



Steve Mackenzie-Grieve shows George Privett his potatoes, ready for planting.



The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon Agricultural Association

June 2014

YAA ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following board members for the 2014-2015 term were acclaimed at the May 3rd AGM:

Executive

Mike Blumenschein-President
 Alan Stannard-Vice President
 Tiana Zakus-Treasurer

Directors

Ralph Mease
 Jim Dillabough
 Greg Paquin
 Steve Mackenzie-Grieve
 Teddy Fagbamila
 Jackie McBride-Dickson

Board meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm, except for a possible summer hiatus.

The new board attended an all-day retreat on May 15th to familiarize members with topics such as board policies, programs, the strategic plan, and plans for 65-hectare lease.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Occasionally an interesting website is pointed out that may be of interest to our members. Here are a few for you to investigate:

<http://www.fmc-gac.com/news/cfm>

Canadian Farm Manager

<http://www.thehopper.ag>

Rural Resource Hub

http://www.rotogrind.com/why_choose_1.html

Roto Tub Grinders

<http://smallfarmcanada.ca>

Small Farm magazine

<http://www.farmnwt.com>

Territorial Farmer's Association

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

April 1, 2014-74 members

June 30, 2014-113 members

APRIL MEMBERS' SURVEY

Question # 1

Yukon Government is proposing to release lots in the Ibx Agricultural Reserve. Do you support releasing more agricultural lots in this area?

Yes	9	90%
No	0	0%
Undecided	1	10%
Total	10	100%

Question # 2

Do you support discussions leading to the release of more agriculture lots within Whitehorse municipal boundaries?

Yes	7	70%
No	1	10%
Undecided	2	20%
Total	10	100%

Question # 3

Please choose how much you agree with the following statements:

Encouraging governments (federal, territorial, municipal, First nations) to provide more agricultural lots is important.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
0	0	0	3	7	10
0%	0%	0%	30%	70%	100%

More agriculture lots would ensure more local food is produced and available for Yukon residents.

0	3	1	1	5	10
0%	30%	10%	10%	50%	100%

Retaining agricultural land for agricultural production is important to food sustainability in Yukon.

0	0	0	2	8	10
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SPOTLIGHT on YAA MACHINERY- KUHN PLOUGH



Tillage practices have changed over the past years. While the primary benefits of mouldboard ploughing is the removal of compaction and increased water infiltration, other agronomic advantages including nearly complete weed control, increased nitrogen mineralization and improved nutrient access has also been achieved.

Complete soil inversion is required to completely bury weed seeds and water repellent soil and achieve optimum benefits. Good plough set-up and use of a skimmer blade, which scalps off the topsoil and turns it into the furrow ahead of the mouldboard (which then folds the subsoil on top) is critical for success. <http://www.grdc.com.au/Research-and-Development/Major-Initiatives/Non-wetting-soils/Soil-inversion-mouldboard-ploughing>

The YAA purchased a Kuhn Reversible Plough in 2009, as one of five pieces of agricultural equipment available for rent. The plough requires a 75 HP tractor with three-pint hitch and hydraulics, although 60-70HP may be sufficient on the lighter, non-irrigated Yukon soils.

The Kuhn plough allows you to:

- Maintain a high quality soil structure with an efficient burial of organic matter and an even aggregate spread
- Increased crop yields
- Utilize the wide range of settings and overall manoeuvrability to reduce “in field” costs
- Benefit from technological innovations such as reinforced box section, variable width, and protection systems

The plough is available at non-profit rate of \$ 130/day. Rental arrangements, including showing proof of insurance, can be made through the YAA office. The current caretaker is Fritz Lehnerr. Thanks, Fritz, for your assistance.

PRESENTATION TO WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

President Mike Blumenschein and Past President Cain Vangel appeared as delegates at the April 14th City Council meeting to request the development of more agricultural parcels within municipal boundaries.

The Official Community Plan shows support for Local Food Production, specifically non-soil based operations, and the Whitehorse Strategic Sustainability Plan also talks about supporting local agricultural initiatives. There is about 100 hectares near the Cousins Airstrip with agriculture designation.

Leased parcels were suggested as one way to ensure that agriculture land remains available for agricultural production. (Jesse Winter photo)



65 HECTARE LAND LEASE UPDATE

A *Call for Proposals* for a conceptual site plan were released at the end of April, with a number of submissions returned in May. The proposals were reviewed for qualifications, approach, content, response, timeframe, and cost. Thank you to Judy Linton, David Murray and Matt Ball at Energy, Mines & Resources for sharing their expertise and offering assistance. URBAN Systems is the successful contractor for the project.

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIPS

If you are a multi-year membership holder, and view the Ploughboy on the website, please advise if your email address has recently changed. Two of our members are not receiving emails from the office, as they are bouncing back. You might be missing something relevant.

YUKON YOUNG FARMERS

At the May 10th AGM, the YYF elected the new executive for the coming term:

President-Tiana Zakus

VP- Michelle Murphy

Treasurer-Tamara Neeley

Director-at-large-Ann-Marie Stockley

Congratulations! The YYF is open to Yukon farmers 18-45.

Yukon Young Farmers' vision statement:

- To encourage and empower young farmers
- To create networks to foster sharing, education, and help amongst young farm families

YAA EQUIPMENT FOR RENT

- Schulte heavy duty mower- \$185/day
- Kuhn reversible plough- \$130/day
- Aerway aerator with Valmar applicator/seeder- \$185/day
- John Deer no till drill- \$300/day
- Leon manure spreader- \$160/day
- Event tents- \$150/day each for members/NGOs

DON'T LET AN INJURY RUIN YOUR HARVEST

As a farmer, you can buy workers' compensation coverage. More important, if you have employees working on your farm, you must buy them coverage. This insurance provides you, or your workers with excellent medical and financial support following an injury. In addition, it protects you, as an employer, from financially ruinous lawsuits.

Few can put a price on the peace of mind that brings.

If you would like that protection for yourself, your spouse or children, you can buy optional coverage through our offices in Whitehorse. And if you have volunteers assisting you with your crops, you can buy them coverage too.

If you are interested, or have questions, give us a call at 667-5645. We're happy to discuss your options.

Or come in and visit us. You'll find the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board at 401 Strickland Street, Whitehorse.

LOOKING BACK- to May 1998

[Excerpts from The Plough Boy]

The YAA has requested national recognition and a seat on the Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC). We feel that being an active member of the Council would enable us to address the specific needs that Northern Farmers face. This partnership would help Yukon Growers on their way to establishing an equal footing with those in southern provinces and will help expand our rapidly growing agricultural industry.

Thanks to Eloise Clark for this picture of "Brook and Mikey."



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