



Caroline Rancy, Christophe Ceres (France) and Tobias Burkharolt (Germany) volunteered at Circle D Ranch and Pelly River Ranch this summer. They were spotted at the Agriculture Demo Day, sponsored by Yukon Government's Agriculture Branch, where all three shared their enthusiasm for their Yukon experiences.



The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon Agricultural Association

September 2014

FALL IS HERE

As the fall leaves turn from the spectacular and brilliant colors in Mother Nature's palette to the less stellar and muted shades of earth tones, we are reminded how quickly the annual cycles repeat.

On the list for fall is the North of 60 Agriculture Conference, hosted by the Agriculture Branch November 1-2nd in Whitehorse. If you haven't attended in the past, make this your year to do so. To encourage those from out of the capital, YAA is offering an incentive to attend, with the following criteria in mind:

- Must travel 175km return distance
 - One application per family
 - Must attend the entire conference
- Mileage and hotel incentive offered
Contact the office for an application form, and please share the word about the conference with others who may not normally attend.

UPDATING THE BOOKLET

YAA submitted an application to update the Yukon Farm Products & Services Guide for 2015. If your listing is out-dated, or if you know someone who should be listed, please let the office know. More details will follow in coming months. The goal is to have the hardcopy and on-line update available by April.

TAGISH FARMERS' MARKET

By Moya van Delft

The Tagish Community Market Society was formed in 2012, after seeing a lot of local interest in having a market here. We got the ball rolling by polling the community to see who was growing and producing goods, establishing a working relationship with the Tagish Community Club, and forming our society. There is a huge amount of interest in buying local here in Tagish, but we need to do everything we can to encourage

more food producers. Our biggest struggle is finding vendors to supply the markets. This summer we approached the Carcross Community Garden, and we are thrilled to say they will be one of our vendors, bringing their excess to Tagish to sell. After running two successful and well-attended Tagish Harvest Fairs, this year the TCMS is collaborating with Mt Lorne to bring about what is the first Southern Lakes Harvest Fair. We have also worked with Mt Lorne to bring the Northern Backyard Garden Series, funded by Growing Forward, to Tagish. We are extremely happy to be working with these creative, enthusiastic individuals, and look forward to watching our Market and our partnerships grow.

BOARD VACANCY

One seat is vacant on the 9-person board. If you have a desire to serve, please contact the office for details.

JUNCTION COMMUNITY MARKET

By Jolene Billwiller

Spruce Cottage Farm

Wednesday afternoon from mid-May to the end of August found Junctionites shopping, visiting and playing at the Junction Community Market. A small but dedicated group of vendors provided a wide range of products for the community. Shoppers lined up for baking, found bedding plants and produce and fixed their sweet tooth with freshly-spun cotton candy. This past summer was the second full year for the market and was a wonderful success. The market provided a welcome opportunity for community-building and a great retail space for local bakers, farmers, plant nurseries, food carts, authors and artists.

Despite the rather inclement weather this summer, valiant vendors and courageous customers made their way to the market, usually running into a friend or neighbour to have a catch-up with. The KidZone was a very popular spot, with dress-up bins, books and many little friends to play with. The market culminated with the 2nd Annual Junction Fall Fair, featuring the harvest exhibit, horse-and-wagon rides and a hay-bale obstacle course. Another successful market season with everyone looking forward to the next!

VOLUNTEER WANTED

Do you like wordsmithing? YAA is looking for one or two individuals to serve on an ad-hoc Bylaw Review Committee in preparation for the 2015 AGM. Much of the work can be done electronically. We will review the current bylaw, determine updates and incorporate suggested changes. Call Bev at 668-6864 if this sounds like a task right up your alley.

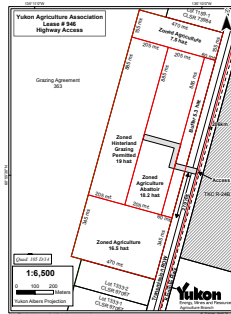
65 HECTARE LAND UPDATE

URBAN Systems was contracted to undertake a Conceptual Site Plan for the leased land on the North Klondike Highway. This plan followed from the “Klassen Report” <http://yukonag.ca/cms-assets/documents/132891-561449.land2013.pdf>, which outlined short and long-term priorities for the property gleaned from consultations with YAA members and a review of relevant documents from past years.

The Conceptual Site Plan determines the type, location, and extent of infrastructure development that will meet the present and anticipated needs of the Association over the next 20 years.

This summer, the Yukon Horse and Rider Association approached the YAA about partnering on a portion of the land and relocating all its assets on a long-term basis. Thus, YHRA was included as a stakeholder in the planning. Others invited included neighbours, Fireweed Market, GoOFY, Potluck Food Co-op, Yukon Game Growers Association, Downtown Urban Gardener’s Society, the abattoir contractor, and the adjacent First Nation government.

A workshop held on September 10th to review the conceptual drawings drew over 30 interested people. The technical working committee met again on the 16th, and the final plan will go to the YAA board in October. Progress is taking place, one step at a time.



STORAGE BIN MOVE

Each fall the storage bin site holders are asked to provide information on use and condition of the bins on their property. This information is evaluated to ensure that the bins are placed in location where maximum use is obtained. Two bins were relocated this year to Heart Bar Ranch at Km 1463 on the Alaska

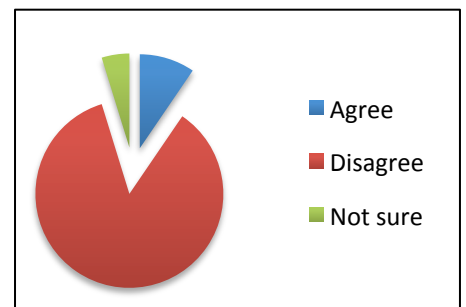


Highway with the help of R.C. Crane & Construction Ltd. Precision movements were in order to make the move look very easy—a real art. There are 21 bins located around the Yukon for member’s joint use; call the office for locations and details.

SEPTEMBER SURVEY

Thank you to our members who always take a few minutes to respond to the surveys and provide feedback. Here is what you told us recently:

Q: I’m not really interesting in increasing my production. 21 respondents indicated:



View more survey results at www.yukonag.ca...About YAA... YAA Documents.

SPOTLIGHT on YAA MACHINERY- SCHULTE ROTARY CUTTER

The YAA purchased the Schulte Rotary Cutter in 2011, and is one of five pieces of agricultural equipment available for rent. The cutter is designed for weeds, grass and brush up to 4" in diameter and operates with a tractor PTO of either 540 or 1000 RPM.

The XH1500 Series 3 Cutter:

- Single domed, sweep clean deck design eliminates excess weight over competitive double-deck designs, eliminates build up of debris and prevents rusting on top side of deck
- Tandem walking axles result in smooth operation over rough surfaces
- Increased frame depth & blade tip speed results in a superior flow of material
- Larger 24" aircraft tires for improved performance in wet conditions
- Lower pressure 8" stroke hydraulic phasing cylinders for a level lift
- Center suspension reduces stress on tractor drawbar
- Cutting width-180" (4.57m)... 126" (3.20m)
- Cutting height-1.5 to 17.5" ...(38 to 456mm)

The cutter is available at non-profit rate of \$ 185/day. Rental arrangements, including showing proof of insurance for towing, can be made through the YAA office. The current caretaker is Don Coates. Thanks, Don, for your assistance.



OTTAWA, July 2, 2014:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is reminding stakeholders that the national pig traceability system came into force on July 1, 2014.

Effective July 1, 2014, all pig farmers and pig custodians (auction markets, transporters, breeders etc.) must properly identify, keep records and report the movement of pigs under their care or control from birth or import to slaughter or export. The wild boar industry will be subject to these requirements as of July 1, 2015.

Read more - <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/traceability/notice-to-industry-2014-07-02-/eng/1404329494941/1404329496098>

CULLING POULTRY

Tip Offered by S'toon Berry Acres
family@stoonberryacres.com
867-335-5220 • Gentian Lane, YT

So, you tried your hand at raising your own small flock of birds this year, and it's time to cull those meat birds, or your excess rooster population. Here in Yukon it's possible to have a small flock of less than 30 birds culled on the Mobile Poultry Processing Unit if you can find other 'small flock' farmers to join you in a community cull! If that is the case, how do you get your small flock to the processing unit if the location is not on your property? Easy, put the birds in a medium or large dog kennel/crate. It's a very safe, clean and inexpensive way to transport birds of any size. Most Yukoners care for 1 or 2 dogs; therefore a few empty kennels are probably kicking around gathering dust. Ask your neighbour, or check out a local yard sale. Like us, for example, we own 2 kennels and have only one small dog...go figure!



Our Curious Flock of Barred Rocks

Frog Food Festival

The FFF took place August 1-3rd at the Circle D Ranch. The event drew families, friends and visitors for a weekend of entertainment and local food. The Friday pig roast was sold out, and the floor was rocking into the wee early hours of the morning to the music of the numerous bands. The weather cooperated, pleasing the visiting and local chefs. What was missing? The agricultural community was visibly absent.

YUKON YOUNG FARMERS

November 26th and 27th is set aside for an enthusing workshop. The workshop will be facilitated by the Canadian Young Farmers Forum, and will cover board governance, strategic planning and networking. All young farmers are welcome to attend. Heads Up!
The CYFF annual national conference and AGM-Ottawa, Feb. 27th-Mar. 3, 2015

FREE WEBINARS

Farm Management Canada

FMC provides many free, easy to access webinars that you can partake of on your time schedule. Here are a few of the topics that might spark an interest:

- Farm Transition: When Enough is Enough
- Marketing Local Products: The Bumpy Road from the Farm to the Table
- Maximizing Value at the Farm Gate
- Make Farm Management a Mobile Experience
- 10 Best Management Practices

<http://agriwebinar.com>



Harvesting oats planted with the no-till-drill.

D. Andrew photo.

LOOKING BACK- to December 1997

[Excerpts from The Plough Boy]

Mayo Chapter News. On behalf of the Stewart Valley chapter of YAA, I would like to congratulate PARTRDGE CREEK FARMS on obtaining the Abattoir contract. We wish you every success. R. Mease

In September 1997 Rita Artemenko became a certified Appaloosa Inspector for all of Yukon and B.C. 1 of 7 in all of Canada. WAY YO GO!

CONFERENCES

North of 60

November 1-2, 2014 Whitehorse, YT

<http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/index.html>

2014 Acres U.S.A. Conference & Trade Show

December 3-6, 2014, Columbus, Ohio

<http://www.acresusa.com/events>

GrowCanada 2014: Optimism and opportunities

December 2-4, 2014 in Ottawa

<https://event-wizard.com/growcanada2014/0/welcome>

Agri-Trend Farm Forum

Dec 2-4, 2014 in Saskaton

<http://www.cvent.com/events/the-farm-forum-event-2014/event-summary-8afa9ad55edc41a38632b3547f559f6d.aspx>

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:

<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en.html>

Farm Credit Canada

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

University of Alaska Extension Services

<http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

Food and Ag. Organization of the United Nations

Borealis Wood Power Corp.

<http://www.borealiswoodpower.com>

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

September 30, 2015-131



Board member Jim Dillabough with Alice Boland, YAA's 125th member.

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