

## THE PLOW BOY YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Hello YAA Members,

It has been a very wet spring and early summer for us all, I hope that your crops are all faring well.

If you were thinking about increasing your red meat herd when you knew when the Abattoir was coming it looks like we'll know really soon! I spoke with Mr. Komaromi last week and he informed me that the Abattoir will go before cabinet for a decision prior to the Klondyke Harvest Fair. There is still no definitive word with regards to the \$273,000 2004 Harvesting money, it sounds like its still being held up at Treasury Board. If you were



wondering when the National Water Program is likely to be signed in the territory we aren't sure when that will happen either but we hear it's immanent. I have been in contact with government on these issues but they don't have any answers yet. As soon as I hear anything I'll have the office send out an email update. Also if you have any concerns or questions you can always contact Rose at the YAA office and she would be happy to try to help.

Happy Farming,  
Al Falle  
President  
Yukon Agricultural Association

General Update: Well, things are busy in the YAA office. With Canada Day celebrations behind us the only event in my sights is the Klondyke Harvest Fair. As you may know this year the YAA has teamed up with the Yukon International Story Telling Festival to do a joint event Shipyards Celebration August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Shipyards Park. During the day, the KHF will be the main attraction and once seven o'clock rolls around Storytelling takes over. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the YAA office, it's bound to be lots of fun. There is still a lot to do but YAA has hired Barb Drury as the Klondyke Harvest Fair Coordinator and she is doing a great job. I'm still involved so if you have any questions about the fair you can still call the office or stop by. The KHF Bench Books are printed and out, look for them in your local grocery, gas, or movie store. You can also stop by the YAA office and pick one up. Hope to see you at the Fair!

*"Diligentia acclinare integritas"*



**CANADA DAY THANKS:**

Hello all. The Canada Day celebration at Rotary Park was a huge success this year for the Yukon Agricultural Association. Jim Dillabough brought ducks, rabbits, chickens, a llama, nanny and kids, piglets, three horses, Roxy, Slider and Maisy, and his carousel. YAA had the back corner of the park close to the volley ball court and the river. Jim ran the carousel and kept an eye on the petting zoo while Amanda Ford, Wade Landry and Rose led children on horse back



rides. Eleanor Ford helped the kids on and off the horses. The line for the horse rides was 45 minutes long!!!! Next year if possible we should have more horses. Also we had very few volunteers, although the volunteers we did have were wonderful and worked all day! The YAA had a banner up on the llama pen and Klondyke Harvest Fair books displayed on a near by table. I would like to extend a special thank you to D-Bar Diamond Ranch (Jim Dillabough) for all his hard work on behalf of the Yukon Agricultural Association.

**KLONDYKE HARVEST FAIR UPDATE BY: BARB DRURY**

Preparations are proceeding smoothly for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Fair, August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. The fair is experiencing two big "firsts" this year...the first year it's being held in Shipyards Park, and the first year it's joining up with the Yukon International Storytelling Festival! It promises to be an exciting weekend, with Harvest Fair events and entertainment going on all day both days at the park, and Storytelling events taking place during the evenings. We complement each other, but don't step on each others toes. In speaking to people about the fair, and encouraging volunteers, it has been heartening talking to folks who have been committed helpers for years...they tell me what a valuable contribution the Klondyke Harvest Fair makes to the Whitehorse community. They

remind me that its about celebrating our work and the value we place on family, and the home-centered virtues of growing food, preserving and canning our food, baking, sewing, and raising animals for both companionship and sustenance. It reminds the public that the old values of "growing your own" and "putting food by" are still alive and well in the Yukon, and that's important to remember. So mark your calendars for August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and get some produce, baking, canning or farm products entered at the Bench Show. Pick up a copy of our Bench Show booklet to acquaint yourself with all the possible entries and with "what's happening" at the fair, and come on out and celebrate your place in the community with the community!

**BEST GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category:  Greenhouse  Home Grounds  Vegetable Garden   
 Entry Fee: \$5 flat fee (whether you enter 1 entry or 3)  
 Please return entry form to the Yukon Agricultural Association by August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 At 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse Yukon, Y1A 2C5 Phone: (867) 668-6864 Fax: (867) 393-3566 email: info@yukonag.ca



**FIREWEED COMMUNITY MARKET UPDATE: BY SIMONE RUDGE**

The Fireweed Community Market now has two locations and times. Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm, we're still at Takhini Gas at the junction of the Hotsprings Road and the Mayo Road. Our new time and location, Thursday, 3pm to 9 pm is doing well at the Shipyards Park. Come see both markets for the best selection of products. We have vendors with all kinds of farm products as well as artists and craftspeople. You can find fresh, Yukon-grown produce, herbs, preserves and free-range eggs, fresh baking and pies, hand-made glass & polymer beads, gold nugget, gemstone, wire and bead

jewellery, beaded moccasins and other native crafts, fleece garments, soap, bath products, tea, willow work, knitting, yarns and spinning fleece and more. Come for lunch or dinner - there's hot food -falafels, samosas, burgers, and bannock along with salads, fresh goat cheese and all kinds of sweet treats. We even have entertainment - singing, dancing, musicians, jugglers, clowning... It's a great community atmosphere and a nice time to catch up with your neighbours. See you at the market!

**RIDDLES OF THE MONTH:**

1. What is too much for one, enough for two, but nothing at all for three?
2. What should you always keep, because no one else wants it?

**SOIL MANAGEMENT AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

Soil Management Practice	Benefit	Return to investment
Tree windbreaks	Provides wind protection Creates a micro climate particularly in early spring	The protection extends out 10 times the height of the windbreak The micro-climate can mean 1-3 C difference in temperature and 1 week in crop maturity Research suggests that value of nutrients lost in wind blown soil is \$1 to \$10 depending upon the wind event and the fertility of the original soil.
In season seeding down of headlands and harvest rows	Reduces wind blown soil Reduces compaction or at least provides a better carrying capacity for equipment Rotation benefit in that area	Most vegetable crops react very poorly to compacted areas i.e. yield losses of 10 to 50%. Yes you may be able to deep rip those strips-but if you don't have to factor in those savings Rotation benefit-it hard to get forages or grasses into many vegetable rotations-here is a chance for a 10% yield boost next year.
Addition of organic matter-manure, compost etc	Adds nutrients N, P, K and micronutrients Builds soil organic matter levels	You can calculate the nutrient value from the manure analysis-no manure analysis? Use the general value from Table 2-13 OMAF pub. 363 Vegetable Production Recommendations pg. 24 between the rate applied, the nutrient value and the cost of NPK you can assign a value to manure. Building soil organic matter (SOM) levels-Michigan research suggests that increasing SOM by 0.5% can increase nutrient holding by 15% and soil moisture holding by 12%-the soil moisture improvement translates to 1 to 2 less irrigation events a year which could mean a savings of \$10/acre
Planting cover crops	Prevents wind blown soil and water erosion Maintains soil organic matter Captures available crop	We know the value of erosion control and organic matter what about scavenging nutrients? There is currently work underway in Ontario to quantify the amount of nitrogen held by cover crops and when it is available to succeeding crops



**RECIPE OF THE MONTH: *Black Forest Cheesecake*****Ingredients**

- 18 whole Honey Maid Honey Grahams, finely crushed 1 cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar, divided 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, melted
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling
- Five packages (8 ounces each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
- Three tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- One package (8 squares) semi-sweet baking chocolate, melted, slightly cooled
- 1 cup sour cream
- Three eggs
- 1 cup thawed prepared whipped topping

Mix graham crumbs, 3 tablespoons sugar and butter; press firmly onto bottom of pan. Bake 10 minutes.

**MEANWHILE**, reserve 3/4 cup of the cherry pie filling; set aside. Beat cream cheese, remaining 1 cup sugar, flour and vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add melted chocolate and sour cream; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition just until blended. Pour half of the cream cheese batter over crust; top with the remaining cherry pie filling. Cover with remaining cream cheese batter.

**BAKE** 45 to 50 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely on wire rack. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Top with the reserved pie filling and the whipped topping just before serving. Remove cheesecake from pan using foil handles. Cut into 16 pieces to serve.

**Makes 16 servings.**

**PREHEAT** oven to 325°F. Line 13 x 9-inch baking pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan.

### What is Sustainable Agriculture?

Sustainable agriculture integrates three main goals--environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. A variety of philosophies, policies and practices have contributed to these goals. People in many different capacities, from farmers to consumers, have shared this vision and contributed to it. Despite the diversity of people and perspectives, the following themes commonly weave through definitions of sustainable agriculture; stewardship of both natural and human resources, systems perspective, interdisciplinary efforts in research and education.

#### ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE:

1. Answer: a secret 2. Answer: your temper.

#### AGRICULTURE AND HUMANITY BY: ROSE DRURY

**“The origin of agriculture is difficult to determine as it pre-dates writing.”1.**

That statement alone is very illustrative, why does agriculture pre-date writing?

The main reason is that farming provides a surplus of food and labour; therefore freeing up time for some individuals to follow non-food related pursuits such as religious practices, metallurgy, and the arts this is know as the specialization or the division of labour. Farming allows a much greater population density than can be supported by hunting and gathering. The ability of farmers to feed large numbers of people whose activities have little or nothing to do with material production was the crucial factor in the rise of the standing army and the invention of many new technologies.

**“Modern farming is based on 13 millennia (approx) of experience.”2.**

There are a few theories on how people started farming. Weather is seen to have been an important factor in most theories. Weather may have played a role in making wild plants and animal more difficult to access as a reliable food source thus “kick starting” agriculture out of necessity. The “farmer” began most probably by noting which wild plants were edible or otherwise useful and learned to save the seed and plant it. Or future farmers may have noted and selected wild plants that had desirable traits and then return to the area where those plants flourished and tend their natural growth. That act could then evolve to further nurturing and trying to reproduce the environment in which the desired plant grew best in a more convenient location. The transition from hunting and gathering food to a dependence on food production is generally viewed to be gradual

*“Diligentia acclinare integritas”*



and in a few isolated areas around the globe never developed at all.

As civilizations evolved so too did their methods of farming. The horse and ox revolutionised the transport of humans and goods as well as the tilling of soil. Irrigation systems were developed and those systems allowed crop yields to increase, meaning more yield from less land. Storage methods were enhanced and this allowed for planning for future events like crop failures resulting from drought and disease. This also created the need of bureaucratic structures to manage the crop and labour surplus this shaped early forms of government and taxes we would recognize today.

**“Farming was the most dramatic development since the mastery of fire.”3. Ibid**

What is necessary for the rise of civilization?

Historians propose the following criteria:

- A food and labour surplus controlled by an elite group
- Social stratification
- A formal government

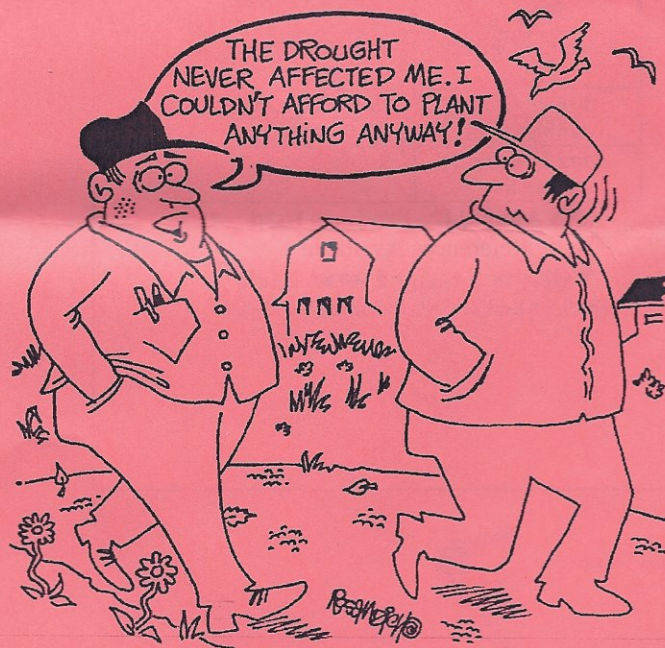
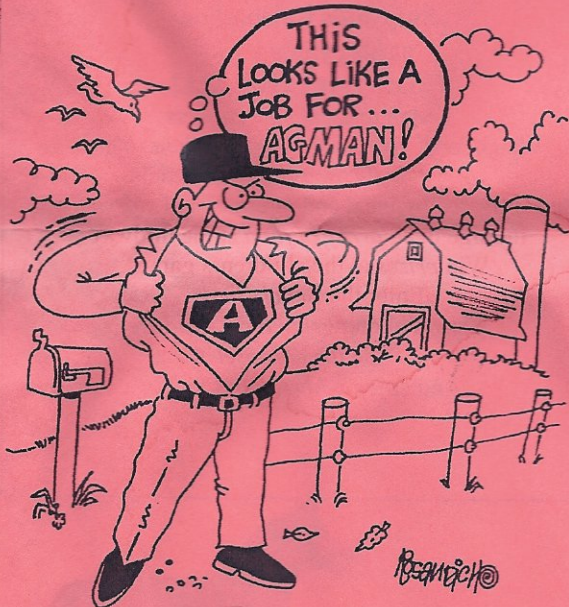
Footnote1 and 3: <http://www.crystalinks.com/agriculturehistory.html>

Footnote 2: <http://schoolscience.rice.edu/duker/garden/gardenhis.html>

**Jokes of the Month:**

- Specialization of labour
- Monumental public works
- Densely populated settlements
- A system of record keeping

Without farming it is doubtful we would know civilization as we know it today. Farming has freed humanity to do both great and terrible things. Farming is a freer of time: from the goatherd on the hill watching over his sheep could ponder the nature of the stars and constellations. The early record keepers needed a more effective way to tally crops and therefore exact taxation. Over time new efficiencies were developed to produce more that could be sold or used in trade creating vast networks and a merchant class. Farming established a host of supportive occupations. Civilizations gained the means to cloth, equip and feed armies, to store food in the event of a siege and to transport food to troupes in the field. This led to warfare and government on a grand scale, which both protected and exploited its charges. There is a dualism in agriculture but it is singular in its perpetual role in the evolution of humanity.



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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**For Sale**

Herd of Scottish Highland Cattle  
 Pure Bred and Registered! Very Gentle!  
 5 Cows with calves on the side  
 1 purebred Breeding Bull  
 Excellent Beef Producer!  
 Must sale b/c of Agriculture Policy Land Use  
 Mismanagement  
 Phone: 393-3477

**For Sale**, 10" meat band saw, good shape, 3  
 new blades  
 call 867 841 4451  
 email [mjflumerfelt@yt.sympati  
 co.ca](mailto:mjflumerfelt@yt.sympati.co.ca)



**Looking for someone to do CUSTOM FARM WORK**

Must provide equipment  
 If you are willing to take the hay off with your own equipment we offer a 50/50 split. Please leave a message for Bessie Bayne at the Carcross Tagish First Nation Office 867-821-4251.

The farm is located at km 114 on the way to Skagway, just past the Sprit Lake B&B (first road to the right)

**Volunteer? Klondyke Harvest Fair August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Yukon Agricultural Association is looking for volunteers for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair, if you are interested in lending your time and talents to this worthy agricultural cause please contact, Rose at 668-6864 or Barb at 668-1045.

**YUKON GRAIN FARM**

*Is now selling*

**Top Quality Custom Feed Blends  
 Wheat, Oats, Barley  
 Rolled-Whole-Mixed**

Multi Purpose Grower	\$11.00/25 kg. Bag
Complete Chicken Layer	\$12.00/25 kg Bag
Rolled Grain	\$9.00/25 kg Bag
Whole Grain	\$8.00/25 kg. Bag
Mini Bulk Bags Available	

**No Animal By-Products Used**  
 References Available

**Yukon Grain Farm Ltd.**

Mile 9.5 Klondike Hwy. Phone (867) 633-4092

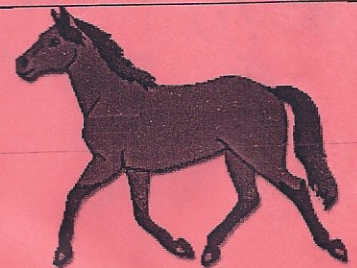
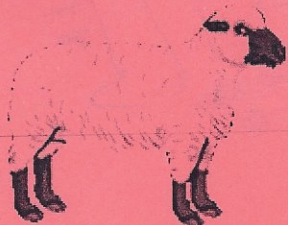
**SHOPYARDS CELEBRATION**

*AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup>*

Yukon Agricultural Association's Klondyke Harvest Fair and Yukon International Storytelling Festival would like to welcome you to the Shipyards Celebration at Shipyards Park.

**COME ONE COME ALL!**

- Listen to local *musical acts*
- Watch local groups demonstrate their *talents*
- Marvel at the *dog obedience* trials
- Be captivated by local and international *storytellers*
- Indulge in an *array of food* at the midway
- Win *prizes* at the children's games
- Enter the *Bench Show*
- View Yukon *agricultural produce*
- Ride the *carousel*
- And enjoy a *horse back ride!*



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