

The Plough Boy Newsletter



203 -302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C5, (867) 668-6864, admin@yukonag.ca

APRIL 19, 2008

GROWN IN YUKON, YES,.....PRODUCT OF CANADA? - ARE YOU SURE??

Parliamentarians of all political stripes yesterday bolstered a campaign to change the controversial Product of Canada label on food packaging so imported food cannot be labelled as a Canadian product. The policy, dating back to the mid_1980s, allows companies to slap the Product of Canada tag on any product, including all foods and drinks, if 51 per cent of the production costs were incurred in Canada. These production costs can refer to labour, transportation and packaging. The result is that imported food is often labelled as a product of Canada. The federal government announced a review of the labelling guideline in December, as consumer complaints mounted. Characterizing the current labelling requirements as deceitful and misleading, the Tories joined the opposition parties on the agriculture committee to call for an overhaul of the product_of_Canada labelling policy (Apr.4/08 - VProv A22, EJ A5).

CBC's Marketplace did a program on deceptive labeling of our food products last October 24. Its worth a look. You can download the video and check it out at http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/product_of_canada_eh/.



An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing.

A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing?"

The eagle answered: " Sure, why not."

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story: To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Check this out! The sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter of the alphabet. "Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand, and "lollipop," the longest word typed with only the right.

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

ITS A DOG'S LIFE !



- 3 Kennel sizes available to suit single or multiple pet needs
- Blanket/Laundry facilities
- Safe & Sanitary
- Heated floors with raised beds by Karunda
- Private, covered outdoor runs
- Large central play area with three play times daily



Are You Between the Ages of 18 and 40?

Then Congratulations! You are a Young Farmer! It brings to mind the wry humour that there are no young farmers in Yukon because by the time you get a piece of land, you are no longer young. That

speaks to some frustration about our agricultural land approval processes, but actually, we do have quite a number of young, or at least fairly young, farmers. It would be nice to have a few more, but for those of you who are here with both feet planted in our Yukon soil, are you interested in joining the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF), and perhaps taking part in some of their conferences? Sarah Lenart from Dawson, and Dalyce Stubenberg from Watson Lake, have attended in the past and recommend it highly. The YAA would like to encourage you to join and to come back with the new ideas and energy we need to continue to develop and build Yukon's agricultural industry. We would also encourage you young farmers to join the YAA, come sit as a Director and help us in service to our agricultural community. Why not check out the CYFF for yourself.



#102, 115 Portage Close
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2R5

Phone: 1-888-416-2965
Fax: 1-780-416-6531
E-mail: info@cyff.ca

Their next conference will be in Calgary, Dec 7-11, 2008, and will be combined with the Young Farmers Summit of the Americas. This sounds like an opportunity too good to miss.

For a bit more info on CYFF, check out the following excerpt from their recent AGM. The print is small, but the message powerful. But this is just a teaser, (not a taser). If you want the rest of the story, go to their website. Hope to hear from some of you young farmers soon. Oh yes, and don't wait until you get that piece of land. :)

Canadian Young Farmers' Forum

The Canadian Young Farmers' Forum continues to grow and the 2008 Annual General Meeting certainly confirmed that its growth potential is enormous. This year As always, each province had participants present, but it was the quality of the participants that truly exemplified what the CYFF is achieving nationally. Forty Five young farmers from across Canada converged on Ottawa in late February and exchanged farm management ideas, made new friends, learned about farming in different areas of the country and left just a little bit wiser about agricultural in Canada.

This year's participants met with The Standing Committee on Agriculture, toured the Supreme Court, witnessed Question Period on budget day, had sessions with Terry Betker of Meyers, Norris Penny and Dr. John Fast with Farm Credit Canada. The was ample opportunity to socialize and get to know one another at lunches, banquets and of course the hospitality suite. All this is made possible with the grateful assistance of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and our major AGM Sponsor, Farm Credit Canada. A new executive was elected and they are already off and running.

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

Planning to Buy a machine, Add/Expand or Discontinue an Enterprise, or Change a Practice... BUT IS IT WORTH IT ? - GETTING A ROPE ON RETURNS.



In examining the effects of a change that involves only a part of the farm business, a simple calculation known as a ‘partial budget’, can give you a very good idea whether or not that change you have in mind is going to be a good investment. It is known as a partial budget because you don’t have to calculate the cost and returns structure of the whole farm. Simply list the items from your proposed change which will reduce returns, (your added costs (fixed, if any, and variable) plus your reduced income). Then list the items that increase your returns, (your added income plus reduced costs)

Added costs include only those costs which would be added if the change is made, for example, increased costs of fuel, repairs, seed, hired labour, etc. (*Fixed costs, like depreciation, exist whether or not an item is used, so fixed costs are only shown if they are incurred because of the change, for example, having to buy a new grain bin because you decided to buy another quarter section of land*). **Reduced income** takes into account income which will no longer be received if the change is made, for example, feeding your hay to your own animals rather than selling it. **Added income** includes all expected additional income from sales or services (grain sales, livestock sales, custom work, etc). **Reduced costs** accounts for costs no longer incurred if the change is made.....

EXAMPLE: Proposed change: purchase an additional 80 acres of land for \$160,000 (60 acres established dry land hay field, existing line of machinery, extra labour & extra hay shelter required)

items that reduce returns

added costs

fixed costs	(\$22,000.00 extra hay shed)			
depreciation	22,000/30 years	=	\$ 733.00	
investment cost (average)	\$22,000/2 x 5%	=	\$ 555.00	
taxes		=	\$ 1000.00	
interest on land	\$160,000 x5%	=	<u>\$ 8000.00</u>	
	TOTAL			\$10,288 .00

variable costs

fertilizer @ 100lbs/acre x 60 =6000lbs @	\$700/ton			
machinery - fuel and repairs	60 hrs	=	\$ 1200.00	
hired labour - 60hrs @	\$15	=	<u>\$ 900.00</u>	
	TOTAL			<u>\$ 4,200.00</u>

TOTAL ADDED COSTS **\$14,488.00**

reduced income

custom baling - 60 hrs @	\$80.00			
		=	<u>\$ 4,800.00</u>	
	Grand Total Added costs + reduced income	=		\$19,288.00 (A)

items that increase returns

added income

60 acres hay @ 1.6 tons/acre = 96 tons of hay @ \$250 = \$24,000.00

reduced costs

custom baling operating costs, 60 hrs = \$ 1,200.00

TOTAL **\$25,200.00(B)**

NET CHANGE (B-A) = \$5,912.00 (return to labour and management)

(Although principal payments have to be deducted, they are a form of savings (equity))

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

Fair Trade Food Product Marketing in Canada: Creating a Climate of Awareness and Action...

is a three year project, currently under examination by the Prince Edward Island ACAAF Council. It is intended to create new possibilities for PEI's agriculture and agri-food sector, but it will engage major players in other parts of Canada as well and has been proposed as a collective outcome project. Could this be an opportunity for Yukon to promote our industry to consumers and policy makers alike? The main goal of the project is to establish collaborative processes to examine the capacity of a Domestic Fair Trade system to open new marketing opportunities. Why not here, too?

Food production in Canada, as in much of the world, is facing unprecedented crises. For the most part the burden of these crises is borne by primary producers. The predominant industrial model of production and distribution is incompatible with the capacities of the land, sea, forests, and water. For example, we have seen the collapse of many fish stocks, and many others are threatened by the intense mining of the seas for food by large fishing vessels which care little that their methods are destroying both the resource and the habitat which sustains it, and in the process, also destroying the livelihoods of family fishermen whose methods and capacities for catching fish can not compete. Land agriculture is faring little better. For example, farmers only get about 15 or 20 cents out of a loaf of bread which may cost two or three dollars or more on the store shelf. Because of low prices for their products, too many excellent farmers and fishers have gone out of production, and land, equipment, and technology has become concentrated in the hands of fewer producers. Yet, even many remaining producers still don't earn enough money from their farm production to support a decent lifestyle and to be able to afford to pursue a less intensive and more healthy and sustainable form of farm management.

The industrial model protects high profit margins for input suppliers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers while maintaining relatively low food prices at the store shelf at the expense of the primary producers. Consumers, of course, want low food prices, and have not generally been sympathetic nor supportive of producers and their need for higher prices. But this is false economy and it will eventually will be felt by all citizens in terms of food security, supply, price, and perhaps even quality, as well as in other ways such as degradation of land and water as remaining farmers try to maximize production to stay in business. There is a basic disconnect that has made it difficult for producers to know the needs of consumers and for consumers to know the real cost and conditions of food production, but a new awareness is growing among producers and consumers alike.

Many organizations are working on alternative approaches to the production and marketing of food products, and consumer awareness of the social and ecological impact of food production is growing. Many concepts and practices, including the slow food movement, the 100 mile diet, community supported agriculture, organic farming and Fair Trade, are gaining support and market as shown by the increasing popularity of farmers markets and farm gate sales, as well as steadily increasing demand for organic and Fair Trade products and virtually everything that is locally grown.. Development of a set of principles and an outline for a Canada wide domestic Fair Trade system and a plan for its implementation and promotion could not be coming at a better time. Lets hope it may also lead to further growth in appreciation for our farmers in the Yukon, and support for our agricultural industry.

IN THE MARKET FOR MACHINERY? - Check out these deals.....

8 foot Brillion seeder, grass and alfalfa boxes, transport wheels.

\$3,200.00 OBO Rick 668-7104, Dave 667-7844

Agshield Recon 200

These machines are used by many producers to cut their drying time in **half** for hay and green feed oats which produces a greener fluffier bale with higher protein levels and is more palatable. This unit has been reconditioned and is field ready. \$6,500.00 Dave 667-7844

YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (YAA)

Reprinted from the Canadian Organic Growers Newsletter

Production rising, but organic farmers not meeting Canadian demand

Full story: CTV.ca

Canadians' demand for organically-grown fruits and vegetables is increasing rapidly, but farmers aren't yet meeting the need, according to a new study released by Statistics Canada. The study, 'Organic: From niche to mainstream,' is based on data from the 2006 agriculture census and a 2006 study by the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada. It shows more farmers are jumping on board the organic bandwagon, but the majority of the certified organic products grown in this country are field crops such as wheat and barley, and hay, and most are destined for export. But the study [also] showed that progress is being made and production levels of organic products are on the rise. Laura Telford, of Canadian Organic Growers wasn't surprised by the numbers or types of products grown on most certified organic farms in Canada. "We've known for a long time organic doesn't really meet the expectations of Canadians," she said. "Most Canadians think of organics as being cute little vegetable operations in Ontario or Quebec. But that's far from the reality." CTV.ca - 03/28/08

NEED HELP? WHO YA GONNA CALL?

How about Marie Boucher? She is looking for paid farm employment in the Whitehorse area, preferably working with animals or growing food. She is no stranger to farm work and is up for a Yukon farm challenge. You can contact her at 867-668-3097 or by email to maryev15@hotmail.com. Call me at the YAA office (668-6864) if you would like a copy of her resume.

Now, we can all profit from reading this....and applying it!

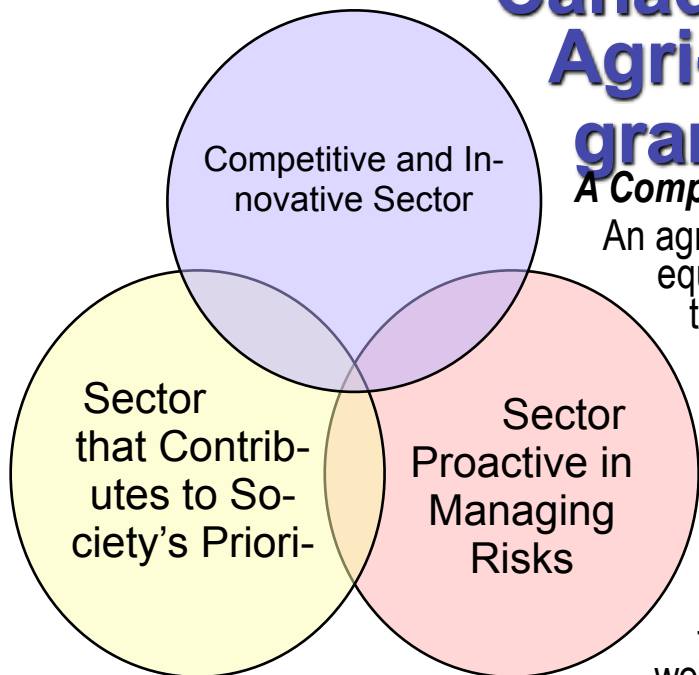


Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words, they become actions. Watch your actions, they become habits. Watch your habits, they become character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny!

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Yep, we have started our new fiscal year, but before we get too far into it, lets say thank you to all the Directors for their work over the past year. To at least one of them, thanks for the past 34 years of service would be in order. Did you know our Association was formed in 1974? Anyway, back to the present, Al Falle has served his maximum three years as President, (thank you, Al), so we will be looking to confirm a new President to lead us forward. Many of our Directors will let their names stand for another year. Thanks are due them not only for their past service, but also for their continued commitment to our Association and the furtherance of our interests. And we have some new Director candidates to thank for letting their names stand. But to those who are confirmed as Directors, let us, as members, not just say thanks, but also offer our support and our help to get things done. If we all do this, 2008 will be a very good year. I look forward to working with all of you. - Rick

The Next Generation of the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program



A Competitive and Innovative Sector

An agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry equipped to compete successfully in domestic and international markets, innovate, adapt to change, and seize new opportunities, thereby achieving sustained growth and profitability.

•A Sector that Contributes to Society's Priorities

An agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that generates benefits for the sector and all Canadians by contributing to broader federal, provincial and territorial government priorities, ranging from food safety to environmental sustainability to health and wellness.

•A Sector that is Proactive in Managing Risks

An agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that is well-equipped to manage and mitigate risks that impinge on the profitability of enterprises and sectoral prosperity.

ACAAF one is done as of March 31, 2009, a little less than a year away. Negotiations are ongoing with the hope that more flexibility can be built into its successor which will make the program more useful to Yukon agriculture, and the other Northern jurisdictions. Nevertheless, ACAAf one has been a help to and program dollars remain to sponsor or assist with project proposals considered by the ourACAAf Council to be in the general interest of Yukon agriculture. If you have an idea for a project which you think will advance our agriculture industry, call me at the YAA office and lets talk about it. (668-6864)

Talk about promoting agriculture...here's a site worth checking out



Marlena McCarthy, Associate Director
Farm Tribute Canada
1636 Northay's Bay Road, c/o General Delivery, Woodview, ON K0L 3E0
Phone: (416) 699-0536 • Fax: (416) 699-2723
marlena@farmtributecanada.ca • www.farmtributecanada.ca

And let's finish with a smile.....or seven of them.....

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
5. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me
7. ~~Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.~~