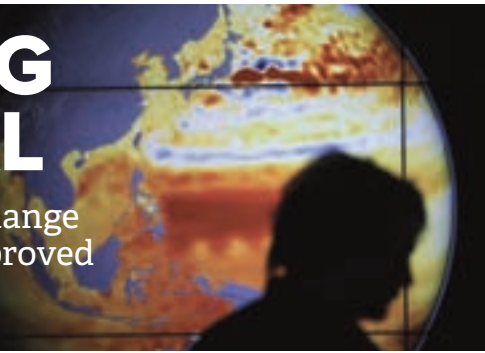


A BIG DEAL

Climate change accord approved » PG 22



COMMODITIES AND CRUDE

What the latest drop means » PG 8



Manitoba Co-OPERATOR

DECEMBER 17, 2015

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Manitoba tops in pedigreed seed

It boasts the highest acreage in Canada

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

It's a three-peat for Manitoba seed growers. For the third year in a row, the province has grown the most pedigreed seed of any province in Canada — 380,131 acres in 2015, up 22 per cent from 2014. It's quite likely a Manitoba record too, said Jennifer Seward, secretary-manager of the Manitoba Seed Growers' Association (MSGA). At the very least, it's the most pedigreed seed acres grown in Manitoba in more than 20 years and a third higher than the five- and 10-year averages. Saskatchewan and Alberta were second and third at 333,293 and 304,971 pedigreed seed acres, respectively. But what makes Manitoba's feat stand out is its small size. Saskatchewan and Alberta have about 38 million and 34 million acres

See **PEDIGREED** on page 7 »

Cattail harvesting shows promise to aid province's water woes

The cattail-harvesting project taking place at Pelly's Lake sees progress in extracting overloaded nutrients and processing the biomass crop



After a decade of experimentation with equipment and processes, cattail harvesting is poised to move beyond the pilot project stage. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/Brandon

Ten years after a research team first considered harvesting cattails in Manitoba, one of the lead researchers remains as enthusiastic as ever about its environmental and economic potential. "Essentially, we have been working on this for the past 10 years. When we set out it was a small project looking at how cattails and reeds and other grasses can actually absorb phosphate and nitrogen and then how we can

actually use those plants for something," said Richard Grosshans, senior research scientist at the International Institute for Sustainable Development's water program during a presentation at the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association's 40th annual conference here last week. The project, which was originally spurred by the need to find a solution for the increasing eutrophication of Lake Manitoba, quickly expanded into a larger research project looking at ways to manage the landscape, preserve the environment while growing the economy.

"Most of you likely know about Lake Winnipeg and the issues that we have there. That was really the reason we got into this project," said Grosshans. "We have been looking at better, more innovative ways to manage the landscape and cattails are one of the plants we are really interested in."

Pelly's Lake
Since 2012, researchers have been on site at Pelly's Lake near Holland, Man. actively harvesting cattails as a means to extract overloaded nutrients,

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DID YOU KNOW?

Our bacon ambassador does Alberta proud

Weirdly wonderful dishes shine a light on bacon’s culinary versatility

BY DIANNE FINSTAD
FBC contributor

Bacon is getting a whole new sizzle on the gourmet scene these days — would you believe chocolate bacon Fudgsicles? — and Russell Bird is making sure Alberta gets its due.

The Sherwood Park man represented his country in the bacon category at the World Food Championships in Florida last month and reports things have never looked better for everyone’s favourite cured meat.

“Bacon has been a hot spot in cooking the last three years,” said Bird. “I saw bacon desserts at the WFC that would blow your mind.”

Bird, a marketing specialist in promotional products, is also doing his part to add to bacon’s culinary canon — an effort that began last year when he and wife Jocelyn, also an accomplished cook, wound up with 16 pounds of bacon after a work-related swap.

“We get together with three other couples who love food and have these ‘fests,’ judging each other’s entries. So we decided to have a Baconfest. I made a bacon salad, and my wife made sushi with bacon. Her dish won.”

The concept was resurrected when Bird, who had won a couple of ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen cooking contests, was invited to compete in the Canadian Food Championships, part of the Taste of Edmonton promotion, this summer.

Bird set out to perfect his wife’s creation, testing different types of bacon.

The duo perfected the process for their first-round entry, a butter-poached lobster tail bacon sushi roll. The second round required using maple syrup, so they created a sushi roll with the bacon and rice glazed in maple, and traditional



Russell Bird (r) and father-in-law Ron Yoneda took on the world — with bacon sushi. PHOTOS: COURTESY RUSSELL BIRD

tomago cooked eggs in the centre, also enhanced with maple. The lobster tail sushi came fourth and their breakfast entry first, giving them a third-place overall finish.

The top two teams earned a berth in the world championships, but when one couldn’t make it, Bird and his father-in-law joined 18 Canadian teams competing in the various categories. The event attracts hundreds of teams competing for a \$100,000 grand prize.

Using 25 pounds of President’s Choice Blue Menu natural wood-smoked bacon (which Loblaw’s shipped to Florida for him), Bird created two dishes. The first category — a ‘structured build’ — was a bacon dumpling, and his green onion cake with bacon and fennel was judged 14th best overall. His now signature bacon and egg sushi grabbed 13th spot.

READER'S PHOTO



Ron Paddock shows “Magic Man” that they made the paper! PHOTO: SUZANNE PADDOCK

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Farming with a focus on restoration

An experienced Ontario producer says implementing a holistic management plan would be a benefit

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/Brandon

As many in the industry strive for sustainability, an experienced Ontario farmer wants to go one step further to build a farming system that does better than perpetuate itself.

“The term ‘sustainability’ has really come to mean less damaging than the alternative, rather than truly improving or repairing,” said Harry Stoddart, during a presentation at the Manitoba Conservation District Association’s 40th annual conference held in Brandon on December 8.

“I like the term ‘regenerative’ or ‘restorative.’ Essentially, the central concept in that is that we are not happy with the status quo. We are not talking about reducing our harm, we are looking for ways we can rebuild and restore.”

A sixth-generation farmer, Stoddart spent seven years as a management consultant before taking over his parents’ conventional hog farm in the Kawartha Lakes region. Today he farms full time and is also a faculty member in the sustainable agriculture program at Fleming College in Lindsay, Ont.

With a number of years’ experience experimenting with various management systems, in both conventional and organic methods, Stoddart says implementing a holistic management sys-

tem should be a top priority for every operation.

“From my perspective, holistic management is key to any farm operation. It doesn’t matter whether you are grazing or not, the concepts in holistic management, the financial planning piece are key to moving a farm forward profitably and maintaining your eye on the triple-P bottom line — people, planet and profit,” said Stoddart.

“We implemented a holistic management program about four years ago and it was one of the best things that we ever did for the management of our operation. I highly recommend it.”

The concept of holistic management looks at allowing land managers to mimic nature through guided relationships between plants, soil, livestock and waterways. The four cornerstones of the concept are financial planning, grazing planning, land planning and biological monitoring.

“In agriculture, our success is tied to the environment piece more closely than any other industry, and when you get right down to it, we are in the business of capturing solar energy and transforming it into protein and carbohydrates for human use, whether that is food or fibre.”

Stoddart says he has seen a number of benefits to his operation since switching over to holistic management techniques, including increased land stability, reduced erosion, and better water filtration.

He insists on a no-till system, saying the



Harry Stoddart, a sixth-generation Ontario producer presented at the Manitoba Conservation District Association’s 40th annual conference held in Brandon on December 8. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

“The future isn’t about turning the clock back 50 years, the future is about taking the knowledge that we have now and creating systems that are truly restorative systems.”

HARRY STODDART
Ontario producer

key is focusing on nurturing and growing the soil.

“Soil or dirt is probably one of the things that gets the least amount of respect in agriculture. When we talk about soil, oftentimes the conversation stops at chemistry. But, if we want the soil to be working for us, we need to get rid of the Big Iron. In my mind there are no ifs, ands, or buts about that,” said Stoddart.

He added that while many producers are opinionated about management practices — organic versus conventional, till or no till, sustainable versus restorative —

the conversation needs to be focused back on the end goal of rebuilding deteriorated soils.

“The discussion we need to have isn’t about conventional or organic practices. I have destroyed soil worse or just as bad with organic practices as I ever did with conventional,” said Stoddart.

“Anywhere we have agriculture we have degraded soils. And, this has been happening long before we got into chemical, industrial or any name you want to put on modern-day practices. The future isn’t about turning the clock back 50 years, the future is about taking the knowledge that we have now and creating systems that are truly restorative systems.”

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World Food Prize experience an eye-opener for Manitoba teen

The conference gives youth an opportunity to dream big about their future in agriculture

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
Co-operator staff

Public speaking before an unfamiliar audience can be scary enough, never mind having a bunch of distinguished international scientists in the audience.

But 16-year-old Laura Didyk was undaunted making a speech while attending the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa this past October.

“It was a little nerve-racking,” says the Grade 11 student from Elie’s St. Paul’s Collegiate. “But I think I did well because of 4-H communications experience. And it was neat to be talking to these experts and they had feedback on my paper. It was kind of amazing actually.”

That kind of poise and confidence is why Didyk, who lives with her family on an acreage just outside St. Francois Xavier, was one of two student delegates from Manitoba selected to attend the prestigious international event this fall. Didyk and another Manitoba student, Bailey Gitzel

of Graysville, were among 200 students from across the U.S., as well as China, India, Kosovo, Mexico and Turkey to attend.

Eye-opener

The event was an eye-opener, says Didyk. “I got to meet so many amazing people from all over the world.”

The World Food Prize is an international award recognizing great achievements in improving the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. It was created by Dr. Norman Borlaug in 1986. This year’s annual award went to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh, founder of BRAC, which is considered to be the most effective anti-poverty organization in the world.

The two young women from Manitoba witnessed that awards ceremony, plus had many opportunities to interact with leading scientists and food security experts from around the globe. As part of the experience, the students were expected to deliver their own thoughts on the subject.

Didyk’s topic was climate change and how it’s affecting food security in Kenya.



Sixteen-year-old Laura Didyk of St. Francois Xavier was a Manitoba delegate to the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in October. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Climate change worries her because of the effects it’s having on the natural world, she said.

“I love nature and I love being outside. I want to help fix it or stop it from being destroyed,” she said.

Career options

Didyk said her interest to go in the first place was to find out what sort of career in agricultural science she might pursue. The conference emphasized helping girls and women find career paths in areas such as

engineering, mathematics and agriculture.

She didn’t come home with her mind made up. But it certainly opened her eyes to many possibilities, she said.

“I haven’t decided yet, but it has given me a viewpoint on how many careers there are in agriculture. It’s a very viable option,” she said. “There’s lots of things I could do that would be interesting related to agriculture that would be something I would enjoy.”

Gitzel, who spoke at the Manitoba Farm Women’s Conference last month about her own GYI experience, plans to study plant biotechnology at university next year.

This is the second year two delegates from Manitoba have attended. The opportunity is open to all students in Grades 9 to 12 who demonstrate a mix of interests and experiences that show they’d benefit from attending the event.

The invitation to attend the GYI comes through the Canadian consulate to the province of Manitoba. AITC-M and the Manitoba 4H Council were

asked to help select delegates due to their work with youth in Manitoba while industry sponsorship from Manitoba Canola Growers, Manitoba Corn Growers, Monsanto and Viterra cover the students’ travel costs.

AITC-M’s main hope is that the GYI exposes these young people to the bigger picture, said Karen Hill, AITC-M’s program co-ordinator.

“It’s taking some of our best and brightest youth and opening their eyes to the global opportunities and responsibilities that the agricultural industry has,” she said. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these kids and hopefully it will make them dream big.”

“We were thrilled to send two such deserving young women and their mentors down to the GYI conference,” added Clayton Robins, Manitoba 4-H Council executive director. “I know that the Manitoba delegates really got a lot out of the experience both years and we are certainly hoping to continue to have the opportunity.”

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Conservation connections



Laura Rance
Editor

The kids were heading for their buses as I arrived at the 40th Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) annual convention in Brandon last week, just in time to help hand out plaques to the district award winners.

There were hundreds of them, students brought in for the day by the association with support from community and business sponsorships.

The day featured several speakers of the kind that might well connect with

a younger audience whose interest in and knowledge of environmental issues is in its formative stages. Incidentally, they were also the kind of speakers that grey-haired delegates were still talking about as they gathered for the evening's banquet.

Manitoba farmer and youth leader Clayton Robins talked about polycropping. Ontario farmer Harry Stoddard talked about changing the language of agriculture from "sustainable" — which implies doing less harm — to "restorative," a concept that sets the bar higher.

The event featured workshops about shelterbelts and harvesting cattails, and by Chad Pregracke, founder of the Living Land and Waters Movement in the U.S. Pregracke began single handedly cleaning up the Mississippi River when he was 17 years old. He now heads up an organization of 70,000 volunteers who have collectively removed eight million tonnes of garbage from the Mississippi and 16 other rivers.

The day was capped off with a presentation from the popular CBC and Discovery Channel science journalist Jay Ingram.

The MCDA, which like most umbrella organizations is chronically underfunded and highly dependent on volunteers, continues to punch above its weight when it comes to delivering on the educational component of its mandate.

In the past, that teaching and mentorship role was focused at forming connections with farmers and building their capacity through knowledge, infrastructure and technology to improve their water and land management.

In recent years, the MCDA's outreach on water and land stewardship issues has turned to youth.

From competitions and scholarships, to partnerships between districts and local schools, the MCDA has morphed into an organization that truly educates through mentorship and hands-on opportunities.

Considering current trends in agriculture, most of the young people growing up on farms and in rural communities will become urbanites as they reach adulthood. So by engaging with youth, this conservation community is forming important and potentially long-lasting connections with the broader community.

Teaching and mentorship is showing up more often in the annual conservation district awards as well, for which the *Manitoba Co-operator* is a proud sponsor. For example, this year's lineup included the Gaynor Family Regional Library in Selkirk, a community learning facility that boasts an outdoor classroom with an interpretive trail through native tall-grass prairie.

The Pembina Valley district recognized lifelong teacher Kent Lewarne. In the Turtle Mountain district, Rick Schoonbaert and his wife Helen were recognized for how they farm and for his contribution as a high school teacher. Whitemud district recognized the Austin Elementary School for multiple projects undertaken in partnership with the local district.

Farmers continue to figure into the scene. Dennis and Ardith Burdeniuk were honoured by the Intermountain district for their donation of land for a tree plantation and nursery. Gord and Margaret Hammell were recognized by the Little Saskatchewan River district for their commitment to maintaining natural lands on their farm, and Grant Edel by the Seine Rat River district for his development of a system to hold back water on his farm as a form of flood control.

But the common theme through all of these is leadership — through example, innovation and teaching.

These are important inroads to make in light of news this week that suggests global governments are finally getting serious about confronting the challenge of climate change.

In an agreement hailed as setting the course for a "historic transformation of the world's fossil fuel-driven economy," world leaders agreed to seek a balance between output of man-made greenhouse gases and absorption — by forests or the oceans — by the second half of this century.

Achieving this will require a very different ethic in how the landscape is managed, putting farmers the world over on the front lines of this transformation.

It implies less of an emphasis on what the land can produce by way of yield and a more robust consideration of its ability to provide environmental services. All of this makes the MCDA's efforts to help tomorrow's leaders understand the connections between agriculture, conservation and climate even more relevant.

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Old food has become new again

BY ALAN GUEBERT

Chelsea Market, a block-long, block-wide brick building in New York's lower west side, was built 120 years ago on the edge of the city's then-bustling meat-packing district to house a rising food powerhouse, the National Biscuit Company.

It was no accident that the state-of-the-art food factory was located near the city's slaughterhouses; the neighbourhood was knee deep in one key Nabisco input: lard.

Today, Nabisco's roaring ovens, bustling loading docks, and loud tin shop are long gone. It is now home to dozens of restaurants and retailers selling everything from Sunday brunch to everyday kitchen knives. Six million shoppers visit it each year.

Walking through the old-factory-turned-new-market is a walk through the evolution of the American food system. A century ago, its nearness to inputs, an endless river of immigrant labour, and the nation's growing population combined to make this newfangled concept — a food factory — an enormous success. Today, however, the building is all newfangled food.

Even more striking is that today's "new" food looks a lot like yesterday's "old" food. Chelsea Market's bakery, butcher shop, and fishmonger look more like 1915 than 2015.

But that yesterday, the yesterday of Big Food pioneer Nabisco, was all about scale, efficiency, and profitability. Today's New Food yesterday is more about quality, experience, and flavour.

As such, many of New Food's farmers, retailers and restaurants don't see themselves as competitors to Big Food. Instead, they see themselves more as an alternative to Big Food.

Growing evidence supports that view. Retail organic food sales alone this year will top \$40 billion. That's about 10 per cent larger than esti-

mated farm value of the 2015 American soybean crop, figures the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Even more surprising, players no one even knew existed a decade ago are expanding their New Food reach. In June, Costco passed Whole Foods as the nation's largest organic food seller, moving about \$4 billion of retail organic food through its stores last year.

Other aspects of New Food are getting traction, too. The just-completed annual Young Farmers Conference at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, now in its eighth year, had twice as many applicants — 500 — than it could accommodate. The lucky 250 who were invited to attend listened to New/Old Food sessions like "Whole Animal Butchery" and "Edible Ecosystems."

Ten years ago, a young farmers' conference like this would not have succeeded, let alone succeeded this wildly, on the East Coast.

Why?

Because the how and what this nation eats and drinks is changing and changing rapidly.

It's the same with almost every aspect of food — from farm food to fast food. McDonald's Corp., which uses 1.8 billion eggs per year, announced in September that it plans to switch to only eggs from "cage-free" hens in its restaurants.

Mickey Ds has gone all gushy over "happy" hens or, as some ag commentators have suggested, it's being pressured by animal welfare groups. It's far simpler: customers want the eggs and the fast-food giant knows it has to deliver 'em or risk becoming a dead duck.

If farming and ranching is really about food, then farmers and ranchers should be at the forefront of New Food, not in the lead ranks of the Old Guard. Their new customers, after all, already are.

The Farm and Food File is published weekly through the U.S. and Canada. www.farmandfoodfile.com.

OUR HISTORY: December 1974

Judging by this ad in our Dec. 12, 1974 issue, there was also a lack of snow as we approached Christmas that year.

Our front-page news that week was the introduction of a bill to establish the Western Grain Stabilization Act. Farmers would contribute two per cent of their income to a maximum of \$25,000 (\$500 per year) and the federal government would add \$2 for every dollar contributed by the producer. Deductions would be automatic when grain was sold. Payments would be triggered to all producers based on overall Prairie grain revenue falling below a five-year average. The program was dropped in the late 1980s after it ran out of money and was unable to handle drastic drops in income during a U.S.-EU grain price war.

Another front-page story was settlement of yet another strike on the Great Lakes — 220 grain inspectors had walked out for 10 days.

We also reported the sale of a sample shipment of 40,000 pounds of Manitoba grass-fed beef to Israel. Agriculture Minister Sam Uskiw said Israelis preferred the younger grass-fed cattle from Manitoba to older animals from Brazil and Argentina. In accordance with kosher laws, only meat from the front quarters was sent to Israel. A special promotion on the hind quarters was featured at the Hudson's Bay grocery in Winnipeg.



Politics and farm safety in Alberta

In no other industry would such a poor safety record be allowed stand unchallenged

BY GREG NEIMAN
Red Deer, Alta.

My grandfather died in a farming accident. A great-aunt lost an arm in an auger. A boy I rode the school bus with stopped a church service one autumn to tell everyone his brother had just been crushed to death in a combine.

In the last few months, four children have died in farming mishaps in the region around Red Deer, Alta., alone.

In no other industry would such a poor safety record be allowed to stand unchallenged. But in Alberta, it's just statistics — and poorly reported at that.

Alberta's non-profit Farm Safety Centre lists agriculture as Canada's third most dangerous industry. Other stats-gathering groups such as FinancesOnline rank agriculture at No. 9 in the top 10 most dangerous ways to earn a living, behind logging, fishing, flying, roofing, steel work, garbage collecting, power-line work and truck driving. Police work and firefighting don't even make the list.

The difference between these other dangerous careers and farming is only in farming do we think it's normal to make our children do it. In Alberta, the farming community and the Opposition in the legislature don't think labour laws regarding safety or mandatory insurance should apply to farm work. And that's unique in all of Canada — farms everywhere else operate just fine with those laws.

Extending occupational health and safety laws to the farming industry has been part of the Alberta NDP's platform for years. It's been part of the Progressive Conservative platform for some time as well — former premiers Jim Prentice and Alison

Redford both said they would consider such laws, according to Farmworkers Union of Alberta president Eric Musekamp.

And the NDP advocated this for so long nobody thought bringing Alberta up to speed on farm safety should be so difficult.

But that's the problem: nobody thought.

So the introduction of Bill 6 became the first lesson to a rookie provincial government about the art of the possible. It had to happen sooner or later to this government, and sooner is probably better.

It's not that Prentice, Redford and other premiers before Rachel Notley didn't care about the safety of farmers or their children (not quite one in five farm deaths in Canada involves children 14 and younger). It's that a veteran government with a complex agenda didn't want to face the wrath of people who don't want change, even if their families would benefit most.

So the Conservatives let things slide, ignored the deaths and injuries, and allowed reporting of incidents to be incomplete.

Alberta's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported there were 25 farm deaths in the province in 2014. The report and breakdown of the grisly ways there are to die young on the farm included a note that due to poor reporting, the numbers are likely low.

On Dec. 14, labour activists planned to gather in Edmonton to lay down 112 pairs of work gloves representing the lives lost on Alberta farms since 2009. Those gloves only represent the deaths that have been reported.

Will they lay down fingers of gloves for all those who have lost limbs or been otherwise seriously injured? It's unlikely, since those stats aren't kept.



Three-year-old Ally South of Stavely holds an anti-Bill 6 sign prior to a meeting in Okotoks December 2, 2015 between farmers and ranchers and provincial Labour Minister Lori Sigurdson and Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier. Alberta's government will retool a bill that would overhaul workplace standards on farms in Canada's biggest cattle-producing province, its agriculture minister said, after protests by farmers and ranchers. PHOTO: REUTERS/MIKE STURK

How many of those lives could have been saved if safety regulations were in place? If farm workers with few rights had not worked long hours, had been properly trained regarding heavy equipment and dangerous chemicals or been allowed to refuse work that just isn't safe?

After learning a hard lesson in the art of governance, the NDP introduced amendments to Bill 6, exempting family members from these safety regulations. Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour Lori Sigurdson said this was the plan all along; that farm children were always to be allowed to drive without a licence, operate heavy equipment, handle large animals and work whatever hours would be required to keep the farm going without labour protection.

I wish she hadn't said that, but I'm not the one taking all the angry calls, standing in front of enraged crowds and being called all sorts of unmentionable names.

I also wish the Opposition Wildrose Party didn't see fit to make such political hay over the broken bodies and shattered families on Alberta farms. There are better ways to oppose and present alternatives.

But in Alberta, the government and the Opposition are very new to their roles. They are all still learning how far ahead of the crowd you can be and still lead — and how important it is to be courageous and do the right thing.

Greg Neiman is a freelance editor, columnist and blogger living in Red Deer. Distributed by Troy Media

Energy strategy could help rural Manitoba

Rather than being a solution to provide lower costs and prices, the Hydro monopoly has become a barrier to innovation

BY JIM COLLINSON

Manitoba's energy strategy is inconsistent with current and future sustainable and renewable energy priorities. Overreliance on hydro-electric power from the Nelson River is no longer competitive, and is steadily increasing huge debts to be borne by future taxpayers/hydro customers. In particular, provincial policy and existing legislation does not encourage local rural solutions.

A fresh review of Manitoba's energy strategy is needed, and a moratorium on current generation and transmission construction should be declared immediately, to avoid further excess costs. Ideally, surplus electricity might be sold to Saskatchewan and/or Alberta to offset some portion of their coal generation to meet climate objectives. In this case, Bipole III could be diverted north of Dauphin (or even near The Pas) to serve western markets. It certainly isn't needed now within Manitoba.

In recent years Manitoba has generated surplus electricity and often sold it at garage sale prices. Consequently, this dramatically increased provincial debt guarantees, and raised public concern about the viability of current projects.

Cheaper options

This is now an industry faced with a wide range of competitive production options that produce cheaper energy than that generated in Manitoba's north which has to be transported over long distances.

Small-scale clean energy options, including solar, wind and geothermal systems can now provide opportunities for farm and small communities to generate much of their own power at lower generation and delivery costs.

Within Manitoba's agricultural areas, Manitoba Hydro's current generation and grid system can offset any low production periods due to lack of wind or sun-light locally. Excess production could be used either to flow back into the grid (if Manitoba Hydro would accept it and pay for it), or be used to produce hydrogen either on site or by Hydro.

A recent announcement by Toyota indicates they expect to have all their models fuelled by hydrogen by 2050. Hydro now sells surplus power through a "spot market," but producing hydrogen from water would be more profitable.

There are now many viable options for producing power. These provide opportunities for small generating operations for one farm, or one community, or one industry, or a group of interested parties that have done their homework and concluded

that together they can do it cheaper than Manitoba Hydro.

A monopoly such as Manitoba Hydro (subject to overview by a Public Utilities Board) made economic sense in the past. Production and transmission costs under technology existing at the time did not make economic sense to duplicate one or more times, so provisions were made for a large single ownership.

Competition would increase costs, given the huge capital requirements of each individual provider. However, in recent years, this monopoly has actually prevented innovation. Rather than being a solution to provide lower costs and prices, the monopoly has become a barrier to bringing online mixtures of power generation and transmission options at lower cost to consumers. It blocks the freedom to seek the most attractive production costs to maintain low rates for consumers.

Not viable

Undeveloped capacity on the Nelson River may not be viable for domestic use, but it could serve a new purpose: producing hydrogen from water on a large scale for export. This could accommodate a nuclear generating plant that has "exhaust" in the form of huge amounts of steam/hot water. Using this hot water for hydrogen electrolysis could improve the efficiency of the hydrogen

process by 25 per cent. Hydrogen could be exported using existing roads, as the impact of melting segments of discontinuous permafrost could soon render the Churchill railway unserviceable.

The need for a fresh look at Manitoba's energy strategy is an opportunity to consider an approach to the industry based on new and viable technologies. In addition, Manitoba industries could produce engineering components to link a mixture of energy sources that serve special units of demand, connecting to a grid that absorbs excess power while providing extra power when needed. Small hydrogen production units could also be worked into these local systems. Hydrogen, especially if produced by clean energy, could well become the energy of choice for mobile units (e.g. cars). It emits no greenhouse gases.

Manitoba has reached a multi-route intersection on the road to economically viable renewable and sustainable energy production and delivery in the future. Studies and consultations will be needed, carried out by qualified and objective persons. Their findings could serve as an unprecedented basis for future growth and essential economic underpinning of Manitoba's economy over the coming decades.

Jim Collinson is an agricultural economist and consultant based in Kanata, Ont.

FROM PAGE ONE

CATTAILS Continued from page 1

increase site biodiversity and improve surface water management and flooding.

“Pelly’s Lake is an active water retention project now. The control structure was active for the first time this year,” said Grosshans. “It is flooded in the springtime and creates an amazing wetland habitat, by midsummer the water disappears and the cattails emerge, soaking up all the phosphorus and other nutrients. This creates an amazing biomass crop that we harvest in the fall.”

The IISD has used various pieces of equipment for harvest but has found recent success with the rotary disc mower.

“It is an amazing piece of equipment for cutting cattails. It has the conditioning rollers that bite into the cattail and help to draw out the moisture,” said Grosshans. “We found when we compared it to the swather, it was cutting drying time in half and if we can draw that water out faster, we can be baling faster.”

Grosshans said since they began harvesting, they have removed 1,200 tonnes of material and 1.5 tonnes of phosphorus from the Pelly’s Lake system.

“In north Ottawa, researchers calculated that if they harvested 300 acres of cattail, of the 600 acres of cattail at their site, they can remove the equivalent of all of the phosphorus that comes into that system on an annual basis. So that is pretty significant and



“We have been looking at better, more innovative ways to manage the landscape and cattails are one of the plants we are really interested in.”

DR. RICHARD GROSSHANS
senior research scientist at IISD’s water program

promising for us here,” said Grosshans.

The IISD has also been working with the City of Winnipeg and other municipalities on harvesting ditches.

“In terms of the highway ditches, you will see that everything is mowed, and the materials are left in the ditch. This is releasing all of the nutrients and in the spring enabling them to move downstream quickly. Harvesting



IISD researchers see promise in harvesting cattails to reduce nutrient levels in overloaded waterways. PHOTOS: JENNIFER PAIGE

and removing that material can have a number of benefits.”

Working with the biomass crop

Along with harvesting the cattails and monitoring nutrient levels, researchers have also been looking at the different market avenues for the biomass crop.

“How can phosphorus and cattails actually be valuable? How can we reuse the phosphorus that is in those plants? The project quickly grew into a research program and we formed this bioeconomy program, looking at different things in the lab like liquid fuels, biogas, compost, and organic fibre,” said Grosshans.

The IISD began to create fuel pellets and cubes that were put into a biomass burner. According to Grosshans, this is an efficient system that produces very controlled emissions.

“We can use things like cattails, wheat straw and other agriculture waste, to actually create low-carbon energy,” he said.

IISD has been looking at preparing these processed fuels and says the ban on using coal for space heating may create new demand for the product.

“This mainly affects Hutterite communities that have been burning coal for heating. By 2017 they will need to be switched off to something else. Many of them will be switching to natural gas, electric or biomass-based heat,” said Grosshans.

Most recently the project has



begun moving towards commercial processing.

“We use the bale shredders, we have been testing different-size pellets, cubes, etc., and burning them to see what works the best. We have enough cattail material to

make about 1,500 tonnes of mixed product. That is very exciting.”

Grosshans notes that while some of the project’s outcomes require testing to see value, the environmental benefits of the project are clearly visible at the Pelly Lake site.

“When we began harvesting in 2012, the site was fairly desolate with dense cattail growth and very few ducks and geese. This year, when we began flooding in the springtime it was amazing to see all of the wildlife. There is clear evidence that harvesting cattails has helped to restore the biodiversity of the habitat,” said Grosshans.

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Share Your Views

About a Plan to Recycle Empty Pesticide and Fertilizer Containers

.....

CleanFARMS is a not-for-profit organization that works closely with pesticide and fertilizer companies. They have submitted a new stewardship program plan for recycling empty pesticide and fertilizer containers. This program will collect and recycle such containers from Manitoba farms and commercial generators in an environment friendly manner.

We Want to Hear from You

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship wants to hear what you have to say about this new plan from CleanFARMS.

The plan is available for you to review at Manitoba Conservation’s public registry: www.manitoba.ca/conservation/eal/registries/index.html

You may request a printed copy of the plan by calling 204-945-0578 or 1-866-460-3118. Please provide any feedback via email to: stewardship@greenmanitoba.ca. Comments on the plan will be accepted until **January 18, 2016**.

Feedback may also be sent in writing to:

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PEDIGREED Continued from page 1

of cropland respectively, compared to Manitoba's 12 million. "I can't say it is anything else but the expansion of soybean acres in western Manitoba," Eric McLean, the MSGA's outgoing president, said during an interview Dec. 10 at the association's annual meeting in Winnipeg.

Glyn Chancey, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association's, new executive director agrees — soybean seed production has been significant in Manitoba.

Soybean growth

As commercial soybean production has expanded here, so too has pedigreed soybean seed production — most of it genetically modified. Because of contracts with seed companies, most farmers can't save their soybean seed; they buy new certified seed every year.

In 2015, Manitoba seed growers produced 132,861 acres of pedigreed soybeans making it the highest acreage seed crop for the second year running. That beat wheat, even though pedigreed wheat acres jumped 25 per cent to 132,217, according to CSGA data.

There were 718 pedigreed seed growers in Manitoba in 2015, up 10 per cent from last year. This year Manitoba accounts for 20 per cent of Canada's seed growers and 28 per cent of Canada's pedigreed seed acres.

There were 3,506 seed growers in Canada in 2015. They grew 1.4 million acres of pedigreed seed.

McLean isn't sure how long Manitoba can hold the top position. Eventually Saskatchewan will produce more soybeans commercially for seed as the crop expands there.

Manitoba farmers grew 1.4 million acres of soybeans this year according to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation records — up 14 per cent from last year. And with bumper yields in 2015, acreage is expected to rise again in 2016. But eventually Manitoba's soybean plantings will plateau.

Poor weather

Seed growers in Saskatchewan and Alberta have also struggled with poor weather the last few years. In 2015 drought was a problem in some areas, while in 2014 and 2013 some regions were too wet.

Alberta produces almost all Canada's pedigreed canola seed, but since it takes far fewer pounds of canola seed to grow a commercial canola crop compared to a soybean crop, it also translates into fewer acres of pedigreed canola seed to meet farmer demand.

Canadian farmers routinely plant more than 20 million acres of canola, but only grow around 54,000 acres of pedigreed canola seed.

In contrast, around five million acres of soybeans are planted annually but there's more than 330,000 acres of pedigreed soybean seed grown.

While Manitoba had the most pedigreed seed acres in 2015, it didn't produce the most acres of any particular crop. However, it did come close, placing second in soybeans behind Ontario's 141,368 acres.

Traditionally, pedigreed seed production has been relatively flat, but as soybeans have expanded in Manitoba, so too has pedigreed production, McLean said. Manitoba farmers are also buying more certified seed of other crops, added McLean, operations manager with JS Henry Seeds at Oak River, Man.

"They realize the quality commitment that comes with certified seed," he said. "Some of our customers buy 100 per cent certified seed now."

It also saves time. Farmers don't have to worry about keeping their own seed in good condition. Most certified seed also comes treated.

Pedigreed soybeans and wheat accounted for 70 per cent of Manitoba's seed acres in 2015. Placing third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively were ryegrass (22,251 acres), timothy (20,390), oats (15,383) and alfalfa (14,675).

allan@fbcpublishing.com



More Manitoba farmers are growing certified seed, says Eric McLean, the outgoing president of the Manitoba Seed Growers Association. For the third consecutive year Manitoba topped the nation with the highest number of acres of pedigreed seed. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON



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Commodities' fate debated as crude oil falls

The U.S. Federal Reserve's next moves may also have an impact on grain markets

BY DAVE SIMS
CNS Canada

Just about everyone agrees the plunging price of oil will have a bearish effect on commodity prices — but expectations for the size and impact of that fall are varied.

As recently as Nov. 4, crude oil prices were \$48.64 a barrel, but since then have fallen to US\$37.86, where they opened Dec. 9.

Some analysts seem to stick with the adage that “people gotta eat,” which will slowly but surely enable markets to chew through massive world supplies of grains and oilseeds — and the knowledge that oil prices were under US\$10 a barrel during the early 2000s, but the world kept turning.

On the other side of the coin, this recent drop in crude comes as the U.S. is still recovering from the recession of 2008 and is already suffering from export problems. The strength of the U.S. dollar has made sales of corn and wheat too expensive in the minds of many international buyers, who have simply turned to South America and the Black Sea region for cheaper supplies.

There are also widespread expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will hike interest rates in that country next week.

It's all adding up to something that could prompt another recession in the U.S., according to Errol Anderson of ProMarket Communications in Calgary.

“The risks to me are high; even though the Canadian dollar may be going down to 72.5 (U.S. cents), there is sort of a day of reckoning coming in the U.S.”

The sudden drop in oil over the past few days has already had noticeable effects, he said.

On Dec. 7, “soybean dropped and the cattle board dropped, (after) crude oil dropped,” he said. “Crude oil is the psychological leader.”

If crude continues its descent, Anderson said, the situation will just get worse.

“Products like soybean and palm oil will actually go down even though we have the El Niño effect. Because once we get improved weather conditions — the fundamentals will fall back further, which is a risk for canola too,” he said.

The president of Chicago-based Ag Resource Co. agrees commodities will remain under pressure.

Overproduction is already making life difficult for stakeholders, Dan Basse said, adding that the world needs to cut 20 million acres of grain production in the next three years just to balance things out.

“If they don't, it gets even worse,” he said.

Overproduction

As for the big picture, Basse said, we've been here before.

“Back in the early 2000s, oil was trading for under \$10 a barrel, so some of



Market analysts say a drop in crude oil values had already put grains and other commodities under pressure. FILE PHOTO

us would argue the price of oil is still relatively expensive,” he said, adding weak prices and low margins are likely here for a while.

“Due to the investments that were put in place during the commodity supercycle which lasted from 2005 to 2013, it's not (a case of) slowing demand; it's just overproduction.”

While the low price of oil also makes corn-based ethanol less attractive, Basse said that shouldn't affect its usage.

“The U.S. has mandates. It just raised that to 14.5 billion gallons in 2016. So it (ethanol) is mandated regardless of the price,” he pointed out.

For Anderson, the signs point to a conflagration of economic factors that could send equity markets and commodities tumbling even more.

“It could hit a crossroads before Christmas,” he said. “It will be interesting to see what happens next week.”

The situation may change if the Fed rethinks its strategy, he added.

“Crude is having a big impact on U.S. stock markets, so it may cause the U.S. Federal Reserve to back away from the rate hike.”

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Canada trailing in innovation

Governments and industry share responsibility to increase investment in innovation

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

Canada has fallen behind many of its global competitors when it comes to science-based innovation in its key economic sectors, says a federal advisory panel.

The greatest failure has been “in private-sector investment in research and development,” said a new report from the Science Technology Innovation Council (STIC). “Despite ongoing efforts to improve Canada’s lagging business innovation performance, it has continued to deteriorate.”

Canada is now 26th in private-sector research investment and at barely a third of the level of the top five performing countries, the STIC noted. “Canada’s most profound and urgent ST&I challenge lies in increasing the number of firms that embrace and effectively manages innovation as a competitiveness and growth strategy.

“Maintaining and enhancing excellence requires that our investments keep pace with those of competitor countries,” the report continued.

Canada has an \$8-billion-a-year trade deficit in processed foods and beverages.

Serge Buy, CEO of the Agriculture Institute of Canada, said the report provides a snapshot of Canada’s status. The AIC has developed a new agri-food research policy that it’s promoting to government and industry.

“If Canada is to regain its leadership in agricultural research, AIC’s agricultural research policy is a good first step,” he said. “Our policy includes many concrete steps that can be taken, some of which are similar to STIC’s recommendations.”

The STIC report should provide plenty of fodder for Science Minister Kirsty Duncan and Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains. “Addressing Canada’s business innovation performance gap is critical to



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

this country’s future. Canada must increase the number of firms that embrace and effectively manage innovation as a competitiveness and growth strategy.

“At the same time, Canada cannot afford to be complacent about its knowledge and talent advantages,” the report pointed out. “Canada must keep pace with other countries that have been increasing their support for R&D at a faster rate.”

The report said government and industry share the responsibility to reverse the decline. “While success requires that all players pursue excellence in their respective roles, at the same time all players must work more closely together, as a system, to effect change.”

The report urges private companies to increase their investment in research and development. “Given the strategic importance of Canada’s natural resources industry, this should be an area of ST&I leadership for Canada. Increased research and development investment must be accompanied by enhanced investments in other knowledge assets.”

It calls on governments to provide more direct support to high-risk, high-reward business research and develop-

ment. “The approach should be strategic, focused on fostering innovation in large firms and in high-growth SMEs with the potential to grow into significant players.”

It also said Canada must increase the number of large, innovative firms to enhance

future competitiveness and job growth, as larger firms are often more productive and tend to invest and to export more than smaller firms.”

Business also has to become less risk averse and more ambitious, the report states. “Canada’s venture capital

“If Canada is to regain its leadership in agricultural research, AIC’s agricultural research policy is a good first step.”

SERGE BUY
CEO of the Agriculture
Institute of Canada

industry can support this by more aggressively backing high-potential Canadian firms with innovative ideas and mentoring them through the innovation process.”

Educational institutions “should work more closely with industry to develop curricula that better integrate science and technology knowledge with a broader set of business, entrepreneurship and commercialization skills and that nurture creativity, intelligent risk taking and ambition.”



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WHAT’S UP

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

Dec. 16-17: Manitoba Agronomists’ Conference, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. For more info or to register visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/agronomists_conf.

2016

Jan. 11: Beef and Forage Day, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ukrainian National Home Hall, 106 Main St., Vita. For more info call MAFRD at 204-425-5050.

Jan. 14: Direct Marketing Your Meat Products workshop, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Sun Gro Centre, 360 Veterans Lane, Beausejour. For more info or to register (\$20, lunch included), call MAFRD at 204-392-7268 or 204-461-2978.

Jan. 19-21: Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference, Alerus Center, 1200 S. 42nd St., Grand Forks, N.D. For more info or to register visit RedRiverBasinCommission.org.

Jan. 26-28: Keystone Agricultural Producers annual meeting and Young Farmers Conference, Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Ave., Winnipeg. For more info visit kap.mb.ca or call 204-697-1140.

Feb. 4-5: Manitoba Beef Producers annual general meeting, Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Ave., Brandon. For more info or to register visit www.mbbeef.ca/annual-meeting/.

Feb. 10-11: CropConnect Conference, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info visit cropconnectconference.ca.



March 1: Manitoba Turkey Producers annual meeting, Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave., Winnipeg. For more info call 204-489-4635.

March 11-12: Direct Farm Marketing Conference, Canad Inns, 2401 Saskatchewan Ave., Portage la Prairie. For more info visit www.directfarmmarketing.com.

LIVESTOCK MARKETS

EXCHANGES:
DECEMBER 11, 2015

\$1 Cdn: \$0.7301 U.S.
\$1 U.S: \$1.3696 Cdn.

Cattle Prices			
(Friday to Thursday)		Winnipeg	December 11, 2015
SLAUGHTER CATTLE			
Steers		—	
Heifers		—	
D1, 2 Cows		90.00 - 101.00	
D3 Cows		85.00 - 92.00	
Bulls		120.00 - 125.00	
FEEDER CATTLE (Price ranges for feeders refer to top-quality animals only)			
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	165.00 - 197.00	
	(801-900 lbs.)	190.00 - 207.00	
	(701-800 lbs.)	195.00 - 219.00	
	(601-700 lbs.)	210.00 - 253.00	
	(501-600 lbs.)	230.00 - 284.00	
Heifers	(401-500 lbs.)	260.00 - 300.00	
	(901+ lbs.)	160.00 - 180.00	
	(801-900 lbs.)	175.00 - 190.00	
	(701-800 lbs.)	180.00 - 205.00	
	(601-700 lbs.)	190.00 - 220.00	
	(501-600 lbs.)	210.00 - 250.00	
	(401-500 lbs.)	225.00 - 260.00	
SLAUGHTER CATTLE	(\$/cwt)	Alberta South	Ontario
Grade A Steers	(1,000+ lbs.)	\$ —	\$ 144.48 - 158.82
Grade A Heifers	(850+ lbs.)	—	142.65 - 156.83
D1, 2 Cows		94.00 - 111.00	67.71 - 92.92
D3 Cows		80.00 - 95.00	67.71 - 92.92
Bulls		119.60 - 119.60	110.63 - 138.02
Steers	(901+ lbs.)	\$ 191.00 - 205.00	\$ 180.24 - 215.18
	(801-900 lbs.)	195.00 - 210.00	174.07 - 218.59
	(701-800 lbs.)	206.00 - 221.00	174.56 - 231.72
	(601-700 lbs.)	216.00 - 221.00	183.53 - 256.09
	(501-600 lbs.)	234.00 - 263.00	191.61 - 273.99
Heifers	(401-500 lbs.)	272.00 - 300.00	206.99 - 282.86
	(901+ lbs.)	\$ 175.00 - 195.00	\$ 158.65 - 182.01
	(801-900 lbs.)	189.00 - 200.00	167.45 - 193.85
	(701-800 lbs.)	190.00 - 205.00	157.28 - 204.21
	(601-700 lbs.)	197.00 - 215.00	162.18 - 218.30
	(501-600 lbs.)	213.00 - 233.00	179.37 - 235.23
	(401-500 lbs.)	235.00 - 269.00	210.39 - 255.09

Futures (December 11 2015) in U.S.					
Fed Cattle	Close	Change	Feeder Cattle	Close	Change
December 2015	125.70	-6.12	January 2016	159.75	-6.28
February 2016	129.45	-4.40	March 2016	157.80	-5.88
April 2016	129.68	-4.45	April 2016	158.90	-6.22
June 2016	122.13	-3.00	May 2016	159.30	-6.02
August 2016	119.95	-3.02	August 2016	161.28	-5.53
October 2016	121.38	-3.10	September 2016	159.48	-5.53

Cattle Slaughter			Cattle Grades (Canada)		
	Week Ending December 5, 2015	Previous Year		Week Ending December 5, 2015	Previous Year
Canada	49,494	55,405	Prime	1,349	1,447
East	11,990	12,406	AAA	25,340	25,523
West	37,504	42,999	AA	11,806	12,507
Manitoba	N/A	N/A	A	464	520
U.S.	560,000	564,000	B	651	520
			D	8,993	11,428
			E	192	229

Hog Prices				
(Friday to Thursday) (\$/100 kg)		Source: Manitoba Agriculture		
E - Estimation				
MB. (\$/hog)	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year (Index 100)	
MB (All wts.) (Fri-Thurs.)	152 E	149.42	192.33	
MB (Index 100) (Fri-Thurs.)	142 E	138.70	178.86	
ON (Index 100) (Mon.-Thurs.)	138.44	134.84	183.61	
PQ (Index 100) (Mon.-Fri.)	140.11	136.95	186.30	

Futures (December 11, 2015) in U.S.		
HOGS	Close	Change
December 2015	56.00	-2.35
February 2016	60.55	1.72
April 2016	64.70	1.55
May 2016	72.00	1.50
June 2016	76.18	1.97

Other Market Prices

Sheep and Lambs

	Winnipeg		SunGold
\$/cwt	Wooled Fats	Toronto	Specialty Meats
Ewes	—	100.60 - 135.08	—
Lambs	—	150.72 - 184.93	
(95 - 109 lb.)	Next Sale	175.82 - 198.81	
(80 - 94 lb.)	December 16th	184.91 - 222.74	
(Under 80 lb.)	—	190.05 - 301.16	
(New crop)	—	—	

Chickens

Minimum broiler prices as of April 13, 2010

Under 1.2 kg.	\$1.5130
1.2 - 1.65 kg.	\$1.3230
1.65 - 2.1 kg.	\$1.3830
2.1 - 2.6 kg.	\$1.3230

Turkeys

Minimum prices as of December 13, 2015

Broiler Turkeys

(6.2 kg or under, live weight truck load average)

Grade A	\$1.935
Undergrade	\$1.845

Hen Turkeys

(between 6.2 and 8.5 kg liveweight truck load average)

Grade A	\$1.925
Undergrade	\$1.825

Light Tom/Heavy Hen Turkeys

(between 8.5 and 10.8 kg liveweight truck load average)

Grade A	\$1.925
Undergrade	\$1.825

Tom Turkeys

(10.8 and 13.3 kg, live weight truck load average)

Grade A	\$1.905
Undergrade	\$1.820

Prices are quoted f.o.b. producers premise.

Eggs

Minimum prices to producers for ungraded eggs, f.o.b. egg grading station, set by the Manitoba Egg Producers Marketing Board effective November 10, 2013.

	New	Previous
A Extra Large	\$2.00	\$2.05
A Large	2.00	2.05
A Medium	1.82	1.87
A Small	1.40	1.45
A Pee Wee	0.3775	0.3775
Nest Run 24 +	1.8910	1.9390
B	0.45	0.45
C	0.15	0.15

Goats

	Winnipeg (\$/cwt)	Toronto (\$/cwt)
Kids	—	187.80 - 323.89
Billies	—	—
Mature	—	120.56 - 297.97

Horses

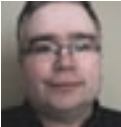
	Winnipeg (\$/cwt)	Toronto (\$/cwt)
<1,000 lbs.	—	15.00 - 70.00
1,000 lbs.+	—	41.00 - 56.00

COLUMN

Auction prices come under pressure from U.S. futures

Feedlot operators face the hardest hits from lower values

DAVE SIMS
CNSC



Auction prices for Manitoba cattle showed noticeable weakness during the week ended Dec. 11, as plunging U.S. futures led the way lower for the bulk of the Canadian industry.

Volumes were steady, though, as 11,268 animals made their way through the rings of the province's eight major stockyards. A few outlets even reported higher bids on a few classes, but for the most part, prices were under fire. Feeder steers and heifers (400-500 lbs.) were down about C\$10 per hundredweight from the week earlier. Offers for heavier-weighted animals were also generally softer.

“Our exports to the U.S. are down dramatically, both live cattle and feeder cattle. That means we are probably starting to back them up in Canada,” said analyst Herb Lock of FarmSense Marketing in Edmonton.

The retail price of beef hasn't dropped as quickly as the live price, he added. “A top-end steak in Alberta is \$62 a kilogram... so that's causing stickiness at the consumer end.”

While ranchers are still realizing profits, Lock said they have definitely moved lower from a year ago. The ones taking it on the chin right now are feedlot operators.

“Their losses are massive,” said Lock. “They are margin-makers and they are losing \$200-\$400 a head in some cases.

“The reality of the situation is that we're on the downside of the cattle cycle, so we're probably heading into four or five years of marginally lower prices due to higher numbers of calves coming to market in the U.S.”

Last week, U.S. cattle futures on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange hit near their lowest levels in the past 2-1/2 years. The demand for beef is lighter throughout all levels of the industry, but live cattle tend to be experiencing the sharpest decline. An influx of wet weather throughout much of the U.S. has also

“The reality of the situation is that we're on the downside of the cattle cycle, so we're probably heading into four or five years of marginally lower prices...”

HERB LOCK
FarmSense Marketing, Edmonton

complicated the sales process, as some owners and auction marts debate whether to sell the animals on a dressed basis, which takes into account the meat taken off the carcass, rather than overall weight.

Fortunately, Lock said, the market has already “fallen out of bed,” so the severity of the drop isn't as severe as it might be otherwise.

Another trend impacting the industry is the larger weights of animals making their way to market. Better genetics and cheaper feed can take most of the credit for the size difference from a decade ago, he said.

Even looking back two or three years ago, he said, today's biggest animals are 200-300 lbs. heavier.

So even though production is up, it's not necessarily because of more animals at the auctions — it's because the cattle are simply bigger.

“It's called, ‘Bigger in, bigger out,’ so if they're bigger in the lot, they will be bigger (coming) out of the lot,” Lock said. “When you have feed, you keep them, but when you don't, you panic and sell them.”

Canada also has lots of competitors in the U.S. market, he said, as Australia and New Zealand have been unloading hamburger beef into the U.S. at “massive” amounts.

Furthermore, good prospects for grass and forages in the States mean “we're backing up onto the farms instead of in the feedlots in the U.S.”

Dave Sims writes for Commodity News Service Canada, a Winnipeg company specializing in grain and commodity market reporting.

BRIEFS

Antibiotic use in livestock continues to rise

CHICAGO / REUTERS / U.S. sales of medically important antibiotics approved for use in livestock rose by 23 per cent between 2009 and 2014, federal regulators said Dec. 10, fuelling concerns about risks to humans from antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Last year, domestic sales and distribution of such drugs increased by three per cent, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Public health advocates, along with some lawmakers and scientists, have criticized the long-standing practice of using antibiotics in livestock, arguing that it is fuelling the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Agribusinesses defend the practice as necessary to help keep cattle, pigs and chickens healthy and to increase production of meat for U.S. consumers.

Avinash Kar, senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council said the continued rise in use is dangerous.

The FDA in 2013 released

voluntary guidelines for drug makers and agricultural companies to phase out antibiotic use as a growth enhancer in livestock. The agency said the antibiotics could still be used to treat illnesses in animals raised for meat, but should otherwise be pared back by December 2016.

“Sales does not equal use and use is not the same thing as resistance,” said Ron Phillips, spokesman for the Animal Health Institute, which represents drug companies including Zoetis, Merck Animal Health and Eli Lilly and Co.'s Elanco Animal Health.

Looking for results? Check out the market reports from livestock auctions around the province. » PAGE 14

GRAIN MARKETS

COLUMN

Canadian dollar weakness is Prairie canola strength

Markets await the U.S. Fed’s decision on interest rates

PHIL-FRANZ WARKENTIN
CNSC



ICE Futures Canada canola contracts bounced around within a \$5 range during the week ended Dec. 11, but jumped to the top end of that range by Friday’s close as the plummeting Canadian dollar was more than enough to counter the general weakness in the Chicago soy complex.

The currency fell below 73 U.S. cents during the week, losing a full two cents compared to its U.S. counterpart. When factoring in the currency, canola actually lost ground on a U.S. dollar basis during the week, which should be making the oilseed more attractive to international buyers.

March canola has shifted to the role of the “contract to watch” in canola as participants were busy rolling out of the nearby January contract during the week. The March contract settled at C\$485.80 per tonne on Dec. 11, up from \$483 the previous week.

However, on a U.S. dollar basis, global customers pricing in the U.S. currency could buy a tonne of canola for US\$353.50 on Dec. 11 (C\$1 at 72.77 U.S. cents), which was actually cheaper than the US\$361 they were paying only a week earlier when the Canadian dollar was worth 74.76 U.S. cents.

Beyond the currency-related strength, the news is a little more bearish for canola. While both the export and domestic crush pace are running slightly ahead of the year-ago level, the country also grew a larger-

than-expected crop this year — which will need to be worked through.

In the U.S., soybeans, corn and wheat were all lower during the week. While Canadian commodities benefited from a weaker currency, the situation was the opposite in the U.S., where a rising U.S. dollar makes that country’s grains and oilseeds less attractive for international buyers.

Relatively favourable crop prospects out of South America were another bearish influence in the background for soybeans and corn. Prospects for increased exports out of Argentina, following the swearing-in of a new government there, also weigh in the background.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released updated supply/demand estimates on Dec. 9, but the slight adjustments were not thought to be enough to break beans or corn out of their sideways trading ranges.

With foreign exchange rates at the forefront of the commodity markets, attention will be on the U.S. Federal Reserve’s interest rate announcement, due Dec. 16. Many economists are of the opinion that the Fed could be set to raise rates for the first time in nearly a decade, which would cause some major ripples through the global financial markets. However, there is also a growing opinion that any rate hikes may be postponed yet again, given the latest weakness in the energy sector, which could lead to its own consequences in the broader markets.

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

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

Manitoba Elevator Prices

Average quotes as of December 14, 2015 (\$/tonne)				
	Future	Basis	Net	Weekly Change
Red spring wheat	187.00	39.55	226.56	-4.36
Red winter wheat	177.65	15.40	193.05	5.53
Prairie spring wheat	177.65	14.94	192.60	1.90
Canola	474.40	-23.12	451.28	1.19

Port Prices

As of Friday, December 11, 2015 (\$/tonne)		
	Last Week	Weekly Change
U.S. hard red winter 12% Houston	191.98	13.41
U.S. spring wheat 14% Portland	235.25	-0.83
Canola Thunder Bay	484.00	-1.30
Canola Vancouver	502.00	-3.30

Closing Futures Prices

As of Monday, December 14, 2015 (\$/tonne)		
	Last Week	Weekly Change
ICE canola	474.00	-1.30
ICE milling wheat	243.00	4.00
ICE barley	191.00	0.00
Mpls. HRS wheat	189.42	1.29
Chicago SRW wheat	182.07	6.15
Kansas City HRW wheat	179.95	4.87
Corn	149.30	0.89
Oats	154.00	-1.46
Soybeans	322.70	-7.07
Soymeal	301.73	-14.99
Soyoil	700.97	20.29

Cash Prices Winnipeg

As of Monday, December 14, 2015 (\$/tonne)		
	Last Week	Weekly Change
Feed wheat	199.13	-1.47
Feed barley	178.67	-4.59
Rye	n/a	n/a
Flaxseed	454.70	-0.39
Feed peas	n/a	n/a
Oats	202.31	1.30
Soybeans	369.38	-8.45
Sunflower (NuSun) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	17.05	-0.10
Sunflower (Confection) Fargo, ND (\$U.S./CWT)	Ask	Ask

CWRS wheat bids dip in Western Canada, CPRS up

CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$15 to \$31 below the futures

BY DAVE SIMS
Commodity News Service Canada

Cash bids across Western Canada were mixed during the week ended December 11, with gains in some classes and losses in others.

Average Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat prices were \$2-\$4 weaker across the three Prairie provinces, according to price quotes from a cross-section of delivery points. Bids ranged from about \$226 per tonne in Manitoba, to as high as \$243 per tonne in southern Alberta.

Quoted basis levels varied from location to location, but held steady overall to sit at \$49 above the

futures when using the grain company methodology of quoting the basis as the difference between the U.S. dollar-denominated futures and the Canadian dollar cash bids.

When accounting for the currency exchange rates by adjusting the Canadian prices to U.S. dollars (\$1=US\$0.7277 as of December 14) CWRS bids ranged from US\$164 to US\$176 per tonne. That would put the currency adjusted basis levels at about US\$11 to US\$23 below the futures.

Looking at it the other way around, if the Minneapolis futures are converted to Canadian dollars, CWRS basis levels across Western Canada range from \$15 to \$31 below the futures.

Average Canada Prairie Red

Spring (CPRS) bids were up \$2-\$3 per tonne. CPRS prices came in at about \$192 per tonne in Manitoba, \$202-\$203 per tonne in Saskatchewan, and \$213 to \$216 per tonne in Alberta.

Soft white spring wheat prices were up by roughly \$4 per tonne on average, ranging from \$219-\$220 per tonne in Alberta.

Winter wheat prices were up \$6-\$7. Prices were approximately \$188-\$194 per tonne across all three provinces.

Average durum prices were up \$3-\$5 with average prices in southern Saskatchewan rising to \$295 per tonne.

The March spring wheat contract in Minneapolis, on which most CWRS contracts in Canada are

based off, was quoted at US\$5.0775 per bushel on December 11, down 7.75 cents from the week prior.

The Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures, which are now traded in Chicago, are more closely linked to CPRS in Canada. The March Kansas City wheat contract was quoted at US\$4.8250 per bushel on December 11, up 2.00 cents from the week prior.

The March Chicago Board of Trade soft wheat contract settled at US\$4.9050 on December 11, which was up six cents compared to the week prior.

The Canadian dollar closed at 72.27 U.S. cents on December 11, which was down roughly 2-1/2 cents relative to its U.S. counterpart compared to the previous week.

LIVESTOCK

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Social licence requires animal welfare

Don't expect cows to be sleeping at the foot of the bed any time soon, but farm animals are being extended new welfare consideration

BY SHANNON VANRAES
Co-operator staff

It was an uncomfortable moment for producers at the annual Manitoba Dairy Conference, held in Winnipeg earlier this month.

It was an image of downer cows, about to be shot at an American slaughter plant, displayed during a presentation by Jennifer Walker to bring home the message that just because something has become routine, doesn't make it good animal welfare.

"We have to understand, the animals we send to slaughter are a direct reflection of our care and compassion," she said, adding the photo wasn't taken in secret. The veterinarian and director of dairy stewardship for the U.S.-based Dean Foods snapped the photos in the open, with staff watching. No one objected, she said.

"They told me that this was an average cull cow day. Two of the seven cows that arrived fell down on the trailer, two fell down while getting off the trailer, one more was so skinny and weak she fell down later while trying to navigate the system," said Walker. "All five of these were perfectly and humanely handled by staff at the slaughterhouse; all five of them should have never been put on the trailer to begin with."

While Canadian dairy producers have largely been spared the kind of undercover animal abuse videos plaguing producers south of the border — with the exception of Chilliwack Cattle Sales in 2014 — the veterinarian stressed that animal welfare must meet consumers' and processors' expectations, even if the details are difficult to define.

Ethics

Farmers are no stranger to making ethical decisions, but she stressed they need to recognize that those decisions aren't made in a vacuum. While cost, profit and production are vital considerations, so is animal welfare and public opinion.

"When it comes to animal welfare and animal health, and understanding what our consumers and custom-



Jennifer Walker speaks during the annual Manitoba Dairy Conference in Winnipeg.
PHOTO: SHANNON VANRAES

"I hear it all the time, again and again, we have to feed the world, there's going to be nine billion people... we're going to have to increase food production by 70 per cent, and you want me to stop and worry about my cows' feelings? Are you kidding me?"

JENNIFER WALKER

ers want, we need to remember it is a matter of perspective," she said. "So what you might rank as a dairy farmer as your top concern, is going to be different than a customer."

Giving the example of a farmer with a top-producing cow that's going on three good legs, she painted a picture of a difficult decision that can't — at the end of the day — be about money.

"How long does she have to walk around in pain until you sell her? And

how miserable is that journey to the sales barn and then to the slaughterhouse?" Walker asked. "And if she gets there and has to be euthanized on the trailer because she can't actually get up, can we look consumers in the eye and say we've done the right thing?"

"We have to come to terms with the fact that science can only tell us what we can do; what we're dealing with today is questions about what we should do," she said.

Long gone are the days when producers could justify practices on scientific terms, or by relying on efficiency.

Reiterating the mantra that cows must be happy and healthy if production is high, is a failure in the eyes of consumers. Not only does it diminish consumer trust, she said, it pushes consumers to seek information from alternate sources, such as Mercy for Animals or PETA.

"What consumers expect is that we take good care of our cows," Walker said, and that includes producers acknowledging that their animals have emotional or mental needs, as well as physical ones.

Cow feelings

It's not an idea that's particularly popular with some producers.

"I hear it all the time, again and again, we have to feed the world, there's going to be nine billion people... we're going to have to increase food production by 70 per cent, and you want me to stop and worry about my cows' feelings? Are you kidding me?" said Walker.

But she added that good animal welfare, which Walker roughly defines as animals having a life worth living and a comfortable death, has many real benefits for producers to consider.

Besides the all-important need to maintain social licence and consumer trust, healthy and happy animals do produce more and are more resistant to disease, requiring less medical interventions, and fewer antibiotics. They react more predictably during research, in addition to providing better, more profitable carcasses when all is said and done.

No one expects cows to be sleeping at the foot of the bed, however, farm animals are being extended types of consideration that are new to agriculture. And that consideration is being fuelled by some marketing trends, such as not labelling meat products as animal. Where consumers might once have gone to the grocer to pick up a chicken, it's now labelled a broiler. Beef and pork are labelled by cut.

"So while we have removed the animal from the food we eat, we have simultaneously elevated the animals in our lives, for many, cats and dogs are treated like members of the family. In many cases animal companions have really become the primary, sometimes, only stable form of companionship," she said.

So it's not that the ethics around the treatment of animals has changed, it's that the number of animals those considerations are extended to has been expanded.

"I argue that our ethics aren't changing, not at all, simply put, the golden rule is still the golden rule. What has changed is to whom we extend consideration of the golden rule to... our circle of caring is expanding," said Walker.

And if that circle has expanded for consumers, it must also expand for farmers, she added.

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CFIA wrapping up latest BSE probe

The Alberta beef cow was born two years after the enhanced feed ban took effect

STAFF

Canada’s food safety agency is still tracking down herdmates of the country’s 19th domestic case of BSE, but will otherwise assume the Alberta cow most likely caught the disease from trace proteins in its early feed.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency on Nov. 30 submitted its final report on Case 19 — a 70-month-old purebred black Angus beef cow — to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and describes the case as “resolved.”

A feed-borne infection is “likely the source” of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in Case 19, Dr. Martine Dubuc, CFIA’s chief food safety officer, said in the report.

“The feed investigation was unable to identify a specific source, but the carry-over of a small amount of residual contaminated feed on farm is the most plausible explanation.”

Born in March 2009, Case 19 was euthanized in February this year, after its owner reported it as a “downer” cow — which in turn made it a prime candidate for testing via the national BSE surveillance program.

Case 19 also was Canada’s first case to be born after the country’s “enhanced” feed ban took effect in 2007. It was also Canada’s first to be born on the same farm as a previous Canadian BSE case — Case 17, born in 2004 and confirmed BSE positive in 2010.

That said, “the detection of this case does not change our OIE risk status,” Dubuc wrote in her report to the OIE. “Our continued surveillance confirms that Canada has an effective feed ban in place.”

Canada’s enhanced feed ban expanded on its 1997 ban on the feeding of ruminant tissues to other ruminants. The enhanced ban also blocks the

“The detection of this case does not change our OIE risk status.”

DR. MARTINE DUBUC
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

use of specified risk materials (SRMs) from rendered ruminants in any animal feeds, pet foods or fertilizers.

It’s also not unheard of for countries that have had BSE in their domestic herds to see cases appear after comprehensive feed bans are imposed. Spain, for example, saw such cases up to four years afterward, CFIA noted in February.

Residual feed

No “significant events” of feed contamination could be linked to Case 19, but the potential for carry-over of “a small amount of residual contaminated feed” couldn’t be discounted, CFIA said in its report.

Given the enhanced feed ban and the “rigorous inspection oversight by the CFIA,” contamination of both prohibited and non-prohibited materials with SRMs at either a slaughter establishment or a rendering plant, “would, in all likelihood, be highly improbable,” the agency said.

The birth farm’s “bin management and storage practices... could not eliminate the possibility that feed products produced prior to the enhanced feed ban may have remained (to some extent) on the farm” after the enhanced feed ban kicked in, CFIA said.

But there was also “no indication that feedstuff was stored for extended periods,” and, given the nature of the feed — forages, commercial feed and supplements, with no on-farm mixing — there would have been “no reason to consider the potential that feed might be contaminated.”

It’s important to note, CFIA



In the 10 months since Canada’s 19th case of BSE was confirmed in Alberta, nearly 750 other cattle have had to be traced from the animal’s “birth cohort.” FILE PHOTO

said, that while Case 17 most likely became infected in 2004, it wasn’t detected as a BSE case until February 2010 — nearly a year after Case 19 was born at the same farm and likely became infected.

Birth cohort

CFIA’s trace-out of birth cohort animals — 746 in all — is “ongoing and expected to be completed for the end of 2015,” with just 30 still to be traced, the agency said.

Feed cohorts — animals exposed to the same feed supply — are also usually traced

in BSE investigations, but Case 19’s feed and birth cohorts were “indistinguishable,” CFIA said. All animals from the birth cohort had access to the same feed as Case 19 in its first year of life.

CFIA noted the OIE no longer considers a BSE-positive cow’s calves to be “equivalent-risk” animals, but the agency tracked down Case 19’s calves from the 24 months before its death anyway, “to satisfy specific country export requirements.”

That trace found Case 19’s 2013 calf died of scours soon after birth, and its 2014 calf is

now “under quarantine” at its birth farm.

Despite posing no change to Canada’s BSE profile, Case 19 remains a setback in Canada’s efforts to level up from “controlled risk” to “negligible risk” for BSE. By OIE standards, a country’s youngest case of BSE must have been born 11 years before “negligible-risk” status can be considered.

Up until February, Canada had been on track to start that process in August this year. Case 19’s birthdate delays “negligible-risk” status for Canada until 2020 at the earliest.

Beef and Forage Week Seminars

The Manitoba Beef Producers, Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) are hosting beef and forage seminars in your local community.

Register today to hear a wide variety of speakers provide information on how to maximize forage fertility and productivity, extensive wintering of livestock, beef market outlook for 2016 and updates on the Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiative and the McDonalds Canada sustainable beef pilot*. Seminar times are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 11	Vita*	Vita GO Office	204-425-5050
Tuesday, January 12	Ste. Rose du Lac*	Ste. Rose GO Office	204-447-4032
Wednesday, January 13	Holland*	Portage GO Office	204-239-3352
Thursday, January 14	Brandon	Brandon GO Office	204-726-6482
Friday, January 15	Eriksdale	Arborg GO Office	204-376-3300

*Includes an update on the McDonalds Canada sustainable beef pilot

For more information and to register, contact the MAFRD GO Office listed above.

LIVESTOCK AUCTION RESULTS

Weight Category	Ashern	Gladstone	Grunthal	Heartland	Heartland	Killarney	Ste. Rose	Winnipeg
				Brandon	Virden			
Feeder Steers	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	10-Dec	9-Dec	7-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec
No. on offer	2,500	1,414*	544	994*	2,113*	820*	1300*	980*
Over 1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
900-1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	175.00-200.00	185.00-205.00	n/a	180.00-195.00	175.00-185.00
800-900	n/a	170.00-203.00	185.00-195.00	205.00-219.00	192.00-210.00	n/a	185.00-205.00	180.00-193.00
700-800	200.00-218.00	190.00-215.50	190.00-207.00	210.00-233.50	202.00-220.00	215.00-228.00	195.00-216.00	190.00-213.00
600-700	210.00-239.00	210.00-236.50	200.00-234.00	225.00-246.00	213.00-238.00	220.00-239.50	200.00-235.00	200.00-239.00
500-600	220.00-268.00	250.00-280.00	220.00-267.00	255.00-279.00	235.00-272.00	245.00-279.00	230.00-265.00	220.00-260.00
400-500	240.00-292.00	280.00-319.00	240.00-280.00	280.00-315.00	270.00-310.00	280.00-318.00	240.00-276.00	245.00-310.00
300-400	n/a	280.00-318.00	275.00-355.00	290.00-325.00	n/a	280.00-320.00	250.00-300.00	280.00-317.00
Feeder heifers								
900-1,000 lbs.	n/a	n/a	n/a	160.00-175.00	160.00-177.00	n/a	n/a	150.00-178.00
800-900	n/a	150.00-179.50	155.00-175.00	165.00-186.00	166.00-181.00	n/a	n/a	160.00-180.00
700-800	n/a	150.00-180.00	170.00-195.00	170.00-184.00	183.00-201.00	n/a	185.00-203.00	180.00-204.00
600-700	180.00-208.00	180.00-215.00	190.00-227.00	190.00-215.00	188.00-215.00	200.00-290.00	190.00-210.00	188.00-218.00
500-600	190.00-236.00	210.00-231.00	210.00-237.00	220.00-240.00	205.00-232.00	210.00-225.50	215.00-243.00	200.00-240.00
400-500	200.00-245.00	230.00-267.50	225.00-262.00	235.00-255.00	230.00-268.00	235.00-268.50	215.00-245.00	225.00-262.00
300-400	n/a	240.00-275.50	240.00-280.00	240.00-265.00	n/a	270.00-290.00	205.00-231.00	260.00-290.00
Slaughter Market								
No. on offer	300	n/a	96	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120
D1-D2 Cows	90.00-100.00	n/a	90.00-96.50	89.00-100.00	93.00-102.00	85.00-96.00	87	92.00-102.00
D3-D5 Cows	80.00-100.00	n/a	77.00-85.00	73.00-88.00	86.00-93.00	n/a	85.00-92.00	75.00-90.00
Age Verified	100.00-106.00	up to 98.50	75.00-90.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Good Bulls	110.00-134.00	107.00-123.50	115.00-122.25	125.00-138.50	126.00-136.00	115.00-125.00	120.00-135.00	120.00-125.00
Butcher Steers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Butcher Heifers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feeder Cows	n/a	n/a	110.00-128.50	112.00-125.00	95.00-110.00	n/a	n/a	95.00-110.00
Fleshy Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lean Export Cows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heiferettes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

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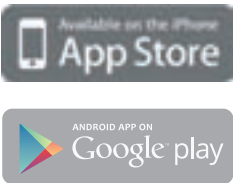
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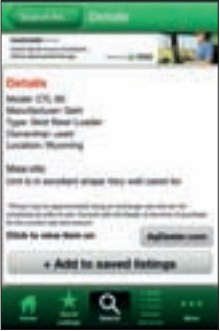


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2 BROWSE



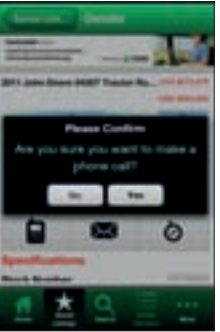
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Livestock sector has multi-faceted plan to tackle climate changes

The industry is tackling the challenge — and its critics — by being proactive



Animal industry efficiency and environmental sustainability are improving.
PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

The climate change conference in Paris brought together world leaders and countless economic organizations vowing to improve the environment. Among them was the International Meat Secretariat, which represents livestock and meat groups. Jurgen Preugschas, former chairman of the Canadian Pork Council, is chairman of the IMS Sustainable meat committee.

“We are working together with many stakeholders, including an important ongoing project with the Food and Agriculture Organization to develop global guidelines in the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership,” he said in a statement after the Paris meeting.

Participants agreed to work together to confront charges from some critics that livestock production is a major contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change.

IMS president Guillaume Roue, said: “We all come from different countries, with different production systems, and we are all commercial competitors. But it is important that we work together

“We are proud to provide high-quality, nutritious and delicious animal protein as an essential part of a healthy, sustainable diet.”

GUILLAUME ROUE
IMS president

on key issues that affect us all, like greenhouse gas emissions, animal welfare and human health and nutrition.

“We are proud to provide high-quality, nutritious and delicious animal protein as an essential part of a healthy, sustainable diet.”

In a statement at the end of its meeting, the IMS said, “Huge strides are being made around the world to improve the efficiency of and environmental sustainability of meat production. GHG emissions per kg of meat produced have been reduced by adopting innovative health and husbandry practices and tools that support sustainable and environmentally responsible production of animal protein, utilizing fewer resources and resulting in less environmental impact.

The statement said the industry is working with all partners in the production chain and is:

- Improving animal breeding and health programs to raise productivity and developing better animal nutrition to avoid carbon or nitrogen losses in the atmosphere.
- Promoting manure management practices to recycle nutrients and energy and enhance profitability from

this natural fertilizer, while reducing ammonia and methane emissions.

- Preserving the soil by optimizing grass production, managing grazing land for ruminants, preventing erosion, and avoiding overgrazing, with benefits in carbon sequestration.
- Using best technologies in meat processing to optimize resources, significantly reducing the use of water and energy, while at the same time improving working conditions.

As well, the industry is assisting in a significant reduction “in deforestation through sustainable intensification.”

Delegates also called for “an open and balanced discussion that promotes further progress in sustainability, including the many positive contributions from livestock.”

Livestock production “uses mainly land not suited for crops and for which there is no other productive use.” Animals “are efficient recyclers, transforming 80 per cent of all feed that is not edible, such as grass, biomass, crop residues and byproducts, into high-value nutritious animal protein. They also produce important byproducts including power, fibre, medicines, slurry for biogas, and manure to maintain soil fertility, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers.”

Meat production is “necessary for food and nutrition security and diversity to diets, and help address the multiple challenges of malnutrition, which include wasting, stunting, obesity, and anemia in women of reproductive age.”

According to the FAO, the livestock industry including dairy contributes about 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

COOL retaliatory tariffs could be authorized by Dec. 18

But Canadian officials hope the U.S. will repeal the legislation before they have to use them

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

The World Trade Organization could give Canada the green light to impose \$1.1 billion a year's worth of retaliatory tariffs on American-made consumer products as early as Dec. 18, says a spokesman for Global Affairs Canada.

The duties would be in retaliation for an American meat labelling program that has cost beef and pork farmers about \$8 billion since 2008 in reduced exports and lower prices. The WTO ruled Dec. 7 on the amount of duty Canada could impose.

“The WTO Dispute Settlement Body is expected to adopt the requested authorization to retaliate on Dec. 18 or 21,” said John Babcock, a spokesman for Global Affairs Canada. Canada will select its targets from products noted on a list released in 2013.

Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland hasn't revealed how quickly Canada would bring retaliatory tariffs into effect although tariff changes usually take months. Instead she told the Commons that the government hopes the U.S. Senate will finally agree to repeal COOL following the House of Representatives' lead. The chairman of the U.S. Senate agriculture committee has called for its repeal, she noted.

Shortly after the WTO handed down its decision on Dec. 7, Freeland and Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay issued a statement urging fast action in Washington. “If the U.S. Senate does not take immediate action to repeal COOL for beef and pork, Canada will quickly take steps to retaliate. Canada continues to work with our partners in the United States, and in the U.S. Senate, to urge the full repeal of the discriminatory COOL policy for beef and pork.”

Canadian livestock and meat groups issued a joint statement through the Canadian Meat Council welcoming the decision. At the same time, the U.S. National Grain Feeders Association also repeated its call for an end to COOL.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association says it has spent about \$3.25 million fighting COOL while the Canadian Pork Council estimates its cost at more than \$1 million. Global Affairs hasn't revealed the cost to the federal treasury.

“There is no further negotiation to be done and no compromise is acceptable,” the groups said. “Canadian livestock producers and meat processors expect the U.S. to do nothing less than repeal COOL or face the immediate imposition of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods to the same extent as the damage we have endured.”

Canada sought authority to impose \$3 billion a year in retaliatory tariffs. The WTO only accepted losses caused by lower prices on exports to the United States and not lower prices in the domestic markets caused by a buildup of meat and livestock. The office of the U.S. Trade Representative had claimed that COOL had only cost Canadian producers about US\$43.2 million a year. There is no appeal to the WTO's final decision.

COMMUNITY PASTURE MANAGER

The **Association of Manitoba Community Pastures** is seeking to fill the Pasture Manager's positions at the Cote-San Clara (north of Roblin, Manitoba and near Togo, Saskatchewan) and the Dauphin-Ethelbert Community Pastures (Ethelbert, Manitoba). These are full time term positions running from March to November each year. Duties would include managing the day to day operations of the community pastures and its staff. Applicant must have significant cattle experience.

Experience treating cattle from horseback is required and ability to supply your own horses and tack. Other duties include repair and maintenance of fences and other infrastructure. Accommodations are available to rent. **Please apply by Dec 18th 2015.** For more information contact **Barry Ross Phone 204-841-1907** or email amcp@pastures.ca

WEATHER VANE

“EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, BUT NO ONE DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT.” *Mark Twain, 1897*

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Are we due for a pre-Christmas storm?

Issued: Monday, December 14, 2015 · Covering: December 16 – December 23, 2015

DANIEL BEZTE
Weather Vane



Last week’s system, which brought significant snow to west-central Manitoba, was originally forecast to travel much farther north. This more southerly route prevented the system from tapping into colder air, which is why we stayed fairly mild. I had also forecast a system to bring snow over the weekend to extreme southern and eastern regions and it too tracked further south, which kept our region in a rather stagnant flow. This resulted in milder-than-expected conditions over the weekend along with fog and some freezing drizzle.

For this forecast period it does look like colder air will finally move in, with temperatures by Friday expected to be right around the mid-December average. What will help bring in the colder air will be a Colorado low, forecast to track through the Dakotas on Wednesday or Thursday. This low is not expected to directly affect our region, but the possibility of some snow can’t be ruled out. As the low tracks to the northeast it will place us in a fairly broad and cool northerly flow.

Arctic high pressure will try to

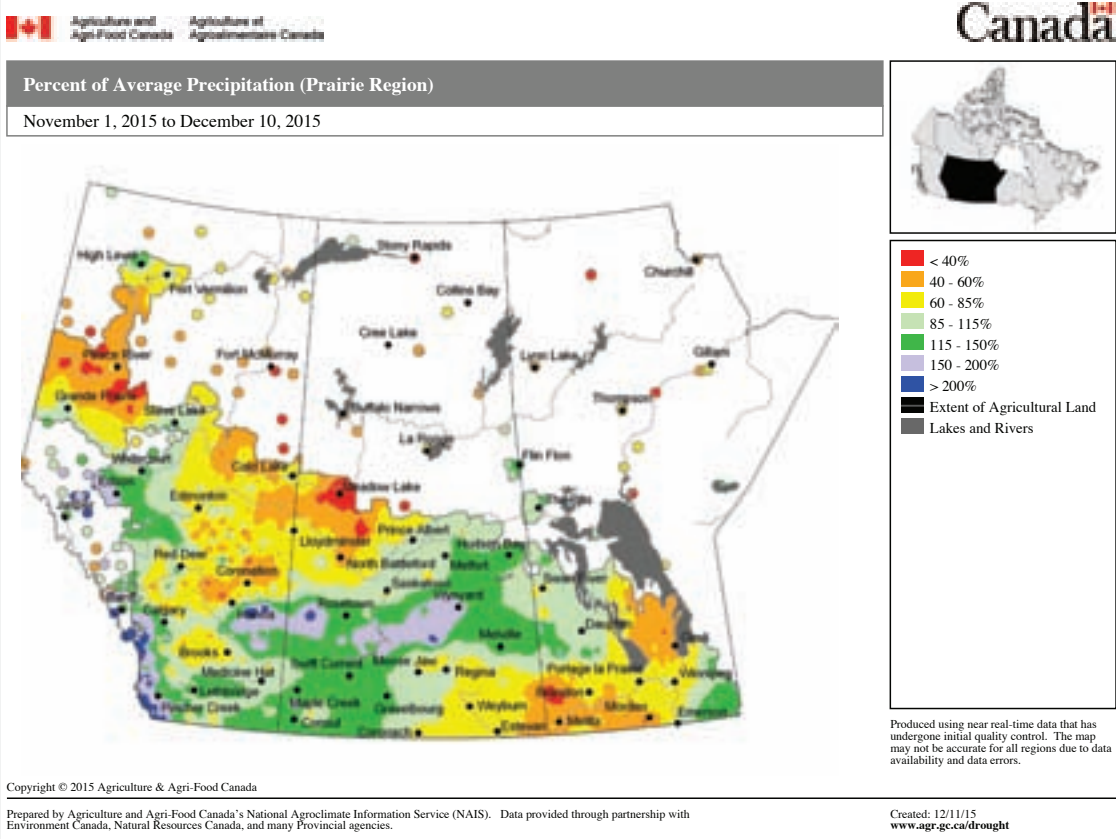
nose southward within this flow, but it looks like the coldest air will remain over northern Manitoba for the weekend before sliding eastwards early next week. Skies look to be sunny to partly cloudy over the weekend and into the early part of next week, with daytime highs in the -6 to -10 C range and overnight lows in the -13 to -18 C range.

This is when things become interesting. The weather models then show a large and strong area of low pressure developing over Montana on Tuesday and tracking along the international border on Wednesday and Thursday. Confidence in this system is very low, but if it does develop, we could see some messy weather just before Christmas, with temperatures ahead of the system warming up enough for rain on Wednesday before transitioning over to snow late in the day. Snow is then forecast for Christmas Eve, with some significant accumulations possible.

Usual temperature range for this period: Highs, -18 to -4 C; lows: -27 to -12 C.

Daniel Bezte is a teacher by profession with a BA (Hon.) in geography, specializing in climatology, from the U of W. He operates a computerized weather station near Birds Hill Park. Contact him with your questions and comments at daniel@bezte.ca.

WEATHER MAP - WESTERN CANADA



So you want snow for Christmas

History pegs Winnipeg as the most consistent city for white Christmases

BY DANIEL BEZTE
Co-operator contributor

With the first half of December starting off with record-warm temperatures and well-below-average snow cover across most of the Prairies, it’s time to take our annual look at Christmas weather. The big question at this time of the year is whether we’ll have perfect Christmas weather, but the million-dollar question is, “Just what is perfect Christmas weather?”

For those of you who have followed my articles it’s probably no secret that my perfect Christmas weather is to have a nice big snowstorm that keeps everyone at home for a couple of days. I know a big storm at this time of the year would cause all sorts of problems and hardships, but deep down inside it is the idea of being stuck at home for a few days, no pressure to go anywhere because you can’t, plenty of food available, family around you, and hopefully something new to play with — basically, a perfect time to be forced to sit back and just relax and get away from all the holiday bustle. But that’s my holiday weather wish and I am sure

others out there would prefer no snow and record warmth, or daytime highs right around 0 C with great big lazy snowflakes falling, and maybe even clear skies and frigid cold! All I know is, it takes all kinds to make the world go round and what’s perfect for one person is not perfect for another.

According to Environment Canada, perfect Christmas weather means there is already snow on the ground and, at some point during Christmas Day, there is measurable snowfall. What are the chances of this happening somewhere across the Prairies? Table 1 shows the probability of having snow on the ground for Christmas, along with having snow fall during the day. Interestingly, it breaks the data down into two 18-year periods (1964-82, 1991-2009) to try and show how our winters seem to be becoming warmer with less snow.

From the data in Table 1, it seems that if you want a white Christmas, then Winnipeg is your best bet. If you want Environment Canada’s version of a perfect Christmas, then Regina is your best bet.

If your version of a perfect Christmas is to have record-breaking warm or, heck, even cold

TABLE 1. Chances of having a white Christmas, a “perfect” Christmas and average snow depth at Christmastime across the Prairies.						
City	Average chance of snow on ground (%)	Chance now (% 1991-2009)	Chance before (% 1964-82)	Overall chance of “perfect” Christmas (%)	Snow depth now (cm, 1991-2009)	Snow depth before (cm, 1964-82)
Calgary	56	47	74	4	4	6
Edmonton	85	79	100	20	11	17
Regina	91	89	95	38	12	15
Saskatoon	96	89	100	22	11	13
Winnipeg	98	95	100	11	14	14

TABLE 2. Christmas (Dec. 24-26) minimum, maximum, and precipitation records for the Prairie provinces						
	Max.	Year	Min.	Year	Ppt.	Year
WINNIPEG						
Dec. 24	3.9	1953	-47.8	1879	15.2	1929
Dec. 25	5.4	1999	-40	1879	9.4	1938
Dec. 26	4.4	2011	-38.9	1883	30.5	1916
BRANDON						
Dec. 24	4.4	1953	-41	1983	5.1	1938
Dec. 25	7.2	1999	-40	1902	15.2	1938
Dec. 26	4.8	2005	-39.4	1891	7.6	1976
REGINA						
Dec. 24	4	1999	-40.6	1884	9.7	1950
Dec. 25	6.1	1943	-39.4	1933	7.1	1959
Dec. 26	6.1	1898	-39.3	1990	13.5	1916
SASKATOON						
Dec. 24	6.9	2011	-37.8	1917	12.7	1938
Dec. 25	4.5	1895	-38.9	1933	7.6	1922
Dec. 26	4.4	1928	-41.7	1934	9.9	1959
EDMONTON						
Dec. 24	10.4	1999	-41.7	1880	25.4	1938
Dec. 25	8.9	1987	-39.4	1880	17.8	1938
Dec. 26	10	1999	-38.3	1880	21.1	1955
CALGARY						
Dec. 24	17.6	1999	-36.1	1983	5.1	1937
Dec. 25	14.8	1985	-35	1886	10.2	1923
Dec. 26	13.8	1999	-35.6	1886	10.2	1923

temperatures, Table 2 is your list of the warmest, coldest and snowiest Christmas periods on record for two major centres in each of the three Prairie provinces. These records are based on the full set of

data for each of these cities, which mean they go back to the late 1800s. While some might argue these old records are not valid, I personally think they are and that they should be included.

If you are looking for a place to go in the Prairies to experience a really warm Christmas, Calgary would be the place for you. While all of the other centres have seen some nice warm Christmases in the past, not one comes close to Calgary’s recorded highs. If you want a chance at seeing some really cold weather during this period, then you could pick pretty much anyplace, as they have all seen Christmases colder than -35 C. Winnipeg comes out the winner here, though, with a bone-chilling -47.8 C on Christmas Eve in 1879!

Interestingly, when you examine the precipitation records for these three days, you’ll notice the Christmas period has been a relatively dry, storm-free period, but there are a couple of exceptions. Winnipeg did see a heavy dump of 30.5 cm of snow on Boxing Day 1916, but the record for biggest Christmas snowstorms has to go to Edmonton. Back in 1938, Edmonton recorded over 25 cm of snow on Christmas Eve, then a further 18 cm of snow on Christmas Day, for a total of 43 cm of snow!

Whatever weather you do end up with, I hope it’s what you wanted; if not, then remember the season and try to make the best of it!

CROPS

HUSBANDRY — THE SCIENCE, SKILL OR ART OF FARMING

Literature review for research on manured, tile-drained land being sought

Manitoba Livestock Manure Management Initiative Inc. wants to see what scientists have already discovered and consider how it might fit under Manitoba conditions

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

Tile-drained fields can remove surplus subsurface moisture improving crop-growing conditions, but there's also a risk after manure is applied that nutrients and pathogens could leave the field in that water.

The Manitoba Livestock Manure Management Initiative Inc. (MLMMI) wants to find out what scientists already know about mitigating nutrient losses in fields with controlled tile drainage. To that end it's "inviting qualified individuals, partnerships, companies, and research organizations to submit an application to conduct a literature review in the area of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for the Application of Manure on Tile-Drained Lands."

The relationship between tile drainage and nutrient loss has been widely studied, manager of the MLMMI, John Carney, said in an interview Dec. 9, but not necessarily in Manitoba.

"With our climate and soil, our reality here is different than in other jurisdictions," Carney said. "That's one of the values of having an organization like ours — we're Manitoba-centric."

"So we're keen to learn best practices and hear what's working in other areas, but we've always got to pass it through the Manitoba filter to see if it's practical or appropriate for our conditions. That's our starting point."

The successful applicant will complete the literature review by May 2016. The review may trigger further research in Manitoba, but not automatically, Carney said.

"First of all we want to find out what the established baseline science out there has discovered and what we can learn or use from work that has already been done, and frankly paid for in other areas, because there is no point reinventing the wheel," he said.

After the MLMMI did a litera-



FILE PHOTO

ture review on manure processing technology, it followed up by evaluating the technology under Manitoba conditions, Carney said.

"I believe it's important that science informs our direction and the policies that we come up with and the procedures we put in place and that's why work like this is valuable," he said. "Science has a major role to play in these questions and that's why organizations like ours exist — to go there and learn and bring that science together."

Under conventional tile drainage, water flows unencumbered, but by adding a control structure the farmer can adjust or even stop water from leaving the field.

Managing controlled tile drainage can cut the annual average nitrogen load coming from fields in Ohio in half, according to research done by Ohio State University. While controlling the

water that comes from a tile-drained field doesn't reduce the concentration of nitrogen in the water, it can significantly reduce the nutrient load, Ohio State extension agricultural engineer Larry Brown said in a webinar April 17. Holding water back during dry times in the growing season can also boost yields, Brown said.

MLMMI says applications to do the literature review should address the following questions and objectives, with specific reference to how these findings are relevant to Manitoba conditions:

- Detail the factors to consider when determining if subsurface drainage is beneficial.
- Review and summarize research on nutrient and pathogen transport from tile-drained lands to waters. Comparing nutrient and pathogen transport from non-tiled

"With our climate and soil, our reality here is different than in other jurisdictions."

JOHN CARNEY

land and tiled land amended with manures would be particularly valued.

- Describe the structures, methods and approaches currently used in controlled drainage systems and their suitability under Manitoba conditions.
- Summarize operating best management practices (BMPs) that decrease the risk of nutrient and pathogen transport to water that can occur with subsurface drainage systems.
- Summarize system maintenance BMPs that decrease the risk of nutrient and pathogen transport to water that can occur with subsurface drainage systems.
- Outline any research gaps and recommendations future research and development needs/priorities in the use of tile drainage in Manitoba.
- Approved applicants must assist MLMMI communicate project findings to the industry and public and describe how in their application.
- Preferred applicants will have significant knowledge and experience in nutrient planning and manure application in Manitoba and have a soil science or an engineering background.

Although the deadline to apply is 10 a.m. CST Jan. 5, 2016, interested applicants should contact MLMMI executive director John Carney before Dec. 23, 2015 at (204) 945-2122, or john.carney@gov.mb.ca if they have questions.

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Phosphorus recovery can complement source reduction

Globally, it's estimated that one-third of all phosphorus applied is lost to water due to erosion, leaching and run-off

BY JULIENNE ISAACS
Co-operator contributor

Manitoba engineer says phosphorus (P) recovery methods can be an important addition to the province's phosphorus management strategies.

Francesco Zurzolo, an engineer specializing in nutrient management and reduction with Dillon Consulting, says Manitoba is dealing with eutrophication and destruction of important ecosystems due to P buildup. Zurzolo spoke at the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association's (MEIA) annual Emerging Issues conference in Winnipeg on November 19.

"The basic question is, where is this phosphorus coming from and what can be done about it?" he asked.

Lake Winnipeg carries a P load annually of 7,655 tonnes, with the Red River its biggest "loading factor," contributing 68 per cent of the annual total load, said Zurzolo. At least 80 per cent of the non-point source load — or pollution discharged from a wide land area rather than a specific location — is run-off from agricultural soils.

"Globally, it's estimated that one-third of all P applied to land is lost to water due to erosion, leaching and run-off," said Zurzolo, citing a 2009 study.

In Manitoba, the recent surge of nutrients, especially P, to Lake Winnipeg is due to the flooding cycle of the last decade, with P moving as a particulate and dissolving in flooding events, he explained.

Management

Manitoba's Water Quality Standards cap P at one miligram per litre. In addition, producers must follow P application rates for fertilizer and manure,



FILE PHOTO

and are required by Manitoba Conservation to test soils prior to manure application.

Zurzolo said source reduction is the best method for reducing P loading. "The best technique is to avoid applying too much phosphorus to soils in the first place," he said.

Zurzolo said one way to address diffuse sources of P run-off, such as cattle operations, is source reduction. This can be achieved by reducing the amount of excess P on soils.

One method involves manure treatment through dewatering, drying, composting or direct P recovery through struvite removal.

Another technique is sedimentation, or particulate P recovery. Sedimentation involves the use of stilling basins along drainage routes to allow par-

ticle settling, followed by occasional dredging for particle recovery.

This method can sometimes require the use of land area currently used for crop production, said Zurzolo. "But the loss of a small amount of land to crop production is a small price to pay for the health of our freshwater ecosystems. These structures have been found to reduce flooding and they're good for drought years," he said, pointing to the success of the Tobacco Creek Model Watershed.

Another method involves filtration for particulate and soluble P recovery. "Dillon has re-examined an age-old design of the "passive filter" concept which combines physical and chemical removal processes," he said.

Partnering with the East Interlake Conservation District, which offers programs and funds for projects that improve the health of Interlake watersheds, the company has developed a project on one cattle operation to help a farmer utilize a detention basin to remove organics and particulates through a filtration system.

"It's a low-cost solution and very robust," said Zurzolo. "These are the kinds of solutions we need to start looking at around the province."

"We need to combine source reduction and run-off management to come up with a proper solution," Zurzolo concluded. "The concern I want to leave with you is that right now the big money is being spent on point sources, but we need to increase funding to look at diffuse sources of phosphorus reduction and recovery. We need to incorporate P recovery considerations for all projects. Reducing the need for P imports will contribute to a healthier lake."

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Weirdly warm weather hasn't hurt winter wheat

The crop is dormant and winter hardy, says MAFRD's Pam de Rocquigny

BY ALLAN DAWSON
Co-operator staff

Manitoba's winter wheat crop is just fine despite an unusually warm fall and a lack of snow in many parts of agro-Manitoba, says Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development cereal specialist Pam de Rocquigny.

"It's obviously warm, but it's not warm enough to break dormancy, so now the (winter wheat) plant is at its most winter hardy," de Rocquigny said in an interview Dec. 8. "Even though we have warmer-than-normal temperatures it really should not be having an impact on the crop at this point."

Dozens of maximum temperature records were shattered around Manitoba this month. In many places daytime highs were 10 C warmer than normal. In some instances overnight lows were warmer than normal daytime highs. Most fields south of Carman, Man., were snow free as of Dec. 9.

CBC reported Jim Hartry of Morden mowed his lawn in shorts and a T-shirt Dec. 4. Morden hit 14° that day. In all, 23 record highs were set across Manitoba Dec. 4, said CBC meteorologist John Sauder.

De Rocquigny has been getting some calls from farmers wondering about the state of their winter wheat. But she said those calls come in this time of year no matter what the weather.

"Winter wheat is doing what it's supposed to be doing this time of year and that's being dormant," she said. "We've had a really great fall for the plants to get that winter hardiness. We've had a nice open fall and a decline in those temperatures so that has been good as well. And the crop went into the fall in that perfect growth stage that we like to see. I think there are a lot of pluses going for it right now so we'll remain positive."

"It's obviously warm, but it's not warm enough to break dormancy, so now the (winter wheat) plant is at its most winter hardy."

PAM DE ROCQUIGNY
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development cereal specialist

Ideally winter wheat should go into dormancy with three leaves to one tiller.

The leaves won't survive winter; what's critical is that the root crown does. A good layer of snow helps insulate the crown, protecting it from freezing to death.

Winter wheat is probably more susceptible to winterkill nearer spring as it prepares to start coming out of dormancy. If there hasn't been much snow, or it has melted or blown away, the crown is more vulnerable to cold temperatures.

The November Statistics Canada report estimates

Manitoba farmers planted 240,000 acres of winter wheat. De Rocquigny suspects that might be high. Last year Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation reported 160,000 acres of insured winter wheat.

"I don't think we're going to see a huge jump in acres from last year," she said.

"I think we're seeing interest in these higher-yielding spring wheat varieties as opposed to some of our winter wheats. We'll see what happens. My guess would be 175,000 to 200,000 acres."

allan@fbcpublishing.com



Manitoba's winter wheat crop is fine so far, despite weirdly warm temperatures this fall, says Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development cereal specialist Pam de Rocquigny. FILE PHOTO

Advertorial

Why Inoculate or Dual Inoculate?

- Effective nodulation is essential for nitrogen fixation, particularly in soils where soybeans have not been planted recently
- Dual (or double) inoculation can help quickly establish high populations of rhizobia bacteria to ensure optimal nodulation and soybean performance



Enhanced root growth.

Dual Inoculation

Land that has been through less than ideal growing conditions, or has not had soybeans for a few years, requires special attention when it comes to inoculation. Dual inoculation can help quickly establish high populations of rhizobia bacteria to help ensure the best possible nodulation and soybean performance. Land with a history of longer soybean rotations, or land with a history of flooding or longer periods of drought, is not conducive to rhizobia survival. It is in these soils that farmers will benefit greatly from the application of two formulations of inoculant.



Root nodules and a dissected, pink nodule

Seed-applied inoculants tend to form nodules closer to where the seed is located (closer to the primary root); in-furrow-applied granular inoculants tend to form nodules on the secondary or lateral roots. Combining the two formulations allows for wider distribution of nodules along the whole root system.

Dual inoculation combines seed-applied inoculants with a sequential in-furrow application of a granular or liquid inoculant to quickly establish high populations of rhizobia bacteria to ensure optimal nodulation and soybean performance.

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With Optimize ST, there is no lag time for plant development waiting for the LCO signal, as it is delivered on the seed. This gives the plant more time to grow (closing the communication gap between the plant and the rhizobia). Optimize ST is applied to soybean seed by retailers.

For soybean growers with air drills and a granular applicator, TagTeam® granular is an ideal sequential product with Optimize ST. TagTeam for soybean combines the phosphate-solubilizing organism *Penicillium bilaii* and *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* in one inoculant to help address your soybean crop's phosphate and nitrogen fertility needs. *Penicillium bilaii* provides crops access to soil and fertilizer phosphate.

For growers without a granular applicator, or a planter with a liquid kit, Cell-Tech™ liquid applied in-furrow through a liquid applicator is a good option. Cell-Tech is a single-action inoculant that contains a specially selected *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* species.

If phosphate is limited, JumpStart® inoculant, containing *Penicillium bilaii*, can be seed-applied along with Optimize ST by your retail, and Cell-Tech liquid or granular applied sequentially in-furrow. JumpStart increases phosphate availability for better use of phosphate and higher yield potential.

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CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

Norfolk builds retention ponds to aid watershed management

Members of the municipality of Norfolk council say their partnerships are win-win

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
Co-operator staff/ Brandon

A solid relationship between the municipal council and the local conservation district has benefited both in the RM of Norfolk, local officials say.

“There are a lot of drains in our municipality that the conservation district looks after, so that is huge for us,” said Bill Wieler, a councillor with the municipality. “We have always had a good relationship. It is a good fit and only makes sense to work with it in order to stretch both our dollars.”

The RM has been a solid partner to the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District (WWCD) for a number of years and earned the district’s conservation award in 2014.

“Specifically, the retention pond projects that we have partnered on are very helpful, for downstream as well as helping to rejuvenate the aquifer. It is really a win-win for everyone involved,” said Wieler.

The RM partnered with WWCD last year to construct three water retention ponds along the Manitoba Escarpment on Rat and Squirrel creek.

The RM offered support in terms of participating in land-owner meetings and negotiations but also assisted in the construction process.

“The water usually comes fairly fast so these retention ponds will allow us to hold on to some of the water and control it a little bit better,” said

“Water, flooding and water retention is a big issue and by being actively involved in this we hope to raise some awareness and get others aware of the work that has and is being done so that we can get more participation in other areas of the province. When we hold the water back everyone wins.”

NEIL CHRISTOFFERSEN
mayor of the municipality of Norfolk

Wieler. “We usually do a lot of the dirt work during construction for the WWCD because we have a lot of the equipment that is needed.”

The municipality was specifically recognized by the conservation district because of its willingness to collaborate, something mayor, Neil Christoffersen, hopes will be recognized by other municipalities and encourage similar partnerships.

“Water, flooding and water retention is a big issue and by being actively involved in this we hope to raise some awareness and get others aware of the work that has and is being done so that we can get more



Mayor of the municipality of Norfolk, Neil Christoffersen (l) and councillor, Bill Wieler (r), see value in having a strong partnership with their conservation district. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

participation in other areas of the province. When we hold the water back everyone wins,” said Christoffersen.

Two of the three projects that were constructed last year are located side by side on two tributaries of Rat Creek and, once operational, will hold approximately 10 to 15 acre-feet of water each.

The third retention pond is located along Squirrel Creek and has the capacity to hold approximately 30 acre-feet of water.

“The retention ponds that we installed last year have been left to sit and pack down, so this year will be the first year that they will be holding water,” said Christoffersen.

Along with creating the retention ponds, the RM and WWCD also upgraded existing culverts and installed new culverts with gates in order to drain them following spring run-off.

“By population we are one of the largest watersheds in Manitoba and ours is a true watershed. So, everything that

runs through here ends up in the Whitemud River and eventually in Lake Manitoba,” said Wieler.

By lowering water levels through the winter with the use of gated culverts, the retention ponds are able to capture more water during the spring run-off. This creates a number of benefits downstream, including slowing water flow and reducing the transfer of nutrients.

jennifer.paige@fbcpublishing.com

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A full agenda and registration information is available at www.forageseed.net or contact MFSA @ 204-376-3309. Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11 at 8:00 am, Breakfast Buffet

BRIEFS

Australia wheat regains market share

SINGAPORE / REUTERS / Australian wheat is making a comeback in Asia, with buyers in the region locking in supplies for early 2016, as prices have dropped below that of cargoes from the United States and Canada.

“Australia is one of the cheapest origins right now, we have seen buyers switch back to Australian wheat,” said a manager at an international trading company in Singapore. “If you look at the value it is even cheaper than Black Sea cargoes.”

Australian wheat producers had been losing market share in Asia to rivals from Black Sea.

To spur farmer selling, Prairie oat prices move higher

Processors hope to coax better-quality oats into the marketplace

BY JADE MARKUS
CNS Canada

Prairie oat prices are ticking upward as buyers try to coax farmers into a slow market — but prices, most notably in Saskatchewan, may need to move further before that happens.

“Prices are below expectations, and in some instances quality is below what the market is willing to accept at this point,” said Ryan McKnight, grain merchandising manager for Linear Grain.

He said most quality issues stem from northern Saskatchewan where producers are seeing sprouting and groat damage, which in some cases has resulted in rejected rail cars.

“The industry needs to sort out what they can and can’t use,” McKnight said. “Some buyers have tolerances for certain amounts of that, and others don’t.”

Manitoba has seen an uptick in local farmer selling as the province has moved past psychological pricing triggers — “but not a whole lot out of Saskatchewan at this point,” McKnight said. “Oat marketing has been a little slower than we would like.”

Delivered elevator oat prices fall between \$2.37 and \$2.67 in Saskatchewan, \$2.87 and \$3.10 in Manitoba, and \$2.70 and \$3.16 in Alberta, according to Prairie Ag Hotwire.

“We’re a little way away from what producers would like at this point,” McKnight said.

Slower-than-expected movement out of Western Canada has also been reflected in stronger Minneapolis basis prices, said Randy Strychar, a Vancouver oat market analyst at Ag Commodity Research.

The March Minneapolis basis level for oats is between 10 to 55 cents above the futures, according to USDA.

“It’s resulting in higher prices across Western Canada, because as you move the basis levels up higher, it pushes the flat prices up higher,” Strychar said.

Conservatives call on Liberals to move forward on TPP

But Chrystia Freeland says the deal is not yet ready to sign

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Co-operator contributor

The Trudeau government won’t be pressured by the Conservatives or business lobbies into ratifying the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal until the public has been consulted about it, says Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland.

She told Conservative trade critic Gerry Ritz in the Commons that the deal is not even open yet for ratification or a signature. A tentative agreement was reached among 12 countries during the Oct. 19 election campaign.

Trade experts have said the TPP deal, which hinges on U.S. congressional approval, likely won’t have to be approved until 2017.

The Liberal government supports free trade, Freeland said. “We understand that on a deal this big, it is essential to consult Canadians and have a full parliamentary

debate.” The Liberals have yet to indicate how they plan to consult the public.

Ritz worked on the TPP negotiations as agriculture minister in the former government. He has called on Freeland “to stop stalling and sign the deal.” He has also criticized her for saying it’s not her job to promote the TPP deal.

Jacques Gourde, the Conservatives deputy agriculture critic, challenged Freeland to support a Conservative promise to compensate dairy and poultry farmers for economic losses the TPP might cause.

She replied that the Trudeau government is “committed to ensuring full transparency and having a full debate in Parliament. We will stand up for Canadian farmers.” She and Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay have personally assured farmers on trade issues.

Gourde accused the Liberals of “ignoring the problems facing farmers. The speech from the throne did not contain a single word, let alone a paragraph, about agricul-

ture. The Liberals have banned the words agriculture, farmer and agri-food from their vocabulary.”

Freeland noted that MacAulay is a former potato farmer while her parents and grandparents were ranchers in Peace River, Alberta. “We are on the side of Canada’s producers. We are in their corner.”

Freeland heated up the TPP debate during a presentation on the trade deal during one of the seemingly endless string of academic and business discussions about it in Ottawa.

At that point, she said it was not her job to promote the deal, which basically is what the Liberals said during the election campaign.

Ritz accused Freeland of “showing an alarming lack of urgency to support Canadian business by ratifying the milestone TPP.”

“An extended period of Liberal navel-gazing over the TPP, or over whether they support free trade at all, will do nothing to help the Canadian economy,” Ritz said.

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World climate accord hailed as turning point from fossil fuels

The new text is ambitious and balanced, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius says

BY ALISTER DOYLE AND BARBARA LEWIS
Paris / Reuters

The global climate summit in Paris forged a landmark agreement Dec. 12, setting the course for a historic transformation of the world's fossil fuel-driven economy within decades in a bid to arrest global warming.

After four years of fraught U.N. talks often pitting the interests of rich nations against poor, imperiled island states against rising economic powerhouses, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius declared the pact adopted, to the standing applause and whistles of delegates from almost 200 nations.

"With a small hammer you can achieve great things," Fabius said as he gavelled the agreement, capping two weeks of tense negotiations at the summit on the outskirts of the French capital.

A first

Hailed as the first truly global climate deal, committing both rich and poor nations to reining in rising emissions blamed for warming the planet, it sets out a sweeping, long-term goal of eliminating net man-made greenhouse gas output this century.

"It is a victory for all of the planet and for future generations," said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who led the U.S. negotiations in Paris.

"We have set a course here. The world has come together around an agreement that will empower us to chart a new path for our planet, a smart and responsible path, a sustainable path."

It also creates a system to encourage nations to step up voluntary domestic efforts to curb emissions, and provides billions more dollars to help poor nations cope with the transition to a greener economy powered by renewable energy.

Calling it "ambitious and balanced," Fabius said the accord would mark a "historic turning point" in efforts to avert the potentially disastrous consequences of an overheated planet.

The final agreement included a more ambitious objective of restraining the rise in temperatures to "well below" 2 C above pre-industrial levels, a mark scientists fear could be a tipping point for the climate. Until now the line was drawn only at 2 C.

In some ways, its success was assured before the summit began: 187 nations have submitted detailed national plans for how they will contain the rise in greenhouse gas emissions, commitments that are the core of the Paris deal.



A woman walks past a map showing the elevation of the sea in the last 22 years during the World Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) at Le Bourget, near Paris December 11, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS/STEPHANE MAHE

While leaving each country to pursue those measures on its own, the agreement finally sets a common vision and course of action after years of bickering over how to move forward.

"This agreement establishes a clear path to decarbonize the global economy within the lifetimes of many people alive today," said Paul Polman, the CEO of consumer goods maker Unilever and a leading advocate for sustainable business practices. Polman said it will "drive real change in the real economy."

Turning point

Many of the estimated 30,000 officials, academics and campaigners who set up camp on the outskirts of Paris say they see it as a long-overdue turning point.

Six years after the previous climate summit in Copenhagen ended in failure and acrimony, the Paris pact appears to have rebuilt much of the trust required for a concerted global effort to combat climate change, delegates said.

"Whereas we left Copenhagen scared of what comes next, we'll leave Paris inspired to keep fighting," said David Turnbull of Oil Change International, a research and advocacy organization opposed to fossil fuel production.

Most climate activists reacted positively, encouraged by long-term targets that were more ambitious than they expected, while warning it was only the first step of many.

Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the last

major climate deal reached in 1997, the Paris pact will also not be a fully legally binding treaty, something that would almost certainly fail to pass the U.S. Congress.

In a win for vulnerable low-lying nations who had portrayed the summit as the last chance to avoid the existential threat of rising seas, nations would "pursue efforts" to limit the rise in temperatures to 1.5 C (2.7 F), as they had hoped.

Road map

While scientists say pledges thus far could see global temperatures rise by as much as 3.7 C (6.7 F), the agreement also lays out a road map for checking up on progress. The first "stocktake" would occur in 2023, with further reviews every five years to steadily increase or "ratchet up" those measures.

And for the first time, the world has agreed on a longer-term aspiration for reaching a peak in greenhouse emissions "as soon as possible" and achieving a balance between output of man-made greenhouse gases and absorption — by forests or the oceans — by the second half of this century.

It also requires rich nations to maintain a \$100-billion-a-year funding pledge beyond 2020, and use that figure as a "floor" for further support agreed by 2025, providing greater financial security to developing nations as they wean themselves away from coal-fired power.

Diesel prices remain high across Prairies

Lower crude oil values aren't reflected in diesel costs in West

BY DAVE SIMS
CNS Canada

While the price of crude oil continues to decline across North American markets, diesel remains stubbornly high in Western Canada.

Prices are equal to gasoline, or in some cases, exceeding them by as much as 10 cents in some Saskatchewan and Manitoba locations.

"Diesel production in the West has been crimped by months of turnaround issues and heavy focus on gasoline," said Dan McTeague of GasBuddy.com.

Some of the distribution problems diesel encountered in 2015 included a leaking Enbridge pipeline in Alberta as well as a broken crude distillation unit at Whiting, Indiana, which carries 413,000 barrels of crude a day.

"In Western Canada, refineries have not produced as much as expected and this is the time of year prices go up" traditionally, McTeague said.

According to McTeague, the price of low-sulphur diesel in the U.S. is now around US\$1.35-\$1.40 a gallon.

"When you convert that, it's just a little bit under what we've been seeing for Canadian diesel prices... so there is a regional problem with diesel production, unless you're on the East Coast," he said.

Currencies' rises and falls will continue to impact price, said McTeague.

"It's important to note that all of our energy is priced in U.S. dollars, so we've seen prices remain significantly higher than one would expect, given where crude is at."

Canada's weakened currency doesn't mean we get the same advantages Americans do on their production of diesel, according to McTeague.

"They're actually seeing declines in prices in ways that Canadians have not," he said.

The high-demand season traditionally runs from now until April, and McTeague said anyone buying now will run into a heavily hedged market.

Fortunately, he said, the unseasonably warm temperatures now seen across most of Western Canada should help reduce the pressure on prices.

"Given El Niño, and what appears to be the emergence of warmer weather, it likely won't have the same type of shock and impact we've seen in previous years."

"In Western Canada, refineries have not produced as much as expected and this is the time of year prices go up."

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P&H plans new Hamilton bulk flour mill

The Winnipeg firm's new \$45-million dockside mill will get Ontario provincial backing

STAFF

With public funds in hand, Winnipeg agri-food firm Parrish & Heimbecker is set to build Ontario's first new flour mill in three-quarters of a century, near the company's grain terminal in Hamilton.

The Ontario government on Dec. 7 pledged a \$5-million investment from the Food and Beverage Growth Fund arm of its \$2.5-billion Jobs and Prosperity Fund for P&H's planned bulk mill. The company's P&H Milling division will invest \$40 million, the province said.

The new mill will be built on Hamilton's Pier 10, where P&H already operates a unique twin-domed grain terminal. Local media quoted company officials as saying the new facility will be up in late 2016.

The mill site will include "state-of-the-art" equipment and more grain and flour storage, the province said.

The expansion is expected to allow P&H to process 25 per cent more grain and boost its annual intake of Ontario wheat by more than 10 per cent, the province added.

P&H is already Ontario's biggest flour miller and Canada's second biggest, with Ontario mills at Cambridge, Acton and Hanover, plus mills at Montreal, Halifax, Lethbridge and Saskatoon.

The privately held grain firm has been in flour milling since 1964, when it bought Hanover's Knechtel Milling, followed by Ellison Milling at Lethbridge in 1975, Saskatoon pulse and grain processor Parrheim Foods in 1989 and Hayhoe Mills at Vaughan, Ont. in 2007. The Vaughan mill was lost to fire the following year.

The flour mills at Acton, Saskatoon, Montreal and Halifax came to P&H in 2009, in a \$99-million deal for the 75 per cent of Burlington, Ont.-based Dover Industries that the Winnipeg firm didn't already own.

The company's product lines include hard red spring wheat flour for breads, soft winter wheat flour for cakes and cookies, semolina for pasta, organic flour, rye flour and atta flour for chapati. The Parrheim plant at Saskatoon also mills pea fractions and barley beta-glucan.

The province said Dec. 7 a new Hamilton mill will boost P&H Milling's productivity and competitiveness, create 16 new jobs and help retain over 200 Ontario jobs.

The Food and Beverage Growth Fund, launched in January 2015, offers grants or loans covering up to 20 per cent of costs for food and beverage processing and bio-product projects. A qualifying project must have at least \$5 million in total eligible costs.

A PRAIRIE SUNRISE



The early-morning sun casts a rosy glow onto grain bins near Roseisle December 9. PHOTO: LAURA RANCE

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Cash crunch may pressure U.S. farmers to crack bins

U.S. farm incomes are expected to decline to a 13-year low

BY NIGEL HUNT
London/Reuters

Falling incomes in the U.S. will make it more challenging for farmers to hold stocks as they wait for prices to recover from current depressed levels, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief economist Robert Johansson said.

"Now (U.S.) producers are holding more stocks waiting for a better price but we've seen that farm incomes are coming down so the ability to hold that crop without selling it is somewhat limited," he told Reuters on the sidelines of a food conference at London's Chatham House.

U.S. farm incomes are expected to drop in 2015 to a 13-year low due to weaker crop and livestock prices, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said last month.

World food prices have been dragged down by a strong dollar and ample supplies. A monthly index of prices put out by the United Nations food agency earlier this month was 18 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The strength of the dollar had added to the challenge faced by U.S. producers and exporters.

"If you look at the last year and a half, the dollar has appreciated remarkably against our competitor currencies. Our grains, oilseeds and livestock producers are really getting

hammered by the high dollar value," Johansson said.

In contrast, local currencies in rival exporters such as Brazil and the European Union have been weak.

"In Brazil, producers of maize and soybeans are seeing prices (in local currency terms) that are similar to historic prices we had three or four years ago," he said.

"They have an incentive to continue increasing production. Our producers are facing a harder export environment."

USDA is always looking to improve the accuracy of its forecasts, he said, though he saw little immediate role for devices such as combine-mounted yield monitors.

"I have a couple of projects out there looking to see how that could affect our provision of information," he said.

"As we move forward I would imagine that data would become better. We will continue to evaluate it but right now we are pretty happy with how NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service) is doing its field surveys in the United States," Johansson said.

He also saw no major role for drones.

"Drones right now are able to detect pest outbreaks in fields so you could argue they would be very good for USDA; it is just that the coverage is too spotty," he said.

KNOCKING ON WOOD



This pileated woodpecker was spotted near Grunthal. PHOTO: HERMINA JANZ



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Monsanto-backed panel says glyphosate not carcinogenic

The herbicide's manufacturer disputes a report by the WHO's cancer research agency

BY KARL PLUME
Reuters

A panel of scientists is disputing a World Health Organization report published earlier this year that concluded glyphosate, the world's most widely used weed killer and main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, is probably carcinogenic to humans.

The 16-member panel, assembled by Intertek Scientific and Regulatory Consultancy, was to present its findings to the annual meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis on Dec. 7, aiming to publish the study at a later date after peer review. Monsanto paid Intertek for the panel's work.

The group said the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) misinterpreted or incorrectly weighted some of the data it reviewed and ignored other data before classifying glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen, according to an abstract of its findings.

"Thus, none of the results from a very large database, using different methodologies, provides evidence of, or a potential mechanism for, human carcinogenesis," the abstract said.

The panel's assessment is similar to that of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which in November said glyphosate was not likely carcinogenic.

IARC was not immediately available for comment.

The U.S. government says the herbicide is considered safe. In 2013, Monsanto requested and received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for increased tolerance levels for glyphosate.

Critics say industry-linked scientists are downplaying the risk to human health and trying to discredit the IARC report by casting doubt on some of the scientific studies that it reviewed.

Ten of the 16 scientists on the Intertek panel have been consultants for Monsanto in the past and two others are former Monsanto employees, according to a roster published on Monsanto's website.

"IARC's goal was just to score the cancer hazard, that's it. They've looked at all the data and they have really convincing evidence," said Jennifer Sass, senior scientist with the National Resources Defense Council.

Australia blocks foreign bids for largest farm owner

Cattle producer Kidman sought to sell up to 25 million acres

**BY LINCOLN FEAST AND COLIN
PACKHAM**
Sydney/Reuters

Australia on Nov. 19 blocked the sale of the country's largest landowner, private farming group S. Kidman and Co., to foreign investors, saying an agricultural area the size of South Korea should remain in Australian hands.

Ownership of farmland is a sensitive political issue in Australia amid concerns that foreign buyers are snapping up properties to cash in on a boom in food demand from Asia.

S. Kidman and Co.'s 10 cattle stations cover more than 100,000 sq. km (25 million acres) of land spread across Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia.

“... it would be contrary to Australia’s national interest for a foreign person to acquire S. Kidman and Co. in its current form.”

SCOTT MORRISON
Australian treasurer

The privately owned company said in April it was looking to sell its cattle operations, which hold an average herd of 185,000 cattle, to raise cash for other businesses and investments.

Local media reported that two Chinese companies, Genius Link Asset and Shanghai Pengxin, were leading the race to secure S. Kidman in a deal expected to be worth about A\$350 million (C\$335 million).

S. Kidman's largest station, Anna Creek, is partly located on

the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA), a weapons testing range in South Australia.

"Given the size and significance of the total portfolio of Kidman properties along with the national security issues around access to the WPA, I have determined, after taking advice from FIRB, that it would be contrary to Australia's national interest for a foreign person to acquire S. Kidman and Co. in its current form," treasurer Scott Morrison said in a statement.

S. Kidman was not immediately available for comment.

Morrison said all bidders had now withdrawn their FIRB applications and it was up to the vendor to decide how to proceed with the sale of the business or parts of it.

Concerned it is losing control of its food security, Australia in February slashed the amount beyond which land purchases would require regulatory approval and said a registry of foreign landownership would be set up.

From March 1, foreign purchases of agricultural land over A\$15 million (C\$14.3 million) are subject to regulatory approval from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

In 2013, Australia rejected a takeover of grain handler GrainCorp by U.S. giant Archer Daniels Midland.



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Classification
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AUTO & TRANSPORT – Auto Service & Repairs – Auto & Truck Parts – Autos – Trucks – Semi Trucks & Trailers – Sport Utilities – Vans – Vehicles Various – Vehicles Wanted	FARM MACHINERY – Aeration – Conveyors – Equipment Monitors					Recycling Refrigeration Restaurant Supplies Sausage Equipment Sawmills Scales	CAREERS – Career Training – Child Care – Construction – Domestic Services – Farm/Ranch – Forestry/Log – Health Care – Help Wanted – Management – Mining – Oil Field – Professional – Resume Services – Sales/Marketing – Trades/Tech – Truck Drivers – Employment Wanted
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Belting Biodiesel Equipment Books & Magazines							



Manitoba Co-OPERATOR Classified Ad Order Form

MAIL TO:
Manitoba Co-operator,
Box 9800, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3K7

FAX TO:
204-954-1422

PHONE IN: TOLL FREE IN CANADA:
1-800-782-0794
Or **(204) 954-1415** in Winnipeg

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Even if you do not want your name & address to appear in your ad, we need the information for our files.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD BELOW:

Classification: _____ ☐ *I would like to take advantage of the Prepayment Bonus of 2 FREE weeks when I prepay for 3 weeks.*

No. of words _____ x \$0.45 x No. of weeks _____ = _____

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Card No. _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Minimum charge \$11.25 per week

Minus 10% if prepaying: _____

Add 5% GST: _____

► TOTAL: _____

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
NOON on THURSDAYS
(unless otherwise stated)

ADVERTISING RATES & INFORMATION

REGULAR CLASSIFIED

- **Minimum charge — \$11.25 per week** for first 25 words or less and an additional 45 cents per word for every word over 25. Additional bolding 75 cents per word. GST is extra.
- **10% discount for prepaid ads.** If phoning in your ad you must pay with VISA or MasterCard to qualify for discount.
- Prepayment Bonus: **Prepay for 3 weeks & get a bonus of 2 weeks;** bonus weeks run consecutively & cannot be used separately from original ad; additions & changes accepted only during first 3 weeks.
- Ask about our Priority Placement.
- If you wish to have replies sent to a confidential box number, please add \$5.00 per week to your total. Count eight words for your address. Example: Ad XXXX, Manitoba Co-operator, Box 9800, Winnipeg, R3C 3K7.
- Your complete name and address must be submitted to our office before publication. (This information will be kept confidential and will not appear in the ad unless requested.)

DISPLAY CLASSIFIED

- Advertising copy deviating in any way from the regular classified style will be considered display and charged at the display rate of \$32.20 per column inch (\$2.30 per agate line).
- **Minimum charge \$32.20 per week + \$5.00 for online per week.**
- Illustrations and logos are allowed with full border.
- **Spot color: 25% of ad cost, with a minimum charge of \$15.00.**
- Advertising rates are flat with no discount for frequency of insertion or volume of space used.
- Telephone orders accepted
- Price quoted does not include GST.

All classified ads are non-commissionable.

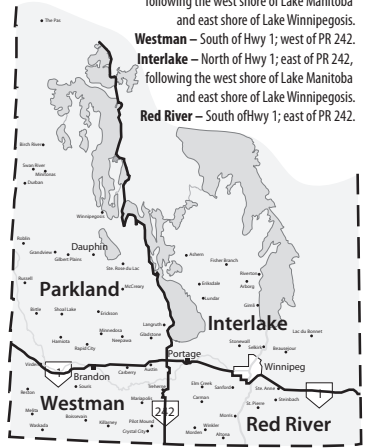
AUCTION DISTRICTS

Parkland – North of Hwy 1; west of PR 242, following the west shore of Lake Manitoba and east shore of Lake Winnipegosis.

Westman – South of Hwy 1; west of PR 242.

Interlake – North of Hwy 1; east of PR 242, following the west shore of Lake Manitoba and east shore of Lake Winnipegosis.

Red River – South of Hwy 1; east of PR 242.



AUCTION SALES

AUCTION SALES
Manitoba Auctions – Interlake

McSherry Auction Service Ltd.

We would like to Thank all our Auction Friends of 2015. We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

All the Best in The New Year & Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

AUTO & TRANSPORT

AUTO & TRANSPORT
Trucks

DODGE 2006 DIESEL 2500, transmission needs repairs, 330,000-kms, new injectors 270,000-kms. gooseneck hitch, \$8,500. Phone (204)248-2110.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

BUSINESS SERVICES
Crop Consulting

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We also specialize in: agricultural complaints of any nature; Crop ins. appeals; Spray drift; Chemical failure; Residual herbicide; Custom operator issues; Equip. malfunctions. Licensed Agrologist on Staff. For assistance and compensation call **BACK-TRACK INVESTIGATIONS** 1-866-882-4779. www.backtrackcanada.com

BUILDING & RENOVATIONS

Doors & Windows

CONTRACTING

Custom Work

CUSTOM ROUND BALE HAULING long haul, short haul, in MB, SK, AB. 2, 53-ft. deck trailers. Call or text for arrangements (204)851-2983.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

2003 D-6-RXW SINGLE SHANK ripper. 28-in pads, A/C, Cab, diff steering, \$85,000; 2000 D-6-R LGP 16-ft 8-in dozer, cab, A/C, bush canopy, diff steering, winch, very clean, \$85,000; 2007 D-6-N LGP crawler w/6-way dozer, A/C, cab, canopy, diff steering, ripper, extra clean, \$96,000. 2004 D-6-N LGP crawler, 6-way dozer, A/C, cab, diff steering, Allied W6D winch, \$86,000; 2008 CAT D-6-N LGP crawler tractor, 6-way dozer, A/C, cab, canopy, diff steering, cargo winch, \$110,000. Phone:(204)871-0925.

6 QUICK ATTACH EXCAVATOR buckets, some trenching & clean-up buckets, plus 6 excavator rippers, some Cat's & WBM's. (204)871-0925, MacGregor MB.

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FARM MACHINERY
Grain Vacuums

CURT'S GRAIN VAC SERVICES, parts & repair for all makes & models. Craik SK, (306)734-2228.

FARM MACHINERY

Parts & Accessories

GOODS USED TRACTOR PARTS: (204)564-2528 or 1-877-564-8734, Roblin, MB.

MURPHY SALVAGE New & used parts for tractors, combines, swathers, square & round balers, tillage, press drills & other misc machinery. MURPHY SALVAGE (204)858-2727 or toll free 1-877-858-2728.

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1-800-667-3095 • Manitoba

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AUCTION SALES

Manitoba Auctions – Parkland

FARM MACHINERY

Parts & Accessories

NEW & USED TRACTOR PARTS

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Large Inventory of new and remanufactured parts

DOUBLE "R" FARM EQUIPMENT CO

STEINBACH, MB.
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Toll-Free 1-800-881-7727
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E-mail: roy@farmparts.ca

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Over 2700 Units for Salvage

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Monday-Friday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WATROUS SALVAGE
WATROUS, SK.
Fax: 306-946-2444

FARM MACHINERY

Snowblowers/Plows

FOR SALE: 2012 SNOWBLAST Model 10800A 3-PT snowblower. VGC, all options, 12-ft+ wide, green/yellow. Wide enough to cover the duals on your tractor. \$25,000 OBO. (701)389-1042, (204)649-2276, Pierson MB.

FARM MACHINERY

Machinery Miscellaneous

16-FT JOHN DEERE TANDEM disc model #310, \$8,000 OBO; JOHN DEERE D TRACTOR, styled and on rubber, \$5,000 OBO; GALLAND INDUSTRIAL ROAD GRADER, \$6,000 OBO. Phone (204)526-2719, call or text (204)794-8550.

1999 GMC T8500 DSL tow truck, 20-ft tilt & wheel lift, \$14,500; 1977 IHC 1700 SER w/Tyler fertilizer spreader \$4,000; MF 2675, cab, dsl, w/Degelman dozer, A1; Sewer pump & tank for a truck; Ford Major dsl loader, snowblade, 3pth & bale spear. 1960 Edsel for re-building; Field Marshall & Bull Dog tractors, running. Phone:(306)236-8023.

2004 F-150 FORD 1/2-TON, 5.4 Titan auto, 4x4, Super-cab, new safety, 143,000-kms, Asking \$6,000; Cockshutt 40 tractor w/mounted post pounder, good condition, Asking \$2,750; 24-ft C-can container, Asking \$3,000 OBO. Phone:(204)728-1861.

NEW GRAVITY WAGONS 400B, \$7400; 600B, \$12,500; 750B, \$18,250. Large selection used wagons; 250-750 Bushel used grain carts, 475-1050 Bushel; PTO & Hydraulic drive Grainvacs: Brandt #4000, \$8000; #4500, \$8500; REM 2500 HD, \$9500; Weigh wagon, \$3500; Valmar #2420, \$3000; #3255, \$3500; #1620, #1655; Wishek discs: #842 14-ft, \$25,000; #742 30-ft, \$33,000; #842 30-ft, \$40,000; Land levellers 10-ft, \$2450. Phone (204)857-8403.

COMBINES

COMBINES
Accessories

2012 JD 635, 35-FT Hydra Flex, \$32,900; 2011 JD 635, 35-ft Hydra flex, \$29,900; 2007 JD 635, 35-ft Hydra Flex, \$22,900; 2005 JD 630, 30-ft Hydra Flex, \$18,900; (2)2002 JD 930 F, 30-ft Flex, F/F auger, \$17,500; 2000 JD 930 F, 30-ft Flex, F/F auger, \$14,900; 1997 JD flex, 30-ft, \$15,900; 1994 JD 930 Flex, 30-ft, \$7,900; 1996 JD 925 Flex, 25-ft, \$14,900; 1994 JD 925 Flex 25-ft, \$7,900.Reimer Farm Equipment Ltd. #12 Hwy, Steinbach, MB. Please Call Gary: (204)326-7000.

AUCTION SALES

Manitoba Auctions – Parkland

COMBINES

Accessories

2008 NH 88C FLEX Draper, 42-ft, PU reel, poly skids, gauge wheels, reconditioned mint, \$37,900; 1998 NH 973 Flex, 25-ft, \$15,900; 1996 NH 973 Flex, 30-ft, \$17,900; 2010 CIH 2020 Flex, 35-ft, gone thru shop, \$25,900; 2008 CIH 2020 Flex, 30-ft, reconditioned, \$23,500; 2006 CIH 2020 Flex, 30-ft, \$16,900. All 2020 CIH heads also fit NH combines. 1996 CIH 1020 Flex, 25-ft & 30-ft, reconditioned, \$14,900; 2001 CIH 1020 Flex, 30-ft, reconditioned, \$16,900; 1996 Agco Gleaner 500 Flex 25-ft, reconditioned, \$14,900, 2000 Agco Gleaner 8000 Flex, 30-ft, reconditioned, \$23,900; 2008 Agco Gleaner 8200 Flex 35-ft, F/F auger, \$27,900; 2010 Agco MF 8200 Flex, 35-ft, F/F auger, reconditioned, \$27,900. Free delivery included to AB, SK, MB if purchased by Dec. 31, 2015. Reimer Farm Equipment Ltd. #12 Hwy, Steinbach, MB. Please call Gary:(204)326-7000.

FLEX PLATFORMS W/AIR REEL/AIR BAR. 2010 CIH 2020 Air Reel, 35-ft, Single point, \$18,500 USD or \$29,500 CAD. Also fits NH combine; 2002 CIH 1020 Air Reel, 25-ft, \$15,800 USD or \$23,900 CAD; 1997 CIH 1020 Air Reel, 30-ft, \$12,900 USD or \$18,900 CAD; 2003 NH 74C 30-ft, Single Point, Clipped PU teeth, \$11,500 USD or \$17,500 CAD; 2000 Agco Gleaner 800 Air Reel, 30-ft, \$14,500 USD or \$23,900 CAD; 2004 JD 635 Air Bar, 35-ft, Single Point, \$16,500 or \$22,500 CAD. 1998 JD 930 Air Reel, 30-ft, \$12,500 USD or \$18,900 CAD. Delivery included free of charge to AB, SK, MB if purchased by Dec. 31, 2015. All above platforms are field ready condition & most are reconditioned w/new PU teeth, new sickle, new poly skids, totally gone thru shop w/field ready guarantee. Reimer Farm Equipment Ltd. #12 Hwy, Steinbach, MB Please call Gary: (204)326-7000.



HEADER TRAILERS & ACCESSORIES.
Arc-Fab Industries. 204-355-9595
charles@arcfab.ca www.arcfab.ca

TILLAGE & SEEDING

TILLAGE & SEEDING

Seeding Various

CERTIFIED CONVENTIONAL CM440 GRAZING CORN. Early maturing, leafier for increased grazing yield. No planter required. Swath or stand graze cattle, sheep, bison & for wildlife food plots. Early booking discounts til Dec. 31. CanaMaize Seed Inc., 1-877-262-4046, www.canamaize.com

JD 7200 8RN, VACUUM planter, needs reconditioning, w/o fertilizer, \$7,900; JD 7200 8RN, vacuum planter, liquid fertilizer, pull type, field ready, \$16,900; JD 7200 Folding 12 RN, vacuum planter, w/o fertilizer, reconditioned, \$18,900. Call me for any of your planter needs as more planters are arriving & my supplier has all sizes, models & makes available. Delivery available. Reimer Farm Equipment Ltd. #12 Hwy, Steinbach, MB. Please Call Gary:(204)326-7000.

TILLAGE & SEEDING

Tillage Various

JD PLANTER MODEL 1280 8 row 30-in. row fertilizer box, corn plates, \$1,200; NH Mixmill Model 358, 540 RPM, bale feeder, 20-ft. unloading auger, \$4,000. Both stored inside. (204)838-2397

TRACTORS

TRACTORS
Case /IH

FOR SALE: VA CASE 1949, pully, PTO, good rubber, good running condition. Phone (204)641-0204, Arborg MB.

AUCTION SALES

Manitoba Auctions – Parkland

Happy Holidays!



Brad Goossen
Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager
Eastern Manitoba
204.781.2336 | bgoossen@rbauction.com



Steven Perrin
Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager
Western Manitoba
204.573.0993 | sperrin@rbauction.com

We would like to take this time to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and continued success in the New Year !



rb RITCHIE BROS.
Auctioneers
Spring 2016
Agricultural Auction Guide

rb RITCHIE BROS.
Auctioneers™

AUCTIONS DONE RIGHT.™

TRACTORS
John Deere

FOR SALE: JD 2750 MFWD, CAH, 3-pt, 2 hyd's, w/245 loader; JD 2950 2WD, CAH, 3-pt, 2 hyd's; 2 JD 4050 MFWD, 3-pt, PS, w/o loaders; JD 4640 Quad, 3 hyd's; JD 6420 MFWD, 3-pt, PQ w/LHR, 2,900-hrs; JD 7410 MFWD, 3-pt, 3-hyd's, PQ w/LHR, w/740 loader; JD 7610 MFWD, 3-pt, PQ w/LHR, w/740 FEL; JD 7700 MFWD, 3-pt, PQ, fact. duals, w/740 FEL, grapple. All tractors can be sold with new or used loaders. Now a Husqvarna dealer, with a full line of Husqvarna Equipment. Mitch's Tractor Sales Ltd. St. Claude, MB. Phone: (204)750-2459 (cell) Mitchstractorsales.com

Manitoba Co-OPERATOR



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ADVERTISING DOLLAR!

TRACTORS
2-Wheel Drive

STEVE'S TRACTOR REBUILDER specializing in JD tractors in need of repair or burnt, or will buy for parts. JD parts available. Phone: 204-466-2927 or cell: 204-871-5170, Austin.

TRACTORS
Various

276 FORD BI-DIRECTIONAL 3-PTH & PTO on both ends, 20-hrs on new engine, new tires, \$28,000. Phone (204)625-5225, (204)625-2702.

FOR SALE: 1370 WHITE tractor (Fiat), 65-hp, FWA, 3-pth, White FEL & home built grapple, & 9-ft blade.\$8,500. Phone:(204)546-2299.

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FREE STANDING CORRAL PANELS, Feeders & Alley ways, 30ft or order to size. Oil Field Pipe: 1.3, 1.6, 1.9, 1 7/8, 2-in, 2 3/8, 2 7/8, 3 1/2. Sucker Rod: 3/4, 7/8, 1. Casing Pipes: 4-9inch. Sold by the piece or semi load lots. For special pricing call Art (204)685-2628 or cell (204)856-3440.

LIVESTOCK

LIVESTOCK
Cattle Auctions

GRUNTHAL LIVESTOCK AUCTION MART

Hwy #205, Grunthal • (204) 434-6519

SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE OWNERS AND STAFF

GRUNTHAL, MB.
AGENT FOR T.E.A.M. MARKETING

REGULAR TUESDAY CATTLE SALES

start back up on
January 5th, 2016
at 9:00 am

For on farm appraisal of livestock
or for marketing information please call
Harold Unrau (Manager) Cell 871 0250
Auction Mart (204) 434-6519
MB, Livestock Dealer #1111

WWW.GRUNTHALLIVESTOCK.COM

TRACTORS
Various

Syd



Not many teenagers would demand to be paid what they're worth. Pay cut it is.

LIVESTOCK
Cattle – Angus

Mark your calendars for the SUNSET RIDGE RED ANGUS COMPLETE DISPERSAL, Sat., Dec. 19, 1:00PM at Heartland Livestock, Virden, MB. Selling 50 cow/calf pairs, 15 bred heifers & 2 herd bulls. Wintering program & terms available on all bull calves. For a catalogue, or more info, Contact Nancy Howatt:(204)825-8292 or T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd:(306)220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.BuyAgro.com (PL#116061).

Round up the cash! Advertise your unwanted equipment in the Manitoba Co-operator classifieds.

LIVESTOCK
Cattle – Black Angus

I WANT TO RETIRE. For Sale: small herd of 20 PB registered cows & 5 heifers. Wanted: Pasture to rent for 2016 near Shoal Lake, MB. Phone: (204)759-2412.

Advertise your unwanted equipment in the Classifieds. Call our toll-free number and place your ad with our friendly staff, and don't forget to ask about our prepayment bonus. Prepay for 3 weeks and get 2 weeks free! 1-800-782-0794.

LIVESTOCK
Cattle – Simmental

SPRING CREEK SIMMENTALS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY II FEMALE SALE will be held at the farm near Moosomin SK, Dec 22nd/15, 1:00PM. On offer will be 86 Red & Black Simmentals, Angus, & Simm/Angus cows & bred Heifers. Brian McCarthy (306)435-3590, Cell (306)435-7527.

TRACTORS
Various

LIVESTOCK
Cattle Various

80 BRED HEIFERS. Black Angus & Angus Hereford cross. Bred to calving ease Black Angus bulls. Late February, March calving. From a range calving herd. Preg check with all shots. Ph:(204)873-2525 morning or evenings.

LIVESTOCK
Cattle Wanted

TIRED OF THE HIGH COST OF MARKETING YOUR CALVES??

300-700 LBS.
Steers & Heifers
Rob: 528-3254, 724-3400
Ben: 721-3400

800-1000 LBS.
Steers & Heifers
Don: 528-3477, 729-7240

Contact:
D.J. (Don) MacDonald
Livestock Ltd.
License #1110

LIVESTOCK
Horses For Sale

BLACK QUARTER HORSE STALLION, bred mares & open mares, several saddle horses. Phone (306)435-3634

LIVESTOCK
Swine Wanted



WANTED:
BUTCHER HOGS

SOWS AND BOARS
FOR EXPORT
P. QUINTAINE & SON LTD.
728-7549
Licence No. 1123

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

2 HORSE BOBSLEIGHS, W/POLE, double tree, 3-yrs old, 2.5-in steam-bent runners; 1 pony bob-sleigh; 1 horse cutter complete w/shaft & tree. Call Leon (204)866-4141.


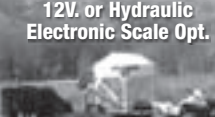
FOR SALE: IH 1150 mix mill. Good condition. Call Don:(204)422-5216.

TRACTORS
Various

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

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Jan. 19, 20
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Keystone Centre

The **Manitoba Co-operator** is presenting a great opportunity for you to feature your business, products or booth at Manitoba Ag Days in the Jan. 7th edition.

The Manitoba Ag Days Show is a winter indoor exposition of agricultural production expertise, technology, and equipment held in Brandon every January. The Show attracts exhibitors and visitors from across Canada and North Central United States and provides an annual opportunity for producers to comparison shop for everything they need for their agricultural operations.



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David Phillips sees more
climate change » PG 3

BUTTER
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Consumption up six
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NOVEMBER 9, 2015

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The new
government's
ag 'to do' list

Ralph Goodale says
improvements to grain
transportation and trade
are top priorities, but
safety nets and research
are also on the agenda

Concerns expressed
over loopholes in
farmland ownership act

REAL ESTATE
Land For Sale

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER
Completed Tenders & a \$20,000 Deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 12:00PM (noon) on January 4, 2016 (the "deadline") at:
Brown & Associates Law Office
Box 1240, 71 Main Street
Carman, Manitoba R0G 0J0
Attn: Mona Brown/Carol Roulette
Ph: (204)745-2028
Property for sale:
Any or all of:
E 1/2 of NE 1/4 23-8-3 WPM (80 acres)
Title No. 2561865/4
SW 1/4 24-8-3 WPM
Excepting Plan 1710 MLTO (150 acres)
Title No. 2561884/4
S 1/2 of S 1/2 NW 1/4 24-8-3 WPM (40 acres)
Title No. 2561883/4
(the "Land")
Located in the Rural Municipality of Grey
Conditions of Tender
1. Completed tenders, in the form prepared by Brown & Associates Law Office, must be received by the deadline to be considered. To obtain a tender form or more information, contact Brown & Associates Law Office.
2. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, money order or bank draft, payable to Brown & Associates Law Office (in trust), in the amount of \$20,000 per parcel.
3. Highest Tender or any Tender need not necessarily be accepted.
4. The Possession date & the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be the 15th day of January, 2016.
5. The deposit of \$20,000 per parcel will be forfeited if a successful Tenderer does not finalize or complete the terms of the Agreement of Purchase & Sale.
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection & knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor & agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" & the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value & condition of the Land, Land quality, Land use, environmental condition & any other information pertaining to the Land.

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CanadianFarmRealty.com

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Farms & Ranches – Manitoba

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER, RM of Portage la Prairie
Sealed bids for the purchase of the following parcels of land, located in the RM of Portage la Prairie, MB will be received up to 5.00 pm on January 18, 2016 at the offices of CanadianFarmRealty.com, Box 2046, Carman, MB, R0G 0J0, and Attention: Dolf Feddes
SE 1-10-4W, 139.97 acres
South ½ of NE 1-10-4W, 80 acres
CONDITIONS OF TENDER:
1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.
2. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a certified cheque or bank draft of 5% of the amount offered, payable to Royal LePage Riverbend Realty in Trust. Deposit cheques accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. The purchaser(s) shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
5. Successful bidders will be asked to enter into a formal Purchase agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale. Possession date will be February 16, 2016.
6. Tenders will be held in confidence and not be released to the public.
Any questions regarding this parcel or this tender can be directed to:
Dolf Feddes, REALTOR CanadianFarmRealty.com
204-828-3371 (office) or 204-745-0451 (cell) or look for more information on www.canadianfarmrealty.com | Royal LePage Riverbend Realty



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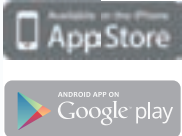
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Please fill in the spaces below that apply to you. Thank you!

☐ I'm farming or ranching
☐ I own a farm or ranch but i'm not involved in it's operations or management

If you're not the owner/operator of a farm are you:
☐ In agri-business (bank, elevator, ag supplies etc.)
☐ Other

Total farm size (including rented land) Year of birth

My Main crops are: No. of acres
1. Wheat
2. Barley
3. Oats
4. Canola
5. Flax
6. Durum
7. Rye
8. Peas
9. Chick Peas
Livestock Enterprise No. of head
1. Registered Beef
2. Commercial Cow
3. Fed Cattle (sold yearly)
4. Hog Weaners (sold yearly)

My Main crops are: No. of acres
10. Lentils
11. Dry Beans
12. Hay
13. Pasture
14. Summerfallow
15. Alfalfa
16. Forage Seed
17. Mustard
18. Other (specify)
Livestock Enterprise No. of head
5. Hog farrow-to-finish (# sows)
6. Finished Pigs (sold yearly)
7. Dairy Cows
8. Other Livestock (specify)

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☐ I PREFER MY NAM AND ADDRESS NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS

Crossword

by Adrian Powell

Canadian Agri-business

ACROSS

1 Welder's creation
4 Land, sea or moon follower
9 Twist around
13 Ringo's john
14 Stand for an artist
15 Scarlett O'Hara's spread
16 Frequent producer of Canadian Top Dogs?
19 A chip for the kitty
20 Dawdle
21 Come next
22 Billy Bishop, for one
24 Baptism or funeral
26 Eggstraordinary Canadian egg distributor
32 Grain fungi
33 Disgusting kind of pool
34 A gondolier needs one
36 Tender to the touch
37 Granny, to her daughter's kid
38 100% convinced
39 Taro paste
40 Important wine bottle info
42 Greek or Indian, say
44 Canadian Company that's really in a growth business
47 Org. that runs Mars rovers
48 Glove and derby-wearing cousin of Morticia Addams
49 What a roper might rope
52 Back-stabbing snitch
54 It might produce big hips
58 Canadian Firm that features frozen French Fries

DOWN

1 Kazakhstan's ____-Ata
2 White-flecked horse
3 Egyptian church member
4 Catch a peek of
5 Square dance leader
6 Nowhere near land
7 Like the Owl and the Pussycat's boat
8 Will Ferrell's shortest movie title
9 "Reefer Madness" figure
10 Landlocked Asian nation
11 Pakistani's tongue
12 What soldiers occasionally stand at
17 Wasn't straight up
18 Greek cheeses
23 "Survivor" airer
25 No ____, ands or buts
26 Curler's requirement
27 Hungarian's language group
28 Fish eggs
29 Mites and tics, technically
30 Pitcher's spot
31 Bollywood wraps

32 Mind reader's talent
35 ____ room (pool-table locale)
37 Samson was one
38 "Steady as ____ goes"
40 Feel a longing
41 Half of Bonn
42 Good guess, for short
43 Four (pref.)
45 Prepares to pray, perhaps
46 One or the other
49 Picket line crosser
50 One way to get to the airport
51 Tied up
53 Late tennis VIP Arthur
55 "Lord of the Rings" beasts
56 X-rated stuff
57 See
59 Md. neighbour
60 Cook sausages

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE

TAKE FIVE

Sudoku

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Last week's answer

3	8	2	7	1	9	5	4	6
5	9	7	3	4	6	2	8	1
1	6	4	8	2	5	3	9	7
8	4	5	6	7	1	9	3	2
9	7	6	4	3	2	1	5	8
2	3	1	5	9	8	6	7	4
7	5	8	2	6	3	4	1	9
6	1	3	9	8	4	7	2	5
4	2	9	1	5	7	8	6	3

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Here's How It Works:

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

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Dow, DuPont \$130-billion mega-merger could spark more deals

The two chemical giants plan to merge and then split into three companies

BY SWETHA GOPINATH
Reuters

Chemical titans DuPont and Dow Chemical Co. agreed to combine in an all-stock merger valued at \$130 billion in a move that pleased activist investors, would generate tax savings and trigger more consolidation while drawing scrutiny from regulators.

The “deal of three centuries,” as Wells Fargo analyst Frank Mitsch dubbed it, will combine two of the biggest and oldest U.S. chemical producers in a prelude to a split into three publicly traded businesses, focusing on agriculture, materials and specialty products.

The deal, announced Dec. 11, will face intense regulatory scrutiny, analysts said, especially over combining their agricultural businesses, which sell seeds and crop protection chemicals, including insecticides and pesticides.

Executives from both companies said the agrichemicals businesses have little overlap and any asset sales would likely be minor.

Potential tax savings were one reason for the complicated merger-before-breakup deal, analysts said. “They need to merge first in order for the subsequent spinoffs to qualify as tax-free transactions in the United States,” said SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst James Sheehan.

Dow shareholders would own 52 per cent of the new company after preferred shares are converted, while DuPont investors would own the remaining 48 per cent, the companies said.

DuPont chief executive officer Ed Breen, who as Tyco International’s CEO engineered the breakup of the conglomerate, would be CEO of the new company, and Dow CEO Andrew Liveris would be executive chairman.

The merger, one of the biggest of the year, would allow Dow and DuPont to rejig assets based on the diverging fortunes of their businesses.

Falling demand

The companies have been struggling with falling demand for farm chemicals due to slumping crop prices and a strong dollar, even as their plastics businesses thrive thanks to low natural gas prices.

Activist investor Nelson Peltz of Triun Partners, who has pressed DuPont to separate its businesses, said he “fully supports” the transaction and sees the combination as “a great outcome for all shareholders.”

DuPont said it expects 2016 sales growth to be “challenging,” due to economic weakness in agriculture and emerging markets. It plans to slash about 10 per



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO

cent of its workforce and take a pre-tax charge of \$780 million.

The two chemical majors felt compelled to combine because of few growth opportunities, said Key Private Bank analyst Rob Plaza.

“I think the big catalyst would have been Breen coming in, his track record of extracting value from companies, and the fight that DuPont had gone through with Nelson Peltz,” Plaza said. “We may see more consolidation.”

Game changer

DuPont, which is 213 years old, makes products used in petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, food and construction. Its brands include Kevlar and formerly Teflon, now part of Chemours Co., which it had spun off.

The 118-year-old Dow makes plastics, chemicals, hydrocarbons, and agrochemicals. It manufactures Styrofoam insulation products and chlorine products, used in paper, pulp and soap and owns half of silicone products maker Dow Corning. It said it would buy the remaining stake in the joint venture from Corning Inc.

The three-way split was likely to occur 18 to 24 months after the deal closes, which is expected in the second half of 2016, the companies said.

“This transaction is a game changer for our industry,” Liveris said in a statement.

The union would generate cost savings of about \$3 billion in the first two years, with \$1 billion in other savings possible, Dow and DuPont said.

The new board would have 16 members, with each company

“The biggest impact will certainly be in the agriculture market, where the seeds and crop chemical industries are to undergo rapid consolidation.”

JAMES SHEEHAN
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst

contributing eight directors, the companies said.

The biggest of the three new companies by revenue would be material sciences, catering to the packaging, transportation and infrastructure industries and competing against Germany’s BASF, Honeywell and 3M. The new company’s combined 2014 revenue was about \$51 billion on an adjusted basis.

A specialty products company would sell materials to the electronics and communications industries as well as to the safety and protection sectors. The combined adjusted revenue was about \$13 billion in 2014.

The third business, selling seed and crop protection chemicals, generated adjusted revenue of about \$19 billion.

Very supportive

The proposed merger puts pressure on rivals such as BASF and Bayer AG to consolidate as falling crop prices curb sales.

“The biggest impact will certainly be in the agriculture market, where the seeds and crop chemical industries are to undergo rapid consolidation,” SunTrust’s Sheehan said.

It could also prompt a renewed flurry of takeover

bids for European rivals, with Syngenta AG the most likely target.

Monsanto Co. may take another shot at Syngenta, according to analysts. It abandoned a \$45-billion offer for the Swiss company in August.

Monsanto said Dec. 11 it would not act rashly and likes its position in the marketplace.

Rivals such as Bayer, BASF, Solvay SA and Eastman Chemical Co. might benefit in the near term while Dow and DuPont integrate, said Nomura analyst Aleksey Yefremov. He noted the two companies’ cultures differ, with DuPont more “research and growth driven” and Dow focused on tight cost controls and reasonable innovation.

“There is a big execution risk,” Yefremov said. “It’s a very large transaction.”

One DuPont shareholder described the deal as merely “OK.”

“Our initial take is, given the commodity nature of Dow’s business and the resulting low barriers to entry, the valuation is not obviously attractive,” said Grayson Witcher, portfolio manager at Mawer Investment Management Ltd.

DuPont, part of the Dow Jones industrial average, fell 5.6 per cent to \$70.40 on Friday. Dow Chemical was off 2.4 per cent at \$53.61.

Regulatory scrutiny

U.S. antitrust enforcers will not look at the deal as simply a combination of two conglomerates but examine their many products to determine where competition will be lost. Regulators will be especially concerned about the agricultural sector, which could see big divestitures, antitrust experts said.

It’s hard to know whether the fixes would work,” said John Taladay of the law firm Baker Botts LLP.

The U.S. Department of Justice should block the merger, said Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch, an environmental group.

“Any merger that consolidates this market into fewer hands will give farmers fewer choices and put them at even more economic disadvantage,” she said.

“The (seed) market is already dominated by Monsanto. You’re almost creating duopoly in the market, and that’s a problem,” said Diana Moss, president of the American Antitrust Institute.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over antitrust policy, will listen to farmers’ concerns, chairman Chuck Grassley said in a statement.

“DuPont and Dow are two titans of American industry and the proposed merger demands serious scrutiny,” he said.

Grim reality sets in for Ukraine wheat crop

Despite a recent recovery in moisture, a record-low 36 per cent of winter crops are in poor condition



Ukraine's wheat exports are seen dropping to 3.5 million tonnes, down 13 million from the current season. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

BY KAREN BRAUN
Reuters

Ukraine's 2016 wheat crop is now sailing into uncharted waters given both the significantly missed planting target and a record percentage of crops in poor condition.

Ukraine, the world's sixth-largest wheat exporter, has faced one of the most challenging winter planting campaigns this year than ever before in the wake of a historic drought that set in during late summer.

As a result, planting progress and plant emergence has been considerably behind normal pace all along, and crop health has suffered immensely.

The outlook was rather gloomy as of early November, but hope still remained that Ukrainian farmers could boost winter wheat area

throughout the month with help from favourable weather, which would also presumably help improve overall plant conditions.

But despite the seemingly supportive weather during November, crop conditions worsened throughout the month. Planting progressed in the meantime, though not significantly, but now the planting window has more or less closed.

This all but confirms the significant area reduction for the 2016 wheat harvest. Even with optimistic spring wheat area forecasts, the 10 per cent cut in planned winter wheat area will likely lead to the smallest wheat harvest since 2012 and a consequential slash in exports.

Late planting

As of Nov. 30, 91 per cent of the intended winter wheat area had been planted. Typically, winter wheat planting should conclude in the vicinity of Nov. 15. Even during the dry planting campaigns of 2011 and 2014, planting was finished close to this date.

Ukraine is highly unlikely to make much more progress on winter plantings, if any, since planting this late is highly risky.

Even more worrisome than the failure of the winter wheat area to hit expectations is the deterioration of crop conditions to historic lows in the second half of November. Despite good weather and large gains in emergence, a record-low 36 per cent of emerged winter crops were in poor condition as of Nov. 26.

Loss of area combined with the recent conditions has prompted Ukrainian agency UkrAgroConsult to lower its 2016-17 production forecast to 17.8 million tonnes, down nearly one-third from last year.

On Nov. 16, a representative from Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry suggested that 2016-17 wheat exports could fall to 3.5 million tonnes, which would represent a drastic decline of 13 million from the planned export volume for 2015-16. This would drop Ukraine from the sixth-largest wheat-exporting nation to the eighth largest.

A potentially positive factor is the potential for increased spring wheat area, but the impact on total production might be marginal.

On Nov. 17, UkrAgroConsult estimated that 240,000 hectares of wheat will be planted in the spring, a 40 per cent increase on the year. But the increase in spring wheat area will not offset the loss in winter wheat area, and spring wheat yields are considerably lower than those of winter wheat.

The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a columnist for Reuters

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Sugar, corn syrup face off over ‘natural’ claims in U.S.

U.S. sugar refiners object to corn syrup’s description as ‘corn sugar’

BY OLGA GRIGORYANTS AND DAN LEVINE
Los Angeles/Reuters

Corn refiners cannot “make stuff up” and claim that high-fructose corn syrup is the same as sugar, an attorney for big sugar processors said in court on Nov. 4.

Lawyers delivered opening statements in a trial pitting sugar processors against major corn refiners including Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill. The billion-dollar lawsuit could shape how consumers view two bitter foes in a deteriorating U.S. sweetener market.

Several sugar refiners including global leader ASR Group sued in 2011, alleging that a corn trade group’s ad campaign describing high-fructose corn syrup as “corn sugar” and “natural” was false. The corn refiners countersued, saying the Sugar Association falsely claimed in its newsletter that corn syrup causes obesity and cancer.

The case comes amid a decline in sweetener demand. The U.S. slowdown is due in part to concerns about high rates of obesity and diabetes.

In a Los Angeles Federal Court on Nov. 4, sugar attorney W. Mark Lanier said sugar is sugar and corn syrup is not.

“You can look at Beyonce and (Arnold) Schwarzenegger,” Lanier said. “They both are human and they both have bodies, but you can see the difference.”

But Dan Webb, an attorney for the corn refiners, said both sugar and corn syrup have the same impact on the body, and the same amount of calories.

“One is crystal, one is liquid. They both are sugars,” Webb said.

Webb said sugar processors were not damaged because of any statements made by corn refiners, having posted “record profits and record sales.”

In 1999, the average American consumed 85.3 lbs. of corn sweeteners per year, compared with 66.4 lbs. of sugar, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data. However, by 2014 corn sweetener consumption had dropped to 60.7 lbs., while sugar consumption stood at 68.4 lbs.

Overall, the average American consumed 131.1 lbs. of sweetener in 2014, down from 153.2 lbs. in 1999.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2012 ruled that corn syrup, used to sweeten foods including soda, could not be called sugar. The sugar growers are seeking \$1.1 billion in compensatory damages over the prior advertising campaign, plus punitive damages and fees, Lanier said on Nov. 3 (all figures US\$).

The corn refiners are seeking about \$530 million in their countersuit.

Asked if a negative verdict would materially impact ADM, spokesman David Weintraub told Reuters on Tuesday that the company has “ample flexibility to handle any range of situations” with access to \$6.4 billion of short-term liquidity.

The sugar processors in their lawsuit argue that corn syrup is a man-made product, while sugar is natural sucrose found in cane and beet plants.

Corn refiners launched an advertising campaign in 2008 calling syrup “corn sugar,” and saying it is natural and “nutritionally the same as table sugar.” The sugar processors’ lawsuit said those statements are false.

In their countersuit, ADM and corn refiners said that sugar

and corn syrup are nutritionally equivalent.

“The Sugar Association preys on consumers’ fears by falsely representing that HFCS will cause obesity, cancer, and cirrhosis of the liver,” the counterclaim said, “while at the same time creating a health halo for processed sugar.”

Corn refiners say sugar growers benefit from generous U.S. government subsidies. The Corn Refiners Association, one of the defendants, said earlier this year it had hired a Washington lobbyist to challenge sugar’s protected status.

The trial is expected to last about a month.

“One is crystal, one is liquid. They both are sugars.”

DAN WEBB
lawyer for U.S. corn refiners



Corn refiners say sugar processors are misrepresenting high-fructose corn sweeteners as unhealthy compared to sugar growers’ product. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dave Hula is no stranger to the winner's roster of the National Corn Growers Association's Corn Yield Contest. In 2013, Hula broke the world record with a new all-time high yield of 454 bushels per acre in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated category. He broke his record the following year with 476 bushels per acre. The Charles City, Virginia, producer has no-tilled corn and soybeans continuously since the early 1980s. Learn how it's possible to no-till farm several different crops intensively and achieve high yields while reducing expenses.

Ray Archuleta is described as positive and passionate about building soil health. Archuleta has more than 25 years of experience with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, working in New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon, and North Carolina. He has held positions as a soil conservationist, nutrient and irrigation specialist, water quality project manager, and area agronomist. Archuleta will share insights for improving soil health through conservation practices, including cover crop utilization and no-till and limited-till practices.

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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

CONNECTING RURAL FAMILIES

Been told your town is a backwater? Challenge it with action, says AMM speaker

Society’s dim view of small-town life needs to be challenged, guest speaker tells municipal leaders. But it takes more than a marketing campaign



Small towns are great places to live but local leaders can do more to improve how the world sees them, AMM speaker says. PHOTO: LORRAINE STEVENSON

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON
Co-operator staff/Brandon

If your friends in the city think you’re a loser because you don’t live there, don’t take it personally.

There’s a deep prejudice in Canadian culture about rural life and small-town Canada, said a speaker at this fall’s Association of Manitoba Municipalities convention.

“People say not nice things about small towns,” said Ken Coates, director of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, and a Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at University of Saskatchewan.

“And nobody is fighting back,” he told delegates.

“We have a major cultural battle that’s undermining the value of small towns and rural areas. And it’s why kids in high school are desperate to get away and move out the minute they can.”

Local government only perpetuates this problem when it

spends too much time hand-wringing about what it can’t do and doesn’t have while refusing to embrace new ideas and innovation, Coates said. That won’t create the kind of place people want to live.

“We complain about what we don’t have in our small towns. What we don’t have there is, for some, people. We have to figure out what will work to keep young people at home and to have new people excited to come to one of our small towns.”

It starts with a welcome mat, Coates said. Local leaders could be doing much more to actively engage First Nations, Métis people and new Canadians to live and do business in their towns. Coates said he’s long felt that it is at the local level where the true reconciliation of Aboriginal people in Canada will become reality.

“I’ve been saying this for 10 years,” he said. “Reconciliation will happen at the municipal level first... if mayors and councillors and CAOs reach out to Aboriginal and Métis communities.”

Meanwhile, for many new Canadians, small-town Canada isn’t even on their radar when they eye coming to live in this country. And for the most part, they go to larger urban centres. Yet, new Canadians have so much to offer small towns as well.

“Welcome new Canadians,” he said. “They will bring new vitality to your community and add to what you already have there.”

Local leaders have other responsibilities to create a high quality of life that makes people want to live there, he said.

Learn about and embrace new technology with an eye to fostering local entrepreneurship, said Coates, who spoke of “future-proofing” one’s communities by supporting the creation of innovation labs in public spaces.

Small towns should be thinking about creating public access to technology in maker spaces, he said. These are sites where people gather to tinker and innovate with technology in areas such as computer machining and digital art.

“People say not nice things about small towns.”

KEN COATES
Association of Manitoba Municipalities guest speaker

Bring in a 3D printer to your community and you’ve “arrived in the 21st century,” Coates said.

“You as leaders can play a huge role in pushing forward a high-technology economy at the local level.”

On a more basic level, towns become more attractive when its leadership sets aside its rivalry with other nearby communities. Rivalry and competition don’t do anything except make potential funding partners or companies look elsewhere, he said, adding that successful communities understand the success of one doesn’t come at the expense of the next.

“One of the most impor-

tant things you you can do to future-proof your communities is eliminate community rivalry,” he said. “You are basically responsible for each other.”

Taken together, all these approaches help to counter what may otherwise continue to be a strong anti-rural, anti-small-town bias in the culture, Coates said. He challenged local leaders to tackle this ongoing challenge of mass urbanization.

“Cities are not fine for lots of people,” he said. “They create social isolation and hardship and difficulties too.”

“We have to make sure that our communities are exemplary of everything that Canada stands for. But if you do not make the case, and if you are not proud supporters and defenders of small towns and rural life in Manitoba, nobody else is going to do it for you. Everyone else is offering a different vision in another part of the world.”

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COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Prairie fare



Try singing the ‘12 ways to health’ song

JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON
Food and Nutrition Specialist
NDSU Extension Service



“Mom, they just played that song!” my 12-year-old said. I think she wanted us to change the radio station. “That was a different singer, though. I think everyone likes it, so they play it a lot,” I said as we listened to the radio station that plays all holiday music. Soon one of her favourites began playing. We sang along to “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” before we dropped her off at school. During December, our vehicle’s radio is tuned to Christmas music. Our holiday CDs and music books, along with red and green storage bins filled with all of our decorations, get pulled out of storage. Music puts us in the spirit of the season. Music can be a learning tool. When we sing the words, we tend to remember them. Do you remember learning the ABCs set to “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?” As we enjoy the last weeks of December, here are some health-related reminders set to music by some clever writers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You might find some ideas for New Year’s resolutions in the mix. The words are set to the tune of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/family/holiday/12ways.htm> to listen to or sing along with the song and learn more about these tips.

THE 12 WAYS TO HEALTH

The first way to health, said the CDC to me — Wash hands to be safe and healthy.

The second way to health, said

the CDC to me — Bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The third way to health, said the CDC to me — Manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The fourth way to health, said the CDC to me — Don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The fifth way to health, said the CDC to me — Be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The sixth way to health, said the CDC to me — Fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The seventh way to health, said the CDC to me — Get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The eighth way to health, said the CDC to me — Get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The ninth way to health, said the CDC to me — Monitor the children, get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The tenth way to health, said the CDC to me — Practise fire safety, monitor the children, get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy.



PHOTOS: THINKSTOCK

The eleventh way to health, said the CDC to me — Prepare dinner safely, practise fire safety, monitor the children, get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. The twelfth way to health, said the CDC to me — Eat well and get moving, prepare dinner safely, practise fire safety, monitor the children, get your vaccinations, get exams and screenings, fasten

belts while driving, be smoke free, don’t drink and drive, manage stress, bundle up for warmth, and wash hands to be safe and healthy. Which ones of the 12 ways do you do on a regular basis? Do you have any goals to set? Let’s work on the “eat well” part with this tasty snack to enjoy before stepping out to a holiday party. While at the party, remember to stand away from the buffet table and spend most of your time talking. When you need a snack, fill your plate first with vegetables and fruits.



Apple Smiles

- 2 tbsp. smooth peanut butter, or other nut butter
- 1 red apple, cored and sliced into eighths
- 1 green apple, cored and sliced into eighths
- 1 lemon, squeezed (or bottled lemon juice)
- Miniature marshmallows

Rinse apples and cut as directed. Note: If you will not be serving the apples immediately, dip the apple slices in lemon juice. Spread peanut butter or nut butter on one side of each apple slice. Place four to eight miniature marshmallows on the apple slice (for the “teeth”), then top with another apple slice, peanut butter side down. Secure with a toothpick. Makes eight servings.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

“I’m dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know...” Bing Crosby’s wistful yearning drifted across the room from the iPod dock on the fireplace mantel.

A fire crackled merrily below, the smell of pine and birch filling the room with the rustic smell of imagined cottages and campfires, mixing deliciously with the aroma of the freshly baked Christmas cookies that still sat on the counter in the adjoining kitchen.

Multi-coloured lights twinkled on the tree that stood in the corner near... but not too near... the fireplace. Outside, through the window snowflakes could be seen drifting softly down to the ground in the still night air, sparkling like diamonds in the bright light of the moon.

Rose Jackson stood back and gave the Christmas tree a critical once-over. Perfect. No dark areas, and no areas too crowded with lights. Santa couldn’t have done it better, she thought to herself. Mrs. Santa maybe, but who would know? No information in Christmas lore about the Santas’ tree-decorating abilities, although one would assume those abilities might be considerable. But hardly a match for Mrs. Jackson’s.

Rose picked up the tattered cardboard box that had been home to the Jacksons’ special ornaments for more years than she could accurately remember, and set it down beside the tree.

Reaching down she removed the strips of masking tape that held the top flaps of the box together and opened them up to reveal the treasures inside. Just the way she had left them, but that’s what one would expect, unless the little red and black nutcracker ornament had come to life at some point and reorganized the contents of the box from inside. An unlikely scenario unless life itself had turned into a fairy tale or a ballet.

Reaching into the box, Rose removed the tree topper first, the glass star with its rays spreading upwards and outwards to the sky. She laid the star carefully on the chair next to the fireplace. Christmas never passed without



The Jacksons

By Rollin Penner

someone remarking about the improbability of that star, in its crystal fragility, having survived another year and yet here it was, ready to lend its light to another season. Best to let Andrew and his six feet of height deal with that one.

Rose returned to the box. Peeking out from under the cushioning layer of tissue that had protected the star were the three most special ornaments. She picked up the first one, Randy’s. Crafted beautifully out of a solid piece of dark walnut, the ornament was a delicately carved reindeer figure standing next to a sleigh filled to overflowing with boxes and packages of every shape and size.

For all the delicacy of the carving the reindeer stood with an air of confidence and strength that was in no way diminished by the bright red ruby of its nose. Just like my Randy, she thought, except for the nose. The strong one. She hung the ornament near the top of the tree and returned to the box.

A shiny red locomotive lay next to the empty space where the reindeer had been. Brady’s little train. The metal locomotive, carefully painted with the finest golden accents and the logo of the Northern Rail Company, was a work of art in itself, but it was the engineer who really caught one’s eye.

Not content to ride inside, the laughing black bear, wearing a white Hudson’s Bay coat and a fur hat, straddled the coal bin at the rear of the locomotive, leaning merrily forward, a long red and black scarf streaming behind him in the wind. Rose picked the ornament up gently and looked at it in silence for a moment. So like Brady she thought. Always having a good time and all the better if there was a little risk involved. She hung the ornament not far from Randy’s, and turned back to the box to pick up the last of the three, Jennifer’s.

She cradled it in her hands, enjoying the exquisite smoothness of the ceramic figure. A little girl, her lovely painted eyes wide with delight, lay on a sled that raced downhill at what appeared to be breakneck speed. The little girl’s blonde locks escaped from under her wool hat, in just the way Jennifer’s did when she was that age. It seems like such a long time ago, thought Rose, and the lights on the tree blurred suddenly.

“Are you crying, darling?” Andrew spoke from behind her. She hadn’t noticed him come in.

Rose reached up to hang the third ornament and she felt his arms envelope her as she did so. She leaned back against him and let her head rest on his shoulders. “Only because I’m happy,” she said.

Andrew said nothing, and that was perfect. There was nothing she wanted him to say.

Ox tongue really does thrive on neglect

If you want an undemanding easy-care plant this one is for you

BY ALBERT PARSONS
Freelance contributor

I have a specimen of one of the most undemanding, easy-care plants: the ox tongue. I have had it for years and in the past it sat on top of a filing cabinet adjacent to a north-facing window in my office for over six years without once being divided or otherwise needing much attention. Now it sits in my sunroom, sometimes set well back from any window when the sunroom gets crowded with other plants and sometimes exposed to direct sunlight when the sunroom is less congested. It never seems to object and simply continues to thrive.

The ox tongue is so named because of its thick, hard tongue-shaped leaves that are covered with white warty outgrowths that give the leaves a sandpaper-like texture. If you have ever been licked by a cow, you will know that the leaf texture does indeed resemble that of a bovine’s tongue.

Ox tongue is the common name for one species of the genus gasteria, which is a large plant family originating in South Africa. All gasteria plants have fleshy leaves that are arranged on opposite sides of a central

stem or axis. Sometimes the axis spirals slightly as it elongates and sometimes it grows straight. The stem of the ox tongue does not spiral. The leaves of some gasterias form loose rosettes, although not as tight rosettes as their cousins the haworthias. Gasterias are also distant cousins of the aloe vera.

The name gasteria, Latin for stomach, refers to the shape of the flowers of these plants. They are small, hanging from long thin, inclined stems that arch above the plants, and each pink flower has an inflated stomach-like pouch and many flowers will hang from each stem. The flower stems appear in spring and summer. Although I do rave about this plant’s tolerance for neglect and inhospitable surroundings, the more light the plant gets, the more it will bloom. The plant in my office rarely put forth bloom as it did not get enough light, but I was happy with that as it was that much easier to look after.

I grow my ox tongue mainly for its foliage, not its flowers. I find the long flower stems annoying as they arch out from the plant and encroach upon the space occupied by other plants. Also, new buds and blooms keep emerging from the flower stems as they get longer and longer, while older blooms

If you have ever been licked by a cow, you will know that the leaf texture does indeed resemble that of a bovine’s tongue.

fade and become unattractive. As there are so many of them, they are a nuisance to remove.

This plant prefers a gritty, well-drained potting mix and I rarely fertilize it. It can go for long periods without being watered. Like other succulents, overwatering is the worst thing you can do to ox tongue. If the soil remains sodden, the plant will die.

Besides the specimen plant that I keep — and the pot is a large one filled with many plants so it isn’t just a single plant but more of a clump — I also use offsets in dish gardens and succulent planters, combined with other succulents and cacti.

Ox tongue is easy to propagate either by offsets or by leaf cuttings. The offsets will have a bit of root attached so they



The ox tongue is named for its tongue-shaped leaves that are covered with outgrowths that give them a sandpaper-like texture. PHOTO: ALBERT PARSONS

will take immediately. Leaf cuttings will take quite some time to develop roots and the planting medium should be kept just barely moist or they will rot. It will be months before new growth appears at the base of

the cuttings. If you want a really low-maintenance plant that thrives on neglect, look no further than the ox tongue.

Albert Parsons writes from Minnedosa, Manitoba

COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Reena answers more questions

Plus, here’s some tips just in time for Christmas

REENA NERBAS
Household Solutions



Dear Reena,
Is there any way of unsticking five photos in a pile that were soaked with water and then dried before being discovered? Thank you.
— Jane

Dear Jane,
Photos that are stuck together cannot always be separated and whenever the attempt is made, there is a risk of photo tear. Consider bringing the photos to a professional restorer. If you decide to attempt this risky business on your own, you will need to cover and soak the photos in water and a drop of liquid fabric softener or hair conditioner for 30 minutes. Remove photos from water and slowly separate them, being careful not to rip the paper. If the photos begin to rip, soak them again for a few minutes and use a plastic spatula to unglue them without tearing. Air dry photos and place them on a towel. Weigh down the edges of each photo to prevent curling edges.

Dear Reena,
I am new to the world of cooking and wonder how to glaze a ham? Thanks.
— Elaine

Dear Elaine,
There are many recipes and ingredients that you can use to glaze a ham — mustard, brown sugar, pineapple juice and honey are very popular. A half-hour before the end of cooking, brush the ham with equal parts of brown sugar and honey or equal parts brown sugar and powdered mustard. Line your



There are many different recipes and ingredients that can be used to glaze a ham. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

roaster with aluminum foil and slowly cook the ham at 325 F (20 to 30 minutes per pound for ham that has not been precooked). Follow package directions for precooked ham. Precooked ham is an easy food to set in a slow cooker for a few hours with enough pineapple juice to cover the bottom. Baste each hour. When your oven thermometer reads 160 F the meat is ready.

Christmas is coming! Get the house ready for company.
· Remove clutter.
· Wipe down the bathroom, empty the garbage and put out fresh towels.
· Clean the toilet, sink and faucets using a non-toxic product.

· Create a natural bathroom aroma; fill a bowl with water and a few drops of essential oil. Add an additional Christmas accent by floating decorative poinsettias on the surface.
· Before company arrives, fill a slow cooker with a British drink known as wassail. Let the aroma of Christmas fill the air all evening while guests help themselves to a delicious cup of this hot drink.

Wassail Recipe: Combine 1 quart (1 l) apple cider, 4 cinnamon sticks, 1 whole nutmeg, 1/2 cup (125 ml) honey, 1/4 cup (60 ml) lemon juice. Simmer the wassail on the stove or in a slow cooker and encourage guests to help them-

selves (taken from *Household Solutions 2 with Kitchen Secrets*).
· Candy Cane Air Freshener Recipe: In a spray bottle combine five to 10 drops of peppermint essential oil with enough water to fill the bottle. Spray this holiday fragrance in every room of the house.

Did you know? Candy canes, though high in sugar, only contain 50 calories. They have no fat or cholesterol, and make a great addition to a cup of hot chocolate. National Candy Cane Day is Dec. 26.

I enjoy your questions and tips, keep them coming. Need a presenter on the topic: Effective Speaking or The Power of Words? Check out: Reena.ca.

Where is this barn?

- This barn was photographed by former *Manitoba Co-operator* editor Bob Hainstock in the early 1980s but its whereabouts are unknown and, unlike other photos published recently in this paper, there is no other information available about it.
- Gordon Goldsborough, webmaster and journal editor with the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) is looking for more information about it, including its GPS co-ordinates, to include on a map of historic sites being prepared for the Manitoba Historic Society.
- Can a *Co-operator* reader answer any these questions? Even one reply to one question is much appreciated, says Goldsborough, who wants to figure out what percentage of barns published in Hainstock’s 1986 book *Barns of Western Canada: An Illustrated Century* remain standing. Goldsborough is not trying to compile an inventory all old barns, but to get an indication of the rate at which old barns are disappearing from the landscape.
1. Where is/was the building located? Geographic co-ordinates (latitude and longitude or section-township-range) would be very helpful.
 2. Is the building still standing? If so, in what condition is it? How does it look compared to the 1980s? Has it undergone any major renovations through the years? For what purpose was it used in the past? What is its present use?
 3. If the building is no longer standing, when did it come down? Was it demolished, burned, or moved? If removed from its original site, where is it now?
 4. Who was the original owner? Who owns it now? Is the present owner related to the original one? A family name would be helpful, even if first names are unknown.
 5. Contact information to the present owner, such as a phone number, would be helpful but not essential.

If you have any information about this barn please contact Gordon Goldsborough at:
email: gordon@mhs.mb.ca
telephone: (204) 474-7469
mail: 2021 Loudoun Rd. Winnipeg, Man. R3S 1A3





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