

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

March 2003 PLOWBOY NEWSLETTER

203 – 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C5

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Presidents Message

By Bill Drury

This will be my last message as President, as the YAA election this March will bring a change of officers. All of you will have received your ballots by now, and voting closes the 14th of March. The positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer for the whole association will be decided.

The three different regions will be having their own elections for Directors at times determined by each region. There is the Northern Region (Dawson City), the Central Region (Mayo, Faro and Carmacks area), and the Southern Region (Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Teslin, Carcross). **The Southern Region will be nominating and electing Directors at a special meeting March 26th at 7 pm at the TC Richards boardroom. See you there!**

DON'T DELAY!

Get your ad in the

Klondyke Harvest Fair

Bench Show

Booklet

A great place to advertise your business, service or products.

Booklet will be before the public from May 1 (Lions Trade Show) to August 9th, 2003.

Contact Debbie Throssell at the YAA office 668-6864

Deadline for submissions is March 24/03

Hear ye, Hear ye....

YAA Annual General Meeting

March 29, 2003

At the Riverview Hotel

Riverview Hotel boardroom

Workshop with Sue Starr

"How to be effective in an organization"

10 am – 12 pm

Lunch is provided 12 pm – 1:30 pm

(please RSVP to Debbie in office)

Riverview Hotel boardroom

Annual General Meeting 2 pm – 4 pm

(all YAA members from all regions

welcome to attend)

Southern Region members please note:

Southern (Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Hns.Jct., Teslin, Carcross) membership will vote for directors on March 26, 7 pm at the TC Richards Building

YAA Office Update

By Debbie Throssell

This has been a very busy time in the office. January was spent doing a Membership drive, and to date we have 39 active members. Please remember the membership year goes from January 1st to December 31st.

The end of January I attended the Excellence 2003 conference in Winnipeg, sponsored by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council. I visited the Dunn Rite Food Products Ltd. that raise broilers, and also visited Concord Farms, a Hutterite Colony outside of Winnipeg. They grow turkeys, and manufacture a ventilation system for farms. The conference workshops ranged from the economy, to family farm succession, to wind generating systems, to Bio-gas, made from the fats of animals and canola oil seeds. It was all very interesting. I brought back a book for YAA members, "Tax Planning for you and your family 2003". It is available at the office for anyone interested.

February has been just as busy with the Election, and with preparations for the 9th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair. I have been working on getting ads for the Registration booklet, which goes to print the end of March. I really appreciate all the help from volunteers who have come to the office.

Ballot forms for the Election are due back in the office by March 14th, 2003. The Annual General Meeting is being held March 29th, 2003 at the Riverview Hotel. Sue Starr is doing a workshop at 10 am on "Effectiveness in Organizations" with lunch to follow. Please let me know if you are attending. The AGM will start at 2 pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly.
The next newsletter is due out in May.

Deadlines for submissions is the 7th of every publishing month, as our target date for mailing is the 20th of that month.

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Phone : (867)668-1045

Game Growers News

By Barbara Drury

The Game Growers Association, in conjunction with the Agriculture Branch, were pleased to host Dr. Terry Church, President of the Canadian Cervid Council to speak on Wednesday, February 26th at the High Country Inn at a luncheon for members of government and game growers. Dr. Church shared his knowledge of the cervid industry (cervid means member of the deer species) as it is across Canada.

He followed this general presentation with a more in-depth look at cervid animal health issues in a session from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. His background as a veterinarian was valuable.

All present learned that elk are the most regulated livestock industry in Canada, with excellent "trace-out" systems in place that gives tremendous assurance in food safety for the general public. Our system is so efficient that the beef industry is now looking at copying it.

We learned that with the regulatory system we have in place any disease can be controlled, because with our mandatory surveillance system if disease strikes, it will be found.

It is well known that Yukon elk are basically disease-free, and we are only dealing in hypothetical situations and "what if's".

However, Yukon elk farmers are prepared with our self-imposed mandatory surveillance system, for any "what if's" that might arise.

On Thursday, February 27th, Dr. Church spent some time at the Yukon Game Farm enjoying the hospitality of Danny Nowlan and the other game growers who gathered there for more discussion. Dr. Church returned to Alberta the same day.

All in all it was a very worthwhile visit, and thank you to Vibeke Coates and Shirley Ford for doing all the organization. Thank you also to Dave Beckman and the Agriculture Branch for sponsoring the High Country luncheon.

Did you know?

There are 2,500 cervid producers across Canada Producing 155,000 elk and deer

Did you know?

New Zealand's gross revenue from cervids is second only to dairy, bringing in \$300 Million worth of export dollars per year

Did you know?

Our farms contribute to local economies through export sales, tourism, meat and slaughtering facilities, velvet antler sales, purchases by cervid farms of equipment and supplies, including fences, veterinary services and machinery.

Did you know?

Our animals are raised in a natural, free-range environment, free of growth stimulants, growth hormones, antibiotics or medicated feeds.

Organic Growers Update

By Barbara Drury

A small group of interested people formed an Organic Growers Group in November, 2002 in the Whitehorse area. They hold meetings once a month, alternating at different members houses. The purpose of the group is to share information and provide mutual support. Some of the members are Garret Gillespie and Heidi Marion, Sheila Alexandrovich, Dorine Girouard, Brian Lendrum and Susan Ross, and Simone Rudge. If you would like to know more,

or would like to join, please phone Garret or Heidi at 821-4003.

More Organic Growers News

Garret Gillespie and partner Heidi Marion of Wild Blue Yonder Farm near Carcross have sold 50 shares to the public for the 2003 season in a "community supported agriculture" (CSA) venture.

A share buys an individual or family farm fresh produce from mid-June until September, and the price is \$400 a share.

Farm veggies will include: 4 varieties of potatoes, several varieties of carrots, rutabagas, turnips, beets, several types of lettuce, mesclun mix, spinach, bunching onions, rainbow, red and silver chard, culinary herbs, kale, broccoli, collards, brussel sprouts, heritage peas, and beans. They are not going to grow the greenhouse vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers this year.

Selling shares ahead of the growing season enables Gillespie and Marion to have "start up" money, and also assures them of another market for their produce. (Although they have no trouble selling everything they produce to local outlets such as Alpine Bakery, Food Fair, Riverside Grocery, The Fruit Stand, Super A and the Cranberry Bistro).

Sheila Alexandrovich pioneered the CSA model last year, and sold 9 shares. She plans on offering 8 shares this year.

Its great to see agriculture expanding in this way, and it is obvious by the enthusiastic reception that both Wild Blue Yonder Farms and Sheila Alexandrovich have received that the demand is there.



Bulk Fertilizer Storage Update

Dave Andrew of the YAA has been working on a bulk fertilizer storage proposal for the past 5 months that will benefit a broad spectrum of YAA members. The scenario as planned will see a number of sites, (six to date), for bulk fertilizer storage where YAA members will be able to take advantage of bulk discounts in price for their fertilizer needs. You must be a YAA member to take advantage of this opportunity.

Buying fertilizer in bulk and shipping it in bulk carriers would save Yukon farmers a considerable amount of expense. This proposal is to help farmers with high freight costs without having freight subsidies.

All funding for this project has been approved by the Federal government and Territorial government. The Yukon CARD council had a conference call on March 4, 2003 and gave final approval for the project. The bins will now be delivered in March and fertilizer will be shipped before the spring road bans.

Anyone interested in fertilizer that was missed in the original mail out please contact Dave Andrew at 667-7844.

Have you voted yet?
Are you a YAA member?
**MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS
HEARD!**
Buy a membership and
vote!

*****Joke of the Month*****

Cow-Pie Politics

FEUDALISM: You have two cows. Your lord takes some of the milk.

PURE SOCIALISM: You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. You have to take care of all the cows. The government gives you as much milk as they think you need.

BUREAUCRATIC SOCIALISM: You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. They are cared for by ex-chicken farmers. You have to take care of the chickens the government took from the chicken farmers. The government gives you as much milk and eggs the regulations say you should need.

FASCISM: You have two cows. The government takes both, hires you to take care of them, and sells you the milk.

PURE COMMUNISM: You have two cows. Your neighbours help you take care of them, and you all share the milk.

RUSSIAN COMMUNISM: You have two cows. You have to take care of them, but the government takes all the milk.

CAMBODIAN COMMUNISM: You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

DICTATORSHIP: You have two cows. The government takes both and drafts you.

PURE DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. Your neighbours decide who gets the milk.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. Your neighbours pick someone to tell you who gets the milk.

BUREAUCRACY: You have two cows. At first the government regulates what you can feed them and when you can milk them. Then it pays you not to milk them. Then it takes both, shoots one, milks the other and pours the milk down the drain. Then it requires you to fill out forms accounting for the missing cows.

PURE ANARCHY: You have two cows. Either you sell the milk at a fair price or your neighbours try to take the cows and kill you.

CAPITALISM: You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

Klondyke Harvest Fair update

By Barbara Drury

Debbie Throssell is working hard on selling advertising for the Bench Show booklet. Now is the time to get your ad in and get some good coverage for your business or service, and also support the fair. The Klondyke Harvest Fair is the Yukon Agricultural Association's premiere showcase event, for the general public to see and appreciate what goes on with agriculture in the Yukon.

We would also like to increase the amount of produce at the fair that the public can buy. If you grow vegetables and would like to sell extra produce at the fair, we want to hear from you! We are trying to determine now who will be selling vegetable produce at the fair, because this is the time of year everyone is planning their gardens. Plant some extra to sell at the fair, it's a lot of fun, meeting people and making money at the same time. Phone Debbie at the office!

There is no charge for farmers to sell their stuff...no table rental fee!

Some upcoming events in Agriculture from across Canada:

2003 National Agriculture Awareness Conference May 28-31 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Registration deadline March 31, 2003.

Our Canadian Young Farmers Conference Update:

Three young farmers were chosen to represent the Yukon at a recent Canadian Young Farmers conference in Vancouver, B.C. They were: Sarah and Hannah Kruse from McCabe Creek, and Patrick Bill from Carmacks. The conference ran from Tuesday, Feb.25th –Friday Feb.28th.

The topics covered were general and in one case obscure: Valorization (?) in Agriculture, Working on Policy for Agriculture Canadian Young Farmers Forum, Presentation and discussion on the Agriculture Strategic Framework to name a few.

We look forward to getting their report for the next newsletter.

Let us know what "valorization" means will you?

CARD II Update

The federal government recently announced that there will be a one year extension to the CARD fund to the end of March 2004.

The recently approved Fertilizer Storage project will use \$105,000 of CARD funds leaving approximately \$50,000 left for other CARD applicants until March 2004.

There will be another call for proposals with a deadline of April 11, 2003.

For more information call Deborah Cassidy, CARD Committee Executive Director, at 393-2728, or Valerie Whelan at 667-5272.

FREE**CLASSIFIEDS****FREE**

For Sale: 1 - New Holland 489 Haybine 9'
\$6,000.00 obo 667-7844

Stallion Services:

Buckskin Paint standing at stud.
667-7844

For Sale: 3Yr old quarter horse cross filly.
Nice temperament, ready to be started.

For Sale: 1Yr old bay pinto colt.
667-7844

Rafter A Ranch

Hay Sales
Horse Boarding
Irrigation Services
667-7844

For Sale: 10 horses of various ages and sexes.
Some are fully broke, some green broke.
Contact Terrance Hanlon, Carmacks
Phone: 2M8475 Carmacks Channel

Clara Sharp

is the representative for
The Port Lewis Saddle Fit System
An innovative way to determine
how to fit a saddle on a horse so it is
completely comfortable for the
horse. In many cases solves
behaviour problems caused by poor
fitting saddles.

For more info or to set up a
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For Sale: D7E Cat, model 48A, late serial
number, in great condition & well maintained
with low hours. Fred Last 633-3608

Land Clearing

Phone Dan or Deb Throssell
393-3143 evenings
Will do consultations

For Sale: 1 - 30' Harrow draw bar and
diamond harrows. \$800 phone 667-7844

For Sale: Delicious ranch-raised elk meat,
available in 25 lb or 50 lb. boxes. Includes
kohlbassa-style sausage. Phone Bill or Barbara
at Circle D Ranch 668-1045

***Put your ad in the
Classifieds!*****Its free and why not?**

Call Barbara at 668-1045 with your ad, or
email at drury@yt.sympatico.ca
Remember the deadline is the 7th of every
publishing month.

For Sale: Wood stove for cabin. \$200 obo
phone 668-1045

For Sale: Propane cookstove, good working
order. \$400 ask for Barbara phone 668-1045

For Sale: Student clarinet, comes with case.
Good condition. \$200 obo Barbara 668-1045