

INFARMATION

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2017 NORTH OF 60° AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE FARMER OF THE YEAR

The annual presentation of the Yukon Farmer of the Year provides an opportunity to bring the attention to the efforts of farmers and farm families in our community. Yukon received seven nominees for Farmer of the Year. Many of the nominations, point to the broader contribution to agriculture and recognizes support as mentors, years volunteering and helping make locally grown and made products more available to Yukoners.



The 2017 Farmer of the Year award pays tribute to Mike and Sylvia Blumenschein for mentoring Yukon farmers, for Mike’s years of support as a YAA board member and his continued support as an advocate for a strong and sustainable agriculture industry in Yukon.

The following are excerpts from the nominations submitted for the 2017 Farmer of the Year Award.

FARMERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2017 MIKE AND SYLVIA BLUMENSCHIN

Mike and Sylvia’s nomination stands out because they recently retired from active farming life, but it is obvious from the number of nominations they received that they are very active with the farming community. The nominations speak to them being amazing teachers and advocates for farming in Yukon. They have been involved with the Yukon Agricultural Association for over 20 years, farming in the territory for over 30 years, and they are still active on various committees. In the words of one of their nominators, “they taught us how to farm”.

Another nomination talks to the endless hours Mike spent with children teaching them skills such as stacking bales, and other aspects of farming. From another: “Mike’s approach to land development was to create a work of art. Thank you for your patience, we admire and have learned so much from you.”

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MESSAGE FROM THE AGRICULTURE BRANCH

Good day folks. The ground has frozen solid and the snow has settled over the fields. Hopefully the weather is giving you an opportunity to put your feet up. The snow always seems to come in too fast and stay too long, but that is part of the reason we live up here. It is a relief as it spells the end of trying to finish off the last outside projects on the to-do list. The cold also does a good job keeping plant pests at bay.

We had an informative and energizing North of 60° Agriculture Conference in early November, and I want to thank everyone who attended. I'd also like to send huge congratulations out to Mike and Sylvia Blumenschien for winning Yukon's Farmer of the Year Award; it's a well-deserved honour. Mike and Sylvia began farming in Yukon in 1986 and have been helping the industry and the community ever since including over 20 years with the Yukon Agricultural Association. Please see the tribute to Mike and Sylvia on page one.

On a sad note: we lost a colleague and friend this September, David Murray, Agriculture Branch's Lands Manager passed away while on vacation. David's hard work has been recognized with a tribute in the Yukon Legislature and at our North of 60 Banquet. Please read the tribute to David on page seven.

Work goes on, and we are working on a few things here at the Agriculture Branch. The *Act to Amend the Pounds Act* was recently proclaimed in the Yukon Legislature. We'll be working with industry going forward on developing operational guidelines for the revised Act.

We continue to work on wildlife agriculture conflicts, especially with elk. If you have issues with the elk on your farm, please contact our office.

We will be moving forward with the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, a new funding agreement with the federal government for agriculture projects, April 1, 2018. If you are currently working on a project under Growing Forward 2 please ensure you get it wrapped up in time. See page four for an update.

As always our staff at the Agriculture Branch are here for you, please stop in for a visit or give us a call if we can help with anything.

Happy holidays
Matthew Ball, Director, Agriculture Branch



Mike Blumenschein working with students at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in learning farm teaching some tractor basics.

FARMER OF THE YEAR AND THE NOMINEES CONTINUED

Mike's seeding, fertilizing and mechanical skills are well known in the agriculture community and he has been generous with his advice. Many people new to farming in Yukon have benefitted greatly over the years from his guidance. In the words from a nominator, "As new farmers we would not have been able to do it without his guidance. He has been so generous with his time, provided information to make our operation a success and he is a stickler for maintenance, which keeps our equipment running."

NOMINATION: MARK WYKES, YOUR INDEPENDENT GROCER
Mark Wykes, was nominated as a farm supporter. Mark owns and manages the Independent Grocer store in Whitehorse; his store has and continues to feature Yukon products including the Little Red Hen Eggs, Grain Farm vegetables, Yukon Gardens tomatoes and cucumbers, and Klondike Kettle Corn.

His nomination speaks to how Mark contributes to the local farming community by supporting us and reference how Mark has patiently worked with industry and government to explore opportunities in the retail market.

NOMINATION: SARAH OUELLETE, SARAH'S HARVEST
This is the second time Sarah has been nominated. This nomination again speaks to the high quality product she produces on farm and for her accomplishment in her short time in the industry. Sarah is farming with Lendrun-Ross Farm. Her nomination brings awareness to the activities she has been involved in, including the setup of an independent vegetable market at the Carcross Corner, participation at the Fireweed Community Market,

farming full time, secretary for GoOFY, and program co-ordination for Kids on the Farm. Kids on the Farm welcomed over 1,100 kids this past season to a variety of farm operations and increased the next generation's awareness of Yukon agriculture. Sarah's involvement in production and training, marketing, advocacy, education and just being a good neighbor is worth recognizing.

NOMINATION: SHIELA ALEXANDROVICH, WHEATON RIVER GARDENS

Shiela Alexandrovich nomination speaks to her sharing of knowledge and her open and honest approach. Shiela was instrumental in visioning the Kids on the Farm program. The nomination points to the many years of volunteering with GoOFY, involvement with the Fireweed Community Market, her service with the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and the many people she has mentored.

NOMINATION: LUCY AND JACK VOGT, VOGT ENTERPRISE
2011 Farmer of the Year recipients
Lucy and Jack Vogt were nominated again this year. This year's nomination recognizes their professionalism at the farm and at the farmers' market. The nomination also talks to their donations to the community, and their sharing of information. In the words of the nominator, "I hope someday my young farmers will grow up to be as great an example for the next generation as the Vogts."

NOMINATION: KYLE MARCHUK AND SHAWN NEWELL, YUKON BERRY FARM

Yukon Berry Farms nomination comes for their healthy product, good marketing, great commitment to the farm and Yukoners, including this past season's u-pick opportunity. The nomination highlights their passion for running a good ethical business and commends them on being organic. They have a unique model where they rent the land from others and have established a tremendous business opportunity growing haskaps.

NOMINATION: GERRY AND ANNE-MARIE STOCKLEY, THREE SLAVES FARM

Gerry and Anne-Marie Stockley once again were nominated for their efforts in their agriculture community on the Mayo Road. Their nominator calls them incredible neighbours and point to their efforts to build up the equestrian facility and help redevelop hay lands in the area. In the words of the nominator, "we are inspired by their love of farming, of community and their innovation in agriculture."

NORTH OF 60° CONFERENCE

Yukon's North of 60° Agriculture Conference was held November 3 - 5 in Whitehorse. It kicked off with an open house/trade show featuring some of the different government branches, associations, groups and service providers that support agriculture. The open house featured posters from different Yukon operations talking about what they do and the challenges they face in the North.

The conference moved to Yukon College's Ayamdigut campus for Saturday and Sunday, with presenters speaking about entering new markets. The conference covered off introductions to MarketSafe, CanadaGAP, and Yukon government's procurement of locally grown food.

The bulk of the day was handed over to food expert Peter Chapman, who spoke to how to get your product into an ever changing marketplace. Peter drew a distinction between the consumer (who consumes food) vs the customer (who buys it), and how price, food safety, quality and performance are some of the key attributes that growers and processor can focus on.

Professor Vasantha Rupasinghe from Dalhousie University covered the health benefits and value added opportunities of cool climate fruits, with a focus on haskaps. This got everyone excited about haskaps and helped open up a roundtable discussion on haskap potential north of 60. The roundtable discussion brought in growers and experts including Dr. Bob Bors, who is University of Saskatchewan expert on haskaps.

Saturday concluded with a small working group discussion on how to use your mobile device to map out your farm. Sunday belonged to the MarketSafe course. MarketSafe addresses food safety for farmers, food processors and producers who make, bake or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets, farm gates or other types of temporary food markets. Everyone in the course passed and Yukon now has 20 farmers and food processors certified MarketSafe.

**CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP: SETTING
THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR
FARMERS AND FOOD PROCESSORS**

In July 2017, federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) ministers of agriculture came to an agreement on the key elements of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment for Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. This agreement will help the sector reach the Government of Canada's ambitious goal to grow Canada's agriculture and food exports to \$75 billion by 2025.

The new partnership is starting to take shape, as outlined in an announcement on November 24, 2017 at Agribition in Regina. Along with federal territorial funding, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, announced the initiatives of the \$1 billion federal only investment under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which is aiming to launch on April 1, 2018.

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada is committing to targeted investments with a focus on the following priorities: growing trade and expanding markets; innovative and sustainable growth of the sector; and, supporting diversity and a dynamic, evolving sector.

Six federal programs will support these priorities and ensure the sector's long-term prosperity: AgriMarketing, AgriCompetitiveness, AgriScience, AgriInnovate, AgriDiversity and AgriAssurance.

To find out more online go to the following link:

- goto.gov.yk.ca/CanAgPartnership



The investments under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership will set a solid foundation for the future of Canada's farmers and food processors, and continue to help them grow, innovate and prosper.

"This is an exciting new chapter for agriculture in Canada. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership's federal initiatives show our government's strong agenda for growth in agriculture and agri-food – one that will help build an even stronger, more innovative and sustainable sector. It will ensure Canadian farmers and food processors are well positioned to meet the world's growing demand for our high-quality products, while creating well-paying middle class jobs and delivering prosperity for communities across the country."
- Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

This is exciting news for Yukon, as the new "Canadian Agricultural Partnership" will be replacing our successful Growing Forward 2 program. That program ends March 31, 2018.

**GROWING FORWARD 2 TO
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP**

What you need to know:
In response to recent enquiries, and as a reminder to our farmers, any open GF2 projects are coming to an end, and all open files should have received a phone call from the branch. New applications for the Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding cannot be officially accepted or processed until April 1st, 2018. We can however work with producers in advance of April 1st to discuss future projects and be ready for the new funding program. If you would like our input or advice on your draft project proposals please contact the Agriculture Branch. If you would like to suggest ways to improve the programs, please contact us as well.

Photo below: Chicken processing at Elemental Farm using equipment supported by federal and territorial funding programs.



ELK / AGRICULTURE CONFLICT

As winter continues to roll in, so may elk to area hay fields. This results in fence damage from elk entering fields and damages field health when the elk disturb the insulating snow cover and physically paw and expose the roots of the hay stand.

So far this winter there have only been a minimum number of reports of elk on agriculture properties. As feed becomes scarce and their calorie requirement increases, the elk will again look to agriculture properties to supply them with valuable feed to sustain the herds through the winter. Yukon government's Department of Environment and Energy Mines and Resources, Agriculture Branch will be on call for landowners impacted by elk to help mitigate damage to fence lines, losses of feed and damage to fields. There are a few tools for landowners to help with elk/ag conflicts, including harassment permits, conflict hunts, funding for prevent measures and compensation for fencing damage, hay losses and field damage.

For farmers experiencing pressures from elk on their land, please contact a Conservation Officer at 1-800-661-0525 or reach out to the Agriculture Branch at 867-667-5838 with details including elk locations, potential hazards, and other relevant information. Conservation Officers and the Agriculture Branch will coordinate and conduct an on-site investigation of the complaint to determine next steps.

ELK/AG CONFLICT HUNT

The conflict hunt is one of the tools available to farmers to alter the behavior of elk on agriculture lands. There have been a few

small changes to the conflict hunt to help improve the response to elk pressures and to make it advantageous for hunters. Visit Environment's website at

- goto.gov.yk.ca/ElkAgConflict

Farmers entering the Elk/Ag conflict hunt can assist the hunter by providing information about elk locations, residents' permissions, potential safety hazards, elk behavior generally, and any information to assist with the identification of key elk for harvest. Hunters are required to hunt in a safe manner and make every effort to minimize property damage or injuries to elk that are not being harvested.

AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE DAMAGE PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program provides funding to:

- installation of game fencing materials (posts and wire) that stand at minimum 7 feet high;
- wildlife proofing for crop storage facilities;
- purchasing crop protection measures; and
- purchasing a guardian dog.

Specific to elk damage to farmers the Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation program provides compensation for those experiencing damage to fences, crops, fields or stored feed on titled agriculture lands outside the core elk area. Farmers are required to contact the Agriculture Branch, keep record of damages and ongoing elk activity. The compensation program supports costs associated with:

- Harassment. Farmers can claim for expenses incurred to deter elk from their farms. Compensation will be provided at \$25/hour up to a maximum of \$1,000.

- Fencing damage. The costs of re-fencing or fence repair is paid out at 100%.
- Crop and feed loss. This applies to agricultural producers who have taken steps to minimize ungulate damage but still suffer losses on stored hay, stored silage or unharvested crops. Crop loss and stored feed losses are paid out at 100%. The crop loss payment is based on the verified yield lost. Producers are responsible for providing a summary of past yields and management practices. An initial assessment of crop yield is required in order for the producer to be fairly compensated. If the crop is harvested or the damage is already widespread it becomes impossible to determine yield losses. Payment for lost stored feed is based on the value of the lost bales or the cost to buy new bales in order to feed livestock.
- Overwintering hay field crop loss. This applies to ongoing year over year reduction in hay yields due to elk living on hay fields. The compensation provides for 20% of yield losses year over year in the area of impact. The farmer has to provide yield records for the area that is being impacted and records must span back over the year of damage and the previous five years so an average of hay yields can be determined (olympic averaging is used).
- Seed costs associated to damage. This program will provide compensation at a maximum of \$75/acre for seed costs with receipts and an inspection.

In order to access the program, farmers have to apply. For the application and to find out more about the program contact the Agriculture Branch at agriculture@gov.yk.ca or 867-667-5838.

**NORTH OF 60°
ANNUAL
AGRICULTURE
UPDATE .**

Hon. Ranj Pillai, Minister responsible for Agriculture addressed the annual North of 60° banquet.

The annual event provided an opportunity for the minister to connect with the territory’s farmers, ranchers and market gardeners, to talk about what has happened over the year and to highlight Yukon government’s vision for agriculture.

Minister Pillai kicked off his address highlighting a few key industry developments over the past year. These highlights include:

- The introduction of locally-raised brown eggs to the retail market from The Little Red Hen, owned by Cathy and Al Stannard.
- The expansion of commercial vegetable green housing at Yukon Gardens.
- The increase in the availability of market garden vegetables across different markets and development of cold storage on farm that is increasing the availability of root vegetables beyond just the harvest season.

In addition to industry highlights, Minister Pillai provided an update on what has happened on the government side to support Yukon’s growing agriculture community:

- The Pounds Act has moved through the legislature, with changes to reflect other laws. Consultation from a variety of people and stakeholders, including the agricultural community helped us write an Act that better addresses the needs of agriculture.

- In July, the territory signed a new funding agreement, the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, with the federal government. The partnership will unlock the next five years of funding for Yukon agriculture. This funding will help develop our agriculture sector, and further develop commercial production, support community gardens, and provide farmers with tools to manage risk.

- The Yukon government continues its work to implement the Local Food Strategy for Yukon. The purpose of the strategy is to increase opportunities for Yukoners to enjoy the benefits of consuming locally-grown meat, vegetables and other agricultural products. The logistics of procurement of local food by the Yukon government has been expanded with a new page on the Agriculture Branch website. The page provides detailed information on how to sell local farm products to the Yukon government. This supports the continued work with other departments to ensure local food is considered when they are purchasing foods for events. Check out the website at goto.gov.yk.ca/SellingLocal

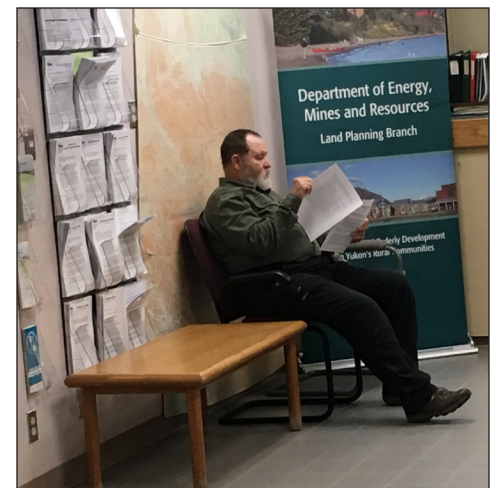
- The Agriculture Branch will be engaging with industry and stakeholders over the winter to evaluate and update Yukon’s 2006 Agriculture Policy. An updated policy will assist the agriculture industry and the Yukon government to continue developing a profitable and sustainable industry that works for Yukon.

- There is continued support for Yukon farmers who are dealing with elk conflicts. The Agriculture Branch is working with the Department of Environment to develop effective tools and new fencing configurations that

increase the pressure on elk herds and that moves elk away from valuable farmlands. There will also be continued support to the compensation program to help farmers experiencing crop losses due to elk.

- Access to agriculture land is still key to the continued success of the industry. The Yukon government has committed to identifying and placing under agriculture reserve those high quality lands that have future development potential. Developing new agricultural land close to market and populated areas is always challenging. Over the next year, the Agriculture Lands Program will have planned agriculture land sales west of Whitehorse and in the Mayo and Dawson areas.

Minister Pillai also outlined the government’s vision to support farming, ranching and gardening, and to further increasing local food production. This vision will help drive our local economy, offset food imports and bolster our communities. There will be continued investment in the industry – in food storage, processing and in community-based greenhouse and farming projects.



David Murray musing at the front counter with an agriculture fact sheet.

DAVID WILLIAM MURRAY

JUNE 19TH 1952 - SEPT. 4TH 2017

David Murray, Agriculture Land Manager and treasured member of the Agriculture Branch passed away suddenly this past September while travelling.

David's approach to public service and the agriculture lands program was exemplary. His honesty, integrity, openness, with a balanced approach and incredible analytic skills made him a treasure to work with.

David lived in the Hamlet of Mount Lorne and raised three children (Kendra, Nansen and Sarah) over the last 29 years with long-time partner Karen. Outside his work with the Ag Branch, David spent his leisure time in the mountains around the Annie Lake Road. He enjoyed dog-mushing and exploring on his own, and with his family.

David's first Yukon job was as a jackleg miner at Whitehorse Copper Mines. One could say: "David's early career as an underground miner, working difficult ground in the pitch black with temperamental equipment, set him up perfectly for a life in government and agriculture land disposition".

David's agriculture career started with Agriculture Canada in the summer of 1983. He was hired due to his mining experience, and his job was to dig soil pits with a portable jack-hammer. David worked with soil scientists Scott Smith and Charles Tarnocai for about five years, conducting soil surveys, hazard mapping and related research.

Notable projects included a soil survey of Herschel Island, a survey of paleosols developed in unglaciated soils of Central Yukon and soil surveys of the Carcross and Takhini

Valleys. In 1984 David was a co-author of the first Yukon Agriculture State of the Industry report.

David moved to the Yukon permanently in January 1985 after working toward a Geography degree at Ryerson University. In a testament to his wide-ranging interests, he also held a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Manitoba.

Following his tenure with Agriculture Canada, David became a member of the Yukon Agriculture Branch in 1991 as a soil technician and conducted agriculture capability inspections, vegetation surveys, and related cartography. He took on more duties related to land disposition and eventually lead the program as Manager of Agriculture Land.

During David's 26 years with the Agriculture Branch, he was involved with:

- Approximately 500 agriculture land applications.
- Title of over 13,000 hectares of land for agriculture purposes.

There are 15,000 hectares titled to agriculture, meaning that David was involved with developing 86% of the total agriculture lands in the territory. Today, Yukon agriculture industry accounts for \$4.3 million in total farm receipts. It is easy to see how David played a part in helping this industry grow.

David also had an impact on those who had the opportunity to work with him. He was a mentor to many and his internal hard drive for agriculture files is hard to explain, but most easily summed it up by saying he saved his co-workers from researching some of the old and



sometimes thick agriculture files.

In the words of one of his coworkers:

"David was a treasured member of our various planning teams over the years; always full of knowledge, corporate memory, and some light-hearted fun. I know many folks enjoyed working with him and appreciated his authenticity."

From another:

"Loved his sense of humour, his unique style of expression, and his funny and insightful musings on government, the bureaucracy, and whatever else was worth musing about. He was kind, smart, respectful, incredibly knowledgeable, and had a way of making everyone around the table feel comfortable."

Thank you David for your contribution to Yukon agriculture. You will be missed.

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON PASSES BILL TO AMEND THE POUNDS ACT

The Yukon government has amended the *Pounds Act* to apply consistent rules for livestock owners across Yukon. This amendment is designed to align the Pounds Act with other laws, including the *Highways Act* and the *Animal Protection Act* and to improve the ability of the government to respond to stray livestock across the territory.

Quotes

“As our agriculture sector grows, it is important that we apply consistent rules for livestock owners. This will better protect Yukon livestock, and improve public safety on Yukon’s highways.”

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Ranj Pillai

The amendments include:

- a new definition of “animal;”
- who can capture and contain animals and enforce the *Pounds Act*;
- eliminating Yukon pounds districts and boundaries;
- new methods for identifying impounded animals; and,
- other small changes to clarify and modernize the Pounds Act.

Please note that the Act does not include the care of domestic animals such as cats and dogs or feral animals.

Quick facts

- The *Pounds Act* defines the responsibilities of livestock owners, what offences they can face if their animals stray, and what processes are followed when an animal is impounded.

- The *Pounds Act* has been amended to align with past changes to the *Highways Act* and *Animal Protection Act*. The alignment of these three Acts will ensure clear and consistent application across Yukon.
- The *Pounds Act* is a law of general application. This means it will apply on First Nation Settlement Land until that First Nation passes its own legislation for livestock control, at which time the *Pounds Act* will no longer apply.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources conducted a consultation with First Nations, municipalities, stakeholders and the public from July 11 to August 11, 2017.

To learn more about the *Pounds Act* Amendments go to:

- goto.gov.yk.ca/PoundsAct

WHAT DOES THE POUNDS ACT MEAN FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS?

The Yukon government amendment of animal in the *Pounds Act* is to align with the growing diversity of the livestock industry. On an operational level, it is important for livestock owners to understand their rights and responsibilities under the *Pounds Act*, and know what the response and possible penalties are when dealing with livestock at large.

As a livestock owner it’s your responsibility to ensure that all animals are contained at all times. Animals, by their nature have many different traits. Some tend to wander solo, some are more social. Others can be mischievous and some are trustworthy pets. There are many different types of fencing and containment structures available to the industry. You must ensure that whatever fencing is in place is specific to the livestock within, and is checked and maintained frequently.

The *Pounds Act* provides the legislative framework to manage and control stray domestic livestock in Yukon. When livestock is at large, the Agriculture Branch becomes the primary point of contact for the public. Our role is to identify the livestock owner and ensure they are making best attempts to capture and recover the animal. The Agriculture Branch will then work with the owner to determine the cause of the escape. It is not the role of the Agriculture Branch to capture or transport domestic livestock unless there is a clear risk to public safety, or it is a requirement under the *Pounds Act*.

In some instances, the general public may capture and contain livestock at large, and may transport them to the pounds facility, however this is to be done at their own risk.

In all circumstances, the livestock owner, or the person whose care the livestock is under is liable for all costs associated with animals being at large. Potential costs can be damage to neighboring crops or feed storage, destruction of private property, transport costs, care and boarding or any injuries to the general public. In addition, the Act allows for fines to be issued to owners on an escalating scale.

The Agriculture Branch is available to provide information relating to suitable fencing methods specific to livestock types, and is happy to work with livestock owners to ensure the long-term success and enjoyment of caring for animals.

For more information contact:

Jesse Walchuk
Agriculture Development Officer
867-667-3043
Jesse.walchuk@gov.yk.ca

TRACEABILITY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YUKON FARMERS?

Recently, there has been an increased focus on livestock traceability across Canada. Traceability is a system that enables the industry to follow an agricultural product, such as an animal, from one point in the supply chain to another. These systems help regulatory bodies trace disease outbreaks or food-borne illness to the source, so they can be controlled quickly and completely to ensure consumers' trust and safety of the food raised.

Canadian traceability programs require farmers to keep records on three things: premises identification, animal identification and animal movement. The national traceability programs for cattle, pigs and sheep are most applicable in Yukon. The requirements are specified in the federal government's *Health of Animals Regulations* and enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). These regulations apply to the farmer raising the animal, the person or company transporting the animal, and the abattoir operator.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YUKON FARMS?

Yukon farmers need to be aware of the traceability program requirements in Canada for any livestock species they are raising. According to the regulations, animal identification is required when animals are:

- sold or moved from one farm to another in Yukon;
- imported from another province or territory to Yukon; or
- sent to an inspected abattoir for slaughter and/or products are to be sold in a retail outlet.

In Yukon, compliance with regulations is still being adopted with livestock owners moving forward on animal identification as needed. A couple of places where local farmers are seeing more of a need to adapt to the traceability program is when importing animals from other provinces and when slaughtering animals through an inspected process. Farmers importing animals from outside Yukon are being required to provide more information about their farm which may include a premises identification number. Yukon's two abattoirs are required to report the identification of animals processed in their facilities. These abattoirs are working with farmers to identify animals based on the information available and the Yukon Premise ID program but as regulations develop and come into force there will be a further requirement to comply with the federal traceability programs.

HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING?

While participating in livestock traceability in Canada is a legal requirement, the benefits to farmers to enroll and participate in traceability programs include:

- improves food safety and consumer confidence; consumers and producers will have a better understanding of where their product originates and what it means to be locally grown.
- supports effective response to disease outbreaks, reducing negative economic impacts;
- protects international markets and ensure that developments elsewhere do not affect the import of livestock into Yukon;
- provides farmers with the option for tailored information from Yukon's Chief Veterinary Officer.

Under privacy legislation, information you share while participating in traceability programs is protected. The information is only used in situations where there is a need to prepare for, respond to, or recover from a disaster, food safety or animal disease issue.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

The first step is to get a Premises ID (PID) number from the Agriculture Branch. You can register for a PID in person or online. Once you have a PID number you can register online with the specific animal identification programs:

- PigTrace (pigtrace.ca)
- Canadian Sheep Identification Program (cansheep.ca)
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (canadaid.com)
- Canadian Goat Identification Program (canadaid.com)

Each traceability program has their own requirements for animal identification such as tags and/or tattoos. You can purchase approved identification tags directly from livestock supply stores or online via the program websites. Contact the Agriculture Branch or the Livestock Health Technician if you need help with sourcing approved tags or signing up for any of the traceability measures.

For more information contact:

Animal Health Unit
Bastien Ipas
Livestock Health Technician
867-333-9471
Bastien.ipas@gov.yk.ca

Agriculture Branch
Jesse Walchuk
Agriculture Development Officer
867-667-3043
Jesse.walchuk@gov.yk.ca

FIRST WE EAT

"FIRST WE EAT, THEN WE DO EVERYTHING ELSE." M.F.K. FISHER

First We Eat is a project by Dawson resident Suzanne Crocker who is investigating eating 100% local.

Suzanne is spending one year (starting July 31, 2017) feeding herself and her family of five (partner and kids aged 17, 15 and 11) only food that can be grown, raised, hunted, fished and gathered around Dawson City. She hopes to bring awareness about local food in the North and to celebrate the extent of possibilities should we choose to or need to become more food secure. The project will

- profile where Suzanne's food comes from, both the land and the people;
- highlight the ingenuity, knowledge and resourcefulness of Northern farmers; and,
- monitor quantity, cost and health parameters over the year.

First We Eat is both a social media project and a documentary film project.

WHERE SUZANNE'S FOOD COMES FROM

- Chicken, turkey, pork, duck, rabbit from Lastraw Ranch (Megan Waterman)
- Mutton from Peter Dunbar; Chum salmon from Sebastian Jones
- Eggs from Lastraw Ranch (Megan Waterman) and Sun North Ventures (Becky and Paul Sadlier)
- Vegetables (including pumpkins, squash, corn, peppers, onions, garlic, celery, sugar beets) from Lucy Vogt, Grant Dowdell, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm, Kokopellie Farm, Sun North Ventures
- Barley, winter rye, Red Fife wheat from Kokopellie Farm (Otto and Conny); hulled oats and chickpeas from Grant Dowdell
- Dairy from Klondike Valley Creamery (Jen and Loren Sadlier) which can be made into butter, yogurt, cheese and ice cream
- Apples from Klondike Valley Nursery (John Lenart and Kim Melton)
- Saskatoons, haskaps, black currants and raspberries from Emu Creek Farm (Diana and Ron McCready) and from Tundarose Farm (Maryann Davis)
- Birch syrup from Birch Hill Forest Farm (Sylvia Frisch and Berwyn Larson); Honey from David McBurney's overwintered bees
- Vegetables, horseradish, fennel, sunflower seeds, ground cherries and melons from local gardeners (including Suzanne)
- Herbs, mushrooms, berries, moose, caribou, grouse, fish, rabbit from the land
- Check out the full list of ingredients available to Suzanne at FirstWeEat.ca

SUCCESSES AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

- Spices: ground celery leaf instead of salt; ground nasturtium seed pods instead of pepper; ground spruce tips instead of cinnamon.
- Flavour shakers combining herbs and wild plants for seasonings.
- Salt-less fermenting with celery juice instead of a salt brine.
- Rhubarb juice instead of vinegar; ghee and animal fat instead of oil.
- Experimenting with sugar beets for syrup and sugar.



Photo: Suzanne Crocker

Follow the journey, Suzanne's husband's response as well as recipes (including inspirations from Miche Genest), tips and other local food initiatives across the North at FirstWeEat.ca. Suzanne plans to make this journey into a documentary film expected in 2019.

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