

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

November 2004 PLOWBOY NEWSLETTER

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YAA Update

Usually the President writes a feature for the newsletter. It is with sadness that the board of Directors recently received the resignation from our President Doug Craig. Doug's input to our association will be greatly missed.

The Yukon Agricultural Association has had many dreams and visions since 1972. One of their visions was to see a multi-purpose fair ground and an abattoir for the farmers in the Yukon. The YAA is in the process of moving forward with these ventures, to provide a boost for the agriculture community, giving us growth in an industry that is moving forward every year.

It is a very exciting time for the Yukon Agricultural Industry; we are breaking new ground with all of the new Federal and Territorial Government programs that are becoming available to our Industry for the first time.

We have been involved in helping the Agricultural Branch set up the guidelines for the new Agricultural Policy Framework, APF, which brings \$521,000.00 a year for 5 years to our industry. Within this we have signed on to the new CAIS program that will enable producers to obtain crop insurance. Incidentally there is further information and help with filling out the forms necessary for this insurance on the YAA website.

We were successful in our application to obtain \$271,000.00 of APF Transition money to help the industry move towards the yearly APF program. This fund is administered by the YAA but funds are available to all industry groups and producers.

We were successful in our application to the Federal Government to administer the new ACAAF Program that replaces the CARD Fund. This program brings \$256,000.00 a year for 5 years to our industry for producers to access funds for projects.

The YAA has been extensively involved in working with the Agricultural Branch on the Agricultural Policy Review, which has been a lengthy process to change the 1991 Policy to a current policy that better addresses the industry today. The new policy should come into effect early in the New Year.

We have also been instrumental in the current Transportation Incentive Fund that helps red and white meat producers access to the Partridge Creek Abattoir.

The YAA is currently working on another study, under the APF transition fund, that is assessing the feasibility of a mobile abattoir for the Southern Yukon to allow the industry to grow and move forward in meat production for the retail market. We hope to have the final report on this project by the end of the month and be able to move on to the next phase.

The YAA is also working on a project to acquire Territorial Lands and establish a multi use activities grounds for the Yukon, which would better the lives of many Yukoners and other Northerners.

There was funding available, again through the APF transition fund, for 5 people to participate in the circumpolar agriculture conference in Sweden. In the end only 2 people went with this funding, Bill Drury and Claire Rudge.

Altogether the Yukon contingency was 17 people, so we were very well represented.

The Swedes put on a great conference, 'The Role of Agriculture in a sustainable society in the North'. The speakers were from Russia, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Alaska and Canada. The topics ranged from 'Forage quality in dairy production' to 'Reindeer herding as one of the ways of ecologically stable use of resources in the Northeast part of Russia'.

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There was a presentation on growing barley on the northern edge of Iceland, and Horse Tourism in Iceland, so all in all, a very varied conference.

The next conference will be held in Newfoundland and Labrador in 3 years time. Bill Drury will make a presentation on the circumpolar conference at the next YAA meeting on Nov. 17th at the TC Richards building.

In 2004, we had the opportunity to partner with Canadian Agriculture Food Celebration and the Territorial Government, to produce an agricultural calendar for the Yukon in 2004. Last year, we did not publish enough calendars. Due to their popularity, we will produce more for 2005, providing more information to the public about Agriculture in the Yukon.

Again this a very exciting and busy time the YAA, we are making milestones for the Yukon Agricultural Industry with help from the current Yukon Government who has shown complete support and commitment to making our industry sustainable and part of the economy.

From the Directors of the YAA

Jokes

Why do hens lay eggs?

A: If they dropped them, they'd break.

What do you get when you cross a parrot with a centipede?

A: A walkie-talkie, of course.

Canadian Income Stabilization Program

A web site has been developed through the Government of Canada, for anyone looking for information on the program. Go to the following site for more information.

The deadline for submission for the Yukon has been extended to November 30, 2004.

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/main.html>

NEW FEDERAL FUNDING TO HELP ADVANCE THE YUKON'S AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

WHITEHORSE, Yukon, November 8, 2004 –

The Honourable Larry Bagnell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources, today announced on behalf of the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, a five-year funding package worth \$1.3 million to the Yukon Agricultural Association under the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program, to help implement new projects that will benefit the Yukon's production and processing sector and bolster its capacity to address current and emerging issues.

"I am pleased that the Government of Canada is able to support the tremendous work of the Yukon Agricultural Association in helping to drive growth and employment throughout the region's agricultural and rural communities," said Mr. Bagnell.

As the successor to the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund, the five-year, \$255-million ACAAF Program, launched April 7, 2004, is aimed at positioning Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

Under ACAAF, the industry councils located in every province and territory will continue to play a pivotal role in facilitating the delivery of regional agriculture and agri-food projects. The councils' annual ACAAF base allocation was increased from \$25 million, previously under CARD, to \$27.3 million, based on feedback received during extensive industry consultations held last year.

The Yukon Agricultural Association is responsible for the regional delivery of ACAAF in the territory. Over the next five years, the Yukon Agricultural Association will manage an annual budget of \$256,000. The council will also be able to access additional funding by

undertaking collective outcome projects in collaboration with other councils and national organizations.

"I am confident that today's announcement will help the industry councils to continue their strong track record of helping to drive a wide range of regional projects," said Minister Mitchell. "These investments will help support a profitable and sustainable future for producers and their local communities across Canada."

"The Yukon Agricultural Association is very happy to be chosen to manage the new ACAAF program. These funds will help the Yukon agricultural industry move ahead towards our goal to become more self sufficient while continuing to be an environmentally sustainable industry. We will see worthwhile projects materialize from this, as we saw with the CARD Fund, said Dave Andrew, Vice President of the Yukon Agricultural Association.

The Yukon Agricultural Association is a non-profit organization, established for 25 years. It is made up of three chapters covering the Whitehorse, Mayo, and Dawson agricultural areas. Through the Yukon Adaptation Committee, funding is provided for projects designed to encourage growth, stability, employment and a competitive, environmentally sustainable industry for the Yukon's agriculture and agri-food sector and rural communities.

To obtain more information on the Yukon Agricultural Association, other industry councils or on the ACAAF program, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf.

For more information, media may contact:

Elizabeth Whiting
Media Relations
Minister's Office
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa
Phone: (613) 759-1059
Fax: (613) 759-7972

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. Forms available at the YAA office.

Cyber Help for Farmer's

Looking for information on the Internet

Look at this web page:

cyber-help@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Before it's too late...

By Barbara Drury

Before it's too late, all farmers should sit up and take notice about what the Federal government is quietly doing in Ottawa to undermine our ability to continue our livelihood. In May 2004 the "Seed Sector Review" was completed, at a cost of \$600,000, which National Farmers Union Executive Secretary Terry Pugh says does not support the interests of farmers. He says it is moving into a regulatory regime that protects the interests of trans-national seed companies (like Monsanto). Pugh says that if the recommendations of the report were implemented producers would pay more for seed and lose their right to save and use their own seed!!! This trend is happening around the world, with multinational companies attempting to coerce small farmers into using patented seed which can only be purchased from the multinationals.

If you are concerned that Canada might also be going down this dangerous path, phone or write your MP Larry Bagnell and tell him that you want to see farmers continue to have the right to save and use their own seed, and buy and sell it to whomever they want. And hope he takes this message to Ottawa!

North of 60 Conference

Held at the High Country Inn
Saturday, November 5, 2004

The subject of the conference was directed to the organic farming community. This industry is growing at a fast pace, as people buying become more concerned with how their food is being grown.

Two speakers had very interesting topics. Cathleen Kneen spoke of the importance of Value-added and other diverse topics. Rochelle Eisen talked about a web site available for farmers, called Cyber-help For Farmers, a web-site for Organic Farming. If you want information, this site will have it. If not, contact them and they will find it. Brian Lendrum spoke on the importance of composting. When growing vegetables, it is important to feed the soil for optimum benefit.

North of 60 Banquet

This was a sold out event. 120 people attended the festivities. The Bradley's showed their power point presentation that was shown in Umea, Sweden of the history of the Pelly Farm. It showed how agriculture in the North has evolved since travel in the Yukon began. It was a wonderful presentation.

Hugh Bradley from Pelly Farm received the Commissioners Award, from Commissioner Jack Cable. The YAA presented Hugh and Dick Bradley a large plate for them to place on their table.

Steve MacKenzie-Grieve, of the Yukon Grain Farm received the Farmer of the Year Award.

The 4-H group, sponsored the silent auction to raise money for their group, and did a presentation of the conference in Umea, Sweden.

Mary L. catered the dinner and did a wonderful display of organic food, from various growers in the Yukon.

New Young Farmer Website

MAFRI'S (Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives) new website specifically for young farmers is now up and running. Another initiative from the Project 2000 Steering Committee, the website expands upon the stories published in MAFRI's Young Farmers Newsletter. The site also links young farmers to services and programs offered by MAFRI, the Food Development Centre, MACC, and MCIC. Web site –

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/financial/youngfarmers/>

BORDER MEETING ENDS – PLAN TO BE WRITTEN SOON

(Excerpt from Alaska Farm Bureau UPDATE,
September, 2004)

Most attending "Open the Alaska/Canada Border" meeting held on August 26th and 27th, 2004, said it was interesting, productive and that they learned a lot.

A strategic plan to ask for an exemption to open the border between Alaska and Canada to import cows is being developed. The plan incorporates all the technical, scientific information and suggestions shared at the meeting. The plan includes a pilot program to safely import cows from Canada.

Publicity about the plan is growing in both Canada and Alaska. Participants on both sides of the border have been interviewed by radio and newspaper. The radio interviews have been broadcast on over 100 Canadian stations.

The planning session, facilitated by Jeff Durham and his assistant Kathy Sonnichsen, began with an address by Lt. Governor Leman. A letter from the U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski was read by State Office Director Pat Heller.

The consensus of the group was to request and exemption to open the border between Alaska and Canada using a pilot program. One component of the pilot program will be an animal ID plan. Implementing an animal ID system will be a major task. Canadian livestock currently in Alaska will have to be located and tracked along with any new imports when the border is opened again.

There were 35 people attending the planning session. Everyone contributed greatly to the success of the meeting. Technical and scientific information was disseminated by Milan Shipka, UAF/CES Livestock Specialist and the attending three veterinarians: Dr. Larry Delver, Canadian Food Inspection Agency for Western Canada; Dr. Gary Brickler, USDA/APHIS Area Veterinarian and Dr. Bob Gerlack, Alaska State Veterinarian.

Among those attending were representatives from the Canadian Cattleman's Association, British Columbia Legislature, Alaska Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Services, University of Alaska, University of Utah, ARRC, USDA/AK Ag Statistics, Division of Measurements and Standards for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Alaska Diversified Livestock Association, Alaska Farmer's Union, the Alaska Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Jane Alberts, Alaska Senator Gary Stevens, staff person and Senator Fred Dyson attended as well as several farmers and ranchers.

BC Farm Women's Network Conference Held in Kelowna, B.C.

The BCWFN held a conference in Kelowna in October. A farm tour began the conference with a visit to a Packing house, where apples were being washed and graded for entry into the retail market. Following was a tour of the Packer's Museum, showing how fruit picking and processing has developed over the years. Then onto Summerland Winery, for lunch and a tour of their facilities. Wine is stored in a pyramid, built mathematically to true north. Then onto a goat farm, where they process cheese for restaurants in Vancouver. Following, was a lavender farm, where we saw all of the many products made from one plant. Last, was a market, where they make jams and jellies, sell their produce and crafts from the local crafters.

The next day, we were into the conference. Topics included, how to take care of yourself, Wendy Holmes discussed the BSE and water issues. The BC Government gave a presentation on the development of the CAIS program and the Environmental Farm plan, and how it related to the farms.

All in all, it was an informative conference. The BC group was glad to see some interest from the Yukon. Anyone interested in the BC Farm Women's Network, call Debbie at the YAA office or at 393-3143.

Recipe of the Month

Mediterranean Beef Medley

Preparation time: 10 min.

Cooking time: 15 min.

- 3 ½ cups cooked beef
- 1 (540 ml.) can pasta sauce
- ½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
(optional)
- ½ lg. each, red, green and yellow bell
pepper, cut into chunks
- ½ small zucchini, sliced
- ½ (398 ml.) can small black olives, pitted
and drained
- 1 (398 ml.) can artichoke hearts

Combine ingredients plus 2/3 cup of water in large pan over high heat and stir. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve over hot pasta, or couscous. Makes 4 – 6 servings.

Fond Farewell !!!!!

October, 2004

Doug Craig, our esteemed president for the last year and a half, has resigned as President of the Yukon Agricultural Association.

We wish Doug a fond farewell and best wishes with his health.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

For Sale:

- 2 yr old paint gelding
- 3 yr old morgan/belian gelding
- 9 yr old percheron cross mare
- Call: 667-7844

800 lb round hay bales
no rain, under cover
storage and delivery available
Call: 667-7844

Joke of the Month

Modern Day Farming

(Letter sent to the Secretary of Agriculture)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My friend Bordereaux received a \$1,000 check from the government for not raising hogs, and so I am going into the not-raising hogs business.

What I want to know is, what is the best kind of land not to raise hogs on and what is the best kind of hogs not to raise? I would prefer not to raise razorback, but if this is not the best kind not to raise, I will just a gladly not raise Durocs or Poland Chinas.

The hardest part of this business is going to be keeping an individual record on each of the hogs I do not raise.

My friend Bordereaux has been raising hogs for more the 20 years and the most he ever made was \$400 in 1918, until this year when he received \$1,000 for not raising hogs. Now if I get \$1,000 for not raising 50 hogs, I will get \$2,000 for not raising 100, etc.

I plan to start off on a small scale, holding myself down to not raising 4,000 hogs for which I will, of course, receive \$80,000.

Now these hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand you pay farmers for not raising corn. Will you pay me for not raising 100,000 bushels of corn, which I will not feed to the hogs which I am not raising?

I want to get started as soon as possible, as this looks like a good time of year for not raising hogs.

Yours very truly,
October Brussard

Meat saw with 2 new Blades.
Call: (867) 841-4451

Yukon Beef by the side.
no additives, grass fed
Call: 667-7844