

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

March 2004 PLOWBOY NEWSLETTER

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

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

President's Message

By Doug Craig

This column of the newsletter is intended to provide reasons for belonging to the Yukon Agricultural Association, if you are involved in agriculture/livestock activity. If you are part of the organization you may be able to shape it in ways which conform to your thinking of what it should be. If one is outside the organization, there is not that opportunity. Further, there are opportunities to contribute an effort on the Klondyke Harvest Fair, Trade Show and other activities.

Much of the income to keep the YAA functioning is necessarily provided by one arm or another of the government, the Agriculture Branch of the Territorial Government and the CARD (Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development) program of the Federal Government. Both contribute significantly. The CARD funds and program end with this financial year March 31st of 2004. When costs of the association for the year are added up and taken to a single number, it seems excessive. However, maintaining an office with an office manager provides the glue to keep the agricultural society of the whole territory more or less together. The last two meetings of the executive were done by conference call. With office manager Debbie Throssell's good management, both these meetings went smoothly and probably had better attendance than if we had tried to assemble for the meeting.

The Agriculture Transition Fund (ATF) is intended to provide services to all farmers, not to just a few individuals. We would welcome

suggestions which have the characteristics of being worthwhile and spanning as much of the agricultural scene as possible.

Office Update

By Debbie Throssell

Springtime is just around the corner, and with all this snow melting it is almost time to start those seeds to get ready for planting. Has anyone thought about growing the largest pumpkin this year? Or what about the largest tomato? I heard the tomato that won last year was 3lbs. 1oz.!!! What a tomato!! Who will win this year?

We are already planning for the 10th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair. The park is booked for August 21st and 22nd, 2004. This year we are approaching youth groups to have the games. We seem to have a lot of interest from the youth. Have people thought about entries for the Fair this year? If all goes well, there will be a special prize for the Grand Aggregate this year. I will let you know later.

The Master Gardener Course is almost at an end. I've found it very interesting and encourage others to take it as well. Even though you think you know a lot, there is always a little tid bit or two that can improve your garden immensely. Thank-you to the Ag Branch for putting on such an intense course for Northern Gardeners.

I would like to welcome Hope Snider, YAA Office Assistant, who began working with us on

March 1, 2004. She will be with us for the next six months and helping with the KHF. Come in and say hi.

Canadian Young Farmers had a conference in Ottawa the last week of February. We had two delegates participating, Dalyce Stubenberg from Watson Lake and Joan Norberg from Whitehorse. They will be bringing back lots of information for other young farmers. We will try to get together with everyone later in the year, (and hopefully they will provide an update for the next newsletter on what they learned in Ottawa!)

I wish everyone good luck with their gardens this year.

Bylaw Change

By Debbie Throssell

At the YAA's Annual General meeting March 27 a special resolution is being put forward to change the Bylaws.

The first change is to expand membership for representation to include three new Director-at-Large positions on the Board of Directors. This change will bring in groups such as "the Independents" who are not registered as a Yukon Society, but represent a specific group who are also working towards better agriculture practices in the Yukon. With this in place, our membership will grow.

The next change will better represent our regionality of the Yukon. At present we have 3 Directors from the northern region, 3 from the central region, and 3 from the southern region on our board of directors. The proposed change will eliminate the northern, central and south delineation, but will instead call for 1 Director from Dawson, 1 from Mayo/Stewart area, 1 from Faro/Carmacks, 1 from Haines Junction/Destruction Bay, 1 from Watson Lake

and 1 from the greater Whitehorse area (as well as the Directors-at-Large).

The other change is to remove specific references to the Yukon CARD Fund and the YAA CARD Committee in Part 16 of the Bylaws because the CARD program is ending as of March of this year, and a new program is being introduced. The program may be called Advancing Canadian Agriculture. Agri-Food have it structured a bit differently than CARD. The changes are to incorporate the new programming.

So, come to the AGM to keep up with the changes in the YAA Bylaws.

Adieu, Adieu

I would like to take this opportunity to give Barbara Drury a **BIG** Thank-you, for all of her time and effort with the Newsletter. Barbara has been doing the newsletter for the last eighteen months.

This is the last newsletter, at this time, that Barbara will be doing. All submissions, from now on, will be to the office.

We wish Barbara well in her endeavours and every success.

Excellence 2004 Conference

By Debbie Throssell

The Excellence 2004 Conference that I attended in Ontario in February was a great success. I found the conference very informative and have come back with lots of new ideas to pass on to everyone. Keep your eye on future newsletters for additional updates for conference.

The first day was Farm tours in St. Catherines, Ontario. We visited a sheep farm, where they shorn the sheep, using the shorings to make wool that was used for weaving and the knitting of garments. Afterwards, we visited a large commercial greenhouse that grew bedding plants for florists in Canada and the United States. They imported their pots from a company in China and designed new floral arrangements every year. They were already starting on next years Valentines Day arrangements. After lunch, we visited a winery that had 68 acres in grape production. They are relatively new, having started in 1995. Their wine crop was poor in 2001, and a bit better in 2002. The cold weather has been killing their vines, so they are looking to replace them with hardier vines. Each vine should have a life span of 20 years. We then went on to visit a maple farm, where they have over 200 trees tapped for maple syrup. Each tree has approximately 4 taps on it. Many products are made on the farm, including maple syrup, fudge and barbecue sauce to sell to the public. A restaurant makes pancakes for people to try products before buying them.

Pictures will be available in the office, as soon as they are developed. Come in and see them.

The Yukon Agricultural Association's

Annual General Meeting

Will be **March 27th**, 2004 at the

Riverview Hotel

From 10 am – 2 pm

Lunch will be provided if you RSVP

Come out, become involved and help shape the
Future!

Assessment of a Red-Meat Mobile Abattoir and a White-meat Mobile Abattoir

By Barbara Drury

An assessment of a red and white meat mobile abattoir to service the Yukon is presently being undertaken. The needs of beef producers, game farmers and poultry producers to provide meat for a year-round market are being addressed in this study. The present abattoir facility at Partridge Creek works admirably for beef and poultry producers, but only for one month of the year (October). It does not work at all for game farmers.

Producers know that for the meat market to expand, inspected year-round capability for slaughter is necessary.

This results of this study should be complete by late spring.

Local farmer named to Fish and Wildlife Management Board

By Barbara Drury

Local farmer Shirley Ford was appointed by the Yukon government to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board in February, 2004. We wish to congratulate her on this appointment, as she brings many years experience and valued insight into game farming to give greater information and balance to this board. She has also ably served as Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust for some years, a position she recently left.

Upcoming Circumpolar Conference in Sweden

By Barbara Drury

It seems far away, but the upcoming Circumpolar Agriculture Conference in Umea, Sweden coming up September 27-30, 2004 is closer than you think! Now is the time to find

out more, and plan whether you want to go. Debbie in the office at 668-6864 can fill you in on details.

Agriculture Transition Funds (ATF)

By Barbara Drury

The YAA Executive (Doug Craig, Dave Andrew and Bill Drury) have been working hard the past several months on acquiring the ATF funds that were promised by the federal government earlier in 2003. The “path to money” never did run smooth (to paraphrase Shakespeare) and they have had difficulty in wrestling these funds out of the feds. Hopefully they will have success in this before the end of the March 31st fiscal year.

CFBMC's Farm Management Seminar

By Debbie Throssell

The **Canadian Farm Business Management Council** invites you to participate in a free farm management seminar! This is a web-based seminar. To participate, you are required to have a web connection and a telephone to listen in. There is no charge for the Web-based seminar. Since there is a limited number of participants, please register as soon as possible.

Developing value-added by-products from your core crop or livestock: Monday, March 22, 2004 at 1:00 pm, Eastern time, (10:00 am, Pacific Standard time)

Renowned agricultural expert David Kohl of Virginia Tech presents invaluable insights on the pros and cons of diversifying your offerings. Dr. Kohl is known all over North America for his expertise and innovation in agricultural practices.

To register for Dr. Kohl's event, please send an email to:

register4@farmcentre.com

To prepare for the event in the Virtual Classroom, go to the HP Virtual Classroom Web Site and conduct a test on your system.

This simple one time check of your PC can be done by using this link: <https://www.hpe-learning.com/testsetup>, and follow the instructions. We recommend that you perform this well in advance of the event. If you experience any difficulties at any time, you can contact the HPVC Support line at 1-888-351-4732 with any questions or to request assistance.

Recipe of the Month

By Barbara Drury

The following is a great winter recipe, from the Lighthearted Cookbook by Anne Lindsay.

Cabbage and Potato Pie

1 lb. cabbage or mixture of collard greens, kale
4 medium potatoes, peeled & quartered
¼ cup skim milk

1 Tab. Butter

Pepper and Paprika

Trim cabbage leaves or stems from collards or kale. In a large pot of boiling water, cover and cook cabbage/collards for 5-10 minutes, or until tender. Drain thoroughly ; chop coarsely and set aside.

In saucepan of boiling water, cook potatoes until tender; drain. Mash potatoes with milk, butter & pepper to taste.

Cream Sauce:

1 ½ Tab. Butter

1 medium onion, chopped

1 Tab. Flour

1 cup skim milk

Salt, pepper and nutmeg

Melt butter, add onion and cook for 3-5 min. or until tender. Stir in flour and mix well ; add milk and cook, stirring, for 3 –5 min. or until mixture comes to simmer and has thickened. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste.

Mix sauce with cabbage ; spoon into 4 cup/1L baking dish. Cook evenly with mashed potatoes sprinkle lightly with paprika. Bake in 350 oven for 20 – 30 minutes or until heated through. Makes 4 servings. Delicious!