st. 306-762-4723, Odessa.



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100 BLACK ANGUS 3rd and 4th calvers; 250 Black & Red Angus 2nd calvers. Swift Current, SK. 306-773-1049, 306-741-6513.

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12 SIMMENTAL & Simmental Angus cross bred heifers, red and black, bred easy calving Simmental, for Feb and March calving. Call Lee at 306-335-7553, Balcarres, SK.

10 PB RA & 5 RA/Simm. bred heifers, bred RA July 14-Aug. 28. Kept these as own replacements out of 75 but must sell due to drought/feed shortage. Processed one month ago: RA 1017 lbs., Simm X 1068 lbs. Call Roger: 306-221-1558, Minton, SK.

RED ANGUS CROSS Simmental Bred Heifers, Bred Red Angus exposed June 12th. Call 306-458-7544, Midale, SK.

65 YOUNG RED & Red cross bred cows, bred to Charolais bulls, due April 1st; 65 young black and black/white face cows, bred to Black Angus bulls, due April 1st, \$2100. Call 306-577-1996, Kipling, SK.

EXCELLENT SET OF hand picked Red, RWF, & Black heifers. 112 red and RWF, exposed 45 days, start calving Feb 1st. 160 red and RWF, exposed 60 days, start calving April 1st. 40 black, exposed 60 days, start calving April 1st. Average weight 1200 lbs. Bred to top of the line Red Angus low BW bulls. 403-740-5197, Big Valley, AB.

14 RED ANGUS bred heifers, to start calving March 25th. Ivomec'd and vaccinated. Call evenings, Garry Voe, 306-873-9078 or 306-873-3788, Tisdale, SK.

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90 Black Angus- 60 Two's & 30 Yearlings
70 Charolais- 35 Two's & 35 Yearlings
30 Red & Black Simmental- Two's
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CATTLE VARIOUS 5240

110 BRED RED ANGUS Simmental cross heifers, bred Red Angus for 30 day calving period, bulls out July 1st. 306-355-2700, 306-631-0997, Mortlach, SK.

CATTLE WANTED 5245

WANTED: CULL COWS and bulls. For bookings call Kelly at Drake Meat Processors, 306-363-2117 ext. 111, Drake, SK.

CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING, backgrounding, finishing; also bred cattle. 403-631-2373, 403-994-0581, Olds, AB.

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SHEEP

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CANADIAN VERIFIED SHEEP Program (OFFS) workshop in conjunction with Sask. Sheep Development Board's AGM and Symposium will be held at Ramada Plaza Hotel 1818 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK. Jan 12-13, 2018. Please call: 306-933-5200 or mail to: sheepdb@sasktel.net to register, please visit: www.sksheep.com for details.

SPECIALTY

ELK 5760

NORTHFORK- INDUSTRY LEADER for over 15 years, is looking for Elk. "If you have them, we want them." Make your final call with Northfork for pricing! Guaranteed prompt payment! 514-643-4447, Winnipeg, MB.

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FFS- FUCHS FARM SUPPLY are the Canadian dealer for Farm Aid, parts and mix wagons. 306-762-2125, Vibank, SK. www.fuchs.ca

2000 HIGHLINE 6800 bale processor, 1000 PTO. 204-525-4521, Minitonas, MB. Website: www.waltersequipment.com

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48" BELTING DOWN to 32". Good for cattle feeders. Call 403-346-7178, Red Deer, AB.

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OILFIELD EQUIPMENT 5935

2002 WELLSITE 10'x30' trailer, propane pig, AC, bdrm. w/bunk beds, Fresh CVIP, \$38,800, Stk #UV1026. On Track Company Inc. 780-672-6868, Camrose, AB.

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WANT THE ORGANIC ADVANTAGE? Contact an organic Agriologist at Pro-Cert for information on organic farming: prospects, transition, barriers, benefits, certification and marketing. Call 306-382-1299, Saskatoon, SK. or info@pro-cert.org

GRAINS 5947

ORGANIC CO2 FERTILIZER: CropPlus. A 100% natural, organic, mineral based, foliar applied fertilizer. It contains carbon dioxide, which is very beneficial in plant health. Apply with any sprayer. \$10/acre. Cory Wiebe 204-247-2142, Roblin, MB.

GRAINS 5947

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PERSONAL 5950

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PETS

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No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof within six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further information contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobicoke, On.

REGISTERED 5970

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER puppies From great hunting parents, both health certified and titled in hunt tests. Registered, vaccinated, de-wormed and ready to go December 20th. Pedigrees available upon request. Inquire to: 306-776-2510 or e-mail: flatrocktrucks@outlook.com

PUREBRED BORDER COLLIE Puppies, 3 females. Microchipped, dewormed & vaccinated. \$750. 403-575-5470, Brownfield, AB.

NON REGISTERED 5971

10 YEAR OLD female Dalmatian, spayed, in good health, will take offers; 3 year old female PB German Shorthaired Pointer, \$600 OBO. 204-322-5614, Warren, MB.

PUREBRED FOX RED Lab puppies, ready to go for Christmas, 4 males, 3 females. Will be vet checked, dewormed, and have first shots. 306-368-2515, Lake Lenore, SK.

WORKING DOGS 5973

LARGE PUREBRED ALASKAN malamute/cross pups. Born Oct 10, these well marked pups, possess strong stamina, and loyalty, reasonably priced at \$327.50. Call 306-947-2190, Hepburn, SK.

REGISTERED BORDER COLLIE pups from working parents. Call Richard Smith 780-846-2643, Kitscoty, AB.

PUREBRED BORDER COLLIE pups for sale, Elvin Kopp bloodlines, can be papered, c/w 1st shots, vet checked, micro chipped, \$850. Call 403-575-1309, Consort, AB.

REAL ESTATE

B.C. PROPERTIES 6110

SOOKE, BC.: 1 hour west of Victoria. 4200 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 3 bath, 1/2 acre, ocean view; Plus adjoining 1/3 acre C3 commercial with buildings. MLS® 378889 & MLS® 381189. Call 250-642-5172.

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LOG SIDING, LOG cabin logs, Fir timbers, Fir flooring, Cedar. Special orders. Check out more info. at: rouckbros.com Lumby, BC., 1-800-960-3388.

HOUSES/LOTS 6126

LOG AND TIMBER HOMES, Saskatoon, SK. Visit www.backcountryloghomes.ca or call 306-222-6558.

MOBILE HOMES 6127

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WWW.MEDALLION-HOMES.CA modular homes/lake houses/RTM's. Visit our sales lot, or check online for stock, homes and all other plans. Factory direct orders built to your specs! Trade-ins welcome, buy and sell used homes. Hwy 2 South, Prince Albert, SK. Call 306-764-2121 or toll free 1-800-249-3969.

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RECREATIONAL PROPERTY 6130

LOOKING FOR YOUR piece of paradise? 2-1 ac. lots near Lac des Iles. Approx 140 ac. overlooking Lac des Iles. For more info: 306-238-7702, e.alexander@littletoon.ca

FARMS & RANCHES 6132

ALBERTA 6132

1235 ACRE RANCH W/IRRIGATION: Includes 920 acres dry land, seeded into grass. 320 acres with 160 acres irrigation and 160 acres of River Valley and Coulees. 2 pivots and rain gun. This place is a great set up for 200-250 cow/calves. All is fenced and cross-fenced. Full cattle handling system. Corrals set up for 500-600 cows. Majestic views of the Rocky Mountains & River Valley SE of Calgary. Vulcan County, ID #1100622. Real Estate Centre, 1-866-345-3414. For all our listings visit: www.farmrealestate.com

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ORGANIC LAND in MD of Mackenzie: 1200 seeded ac., 1800 sq.ft house w/garage, 6800 sq.ft. shop, 60x120 cold storage, 100,000+ bu. grain storage, on school bus route, power, phone, natural gas, dugout. 780-928-2538 or 780-841-1180.

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LAND FOR SALE: 505.18 ac. of cross fenced grass ready to be turned back into grain land. Land is beside busy airport in Central Alberta. \$3600/acre. Call 780-385-0524, Killam, AB. kelndor@syban.net

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LAND WANTED To rent or purchase in RM #248 and RM #218. Call 306-726-8090, Cupar, SK. pjhart@sasktel.net

QUARTER SECTION in RM of Bjorkdale, SK. #426. SW 19-45-09 W2. 147 acres, approx. 100 cultivated. Phone 306-864-7922.

SASKATCHEWAN 6133

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Thursday, March 15, 2018
Listing deadline: January 24, 2018

Call Wade Berlinic for full details and how this option may fit YOUR farmland.

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SASKATOON SOUTHWEST, River Valley View Estate, near golf course. Paved road and all services to site, \$229,500. Phone 306-382-1299 or 306-382-9024.

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WANTED: 1000 ACRE grain farm w/yard in northwest Saskatchewan. Call anytime: 780-205-4296 or email 3star@telus.net

RM OF FOAM LAKE #276 for sale SE-35-28-12-W2. 160 acres (approx. 102 cultivated). Call 780-724-3735 for info.

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DWEIN TASK REALTY INC. Saskatoon/Conquest: Mint 1560 sq. ft. bungalow on 10 acres. Absolutely all the bells and whistles! 40x60' straight wall shed, c/w 16' wall. Mature yard. MLS SK 709771 \$599,900; Saskatoon/Asquith: Nicely updated 1504 sq. ft. bungalow on 80 acres, 40x60' dream shop and 32x100' storage building. MLS SK 707238. \$549,900. Call Dwein 306-221-1035.

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TOP QUALITY CERT. #1 CDC Copeland, AC Metcalfe, Newdale. Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

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WANT TO FINISH combining in August? Grow an early variety! Grow Juniper oats and follow with Pintail winter wheat. Call Mastin Seeds, Olds, AB., 403-556-2609, mastinseeds.com

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WHEAT 6419

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CERTIFIED #1 AAC Brandon: 99% germ., 99% vigor, 38.58 TKW. Sandercock Seed Farm, 306-334-2958, Balcarres, SK.

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REGISTERED/CERTIFIED #1: CDC Landmark, AAC Brandon, AAC Jatharia, Cardale, CDC Utmost. Ardell Seeds, 306-668-4415, Vanscoy, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 AAC Jatharia VB wheat, new. Midge tolerant. Shewchuk Seeds, 306-290-7816, Blaine Lake, SK.

RM OF ELDON: SW 22-49-24 W3 Ext 24 and NE 09-49-24 W3 Ext 8. 298.88 acres. Surface lease revenue. For sale by Tender with bids closing Feb 1, 2018. Details at www.forrestlandtender.ca or contact Vern McClelland, RE/MAX of Lloydminster, 780-808-2700.

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RM MAPLE CREEK #111. For sale N 1/2 35-11-26-W3. 320 cult. acres, 60x100' steel quonset on 2' cement fdn, power, water for up to 100 head of cattle, 1 mile of Hwy #1 frontage. Call 403-866-2214.

RM OF ROSEDALE #283 By Tender: SE 1/4 22-29-4 W3, 160 cult. ac. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Submit tenders to: Box 37, Hawarden, SK., S0H 1Y0. Tenders close February 1, 2018. For more info, call Larry at 306-229-9926.

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WANTED

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Happy Holidays

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Hammond Realty would like to thank our farmland sales team for their outstanding performance and contributions in 2017 to the success of our company. The integrity, expertise, and performance of our team is inspiring to everyone they work with. The success they enjoy is also a result of their positive attitude, an appreciation for our clients, and a devotion to their families.

Congratulations on another year of achieving truly amazing results!
We sincerely appreciate having you as part of our team.

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 Tim Hammond (306)948-5052	 Kevin Jarrett (306)441-4152	 Dave Molberg (306)948-4478
 Anne Morrow (306)435-6617	 Alex Morrow (306)434-8780	 Dallas Pike (306)500-1407

WHEAT 6419

EXCELLENT QUALITY Cert. #1, CWRS: CDC Landmark VB, AAC Viewfield, AAC Brandon, AAC Cameron VB, AAC Elie, Cardale, CDC Utmost VB, AAC Connery & AAC Redberry. Frederick Seeds, 306-287-3977, Watson, SK.

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CANOLA 6440

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FLAX 6443

CDC GLAS, Reg., Cert., top quality seed. High yield, exc. standability, easy to harvest. Great reviews from customers. Inquiries welcome. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd., North Battleford, SK., 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

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FLAX 6443

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CERTIFIED GLAS and CDC Sorrel flax. Travin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.travinseeds.ca

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CERTIFIED Snowbird fababeans & Amarillo Peas. Call Travin Seeds, 306-752-4060, Melfort, SK. www.travinseeds.ca

LENTIL 6455

CERTIFIED CDC MARBLE, dark speckled; Certified CDC 4371-4, red. Call Grant, Semans, SK. 306-746-7336, 306-524-4339, 306-746-8070.

CERT. CDC IMPULSE, CDC Proclaim, CDC Maxim, CDC Redmoon, CDC Greenstar. 98% germ, 0% disease. Fraser Farms, Pamburn, SK. 306-741-0475. foc@sasktel.net

CERT. CDC PROCLAIM CL Reds, high germ. & 0% disease. Fast Seed Farm Ltd., 306-463-3626, Kindersley, SK.

CERTIFIED #1 CDC Impala (small red) Clearfield. Fenton Seeds, 306-873-5438, Tisdale, SK.

LENTIL 6455

PRAIRIE PULSE INC.
700 Campbell Dr., Vanscoy, SK S0L 3J0

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LENTIL BIDS delivered Vanscoy, SK as of December 14, 2017

CY Product (Dry)	Gde	\$/mt	¢/lb
17 Desi Chick Pea	1CW	665	30.16
17 Green Lentil, French	2C	700	31.75
17 Green Lentil, Large	1C	700	31.75
	2C	640	29.03
	X3C	485	22.00
	3C	440	19.96
17 Green Lentil, Small	1C	610	27.67
	2C	530	24.04
	X3C	465	21.09
	3C	420	19.05
17 Kalubi Chick Pea 10 mm	1CW	1,655	75.07
Kalubi Chick Pea 9 mm	1CW	1,350	61.23
Kalubi Chick Pea 8 mm	1CW	1,025	46.49
Kalubi Chick Pea 7 mm	1CW	700	31.75
17 Red Lentil, Small	2C	410	18.60
	X3C	355	16.10

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GREEN PEAS, yellow pea prices down, try new green pea varieties! CDC Limerick, CDC Greenwater & CDC Spruce. Select, Fdn., Reg. and Cert. Ask about CDC Forest. Gregoire Seed Farms Ltd, North Battleford, SK., cell 306-441-7851 or 306-445-5516. gregfarms@sasktel.net

CERTIFIED AAC ARDILL yellow peas. Call Hickseeds 306-354-7998 (Barry) or 306-229-9517 (Dale), Mossbank, SK.

REGISTERED/CERTIFIED #1: AAC Ardill, CDC Inca, CDC Spectrum, CDC Limerick (green), CDC Proclaim Lentil (red). Ardell Seeds Ltd., 306-668-4415, Vanscoy, SK.

CERT. CDC INCA; CDC Greenwater, exc. germ. and disease. Fraser Farms, Pamburn, SK. 306-741-0475. foc@sasktel.net

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CANARY SEEDS 6464

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FARM/RANCH 8016

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LOOKING FOR PEOPLE interested in riding feedlot pens in Strathmore or Lethbridge, AB. area, w/above average horsemanship skills, willing to train. 2 positions available. Wages depending on qualifications. 403-701-1548, Strathmore, AB.

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Alta. gets tougher on abandoned oil wells

Measures aimed at companies that don't clean up abandoned wells and then want to return

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

The Alberta government plans to further scrutinize bad-behaving oil companies that abandon their wells, don't clean them up and then want to return to produce more oil.

At issue is a requirement known as Directive 67, which deals with how oil companies are licensed when they want to start drilling.

Currently, oil companies can declare bankruptcy and walk away from their wells without having to pay clean-up costs. However, some companies who have done this now want to return to the field and get a license to produce more oil. They've even re-applied under different company names to do so.

This is problematic because the government doesn't want to give these bad-behaving companies access again, Energy Minister Marg McCuaig-Boyd said Dec. 6 when announcing new measures for dealing with the issue.

To change that, the government will give the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) more authority to scrutinize oil companies that want to come back.

The AER will be able to review the names of company directors who submit applications for licenses. If the directors are tied to any outstanding wells that haven't been cleaned, the agency can reject their applications.

"Closing this loophole not only ensures Albertans are protected from financial and environmental risk, it also ensures that the vast majority who behave responsibly are protected from those who don't," McCuaig-Boyd said.

"The industry is frustrated that a few bad actors are harming the reputation of the whole sector, and

I don't blame them."

As well, some farmers and ranchers have been frustrated with companies leaving abandoned oil wells, she added.

"It's a frustration that some farmers have to work around these sites, and then it makes it hard for the good actors in the industry and it becomes a reputation thing," she said.

AER president Jim Ellis said he's aware of only two company directors who have gone bankrupt, haven't cleaned their wells and are vying to come back.

"There are not hundreds and hundreds of companies doing this, but it is an issue," he said.

The most prolific case involving non-compliance involves a bankrupt company called Redwater Energy Corp.

The AER and the Orphan Well Association are getting the Supreme Court of Canada to review a ruling that lets Redwater walk away from its wells and give any of its leftover assets to creditors rather than using them to clean up their messes.

The AER has argued this allows oil company owners to avoid their environmental responsibilities.

If they don't clean it up, it's up to the Orphan Well Association to do it. The association is funded by the industry but has received funds from the government to accelerate clean-up efforts.

As well, McCuaig-Boyd said the Alberta government will continue to lobby the federal government to change the bankruptcy clause so companies can be held more accountable for cleaning up.

"There is a particular section of existing federal laws that allow bankruptcy receivers to just hand back the wells that need cleaning up, and that leaves Albertans and the rest of industry footing the bill," she said.



The Alberta Energy Regulator will be given more authority to scrutinize companies that want to return to produce more oil. | FILE PHOTO

"These federal laws override our provincial laws." There are 1,861 wells that need

to be reclaimed in Alberta, according to the Orphan Well Association. The wells have an estimated

value of \$100 million.

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LIVESTOCK

BUILDING A BETTER DAIRY COW

Greater use of genomics can make dairy cattle more profitable, productive and environmentally friendly, says a researcher. | Page 50



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Alta. TB source may remain a mystery

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

The source of bovine tuberculosis in a southern Alberta cow herd may be an enduring mystery.

The disease did not affect trade, but for those involved with the loss of 11,500 cattle, the impact was devastating, said a Canadian Food Inspection Agency official.

"How did it get here? All of us would like to know that answer," Rick James-Davies said at the Alberta Beef Producers annual meeting, which was held in Calgary Dec. 4-6.

The CFIA ran a meticulous investigation, and there is no evidence of it spreading. It appeared to be in an isolated pocket.

Canada maintained its international status as TB free but will continue doing surveillance, mostly through slaughterhouses where the symptoms of the disease are visible in the carcasses of infected animals.

"It is important to remember it doesn't mean there is zero TB in Canada," James-Davies said.

"We have a program so we can claim our livestock is TB free, but because of the nature of TB, you can be a TB free country and from time to time have cases of TB."

Testing of all commingled animals was conducted, but only six positives were ultimately found on one ranch in southeastern Alberta.

About 11,500 animals were ordered destroyed with more than \$39 million in compensation paid to producers.

Many are restocking their operations, and the new animals must be tested to ensure they are disease free. They will be tested again next year to ensure no infection is left on the farm.

Another phase of the investigation involved tracing animals that left the infected operations over the last five years. This took investigators to 79 farms, and no positives were found.

Final tests should be done by Christmas.

More than 1,250 wild elk were tested during the 2016-17 hunting season, and no positive cases were found. However, Alberta Environment has a three year plan to actively survey wildlife. Samples from elk hunted in southeastern Alberta will be tested regardless of whether there are signs of disease at the time.

Traceability was a challenge during this investigation. Canadian Cattle Identification Agency ear tags were checked, as were farm tags, brands, brand inspection records, shipping manifests and auction market records.

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WHEN WORK IS FUN



Jodi Giles multi-tasked Dec. 15 in a field south of High River, Alta., managing to do some horseback riding while checking on the cattle at the same time. After weeks of warm and dry weather, snow was forecast for late in the day. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

Manitoba confident it can obliterate PED in province

Producers prepared for April-June period, when the disease has been found in the past

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

Manitoba hog producers are making steady progress toward eliminating porcine epidemic diarrhea virus from 80 infected premises.

Dr. Glen Duizer of the province's chief veterinary office said 24 of those 80 are now presumed to have eliminated the virus and another 24 are in the transitional phase and should be deemed free of the virus shortly.

"We are happy to have progressed that far. We have pretty good expectation that over the next four to five weeks we'll have a significant number that will move on also from through transition to presumptive negative," Duizer said Dec. 13 during a conference call organized by Alberta Pork.

Manitoba has not had a new case of PED since Oct. 24, and Duizer said the province is well down the road to becoming PED free.

The virus was concentrated in southeastern Manitoba and involved 25 sow herds, 16 nurseries and 39 finisher operations. It required surveillance of about 77,000 sows and more than one million other pigs.

Though Duizer said the industry is pleased with eradication efforts,

producers are concerned about potential outbreaks in April, May and June, the period in which the virus has struck in the past.

"I would say that we have seen significant changes in how farms are approaching the upcoming season. We are seeing them or hearing of producers that are ready to implement high end biosecurity factors," Duizer said.

As well, the industry has developed dedicated transport lines for shipping cull animals and made changes to the cleaning and disinfection procedure on transport trucks.

Since many hogs are shipped to the United States, where PED is endemic, viral spread via transport truck remains a risk.

Duizer said producers are also being advised to limit the number of staff they share with other operations, which is another possible route of virus transmission.

Of the 80 infected farms, 30 were infected as a direct result of animal movement from one level to the next. In 18 of those cases, movement of pigs occurred before clinical signs of PED were found in the barn where the pigs originated.

"These were farms that because of space requirements and the need to find places for finishing

pigs, these were farms that were in the high risk buffer areas but were negative ... but were close to other positive farms and they were needed to receive pigs."

Duizer said it appears that previously infected pigs can become low-level shedders of the virus later on, in some cases four to eight weeks after they have recovered.

"The pigs need to be considered a risk for their entire lives until they finish out, and that's certainly the approach that we are taking now."

That indicates immunity does not last as long as previously believed.

There is concern that manure from infected premises is a threat for infection after it is spread on farmland. Duizer said that risk is reduced by dedicating equipment for manure spreading from infected premises. He said areas where this manure has been spread have been mapped and are typically close to infected farms.

"Our current understanding of the virus would suggest strongly that ... if (manure) is a risk, it's likely because it's tracked on the equipment and less so because it's tracked from the field after it's spread."

Pigs killed by the virus were either deeply buried in landfills or on-site at the infected farms, said Duizer.

Efforts were made to keep highly positive animals out of the rendering process to limit risk of crossover contamination from rendering facilities. However, he said the rendering process itself does kill the virus.

Dr. Julia Keenlside, a veterinary epidemiologist with Alberta Agriculture, said Alberta remains free of PED, as is British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Her department tests more than 280 samples each month from slaughter plants, assembly yards, trucks and truck washes.

Keenlside said Ontario, like Manitoba, is making strides in PED eradication. Ontario has had 105 cases, the most recent of which was confirmed Nov. 23, according to Ontario Pork.

"They are very close to eliminating the virus, which is very good news. It will be quite something to see them successfully eliminate it from the province, and I'm not aware of too many other regions in the world that have been able to do that," said Keenlside.

PED virus is contagious and is almost always fatal to young piglets. Older animals can survive, but it does affect production. The virus is not a risk to people.

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Calculate feed requirements, quality to save money

A proper feed program may include straw, grain and weeds along with supplements, but body condition should be constantly monitored

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

OLDS, Alta. — Weather extremes across Western Canada can sometimes cause livestock feed shortages.

Farmers must calculate availability and cost before a single load of feed is purchased, said Barry Yaremicio, beef specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

"Figure out what you can feed and when you can feed it to minimize your costs," he said at a recent cow management workshop at Olds, Alta.

Inventory includes how many cows need to be fed and how much winter feed is available in terms of bales, grain and other feedstuffs as well as feed quality.

"If you don't have the cornerstones for what you are needing for a proper feed program, it is about as effective as pushing a wagon uphill," he said.

Check the Alberta Agriculture Cow Bytes program to calculate feed and bedding requirements and potential costs, he added.

"If you are using a straw-grain ration with the supplements and limit your hay until after calving, your average feed costs should be \$640 per cow," he said.

Producers might consider limit feeding.

This was done in the drought years of 2002 and 2007. Typically, cows eat two to 2.5 percent of body weight daily, but they can manage when feed is cut back to half a percent of body weight plus some supplements to fill in mineral, vitamin and protein requirements.

Body condition must be monitored and if they start to lose weight, producers must add more feed. When offered less feed, cattle must be protected from the wind and require bedding. If sleeping on the snow, cattle can lose 25 percent

of their energy trying to keep warm.

A thin cow that is 200 pounds light going into winter requires an extra 1,400 lb. of hay to keep warm.

In a dry year, producers can wean calves early and put them on a grain, silage ration to relieve the cows. A dry cow requires 25 percent less nutrition than a lactating cow.

If you don't have the cornerstones for what you are needing for a proper feed program, it is about as effective as pushing a wagon uphill.

BARRY YAREMCIO
ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

Feed testing is important on baled forage and silage. Twenty samples collected with a forage probe at random are sufficient.

Producers should use a probe to get a complete sample because a handful will drop pieces and results could indicate unnecessary supplement requirements.

Feed test sample results should contain details on fibre levels, protein and minerals, such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and sodium. They should also show results for trace minerals such as copper, manganese and zinc.

In Alberta, the feed is probably deficient in cobalt, iodine and selenium. If using canola for feed, producers should request a test for sulfur levels.

Wet chemistry analysis is the standard for testing feed. The near infrared spectroscopy is good for protein and fibre, but there are no organic molecules tied to the minerals so results may not be reliable.

Nitrates in feed should be considered during drought and after hail, light frost or herbicide application.

Nitrate levels peak four days after hail or light frost. Cereal plants cannot regulate the nitrate and the leaves cannot convert the nitrogen into protein.

Legumes do not accumulate nitrates.

"The two big misconceptions with nitrates is people think a killing frost is the problem and that is when you are going to get nitrate accumulation. That is backwards. When you get that killing frost Mother Nature throws a hand grenade into the plant and destroys all the vascular tissues that move those nutrients up and down the stem and you don't get nitrate accumulation," Yaremicio said.

He also recommended that producers feed the lowest quality feed first if feed is in short supply.

"In a year when feed is short and you are having trouble with knowing what to feed, always start using the low-quality forages first when the requirements of the cows are the lowest," he said.

Add ionophores into supplements or pellets to improve fibre digestion. These products improve digestive efficiency by five to seven percent. Bovatec can be fed free-choice, but Rumensin cannot. Rumensin can kill horses and dogs so caution is needed.

There are many alternative feeds available but protein content and cost must be considered, he said.

"When we start looking at unusual ingredients, what we typically want to do is not rely on it 100 percent as part of a ration. Inclusion rates of 15 to 40 percent and adaptation periods are generally needed," Yaremicio said.

Producers are urged to start with small amounts mixed with other feed ingredients and increase the alternative feed levels gradually.

They should watch for signs of digestive upsets like feed refusal, sloppy manure and changes in animal behaviour.

Straw

Cereal straw has about four percent protein. This is the minimum amount needed for rumen function. It is a good filler for cows in mid-to-late pregnancy and for mature bulls. It can be fed at a rate of 25 to 40 percent of total dry matter intake per day.

Straw is not recommended for lactating cows or young calves because it takes too long to digest.

Pea straw has two to three percent more protein than cereal straw. It is also a good filler and has more calcium, while the energy content is equal or slightly less than oat straw. It has a different taste and may take the cows a few days to try it.

Canola straw is about one percent higher protein than cereal straw. Cows need to develop a taste for it, but once they do, they eat it eagerly. Canola straw is hollow stemmed and if it is put through a processor it can be reduced to dust. It is better to roll it out.

Weeds

Weeds generally provide good quality feed if cut early before flowering. Producers should limit their animals' intake to 2 to 25 percent.

Look up the weed on the Canadian poisonous plant registry to see if there are problems with toxicity.

Grazing field stubble

Weaned cows will clean up stubble but bloat and grain overload can occur if they get into a pile of leftover grain.

They will need a high calcium feedlot type mineral because grain is high in phosphorus. They could also develop a magnesium deficiency that results in downer cows.

Producers should monitor the manure consistency to determine how much protein livestock are getting. If it is lumpy and pyramid

shaped this is a protein deficiency so they may need supplementation.

Slough hay

Quality depends on the maturity of the crop. Slough hay is generally better than straw but not as good as tame hay.

Be careful when feeding reed canarygrass, whether cut or grazed, because there is a possibility of alkaloids and that can cause reproductive problems.

Hail-damaged crops

These vary in quality depending on the plant growth stage and extent of damage. Cut at the regrowth stage and get it tested.

If it was a heavily fertilized crop or the producer was going for high protein wheat, there can be nitrate accumulations.

Canola greenfeed or silage

Canola is at its highest quality in the late bloom to early pod stage. The quality is as good as high quality alfalfa hay with 14 to 16 percent protein. It can be fed as the only forage but there are concerns with nitrates, sulfur and high oil content if cut mature. If it is cut three weeks after pod set and full maturity, there could be up to 20 percent oil. This higher level of fat could disturb the rumen contents and bloat could result.

Lightweight grain

Barley quality is variable this year. Lightweight barley has less starch and more fibre. Cattle will gain less if the grain is less than 42 lb. per bushel, but it can be fed to growing and finishing steers. A consistent weight should be fed rather than changing rations midstream.

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Southern Alta. ranchers told to use Mother Nature's 'unfair advantages'

BY BARB GLEN
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

FORT MACLEOD, Alta. — Country singer Corb Lund, who grew up in Alberta, knows the difficulties associated with raising cattle in the chinook country of the south.

He sings about it in *Long Gone to Saskatchewan*, a song about moving east to avoid some of the costs and consequences.

Of Alberta, he sings:

Well it's a hell of a battle to try to raise cattle

*In the prettiest place on the hoof
Oil refiners and lot sub-dividers
Got land prices right through the roof*

They got values distorted and my brows all contorted

With the words that the banker just wrote

Me and the missus, we love the cow business

Took jobs just to keep us afloat...

I like Alberta, but dang ain't ya hearda

*How much it can cost to buy oats?
I'll always love her and think*

kindly of her

But I got no money left over for smokes

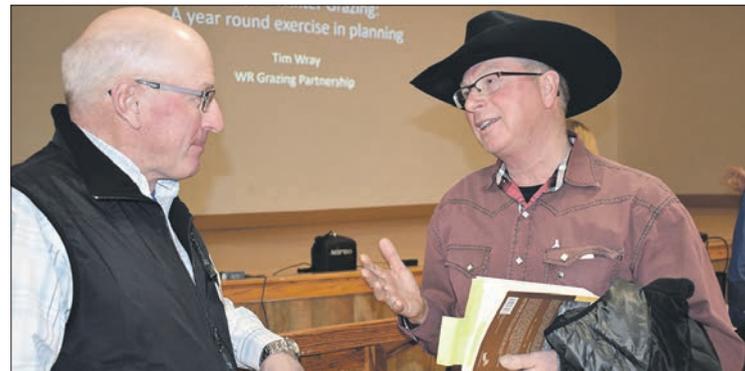
Cattle rancher Jim Bauer, who operates Anchor JB Ranch near Acme, Alta., acknowledged the truth in Lund's song during a recent winter feeding workshop organized by the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association.

But Bauer also encouraged ranchers to use their advantages — what he called the "unfair advantages" compared to other parts of the province — afforded those who graze cattle in Alberta's south.

"Some of us have better unfair advantages than others," said Bauer, listing land prices, climate and relatively low costs of feed.

Higher land prices in the scenic south are an asset because sellers can buy more land elsewhere for the same money.

Winter chinooks can expose pasture grass and their related warmer temperatures also reduce cattle feed intake. Rainfall, fertile soils, the opportunity to use cheaper byproducts from grain production, higher heat units and irrigation are



Jim Bauer, right, of Anchor JB Ranch near Acme, Alta., discusses grazing issues with rancher Andy Hart of Claresholm, Alta., during a forage and grazing workshop. | BARB GLEN PHOTO

also on the list.

Given those advantages, winter grazing is both possible and cheaper than hauling feed to the cattle all winter. Bauer listed the following risks to winter grazing:

- snow
- fire
- wind
- water
- wildlife

"To me, snow is the main one because we can get shut down by snow," he told a full house at the

workshop. Fire is always a worry, depending on conditions and location, and as for wildlife, "I know guys who have quit swath grazing because of elk."

Bauer advised ranchers to manage grass in strategic areas for specific events including calving, weaning and wintering. Consider where and when the grass will be needed and what type of livestock will be using it, as well as availability of water and shelter.

Having grass available in the

shoulder seasons of fall and early spring can lower the costs and the number of days when feed may need to be hauled.

Bauer also suggested that a combination of pasture grazing and swath grazing can be an option.

"It really works nice in combination with some grass," he said about swath grazing. "In most years, I like to have a piece of pasture beside a swath grazing field. (The cattle) seem to like the combination."

Bale grazing requires little labour, said Bauer, and the level of waste can be controlled with portable electric fencing. Cow temperament must also be addressed.

"You've got to have enough feeding days so that the timid cows can get their fill too," he said.

As well, "a cow that's already in good condition in the fall is a better candidate to winter graze than a thin cow."

Feed rationing is needed to get the most out of winter feeding strategies, said Bauer. Shorter grazing or feeding periods are better than long ones to better preserve the plane of nutrition for the livestock.

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Ont. dairy farm focuses on family

Ferme Gillette is spread over three sites and is run by four brothers and three cousins

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

EMBRUN, Ont. — Ferme Gillette is a family-run dairy that has achieved international recognition with champion Holsteins and record-producing cows.

Family is at the core of the 600-cow operation.

“We have been fortunate enough that the whole family has been part of this and we can keep growing with the family,” said Eric Patenaude, grandson of founder Gilles Patenaude.

“One of our strengths is that we can all work together,” he told a recent tour group at the farm at Embrun, Ont.

The name Ferme Gillette is a combination of the names of Gilles and Lorette Patenaude. The original family operation was established in 1878 by Gilles’s grandfather. Gilles became a dentist but also wanted to farm and in 1960 he switched from beef cows to Holsteins.

The farm is spread over three sites and is run by the four brothers,



ERIC PATENAUDE
FERME GILLETTE

Marc, Louis, Vince and Mathieu Patenaude, and three cousins.

The family is quick to adopt new technology and initiatives. It recently signed on to the Dairy Farmers of Canada’s food safety and animal welfare quality assurance program, ProAction.

“I was pretty happy when they brought that in because I think it is going to give us an edge going toward the future. It shows the general public the high standards we have here in Canada to compete in the future,” said Eric Patenaude.

The cows average 44 kilograms each of milk per day. High-producing cows need special care so cow comfort is a critical control point for Ferme Gillette.

“We have done everything we can here to make the cow happy as possible. The happier she is, the more milk she’ll produce,” he said.

There have been major investments in new milking systems, ventilation and bedding.

Technology like small orange ear tags is used to help determine when a cow is going into heat. The Cow Manager system from Select Sires uses an embedded microchip to detect head movements, cow activity, eating time and rumination, as well as body temperature. Any changes appear on the farm computer.

“You cannot always detect heat naturally so every morning I sit at my computer in the office and I see exactly which cattle need to be bred and which cows are sick,” he said.

Under new ProAction guidelines,



Ferme Gillette milks 600 cows at Embrun, Ont. The farm has achieved international recognition with champion Holsteins and record-producing cows. | BARBARA DUCKWORTH PHOTO

the farm has stopped docking cows’ tails, which was done to keep them cleaner.

They have also changed how they house calves and while the young ones live in small stalls, they have plenty of room, they can see who is next door and touch noses. Calves are eventually sorted into pairs so they have a buddy.

“If you have one calf that is the odd man out, it doesn’t do so well, so you have to put them in pairs,” Eric said.

New breeding plans are looking for a polled gene so they can eliminate dehorning and with a DNA test they are seeking cows that carry the A2 beta casein protein in their milk. It can help people with lactose intolerance digest milk with the addition of an enzyme

supplement. It is not for those with dairy allergies.

The dairy bull calves and heifers that may not make it as milking cows receive a special tag so they can be diverted to the beef market.

In addition, they have added an Angus component.

They used sexed semen recently to get more females but there are still some cattle destined for beef.

“The herd is growing. The ones we feel we don’t want to keep genetics from, then we will breed them with Angus semen or Angus embryos,” he said.

Louis Patenaude plans to develop a market for these crossbreeds in the beef market.

“There is an advantage for the cow with Angus. Calving is a lot easier and I have never had to pull

an Angus calf,” Eric said.

The farm keeps extensive records.

A special cow called Gillette Emperor Smurf EX-91 earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most prolific milk producer in the history of dairy cows. Smurf produced 216,891 kilograms in its lifetime, the equivalent of about one million glasses of milk.

The cow lived to be 18 years old and two years ago they allowed it to die naturally on the farm.

In addition, the farm has had an extensive show career and received honours such as Master Breeder, All Canadian awards, Class Extra Sires, Canadian and international cow of the year and record setting sales.

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Producers can build a better dairy cow through genomics

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BUREAU

OTTAWA — Dairy cow improvement with natural selection could be eclipsed by big data and genomic technology.

By unravelling the DNA of individuals, future generations of cows could be more vigorous, live longer and turn a profit sooner.

“More efficient animals produce more milk and less manure,” said producer David Wiens at a November dairy sustainability workshop in Ottawa.

Dairy Farmers of Canada has invested heavily in genomic research to make more productive and environmentally friendly cows that can turn a profit.

That is the bottom line for producers who have their bulls and females genotyped.

If Brian Van Doormaal of the Canadian Dairy Network had his way everybody would adopt this technology, which he says has been steadily growing since 2009.

By properly applying collected data and science, each generation of cows has the capacity to make more milk and more money.

“The average profit-breaking point in a typical dairy cow in Canada is at 40 months of age,” said Van Doormaal.

However, if superior heifer replacements could be selected based on their DNA merit, farmers could save the expense of developing females that might not survive past their first lactation.

All dairy bulls selected for artificial insemination are now DNA tested and that information can be added to their production statistics.

About 30,000 bulls may be selected in a year and when their DNA is collected the candidates for artificial insemination programs could be narrowed to 1,500 of the most worthy, said Van Doormaal.

But there are two sides to a pedigree and more female information is needed. About 10 percent has been collected. The onus is on farmers to collect 10 to 20 hair samples or a plug of tissue when a calf receives its identification ear tag.

“Those breeders that are really at the forefront of the industry and want to adopt those technologies fast, they’ve accepted it,” he said.

Farmers may balk at doing it because they have to pay for the tests.

“We have to teach them that if you genotype these animals and it costs \$45 a piece to do so, over the lifetime of the animal you get that \$45 back,” he said.

The dairy network has an extensive database because farmers have been submitting information for decades on milk production and quality, fertility, longevity, diseases, calving ease, temperament, body conformation and offspring results.

Many traits have already been identified on the bovine genome so farmers seeking better individuals can find their results on the network database.

The database has about two million dairy cattle genotypes, of which 1.7 million are Holsteins from Canada and the United States. There may be 1.6 billion points of data but more information is needed.

“Two percent of dairy farmers in Canada have genotyped 80 percent of their milking herd,” he said.

Probably 30 percent of dairy herds in Canada have never touched genotyping but Van Doormaal is confident that will change.

“Our current adoption is just at the end of the innovators stage and

a group of early adopters are embracing this. We will be genotyping more and more females in our population and more farmers will be adopting genotyping as an on-farm herd management strategy to make more money out of animals in their herd,” he said.

The data can be tied to profit potential. Dairy producers are already aware of the LPI, (lifetime profit index) where production traits, durability, health and fertility are calculated to select new animals.

The newest element is Pro Dollar to help select bulls and cows with the greatest profitability linked to progeny, disease risk, lactations, longevity and other pertinent information.

In the last five years with the introduction of genomics, the strides forward across the entire Holstein population have been notable. Van Doormaal estimates the rate of progress has doubled or even tripled.

“We have more than doubled the rate for genetic progress for LPI and Pro Dollar since the introduction of genomics in Canada,” he said.

Before genomics testing in 2009, the average rate of progress was

worth \$79 per head but now it is more than double that amount.

The Canadian industry is positioned for three major opportunities in the next few years.

The first is genetic improvement associated with animal health and welfare where cattle could be resistant to mastitis, digital dermatitis and metabolic diseases.

The second is improved feed efficiency, currently being investigated in a four-year project worth more than \$10 million at the universities of Guelph and Alberta.

Sustainability for the industry is improved because fewer cows are needed to produce enough milk for Canadians. In 1960, three million cows were needed to produce enough milk and today a third of the cows are producing the same volume.

Genomics also improves traceability. All animals are uniquely identified at birth and the collection of DNA for newborn calves will provide new opportunities. Cull dairy cows and bulls usually end up being sold for the meat and with DNA samples on file, all beef is traceable back to the animal of origin.

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NSAIDs alleviate pain at calving, during processing

ANIMAL HEALTH



ROY LEWIS, DVM

As veterinarians use more and more NSAIDs to manage pain in livestock, one major area to focus on is the pain of the calf and the cow at calving.

Producers should develop a plan with their vets as to where and when to use these products when it comes to calving this spring.

NSAID, or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, are among the most common pain medications, available in injectable, oral and pour-on formulations.

A cow that has undergone a caesarian section will benefit immensely from NSAID treatments because she has had major abdominal surgery.

She will resume eating more quickly and as a result will probably milk better.

If traction was applied to the calf, then the calf is usually administered painkillers because of the leg swellings from chains biting in.

We as veterinarians try to be cognizant of how painful the birthing process can be. We double wrap the obstetrical chains and teach producers to do the same. This avoids broken legs by spreading out the force, but the legs are still sore and usually swelling is evident.

Prominent researchers at the University of Calgary's veterinary school and manufacturers of painkillers are conducting studies to measure the benefits of giving painkillers around calving time.

There is no question in my mind that NSAIDs will help the cow recover quicker if major manipulation or torsion are needed at calving.

Also, whenever we need to use a calf puller, NSAIDs are good for both cow and calf. The cow will get eating quicker and the calf will likely suckle quicker and be more vigorous, although many producers who have assisted with a hard-pull birth, milk the cow to insure the calf gets colostrum quicker.

Researchers are seeing many promising results for cows and calves from these treatments. Some trials will even compare the different NSAIDs on the market. We know they all should work; the question is to what degree and for what type of pain.

For painful procedures such as the repair of broken legs, using NSAIDs is a no brainer.

With diarrheic calves, a study by one pharmacy company showed increased appetites and weight gains. The quicker and better calves recover from systemic disease, the better they do.

I have even used NSAIDs by themselves in calves limping or sore from being stepped on. The result was a quicker and less stressful recovery.

Most NSAIDs show results last for about two days, so often one treatment is all that is necessary.

Navel infections cause lots of pain and calves often walk hunch-backed, and when you grab them in the navel area they will grunt.

Grunting and grinding of teeth, also called bruxism, are two strong signs of severe pain that need to be addressed.

In calves with severe coccidiosis, straining continually and bruxism are common signs of pain.

Most calf diseases could benefit from concurrent use of NSAIDs but ask a veterinarian to help set up the protocols.

In young calves, the amount of drugs required and the cost are low while the treatments can often provide significant benefits.

Many other calving procedures can benefit from concurrent usage of NSAIDs but depending on sever-

ity, veterinarians may or may not prescribe them.

In cases of a prolapsed uterus, involving shock, blood loss and other complicating factors, NSAIDs may be wise.

Obturator paralysis cases (cow can't get up from a hard calving) may benefit greatly from NSAIDs. Prolapsed vaginas, rectums or prolapses of perivaginal fat all have swelling and straining from the irritation and potential infection.

There are too many potential uses of NSAIDs to include them all on the labels, but we know many calving situations cause pain and inflammation. Tears and lacera-

tions in the birth canal or vulva lips cause swelling or localized infections. The quicker we can help and alleviate complications the better the cows will milk and return to rebreeding shape.

The public identifies with a mother giving birth and even though some cows are suited for easy calving, complications can arise and newborns can get sick.

Cattle producers have great tools to take away the pain. I even had one producer ask at a recent meeting if painkillers should be given to all newborns when they are given their needles, receive ear tags, are potentially castrated

with a band and, in some cases, receive implants.

Maybe researchers will study whether all these little pains add up to something more significant. Time will tell, but it is interesting that producers see the huge benefits NSAIDs can have.

Some may be more convenient or have shorter withdrawals that may be important in mature cattle.

The thing is they all work and which one to use in which situation is what you and your veterinarian need to determine this calving season. They are all prescriptions but have fewer side effects than the steroids of old.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs help reduce pain during birthing and might be considered when castrating, vaccinating or ear tagging calves

Roy Lewis works as a technical services veterinarian part time with Merck Animal Health in Alberta.



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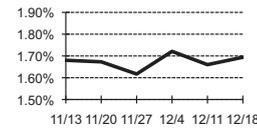


RICHARDSON
PIONEER

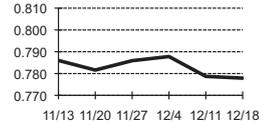
AGFINANCE

CDN. BOND RATE:
1.694%

CDN. DOLLAR:
\$0.7779



Bank of Canada 5-yr rate



Dec. 18

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Lower commodity prices and tighter margins are expected to take their toll on farmland prices in the United States. | FILE PHOTO

U.S. farmland value set to fall if crop prices remain lacklustre

Farmers are cutting back on equipment purchases, but that can't continue for much longer

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

CHICAGO, Ill. — U.S. farmland is overpriced and a correction is coming, say economists.

Brent Gloy, an economist with Agricultural Economic Insights, said U.S. land values were rising until a few years ago because farmers were making lots of money.

However, that isn't the case anymore. Budgets are tight.

"Farmers for the last three or four years of this slowdown have been able to pay for their land or their equipment but not both," he told delegates attending the 2017 DTN Ag Summit.

"My question is, how much longer can we do that?"

Gloy, who is also a visiting professor at Purdue University, said a university survey of producers shows widely varying expectations for crop prices.

One-third of farmers surveyed expect the July 2018 Chicago Board of Trade corn futures price to exceed \$4.25 per bushel. Another third expect it will be below \$3.50 per bu. When pushed further, most believe prices will remain at about today's levels.

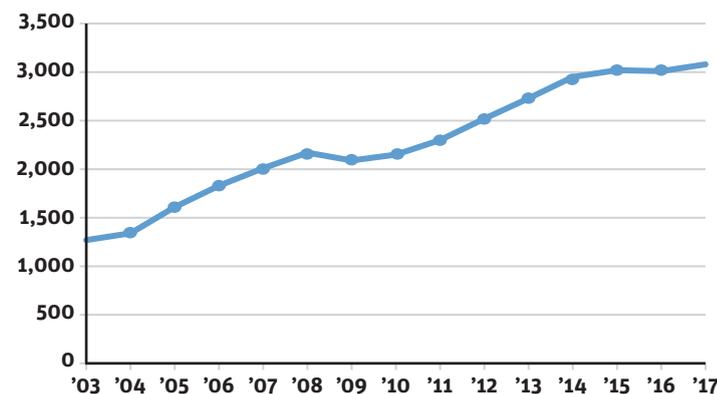
So if prices don't rise, how are farmers going to alleviate pressure on their margins?

Last year they received some relief in the form of falling fertilizer prices. They have also cut back on equipment purchases, but that

AVERAGE U.S. FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES

Strong crop commodity prices and low interest rates fuelled a rapid rise in U.S. farmland values from 2009-15. Prices have flattened in the last three years and might fall if crop prices remain at current levels. There is wide variation in land prices by state and region and by the type of crops grown. Near the high end is Iowa where corn and soybean land values average around US\$7,300 per acre while in Montana wheat country, the price is closer to \$920 per acre.

U.S. farmland prices (\$US/acre)



Source: USDA | DIANNA ROSKO GRAPHIC

can't go on much longer.

Gloy believes the next domino to fall will be land prices, which account for 35 percent of total expenditures on the average farm, the most of any expense category.

Farmers no longer have the financial capacity to continue subsidizing rent and land returns.

The Purdue survey from this past October found that 41 percent of farmers said they are financially worse off than they were a year ago. That is better than the 80 percent

who thought that way a year ago but still a dismal picture.

Working capital in the U.S. agriculture sector has plummeted to \$50 billion in 2017 from \$120 billion in 2012.

"The working capital is gone," said Gloy.

Peak Soil Indexes creates transaction-based farmland indexes, fair market values and projected values in six U.S. Midwest states as well as in Saskatchewan.

Matt Lindale, managing director

with Peak Soil, said the company uses machine learning to determine fair market values based on crop prices, interest rates, net farm income, exchange rates, exports and storage and additional commodity prices and economic indicators.

The current fair market value of average farmland in Indiana is US\$6,775 per acre, which is below the index price of \$7,003, suggesting land is overpriced.

The projected fair market value in November 2018 is \$6,400 per acre or 8.8 percent below the current index.

It is a similar outlook in Iowa, where the future fair market value is 6.1 percent lower than the current index and in Illinois where it is 4.7 percent below the index.

"That is not set in stone," said Lindale.

He said many factors could change the outlook, including rising crop prices.

Statistics Canada calculates farmland values every June. Its last estimate for Saskatchewan was that farmland values averaged \$1,243 per acre as of June 30, 2016. Its next estimate for June 2017 will be published around mid-May 2018.

Peak Soil's Saskatchewan index shows farmland sales averaged \$1,272 in June 2016, slightly higher than the Statistics Canada number. The index rose to \$1,312 per acre as of June 30, 2017, and has kept climbing to \$1,345 by the end of November.

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AG STOCKS DEC. 11 - 15

Cdn. exchanges in \$Cdn. U.S. exchanges in \$U.S.

GRAIN TRADERS

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
ADM	NY	40.56	41.51
AGT Food	TSX	20.02	20.28
Bunge Ltd.	NY	67.69	69.79

PRAIRIE PORTFOLIO

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
Ceapros Inc.	TSXV	0.54	0.54
Cervus Equip.	TSX	15.33	15.30
Input Capital	TSXV	1.57	1.65
Rocky Mtn D'ship	TSX	13.78	13.86

FOOD PROCESSORS

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
ConAgra Brands	NY	37.76	37.25
Hormel Foods	NY	36.79	37.24
Lamb Weston	NY	55.50	56.21
Maple Leaf	TSX	36.57	35.56
Premium Brands	TSX	105.53	106.10
Tyson Foods	NY	81.28	83.62

FARM EQUIPMENT MFG.

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
AGI	TSX	53.45	53.37
AGCO Corp.	NY	74.39	72.46
Buhler Ind.	TSX	4.21	4.60
Caterpillar Inc.	NY	146.69	143.86
CNH Industrial	NY	13.00	13.06
Deere and Co.	NY	150.87	151.58

FARM INPUT SUPPLIERS

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
Agrium	TSX	141.74	136.49
BASF	OTC	27.68	27.72
Bayer Ag	OTC	31.35	30.86
DowDuPont Inc	NY	70.00	70.73
BioSyst Inc.	TSXV	9.93	10.24
Monsanto	NY	117.35	117.30
Mosaic	NY	24.92	23.62
PotashCorp	TSX	25.32	24.33
Syngenta	ADR	92.38	92.38

TRANSPORTATION

NAME	EXCH	CLOSE	LAST WK
CN Rail	TSX	103.35	103.08
CPR	TSX	230.05	231.73

List courtesy of Ian Morrison, financial adviser with the Calgary office of Raymond James Ltd., member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund. The listed equity prices included were obtained from Thomson Reuters. The data listed in this list has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Within the last 12 months, Raymond James Ltd. has undertaken an underwriting liability or has provided advice for a fee with respect to the securities of AGT Food. For more information, Morrison can be reached at 403-221-0396 or 1-877-264-0333.

IN BRIEF

RICHARDSON BUYS MANITOBA DEALER

Richardson International has bought Bestland Air Ltd., an independent crop inputs retailer near Starbuck, Man.

The transaction closed Dec. 8.

Richardson wants to build its crop inputs network across Western Canada through acquisitions and new builds. It bought 10 retail crop inputs locations from CHS Canada in October and two independent, full-service retail crop inputs centres in Vermilion, Alta., and Forestburg, Alta., last summer.

It opened crop input centres in Elrose, Sask., in the summer and in Pasqua, Sask., in November.

Another facility under construction in Wakaw, Sask., should be open for business in 2018.

A belt and suspenders: managing risk strategically

MANAGING THE FARM



AARON HONESS

When it comes to managing risk, many producers take a belt and suspenders approach, buying multiple risk management products and hoping to ensure they'll be all right in the future.

Others forgo risk management products altogether, counting on the good times to keep coming. Astute producers land somewhere in the middle, taking a strategic approach to mitigate the impact of potential negative events.

All producers face a laundry list of risks and have a number of risk management tools at their discretion.

Sobeys, Safeway owner expands discount model

SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Empire Co., the owner of Sobeys, plans to convert up to 25 percent of its 255 Safeway and Sobeys full service format stores in Western Canada to its discount FreshCo banner over the next five years.

"This is a very attractive strategic and financial opportunity for us that will grow our market share in the western provinces in a profitable way," said Michael Medline, Empire chief executive officer.



MICHAEL MEDLINE
EMPIRE CO. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"Our comprehensive research and analysis shows that the West is fertile ground for 'small box' discount, and that our FreshCo banner will resonate with consumers in Western Canada."

The company's FreshCo brand of stores currently operates in Ontario, focusing on lower prices but high quality produce.

A number of locations will provide an enhanced ethnic offering that has been introduced in the Ontario market.

In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017, Empire launched Project Sunrise, a three year transformation intended to simplify the organizational structure and reduce costs.

The transformation is expected to result in about \$500 million in annualized cost savings by fiscal 2020.

Empire bought Safeway in 2013 but has struggled to incorporate the chain into its business and has posted poor financial results.

For example, crop producers have access to crop and hail insurance, AgriStability and private insurance to manage production risk.

Some will use multiple approaches and potentially overprotect and overspend, others may not use them appropriately based on the risk inherent in their business and some don't see value in any of the products, choosing instead to self-insure without objectively assessing their ability to do so.

Risk management should be part of your annual planning process, and you should take a strategic approach.

You need to balance the four key areas of the business: operations, market, finance and human resources.

Identify the key risks in each business area and objectively make decisions on each. Gut feeling does not count as objective assessment.

The risks will vary according to each agriculture business, and you'll find only a couple in each key area that are high priority.

High priority means the event has a high probability of happening and, if it does happen, it will have a large financial impact on the business.

Once you do that, each risk can be quantified and prioritized.

This can allow those using a belt and suspenders approach to re-adjust their strategy, generating more value from the money spent on risk management.

Developing a risk management

plan that is balanced to address the four business areas and considers probability and impact will likely be better for the business than spending to protect the business from every type of risk.

For those who aren't adequately protected, developing a risk management plan is key to staying competitive and profitable.

One bad year will set you back financially, and it may take several years to get out of that hole.

To stay competitive, you have to have a balanced and affordable strategy for mitigating the impact of high risk events.

To develop a plan, producers need to ensure they understand the various risk management products that are available as well as

undertake a cost-benefit analysis of each one.

They also need to determine how various products complement each other so they can put together a risk management package that gives them the greatest protection at a reasonable cost.

Analyzing the cost and benefits of various products and how they can best be used in your situation can be complicated and time consuming.

An experienced farm management consultant who is not selling a product can help.

Aaron Honess, B.Mgt, is a partner and a member of MNP's farm management team in Lethbridge. Contact him at 403-380-1618 or aaron.honess@mnp.ca.

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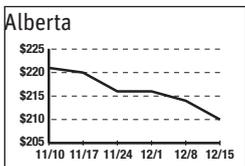
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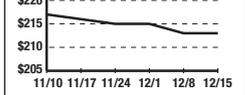
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CATTLE & SHEEP

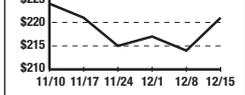
Steers 600-700 lb. (average \$/cwt)



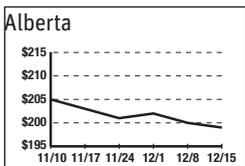
Saskatchewan



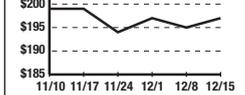
Manitoba



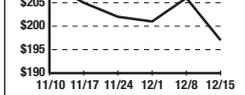
Heifers 500-600 lb. (average \$/cwt)



Saskatchewan



Manitoba



Canadian Beef Production

million lb.	YTD	% change
Fed	1,954.4	+2
Non-fed	321.5	+12
Total beef	2,275.9	+4

Canfax

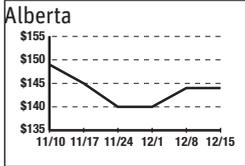
EXCHANGE RATE

DEC. 18
\$1 Cdn. = \$0.7779 U.S.
\$1 U.S. = \$1.2855 Cdn.

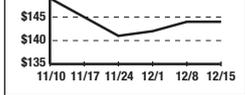
HOGS

Due to wide reporting and collection methods, it is misleading to compare hog prices between provinces.

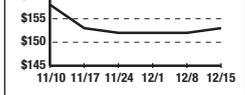
Index 100 Hog Price Trends (\$/c/kg)



Saskatchewan Sig. 5



Manitoba



ELEVATOR SHIPMENTS

Slaughter Cattle (\$/cwt)

Grade A	Live		Previous	Year ago	Rail		Previous
	Dec 8-Dec 14	Dec 1-Dec 7			Dec 8-Dec 14	Dec 1-Dec 7	
Steers							
Alta.	154.00-158.00	152.50-155.00	153.82	153.82	254.00-263.50	247.75-252.50	247.75-252.50
Ont.	121.13-145.16	127.97-144.06	132.45	132.45	238.00-240.00	238.00-242.00	238.00-242.00
Heifers							
Alta.	n/a	147.50	155.54	155.54	255.50-263.50	247.75-252.50	247.75-252.50
Ont.	123.48-140.93	129.06-142.62	133.04	133.04	237.00-239.00	237.00-241.00	237.00-241.00

*Live f.o.b. feedlot, rail f.o.b. plant. Canfax

Feeder Cattle (\$/cwt)

	Sask.				Alta.	B.C.
	Sask.	Man.	Alta.	B.C.		
Steers						
900-1000	176-186	no sales	185-193	no sales		
800-900	185-194	178-200	187-201	174-182		
700-800	193-210	195-215	195-209	184-205		
600-700	206-221	210-233	202-218	197-209		
500-600	216-238	215-240	217-240	206-233		
400-500	237-266	234-275	240-269	233-253		
Heifers						
800-900	172-185	170-186	173-186	162-179		
700-800	173-188	172-189	176-190	166-181		
600-700	183-200	180-196	180-199	173-192		
500-600	187-209	188-215	188-210	183-200		
400-500	198-224	195-230	200-226	194-219		
300-400	213-242	no sales	217-240	205-225		

Canfax

Average Carcass Weight

	YTD 17				YTD 16
	Dec 9/17	Dec 10/16	YTD 17	YTD 16	
Canfax					
Steers	912	930	894	919	
Heifers	842	835	823	842	
Cows	712	711	732	751	
Bulls	919	977	1,024	1,017	

U.S. Cash cattle (\$/cwt)

	Steers		Heifers	
	Dec 14	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 7
National	201.04	205.08	193.46	193.46
Kansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nebraska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nebraska (dressed)	190.00			

Slaughter cattle (35-65% choice)

	Steers		Heifers	
	Dec 11	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 4
Wool sheep	2.00-2.45	2.00-2.35		
55-69 lb	2.00-2.45	2.00-2.35		
70-85 lb	1.95-2.24	1.95-2.24		
86-105 lb	1.80-2.06	1.85-2.16		
> 95 lb	1.73-1.81	1.74-1.83		
> 110 lb	1.80-1.95	1.78-2.20		
Feeder lambs	1.50-2.40	1.50-2.40		
Sheep	1.35-1.50	1.30-1.45		
Rams	1.40-1.80	1.20-1.40		
Kids	90-150	90-150		

Beaver Hill Auction Services Ltd. Ontario Stockyards Inc. Shipping December

Sheep (\$/lb.) & Goats (\$/head)

	Dec 11		Dec 4	
	Dec 11	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 4
New lambs	2.70-3.53	2.40-2.30		
65-80 lb	2.15-3.65	2.43-3.20		
80-95 lb	2.00-2.25	2.00-2.36		
> 95 lb	1.98-2.12	2.05-2.22		
> 110 lb	1.80-1.95	1.78-2.20		
Feeder lambs	1.50-2.40	1.50-2.40		
Sheep	1.35-1.50	1.30-1.45		
Rams	1.40-1.80	1.20-1.40		
Kids	90-150	90-150		

Ontario Stockyards Inc. Shipping December

Cattle / Beef Trade

	Exports		% from 2016	
	Dec 11	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 4
Sltr. cattle to U.S. (head)	485,661 (1)		-9.4	
Feeder C&C to U.S. (head)	114,836 (1)		-35.1	
Total beef to U.S. (tonnes)	234,925 (3)		+2.3	
Total beef, all nations (tonnes)	316,663 (3)		+5.0	
Sltr. cattle from U.S. (head)	n/a (2)		n/a	
Feeder C&C from U.S. (head)	50,693 (2)		+249.8	
Total beef from U.S. (tonnes)	115,085 (4)		-1.3	
Total beef, all nations (tonnes)	165,411 (4)		-8.1	

(1) to Dec 2/17 (2) to Oct 31/17 (3) to Oct 31/17 (4) to Dec 9/17 Agriculture Canada

Chicago Hogs Lean (\$/cwt)

	Close		Trend	Year ago		Close		Trend	Year ago
	Dec 15	Dec 8				Dec 15	Dec 8		
Feb	68.53	68.85	-0.32	64.70	Jul	82.40	83.23	-0.83	77.63
Apr	72.80	73.13	-0.33	68.30	Aug	82.38	83.20	-0.82	77.95
May	77.85	78.53	-0.68	73.90	Oct	69.18	69.55	-0.37	66.68
Jun	82.15	83.28	-1.13	77.95	Dec	63.85	-	-	61.10

Chicago Hogs Lean (\$/cwt)

	Close		Trend	Year ago		Close		Trend	Year ago
	Dec 15	Dec 8				Dec 15	Dec 8		
Feb	68.53	68.85	-0.32	64.70	Jul	82.40	83.23	-0.83	77.63
Apr	72.80	73.13	-0.33	68.30	Aug	82.38	83.20	-0.82	77.95
May	77.85	78.53	-0.68	73.90	Oct	69.18	69.55	-0.37	66.68
Jun	82.15	83.28	-1.13	77.95	Dec	63.85	-	-	61.10

Hogs / Pork Trade

	Export		% from 2016		Import	% from 2016	
	Dec 11	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 4		Dec 11	Dec 4
Sltr. hogs to/fm U.S. (head)	787,575 (1)		-11.9		n/a		
Total pork to/fm U.S. (tonnes)	315,532 (2)		-4.7		175,263 (3)		+5.0
Total pork, all nations (tonnes)	1,063,794 (2)		+4.4		195,158 (3)		+2.9

(1) to Dec 2/17 (2) to Oct 31/17 (3) to Dec 9/17 Agriculture Canada

Chicago Hogs Lean (\$/cwt)

	Close		Trend	Year ago		Close		Trend	Year ago
	Dec 15	Dec 8				Dec 15	Dec 8		
Feb	68.53	68.85	-0.32	64.70	Jul	82.40	83.23	-0.83	77.63
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Jun	82.15	83.28	-1.13	77.95	Dec	63.85	-	-	61.10

Chicago Hogs Lean (\$/cwt)

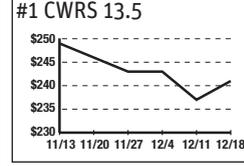
	Close		Trend	Year ago		Close		Trend	Year ago
	Dec 15	Dec 8				Dec 15	Dec 8		
Feb	68.53	68.85	-0.32	64.70	Jul	82.40	83.23	-0.83	77.63
Apr	72.80	73.13	-0.33	68.30	Aug	82.38	83.20	-0.82	77.95
May	77.85	78.53	-0.68	73.90	Oct	69.18	69.55	-0.37	66.68
Jun	82.15	83.28	-1.13	77.95	Dec	63.85	-	-	61.10

(000 tonnes) Dec 10 Dec 3 YTD Year Ago

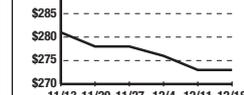
Alta.	271.2	216.8	4,988.9	5,232.3
Sask.	455.7	396.5	8,238.9	8,660.8
Man.	174.5	210.8	4,008.3	3,321.7

GRAINS

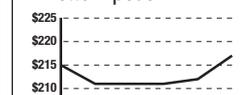
Cash Price for SE Sask PDQinfo.ca



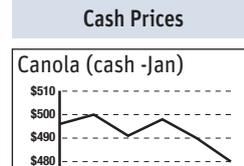
#1 Durum 13.0



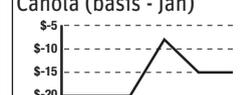
#2 Yellow peas



Cash Prices



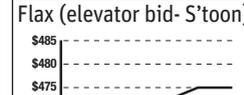
Canola (basis - Jan)



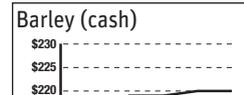
Feed Wheat (Lethbridge)



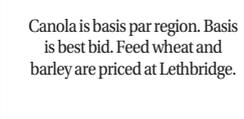
Flax (elevator bid- S'toon)



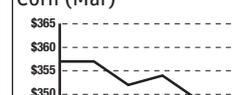
Barley (cash)



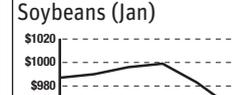
Chicago Nearby Futures (\$/100 bu.)



Corn (Mar)



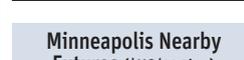
Soybeans (Jan)



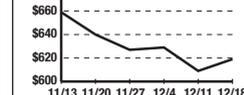
Oats (Mar)



Minneapolis Nearby Futures (\$/100bu.)



Spring Wheat (Mar)



Pulse and Special Crops

Source: STAT Publishing, which solicits bids from AGT Inc., Canpulse Foods, CGF Brokerage, Maviga NA, Parrish and Heimbecker, Scoular Canada and Simpson Seeds. Prices for dressed product at plant.

|--|

PARTRIDGE IN A POPLAR TREE

enjoy the scenic view from the top of a poplar tree near Maidstone, Sask.

The hoarfrost provided a pretty setting for this partridge to
BARB MITCHELL PHOTO



THE WESTERN PRODUCER

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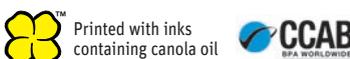
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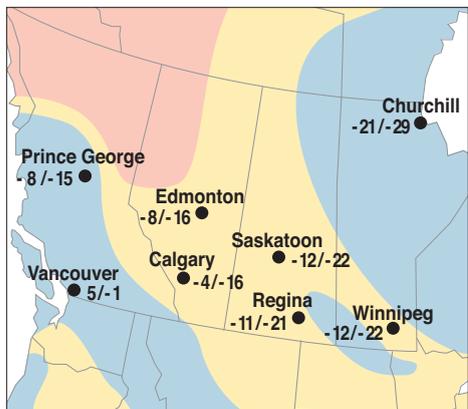
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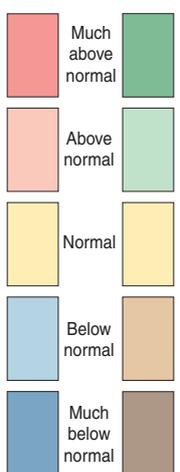


TEMPERATURE FORECAST

Dec. 21-27 (in °C)

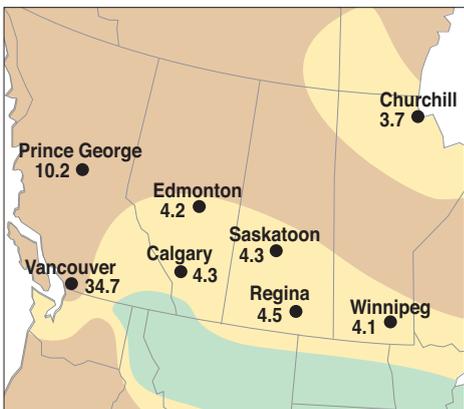


TEMP. MAP



PRECIPITATION FORECAST

Dec. 21-27 (in mm)



The numbers on the above maps are average temperature and precipitation figures for the forecast week, based on historical data from 1971-2000. Maps provided by WeatherTec Services: www.weathertec.mb.ca n/a = not available; tr = trace; 1 inch = 25.4 millimetres (mm)

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER SUMMARY ENDING DEC. 17

SASKATCHEWAN

	Temperature last week		Precipitation since Nov. 1		
	High	Low	mm	mm	%
Assiniboia	7.5	-9.8	0.0	22.5	109
Broadview	5.8	-9.6	1.9	28.2	90
Eastend	12.8	-10.2	0.0	10.6	38
Estevan	8.1	-9.3	0.3	13.5	47
Kindersley	5.1	-8.6	0.3	18.6	97
Maple Creek	13.5	-7.6	1.0	15.6	62
Meadow Lake	4.2	-6.2	3.1	15.6	51
Melfort	4.0	-11.9	4.6	18.6	71
Nipawin	3.8	-13.0	6.2	24.1	80
North Battleford	5.1	-7.0	0.0	20.2	78
Prince Albert	4.1	-17.1	5.0	32.2	111
Regina	5.1	-9.4	0.0	17.1	74
Rockglen	7.7	-9.5	0.0	18.1	83
Saskatoon	4.0	-9.2	0.0	18.6	80
Swift Current	9.8	-6.8	0.0	16.2	74
Val Marie	10.7	-13.5	0.0	11.4	57
Wynyard	5.5	-5.4	2.2	19.0	68
Yorkton	4.2	-9.2	4.3	19.0	59

ALBERTA

	Temperature last week		Precipitation since Nov. 1		
	High	Low	mm	mm	%
Brooks	12.6	-10.5	0.0	19.5	106
Calgary	12.5	-8.6	0.0	14.4	76
Cold Lake	5.8	-5.9	1.3	33.9	113
Coronation	6.7	-9.5	0.0	16.1	83
Edmonton	8.1	-9.0	0.5	16.9	63
Grande Prairie	8.1	-11.6	0.7	57.5	152
High Level	6.8	-12.6	4.4	37.4	92
Lethbridge	13.2	-8.4	1.3	9.3	41
Lloydminster	5.3	-7.9	0.0	12.9	47
Medicine Hat	13.6	-7.9	0.2	22.3	104
Milk River	12.2	-9.1	0.0	12.7	48
Peace River	5.7	-10.0	0.7	42.5	114
Pincher Creek	11.1	-9.8	0.0	30.9	70
Red Deer	10.7	-13.0	0.1	10.7	48
Stavelly	13.1	-7.5	0.3	16.3	58
Vegreville	6.8	-8.9	0.0	14.6	58

All data provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service: www.agr.gc.ca/drought. Data has undergone only preliminary quality checking. Maps provided by WeatherTec Services Inc.: www.weathertec.mb.ca

MANITOBA

	Temperature last week		Precipitation since Nov. 1		
	High	Low	mm	mm	%
Brandon	3.0	-14.3	7.3	32.7	100
Dauphin	3.8	-14.4	3.5	21.1	66
Gimli	-3.8	-25.6	2.9	19.4	52
Melita	8.3	-9.4	1.1	12.7	38
Morden	3.5	-13.5	3.9	20.1	51
Portage la Prairie	2.5	-14.2	3.4	26.5	65
Swan River	2.4	-12.4	4.3	21.2	54
Winnipeg	-2.7	-20.7	3.2	15.8	41

BRITISH COLUMBIA

	Temperature last week		Precipitation since Nov. 1		
	High	Low	mm	mm	%
Cranbrook	-0.1	-13.2	1.6	71.2	95
Fort St. John	6.5	-4.1	1.6	93.7	218
Kamloops	3.7	-4.9	1.1	17.6	39
Kelowna	2.2	-4.7	3.9	39.1	66
Prince George	4.0	-7.0	5.4	62.6	77

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