

The Plowboy Newsletter, May/June

Yukon Agricultural Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Le Cheval Canadian or the Canadian horse has had a long important and little publicized role in Canadian History. The "Little Iron Horse" we know today is the product of three factors. First, Louis XIV shipped from the royal stables of France, some of the best horses originally delivered from oriental horses, from the Turkish Empire, Barb horses from Spain and Arabs.

These were shipped to New France (Quebec). The date associated with a breeding population is 1665 when 10 mares and two stallions arrived. In 1667 and 1670 some 27 more arrived at Quebec City and from this modest start, a hardy and distinct breed emerged. The second factor was that the isolation of the colony of Quebec meant isolation for the horses as well. For a century and a half these animals multiplied without additional breeding stock. The third factor was the hardships the animals endured – of bitter weather and meager rations. The result was a reduction in size, mostly 14 – 15 hands, and an increase in hardiness. The Canadian is noted for remarkable endurance, toughness and versatility. They were used as saddle, carriage and cutter horses as well as being indispensable in clearing land, cultivation and hauling.

They were recorded as trotting from Montreal to Quebec City (185 miles) stopping only when their riders or drivers needed a break. Being splendid Calvary horses was almost their undoing as thousands were shipped to the United States as mounts for the Union Calvary during the Civil War in

the 1860's. Next came the Boer War of 1899-1901 and these tough little horses were the mounts of a Canadian Calvary regiment which went to South Africa. None returned to Canada.

Next came the First World War and thousands more Canadians left their homeland, never to return. The final blow to the population came with the replacement of horses by tractors on the farm and carriage by motor vehicles of all types. The low point in the population of the Canadian horse came in 1977 when the number of registered Canadians went as low as 300 to 400 animals, from a high 150,000 in the mid 1800's of recognizable Canadians.

The interest of individuals came to the rescue of this uniquely Canadian breed from extinction. Initially restricted to Quebec, there are now Canadians throughout Canada, some 3000 to 4000 in all. They can be seen in Upper Canada Village near Ottawa, and on TV in the Anne of Green Gables series.

Finally, the Canadian horse, over the past year has arrived in the Yukon, three to our knowledge, with their distinctive characteristics and will be described in the next newsletter.

Doug Craig.

10th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair Date Change

The Fair will be August 21st
and 22nd this year. Come
and help us celebrate
our anniversary year.

From the Office:

Spring seems to be coming in like a lion, one day is beautiful sunshine and the next day is snow!! The plants being started must be in shock by the weather changes. So, good luck to everyone this year with all those new plants.

I have been very busy in the office lately. My first office assistant left at the end of March. However, I was able to get another Office Assistant for the last week of April. Bridgette Forbes is working in the office and is a great help. Come in and say hi.

We have been keeping busy with the preparation of the Trade Show and getting the newsletter ready to go. We have many plans on the horizon.

The 10th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair Booklet is ready to go out to the public. Thanks to the KHF Committee, we have made a few minor changes. To celebrate our anniversary year, we have a sponsorship for a Grand Aggregate prize of tickets for two, from Zip Airline, to go anywhere they fly. So, come and put in those entries this year. Maybe you could be the winner.

APF TRANSITION UPDATE:

The APF Committee has been working hard to get their projects begun and to work on the procedure needed for accessing the money from Ottawa.

With the Allocation of another \$81,000 that was unexpected, if you have any ideas for projects in mind, contact your representative, to get it moved forward. Representatives are as follows:

Dave Andrew - YAA

Bill Drury - YAA

Wayne Grove - Yukon Game

Growers

Shiela Alexandrovich - GOOFY

Art Hutchison - Independents.

Don't get left out, call your representative

today and let them know your ideas of what you would like to see being done in the agriculture world to forge ahead.

The 10th Annual Klondyke Harvest

Fair: is quickly approaching. Some new highlights to look forward to: we have a Grand Aggregate Sponser from Zip Airline, two tickets anywhere they fly. So get your entries in and you may be able to win the trip to wherever you want to go!!!

Also this year, we have a new Photography Category. We have five sections that can be entered. Get those pictures out and enter them in the Fair.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to help during the Fair, give us a call in the office. We would love to hear from you.

Fertilizer Storage Bin Project:

The YAA has asked the CARD Committee to assist us with getting Fertilizer Storage bins for Mayo, by extending our original proposal. This has been approved by the CARD Committee, to further the Fertilizer Bin Project. People from Dawson will be able to access the bins for their use as well. We would like to thank the CARD Committee for extending our proposal to include the Northern region. Anyone wanting Fertilizer in Mayo or Dawson, contact Jack Smith at (867) 996-2273.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We would like to congratulate Dave Andrew, for his unfledging dedication to the Yukon Agricultural Association.

Dave has been instrumental in watch dogging the Government to make sure the Agricultural Community gets input into the new Agriculture and Grazing Policy prior to its going before Cabinet. He has forged forward with ideas to get groups to work together be revisiting the Yukon Exhibition & Fair Grounds. To get results, he has put in a proposal to Larc to apply for land to develop for all agriculture groups to have access. He has been diligent in getting the Government to work with Industry, through the Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement, in a joint effort to find projects that will benefit all of Agriculture in the Yukon.

Although Dave is a volunteer, he has made the YAA his focal point in contributing his skills, enthusiasm and determination to our society's efforts. We are very fortunate to have him for a volunteer and to nominate him for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Congratulations, Dave!!!!

25th Anniversary Lion's Trade Show April 30th, May 1st & 2nd, 2004

A booth was set up at the Trade Show for the weekend. Jim Dillabough brought in many of his animals that were enjoyed by all, young and old. One of the highlights was a little kid goat that was all black and very friendly. A one month old calf was a hit with the kids, who wanted to learn how to be bronco busters.

Many people stopped by to say hi and to chat. Adorna donated a herb pot for our "Guess how many potatoes in the jar?" contest. The winner of the Herb pot is Sara-Lee. We also had some Frazer's Gift Certificates that were won by Jesse Bouchard and Sammy Steele. There were 101 potatoes in the jar.

We had the 10th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair Booklet and some other agricultural information for people to help themselves to. The weather held up, only raining Saturday evening after the Trade Show came to an end.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who stopped by and stayed at our table at the Trade Show. It was great to see everyone.

CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

Is being held in Umea, Sweden from September 27th to the 30th, 2004. The title of the conference is "The Role of Agriculture in a Sustainable Society in the North". The two main themes will be the role of agriculture in achieving ecologically sustainable resource management in the North and the role of agriculture for rural development and a sustainable rural economy.

The Agriculture branch is working on setting up a funding program to provide a level of assistance for participants to attend the conference.

Eligible participants could include agriculture producers, processors, youth and students, service providers, governments and non-profit organizations. Eligible activities may include presentation preparations, travel, poster presentations, information gathering, network development, youth development or other activities that contribute to the development of circumpolar agriculture. Proposals for attendance should contain an outline of benefits to Yukon Agriculture and contain an information dissemination plan outlining how you plan to share your knowledge with other members of

the agriculture industry.

The Agriculture Branch will provide more information and details once the final funding level(s) and selection criteria have been worked out. They will, in the mean time, accept expressions of interest from people wishing to attend. Watch for details in upcoming newspaper advertisements, branch brochures and newsletters.



IMAGES OF A MOTHER:

4 years old - My mommy can do anything!!

8 years old - My mom know a lot! A whole lot.

12 years old - My mother doesn't really know that, either.

16 years old- Mother, she is hopelessly old fashioned.

18 years old - Than old woman? She's out of date.

25 years old - Well, she might know a little bit about it?

35 years old - Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 years old - Wonder what Mom might have thought about it?

65 years old - Wish I could talk it over with Mom...

Happy Mother's Day to all Mother's!!!

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

Workshop from Excellence 2004

Consumer's confidence is playing a major role in the foods we eat. They want to know how their food is grown and where it comes from. The "Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition" states that Canada will be the number one producer of foods in years to come. To date, there are three committees involved in helping to design a new policy for rules regarding the foods we eat. One of them is the Canadian Food Safety Adaptation Program. This will impact the farmer by having 3rd party audits having to be performed on their farms. Other groups involved in the policy making is "Fight Bac", who have been around for about 5 years and are responsible for getting basic messages to consumers and help to design curriculum in the schools for food related programming. "PETA" is also involved (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

A very interesting trend we are seeing is that Beef sales are up since the BSE scare. It is believed that the Canadian consumer is very confident in how their food is grown in Canada.

A program available to farmers is the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point). The program assists with minimizing the risk of consumable products. The program will apply to all resale products and will be a mandatory program for farms wishing to enter the retail markets. A note for Farmers, "Use this as an investment on your Farm."

The Canadian Farm Management Business Council is in the process of developing a publication for farmers on Value Added Diversification. Watch in the near future for this new publication.

25TH ANNIVERSARY
2004 Annual Summer Horse
Show
July 16th, 17th and 18th

This year the Yukon Horse and Rider Association is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Annual Summer Horse Show on July 16th, 17th and 18th. The show takes place at the show grounds in Porter Creek (on Range road near the Mountainview Golf Course). Riders of all ages and abilities look forward to this well organized three day annual event to demonstrate their horsemanship skills and have fun. The show has grown from less than 20 classes in 1979 to 92 classes in 2004. Exhibitors come from many other Yukon communities as well as Atlin, Juneau, Skagway and Haines.

There is no admission charge to this event and spectators (local residents and tourists) are encouraged to spend some time watching the various classes and visiting with very enthusiastic horse people.

Show Books with class lists will be available from local feed stores and the veterinary clinics.

The Annual Summer Horse Show would not be possible without a great deal of support from many volunteers and generous local sponsors. Why not drop by and enjoy a few of these colorful events!

For more information, please contact Tena Fox, Show Manager, at 633-4901.

Schedule of Events

Friday July 16th

10:00 a.m. Halter Classes
 12:00 noon Lunch Break (Concession Available)
 1:00 p.m. Dressage

Saturday July 17th

8:30 a.m. English and Jumping
 12:00 noon Lunch Break (Concession Available)
 1:00p.m. English and Jumping

Sunday July 18th

8:15 a.m. Western - Trail Horse, Stock Seat, Pleasure, Horsemanship, Reining
 12:00 noon Lunch Break (Concession Available)
 1:00 p.m. Gymkhana - Games on Horseback - Fun for Participants and Spectators!

Yukon Horse & Rider Association
Box 31482
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6K8

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Lambs-quarter Quiche

As the weeds come out, try this:

- 1 medium onion
- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 4 cups chopped lambs-quarter, or fresh spinach
- 3 eggs
- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- ½ tsp. Salt
- ½ tsp. Pepper
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)

In a skillet sauté onion in oil until tender. Add lamb's quarters; cook and stir until wilted. Cover and remove from heat. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs and milk. Stir in salt and pepper, 1 cup cheese and lamb's quarter mixture. Pour into pie shell. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 400 degrees F. for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 F. bake 30 minutes more or until knife comes out clean. Let stand 5 - 10 minutes before cutting. Yield: 6 - 8 servings.

CUSTOM LAND CLEARING

Summer and Winter
Phone: (867) 667-7844

Yukon Horses For Sale:

2 yr old paint gelding/percheron cross

3 yr old Morgan Belgian cross gelding

4 yr old percheron cross mare

5 yr old morgan/percheron mare

8 yr old palomino gelding

12 yr old buckskin paint stud

4 yr old grey morgan/qh cross

Phone: (867) 667-7844

WANTED: Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations is looking for donations of a small tractor or other hand tools for their Stevia project this year. Anyone interested in donating, give Dawn Charlie a call at (867)863-5576.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

DONKEY LOGIC:

Farmer Jones bought a donkey, but he couldn't get the donkey into his barn because its ears would hit the top of the door, at which point the donkey would stop and refuse to go any further.

Not to be outdone, Farmer Jones carefully cut out two big notches above the door so the donkey's ears could pass through. A neighbor who'd been watching all these going-on asked Farmer Jones why he didn't just dig a trench in the dirt floor instead.

"Because," replied Farmer Jones, "it wasn't his feet that were the problem-it was his ears."

DEJA MOO: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

COMING EVENTS:

Master Gardener's Meeting & Plant Exchange

Saturday, May 15th, 2004, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, at the Community Garden at 7th & Rae. Bring your seeds, starter plants for the garden or any house plants you might like to trade. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

Saturday, May 22nd, 2004, at 7:00 pm. at Yukon College. Toni Hill will be giving a pruning workshop. Pruning starts at 7:00 pm. Dress warm.



FARMER'S MARKET:

Are being held on the corner of the Mayo and Tahkini Hot Springs road, every Saturday, starting May 15th, 2004, from 10:00 am. - 2:00 pm. Come and see all the Yukon grown produce.

Alpine Bakery will be holding a Farmer's Market at the Bakery on Fridays from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Bring in your fresh produce and sell it to the public. (preferably organic)