

INFARMATION

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

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MESSAGE FROM THE AGRICULTURE BRANCH

We have made it through another winter on the northern range (to borrow a line from Ian Tyson) and can now contemplate spring and the next year of planting and harvesting. We all wonder what this year will bring, and we are all suspicious that all we can know for certain is that this summer will be another surprise.

This edition of INFARMation takes stock of what we know and what we may be able to predict about the effects of climate change on agriculture potential in Yukon. Climate change is a global issue that is receiving strong notice in Canada at this time. A survey of 5000 Canadians over the last five years determined that 61% of respondents believe Earth is getting warmer partly or mostly because of human activities (CBC report: *Canadians divided over human role in climate change* Feb 23, 2016). Arresting or reversing the warming trend is a project with global consequences. This CBC report shows regional variation in perspectives on climate change and is well worth looking at in some detail.

The CBC report did not include respondents from the northern territories or Labrador so it is fitting that Yukon agriculture look at this issue. Inevitably, any question of agriculture capability will focus on the growing season as having the largest impact on the industry. Growing season results are inconclusive, but tantalizingly so... Yes, climate is changing, but that change seems to be accompanied by lots of variability.

Being actively involved in climate change monitoring and research is important. For agriculture production, climate change will present opportunities and obstacles. The branch is interested in hearing feedback from producers about changes to their agriculture practices that they believe is linked to climate change.

One last thing. We know from the interest and support given to the Local Food Strategy for Yukon that food sovereignty is an important value for Yukoners. A natural extension of spending time and effort on producing food is recording that effort. I want to remind anyone, at any level of production, producing an agriculture product with intent for sale, that 2016 is a census year. Filling out your agriculture census form is an affirmation and demonstration of your commitment to food sovereignty.

Your input in the 2016 census will help us to create a baseline against which can measure the future success of our new local food strategy. Let's show the rest of Canada what the Yukon agriculture sector can do!

David Murray, Acting Director, Agriculture branch

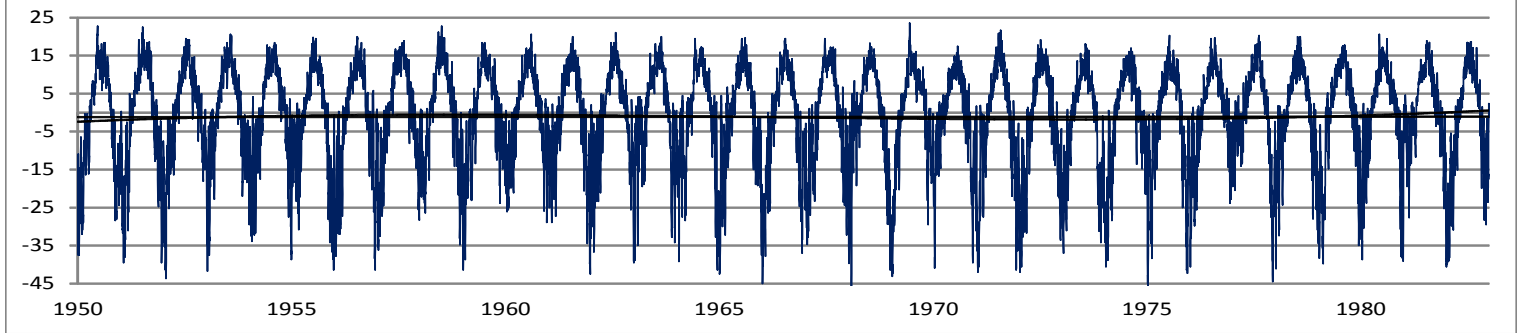
www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca



Photo: Investigating the effects of warming climate and melting permafrost in a hay field in the Takhini river valley.

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Whitehorse Daily Mean Temp (°C)



CLIMATE CHANGE IN YUKON ARE THERE CHANGES TO OUR GROWING SEASON?

In February 2016 the Yukon Climate Exchange released a report on *Yukon Climate Change Indicators and Key Findings 2015*. The report identified the relative change in annual average Yukon temperature has increased by over 2°Celsius in the past 50 years. The report also uses different weather modeling scenarios to predict the temperature over the next 50 years, which indicates the temperature will be increasing an additional 2°C.

This type of research triggered the Agriculture branch to develop a better understanding of climate change and agriculture capability. Within the Agriculture branch and farming/ranching community, there is the impression that the growing season is changing.

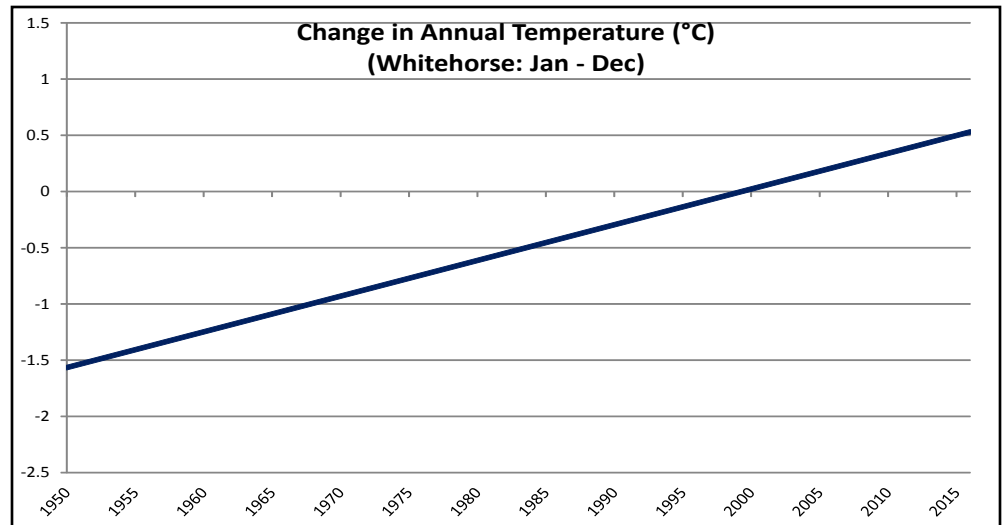
WHAT DOES HISTORICAL CLIMATE DATA TELL US?

The temperature data collected from the Whitehorse airport for the growing season, May 1st to Sept 31st, for the last 20 years was graphed as part of the annual climate monitoring work to determine if there was an increasing trend in the temperature profile. When the Agriculture branch evaluated these graphs, it was difficult to see a trend and the

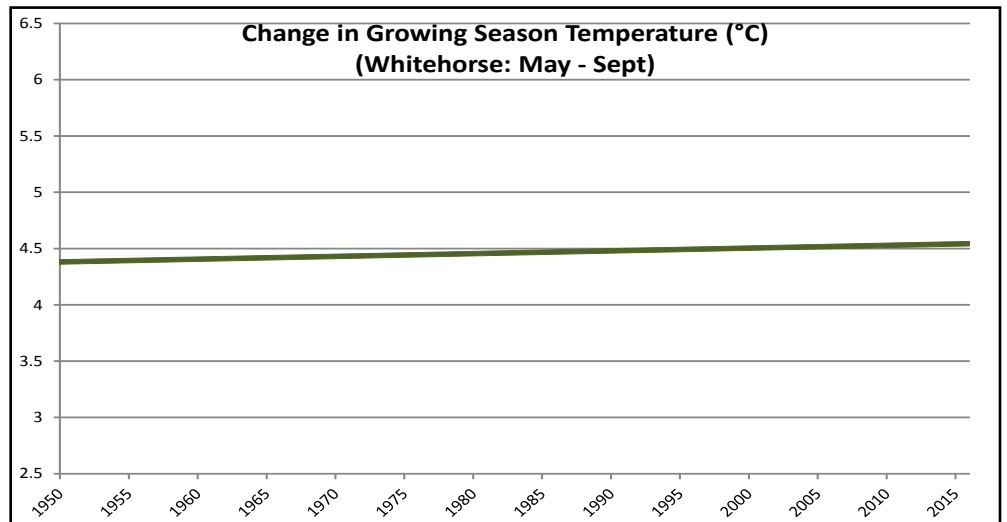
expectation was to see larger spikes and higher arcs in the temperature profiles in the most recent years. With no noticeable changes in the last 20 years the question remained, what about climate change?

To further understand climate change, more data was gathered going back to 1950. Graphing the Whitehorse Daily Mean Temperature, as seen above in the banner, from 1950 and inputting a trend line indicates the data matches the Yukon Climate

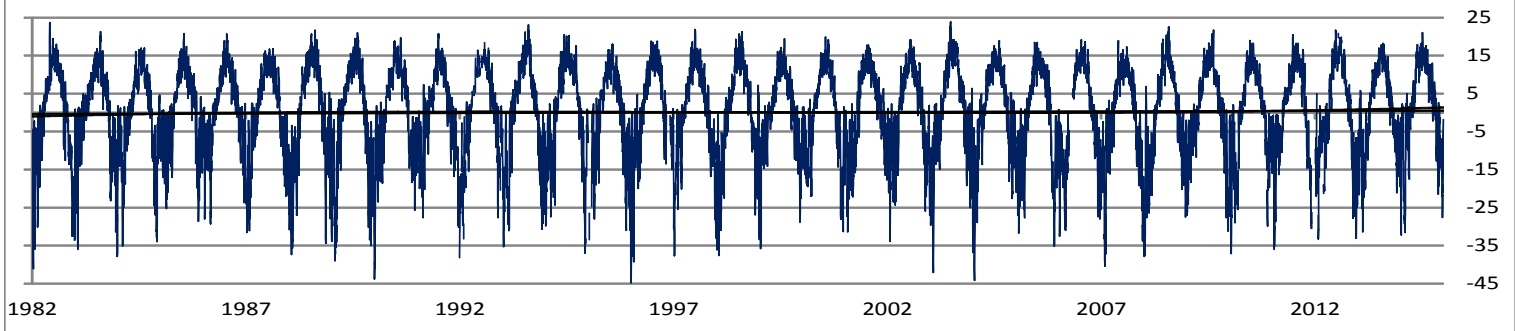
Graph #1:



Graph #2:



Whitehorse Daily Mean Temp Continued... (°C)



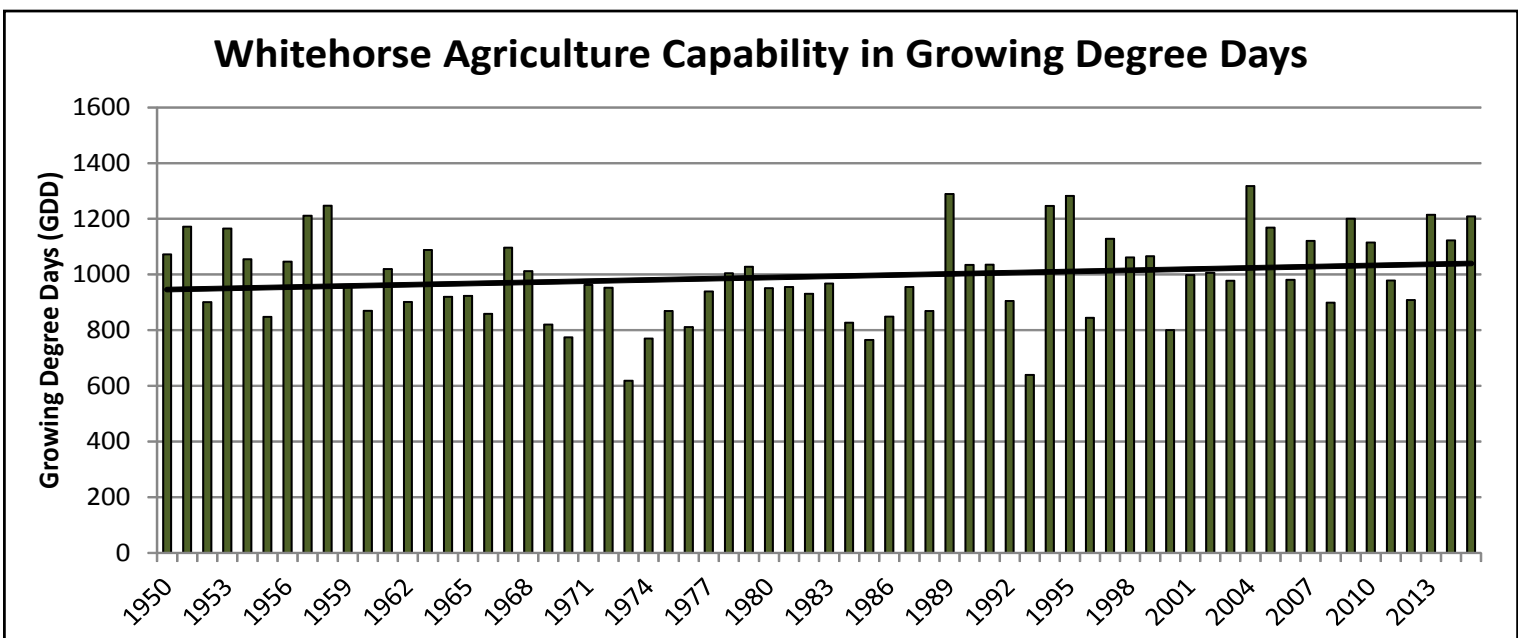
Exchange report. Graph 1 shows the trend line by itself and the 2°C increase in the annual temperature in Whitehorse over time. When you explore the temperature profile since 1950, the annual spikes and arcs in the summer months show very little change in the graph. If we eliminate the winter months and graph only the summer growing season (May 1st to Sept. 30th) over this same period, the data or trendline also shows very little change in temperature as seen in Graph 2. Graph 2 shows only a slight increase of approximately one quarter of a degree in our summer growing season since 1950. So it appears Yukon winters are warming more than the growing months.

Although the data showed very little temperature change during the growing season, there were still questions and the Agriculture branch felt this was not the full story. The 65 years of data was further used to calculate growing degree days over the last 65 years. Growing degree days (GDD) is a calculation of agriculture capability which is the sum of mean temperature above 5°C and takes into account the and end of the growing season. The start of the growing season is defined as the fifth consecutive day with a mean temperature of over 5°C and the end of the season is defined as a killing frost occurrence of -2.2°C for cold climate crops.

Calculating the total GDD, graphing it and adding a trend line to the data shows that GDD has increased by 100 GDD (Graph 3). The resulting GDD increase means there is a greater range of agriculture capability from Class 4 to Class 3. Moving from Class 4 to Class 3 means the Whitehorse area improves from marginal grain production and cold hardy vegetables to an increased range of crops including small cereal grains and a broader range of vegetables.

The calculation of growing season length shows signs of increasing in the Whitehorse area (Graph 5 & 6). This data suggests the growing season is now a week longer, although there is variability in the start and end of the season as seen by the broad width of points from

Graph #3:



the trend line from one season to the next, and producers will still need to react to the season to season variability. But there is a trend, specifically when it comes to the end of the growing season, that the season length is increasing, and the first killing frost is now a week later.



WHAT ABOUT THE CENTRAL YUKON?

One of the other questions asked when we realized there was only a slight change in the growing season mean in Whitehorse was what about the central Yukon.

Traditionally the growing season in the central Yukon is warmer and provides a wider range of crops. Are the impacts of climate change any different?

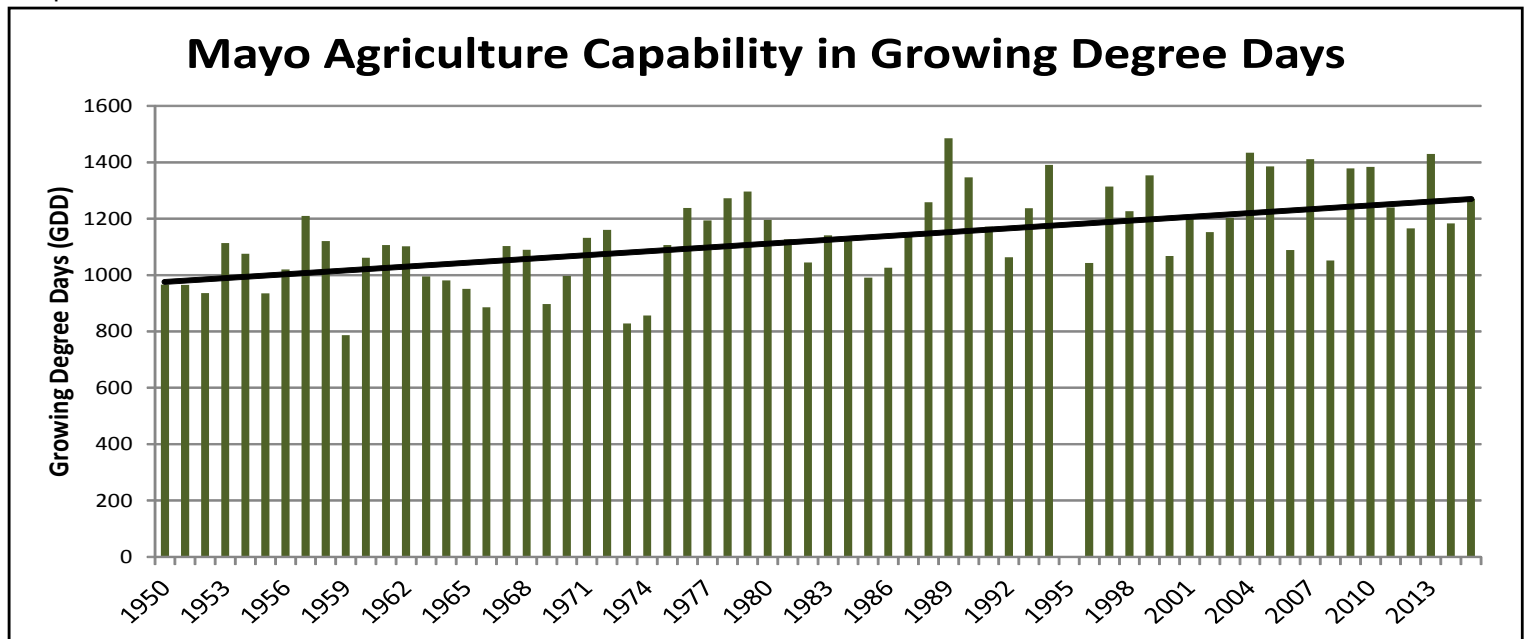
As we move away from the costal influence experienced in Whitehorse and into the central Yukon there is even more change in annual mean temperature. The historical weather data from Mayo was used for the central Yukon because of the breadth of data available and the known similarities to the weather station at Pelly River Ranch.

The annual mean temperature in Mayo has increased by 3°C, and when graphed, it was obvious that this was mostly occurring in the winter. When the non-growing months were removed, the temperature for May to September remained relatively unchanged and only increased by approximately 0.5°C for the 65 year period compared to the 3°C increase seen in the annual mean temperature.

The GDD and start and end of the growing season change observed in the central Yukon resulted in a more dramatic change when

contrasted with Whitehorse data. There was a change of 200 GDD in the central Yukon (Graph 4). Rising to 1300 GDD, which puts this region into Class 2 agroclimatic capability, defined as a growing area that allows for production of wider variety of grains and warmer season vegetables. Although the 0.5°C increase in growing season mean temperature accumulatively adds to the increase in GDD, the most notable change was observed in the change to the growing season length. Graphically, in Graph 5 & 6, the growing season started over a week earlier and also ended

Graph #4:



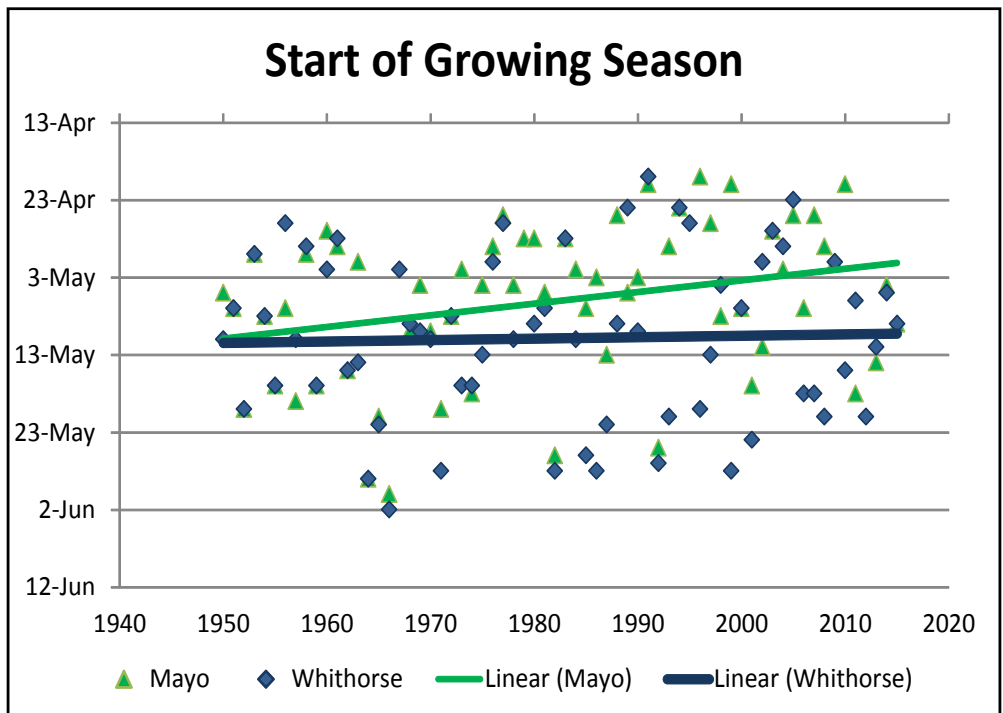
two weeks later adding over three weeks to the season. Although producers in this area may not be planting May 1st and harvesting mid-September, producers should be noticing a marked change in the length of the season.

Along with some of these changes in the growing season, there is also an increase in rainfall during the growing season. Whitehorse and Mayo had rainfall ranging from 125 to 150 mm in 1950, while the two regions currently experiencing 200 to 230 mm rainfall on average. This amount of rainfall is still seen as a moisture deficit for crops, and irrigation is required for market garden operations and to optimize yields for field crops.

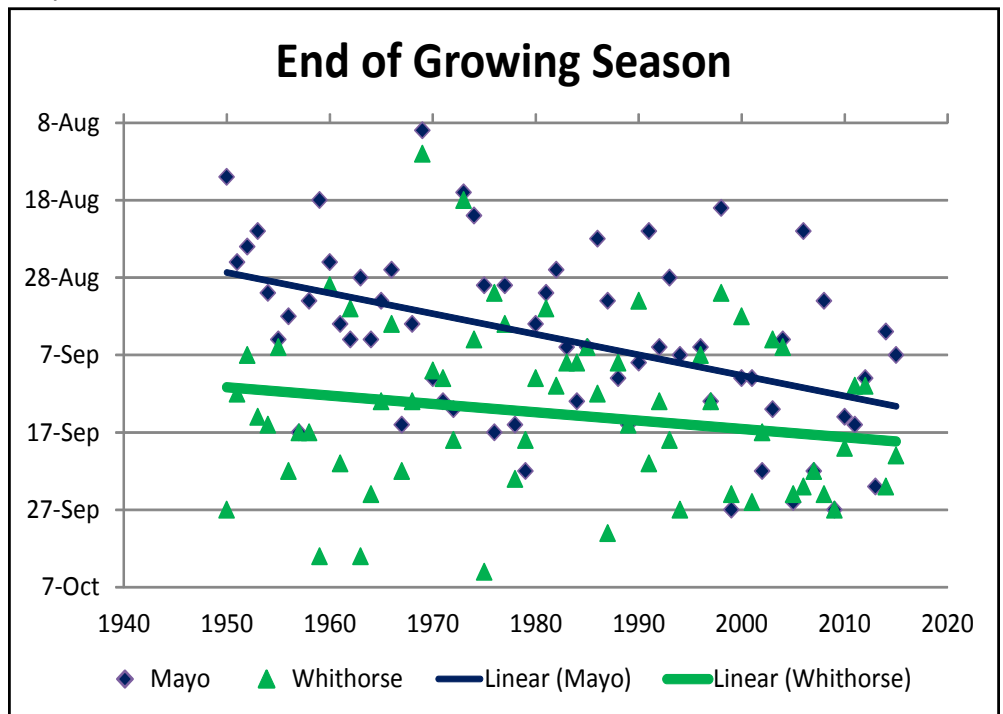
With these changes in weather patterns, one thing Yukon producers cannot forget, is that there continues to be variability to the start/end of growing season, total GDD, precipitation and surprise frost events. Although climate capability is improving, there are still year-to-year changes in weather patterns that Yukon producers will need to keep in mind. With regards to the future for agriculture, as the population increases and other agriculture areas continue to see changes in their agriculture capabilities, the demand for agriculture production in the North will continue to grow.

For more information on the climate data in this article and agriculture climate capability for the Yukon contact Agriculture Research Technician Bradley Barton by phone at 867-667-5838 or email brad.barton@gov.yk.ca. The Northern Climate ExChange paper on Yukon Climate Indicators and Key Findings 2015 is available at www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/research.

Graph #5:



Graph #6:



YUKON PRODUCER PROFILE

HIGHLIGHTING PRODUCERS AND THEIR AGRI-BUSINESSES

This column is an opportunity to introduce you to Yukon farm operations. This segment features Yukon's producers and farm products, and the strategies Yukon producers use to overcome climate, production and market obstacles.

This edition of Yukon's producer profile features two of Yukon's experienced beekeepers, (also known as apiary operators). The impetus for featuring beekeepers is a result of a renewed interest in the art, science and resulting products of beekeeping.

Etienne Tardif is a new Yukon honey producer and community minded guy. Using Facebook, he has spearheaded an effort to network with others who are interested in beekeeping north of 60°. Etienne's efforts have brought together many new and experienced Yukon beekeepers, those interested in beekeeping and supporters of Yukon honey through a Facebook group call "Beekeeping North of 60 (Yukon)".

The Facebook group is a place to share ideas and approaches to beekeeping in the North, a place to share/buy/sell equipment, review equipment & bee suppliers and share information on who can ship bee nucs or packages to the Yukon.

The Facebook group already has over a 100 members and it's growing. Etienne has also organized an Intro to Beekeeping course to be held April 22-24 at the Mount Lorne Community Centre.

DON MARK: YUKON BEAR/WILD BUNCH APIARY

Don Mark is the owner operator of Yukon Bear or Wild Bunch Apiary and has been doing this since 1981 with the support of his family.

It was the 1980 Pelly River burn and resulting fireweed that moved Don from being interested in beekeeping to actually running his own apiary. In 1981 Don started with one hive after ordering a 3 pound package from down South. That first hive was very successful; Don estimates he pulled off 150 pounds of pure fireweed honey from that one hive. Over the next few years he grew quickly from the one hive to running as many as 20 colonies, taking advantage of the abundance of fireweed in the area. As Don puts it "Working with bees is sticky business" and handling the volumes of honey he was producing was his weak link.

At the peak of his operation Don believes he was generating almost 200 pounds of honey per hive with 10 hives on the go, or 2000 pounds of honey! Don was living in Carmacks at the time; he would do the odd run of honey to Whitehorse, but recalls a lot of his customers were coming out to him to pick up the honey. Not surprising, as he was charging about the same price as the store for the honey, and at this price it would be easy to justify a drive to Carmacks to pick up a premium local product such as fireweed honey.

Over the years, Don has gained a lot of hands-on experience to go along with his knowledge gained from the bee course he took from Fairview College in 1989. When asked what works well, he said just use common sense. Common sense for Don is to plan, don't over extend yourself, never quit asking questions, pay attention to the

bees, the weather, and be ready for anything. Some of the more critical or operation recommendations Don had to share was to have at least two hives, so that you have a frame of reference to understand their performance. If one hive is doing better than the other, you need to ask why and/or what is missing?

Don reminisces when he talks about what works well. Back in the day, beekeepers ordered three to four pound packages of bees; today the packages are only two pounds. In Yukon's short season, Don explains, the larger populations build out faster and give you a running start. Stronger hives with maximum production improves overwintering success. "Strong hives with max numbers are able to harvest floral nectar from the abundance of flowers available in the peak month of July weather permitting".

Don also shared his insight on beekeeping 35 years later and the new challenges. The bees are more expensive, there can be challenges with finding disease free bees, if that is even possible today, as there is more prevalence of disease and exotic pests. Even with the some of these challenges, Don recognizes the hygienic behaviour of the bees has been evolving. Don's philosophy with the bees is to let it happen and see how the colonies survive. "Letting it happen" allows for natural selection. He has observed that the breeding and research work being done is paying off and proof to this is the fact that in today's environment the bees are producing and overwintering well.

Don's fundamental tips for new beekeepers is: as long as you make sure hives are close to water as possible, are healthy & strong, with brood in all stages (egg to adult) with good numbers, you have a strong, healthy queen and good

weather, the hive will take care of itself. If you see the bee's activity expressing as disorganized and confused then there is something wrong and you will have to start trouble shooting the health of the hive.

This is only a tidbit of the information Don shared on his experience keeping bees in the Yukon. There was much more to share: from how troublesome bears can be, to how to assess the health of the queen. Lastly, Don shares: "Read up, power up and know what you are getting into". Thank you Don for sharing your stories and experience. For more information about bees, or to find out if he has any honey to sell or barter, contact Don at 867-633-3024

PETE MCPEAKE, TAKHINI RIVER HONEY AND POLLEN

Pete McPeake is another one of Yukon established beekeepers. Pete got into the business in '97, after taking the Fairview College beekeepers course in '95. Peter reflects positively on the full-year course with a five-month work program. He was able to gain a lot of experience from the course, including learning the business side of beekeeping and having the opportunity to learn hands-on how to increase production by double queening and how to produce your own queen.

Pete has run as many as 22 hives but finds that 12 hives works well for him. To run 12 or 22 hives, Pete talks about the importance of access to a source of nectar in our short season. The Fox Lake burn and the abundance of fireweed provided great access to nectar a few years ago. As the fireweed near Fox Lake is replaced by forest, the access to nectar is less abundant. Pete notes, although

there are different burns in the territory, not all the burns are accessible. The further you have to travel the more challenging it can be to manage larger number of hives. Pete said: "Access is key: the hives need to be inspected at least every 10 days and close access makes it doable".

Pete shared that success in beekeeping depends on weather, rain, sunshine, heat and the volumes of bees. The biggest problems are the pests, such as mites, but he is also shared his concern about the hive beetle which has effected hives in other parts of Canada. Pete has been a big proponent of keeping the Yukon free of varroa mites. For years he promoted sourcing mite-free colonies. If you ever found mites on your bees he promoted physically managing the problem and destroying the hive in order to help keep Yukon mite free.

In the past Pete has had to destroy his own hives because his bees became infested by mites from another hive. Today, Pete has accepted that mites are all over the place, but still promotes sourcing inspected colonies; kill all the attendants off when the queen arrives and visually inspecting the queen for mites.

Some of the management strategies that Pete has adopted in his apiary include providing pollen patties as a spring feeding. This stimulates the bees early in the season and gets the hive moving and ready for the first flushing of pollen. Other strategies include: clean the hives in spring, the earlier the better. Rotate your queens: queens last a maximum three years so replace them every second year. Watch your population: if your population is low, either boost your hive with



Photo: Don Mark hanging out with his bees. Photo courtesy of Naomi Mark.

a new population or try equalizing your hives using frames from one of your good hives.

Pete highlights checking the queen, making sure the queen is alive and laying and watching out for new queen cells. Along with checking the queen, Peter shares a few other good management strategies, such as wrapping and insulating your hives well for winter, along with placing them in an area sheltered from winter winds. Pete is also a big fan of using nine frames in your hive instead of 10, so that you have room to move things around. This approach helps with building out thicker comb in the hive.

Today, Pete is working on four hives after splitting the two hives that he ran last year. He mostly sells direct to friends and long-time customers, but if you are looking for honey or pollen come fall, check in with Takhini River Honey and Pollen. For more information about beekeeping or availability of honey, contact Pete at 867-633-5461.

A REVIEW OF BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN YUKON

Given the recent resurgence and interest in Yukon beekeeping, and the growing interest in more local sources of foods such as honey, it seemed appropriate to review Yukon's connection with raising honey bees. In-house information on bees goes back the last 35 years. Researching the historical records continuously uncovered hidden beekeeping enterprises. The Agriculture branch welcomes any additional information so that we can continue to update our records on this aspect of Yukon agricultural history.

THE 1980S

These were the golden years of beekeeping in Yukon. The Yukon Beekeepers Society was incorporated under the *Societies Act* in 1982 and ran until 1989. It started with like-minded people who got together to share knowledge and, for some, to explore the commercial potential of producing honey north of 60.

During this time there was a commercial apiary maintained near the wetlands where the Walmart and Canadian Tire parking lots exist today. Past society president Al Alcock told us how that five acre site produced on average 200 to 250 pounds of honey per hive a year and that he and his wife Lynn produced honey commercially as a



tourist product, "Yukon Gold", which was sold through the local shops in Whitehorse. At their peak they maintained 30 hives in their five local and rural apiaries (pers.com.).

In 1987 there was government sponsored beekeeping training held in Whitehorse and conducted by Alberta's Fairview College. Part of this course was the establishment of a demonstration apiary located within the old gravel pit located just north of the South Access road in Whitehorse. There is still a six-part video recording of the course housed at the EMR library.

During the 1980s it was still relatively easy and inexpensive to import bee packages from the south. For reference, a package of bees cost about \$30 in the 1980s versus \$200 in 2015. With the arrival of new bee diseases and bee pests such as the Varroa mite, the Canadian border was closed in the late 1980s to the import of honey bees from the lower 48, which changed the economics and management of beekeeping dramatically in Canada. Beekeeping dropped off in Yukon.

THE 1990S

During the late 90s, a number of well-trained beekeepers made attempts to produce honey on a larger commercial basis but found conditions too difficult due to short growing seasons and the cool springs and summers. Some small scale hobby operations produced excellent honey, but volumes were small. (Source: Yukon Agriculture State of the Industry 1998-99).

THE 2000S

Honey production is limited by the lack of prolonged flower bloom. A limited amount of fireweed honey is produced and is in high demand. More honey could be produced if the number of flowering crops

increased (Source: June 2000 Yukon Agriculture Multi-Year Development Plan- year).

The Fox Lake fire in southern Yukon resulted in a resurgence in commercial beekeeping and honey production during the early to mid-2000s. This resurgence was founded on cyclically available fireweed sources that follow forest fires. The 2001 census indicated a total of 35 hives in four operations. In addition, there are also several smaller scale hobby operations that produced an excellent product based upon a wide range of wild flowers available, particularly fireweed. During 2002-2004, producers averaged a heavier volume of honey than previous years. Records report that there were six producers, both commercial and small-scale hobby operations.

As a result of forest fires around the Yukon in 2003, 2004 and 2005, an excellent source of fireweed was made accessible to beekeepers. Three farms reported honey production in the 2006 Census.

At the request of a number of local honey producers, beekeeping courses were conducted in Whitehorse by the BC Ministry of Agriculture in 2006 and 2007. The objective was to improve the knowledge and practices of existing honey producers, help facilitate new individuals getting involved in apiculture, to strengthen the overall Yukon network of beekeepers and to explore the possibility of keeping Yukon honey bees mite-free.

The 2008-2012 Multi-Year Development Plan for Yukon Agriculture and Agri-food noted honey production as a small niche industry with limited production but further opportunity, noting that Yukon honey fetches a high

premium from consumers. The plan listed an objective to support producers and strategies to assist with growing the industry. Honey production was estimated as producing a \$50,000 value and represented a 1% share of the distribution of farm receipts by sector based on 2006 data.

2010-2016

Honey production in the Yukon is harvested from a variety of sources, with the most prized source being fireweed, which comes and goes after forest fires. During this period records show that there was a drop off in beekeeping and honey production as the large fireweed sources diminished over time. By 2011, honey production was reported on only three farms.

In the last few years a new resurgence in beekeeping has been taking place in Yukon as a part of the locavore movement and as an effort to create more “Yukon Grown” products. This renewed interest is starting more at a hobby level but it could lead to an increase in honey production with time as momentum grows. Currently there are beekeepers in the Whitehorse area, Mount Lorne, Marsh Lake, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Dawson. In 2015 several local beekeepers began a “Beekeeping North of 60 (Yukon)” Facebook group which within a year grew to include over 100 participants.

The current interest in Yukon beekeeping is also being seen through course participation in 2016. In February, nine Yukoners took part in British Columbia’s provincial beekeeping webinar-based course. Growing Forward 2 funding has also been approved for a local introductory beekeeping course for another 20 individuals on April 22-24th. The opportunity for beekeeping in Yukon just keeps getting sweeter.



Photo: Yukon Young Farmer delegates from left to right Joe Cooke, Cain Vangel and Alexandre Poitras.

YUKON DELEGATES ATTEND THE CANADIAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

From February 25 to the 29th, Joe Cooke, Alexandre Poitras and Cain Vangel attended the annual Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF) in Vancouver. The three Yukon delegates all commented on the value of the networking opportunities - sharing stories and information with other farmers and CYFF delegates. The networking allowed delegates to talk about current production challenges.

Yukon delegates also had the opportunity to engage in important discussions related to long-term planning. Presentations involved topics such as: succession challenges, complex regulatory environments and new technology required for large-scale farming projects. Of particular interest was the presentation about human resource requirements to consider before expanding a farming enterprise.

Cain Vangel (The Farm Gate) presented a virtual tour of his farm, The Farm Gate. His presentation received rave reviews! Joe and Alexandre also commented on the amazing visual representations of Canadian farms from BC to PEI - as well as a virtual tour of a cattle operation located in Wyoming by a member of an American young farmers organization.

As well as hosting presentations, discussions and an annual general meeting, CYFF also coordinated farm tours to Ocean Spray cranberry packing facilities, to a potato farm and to Seabreeze Dairy Farm that operates a bio-gas plant. It was a busy weekend!

Yukon delegates had to answer a few questions about the territory’s cold climate and the realities of starting from scratch with raw land; but the winner of the Best Question About the Yukon category goes to: “Have you lost a lot of vegetables due to muskox on the field?”

Much appreciation goes to Canadian Young Farmers Forum for coordinating and covering most of each delegate’s travel expenses. If you are interested in attending next year’s CYFF conference, please contact Jennifer Hall at the Yukon Agricultural Association office (867-668-6864).

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) FOR YUKON BEEKEEPERS

Successful beekeeping requires thorough set-up, management and overwintering of honey bee colonies. Here are eight basic BMP best practices for new and prospective beekeepers. For further information you can contact our acting agrologist and in-house beekeeper Randy Lamb at 867-393-7410.



1) Learn beekeeping basics: sign up for a local workshop or webinar-based course. Read a few books on the topic. Know what to expect before you start. A recommended introductory course is the webinar course offered each February by the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Contact paul.vanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca to have your name added to their course notification list.

2) Find a mentor: There are a surprising number of past and current beekeepers in the territory who are willing to share their experience and knowledge with you. If you do not know any beekeepers then we can help to put you in contact with one.

3) Source types of honey bees and beekeeping equipment: try to find disease and mite-resistant strains of bees selected for “hygienic” behavior when possible as they will be more successful. Beginners should start off with the basic Langstroth-style of bee hives to learn the basics before they attempt other styles of equipment. You may be able to find good used equipment locally but purchasing new gear is your other option. Both BC and Alberta have a number of suitable sources for both equipment and bees. Beekeeping Bulletin #006 from BC Agriculture provides a detailed list of potential sources: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/bee-assets/api_fs006.pdf

4) Site selection and Apiary Set-up: a good location is easily accessible, south or east facing, does not flood and is sheltered from the wind. Hives should not face high-use areas or pathways unless a physical barrier such as fencing or tall vegetation is in place. An apiary should also have an available water source and nearby nectar and pollen sources. Protection from vandalism or animals is recommended and keeping hives out of sight helps reduce vandalism concerns. Leave room behind the hives where you can stand when doing your inspections.

5) Legal Issues: check to see if your community has any restrictions on where you can keep bees, or how many hives you can keep on your property. Find this out in advance of purchasing your bees. Note that there are currently no registration requirements or import restrictions by Yukon government.

6) Monitor and manage your hive: as a rule of thumb you should observe your hive activity and bees at least a couple times a week to see how they are doing. You also need to do a quick inspection inside the hive at least once every 10 days. This is to ensure that your bees are healthy, the queen is laying eggs, there are adequate food resources stored, and there are no diseases or pests present. Hive inspections also ensure your bees are not overcrowded or building queen cells (swarm prevention).

7) Monitor for pests and disease: in particular, you need to learn to monitor for varroa mites throughout the beekeeping season as they can decimate your colony if left unchecked. Using a screened bottom board will make this task easier. Ensure that any pests and disease are below treatment thresholds in advance of winter.

8) Winter preparations: start planning before August on how you will prepare to overwinter your bees. Don't be too greedy with their honey and ensure that your bees have enough honey and pollen to overwinter with. Honey bee colonies need to be healthy and populous going into winter. Wrap or insulate honey bee colonies for winter.

THE CORNER LOT (LAND, OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS)

Agriculture Branch receives a small number of inquiries on an ongoing basis regarding leasing of agriculture lands. Yukon's agriculture policies promote the use of underutilized agriculture land and encourage the reclamation of agriculture lands.

Leasing is an option that can be used by land owners to bring underutilized land into production and is common practice in other parts of Canada. Canada's larger agriculture regions already have templates and resources available for farmers looking to enter into a lease arrangement. For example, Alberta Agriculture's fact sheet on agriculture leases: (www.emr.ca/infarm24), is one of the sources of information for developing leasing options. This fact sheet provides a useful overview of the important considerations in entering into an agreement. The Alberta Agriculture website also provides examples of 'typical' lease agreements.

Another closer to home resource is the EMR Library, located on the third floor of the Elijah Smith building in Whitehorse. The EMR library has an excellent resource to help with the development of agriculture lease agreements. *Leasing Cropland in Alberta* provides a useful summary of the issues involved in, and possible approaches to leasing farmland. It is recommended as a useful starting point.

Although the intention of a contractual agreement for use of agricultural land, products or services will be largely the same regardless of jurisdiction, the Yukon has some specific characteristics that frame the lease agreement's structure. Yukon will not permit the registration of a land lease against an agriculture title because such registration may be considered

a subdivision of the parcel and subdivision of agricultural lands in Yukon is tightly controlled. As a result, you may enter into a contractual agreement only and the contract will not be an interest in the land. The inability to register a lease at Land Titles may affect the contract holder's ability to obtain financing.



Growing Forward 2

A Canada-Yukon initiative providing funding to Yukon's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products industry

Growing Forward 2 offers programs in the areas of business risk management, business development, food safety training and development, marketing, research and the environment.

Take a look at the *Growing Forward 2* Programming Guide on our website at www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca for funding opportunities. You can also contact the Agriculture Branch for more information or to request a hard copy of the programming guide.

Currently accepting applications

Phone: 867-667-5838

Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5838

Email: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Yukon
Government
Gouvernement

Canada

CUSTOM CONTRACT SERVICES

All aspects of agriculture land development and rejuvenating including Consultation Services, land clearing, breaking, root cleanup and seeding.

Contact: Dave Andrew 867-334-3378 or
daveandrewyukon@gmail.com

EMR LIBRARY HAS THE BUZZ ON BEEKEEPING

Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR) Library has agriculture specific newspapers, magazines, books, and DVDs. Within the breadth of agriculture topics or industry resources are specific books and videos on beekeeping.

The library bee resources :

- *Honey Bee Diseases and Pests* / editors: Stephen F. Pernal and Heather Clay
- *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture: an encyclopedia pertaining to the scientific and practical culture of bees* / [original work by Amos Ives Root ; revised editions edited by E.R. Root, H.H. Root, J.A. Root.].Morse, Robert A.
- *Beekeeping Course*. [videorecording] – this is a VHS recording of the Fairview College course offered in Whitehorse in 1987
- *Beekeeping: a practical guide* / Richard E. Bonney. 1993
- *Beekeeping in Alaska* [electronic resource]. 2011
- *Beekeeping in Western Canada* / edited by John Gruszka. 1998
- *Homegrown Honey Bees: an absolute beginner's guide to beekeeping: your first year, from hiving to honey harvest* / Alethea Morrison. 2013
- *The how-to-do-it Book of Beekeeping* / by Richard Taylor. 1977
- *Keeping Bees and Making Honey* / Alison Benjamin, Brian McCallum and Benjamin, Alison. 2009
- *A Hive of Bees* / John Crompton. 1987

The EMR Library is located on the third floor of the Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street, Suite 335, Whitehorse, Yukon. You can contact them by phone at 867-667-3111 or email: emrlibrary@gov.yk.ca. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check them out!

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11th at 7pm at the Yukon Transportation Museum, 30 Electra Crescent, near the Whitehorse Airport

Remember YAA memberships expire on March 31st. Please renew in April, in time for the AGM. Nominations for board of director positions are now open to YAA members. For further information about the nomination process, please contact the YAA office before April 11th.

AGM agenda will include presentations about future plans for the YAA's leased land. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact the YAA Jennifer Hall Executive Director, YAA: (867) 668-6864 or admin@yukonag.ca

AGRICULTURE ELECTRIC EXCLUSION FENCING

The Agriculture Branch in conjunction with Wild Wise Yukon and Conservation Officer Services will be hosting an electric fencing workshop on May 28th, 2016 in Whitehorse. The workshop will focus on the techniques and principals of electric fencing and how they can be applied for agriculture activities. The workshop will accommodate up to 20 participants and will consist of demonstrations and hands on applications. Registration is required and will be coordinated through Wild Wise Yukon. For more information or to register go to www.wildwise.ca or contact them at: info@wildwise.ca or (867) 335-5212.

INFARMATION IS:

A Yukon government newsletter published by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Agriculture branch. If you would like to add or remove your name from the newsletter mailing list, comment on an article or contribute a story, please feel free to contact us.

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1-800-661-0408 ext. 5838

Email: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Online: www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca

Visit: Agriculture branch on the third floor, room 320 of the Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street in Whitehorse.