



MISSING THE VALUE-ADDED BOAT

Everyone wants more agri-food processing, but there's a lack of action, say experts » PG 3



RESCUING EQUINE EVACUEES

Horses and pets weren't forgotten as wildfires swept through the Fort McMurray region » PG 2

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EXPRESS

R-CALF lawsuit takes aim at Canadian beef

Protectionist ranchers' group says checkoffs promote 'less safe and less wholesome' imported beef

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

A group of cattle ranchers is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, claiming their checkoff dollars are being used to promote Canadian and other imported beef.

The Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America — best known as R-CALF — also claims imported beef is "less safe and less wholesome."

But the lawsuit filed earlier this month is "a fairly typical R-CALF action, accompanied by pretty typical R-CALF rhetoric," said

SEE R-CALF ▶ page 6

SEE BEEF ▶ page 6

NEW MINDSET NEEDED? Earls is just the 'tip of the iceberg'

Consumers are starting to call the tune about how cattle are raised, and the sector needs to respond, say industry observers

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Consumers are demanding sustainable beef and many want it sooner rather than later.

That's a key lesson from the Earls Restaurant controversy — and evidence producers need to change their thinking, say experts.

"The first thing the cattle industry has to do is stop believing that there is no money to be made with niche markets. There is money to be made," said Sylvain Charlebois, one of Canada's most well-known experts on the food industry.

"The second thing the industry has to do is come up with a strategy. Define what sustainable beef means and execute a strategy as quickly as possible."

Earls' controversial (and since reversed) decision to source Certified Humane beef from the U.S. shows that consumer trends move quickly — but the beef industry has trouble keeping up, said Charlebois, dean of the faculty of



Cattle prices have 'just one direction to go' and that's why producers should be embracing niche markets for natural or 'certified humane' beef, says Hanna rancher Colleen Biggs.

PHOTO: TK RANCH

DOWN CYCLE – CATTLE PRODUCERS FACE TOUGHER TIMES ▶ PAGE 15

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Horses and pets not forgotten in Fort McMurray rescue effort

There was an overwhelming effort to rescue and care for horses and pets in the wake of the devastating fire

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

The outpouring of support for people displaced by the Fort McMurray wildfire was overwhelming—and so was the effort to rescue and care for horses from the area.

Krista Critch was one of many volunteers who dropped everything to help save horses and pets at the height of the crisis. She had driven up with supplies in her livestock trailer to Boyle in North Central Alberta, where family members were staying in campers after being evacuated.

She had been unsuccessfully trying to hook up with an animal rescue effort. When she got up north, she met others who shared her concern, and they all immediately sprang into action.

"We went up to help and ended up meeting up with a bunch of people there and we all teamed up and kept hauling," said Critch, a mule breeder from north of Vermilion who is originally from Newfoundland.

Volunteers working under the direction of the Alberta SPCA co-ordinated a drop-off pasture for horses at the juncture of Highway 63 and Highway 881. Critch connected with organizer Holly Plunkett, owner of Plunkett Ranch & Rescue in Alix, who had gone up north to arrange foster homes, feed donations, and horse transportation.

"There are lots of people involved with the rescue effort," said Critch. "In the beginning, I was just communicating with three or four people, but then there were about 50 people. There were actually too many to help with the animals, so they just asked some people to step back and let a few people organize."

There weren't a lot of horses in the area—a survey by Alberta Farm Animal Care put the number of horse owners with acreages at 15 and the city's one large stable, Clearwater Horse Club, had already been evacuated.

But the volunteers knew horses would be a major challenge for overworked emergency personnel since they don't often have training in handling large animals.

"That's part of the reason why so many horse people got involved," said Critch. "We knew that the horses were going to be moved."

Critch didn't get close to the fire zone, but didn't have to.

"Wherever they would let us go, we went," she said. "We didn't have to go into the city. People were loading the horses out and then I would switch the horses into my trailer and get ready to drop them off and change it up to make it go a little quicker."

Some horses had been set free and were wandering around loose. Critch managed to catch three of them and bring them to the drop-off pasture. One of the owners was waiting there when she arrived.



A group of truck lovers called Western Canadian Powerstrokes helped haul trailers and rescue horses from the Fort McMurray wildfire. PHOTO: RHONDA BIGNELL

"We got to witness one reunion," Critch said. "I think the other two have been accounted for and their owners have been found."

There were people riding around back roads, catching horses, and pulling them out.

"I had one friend who rode her horse through town (while she was getting out) and she ended up catching five more horses," said Critch.

She is not sure how many horses have been rescued from the city. She has 11 at her ranch, her friend has seven in Tofield, and there were dozens in the drop-off pasture.

Critch also rescued seven dogs, which she delivered to the Edmonton Humane Society.

"We had a truck full of dogs," she said. "I was driving and there was one person in the passenger seat and one in the back and we just hoped the dogs got along. They did. They rode pretty good."

They were also exhausted by their ordeal.

"By the time they got into our car with the AC on, they just slept the whole way," said Critch. "There was one lab-cross that wanted his head out the window the entire time, so we just let him."

Critch is keeping the rescued horses on two of her quarter sections, free of charge.

"We'll keep them as long as need be," she said.

The Alberta Equestrian Federation has



Two horses rescued from the Fort McMurray wildfire in the trailer of Rhonda Bignell, a member of the Western Canadian Powerstrokes. PHOTO: RHONDA BIGNELL



Krista Critch was one of many volunteers who helped to save horses and pets from the Fort McMurray wildfire. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

tubs, halters, and first-aid supplies. (Items must be new to avoid biosecurity issues.)

For more info, go to www.alberta equestrian.com.

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Food processing could be the next Alberta advantage

Despite hundreds of millions of investment, agri-food processing in Alberta is just 'muddling along,' says entrepreneur

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

One year after a call to build Alberta's agri-food processing sector, not much has changed.

"Everything has stalled," said Jerry Bouma, co-founder of Toma & Bouma Management Consultants. "We have a new government and the formation of a new ministry. Any time you have a restructuring — both politically and bureaucratically — it takes awhile for entities like that to get their legs under them."

Last May, Bouma presented a Food Research Project Framework at the Conference on Food and Innovation in Calgary that highlighted the potential of agri-food processing if a "very targeted, strategic approach" was adopted.

But that hasn't happened.

While the fledgling NDP government supports agri-food sector growth "in principle," he said, but right now, it's low on the priority list.

"They don't have a strong rural base or understanding of agri-food issues," said Bouma. "And, probably more importantly, they've had so many other things they've had to deal with that I don't think this has become much of a priority."

"They understand there's an opportunity, but beyond that, I haven't seen any evidence of growth."

That growth has been "slow," said Joe Makowecki, president of Heritage Frozen Foods, which produces 500 million Cheemo perogies a year and is a major purchaser of Alberta potatoes, flour, and canola oil.

"I've been in this a long time, and I've heard a lot of governments over the past couple of decades," said Makowecki. "We get starts and stops and ad hoc initiatives. We're muddling along and hoping that something good will happen. But at the end of the day, (government) needs to think about the industry as investors and create a competitive climate that's going to ensure that food processing continues to grow."

Narrow margins

Alberta's agri-food processors have been reasonably successful in growing the domestic food processing industry, said Makowecki.

"But I think we could be so much better if we began to be much more serious and strategic about it," he added.

In a business with very narrow margins, success "really boils down to some very simple numbers."

"We take all our competitive input costs, shake them in a bag, and then ask, 'Are we making money at the end of the day?'" said Makowecki. "In food processing, we always have to look at our costs. Alberta has some strengths, but it has some weaknesses, and the strengths have to outweigh those weaknesses in terms of their competitive costs."

Food processors only make between three and eight per cent net profit, he said, and because Alberta is "a long ways away from markets, all our costs have to be more competitive than other areas that are closer to markets. It's that simple."



Government needs to be 'more serious and strategic' about fostering an agri-food processing, says Joe Makowecki, president of Heritage Frozen Foods, a major purchaser of Alberta potatoes, flour, and canola oil.

PHOTO: HERITAGE FROZEN FOODS

"Logistics have to be excellent in Alberta, and the costs have to be excellent," he said.

"If you change any of the numbers — electricity, water, labour, logistics — that goes right down to the bottom line and makes you less competitive. In food processing, every dollar counts."

Big potential

But agriculture could be a "big engine" of economic growth, said Bouma.

"Agriculture and food is a major industry, a significant economic contributor, and by far the largest land user," he said. "And it has the opportunity to be an even greater contributor to economic growth."

Across the livestock value chain, for example, the beef and pork industries account for around 95,000 jobs, he said.

"If the beef industry was able to achieve relatively modest growth and get back to two million cows, that would generate another 60,000 jobs, so we'd go up to 156,000. That's a big number," said Bouma. "If you applied that same template to the entire food-processing sector, we're talking significant growth — probably a total of 100,000 jobs to the economy."

"That would really address a lot of the employment concerns that are surfacing."

With the energy sector in another downturn, people are realizing that agriculture and food "presents considerable opportunity," he said.

"I'm a real believer that Alberta could be a preferred supplier in some key growth markets, like the Pacific Rim. But that takes hard, focused work. We really need to be trying to be very focused in terms of what that strategy is going to be, rather than a generalist approach."

Industry-led approach

Both government and the entire agri-food processing sector need to recognize that "the approaches we've taken haven't been terribly successful," said Bouma.

"If you look at what's happened over the last 20 years, there's been hundreds of millions of dollars put into programs and incentives to try to get people to modernize, upgrade their equipment, do market research, or develop their products, but it hasn't really materially changed the ratio of value-added to farm gate production," he said.

Scrapping ALMA a mistake?

BY JENNIFER BLAIR
AF STAFF

The dissolution of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency in last month's provincial budget may be a step backward for Alberta's agri-food processing industry.

"I know ALMA was able to move fairly quickly in terms of responding to both opportunities and concerns and really apply resources in a very forthright fashion because of the way it was structured," said Jerry Bouma, of Toma & Bouma Management Consultants.

In 2014-15, ALMA put \$9.5 million into 76 projects related to agri-food processing, including ones for automation, efficiency, and product and market development.

And while those monies may still be in the budget, an arm's-length agency like ALMA is still needed to manage those investments, said Joe Makowecki, the founding chairman of the agency.

"It's disappointing that they've decided to dissolve ALMA," said Makowecki, president of Heritage Frozen Foods. "I think there's very little money they're going to save. The number is around \$3 million, and that's a very small number when you look at the economic benefit ALMA was providing."

"I wouldn't have got involved if I didn't think there was a need for that."

Makowecki would like to see the provincial government reconsider its decision to bring ALMA in-house.

"Governments do make mistakes from time to time, but you can always reverse those decisions."

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OPINION



Global trade subsidies have never gone away

There's a host of ways that nations subsidize their food exports, but our trade policy was designed in a different age

BY GORD GILMOUR

MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Is it time for a fundamental rethink of Canada's agriculture trade policy?

That simple question is, these days, tantamount to heresy in the agriculture sector, long preoccupied with trade issues. However, a new policy note from the independent research group Agri-Food Economic Systems in Guelph, Ontario, suggests it might be worth asking.

The research team, led by respected agriculture economist Al Mussell, dove into the data to get a better handle on what has actually been happening behind the rhetoric and headlines. What they found was, frankly, more sizzle than steak.

Take the issue of agriculture subsidy levels, for example. One of the stated goals of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture was the reduction of subsidy levels. After more than 20 years, about the best one could say is they haven't grown. The researchers looked at the available data on "producer subsidy equivalents" (PSE) from member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the period of 1986-2014, the last year complete data was available. They found that in 2014 PSE levels were roughly US\$240 billion — essentially unchanged from 1986.

That's not to say nothing changed. There was a fair bit of shifting around going on, especially out of the categories considered most trade distorting, such as subsidies directly related to production. It's also worth noting that the figures aren't inflation adjusted, so subsidies as a proportion of farm receipts did fall. But contrary to what everyone predicted

at the time, there was no sizable reduction in the subsidies.

"Based on support estimates by the OECD, it is hard to argue that support for agriculture has really declined much since the WTO agreement in 1995," noted Kamal Karunagoda, a co-author of the paper. "The structure of support has shifted away from agricultural subsidies regarded as most trade distorting, but countries have been very creative in designing new subsidy programs."

The authors also noted current global agriculture trade policy remains rooted in the "three pillars" of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture: market access, domestic support, and export competition.

This was all based on studies from the 1980s and 1990s. In the meantime, there's been considerable changes in global agriculture production and trade, which have created new issues. Some are entirely new, others were always there but have only become more visible as tariffs and export and production subsidies have been scaled back.

There are tax breaks and subsidies at the state, provincial or municipal level, for example. There's lingering price suppression from the remaining direct and indirect subsidies. There are resources that are strategically underpriced, such as water or hydroelectricity. There are issues that are artfully ignored, such as environmental degradation or the costs of providing environmental services to the rest of society. There are also wildly differing labour standards and animal welfare standards, just to name a few. All are now, or are becoming, market access issues not covered by the existing model of global agricultural trade.

"Agricultural trade has evolved significantly since the 1990s — today we worry

about natural capital, labour standards, and competing claims/measures related to sustainability in foods. These all impact agricultural trade, but were not contemplated in the trade policy framework," said co-author Douglas Hedley.

A final, and perhaps even more concerning, issue is that the current framework largely ignores a lot of countries that weren't an issue back when it was set, but certainly are now.

The OECD figures noted there are countries — many of them emerging agriculture powers — where subsidies have in fact been rising quickly. Between 1995 and 2014, Russian agriculture subsidies grew by 33 per cent annually. During the same period Brazil saw annual growth in subsidies of 26 per cent, Kazakhstan 25 per cent and China 22 per cent. That's been less problematic in recent years because of higher prices for agricultural commodities, but that seems to be changing too, according to Mussell.

"In the immediate future, an escalation in global agricultural support can be anticipated, given lower farm prices," Mussell said. "Without a better framework to assess domestic support, it will be increasingly difficult to address the skeptics."

He ended by calling for a more meaningful structure that would better support Canadian interests.

We take pride in being a trading nation and have over the years taken great pains to ensure we've been compliant with our various trade obligations.

In light of these new facts, however, it probably is time to take a long, hard look at what our trade goals are, and how we can get from here to there.

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New gene editing falls through regulatory cracks

BY ALAN GUEBERT

With little fanfare and barely a nod of public acknowledgment, the world of food turned upside down April 13 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture informed a Penn State University plant pathologist that the "white button mushroom" he developed by removing some of its genetic material is not a genetically modified organism (GMO).

As such, USDA declared, the new mushroom will not be "regulated" by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

This was not some bureaucratic hairsplitting by some little-known government agency. In fact, it was just the opposite: This is a hair-on-fire decision that will remake food as we know it.

This little white mushroom, however, is unlike any mushroom the world has ever seen. Through a gene editing process known as CRISPR-Cas9, Penn State researcher Yining Yang made "small deletions in a specific gene" so the mushroom "stops production of a specific enzyme that causes mushrooms to brown."

The result, explained Penn State

after USDA's official blessing, is a mushroom with longer shelf life that resists blemishes caused by handling or mechanical harvesting — but without DNA from a foreign organism."

And that's the difference, says USDA: Yang didn't add genetic material to the mushroom from a "foreign organism such as bacteria or other plant species." Instead, he removed the fraction of the mushroom's own genetic material that causes unsightly browning to create his new, non-GMO mushroom.

That's possible because of CRISPR, short for "clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats." This "tool" can focus on an exact spot on the genome to "delete or replace specific DNA pieces, thereby promoting or disabling certain traits."

This ability, though, raises a paradox: Is the mushroom, as USDA says, an unregulated, non-GMO food because it contains less of its own DNA and no added DNA or is it a different kind of Frankenfood — Frankenfungi? — as GMO critics say because, in fact, its DNA has been altered?

Yang, the mushroom's developer, welcomes that debate but prefers

it to be less a food fight and more a food "goal," a clear indication of what he—and most of the scientific farm and food community—would like to see.

"There's too much divisiveness and hostility between pro- and anti-GMO camps," he offered in a mid-April, Penn State press release. "I hope development of the new technology will facilitate rational and productive dialogue... with a common goal to achieve food safety, food security, and agricultural and environmental sustainability."

There may not be much time for any discussion rational, productive, or otherwise. Less than a week after the USDA-Penn State announcement, DuPont Pioneer made public plans to market (by 2021) a waxy corn hybrid developed through its use of the less-is-more CRISPR gene editing technology. Other CRISPR-inspired research is already directed at drought-resistant corn and wheat.

What's next?

"Pigs that reach market weight faster and cattle that produce more tender meat (and more of it)," guesses the not-for-profit Center for Food Integrity in an April 6 blog post titled "Technical Advances Need Transparency."

Also, the blog notes, be on the lookout for "Hens that produce only female offspring (that) would do away with the need to euthanize male chicks."

But that's just the tip of the CRISPR iceberg. Toss drug research — especially gene therapies for cancer treatment — into the discussion and CRISPR may be the biggest, life-changing tool to hit mankind since the invention of the wheel.

Where will this new wheel take us?

Can its plant and animal transforming magic serve both today's industrial Big Ag and tomorrow's sustainable ag?

Will the market's singular drive toward short-term profit short-circuit the long-term complexity of our global ecology?

Is there a moral line that CRISPR should never cross? If so, where?

Answers to these tough questions — there will be many more — can't come from government regulators like USDA. They need to come from you and me. We should talk.

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

OPINION



BY BRENDA SCHOEPP
AF COLUMNIST

A 2012 report called *The Cruelty Connection* looked at whether there was a relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence in Alberta.

And there was — people who committed crimes against animals also committed crimes against people.

The project (a collaboration between the SPCA and the RCMP) found that in 85 per cent of cases when the abuser threatened to harm an animal, he carried that threat out. This ranged from breaking legs on food animals and pets, hanging, drowning, beating, starvation, isolation and painful slaughter, as well as torture. So when a person holding his family hostage said he would harm the animals or pets, he usually did so.

If that was not enough, there was a certain mind game involved where the crime was committed in front of the children. Again 85 per cent of the time — often driven by fear of leaving home — the family pet was usually the victim.

The report found that abused or

oppressed women on farms are reluctant to leave because they have to leave the animals behind. If they have access to transportation and are not being watched, they can get the kids in the car and maybe the family dog. But it is hard to get the cat, chickens, geese, sheep, cattle, and horses in the same vehicle. The concern of the welfare of the animal is so great that it keeps families at risk — 59 per cent of women said they endured spousal abuse rather than leave their animals.

In the *Cruelty Connection* report, the authors were astounded to discover that basic animal welfare was misunderstood and most certainly underappreciated. The connection between human and animal welfare was very deep and the report urges us to consider the importance of the continued work with food animal welfare programs.

On larger farms, because of their access and public transparency, codes apply and audits are necessary. That does not mean that family violence does not exist on larger farms, but these sorts of programs often do not get to isolated farms where women, children, and animals are marginalized. And when people are marginalized, so are animals.

I heard this first hand when talking about animal welfare to children ages nine to 18 years. They did not consider intermittent care of food animals or even the stoning of the family dog to death wrong, because it was part of their everyday life. It was "just Dad's way."

Animal welfare research has highlighted the importance of touch and of voice when handling animals. How we speak to and handle animals not only affects their emotional well-being, but also their production.

Other research has documented the "profound difference" on production and behaviour when food animals were exposed to familiar faces and actions. It found a disruption in the human family can often spill over into a disruption in the emotional and productive state of the animals in our care.

We have said before on these pages that society lumps animal welfare and human rights in the same camp — and this is well documented. What they may have not realized, and nor did agriculture, was just how deep those two are related.

The director of dairy stewardship at one of the largest U.S. dairies reminded us at a recent live-

stock care conference that "poor animal welfare is unsustainable" — a statement most folks would wholeheartedly agree with. Very few wake up in the morning with an intention to harm or create suffering. Rather we work toward the care and comfort of our animals at all times. It is in their best interest and in ours — as farmers or pet owners.

But human beings make mistakes, and they can often arise in that constant quest for ultimate performance. This results in infertility, woody breast, laminitis, and a host of other sources of pain for both the animal and the caregiver. We need to revisit the cost of single-trait selection, which is not a sustainable practice and impacts the bottom line.

And there are often simple ways to avoid complex problems. A poultry expert at the same Alberta Farm Animal Care conference said that in designing housing, we need to remember "these are ground birds — going up causes stress."

It is our duty as farmers to ensure that we train, respect and care for those who work on our farms and this is very critical for family. Everyone on the farm should be empowered to do the right thing and no one should be

pressured to accept a practice just because it is 'Dad's way.'

In other words, the key to the creation of a safe and wholesome environment for people and animals on our planet is culture. We do not turn a blind eye to animal suffering nor should we to human suffering — both are a grave injustice.

You can report animal welfare concerns by calling Alberta Farm Animal Care's Alert Line (1-800-506-2273) and animal abuse by calling the SPCA (1-800-455-9003 or 911).

You can report domestic violence or abuse by calling 911.

Information on women's shelters in Alberta can be found at www.acws.ca and your local RCMP detachment has information on victim services in your area. Alberta Health Services' help line number is 310-1818.

By reporting abuse, know that you have taken one step forward for a culture that honours the animals and people entrusted to our care.

Brenda Schoepp is a farmer from Alberta who works as an international mentor and motivational speaker. She can be contacted through her website www.brendaschoepp.com. All rights reserved. Brenda Schoepp 2015

We can't turn a blind eye to abuse

Domestic violence and animal abuse do take place on farms in our province, and both must be reported

Farmers' indignation won't stop consumers from demanding change

Denying there's any room for change on the farm is a short-sighted strategy that ignores new opportunities

BY STEWART SKINNER
MODERN FARMER PROJECT

Twitter has killed civil discourse.

Limits of 140 characters make having a discussion about complex topics like food production next to impossible, but for some reason it has become a platform of choice for exchanging ideas.

I have watched many of my fellow food producers howl when A&W, Subway, and other food businesses work to create supply chains that go beyond the base standards laid out by the CFIA and various provincial regulations. From time to time, I will wade into the fray and often my view is rather unpopular among my counterparts. Rights of the individual are very important to me; it is part of why we live such wonderful lives here in Canada.

Our rights are respected and protected by a series of laws and ultimately, our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. For me, there is a logical extension to businesses. When a company in the food industry makes a decision it feels is best for the health of its busi-

ness, I skip over the indignation and go straight to looking at what new opportunities this opens up for growers. We can bluster all we want, but this trend will continue and we will see greater segmentation within our food industry.

This is a large part of why we are working to start up a certified humane production loop to produce pigs.

We weighed the options available for growth of our business and this avenue offered long-term price stability in one of the fastest-growing segments of the protein market. We don't think the pork we will produce is 'better' and I will admit that I don't like the way the label implies commodity pork is somehow now 'inhumane' because it is not.

Regardless of the production system, farmers care for their livestock, ensuring that animals' needs are met and the grocery shelves are always full with safe, affordable food. That said, a growing segment of consumers have said loud and clear they are concerned about animal welfare and they are willing to pay a premium for an audited production system that adheres to specific requirements. We have made a decision to take part.

The larger issue at play for me is how defensive agriculture has got as an industry. Case in point, recently I got into a back-and-forth with an author who published a blog criticizing animal behaviourist Temple Grandin for an article in which she shared her concerns surrounding the long-term implications genetic selection for higher production is having on dairy cow longevity.

I have serious issues with someone going after one of animal agriculture's strongest advocates in the public eye because she had the audacity to say that everything is not perfect on the farm. He cherry-picked quotes and sprinkled in some anecdotal evidence using Gigi, the nine-year-old wonder cow.

My former thesis adviser had a saying, "An n of 1, a study does not make." Trying to use one cow as justification Grandin is wrong is misleading when we know the average age of a dairy cow has declined as productivity has increased. Peer-reviewed research published back in 2005 highlights this phenomenon. A long-term study of Holstein cows in the northeastern U.S. showed 80 per cent of cows lived to 48

months in 1957. By 2002 this had dropped to 60 per cent.

Switching to our farm, I will be the first one to admit our longevity of sows has a negative correlation with productivity. In 2012 we weaned an average of 21.84 piglets per sow per year and our average parity (pregnancies per sow) on the farm was 2.98. In 2016 we are weaning 29.91 piglets per sow per year and our average parity has decreased to 2.6.

Does a reduction in longevity equate to poorer welfare? I don't think it does. Our animals are better cared for than ever before, they're just not staying on the farm as long. However, we do need to consider the long-term ramifications of basing much of our genetic selection on productivity traits.

We as food producers need to come to grips with the fact we are not perfect and in this world of instant communication, the drive for transparency in food production will continually intensify. The odd thing is, I think we all know we are not perfect but for some reason most of us are very defensive.

My guess is much of the anger is rooted in the fact we are doing

a great job of producing more food while greatly reducing the environmental impact of our production. All we want is to be left alone to continue doing what those who came before us did, feeding people.

Rightly or wrongly, this simply isn't an option and as long as there is Twitter, Instagram, Insert New Social Media Platform Here, and full grocery store shelves, we are going to face continued scrutiny around our practices. Each generation of food producers has had to grapple with new challenges. Maybe ours is learning to accept non-farming people will play a significant role in shaping how we grow food.

Michael Von Massow, a professor and researcher at University of Guelph, who has researched animal welfare and consumer perceptions put it well in a recent column in the *Globe and Mail*: "We can talk all we want about the safety and the science, but if we can't convince consumers, producers must find other markets or change their practices."

Stewart Skinner farms near Listowel, Ontario and blogs about his life on the farm at [https://modernfarmer.wordpress.com](http://modernfarmer.wordpress.com).

BEEF ▶ from page 1

management at Dalhousie University.

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, formed in 2014, is reviewing the criteria developed for McDonald's "verified sustainable beef," but isn't expecting to complete that job until 2017. That means it will be 2019 before cattle raised under those protocols head to slaughter.

"Consensus building has been challenging for the roundtable—the first thing we need to do as a country is agree on what sustainable beef actually means," said Charlebois.

Dave Andrews, a Brooks rancher and well-known figure in the beef sector, agrees the process may be moving too slowly, but he's not going to fault the roundtable for that.

"It's a big project," he said. "I'm not critical of the roundtable for being too slow. Resources are finite and it's not inexpensive to develop a program like this."

Andrews is one of the authors of the seminal 2014 "straw man" report that urged the beef industry to work together to capitalize on Canada's ability to produce high-quality beef. That included a call "to provide both domestic and international customers with a dependable supply of quality beef that meets their specific needs and expectations."

But so far, the market signals for specialized beef programs for companies like Earls have not been "vigorous" enough, he said.

"This is a market-based industry—it responds to price signals," said Andrews. "I don't think that the market opportunity has been clearly demonstrated to be profitable at this point in time."

"It's not that hard to do if the price signals are there."

Producers are "looking very carefully" at the market potential, but so far the number of buyers like Earls is few and far between, he said. And while Europe is a potentially lucrative market and



The first thing the cattle industry has to do is stop believing that there is no money to be made with niche markets. There is money to be made.

SYLVAIN CHARLEBOIS

wants beef raised without growth promoters, it imposes tariffs and quotas to keep out imports.

Looking ahead

But ranchers like Colleen Biggs are already doing what Charlebois recommends by chasing niche markets.

The high prices for cattle in recent years shouldn't lull producers into a false sense of security, said Biggs, who produces 'natural' beef with husband Dylan at TK Ranch near Hanna.

She likens the cattle business to the oil industry, and fears what would happen if prices suddenly plummeted.

"We're doing OK right now, but heaven forbid... we had some strong years and the market has just one direction to go now," she said.

"That's the primary reason we got involved. We couldn't survive in the industry by just selling our calves in the fall. There wasn't enough cash. The more markets we have for our livestock, the

more stable the overall agricultural industry will be."

The Biggs, who will soon be opening their own abattoir near Calgary, raise grass-fed beef, lamb, and pasture-raised pork under the Certified Animal Welfare label, which is even more stringent than the Certified Humane brand.

There is an opportunity for beef producers to come together to market naturally raised animals, but there's a major roadblock, she said.

Raising, assembling, processing, and certifying cattle under special protocols isn't difficult, but things fall apart when the meat goes further along the value chain, she said. For beef to retain its certification, warehouses and coolers need to be federally inspected and certified as well.

Andrews agrees that's a problem today, but said it can be overcome with the right technology. However, that will take a change in attitude, he added.

"What producers need to understand is they (retailers, restaurants and customers) are not just buying meat anymore," he said. "They're actually buying cattle from primary producers. They're buying cattle from me indirectly. They're not some shadowy retailer way out there at the other end of the value chain. They're coming down to my place and they're looking for cattle to satisfy their consumers."

"That's what producers need to get through their heads."

Neither A&W's move to "better beef" or Earls' decision should be viewed as a "one-off," he warned.

"You can bet your boots it's not — this is just the tip of the iceberg," said Andrews. "As cattle people from the rancher right through to retail, we need to understand what it is that will drive consumers to buy our product."

"And we need to make sure that we can supply what it is they want."

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R-CALF ▶ from page 1

Rich Smith, executive director of Alberta Beef Producers.

"The description in the lawsuit is a gross misrepresentation of what the United States is doing with its checkoff funds, and it unfairly maligns production practices and standards in other countries, including Canada," said Smith.

"R-CALF is an organization that opposes international trade, and it believes that international trade is bad for the cattle industry. That's the perspective it's taking in this action and that it's consistently taken as an organization."

The group alleges the USDA's \$1-per-head checkoff is being "unconstitutionally used to promote international beef, to the detriment of U.S. beef products and producers."

"The checkoff's implied message that all beef is equal, regardless of where the cattle are born or how they are raised, harms U.S. farmers and ranchers and deceives U.S. citizens," R-CALF chief executive officer Bill Bullard said in a news release.

The lawsuit... unfairly maligns production practices and standards in other countries, including Canada.

RICH SMITH

"Despite what we know to be clear evidence about the high quality of beef raised by independent U.S. cattlemen, we are being taxed to promote a message that beef raised without the strict standards used by our members is the same as all other beef, a message we do not support and do not agree with."

The group alleges the national checkoff — which collected more than \$80 million last year — is being used to fund promotional efforts that include a Wendy's ad cam-

paign that promoted "a product that could contain beef from 41 different countries." It also claims imported beef products are "less safe and less wholesome than those produced by the organization's members and originate from cattle not raised using the U.S. cattle industry's rigorous animal husbandry practices."

"At a time of alarming food recalls and concerns about the health and safety of the food we eat, that's both irresponsible and troubling," said David Muraskin, one of the lawyers representing R-CALF in the lawsuit.

Not another COOL
That allegation is patently false, said Smith.

"Our production practices are at least as good as those in the United States, and our regulations here — especially in the area of traceability — are significantly stronger than in the United States," he said.

The lawsuit comes just months after the repeal of the U.S. country-of-origin labelling (COOL) law. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association spent seven years and nearly \$4 million fighting COOL, which it said cost beef and pork farmers about \$8 billion in reduced exports and lower prices.

R-CALF was a major player in the lobbying effort to implement COOL, but Smith said he's not expecting the lawsuit to have a major impact.

"There's always a risk when you hear the kind of rhetoric that you hear from R-CALF, but as an organization, it certainly seems to have lost a large amount of its influence," said Smith.

"It was more worrisome for our industry when it had more influence. It's not without influence, but it certainly doesn't have the influence it had even 10 years ago."

Moreover, the "vast majority" of U.S. cattle producers recognizes that international trade is good for the beef industry, and realizes R-CALF's allegations distort the truth, he said.

"It's a very protectionist organization," said Smith. "R-CALF is trying to justify the fact that it doesn't want trade in beef."

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UNCHANGED

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Glacier Media contributes \$50,000 to fire relief fund

An online crowdfunding campaign has also been launched to raise money for Red Cross relief efforts

STAFF

Glacier Media, the parent company of *Alberta Farmer*, is donating \$50,000 toward the Canadian Red Cross disaster relief efforts in the Fort McMurray area.

The Vancouver company said its donation is also on behalf of individual Glacier business units, which will undertake their own awareness and fundraising efforts to help the city and its residents rebuild their community and their lives, Glacier executive vice-president Bill Whitelaw said in a release.

Glacier, one of Canada's top media and information services companies, has also set up an integrated online crowdfunding campaign, with all proceeds going toward the Red Cross efforts.

Through this campaign, "we can rally our readers, our customers and our communities to get behind the Red Cross efforts in a way that allows contributions of all sizes," said Tim Shoultz, Glacier's vice-president

dent of content and audience development.

It's important for Canadians to have a sense beyond the headlines of how important Fort McMurray is to the country's economy, Whitelaw said.

"It's just not an Alberta dynamic... all Canadians need to step up and help get this engine running on all cylinders again, putting people, companies and their welfare front and centre."

The company said its operations in mining, agriculture, environmental services and community media will also advance awareness of the challenges Fort McMurray and the area faces in the coming weeks and months, Whitelaw said.

"In one way or another, all of our businesses touch Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo. Busting the fire was just the first among many challenges still to come."

Donations to the Red Cross are currently being matched by both the federal and Alberta governments.

The crowdfunding campaign can be found at <https://fundraiser.com/campaigns/2180P0>.

Identify the risks and take steps to protect your farm or ranch

There are a number of things that can – and should – be done to minimize the impact of fire

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

There are several things you can do to minimize the impact of fire.

"In a lot of cases, it's like a risk management process," said Brad Andres, director of emergency management services with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. "Ask yourself about on-farm safety and identify the risks that could really affect your operation."

Being prepared with an emergency action plan is a wise investment, he said.

"The information in an emergency plan that is specific to each individual farm operation will help to ensure the safety of family members, employees and livestock, and have the added benefit of minimizing financial loss and property damage."

When it comes to wildfires and livestock, there are three options, said Andres.

"You can shelter in place for as long as it is safe, you can try and evacuate your animals to a safer area, or, as a last resort, you can free your animals and let them fend for themselves."

If you are planning to evacuate, it will require a lot of time and resources. Animals may need to be herded to another piece of nearby property or loaded on transporters and moved to a more distant location.

"The challenge with evacuation is that you will have to make the decision to do so a long time before the fireman is knocking on your door telling you to leave," he said.

When the firefighter does come and there is no time, freeing your animals may be the only option you have.

"Open the gates and give the animals a chance to survive on their own. Give them access to areas that have food, water and space to allow their instincts to help them avoid the fire. At this stage, you are evacuating and protecting your family first, so you can come back later and fix things up or rebuild, depending on the damage."

There are some excellent mobile sources for further information, said Andres.

"There's a wildfire mobile app that will give you up-to-date information on fire bans and current fires in your area. As well, the Alberta Emergency Alert app is another communities use to post evacuation and warning instructions."

The Wildfire Mobile App can be downloaded at <http://open.alberta.ca/interact/albertawildfire>. The Alberta Emergency Alert app can be found at www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca (click on the Sign-Up For Alerts tab).

Additional information can be found by going to www.agriculture.alberta.ca and searching for 'wildfires and livestock.'

The yard

You can also take measures to help fireproof your yard.

"This means looking at your operation and building zones of protection," said Andres. "You can do simple things like cutting the grass and getting

rid of the underbrush. Doing so will remove fuel from any fire approaching your buildings or even stopping small fires in your yard from growing."

Those efforts should include pruning branches; cleaning dead leaves out of gutters and under porches and decks; and situating the burn barrel away from trees and other combustibles.

Having ample water on hand is another way to manage fire risks.

"This is especially important in dry conditions," said Andres. "You need enough water to put out a small fire or soak down your yard in the event of fire coming from the outside."

It's also vital everyone in the operation knows what the plan is, he said.

"Often when a fire hits, not everyone is at home. That means everyone needs to know at least the critical parts of the plan. What are you going to do when it's time to evacuate? Turn the power off, open the gates to let the animals run out into the pasture, and then make sure everyone leaves."

Also, follow the instructions of local authorities, he added.

"They are there to protect you. When they say it's time to evacuate, do so. If they say it's time to shelter in place, do so, but think through your plan and prepare to evacuate if need be."

You should also have a list of emergency telephone numbers that includes employees, neighbours, veterinarian, poison control, Alberta Farm Animal Care,



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

local animal shelters, and transportation resources. Include an out-of-town contact person who is unlikely to be affected by the same emergency. Make sure that everyone on the farm knows where this list is.

Additional FireSmart resources — including a guide for protecting your home and yard — can be found at www.wildfire.alberta.ca (click on the FireSmart link on the left-hand side of the page).



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New research facility is for the birds

A University of Saskatchewan facility will let researchers study bird health and the environment with possible human benefits

BY LESLEY PORTER
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Just like the canary in the coal mine, wild birds can tell us a lot about our environment and how it could affect human health.

University of Saskatchewan biology professor, Christy Morrissey says watching birds for problems could help locate issues that may affect human health, one of the driving forces behind a new research facility.

"Everything is magnified for them," Morrissey said. "They're smaller, their lifespans are shorter in many cases and they are so dependent on their environment."

Spanning close to 350 square metres, the facility has six indoor bird rooms and 12 outdoor enclosures, capable of holding a large variety of bird species such as songbirds, waterfowl and raptors.

It is one of only two such facilities in Canada capable of advanced research on birds, as well as the only facility of its kind dedicated to the studies of avian wildlife eco-toxicology and medicine.

"Most of our research capacity is on aquatic animals, so we have a lot of that," she said. "We have an animal care facility mostly for small mammals to do health research, but no dedicated space to work on wildlife and no dedicated place to work on birds, other than poultry."

"The whole concept of the facility is to do multidisciplinary research on wild birds — that could be anything from ecology and migration studies to toxicology work and veterinary medicine."

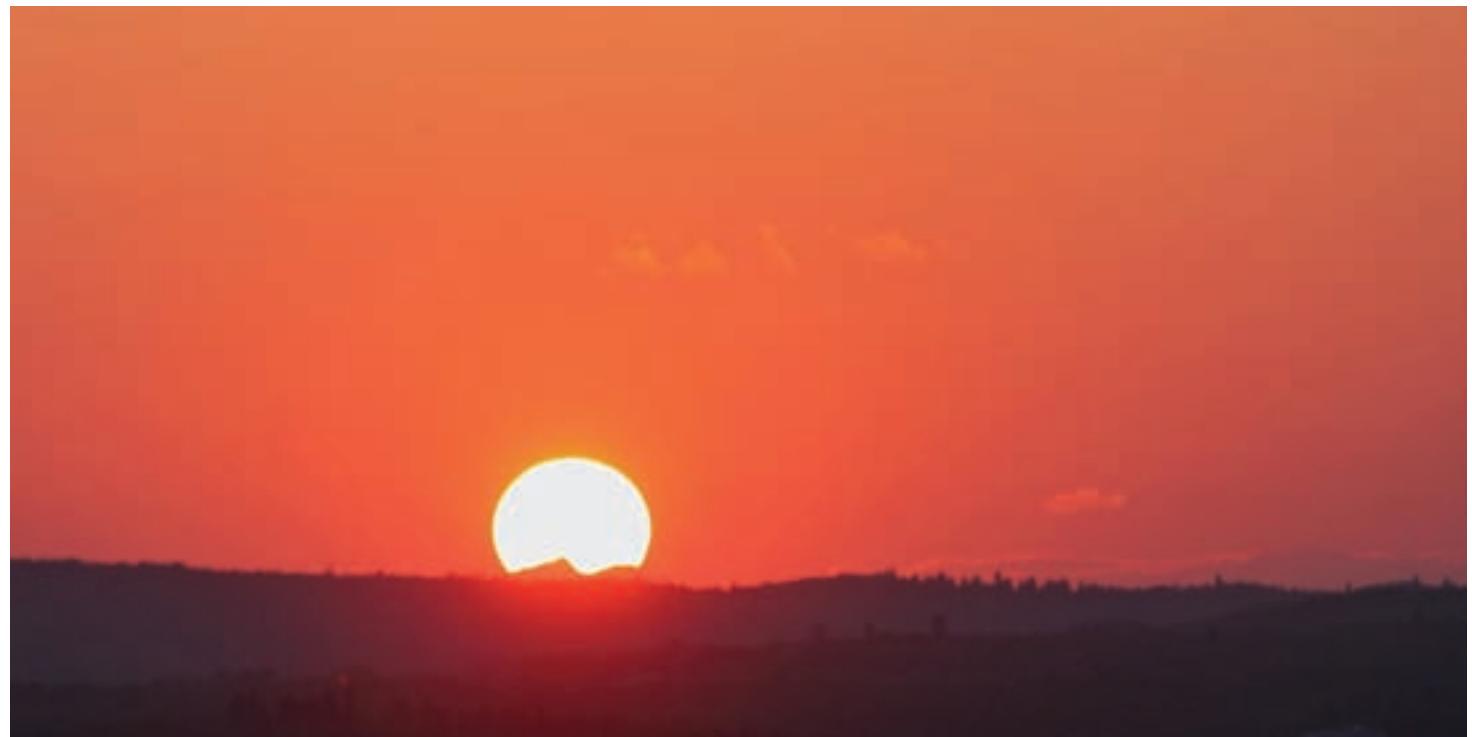
Birds have a long, storied past as being excellent indicators of environmental conditions, Morrissey said. Like the proverbial canary in a coal mine — where the bright, chirpy bird would accompany underground miners and cease to sing once the air became too toxic — birds still act as indicators of the health of the environment and potentially the health of the environment to support humans as well.



Biology professor, Christy Morrissey says a new facility to research bird health could pay human dividends.

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

WILDFIRE SUNSET



With smoke from Fort McMurray wildfires drifting into southern Alberta, it sets the stage for spectacular sunsets. This was captured heading southwest from Calgary towards the foothills. The mountains are lost in the smoke, but silhouetted by the setting sun.

PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY



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Biology professor, Christy Morrissey says a new facility to research bird health could pay human dividends.

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Take precautions to minimize risks of tick exposure

Blacklegged ticks are known to carry three serious illnesses



Blacklegged ticks (or deer ticks) are most commonly found within and along the edge of forests and in areas with thick, woody shrubs. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

STAFF

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month and people need to remember that tick-borne diseases are completely preventable.

People can protect themselves by performing regular tick checks after spending time outdoors, knowing where blacklegged ticks (also known as deer ticks) are located, minimizing the risk of exposure, and recognizing the signs and symptoms of tick-borne diseases. These precautions will help protect against Lyme disease, as well as anaplasmosis and babesiosis, two newly emerging tick-borne diseases.

Blacklegged ticks, which can carry anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease, are most commonly found within and along the edge of forests and in areas with thick, woody shrubs and other vegetation. Blacklegged ticks are found more often from early spring through late fall.

The smaller nymphs are difficult to see and are most abundant during late spring and summer.

Blacklegged ticks found within these risk areas are more likely to carry the agents that cause anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease. While blacklegged ticks can be found outside of these risk areas, the risk of tick-borne disease transmission is lower.

Limiting exposure to potentially infected blacklegged ticks is the key to tick-borne disease prevention. Reduce your risk of tick exposure by:

- Applying an appropriate tick repellent, following label directions, on exposed skin and clothing;
- Inspecting themselves, children and pets after spending time outdoors;
- Removing ticks as soon as possible from people and pets;
- Staying to the centre of walking trails;
- Wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts; and
- Keeping grass and shrubs around homes cut short to create drier environments that are less suitable for blacklegged tick survival.

Symptoms of babesiosis can start one to six weeks after a tick bite and may include non-specific flu-like symptoms.



Symptoms of anaplasmosis can start five to 21 days after a tick bite and may include fever, chills, headache, joint aches, nausea and vomiting, often in association with blood abnormalities and/or liver abnormalities. Anaplasmosis can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

Symptoms of babesiosis can start one to six weeks after a tick bite and may include non-specific flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, sweats, headache, body aches, loss of appetite, nausea or fatigue. Babesiosis can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

Symptoms of Lyme disease can start about three days to one month after a tick bite, often with an expanding rash which then fades. Early symptoms can also include headache, stiff neck, muscle aches or fatigue, fever, chills and swollen lymph nodes. Lyme disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics and treatment is most successful in the early stages of infection.

In Alberta, the provincial Health Ministry has a 'Submit a tick' program, and anyone finding a tick on themselves, others, or pets is asked to take it to a provincial environmental health office or to a veterinarian. All blacklegged ticks will be tested to see if they carry the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, that can cause Lyme disease in humans.

Results of this program will help Alberta Health monitor for changes to the risk of Lyme disease in Alberta. In 2014, 1,376 ticks were submitted and nine tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

For more information, go www.health.alberta.ca, click on the Health Information tab, and scroll down to Ticks and Lyme disease.

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THE NUMBERS ARE BIG IN CANADIAN AG

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has released the *Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System*. It says the sector generated \$108.1 billion of GDP, (6.6 per cent of Canada's total) in 2014 and provided one in eight jobs in Canada (employing over 2.3 million people). Canadian export sales grew by 12 per cent over year-earlier levels to \$51.5 billion, giving Canada a 3.6 per cent share of global exports. The food and beverage-processing industry continued to grow, and the value of its shipments almost doubled between 1995 and 2014 to \$103.4 billion. – AAF

WHEAT NEWS IS BEARISH

The market expected bearish wheat news from the latest USDA's new-crop supply-and-demand report, but it was worse than expected. USDA projected world wheat reserves to climb to a record 257 million tonnes by the end of the 2016-17 marketing year – a couple million tonnes more than expected and 15 million tonnes larger than the current year. But if China is removed from the mix, the global wheat balance sheet for the new crop year tightens. China, the world's largest producer, is expected to harvest 130 million tonnes in 2016-17. But it hardly participates in global wheat trade. – Reuters

MARKETS



Canola futures go for a wild ride during a chaotic week

The Prairies' weather could swing markets either way

BY PHIL FRANZ-WARKENTIN

Seatbelts were mandatory for those following the canola futures market during the week of May 9-13, with the July contract moving up, down and up again within a \$40 range.

The biggest move came on Tuesday, May 10, following the release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly supply/demand report. The numbers were deemed as bullish for soybeans, with a downward revision to the old-crop carry-out projection and an even tighter forecast for 2016-17. Beans rocketed higher and canola did the same.

Both old- and new-crop canola shot to fresh contract highs on Tuesday, but overbought warning bells were quickly sounding and prices were right back where they started by Thursday's close. With the profit-taking out of the way, canola could resume the slow upward trend in place over the past two months.

The underlying fundamentals remain relatively supportive, with solid end-user demand and expectations for tightening ending stocks, but it will now likely take an outside catalyst for canola to retest its nearby highs.

The weather is one such factor being closely watched these days. Some areas of Western Canada, especially Alberta, remain on the dry side and are in need of moisture. Nearby forecasts call for widespread rains from May 18 to 20, which would be bearish if realized.

Meanwhile, much of Saskatchewan and Manitoba already saw welcome precipitation over the past week. However, that moisture came in the form of snow and freezing temperatures in some cases, and the risk of a spring frost is still a strong possibility in the middle of May.

Beyond the Canadian weather, much more attention these days remains on crop conditions in the U.S. and South America. Soybean production estimates out of Argentina have been downgraded

due to excess moisture. In Brazil, dryness is the issue hurting crop prospects there.

Brazil was also in the news for all of the wrong political reasons over the past week, as the country's president, Dilma Rousseff, faces impeachment. The political uncertainty led to swings in the Brazilian currency. That, in turn, influences the export market for both soybeans and corn, making movement out of the country more or less favourable, depending on the exchange rate that day.

Soybean and corn futures at the Chicago Board of Trade both moved higher during the week, but soyoil was down.

Wheat is trading on its own news, with Chicago and Kansas City winter wheat contracts moving up in sympathy with corn despite the relatively bearish global supply situation.

Minneapolis wheat was a bit more subdued, with prices holding within a very narrow range over the course of the week as the North American crop is still being planted.

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



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

Fertilizer prices set to rise, says industry expert

A rally in commodity prices and currency factors could push up prices in coming months

BY DAVE SIMS

COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE CANADA

Arise in prices for soybeans and other crops could make fertilizer more expensive in the coming months, according to a major player in the industry.

In the May market report from the Mosaic Co., the company credited the rally in agricultural commodity prices, the strengthening of key currencies and various Indian subsidies and Brazilian political dramas as helping raise the prospects for a rebound in nitrogen, phosphorous and potash values.

"We've seen a big rally in soybean prices and we've seen decent increases in many of the ag commodity prices that we think underpin good demand prospects," said Michael Rahm, vice-president of market and strategic analysis with Mosaic in Minnesota.

Fertilizer usage north of the border is keeping steady according to two prominent producers on the Prairies.

"Fertilizer isn't cheap, but prices have been flat through most of the winter," said Doug Chorney, a former president of Keystone Agricultural Producers who farms north of Winnipeg. "I bought most of my fertilizer in the winter and prices have not changed dramatically since then."

Another farmer says despite excessively dry conditions in Alberta, he hasn't seen anyone cutting back on fertilizer usage this spring.

"I think it's pretty well the same; people have bought stuff earlier and they're using it, hoping that they can get enough rain to use it up," said Lynn Jacobson, the president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture who farms near Enchant.

Looking at the second half of the year, Rahm said other factors could also boost demand and strengthen the market. Chinese potash contracts, uncertainty in Brazil and India's apparent plan to purchase phosphate later than normal are two of the main ones.

As well, the effects of a potential La Niña weather system on growing areas must also be considered.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

"If La Niña comes about sooner than expected and you get a bit of a growing problem with the North American growing season that could provide additional fireworks in the ag commodity complex and could be the biggest swing factor," he explained.

Recovering oil prices and appreciations in major currencies, most especially the Russian ruble, are also supportive for the fertilizer market.

"That rebound in (Russian) currency, coupled with domestic inflation prices, is beginning to pinch or squeeze margins," said Rahm.

But he stresses the ag commodity complex is what they'll be watching most carefully throughout the summer.

"The Northern Hemisphere growing season will be key to watch, as will weather in June, July and August."

LESS WAITING. MORE REAPING.

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CHANGES TO TRACEABILITY DATABASE

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency has enhanced the Canadian Livestock Tracking System database. The agency has enabled system users to submit an Import event for any foreign country tag ID numbers. The supported format is 15 digits in length, starting with the country code. Since current regulations only permit the farm of origin to age verify an animal, a final owner may receive less than market value for an incorrectly age-verified animal if a birthdate entry is in the database. The system now sends a digital alert designed to prevent duplicate birthdate data entry reporting on the same tags. – CCIA

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The University of Calgary Faculty of veterinary medicine's annual Beef Cattle Conference takes place June 16-17 in Calgary. This year's focus is on infectious disease diagnosis and control, including overviews of diarrhea, respiratory disease, and other diseases; biosecurity; vaccination; and preconditioning. There will also be workshops on managing pre-weaning diseases, infectious lameness in the feedlot, and administering veterinary pharmaceuticals. Program details are available at www.vet.ucalgary.ca/beef, by emailing beef@ucalgary.ca or calling 403-210-6420. – AAF

LIVESTOCK

Does the 'appetite gene' make for better cattle?

A genetic mutation in cattle makes gains with a little help from its friends

BY JEFF MELCHIOR
AF CONTRIBUTOR

Somewhat controversial in the early days of cattle genetic coding, leptin—a hormone that regulates appetite in animals and humans—is making a comeback among some cattle breeders.

The difference this time is its common inclusion in a broad panel of beneficial genes tested in cattle, said Stephen Moore, a leading researcher in the field of genetic coding in cattle.

"When we do genetic association studies for a number of different traits—marbling or fattening, for example—leptin is one of these genes that keeps coming up time and time again, along with genes such as the Growth Hormone Receptor and Insulin Like Growth Factor," said Moore, a former University of Alberta professor now at the University of Queensland in Australia.

"They're essential in a complex interaction of genes that affect a lot of different traits but they don't do it on their own."

Leptin is a hormone secreted by fat cells that essentially tells the brain when to stop eating. There are more than 20 mutations of the gene in cattle, and all can create subtly different effects, said Moore. The fully mutated version in the single gene test of the leptin gene (genotype TT) has been associated with better back fat growth, higher dairy production, and improved feed efficiency.

The value of these mutations in leptin for breeding programs has been debated in the cattle genetics research community for some time, said Moore. Some argue that the difference in animal performance is significant while some say otherwise. But with most testing for leptin now done as part of a broad panel test for a wide range of genomics—as opposed to the older single gene test—it's become clear that leptin mutations work best when considered in the context of other genetic variations.

"With most single gene tests we only see a small amount of variation in a trait such as fatness or growth rate," said Moore. "When many mutations in many genes are tested, much more of the variation can be explained."



Lon Carlson and Lorraine Beaudin have been testing for leptin for a decade at Carlson Cattle Company, a purebred Red Angus and Gelbvieh operation they operate with their four children. From left to right, Lon, Sidney, Conor, Alison, Kolten and Lorraine.

PHOTO: CARLSON CATTLE COMPANY

Game changer

Panel tests offer breeders more accurate predictions when selecting for various traits, he said. "Leptin may form part of a much larger panel of up to 700,000 mutations in some cases. Depending on the breed, they can predict a whole lot of traits with pretty good accuracy. Depending on your bull or your cow herd's key performance target, you might want a bull that is good for one particular thing and you can make that choice based on these genomic predictions."

Panel testing has also changed the game when it comes to the turnover of high-demand bulls. "It's transformed the bull breeding in dairy cattle like you wouldn't believe," said Moore. "Five or six years ago, you had these elite Holstein bulls—Goldwin was the big one in Canada. He was still the drop bull four years after he died with producers still using his semen because it took five years to get accurate genomic predictions for him."

"With this newer technology you get an accurate estimate of the bull when it's one year old. What that's done to bull breeding in dairy cattle is you have a one-year-old bull that's the top bull and you collect semen from that bull, but next

year you find a better bull. You don't have to wait five or seven years to get an accurate prediction. The bulls are turning over much more quickly."

Still, the research on leptin is unclear when it comes to efficiency. Moore and his associates from the University of Alberta have tested the relationship between leptin and residual feed intake (RFI), which is the difference between an animal's actual feed intake and its expected feed requirements for maintenance and growth.

"Efficiency is different things to different people, so we tested the RFI trait which is a measure of efficiency that is not dependent on growth rate," said Moore. "It's a trait that's important in your cow herd—you want cows that are low maintenance and having calves that go to the feedlot. The problem is all the RFI measurements have been measured in a feedlot and not in the cow herd because it's very difficult to measure feed intake on pasture."

For that reason, Moore said it's difficult to determine a direct connection between leptin and RFI. "Leptin came up in some of those studies. It was there, it's important. But as to how it's affecting the whole suite of genes in feed-to-gain ratio or residual

feed intake we don't know. We haven't established those pathways."

Sold on leptin testing

While the scientific debate over leptin isn't settled, Lon Carlson and Lorraine Beaudin swear by it.

The owners of Carlson Cattle Company, a purebred Red Angus and Gelbvieh operation located near Magrath, have been testing for leptin in their herd for the past 10 years, using only bulls that have been tested 100 per cent positive for the TT mutation in their program.

Although Carlson Cattle Company uses the single gene test for leptin, Beaudin said they test for a number of other genes linked to specific traits as well.

"We test our herd sires for other traits that (genetics information supplier) Quantum Genetix has identified, such as rib-eye area (IGF2), tenderness (PMCH), stress (CrH4), and more recently POMC which is linked to feed efficiency and rate of gain."

"Our interest in the leptin gene started when Lon worked with several feedlot owners and operators who were interested in leptin," said Beaudin. "The leptin program was being introduced to the feedlots through Quantum Genetix

"The more we researched leptin, the greater our interest."

LON CARLSON

as a means of selecting cattle for slaughter based on their DNA and condition score.

"Lon found this of interest and felt that testing and breeding for leptin would be beneficial in the seedstock industry since the positive bulls could then only pass on the leptin mutation to their offspring."

"The more we researched leptin, the greater our interest," added Carlson. "What impressed Lorraine the most was the empirical research linking leptin to improved milk production, primarily in dairy cattle."

"To have a DNA marker that is proven to increase ADG (average daily gain) and milk production in cattle could only be a positive addition to our program."

The Carlsons have been seeing improvements in average daily gain in their herd for some time. "We first noticed this when our four kids' 4-H steers were consistently in the top end of the 4-H club," said Beaudin.

They are just beginning to explore the relationship between the TT leptin mutation and RFI, said Carlson.

"In our most recent RFI test, six of our bulls were tested against 24 other bulls," he said. "Four of our bulls were ranked in the top five. In that test, two of the bulls were 100 per cent leptin and two were 50 per cent leptin."

The same test also measured average daily gain, with 30 bulls averaging 3.26 pounds per day.

But once again, his bulls stood out, said Carlson.

"Three bulls out of the 30 on test had an ADG of over four pounds per day—and all three were ours, two of which were 100 per cent leptin."



Proper rations, location, and salt additives are key to managing mineral intake of cattle gone to pasture. PHOTO: JENNIFER PAIGE

Find the right balance for mineral consumption

Consistent monitoring, proper salt use and location are all key to ensure minerals and supplements are effective

BY JENNIFER PAIGE
STAFF

Minerals and supplements are necessary tools in cattle production but how do you ensure the herd has what it needs while avoiding expensive waste?

Animal nutrition expert D.J. Woodward says striking that balance means monitoring, proper rations, and appropriate salt use.

"Cattle have to consume minerals in order to have all of the health benefits that we know that their rumen microbes need," said Woodward, regional manager for ADM animal nutrition in Lethbridge. "Overconsumption for long periods will be costly, with little or no benefit, and underconsumption can create deficiencies."

Focusing on free-choice minerals, as they are the most commonly used, Woodward provided tips for producers during a recent Going to Grass online presentation sponsored by United Farmers of Alberta.

Before starting out with a new mineral program, he recommends a feed analysis to determine what minerals need to be supplemented.

"Cattle require macro-elements such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sulphur, potassium and salt," Woodward said.

When selecting a mineral product, consider the form (block or meal), formulation (salt content, added carriers and sweeteners), and concentration (number of cows per tub and distribution in the pasture).

A common mistake is having an improper number of cows per tub. He recommends aiming for 15 to 25 cows per tub.

"If we have 100 cows on a single tub, that tub is hardly going to get a rest between cows. There is going to be a lot of saliva left on top, which softens more of the top layer and the top inch of that tub will be very soft," said Woodward. "The cattle will literally be able to lick chunks of it out with their tongue as opposed to having to work a little bit to get at it."

If using feeders, he suggests one for every 40 to 50 head, and leaving adequate space between them to avoid congestion.

Expect variations

When starting out on a new mineral program, producers should give their herd enough time to

level off on consumption before making any changes to management that would affect intake.

"We need to be patient and wait the 21 days for cattle to acclimate to the new product," Woodward said. "Sometimes they will start very slow, sometimes they will start very aggressive, every cow herd is different so we need to allow that three-week time period."

Once the mineral program has been established, don't be surprised if you still see intake variations, as consumption levels can change for a number of reasons including change in season, temperature, forage quality, pasture rotation, and environmental events.

It's important to monitor mineral disappearance in order to have a good understanding of the daily feeding rate and properly judge intake tolerance.

"On any free-choice mineral, you should have a 25 per cent intake tolerance, plus or minus."

Salt is considered to be the main driver for mineral intake and can be used to control intake levels.

"Salt is the only mineral that cattle crave," Woodward said. "I tell producers all the time to use salt as both the brake and gas pedal for consumption. We can take it away to increase consumption or we can add additional salt to slow cattle down on the mineral."

Most free-choice minerals contain 15 to 30 per cent salt or sodium and in cases where cattle may be underconsuming, additional salt offerings, such as free-choice salt blocks, should be taken away to encourage cattle to get their salt from the minerals.

For herds that may be overconsuming, move mineral feeders or tubs out of high-traffic areas. This can also be beneficial to increase traffic in areas of the pasture that are being undergrazed.

"The cattle will chase these tubs," Woodward said. "They will go and eat the tub and then typically graze around the tub, so it is also a way to better distribute the cattle throughout the entire pasture."

For underconsuming herds, consider removing any added medications for a short period as these may cause bitterness when starting out, or switching to a low-salt formula, as this will require more consumption to quench the cattle's salt craving.

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Keep score when it comes to your soil health

The Visual Soil Assessment scorecard can help producers identify whether their soils are degrading

BY JENNIFER BLAIR

AF STAFF

An upcoming Foothills Forage and Grazing workshop will feature a soil health expert from Down Under talking about what's going on down underground.

"The workshop is an introduction to the role of soil health and microbiology in building forage quality and pasture quality," said Nicole Masters, director of Integrity Soils in New Zealand.

"It's going to be helping ranchers as they define some of the dynamics in their soil and common issues with parasites or weeds. They'll look at what's driving that from the ground up."

Ranchers tend to know "an awful lot about pasture, but not a lot about the soil," said Masters, who will be speaking at the June 24 workshop in Carstairs.

"If they can understand more about the soil dynamics, it gives them more tools and more opportunities for forage improvement," said Masters. "Soil health is something producers need to be focusing on if they want to be a profitable business into the future. We need resilience when it comes to soil health."

"Everything comes back to soil. That's especially important in a drought year, she added."

"Healthy soils will act like a buffer and a sponge," she said. "We can hold a lot more moisture in healthy soils, and in the growing season, it's going to act as a buffer against temperature extremes. They're cool in the middle of summer and warm in winter."

"What we're trying to build underground is that buffer from extremes so that we can grow a pasture that's not stressed."

Ranchers often don't realize that their soils are degrading, she said.

To evaluate that, Masters uses a Visual Soil Assessment scorecard, a tool developed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

"The soil will give you signals earlier than the pasture will. So if you can pick up that the soil is degrading, then you can do something about it," said Masters.

"I don't know if it's your greatest weak spot, as it is in some other countries, but there's an awful lot of soil being lost."

The scorecard helps producers identify whether they're losing soil and what they can do about it.

"It has some dynamic measurements for how healthy the soil is right now, and whether the soil is improving or degrading," she said.

As a first step, producers need to be looking for "visual signs" that the soil is in good shape — things such as crumb structure, water movement through the soil, mycorrhizae levels, and colour.

"We're looking for how much carbon we're holding on to, and that shows up as that lovely dark-brown humus colour," said Masters.

"We're wanting our soils to look like they're gorgeous fluffy chocolate cake. If it's not, we need to look at what we can do about it."

For most ranchers, improving soil degradation comes down to discovering their "limiting factors."

"On different ranches, there will be something that is inhibiting mycorrhizae or damaging soil health. It's going to be on a case-by-case basis," she said.

"We need to look at how we can use the range-land and the animals to improve soil health instead of degrading it."

And building your knowledge base is "a good place to start," said Masters.

"Go to workshops or talk to people who are already well on track," she said.

"That's the joy of getting to listen to people from different parts of the world. They bring different experiences and perspectives."

"There's a lot of options out there. Don't think that there's nothing that can be done."

For more information about the workshop, go to www.foothillsforage.com.

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ATTENTION: MEN OVER FORTY

In Alberta, 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, but when diagnosed early, it is very treatable. All men age 40 and over are invited to visit the Man Van during the scheduled clinic times and receive a free baseline PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test.



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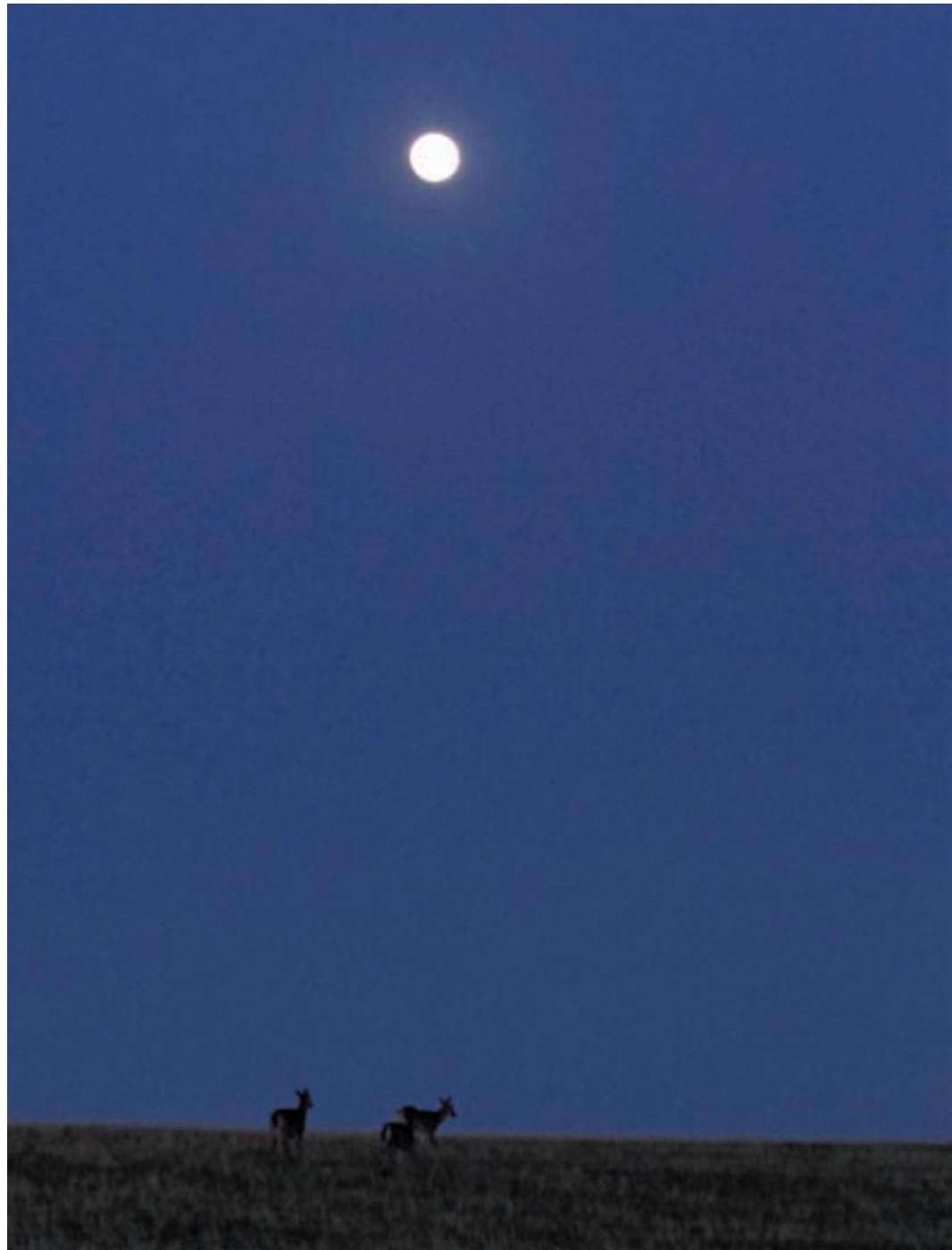
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A group of deer grazes by the light of the full moon, in a hayfield near Priddis, Alta. PHOTO: WENDY DUDLEY

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Your neighbour's unused grass could be a lifesaver

Reducing the fuel load on ungrazed areas could be a win-win for everyone

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

If you're facing a feed shortage this spring, perhaps a neighbour could help.

"Not every square foot of land in Alberta is farmed," said provincial beef extension specialist Andrea Hanson. "Perhaps there's a neighbour whose land borders yours and he or she doesn't have cattle to use the grass or getting their cattle to the area isn't practical. If so, with the addition of a gate and some perimeter fencing, you can have some extra feed this spring and/or in the fall."

Typically, these ungrazed areas have a lot of old thatch or grass from previous years' growth that will protect the new growing shoots from being overgrazed.

"Grazing these areas now and leaving your pastures that may need some extra time would be a wise plan for the longevity of your pastures," said Hanson. "Using these ungrazed areas also reduces the fire hazard from the buildup

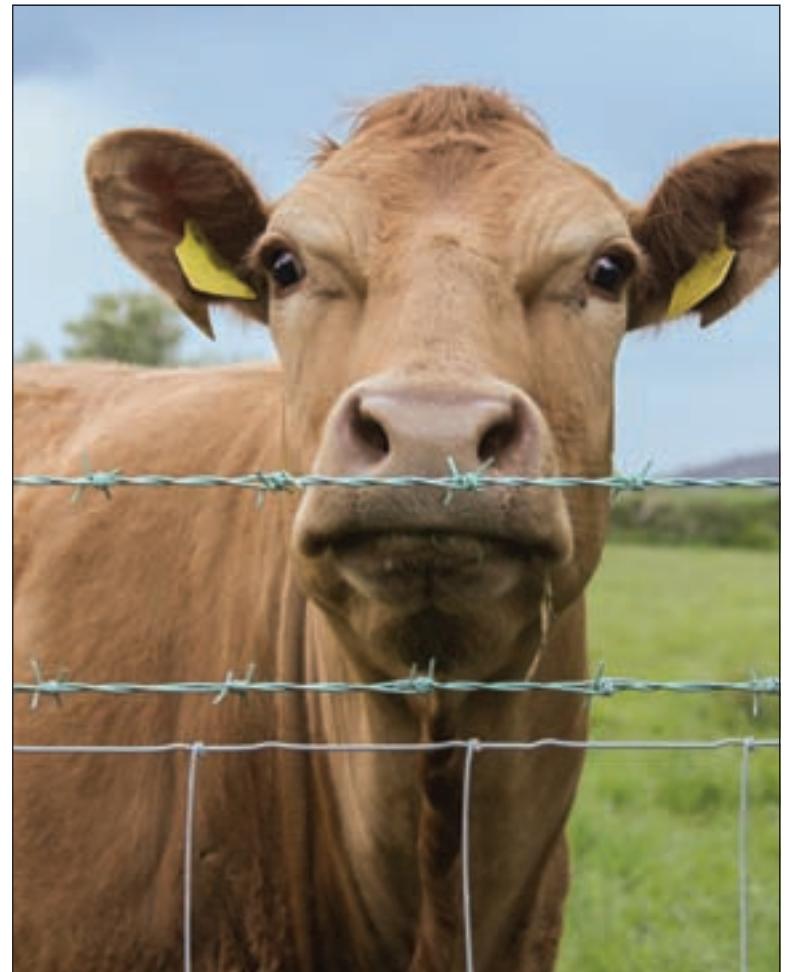
of old grass and larger fuel source. This is a benefit to all in the community."

There are several factors to consider, including fencing and watering costs — and what the grass is worth.

"Old smooth bromegrass has very little feed value while native and some other tame plant species hold their nutritional value much longer," she said. "Depending on the relationship with your neighbour, just reducing the fire hazard for the area may be compensation enough, not to mention the increase in soil health that grazing animals provide."

But make sure your cattle behave themselves and don't end up trampling your neighbour's crop.

"The saying 'good fences make good neighbours' applies at all times. If you can keep the cattle happy and contained in these underutilized areas it can certainly be a win-win for both parties when spring grass is at a premium, or to extend your grazing season in the fall."



A neighbour's ungrazed area could help you get through the dry spring.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Pain and inflammation drug approved for sheep

Boehringer Ingelheim's Metacam 20 has been approved in Canada for use in the alleviation of pain and inflammation in sheep. This is the first approval for Metacam 20 in sheep worldwide.

The approval comes following a joint submission from Boehringer Ingelheim in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand that saw regulatory agencies from each country participate in a collaborative review process.

Metacam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug of the oxicam class. Following the joint submission and review process, it is now licensed for use in sheep in the three countries.— *Boehringer Ingelheim release*

Cattle markets take a downturn

U.S. herd expansion and a rising dollar mean the Canadian cattle market is taking a hit, says Anne Wasko

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

Canadian cattle prices are headed for a downturn and they're going to stay on the low side for the next two years.

"The wheels are coming off the bus," said Anne Wasko, market analyst with Gateway Livestock.

The downturn is partially due to the recent increase of the Canadian dollar.

"This isn't a slow progression — it's an instant progression with a very large impact," said Wasko. "We have lower cattle prices in the United States, we have a higher Canadian dollar, and we have a weakening basis; three negative impacts that have all come into play in a very short period of time, with a very limited time to respond and react."



"The point I try to make to producers is that this is a very quickly changing marketplace."

ANNE WASKO



Feeders and backgrounders now have an inventory that is losing money and cow-calf producers are looking at a very different scenario compared to a year ago.

The risk around the dollar probably could have been mitigated, but things changed so quickly that most producers were caught off guard, said Wasko.

"I just look at the banks and the banks haven't even called it right, so I don't know how producers would," she said. "The point I try to make to producers is that this is a very quickly changing marketplace. Our calves are being born today, but we've got a lot of moving pieces between now and the time we wean those cattle in the fall."

Things have been slowing down since 2015, but the Canadian industry was buffered from the effects due to the declining dollar.

The cattle price cycle peaked in 2014-15 and the American herd liquidated after the severe drought of 2012. Prices have gone down since 2015 because there has been more cattle and beef available.

The 2015 basis was strong, which meant Canadian prices were closer to the American price.

"This happened because the Canadian packers wanted to send the message to keep Canadian cattle in Canada," said Wasko.

According to CANFAX, as of April 1, 2016, there were seven per cent more cattle on feed than last year in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Basis levels are currently returning to normal levels.

The U.S. has expanded for the last two years and is up four per cent, while the Albertan herd has

remained stable since 2012 and might not expand this year. And these cattle numbers won't help Canadian producers when price correction comes because American cattle drive the market. Producers will likely see a market that is turned upside down, and prices will be lower, even though the herd is smaller, she said.

Jason Wood, provincial livestock analyst with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, is a little more optimistic than Wasko.

"The prices are stabilizing and prices for feeders and fed stock are still above the five-year average," he said. "Overall, prices are still quite good compared to the five-year average."

Right now, it doesn't look as though the prices will drop any further, he said.

"If you look at the futures market, it looks like it's fairly stable through the remainder of the year, but that's open to a lot of 'what-ifs' in there," he said.

He's not sure if the herd will expand because more heifers were going to feedlots in March.

"With those heifers going into feedlots, that reduces the likelihood of breeding stock being retained and reduces the likelihood of herd expansion," said Wood. "This could be a one-off event and we're still early in the year. There's still a lot of time to go."

Last year there was a push to expand the cattle herd, but the expansion never happened because of drought. But Wood said cattle sell-offs during this time were smaller than expected.

"We're still seeing margins in the cow-calf sector that are quite good," he said. "We're still early in the year, so we could see moisture conditions improve. As we move forward, we'll have to see what happens."

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PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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FLASH FLOODS FOLLOW DROUGHT

After suffering from a prolonged drought, Ethiopia suffered flash floods last month that displaced nearly 120,000 people. Both the drought and floods are part of the global El Niño weather phenomenon, experts said. The drought has left 10.2 million people in need of food aid and aid agencies say that figure could rise to more than 15 million by August. Ethiopia's total population is 90 million. Ethiopia was ravaged by famine in 1984 which killed hundreds of thousands of people but it now boasts one of Africa's fastest-growing economies and experts say it is far better able to cope with a new crisis. — Reuters

ASIA FOOD SECURITY FEARS RESURFACE

Nearly a decade after a spike in global food prices sent shock waves around the world, Asia's top rice producers are suffering from a blistering drought that threatens to cut output and boost prices of a staple for half the world's population. World rice production is expected to decline for the first time this year since 2010, as failing rains linked to El Niño cut crop yields in Asia's rice bowl. A heat wave is sweeping top rice exporter India, No. 2 supplier Thailand is facing a second year of drought, and No. 3 Vietnam is also parched, causing irrigation fed by the Mekong River to run dry. — Reuters

WEATHER



A look at the mechanics of truly severe thunderstorms

Most thunderstorms last no more than an hour, but when the conditions are right, you can get ones that go on and on

BY DANIEL BEZTE

After a start to May that made most people across the Prairies believe that summer had arrived early, a deep upper low and a large arctic high combined to bring temperatures crashing back down.

This reminded us just why our part of the world has some of the most interesting and variable weather. The rapid swing in temperatures leads nicely into this issue's topic: severe thunderstorms.

Back in April, we talked about what it takes to form severe thunderstorms: heat, humidity, lift, and some way to vent the air at the top of the storm. This time we'll take a look at what it takes to create a severe thunderstorm and turn it into a thunderstorm to truly remember.

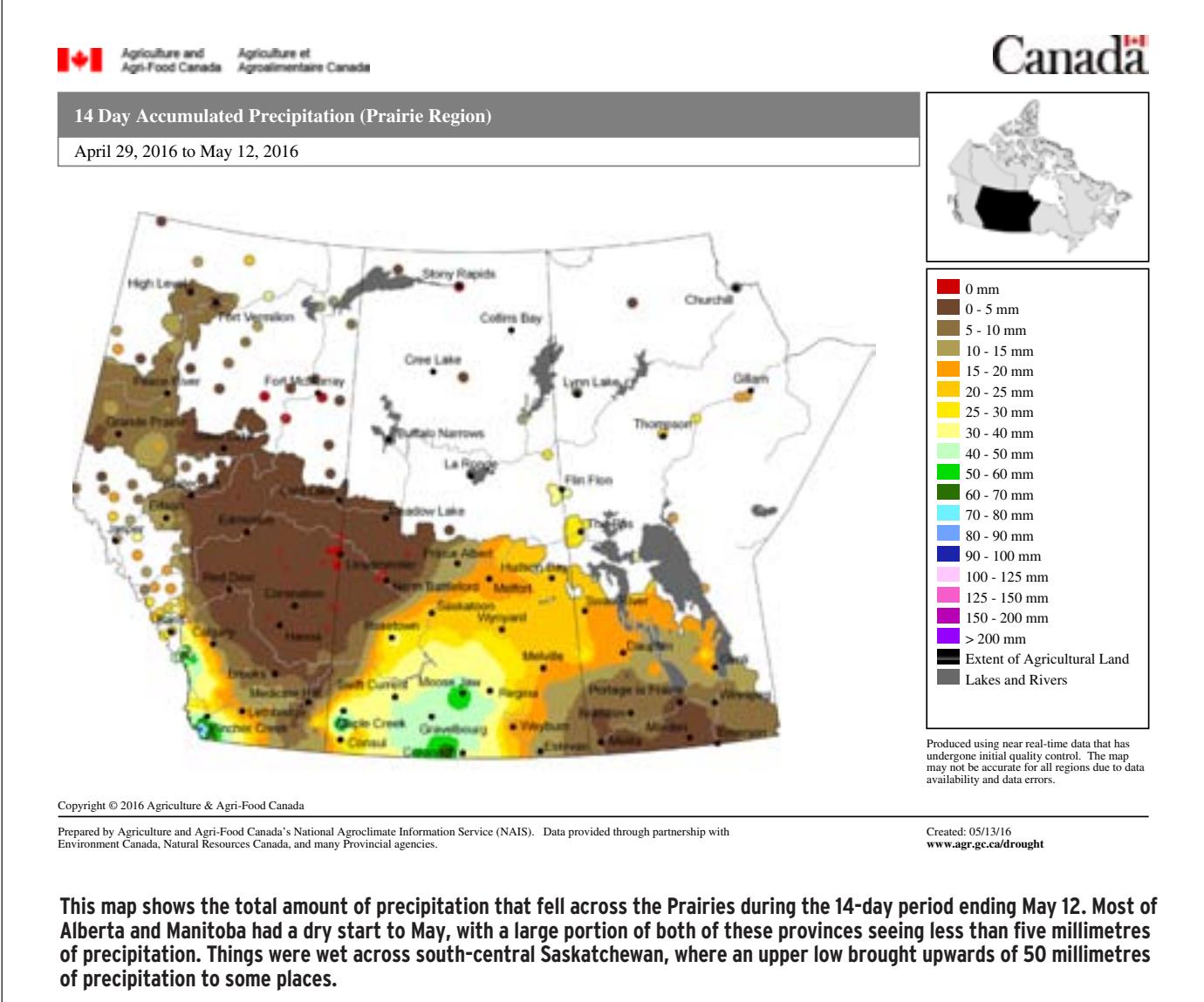
We have a hot, humid air mass in place, the air a few thousand feet up is very cold, providing for good lift, and we have a strong jet stream overhead providing the venting at the top of the storm. Everything is in place for a severe thunderstorm, but what can Mother Nature add to the mix to make things even worse?

Probably the most important "extra" ingredient that can be added is to have the wind change direction with altitude. Remember that the atmosphere is three dimensional. That is, air can flow horizontally, but this horizontal direction can change as you move upwards. Why would this have an impact on our storm?

To put it in a nutshell, this change of direction can cause the developing storm to rotate. Picture what would happen if you take a rising parcel of air and push on it from the south when it is at the surface. Then as it rises up a couple of thousand feet the wind switches direction and now blows from the east. Then a few thousand feet further up it is blowing from the northwest. What would happen to our rising parcel of air? It would get twisted, it would start to rotate.

Remember also that if we can get air to rotate counterclockwise we have an area of low pressure. Air flows inward in a counterclockwise rotation and is then forced to move upwards. If we can get our severe storm rotating, we get a small-scale area of low pressure that helps the air to rise even more than it would without the rotation.

The second thing a rotating thunderstorm can do is to nicely separate the area of updrafts and downdrafts. This is important, since the downdrafts, even with a severe thunderstorm, will eventually cut the updraft off from its source of warm, moist air. In a rotating thunderstorm, the source of warm, moist air is



maintained, giving these storms a long life and a lot of moisture to produce heavy rains.

Another aspect to the storm that a rotating column of air can provide is tornadoes. While we still do not understand how tornadoes are formed, we do know that rotating thunderstorms can produce them. It is believed that rotating columns of air can get squeezed into a narrower shape. As this happens, the wind speeds increase eventually producing the tornado.

Like most things in nature, thunderstorms rarely behave like the textbook says they should. Even when all the ingredients are there, no storms may form or sometimes some key ingredient is missing yet we get a really severe storm. This is what makes weather so interesting.

Now, not every thunderstorm that

develops becomes severe. In fact, much of our summer rainfall comes from garden-variety thunderstorms, or what we call air mass thunderstorms. These storms, as the name indicates, develop in the middle of a typical warm summer air mass. Because they are in the middle of an air mass, some of the key ingredients for severe storms are missing.

Usually, in the middle of an air mass, temperature will not decrease that rapidly with height. The wind will usually remain constant with height, and there will probably not be a jet stream overhead.

Nonetheless, we can still have enough heat and humidity for air to rise and thunderstorms will form. Since these storms don't rotate or have any way to vent the rising air from the top of the storm, they rarely last long. The accumulating air at the top of the storm will eventually fall

back down as a downdraft, and this will wipe out the updraft, essentially killing the storm. The whole process from the start of the storm to the downdraft killing can be anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour.

While these storms are short lived, they can give brief periods of heavy rain and the odd good gust of wind, especially when the downdraft fist hits the ground. These storms often provide us with just the right amount of precipitation when we need it during the summer. I hope you now know just a little bit more about the nature of severe thunderstorms.

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.

IS IT BETTER TO SAVE SEED OR BUY CERTIFIED SEED?

The recently released *Overview of Certified Seed and Farmer Saved Seed* study can help wheat producers choose the type of seed to plant. The report compares the costs of saving and cleaning seed to purchasing certified seed. "Based on the data, the results show that in only two out of the 10 years covered by the survey was certified seed a more expensive option than saved seed," says Ryan Furtas, research economist. But farmers should do their analysis with their own data and take into account wheat prices and seed availability. The report can be obtained by contacting Furtas at 780-422-7095 or ryan.furtas@gov.ab.ca. — AAF



CROPS

Is whole-farm revenue insurance the better option?

The ideal farm safety net program is simple, predictable, non-distorting and effective. Could this be it?

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

Critics say AgriStability is so complex, its biggest beneficiaries are the nation's accountants.

Most farmers pay a lot of money to accountants to help with their applications and even then they're none the wiser about possible payments, says Rick White, chief executive officer of the Canadian Canola Growers Association.

The canola association has come up with an alternative risk management concept — whole-farm revenue insurance — it believes needs to be studied further.

"You can offer revenue insurance cheaper than you can offer price insurance and quantity (production) insurance separately."

RICK WHITE

SEE REVENUE ▶ page 19

Uncertain times prompt growers to take out more insurance

More producers are not only insuring all of their eligible acres, but taking out maximum coverage

BY ALEXIS KIENLEN
AF STAFF

It's an uncertain world out there, especially in farming — and that has more Alberta producers taking out crop insurance.

"We're seeing more acres being insured by Alberta producers on crops — last year we were close to about 78 per cent of acres insured," said Merle Jacobson, acting president of the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC).

Insured acres have grown steadily over the last five years. Even a couple of years ago, only about 72 per cent of the province's total acres were insured.

"This year, for 2016, we saw the largest increase (in crop insurance) we've seen for a couple of years, across the province," said Jacobson.

More producers have elected to insure all of their eligible acres, and more producers are purchasing the maximum level of coverage — 57 per cent this year, which is well above the usual level of about 50 per cent.

"Last year, at the start of the year, it was quite dry and there was a lot of uncertainty," said Jacobson. "It turned out OK — much better than people expected."

"People are just looking around and saying, 'We're not taking as much risk this year. They're just looking around and taking as much insurance as they can in case something should happen."

This year, AFSC has offered several enhancements to its programs, including coverage specifically for malt barley, which used to be covered under feed barley. About 1,077 producers have taken malt barley



Last year's prolonged dry spell has prompted more growers to take out insurance this year or up their coverage level. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

coverage. As well, organic acres are now covered separately, and 28 producers have taken advantage of this offer.

However, producers still aren't insuring pasture and hay at the same rates as crops. Even though the number of insured acres of pasture increased by a million acres last year, only about 30 per cent of pastures are insured. Still, this is up from 25 per cent a few years ago.

Commodity producer groups have also played a role in boosting insurance uptake, and many have been talking to their members about insurance-related topics, ranging from program design, and loss-adjusting procedures to premiums and coverage.

This year, there have been 908 new applications for insurance,

SEE UNCERTAIN TIMES ▶ page 19

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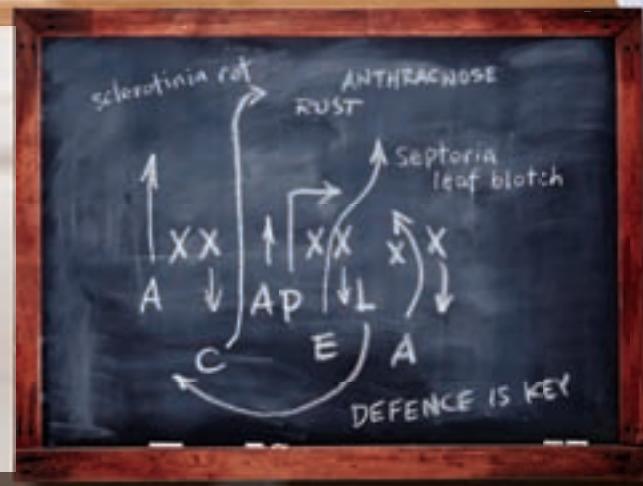
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Pulse research project shows soil benefits in 12-year experiment

Combining pulse crops and soil-friendly farming practices looks like a real winner

STAFF

Pulse crops are playing an important role in building soil quality, especially when they're combined with a host of soil-friendly farming techniques.

That's the finding of a 12-year study by researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research Centre, led by soil scientist Frank Larney.

In the study, published in *Agronomy Journal*, Larney and company wrote that the crops fix nitrogen through a symbiotic relationship with soil microbes — in this case bacteria — that live in their roots. The bacteria pull nitrogen from the atmosphere and then convert it to a plant-available form that's readily available during the growing season.

When the plants are harvested and the root system dies, the roots slowly decay, releasing the remaining nitrogen for the use of future crops. This sort of soil-building activity is very important, Larney said.

"Soil is a limited resource, and we need to be improving our soil quality, or at least maintaining it, in order to keep growing food," said Larney.

Larney and his team went beyond this however, and examined a conservation package that included reduced tillage, narrow-row culti-



Soil scientist Frank Larney showcases his work at a field day, which is an open house for farmers and agriculture industry representatives to learn about the latest field research. PHOTOS: DRUSILLA PEARSON

vation, cover crops, and manure compost to protect and bolster the soil. They avoided tillage as much as possible to avoid open soil.

"You don't want to have a bare soil situation because you're losing moisture, which is very valuable in a semi-arid area for growing crops. And you're also exposing that surface soil to wind and water erosion," said Larney.

Farmers can also plant dry beans in narrow rows to increase soil protection. Farmers usually plant beans in wide rows, and cultivate between the rows, which works up the soil and increases the risk of erosion. According to Larney, dry beans have now been bred to stand up taller,

making them better suited for narrow rows.

Larney and his team also planted cover crops, which are useful for two reasons: They provide a protective cover over the soil through the winter months, and they use up any leftover nitrogen in the soil after harvest. If the soil was bare in winter, water and wind would steadily chip away at it, and might cause the nitrogen to move away.

"Another name for them is catch crops," said Larney. "They're basically catching anything left over in the soil in terms of nutrients, rather than leaving them in the root zone where they could potentially leach into groundwater."



Beans cluster in narrow rows, protecting the soil beneath from erosion. Dry beans add value to the soil by taking up the plant nutrient nitrogen from the atmosphere and depositing it into the soil for other plants to use.

They also used manure compost to bolster the organic matter in the soil. Year after year of growing crops can put a strain on organic matter levels. To combat this problem, Larney and his team added manure compost to the fields to try to replace the lost organic matter. With the large cattle feedlot industry in the area, manure is readily and widely available.

"We produce a lot of manure and a lot of that is being turned into compost," said Larney. "Many irrigation growers are quite keen on using compost on their land, and we found that we could improve soil quality over time if we applied the compost."

"Soil is a limited resource, and we need to be improving our soil quality, or at least maintaining it, in order to keep growing food."

FRANK LARNEY



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UNCERTAIN TIMES ▶ from page 17

and 711 cancellations. Most of the latter are from producers who are exiting farming or merging with another producer.

Given that farm numbers continue to decline, that's another sign that producers are worried about risk.

"This is one of the few years where we've seen new applications exceed cancellations," said Jacobson.

Cost sharing

Producers pay about 40 per cent of their coverage, the standard across Canada, with Ottawa picking up 36 per cent of the tab and the province 24 per cent.

The outgoing chair of the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation recently slammed that arrangement, saying it encourages farmers to engage in poor practices.

"Why should taxpayers be expected to pay insurance for those who have really incorrect farming practices? I don't think that's right," said Frieda Krpan. "And I think now with climate change those things are going to come back to bite us in a big way."

"Clubroot is an example and there are others. I think farmers who farm properly, who rotate well, who do all the things that have to be done — drainage and other farm practices — they are the people who should have the lowest rates."

Farmers should pay a minimum of half the costs, said Krpan.



"For 2016, we saw the largest increase (in crop insurance) we've seen for a couple of years, across the province."

MERLE JACOBSON

But Jacobson said the current arrangement is fair.

"When you compare the risk of what it takes to grow a crop compared to any other kind of risk, it's probably one of the highest risks that there is," he said. "This is why the government has chosen, across Canada, to provide that affordable premium that allows producers to offset their risk."

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REVENUE ▶ from page 17

Farmers know insurance," said White. "Farmers like production insurance, at least on the crop side. They're used to it. They understand it. It seems to work well for them. You can argue about the coverage levels or premiums but you do know what you're covered for. It's predictable."

Whole-farm revenue insurance would insure farm revenue, which is based on how much a farmer produces and the price received when it's sold.

"When you insure revenue you have price and quantity working together or against each other and that provides a natural hedge for the insurer as well," White said. "So you can offer revenue insurance cheaper than you can offer price insurance and quantity (production) insurance separately."

It sounds like the Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP), a federal program from the 1990s that was popular with farmers, but was accused of distorting planting decisions by its critics.

But the program White wants studied is different, he said, because prices would be based on futures markets and therefore would be "more in line with reality." GRIP was based on historical prices.

GRIP also guaranteed revenue per acre rather than for the whole farm. The latter reduces the risk of payouts because a drop in revenue from one crop could be more than offset by higher revenue from another.

"I think conceptually there are a lot of good reasons to look at this and get a lot of expertise around a table to try and detail it out and see if you can make it into a workable plan," White said. "The concept is fine. It's all in the design work... to see how to operationalize it."

Program insurance premiums and potential payouts would be known up front.

"It's bankable and it's predictable and those are features we're looking for in a good safety net program," White said. "Right now the model we have, you hear more complaints than anything. We know we don't have the ideal situation with the current AgriStability program."



Whole-farm revenue insurance would be more predictable and less complex than AgriStability, says Rick White, CEO of the Canadian Canola Growers Association. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

The moral hazard would be low and it wouldn't distort farmer decision-making, he said.

"Farmers shouldn't say, 'It doesn't work for me because I never got a nickel out of it,'" White said.

"The government programs should be there to help the farm manager properly manage

risk. It's not to be viewed by the farmer as an entitlement for government payments.

"Predictable subsidies just get capitalized into land prices and the farmer is not better off in the end anyway, until you die and sell out, maybe."

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Scentless chamomile is a prolific seed producer, with large, healthy plants able to produce up to one million seeds each.

Plants have few to many highly branched stems and are known for their daisy-like flowers. Its flowers are occasionally confused with ox-eye daisy, but is easily differentiated by its fine, carrot top-like leaves. As the name suggests, scentless chamomile leaves have no odour when crushed.



PHOTO: PATRICIA O'NEIL

Infestations are commonly caused by contaminated crop or forage seed and contaminated equipment. While this species does not compete well with healthy crops, it can still be very difficult to eradicate. Control is usually obtained by hand pulling plants. Chemical control is possible if plants are identified and sprayed early in the growing season. The fine fern-like leaves can

make chemical control difficult later in the plant's development.

This noxious weed is easily controlled if action is taken early, but control can become time consuming and costly later on. For more information on this or any invasive plant, contact your local Agricultural Fieldman (www.aaaf.ab.ca) or the Alberta Invasive Species Council (www.abinvasives.ca).

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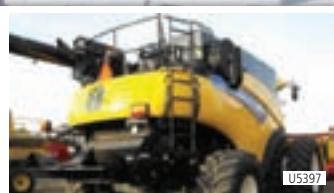
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2130 JD Tractor, dsl, new paint, FEL needs work; 1990 Massey Ferguson Special, FEL, not many hrs. on motor/tires, \$6000/ea; Allis Chalmers HD 45, 3 PTH, front/back PTO, \$2500. 306-859-4913, Beechy, SK.

ALLIS CHALMERS HD w/bulldozer, 271 dsl, motor, offers; Cockshutt 1250 tractor, w/3 PTH, \$3000. 403-357-7632, Red Deer.

JD 2 CYL TRACTORS: 630 std.; 530 wide front, 630 all fuel, 820 dsl. All restored, new rubber. 780-850-6120, Ardrossan, AB.

FORD TRACTOR PARTS. Specializing in 8N, 9N, and 2N tractor parts and engine kits. Plus all other Ford models. Manuals. www.diamondfarmtractorparts.com Call 1-800-481-1353.

ANTIQUE VEHICLES 0705

1929 FORD MODEL A 4 door sedan, 60,000 mi., mostly orig., shedded, driven parades, \$10,000 OBO. 306-550-4766, Wilcox, SK.

40 YEAR GEM! 1976 Mercury Grand Marquis, low miles, 1 owner. Only reasonable offers considered. For more info. call 306-296-4527, 306-293-7777, Frontier, SK.

SOUTHSIDE AUTO WRECKERS located in Weyburn, SK. 306-842-2641. Used car parts, light truck to semi-truck parts. We buy scrap iron and non-ferrous metals.

DIESEL, GAS, TRUCK, car, big rig, we do it all! Ph. Smoke 'Em Diesel for the best pricing on parts & services! (DPF & Emissions Removal). 306-545-5911, Regina, SK.

ANTIQUE MISC. 0710

WANTED: TRACTOR MANUALS, sales brochures, tractor catalogs. 306-373-8012, Saskatoon, SK.

AUCTION SALES 0900

ESTATE AUCTION SALE of Ben & Tena Ens, May 28, 2016, 9:00 AM. Online bidding, 1:00 PM, JJ Weyen Center, Dalmeney, SK. Featuring: 1987 Dodge Ram LEA 150, 100,361 km, PS, PL, PW; 8 ft truck camper; Patio set; 6 ft windmill; Hand tools; Shop vac; Car ramps; Bench grinder; Glue guns; 220-heater; Job Mate press drill; Portable air tank; 4" vise; Metal shelving; Hydraulic jacks; Pipe wrenches; Leaf blower; Furniture; Medi-chair; Kitchen table & chairs; Kitchen smalls; Fabric; Toys; Weed Eater; Bug zapper; Numerous misc. items. **Bodnarus Auctioneering**, Pl #318200, 306-227-9505, 1-877-494-2437. Check out the website: www.bodnarusauctioneering.com

VS TRUCK WORKS Inc. Parting out GM 1/2 and 1 ton trucks. Call 403-972-3879, Alsask, SK. www.vstruckworks.com

WRECKING TRUCKS: All makes all models. Need parts? Call 306-821-0260 or email: junkman.2010@hotmail.ca

Wrecking Dodge, Chev, GMC, Ford and others. Lots of 4x4 stuff, 1/2 ton - 3 tons, buses etc. and some cars. We ship by bus, mail, Loomis, Purolator, Lloydminster, SK.

GRASSLAND TRAILERS OFFERING quality trailers at wholesale prices. 20' Steel livestock, starting at \$13,450; 20' Aluminum livestock, starting at \$21,650. Call Glen, 306-640-8034, Assiniboia, SK. or email: gm99@sktel.net

WRECKING LATE MODEL TRUCKS: 1/2, 3/4, 1 tons, 4x4's, vans, SUV's, Cummings, Chev and Ford diesel motors. Jasper Auto Parts, 1-800-294-4784 or 1-800-294-0687.

BUSES 1300

SCHOOL BUSES: 19 to 66 pass.; 1986 to 2007. \$3400 and up. Phoenix Auto, Lucky Lake, SK. 1-877-585-2300. DL #320074.

CARS 1400

2012 FIAT 500 Pop, 27,000 kms, \$9999. 1-800-667-4414, www.thoens.com Weyburn, SK. DL #90250.

2012 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i Ltd. AWD, 2.5L H-4 cyl., 61,869 kms, stk# SK-5375A. Call for price! 1-877-373-2662 or www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914027.

2015 SUBARU WRX, 2.0L H-4 cyl, 30,963 kms, stk# U02102. Call for our best price! Call us at 1-877-373-2662 or view www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

2016 CHRYSLER 200 LX, 9 spd. trans., loaded, \$23,950 or \$133.64 bi-weekly. Phone 1-866-944-9024 DL #911673.

TRAILERS

GRAIN TRAILERS 1505

CHEAP GRAIN TRAILERS, tandem or tri-deck, nice condition, ready to use, no rust. 306-290-6495, Saskatoon, SK.

NEW 38' TANDEM trailer, side chutes, roll tarp, 72" sides, \$34,000. 306-824-4909, Spiritwood, SK. www.greattrailers.ca

AUTO/TRUCK PARTS 1100

WRECKING VOLVO TRUCKS: Misc. axles and parts. Also tandem trailer suspension axles. 306-539-4642, Regina, SK.

LIVESTOCK TRAILERS 1510

ALLIS CHALMERS HD w/bulldozer, 271 dsl, motor, offers; Cockshutt 1250 tractor, w/3 PTH, \$3000. 403-357-7632, Red Deer.

JD 2 CYL TRACTORS: 630 std.; 530 wide front, 630 all fuel, 820 dsl. All restored, new rubber. 780-850-6120, Ardrossan, AB.

FORD TRACTOR PARTS. Specializing in 8N, 9N, and 2N tractor parts and engine kits. Plus all other Ford models. Manuals. www.diamondfarmtractorparts.com Call 1-800-481-1353.

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1929 FORD MODEL A 4 door sedan, 60,000 mi., mostly orig., shedded, driven parades, \$10,000 OBO. 306-550-4766, Wilcox, SK.

40 YEAR GEM! 1976 Mercury Grand Marquis, low miles, 1 owner. Only reasonable offers considered. For more info. call 306-296-4527, 306-293-7777, Frontier, SK.

SOUTHSIDE AUTO WRECKERS located in Weyburn, SK. 306-842-2641. Used car parts, light truck to semi-truck parts. We buy scrap iron and non-ferrous metals.

DIESEL, GAS, TRUCK, car, big rig, we do it all! Ph. Smoke 'Em Diesel for the best pricing on parts & services! (DPF & Emissions Removal). 306-545-5911, Regina, SK.

ANTIQUE MISC. 0710

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VS TRUCK WORKS Inc. Parting out GM 1/2 and 1 ton trucks. Call 403-972-3879, Alsask, SK. www.vstruckworks.com

WRECKING TRUCKS: All makes all models. Need parts? Call 306-821-0260 or email: junkman.2010@hotmail.ca

Wrecking Dodge, Chev, GMC, Ford and others. Lots of 4x4 stuff, 1/2 ton - 3 tons, buses etc. and some cars. We ship by bus, mail, Loomis, Purolator, Lloydminster, SK.

SEMI TRUCKS 1677

HORSE POWER? Fuel economy? Call Smoke 'Em Diesel to safely add both on your Big Rig! (DPF & Emissions Removal). 306-545-5911, Regina, SK.

SANDBLASTING AND PAINTING of heavy trucks, trailers and equipment. Please call for details. Can-Am Truck Export Ltd., 1-800-938-3323, Delisle, SK.

T800 KENWORTHS ALL HEAVY SPECS 18 spd., full lockers, 2008, 2007 w/bunks. Also daycab 2009, new trans. and clutch; 2007 379 Pete daycab and bunk; 2005 Sterling, 60 Series Detroit, 18 spd., 46 diff., 3 way lock, excellent; 2013 IH 5900i, 42" bunk, 46 diff., 4-way lock, 18 spd., 390,000 kms; 2006 378 Pete, Cat 18 spd., 46 diff., 4-way locks w/roo-bar bumper; 2007 IH 9200 daycab, ISX 435, 13 spd.; 2006 IH 9200, 475 Cummins, 18 spd., 46 diff.; 2004 IH 8600, S/A, daycab, Cat C10, 10 spd.; 1996 T800 Kenworth, 475 Cat, 13 spd. Ron Brown Imp., Delisle, 306-493-9393 www.rbks.ca DL #905231.

SPECIALIZED TRUCKS 1680

1992 FREIGHTLINER FL70, 6 cyl Cummins, 6 spd. trans., hyd. brakes, van body, 800 gal. 3 comp. Lube dsl. tank, front storage, \$8800. 306-563-8765, Canora, SK.

1993 FORD F700 tow truck, fully equipped, 280,000 kms, Cummins, 10 spd., \$24,900. Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030 anytime, North Battleford, SK.

2004 FREIGHTLINER CONDOR, very low miles, C&C, long WB, C10 Cat, Allison auto, complete hyd. system, includes hyd. side arm lift, suitable for conversion to a bale hauler, \$19,900. K&L Equip., Ladimer, 306-795-7779, Ituna, SK. DL #910854.

1999 IH 4700, SA, flatdeck w/17' steel flatdeck, 11x22.5 tires, 230,000 kms, 444 IH dsl., 10 spd., safetied, real good shape, \$19,500. 1994 GMC Topkick tandem with 24' flatdeck, 563,000 kms, 3116 Cat diesel, 10 spd., 11x22.5 tires, real good shape, \$21,500. Call Merv at 306-276-7518, 306-767-2616, Arborfield, SK. DL #906768.

1997 FORD TENDER TRUCK, C10 Cat, 10 spd., fresh safety, c/w 2010 16' Rayman box 3 comp., side fold auger w/ 2" extension, stainless flighting, roll tarp, \$60,000. Call 403-994-7754, Olds, AB.

FUEL TRUCK: 1996 T450 Kenworth, 3600 gal. fuel capacity, dual pumps and meters, coded. Call 306-493-9393, Delisle, SK.



AMBULANCE- 1985 FORD 350, 60,386 kms, fully loaded. Will take truck or tractor on trade. Tax receipt. 306-283-4747, 306-220-0429, Langham, SK.

SPORT UTILITIES 1682

2008 SUBARU OUTBACK Ltd., Turbo, AC, leather, 55,000 kms, stk#SK-U901. Call for our best price! 1-877-373-2662 or www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

2009 KIA SORENTO LX 4WD. Estevan Motor Speedway large Equipment-RV-Vehicle Auction, Saturday, June 18, 2016, Estevan, SK. Visit www.mackauctioncompany.com for sale bill and photos. 306-421-2928 or 306-487-7815 Mack Auction Co. PL311962

2010 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5L h-4 cyl, 64,262, stk#SK-U01890. Call for our best price! Call 1-877-373-2662 or view www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca. DL #914077.

2012 SUBARU TRIBECA Ltd. H-6 7 pass. AWD, 59,725 kms, stk# SK-3144A. Call for our best price! 1-877-373-2662 or www.subaruofsaskatoon.ca DL #914077.

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE Sport, stk#T4013, \$26,498 or \$141.37 biweekly. Phone 1-866-944-9024, www.dodgecityauto.com DL #911673.

DODGE CITY AUTO - Zero means 0%! Event up to 84 months OAC! Call 1-866-944-9024, www.dodgecityauto.com DL #911673.



Alberta Farmer
1-800-665-1362

Classifieds

VARIOUS 1685

TANDEMS, VACUUM TRUCK AND PICKUPS. 2-2002 Int. 7400 series tandem, 17,000 hrs., 277,000 kms; 2003 Int. 5900i Series tandem, aluminum box and wagon, 375,000 kms; **2006 Freightliner vacuum truck**, 13,514 hrs., 141,818 kms; 2003 GMC 2500 dsl. 4x4, ext. cab; 2006 GMC 2500 dsl. 4x4, ext. cab, 282,106 kms; 2007 Chevy Silverado 4x4, reg. cab, 177,556 kms; 2009 GMC Sierra 2500 dsl. 4x4 Crewcab, 262,970 kms; 2007 GMC K1500 Sierra 4x4, reg. cab, 50,609 kms; 2007 Ford Econoline 8 pass. van, 53,374 kms; 2008 Chevy Sierra 2500 4x4, ext. cab, 173,454 kms; 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 4x4, 143,894 kms. All well maintained in good working condition. Please call 780-689-2395 for more info. Boyle, AB.

VARIOUS 1685**2016 NEW 1/2 TON TRUCKS**

2016 CHEV & GMC 1500 DOUBLE CAB *20 in stock! 5.3L V8, loaded, rear vision camera, trailering pkg, Cloth Stock#G1311. MSRP: \$40,690 Starting at \$34,891 or \$219 bi-weekly @ 0.99% 84 MO

***70 IN STOCK! 2016 CHEV & GMC 1500 CREWCABS**, 5.3L V8, loaded, heated seats, trailering pkg, Stock#G1202. MSRP: \$52,570. Starting at \$42,107 or \$286 bi-weekly @ 0.99% 84 MO.

2016 NEW HEAVY DUTY ***IN STOCK!** 2016 CHEV & GMC 2500 DOUBLE CABs, 6.0L V8 gas, rear vision camera, trailering equipment, cloth Stock#G1426. MSRP: \$56,195. Starting at \$45,400 or \$308 bi-weekly @ 1.99% 84 mo.

2016 GMC SIERRA 3500 CREW CAB dually, Denali, 6.6L V8, Duramax, loaded, Nav, heated & cooled seats Stock#G1300. MSRP: \$86,300. Starting at \$73,995 or \$511 bi-weekly @ 2.99% 84 mo.

***7 IN STOCK! 2016 CHEV & GMC 2500 CREW CABs, LTZ & SLT's, 6.6L V8** Duramax diesel, heated steering wheel, front & rear park assist, heated leather, Stock #G1379. MSRP: \$79,905. Starting at \$66,133 or \$458 bi-weekly @ 2.99% 84 mo.

MEDIUM DUTY

2007 GMC K5500 6.6L D/Max, A/C/T, Power Windows & Locks, Bostrums, 8'x11'x4w' Box, Tarp, Hoist, Hitch, 245x70.1.5' Alum. Wheels, Air Drive Seat, Manual Front Hubs, White, 245,040 Kms. DSTK#1725AA Sale Price \$32,995

PRE-OWNED

2015 CHEV 3/4 TON CREWCAB, high country, 6.6L V8 Duramax, loaded, sunroof, leather, white, 36,145 kms, STK #G1276A \$68,995

2013 FORD F250 CREWCAB, XLT, 6.2L gas, loaded, cloth, champagne, 56,633 kms, STK #G1064A \$34,995

2011 CHEV 3/4 TON CREWCAB LT, 6.6L V8 Duramax, loaded, cloth, white, 86,209 km, STK #M7211 \$43,395

2011 CHEV 3/4 TON CREWCAB LTZ, 6.6L V8 Duramax, loaded, heated leather, silver, 118,274 km, STK #G1031B \$42,995

2010 GMC 3/4 TON CREW SLE, 6.6L V8 duramax diesel, loaded, cloth, 145,424 kms, STK#G1355A \$35,995

WATROUS MAINLINE MOTOR PRODUCTS LTD.

HIGHWAY #2 EAST – WATROUS, SK
306-946-3336
www.watrousmainline.com
DL#907173

VANS 1700

2016 DODGE GRAND Caravan, stk#T6517 \$22,982 or \$131.60 biweekly. 1-866-944-9024, www.dodgecityauto.com DL#911673.

DODGE CITY AUTO - Zero means 0%! Event up to 84 months OAC! Call 1-866-944-9024, www.dodgecityauto.com DL#911673.

BEEKEEPING**HONEY BEES 2010**

QUEEN CELLS, May thru July. Bees, supers, equipment for sale. 306-862-1384, Love, SK. Email: cliffordqueens.com

COOK & BEALS wax separator for sale. Also wintered bees. 306-862-3011, Nipawin, SK

BELTING 2200

LOWBED MATTING AND belting for sale. Please call 780-865-0057, Wainwright, AB.

BUILDING/RENOVATIONS**CONCRETE REPAIR/COATINGS 2504**

BURTON CONCRETE: PROVINCE-WIDE mobile concrete trucks. We set up on site, pour all sizes of shops, bin pads, house foundations. 306-441-4006, Blaine Lake SK

LUMBER 2520

ROUGH LUMBER: 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, 1" boards, windbreak slabs, 4x4, 6x6, 8x8, all in stock. Custom sizes on order. Log siding, cove siding, lap siding, shiplap, 1" and 2" tongue and groove. V&R Sawing, 306-232-5488, Rosthern, SK.

BUILDINGS 2601

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS, 20-ft & 40-ft. Wind, water & rodent proof. 1-866-517-8335, (403)540-4164, (403)226-1722, magnate@telus.net

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 2800

FLY-IN FISHING LODGE in Northern Sask., c/w unlimited bear tags in Zone 76. Boats on 6 different lakes. Northern Pike, Lake Trout, Walleye, Arctic Grayling. Cabins in great shape. Call Allan for more info 306-278-7159. Serious inquiries only.

HOTEL FOR SALE IN RURAL MB. The Sandy Lake Hotel is an established turn key business located in Sandy Lake, MB. 204-585-2600, slh1@mymts.net

BUSINESS SERVICES**CONSULTING 2901****FARM CHEMICAL / SEED COMPLAINTS**

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

FINANCIAL/LEGAL 2902

DEBTS, BILLS AND charge accounts too high? Need to resolve prior to spring? Call us to develop a professional mediation plan, resolution plan or restructuring plan. Call toll free 1-888-577-2020.

FARM/CORPORATE PROJECTS. Call A.L. Management Group for all your borrowing and lease requirements. 306-790-2020, Regina, SK.

CUSTOM SEEDING 3527

CUSTOM SEEDING - Full service. Now booking. References available. Call Lynden at 306-255-7777, Colonay, SK.

CUSTOM TRUCKING 3550

LOWDERMILK TRANSPORT IS providing one call service for all Equipment/Hay hauling. Very experienced, multiple trucks serving AB, SK, and MB. 780-872-0107, 306-252-1001, Kenaston, SK.

ANDRES TRUCKING. Ag & heavy equip., bins, livestock, towing. Canada/USA. Call/text 306-736-3454, SouthEast, SK.

LARRY HIEBERT TRUCKING: equipment hauling, farm machinery. Serving western Canada. 780-720-4304, Willingdon, AB.

EQUIPMENT TOWING/ HAULING. Reasonable rates. Contact G H Wells Services and Trucking, 306-741-9059, Morse, SK.

QUICK SHIFT TRUCKING LTD. Heavy equip. hauling, pilot and Hotshot services. Air seeders & other farm machinery. Competitive rates. Will travel. Owner operator. Ray Hammel call 306-460-7737, Brock, SK.

LONG LAKE TRUCKING, two units, custom hay hauling. Call 306-567-7100, Imperial, SK.

ELRSU SURGE BIN; Twin screening plant, front screen 5x16, back 4x10; Elrus skid type feeder; 39' feeder conveyor; Frederick Park 36x12 jaw, 35' stacking conveyor; Power van w/Cat 3406, 400 KVA generator set; 25' side delivery conveyor. All equip. is made to run together in one crusher plant. 403-843-2889, Buffiton, AB.

DOUBLE 60x60 SHEEPSFOOT PACKER, extra heavy drum with solid steel feet, front and rear adjustable cleaners. Call 780-882-1662, Crooked Creek, AB.

1973 CAT 930 loader, 3 yd bucket, new pins/bushings, \$14,000. May take cattle or old Cat in trade. 306-524-4960 Semans SK

ELRSU 2442 JAW crusher, new in 2007, exc. condition, \$165,000. Pro Ag Sales, 306-441-2030, North Battleford, SK.

RADIO GRAVEL STACKER, 24"x76", \$30,000. Phone: 306-272-3582, Foam Lake, SK.

1973 CAT 930 loader, 3 yd bucket, new pins/bushings, \$14,000. May take cattle or old Cat in trade. 306-524-4960 Semans SK

FRONT END LOADER, John Deere 624H w/3' yard bucket, \$42,000. 306-272-3582, Foam Lake, SK.

HYDRAULIC

SP SPRAYERS 4241

2003 SPRA-COUPE 4640 High Clearance sprayer, 80' boom, 600 hrs., \$70,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equipment, 306-449-2255, Storthoaks, SK.

2008 JD 4830, 100' 1000 gal. SS tank, Raven AutoBoom, Swathmaster, GreenStar, AutoTrac, 420/80R46, 1471 hrs, \$175,000 OBO 306-834-7204 Kerrobert SK

2011 JD 4830 with only 1050 hours, full AutoSteer, all options, both sets tires, \$229,000. Biggar, SK, 306-948-7223.



HEAVY DUTY WHEEL DOLLY. Change your sprayer tires in less than an hour! Over 100 units sold last 12 months. Perfect tool for safely and quickly moving or changing large wheels/tires. \$1,499. 403-892-3303, Carmangay, AB.

2012 JD 4730 100', HD SS boom 7 sect, control, gauge wheels, JD AutoBoom, 800 gal. SS tank, chem handler, 5 nozzle bodies, elec. end nozzles, 420/80R46 tires, fenders, JD 2630 GS3 Starfire monitor, Spraytest, field ready, shedded, 215 spray hrs., new cond., View: switzerauction.ca June 8th. Call 306-533-3766, Ponteix, SK.

APACHE AS 1020, bought new in 2014, 100', 1000 gal. tank, 272 hrs., 2 sets of tires, 3 year warranty left, \$169,000 OBO. Retiring. 306-272-4451, Foam Lake, SK.

SPRAYERS



2007 Spra-Coupe 4655 80', 1080 hrs, 400 gal, mechanical drive, auto steer ready...\$59,900

1996 Spra-Coupe 3630 60', 300 G, 3252 hrs, 5 speed, Raven controller...\$16,800

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

2002 JD 4710, 90', 800 gal. SS, crop dividers, 380/90R46 tires, duals for rear, AutoSteer, AutoHeight, chem eductor. Phone: 306-357-4732, 306-831-8548, Wiseton, SK

1998 JD 4700, 800 gal. SS tank, 90' Ag Shield boom, Outback S3 AutoSteer, Norac AutoHeight, Raven sectional control, 2 sets tires, 4300 hrs, Greenlighted 300 hrs. ago, \$70,000. 780-205-4378 Maidstone SK

SPRAYING VARIOUS 4244

FLOATER TIRES: Factory rims and tires: JD 4930/4940, R4045; 800/55R46 GoodYear tire & rim, \$20,500/set; 710/60R46 Goodyear LSW, \$19,500/set; Case and JD sprayers: 800/70R38 Michelins for Case 4420/4430, \$19,500; 710/70R38 Titan rim and tire for JD 4720/4730, \$14,500. Case 650/65R38 Michelins, \$15,000. 306-697-2856, Grenfell, SK.

TILLAGE/SEEDING**AIR DRILLS** 4250

2007 JD 1835 60' air drill, 10" spacing, MRB's, 1910 430 bu. cart, w/load conveyor and duals, c/w JD 2600 monitor, \$78,000. Call 306-360-7760, Drake, SK.

2009 SEEDMASTER 8012, 80', 12" spacing, double shoot, run blockage, new seed boots, smart hitch, exc. cond., \$95,000 OBO. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

CONCORD 56', 12" spacing, Bourgault 3" paired row tips, duals on wings, scraper on each packer wheels, exc. cond., \$18,000; 3400 Concord tank, \$9500, or both for \$25,000. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2002 49' MORRIS MAXIM II, 12" spacing, gumbo boots, duals castors, w/7240 grain cart, low acres, \$52,000. A.E. Chicoine Farm Equip., 306-449-2255 Storthoaks, SK.

2001 MORRIS MAXIM II 39', 10" sp., single shoot, 2001 7300 tank, w/3rd gran./inoculant tank, field ready. Reduced \$32,000. 306-648-7110, Gravelbourg, SK.

1997 CONCORD 4812 air drill, double shoot dry with NH3. Dutch openers, 2000 JD 1900 seed cart, 270 bu, \$28,000 OBO. 306-452-3233, Antler, SK.

1997 FLEXI-COIL 5000 45', 9" spacing, SS, 2320 TBT cart w/320 3rd hopper, Easy flow manifold, Agtron blockage, \$30,000 OBO. Gravelbourg, SK, 306-648-7766.

2004 JD 1895 disc drill 43', MRB's, liquid kit, w/240 bu. Harmon air tank, many new parts, \$35,000 OBO. Jim 306-883-2666, 306-883-7045, Spiritwood, SK.

Used JD & Case w/prices up to \$40,000 lower than your local dealer.

JD 9400, 9420, 9520, 8970

S670/680/690 JD Combine low hrs

JD 9860, 9760, 9750, 9650, 9600

4730 JD Sprayer, 100 ft.

JD 9430, 9530, 9630

854 Rogator SP Sprayer, complete with

Case STX 375, 425, 430, 450, 480, 500, 530

JD auto steer, swath pro

CIH 8010-2388, 2188 combine

Special 450 CIH Quadtrac with big pump

554 Rogator Sprayer SP

4840 JD 2WD, low hours, new tires

JD 4710, 4720, 4730, 4830, 4920, 4930 SP sprayers

GOOD SELECTION OF

JD 9770 & 9870 w/CM & duals

JD & CASE SP SPRAYERS AND 4WD TRACTORS

CIH 3185, 3230, 3330, 4430, 4420 sprayers

Many other pieces available

"LIKE MANY BEFORE, WE'LL HAVE YOU SAYING THERE'S NO DEAL LIKE A KEN DEAL"

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• Email: kendeal@shaw.ca • Email: rudachykrick@gmail.com

AIR DRILLS 4250**SEEDING**

2010 IH PH800/3430 70', 430 bu, 8 run, dbl shoot, ready to go w/ monitor...\$59,800

2007 JD 1910 W/ JD 1830 61' 430 bu, dbl shoot, conveyor, 21.5x16.1 & 710/70R38 tires, paired row openers, 10" spacing, 4" steel packers, blockage monitor...\$64,300

1998 JD 1900 W/ JD 1820 350 bu cart, 6 run, dbl shoot, tow behind, 8" auger, 45" drill, 10" spacing, sgl shoot, blockage monitors...\$44,800

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

HARROWS/PACKERS 4256**TILLAGE**

2009 Degelman SM7000 70' heavy harrow, hyd tine adjust, 5/8" tines, good condition...\$34,800

1999 Flexi-coil S85 70' heavy harrow, teeth 50%, good useable harrow...\$17,900

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

SEEDING VARIOUS 4259

WANTED: IHC 6200 or 6300 14' disc drill, must be good to fair condition with discs tight. 403-655-2220, Grassy Lake, AB.

MORRIS MAGNUM II 35' cult. w/NH3 kit, DS, Morris air seeder 130 bu. tank w/eng., \$9500. 306-682-2585, Humboldt, SK.

TWO JD 455 foldup box drills, 30' and 35', \$43,500 each. 403-308-1238, Taber, AB.

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT 4262**TILLAGE**

2013 Kongskilde 9100 32', high speed vert tillage, 8" spacing, 18" discs, spiral rollers, good condition...\$39,800

2013 Lemken Rubin 9/400 Like NEW, 13', 3PH, baskets, less than 1000 acres used...\$36,800

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

TILLAGE/SEEDING VARIOUS 4265

TWO 9350 JOHN DEERE hoe drills, 10 ft with grass seeders and back-on mover. Phone 403-556-0665 or 403-335-4031, Olds, AB.

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

TRACTORS**ALLIS/DEUTZ** 4277

DEUTZ ALLIS DX110, dual PTO, AC, 4700 hrs., excellent condition, \$12,000 OBO. 403-823-1894, Drumheller, AB.

CASE IH 4280, 40' cultivator, 10' spacing, 3" steel packer, no tank, ready for TBT tank, exc. cond., like new, \$17,500 OBO. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2005 K-HART 60' DISC DRILL, 10" space, Haukaas markers, all new discs, hubs and greasable bearings, c/w 2005 MORRIS 8370 2 comp. cart, asking \$75,000. 306-741-1859, Swift Current, SK.

1-800-667-4515. www.combineworld.com

AIR SEEDERS 4253

32' BOURGAULT 230 multi-purpose cultivator w/harrow, Flexi-Coil 1110 air tank. Retired. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

WANTED: VALMAR 240 or 245 on own trailer, c/w disc markers, in good cond. 780-23-2646, 780-725-2646, Edson, AB.

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FLEXI-COIL 2320

TBH air tank, double shoot, excellent condition, \$15,000 OBO. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2008 FLEXI-COIL 7500, 60', 10" spacing, single shoot, 3" steel packer, no tank, ready for TBT tank, exc. cond., like new, \$17,500 OBO. 306-861-4592, Fillmore, SK.

2005 K-HART 60' DISC DRILL, 10" space, Haukaas markers, all new discs, hubs and greasable bearings, c/w 2005 MORRIS 8370 2 comp. cart, asking \$75,000. 306-741-1859, Swift Current, SK.

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CASE IH 4286

LIZARD CREEK REPAIR and Tractor. We buy 90 and 94 Series Case, 2 WD, FWA tractors for parts and rebuilding. Also have rebuilt tractors and parts for sale. 306-784-7841, Herbert, SK.

4890 CASE 5700 hrs, dual tires, mechanically good. Also 4890, 8120 hrs, singles. Retired. 306-944-4325, 306-231-8355, Bruno, SK.

1982 CASE 4690 4 WD, good mech. cond. \$7500; Crown 3 batt ground drive rock-picker, vc cond. \$1250; Sakundiak 7" x 43" grain auger, 8 HP twin cyl. elec. Kohler eng., good flighting, Wheatheart binsweep

WANTED 4328

WANTED: KELLO-BILT DISC, any size. Call 306-681-7305 or 306-355-2289 leave message, Mortlach, SK.

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TUBING FROM 1-1/4" to 3-1/2". Sucker rod 3/4", 7/8" and 1". Line pipe and Casing also available. Phone 1-800-661-7858 or 780-842-5705, Wainwright, AB.

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BLUE WATER IRRIGATION DEV. LTD. Reinke pivots, lateral, minigators, pump and used mainline new Bauer travellers dealer. 22 yrs. experience. 306-858-7351, Lucky Lake, SK. www.philsirrigation.ca

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**BLACK ANGUS** 5010

BLACK ANGUS BULLS on moderate growing ration, performance information available. Valleyhills Angus, Glaslyn, SK. 306-342-4407. www.valleyhillsangus.com



JOHNSTON/ FERTILE VALLEY is selling yearling and 2 year old Black Angus bulls. They are sired by the leading AI sires in the industry including SAV Resource, Triple V Glanworth 52U, SAV Brilliance, BPF Special Focus, Jindra Double Vision, Ten X, Shipwheel Montana, Angus Valley and Impression. These are thick, easy fleshing bulls produced by over 500 low maintenance, high production cows. Many bulls are suitable for heifers. All bull are semen tested with performance and carcass info. available. David and Dennis Johnston 306-856-4726, Conquest, SK.

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YEARLING AND 2 year old polled Hereford bulls, some AI sires, semen tested, EPD's available. Brian Longworth, Harris, SK. 306-656-4542, 306-831-9856, Harris, SK.

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AFFORD-A-BULL, Reg. Red Angus 2 year old and yearling bulls, some from AI sires, quiet, semen tested, EPD's available. Darrell 780-486-7553, Edmonton, AB.

MCTAVISH RED ANGUS yearling bulls, quiet, semen tested. Delivered. Call or text Jared, 306-435-9842, Moosomin, SK.

SOUTH VIEW RANCH has Red and Black Angus bulls-yearling and 2 yr. old. Semen tested, performance records. Ceylon, SK. Shane 306-869-8074, Keith 306-454-2730.

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CHAROLAI 5055

MANITO MAINE-ANJOU BULLS, since 1970. We offer the real Maine bulls, all fullblood breeding, low birthweight with good performance. Off farm sales only. Gary and Sandy Graham, 306-823-3432, Marsden, SK. grahams@sasktel.net

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REG. MARE, 10 yrs old, bay, 16 HH, solid w/trail and mountain exp. Broke to pack and done obstacle work. Loads well, good with farrier. Big stamina and endurance. No buck, no rear, \$3000. 403-968-1567, lissad@xplornet.ca

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GRAINS 5947

BEST COOKING PULSES accepting samples of organic and conventional pulses for 2014/2015 crop year. Matt 306-586-7111, Rowatt, SK.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC BROWN FLAX, cleaned, germ 80%. 306-931-2826, 306-290-4920, Martensville, SK.

WANTED: ORGANIC LENTILS, peas and chickpeas. Stonehenge Organics, Assiniboina, SK., 306-640-8600, 306-640-8437.

TRADE AND EXPORT CANADA BUYING all grades of organic grains. Fast payment and pick up. Call 306-433-4700.

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No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof within six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars. For further information contact: Canadian Kennel Club Etobicoke, On.

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PYRENEES PUPS, born Oct/15, 1st shots, vet checked, dewormed, \$250 ea. 306-656-4445 or 306-230-2499, Harris, SK

REAL ESTATE**COTTAGE/LOTS** 6125

LAKE DAUPHIN, MB: serviced flood-proof waterfront lots, from \$44,900. See: "Old Town Harbour" on Regina kijiji and/or facebook. Call us for a brochure, prices and information at 204-761-6165.

HOUSES/LOTS 6126

BUILDING LOT FOR SALE in Elbow, SK, Lot 7, Blk 2, Plan 88MJ16836, 125 Putters Lane. One block from golf course. 24.5 Meter frontage. Serviced by Town. Will consider trade of RV, boat, truck, car, etc. \$34,500. Call Gerry 403-389-4858.

LOG POST AND BEAM shell package for sale. 26'x34' with loft 1220 sq. ft. total. Douglas fir logs. Call 306-222-6558 cell, email jeff@backcountryloghomes.ca or visit www.backcountryloghomes.ca

MOBILE HOMES 6127

OLDER MOBILE 14x70' to be moved by Aug. 31, 2016. 3 bdrm, 2 baths, large open dining room and kitchen, attached porch. Located south Spiritwood near Meeting Lake. \$12,000 OBO. Call 306-291-4640.

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Hondo, AB | June 9, 2016 • 11 am

3 Quarters of Farmland – 475.94± Title Acres
1 Grazing Lease – 520± Acres

AB/MD of Lesser Slave River

Property Features Include**Parcel 1 – NE 19-69-26-W4 – 157.96± Title Acres**

- 150± ac cult; 60± ac 2016 oats crop sells w/ property, 90± acres hay, balance bush, 3 sides fenced, cross-fenced, dugout, taxes \$162.68

Parcel 2 – SE 19-69-26-W4 – 158.98± Title Acres

- 140± ac cult; 100± ac 2016 oats crop sells w/ property, 40± acres hay, balance creek/bush, 2 sides fenced, spring fed slough, taxes \$100.45

Parcel 3 – NW 8-69-26-W4 – 159± Title Acres

- 70± ac seeded pasture, 10± ac bale yard and equipment storage, balance bush, 2011 40 ft x 58 ft cold shop, 3 sides fenced, cross-fenced, dugout, self waterer, well, well house, cement RV pad, taxes \$77.26

Parcel 4 – GRL 930042 – 520± Acres

- 58 AUMS, (2) dugouts, bush, SE 33-69-26-W4, E1/2 28-69-26-W4, PSW 28-69-26-W4, taxes \$74.23

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RM 273 SLIDING HILLS, 1 quarter farm-land, SW-25-30-01-W2, 155 cult. acres, stone free. 306-542-3125, Kamsack, SK.

160 ACRES, 15 miles NW of Meadow Lake, SK. Very level, no rocks. May be used for canola or grains, recreation or hay land. Beautiful, fenced and treed all around. Natural spring water. 1/2 mile south of Beaver River. NW-31-18-60-W3, RM 588, \$147,000. Call 306-240-5997.

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GRAIN LAND TO RENT, 35 mile radius of Rouleau, SK. Call 306-776-2600 or email: kraussaces@sasktel.net

PROPERTY NEAR GOODSOIL, SK., Lac Des Isles, and Northern Meadows Golf Course. 2-1 acre parcels, 2- quarters overlooking lake. Larger parcel all in one block, fenced and cross fenced. 306-238-7702.

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REAL ESTATE

COTTAGE/LOTS 6125

LAKE DAUPHIN, MB: serviced flood-proof waterfront lots, from \$44,900. See: "Old Town Harbour" on Regina kijiji and/or facebook. Call us for a brochure, prices and information at 204-761-6165.

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PASTURELAND WITH GOOD WATER for rent in central Sask. Contact Cody Benson 306-480-7064.

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WANTED TO PURCHASE FARMLAND with lots of oil wells and battery sites on property. 780-499-2367, Edmonton, AB.

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2011 DRV SELECT Suite 36' 5th wheel camper loaded with triple slide and gel coat. Estevan Motor Speedway large

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BUSINESS TRAINING FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Business Management Skills Development Program, has recently undergone a few minor changes, including a revised application form. The program helps producers, agri-processing companies, and agricultural organizations, and improves their business management skills. Funding is available for courses or programs that are focused on business management skills and training – including marketing, productivity, financial management, risk management skills, leadership training, human resources, and farm safety training. For more info, go to www.growingforward.alberta.ca. – AAF

NOBLE HIRED AS SUSTAINABILITY EXTENSION CO-ORDINATOR

The Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group has hired Jolene Noble of Manning to develop, co-ordinate, and implement an extension program to increase Alberta producers' awareness of on-farm sustainability. "I look forward to contributing to these end goals by working with producers to bring awareness to social licence issues and highlighting on-farm best management practices," said Noble. Noble has actively participated in programs such as the McDonald's sustainability beef pilot, Verified Beef Production, and the Environmental Farm Plan from a producer perspective on her family's mixed farm. – FSEWG

MORE NEWS

Three resources to read before buying land

The high cost of farmland doesn't leave room for emotion – or miscalculation

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

Farm auction sale season has begun, and a provincial farm financial specialist says a lot of retiring farmers are choosing to sell their land by public auction.

"With interest rates remaining low and the majority of Alberta farms continuing to have a strong balance sheet, the demand for farmland purchase in Alberta remains robust," said Rick Dehod. "With farm land prices continuing to appreciate, a well-researched financial and ownership plan will guard against ill-prepared land purchases, so do your homework before making a final decision."

Alberta Agriculture has three documents designed to help producers make the decision on a land purchase. These documents are:

16 Questions to Consider before Buying Farmland

Why do you want to buy farmland?

Land purchases should fit with your business plan and factors such as a planned expansion, bringing in a new partner, or

ensure control of productive acres. Is it a business decision or an emotional one?

What is the farm business's financial condition?

Consider needed investments, expected expenditures, and crop conditions to determine if buying land is the best use for your cash, or if other opportunities would provide a better return. Be sure that the farm is financially healthy enough to handle more debt and a decrease in cash.

Have you created a pro forma cash flow?

It is important to confirm that the potential return will meet your goals and objectives, and that the farm can service the additional debt. Know the risk this purchase will put on your current equity.

Given your revenue forecast, are you overpaying?

Calculate how long it will be until you recoup your investment. Determine how much debt your farm can prudently service, and the total revenue required to service that debt. Be sure to stay within your limits.

A Legal Guide to Plan Farm Land Ownership and Sale in Alberta

This document looks at forms of ownership, landowner rights,

restrictions, purchase and sale contracts, methods of selling, who to consult about buying or selling, and tax considerations.

It also looks at the sale process, including determining a price and the terms, listing with a real estate agent, understanding the purchase and sale contract, the requirements of a valid sale contract, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of all the professionals involved in the sale.

A Guide to Agricultural Security Agreements in Alberta

This document examines the nature of mortgages, registration, priorities and terms.

"Use all of the resources available to do your ownership, financial and cash flow planning," said Dehod. "Speak to your banker, your accountant, or your farm adviser. Speak to your lawyer regarding issues that could affect title ownership. A strong purchase plan will aid in making the purchase of land a good investment."

These documents can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca. Search for 'farm manager' and then go to either the Financial Management section or the Business Arrangement and Taxation section.

How to get a handle on farmland prices

Farm Credit Canada tracks percentage changes across the country, while Alberta Agriculture looks at dollar values in municipalities

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

Farm Credit Canada's recently released Farm Land Value Report and a database created by Alberta Agriculture can go a long way to helping producers establish a land value, says a provincial farm business specialist.

"According to the new FCC report, Alberta's change in farmland values was 11.6 per cent which was 1.5 per cent higher than the Canadian average," said Ted Nibourg, noting the report is based on 245 benchmark farm properties across Canada.

"It's important to know that the farm property monitored consists of bare land representing the most prevalent Canadian land inventory agriculture class soils. FCC's appraisers estimate market value using comparables of arm's length sales. As land prices vary considerably across the country, FCC reports percentage changes rather than average price per acre in order to track trends in land valuation."

Alberta Agriculture has tracked land values and acres transferred in the province since 1996. Rather than tracking on a percentage basis, its data is presented in dollar amounts for each municipality and reported by Canadian Land Inventory (C.L.I.) class. The AF data also reports provincial average land values by C.L.I. class going back to 1970.

"Both of these databases will give someone looking to establish a value on their land a starting point," said Nibourg.

The provincial data shows many "peaks and valleys" in different municipalities.

"Local factors, such as supply and demand or productivity issues, play into land valuation," said Nibourg. "Anomalies in prices per acre also show up in the data. These anomalies show up mainly in price differences among various C.L.I. classes. It's not uncommon to see higher prices for land in lower-classed categories. This is an indicator that values are not solely based on productivity but rather could be attributed to proximity to major centres or based on recreational value."

A useful method for arriving at land values that takes in productivity is capitalization analysis.

"Capitalization value is determined by dividing cash rent by the Government of Canada benchmark 10 bond yield. At the time of writing the bond rate was 1.54 per cent. As an example, a piece of land yielding 40 bushels of canola per acre, 80 bushels of barley, and 55 bushels of hard red spring wheat would economically justify a cash rent of about \$72 an acre. Applying capitalization analysis would give a value of almost \$4,700 an acre."

Other factors affecting land values include buildings, improvements, size and contiguous property. Nibourg recommends hiring a qualified real estate appraiser specializing in farm appraisals. Lenders and law firms typically have a stable of appraisers and the Canadian National Association of Real Estate Appraisers is another source for finding one.

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Canadian grain companies wary of unapproved GM crops

Major American firms won't handle GM crops not approved in major markets

BY ALLAN DAWSON
STAFF

Top U.S. grain companies have taken a hard line and are refusing genetically modified crops that haven't been approved in major markets, while Canada's grain industry remains more flexible.

So far the Canadian companies are approaching the issue on a case-by-case basis, but that could change, according to Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association. The more flexible approach demonstrated how crop development companies have worked with the industry to date to address concerns, he said.

"We have a reasonably good working relationship (with crop developers) on these issues," said Sobkowich.

"But that being said, this issue is going to get more complicated over time. We really need to turn our minds towards how we resolve these issues... because we are really dealing with them on a case-by-case basis and we are relying on the responsible commercialization policies of the life science companies."

"They've been, so far, pretty good in making sure that market acceptance is in place, at least in the example of Xtend soybeans. Monsanto has been, so far, behaving in a responsible way."

The European Union has not approved Monsanto's new Xtend soybeans that are tolerant to both glyphosate and dicamba, giving growers more weed control options. Members of the elevator association will not buy Xtend soybeans without EU approval.



Western Grain Elevator Association members are deciding how to deal with GM crops unapproved in major markets on a case-by-case basis, said association executive director Wade Sobkowich. PHOTO: ALLAN DAWSON

Reuters recently reported many major American grain buyers have adopted the same policy for Xtend soybeans and other GM crops to avoid conflicts with buyers. In 2013 and 2014, China blocked corn shipments from the United States containing a Syngenta GM trait called Viptera that was unapproved in China.

Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland each said the rejections cost them millions of dollars, and both have sued Syngenta for damages. American corn farmers are also suing Syngenta, alleging its actions lowered corn prices.

Bold yellow signs from global trader Bunge are posted at U.S. grain elevators barring 19 varieties of GM corn and soybeans that lack approval in important markets, Reuters reported.

CHS, America's largest farm co-operative, wants companies to keep seeds with new biotech traits off the market until they have full approval from major foreign buyers, Gary Anderson, a senior CHS vice-president told Reuters.

"I think that would be the safest thing for the supply chain," he said. CHS implemented a policy last year under which it will not sell seeds or buy grain with traits unapproved by importers.

ADM is refusing GM crops that lack global approval. Cargill did not respond to Reuter's requests for comment.

Grain companies fear commercial fallout and financial losses, but the market won't cover segregation costs, Sobkowich said.

"We don't feel that we should have to pay the segregation costs. And we don't feel that the farmer ought to pay those segregation costs," Sobkowich said.

Grain company concerns aren't restricted to GM crops, he added. Shipments can be rejected if they contain traces of unapproved pesticides. That's why farmers need to be aware of the products they use.

Grain trading would be enhanced if countries would allow the low presence of unapproved traits and pesticides so long as they have already been approved elsewhere, he added.

"If we have an LLP (low level presence policy) in countries of import then that helps us if we get an inadvertent commingle," he said.

said. "Then we are not out of contract or out of compliance for the country's sanitary and phytosanitary requirements."

Monsanto was so confident of European Union approval it announced in January it would commercialize Xtend soybeans this spring in the U.S. and Canada. Some American farmers have already seeded it, but Monsanto hasn't released it in Canada and won't ahead of EU approval, said Monsanto spokesperson Trish Jordan. However, Monsanto will allow Xtend soybeans to be grown in Canada this year for propagation and trial purposes without EU approval, confident it will be approved before next spring, Jordan said.

And even though the elevator association has said its six members—Cargill, Louis Dreyfus Canada, Parrish & Heimbecker, Paterson GlobalFoods, Richardson International and Viterra—won't buy Xtend soybeans without EU approval, there are Canadian farmers wanting to grow the crop, Jordan said.

"We are definitely hearing that in Ontario," she said, adding that there are more weed-resistance issues there than in Western Canada. "It is great new technology. But it is a moot point... because we've kind of got this commitment worked out with the trade... that we will not move anything into a commercial position... recognizing that they are a little antsy about having stuff that could be planted that is not yet approved."

Monsanto had expected 420,000 acres of the stacked-trait soybean to be seeded in Canada this year.

"We are not likely to be anywhere near that," Jordan said.

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Don't delay scouting if you want to head off sclerotinia

It's too late to spray once sclerotinia appears, so use a checklist of environmental factors to calculate the risk

BY SHANNON VANRAES
STAFF

Spray for sclerotinia or give it a pass? That's no simple black or white question, but one thing is certain — by the time you can see it, it's too late.

Scouting is critical as the disease relies on specific environmental conditions to flourish, including dense stands and elevated moisture levels in the crop's canopy, said Anastasia Kubinec, an oilseed specialist with Manitoba's Agriculture Department.

"And you can't tell that when you are driving by — you really do need to walk through it," Kubinec said. "I think for assessing for sclerotinia application, scouting is very important because you do need that humidity and moisture in the canopy to have the infection take hold in the plant... if it is really dry, even if there is some infection the actual sclerotinia infection can dry up and then you don't get the yield loss."

The spraying window usually falls when the plants are between 20 and 50 per cent in bloom.

"You've got to go in and spray before you see symptoms in the field, that is why you have to go through that checklist of environmental factors and your practices to see if spraying is warranted or not," said Justine Cornelisen, an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada.

The canola council offers an online calculator to decide whether or not to spray.

However, Tim Gardner, a senior market development specialist at Bayer adds that the fight against sclerotinia should begin before seeds are even in the ground, when producers are still planning out their crop rotations.

Having gathered questions about the fungus from farmers across the Prairies, Gardner said there are still myths out there about which crops can host the disease and which cannot.

"Rotations are definitely another important consideration," he said. "We are running crop rotations pretty tight on the whole... and the

thing is that sclerotinia is not just specific to canola, there are a lot of bridge rotation crops, it could be sunflowers, it could be peas, lentils, dry beans, all of the above."

The sclerotinia bodies that cause the disease can also live in soil for as long as 10 years, said Cornelisen.

"That's why the recommended rotation if it is canola is at least four years before having it in field again," she said.

Some weeds are also hosts for the fungus, meaning even empty fields or ditches can hasten the spread of spores.

As much as evaluating environmental factors is key in predicting and preventing sclerotinia losses, so too is the evaluation of economic factors.

"It usually ends up boiling down to return on investment," said Gardner. "Factor the cost of application — and obviously the product — then going out and leaving wheel tracks in the field.

"I fully admit that there are years where I have seen just break-even numbers on it as well, and then the hard part about it is that I've also seen the hard years where people are losing up to 15 bushels per day per acre," he said.

Cornelisen offers a rough guide for the economics of spraying.

"If you figure yield potential is over 30 bushels an acre it is just a safe insurance to spray," she said, provided you have a high number of risk factors.

Kubinec adds producers also need to calculate their margins carefully, looking at market conditions as well.

"With 30 bushels per acre you have to know how much you are making per bushel too, if you're only making \$6 a bushel on canola — and I hope we never get there again — 30 bushels isn't going to pay for it," she said.

"You may still have a little bit of sclerotinia in the crops, but it's not the 50 per cent or the 80 per cent yield lost that guys were getting in the early '80s when there were no products to use on canola."

shannon.vanraes@fbcpublishing.com

Grasshopper infestations could be severe

Dry conditions have raised the threat, particularly northwest of Edmonton and in the Peace

BY DAVE SIMS
COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE CANADA

Amild winter and a warm, dry spring have created some favourable hatching conditions for grasshoppers in Alberta, with the possibility of a severe outbreak in some areas.

Higher numbers of grasshoppers are forecast for the region northwest of Edmonton and Peace River area, with potential for a severe to very severe outbreak in the North Peace. The problem is more muted in southern Alberta, where numbers are generally rated moderate to very light with the odd severe patch.

"They're (grasshoppers) not scared off by northern latitudes; (the) northern Peace has been dry, so that's always a good recipe for population increases because that's kind of what they thrive on, is those dry-type conditions," said Mark Cutts, a crop specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

"The potential for good hatches is there; even areas that are light may end up with good hatches."

As crops emerge, he expects the pests to move into cereal crops or another preferred food.

Fortunately for pea growers, grasshoppers don't count peas as their favourite



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

menu items — but the same doesn't hold true for lentils, Cutts said.

"Potentially there is some interaction with lentil crops and grasshoppers. It will come down to numbers and weather conditions."

Numbers could take a hit, though, if there's a major rainstorm at a crucial time, Cutts said.

"If they were just hatching and there was a significant rainfall event, that's when they are susceptible. Prior to that, heavy rain on eggs themselves typically doesn't cause a lot of concerns."

Once the insects are fully grown, though, they can simply crawl up on a plant to escape water threats.

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AIR DRILL

1999 Bourgault 8810 \$75,000

ROCK PICKER

1995 Highline XL6084 SOLD

BALE PROCESSOR

2003 Highline 7000HD \$6,995

ROUND BALER

2008 Case RB564 \$21,800

BALE STACKER

1977 New Holland 1033 \$5,500

2005 Case IH RBX562 \$7,995

New Holland 1000 \$2,000

2010 New Holland BR7090 \$25,300

BALE WRAPPER

2015 Tube-Line TLR5000 \$43,915

2011 New Holland BR7090 \$28,500

COMBINE

1997 New Holland TX66 \$55,000

2005 New Holland BR780 \$19,500

DISC MOWER CONDITIONER

2013 Case DC162 \$36,750

2005 New Holland BR780 \$17,995

GRAIN CART

2013 Case DC162 \$36,750

2006 New Holland BR780A \$19,500

GRAIN VAC

2007 Brandt 5000EX \$17,500

2006 New Holland BR780A OFFERS

HARROW

2012 Degelman Strawmaster \$47,500

2005 New Holland BR780 \$17,995

LAWN TRACTOR

Kubota T1770 \$2,250

2006 New Holland BR780A OFFERS

MOWER CONDITIONER

2007 New Holland 1475 \$23,500

2006 New Holland BR780A \$17,995

RAKE

2006 Case DXE25 \$12,350

2015 Lemken Rubin 9 SOLD

WAGON

2015 Horst Wagons 325 \$9,850

2015 Lemken Rubin 9 SOLD

WINDROWER

2008 Case WRX301 SOLD

1996 Case 8820 \$22,650

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HEARTLAND

Community news
and events from
across the province

Group wants to help new farmers find success

BY GLENN CHEATER
STAFF

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank enjoyed another year of stellar support from Albertans — and every dollar of the \$2.6 million raised in the province in 2015 was put to good use.

"There is a lot of need," said Terence Barg, one of the Foodgrains Bank's two co-ordinators in Alberta.

The organization, a partnership of 15 churches and church-based agencies, works in more than three dozen countries, but the Syrian refugees crisis has become a top priority.

"We've been working in Syria since 2012 and we're feeding people in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan," said Barg. "Right now, there are over eight million people displaced within Syria and more than 3.5 million have left for neighbouring countries. They fled with nothing and have no way to generate an income to purchase food. They need food today and that's why we're doing food assistance."

Most of the money raised in Alberta comes from growing projects and there were 34 in the province last year. Those projects and two other events raised \$1.74 million, with the remainder coming from individual donations.

"All of our food assistance gets matched on a four-to-one basis," noted Barg. "So what that means is that \$1 donated equates to \$5 because the federal government puts in \$4."

The number of growing projects has been stable in recent years, with one or two new ones offsetting those that don't continue — usually because they lose the land they're renting. This year, there are new projects near High River and Neerlandia, although new is the wrong term to describe the latter.

"Neerlandia had one of the first growing projects in Alberta, pos-



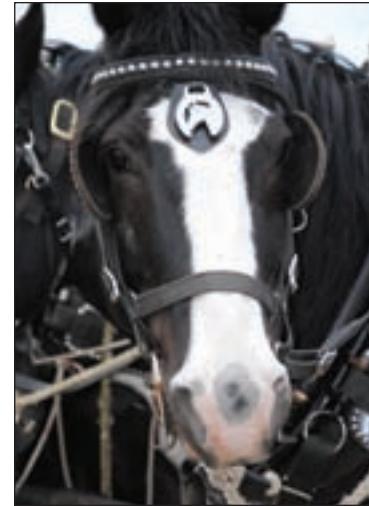
The generosity and commitment of Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing project participants is outstanding, says Terence Barg (right), shown here with Ken Pohl, organizer of the Farming with Horses growing project (and owner of this vintage John Deere-Van Brunt seed drill).

sibly the first, and then a number of years ago, the land they were renting was sold," said Barg. "But they decided to go again and found some land to rent, so we're excited to see them going again."

There are growing projects in all parts of the province (a map of them can be found in the Get Involved section of www.foodgrainsbank.ca) and each one is a community effort.

"Each growing project will have from four to 15 people involved — that will be the core and often there will be a number of other people doing the farming, fundraising, and those sorts of things," said Barg.

"What strikes me the most is the generosity of people and their commitment to the cause of feeding those in need. Some of these projects have been going for 15 or 20 years and those groups are continually working to keep the project going. They're committed year after year — it's not a one-off."



This paint quarter-horse was a member of one of 10 teams of heavy horses used in the Farming with Horses growing project. Horse owners snapped up all of the oats grown on the five-acre site last year. PHOTOS: GLENN CHEATER



Allen Weinhandl turned out on a chilly Sunday in early May to help plow, disc, harrow, and seed five acres of Morgan oats for the Farming with Horses growing project north of Ponoka.

New speech competition for young Albertans

The Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture is holding an inaugural public speaking competition for Alberta youth to share their passion about the agricultural industry. The competition will be held during the Calgary Stampede on July 13 and offers youth ages 11 to 24 an opportunity to share their views on a topic important to agriculture.

Participants must give a five- to seven-minute speech on topics important to the agricultural industry. The winner will receive a cash prize of up to \$1,000 and be eligible to compete in the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition in Toronto.

The topics for the 2016 competition are:

- What is the impact of public opinion on Canadian farmers?
- How would you explain a GMO to a non-farmer?
- What does the next generation of agriculture bring to the table?
- How can we improve the media's perception of Canadian agriculture?
- Old MacDonald had a farm ... But what about Mrs. MacDonald?

For more information visit www.albertayoungspeakers.com or email albertayoungspeakers@gmail.com. — AYSA release

Wage subsidy available for student workers on the farm

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RELEASE

If you're thinking about hiring a student for summer employment, there's only a few days left to apply for provincial assistance.

The Summer Farm Employment Program offers wage support of up to \$400 per month for July and August as well as worker's compensation coverage and safety training information.

"Employers must own or rent a farming operation in Alberta and work must be directly related to the farming operation," said program co-ordinator Mary Ann Nelson. "This doesn't include

domestic work or child care. Employers must recruit their own employee, provide daily supervision, and ensure safe working conditions for their employee. Monthly records of time worked must be completed by the employer."

Employees must be Alberta residents between 15 and 24 years of age and cannot be a direct relative of the employer. They can't work full time anywhere else or attend school while participating in the program. If they have been working full time prior to July 1 for the employer, they are not eligible for the program.

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis

what's up

Send agriculture-related meeting and event announcements to: glen.cheater@fbcpublishing.com

May 24: Alberta Pork Regional Meeting, Pomeroy Inn & Suites, Vegreville (also May 25 in Red Deer, May 31 in Lethbridge, and June 2 in Grande Prairie). Contact: Alberta Pork 780-474-8288

May 31: Working Well Workshop, Alliance (also June 8 in Rocky Mountain House). Contact: Kelsey Fenton 780-384-4129

June 3: Livestock Handling Systems Tour, Waterhole Hall, Fairview. Contact: Kaitlin 780-835-6799

June 8: University of Alberta Calf Conference, Dairy Research and Technology Centre, Edmonton. Contact: Jennifer Haisan 780-686-2793

June 8: Environmental Farm Plan Workshop, Vulcan Lodge Hall, Vulcan. Contact: Rachel McLean 403-995-9466

June 9: Plot Hop, Farming Smarter field site, 21112 Jail Rd, Lethbridge (also June 23). Contact: Jamie 403-381-5118

June 9: AFSC Client Appreciation Day, lunch (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at all 46 AFSC branch offices

June 13-14: Stockmanship School, Red Deer County office, Red Deer (also June 16-17 Airdrie). Contact: Rachel 403-995-9466

June 14-15: 2016 Grazing School for Women, Circle Square Ranch, Halkirk. Contact: Kelsey 780-384-4100

June 15-16: Alberta Pork Congress, Westerner Park, Red Deer. Contact: Alberta Pork Congress 403-244-7821

June 18: Breakfast on the Dairy Farm, Yff Dairy located between Penhold and Innisfail. Contact: Alberta Milk 877-361-1231

June 20-22: 2016 Alberta Soils Tour, Edmonton/Athabasca/Ft. McMurray/Ft. Mackay. Contact: Konstantin Dlusskiy 780-914-2067

June 24: Soil Health: the Bottom Lines, Carstairs Community Hall and outdoor field site, Carstairs. Contact: Rachel McLean 403-995-9466

June 28: Canola Palooza, Lacombe Research Station, Lacombe. Contact: Rick Taillieu 780-678-6167

and will be accepted until all program funds are committed or May 31, whichever comes first. (Applications received after May 31 will not be processed unless funding is available.) For more info, go to www.agriculture.alberta.ca (search for 'summer employment') or call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

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AIR DRILL

2013 Bourgault 3710, 50', 10"	\$189,000
2012 Bourgault 3710, 60', 12"	\$186,000
2010 Bourgault 3310, 75', 12"	\$95,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 76', 12"	\$169,000
2013 Bourgault 3320, 75', 12"	\$139,000
2009 Bourgault 3310, 65', 10"	\$128,000
2011 Bourgault 3310, 65', 10"	\$138,000
2002 Bourgault 5710, 47', 10"	\$49,900
2008 Bourgault 5710, 64', 10"	\$89,000
1997 Bourgault 5710, 54', 9.8"	\$38,000
1998 Bourgault 5710, 54', 9.8"	\$38,000
2002 Bourgault 6350 Toe behind	\$58,000
2005 Bourgault 6550 Trailing.....	\$59,500
2003 Flexi-Coil 5000/3450, 57', 9"....	\$89,000
2000 Flexi-Coil 6000/3450, 40', 10".....	\$115,000
2010 Flexi-Coil P2060, 60', 10"....	\$68,000
2011 NH P2070, 70', 10"	\$85,000
2008 NH SD550, 70', 10"	\$59,000
2010 CIH 700, 70', 12"	\$33,500
2008 CIH 700, 70', 12"	\$29,500
2007 CIH 700, 70', 10"....	\$79,000

AIR TANK/CART

2008 Bourgault 6550	\$89,000
2013 Bourgault L6550	\$115,000
2013 Bourgault L6550	\$115,000
1995 Flexi-Coil 5000/1330	\$28,000
2015 Bourgault L7800	\$251,800
2013 Bourgault L6550	\$119,000
2011 NH P1070, Tow Behind	\$98,000
2010 Case IH 3430.....	\$45,000
Bourgault 3225,	\$13,500
2012 Bourgault 6450,	\$115,000
2002 Bourgault L5200, 2 meters....	\$22,000
2010 CIH 3430	\$45,000
2008 CIH 3430	\$39,500
2007 CIH 3430	\$79,000
1996 Bourgault 4300	\$13,800

BALER/ROUND

2004 CIHRBX562, 12,600 Bales ...	\$13,800
2009 NH BR7090,	\$29,800
2003 NH BR780,	\$7,900
2005 NH BR780,	\$13,500
2003 NH BR780,	\$11,800
2006 NH BR780A,	\$14,500
2011 NH BR7090,	\$26,000

BLADE

2007 Leon 4000 STX425- Frameless	\$13,800
2011 Leon Q5000 STX Quad	\$30,000
2007 Q4000 6 way TJ450	\$19,500
2013 Leon Q5000,	\$33,000

COMBINE

2007 NH CX8080, 2040/1720 hrs	\$178,000
2007 NH CX8080, 1650/1290 hrs	\$189,000
2015 NH CX8080 , 135 Thr Hrs...	\$419,000
2015 NH CX8080, 135 Thr Hrs....	\$419,000
2014 NH CX8080, 455/388 hrs	\$385,000
2007 NH CX8080, 1002/785 hrs ..	\$189,000
2008 NH CX8080, 2009/1522 hrs	\$238,000
2008 NH CX8080, 2005/1538 hrs	\$238,000
2012 NH CX8080, 731/584 Hrs ...	\$299,500
2012 NH CX8080, 611/426 HRS..	\$318,000
2012 NH CR8090, 1144/917 Hrs	\$289,000
2012 NH CR8090, 1058/811 Hrs	\$299,000
2012 NH CR8090, 727/543 hrs	\$339,000
2012 NH CR8090, 890/761 hrs ...	\$298,000
2002 NH CX840, 3700/2500 hrs	\$78,000
1993 NH TX36, 1993/3079 hrs	\$25,000
1997 NH TX66, 3754/2781 hrs	\$38,500
1998 NH TX66, 3438/2643 hrs	\$39,500
1999 NH TX66,	\$48,000
1996 NH TR98, 2931/2211 hrs....	\$39,000
1997 NH TR98, 2740/1934 hrs....	\$48,000
1997 NH TR98, 3058/2357 hrs....	\$28,000
2007 NH CR9070, 948/780 hrs....	\$198,000
2007 NH CR9070, 1710/1253 hrs	\$179,000
2008 NH CR9070 1238/1026 hrs.	\$179,000
2008 NH CR9070, 1434/1023 hrs	\$189,500
2008 NH CR9070, 1489/1020 hrs	\$195,000
2009 NH CR9070, 1733/1419 Hrs	\$169,000
2009 NH CR9070, 1597/1208 Hrs	\$179,000
2009 NH CR9070, 1351/1010 hrs	\$239,000
2010 NH CR9070, 1654/1240 hrs	\$189,000
2010 NH CR9070, 1300/1153 hrs	\$179,500
2010 NH CR9070, 1616/1190 hrs	\$189,000
2010 NH CR9080, 1289/873 hrs..	\$268,000
2010 NH CR9080, 1410/964 hrs..	\$258,000
2009 NH CR9080, 1347/980 hrs..	\$249,000
2011 NH CR9080, 724/552 Hrs ..	\$315,000
2010 NH CR9090, 1333/907 hrs..	\$309,000
2011 NH CR9090, 1302/901 hrs..	\$280,000
2011 NH CR9090, 1087/837 Hrs	\$299,000
2012 NH CR9090, 868/632hrs	\$339,000
2012 NH CR9090, 788/619 hrs	\$379,000
2005 NH CR970, 2244/1501 hrs..	\$138,000
2005 NH CR970, 2459/1821 hrs..	\$138,000
2006 NH CR970, 1861/1300 hrs..	\$169,500
2006 NH CR970, 1400/1100 hrs..	\$178,000
2006 NH CR970, 1547/1219 hrs..	\$189,500
2012 AGCO Gleaner S77, 423/323 hrs	\$298,000
2012 AGCO Gleaner S77, 446/346 hrs	\$298,000
2000 CIH8010, 1728/1322 hrs	\$189,000
2013 Claas 760, 361/233 hrs	\$389,000
2007 JD 9860STS, 1627/1161 hrs	\$208,000
2005 JD 9860STS, 1497 hrs	\$148,000

VERTICAL TILLAGE

2007 Bourgault 6000	\$25,800
2013 Salford I-2141, 41'	\$99,000
2014 Salford I-4141, 41'	\$115,000
2010 Salford 570 RTS, 30'	\$68,000
2005 Haybuster 2650	\$14,900
2002 Cattlelac 330,	\$18,500
2003 Bale King 3100, RH discharge	\$9,800
2003 Lucknow 285	\$12,800
2001 Brandt 1390,	\$9,000
2010 NuVision 5395,	\$21,000
2011 NuVision 6395, 95' Tele-scoping	\$19,500
2010 Richiger 9' Bagger with auger,	\$33,000
1996 MacDon 960, 25' transport	\$16,500
2010 Honeybee HB30, JD adaptor 30'	\$38,500
2010 Honeybee, HB30, Gleaner adaptor, 30'	\$49,500
2008 Honey Bee HB36,	\$48,000
1999 Honey Bee SP36, 36'	\$29,000
1996 Honey Bee SP25,	\$18,500
1994 Honey Bee SP36,	\$19,500
1999 Honey Bee SP36, 36"	\$29,000
2008 JD 936D,	\$39,900
1998 MacDon 960,	\$25,000
1998 MacDon 871 TX Adaptor	\$6,000
2011 MacDon FD70-45,	\$75,000
2012 MacDon FD70-45,	\$78,000
2013 MacDon FD75 -35,	\$78,000
2010 MF 5100-35,	\$58,000
2006 NH 88C-36,	\$58,000
2008 NH 94C-30,	\$39,500
2009 NH 94C-30,	\$39,800
2008 NH 94C-36,	\$49,500
2003 NH 94C-36,	\$39,500
2000 NH 994-30,	\$38,000
1999 NH 994-30,	\$29,500
1998 NH 994-36,	\$19,000
1998 NH 994-36,	\$19,000
1992 NH SP30,	\$5,800
1994 NH SP30,	\$9,800
1997 Westward 9030	\$4,000

MOWER CONDITIONER

1992 JD 1

Border red tape hindering food shipping

With so much food flowing across the border in both directions, it's time to streamline how it's done

BY ALEX BINKLEY
AF CORRESPONDENT

Carrying food across the border can at times be a major headache for transportation companies and their drivers.

The agri-food sector generates a significant portion of the daily cross-border truck traffic, but there are major challenges, Stephen Laskowski, senior vice-president of the Canadian Trucking Alliance, told the Senate agriculture committee recently.

"The vast majority of these shipments is moved by truck," he said, noting that in 2014, 89 per cent of the output of Canadian food processors flowed south to the U.S.

Among the challenges truckers have serving the sector is a big stack of regulations in both countries, border crossings without 24-7 food inspection, a shortage of drivers and rules for livestock transport.

Trucking companies have had to introduce preventive control measures to work with shippers to meet the regulatory requirements, he said. The Safe Food for Canadians Act and the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act rule on sanitary transportation of human and animal food "have a significant impact on our carriers' operations."

Canadian carriers are working to become compliant with the American requirements, he added.

The U.S. rule is one of seven fundamental rules proposed since January 2013 to create a modern risk-based framework for food safety. The goal of this rule is to prevent practices during transportation that create food safety risks, such as failure to properly refrigerate food, inadequate cleaning of vehicles between loads, and failure to properly protect food.



Canadian truckers say it's time to ease the red tape and streamline food shipments across the Canada-U.S. border. PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

"This means that when carriers load trucks, they have to know what they are doing," Laskowski said.

"What this means, then, is that drivers are no longer just truck drivers and need to operate a safe vehicle. They must have a knowledge and also the ability to handle food products."

About a decade ago, the trucking industry developed a food safety program "that would encompass HACCP's basic process for addressing food safety issues."

Now known as Iron Apple, the program

ensures participating companies and their drivers are compliant with both the U.S. and Canadian rules.

Having done all this, the trucking industry would like to see the two national governments ensure shippers don't bring in a slew of different programs so shipping companies wind up having to "... comply with 20 different programs, instead of just one," he said.

He said an immediate issue that could ease trade would be making sure 24-7 food inspection was available at more points of entry and exit.

"Drivers are no longer just truck drivers and need to operate a safe vehicle. They must have a knowledge and also the ability to handle food products."

STEPHEN LASKOWSKI

"The U.S. and Canadian government need to modernize the hours of operation of these agencies at the border," he said.

The U.S. has imposed border fees to recoup the cost of conducting agriculture quarantine inspections at U.S. ports of entry.

"CTA believes that these fees are illegal," he said. "Ottawa should be pressuring Washington to remove them."

The move to electronic log books for drivers may complicate the operations of livestock carriers in terms of providing proper care for the animals and meeting hours of service regulations, he noted.

"An analysis needs to be done here because no one is going to advocate for reduced highway safety, but we do have to deal with the rights of the animals we are hauling," he said. "It needs to be balanced."

He added livestock drivers have a unique professional profile.

"They are part farmer and professional truck driver," he said. "It is unfortunate because some shippers who engage these drivers really don't respect the skill sets that they bring on."

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Kevin Stewart helps you focus on your farm's future with these five tips for successful agribusiness.

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'12 NEW HOLLAND BR7090,
9000 Bales, 2.07m PU, Netwrap
\$29,000 SC



'14 NEW HOLLAND T9.390,
Eng Hrs: 335, 20.8R42 Duals, Radar Ground Sensor
\$265,000 SC



'14 NEW HOLLAND BOOMER 24,
24HP, 23X8.50-12 Tires
\$10,900 SC, SH, MH



'10 NEW HOLLAND P2070/P1060,
TBT, 60', 430bu, 12" Spacing, Double Shoot
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'13 NEW HOLLAND CR7090,
Eng Hrs: 756, Sep Hrs: 580, Elec Trap
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'13 NEW HOLLAND CR8090,
Eng Hrs: 672, Sep Hrs: 567, Duals, Mech Trap
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'10 NEW HOLLAND CR9060,
Eng Hrs: 1094, Sep Hrs: 839, Elec Trap
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'13 NEW HOLLAND C238,
Eng Hrs: 1169, Hand Controls, High Flow Plus Hyd
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'08 FLEXI COIL 5500/4350,
TBT, 60', 12" Spacing, Double Shoot
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'11 NEW HOLLAND P2070/P1060,
TBT, 60', 430bu, 10" Spacing, Double Shoot
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'10 MORRIS CONTOUR 1/8650,
TBT, 71', 650bu, 10" Spacing, Single Shoot
SPRING PRICING - PLEASE CALL



'08 APACHE 1010,
Eng Hrs: 1300, 100' Boom, 1000Gal, Sectional Control,
\$139,000

AIR DRILL

1996 Bourgault 5710/3225 \$39,000 S
2009 Case IH 700/3430 \$149,000 MH
1994 Flexi-Coil 5000/1720 \$25,000 M
1994 Flexi-Coil 5000/2320 \$30,000 S
1995 Flexi-Coil 5000/2320 \$49,000 S
1998 Flexi-Coil 5000/3450 \$59,000 SC
2004 Misc 7550/4350 \$35,000 MH
1995 Morris MAXIM/7180 \$25,000 S
1997 Morris MAXIM/7240 \$35,000 SC
2009 New Holland P2060/P1060 \$149,000 S
2010 New Holland P2070/P1060 \$189,000 M

BALE WAGON

1950 Misc HAAKUS WGN \$4,500 MH

BALER/ROUND

2008 New Holland BR7090 \$23,000 M
2008 New Holland BR7090 \$23,000 SC
2009 New Holland BR7090 \$25,000 SC
2011 New Holland BR7090 \$29,000 SC
2011 New Holland BR7090 \$32,000 SC
2012 New Holland BR7090 \$29,000 M
2012 New Holland BR7090 \$32,000 M
2012 New Holland BR7090 \$32,000 M

COMBINE

1993 Case IH 1688 \$29,000 B
2008 Case IH 2588 \$159,000 SC
2011 Case IH 8120 \$210,000 B
2013 Case IH 8230 \$349,000 MH
1987 John Deere 7720 \$17,000 SC
1999 John Deere 9610 \$69,000 MH
2010 John Deere T670 \$199,000 S
2011 Massey Ferguson 9895 \$250,000 SC
2008 Massey Ferguson 9895 \$220,000 T
2011 Massey Ferguson 9895 \$295,000 T
2012 New Holland CR7090 \$269,000 B

2012 New Holland CR8090 \$289,000 T

2012 New Holland CR8090 \$310,000 SC

2012 New Holland CR8090 \$310,000 SC

2014 New Holland CR8090 \$339,000 SC

2014 New Holland CR8090 \$359,000 S

2014 New Holland CR8090 \$409,000 SC

2014 New Holland CR8090 \$410,000 S

2014 New Holland CR8090 \$439,000 S

2008 New Holland CR9060 \$189,000 M

2009 New Holland CR9060 \$189,000 M

2010 New Holland CR9060 \$219,000 S

2010 New Holland CR9060 \$219,000 SC

2010 New Holland CR9060 \$219,000 SC

2008 New Holland CR9070 \$239,000 B

2010 New Holland CR9070 \$259,000 S

2010 New Holland CR9070 \$259,000 MH

2010 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 S

2010 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 S

2011 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 T

2011 New Holland CR9070 \$269,000 S

2005 New Holland CR960 \$109,000 M

2005 New Holland CR960 \$129,000 S

2006 New Holland CR970 \$189,000 S

2007 New Holland CX8080 \$159,000 S

2001 New Holland CX840 \$99,000 MH

1990 New Holland TR96 \$15,000 SC

2001 New Holland TR99 \$45,000 SC

2012 Horsch Anderson RT370 \$85,000 T

DEEP TILLAGE

2012 Horsch Anderson RT370 \$85,000 T

DISK

John Deere 335 \$29,000 T

GRAIN CART

2012 Misc 1400 \$65,000 SC

HEADER COMBINE

1993 Case IH 1010, 25'W \$6,500 B

1993 Case IH 1015, 12'W \$5,000 B

2008 Case IH 2015 \$15,000 SC

2010 Case IH 2142, 35'W \$49,000 B

2012 Case IH 3016, 15'W \$24,000 MH

2013 Honey Bee 36GB, 36'W \$45,000 SH

2013 Honey Bee 36GB, 36'W \$45,000 SH

1997 Honey Bee HB25, 25'W \$15,000 SC

2008 Honey Bee HB30, 30'W \$29,000 T

1997 Honey Bee SP30, 30'W \$21,000 MJ

1996 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$15,000 SH

1998 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$22,000 SC

2004 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$32,000 SH

2005 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$25,000 SC

2005 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$25,000 SH

2008 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$35,000 SH

2011 Honey Bee SP36, 36'W \$45,000 SH

2012 Honey Bee SP40, 40'W \$49,000 SH

1988 John Deere 912P, 12'W \$4,000 SC

1999 John Deere 914, 14'W \$10,000 MH

2009 MacDon FD70, 35'W \$55,000 S

2012 MacDon FD70, 40'W \$65,000 SH

2010 MacDon PW7 \$19,000 B

2011 Massey Ferguson 9250, 35'W \$75,000 SC

2013 New Holland 740CF, 35'W \$35,000 T

2013 New Holland 740CF, 35'W \$35,000 SH

2009 New Holland 74C, 35'W \$29,000 MH

2009 New Holland 74C, 35'W \$37,000 MJ

2006 New Holland 76C, 14'W \$19,000 MJ

2010 New Holland 76C, 14'W \$21,000 SC

2014 New Holland 790CP, 15'W \$25,000 SC

2014 New Holland 880CF, 40'W \$99,000 SH

2014 New Holland 880CF, 40'W \$99,000 SC

2014 New Holland 880CF, 45'W \$99,000 SC

2014 New Holland 880CF, 40'W \$99,000 SC

2003 New Holland 94C, 36'W \$19,000 T

2004 New Holland 94C, 36'W \$29,000 SH

2006 New Holland 94C, 30'W \$25,000 SC

2007 New Holland 94C, 36'W \$35,000 SH

2008 New Holland 94C, 36'W \$35,000 MH

2010 New Holland 94C, 40'W \$49,000 B

2012 New Holland 94C, 36'W \$35,000 SC

2012 New Holland 94C, 40'W \$55,000 SC

2012 New Holland 94C, 40'W \$62,000 SC

1995 New Holland 971, 13'W \$3,500 SC

1998 New Holland 971, 30'W \$4,500 SC

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\$58,000

New Holland 94C,
2012, 30 feet



**SCALL FOR BLOW
OUT PRICE**

New Holland HT154
Rake 16 Wheel



\$28,000

2012 New Holland Boomer 50
Tractor - Compact



\$295,000

2011 New Holland SP365
Sprayer, 1600 gal, 120', Auto Steer, c/w
3 yr, 3000hr power train warranty



\$235,000

2013 New Holland SP275R Sprayer,
450hrs, 1200 gal, 100' boom,
Auto Steer



\$35,000

2010 Agric Maxi Spreader - Fertilizer,
10 Tonne Fert. Spreader

USED EQUIPMENT

USED COMBINES

2 - 2012 CR8090 Combines, c/w Stone trap and GPS	Choice @ \$295,000
2011 NH CR9070, Auto Steer, 900 hrs	\$199,900
2008 CIH 8010, AFX 1475 hrs	\$156,000
2013 NH CR8090, 950 hrs	\$295,000
2011 NH CR9070, 1200 hrs	\$199,900



\$295,000

2012 New Holland CR8090,
loaded



SCALL

Farm King EZ6650 - 8W



\$156,000

2008 Case IH 8010
Combine



\$58,000

New Holland 94C,
2012, 30 feet



SCall

2014 New Holland T8.390
CVT Tractor,



\$7,299

Hustler Raptor Flip Up,
2015, Zero Turn Radius!! 54" cut

USED TRACTORS

2012 Boomer 50 Compact Tractor	\$28,000
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USED SWATHERS

2013 MacDon M155, 500 hrs, 30 DBL, D65	\$145,000
2003 MacDon 9352, 30' DBL, 2800 hrs	\$42,800
MacDon 4952i, C/W 30' header	\$62,500
MacDon 2940, C/W 30' header	\$48,000
1 - MacDon 18' multi crop header	\$6,500
2009 Premier M150, c/w 30' DBL D60 header	\$107,000

USED SPRAYERS

2011 NH SP365F, 1600 gal, 120', Auto Steer	\$295,000
2013 NH SP275R, 1200 gal, 100' boom, Auto Steer, 450 hrs	SOLD

USED FORAGE & HAYING

NH 575, 14x18 baler new knotters	SOLD
2012 NH BC5070, 14x16 baler	SOLD
2006 JD 3975, forage harvester	\$18,900

MISC

NH 125 Rustler side by side, c/w cab	Call
Kongskilde grain vac	Call

TILLAGE

2010 Agrex Maxi, 10 tonne fert spreader	\$35,000
2015 NH ST830, 62' cultivator	Call
Flexi Coil 3450, var rate air cart TBH	\$38,000

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