The big gamble

19 percent of canola uninsured last year; ‘risk and hope’ philosophy alive and well on many farms

BY SEAN PRATT
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

A lot of prairie farmers take a chance every year that the weather will be kind to them.

Larry Weber, analyst with Weber Commodities, compared the number of insured acres in 2017 with Statistics Canada’s official estimate of crop size and found a big gap.

Western Canada’s canola growers insured 18.5 million acres of the 22.8 million acres that were planted last year, according to data provided by provincial crop insurance agencies.

That means 4.3 million acres were uninsured, or nearly 19 percent of the crop.

Spring wheat farmers are even bigger risk takers. They insured 9.7 million acres of the 15.4 million acres planted, leaving 5.7 million acres uninsured, or 37 percent of the crop.

“That’s a big roll of the dice,” said Weber.

But he isn’t too surprised based on conversations with growers.

“Some guys that I thought would be right on top of risk management have never insured,” said Weber.

“My uncle farmed for 35 years. He never insured a thing. Nothing. And he was pissed off he had to insure his vehicles.”

Weber believes the number of uninsured acres is on the rise and that the reluctance to manage the risk has a lot to do with a 15-year run of decent weather.

“We haven’t had an absolute crop failure since 2002,” said Weber.

“I don’t think it’s going to change until we have a wreck and we’re due.”

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**Moonlight Munchies**

Richardson pullout prompts formula change, which cuts member contributions by one-third

**SASKATOON NEWSROOM**

BY SEAN PRATT

The Canola Council of Canada will be operating in 2018 with a budget that has been reduced by nearly one-third.

In addition to losing about $1 million in annual funding from Richardson International, the council will have less money coming in from grower groups, crushers and other exporters.

That is because the council’s board of directors decided to adjust the funding formula in the wake of Richardson’s exit from the organization.

“The board wanted to keep the relative balance between the sectors of the value chain,” said council president Jim Everson.

Provincial grower groups will pay a levy of 15 cents per tonne in 2018, down from 23 cents per tonne in previous years.

Crushers and the remaining exporters will pay 19 cents per tonne, down from 23 cents per tonne.

Life science companies contribute a fixed amount every year, and that is not changing.

All together it amounts to a 32 percent reduction in core funding for the industry organization.

“We’ve made adjustments. We’ve reduced some of our market development programming,” said Everson.

However, he stressed that the budget reduction is a one-year thing. The council is conducting a strategic review in 2018 in order to develop a strong industry consensus on what its role should be.

“Canola council funding slashed”

**BY SEAN PRATT**

**SASKATOON NEWSROOM**

The Canola Council of Canada hopes the funding cut is temporary.

“It’s our hope that those companies and organizations that may be questioning our programming now will see value at the end of that process,” he said.

The review will reassess what the council’s role will be in activities such as agronomy and market development.

Everson hopes Richardson will be happy with the end result and come back into the fold. The grain company has stated that it is willing to resume funding if it sees the desired changes at the council.

Growers traditionally provide about half of the council’s funding, and that will be the case again in 2018. The amount they contributed in 2016, the last audited financial statement, was $3.5 million.

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission is budgeting slightly less than $900,000 for its 2017-18 contribution to the council, down from $1.3 million the previous year.

“I cannot stress this enough, the growers organizations did not just pull their money out,” said Kevin Serfas, Alberta’s representative on the council’s board of directors.

“The canola council’s board decided that when Richardson pulled their money we were dealing with less money period, so we came up with a formula to make this work for the next year,” said Brian Chorney, the Manitoba Canola Growers Association’s representative on the council’s board.

The 2018 budget is an anomaly and that the strategic review will result in a revamped funding formula.

“We are going over everything with a fine-toothed comb,” said Chorney.

“Whatever is going to happen this year is just kind of an interim thing,” Janice Tranberg, executive director of the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, said the council remains an integral part of the canola industry.

“We really do think that the whole value chain representation is important and that’s what the canola council provides for,” she said.

“They’ve shown in the past that they’ve certainly brought value to us,” Chorney said.

Milligan BioFuels shuttered

**BY MICHAEL RAINE**

**SASKATOON NEWSROOM**

Milligan BioFuels has entered receivership.

The company from Foam Lake, Sask., was well known in Western Canada for its ability to take oilseeds that were mostly destined for farm pits and turn them into useful products.

The company that is managing Milligan’s finances has suggested that it will be entertaining offers to sell it as a going-concern.

Mark Kelly of Hardie and Kelly in Calgary said he has been hearing from a lot of producers about oilseeds they had planned to deliver over the next month.

“Most of the farmers delivering lately had put Milligan on a COO-basis and were paid, we think,” he said.

A pioneer in Canadian biodiesel, Milligan was developed through local initiatives and technologies from the University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture Canada.

With products such as fuel conditioners, penetrating oils and road dust suppressants, the company served a need for producers looking to deal with otherwise difficult market heated canola or harvests such as last spring’s overseeded crop.

Last week, an Alberta court granted an application from Alberta public lender Alberta Treasury Branches, which pushed the Saskatchewan company onto the road to potential bankruptcy.

ATB holds a $6 million mortgage on the Foam Lake facility, as well as an operating loan and a letter of credit, and the lender said in an affidavit filed at the end of last month it felt the need to act quickly to ensure its interests were protected.

Producers were bailing canola to the facility as recently as a few days before its closure, and several noted on Twitter that they had been paid for their deliveries.

Others said they were booked to deliver, but the only contact they had with the company about its business suspension was a recorded message on Milligan’s telephone system informing callers that the company was placed into receivership Feb. 2, and that all staff had been terminated.

Secured creditors include ATB, a Calgary-based energy firm, where the chair of the Milligan board appears to be a principal, and several smaller equipment providers.

“I expect we will hear from others with claims,” said Kelly.

Milligan is capable of producing more than 20 million litres of biodiesel annually, using more than 50,000 tonnes of canola.

The business employed about 45 people in its Foam Lake operations and had sales staff in other locations, including Red Deer.

Members of Milligan’s board were contacted for this story but didn’t comment other than to say it was “a shame” and that the “whole story will be better known in the near future.”

For more information contact Hardie and Kelly at 403-777-9999.

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Sharen Jaques, president of the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp., thinks Weber’s numbers sound about right.
SCIC typically insures 73 to 78 percent of the acres farmed in the province. Last year, it insured slightly more than 75 percent. But he disagreed with the premise that uninsured acres are on the rise. It tends to be fairly steady from year to year.
He said there are a number of reasons about one-quarter of farmers don’t take out multi-peril insurance through the provincial agencies. Some growers feel confident in self-insuring. Others only want hail insurance. Some farmers rely on AgriStability for risk management. And others choose to trust the services of private insurance companies.
Grant Kosior, chief executive officer of Global Ag Risk Solutions, a private, revenue-based risk management insurance company, believes the actual amount of completely uninsured acres is about half of what Weber reports.
He puts little faith in Statistics Canada’s acreage estimates and noted that Weber’s numbers don’t include hail insurance and acres insured by private firms such as Global Ag Risk Solutions, which will be taking on $2 billion of risk this year.
Kosior said there are definitely growers out there who like to self-insure.
“If you’re rich enough and you have the stomach to be able to take on the risk, then by all means that’s not a bad strategy,” he said.
Daryl Beswetherick, program manager for national inspection standards with the Canadian Grain Commission, believes one reason farmers don’t insure is size.
“Some of the farms get so large that they’re spread out so far that they generally almost crop insure themselves,” he said.
“You’re not going to have the same disaster on every piece of land.”
Kosior said it’s true that farmers try to spread out their land in a north-to-south fashion to reduce the risk of a total loss from weather that moves mainly from west to east. But he disagrees that it is big farmers who self-insure. In fact, he said the opposite is true.
“A growing farm eats up all of its profits into the feeding of the growth,” said Kosior.
Their working capital is depleted and that leaves them more vulnerable to weather risks, so they tend to take out insurance.
It is the farms that are done growing and have stockpiled cash that consider rolling the dice and having stockpiled cash that makes it riskier to grow.
Kosior said the average farm makes a crop insurance claim once every eight years. But that doesn’t mean they can’t benefit from having insurance those other seven years.
He said one study showed that farmers in Western Canada who carry margin insurance that covers them for the cost of their inputs make an average of $21 per acre more per year than farmers who don’t.

TROUGH TRAFFIC
Cows that have just been turned out to pasture after calving build up their strength again at a feeding trough on the MacMillan Colony west of Cayley, Alta. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

Alta. wheat, barley commissions merge staff
Canola group plans to increase research spending; pulse growers lower checkoff

BY JEREMY SIMES
COMMUNITY BUREAU

Alberta’s main crop commissions are going to be doing a few things differently this year as they aim to make the best use of producers’ check-off dollars.
They spelled out their plans during their annual general meetings at FarmTech in Edmonton last week.
Up first was the Alberta Canola Producers Commission. The organization told members it plans to spend up to an additional $2 million on research this year. While the spending increase will likely put the organization into a deficit, general manager Ward Tonna said the move is necessary to ensure critical research projects are completed.
He said government grants aren’t expected to cover all of the commission’s projects, so the group needs to use its own resources to ensure they get done.
“We have the capacity now, with members’ equity, to be able to invest in those programs and address some of the issues farmers are facing,” Tonna said.
“Issues like clubroot, new insect pests and addressing some of the questions around neonic and beneficial insects.”
In particular, he said the commission also wants to do more research on clubroot because there are still many unanswered questions.
“We want to look at what is a proper rotation in a clubroot field, what crops can negatively or positively impact that rotation,” he said.
“There’s a lot of discussion around how long of a break there should be between canola crops in a location of clubroot. Is there three years, four years, five years, or six years? We need to know that number so growers can manage the land resources they have.”
While Alberta canola is increasing spending, the Alberta Wheat Commission hopes to be more efficient with its resources.
General manager Tom Steve announced at the commission’s annual general meeting that it is officially merging its staff with the Alberta Barley Commission.
There won’t be any changes to board governance, he said, and each commission will still have its own budget. That means barley checkoffs will stay with the barley commission and wheat checkoffs will stay with the wheat commission.
“The idea is that the staff will provide services to both organiza-
tions. It will be seamless in the perspective of the boards,” he said.
“We see a trend towards amalgamation in cropping groups, so we’re trying to analyze and make sure we’re keeping pace with the expectations of both our growers and potentially our business partners in the industry to make sure we’re spending our dollars the most efficiently.”
Alberta Pulse Growers is also making changes to ensure farmers’ dollars are better used.
Membership at the pulse group’s annual general meeting voted to lower the levy from one percent to 0.75 percent. If approved by the Agricultural Products Marketing Council, the change will take effect Aug. 1.
“We’ve tried to be as prudent as we can, and we think we will be able to work in those guidelines,” said chair D’Arcy Hilgartner.
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New ag group focuses on mental health

BY JEREMY SIMES
EDMONTON BUREAU

Soon after Kim Keller found out that a farmer had died by suicide, she took to social media to call on the agriculture community to do more for mental health.

The response from others who shared their personal struggles was huge, she said, and discussions on the topic have only grown since.

“The entire industry was invested in wanting to do something,” Keller said, referring to a farmer near Gronlid, Sask. “So we decided we wanted this to be a focus for many, many years to come. We realized there needed to be a single organization that drove the conversation, so we decided to do it.”

She partnered with Lesley Kelly and Hinanshu Singh to create the Do More Agriculture Foundation, which they launched at FarmTech in Edmonton Jan. 30.

Keller said the initiative aims to make people aware of mental health issues on the farm. By doing that, she said, it’s possible people will feel comfortable sharing their own stories at conferences or on social media, and that more people will feel comfortable talking about it.

They are sharing their own stories at conferences or on social media as a way to let others know that it’s OK to have feelings of anxiety, stress, depression or loneliness.

Kelly said she was depressed after giving birth to her second child, and that her husband, Mathieu, also experienced anxiety and feelings of isolation following that.

“My husband and I both have shared our mental health journeys and it’s who we are and it’s made us stronger and closer together,” Kelly said. “We want to normalize this conversation because it’s our every day and we wanted to showcase that we are a regular couple that has its peaks and valleys. No one is alone in this.”

Singh said it seems like more people in the industry have become open to talking about their mental health.

“Looking at what it used to be like, I think there has been a big difference,” he said. “Mental health was something that people felt uncomfortable talking about, but now I think we’re seeing more and more wanting to come forward, even those in the older generation who might portray that they are tough.”

Keller said she hopes by spreading awareness, and by encouraging farmers to talk about it or offer help, that there will be a reduction in suicides. “Improvement in those numbers would be fantastic,” she said.

Lesley Kelly, Hinanshu Singh and Kim Keller launched the Do More Agriculture Foundation to address the stigma of mental illness in the agriculture industry. | JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

NOT ON THE HEAD!

U.S. WON’T BUDGE ON TRADE STANCE

“Improve the U.S. trade balance and reduce the trade deficit (in goods) with the NAFTA countries,” the first line in the document says. The USTR summary of its objectives repeats that message in several ways:

• “The new NAFTA will be modernized … (to) reflect a fairer market system that functions more efficiently, leading to reciprocal and balanced trade among parties.”

The USTR goal of balanced trade deficits, it’s reasonable to ask, even if it’s not the case. That explains why Lighthizer has put forward proposals that would tilt the scales in U.S. favour, such as changing the rules of origin around automobile manufacturing so that half of all content comes from the U.S., eliminating a mechanism to resolve disputes between the trading nations, and rules that would effectively prevent Canadian and Mexican companies from winning government procurement contracts in the U.S.

It’s hard to know if Lighthizer and Trump will back down from their objective of rebalancing trade, but it’s unlikely that Canada or Mexico will force their hand. A more likely scenario is that pressure from U.S. business groups, which mostly support NAFTA, could soften Lighthizer’s position.

“Six months into intensive NAFTA negotiations the U.S. has yet to appoint its chief agricultural negotiator,” Landreville said in late January.

(“So when certain high ranking USDA under-secretaries of trade make public statements that Canada is not constructive on agricultural issues, it’s hard to take too seriously when the U.S. has yet to offer up a (chief agricultural negotiator).”

Robert Arnsen

Why ag is on the trade backburner

Denis Landreville, trade negotiator with Agriculture Canada, said agriculture hasn’t been a hot topic within the negotiations for North American Free Trade Agreement. One reason for that is a lack of someone to negotiate with. Canada has a chief agricultural negotiator at the table, Frederic Seppey. The U.S. does not.

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• Alberta Mental Health Help Line: 1-877-305-2642
• Manitoba Stress Line: 1-866-367-3276

Lesley Kelly, Hinanshu Singh and Kim Keller launched the Do More Agriculture Foundation to address the stigma of mental illness in the agriculture industry. | JEREMY SIMES PHOTO

This Jersey calf was born Jan. 13 on the Hare farm near Rosetown, Sask. Mother and son were doing fine, even though the calf didn’t seem to enjoy all the attention. | CHERYL HARE PHOTO

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Robert Arnsen
Large mustard estimate tough on bids

BY SEAN PRATT
SAKFUNCTIONS NEWSROOM

There is a huge discrepancy in mustard acreage projections for the 2018-19 crop year. Agriculture Canada believes the upcoming crop will be a similar size to last year’s crop at 371,000 acres. Chuck Penner, analyst with Left-Field Commodity Research, recently told a CropSphere audience that he expects 500,000 to 550,000 acres.

It doesn’t sound like that big of a divide, but for a small crop such as mustard, it’s the difference between a bullish and a bearish outlook for prices.

Kevin Dick, president of All Commodities Trading Ltd., a Winnipeg-based mustard processing firm, was leaning more toward Penner’s outlook until Penner made his CropSphere presentation.

That changed everything.

There were several end users in the room, and once they heard Penner’s forecast, which at the high end would be the biggest crop since 2004, they were breathing a collective sigh of relief.

In the aftermath of the presentation, end users stopped contacting mustard with processors such as All Commodities Trading.

In turn, processors dropped their new crop bids for yellow mustard to 35 cents per pound from 40 cents at the CropSphere show and brown mustard to 32 cents from 35 cents.

Dick has subsequently reduced his spring planting estimate to 400,000 acres, down from 450,000 to 500,000 acres before Penner’s presentation. It is now more in line with Agriculture Canada’s number.

“We’re really going into a dangerous situation,” he said.

That is because there will be no carryout for anything but oriental mustard in Canada and the rest of the world heading into the new mustard crop year. In addition, there are drought conditions in the mustard growing areas of North America.

“If we get sub-400,000 acres because the contracting price is no longer attractive to the farmer and it continues to stay dry, I say look out on mustard,” said Dick.

He is stunned that end users are refusing to contract at least a portion of their needs for 2018-19.

“I’ve been doing mustard for almost 20 years now and I am alarmed that the end buyers aren’t coming to the table to support the processors,” said Dick.

Penner believes there will be an exodus out of lentils in southern Saskatchewan because growers are putting very low bids of 10 cents per pound for red lentils and 24 cents for greens. They are also concerned about the lack of buying interest from India.

“Farmers this year are looking for alternatives far more than they have in the last couple of years,” he said.

Mustard prices are good compared to other crops with old crop yellow mustard selling for about 38 cents per lb., brown fetching 43 cents and oriental 32 cents.

Penner said it has been feast or famine with mustard the past couple of years. Growers harvested 236,000 tonnes of the crop in 2016-17 and last year produced about half that amount.

He is a little nervous about yields because of lingering drought conditions in southern Saskatchewan, where the crop is grown. His yield forecast is 917 lb. per acre, which is slightly above the previous five-year average.

The other wild card for yellow mustard will be the size of the U.S. crop. Growers south of the border produced 96,270 tonnes in 2016-17 and attempted to grow a similar sized crop last year, but yields were disappointing and production fell by 37 percent.

Dick has been doing some contracting in the United States, and he gets the feeling that plantings will be about the same for the third year in a row at around 95,000 acres.

He believes supplies in the Black Sea region are dwindling, just like they are in North America, based on reports he has heard.

“I am a firm believer that they’re running out of this current crop,” Dick said. His message to growers is to take a wait and see approach.

“I see no reason for them to panic. I see no reason for them to rush out and contract at these values,” said Dick.

[sean.pratt@producer.com]
Spring rain vital for struggling U.S. winter wheat crop

Yields could fall if spring rain doesn’t come in time, affecting commodity exchanges

BY SEAN PRATT

The U.S. winter wheat crop is struggling, and there is no relief in sight.

In Kansas, only 14 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition as of Jan. 29, down from 31 percent at the end of November.

Oklahoma was worse with four percent in the good to excellent categories.

The main problem is the dryness. Almost half of the hard red winter wheat in the southern Plains could well receive less than one percent of normal precipitation over the past three months.

In Kansas, 79 percent of the topsoil moisture supplies and 70 percent of subsoil supplies were rated short to very short. Oklahoma was in worse shape with 93 percent of both the topsoil and subsoil supplies in those two categories.

Bruce Burnett, director of markets and weather with Glacier MarketsFarm, said wheat has an uncanny ability to rebound, so he will wait until spring to draw conclusions about the fate of the crop.

“There is risk to this crop if the spring rains don’t arrive,” he said.

“At the time we hit mid-March, if there haven’t been much precipitation, then all sorts of flags will be up,” Burnett said. History shows the dry conditions in the southern Plains could well persist through spring.

Tom Schemm, executive director of CattleFax, said Americans have to be cautious. "We know there is a lot of profitability in the U.S. market this year and 10 percent from last year. It is a good run," he said. "The numbers for harvest are strong for 2018. Even with a small winter wheat crop, the U.S. would still have ample total wheat supplies. "What it does do is tighten the supplies of quality milling wheat," he said.

Burnett said a production drop of 10 to 15 percent could lift wheat prices on the North American commodity exchanges but not the world price because of the global glut.

U.S. cattle market booming, but storm clouds looming

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The U.S. beef industry has tumbled in a stellar performance for the last several years with record profits across all the segments.

It has been a great run," said Kevin Good of the U.S. market analysis firm CattleFax.

"All segments of our industry have turned in a stellar performance for the winter dryness to linger.

"It has been a great run," said Arlan Suderman, chief commodities economist with INTL FCStone, said there were winterkill conditions on Jan. 1, but it’s too early to say how much damage that caused. He believes yields will be 10 to 20 percent below trend if rain doesn’t come before crop heading.

"All segments of our industry have turned in a stellar performance," he said. "But recent warm temperatures have caused it to lose some of its winter hardness, which means a cold snap in the next few weeks could do damage.

"It’s about history shows the dry conditions in the southern Plains could well persist through spring.

By the time we hit mid-March, if there haven’t been much precipitation, then all sorts of flags will be up," Burnett said. History shows the dry conditions in the southern Plains could well persist through spring.

"All segments of our industry have turned in a stellar performance," he said. "But recent warm temperatures have caused it to lose some of its winter hardness, which means a cold snap in the next few weeks could do damage.

"It’s about history shows the dry conditions in the southern Plains could well persist through spring. Commodity Weather Group (CWG) has studied seven years and found similar conditions where it was dry in the southern Plains in the winter and there was a weak to moderate La Niña — 2014, 2011, 2006, 1998, 1986, 1981 and 1983 — and the trend was for the dry years to linger.

"The Plains stayed on the drier side and the heat was also focused over the Plains in that gathering," said CGW president Matt Rogers.

"We would suggest as we go through the next 12 to 18 months, consider weather and a growing mountain of meat. "We would suggest as we go through the next 12 to 18 months, consider weather and a growing mountain of meat. "We would suggest as we go through the next 12 to 18 months, consider weather and a growing mountain of meat.

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The U.S. has become export dependent. Trade accounts for $330 to $340 per animal, and customers outside the country are relied upon to take the extra supply.

"We would suggest as we go through the next 12 to 18 months, consider weather and a growing mountain of meat."
MARKETS

Troubled U.S. winter wheat crop could prompt spring rally

MARKET WATCH

D’ARCE McMILLAN

Kansas hard red winter wheat futures jumped higher by about US$0.60 cents a bushel, or 10 percent, in the last week of January on continuing dry weather in the southern U.S. Plains and a weaker U.S. dollar.

The rally did not extend to the Minneapolis spring wheat market, but the action in the winter wheat market shows the trade is a little nervous.

It’s likely premature because the condition of winter wheat in January has little bearing on final yields.

There is lots of weather between now and when the U.S. winter wheat crop is harvested. Indeed, a large part of Nebraska and Kansas received welcome snow Feb. 3-5. And as always, spring rain is the key.

The dry weather is certainly causing concern in the wheat market if it is still dry as spring begins. Millers would be expected to top up their wheat supplies as insurance against a potentially small North American crop.

Finally, the weaker American dollar, at its weakest point since 2015 and 2016, which triggered a price rally in March, could make U.S. wheat more competitive on global markets, leading to stronger exports.

There is little subsurface moisture left in that region to sustain crop growth like it did last year.

Canola growers in North Dakota received an average Price Coverage Loss program payment of $51 per acre in 2016.

Canola subsidies lucrative in N.D.

The federal Price Loss Coverage program guarantees a price of US$10.075 per bushel.

BY ROBERT ARNASON

Canola growers in North Dakota don’t have to worry much about price. 

Since 2014, a U.S. Department of Agriculture program has guaranteed a price of US$10.075 per bushel. That equates to C$12.60 per bushel, assuming the loonie is valued at US$0.80 cents.

The price of canola in North Dakota was below $10.075 per bu. in 2015 and 2016, which triggered a payment to growers through a U.S. Department of Agriculture program called Price Loss Coverage.

The payments were not small.

In 2016, canola growers in the state received $72.1 million in PLC payments and $50.3 million in 2015, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Feeder cattle trade was down across the Prairies this week. Cold weather hindered some auction sale volumes and were well below last year’s trade.

The calf and feeder market was generally weaker, but some improvement was noted in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Alberta calf prices dipped $8 per hundredweight since the start of 2018, while $50 pound steers were down $19 per cwt.

The feeder basis was strong in 2017, but it has been weakening for 2018. However, this is off the case in the west where prices have been at a premium to the U.S. market.

Feeder exports to the United States have picked up but are still historically very small. About 4,000 head have been exported so far this year.

In Alberta, calves in the 500-600 pound range averaged $246.50 per cwt., Saskatchewan calves were at $230 per cwt. and Manitoba averaged $224 per cwt. Ontario calves averaged $218.43 per cwt., while British Columbia steers averaged $217.50.

Alberta steers in the 800-900 lb. range averaged $177.43 per cwt., while Saskatchewan was $175.16, Manitoba was $173.29 and Ontario was $180.78. There were no reports from B.C.

**FED CATTLE STEADY**

Alberta fed cattle sales trended steady this week. Dressed trade posted a range of $270-$276 per cwt. with the majority at $274 per cwt.

Buyer interest was reported from all three Alberta packers, but competition was lacklustre.

Feedlot inventories are current, and a portion of the offering was passed and can remain on feed.

The Alberta-Nebraska cash basis was again seasonally strong, estimated at minus $8.46.

Western Canadian slaughter was steady at 27,280 head. So far this year slaughtered numbers are trending eight percent higher than last year at this time. The majority graded AAA.

Total beef production is up eight percent over last year.

**COW PRICES DOWN**

Demand was limited for cull cows, and auction market volumes were light. Prices fell $3 from last week to average $86.79 per cwt. for the week. These prices are down $9 from the beginning of the year.

Packers have ample cow supplies, which have been supplemented by cows put on feed last fall.

Improved prices are expected in March.

D1,2 cows averaged $86.79 per cwt. in the West last week but were down in the East at $65.66 per cwt. D3 cows averaged $75.08 per cwt. in the west while eastern prices were down to $55.52 per cwt.

Cull cows averaged $98.02 per cwt. last week, which is in line with the five year average price of $98.42. Alberta cow cull prices continue to be strongest and have been at a premium to the U.S. market.

Ontario cow prices have lagged behind partly because of a plant closure in the U.S. which removed another buyer from the mix. Ontario prices are generally $21 lower than Alberta.

Exports of cull cows and bulls are also down by 44 percent. About 6,000 head have been exported to the United States so far this year.

**BEEF TRADE STEADY**

Canadian cut-out values for the week ending Jan. 20 traded steady with AAA down 22 cents per cwt. and AA up 31 cents.

The AAA cut-out value was $258.81 per cwt in the boxed beef trade, while AA was priced at $251.83 per cwt., up about $10 from 2017.

Prices are up from 2017 on the trimmings side, where 50 percent fresh trim was priced at $8.13 per lb. and 85 percent fresh trim was $2.51 per lb.

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.
Trudeau must press India for ag policy transparency

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has a rare opportunity to raise agricultural issues at the highest level in India later this month, when he meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He must be sure to press the importance of transparency in India’s agricultural policy.

There needs to be an acknowledgement between agricultural trading partners that the actions of one country have significant ramifications in the other, underpinning trust — a key factor in any trading relationship.

In November, India placed a surprise 30 percent import duty on peas, followed by a 30 percent tariff on imports of chickpeas and lentils in December, thus raising concerns among Canadian farmers. The duties have significantly increased planted acres of pulses in recent years, in part to meet the growing demand in India, which is the world’s largest importer of pulses.

Yet India seeks to become self-sufficient in pulses. Last year, its annual output grew to slightly less than 23 million tonnes — just short of annual consumption — from about 17 million tonnes in 2017. Indian government is so confident in the country’s production of pulses that it has lifted an 11-year ban on exports.

However, because India imported 6.6 million tonnes of pulses last year, including 3.2 million tonnes of peas — an increase of over 40 percent over the previous year — a good crop created by two consecutive years of good monsoon seasons and government support prices would mean an oversupply if that level of imports continues. That would send the price lower than minimum support levels established in India, hence the import duties to curb competition from abroad.

Minimum support level prices are important because a stable market is central to any agreement.

India faces a daunting task in the agricultural sector. The average farmer income is one-third that of non-agricultural sector. The average farmer is concerned about the impact on prices and government support prices would ensure a stable trade relationship, but transparency and trust must be at the centre of any agreement.

Bruce Dyk, Karen Brown, Ruth Ellen Brosseau, Brian MacLeod and Michael Raine collaborate in the writing of Western Producer editorials.

Prime Minister to talk agriculture as he hits the road in Feb.

February may be the shortest month in the calendar year, but in politics, it’s often one of the busiest.

This year will be no exception. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will travel to the United States in early February for a four-day visit to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago, where he is expected to double down on the fact Canada and the United States’ economies are heavily intertwined.

While in the States, Trudeau is scheduled to meet with local business officials and deliver a speech at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics.

Travel to the U.S. by Canadian politicians has been steady since U.S. President Donald Trump took office as federal agents, provincial officials and all stripes stress the importance of the Canada-U.S. economic relationship.

Trudeau is then off to India for a state visit Feb. 17-23. While there, he is expected to participate in a number of business roundtables aimed at furthering trade and investment between the two countries.

Canada’s ongoing trade spat with India over pulses is expected to be discussed during the week-long trip.

In November, India slapped a 50 percent import tariff on peas imports without warning. The tariffs, which apply to all international importers, came just months after New Delhi refused to extend a Canadian fumigation exemption on pulse exports. It was extended in January.

Minister of International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, Transport Minister Marc Garneau and Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains — as well as ongoing efforts by Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency — have not been able to resolve the issue.

Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced $575,000 in funding for Pulse Canada under Growing Forward 2 for food service market research and other developmental projects.

Meanwhile, another $178,500 has been pledged to help Pulse Canada explore potential market opportunities in China with another $221,680 earmarked for potential market research and other developmental projects.

The end of February and mid-March are historically fall sometime between the end of February and mid-March.

The House of Commons Finance Committee submitted its annual pre-budget report, with its list of budget recommendations, in early December.

Meanwhile, Ottawa’s efforts to legalize marijuana continue to plod their way through the Senate. Justice Minister Judy-Wilson Raybould, Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale were scheduled to appear in a special televised sitting of the Senate Feb. 26 to discuss the legislation, which has yet to be sent to committee for consideration.

The Liberal government has promised to have the legislation in place by Canada Day.

MPs have also agreed to fast-track legislation aimed at addressing sexual harassment on Parliament Hill after several allegations emerged within political circles in recent weeks.

On the agriculture front, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will hold its annual meeting in Ottawa at the end of February. The agenda includes remarks from MacAulay, Conservative agriculture critic John Barlow and Luc Berthold and NDP Deputy Agriculture Critic Ruth Ellen Brosseau.

Canada’s chief NAFTA negotiator was expected to attend this year’s meeting, but is no longer expected to give remarks, given the controversy over whether a full meeting of NAFTA trade talks in Mexico.

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


BY TODD MACKAY

Unfortunately for taxpayers, Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister’s carbon tax doesn’t come with a money-back guarantee if it doesn’t deliver promised results.

We know Pallister’s carbon tax is costly. He’s proposing a tax of $25 per tonne of carbon next year, much higher than the initial federal requirement of $10 per tonne. That means Manitobans will see fuel prices jump by about five cents per litre. In total, it is expected to cost Manitobans $260 million every year.

But what about the results? Pallister is promising two things. First, that the carbon tax will reduce emissions. Second, based on those reductions, the province will be able to stop a federal carbon tax that’s scheduled to rise to $50 per tonne over five years.

The prime minister provides no support for either promise.

The provincial government’s Climate Change Plan doesn’t show how a carbon tax will reduce emissions. All it offers is a speculative list of potential indicators it might monitor, including: a reduction in gasoline and diesel sales; the ratio of Manitoba’s gross domestic product to gasoline and diesel consumed; the increase in adoption of alternatives, such as the ratio of gasoline to electric vehicles purchased; and economic competitiveness impacts by sector such as exports.

While Pallister provides no analysis on these “potential indicators,” the Canadian Taxpayers Federation recently ran the numbers and produced a report entitled Keeping up with the carbon tax. This report challenges Pallister’s promises.

If a carbon tax will reduce emissions, wouldn’t B.C., with its established carbon tax, be outperforming Manitoba? Pallister argues the province’s “potential indicators” that isn’t the case.

Pallister promises that Manitoba’s higher carbon tax will protect the province from a higher federal carbon tax in the future. Based on a legal opinion suggesting Manitoba could fight a federal carbon tax if the province’s environmental policies prove more effective than national standards, Pallister promises Manitoba’s higher carbon tax will be built on the province’s performance on the “potential indicators” it cites.

But Manitoba is already outperforming the nation as well as B.C. and its carbon tax. The province already has a compelling case to contest a federal carbon tax.

There’s a real risk Manitobans won’t get the benefits Pallister is promising, but there’s no refund on the millions they’ll pay in carbon taxes until then.

Todd Mackay is the Prairie director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Now that I have your attention

MICHAEL RAINE MANAGING EDITOR

L ast week’s column called attention to Gerald Stanley’s acquittal. It was intended to help tell the tale of why the national media are identifying Stanley as a throwback to those who don’t have a clue, don’t know, (or even) the way they do things.

It’s baffling how the provincial government doesn’t understand why they weren’t very happy with my column. OK, lots of you let me know that was the case, and some of you told me you supported my point of view.

The point of the column was to illustrate that even though we are all frustrated about rural thefts, we have to remember there is an active movement around the social license to farm. As well, much of the $98 per cent of Canadians who don’t farm base their impressions about us on what appears in the media.

The same logic applies to glyphosate use and the term corporate farms.

Our abilities to remain farming in a sustainable manner are, to some extent, determined by urban Cana- dians’ impressions of who we are as fellow citizens.

The impression we make on Canadian society will determine what rights we have in the future, our ability to compete internationally and whether we get what we see as a break on everything from carbon taxes to gun ownership.

We should avoid dealing with them, telling our urban neighbours that we need enhanced property defense rights isn’t the way to do it.

So, for anyone who thought my column was an attack on rural folk who don’t know, I do some, too) the way they do things.

Talking about our frustrations with rural crime doesn’t paint a pretty picture. The problem is these are products of rural poverty and inequality in our society.

While we shouldn’t avoid dealing with them, telling our urban neighbours that we need enhanced property defense rights isn’t the way to do it.

The point of the column was to illustrate that even though we are all frustrated about rural thefts, we have to remember there is an active movement around the social license to farm. As well, much of the $98 per cent of Canadians who don’t farm base their impressions about us on what appears in the media.

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The impression we make on Canadian society will determine what rights we have in the future, our ability to compete internationally and whether we get what we see as a break on everything from carbon taxes to gun ownership.

Western Canadian agriculture is key to our nation as well as B.C. and its carbon tax. The province already has a compelling case to contest a federal carbon tax.

There’s a real risk Manitobans won’t get the benefits Pallister is promising, but there’s no refund on the millions they’ll pay in carbon taxes until then.

Michael Rainey is the managing editor.

Man. carbon tax not certain to work

BY KEVIN HURSH

The hybrid mustard will provide advantage

BY KEVIN HURSH

The first hybrid brown mustard should be available in limited quantities for Canadian farmers next year with a significant acreage available in 2020.

In following years, if all goes well, a hybrid brown mustard could be available with weeds. And it’s quite likely they’re using weeds.

As someone who works on contract for the Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission (Sask Mustard), this is a bit biased, but I see this as a huge win for the industry.

Skeptics will worry about the cost because hybrids will need to buy new seed each year. Others will point out that mustard production is limited, so producing more per acre means you’ll need fewer acres.

Those are legitimate concerns, but why are the positives greatly outweigh the drawbacks in this situation?

First, a bit of background. The hybrid mustard is coming from the breeding program of Bifang Cheng, the condiment mustard breeder with Agriculture Canada in Saskatoon. Her work is supported by Mustard 21 Canada Inc., a collaboration between Sask Mustard and the Canadian Mustard Association, which represents buyers and end users.

So this is a Canadian crop breeding success story supported by government, producers and industry. Mustard 21 will be leading the commercialization, and the intent is to make sure this remains a strong story for growers.

Withmale and female and restorer lines, producing hybrid seed is certainly much more expensive than open pollinated seed, but there are Canadian companies specializing in this sort of production with irrigated sites in Western Canada and winter nurseries in Chile.

Cheng plans to seek support for registering the first brown hybrid at the variety meetings at the end of February. Her early data is pointing to a yield increase of much more than 20 percent as compared to the check variety.

With that sort of yield increase, producers will be able to pay the extra cost for seed and still have significantly higher revenue. Based on what has happened with other crops, hybrid mustard should also be more responsive to fertilizer and it should more vigorously compete with weeds.

The main market for brown mustard is Europe, where it’s used to produce Dijon mustard.

Oriental mustard goes mainly to Asian nations, which value its hot flavour.

Yellow mustard is grown in southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. It’s the traditional Hodgman mustard, and the United States is the main market.

Total acreage of the three typical ranges from 350,000 to 500,000 depending on the year, with yellow being the largest. Canada is the world’s dominant exporter of all three types.

At first glance, one might question the wisdom of higher yielding varieties. Why not let the yields remain low and keep the price up, considering Canada is the dominant exporter?

It’s because farmers in other regions become increasingly interested in mustard production as prices rise. Product from competing nations is already capturing an increasing portion of the European market.

And it’s quite likely they’re using our own Canadian mustard instead of imported markets. A farmer in Poland or Russia just has to obtain some of the mustard intended for processing and use as seed.

This isn’t supposed to happen under international law, but how do you stop it?

Hybrid varieties will change the game. They are only useful as seed for the first generation. Therefore, hybrid mustard should give Canadian farmers a competitive advantage that’s sustainable.

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

Now that I have your attention

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

THE WESTERN PRODUCER  |  WWW.PRODUCER.COM  |  FEBRUARY 6, 2018

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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION
To the editor,

Being involved in environmental activism for many years has been very beneficial in learning the vast array of methods that we can create environmentally responsible energy. The naysayers try to contain the discussion that clean alternatives are not there yet in technology and cost returns, which is hog wash. Clean energy is being produced around the world, economically using a variety of methods restricted only by man’s creative potential and political roadblocks.

Clean energy is created by any moving water, incineration of biomass at high temperatures with minimal emissions, digesters converting human, food and animal waste into gas to fire electrical generators leaving a byproduct of nutritious fertilizer. Wind and solar costs are plummeting while new technologies are rapidly improving energy collection. These systems are becoming standard internationally for any country concerned about global warming. I’m only touching on our capacity to create clean energy and reduce emissions but I think these few examples convey the idea.

Of course a transfer to energy production that is clean will reduce the political and financial powers the present dirty energy tycoons control to their exclusive lucrative advantage, which can hardly be envisioned as being a lucrative or environmental advantage for present and future generations of life on Earth. To embrace clean energy with equal enthusiasm that our present petro politicians are conditioned to embrace dirty energy would transfer the actual power (heat, electricity and their massive job-creating abilities), into the hands of local producers of that energy. To have cheap clean energy produced from your roof top, pig barn, feed lot, flax straw, compost, landfills, sewage lagoons, moving water, would transfer energy profits and jobs to the local investors in those technologies. Can you think of anything you could or would do with dramatically reduced costs or even free energy? Energy locally produced and consumed or exported, short distances, to the neighbors cleans up big problems with things we now consider waste and we reduce the need for the dirty energy we rely on kilowatt for kilowatt.

Unless you’re living in one of those bubbles of denial you know we are presently in a downward spiral of selfish capitalist — created environmental collapse justified by nothing more than greed. Cleaning up the environment, being conscientious stewards for the next generations, transferring power and wealth from heartless, nationless global corporations to local communities and people of conscience could and should be our human legacy.

Our only guarantee in life is death — we can’t take profit, power, greed or stupidity into that realm.

Greg Chatterton, Fort San, Sask.

Stewart still ag minister as Sask. cabinet sworn in
BY KAREN BRIERE
REGINA BUREAU

Saskatchewan’s 15th premier, Scott Moe, was sworn in at Government House Feb. 2 along with a cabinet of 16 others.

The lone newcomer is Warren Kaeding, a former seed grower and national Outstanding Young Farmer winner, who was elected in 2016 in the Melville-Saltcoats constituency.

Kaeding takes on government relations, as well as First Nations, Metis and Northern Affairs.

Returning to cabinet are the three leadership candidates who lost to Moe on Jan. 27; Gordon Wyant becomes deputy premier and education minister, Tina Beaudry-Melchor becomes advanced education minister and Kent Cheveldayoff is minister of central services and responsible for the Public Service Commission.

Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart remains in his portfolio, as did nine others: Jim Reiter in health; Donna Harpauer, finance; Don Morgan, justice and labour; Dustin Duncan, environment; Greg Ottenbreit, rural and remote health; Todd McVicar, highways; Joe Hargrave, Crown Investments Corp; Paul Merriman, social services; and Gene Makowsky, parks, culture and sport.

Bronwyn Eyre moved from education to energy and resources, Jeremy Harrison is minister of export and trade development and Christine Tell is minister of corrections and policing.

Gene from the cabinet are Larry Doke, Steven Bonk, Herb Cox and Nancy Hепpner.

Moe told the new cabinet, friends and family members gathered for the ceremony that he would fulfill his new responsibility with purpose and integrity.

“We will continue to invest to ensure Saskatchewan has the quality of life that our citizens expect,” he said.

Meanwhile, three byelections in Swift Current, Kindersley and Mel- fort, all previously held by the Sas- katchewan Party, will be held March 1.
BY SEAN PRATT

As farmers finalize plans on what crops and varieties they will be planting in 2018, they can look back on what were the most popular varieties grown on the Prairies last year.

Every year the Canadian Grain Commission compiles the list from provincial crop insurance data.

The top canola variety grown in 2017 was Bayer CropScience’s InVigor L252, which accounted for 16 percent of the 18.5 million insured acres. It was also one of the most popular varieties of the previous two years. “That is pretty significant, that one variety is hanging on for three years in a row as one of the top varieties,” said Daryl Beswitherick, the commission’s program manager for national inspection standards.

Longevity at the top is a rarity for crops such as canola because new and improved varieties are constantly hitting the market. Bayer’s L140P and L233P rounded out the top three spots due to strong uptake of their pod shatter reduction traits.

Agriculture Canada’s AAC Brandon wheat took top spot in the spring wheat category, accounting for 24 percent of the 9.7 million insured acres, up from 12 percent in 2016 and three percent in 2015. “This particular variety Brandon has some of the best fusarium resistance that is out there,” said Beswitherick.

The variety was originally intended for the eastern prairie region, but with widespread fusarium damage in 2016, it has gained traction in the West all the way into Alberta. “We’re hearing some people say it could go up to 50 percent in 2018, but time will tell on that one,” he said.

Agriculture Canada’s Transcend took the durum category by storm with 43 percent of the 2.9 million acres. “These new varieties have really good colour that the end users want,” said Beswitherick.

The CPSR wheat category was dominated by Agriculture Canada’s AAC Penhold, which garnered a 59 percent share of the 622,137 acres. “That’s what we really wanted to see. That’s the one variety that really started to increase because of the wheat class modernization,” he said.

Soybeans were easily the most competitive category with Syngenta’s S007-Y4 eking out the win, capturing 6.6 percent of the 2.7 million insured acres.

The Crop Development Centre’s CDC Maxim dominated the lentil category with 39 percent of the 3.2 million acres, while CDC Meadow handily took the pea category with a 46 percent share of the 2.9 million acres.

In barley it’s all about the older varieties. CDC Copeland from the University of Saskatchewan’s Crop Development Centre took the honours with 48 percent of the two million insured acres, followed by Agriculture Canada’s Metcalfe at 32 percent.

“The larger malting companies don’t want to change their recipes, and so the older varieties really stick around,” said Beswitherick.

In oats it was a tight three-way race with Agriculture Canada’s AC Morgan getting 21 percent of the 1.4 million acres, followed by Canterra Seeds’ CS Camden at 19 percent and Agriculture Canada’s AC Summit at 16 percent.

The Crop Development Centre’s CDC Bethune and CDC Sorrel were the top flax varieties, accounting for 25 and 20 percent of the 706,503 acres, respectively.

“There is very little new flax breeding going on. I think there is only one program left,” said Beswitherick.

Pioneer’s P6522AM corn was best in the West with 17 percent of the 417,149 acres.
Avoiding stress best bet for healthy crops

Rather than trying to equip plants to withstand heat stress, scientist advocates giving them an earlier start to avoid the stress altogether

BY BRIAN CROSS
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

What’s the best way to deal with stress?

The most effective strategy might be to avoid it completely, says plant researcher Karen Tanino.

“My research approach is to look at avoidance mechanisms,” said Tanino, a plant physiologist at the University of Saskatchewan who studies abiotic stress factors in agricultural crops.

“We have a lot of stressors in the summer, like heat stress in mid-summer causing floral abortion in canola, for example. “If we can encourage and help a plant get off to an earlier start — a more vigorous start — it simply shifts the whole reproduction process earlier ... so rather than trying to enhance the tolerance to heat, it’s more about looking at how can we speed up the plant development in order to avoid heat stress and allow the plant to capture more of the moisture that’s available in the spring.”

Tanino’s work at the U of S is aimed at helping plants avoid common and costly abiotic stresses such as heat.

To that end, Tanino and a pair of collaborators at the U of S have a novel seed treatment under patent protection that hastens germination under low temperature conditions and improves lateral root development in the plant’s early growth stages.

In research trials, the seed treatment has proven effective on a number of crop types and cultivars, including species that are notorious for slow or inconsistent germination.

“When applied as a liquid treatment before planting, the seed treatment enhances vigour and gives crops a strong, early and uniform start.

“Improving the seed package is a very simple, low cost and effective way to minimize stress through avoidance, Tanino said.

“Cicer milkvetch, for example, is notoriously difficult to germinate but under the seed treatment, it seems to increase total germination, uniformity of germination and lateral root growth.”

Tanino’s research on frost damage takes a similar tack.

In other words, frost avoidance is the underlying theme.

For example, Tanino, researcher Brian Fowler and a graduate student are examining the physiological mechanisms that prevent frost damage in winter wheat and fall rye.

Relative to winter wheat, winter rye confers a greater level of freezing resistance, suggesting that the physical attributes of the winter rye crown may be more adept at preventing the entry of frost crystals into critical tissues of the crown itself.

“We all know that the winter wheat crown is the most critical organ for overwintering, but the crown itself is very complex,” Tanino said.

“So in order to really advance the low temperature stress resistance of winter wheat, I think we really need to understand the mechanisms of injury within the crown (and the) physiological barriers that prevent that ice from getting into the critical tissues.

“Understanding those mechanisms is also a strategy based on avoidance.”

In another project, Tanino and others have been using the Canadian Light Source synchrotron to examine the cuticular layers of leaves taken from wheat, soybean, corn and canola plants.

Until recently, much of the plant research pertaining to drought avoidance has focused on the stomata, the tiny openings or pores found on the epidermal layer of plant leaves or stems.

The stomata facilitate the exchange of gases. Depending on carbon dioxide, temperature and moisture level, they will open or close to regulate plant performance and manage moisture loss.

Rather than focusing on stomatal function, Tanino’s research looks at leaf hydrophobicity, or the ability of the leaf’s cuticular layer to both avoid water loss from the plant and repel water from the surface.

“In order for ice to form, water has to be able to stick. If it just rolls off, there’s no way it’s going to freeze,” Tanino said.

“So the hydrophobicity of the cuticle layer will influence frost formation as well as help to avoid water loss from the plant at the same time.”

Tanino and her research colleagues are using the synchrotron to assess the variation in the composition, thickness and volume of the cuticular layer and analyze its ability in different crop types and cultivars.

brian.cross@producer.com

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CANADIAN LIGHT SOURCE PHOTO

Kaila Hamilton recently completed her master’s degree and is continuing to research plant physiology as part of Karen Tanino’s group at the University of Saskatchewan. She is testing soy leaves to assess hydrophobicity and identify markers for frost resistance.
Federal money will help industry update its national standards, which is due by 2020

The federal government is providing the organic sector with about half of the money it needs to revise its national standards. The Canadian Organic Standards are supposed to be updated every five years. If they are not, the Canadian General Standards Board is required to withdraw the outdated standards, jeopardizing more than $600 million worth of annual exports.

That is why the organic sector is relieved Ottawa contributed $250,000 toward the $550,000 project.

“As Canadians and international trading partners increase demand for organic products, the Canada Organic Trade Association welcomes a strong partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,” Dag Falck, president of the association, said in a news release.

The current standard was last revised in November 2015, so the next update is due by November 2020.

Nicole Boudreau, co-ordinator of the Organic Federation of Canada, which is leading the review, said it is a long, arduous process but a vital one.

“If we want producers to transition to organic agriculture, we need the standard to be clear, easy to read, easy to understand, manageable and applicable,” she said.

The last review cost $1 million and involved vetting 400 proposed changes. She expects half that many proposals this time around because the last review covered a longer period of time. It was the first review since the standards were created in 2006.

“We were very, very late because we were lacking funding,” said Boudreau.

The Standards Council of Canada was lenient back then, but it isn’t anymore. The standards will be withdrawn if they are not revised on time.

Boudreau has received only a few petitions for changes, but she has a pretty good idea what might be coming.

She thinks most of the proposed changes will be related to the permitted substance list.

One debate that always seems to arise is whether a synthetic input should be allowed if it is identical to natural substances.

Another issue she expects to surface is whether parallel production should be allowed.

Growers in the United States are allowed to plant an organic crop next to the same type of conventional crop. That is not allowed in Canada.

“The (Canadian) organic producers feel they have a disadvantage, so we know it will come back to the table,” said Boudreau.

It is a similar situation with hydroponics, which is allowed in the U.S. but not in Canada.

Boudreau said the organic sector is seeking further funding for the project from Agriculture Canada and will also be asking industry to contribute about $100,000.
Ottawa funds Pulse Canada projects

The $575,000 will be used to explore new markets and promote pulse use in the food industry

BY KAREN BRIERE

Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay has announced $575,000 in federal funding through Growing Forward 2 for three Pulse Canada projects.

The organization will receive $175,721 through AgriInnovation will be used to expand pulse use in China and investigate the health benefits of eating pulse.

$221,680 from the same program is going toward a pulse promotion to China, eastern Asia, the United States and Canada. A further $178,500 to explore new markets in China, eastern Asia, the United States and Canada.

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Minister Narendra Modi this month.

“India moved last week in its budget to open new markets and developing new uses for pulses are essential going forward, he said.

“You can be well assured that this is not just about divesting assets, “ he said.

FEDERATION OF PULSE CANADA

GORDON BACON

PULSE CANADA

We can ask for some clarification on some key issues; whether we get them from India is sort of out of our control, frankly,” he said. Opening new markets and developing new uses for pulses are essential going forward.

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ADM said close to Bunge deal

(Reuters) — Archer Daniels Midland Co. could reach an agreement to buy Bunge Ltd. as early as this week, a source reported Feb. 5, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

The potential deal comes as large grain traders have struggled with global oversupply and thin margins.

An ADM spokesperson said in an email the company does not comment on “rumours or speculation.”

Any deal would likely face stiff scrutiny from government regulators and opposition from U.S. farmers who fear that handing more market control to ADM could hurt wheat, corn and soybean prices. The companies would probably need to sell facilities in North America, such as grain silos, to win approval for a deal, analysts said.

A tie-up could also spark a bidding war for Bunge with Glencore, which already made an unsuccessful approach to Bunge last year. As well, Glencore could buy assets that ADM and Bunge divest.

Bayer offers asset sales for Monsanto deal

BRUSSELS/FRANKFURT

(Reuters) — Bayer has offered to sell seeds and pesticides businesses to try to address EU competition concerns over its $63.5 billion bid for Monsanto.

The proposed remedies “are very significant and we are confident they fully address the European Commission’s concerns,” the German company said Feb. 5.

The European Commission extended the deadline for its decision on the deal to April 5 from March 12.

Bayer said it was still aiming to wrap up the deal “in early 2018.” Both the EU competition regulator and Bayer declined to say what assets Bayer had offered to put on the block.

The offer includes assets to be sold to BASF as well as divestments of vegetable seeds business in some EU countries, a person familiar with the matter said.

“This is a very diverse package. It is not just about divesting assets,” the person said, declining to provide details.

Depending on the feedback from third parties, it is possible the package could be adjusted, the source said. The commission is expected to seek comment from industry rivals and customers in the coming days.

Bayer struck a deal with BASF in October last year to sell seed and herbicide businesses for US$7.4 billion but has said it is prepared to do more to gain EU approval.

The Monsanto deal has triggered opposition from some farmers and environmentalists who have sent more than 50,000 petition emails and more than 5,000 letters to the commission.
FARMLIVING

ON THE FARM

The Shiloh Cattle Co. in southeastern Alberta is dedicated to producing quality purebred cattle. The fourth-generation ranch has been in operation since 1909.

FARMLIVING EDITOR: BRUCE DYCK
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Deb Cryderman, director of the Camrose library, puts a book back on to a shelf.

By Jeremy Simes

Camrose Public Library one of last free spaces in city open to everyone

‘People are the heart of everything’

Inside especially when it’s frigid outside.

On that same day, a group of adults may be learning how to speak French or Spanish, or how to play the ukulele.

Cryderman thinks of the library as one of the last free spaces in the city for people to gather and meet one another.

“It costs money to go for coffee, she said, and taking programs elsewhere can also be expensive.

“I was just reading that one of the greatest predictors of having a long life is community, a sense of community,” she said. “We have people who come in here and say, ‘you’re the only person that I’ve talked to in the last three days.’ So, we want to have a space and create a space where people feel free to come.”

Cryderman has always felt the need to include others. Even when she was a little girl, she didn’t like it when someone was left out of a game on the playground.

“People are the heart of everything. Otherwise, we’re just a book storage facility.”

jeremy.simes@producer.com

Library staff members Deb Cryderman, left, Lisa Cumming, Nicole Bannick and Carley Angelstad offer a course at the library for people to learn how to play the ukulele.

Nicole Bannick, who works at the Camrose library, reads a book to children during storytime.

Jennifer Haley and her son, Wyatt, look at DVDs to rent at the Camrose library.

CAMROSE — At the Camrose Public Library, kids are eating a snack and playing downstairs, seniors upstairs are being tutored on a subject of their choosing, and a group of young teenagers are studying in a quiet nook.

Every Wednesday afternoon, young people gather in what’s called the bunker, a safe space for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) teens and their friends to discuss life and its challenges.

“We call it the bunker, and a bunker is a space that you put things that are precious. And we thought, what is more precious than our teens who are in a community that is marginalized?” said Deb Cryderman, the library’s director.

“They didn’t have a space that was safe and theirs, and we also recognized we needed an LGBTQ safe space. It’s open to anyone who wants to use it.”

The Camrose library is a diverse place.

Every morning, about an hour before opening, staff unlock the doors so the city’s homeless can come in, grab food and get a coffee. They sit down, read a book, or go on the computer, enjoying the warmth

Her staff say they feel the same way about bringing the community together. They’re the ones reading stories to children, offering book suggestions, organizing language classes and teaching people how to play instruments, among many other things.

“It’s not just, ‘come to the library, come get books and make sure you’re quiet,’” said Carley Angelstad, the library’s community development co-ordinator. “It’s a different way of accessing it and it helps them start to feel comfortable in the library and feel safe. It’s an excellent place for community development to happen.”

One after-school program, called Snacks in the Stacks, has proven itself, said Nicole Bannick, who works with young children at the library.

Kids come to eat and play. When they’re nourished, she said, they do much better.

“They can focus better,” Bannick said.

But there’s still more programming Cryderman would like to bring in to respond to what the community wants.

“People are the heart of everything. Otherwise, we’re just a book storage facility.”
Take back control of your body with healthy

TEAM RESOURCES

JODIE MIROSOVSKY, BSHeC

The food we put in our bodies affects how we feel. If we eat food that lacks nutrients, our body will automatically be searching for something with which to fuel itself. We will never be satisfied and often we will reach for unhealthy options for a fast fix.

This type of eating shows on our skin, the health of our hair and on how well we feel each day.

Highly processed, low-fat, low-calorie foods have been marketed very well. The food industry has appealed to our food senses. We can take back control of our food by making good choices and following up-to-date information.

For example, new research suggests that artificial sweeteners may trigger appetites but don’t provide the calories to satisfy the cravings. Or, that the sweeteners could inhibit brain cells that make us feel full, and so they prompt more eating. When we put something in our mouth, our body prepares for calories. When no calories come, cravings occur.

Our plates should be filled with nutritious food filled with bright colour and contrast. I would like to share a menu that is nutritious, easily prepared at home and satisfying.

FRESH GREEN SIDE SALAD

Try to add a serving of tossed greens to your menu each day. It can be very refreshing.

- 8 c. greens, torn (can include lettuce varieties, kale, spinach) 1 L
- Additions to top the greens: chopped cucumber, finely chopped red onion, grated carrots, chopped tomatoes

Basic oil dressing:
- 1 c. oil 250 mL
- 1/2 c. vinegar 125 mL
- 1/2 c. sugar 60 mL
- 2 shakes salt and pepper

Combine the ingredients in a lidded jar. Shake well. Pour over top the salad. 1/2 c. finely chopped celery 125 mL
- 1 c. chopped yellow pepper, (or any colour of pepper you have on hand or prefer) 250 mL

Meatball ingredients:
- 2 lb. ground beef 900 g
- 1 c. bread or cracker crumbs 250 mL
- 1/2 c. milk 125 mL
- 1 tsp. salt 5 mL
- 1/2 tsp. pepper 2 mL
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce 5 mL
- 1 medium chopped onion 1

Method:
In a small mixing bowl, combine the sauce ingredients. Let sit. In a large bowl, mix the meatball ingredients and form into one-inch balls.

Heat oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven. Add meatballs and lightly brown. Then add sauce ingredients and bring sauce to a gentle boil. Stir and let simmer until 30 minutes.

If you are short of time, I have used hamburger patties, (store bought or home made) cut into strips, browned and simmered in sauce. The taste was as good as the prepared meatballs. You could also use chicken or pork instead of beef. Home cooking is about experimenting and using ingredients you have on hand.

Prepare rice:
- 1 1/2 c. uncooked rice 375 mL
- 2 tbsp. butter or oil 30 mL
- 3 c. water 750 mL
- dash salt 1 mL

Combine rice, butter, water and salt in a large pot. Bring to a boil, and then stir and simmer for about 20 minutes or as on package directions until light and fluffy. Serve

Berry parfaits are a healthy way to satisfy a craving for something sweet.

Sweet and sour recipe can be prepared on the stove top or roasted in the oven.
Young farmers begin making their mark in industry

As generational shift nears, more events are popping up with a focus on young producers who want to stay in the business.

“I feel empowered to be a better advocate for my industry and to take our farm to the next level,” said Merel V., Salmon Arm, British Columbia.- Merel V., Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

“Now it’s a lot more complex, more innovative, and I think Canada’s biggest opportunity will be getting into niche markets and doing different things.”

Canadian prime ground for innovation. Hoffort said farming will be needed now more than ever as demand for food grows in conjunction with the growing global population.

“A buzz is building among young producers as more of them begin to take over the family farms. Many of them recently met at Farm Credit Canada’s Ignite conference, the latest event to launch with a particular focus on young producers. It was hosted for the first time in Edmonton on Jan. 17 and is making stops across the country later this year.

While the conference focused on topics like succession planning, innovation, new technology and diversification, many young producers were there to simply connect and share ideas.

“The big reason I came down was for the energy,” said Ryan Denis, who runs his own grain marketing services in Rosetown, Sask., and a member of Team Resources. Contact: team@producer.com.

“This transition encompasses more than just succession planning, however. For many, it involves doing things differently on the farm, like diversifying and adopting new technologies and practices to become more efficient. “It’s a time to really start looking at ways to support young producers,” said Léona Dargis, who’s gone through succession planning and owns her own farm near Whitehorse. “Now it’s a lot more complex, more innovative, and I think Canada’s biggest opportunity will be getting into niche markets and doing different things.”

Canada is prime ground for innovation. Hoffort said farming will be needed now more than ever as demand for food grows in conjunction with the growing global population.

“Now it’s a lot more complex, more innovative, and I think Canada’s biggest opportunity will be getting into niche markets and doing different things.”

Canada is prime ground for innovation. Hoffort said farming will be needed now more than ever as demand for food grows in conjunction with the growing global population.

He said predictions show the country could grow exports by more than $30 billion in the near future.

“I think that puts us in a great spot, and it primarily comes down to the under-40s,” Hoffort said. “I think we need to dream big dreams as an industry, start small and scale fast.”

As for the event itself, Hoffort said FCC plans to host it again next year.

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FARM LIVING

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH

CALGARY BUREAU

CRAIGMYLE, Alta. — Blake Morton and Darcy Olesky are dedicated to their art. The art in this case is the pair’s dedication to producing quality purebred cattle at Shiloh Cattle Company in southeastern Alberta.

The fourth-generation ranch was established in 1909 by Blake’s great-grandfather, Kingsley Morton. It evolved over time from a commercial spread to a purebred Red Angus company.

Located in the Hand Hills region of Special Area 2, the ranch is unlike some other parts of the region where precipitation is hard to come by and the land is dry. The Shiloh Cattle Company ranch is blessed with grass and good water.

When Kingsley first arrived in Alberta, he went as far as Beiseker, north of Calgary searching for a place to homestead.

“They passed up the good land because it was all gumbo. They went past that and came here,” said Merle Morton.

Last year, the Canadian Red Angus Promotional Society named the ranch Red Angus Breeder of the Year.

Merle Morton, Darcy Olesky and Blake Morton are partners at Shiloh Cattle Company, which won the purebred Red Angus of the year award last year. Located between Drumheller and Hanna, the ranch is more than 100 years old. | BARBARA DUCKWORTH PHOTOS

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Blake Morton and ranch hand Alicia Minchau load a newborn calf to take to the ranch nursery so it can bond with its mother and have time alone from the rest of the herd. Minchau then pulled it to the nursery.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
This three-day-old Red Angus calf is among the 180 purebred calves the ranch is expecting this year.

CLARE ROWSON, MD

Q: I am a 65-year-old male farmer and work a lot with my hands. I have started to get pins and needles in my hands after using them for too long, for example, stacking firewood. Is this carpal tunnel syndrome and what is the treatment?

A: Pins and needles, also known as paraesthesia, is something everyone has experienced from time to time, but with carpal tunnel syndrome, it affects the thumb and first three fingers and the thumb side of the ring finger. It is more unpleasant than ordinary pins and needles. It is actually a type of pain.

This is a result of increased pressure on the median nerve in the wrist as it travels through a tunnel known as the carpal tunnel, along with several tendons. This nerve is responsible for movement and feeling in the thumb and several fingers.

Weakness of the hand and a poor grip may occur, in addition to the sensory changes. It is a repetitive procedure.

Tasks that may lead to carpal tunnel syndrome include repetitive movements that are sometimes used by people working on a conveyor belt, frequently using a ratchet type of screwdriver or even weaving in the garden.

It can be an occupational hazard in factory assembly-line workers, and mechanics.

Of course, farmers often double up as mechanics and fix their own machines. Stacking firewood is also a repetitive procedure.

Pregnant women, diabetics and people with rheumatoid arthritis are more at risk for this problem.

Medications such as pain killers do not help much, but corticosteroid injections may be given in the vicinity to swell it up and inflammation. Resting the affected limb is the first course of action and wearing a wrist splint may also help.

If all else fails, then surgery may be conducted to release the pressure on the nerve in the wrist.

VITAMIN D LEVELS AND MS

A study of a large number of women in Finland published September 2017 found a significant connection between low levels of vitamin D and the onset of multiple sclerosis.

It was published in the journal Neurology, by Dr. Kassandra Manger of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and associates.

Vitamin D deficiency was defined as being under 30 nanomoles per litre, while normal levels were defined as 50 nanomoles per litre or more.

The researchers found that those women with the low levels were 43 percent more likely to develop MS at a later date. They speculated that creating the vitamin D deficiency might help prevent this.

It has long been known that people living in the northern hemisphere were more likely to contract this neurological disease. Several smaller studies had also previously indicated the correlation between vitamin D deficiency and MS and this much larger research project confirms those findings.

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

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SUNSET SKATERS

MILD WEATHER LAST MONTH HAD MADE SKATING ON NATURAL ICE ENJOYABLE.

Communication is key to escaping the abuse trap

SPEAKING OF LIFE

JACKLIN ANDREWS, BA, MSW

Q: My girlfriend and I have put a deposit on a little house in town. We are planning to move into it together at the end of the month. I’m wondering if there is not more to it. We wouldn’t mind some suggestions if you have a moment to share your ideas with us.

A: I want you to know that you are not alone. A lot of young couples are faced with the same dilemma. They want to have better relationships than those they saw in their own families when they were growing up, but they are not sure how to go about it. Fortunately, social service agencies and churches have picked up the cause and offer programs to help young couples. Check around. I am sure that you will find weekend seminars and workshops you can attend to get some ideas for you and your girlfriend to discuss.

Communication is important but you are right, it does not stop there. It depends first of all on the kind of relationship. You and your girlfriend can sit and praise each other until the swallows come back to Capistrano, and that is fun and somewhat useful for shining up your self-esteem, but it is not nearly as important for your relationship as it is talking about who is taking out the garbage.

When your grandparents got married, Grandma went straight to the kitchen, where she prepared meals, did the laundry and had children. Your grandfather headed out to the barn to fire up his Massey Ferguson tractor. They did not need to talk to each other. They did not need to talk to each other. The rules were clear and each other’s limits were known. They did not need to talk. It is unfair.

Tensions develop, followed by the usual arguments, and maybe even a call back to your own parents to find out who they would recommend for legal advice for the impending divorce. You and your girlfriend must communicate to figure out which things only that you do it. Once you have figured this out, you can remind her that hers is a beauty that outshines that which Helen of Troy flashed to ignite various wars in the land of romance and Grecian mythology.

Communications and relationships are important, but to move along, you have to figure out who is taking out the garbage, who is doing the laundry and who is firing up the tractor. It does not matter how you choose to talk to each other. It matters only that you do it.

Once you have figured this out, you can remind her that hers is a beauty that outshines that which Helen of Troy flashed to ignite various wars in the land of romance and Grecian mythology.

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

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Tensions develop, followed by the usual arguments, and maybe even a call back to your own pa...
Trump’s anti-trade agenda could help Canada

WINNIPEG (CNS) — As United States President Donald Trump follows his American first policy and pulls out of trade deals, it could spell future opportunity for the Canadian agricultural industry, according to Dermot Hayes, a professor with the department of economics at Iowa State University.

“TIn D.C., it’s chaotic. It’s the craziest situation I’ve ever seen, we’re shooting ourselves in the foot ... I do think the U.S. is behaving so badly that it’s going to create opportunities for Canadian agriculture,” said Hayes on Jan. 24 during the Keystone Agricultural Producers annual meeting in Winnipeg.

Immediately after Trump took office last year he pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. On Jan. 23, it was announced the remaining 11 nations including Canada had reached a deal and would be signing it in March.

According to Hayes, this is going to give Canada a leg up on the U.S. for the foreseeable future, even if the U.S. has a change of heart.

“Is it in Canada’s best interest to allow the U.S. back in (to TPP) given that they would have preferential access to Japan and Vietnam? I suspect that the damage is permanent, that the U.S. will never be able to get back into TPP,” he said.

North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations are ongoing as well and for Canadian agriculture it might not be the worst thing if it doesn’t work out. According to Hayes, it could lead to Canada receiving preferential access to Mexican markets.

“In the commodity business, you can’t pay a 20 percent duty if the Mexican producers are paying a duty and if the Canadian producers are not paying a duty. Again, there could be opportunities here for Canada to the detriment of U.S.,” he said.

There is a plethora of opportunities for Canada trade-wise currently as the U.S. digs itself into a deeper hole, according to Hayes. During the KAP presentation he praised the Canadian government’s current approach to trade agreements.

“One of the things I’ve noticed is as bad as U.S. trade policy is right now, Canada has actually got some rational trade policies. You’re cutting a European free trade agreement, a bilateral potential free trade agreement with Japan,” he said.

For Canada there is potential for more trade opportunities, and Hayes expects demand to grow from densely populated Asian countries such as China.

“If (Canada) can get rid of those duties going into China and especially if other countries do not have that access it could revolutionize (Canada). I’ve seen it in Australia. I’ve seen it in New Zealand. When China starts to buy your product, you become prosperous,” he said.
BY JOAN AIREY
FREELANCE WRITER

Purebred Charolais and Angus cows were calving in January on the Parker Ranch in Hawaii. Winter temperatures in the high 20s C contrasted sharply with what was going on back home in Manitoba the day we toured the Hawaii ranch. Family members were calving out cows in -30 C weather, making sure calves were born indoors so they would not be chilled or their ears freeze.

Parker Ranch is owned and operated by the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust, and its beneficiaries include the North Hawaii Community Hospital, Parker School Trust Corp., Hawaii Trust Corp., Hawaii Preparatory Academy and the Hawaii Community Foundation’s Richard Smart Fund.

The ranch was founded in 1847 by John Palmer Parker, a sailor from Newton, Massachusetts. He married Chiefess Kipikane, the granddaugh- ter of King Kamehameha I, and they bought the first two acres of land for $10. The ranch has been in operation for more than 170 years.

“Now we run 9,000 cows on the ranch,” said Leon, our tour guide for the day.

“Twelve cowboys look after the herds on Mondays and Fridays and every herd is checked to make sure they are healthy and have a water supply. Each cowboy is responsible for a certain herd. When it comes to branding, weaning a herd, the cowboys all work together. We raise purebred Charolais and Angus bulls to use in our own herds. When the bulls are five years old, we sell them to local ranches, as we prefer to use young bulls.

The ranch breeds 25 mares each year to American Quarter Horse Association stallions owned by the ranch. Each cowboy has eight horses assigned to him, and they are responsible for the care of their horses. After the horses have been trained by a professional for 60 days, the cowboys are responsible for working training their own horses. Besides horses, the cowboys have new half tons or crew cabs to get to their pastures.

“The calves are mostly weaned at five to six months when they weigh about 400 pounds and shipped to the United States mainland to be finished. We wean in the spring and fall,” Leon said.

Brian, the ranch’s purebred herd manager, said the Charolais and Angus herds are all artificially inseminated using frozen semen imported from the mainland. “We breed the cows to bulls that will produce cows suited to do the best for us here on the ranch. We want easy calving cows with good feet and legs, that can survive on our different pastures. Weekly we feed the cows minerals especially the copper they need,” he said.

Added Leon: “Some of the calves are now grass finished since we partnered with the Ulupono Initiative to study the feasibility of large-scale grass fed beef production. The Paniolo Cattle Company was subsequently formed, and beef from the ranch is available in Safeway stores in Hilo and Kona.”

It takes approximately 300 breeding bulls to service the cows, which are divided into winter and summer calving herds. Besides the dozen cowboys, approximately nine employees in support positions do fencing, welding, truck repair and maintenance to support the cattle operation.

The year round supply of grass means there is no need to grow feed.
OSLO, Norway (Reuters) — The idea of spraying a haze of sun-dimming chemicals high above the planet as a quick way to slow global warming faces so many obstacles that it may not be feasible, a leaked United Nations draft report says.

The UN review of a planetary sunshade, mimicking how a big volcanic eruption can cool the planet with a veil of debris, is part of a broad study of climate technologies ordered by almost 200 nations in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Proposals by some scientists to spray chemicals such as sulfur high in the atmosphere have won more attention since Paris as a relatively cheap fix, costing perhaps $1 to $10 billion a year.

But such geo-engineering may be “economically, socially and institutionally infeasible,” according to a draft report covering hundreds of pages on risks of droughts, floods, heat waves and more powerful storms.

The draft, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) about ways to limit warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial times, is due for publication in October. It could still substantially change, the IPCC said.

Problems involved with “solar radiation management” include testing and working out rules for a technology that could be deployed by a single nation, or even a company, and might disrupt global weather patterns.

And it “would result in an ‘addiction problem;' once started, it’s hard to stop,” the draft said. A halt after several years could lead to a jump in temperatures because greenhouse gases would continue to build up in the atmosphere.

David Keith, faculty director of Harvard University’s Solar Geoengineering Research Program, which is working for a tiny outdoor experiment to dim sunshine, said there was a misguided “taboo” against examining the technology.

“We need a serious research effort to understand its risks and potential benefits. Then we will be able to write informed assessments,” he wrote in an e-mail.

But many scientists are skeptical.

“To deploy it safely … would take many decades,” said Myles Allen, a professor of geosystem science at Oxford University. He said it was misleading to suggest it could be an easy short cut to slowing warming.

Given the long time needed for research, it would be better to focus on ways to limit greenhouse emissions, he said. Allen said he was giving his personal views, not of the IPCC draft of which he is an author.

The draft also says rising temperatures could breach 1.5 C by mid-century unless governments take unprecedented action.
An American economist says his country is behaving so badly that it will create opportunities for Canadian agriculture.

Cherie Hayes, a University economist at Iowa State University, said he is not monitoring the negotiations, but that he hopes the outcome will support U.S. farmers.

“Trade agreements have already begun to shift. The United States remains the dominant grain supplier to Mexico. Yet Mexico imported 583,000 tonnes of corn from Brazil in 2017, a 980 percent jump from the previous year, according to Mexican government trade data. Mexican imports of U.S. soybean meal fell 29 percent in the first 11 months of 2017, compared with the same period the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Trump’s animosity toward Mexico and complaints over trade imbalances have pushed longtime buyers to work with new suppliers in South America, the European Union and other regions, trade experts said.

“You get partners who build a bond and get real comfortable working together. We’re starting to see that bond becoming more important than price for where countries are buying grains,” said Karl Setzer, an Iowa farmer and president of MaxYield Cooperative, a Cargill spokesperson said the company had no immediate comment. ADM did not respond to requests for comment.

Canada recently agreed to join the new version of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, part of a broader effort to court new trade partners.

“Other trade agreements will be implemented, buyers of U.S. products in Mexico and Canada won’t be sure that we are a good long-term bet, and so we’ll likely to see our clients react accordingly,” she told a panel on NAFTA in Montreal Jan. 26.

Cargill expands potato starch

CHICAGO, (Reuters) — Commodities trader Cargill Inc. and a Danish partner plan to invest US$22.5 million in a new potato starch production unit in Denmark.

The move comes as the U.S.-based company seeks to capture consumer demand for simpler ingredients.

Cargill and Danish potato starch partner ARV Langholt AMBA plan to operate the project through ARV Langholt’s facility in Denmark.

Cargill did not say how much of the investment it would account for.

Cases in point is a rare 30,000-tonne shipment of Brazilian corn that arrived in November at grain terminals in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, operated by agribusiness heavyweights Cargill Inc. and Archer Daniels Midland Co.

Despite a steep decline in U.S.-Mexican pork, beef and wheat to Japan and other markets, in some cases eliminating duties altogether.

Cargill has been expanding in new “native starches” produced from plants such as corn and wheat as an alternative to more processed starch derivatives used to bulk up food products such as pasta sauce.

The boost in so-called “label-friendly” ingredients comes amid a broader push for diversification as Cargill and other merchants battle tight margins amid excess grain supplies.
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HELSINKI, BRUSSELS (Reuters) — Finland has called on the European Union to scrap its twice-yearly switch of clocks to daylight saving time.

In Brussels, however, the EU executive showed little sign of haste to comply, confirming only that a long-term review of its 2001 summer time directive was still going on.

A study for the European Commission in 2014 found the overwhelming majority of member states were happy with the current arrangements.

The problem is that in Helsinki, most northerly of the EU’s national capitals, there is less than six hours of daylight in late December. So politicians have argued that moving clocks forward and back by an hour in March and October has disrupted sleep and work and could cause long-term health problems.

The country’s EU ministerial committee discussed the matter on Jan. 26 and Transport Minister Anne Berner tweeted: “The government has decided to propose abolition of daylight saving.

“Our objective is to abandon the changing of clocks uniformly within the EU. Member states should jointly agree whether to move permanently to winter or to summer time.”

Like neighbours across the Baltic, Finland also shares an inconvenience of the time difference changing at its borders with non-EU Russia, Belarus and Ukraine — they all gave up daylight saving after a decision taken by Moscow in 2011.

The practice gained popularity in many countries during the energy crises of the 1970s as a means of saving power and money by effectively shifting daylight from the sleepy early hours to the busy evening.

To end variations in when clocks changed, the EU standardized a policy in the 1990s by which all member states now must move clocks an hour forward at 0100 GMT on the last Sunday in March and an hour back on the last Sunday in October.
For the last 50 years, members of the Horne family have been avoiding going near the 100-year-old blacksmith shop that housed the original well on their farm near Swift Current in southwestern Saskatchewan. The earth in one corner of the shop had collapsed over the years, exposing the wellhead and leaving the family wondering about the safety of the 30-inch well bore beneath. Family and friends had often been warned not to go into the dilapidated shop lest they fall into the 110-foot well hole. Each year, the shed slumped further into the ground, creating a 15-foot depression surrounding the wellhead. Several gnarly careganas had twisted their branches around one corner of the shop and helped to keep the building upright.

Inside, every inch of the blacksmith shop was taken up with memories of days gone by. Robert Horne, the grandson of Robert Dewar Horne, who had homesteaded the land in 1905, was anxious to put the out-of-use well to rest. As luck would have it, the Saskatchewan government in 2017 had realized abandoned wells around the province were a safety concern, as well as a concern for the health of the aquifer, and promoted a funding program for the decommissioning of such wells. Horne heard about the program on a local radio station and was quick to fill out his application and begin the process of decommissioning the old well. The initiative, funded through the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP), required interested farmers to submit a pre-approval worksheet outlining the plan for decommissioning. The application required an estimate of materials needed: bentonite clay for sealing the aquifer, chlorine bleach for disinfecting the standing water and the amount of gravel and soil needed to fill the hole.

The final application form, ask-
Last summer to decommission the old well

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Once Horne was sure he had the appropriate materials for the job, he started the decommissioning procedure. He enlisted the help of his son, Greg, his brother-in-law, Frank, and his partner, Bev (the author of this story).

The first step involved removing all the material in and around the well house. As is often the case on Saskatchewan farms, nothing, especially metal parts, is ever thrown away, because it might have a use in a later project. During cleanup, Horne told stories about parts dating back to the 1950s, from horseshoes and fork tines to pistons and engine parts. Old tools, grease guns, oil cans, cigarette tins and empty bottles filled the shelves. The project team recycled three tons of metal in Swift Current. As they picked through the piles, they saved bits and pieces that they thought might contribute to a metal sculpture to be constructed later.

The next step involved tearing down the old shop. The front-end loader and grapple made short work of the shed. Once the team realized there was little danger of falling into the well hole, they removed the pump itself from its original galvanized pipe. Next, they pulled the sucker rod out of the pipe in increments by using the front-end loader and a logging chain. The team recovered more than 30 metres of sucker rod, but unfortunately, no pump plunger.

The project team tried valiantly to access the original 30-inch well bore. Finally, they determined the earth above had collapsed into the hole.

To verify this, they made a calculation of the approximate cone volume, which closely matched the original well bore volume. They were satisfied it was a collapsed well and the only access to the aquifer was through the remaining galvanized pipe. Bentonite chips were slowly poured into the hole through the pipe. The project team used the remainder of the bentonite clay to cap off the bottom of the collapsed cone. They added a layer of concrete, followed by gravel and earth to cap off the well.

A few days after Horne and his team had finished cleaning up the worksite, he decided to tackle the metal sculpture project. A generous pile of pieces had been saved because of their unique look or their integral role in the farming operation. The concept of a deer-like structure was conjured as a tribute to the number of deer inhabiting the area.

The legs were constructed of blacksmithing stands with horseshoes welded on for feet. Three-tined pitch fork ends formed

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ribs of the deer, while a cutter bar guard became the neck, wrenches were used for collar bones, harness parts for shoulders and old pail handles framed the face. Binder gears made up eyes and an old rusty axe head was added for a nose. Blacksmith tongs were used to form the top of the head. Machinery brackets made antlers, and flat wrenches completed the points on the antlers. Brass bells from harness parts and a tire wrench used as a tail completed the picture.

When all was said and done, the sculpture was named Smithy, in honor of the blacksmith shop. Smithy stands outside the living room window of the Robert Horne house, which celebrated its 100th birthday last year. Every time a project is completed on the farm, Horne and family are reminded of the stories that reside in the buildings and the land. No piece of history is ever completely done away with. The family always honours those who came before them.

Register for Think Wheat!

SaskWheat will be hosting two meetings aimed at providing wheat producers in the province with the most up-to-date and relevant information about producing and marketing their crops.

Go to saskwheatcommission.com for more information on the speakers and to register.

March 13, 2018
Weyburn
Weyburn Travelodge
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Program: 9 a.m.

March 14, 2018
Tisdale
Tisdale RECplex
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Program: 9 a.m.

Producers are encouraged to register in advance on the SaskWheat website, as space is limited. Advance registration is free, registration at the door is $20.

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Female consumers across Europe have been asked to assess the taste of boar burgers compared to meat from castrated pigs. The research is designed to evaluate whether boar meat tastes better or worse than regular pork from castrated male pigs.

Researchers chose only women to test boar meat because women are said to have a more sensitive palate when it comes to consuming boar meat. That may make them more able to detect boar taint, an offensive odour or taste sometimes given off during cooking or eating of pork or pork products derived from non-castrated male pigs once they reach puberty.

Studies show about 75 percent of consumers are sensitive to boar taint, so pork producers work to control it. The latest research was carried out on 476 female consumers from Denmark, France, Italy and Poland. The group evaluated a total of eight meat burgers from boars with varying levels of skatole and androstenone. Boar taint is caused by the accumulation of androstenone and skatole in the fat of male pigs. Androstenone (a male pheromone) is produced in the testes when male pigs reach puberty. Skatole (a byproduct of intestinal bacteria, or bacterial metabolite of the amino acid tryptophan) is produced in both male and female pigs. However, levels are much higher in intact boars because testicular steroids inhibit its breakdown by the liver. As a result, skatole accumulates in the fat of male pigs as they mature.

Researchers also asked the group to taste burgers from pigs that had been castrated. Researchers concluded that the consumers favoured the meat from the castrated pigs over the boar meat patties, regardless of the level of androstenone and skatole. As well, acceptability of the boar meat patties decreased with increasing skatole levels, the scientists added in the summary. In samples with low skatole levels, higher levels of androstenone also reduced acceptability among androstenone-sensitive consumers.

The scientists were not able to identify clear threshold levels for androstenone and skatole. Maps showing the study participants’ declining preferences for boar meat due to higher levels of skatole and androstenone were developed, taking into account androstenone sensitivity.

The scientists said further work was required to cover the entire range of androstenone and skatole levels found in male pigs and for a wider set of meat products.
BRAZIL’S SOY SHARE TO CHINA HITS HIGH

The country set an export record to China last year, and it’s set to grow again this year.

BEIJING/SINGAPORE (Reuters) — Brazil’s share of soybean exports to China, the world’s top buyer of the commodity, grew to the largest on record in 2017 and looks set to grow again this year, helped by competitive prices and the high protein content.

That’s another potential blow to rival exporter the United States as it grapples with tougher quality rules on its shipments to China from 2018, as well as with global markets flooded over the last few years by bumper supply.

China, which imports 60 percent of the soybeans traded worldwide, bought 50.93 million tonnes from Brazil in 2017, accounting for 53.3 percent of total purchases, according to customs data released Jan. 25.

U.S. sales came in at 32.9 million tonnes, or 34.4 percent of China’s imports, the exporter’s lowest share since at least 2006.

“Soybean imports from Brazil to China are expected to keep growing in the new year…. Brazilian beans will have an advantage in prices and protein (content),” said Tian Hao, senior analyst with First Futures in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

Brazil took over from the United States in 2012 as the top supplier to China, with its exports often attractively priced as it relies on overseas markets for sales due to limited domestic demand and storage.

Brazilian soybeans also boast higher protein levels than U.S. supplies, making them more attractive for animal feed producers.

A weaker real also helped lure buyers in 2017.

The United States is the world’s biggest soybean exporter after Brazil, with the two countries accounting for roughly 80 percent of global shipments, which are valued at around US$50 billion annually.

Brazil’s share of the export market is on track to keep growing in 2018 as it gears up for a crop of around 114 million tonnes, matching last year’s all-time high production.

Larger harvests mean Brazil’s marketing season, which begins in May, has started to extend into October-November rather than ending around September as is traditional. That has eaten into the period when U.S. supply has typically dominated markets.

“Soybean inventories everywhere are so large that there is nothing like U.S. marketing season or South American marketing season (anymore),” said a veteran soybean trader at one of China’s state-run trading companies.

“Brazil has started harvesting new-crop beans while it is still not done selling last year’s crop.”

And Brazil’s slice of the Chinese market will likely get another boost in 2018 as restrictions imposed by Beijing on U.S. shipments from Jan. 1 bite.

China introduced the stricter import standards, which have reduced the amount of foreign matter allowed in the most widely traded soybean variety to one percent from two percent previously, after raising concerns about weed seeds.

“They are penalizing U.S. beans,” said Roy Huckabay, an analyst with Linn & Associates.
Drought sends more cattle into U.S. feedlots

CHICAGO, Ill. (Reuters) — Ranchers sent nearly one percent more cattle to feedlots in the United States in December than the same time a year ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has reported.

The result topped most analysts’ predictions, mainly led by worsening drought in the U.S. southern Plains that shrank available winter wheat grazing pasture.

Corn belt states were the recipients of cattle from areas of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota where insufficient moisture persisted. “These very dry conditions that are developing in wheat pasture country drove change in placements in November. And I suspect we got some of that in December also,” said Texas A&M University economist David Anderson.

Some analysts cited cheaper feed, which lowered input costs for feedlots, as another reason behind last month’s placement uptick. And ranchers are entering feed yards suggesting to analysts that the rate of cattle herd expansion is slowing.

USDA’s report showed December placements at 1.799 million head, up 0.8 percent from 1.785 million a year earlier and exceeded the average forecast of 1.730 million. The government put the feedlot cattle supply as of Jan. 1 at 11.489 million head, up 8.3 percent from 10.605 million a year ago.

Analysts, on average, forecast a 7.7 percent rise.

USDA said the number of cattle sold to packers was down 1.4 percent in December from a year ago to 1.752 million head. Analysts had projected a 1.2 percent drop from 1.777 million last year.

“The big placement figure tells you that we’re going to have big numbers of cattle coming at us for the foreseeable future,” said U.S. Commodities president Don Roose. He too alluded to the bump in feedlot cattle placements in corn belt states where feed is more plentiful. “You continue to be in a drought in the southern Plains, that continues to expand, so I’m not sure another factor that you have to throw into the placement discussion,” said Roose.
Alberta farmers, ranchers and food processors will have access to $81 million over the next four years to make their operations more energy efficient, thanks to new funding from the provincial and federal governments. Alberta Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier announced Jan. 29 that the funds are available to producers who want to install solar panels, convert their irrigation to low-pressure systems or add things like natural gas monitors and LED lights to improve energy efficiency.

Agri-food processors can also apply for funds.

“We’re looking at the operations that use the most energy so they can take advantage of this program to find efficiencies,” Carlier said.

“Farmers, ranchers, and processors across the province want to be able to do their part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, these programs will help them save some money to make their operations more successful,” he said.

He said the energy-efficiency program has been in high demand, so much so that the $10 million the government provided last year ran out with more than 300 applications waiting for approval.

This new $81 million should be enough to cover projects that are still waiting and likely more, Carlier said. The province is providing $67 million while the federal government is giving $14 million. The province’s portion is being primarily funded through its carbon tax. However, the funds will be divided unevenly throughout the industry.

A larger chunk, about $42 million, will be specifically for the Farm Energy and Agri-processing program, which is designed to encourage energy management for farms and small processors. Applicants can receive a maximum of $250,000 per year, but they’ll have to cover half of the total cost.

As for the solar program, $8.5 million will be made available over the course of four years. The government will provide a maximum of $100,000 paid at a rate of 75 cents per watt.

Producers looking to update their irrigation systems can receive a maximum of $15,000 but will have to cover 60 percent of the cost.

The final chunk, about $21 million, is for large food processors. The program is for projects of more than $250,000, and the cost-share terms are still being worked out.

Carlier couldn’t say how much money the programs would save producers in the long run or how much emissions could be reduced by more producers adopting these programs.

“We’ll track what we can,” he said. “It’s hard to put a number on that. We’ll track what we can,” he said. “It’s hard to put a number on that.

Crust Craft, a commercial food processor, has used the province’s energy efficient program in the past. Company president Paul Flesher said it’s allowed them to save costs.

“It’s allowed us to upgrade our lighting, and install more efficient electrical motors and refrigeration,” he said.

“We’ve been able to reduce our refrigeration cost significantly through upgrades. The grants help a little bit, but every little bit helps because our industry is very competitive.”

jeremy.simes@producer.com
STALWART OF THE PRAIRIES

A bison grazes in a field southwest of High River, Alta. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

China snaps up Aussie barley

PARIS, France (Reuters) — China is soaking up almost all of Australia’s feed barley exports and the trend could continue as Beijing looks to divert corn supplies toward ethanol fuel, an Australian export firm said.

China buys 80 to 90 percent of Australian barley exports, reflecting heavy demand from its livestock industry, said Scott Haughton, managing director of Peter Cremer Australia.

“If you look at Australian barley and (China’s) Dalian corn on any given day, there’s a correlation.”

Haughton said Chinese importers liked Australian barley for its low levels of moisture and vomitoxin, and blended it with corn from local stockpiles.

Australian barley exports are expected to fall sharply this season to 5.5 million tonnes after a weather-hit harvest, Haughton said, but Chinese demand is likely to remain strong.

The adverse weather also affected crop quality, which has reduced the amount of malting-grade barley and helped Canada take some market share in the malt segment.

Chinese reforms of agricultural policy could sustain strong demand for Australian feed barley as China plans to develop use of ethanol fuel that could absorb some of its huge corn stocks, Haughton said.

Chinese demand could encourage Australian farmers to grow more barley as wheat exports are curbed by the growing presence of Black Sea origins in southeastern Asia, Haughton said.

“The Australian dream of being the sole supplier of Southeast Asia is not likely,” he said of wheat.

Rising production in Black Sea region producers Russia and Ukraine, coupled with low shipping costs, has notably seen Australian wheat lose market share in Indonesia, the world’s largest wheat importer after Egypt.

Here’s to the RANCHER

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FEBRUARY 13
Wolves move in when ag moves out

A lone wolf being monitored by European researchers is revealing how far the animals sometimes travel and their rising population in areas where agriculture once dominated.

Naya the wolf was fitted with a collar containing a tracking device as a six-month-old cub by researchers at the Technical University of Dresden in Germany.

In October last year, the young female left its parents and wolf pack in rural Lubheener Heide, an area between Hamburg and Berlin in Germany.

Since then, it has roamed across Germany, crossed into The Netherlands and made it into Belgium on Jan. 3. It has already killed two sheep and injured another in Belgium.

It marks the first sighting of a wolf in Belgium for more than 100 years and has put farmers in the northeastern Flanders area on alert.

Naya has killed two sheep and injured a third near the Belgian town of Meerhout.

"Any sheep farmers should know they are in range of this wolf," said Hugh Jansman, a researcher from the Dutch Wageningen University and research centre who has been following Naya’s journey.

Currently, the young wolf has set up its den at a large military area near the town of Leopoldsburg, about 25 kilometres from the Dutch border in Belgium.

The recent sightings of Naya follow other sightings last year of a wolf pack in Denmark.

"We are at the front of the migratory wave of wolves," said Jansman. "In 2000, the first wolf pack with cubs was in eastern Germany. Currently, there are 74 cub packs with cubs in eastern Germany.

And in Lower Saxony, closest to the Dutch border, in 2012 there was only one settled female but currently there are 14 packs of cubs.

"Agricultural areas are being abandoned by people so they are re-wilding again, leaving lots of space for carnivores. The countryside is being abandoned by young people who are moving to the cities."

He said the increase in Europe’s wolf population and distribution means more are going to find their way into Belgium and the Netherlands — it is only a matter of time.

Naya’s transmitter reports the animal travels between 30 and 70 km a night looking for a new home.

"Some wolves just stay in their area, some others, about 20 percent, go on a trek and walk hundreds of kilometres and settle down," said Jansman.

He said Naya passed through several natural parks in the Netherlands but left them all. Ultimately, Naya’s decision to settle down in a military area could be because the area smells less of humans.

BY CHRIS MCCULLOUGH
FREELANCE WRITER

DID YOU KNOW?

There are about 12,000 wolves in 28 European countries, excluding Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Wolves were first spotted in Germany in 1998. Under German law, wolves are a protected species.

In 2011, wolves were spotted in Belgium and the Netherlands, with one sighting in Flanders, Belgium, for the first time in more than a century. Data from the wolf’s radio collar showed that this wolf had travelled 500 km in just 30 days.

Source: Staff research

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GENERIC CROP PROTE.

CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMEN.
GO GENERIC FOR YOUR SAVINGS!

PMRA APPROVED  SAME QUALITY  SAME ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Visit our website or download our app to view our FULL ARSENAL of Fertilizers, Foliars, Inoculants, Petroleum and Crop Prot.

FINANCING AVAILABLE  EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS

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WIN  ONE OF THREE  FORD DIESEL 2018 Limited Edition

No purchase or payment necessary. For contest details visit agracity.com/win
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DOWNLOAD THE APP AND START SAVING $$$

LOWER PRICE

AgraCity.com
FOCUS ON YOUR FIELDS

Never lose focus on cleaner fields with a pre-emergent that works for you!

Focus® is an easy to use, liquid pre-emergent herbicide that provides extended weed control over tough-to-kill grass weeds in your lentils and wheat. Save time tomorrow by targeting resilient weeds today and achieve cleaner fields and higher yields!

WHEAT | LENTILS | CORN | SOYBEANS | FMCcrop.ca | 1-833-362-7722

Ask your retailer how you can save up to 20% with the NEW FMC Grower CashBack.

A chinook arch, which is an indication of warmer weather, forms over the Rockies west of High River, Alta., Jan. 23. | MIKE STURK PHOTO

AG NOTES

AG EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TAKES APPLICATIONS

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative is taking applications for 2018. The federal program provides funding for on-farm internships and with organizations engaged in the agriculture and agri-food sector for activities that are environmentally beneficial to the agriculture sector.

The initiative was launched in 2016 with an investment of $5.2 million, which has created 392 new jobs nationally since it began.

PROGRAM FOR RURAL YOUTH LAUNCHED

DuPont Pioneer has launched Growing Today, Leading Tomorrow, which is a new community investment grant program for youth in rural communities.

The program is focused on supporting agricultural education, farm safety, and food security initiatives across Canada.

Other community investment programs by the company include the funding for emergency services and first responders, and an initiative that focused on breakfast and student nutrition.

Pioneer makes contributions to community-based organizations on behalf of the business and employees.

More information is at growing-today@pioneer.com.

JERSEY CANADA ANNOUNCES WINNERS

Now in its 62nd year, Jersey Canada’s All Canadian program recognizes the top Jersey cows on the show circuit.

The champion cow of the All Canadian Contest, for the third year in a row, is Musqui Iatola Martha ET, owned and exhibited by Milk Source Genetics of Kaukauna Wisconsin, and Fernando Jarquin.

The champion heifer of the 2017 All Canadian Contest is Tierneys Comerica Lady A, owned and exhibited by Lookout Jerseys’ owners Frank and Diane Borba, Blair and Jaime Weeks and Parrabel Genetics.
Grain Trailers 1505

Livestock Trailers 1510

Trucks

NeveR To OldesT 1595

Grain Trailers 1675

Trucks

Ernest To Oldest 1595

Trucks

NEVER TO OLDEST 1595

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NEVER TO OLDEST 1595

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NEVER TO OLDEST 1595

Trucks

NEVER TO OLDEST 1595

Trucks
EARLY DISCOUNT SPECIAL: SAVE BIG THIS FALL!

SUITE BUSINESS SERVICES: farm sale capital gains, $97,500.
es can be used to offset farm income
FARM LOSSES FOR SALE: A longstanding
family farm or a Hutterite colony. Call Bill
good until 2032. Jig tables and templates.
SK, close to Cypress Hills Park. Serious in-
307, Kyle, SK.
Church
ORDER. Call V&R Sawing 306-232-5488,
in stock. Custom sizes and log siding on
ROUGH LUMBER: 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 1"
receipts. Car proof avail., runs/drives great,
3050 hrs., $58,000 OBO. Located near Medicine
4x, 4x, 4x
2003 BOBCAT S175, 3821 hrs., very good
(3) Cat 641 motor 28 yard scrapers; Cat
fulleducation.com
SPECIALS: All post and frame
farming buildings. Chinese sliding doors, over-
974668, 2WD, Kubota, dsl., 20 HP , 4 sec.
head doors or bi-fold doors. New-Tech
farm buildings. Choose sliding doors, over-
All post & stud frame

THE WESTERN PRODUCER | WWW.PRODUCER.COM | 6/8/2010

WARRANTY
43
**FEBRUARY 8, 2018**

**BinS 4003**

1-866-517-8335. www.magnatesteel.com

**CONVEYORS**

**1406**

New Dealer!!!

Keho Fans

Brandon, MB & Area

Call 204-726-9124

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For sale and service west central SK. and MB. Call 306-860-2199 or call 306-860-7728.

**GRAIN AUGERS**

**1415**

**FARMLAND GEARBOX**

751-1150-1126

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Keho Guard / OPT STORMAX

For sale and service west central SK. and MB. Call 306-860-2199 or call 306-860-7728.

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**FARMLAND GEARBOX**

751-1150-1126

For all your Keho, Keho Guard, 

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For sale and service west central SK. and MB. Call 306-860-2199 or call 306-860-7728.
Salvage 4214

SALVAGE TRACTOR & TRAILER
Salvage, Custer, SD, 605-756-7105.
Two or more new parts for most farm machinery.

Repairs 4214

Quick Turn Around
High Quality
Quick Turnaround Time

Need Repairs? 4223

NEED REPAIRS?

Shop Equipment 4225

HYDRA-JET 1500
1500 series, single head, 1500psi, 6.5-gpm, 120v single phase, 3hp electric pump. $2,250.

rockpickers/

Shovel/ 4226

SPO2-38, 36, 33, 30, 28, 26, 24, 23, 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, single fan, manifolds granular package, 15x45 conveyor, gas and liquid. $35 each. 403-321-2105, Blackie, AB.

Sickle Equipment 4229

2005 CASE IH 1052, 18 ft., high clearance, 15x45, 909 hours, 510/65R38, $7,500. Todd Hance, 306-832-9564, Cold Lake, AB.

Special Equipment 4232

2013 CASE IH TORION, 108’ toolbar, 12’ single fan, manifolds, granular package, 24x80 conveyor, gas and liquid. $25,000 plus freight. 403-322-3736, Blackie, AB.

Spraying various 4244

SPRAYING WITHOUT A NOTICE...

Spray nozzles for sale...

Air Drill 4250

2006 JD 9400, 98’ air drill, JD6/3000 DR, 5” spacing, single shot, 5.5' steel parts, 12” rear tires, $30,000. 306-985-5579, 780-988-1661, 250-852-3726, 780-923-8210, 250-852-8784.

Air Seeder 4253

2011 JOHN DEERE 612C, 30’ drill, 12” single shot, 5.5’ steel parts, 12” rear tires, $49,500. 306-321-2105, 403-322-3736, Blackie, AB.

Aircraft 4254

New - $24,800.

Rolling Stock 4262

Tillage Equipment 4263

Monocle TEC, 800-373-7000, New and Used Case IH an

Rolling Stock 4263

2011 Case IH STX 400, 4WD 1030 HP, 90” duals on rear, 1200 gal. stainless, all options for

Rolling Stock 4263

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2011 CASE IH STX 400, 4WD 1030 HP 90’, duals on rear, 1200 gal. stainless, all options for.
Two Truths and a Lie

Combine World has the best warranty in the Ag business
Staff at Combine World are the most helpful and knowledgeable people you will find
Combine World is mostly a salesyard

Can you spot the lie?

Our customers can’t! If you have not dealt with Combine World in the past 3 years, then pick up the phone and call in with your answer!

The Fine Print: You must be a new customer to participate. You can only win once.
Every $50,000 spent on Kelly Hanhart can score you an LED 3 Bar. Every caller after receives a $100 in-store credit! Winners will be announced bi-weekly!

Combine World Winners Source

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Combine World Winners Source
### Tractors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stock Number</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case IH Steiger 540</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4 Remotes, High Capacity Hyd, PTO, Stk: 023173 (SC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$429,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case IH Steiger 550 Quadtrac</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6 Remotes, PTO, Deluxe Cab, HID Lights, Stk: 023776 (PA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$460,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case IH Steiger 600 Quadtrac</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>36&quot; Tracks, Lux Cab, HID Lights, 6 Remotes, Stk: 024150 (SA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$389,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Air Drills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stock Number</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bourgault 5710</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>80 Ft, 10&quot; Spacing, PTO, Twin Flow Hyd, 36&quot; Tracks, Stk: 020500 (SC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$620,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourgault 5710</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>64 Ft, 9.8&quot; Spacing, PTO, Deluxe Cab, Stk: 020517 (SC)</td>
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<td>$573,000</td>
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</table>

### Spray Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stock Number</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patriot 4420</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>120 Ft, Active Susp, Pro 700, AccuGuide, AccuBoom, AutoSteer, Front Fill, Wide Fenders, TwinBoeing 710s, Stk: 022569 (SA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$495,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case IH 4430</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>120 Ft, Lux Cab, Active Susp, PTO, Pro 700, 372 Receiver, 2 Sets Of Tires, Stk: 024786 (SC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$305,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case IH 4440</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>120 Ft, Lux Cab, Active Susp, PTO, Raven SmarTrax, Stk: 023776 (PA)</td>
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<td>$389,000</td>
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### Air Cabs

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<th>Model</th>
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<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Case IH 4440</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>120 Ft, Active Susp, Pro 700, AccuGuide, AccuBoom, AutoSteer, Front Fill, Wide Fenders, TwinBoeing 710s, Stk: 022569 (SA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$495,000</td>
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### Other Equipment

- **Finance Terms:** O.A.C. Certain conditions apply. Offer subject to change and cancellation at any time.
SAVE IN-STOCK RTMS

Until March 31, 2018 save on all in-stock ready-to-move homes! These beautiful RTMs feature contemporary style, efficient floor plans and the finest quality of craftsmanship. All RTMs are backed by a New Home Warranty and award-winning service.

*Not valid with any other offer. See website for details.

WARMANHOMES.CA
306-933-9595

We build it like we own it
## JOHN DEERE

### 2012 JOHN DEERE 9660R
- 2700 hrs. 830F duals
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2014 JOHN DEERE 9620R
- 630 hrs. 830F duals
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2009 JOHN DEERE 3400, 3400 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2004 JD 7000, 7000 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2010 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 4300 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2014 CASE IH PUMA 150
- 1502 hrs. 40F twin spool, 40F

### 2014 CASE IH 8850, 8850 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2012 CASE IH 9850, 9850 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2011 CASE IH 8850, 8850 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2009 CASE IH 9850, 9850 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2009 CASE IH 9850, 9850 with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2015 JOHN DEERE 9620R
- 9600 hrs. 830F duals
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2009 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2009 JOHN DEERE 6960R
- 6960R with PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2005 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2004 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2003 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2002 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2001 JOHN DEERE 7930
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- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

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- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.

### 2000 JOHN DEERE 7930
- 7930 hrs.
- PTQ, Hi-Flow hyd.
2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB HEMI

$25,788

Stk# 1776816,
B/W $149, MSRP $43,040
EDMONTON, AB
1-877-566-4045

2013 SEEDMASTER CT80-12

$209,000

w/300 Bushel On Board Tank,
w/Liquid
WADENA, SK
306-338-2541

2016 CASE 500Q QUADTRAC

$495,000

Luxury Cab, Performance Lighting, NAV II w/372 Receiver, High Capacity Dual Pumps, PTO, Diff Lock, Tow Cable.
WETASKIWIN, AB
1-888-644-5463

2016 JCB 427 WHEEL LOADER

$215,000

620 Hrs, HT High Lift, 6 Spd Auto Transmission w/ Torque Lock Up.
OLDS, AB
1-877-490-3020

2014 VERSATILE 575

$329,000

WADENA, SK
306-338-2588

2012 NEW HOLLAND CR8090

$290,000

Comes with 790CP Header, Engine Hours:1503,
Thresher Hours: 1016, New Feeder Chain, New Rub Bars.
Meadow Lake, SK
1-888-236-5222

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South of Moose Jaw on #2 Hwy, 1.5 miles East on Baildon grid. Sell- ing Charolais, plus 45 yearling and 2 year old Charolais, plus 40 Simmental & Simm/Angus bulls. For catalogues and information contact Ken at 306-697-7204 or Kyle at 306-461-2013 or Kyle at 306-861-2013.

SALES

ANNUAL BULL & FEMALE SALE, January 28th, 2018, 1:00PM at the ranch, South of Moose Jaw on #2 Hwy, 1.5 miles East on Baildon grid. Selling Charolais, plus 45 yearling and 2 year old Charolais, plus 40 Simmental & Simm/Angus bulls. For catalogues and information contact Ken at 306-697-7204 or Kyle at 306-461-2013 or Kyle at 306-861-2013.
For more information on "Forage Yields" and "Growing Your Own Feed," visit www.profitfromthebean.com

Two of these are supposed to be yellow. One is not.

Lever disease can turn a child's skin yellow and turn his body against him.

Every year, thousands of Canadian children from infants to teens are diagnosed with liver disease. Jaundice is often an early warning sign.

To find out more, call 1-800-563-5483 or visit www.liver.ca
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1-888-329-9191

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CANADIAN
ONLY

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306-587-3045; Fax: 306-587-3258
E-mail: farmzilla@bce.ca

SOLDI DAIRY QTY, 6 head has 500 round bales, approx. 1500 lb. Feed hay available.
Faskett Farms, Manigault, SK.
Call 306-496-3206.

NEW FOR 2018: 120; Round bale packing and housing, weight, grade, bale count.
Round bale packing and housing, weight, grade, bale count.


WINTER CROPS: 45,000 bu. of spring barley, round bales, square bales, silage. C. Vanier, 306-474-3092, Lethbridge area.

HAY/STRAW

5610

SOILY DAIRY QTY, 8 head has 500 round bales, approx. 1500 lb. Feed hay available.
Faskett Farms, Manigault, SK.
Call 306-496-3206.

NEW FOR 2018: 120; Round bale packing and housing, weight, grade, bale count.
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Frost does some wonderful natural art work on a fence in west-central Saskatchewan near D’Arcy in mid-January. | PAULA LARSON PHOTOS

PARIS, France (Reuters) — Ten more babies have tested positive for salmonella in France after drinking milk produced by the firm Lactalis, said a group representing families.

Lactalis, one of the world’s largest dairy groups, has recalled 12 million tins nationwide and from stores around the world after last month discovering salmonella bacteria in some baby milk at a factory in western France.

French authorities have said that Salmonella Agona infections were reported in 38 cases between mid-August and December, 36 of them clearly linked to Lactalis milk.

But Quentin Guillemain, president of the Association of Families of Victims Contaminated with Salmonella (AFVLCS), told reporters there were “at least 10 families to this date not accounted for” whose children had tested positive for salmonella after drinking Lactalis milk.

Another case has been confirmed in Spain and one is suspected in Greece. The recalls have stretched as far as China.

President Emmanuel Macron addressed the issue Jan. 25, saying there could be no tolerance for companies that did not respect rules. AFVLCS’s lawyer, Jade Dousselin, said she would soon file 10 legal complaints from families, eight against Lactalis and two against the retailers Leclerc and Auchan.

Leclerc, Auchan, Carrefour and Systeme U have all acknowledged that some baby milk recalled by Lactalis made it onto their shelves.

The consumer protection body DGCCRF has performed 3,600 checks and found recalled products in two supermarkets, 13 pharmacies, one hospital and six other distributors, the economy ministry said.

Lactalis chief executive officer Emmanuel Besnier has said his group will compensate every family that has suffered harm.

Ten more babies have salmonella in France: victims’ group

Recalls over salmonella bacteria found in baby milk in a French factory have spread across Europe and into China

Jack’s an artist
Hot fall pulls Ontario corn crop to above average

The province’s corn crop averaged 184 bushels per acre last year and soybeans were 44 bu. per acre

**CORN YIELDS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO**

Harvested yields (bu./acre) in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (Bu./Acre)</th>
<th>Yield Per Acre (Bu/Acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150 - 170</td>
<td>150 - 170</td>
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<td>170 - 190</td>
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**SOYBEAN YIELDS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO**

Harvested yields (bu./acre) in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (Bu./Acre)</th>
<th>Yield Per Acre (Bu/Acre)</th>
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France plans farmer exemption to glyphosate ban, if necessary

**SAINT-GENES-CHAMPSAINT-ELLE, France (Reuters) — France plans to exempt farmers from a ban on using the weed killer glyphosate in three years’ time as long as there is no credible alternative, President Emmanuel Macron said recently.**

Macron said in November glyphosate would be banned in France within three years, rejecting a European Union decision to extend its use for five years after a heated debate over whether the Monsanto-developed weed killer causes cancer.

The announcement of the ban caused an outcry among farmers who rely on it heavily, saying three years was too soon to find an economic and environmentally viable alternative.

Macron said an exemption for farmers would likely concern 10 percent of cases, while solutions could be found for the other 90 percent. He also called for more research.

“I will never impose a ban if there is no credible alternative,” Macron said in a speech to farmers in the Angers region in central France. “We cannot leave a farmer without a solution or with a solution that would not be tenable because someone else nearby would not have the same constraints.”

French agriculture research institute INRA said in a report in early December that alternatives to glyphosate, such as additional weeding and plowing, could be found in most cases.

Macron said more research was needed in some areas, particularly for soil conservation or hillside crops but with the principle that “I will never impose an exit if there is no credible alternative.”

*BY JOHN GREIG*

**FREELANCE WRITER**

Agricorp reports that Ontario’s corn crop yielded better than expected last year at an average of 184 bushels per acre. Soybeans were closer to the 10-year average at 44 bu. per acre.

Agricorp, the provincial crop insurance agency, has some of the most solid crop production numbers in Ontario because its members must report their actual yields. About 75 percent of grains and oilseeds farmers in Ontario have crop insurance.

The results show how resilient corn genetics have become despite challenging weather conditions as those that occurred in 2017.

Crop supply companies in southern Ontario at the Chatham-Kent Farm Show say the average is about within some regional variation.

Here’s what they said on soybeans:

- **Soybeans were “all over the map,”** said Bob Thirlwall, a technical agronomist with DeKalb, who covers the London-to-Windsor area. “Everywhere was a different story where the yields swung so wildly, from 20 bu. per acre to 70 bu., depending on where you were.”

- **Most of the soybeans were challenged in the far southwest of the province, said Scott Vandeboer, seed specialist with AGRIS and Wanstead Co-ops, but there were some small pockets of better yields.**

- The fortunes of soybeans took a turn in August, depending on where you were, said Stephen Denys, director of business management at MaizeX. In the south of the province, where you were, said Denys, took in August, depending on where you were. “I was in July during pollination, it was hard by the drought, “ said Thirlwall. Some people worried it would reach black layer. MaizeX factored in potential low test weight and came up with a 164 to 165 bu. per acre estimate. Take out the low-test weight factor and the estimate would be 175.

- Hot weather in September helped pull the crop to the 184 bu. per acre final number.

- There were some pockets of lower test weight corn in areas that had large rainfalls and mostly cool weather.

- “We were really surprised when we got in there with the combine and saw some of these 200 bu. yields in areas that really got hit hard by the drought,” said Thirlwall. “I think part of what we saw was in July during pollination, it was a little cooler than we usually experienced in July.”

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Horse Enthusiasts - Hone their Horse Knowledge

The Saskatchewan Equine Expo showcases the newest technology, the latest developments in equine health, and celebrates the diversity of the equine industry with the live demonstrations, and events featuring outstanding horsemen and women.

Saskatoon Prairieland Park and volunteers from Saskatchewan Horse Federation, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and various equine breed groups work together to facilitate this annual event. Through equine related lectures, presentations, demonstrations, entertainment and opportunities the show focuses on the Equine Industry.

The Saskatchewan Equine Expo is pleased to welcome World Renowned Horsemanship and Clinician - Jonathan Field. Jonathan is an acclaimed horsemanship, much sought after as a trainer and clinician for his amazing results with both horses and their owners. Having developed his own unique method of horsemanship, Jonathan’s Natural Foundation Home Study Program reaches out, giving all horse owners access to skills and knowledge they can apply at home.

He’s been featured on National TV, in major equine publications, has authored a book titled ‘The Art of Liberty’ and was the recipient of the Jack Brainard Horsemanship Award for overall horsemanship during the International Colt Starting Competition “Road to the Horse”. Through live performances, Jonathan has inspired thousands of horse enthusiasts to pursue their own higher horsemanship after witnessing his beautiful, multiple-horse liberty demonstrations.

A new element to the Expo this year is the 3-Day Eventing Demonstrations hosted by Amy West. Amy West has been successfully competing at the advanced level horse trials as well as many FEI CIC And CCI 2 star with top placings with her upper-level horse, Whirlwind WF. Amy is an Equestrian Canada Certified Competition Coach. Her background as a coach and a trainer has been filled with producing and training horses and riders up the levels for many years. Amy’s passion for the sport of eventing goes beyond her own ambitions, there is a thrill that comes with providing students with tools that enable them to be their best and in turn, bring out the best in their horses.

The excitement of the Trainer Challenge is back again for another year. Watch as Alex Alves, Chris Munro and Adam Thiessen first choose and then train a young colt over the three days of the event. This one is always a crowd favourite, plan to be early – the stands are always full for the Trainer Challenge!

The demonstration portion of the event is both exciting and educational. Watch Friday and Saturday nights as the participants perform during the Extravaganza. Highlights include: Show Jumping, 4-H & Pony Club Demonstrations, Mini Chuckwagons, Vaulting, Barrel Racing, Mounted Shooting, Freestyle Dressage and Cow Horse Fence Work.

The trade show element of the show features over 75 equine suppliers, western art and home décor dealers, breed associations, clubs and industry professionals. Located in the main Prairieland Park trade and convention space, the trade show is a great opportunity to network with fellow horse enthusiasts and equine experts. Try the free shuttle from the Prairieland Park AG Centre to the tradeshow.

The show starts on Thursday, Feb 15th with the colt selection and continues through until the Trainer Challenge Finals on Sunday evening. To get your tickets or for more details, specific show times and trade show schedule, visit SaskatchewanEquineExpo.ca
Calf feeding is focal point of research into dairy health

Calves require higher levels of milk feeding to do well, but this can cause complications because it can make weaning more difficult.

BY SHELLEY TOMLINSON
FREELANCE WRITER

Dan Weary’s research goal is to improve the lives of animals in the dairy industry.

Weary, a professor at the University of British Columbia, said a major part of their work involves working with young calves.

“On most Canadian dairy farms, the farmers are keeping all of the baby females, the heifer calf and they’re rearing those calves who then become the future of the farm.

“It’s really important in terms of the long-term sustainability of that individual farm that these calves grow up to be big, healthy, strappling, productive dairy cows,” said Weary.

He said feeding calves is an important focal point of their study.

“When I did my very first research into dairy cattle, the common practice was to feed calves just four litres of milk a day. For a baby calf, that’s about 10 percent of their body weight.

“What we found over the years, is that calves really require much higher levels of milk feeding for them to do well, for them to thrive physically, for them to grow at the rate of growth that they’re capable of.”

He said even though that sounds like easy, common-sense advice, it comes with complications. One problem is that if a producer feeds a calf more milk, it is more difficult to wean the calf later. That then creates a new challenge of how to improve weaning practices, he said.

Weary said adult cows are at their greatest health risk around calving. He said he and other researchers are looking at ways to use different types of sensors to better track and identify the sick animals earlier.

He said they are also looking at housing to see what designs work best for the animals.

“Trying to make the stalls work better, trying to make the stalls more comfortable for the cows to use, making them easier to get in and out of, more likely that they spend time in them because one of the things that we’ve learned is a big risk for lameness is the cows spending a lot of time in the wet, concrete alleys outside of the stall.

“That’s a very hard place for the cow in terms of being dangerous for the health. We’ve been really trying to look at how to get the stalls to work better for the cows,” he said.

Calf feeding is focal point of research into dairy health
Calves require higher levels of milk feeding to do well, but this can cause complications because it can make weaning more difficult.

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Compost tea makes soil more active

Southeastern Saskatchewan farmers use enhanced biology to improve their crops through a healthy approach to dirt

ROBIN BOOKER
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

Derek and Tannis Axten apply compost tea soil inoculant with a liquid kit on their 60-foot drill to fast track soil regeneration at a broad acre.

“Once it’s hot enough for long enough, we turn it so that the outside can get into the outside to heat and the middle can get to the outside and cool off a bit,” Tannis said.

The couple work a 6,000-acre family farm with two-thirds of its land base in Minton, Sask., and the rest near Milestone, Sask.

They intercrop and use cover crops to increase plant diversity and maximize the number of days that living roots feed soil microbes, which has improved their soil.

However, they wanted further gains, and faster.

At a farming conference in the United States, Gabe Brown, a well-known presenter in the regenerative agriculture movement, suggested to Derek that techniques used by Elaine Ingham may help him introduce beneficial soil critters to his fields at a large scale.

Tannis then took an online course called Life In The Soils offered by Ingham and spent five days on Ingham’s research farm in northern California to learn how to identify soil critters with a microscope.

“We do a lot to protect our soils and protect the biology we have, but when we started looking at it and realized it was mostly bacteria, we realized we needed to restore the soil food web and get some of those predators and/or fungi into the soil,” Tannis said.

The goal for the compost tea inoculant is to reintroduce beneficial soil microbes that were lost in the soil, “That is all pre-existing. We are just trying to get ourselves back up to where it was before we stuck a plow in the ground 100 years ago,” Tannis said.

“We like it to get over 131 F for at least three days in the very centre, but not over 160 F,” Tannis said.

“Once it’s hot enough for long enough, we turn it so that the outside can get into the outside to heat and the middle can get to the outside and cool off a bit,” Tannis said.

The piles are turned at least five times.

Once a pile is finished it returns to ambient temperature and is ready to use.

“Making extract with the tea is a good way to take a smaller amount of compost and get the biology out over a lot of acres,” Tannis said.

“We have a compost tea brewer. It’s a 500 gallon cone tank we fill with water and put our bags of compost in a tea bag. The water bubbles with a big air pump and it basically is extracting the organisms off. We have a big air pump and it basically is extracting the organisms off the compost into the water,” Tannis said.

“Once a pile is finished it returns to ambient temperature and is ready to use. Thousands of tons of compost have been produced and added to the Axten’s fields, but it’s tough to distribute across all of their acres.

Instead, Tannis identifies the compost with the strongest and most diverse population of beneficial micro-organisms and then extracts them into a compost tea.

“We started out slow because when the organisms are growing soil, “he said.

“We just changed the compost in the tea bag so that I had more organisms to extract off,” Tannis said.

She watches the compost tea closely with a microscope to monitor its micro-organism composition.

Food such as kelp or fish hydrolysate are added to feed the micros in the tea just before Derek takes the solution to the field to apply in furrow with the liquid kit on his drill.

The food supplements help sustain the micro-organisms until they move onto the crop’s root exodites that their newly planted crops will provide.

In a tea you add those foods and brew it for at least 24 hours, but we didn’t want to because you really have to keep it aerated then because when the organisms are really growing they really require oxygen,” Tannis said.

“So we just add it right before we went to the field,” Tannis said.

It is too early to tell how the compost tea affects yields on the Axten farm, but last year was their first full scale use of the tea inoculant and it was too dry to compare to previous years.

“I have noticed more diversity (of soil micro-organisms),” she said.

“I can say 100 percent that it’s because we put extract down because we work hard with the diverse soil crops and our cover crops to create a good environment,

Derek said growers have to be capable of identifying soil microbial organisms before jumping in to applying a compost tea inoculant.

“You can multiply up some stuff you probably don’t want to multiply,” he said.

“I don’t know if I’d recommend doing this because I’ve had people call me saying, ‘I have this manure pile and I made tea.’ That can be bad because there is all sorts of things E. coli that can be there,” Tannis said.

Tannis said they use thermal compost because there is less chance they will spread something on their field that they don’t intend to put there.

“There are a lot of different ways to compost, but that’s why I like the thermal compost because we know we are getting rid of not just pathogens but for us it’s the weed seeds,” she said.

“We don’t want to be spreading those in our fields,” she said.

For growers who don’t want to learn how to identify soil microorganisms with a microscope, Derek said a phospholipid fatty acids (PLFA) soil test will provide the same information, and it’s a good way for growers to gain a understanding of their soil’s microbial environment.

“There are established ranges and guidelines of where you should be in a good functioning soil,” he said.

“That is all pre-existing. We are just trying to get ourselves back up to where it was before we stuck a plow in the ground 100 years ago,” he said.

robin.booker@producer.com
But weather expert highlights some concerns to watch for this spring

No major issues in weather forecast

But weather expert highlights some concerns to watch for this spring...
EDMONTON — Efforts to modernization Canadian wheat classes have already increased the quality of Canadian wheat exports, even though the redesignation hasn’t happened yet, said Lisa Nemeth, director of international markets for Canadian International Grains Institute.

“In the last two years when we’ve been going out to meet with customers, we’ve not had the same questions around the strength of CWRS. We’ve been pretty specific in asking about it as well, and customers have been saying they’ve noticed an improvement and they are happy with the quality,” Nemeth said after her presentation at FarmTech, which was held Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Edmonton.

To modernize Canadian wheat classes, wheat varieties designated CWRS and CPS were examined to make sure they met quality parameters of their class, specifically in gluten strength.

“So, the wheat modernization efforts have been very successful in improving both CWRS and CPS red quality to assure end-users have the quality they are looking for and expecting out of these classes,” Nemeth said.

The redesignation is expected to happen Aug. 1, “but because producers knew it was coming, they have been decreasing the varieties that are being grown, so that’s why we’ve already seen the improvements in the classes,” Nemeth said.

The varieties that did not meet the quality parameters of CWRS and CPS wheat were placed in the Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR) wheat class, which was announced by the Canadian Grain Commission on Jan. 15, 2016.

In Aug. 1, 2019, AC Crystal is expected to move from the Canada Prairie spring red class to the CWRS class.

Source: Canadian Grain Commission | WP GRAPHIC

Wheat reclassifications affect quality

Canadian wheat exports improve ahead of rules

BY ROBIN BOOKER
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

These wheat varieties will be reclassified into the CNHR class as of Aug. 1:

**Canada Western red spring:**
- AC Abbey
- AC Cora
- AC Eatonia
- AC Majestic
- AC Michael
- AC Minto
- Alvena
- Aldikat
- CDC Makwa
- CDC Osler
- Columbus
- Conway
- Harvest
- Kane
- Katepwa
- Leader
- Lillian
- McKenzie
- Neepawa
- Park
- Pasqua
- Pembina
- Thatcher
- Unity
- 5603HR

**Canada Prairie spring red:**
- AC Foremost
- AC Taber
- Conquer
- Oslo

In Aug. 1, 2019, AC Crystal is expected to move from the Canada Prairie spring red class to the CWRS class.

Wheat varieties designated CWRS and CPS were examined to make sure they met quality parameters of their class, specifically in gluten strength.

Many wheat varieties were identified that met the gluten strength requirements for their class.

“So, the wheat modernization efforts have been very successful in improving both CWRS and CPS red quality to assure end-users have the quality they are looking for and expecting out of these classes,” Nemeth said.

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robin.booker@producer.com

Wheat varieties designated CWRS and CPS were examined to make sure they met quality parameters of their class, specifically in gluten strength. | FILE PHOTO
Technology gains may have saved many a crop last season

How will the latest tools be used to make this season more profitable?

**PRECISELY AGRONOMY**

**THOM WEIR, PAg**

We often reflect on the previous year at this time of the year and give thanks for the bounties that we have received. This is magnified with those of you who receive their livelihoods from the land. We are so at the mercy of Mother Nature. This was very evident this past year.

However, the most common remark I heard this year when I asked a farmer how his yields were was “pleasantly surprised” or “un-expectantly good.”

I chalk up much of these results to the adoption of direct seeding and no-till technologies developed in the 1990s by many industrious farmers, agronomists and engineers. We have come a long way in a short period of time.

I think back to the dust storms in the late 1980s and remember my mother lamenting about having to dust almost daily as the clouds of dust rolled through.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to organizations such as the ManiDak Zero Till Association and the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association for their hard work and foresight with regards to soil conservation and no-till.

The discussion of technology leads me to another observation. This past fall, I had the opportunity to tour for six weeks in South-East Asia, including Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. This area has often been referred to as the world’s rice bowl. Having now travelled through this area, I can see why.

When in the country, you are seldom out of range of seeing a rice paddy. Whether you are travelling through the Irrawaddy Delta of Myanmar or the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, you see these small paddies stretching from horizon to horizon. This is not unlike driving across the Prairies during the summer, but that is where the technology part cuts in.

I saw paddies plowed with water buffalo, broadcast seeded by hand and harvested with sickles. I even had the opportunity to drive a pair of water buffalo in a rice paddy in Cambodia. Some of the farmers are using technology such as a transplanter for seeding and a rice combine for harvesting, but these practices seem to be varied in their acceptance.

It was interesting to find at one farm I visited a stack of bags of 16-20-0-14 fertilizer in the corner of the shed. The farmer told me that this was the basic product they used on their rice along with 14-14-14-12.

I also toured a rubber plantation, where their form of controlled release fertilizer was interesting. They put what I would estimate as 10 kilograms of fertilizer — 20-10-12 in — in poly seed bags and lie them between the trees. The rainfall dissolves the fertilizer to feed the trees.

All of this tells us that western agriculture and those involved in modern crop protection are blessed, whether we are talking about modern seed varieties or hybrids, herbicide technologies, equipment or more cutting edge technologies such as variable rate fertility. We have such an array of technologies and such a wide variety of choices.

We are also blessed by having such a dedicated industry behind these choices to offer farmers technical and agronomy support. As well, we have an incredible group of researchers behind these products — both private and public — developing new and innovative products and techniques for producers to use on their farms.

I have been in the agriculture business for 55 years since entered it as a student. I have had the opportunity to work at the leading edge of such innovations as herbicide tolerant crops, fertilizer placement in direct seeding and the whole field of data management and modelling. Wow, have there been changes in those four and a half decades. My twitter handle is #agtechnologyfeedstheworld, but possibly it should be #agtechnologyfeedstheworld.

As you reflect back on 2017 and complete your spring planning, take a moment to reflect on what you do now on your farm compared to what you did 10 or 15 years ago. Consider where we are headed on this trip and be prepared to hang on because the ride is only just starting to pick up speed.

Thom Weir is an agronomist with Farmer’s Edge. He can be reached by emailing thom.weir@farmersedge.ca.

Western agriculture and those involved in modern crop protection are blessed, whether we are talking about modern seed varieties or hybrids, herbicide technologies, equipment or more cutting edge technologies such as variable rate fertility.
A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE WESTERN PRODUCER | E-MAIL NEWSROOM@PRODUCER.COM | 306-665-3544 | EDITOR BRIAN MACLEOD

AROUND THE FARM
TRUCKS & TRAILERS

New trucks; self-contained power grids

The trend toward truck electrification picks up momentum

BY RON LYSENG
FREELANCE WRITER

The modern, over-the-road grain hauler or cattle hauler has become an electrical grid unto itself. The truck’s total dependence on clean, steady electricity increases with each new model year. Electricity has replaced belts to drive most compressors and pumps. It’s essential for the ECUs (engine control units), fuel injection, air conditioning, power steering, navigation, display screens, actuators and many other functional devices.

All those computers demand clean electricity. The slightest electrical bump through a sensor can trigger a ripple in the truck that might feel like an earthquake. When a computer stops computing, it sometimes means the rig shuts down.

Electrification is increasing across all motorized industries, according to Roy Karam of Karam Alternator Starter in Saskatoon. Karam started his business in 1984, and services electrical systems on highway and off-road vehicles.

He says the output of alternators is gradually creeping upward to keep pace with the growing electrical demand. But output is only half the equation. The power has to remain stable.

In addition to the necessities, electricity powers a long list of conveniences such as power windows, heated steering wheels, heated air conditioning, heated windshield and communications devices.

There’s no arguing with the logic of electrifying the truck. In a conventional system, the ancillary belts, bearings and shafts keep turning even when the pump or compressor isn’t working. That waste energy and increases maintenance costs. Electric drive eliminates the waste by permitting shafts to spin only when the machine is activated, and only at the c.p.m. that’s needed. Electricity allows precise tuning of all such devices.

“The manufacturers are doing a lot of different things to eliminate load dump. The rate of charge comes on gradually instead of all at once. It’s controlled so the charge might come up over a 10-second span, for instance,” says Karam, adding that a conventional voltage regulator is a simple on-off switch that can damage today’s electrical systems.

“Fine-tuning the charging system is a challenge for electrical engineers. They’re working with a number of variables. They compensate for operating conditions, temperature and electrical demand to make the system as efficient as possible.”

Karam says one recent technological upgrade is simple—battery location. Engineers compensate for battery temperature, depending on where it’s located in the vehicle. Demand on the battery is also a consideration. When the full 14V isn’t required, the alternator can cut back, saving fuel and wear on the bearings.

To reduce the length of serpentine belts, truck manufacturers are bringing belt driven components such as alternators closer to the engine block.

Things like battery location and the length of serpentine belts are typical of the gradual changes in truck electrics. He says there are no giant breakthroughs.

The Denso hairpin winding is another example of the gradual step-by-step evolution of alternators, in response to demand for better charging systems. The Denso hairpin stator technology delivers more power with less weight and size. Their hairpin alternator is 75 to 80 percent more efficient in testing compared to 50 percent efficiency for S-wound designs. Where conventional S-wound stators use round wires, the hairpins use custom-fabricated square wire in the 96-slot stator. Square wire eliminates gaps that contribute to dead spots in the alternator rotor-stator interface. The typical round wire stator has 36 slots with a lot of air gaps between the wires. The hairpin stator has 96 slots and no air gaps. This increases the copper-to-steel contact area. More surface contact area means more electricity with less heat.

It produces more power at lower r.p.m. so it lasts longer. While the advanced electronics and electrical-charging systems make for more efficient and more driver-friendly trucks, the downside is the difficulty in doing your own repairs. Without access to the correct testing equipment and codes, do-it-yourself troubleshooting and DIY repair are nearly impossible.

There’s no longer such a thing as inserting a penny to replace a blown fuse. For one thing, there are no fuses. For another, there are no pennies.

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DENSO HAIRPIN STATOR DELIVERS MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY

The Denso hairpin stator utilizes unique square wire for a tighter fit between copper and steel, thus eliminating air gaps and increasing efficiency. The stator has 96 slots, compared to 36 slots in a typical round-wire stator.

Michael Houlden Graphic

The Denso hairpin winding is

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Michael Houlden Graphic
New alternative alternators pack a punch

There are choices when it comes to alternators for heavy duty applications like trucks

BY RON LYSENG
WINNIPEG BUREAU

While some truck manufacturers are meeting the increased electrical demand with dual alternators, others are turning to big single units, such as the new 24V, 250-amp IdlePro Extreme from Prestolite or the 40 SI series from Delco Remy.

The new alternators are engineered to meet the new challenges inherent in today’s trucks. The IdlePro has auxiliary draft cooling design prevents high temperature damage and controls front bearing temperature. The eCoated housing prevents corrosion. The isolated ground technology eliminates stray voltage and protects engines from electrolytic damage. They operate at 76 percent efficiency, producing 90 percent or more of the rated maximum output at engine idle speed.

Introduced Jan. 31, IdlePro Extreme is termed a heavy-duty replacement alternator, designed for extreme conditions. This is a brushless design intended to increase vehicle uptime and ensure long-lasting battery life, according to Prestolite marketing director Jonathan Smith. “Like our 12v alternators in the series, this latest entry offers industry-best output at low engine speeds, which is critical for vehicles that spend most of their working lives operating at a low r.p.m. range and powering a high number of electrical draws,” says Smith. It has dual cable terminals for the installer’s convenience. The company’s designs include the former Leece-Neville and the Motorola lines.

Delco’s 40 SI is another brushless replacement that can add significantly to output and stability. Rated from 240 to 320 amps, the company says the units are more fuel efficient that OEM units these can replace.

Delco says the units can also improve battery recharge times by up to 50 percent by using a secondary wire from battery to alternator. It continually senses the actual battery voltage and will increase charging voltage to 14 volts immediately if it drops. These units aren’t light, at more than 30 pounds. They typically have three-year warranties and are designed for long hours of operation.

ron.lyseg@producer.com

The new IdlePro 24V 250-amp replacement alternator has Auxiliary Draft Cooling to prevent high temperature damage and control front bearing temperature. The eCoated housing prevents corrosion. The Isolated Ground Technology eliminates stray voltage and protects engines from electrolytic damage. It was announced on Jan. 31. | PRESTOLITE PHOTO

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E-Quip enews also features AgDealerTV equipment videos with host Spencer Myers. Spencer takes a close look at a wide range of cutting-edge ag machinery and technologies that benefit producers on and off the field.

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1 All comparisons are to untreated, unless otherwise stated.

French wheat growers urged to become more competitive

PARIS, France (Reuters) — French wheat growers need to slash costs, notably in transport, if they want to stop selling at a loss and regain international market share lost to Black Sea producers and others, their industry association said.

The European Union’s biggest wheat producer must also modernize to the tune of 14 billion euros (£21 billion) over 15 years, the French wheat growers’ group AGPB said.

Increased pressure

A global grain glut and competition from producers such as Russia and Ukraine have weighed on French wheat prices since 2013. In addition, bad weather last year caused the lowest French harvest in 30 years.

“Never before has such a difficult situation lasted so long,” said AGPB chair Philippe Pinta, adding that 40 percent of French grain growers had lost money last year.

“What we can act on to regain competitiveness are costs,” he said. “In the medium term, our objective is to be competitive at a wheat selling price of 140 euros ($214) per tonne, which would still give farmers an income.”

But he said this could take 10 years because savings were required in many areas.

French growers currently produce wheat at around 175 euros ($265) a tonne, but have been selling at around 130-135 euros, Pinta said.

Logistics will be one of the main ways to improve French wheat’s competitiveness, he said. He urged the government to improve rail freight, which was cheaper than the roads, and said better transport could knock five to 10 euros off the price of a tonne of wheat.

He also asked for lower taxes, after agriculture minister Stéphane Travert this week announced a review of farm taxation.
EU set to launch subsidy inquiry into biodiesel

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Reuters) — The European Commission plans to launch an investigation into whether Argentine producers exporting biodiesel to the bloc are benefiting from unfair subsidies people familiar with the case said.

The commission, which oversees trade policy across the 28-nation bloc, was expected to launch the investigation in response to a complaint from the European Biodiesel Board. The EU commission declined to comment.

The new investigation would offer another channel for imposing tariffs on imported biodiesel as Argentina and Indonesia, both major producers, have mounted successful challenges to EU anti-dumping duties, which were set for five years in 2013.

The General Court of the European Union, the second-highest EU court, delivered a series of rulings in September 2016 to annul those duties. The EU initially appealed the ruling, but decided on Jan. 29 to withdraw that appeal.

Argentina also won a case against the EU anti-dumping duties on its biodiesel filed to the World Trade Organization, as did Indonesia recently.

The European Commission subsequenly cut the anti-dumping duties for Argentinian biodiesel last year to between 4.5 and 8.1 percent from initial rates of 22 to 25.7 percent. The rates for Indonesia remain those set in 2013, between 8.8 and 20.5 percent.

The European Union’s case was based on export duties both countries impose on the raw material, soybeans in the case of Argentina and palm oil for Indonesia. The EU view was that this gave an unfair advantage to biodiesel producers there, allowing them to dump product at unfairly low prices.

Argentina and Indonesia called the anti-dumping duties protectionist.

The European Commission did start an investigation in 2012 into alleged subsidies in the sector for both Argentina and Indonesia, but terminated it in 2013 after the EBB withdrew its complaint.

The termination came on the same day as the announcement that the EU would be imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports.

WTO rules against EU on anti-dumping duty on biofuel

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Reuters) — The World Trade Organization has ruled in favour of several challenges by Indonesia to anti-dumping duties imposed on its biodiesel exports to the European Union, saying the measures needed to be changed.

The rulings are the latest in a series of legal challenges to duties the EU set in 2013 on biodiesel imports from Indonesia and Argentina.

An WTO panel on the case, brought by Indonesia in 2014, said in a ruling made public on Jan. 25 that the EU needed to bring its measures into conformity with WTO agreements.

Argentina has already secured a WTO ruling criticizing the way the EU set anti-dumping duties. This prompted the EU to cut duties to between 4.5 and 8.1 percent from initial rates of 22 to 25.7 percent.

The rates for Indonesia remain those set in 2013, between 8.8 and 20.5 percent.

The General Court of the European Union, the second-highest EU court, also delivered a series of rulings in September 2016 to annul each set of duties in their present form.

The EU decided recently to withdraw a planned appeal, although the actual withdrawal could take some time, allowing the EU to determine how to proceed.

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WINTER SNACK

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Details at agsolutions.ca/nexicor.
Poor nutrition and reproductive tract infections can be linked to conception failure in cows. Studies have found that vaccinated cows get pregnant a week earlier than unvaccinated ones.

ACME, Alta. — Calling a veterinarian for assistance during a difficult calving is a wise move but there are things producers can often do on their own.

During a women’s calving clinic in Acme, Alta., veterinarian Gordon Krebs of Didsbury Veterinary Services explained some of the equipment and techniques.

Krebs has also instructed at the University of Calgary faculty of veterinary medicine where he helped develop simulators to teach students calving techniques, such as how to handle dystocia.

Calving facilities should be clean and dry. Calves born in wet conditions are more susceptible to naval and other infections.

Krebs recommends producers have a proper maternity pen with a side opening at the top and bottom. The cow can be examined in a chute that is not a maternity pen but they may need to lie down and this cannot be done in a fixed chute.

He recommended that all producers have a calf puller, chains and a head snare.

Inappropriate use of obstetric equipment can cause broken ribs, fractured legs, broken jaws or pulmonary or myocardial injuries. Prolonged difficulties may cause swollen heads and tongues and difficulty nursing.

A calf jack or calf puller is a good tool, but producers must know how to properly use it. It can provide added force during a difficult delivery to help extract a calf, but should not be used unless the examiner is sure the fetus will fit safely through the cow’s pelvis.

“They are awesome to have if you know how to use it, but you need to know how to use it properly because you can hurt a calf or a cow,” Krebs said.

Chains come in 30-inch and 60-inch lengths. Krebs recommends a 60-inch chain. Ropes can be used but they cannot be properly cleaned.

The chain should be attached with a loop above the fetlock and a half hitch below the dewclaws. The chain should never be attached to a calf puller without the chain being double looped.

A head snare can be used to pull the head around. It is a metal cable placed behind the calf’s ear and then a metal fitting is placed either in the mouth or under the chains so the head can be straightened.

Calving stages

Stage one starts when the cervix is starting to dilate and ends with delivery of the water bag. The water bag is
EPDs could provide window into herd’s future

BY BARBARA DUCKWORTH
CALGARY BENEFIT

Bull buyers should view the numbers attached to a herd sire’s pedigree as valuable information about how that animal could reshape their operation. Expected progeny differences (EPD) represent the genetic component of an animal’s phenotype that are expected to be passed on to the next generation.

Expected progeny differences (EPD) represent the genetic component of an animal’s phenotype that are expected to be passed on to the next generation.

The numbers can be valuable for producers looking to improve calving ease, increase calf weights or incorporate other important economic traits in their herds, said genetic specialist Barbara Duckworth, of liênemann and Matt Spangler.

“EPDs are the best estimate we have of how a bull or cow’s future progeny will perform, on average, compared to another bull or cow, or the breed average of a given trait,” Van Eenenannam said during a Jan. 18 webinar sponsored by the National Cattleman’s Beef Association.

She is a genetics extension specialist with the University of California, Davis.

An animal’s own performance is combined and properly weighted — along with the performance of relatives like progeny, parents, grandparents, full and half siblings and dam’s genetic relationships — to generate an EPD.

EPDs cover classes of traits that deal with information like weights, calving ease, maternal characteristics, carcass quality, stay ability (how long it will remain in the herd), docility and maintenance. Authors are associated with each of the traits.

For example, if a bull has a 10 for calving ease compared to a bull with a six, the higher number means there will be more unassisted births.

Sometimes people focus on the birthweight number but that is not correct, said Van Eennenannam.

A bigger EPD number is not always better. It depends on the trait and the needs of the ranch. A producer may not want more milk production or taller cattle because of individual ranch conditions.

An animal’s numbers can change over time.

“If the water bag is not there after six hours, you need to do something,” Krebs said.

“Trait selection is nuanced depending on genetics, environment and breeding goals.”

A bigger EPD number is not always better. It depends on the trait and the needs of the ranch. A producer may not want more milk production or taller cattle because of individual ranch conditions.

An animal’s numbers can change over time.

“Trais in genetics to the next generation.”

Accuracy is not the same thing as precision. Accuracy of a bull’s EPD does not tell us anything about how uniform his offspring group is going to be. Accuracy gives us a measure of how closely related the EPDs or prediction of their genetic merit is to their true progeny difference,” he said.

When a mating is carried out, the bull passes on a random half of his genetics to the next generation. There are differences in what offspring receives and that creates variation in the progeny.

Animals may be flush mates and would be assumed to be the same but genotyping can show a difference in traits. The bull may pass on unflavourable traits to one calf but the next one may receive desirable qualities. That creates differences in the offspring.

“If all offspring were the same, we wouldn’t be able to make any kind of genetic change,” he said.

Genetic fact sheets for cattle breeders may be viewed at ebeef.org/

EXAMPLES OF ABNORMAL CALF PRESENTATION

During a normal birth, the calf presents head first with its two front feet and head creating a wedge to assist in opening the birth canal. These diagrams show abnormal birthing positions. A calf that presents like this is likely to need assistance calving.

If the shoulders and head can be engaged into the pelvis by hand, then the calf puller can be used. Work with the cow’s contractions when using the puller.

If mechanical assistance is used incorrectly, the fetal hips may be too large and hiplock could result.

Common problems in the anterior or posterior may occur when a leg is turned back or the head is turned to one side. A head snare may be used to put the head in the correct position.

If the calf is backward, the rule of three means the tail and both stifle joints must be in the cow’s pelvis when felt by hand.

When the calf is born and needs help breathing, do not hang it over a gate to pour out water. It may have water in the back of its throat or swallowed amniotic fluid.

“Imagine yourself trying to hang upside and taking your first breath. The easiest position for a calf to breathe in is called dog sitting,” he said.

The calf is placed on its chest with its back legs up along its side. It may have some mucus in its nose. Rub the chest and neck vigorously to get it breathing. Do not throw cold water on it.

The cow may have some after-calving problems.

A prolapsed uterus occurs the same day as the calf was born. It is an emergency. Do not bring the cow to the clinic; call the vet to the farm. Try and restrain the cow so the vet can put the uterus back in place. The cow can get pregnant again and will not likely prolapse again.

A prolapsed vagina cannot be fixed and the cow should be culled.

Krebs also recommends checking bovine dystocia online, where full demonstrations of calving difficulties may be viewed on YouTube.

The correlation between traits should also be considered. Growth and feed intake records have a genetic correlation, for instance.

“Many traits have at least some genetic correlation between them,” said Spangler, the extension beef genetics specialist at the University of Nebraska.

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Deadline for applications: April 30, 2018

Apply at cabef.org
Poor nutrition, reproductive tract infections and bull performance can be linked to conception failure.

Cow condition key element to calving

“Open rates in cows bred in May and June are low and not seasonally dependent,” she said.

However, the loss of a fetus could be due to something like bovine viral diarrhea. The Canadian system for ranking nutrition and body condition has a major impact on reproduction. 

Body condition score is the bottom line for assessing nutrition in a herd. 

The Canadian system for ranking weight and frame ranges from one to five. The western Canadian study of about 30,000 cows shows cows range from two to four. Three or more is optimal.

Thinner cows are more likely to be open at pregnancy checking time. Thicker cows struggle to rebreed compared to the average to heavier females. Thin ones are more likely to abort. First- and second-calf heifers and those older than 10 years were often thinner.

Studies have found that vaccinated cows get pregnant a week faster than unvaccinated ones. 

The importance of trace minerals is optimal. 

Chelated minerals are bound to an organic compound. These are more expensive but for those having serious problems with low copper, for high sulfate or iron in the water or molybdenum in the soil, chelated minerals can be useful said Waldner.

The importance of trace minerals like copper must also be appreciated. 

“Cows that were thin in pre-breeding or pre-calving were still more likely to be open at pregnancy testing. They don’t always recover as nicely as we would like them to,” she said.

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“If the trace mineral molybdenum is present in the region, its ingestion can tie up copper. About 13 percent of cows in the survey had higher than recommended levels of molybdenum. They probably picked it up from feed and soil.

Cows with copper deficiency are more likely to abort. 

With higher open rates in cows younger than 10 years.

In 2014, blood tests on mature pregnant cows showed 43 percent were copper deficient.

Further tests in 2016 on young cows found 24 percent of those were deficient and 85 percent of herds had one or more copper deficient females.

Both cause early embryonic death or abortion.

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Newborn calf procedures provide long-term payoff

ANIMAL HEALTH

ROY LEWIS, DVM

If producers can prevent or significantly reduce diseases in newborn calves, they can decrease mortality and improve overall herd production. When producers are pairing up or moving the newborn and its mother, they may not get a chance to look after some necessary management. For most operations, that involves moving the calves three days old or younger.

Many producers provide an RFID tag and a digital tag at this time. Some reference can be given to the cow’s number on the calf’s tag to facilitate pairing up. Other producers tag the calf with the same number as the cow and give them their unique number when they enter the herd. Injectable vitamins are seldom given to calves anymore. Whether to supplement with added nutrition depends on feed quality and with drought conditions in many parts of the country, so the need for nutritional supplements will likely vary region by region.

A retained placenta incidence is often a good sign of nutrition status. If you are seeing retained placentas after the births of regular, single calves, you should check the herd’s nutrition. Intranasal vaccines have taken the place of many parenteral vaccines in very young calves. They are easy to give, painless and promote protection against respiratory pathogens.

Vaccines given in the first few months of age can be especially helpful in cases of pneumonia. To treat calves with bacterial pneumonia, the antibiotic PMH IN is available. The vaccine Inforce can treat the main viral diseases in calves. A few straight IBR P3D intranasal vaccines are also available. Talk to a veterinarian if your herd has respiratory issues. A proper vaccine program could lead to fewer sick calves and less antibiotic use. As well, a sick calf earlier in life is much lighter at weaning time.

Pollled bulls have almost eliminated the use of paste at birth to dehorn but if dehorning is necessary, it can be a real stress on young calves.

Some producers are using NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) to help alleviate pain during procedures such as paste dehorning, castration and sometimes ear tagging. Pain products are available for injection, to be given orally or in new pour-on formulations.

Tagging in most herds involves the two tags with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency allowing for age verification. Tag retention of the CCA tags has improved. There is no better time than the first couple days of a calf’s life to tag it. Breakaway tags are now available so ears are not ripped when tagging. Place the tag between the ridge of the ear and the middle of the ear.

Most producers no longer use navel preparations on the calf after birth. Good hygiene practices in the calving area and good colostrum consumption go a long way to preventing navel infections. Calves born forward or via cesarian where navel are broken off short may need treatments such as flush- ing and antibiotics. Some producers that cycle calves through a warm barn are more prone to navel infections. These producers can use metaphylactic antibiotics at birth. In problem herds, this can cut down the infection rates. These antibiotics will all require prescriptions that will need to be purchased from a veterinarian after December 2018.

That may be a good time to discuss whether you need antibiotics or whether hygiene be improved in the calving area.

Calves may also be prescribed an oral treatment for coccidiosis or cryptosporidiosis.

With young calves being subject to many procedures, including ringing castration, it pays to have a kit to organize everything to take with you. I have seen some that hang on fences and others that are carried around like tool kits. These kits help keep you organized so procedures are not missed.

It helps to establish a routine. Only rehydrate the amount of vac- cine you plan to administer in the next hour. Have a close look at oth- er things the calf may need while you are handling it. A little inter- vention early may avert a major problem down the road.

Above all else, try to monitor the calf for sucking to make sure it gets colostrum. If it is hungry, whether from a doubt, or with twins or calves born to poor uddered cows, give a good quality colostrum replacer like HeadStart.

Roy Lewis works as a technical services veterinarian part time with Merck Animal Health in Alberta.
Craft brewers tap rural roots

Founders of tap house come from families with century-long ties since homesteading years

**BY BRIAN CROSSL**

**SASKATCHEWAN**

The Moen and Pederson families have been farming in the area around Cabri, Sask., for more than 100 years.

During that time, the two families have developed a bond — people who can be counted on to work together and lend a hand when it’s needed.

Based on that, it probably didn’t come as a complete surprise when entrepreneurs Shawn Moen and Garrett Pederson decided to take their family connection in another direction.

Moen and Pederson are co-founders and executives at Nine Mile Legacy Brewing Company, a start-up brewery whose allure eventually proved too strong to ignore.

“We started home brewing together ... over a decade ago and we just really fell in love with making beer,” said Moen during a recent interview in Nine Mile’s 20th Street tap room.

“The first batch we made was drinkable — we had a few that weren’t, as well — but it was enough to hook us and make us think we could do something with this.”

In 2013, the two business partners decided to take the plunge. They quit their jobs and decided to gain some practical experience in the micro-brewing industry.

Moen travelled to New Zealand where he took a variety of positions with a pair of craft breweries in that country.

Pederson followed a similar path, taking a job with Townsite Brewing in Powell River, B.C.

“Essentially, what we were doing was pursuing a home-made MBA,” said Moen.

“We were doing everything from soup to nuts in a brewery... cleaning, delivering, working in a tap room, bottling and brewing. We came back to Saskatoon in 2014 and decided to start our brewery at that point.”

According to Moen, the learning curve for a start-up brewery can be steep.

But with three years behind them, Nine Mile Legacy is gaining momentum, thanks largely to its reputation for brewing high-quality, small-batch beers with local ingredients.

“Because we started small, I think we became known for a really well-made variety of beers,” Moen said.

“I think we brewed about 550 batches in that first year and a half, which is an observer number compared to the rest of the industry. …”

“Because we were so small, we had to keep brewing constantly, so that resulted in us brewing about 55 different styles of beers in our first 18 months or so.”

Since then, Nine Mile has expanded its capacity with the addition of new brewing equipment.

In its Saskatoon tap room, there

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
The wild Bitcoin ride continues but is it taxable?

The short answer to the taxation question is that a person can try to get a better understanding of the nature of Bitcoins.

Its use is considered a barter transaction and is taxed accordingly. Transactions using a cryptocurrency are also subject to HST/GST and holding them overseas also brings foreign investment rules into play.

However, before we get into tax questions, which we will cover in our next article, it might be useful to get a better understanding of the nature of Bitcoins.

The wild fluctuations in the value of Bitcoins may appear baffling.

**MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**

**GRANT DIAMOND**

The coins are called a cryptocurrency because they exist only in digital form. They are not backed by any government, bank or other currency, which probably irritates all of them.

Investing in keystrokes on a computer might seem foolish. Indeed, one of the richest men in the world, Warren Buffett, has warned that this is a speculative bubble, driven more by emotion than logic and will surely come crashing down.

In 2012, you could get a Bitcoin for under $10 and at the beginning of 2017 they sold for about $1,000. Reaching a peak of almost $20,000 per Bitcoin in late December 2017, the market valuation of Bitcoin reached over US$275 billion. As remarkable as that amount seems, compared with the market value of money supply of US$13.6 trillion (using the M2 measure), it places the size of the market in relative perspective.

To set the record straight, however, the currency issued by Canada, and the US $13.6 trillion referred to above, is only backed by approximately 10 percent in reserves and the rest of the value is really only a digital record like Bitcoin. But it is tracked, backed, traced and monitored by governments and a worldwide community of interconnect ed banks to prevent fraud, forgery, money laundering and misuse for illegal and underworld activities.

There will only ever be 21 million Bitcoins in play, compared with potentially an unlimited supply of government currency and it may explain why this less liquid investment is driven more by a desire to get on board before it continues going up. But the truth is, what goes up may also come down in dramatic fashion … and yes, may go up again.

Although Bitcoins are getting most of the attention, there are some 900 different cryptocurrencies out there. Bitcoins are simply a string of digital characters recorded on a giant, secure (so far) digital ledger. This ledger tracks your purchases, trades, sales of Bitcoin and transfers to someone else through the purchase of regular currency, other cryptocurrencies or goods and services.

Initially the criticism of Bitcoins (and valued by some) was it could be used for illegal purposes (mostly drug trafficking) because it couldn't be tracked. It now is being forced to come into the mainstream and comply with international anti-money laundering regulations and the taxation codes of various countries including Canada and the United States.

One appeal of Bitcoin is that the price is not controlled by large financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies, large investment pools and mutual funds. They frequently use program or computer-generated trading that affects stock market prices, effectively leaving the individual investor on the sidelines.

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CATTLE & SHEEP

### Saskatchewan

- **Slaughter Cattle ($/cwt)**
  - Beef
    - Jan 20 to Feb 1
    - Feb 1 to Mar 1
  - Hogs
    - Mar 1 to May 1

- **Canfax**
  - Hog price: $105.15
  - Sheep price: $158.70

- **B.C.**
  - Hog price: $118.16
  - Sheep price: $158.70

### Alberta

- **Slaughter Cattle ($/cwt)**
  - Beef
    - Jan 20 to Feb 1
    - Feb 1 to Mar 1
  - Hogs
    - Mar 1 to May 1

- **Canfax**
  - Hog price: $110.15
  - Sheep price: $158.70

### Manitoba

- **Slaughter Cattle ($/cwt)**
  - Beef
    - Jan 20 to Feb 1
    - Feb 1 to Mar 1
  - Hogs
    - Mar 1 to May 1

- **Canfax**
  - Hog price: $110.15
  - Sheep price: $158.70

### Yellow Feathers

- **Sheep ($/lb.) & Goats ($/head)**
  - Sheep: $2.21-2.50
  - Goats: $2.15-2.45

- **Cdn AAA ($/cwt)**
  - Barley: 258.81-259.03
  - Spring wheat: 237.33-237.85

HOGS

- **Fixed contract $/cwt**
  - Hogs: $118.00-120.00
  - Sow: $122.00-125.00

- **Chicago Hog Lean ($/cwt)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1

- **Chicago Corn ($/bt)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1

- **Chicago Soybeans ($/bu)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1

GRAINs

- **Wheat (낼/할)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1

- **Corn (팜/킬)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1

- **Soybeans (아마/킬)**
  - Jan 20 to Feb 3
  - Feb 1 to Mar 1
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