

June 2007

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay * Rainy River * Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

PROVINCE RECOGNIZES ON-FARM INNOVATION

Three Regional Award Winners Honoured
For Their Achievements

Local agricultural innovators are the recipients of the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Bill Mauro made the presentations.

"I am pleased to recognize our local farmers with these awards," said Mauro. "Their hard work and innovative ideas are what makes our rural communities strong."

The five-year, \$2.5-million Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence, announced as part of the 2006 provincial budget, recognizes that farmers have always been innovative in the running of their businesses and will foster even greater innovation across the province's agri-food sector. The \$100,000 Premier's Award of Excellence for Agri-Food Innovation and the \$50,000 Minister's Award were presented earlier this month at the Premier's Summit on Agri-Food.

Each regional winner receives \$5,000. Regional winners presented with their awards April 27th were

Rainy River District:

Pine River Ranch
Rainy River Elk Company

Thunder Bay District:

Thunder Oak Cheese Farm
Other government initiatives in support of farm families in rural Ontario include:
Investing in rural communities through the Rural Economic Development Program. Since October 2003, 94 projects have been approved with a total provincial commitment of approximately \$28.2 million.

Investing \$520 million over 12 years in the Ontario Ethanol Growth Fund to expand ethanol production and use in Ontario, and to advance Ontario's research and innovation efforts in alternative renewable fuels.

Enhancing the educational experience of rural students by providing specialized programming utilizing community and local resources, a new farming and rural major within the Specialist High Skills Major, and new rural and agricultural related cooperative education courses.

Send your articles to: Linda Turk
R. R. #1 Kakabeka Falls, Ontario POT 1W0
807-577-4787 (voice), 807-577-4459 (fax)
Email: lindat@tbaytel.net

Moving?

**Please let us know your new address
before you move so you will not miss a
single issue of Northwest Link.**

This newsletter is published monthly except for the months of April and December. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

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2007 International
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August 6 to 8, 2007 • Ottawa, Ontario

FARM SUCCESSION – WHERE WE'VE
BEEN, WHERE WE'RE GOING.

In 2002, the Canadian Farm Business Management Council brought together industry experts, agricultural producers and concerned stakeholders for a conference in Winnipeg to focus on the importance of farm succession for the next generation.

While much has changed throughout farming in North America, one thing has stayed the same: farm succession and transition planning are just as critical today as they were five years ago. In fact, as the years go by, it's more critical than ever. That's why we at CFBMC have expanded our focus beyond our borders to make this truly an International Farm Succession Conference.

Join us **August 6 to 8, 2007 in Ottawa, Ontario** for an opportunity to look back and reflect on what we discussed and learned in 2002. More importantly, this will be a time for us to explore the challenges facing producers and to find out what is being done to facilitate succession plans in Canada, the United States and Europe.

EXCITING AND INFORMATIVE SPEAKERS
INCLUDING:

Gordon Pitts, Globe & Mail business writer, author of *In the Blood – Battles to Succeed in Canadian Family Business*

Dr. Matt Lobley, Assistant Director of the Centre for Rural Policy Research, Department of Politics, University of Exeter, UK

International speakers, plenary sessions, breakout workshops and on-farm tours – whether you are an agricultural producer or provide support services to producers, this is one conference you don't want to miss. Visit www.farmcentre.com for registration information.

Agricultural Operator Planning
Certificate

The provisions for allowing holders of peer reviewed EFP3 workbooks to challenge an equivalency test for the Fundamentals of Nutrient Management requirement needed to obtain an Agricultural Operation Planning Certificate has been extended to October 1, 2007.

Producers wishing to take the test may contact thel.simpson@ontario.ca to arrange for a time and location for the test. Complete certification requirements can be found at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert.html>



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MINISTER STRAHL ANNOUNCES
DETAILS OF 2006 OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced the Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options) will continue for a second year and will be open to those who received a payment for the 2005 program year.

“Canada’s New Government is listening to producers and always evaluating how best to help them meet the challenges they face,” said Minister Strahl. “As a result, only those who received a payment in the first year of the program will be eligible for year 2. We remain committed to investing in initiatives that support our farmers.”

Many farm families participated in the Options program. More than \$141 million was paid to 15,000 individual farmers and farm families across the country in addition to the business training

and services that were offered to them. An evaluation will provide information on how to make programs more responsive to the needs of farm families.

Options will continue to be offered for the 2006 program year to farm families who received a payment in 2005 but will not be available to those who are not already enrolled.

Under the Options Program, these farm families are eligible to participate, at no cost, in services and programs to help them improve their farm or off-farm income. These services include the Farm Business Assessment (FBA) and Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS).

Producers who are not eligible for the 2006 Options program may still take advantage of programs and services offered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to help them assess their business, develop a business plan, take training to expand their skills and determine the feasibility of value-added opportunities. These services are offered through programs including the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS), CASS and Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises (PAVE).

A total of \$4.5 billion in new funding has been committed to the agriculture sector through measures in Budget 2006 and Budget 2007. These investments include working with provincial and territorial partners to improve business risk management programming so that it is more predictable, bankable and better able to help producers respond to rising costs.

CANADIAN FARM FAMILIES OPTIONS PROGRAM (OPTIONS)

What is Options?

Options is a pilot program that provides temporary financial support to lower-income farm families while they improve their income prospects for the long term. Farm families who participate are also required to undertake a Renewal program. These programs support farmers and farm families in setting business goals, developing a business plan to meet those goals and provide an opportunity to identify and access the necessary training to be competitive in today's agriculture environment.

Who is eligible for 2006?

Options will continue to be offered for the 2006 program year to farm families who received a payment in 2005 (including those whose payment was below \$100 but were not issued cheques).

Those who are not already enrolled in the 2005 program are not eligible for 2006. The deadline for the 2005 program has passed.

To be eligible for a 2006 payment, participants must also have completed or be in the process of undertaking a Farm Business Assessment or a business plan offered by the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS) or an equivalent activity; or an Individual Learning Plan to pursue skills training through the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) or an equivalent activity.

Why is participation limited for year two?

Producers and farm leaders have said that Options is not the right kind of program to address chronic low income among farm families. Completing the Options program's second year will allow for an evaluation of the program, which will provide information on how to make programs more responsive to the needs of farm families.

How do I apply if I'm eligible?

If you received a payment for 2005 (or applied in 2005 but did not receive a cheque because the

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payment was less than \$100), you will automatically receive by mail an application form for the 2006 program. The application and guide will be available in August 2007.

What is the application deadline?

The deadline to apply for the 2006 Canadian Farm Families Options Program is October 31, 2007.

How will payments be made?

Applicants will receive a payment based on their gross farm income and total income from all sources. Payments for Options are capped at \$25,000 for farm families and \$15,000 for individual farmers. For the 2006 program year, payments will be reduced by 25 percent to minimize dependency on the program. Applying the reduction, the maximum 2006 payment is \$18,750 for farm families and \$11,250 for individual farmers. Options payments will also be prorated to ensure AAFC remains within the allocated budget for the program.

How can I get more information on the Options program?

For more information, farmers and their families can call toll free 1-866-367-8506 or visit the Options Web site (www.agr.gc.ca/options).

What programs are available to help me improve my farm or off-farm income?

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has two programs designed specifically to help all producers become more profitable. A Farm Business Assessment (FBA) will help you set goals for your business and develop a plan to meet these goals. Under the FBA, you will work with a consultant for up to five days to develop a farm financial assessment and an action plan. The cost of the FBA is free if you have received an Options payment. The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) will provide funding and practical assistance to help you and your spouse (if applicable) develop a learning program that will lead to increased opportunities for profitability and provide choices about sources of income. Funding is also provided to pay for skills training and associated costs.

Options participants can take part in FBA and CASS free of charge.

For more information on FBA or CASS, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/renewal or dial 1-866-452-5558.

<p>DAWSON RANCH SUPPLIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Kelln Solar 4 Season Livestock Water Systems (for your Environmental Farm Plan project)-Morand Cattle Handling Systems-Super Trail Bale Feeders & Fence Panels-Cypress Industries Creep & Bunk Feeders-Electric Fencing Supplies <p>John (807) 483-5893 or Amos (807) 483-7717</p>

Food Security Research Network
At Lakehead University

Many of you may already know or have heard that Lakehead University is starting to become involved in local agriculture and food production in the Thunder Bay area. Well, it's true; the University has a new department, the Food Security Research Network (FSRN), which is looking at food security in the Thunder Bay area.

You may ask, what is food security? Food security is simply ensuring that the people of the area have access to a sufficient supply of nutritionally adequate food. This may be a major concern because a lot of the food consumed in Thunder Bay is imported so if there were some type of disaster or transportation infrastructure failure, this area could become extremely food insecure.

The FSRN is a relatively young department, only a few months old, but our primary objective is to use the resources at the University and work with producers to try and get some local products into some of the local markets. Over the next few months we will be trying to talk with both producers and retailers to understand the current problems and obstacles that are preventing our local produce from getting into the markets.

My name is Jeff Burke, and I have recently been hired by the FSRN as an agricultural intern. One of my jobs is to try and keep the farming community

informed as to what we are doing and what they can expect in the future. I will also act as an informal liaison between the food producers and the FSRN at the University.

Currently we are still in the planning stages to formulate some projects for the Thunder Bay area. If anyone has any suggestions for projects they would wish to see being developed or just general comments or complaints I would be happy to hear from you. We are also interested in connecting with agricultural activities in other parts of Northwestern Ontario. The best way to get a hold of me is via email at jjburke@lakeheadu.ca.

Jeff Burke, B.Sc.



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New Federal Payment

The federal government has announced how it will pay out \$400 million to producers in a cost of production support program. The program was launched by the prime minister at a news event near Saskatoon before the federal budget was presented. It is meant to help producers deal with the rising costs of recent years.

The money will flow based on a producer's average net sales of non-supply managed commodities from 2000 to 2004. Producers who have been filling out CAIS (Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization) applications won't need to apply. The money will come automatically.

Initial payments will start in June and are expected to be complete by the end of October. A factor of 2.36 per cent will be used to calculate the amount. For a producer with average sales of \$100,000 a year, the support payment will be \$2,360. Any money remaining for a final payment will come in December.

Producers who did not provide their 2004 farming income and expenses for CAIS or producers who began

farming after 2004 are eligible, but must send in an application. Applications will be available in late May. To request an application by e-mail, go to www.agr.gc.ca/cop or call 1-866-367-8506. The deadline to apply is September 1.

For the future, \$100 million has been committed annually to address increasing production costs. This money will be paid into the new producer savings accounts that are being established.

The cost of production payment program is being delivered federally across the country with the exception of Quebec. Quebec has expressed an interest in delivering the program and negotiations are underway.

The Thunder Bay Good Food Box

The Good Food Box is a not for profit, volunteer based program delivering affordable boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables to neighbourhoods across the city, once a month. While our emphasis has been on low income neighbourhoods and households, the program is universally available to any family or individual wishing to improve the quality of their food intake and to be involved in a joint community effort. Monthly payments collected for orders go directly to purchasing the contents of the boxes.

The Good Food Box purchases some locally grown food. We would like to extend the invitation to other farmer/producers to make an item or several items available for The Good Food Box to purchase.

To Find Out More:

(807) 345-7819 Or (807) 628-5768
goodfoodbox@tbaytel.net
184 Camelot St.
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 4A9

Lakehead University and their food services supplier, Aramark, recently agreed to a "buy local" clause in their contract.

Producers interested in exploring this marketing opportunity may contact Aramark

HORSE NEWS

Early spring is the time to rejuvenate your pastures and hay fields with an application of fertilizer. Grasses may require up to 300 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year to obtain the potential maximum economic yield. A yield response requires a minimum of 75 kg of actual nitrogen per hectare. Under grazing conditions, a valuable indicator of the need for nitrogen is an overall dull green appearance with poor growth. Better and greener growth appears around urine and manure spots. These spots will not be visible in a pasture receiving sufficient nitrogen. Yearly nitrogen application should be split into 1/2 in the early spring, 1/4 in late June and 1/4 in early September. Contact your local OMAFRA office or fertilizer supplier for soil-testing information.

Small strongyles (cyathostomes) have become increasingly important as a cause of illness and death in horses and are considered the primary reason for deworming horses that spend time at pasture. Since drug resistance is becoming a significant problem in these parasites, the primary objectives of a sound parasite control program should be to minimize the number of anthelmintic treatments (dewormings) AND to minimize the environmental contamination with parasites. Consult your veterinarian on the most appropriate parasite control program for your horse. Annual monitoring of the efficacy of the program, using a fecal sample collected in July/August, should be an integral part of any preventative health program. (Dr. A. Peregrine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph)

URGENT:

The Thunder Bay Shelter House is in desperate need of meat and ground beef. If you could spare one of those "golden arch" type of cows, or one side, please make the usual arrangements with an appointment at Thunder Bay Meats. Let Arie Grootenboer know fair value, trucking and other costs. The Shelter House will send you a donation receipt. You may also, if you prefer, deal directly with the Shelter House. They very much appreciate all the Meat/Beef donations and thank everyone involved.



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Weed Control Option

Effective May 14, 2007 Goal 2XL Emulsifiable Concentrate Herbicide has been reclassified from a Schedule 1 to a Schedule 5 herbicide. Goal is used for weed control in Onions and Strawberries. A special permit will no longer be required to obtain this product

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OFMAP

Reminder to all NOHFC participating producers
Your 2006 OFMAP is due June 30.
Call your Ag Rep to set up an appointment
Thanks to those who have already submitted
their information

EARS Report – North West Link

Hello! I am back... And the last few days the weather has been great. I am still a few days away from getting on the land but the sun sure feels good. I don't have much to report yet; the only trials that I am 100% sure of are the cereal performance trials, soybean trials and some nitrogen and sulfur work on canola. If you have something that you think we should be looking at, please let me know ASAP.

I started working at Crop Check North as a summer student in 1987 so this is my 20th season of research. I can hardly believe it.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Kim Jo Bliss
Emo Agricultural Research Station
Box 475 – Highway 11
Emo, ON P0W 1E0
807-482-2354 phone or fax
kbliss@uoguelph.ca

Up-Coming Events

June 4, 2007

7: 30 p.m. – Barwick Hall
4-H Leaders Meeting

June 5, 2007

7:30 p.m. – Emo Curling Rink
RRFA Director's Meeting

June 7, 2007

7:00 p.m. – Barwick Hall
Abattoir Update Meeting

June 10, 2007

Semen Order
Call Kim 482-2863 to place an order

June 14, 2007

7:30 p.m. – Rainy River Legion
Rainy River Future Development Annual Meeting

June 20, 2007

7:30 p.m. – Stratton
RRCA Director's Meeting

If you are interested in taking the Quality Starts Here Workshop, please call Kim Jo and she will add your name to the list; we need to have 10 participants. This is one of the requirements for the MAP Program. The cost is \$50. This is a simple but a very worthwhile program. Past participants are welcome at no charge, just so they can see how much the program has changed and how much more user friendly it is!

Call Kim Jo @ 482-2863 or email me at kjb@nwonet.net



The image shows a business card for Rainy River Future Development Corporation. It features a red stylized 'R' logo on the left and a green and yellow stylized 'A' logo on the right. The text reads: RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, A Community Futures Development Corporation. Angela Halvorsen, Business Investment Officer. Contact information: angela@rrfdc.on.ca, www.rrfdc.on.ca. Phone: 807.274.3276 - 1.800.465.8502 - Fax 807.274.6989. Address: 608 Scott Street, Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H6.

Wanted:

“Grain binder or pull type combine for small acreage production”

Contact Larry Bockus 475-8761

Biofuels projects get more funding

There's more money for producer-led biofuels projects. The federal government has released \$6.7 million for the 2007-2008 fiscal year under its Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative, known as BOPI.

In Ontario the funding is delivered through the Agricultural Adaptation Council, which is accepting applications for the funds.

Proposals have to fall under four key areas:

1. Hiring technical, financial, and business planning

advisors to assist in developing sound, viable business proposals to create and expand biofuels production capacity involving significant (greater than one-third) ownership by agricultural producers;

2. Undertaking feasibility studies and other studies required to support business proposals;

3. Investigating the pre-commercialization of biofuels related research; or

4. Gathering information to help determine opportunities and to provide necessary input to generate industry involvement in biofuels capacity building. Initiatives should be oriented to business opportunities.

Priority will be given to supporting projects in business plans and feasibility studies.

Deadline for proposal submission is June 22, 2007.

More information and application forms can be found on the AAC website at www.adaptcouncil.org.



Thunder Bay District Cattlemen's Association

TBDCA is inviting all beef producers to participate in a special event that will be held at the Thunder Bay Market at the CLE grounds on June 16, 2007. This event is to promote local awareness of beef producers in our area. We will be having variety of samples of different ways to prepare beef. We are asking all local producers for donations of your locally produced beef. We will also be preparing a pamphlet/brochure which will list all local producers which will include the following information: Farm Name/Your Name, contact info, one or two bylines which can include what type of beef/what is available and when. Ontario Cattlemen's Association is providing TBDCA with cost/share funds for this event. Any beef producers who are interested in taking "Quality Starts Here - Verified Beef Production" please contact Carol, Secretary, TB Cattlemen's Association at

camaki@xplornet.com. or 625-0030. This course must be taken to qualify for the new ear tag promotion.

Any producer interested in participating in the above event or would like more information please contact: Marianne Stewart, Promotion Co-ordinator at 622-7169 or Carol Maki, Secretary at 625-0030 or email at camaki@xplornet.com.

MONSANTO 2007 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Monsanto Canada is proud to support post-secondary education opportunities for farm families. By assisting young people from farm backgrounds in their pursuit of a college or university education in agricultural sciences or forestry, we are investing in their future careers - and in the future of the agriculture and forestry industries in Canada.

Monsanto Canada is Helping Build Careers in Agricultural Sciences and Forestry

The Monsanto Canada Opportunity Scholarship Program is for Canadian high school students from family farms who have successfully enrolled at a Canadian educational institution (degree or diploma) in a first-year agricultural sciences or forestry program.

If you have applied for entry into a college or university, but have not yet been accepted, you can still apply for a Monsanto Canada Scholarship. However, if you are awarded a scholarship, you must provide an acceptance letter from your educational institution.

Successful applicants will each be awarded a scholarship valued at \$1500, based on demonstrated academic standards and leadership in the community. Selection will be made by an independent panel.

Deadline to Apply: July 16, 2007

For further information call 1-800-667-4944 or at www.monsanto.ca.

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History is being made

Thunder Bay Ag. Research Station is planting a bit of Canadian history this year in the form of Red Fife wheat which has been on the verge of extinction for many years, but it has developed a renewed interest by bakers across Canada for its flavour as well as the connection to our agricultural past. A handful of seeds, taken from a Polish ship docked in Scotland, were sent to friends, David and Jane Fife near Peterborough, Ontario, in 1842. A cow nearly changed history as she chewed through the garden leaving only three surviving plants, but this was the start of a wheat which would dominate Canadian and western U.S. production for the next six decades, until a cross between Red Fife and a hard wheat from India formed the famous Marquis.

So if you come out for the July tour at the research station, the staff would welcome the chance to show the potential of this historical wheat as well as many other plant trials being undertaken



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Presents
The Canadian Championship Plowing
Match
held in conjunction with the
75th Annual Slate River Valley Plowing
Match
September 4-8, 2007.

The **Canadian Plowing Match** is a week long event with preparation and practice at the start of the week and actual competitive plowing taking place Wednesday, Sept 5th to Saturday, Sept 8th, 2007. There will be Senior and Juniors age classification as well as conventional and reversible plows being used to plow. The plowing will be taking place at the land beside the Agri-plex, Breukelman's Potato Farm and at John Hanna's Farm, Hwy 130.

The local **75th Annual Slate River Valley Plowing Match** will be taking place on Saturday, September 8th, 2007 beginning at 9 am in the fields on John Hanna's Farm, Hwy 130. This location is the where the first match was held in 1927.

Business and entrepreneurs are invited to book a space in the display area on Saturday. Displays should be set up by 10am and remain on site until 3pm. Saturday, September 8, 2007. The focus of the match will keep the thinking of ecology and why good land stewardship is important to the farmer and community. Do you know someone that would like to share their business information with others? Have them call and book a spot!

If your talents are in plowing or antiques now is the time to start preparing to attend, mark your calendar with Sept 8th and polish up the tractor and plow and prepare to show your talents.

The local match along with of the Canadian Championships requires a large number of

volunteers. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer in the planning, organization and presentation of these events, now is the time to step forward and share your talents and time.

Contact the following members and let them know what your talents are and how much time you are able to share in the presentation of this event to showcase our community.

Martin Kloosterhuis Ph: 475-6913 Email: ford671@hotmail.com
Donna Williamson Ph: 475-6993 Email: dewillia@tbaytel.net
John Dykstra Ph: 473-9510 Email: bvalley@tbaytel.net

Recent Gencor Cow Prices

Week ending May 05, 2007

Average Hot Weight 635.81 lbs
Average Price 85.10¢/lb
Average Settlement \$541.22

Week ending May 12, 2007

Average Hot Weight 631.04 lbs
Average Price 86.50¢/lb
Average Settlement \$545.74

Week ending May 19, 2007

Average Hot Weight 648.59 lbs
Average Price 89.00¢/lb
Average Settlement \$577.02

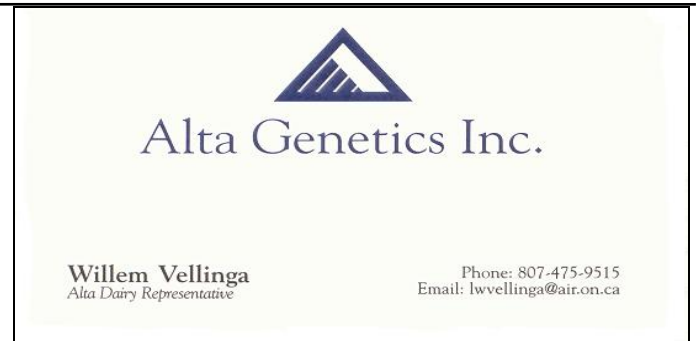
Week ending May 26, 2007

Average Hot Weight 657.64 lbs
Average Price 91.30¢/lb
Average Settlement \$600.58

Grid range for cows has been 58.6¢ to 99.8¢ per pound

The most recent grid range for bulls has been 96.0¢ to 101.8¢ per pound.

The range for steers and heiferettes has been 95.6¢ to 95.6¢ per pound.



What is new at TBARS this year?

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota

After establishing its lead in research on wood ash, sulphur and micronutrients and winter wheat in Ontario, Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station (TBARS) is going to lead the rest of Ontario in research on specialty wheats. In one of the trials, we are comparing Red Fife (organic heritage wheat), Kamut (wheat found in Egyptian tombs), and Hallmark (Ontario's first durum wheat variety) with two hard red spring wheats (Superb and Sable) under an organic farming system without the use of any chemical fertilizers or pesticides. The plots were green manured last year with alfalfa and supplied with solid dairy manure this spring. In another experiment, we are comparing Hallmark with three durum varieties from western Canada (Avonlea, Kyle and Strongfield), AC Andrew, a soft white spring wheat, Kamut and a couple of hard red spring wheats with recommended inputs from chemical sources including fertilizers. Durum wheat is used for making pasta and has a considerable export potential. A brief description and importance of the new varieties is as follows:

AC Andrew: According to SeCan, AC Andrew, presently registered in western Canada, is the highest yielding soft white spring variety that yields 20% higher than a hard red spring wheat variety such as AC Barrie. That yield is attracting a great deal of producer interest and its kernel characteristics have ethanol producers wanting it. It has a short straw and a reasonable maturity.

AC Avonlea: As per John Clarke, it is a high protein, high yield durum wheat variety developed at the Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

(AAFC), Swift Current in cooperation with the Producer Checkoff. Grain yield and protein content of AC Avonlea is higher than that of Kyle and it matures earlier than Kyle. AC Avonlea is suitable for straight combining because it is about 12 cm shorter and has stronger straw than Kyle. AC Avonlea has higher yellow pigment content than all other Canadian varieties except AC Navigator. Markets such as Japan and the United States have called for higher yellow pigment content in the grain.

Kyle: Bred by AAFC Swift Current and distributed by SeCan this durum wheat variety was registered in 1984 and is high yielding. It has black awns (bearded) at maturity that gives it an ornamental value. It is a long season, and long and weak straw variety. It has yielded 10% higher than AC Barrie in Alberta.

Strongfield: Considered as a master blender and extra strong class of durum, Strongfield was also bred by AAFC Swift Current and is relatively a new variety. It is a niche crop in many respects. Its genetics comes from AC Avonlea and Kyle. It combines high yield, high grain protein content, and low grain cadmium concentration. Strongfield has shorter, stronger straw than Kyle, and has similar maturity and disease resistance to other currently registered durum cultivars.

Bruce Brolley stated that AC Avonlea, Kyle and Strongfield, with amber grains, were the three top yielding durum wheat varieties in Manitoba during 2004-2006.

Kamut: "Kamut" which is believed to be an ancient Egyptian word for wheat, is reported to be an ancient organic durum wheat variety. Kamut kernel (amber in colour) is more than twice as big as a common wheat kernel. Kamut also has some pretty amazing nutritional strength. Kamut is a high protein grain, generally containing 30% more protein than normal wheat. As this grain hasn't been altered by modern plant breeders, it retains its ancient nutrition, flavour and goodness. Due to its slightly higher fatty acid content, Kamut can be considered a high energy grain, and compared to other wheats, Kamut also contains elevated levels of vitamin E, Thiamin, Riboflavin, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc, pantothenic acid, copper and complex carbohydrates. All around, Kamut seems to be a very healthy grain. And as an amazingly versatile grain, Kamut can be used in place of all the different wheats - the hard and soft varieties and also durum wheat. There's less fiber in Kamut than other wheats. If you require a high fiber diet, Spelt, which has higher fiber content, would be a better alternative.

Red Fife: 'Red Fife' is a landrace, meaning there is a uniform shape but genetic diversity in the seed population. It can therefore adapt quickly to a diversity of growing conditions. Called 'folk seeds' or 'farmers' varieties' landraces have been feeding people since wheat became domesticated about 3000 years ago. It is known as the 'Grandfather' wheat of Canada, a vital part of modern wheat breeding in Canada and much of the world. Red Fife was first grown in the Otonabee region of what is now central Ontario in the 1840s. A struggling farmer in the region, David Fife, planted Red Fife using seed samples from Scotland. Red Fife's striking similarities to the Halychanka wheat variety suggest that it is a descendant of this Ukrainian wheat. Others believe that what we call Red Fife was an accidental hybrid. Regardless of the exact origin, the few stalks of what came to be called Red Fife wheat flourished as no other wheat had. Hardy and resistant to the diseases of the time, Red Fife also boasted exceptional flavour and baking properties that made it much in demand with farmers, millers and bakers. Its name derives from the farmer who introduced it and the deep colour it achieves when fully ripe. Today, Red Fife has



survived due to the work of only a handful of organic heritage wheat and seed farmers scattered across Canada who have been faithfully growing the wheat to keep it from extinction. Artisan bread made from Red Fife is slightly acidic, has a hay yellow crumb and is unexpectedly rich with an intense scent of herbs (such as anise and fennel) and vegetables. Rudy Buitenhuis was able to obtain Red Fife seed for our trial from Larry Bockus, an organic grower from Thunder Bay. (Thanks,Rudy and Larry!)

In addition to these wheat varieties, TBARS is also comparing Galega, a forage legume from Scandinavian countries, with alfalfa. The good news is that Galega has survived the harsh winter of 2006-07. However, characteristic to its nature, it is slower to establish in comparison to alfalfa.

For Sale:
Farm and Seed Plant
Rainy River District
1 888 500 3159

Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

Prices on feeders have stayed fairly steady in the last month. Here are the price ranges for steers at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to May 25.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	NA
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	96.00 – 98.00
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	95.00 – 110.00
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	95.00 – 117.50
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	100.00 – 124.25
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	105.00 – 132.50
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	110.00 – 133.50
under 400 lbs.	\$	NA

No slaughter steer and heifer prices for the past month. Cows and bulls sold much higher. Here are the price ranges to May 25.

Choice Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA
Select Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA
Cows Dry Fed	\$	35.00 – 55.00
Good Fleshed	\$	30.00 – 45.00
Lean	\$	20.00 – 39.75
Good Bulls	\$	33.50 – 55.50



The Benefits and Pitfalls of Crop Rotations*

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, TBARS Thunder Bay

Crop rotation is a planned sequence of (different) crops over a period of time in a field. It was mentioned in the Roman literature, and by civilizations in Africa and Asia. From late Middle Ages until the 20th century, the three-year rotation (rye or winter wheat-spring oats or barley-fallow) was practiced by farmers in Europe. The system (wheat, barley, turnips and clover), opened up a fodder crop and grazing crop allowing livestock to be bred year-round. It was a key development in the British Agricultural Revolution. The fact that suitable rotations made it possible to restore or to maintain a productive soil has long been recognized. *Major benefits of crop rotations are:*



- Improve or maintain soil quality (fertility, structure - soil tilth/aggregate stability, organic matter, infiltration). Soil aggregates are groups of soil particles (sand, silt and clay) that are bound to each other to form a single unit or ped. The higher the number and strength of aggregates, the better the soil structure. Aggregates improve infiltration and reduce soil erosion. Aggregate stability is a good indicator of soil organic matter, biological activity and nutrient cycling.
- Mining of nutrients from deeper soil profile and maintenance of nutrient balance.
- Minimize erosion, proper water management.
- Reduce the build-up of weeds, insect pests, and diseases (break their cycles).

- Fewer herbicide-resistant weed species! Because of use of different group of herbicides for different crops and also due to limited use of herbicides.
- Spread the workload and risk of adverse weather.
- Better use of manpower and equipment.
- Overcome allelopathic or phytotoxic effects. Allelopathic effects refer to the beneficial or (mostly) harmful effects of one plant on another plant, both crop and weed species, by the release of chemicals from plant parts by leaching, root exudation, volatilization, residue decomposition and other processes in both natural and agricultural systems.
- Reduce reliance on agro-chemicals including inorganic fertilizers, especially nitrogenous fertilizers and lower cost of production.
- Increase net profits and even out cash flow.
- More or less indispensable for organic crop production.

However, crop rotations aren't without pitfalls. Disadvantage of crop rotations are:

- Require a wider range of equipment than a mono-culture, and more bins.
- Not all crops provide the same opportunity for net income.
- Require a higher level of diverse knowledge and management skills.
- Herbicide toxicity? Dandelions in forage legume stands?
- No control over air borne diseases.
- Research on crop rotations requires long term funding and commitment!

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In the Stratton area, call Bob Leblanc, 807 487-2671

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Getting Answers on Toll-Free Now Faster and Easier

Getting the answers you need on programs through the AAFC Contact Centre is now easier. The administration listened to feedback from producers and made changes to improve the phone system.

These changes will allow producers to listen to the details of a specific program or talk to an information officer more quickly and easily. Producers with questions on deadline dates, or Web site or email addresses will get their answer at the touch of a button. Those who want to talk to a person will have fewer steps to go through.

Producers can call the AAFC Contact Centre toll free at 1 866 367-8506 for information on the following:

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program
Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options)
Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program (GOPP)
Cost of Production Payment (CoP Payment)
AgriOpportunities Program
My AAFC Account
ecoAgriculture Biofuels Capital Initiative (ecoABC)

PD & Delgaty
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Douglas L. (Doug) White, C.A.I.B.
P.O. Box 28030, Centennial Square
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6R5
Phone (807) 623-9022 Fax (807) 623-2550

Congratulations, Dr. Sahota!

The Directors of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association and the Thunder Bay District Soil & Crop Improvement Association congratulate Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota for successfully writing and passing his Certified Crop Advisor exams.

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association
Annual Meeting, Founders Museum
8 p.m., Thursday, July 19, 2007
Door prize: one free membership



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Cell: (807) 476-8651
Fax: (807) 345-4955
Home: (807) 767-1556

Quality Starts Here / Verified Beef Producer Workshop Benefits

- required for Market Access Program credits
- basis of recording for many branded beef programs – increased market potential
- be part of the National Food Safety Program
- enhance records to demonstrate due diligence
- become eligible for cost-share funding, 50% up to \$750 (50 % of \$1500)
- for hand-held RFID readers
- software to track withdrawal periods
- scale/calibration devices for medicated feeds
- neck extensions for head gates
- disposal container for used D&LL bottles
- The 2-hour workshop costs \$50. The cost may be partially covered by local association

Market Access Program

Age verification-RFID tags may now be purchased from any distributor after calves are age-verified. Producer applies for the \$3-per calf credit, which can then be used toward the next set of tag purchases.

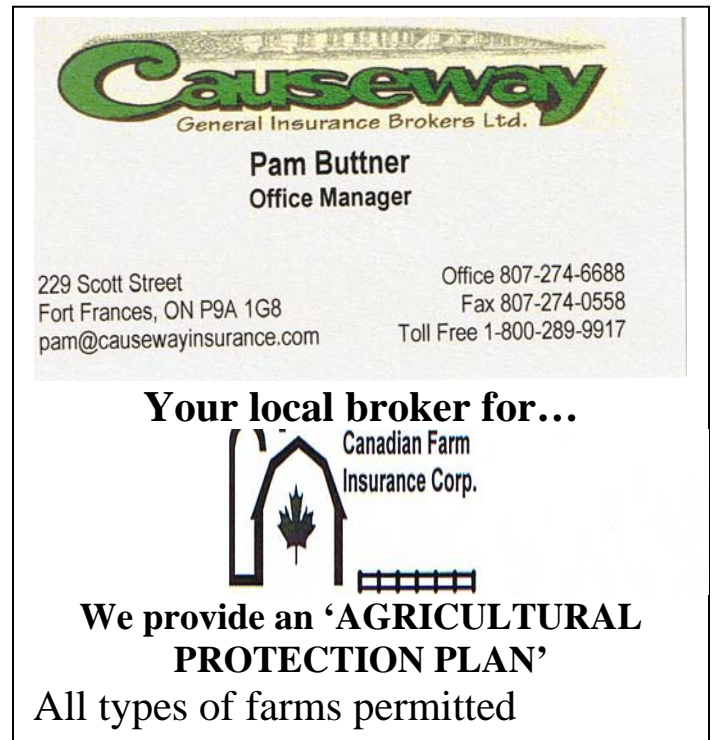
Other requirements remain the same:

- (1) Producer must have taken a Quality Starts Here/Verified Beef Producer Workshop or indicate a commitment to attend one before December 15, 2007
- (2) Visit with your veterinarian to determine a specific vaccination protocol for your herd

A few reasons for age verification:

- (1) A birth certificate is deemed superior to dentition in disputes of proof of age in regard to whether an animal is over or under thirty months of age,
- (2) Most branded beef programs require age verification,
- (3) Canadian processors cannot get enough animals which meet age restrictions for the market in Japan,
- (4) Most feedlots prefer age-verified calves because animals over 30 months of age are discounted.

For more information, contact Bruce Forrest at 473-9609.




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How to grow a flour mill

Good news and not a politician in sight. Last February, a coffee shop group dropped a kernel of an idea onto the ground. It bounced, was kicked and rolled around, finally took root, got trampled, received some water and fertilizer, was nearly mowed off at the ground, but a lot of manure was spread in time and the wheat (mill) finally came to head.

The project received all approvals from the Agricultural Adaptation Council under the Can Advance programme. Expected to last about 7 months, it is essentially a pilot project to prove the viability of a commercial flour mill in the Thunder Bay area. Rob Groenheide, of South Gillies, is to be the apprentice miller.

A tip of the dusty hat to Medhi Zahaff and Connie Nelson, both from Lakehead University, Renata Weber, Gillies Twp, Jeff Burke, Conmee Twp, OFA, Larry and Diana Bockus, Marks Twp, Rudy Buitenhuis, OMAFRA, Christina Mol, TBARS, and TBSCIA.

Larry and Diana Bockus
Project Coordinator
Tel: 475-8761

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Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

On April 22 we had 40 kids plus their parents participate in the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. We saw how to be safe with Fire, Electricity, ATVs, Chemicals, PTO, and Machines. Kids participated in activities like reaction time, how to properly get on an ATV and what safety gear to wear, what signs or labels on chemical bags tell us

they are dangerous. We saw how a person could get “zapped” by electricity if not careful around electricity wires.

We heard how Jason Reid was caught in a PTO and how long his recovery was. We saw someone pretending to be injured and put on a backboard (which is not much fun) to go to the hospital. It was a bit cold that day but after the activities, we went inside and had a wonderful lunch.

The Safety Day Committee would like to thank all the volunteers, donors of money and goods, and all the kids and parents that came out for a very successful day. Next year we will be organizing another Safety Day with **different** Safety Topics.

See you next year! Wilma Mol

Beef Team to Visit the Northwest

Barry Potter, Northern Ontario Livestock Specialist, Nancy Noecker, Ontario Cow Calf Specialist and Dennis Martin, Ontario Feedlot Specialist are planning a tour of Northwestern Ontario.

They expect to be in the Thunder Bay area June 20, the Emo Rainy River area June 21, and the Dryden area June 22.

Producers who are interested in having the team visit their farm may contact Gary or Rudy to make arrangements.

Corporations Act Reform

The Ministry of Government Services is undertaking a project to review and reform the Ontario *Corporations Act* (CA). The purpose of the project is to develop a new legal framework to govern the structure and activities of charities and not-for-profit corporations. The purpose of this discussion paper is to invite comments and suggestions from stakeholders and from the public regarding the reform of this important legislation. Additional discussion papers will be released in the future to generate feedback on more specific issues. The Ministry intends to use the results of these

consultations to develop new not-for-profit legislation.

The current *Corporations Act* provides the statutory framework governing the creation, governance and dissolution of not-for-profit corporations, including charitable corporations. In addition, it provides the legislation under which insurance companies in Ontario are incorporated and find their basic corporate governance rules. It should be noted that the CA is an organizational statute, and not a regulatory statute. In other words, enforcement of the rights and duties under the statute lies primarily with the corporation, its directors and its members. Hence, the focus of this consultation is not on the regulation of charitable or other not-for-profit corporations.

This paper requests comments on broad issues relating to new not-for-profit legislation, including the following:

- Structure of a new not-for-profit Act
- Incorporation Process
- Definition of Not-For-Profit Corporation
- Classification System
- Corporate Powers and Capacity
- Other Issues: Directors' Liability, Financial Disclosure, Members' Remedies

The Ministry kindly requests your input, views and feedback on the issues outlined below.

The Ministry has provided some background material and some questions for consideration. Respondents are not restricted to consideration of only the questions listed below. Please feel free to share any viewpoints and other perspectives that you feel are appropriate.

Please respond by July 31, 2007 electronically or in writing, to:

*Corporations Act Modernization
Ministry of Government Services
Policy Branch
777 Bay Street
5th Floor – Suite 501
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
(416) 326-8877
business.law@ontario.ca*

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE
Caldwell Township Hall Building
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Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 705-594-9675
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Email: kbliss@uoguelph.ca

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Visit OMAFRA on the internet at
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/index.html

Here you will find information on Ontario's agri-food industry and rural communities and the services and programs OMAFRA provides.