

The Plough Boy

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Yukon Agricultural Association, 203-302 Steele St., Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 3C5 admin@yukonag.ca

The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways.

[John F. Kennedy](#) (1917-1963) *Thirty-fifth President of the USA*

New Minister

The recent cabinet shuffle saw Brad Cathers move from Health, to Minister of EMR. (and agriculture) Archie Lang went to Community Services. Best wishes to both in their new portfolios.

Mayo Trade Fair

June 21. We were there promoting our industry and our Association



Join us

Membership in the YAA is still only ten dollars and shows support for the farmers who grow our food and all the other people involved in getting it to our tables. What could be more worthy of support than that.

CANADA DAY



Jim Dillabough was there again this year with his petting zoo and rides for the kiddies.

School Farm Tours

Thanks to all who offered to host the grade one kids at your farms. And thanks to the teachers who consider it important to present agriculture in the classroom, and to bring their classes to the farm.

Doctor to Patient

"Which do you have more time for in your busy schedule - 1 hour a day of exercise, or, 24 hours a day of being dead?" Now there's something for all of us busy folks to think about.



Fertilizer Roulette (source: farm forum.ca)

Nobody knows what to do about fertilizer. Farmers are unsure whether to prebuy and put fertilizer in on-farm storage. Or should they cut back on rates? Or grow crops that fix their own nitrogen? Retailers aren't sure what to buy and how to price. "We have not seen a time like this," says Don Pottinger, one of the speakers at the recent Ag Progress Conference in Saskatoon. Fertilizer prices have doubled from 2007 to 2008 and they are still rising. Pottinger recaps why:

1. For years, fertilizer has been selling at a price that just covers variable cost. Under these circumstances, there has been no reinvestment in fertilizer production capacity in North America. When you add in the rising demand in Asia and other parts of the world, you can see that supply is insufficient to meet demand.
2. Food is in high demand, which has caused commodity prices to rise. Fertilizer use rises to boost yield to take advantage of these prices. From 2006 to 2008, nitrogen fertilizer use increased 11 per cent. "This might not sound like much, but when something is in balance, a little increase in demand can have a monumental impact on price. Phosphate use increased 13 per cent in that same period. Phosphoric acid, the building block of 10-34-0, tripled in price in the past 12 months.

FERTILIZER SUPPLY & PRICE IN YUKON

The cost of commercial fertilizer varies primarily according to the percentage of the principal ingredients - nitrogen, phosphate and potash (always shown as N,P,K. (For a simple explanation of fertilizers, check out <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/mg/files/gardennotes/232-Fertilizers.html>) Here in Yukon, our soils require a complete fertilizer having all three principal ingredients, but with a formulation high in nitrogen such as 33.9.9.4. (the '4' is sulphur, needed to regulate soil ph). The cost of 33.9.9.4 delivered to Whitehorse is presently priced around \$1200 per tonne. (roughly enough to optimally fertilize 6 acres). Thus the cost of a B train of fertilizer (a semi pulling two trailers delivering 44 tonnes of bulk fertilizer to fill two of the 19 bulk bins in Yukon) is about \$45,000 to \$50,000. Bagged fertilizer would cost much more.

Most of our bulk bin site holders pre-order fertilizer for their own needs in the fall when it is cheapest. In the past, many of them also ordered fertilizer, surplus to their own needs, in anticipation of smaller users buying the surplus in the spring when they are ready to plant their crops. However, with the cost now at \$45,000 or more per truck load, the site holders can no longer afford to carry the cost of pre-ordering for other users, let alone carry the risk of the price going down by spring, however unlikely. Therefore, anyone who wants to pre order fertilizer this fall for next spring should see one of the bin site holders and pay up front.

So Where Ya Bin and Where Da Bins?

Soil testing and the application of the correct amount of fertilizer makes a huge difference to the productivity of Yukon soils. At one time, farmers who wished to use fertilizer had to have it trucked in in bags because there was no bulk storage option. However, given the substantial price difference between bagged and bulk fertilizer, The Federal-Territorial sponsored Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement (APF) Fund Committee agreed to purchase bins to store bulk fertilizer. These bins were situated on the farms of the major fertilizer users, but were intended to also be available to smaller users, so they, too, could benefit from the price advantage of buying bulk. And indeed, a number of smaller users have availed themselves of this opportunity to save money. Unfortunately, many more who could, have not. In the event that this may be due, in part, to insufficient advertising of the service, the bin site holders are listed below.



Anyone who wishes to order bulk fertilizer need only call one of the site holders and place (and pay for) their order. We would like to improve on the utilization of the bins, so we urge any Yukon farmer or gardener who wants to buy bulk, to make use of this service. Although the bins are intended primarily for the storage of bulk fertilizer, it is worth noting that, if empty, they may also be used in the interim for the storage of grain or other products for which the bins are suited. Again, call the site holders to inquire regarding availability. Site locations are:

Jack Smith has two in Mayo,
Dalyce Stubenberg has two in Watson Lake
Steve MacKenzie-Grieve has four standards and one large bin
Cliff LaPrairie has two, Bill Drury has four
Dave Andrew has two, Wayne Grove has two

(Due to recent changes in usage patterns, plans are under consideration to move some bins to improve future utilization. I will advise everyone of all new locations once they have been established. We are also asking all users to keep good records this year and provide the info to the YAA office so we can provide a report to the APF Committee)

By the way, do pass this info on to anyone else who might need it.

F R A M E D A L R E A D Y ! W O W !



Start Rite Construction



Nelson Homes Authorized Dealer for Yukon Territory

Nelson Homes Panelized Construction provides:

- **Quick Construction Time** - Your home will be framed up in just a few days. Move in sooner, pay less interest and get quicker mortgage draws.
- **On Time Delivery , Cost Savings** through more effective cost management, less material waste and less theft.

Prefabricated



- floor trusses or floor joists
- roof trusses
- shingles

Delivered



Floor Laid



- siding, soffit, fascia
- Exterior & interior wall panels
- interior & exterior doors

Going Up



Taking Shape



- insulation and drywall
- interior finish package

We build custom houses, barns, garage packages, shops and more.
Contact Scott and /or Jackie Dickson 867-667-6396 for more information or visit our web site at
www.yukonbuilder.com.

Are Working Dogs 'Farm' Animals? by Jon Lucas

I recently asked this question of our Territorial and Federal Agriculture representatives. It would appear to be a straightforward question, but it isn't.



The Territorial Ag Branch accepts horses as farm animals, but not dogs. This may seem odd to anyone who uses dogs to herd and/or protect their livestock. Even more odd, the Federal answer to my question included the phrase, "it would be hard to accept dogs as farm animals in the Yukon, due to the large number of sled dog operations here", thus, seeming to imply that if there were just a few dogs, they could potentially be classified as farm animals.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) administers the Pedigree Animals Act, which defines what is, and is not, a pedigree breed, and it includes dogs. This might lead one to think that pedigree dogs are, therefore, classified as agricultural animals, but AAFC does not, in fact, even have a definition of a "farming activity". Instead, this

is left to Tax law, and what the tax man chooses to define as 'income arising from a farming activity'.

Yet, could not dogs that are maintained and bred (ie undergo animal husbandry) for the purpose of working to provide their owner with a livelihood, at least in the North, be classified as farm animals, and the land upon which they are raised be classified as a farm? The Culture and Heritage of the Yukon has revolved, in part, around working dogs since the Yukon came into being. Working dogs are a unique part of the **North's** culture and economy.



If you disagree with classifying working dogs as farm animals, just substitute "horse" for "dog". Look at the pictures. There really is little difference between what is being done with the two species, but if you have horses, you can be a farm, and have the support of Ag Branch. We have a Husky on our flag, but there seems little support for the basic needs of this industry at grass roots level.

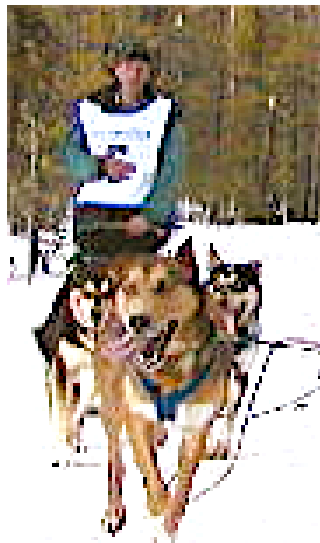


YAA was recently told Agriculture's needs and aspirations would always come second, third, twentieth to those of other Departments, because its \$4 million annual economic contribution to the Yukon was so small. If the property of working dog owners were classified as farms, the number of active, money generating farms in the Yukon could more than triple. Agriculture would suddenly be more economically significant, and have considerably more influence at the policy table. From the working dog side, mushing tourism and competitive kennels would finally have representation, and a voice.

Our Government agricultural representatives recognize the differences between **northern** and southern farming, and often stress the need to be **creative** in our agricultural programming. Lets be creative and have a new look at the merits of classifying income earning working dog operations as farms. Even if a reasoned examination of the issue should upon said working dogs and their owners' may lead to better recognition and design- an opportunity to visit and develop policies and minimum welfare standards, to fenced also predated), to policies governing the

Of course, this will require extra work on the expansion of the budget, and more staff. develop, and, in the **North**, be **creative**.

What do you think? Send your comments admin@yukonag.ca.



determine that conferring agricultural status properties is not appropriate, the discussion tions for this industry, as well as, perhaps, and regulations for everything from health yards and minimum chain length, (dogs are promotion and provision of 'dog tourism'.

part of the Agriculture Branch, possibly an But that is the point of growth: to expand,

on this opinion to Rick at

Who is going to take over the farm when you retire should be as much a part of your farm planning as how you operate your various farm enterprises. Unfortunately, for many, there is no answer to that question as sons and daughters choose to take up professional and other high paying jobs, or migrate to the cities for the bright lights lifestyle. Its like the old WW1 song- 'How you gonna keep em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?' Yet, even though farm succession remains a big issue across the country, many of those young men and women are beginning to choose to come back to the farm. Among these is the story of the Falle family, not long ago reported in the Yukon News, and repeated in part here from a news release. (The photo above is of the Falle farm in Grizzly Valley. It was the background for a YAA poster and newspaper ad campaign promoting Yukon agriculture and farm produce.)



Outstanding in our field

There are over 170 farms in the Yukon. Daily staples such as bread, eggs, cheese, vegetables, poultry and meat are all produced in the territory.
To find out who your Yukon producers are, go to www.yukonag.ca and download the Yukon Agriculture Products Guide, or come by one of our markets:
Firewood Community Market, Shipyards Park, Whitehorse, 3 to 5pm Thursdays from May 17 to September 13
Dawson Market on the River, Dawson City; Saturdays from May 12 to September 15

Canada Yukon Agricultural Association

Vanessa. They have two children of their own who will also grow up working on the farm, making their sons third generation farmers.

“I spent too much time away from my family while working in the forestry industry on Vancouver Island. I knew exactly what kind of life we could offer our children if we raised them on the same farm where I grew up so when Mom & Dad said they were ready to retire, we jumped at the chance to come home,” says Ray.

Ray is the operations manager at the farm which gives him the opportunity to be in the field and keep a close eye on the progress of the sod while staying connected to the staff. He is usually found riding one tractor or another and is commonly covered head-to-toe in dirt. Vanessa is the office manager and if you call to place an order or make an inquiry, she's likely the person attached to the voice on the other end of the phone. Both are outgoing and personable folks who are settling into their new roles and are looking forward to the joys of life in the Yukon. Allen and Irma, while enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle, are still living at the farm assisting in the transition of management while making sure to leave lots of time for the grandchildren.

“This farm has taken a tremendous amount of dedication & passion to make it what it is today. Ray and I intend to devote the same of ourselves to the farm that Al & Irma have so that we can share this legacy with our children,” says Vanessa Falle

Sourdough Sodbusters In 1972 Allen Falle, his wife Irma and their two young sons moved to an undeveloped piece of land just outside of the Whitehorse city limits (then called simply 'Mile 15 Mayo Road', now Grizzly Valley). In those days the property was more than 150 acres of nothing but trees and peat bog but Allen, being a visionary, was able to see beyond the forest and into a dream of building a legacy for his children and generations to come.

Allen's hard work paid off in the spring of 1985 when the farm now known as Sourdough Sodbusters opened for business providing the residents & landscape professionals of the Yukon and Alaska with the highest quality sod grown specifically to thrive in the extreme temperatures of the North.

Sourdough Sodbusters began as a family owned & operated business and remains that today. Allen and Irma's sons, Ray & Leonard, both grew up working on the farm but have pursued careers outside of agriculture. Their eldest son Ray has returned from working in forestry on Vancouver Island to take over management of the business along with his wife

ADVANCING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD PROGRAM (ACAAF)

The ACAA program is funded by grants provided by Agriculture Canada, and administered by the YAA, however, an independent Council made up of industry representatives from around Yukon, along with Ex-Officio reps from Agriculture Canada and YTG's Ag Branch, is responsible for project approvals and funding decisions. The Yukon ACAA Council approved and funded the following projects in 2007-2008.

4 Collective outcome projects proposed by lead Councils in other provinces.

1. Cdn Organic Growers practical Skills Handbook	
BC0085CO	\$2000.00
2. Reproductive Biotechnology as Solution to endemic disease in Alberta's Wood Bison	
AB0340CO	\$22,267.68
3. Agriculture and Food Distribution in the Peace	
AB3097CO	\$2952.00
4. The Saskatraz Project (Bee genetic selection)	
SK0234CO	\$10,000.00

Total CO funding commitments by Yukon Council in fiscal 07/08 **\$37,219.68**

9 New Yukon Projects Approved by Yukon Council in fiscal 07/08

1. Yukon Agriculture Multi Year Development Plan (project unoff approved in 06/07 fiscal, <u>officially</u> in 07/08)	YT0701	\$60,000
2. Yukon Hardy Bee Queen Trials (withdrawn - bees unavail. Unspent funds returned)	YT0702	\$9,886
3. Smokehouse Feasibility Study (red meats & fish) (withdrawn due to lack of CFIA approval + market saturation)	YT0703	\$5,000
4. Survey of Mesofauna in Yukon soils	YT0704	\$17,895
5. Perennial Research and Study	YT0705	\$20,182.50
6. Ag &/or Wildlife in our Boreal Forests Wkshp (highly successful, came in \$6,836.58 under budget)	YT0706	\$14,000
7. Great Green Growers Coop Devel project	YT0801	\$44,350
8. Meat Processing Infrastructure Project	YT0802	\$21,000
9. Fish Byproduct assmt for use as Pig/Poultry Feed (analysis completed. Feed values proven extremely high)	YT0803	<u>\$2,640</u>

Total funding commitments to new projects approved in fiscal 07/08 **\$194,953.50**

2 Old Projects approved to conduct further research

1. Oilseed Production Potential continuing on unused funds originally approved for this project	YT0602	
2. Legume Culture Study (appv'd to cont with yr 4 of 5yr. study, with condns)	YT0502	<u>\$22,260 + \$1840</u>

Total funds approved in fiscal 07/08 for extension of old projects **\$24,100.00**

Total funding commitment of new projects plus extension of old projects approved by Yukon Council in fiscal 07/08 = \$194,953.50 + \$24,100 = \$219,053.50

Anyone may submit a project proposal for the consideration of the Yukon ACAA Council including research projects, feasibility and business studies, pilot/pre-commercialization projects, agri-education, and other projects which address emerging ag issues &/or are seen as of general benefit. We invite your inquiries. Next application deadline is September 10.

Wildwood Festival 2008, begins at noon, Aug 3, at the Mount

Lorne Community Centre

Come on out

Part fall fair, art exhibit and music festival, this years Wildwood Festival is devoted to "The Art of Fine Food". This one day event will focus on the quality of food, the art of preparation, local production and the celebration of eating.

There is a strong interest and concern within our community about food - the quality and security of our food sources, availability of local food and the importance of food for each and every one of us.

This years Wildwood seeks to showcase the fine artisan food and food producers that are in the north and foster recognition for the "Art" in food preparation. A Food Gallery will be featured with art made from food, to be judged and then eaten

It is prime time for the gardeners up here and local gardeners, as well as commercial producers are encouraged to bring their produce to display and sell. Vendors from the Fireweed Community Market will be on site with food booths selling local produce and prepared foods and local art and crafts.

There will be food demonstrations/workshops and tasting opportunities, a flower and vegetable display in the style of a fall fair and an Animal Farm with alpacas, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits, chickens and other farm animals on site. Many of our kids grow up without the experience of farm animals, and it is worthwhile to connect our food with our animals.

Supper will be a local foods pot-luck with dinner music provided by young musicians followed by a country dance with renowned caller, Gordon Stobbe from Nova Scotia.

DISCUSSION TECHNIQUE

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

HAPPINESS To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him little. To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

PROPENSITY TO CHANGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't. A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, and she does.

APPEARANCE

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed. Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

MEMORY

Any married man should forget his mistakes, there's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

YOU WERE WONDERING.....??

DON'T THROW AWAY THAT FISH WASTE!

With the ever increasing price of commercial foodstuffs, combined with the escalating cost of transportation (and the detrimental environmental emissions of the transport vehicles), we thought it important to understand the nutritional value of local products that can cheaply be used to support livestock rearing in the Yukon. As it turns out, these products have considerable protein and fat (foodstuffs) values to support dog, pig, and poultry rearing.

The ACAAF study into fish byproducts found it is also rich in other nutrients, and especially high in vitamin A. However, the question remains how to make it more palatable as feed, and in what proportions, and how long it may be fed before butchering without resulting in fishy meat taint?

You'll know when we do, Meanwhile, if you are not sure about feeding the waste from your catch to Rover, Porky or Heckety Peckety, be sure to throw it into fast moving water. Seems the bears know its good to eat. Oh yes, and in case you were wondering, the guts account for 11% of the round (whole fish) weight of the fish, and the head and racks account for 30% of the weight of the dressed fish. That's a lot of valuable waste to be throwing away.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF SECONDARY PROCESSING PRODUCT						
2	Arctic Charr Processing Facility						
3	(Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agrifoods)						
4	Nutritional Component		GUTS/OFFAL		WHOLE/DEAD FISH		HEADS & RACKS/FILLET TRIM
5	grams/100grams of material						
6							
7	Protein		8.7		17.1		21.1
8							
9	Fat		45.41		7.85		4.93
10							
11	Moisture		45.9		73.1		72.2
12							
13	Ash		0.9		1.9		1.6
14							
15	Carbohydrate		<0.1		<0.1		0.2
16							
17	Omega-3 Fatty Acids		10.42		1.96		1.5
18	ENERGY						
19							
20	Calories/100g		440		139		129
21							
22	kJ/100g		1840		583		542
23	VITAMINS						
24							
25	A (Retinol) IU/100g		20074		950.6		<33.3
26							
27	E IU/100g		4.5		<1		<1
28							
29	C mg/100g		<0.42		2		2
30							

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2008-2009

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Senate says rural Canada lacks voice, needs its own minister
Excerpted from THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - A new Senate report says the federal government should make saving rural Canada one of its top priorities.

The Senate committee on agriculture recommended that Ottawa create a rural affairs department with its own minister to champion rural issues at the cabinet table.

The Senate report also suggested moving 10 per cent of the federal public service away from cities and into smaller regional areas. It also called on the government to encourage immigrants to settle in rural areas rather than cities

The committee also urged the government to compensate farmers and rural landowners who do their part to preserve the environment.

Other recommendations include improving broadband Internet access in rural communities, boost funding for transportation infrastructure and developing a national forestry strategy.

The full Senate committee report may be found at:
<http://www.torc.on.ca/documents/SenateReportonHaltingRuralPoverty.pdf>

The summary of recommendations begins on page 23. (xxxiii)



Yukon Agricultural Association

Born on May 24, 1974, our Association's 35th birthday is coming up. Ideas?

- LAND!**
Phase 1 of the Haines Junction development finished. Phase 2 will occur approximately in the fall of 2009. There will be five lots ranging in size from 10ha (two lots) to 30ha (two lots) to 50ha.
- ORGANICS**
You can download a copy of standards from The International Federation of Organic Agr. Movements (www.ifoam.org), Organic Crop Improvement Assn. (www.ocia.org) or get the Canadian Standards from AAFC.
- YAA Meetings**
are open to members. Call the office for the schedule. Minutes are available to members in the office.

NEWSLETTERS
Need news, pictures, stories, opinions, and lots of other materials. We invite your contributions.
- ADVERTISING**
Yes, we do take ads - \$20 for 1/8, \$30 for 1/4, \$55 for 1/2 and \$100 for a full page. Classifieds are free and most welcome

YESSA
Need a letter of support for your land application? Give us a call and let us know the issues. Perhaps we can help.
- ACAAF COUNCIL**
Volunteer support is the fuel that makes just about everything go in all the organizations and events in our community at large. The same is true for YAA and the other organizations which support our ag industry. Right now, the ACAA Council needs 2 or 3 new members. If you are interested, give us a call.

Guide to Zen

- § Sex is like air. It only becomes really important when you aren't getting any.
- § Don't aspire to become irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- § Remember, no-one is listening until you fart.
- § Never forget that you are unique, just like everyone else.
- § Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
- § If you think nobody cares whether you're dead or alive, try missing a couple of mortgage payments
- § Before you judge someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you judge them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
- § Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

For Sale!

International 1700 5 ton truck - cab and chassis only. 28,340 original miles. No rust. 900 x 20 tires. \$3,000. Call Fred or Debbie Last at 633-3608

Tic Toc ...actually, that's tick talk. There's been quite a lot of it over the last year. Thanks to the efforts of DOE and its staff to discuss elk and tick management with all the stake holders, action is now being taken to address our winter tick problem as well as the issue of the elk herd size, range and management.