

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

September 2003 PLOWBOY NEWSLETTER

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

Phone (867) 668-6864 Fax (867) 393-3566 Email: vukonag@yukonaa.com

President's Message

By Doug Craig

There are many themes which could be developed and explored at this end of the agricultural year, namely the annual harvest which determines the success or otherwise, of the efforts leading up to the harvest.

A theme or topic which should be explored, as it could have a major impact on the already modest agricultural industry, is what is often referred to as captive wildlife. We can be sympathetic with the romantic image of wild, free animals, in contrast with the relatively placid closely managed livestock, largely of European origin, which forms the basis of the animal husbandry industry.

We do not have much difficulty in selecting plant species which thrive under our climate conditions. Cabbage, rhubarb and root crops thrive. Corn does not, though it can be produced with rather heroic and explosive efforts.

Something similar applies to livestock. Hereford cattle, developed in Britain, and in a more temperate climate than that of the Yukon, have been managed from the subtropical Caribbean to the cold weather extremes of -50 degree climates of Pelly Ranch. They survive in these various environments, but they thrive, rather than just survive, in the temperate climates of their origin.

We have, here in the Yukon, several species which are well adapted, through natural selection over the millennia, to thrive in our climate. The reference to "captive wildlife" or

"game ranching" are human constructs. And the management technique of shooting these animals in the hunting mode is widely, but by no means universally accepted. Many find the shooting and often just wounding of wildlife to be unacceptable. Game ranching, at its best, is simply the application of close management techniques of certain species similar to the management of species in the last several thousand years of human history in the south.

There is nothing more wild about an elk when managed than there is about a jersey cow – and some of these may be wild indeed. Bison, musk oxen and caribou are already adapted to this climate. Caribou are remarkably well adapted, by a number of physiological characteristics, such as allowing their extremities to cool below body temperature, thus saving energy which would otherwise be dissipated warming these extremities. As a contrast, Brahma Cattle have heat dissipating mechanisms so that they do not overheat in their favorite habitat, the tropics.

It makes about as much sense to struggle raising European cattle, often to the detriment of indigenous species; as it does to desperately try to raise corn when there are nutritious plants which will thrive under our climatic conditions, such as cabbages.

If the information is correct, the Lapps or Soami people of Northern Finland switched from their traditional husbandry of reindeer to go modern with European races of cattle. This was not a success, as energy demands were too great. Food used to keep an animal warm is food not available for building protein. They went back to reindeer husbandry with modern techniques

and equipment – such as snowmobiles and bush bikes, and have been highly successful. We perhaps could learn something from them.

Mayo General Meeting

On August 31st Ralph and Norma Mease hosted a YAA General Meeting which coincided with the annual fall pig roast. Approximately 20 people attended, the food was delicious, and a good time was had by all.

Discussion at the meeting centered around the upcoming agriculture policy review process, and a motion was made that the YAA form a steering committee to develop a draft policy along with technical support staff from Energy, Mines and Resources Department that could be used as a template by government.

Debbie reported that the Klondyke Harvest Fair made a profit this year of \$12,000+. This will be put towards covering the shortfall for the office, paying down money we owe the YTG and also helping get director's insurance.

Debbie also gave an office update which is covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

The topic of fund raising was also covered. Debbie has come up with a great idea to put together a YAA cookbook. Everyone was in favour of this money-maker. We look forward to your best recipes coming in!

This year the YAA will team up with 4-H to run the Silent Auction at the November Agricultural Symposium Banquet. We'll be needing donations from members for the Silent Auction. The banquet date this year is November 1st.

Talk was also made of holding a raffle at Christmas, stay tuned to hear more on this at a later date.

It was suggested that a conferencing system be put in place for future YAA general meetings, so that outlying areas could be more involved. Ralph suggested having a speaker phone in place in each community, such as Mayo and Dawson, where members could meet and then communicate with Whitehorse where there also would be a speaker phone setup. Debbie will look into this for Whitehorse, hopefully Ralph will follow up for Mayo. Perhaps someone in Dawson could volunteer to follow up there. Watson Lake should also be represented.

The next general meeting will be in Whitehorse on October 15 at the TC Richards Building downstairs meeting room at 7:30 pm.

Saving Canada's water: Wendy R. Holmes, an agrologist, who works with the Canadian organization "Farmer to Farmer" has asked for our help in this cause.

A motion was made and passed to support Wendy Holmes and the "Farmer to Farmer" organization in protecting the sovereignty of Canada's water. To show support the YAA has donated \$10 .

(Note on the water issue: As the United States becomes increasingly "water poor" and drought-stricken, pressure is being brought to bear on Canada to allow major diversion and/or shipping of its natural resource to the south. The U.S. is presently trying to fast-track this through the World Trade talks and under the auspices of Free Trade.)

Office Update

By Debbie Throssell

I hope everyone has had a very enjoyable summer. I have been quite busy with the coordinating of the Klondyke Harvest Fair, and now that it is over, I am already thinking of changes for next year. Next year will be the 10th Annual, and we can make it quite an event. I

am still in the thinking stages, so will let you know about them later.

Our general meeting for the YAA was held August 31st, 2003 at Minto Bridge Farm, owned by Ralph and Norma Mease. I would like to thank them for the lovely pig roast dinner provided after the meeting for everyone. It was great.

Membership of the YAA is now at 88. We have new programs to offer, such as the fertilizer program and the transportation incentive for red meat. As we grow, we will look for other programs the membership would like to see happen. Let us know if you have a special program in mind.

We have submitted a proposal to government for the development of a calendar. We would need to have this in print by mid-October. The calendar will feature food safety tips, so please email them by October 10th to yukonag@yukonaa.com or fax us at (867)393-3566.

As part of the Canadian Agriculture and Food Celebration week, I am in the process of planning for World Food Day on Thursday, October 16th, 2003. We will be situated in the Elijah Smith Building from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Anyone with produce available to showcase would be welcome to come and join us and talk to the public.

Gardens are being picked and canning is on the forefront of a lot of people's minds. Our peas are almost done, with beets and carrots still being picked. Our potatoes are a little on the small side. How did everyone else's do? If you have any extra's that you want to sell, let Barb know for the next newsletter and she will put in the classifieds for you.

I will be away from September 18th until October 6th, 2003. I will have someone coming

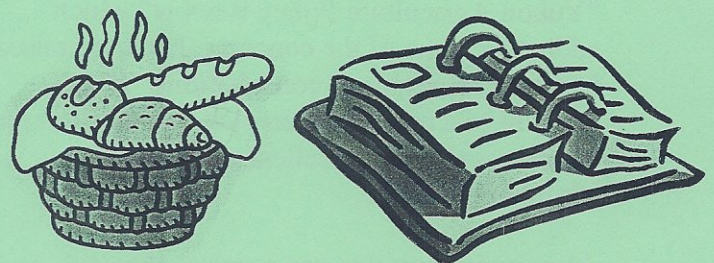
into the office to check the messages and pass them on to the appropriate people. UK, here I come.

Red Meat Producers

Do you want to use the abattoir? Please be advised that due to the recent BSE concerns, Federal regulations require shipping ear tags on your animals if you are taking your meat to the abattoir. If you need them or information about the program, call the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency at 1-877-909-BEEF. They are simple to order from UFA in Alberta, and come in lots as small as 25. They can always be used for next year too.

FUND RAISINGA YAA Cookbook!!!

At the General Meeting in Mayo, we discussed having a cookbook made up from the YAA. The title we came up with is "**Yukon Farmers Delights**". We would like to gather recipes from all the farmers in the Yukon to put in the book. Submit recipes with your name to the YAA office. We would like to have this available in the spring. The book would be a good seller to travelers going through the Yukon and wanting to take a bit of it home with them. Input and ideas can be submitted to the office, we'd love to hear from you. Phone: (867) 668-6864 or email us at yukonag@yukonaa.com



CARD meeting September 7th

A major CARD meeting was held in Whitehorse September 7th at the Gold Rush Inn. The morning session was for the CARD committee, and the afternoon session gave interested

industry representatives a chance to discuss and give input on the "future face" of CARD III.

Agriculture Policy Review

By Barbara Drury

As many of you are aware, the government is conducting a review of the agriculture policy over the next few months, and is asking for your comments and recommendations. Some of us remember the review that was conducted in 1999, when both the YAA and the government went around the Yukon gathering information, comments and suggestions from farmers and others regarding the agriculture policy. We thought that 2000 would see a new draft come out based on that consultation, but that never happened. Now it seems that the whole process needs to happen again...what happened to all that 1999 data and consultation?

To put a good spin on this though, we can look at it as another opportunity to give our input and make the new and revised agriculture policy a document that we all feel reflects our current concerns and issues.

So, if you have concerns about the present agriculture policy, and would like to see it changed or modified, make sure that your views get to the Agriculture Branch by October 10, 2003. The Branch sent out a "blue paper" titled "Yukon Agriculture Policy Review" which addresses some of the concerns that were raised in recent reviews and consultations. If you don't have a copy you can pick one up from the Branch, and its an excellent guideline to stimulate thought.

Also, make sure that you come to the next general meeting of the YAA so that your concerns can become the YAA's concerns. There IS strength in association, and there IS value in working together.

Next YAA General Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th

7:30 pm

TC Richards Boardroom

Are you a CANADIAN YOUNG FARMER?

Are you between the age of 18 – 40? The Canadian Young Farmers group would like to know how many young farmers are in the Yukon and how many would be interested in forming a Canadian Young Farmer's group in the Yukon.

People between the ages of 18 to 40 are encouraged to reply. Canadian Young Farmer's is having a **forum in Regina in November 25 - 28** and would like to showcase some new Young Farmer's from the Yukon.

The group would have access to ongoing support and resources available to them, through the Yukon Agricultural Association.

Interested parties can respond by contacting the Yukon Agricultural Association at (867) 668-6864 or yukonag@yukonaa.com, Matthew Ball at matthew.ball@gov.yk.ca, or Gordon Kerr at gord@klondikeforge.ca



Red Meat Transportation Incentive

By Barbara Drury

Dave Andrew and myself had several meetings with members of the Agriculture branch over the summer months to discuss and fine-tune a red meat transportation incentive as a follow-up

to the "Use of the Partridge Creek Abattoir by southern Yukon red meat producers" report which was completed June 4, 2003.

The Agriculture Branch, with the encouragement of Minister Archie Lang, has agreed to develop a policy/program for all red and white meats which will cover the use of the abattoir for the next 4 years (remaining term of the APF agreement.) The Branch has allocated the next 8-10 months to work out the full details of this program.

However, to cover the immediate future, the Branch has agreed to the following to be in place for the fall of 2003 and which will apply only to beef producers:

- Interim program will be administered and delivered by the YAA
- YAA will receive 10% of the total agreement value for administration purposes
- **The Producer will get .20 cents a lb. based on hot carcass weight (weights to be taken from weigh bills from abattoir) ie. if the hot carcass weight is 600 lbs x .20 = \$120**
- **There will also be a backhaul rate (to be announced)**
- The YAA is responsible to contact beef producers, advertise the program, & negotiate back haul contracts with a local trucking company (if required)

If you are a beef producer and wish to take part in this incentive you need to do the following:

- Contact the YAA office and let Debbie know you wish to participate (if Debbie is away on holiday you can call Barbara Drury)
- Make sure you are a YAA member in good standing
- Contact John or Del Buerge at Partridge Creek and arrange a slaughter date

- Order your shipping tags as all cattle moved and slaughtered at an abattoir must now have (according to Federal regulations) shipping tags.

(For more information on shipping tags please refer to "Office Update" by Debbie Throssell).

As a beef producer I would like to thank Minister Lang and Dave Beckman, Tony Hill, Kevin Bowers and Don Hutton from the Branch for working with us and moving forward with this initiative in such an expedient manner in order to accommodate the fall slaughter.



Note on the game farmed animal slaughter:

Unfortunately at this time the Partridge Creek abattoir is not set up with the infrastructure necessary to slaughter game farm animals. John Buerge is unsure at this point whether he would like to expand in this direction or not. We will have to revisit this idea in 2004.

Reminder:

Debbie Throssell will be away from the office on holiday from September 18 to October 6th. In her absence call :
Doug Craig, President 668-5774
Dave Andrew, Vice-President 667-7844
Bill Drury, Secretary-Treasurer 668-1045

Canada World Youth Farm Tour

By Barbara Drury

A group of 22 young people came and had a tour of our farm, Circle D Ranch, on September 3rd. Eleven were from Uruguay, and eleven were from all over Canada.

They were very interested to see the beef cattle, the loafing sheds, have a walk around the hay fields and see the beaver dam network which joins one of our hay fields. The Uruguay students asked me whether we

ate all (the parts of) our beef cattle. After I told them that we eat the liver, tongue, heart and kidneys and usually give the gut pile to dog mushers they told me that in Uruguay they eat EVERYTHING, including the eyeballs and brains. Because of the language barrier I didn't go into an in-depth discussion of BSE, but I must admit it crossed my mind.

It was quite enjoyable to host this energetic and lively group, and always rewarding to exchange ideas and the different way we do things around the world.

Game Farm hosts Mormon Elders to tour

The Nowlans hosted a group of Mormon Elders to a tour of the game farm. This was very much appreciated by this group, who had been very helpful during the Klondyke Harvest Fair with setup and security.

2004 YAA Calendar!!!

Our YAA Calendar is going to print on October 15th.

It will feature Yukon farms/farmers/ and their crops and animals from all over the territory.

We have a number of good quality slides to take images from, but if you have any outstanding images which are in either slide, negative, or digital format please submit them to the office no later than **October 10th**.

We also need food safety tips for the calendar.

The calendar will be printed and ready by November 1st. It will be free!

The costs of the calendar are sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Agriculture Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.



2003 Klondyke Harvest Fair Results

BEST GARDEN COMPETITION

Best Greenhouse

- 1st – Kate Buerge
- 2nd – Rose Berndt
- 3rd – Barbara Drury

Best Home Grounds

- 1st – Doug Phillips
- 2nd – Isaak
- 3rd – Bev Wheldon

Best Vegetable Gardens

- 1st – David & Jane Wiebe
- 2nd – Barbara Drury
- 3rd – Kathy Pritchard

BENCH SHOW WINNERS

GRAND AGGREGATE

SENIOR

- 1. **Joe McGillivray**
- 2. **Rose Berndt**
- 3. **David and Jane Wiebe**

JUNIOR

- 1. **Wesley Walker**
- 2. **Jody McGillivray**

SECTION 1 VEGETABLES

SENIOR (sponsored by Food Fair)
Roy Ness

JUNIOR (sponsored by Helping Hand Recycle)
Two Way Tie: Karlie Knight and Lusie Stetkiewicz

SECTION 2 FLOWERS

SENIOR (sponsored by Northern Elegance)
Joe McGillivray

JUNIOR (sponsored by Lubbock Valley
Flowers and Agriculture Branch)

Three way tie: Wesley Walker, Erin McGillivray, Annette Kitchen

SECTION 3 FARM PRODUCE

SENIOR (sponsored by Downtown Urban Gardeners)

1. OTHER – (Non Field Crops)

Joe McGillivray

2. AGGREGATE

Joe McGillivray

SECTION 4 TRADITIONAL NATIVE CRAFTS

SENIOR (sponsored Council of Yukon First Nations) Rhoda Gribben

SECTION 5 PRESERVED FOODS

SENIOR (sponsored by Super A Foods) Simone Rudge

SECTION 6 HOME BAKING

SENIOR (sponsored by Yukon Meat and Sausage) Sherrie Walker

JUNIOR (sponsored by Yukon Meat and Sausage) Westley Walker

SECTION 7 QUILTING

SENIOR (sponsored by Bear's Paw Quilts) Karen Berrel

SECTION 8 KNITTING

SENIOR (sponsored by Folkknits) Ellie Settle

SECTION 9 NEEDLEWORK

SENIOR (sponsored by A Country Affair) BEST OF SHOW Marilyn Whiting

ORIGINAL DESIGN SENIOR

Marilyn Whiting

SECTION 10- NEEDLEWORK

SENIOR (sponsored by Debbie Throssell) Ellie Settle

SECTION 11 HOME MADE WINE

SENIOR (sponsored by Wines by Design) Randy Lamb

SECTION 12 SPECIAL CONTEST

A. BEST LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY EXHIBIT

SENIOR (sponsored by Lewes River Farms) Jim Dillabough

JUNIOR (sponsored by Lewes River Farms) Clare Rudge

B. PET COSTUMES

JUNIOR (sponsored by Jensen's Western Store) Teresa Desjardins

C. RECYCLED CREATIONS

SENIOR (sponsored by Raven Recycling) Kathy Pritchard

JUNIOR (sponsored by Raven Recycling) Teresa Desjardins

D. SCARECROW COMPETITION

SENIOR (sponsored by Lubbock Valley Flowers) McGillivray family

JUNIOR (sponsored by Lubbock Valley Flowers) Teresa Desjardins

**All of us in the YAA would like to thank Debbie Throssell for all her hard work and excellent job she did this year coordinating the Klondyke Harvest Fair !!!
Way to go Debbie!
(We hope you have a good holiday in England and come back well rested!)**



A Special "Thank You" to all the volunteers who helped make the Klondyke Harvest Fair such a success! We can't do it without you! The September 3rd KHF Potluck & Volunteer Appreciation night was a lot of fun, and it was a great way to share ideas about how to make the fair even better next year. Some of the volunteers said how much fun they had at the fair, even though they worked all day! Some spoke of making new friendships, and meeting new people. All plan on being there again next year!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Below is an actual letter sent to a bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire salary, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$50 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, prerecorded faceless entity which your bank has become.

>From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will, therefore and hereafter, no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. Press buttons as follows:

- 1.- To make an appointment to see me.
- 2.- To query a missing payment.
- 3.- To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4.- To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5.- To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6.- To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7.- To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated at a later date to the authorized contact.
- 8.- To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
- 9.- To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever-so-slightly less prosperous day,
Your Humble Client
Judy