

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

May 2003 PLOWBOY NEWSLETTER

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

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Presidents Message

By Doug Craig

We are starting a new growing season in the fields, gardens and greenhouses of the Yukon. We hope that we are also starting a new growing season for the Yukon Agricultural Association.

First, the YAA is now in good standing under the Societies Act. (We're respectable.) Bringing ourselves into compliance with the Act has been a complicated and financially painful process, given the cost of auditors. It should be considerably easier maintaining good standing than achieving it in the first place. There are numerous advantages that need not be spelled out here but they include eligibility to hold raffles and participate in Lotteries Yukon.

We have held meetings with the Hon. Archie Lang, Minister and his attitude is favourable towards expanding the agriculture industry. Given the current economic status of primary industry in the Territory, it would seem that expanding agriculture is disproportionately important in contrast with the earlier times when mining was predominant and agriculture was very much in the shade.

As one expression of industrialization, provision has been made for importation of fertilizer in bulk, at roughly half the cost of marketing in 25 kg bags. Bins, scales and feed augers are all in place. The challenge now will be to get the benefits to farmers.

An effort is being made to get broader representation from the outlying communities by modest restructuring of YAA. This difficulty of "everything happens or is decided in Whitehorse" and the outlying communities are ignored is not the intention of the Association or the Executive. This is by no means restricted to agriculture. Communications are still awkward. People are busy making a living. Travel to meetings is both time and money consuming, telephone conference calls are a partial solution but do not fulfill all the requirements.

We intend to hold one general meeting in Mayo late this summer. We hope that participation by the communities in an association representing the agricultural industry of the whole Territory will take root and grow.

YAA Office Update

By Debbie Throssell

The office has been very busy the last two months. The Klondyke Harvest Fair booklet is completed and ready to be distributed to every one. Come into the office and pick one up.

I have designed a new pamphlet explaining to the public the role of the YAA, how they can contact us, and it also lists the executive and directors of the association. It will be launched at the Trade Show along with the Klondyke Harvest Fair registration booklet.

The Government has prepared an informational newsletter concerning the new APF Agreement. It is available at the office, or on the Internet at

www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst with Adobe Acrobat.

The Trade Show is soon to be in full swing, with everyone looking at new opportunities. The theme this year is bear or bare. The YAA's theme is "Bare Today, Grown Tomorrow". A poster is being made up of pictures of Yukon gardens, encouraging people to buy local produce. The poster will be quite colourful, thanks to pictures available here in the office. The Ag. Branch has given us some of the Yukon Agriculture Products Directory, for people interested in buying local. Hats are also available, so stop by and say hi. Jim Dillabough will be bringing in some animals for a petting zoo for the kids. There will be a bean count, with a special prize for the one closest to the amount of beans.

With the nice warm weather, gardening will soon be in the forefront of everyone's minds. So, enjoy the gardens and have a good summer. Debbie

Latest on Klondyke Harvest Fair

By Barbara Drury

The Klondyke Harvest Fair Bench Show booklet has been produced in time for the Lions Trade Show, and will be offered to the public from May 2nd on. If you miss picking up a copy at the Trade Show, you will be able to get a copy from the YAA office (in the TC Richards building on the corner of 3rd and Steele) and at many retail outlets around town such as Adorna Gardens and Landscaping, Yukon Gardens and the Whitehorse Public Library.

Make sure you pick up a copy of the booklet, as it gives you all the info on what you can enter to win great prizes at the Klondyke Harvest Fair! There are many vegetable entry possibilities, oodles of flower categories, (plan ahead when you plant your garden!) home baking, jams and

jellies, knitting, crocheting, quilting, wine & beer making, and some fun and unusual categories like "Recycled Creations" or "Best Scarecrow" or "Best Dressed Pet".

Debbie has heard from a few growers so far who have made a commitment to bringing produce for the fair....wonderful!!! She would still like to see many more though, so how about it, growers out there? Anyone with potatoes, carrots, turnips, lettuce, tomatoes, cukes, chard, spinach, herbs, etc that you would like to sell at the fair? There are always lots of eager customers, and it is fun to meet people and make money at the same time.

Results of the YAA Election in March

A new executive was elected for the Yukon Agricultural Association :

<u>Doug Craig, President</u>	668-5774 Email: dcraig@polarcom.com
<u>Dave Andrew, Vice-President</u>	667-7844 Email: raftera@internorth.com
<u>Bill Drury, Secretary/Treasurer</u>	668-1045 Email: drury@yt.sympatico.ca

Directors were also elected for each area. For **the Dawson region the Directors are:**

John Lenart	Mobile JL3-9457 Email: jlenart@hotmail.com
John Overell	phone?
Jerry Kruse	Mobile 2M-3458

Directors for the Mayo region are:

Jack Smith	996-2273 Email: smitty@yt.sympatico.ca
Ralph Mease	Mobile 2M-3470
Dan McDiarmid	996-2721

Directors for the Southern region are:

Dalyce Stubenberg	536-7447
Wayne Grove	393-1942
Jim Dillabough	no phone

There will be another **APF general meeting** hosted by the YTG in May sometime. A date has not been set yet. Those who attended the last meeting will be contacted, and others who are interested in participating should contact MaryLynn at 667-5838.

Update on Fertilizer Project

Well, the bins were shipped, delivered, and are now in place on the six farms in the Whitehorse and Watson Lake area. The fertilizer has been delivered as well, and is now ready for pickup by the participating farmers.

The six farm locations are as follows: Rafter A Ranch on Alaska Highway west (Dave and Tracy Andrew), LaPrairie Bison Ranch on Alaska Highway west, (Cliff and Virginia LaPrairie), Circle D Ranch on Alaska Highway west, (Bill and Barbara Drury), Eldorado Game Ranch on the Takhini River Road, (Wayne and Alison Grove), Steve MacKenzie-Grieve's on the Mayo Road, and Dalyce Stubenberg's in Watson Lake.

To take advantage of this bulk fertilizer, you need to be a member in good standing of the Yukon Agriculture Association. Call any of the participating six farms and/or farmers to find out more.

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

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

Editor: Barbara Drury
Email your copy to drury@yt.sympatico.ca
Phone : (867)668-1045



Cold Storage Centre Feasibility Study

A CARD sponsored feasibility study is taking place to assess the value of a cold storage facility to Yukon producers and growers. The cold storage would provide refrigeration (including freezing) with humidity control for storage of all kinds of produce. If you would like to know more or give direction in the design of a facility, please contact **Garret Gillespie at 867-821-4003**.

Garret welcomes all and any input until **October, 2003**, when he will have to bring the study to a conclusion.

Certified Communally Used Kitchen Study

Heidi Marion is just wrapping up a CARD sponsored study on the feasibility of a communally used certified kitchen.

Certified kitchens provide processors with access to low or no-cost equipment and preparation space. Options like processing meat and fish, jams, spreads, sauces, frozen dinners, dips, ice creams, and more are all possible in a certified kitchen.

She has had a great deal of interest from Yukoners in this project, and now must summarize the many submissions she received. (She sent a questionnaire to as many people as she thought might be interested, and also ran an ad in the newspapers).

The deadline for submissions was April 30, 2003, so look forward to future newsletters for the outcome of this study.

Assessment of the Partridge Creek Abattoir's Use by Yukon Red Meat Producers

The YTG commissioned an assessment of the abattoir, which is being undertaken by Malcolm Taggart (Research Northwest) and Barbara Drury. They are conducting interviews with some red meat producers to build a profile on use (or lack of use) of the abattoir. A workshop will be held with all interested producers to present possible scenarios for better utilization of the abattoir. Time and place of workshop:

**Hidden Valley School library
Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 pm**

Anyone interested in using the abattoir please plan to attend!

This study is scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2003.

News from Mayo

By Jack Smith

Hello from Mayo. Like the rest of the Yukon we now have summer (maybe). The snow is off of the fields ten days earlier than last year. People here are anxious to start gardening and are working in their yards. The low spots on my fields are full of ducks and geese and it seems like there are twice as many as other years. Unless they have all arrived at once. If the weather pattern holds for the summer it could be a dry one. Have a good one!

News from Dawson City

By Rea Brandon

Spring has sprung in Dawson City once again, and everyone is looking forward to another year of grow, grow, growing.

Lucy Vogt, Cathy Wylie and Dawn Mitchell will be selling on Front Street on Saturdays,

starting on the weekend of May 10th. There should be a great selection of bedding, garden and greenhouse plants to suit everyone. If you can't make it there you might find what you are looking for at the Gold Show. We have at least one booth happening that weekend.

We also have a couple of new additions to the group of sellers this year. Willow Peerenboom will be selling house plants, that she has raised, in the month of June at our front street location. John Lenart will be expanding into marketing gardening. For those who don't know John, he is our fruit tree expert in Dawson. I for one am looking forward to seeing his products.

Once again we will be running the Grow A Sunflower contest. We didn't have a huge number of entries last year, but this means that it can only get better this year. Those who are interested can contact Rea at 993-5053 evenings for more information.

Dawn Mitchell is teaching "How to Garden" again this year, with the support of the C.A.R.D. program. This year some of the students will be selling some of the plants that they learned to grow through the program with Dawn at the Gold Show.

As for now this is enough to keep most of us here busy, may everyone have a great growing season.

Editor's Note: Thank you very much to Jack Smith and Rea Brandon for their input from Mayo and Dawson! It is much appreciated.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

A farmer became quite upset when he bought a new car and found that everything he wished to have on the car was extra.

A few weeks later, the car dealer came to him to buy a cow. This is how the farmer presented the bill for the cow;

Basic Cow	\$500.00
Two tone finish	\$200.00
Four barrel stomach	\$100,00
Cowhide Upholstery	\$400.00
Production, Storage & Dispensary	\$100.00
Four spigots @ \$25.00 ea.	\$100.00
Dual horns	\$ 75.00
Automatic Fly swatter	\$ 75.00
Field Fertilizing	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL PRICE OF COW	\$1750.00

The following article is abridged from the Canadian Farm Manager April-May 2003 issue "Avoiding Conflict paves the way to success"
by Jocelyn St.Laurent

When we are asked about the success of our farm, we always begin by talking about why we are farming.

For us, the most important thing is to provide a good environment for our 4 children. We love living in the country and we spend a lot of time

horseback riding in the woods next to our farm and enjoying outdoor activities. If our farm was harming the environment, we would be undermining the very reason why we live in the countryside.

And yet, we are pork producers in a province (Quebec) where there is a great public outcry about pig production. In most municipalities, there is either a moratorium on expansion of pig barns or it is nearly impossible to get the necessary building permits.

Does this mean that pork producers and their neighbours must always be in conflict? No, not at all.

Even though we have increased our herd to 2,400 sows from 300 since we bought our farm in 1990, we are very confident that our neighbours would not object to further expansion.

One of the most difficult decisions we had to make was to be open and upfront about the most contentious issue in pork production – the spreading of hog manure.

Each spring, we send out cards to all our neighbours announcing that manure-spreading will soon be underway. The cards inform them that we do not spread manure on Fridays in order to reduce any odour during summer weekends. In the week before any holiday weekend, we do not spread manure at all, out of respect for our neighbours. We know how upset people can get if their barbecue or pool party is ruined by the smell of manure.

But we didn't know if sending out the cards was a good idea. What if this made things worse? We were afraid that we would stir the pot – it might start people talking and cause organized opposition to our farm.

After the first set of cards went out, we waited anxiously for the phone to ring. It did. People called to thank us for being considerate. They found it comforting to know that we understood their concerns and had taken the time to notify them of what we would be doing.

Of course, our environmental plan goes far beyond just good public relations. We take it very seriously and meet or exceed all regulations. Each spring, we have a special meeting with our staff to go over all new regulations and to ensure they understand how they must be met.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS FREE

Agricultural Equipment Repairs : tractors and implements. Call 667-7844

Equipment Rentals : post pounder, 36' hydraulic harrows. 667-7844

Custom Work: clearing, fencing. 667-7844

Beef: grass fed, no additives, farm gate sale, by the side, quarter or 50 lb. mixed package. 667-7844

Tobiano grullo paint standing at stud. 667-7844

Irrigation sales and consulting. 667-7844

FOR SALE: Farm Equipment: 30' diamond harrows and draw bar for \$800.00
9' New Holland 489 haybine \$5000.00
667-7844

Elk Meat: farm raised, all natural, no additives, cut & wrapped, 50 lb. mixed box or 25 lb. mixed box (includes kohbassa style sausage). Nutritious & delicious! Phone 668-1045

Jocelyn personally supervises the transfer of liquid manure into the spreading tanks and keeps detailed records on all facets of spreading. All wells on our 176 hectares of tillable land and the land we rent are marked with signposts so no manure is spread near them.

We pay attention to the environment because it is critical to our business success. And even more importantly, it goes to the heart of why we are in the business of farming in the first place.

For Sale : D7E Cat great condition, well maintained, low hours
Call Fred or Debbie Last at 633-3608

For Sale: Goat meat (Chevon) on the hoof or slaughtered. On the hoof price is \$100 per animal, slaughtered is \$175. Call Kate or Jim Buerge at Tagish Farms 399-7021

Do you have
something to
sell or buy? Let
us know!

You can't sell it if nobody knows
about it.

The Yukon Rodeo Association is looking for people interested in helping with this year's July rodeo. It takes a lot of volunteers to pull an event like that together. Contact Lisa Vowk if you can help at 633-4321