

# The Plowboy Newsletter

## September/October, 2004

Yukon Agricultural Association  
203-302 Steele Street, Whitehorse Yukon Y1A 2C5  
Phone: 867-668-6864. Email: admin@yukonag.ca

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

The following remarks are intended to present to the reader something of the promise and limitations of agriculture in the Yukon. Roughly, the conversational answer to the question, "What's farming like up there?" is intended. Being part of the Cordilleran system of mountains, drastically limits the formation of soils. An estimate of less than 2% of the Yukon's total area of 480,000 square kilometers had the favorable geography, climate and soils to be favorable for agriculture development. Most agricultural activity is on river sediments, within the major river valleys. In the Tahkini and Dezadeash valleys typical agricultural soils are formed on a substrate of silts and clays of Glacial Lake Champagne. Soil compositions are characterized by a lack of nitrogen and commonly phosphorous, with potassium and sulphur, dependant on local geology. Frost free season is short, the average being 93 days in Watson Lake and 21 days at Haines Junction. Precipitation ranges from about 20 cm west of Whitehorse to 40 cm at Watson Lake, bearing in mind that about half falls as snow, with much of this sublimating in the spring, rather than melting and being available to plants. Southwest Yukon is subject to droughts between April and July. Realistically, irrigation is essential to have anything like reliable production. From Experimental plots by the Yukon Agricultural Branch on the same sites, the irrigated faction showed productivity or forage crops roughly four times that of the non-irrigated land.

Some 40 years ago (1966) a major study of several aspects of the Yukon's economy was done. Known as the Carr Commission

Report, this was rather unenthusiastic about the future of agriculture in the Yukon, suggesting or implying that other than greenhouse production a major role would be that of distracting bored individuals and providing activity for hobby farmers, but not likely to result in serious production.

The conclusions of this Commission report have been refuted, but Yukon agriculture continues to face many major challenges.

Lack of infrastructure – an abattoir until recently, inspection services, produce storing facilities, etc. have all compounded the difficulties of farming in the Territory.

On the optimistic side is the development of an Agriculture Branch in the Department of Energy, Mines & Resources which facilitates the transfer of crown land into private ownership and provides evaluations of site suitability and arability. Test plots to determine favorable cultivars for Yukon settings have been established.

Financial support of the agricultural industry in general has come from a variety of Federal and Territorial programs. The CARD (Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development) program has facilitated carrying out a number of projects including a bulk fertilizer blending, storage and distribution system which has reduced the cost of fertilizer to about half the previous rate. The Downtown Urban Gardeners Society, another CARD beneficiary has been able to provide gardening opportunities on a small scale. The CARD program is completed now, however further financial commitments have been made by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada structured to continue support.



And, the Klondyke Harvest Fair, sponsored by the Yukon Agricultural Association and supported by the Agriculture Branch, Government of Yukon, will mark its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August.

Members of the agricultural community were instrumental in initiating the Circumpolar Agriculture Conference in 1992. This provides the opportunity to present and share agricultural information across the north. Currently, plans are well along to have representatives from the Yukon participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circumpolar Agriculture Conference to be held in Umea, Sweden in September, 2004.

Doug Craig  
President

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## PLEASE NOTE:

[www.yukonag.ca](http://www.yukonag.ca)

We have a new Web Address for the Yukon Agricultural Association. Take a look at the new site now under construction. Gordon Kerr is revamping this site for us. If there is something you would like to see, call the office at 668-6864 or email us at our new address:

### New Email addresses:

[info@yukonag.ca](mailto:info@yukonag.ca)

or

[admin@yukonag.ca](mailto:admin@yukonag.ca)

## FROM THE OFFICE:

Here we are again, at the end of another growing season. This morning was to be -5 C, so everything needs to be out of the garden now. Carmacks had a hard frost last night, and all the gardens were hit, but the new greenhouse still has produce growing in it.

I had a bumper crop of beans this year. Since coming to the Yukon, I haven't had much luck with them. This year, I shared a box at the Community Garden, through DUGS, with my daughter, and planted my half of the box with beans. The plants grew exceptionally well, and we got a great crop of the purple beans. My daughter was so impressed, that she entered the beans in the Klondyke Harvest Fair Bench Show, and received third place for her entry. Having the opportunity to share information with the DUGS group, and fulfilling the requirements for certification of the Master Gardener's program, has been a year of growth for me. I am looking forward to planting and growing my garden next year out in Mendenhall.

Brigitte and I have been very busy in the office with the wrap up of the Klondyke Harvest Fair. Reports are being finalized and we have other projects on the go. Brigitte will be with us until the middle of October. Please note, the office will be closed from October 16<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>, as I will be away on holidays. I am attending the B.C. Women's Farm Network Conference in Kelowna, and am looking forward to hearing Wendy Holmes speak. She is working to get the water rights back in Canadian hands, rather than in the U.S. hands. I will have more on the conference in the next newsletter. So, have a good fall.

Debbie Throssell  
Executive Director



## 10th Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair, 2004

Attendance at the Fair this year was up over 800 people from last year. Last years attendance was 2500 people, 2004's attendance came in at 3339 people.

It was good to see some new organizations partake in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair. Many organizations attended to sell raffle tickets for their various groups. Habitat for Humanity, Yukon attended to promote their participation in the Yukon. The Yukon Quest sold raffle tickets, as well as attendance by the Canada Senior Games, providing information for their upcoming event.

New protocols were set up to handle the admissions into the fair grounds. Four people were at the main entrance, selling tickets, providing game tickets and checking tickets as people walked through. A table was set up at the back gate for people entering from there. Over 200 people came in through the back gate. Saturday night, the Security guard and I went around to fix the snow fencing and found it broken in six places. Some people feel that the Fair should be a free event, similar to the Canada Day event. However, with the rising costs, this would be hard to do.

In the future, commitment from the Volunteers is necessary for a successful Fair. The Directors and Membership need to be more actively involved to assist the coordinators during the weekend. There is a lot of work with the setting up and take down of the Fair. Small details arise during the Fair, keeping the coordinators on the go.

I would however like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who were available and gave a hand at the fair. Without you, we wouldn't have had the success we did.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KLONDYKE HARVEST FAIR

Here are the winners for the Fair for 2004:

### BEST GARDEN COMPETITION 2004

#### HOMEGROUNDS:

1. Bev Wheldon
2. Patti Toole / Brian Langevin
3. Irene Kwok

#### GREENHOUSES:

1. Patti Toole / Brian Langevin
2. Dorothy Burke

#### VEGETABLE GARDENS:

1. David & Jane Wiebe
2. Teresa Lindsey
3. Sandra Pryor}
3. Eva Steheln } tied

### AGGREGATE SECTION WINNERS

#### Section 1 – Vegetables

- Sr. (tied) - Kathy Kruse
- Roy Ness
- Jr. - Alan Lebedoff

#### Section 2 – Flower's & Plants

- Sr. Jane Wiebe
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff

#### Section 3 (Farm Produce)

- Dave Andrew

#### Section 3 (other) – No aggregate

#### Section 4, Traditional Native Crafts

- Sr. – June Bruton

#### Section 5 Preserved Foods

- Sr. Judy Lightening
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff

#### Section 6 Home Baking

- Sr. Sherrie Walker
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff



**Section 7 , Quilting**

- Joanne Love

**Section 8, Knitting**

- Best Original &  
Section Aggregate
- Judy McCarthy

**Section 9, Needlework – No entry**

**Section 10, Crocheting**

- Sr. Bev Wheldon

**Section 11, Homemade Wine & Liqueurs**

- Tulio Albertini

**Section 12, Best Livestock & Poultry Exhibit**

- Sr. Jim Dillabough

**Section 12B – Pet Costume Contest**

- Sr. Judy Lightning
- Jr. Alya Graham

**Section 12 C – Recycled Creations**

- Sr. Karen Berrel

**Section 12 D - Scarecrow Contest**

- Sr. McCauley Lodge

**Section 13 – Photography (New)**

- Sr. Dianna Malloy
- Jr. Jennessa Tlen
- Overall – Ruth Thorn

**Coloring Contest**

- Jamie McLeish (4-6)
- Hailey White (7-9)
- Nicola Bendera (10-12)

**Grand Aggregate – Dorothy Burke**

- 1<sup>st</sup> runner up – Jane Wiebe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up - Judy Lightening

**Junior Aggregate – Alan Lebedoff**

- 1<sup>st</sup> runner up – Wesley Walker

**TRANSPORTATION INCENTIVE FOR  
YUKON BEEF/POULTRY  
PRODUCERS**

**\$10,000.00 Agricultural Policy  
Framework Initiative to Enhance  
Food Safety**

In an effort to improve safe handling, slaughter and processing of beef in the Yukon, the Yukon Agriculture Branch and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are offering a transportation incentive to help producers make use of the territorial abattoir.

The incentive, jointly funded through the Agriculture Policy Framework agreement with Canada, is a payment of \$0.20 per lb. of hanging slaughter weight and is based on the costs of the transport, hang and back-haul meat to producers.

The Incentive will help to increase the number of producers who slaughter their animals at a government licensed facility, with the added benefits of enhancing the safety of handling procedures and allowing access to the retail food outlets.

The Yukon Agricultural Association will be administering the program.

For more information contact Debbie Throssell, Executive Director, at 867-668-6864 or email at

Deadline for submissions for the program will be December 15, 2004.



## CANADIAN INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM - CAIS

A meeting was held at the Yukon Klondike Westmark Hotel, on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, to discuss how to enter into the new Crop insurance program. The program is an overall insurance program, and is available to anyone in the agriculture arena. If you are interested in becoming part of the program, the steps are provided, or call the 1-800 number listed at the end:

- Step 1**
- Provide the CAIS Administration with your past five years of farming history by sending in copies of your **Farming Statements T2042 for years 1998 to 2002 inclusive**. For producers with less than five years of farming history we will use the last three years (2002, 2001 and 2000). For producers with less than three years they must supply the years they have and we will build margins for the rest. I would suggest faxing the information to the CAIS Administration as soon as possible.
- Step 2**
- CAIS prepares the Options Notice for 2003/ 2004 and mails them to you**
- Step 3**
- You select a Protection Level of your choice and return it to the CAIS Administration by September 30, 2004**. Note: Producers may phone in their Protection Level via our toll free number. Some producers may be waiting for the options notice before phoning in. It is not necessary to wait for the options

notice before selecting the Protection Level.

- Producers must respond to **both Options Notices** if they wish to participate in the program for both **2003 and 2004**.
- Step 4**
- Submit the completed T1163 application forms by September 30, 2004**. In order to do this participants need to transpose farming income and expenses reported on the CRA tax form T2042 (for individuals) or financial statements (for corporations) to the CAIS application form T1163 for individuals or the CAIS statement A for corporations. Applicants who wish to participate in the CAIS program must do this.
- Step 5**
- Submit the *CAIS Program Supplementary Form* by September 30, 2004**  
This includes crop and livestock inventories, purchased inputs, salaries (arms length and non-arms length), deferrals and receivables, payables and productive capacity. Note: on part 5 productive capacity part A, if the crop is listed in a crop or forage basket use that basket (see supplementary guide). Unseedable acres are productive acres that are either too dry or too wet to put into production. Pasture and waste lands are not to be reported.  
  
Part B of part 5 Livestock information measures productive



capacity by the number of animals within the structure group code. For example structure group code cattle 104 refers to the number of cows that birthed not the "number of births" as the pricing for the calves is included in the "bench mark per unit" price along with the cow. Code 105 refers to animals that are purchased, fed and sold at weight less than 900 lbs. If a producer carries over his calves from the birthing year (2002) to the next fiscal reporting period (2003) and then sold the animal at less than 900 lbs it could be report here. This makes the assumption the animal is being reported on the 2003 CAIS supplementary form part 3 as opening inventory at a weight beyond 300 lbs.

- Step 6**
- Open a CAIS account at participating financial institution and deposit the amount outlined on your Options Notice by **December 31, 2004**. This is referring to the Simplified Deposit option where one third deposit is required by December 31, 2004 based on the higher reference margin of either the 2003 or 2004 reference margin per the options notice information.

**CAIS program Administration**  
Toll-free line: 1-866-367-8506  
Fax number: 1-204-983-3947

Web Site: [www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram)

Yukon government representatives will be hosting **Agriculture Policy Consultation** open houses and public meetings in the following communities:

**Mayo, September 8**

Government Administration Building Board Room

**Dawson City, September 9**

Downtown Hotel

**Haines Junction, September 13**

Council Chambers at the St. Elias Convention Centre

**Whitehorse, September 14**

Gold Rush Inn, General Store

**Watson Lake, September 16**

Belvedere Hotel

The open house is from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by the public meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to set up a meeting, or request a copy of the Policy Review Paper contact the Agriculture branch at 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5838 or email [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca).

**Deadline for Comments is September 30, 2004**

## **YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

### **SEPTEMBER**

Wednesday, September 15, 2004, **General Meeting**, at 7:00 pm. in the T.C. Richard's Board room, at 203-302 Steel Street, in Whitehorse.

### **NOVEMBER**

Wednesday, November 17, 2004, 7:00 pm. **General Meeting** will be held in the T.C. Richards Building Boardroom at 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse.

A pot luck will be held at 6:00 pm., prior to the General meeting.



## Western Grocer Magazine Promotion

The marketing opportunity being offered by the *Western Grocer Magazine*, with participation of the SSFPA, is very cost effective for the members of the organization. The usual cost of advertising in this very popular bi-monthly trade magazine begins at \$545.00 plus applicable taxes for a one issue card size advertisement. Your membership fee of \$12.50 per organization plus \$2.50 per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employee will give your company a listing in the pull out directory. The advantage of the directory being offered as a "pull out" will allow the audience of the publication to remove this "pull out" section and use the information for future reference. Your company can also purchase extra copies of the magazine so that you may use the "pull out" section as a marketing tool for your company. We are confident that having the SSFPA membership exposed to the 15,755 readers of this trade publication will assist the bottom line for all involved.

*Western Grocer Magazine* is a bi-monthly trade publication established in 1916 to serve the grocery, allied non-food and institutional industries throughout Western Canada (Ontario Lakehead to the B.C. coast). A member of the Canadian Circulation Audit Board, *Western Grocer Magazine* is read by managers and staff of independent retail food stores, meat stores, general stores handling groceries and meat, department stores with grocery and meat departments, supermarkets, voluntary groups, co-ops, manufacturers and food processors, brokers, distributors and wholesalers of food and allied non-food products, bakeries, food researchers, specialty food and health food stores, convenience stores and by food officials in the three levels of government. Circulation to food processors, wholesalers, food brokers, distributors and head offices of supermarkets is national in scope and totals 15,755, covering the entire food industry in the West.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Cowboy Calzones

A handheld lunch for a hungry, hard worker. Uses leftover roast beef. The cal-ZOH-nays are great.

- ½ cup chopped onion
- 2 tsp. cooking oil
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tbsp. chili sauce
- 1 14 oz can pork and beans
- 3 tbsp. bread crumbs
- 1 cup finely chopped cooked roast beef
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 frozen bread dough, white or brown

Saute onion in cooking oil in a medium frying pan until soft.

Sprinkle with flour and chili powder. Stir well. Add chili sauce, pork and beans and bread crumbs. Stir. Heat, stirring occasionally, until simmering and thickened. Remove from heat.

Add beef and cheese. Stir. Makes 3 ½ cups filling. Cool slightly.

Place dough on a lightly floured board surface. Cut each loaf into 5 portions. Roll out each portion to 8 inch circle. Spread ½ of circle with scant 1/3 cup filling. Moisten entire edge with water. Fold dough and press to seal. Crimp edges with a fork. Repeat with remaining dough until finished. Make an X slit with sharp knife on top. Place on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 375 F for 15 to 18 minutes. Makes 10.





### JOKE OF THE MONTH

An old farmer got pulled over by a state trooper for speeding. The trooper started to lecture the farmer about his speed and in general, began to throw his weight around to try to make the farmer uncomfortable.

Finally the trooper got around to writing out the ticket. As he was writing, he kept swatting at some flies that were Buzzing around his head.

The farmer said, "Havin' some problems with circle flies there, are ya?"

The trooper stopped writing the ticket and said, "Well, yeah, if that's what they are.... I never heard of circle flies."

So, the old farmer says, "Well, circle

flies are common on farms. See, they're called circle flies 'cause they're almost always Found circlin' around the back end of a horse."

The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Then after a minute he stops and says, "Hey...wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horse's ass?"

The farmer says, "Oh no, officer, I have too much respect for Law enforcement and police officers to even think about calling you a horse's ass."

The trooper says, "Well, that's a good thing," and goes back to writing the ticket.

After a long pause, the farmer says, "Hard to fool them flies, though."

### KID'S CORNER

C	K	D	R	M	J	H	T	F	J	Z	N	V	A	S	G	B	V	L	B
C	O	W	P	Q	G	H	F	R	P	W	X	A	I	C	M	J	T	S	V
Z	T	H	S	Z	U	C	H	I	N	I	H	T	S	R	X	T	P	Q	
Y	A	S	P	A	X	Z	E	C	I	L	P	I	G	B	M	E	D	I	C
H	B	F	C	H	H	E	R	B	S	F	K	R	B	A	D	L	S	N	P
C	B	R	E	E	T	E	T	N	T	O	I	M	E	L	A	H	V	A	P
U	A	E	O	F	I	E	L	D	N	R	V	Z	E	E	Z	T	J	C	H
O	R	A	Q	C	V	P	I	L	F	A	T	P	T	R	C	A	L	H	P
V	N	Q	W	S	C	J	J	W	V	G	R	O	S	C	H	O	V	E	C
R	B	S	H	F	X	O	D	C	P	E	A	T	N	A	I	G	U	S	C
R	L	H	V	F	J	A	L	D	G	F	C	A	A	B	C	T	C	E	V
Z	G	K	L	E	L	T	S	I	H	V	T	T	E	B	K	U	U	E	B
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I	M	U	N	Z	Z	S	L	Y	V	M	O	W	R	Z	P	C	R	H	O
G	E	L	P	E	A	S	D	L	C	X	Y	P	N	B	O	F	S	J	T
A	N	A	I	R	A	U	I	O	T	A	M	O	T	R	L	B	U	K	A

### Find these words

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| ACRES     | FERTILIZER |
| BALER     | FIELD      |
| BARN      | FORAGE     |
| BEANS     | GOAT       |
| BEETS     | HERBS      |
| BISON     | HORSE      |
| BROCCOLI  | OATS       |
| CABBAGE   | PEAS       |
| CARROT    | PIG        |
| CHICKEN   | POTATO     |
| COW       | SPINACH    |
| CROP      | TOMATO     |
| CUCUMBERS | TRACTOR    |
| ELK       | TURNIP     |
| FARM      | ZUCCHINI   |