

WILD ROSE



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

NEWS

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A VOICE FOR ALBERTA FARMERS IN OTTAWA BY NEIL WAGSTAFF - PRESIDENT

Throughout this newsletter references are made to CFA, which stands for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Vice President Keith Degenhart, Director Elaine Jones and myself have just returned from the CFA Summer Convention held in Winnipeg in late July, so I thought it might be appropriate to write about our involvement with CFA and Wild Rose's role on the Federal scene.

Over the past 3 years I have come to realize that many political decisions affecting Alberta farmers are made in Ottawa. Thus, Alberta farmers need to have effective representation at the Federal level. Federal politicians and the staff of federal departments recognize that Wild Rose is a significant voice for Alberta producers. They also recognize CFA as representing a large sector of agriculture in Canada.

Wild Rose is fortunate that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has

made a special provision for us to be an Associate member. This allows Wild Rose to participate with CFA at a reduced cost.

General Farm Organizations from all

"Our involvement with CFA strengthens our representation for Alberta Farmers in Ottawa ..."

provinces in Canada, except Saskatchewan, are members of CFA. Major commodity organizations, except for beef cattle and some grain groups, are also members. Most of the CFA members have some type of check-off system for membership and raising funds. It is sometimes embarrassing to have to admit that Wild Rose cannot afford a full membership in CFA because we do not have more Alberta farmers as members!

CFA is non-partisan and is an effective voice for farmers in Ottawa. Wild Rose

has relied upon CFA to represent them on many issues and to provide us with information. Some important issues that Wild Rose has worked with CFA on are:

- Safety net changes
- Trade agreements and negotiations
- Environmental & scientific concerns
- Regulatory changes

Alberta Farmers need to better understand the importance of having influence in Ottawa in a non-partisan way. "Educating" federal decision makers is costly and time consuming and Wild Rose has limited resources to use towards an effective lobby in Ottawa.

Our involvement with CFA strengthens our representation for Alberta farmers in Ottawa and needs to be supported by more Alberta producers. The perspective of Alberta producers needs to be communicated in Ottawa and should be reason enough for more Alberta farmers to be members of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.

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CHECK-OFFS

The farmer funded and directed Western Grain Research Foundation provides millions of dollars annually for research through a check-off of \$0.20/tonne for wheat plus other check-offs that are applicable in other provinces.

In Alberta, the Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission has a producer check-off established at \$0.50/tonne.

The Alberta Barely Commission has a producer check-off on barley established at \$0.40/tonne.

The Alberta Canola Growers Commission has a producer check-off on canola established at \$0.50/tonne and the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission have a producer check-off at \$0.005 per dollar on pulse crops.

Each generates money for research. However, a producer can choose to have their check-off refunded by contacting the appropriate Commission or Agency.

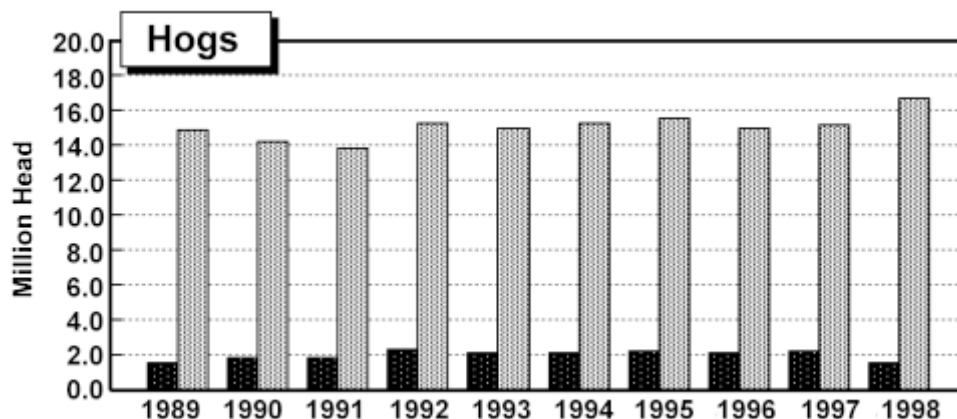
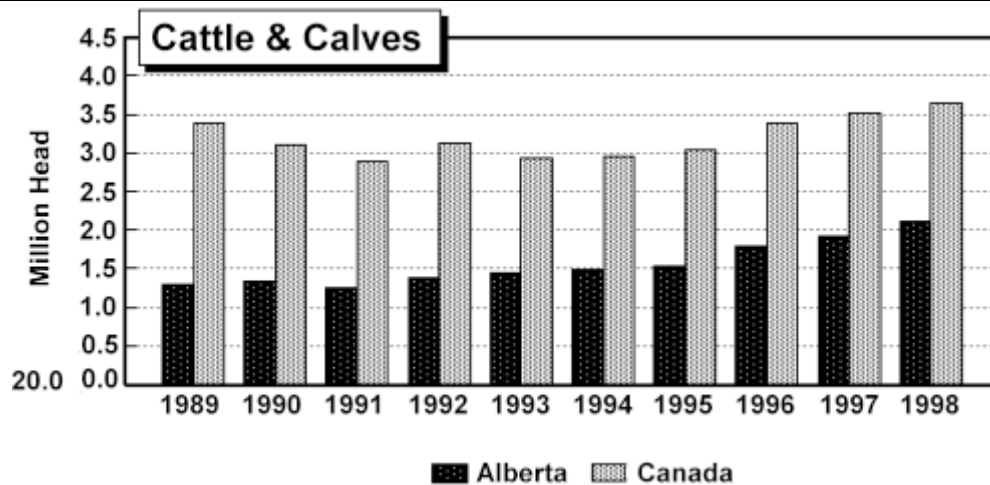
FARM WILDLIFE BROCHURES

The CFA (Canadian Federation of Agriculture) has developed a series of Wildlife & Waterfowl Management brochures - Management Strategies for Farmers. These brochures emphasize working with nature towards an environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural system. The following is a list of brochure titles:

- Preventing Wolf Predation on Private Land
- Preventing Small Bird Damage on Private and Public Land
- Preventing Coyote Predation on Private Land
- Preventing Duck Damage on Private and Public Land
- Preventing Deer Damage to Crops and Forests on Private Land
- Preventing Goose Damage on Private and Public Land

If you are interested in acquiring the free brochures, contact the Wild Rose Agricultural Producers office. Our address is listed on both the front and back cover of this publication. These brochures are free of charge.

CATTLE & HOGS SLAUGHTERED IN ALBERTA AND CANADA



FARM WOMEN – NEW ENTREPRENEURS

BY TERRY MURRAY— 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

Rural women are already accomplished farm managers and play an important part in the farm management team. More than that, they are looking at new ventures and opportunities to increase profits in the farm business. Sometimes they do this in partnership with their spouses, sometimes they are beginning new rural based businesses on their own, creating new jobs.

We know from research that younger farm women will become more and more active in farm businesses if they are allowed to overcome the difficulties of distance, available child care and cost of training in order to acquire new business skills.

Farm women have always worked hard to help their family farm businesses, often having to work off-farm to provide a stable income for their families. Now, opportunities are opening up that will allow these women to become more entrepreneurial, to create their own incomes in farm or rural based businesses.

Rural women today are facing the same obstacles as their grandmothers: isolation; few job prospects; lack of child care; and, lack of capital to start a new venture. Today, though, they are more likely to approach the problem with new solutions.

Networking, business planning, high tech communications – these all provide new women entrepreneurs with opportunities that their grandmothers couldn't access.

Increasingly, governments, banks and rural communities are

recognizing that this new pool of potential business people have training and financial needs that need to be addressed.

Good ideas are being rewarded with support from public and non-profit training agencies like Women in Rural Economic Development in Ontario and Women's Enterprise Centres in the West as well as the Rural and Small Town Program in New Brunswick.

This support offers new women entrepreneurs what they want; the freedom to stay in their communities or on their farms and make a living while giving back to the community with new jobs and other financial resources.

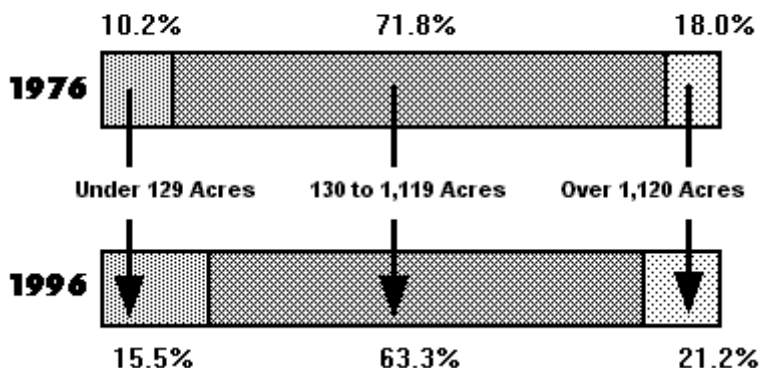
If you have a business idea that you think can work, look at your potential resources; start with your local chamber of commerce, provincial agricultural training program, local distance learning centre or regional employment office.

These agencies can point you toward even more resources and programs. Some provinces have Women's Enterprise Centres and most provinces have small business initiatives that can be accessed by new business people in need of consulting services, business training or financial resources.

New business ventures started by farm women are a good sign for the future of the entire agricultural industry, and that resources exist to help them along in their new projects is a good sign that the larger community is beginning to recognize the value of farm women on their farms and on their own.

CHANGES IN ALBERTA'S FARM DISTRIBUTION 1976 - 1996

Fig. 43 Distribution of Alberta Farms by Size, 1976 and 1996



Source:

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development.

In 1996, the majority (63%) of Alberta's farms were in the 130 to 1,119 acre size class. This was down from about 72% twenty years ago. While the proportion of this group decreased, the smaller and larger size groups posted increases. The proportion of farms under 129 acres grew to about 16% and "large" farms of 1,120 acres or more increased to 21%.

CANADIAN FARM INCOME PROGRAM

PRINCIPLES OF A NEW AGRICULTURAL DISASTER PLAN

On July 6th, in Fredericton New Brunswick, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture completed their annual meeting by drawing up a framework for the proposed Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP). This program is an attempt to initiate the next generation in disaster assistance programming.

Under CFIP, the federal government will contribute up to \$1.3 billion over three years, with the provinces kicking in \$870 million over the same period. These contributions will provide a total close to \$2.2 billion.

The Government believes CFIP will help farmers by providing additional protection against drastic income reductions. This support, the Ministers believe, can be achieved through the implementation and integration of the following agreed upon principles:

- Targeting of farmers in need, based on whole farm income.
- Ensuring incomes at 70% of a historic average.
- Treating farmers similarly regardless of commodity interests, and the inclusion of all labour (both family and non-family) as a permissible expense.
- Minimizing the potential for trade challenges.
- And better integration with NISA.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture sees this framework in terms of a good news – bad news scenario. In certain respects, the CFIP conforms to CFA's position; however, in other aspects, it falls far from CFA's desired principles.

In terms of good news, the new disaster program adheres to a number of agreeable positions.

The area of family wages will likely be regarded similarly to 1999; with all wages being treated the same and considered eligible expenses as in NISA. Farm size expansion situations as well as the Olympic versus three-year average provision are to stay the same as in 1999.

Some beneficial changes are expected in the areas of inventory calculations and maximum possible payment. Although unclear as of yet, the CFIP program will support farmers with accrual accounting or those that can provide reliable data. Maximum payment is set to be \$175 000 with five shareholders in the federal program – in agreement with CFA's position.

Unfortunately, it may well be that the bad news greatly outweighs the CFIP's good news. Much of this dismay is with regards to the NISA link.

Negative margins will not be covered. The sole exception is for those farmers that did not trigger a disaster payment in prior years. In that case, negative margins will be covered up to an amount equivalent to the NISA link, which is discussed below.

Under the 2000 CFIP program, for a farmer with AIDA payments in 1999, there is no NISA link; however, for a farmer with no AIDA payments in 1999, a link exists. In the latter case, the 2000 CFIP payments will have effective 1999 government contributions to NISA deducted. If this is bad, then it becomes worse.

Negative margins will not be covered

The 2001/2002 CFIP program will encompass an even less desirable NISA link. The CFIP payment will either have actual government contributions to NISA since 1999 deducted or the farmer's last CFIP payment subtracted.

Moreover, the maximum deduction will be 9% ENS in 2002 for a farmer that never qualified for a CFIP payment and that fully contributed to its NISA account in 1999. The minimum deduction will have no NISA link for a farmer that was eligible for a CFIP payment the year prior or for a farmer with negative margins.

The CFIP program is essentially exchanging negative margin coverage for a weaker NISA link or, in countless cases, no NISA link. Money is going to be plucked from one farmer and given to another. Now, even though this cannot be considered an improvement, it is certainly better than the initial version of the program presented to the National Safety Net Advisory Committee.

In 2000/2001 the value of both NISA and CFIP will be greatly affected if the impact of the NISA link is not altered during the NISA review. The link does not realize that a producer could have emptied his/her NISA account by having his/her margins decreased by up to 29% below the reference margin. This link is just not acceptable.

It is expected that the details of the program will be finalized sometime this fall. Some provinces have approved the plan in principle, while others plan to make funding decisions during their budgetary process.

WWW.WRAP.AB.CA Today!

We have recently launched a new website for Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. It boasts of dramatic improvements in terms of content, communication, and ease of use. The pages are quick to load, with a user friendly design.

The site has a **forum area** devoted specifically to giving producers such as yourself the opportunity to let your voice be heard. Here you can post your thoughts and comments regarding any matter you believe needs to be addressed, and then return to read the comments of Wild Rose and/or other producers. It is interactive.

We also have incorporated a **questionnaire section** which allows us to post surveys on a number of rural related issues. These surveys are by no means scientific, but do give Wild Rose Agricultural Producers an up to date understanding of the current issues facing farmers. The results of these questionnaires are available for viewing as well.

Another key section, is the **section for information**. Here you have access to the latest government developments, and our stance on various matters. This section contains reports we have written, and the suggestions you want us to bring forward to both provincial and national governments. It contains documents in both Adobe Acrobat Format - pdf and HTML format for your viewing. All our newsletters are here too!

The **links section** will give you quick access to important government, and agricultural organization sites.

We need you, the producers, **to actively participate** in the website forum and surveys to make the site a success. With your help, we can make the Wild Rose Agricultural Website a model for other agricultural organizations to strive towards.

We are located at:

<http://www.wrap.ab.ca>

Visit Us Today!



QUICK FACTS! DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

- Approximately 30% of Canada's farmland is NOT considered to be economically or environmentally suitable for cultivation, but does support sustained ruminant livestock grazing.
- For the fourth consecutive year, the cost of producing a finished steer in Alberta was lower than in Texas and Nebraska, the two largest cattle feeding states in the US.
- A pig is smaller than a human baby at birth, but the size of an adult by six months of age.
- Alberta regularly produces 1/3 of Canada's honey, a proportion which can sometimes be as high as 2/5.
- Alberta is the sole province producing sugar beets in Canada.
- Canada has become the world's second largest producer of dry peas behind France (the world leader). Alberta accounts for approximately one-quarter of Canadian production. In 1999, Alberta produced 530 000 tonnes.
- Tractor numbers overtook horses in Canada in 1961.
- One of every five people lived in rural Alberta in 1996.
- Total farm area averaged 1 328 acres in the Southern Region, compared to 475 acres in the Northwest Region in 1996.
- Alberta is the largest beef producing province in Canada, accounting for more than 3/5 of the country's total beef production.
- Over the next 15 years, Alberta's population is projected to increase by approximately 30%, the highest in Western Canada.
- Per capita consumption of poultry has more than doubled from 14.04 kg in 1961 to 32.42 kg in 1998.

**Call: 1-800-506- CARE (2273)
Animal Care Alert Line**

**If you have concerns regarding the care
of livestock; or
If you are experiencing management problems.**

**This publication is circulated to approximately 2,000
members of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.**

The advertising rates are as follows:

1 page	\$500.00
½ page	\$250.00
¼ page	\$125.00
Business Card	\$ 50.00

SPECIES AT RISK ACT

In early April, Federal Environment Minister David Anderson unveiled The Species at Risk Act. This legislation's main objective would be to protect all endangered species from extinction. Such protection would encompass all types of species including birds, fish, mammals, plants, insects, reptiles and amphibians. Furthermore, the protection of critical habitats would also fall under this legislation.

The Species at Risk Act proposes that protective efforts, leading to the preservation of threatened wildlife and crucial habitat, should be primarily conservative and voluntary. It also stresses the need for cooperation with landowners, provincial and municipal governments, as well as aboriginal communities. Though SARA will mainly encourage voluntary conservation, it also has a provision that enables it to pay compensation to individuals or groups who suffer extraordinary or unfair losses through the prohibition of critical habitat destruction.

It is this compensation aspect that is absolutely crucial to the success of the act. Aboriginal groups, landowners, industry officials, and a variety of organizations are questioning what level of cost or loss constitutes compensatory payments. Moreover, is every owner or user of land containing endangered wildlife or crucial habitat entitled to receive payments?

The Federal Government plans to lay out the details of the compensation system in a set of regulations to be drafted after SARA has received Royal Assent - sometime in late fall. The Environment Minister holds the vision that the regulations will be based on fair and objective principles, with suggestions coming from all interested parties.

Canadian environmental and resource management legislation, unfortunately, does not provide compensation payments for habitat protection. Moreover, there is little in terms of guides that can be used as models in the formation of a compensation scheme. Thus, the Environment

Minister has been looking for feedback and suggestions for a system of compensation payments.

Initial suggestions contain both convergent and divergent perspectives. Much of the debate is currently centered on fairness, realistic or expected use of land, incentive value, compensation methods, procedures, appraisals and disputes.

Most Canadians agree that the cost associated with the protection of threatened species should not be borne entirely by those whose land happens to be a suitable habitat. Moreover, a clear majority believe in the idea of compensation payments for private land owners whose economic outlook suffers due to imposed land restrictions. Similar agreement is present for compensation in cases of Indian land reserves.

However, when the same restrictions are forced upon industries, which harvest both renewable and non-renewable resources off crown land, support for compensation payments becomes rather meager. After all, industry receives access to crown land under the stipulation that any activities will not negatively affect public interests and objectives.

This public opinion has raised concerns among industry officials. They claim that compensation should not discriminate between landowners and those who use leased public land to promote economic activity. Furthermore, several officials believe in large-scale payments to offset the possibility of shutdowns, decline in income, and the subsequent need for severance pay.

The idea of compensating large corporations is not readily acceptable to the general public. The question then arises what should be done to offset the trouble the corporations may need to go to protect endangered species and habitat? Should they too be expected to be voluntary stewards of the land?

Currently, there is very little cohesive thought regarding compensation for usage of land. There are some who believe that compensation should be provided for the losses incurred due to the restrictions placed on future land use. Others believe that compensation should only be applied to land use, which is currently being practiced. In other words, should a landowner with a stand of trees harboring endangered species be compensated for not being able to develop the land the trees stand on? Even if he had no prior plans for this future development? Many people do not support compensation for such an individual.

Since SARA attempts to protect endangered species and critical habitat by mainly voluntary landowner efforts, any compensation system would have to be structured such that it is not used as an incentive program. Here, compensation differs from stewardship incentives and conservation agreements.

Stewardship incentives are to encourage conservation agreements for the protection of crucial habitat. Typically, voluntary incentives should be sufficient.

In most cases, compensation is likely to be most relevant in cases where the landowners are unwilling to voluntarily accept land use restrictions to protect critical habitat. However, the basic principle the Federal Government wishes to emphasize is the nonexistence of an incentive in the avoidance of land stewardship in the hopes of receiving a larger settlement through compensation.

As an alternative to monetary compensation, the Government is looking at a number of different options. Among the options, two in particular are receiving strong support - land swaps and conversion to land use more suited to species at risk.

Land Swaps would entail the exchange of equal valued land. The producer

(Continued on page 7)

SARA – CONTINUED...

would receive land that would be able to support equivalent land use. This option would be of great interest if land swaps could be performed in close proximity to the original individual's operation.

The conversion of land option is another idea receiving relatively strong support. The individual's current land use would be converted to land use more suitable for the threatened species. As an example, certain birds of prey require large areas of pastureland for hunting purposes. The producer would be encouraged to convert his crop operation to a pasture operation. In such cases, compensation could be towards the difference between the loss that would have been incurred if land use was prohibited and the cost of changing to the alternative land use practices.

The issue of compensation appraisals is much more difficult to resolve than most. Some people and organizations would like to set up a new body; however, a new body will likely be costly and inefficient.

Others suggest using existing federal or provincial agencies. Although the use of provincial agencies may be less costly, it is also inappropriate. Often, policies and laws differ among provinces when it

comes to compensation for land use restrictions for critical habitat conservation. Thus, it is more prudent to use a federal process.

The Minister is planning to establish a panel of experts assembled to provide input on the design and implementation of the appraisal review and certification process. The process for the appraisal of value will likely be similar to that which is needed for appraising compensation under SARA.

What happens when the landowner deems a final offer for compensation as inadequate? One proposed concept is mediation. The mediation process is becoming more common and gaining more respect as a mechanism for resolving differences. As well, the following successful models exist for appeals:

- Federal or provincial arbitration agencies make final decision.
- The use of a federal or provincial board or agency for mediation between landowner and the Crown. However, the result is not binding.
- The hiring of an independent appraiser by the Crown, the result of which is binding on both parties.

Environment Minister David Anderson has also asked Dr. Peter H. Pearce to review the issues and supply him advice on defining a basis for a compensation system. Dr. Pearce has extensive expertise in areas of conservation, natural resource management and policy.

Over the next six months, he will compile facts, opinions and suggestions for a report that will be presented to the Environment Minister and subsequently made public.

Currently, it seems, the process for compensation under SARA is unclear. However, with ample discussion and suggestions, perhaps a system can be designed to ensure certainty and fairness for both landowners and other parties with vested interest in Canadian land.

Source:

May 2000, Proposed Species At Risk Act - A Discussion Paper on Compensation
Environment Canada

More information can be found online at the Environment Canada website:
<http://ec.gc.ca/envhome.html>

FREE MEMBERSHIPS!

Free? Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is offering a free, special, time limited offer, for membership renewals and new membership registrations.

Offer? Every individual who renews or joins us for the first time, will receive 3 free associate memberships. He or she can then distribute these free memberships to friends and neighbors.

Why? It is important that producers in Alberta have a voice speaking out on their behalf on issues affecting rural Alberta today and in the future. With more members, the voice of Alberta producers, through Wild Rose, will resonate louder and louder.

How? With every membership renewal and new signup, we will be sending out 3 forms. These forms can be distributed and then sent in to the office for associate membership registration.

This offer is in effect to October 31, 2000. The free associate memberships do not include voting privileges. Free associate memberships are valid for 1 year from the date of arrival at our office

MANURE MANAGEMENT GROWS IN IMPORTANCE

BY PAUL PILECKI

The livestock sector of the Agricultural industry is an important component of Alberta's economy. It accounts for over 56% of the total farm cash receipts in Alberta, and represents nearly 25% of Canada's livestock worth. Thus, in order to maintain the present worth of livestock operations and the growth of future ones, issues of management need to be addressed.

Producers have always needed to manage their livestock operations in order to maximize profitability and stay competitive. Often, this has involved concentrating on the promotion of specific breeds and the production of quality animals and poultry for slaughter. However, with increasing livestock densities and the growth of operations such as feedlots, the issue of managing manure is now at the forefront.

It may appear to be a simple and straightforward issue on the surface, however, when one probes deeper, its complexity quickly becomes evident. The management of manure is a multifaceted issue. The process encompasses topics of financial viability, economic returns, societal interests, and the environment.

Each of these topics in themselves can be further broken down into more components. The topic of viability and economic return is often based on methods of storage, processing, and subsequent application. Furthermore, many methods of storage, processing and application exist.

There is as much diversity in manure handling facilities as there is in livestock operations. Poultry, swine and cattle manure all require different structures and application methods. Furthermore, the nutrient value per unit weight of each livestock manure type varies. The producer must often determine which method of storage, processing, and application is financially sustainable based on the manure type.

Society and the general public can also place demands on farm operations. Often the aspect of air quality comes up for discussion. In the U.S. for example, concerned citizens brought lawsuits against farm operators for the production of intolerable odors and unreasonable numbers of flies. In at least one of these cases the suitors were successful. Although this is not common, legal aspects can come into play with the management of manure.

The most critical issue, however, regarding manure management, remains the environment. It does not only address the ecological issues, but human health concerns as well. The pollution of the atmosphere and waterway systems remains a hot topic of debate for municipalities, the provinces and environ-

mental lobbyists. Furthermore, the perceived contamination of water supplies with animal wastes has become a widely publicized concern.

Manure has the capacity to release large amounts of gases in the form of methane, ammonia, nitrous oxide, nitric oxide and carbon dioxide. These gases contribute to the heating of the atmosphere through the process known as The Greenhouse Effect. Although the contribution of carbon dioxide from animal wastes may be minimal, the same cannot be said for methane gas. Estimates show that up to 10% of global methane emissions are directly from livestock manure. Moreover, methane gas is twenty-five times more harmful than carbon dioxide in its effect on global warming.

Despite the potential of manure to pollute the atmosphere, its potential to pollute the water system is of paramount concern. Problems arise during spring thaws and summer rains. The runoff from these events can carry dissolved nutrients into creeks, rivers and lakes. This contamination can lead to the possible destruction of entire ecosystems through eutrophication. Eutrophication is the enriching of natural water systems with nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, thus enabling the growth of aquatic plants. These plants usually die either from overcrowding or seasonal changes and the subsequent decomposition depletes the water's natural oxygen reserves, leading to massive die offs of fish and other water species.

In the recent contamination of drinking water in Ontario, much speculation abounded regarding possible contamination from manure runoff. This is an unfortunate, but very real possibility. Harmful microorganisms that may be found in manure can contaminate groundwater and surface water. Manure is, after all, a biological waste product and as such should be managed with careful respect for water systems.

There are areas in Alberta that are in need of effective manure management systems. The Lethbridge region in Southern Alberta is an important livestock production location. Lethbridge County alone produces nearly 7% of beef cattle, 6.6% of hogs, and other livestock in Alberta. Furthermore, it has the highest livestock density out of Alberta's seven regions.

The amount of manure produced in the Lethbridge region, according to some estimates, requires 411,420 hectares of cropland for distribution. Unfortunately, in 1996 much of this manure was either spread on a very small area of Alberta's cropland. Clearly, effective manure management practices are not being implemented nearly enough.

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... MANURE MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

Fortunately, the situation in the Lethbridge area is not typical of Alberta livestock operations in general. Livestock densities in the county of Grand Prairie are significantly lower. As well, Grand Prairie's region, region 7, represents only 1.4% of Alberta's cattle and calves.

Many of the problems associated with manure can be eliminated or, at the very least, kept to a minimum. Furthermore, manure has the distinction, in the world of waste, as being a potential resource. The nutrients it contains can be very beneficial to Alberta's vast croplands.

In 1996, Alberta livestock produced over 63 million tonnes of manure. If managed properly, a maximum of only 3 million hectares of cropland would be required to use this manure. During the same year, Alberta's total cropland area was in excess of 9.5 million hectares.

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers have created a series of brochures that contain information on manure management. They cover general manure management facts, the economics, the methods of storage, and application. If you are interested in acquiring a copy of these brochures, you can contact our office.

STEP HELP FOR THE SUMMER

With some funding from the provincial STEP program, we have hired a helping hand in Paul Pilecki for several weeks this summer. Paul is a University of Alberta student who came to us through Edmonton's Hire-A-Student office. He has just completed his third year of study at the University, in the Department of Electrical Engineering. His interests lie in the field of biomedical engineering. He is also a key member of the University of Alberta Solar Vehicle Project. Beyond his educational aspirations, Paul spent some of his childhood growing up in rural Alberta. He, along with his dad, enjoy managing a small herd of 50 cattle, west of Edmonton, near Wildwood Alberta.

Paul has been invaluable in the office thus far. He assisted in our very large spring newsletter mailout. Paul also has kept busy by reworking the membership drive brochures, developing a series of manure management brochures, compiling the resolutions made at the annual conventions into a policy booklet, writing articles, and assisting in general office duties. He has also assisted in developing some of the surveys and information that is now on our new website.

The policy book can be obtained by contacting the office. Also, it is available for download in pdf format on our site.

Being a farmer isn't just a nine to five job - it's a way of life.

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ARE YOU READY FOR EXPORT?

BY TERRY MURRAY— 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

More and, more we are hearing that export markets are the key to growth and prosperity for Canadian farm managers.

Exporting is being called the new great opportunity for farm businesses and farm managers willing to take the risk and the time to develop a plan.

There's no doubt that success in the export market can mean increased profits for farm managers, but make sure you look carefully before you leap.

To be a successful exporter, you must already be a superior farm manager, with good management skills. It shouldn't come as a surprise that the most successful exporters were successful in the domestic market first.

If you're doing well at home and you think that the export market might be your next step, the first thing you need is a comprehensive business plan. If you aren't confident doing this yourself, you should delegate someone else from your management team to do the job. There

may be a benefit to hiring someone from outside your business to do this – it might give a clearer view, a new perspective.

An export business plan is a thorough look at you, your staff, your product,

Successful export ventures start at home, with a solid foundation and good planning.

your farm business, and, your prospective markets. It will help you figure out what you need to do to be ready to tackle new markets.

Experience shows that adaptability is the most important export skill farm managers should have.

You might have to deal with changes to your operation at home to accommodate the needs of export production. If this can happen without hurting your domestic operation, that's one thing, but remember, it doesn't make sense to sacrifice your current success in favor of an export venture. The idea is to make both work.

Building on the skills that have made you successful at home will help you solidify your place in the export market as well. To do that, you have to be prepared to invest time to research markets, government regulations, methods of distribution, health codes and more.

Do you or another member of your management team have the time and knowledge to tackle all these variables? Success in an export venture may mean hiring new staff with special strengths, like government contacts or the ability to speak a second language. If you are the kind of farm manager that is comfortable delegating responsibility and you are confident in your staff, you're already ahead of the game.

If you are adaptable enough to meet these challenges, you may be ready to look at exporting. If you can harness all your skills and follow through on your plans, exporting may be the way for you to increase your success and your bottom line.

YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers



Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose - Membership fee :

Producer	\$ _____	(\$107.00)
3 - Year	\$ _____	(\$288.90)
Associate	\$ _____	(\$ 53.50)

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5L 4W2

Telephone: 780-451-5912 Fax: 780-453-2669 E-Mail: wrap@planet.eon.net

AMENDING THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS CANADIAN CATTLE IDENTIFICATION PROPOSALS

Introduction

For several years now, there have been ongoing discussions related to Canadian cattle identification. Back on June 17, proposed amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations were published in the Canada Gazette (official newspaper of the Government of Canada). These amendments present a detailed plan for the establishment and enforcement of a Canadian cattle identification system.

This system would require the identification of all cattle and herds in Canada, effective July 1, 2001. And because all indications point towards the incorporation of these amendments, cattle owners across the country will need to be familiar with the changes, policies and procedures of the new system.

With this system, beef and cattle producers should be aware of its rationale for existence, and its relevance in the international marketplace. Moreover, they should also be familiar with the system's policies, exemptions, enforcement, and actual execution. And since these proposed changes directly affect the producers of beef and cattle, they too should have an avenue for voicing their concerns and suggestions.

Motivation

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association believes that the implementation of such a system is important. With the global market becoming increasingly sophisticated, they argue, Canada needs to keep pace with competing countries. Currently, over 50% of our beef and cattle production is destined for export. Even though Canadian beef is held in high regard today, there are no guarantees that tomorrow we'll be in the same lofty position. As well, the condition of our domestic market should be of utmost concern.

If an unpredictable health or safety issue struck our cattle industry, over half of our production could suddenly be without a market. A similar circumstance shocked the cattle industry in the United Kingdom. In 1996 – 1997 all beef and cattle exports were halted due to the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Something like this would devastate Canadian cattle producers.

In addition to their proposed role in maintaining a good international reputation, the amendments are also being pushed in order to ensure health and safety within Canada's domestic market. With an effective system in place, trace backs for reportable diseases and safety infractions would be more successful; it is predicted that this system will increase the success rate by 90%. All this would allow for rapid containment

and the elimination of devastating diseases and any food safety fears.

Competition

Canada is not the only nation using or bringing into use a live-stock identification system. Argentina, Australia, and Mexico are in the process of developing successful systems, while the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and the European Union already have systems of varying sophistication currently in place.

The European Union, in particular, has an incredibly comprehensive system that requires a passport for every head of livestock. This passport contains an ID, birth date, sex, breed or coat color, ID code of the dam and sire, ID code of the farm of birth, history of where the animal was kept, and the signatures of both the owner and issuing authority. Moreover, no animal can be moved without its passport, and more recently, cannot be slaughtered and packed without its ID code.

Basics

Although not as in-depth as the system in the EU, the system to be implemented in Canada will require some work on part of the producers. The farmer will need to attach an ear tag with a unique identification number to an animal that leaves its herd of origin. Other than purchasing and attaching these tags, the producer is not required to maintain any other records.

In cases where an animal loses its tag, the producer (or new owner) is expected to keep a record of the re-tagged animal's tag number and any information regarding its herd of origin. The tag will contain a unique number, bar code and a CCIA logo. The unique numbers are assigned to the tag manufacturers by the CCIA. Authorized service centers will distribute the tags and maintain records of which numbers went to which producers. After an initial tag purchase, the producer will receive a PIN number to speed up all future purchases.

The only information recorded, is the producer's name, phone number, address and postal code. In addition, the CCIA will also have on file the date, record of the unique number, its link to the herd of origin and the packing plant information. The information recorded is going to be secure, and released to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in the event of a trace back request, or for health and safety reasons.

Also, the ID number will not need to be tracked through ownership changes. The system will focus on the last known loca-

(Continued on page 12)

CATTLE IDENTIFICATION CONTINUED ...

tion of the animal and its herd of origin.

If there is any other request for access, even by government departments other than CFIA, it will have to be obtained through a legal process. The petitioner will need to provide good reason to access the information.

Import / Export

The regulations will apply to both imported and exported cattle in addition to domestic cattle. Imported cattle will be required to be tagged with an approved tag once the animal arrives at its initial destination.

Exported cattle need to be reported to the CCIA database within 30 days of the animal's export date.

Tags

To date, there are a number of manufacturers who are approved suppliers of tags for the program. They are found across the country in numerous farm supply shops. It is hoped that competition develops to maintain low tag costs as well as high levels of availability. A basic ear tag is now available for \$1 a tag.

As all beef and cattle producers know, ear tags do happen to fall off. To combat this problem, the CCIA has approved manufacturers who demonstrate a retention rate of at least 95%. The main goal is to limit tag losses to a maximum of 5%.

Liability

These amendments do not affect current liability rules. Beef and cattle producers will not be held responsible for problems not of their own making. In most cases, it is the last known location of the animal (i.e. the packing plant), and not the herd of origin, where the problem exists.

The majority of food safety problems are beyond the control of the beef or cattle producer.

Enforcement

Although penalties have not yet been determined, The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is expected to enforce the new mandatory regulations. There will likely be a "warning" period; however, the system is still mandatory during that period.

CCIA & Funding

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) is a non-profit industry agency incorporated to establish a national cattle identification program in Canada. The agency is led by a Board of Directors made up of representatives from all sectors of the cattle industry – Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Livestock Marketing Association of Canada, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Dairy Industry and Province of Quebec. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the United States are also represented.

The initial funds for the organization were received through a grant from the Beef Industry Development Fund. For the long term, the program will be self-sustainable with income in the form of small tag surcharges, industry services and certification fees.

Feedback and Information

A detailed version of the regulation amendments and commentary by the CCIA can be found at www.cattle.ca.

The Canada Gazette is also accessible over the internet at <http://canada.gc.ca/gazette/main.html>. The same information can be found in many public libraries as well.

Since the regulations affect all beef and cattle producers, they should actively participate in the discussion of these amendments. Cattle producers and other interested parties have until August 16, 2000 to submit comments on the proposed regulations.

Comments must be made in writing to:

Richard Robinson, Chief
Livestock Identification and Regulation
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Nepean, ON
K1A 0Y9

HOW TOP FARM MANAGERS STAY ON TOP

BY TERRY MURRAY—2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

What separates a successful farm manager from his or her colleagues?

If you said higher income, you're only looking at part of the story. In any given year, a number of uncontrollable variables can affect your bottom line. World prices, transportation strikes, and, of course, the weather can drastically change your profit from year to year.

But successful farm managers are able to bounce back, whereas their neighbors can still be suffering months or years later. The question is why?

Perhaps before we ask, we should examine what makes a top farm manager.

For one, top managers have strong decision making abilities. They use all the information available to them to make the best choices. Some of this information comes from outside sources, but they also use their production and financial records to look at costs and returns.

Financial records aren't just used at tax time to top managers. They use them to study their inputs and outputs, and determine how best to capitalize on their products. From this, top farm managers can quickly see if new technology will be beneficial. It's no wonder that top managers generally had more state of the art equipment than their colleagues.

Networking is a buzzword often associated with business, and it shouldn't be any different for farming. It's important that

personal networks are maintained to keep the flow of information moving and get the most reliable facts and opinions.

Top managers use their networks. They go directly to researchers and product managers to get their information. Top managers make these contacts, and just as important, they maintain them.

Human resource management is a skill that cannot be emphasized enough. It's not enough to simply hire employees. Top managers co-ordinate their people, machinery and resources to maximize efficiency. Regular training, staff meetings, and employee incentives were also features shared by many top managers.

Marketing can often be overlooked, but top managers have marketing skills, which enable them to increase the sale price of their produce. This is done by responding quickly and effectively to changing market conditions, and recognizing new opportunities that fit with their operations.

By adding value to their product, top managers get the most bang for their buck. Or maybe I should say the most profit for their produce. This isn't always possible with commodities that are marketed by marketing boards, but even within those commodities, top managers can find a niche market.

To summarize, yes, top managers tend to make more money, but even they can have a poor year. The difference is that a top manager is able to recover because he or she has a business mindset, and follows sound business practices.

RAIL RIGHT OF WAY ACCESS CONTROL REGULATIONS

BACKGROUND

The Railway Act

Since 1868 the Railway companies had to erect fences and maintain them upon the railway. Section 217 of the Railway Act requests that:

- (1) The Company shall erect and maintain upon the railway
 - a) fences of a minimum height of four feet six inches on each side of the railways;
- (5) Where the railway is being con-

structed through enclosed lands, the company shall by fencing its right-of-way..., prevent cattle or other animals escaping from getting upon such enclosed lands.

In fact, the government, as allowed under the legislation, authorized many exemptions where fencing was not required at the time.

The Railway Safety Act

The Railway Act was repealed in Octo-

ber 1995, and section 91 of the Railway Safety Act was proclaimed. Section 91 repealed the fencing provisions of the Railway Act. No fencing regulations have yet been made to replace the Railway Act requirements.

In 1995, Transport Canada presented the first draft of proposed regulations, but all stakeholders, including the CFA, rejected it. The main concern was about who should be responsible for fencing and who should get the financial burden of

(Continued on page 14)

raising and maintaining fences.

Late in 1999, a working group of the National Railway Safety Committee was created to discuss the implementation of a Right of Way Access Control Regulation. The CFA was part of that working group. During the first meeting that took place in February, Transport Canada shared with members the initial draft. Another revised draft has just recently been published, with a more clear description of who is liable for control measure construction costs.

DISCUSSION

Railway Right of Access Control Regulation: an important safety issue in URBAN areas

Historically, federal government agencies have been more involved with the control of livestock on railway property, as opposed to trespassing. However the need for fencing to prevent livestock from straying onto the tracks is no longer a major railway safety issue. Most of the railway accidents that involve trespassing occur in urban areas. As well, most of the accidents happen because trespassers use railway property as shortcuts to other destinations. It is also clear that previous fencing regulations are not adequate enough in the urban areas, and in the prevention of trespassing. Other solutions might be more appropriate.

However, trespassing is a serious railway safety issue. Trespassing is the most severe railway accident category, in terms of loss of life. From 1993 to 1996, trespassing accounted for an average of 60 fatalities and 38 serious injuries. Clearly, the need to implement a regulation that will enable the legislation is legitimate.

Impact of this proposed regulation for farmers

As discussed below, animal control is not a major safety issue, but the current regulation draft does have some impact

on farmers.

In fact, the major concern is that farmers, as well as other stakeholders, are responsible for ensuring that safety is maintained along the railroads. This argument makes sense in urban areas where, in most cases, developments came after the railroads were erected. In such cases, railroad safety was not an issue before new houses or shopping centres were built. In contrast, in many rural areas, farms were present before existing railroads were constructed. Thus, the task of maintaining railway safety is no longer in only the hands of the railways.

Fencing is no longer the only access control measure either. When needed, a standard smooth-wire woven fence of at least 4 feet, or an electrical wire is sufficient. The requirement to keep farm animals away from tracks is less expensive than in the previous legislation.

Furthermore, a person who farms land adjoining a railway right of way shall advise each railway company operating the line of any significant farming change he or she proposes to undertake that would affect the access control measures already in place. If after consultation with the railway companies, regarding a safe railway operations assessment, it is determined that control measures need to be changed, the person will need to ensure that appropriate access control measures are put in place and maintained accordingly.

This regulation fortunately does address the main issue; which is who should pay for fences when they are required. The proposed regulations stipulate that "every railway company that operates over the right of way and the company that owns the right of way are jointly liable for the cost of putting access control measures in place and of maintaining them."

It is also important to take into account that railway companies, up to today, agreed to abide by the previous regula-

tions (fencing paid by the railway company); however, there is no guarantee that they will have the same stance on this issue in the future.

N.B. This regulation will apply only to rail lines under federal jurisdiction.

ACTION

On behalf of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, CFA, has been part of the working group reviewing the regulation draft. CFA actively participated in several conference calls and in a meeting in Montréal during June, in order to promote farmer interests.

The next working group meeting is scheduled for October 2000. Some railways companies have approached CFA in order to identify workable solutions. In the mean time, CFA will consult with its members in order to get their views on this issue prior to any discussions with the railways.

The proposed regulations were published in the Canada Gazette in July. The Gazette can be accessed online at <http://canada.gc.ca/gazette/main.html> and is also available in most public libraries.

AGRICULTURE LOSES AGAIN

BY DEAN LIEN – FARMERS ADVOCATE

Rural Alberta and the agricultural community took another blow recently with the decision by “Women of Unifarm” to close their books and cease to operate.

For more than 85 years, the rural community has benefited by having a group of concerned, dedicated ladies who weren't afraid to challenge the status quo to achieve a better life for all. The “Women of Unifarm,” were previously called the “Farm Women's Union of Alberta,” and earlier than that the “United Farm Women of Alberta”. From the school bus in the morning to the classroom throughout the day they took special interest in making certain that our education system was doing a good job. These farm women were constantly recommending improvements to the Education Act. Their interest in education was only a part of the activities acted upon by this dedicated organization. The entire health care system, for example, was always questioned, researched and then lobbied for positive change for the betterment of all.

Recently, a dramatic problem facing agriculture has spurred implementing psychological help programs for farm families facing bankruptcy. In particular, establishing crisis lines to handle

calls for those desperate enough to consider suicide. This an initiative of the Women of Unifarm. “These situations represent the reality of the farm crisis”, according to the Farmers' Advocate, Dean Lien, who goes on to say “In these down times we see farmers facing the worst situations. Their need for support has never been so great. Who else will be able to do the job? We cannot underestimate the importance of these dedicated, compassionate and understanding ladies.”

Throughout the years, women's organizations met locally on a regular basis to discuss, plan and act upon issues affecting rural life. Albertan's of every walk benefited from the efforts to change the way things were being done, whether educationally, socially or economically. Many leaders have come forward from the ranks of these farm locals, filling leadership roles such as MLA's, Senators, Royal Commission Members, Advisory Boards and the list goes on. Today, on the Alberta Agriculture Wall of Fame, there are no less than 17 leaders of the women's movement that are recognized for their active participation.

The question then is, why are the “Women of Unifarm” destined to become only history? According to statis-

tics there is less time today because farm ladies are busy helping to support the family farm. Employment off the farm leaves only enough time to keep up with the regular farm work. Farm Organizations have become a luxury that they cannot afford. It also should be recognized that the number of farmers has declined very rapidly and the members just aren't there. Many rural groups face the problem of having no younger generation to carry on. Where are the younger farmers and their wives? Today, the average age of farmers is 50+, but that still leaves many younger adults to lead community groups. Unfortunately, there is a definite lack of interest by younger farm people to become involved with basic “farm politics”. Or, is it that they saw their parents become so involved with the industries and organizations that they became turned off.

The sad outcome of the demise of the “Women of Unifarm” is the continuing need for good sound farm policy, especially when Alberta farmers account for only about 3% of the provincial population. Can rural Alberta ever be heard and followed when we can't stick together long enough to speak up for our rights. Think about it – rural Albertans and especially farmers – who speaks for you?

NATIONAL SAFETY NET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 2000

BY TERRY LEE DEGENHARDT

Doug Hedley, co-chair gave an overview of where safety net policy is at. Federal and provincial bureaucrats have agreed to a 3-year agreement, based on \$1.1 billion plus \$42 million of federal money. A word of explanation: the \$1.1 billion is made up of \$665 million, of which \$2.35 million will go to NFLD/Labrador, and half the balance will be allocated to provinces based on a 5 year moving average of market receipts and half will be allocated to provinces based on a 5 year moving average of farm cash receipts. Market receipts are the amount of money received by farmers from the market. Farm cash receipts are the amount of money the farmers receive from the market, plus payments

from government. This change in allocation formula gives Alberta \$30 million more.

The other part of the \$1.1 billion - \$435 million is allocated as disaster assistance money (AIDA). The extra \$42 million is new money” money that had to have cabinet approval, and wasn't previously announced. It will go to “save provinces harmless” from these changes (i.e. so that no province will receive less federal money under this new 3 year agreement than they have had in 1999.) Of all these monies, only \$600 million represents an ongoing commitment. To put that another way, AAFC has \$600 million budgeted for safety nets,

COMMITTEE MEETING CONTINUED ...

and all of the rest is subject to approval by all of cabinet.

On July 5 and 6 the federal and provincial ministers are expected to ratify this agreement. More important than the money and its distribution are the other components of the agreement. For the federal government, reaching agreement was the most important factor. That meant that many of the disaster assistance improvements that were approved for 1999, like paying of negative margins, are out. Still under discussion are year-end price adjustments on inventory, expanding farm size, the NISA linkage, and the maximum payments. Some of the provinces want it reduced from \$175,000 per individual, with a maximum of 5 multiples, to \$100,000 per individual, with 5 multiples. The federal government has committed to no unilateral changes – changes will happen only if provinces agree. There is no decision-making mechanism in place like there is for the NISA program, which means that any province has veto power.

Because the ministers have yet to sign the agreement, there is still room to influence the final outcome. CFA called a conference call on June 22 to discuss a plan of action. CFA believes the #1 priority is to build a credible program, and representatives are very unhappy with the proposed agreement. The action plan suggested that letters be sent to the provincial minister protesting the exclusion of negative margins, with cc to Vanclief, and saturating both levels of government with letters and phone calls, particularly to key M.P.s and M.L.A.s. CFA has asked for a slot on the agenda of the July 5 and 6 meeting so that Bob Friesen can address the Ministers. CFA will be writing to Vanclief to say that if the program, as proposed, is signed, CFA will not support the safety net program, and signing away flexibility for the federal government would cause the CFA to not support the framework agreement. Reaching agreement is not an achievement on its own. Canada must have a strong credible program. The government must not withdraw support from the farm community.

Another major issue was the presentation of changes proposed by CFA. This included:

1. The recommendations that NISA deposits be non-taxable as originally requested by farm organizations when NISA was implemented, as a replacement to the 3% interest bonus.
2. That NISA participants be allowed to carry forward un-

used trigger entitlements, and unused matchable deposits into future years.

3. Study the implications of allowing farmers to be eligible for a 3% farmer contribution, 6% government contribution up to a certain level of money in NISA accounts. Then a declining rate would be applied;
4. That the linkage between NISA and AIDA be, that farmers eligible for an income disaster payment have to withdraw no more than 20% of their maximum eligible withdrawals.
5. CFA recommended a positive linkage between crop insurance and AIDA, of 25% of crop insurance payments is considered as eligible income for AIDA calculations.
6. Further analysis was suggested for reducing paper burdens, and for streamlining administration by having a single desk to handle AIDA and NISA; investigating farmers ability to buy a higher level of coverage than the current 70%; allowing farmers to insure their reference margin; changing the gross margin definition to better support grain and oilseed farms; added an AD Hoc component to the disaster program; and developing a livestock insurance program.
7. Encourage government to provide another \$50 million for research and development.

Minister Vanclief joined the group in the afternoon, and spent 2 hours with the group, discussing various aspects of safety nets.

The final issue was touched on only briefly, that being corporate eligibility. Currently shareholders in corporations, and communal and co-operative organizations must own a minimum of 10% of the voting shares, or 10% equity. This rule is being questioned because farmers are investing, for instance, in hog barns. Some of these investments represent a significant outlay of cash by bona fide farmers, yet ownership is less than 10% of the corporate share or value, so any return, or loss from these investments does not qualify for NISA or AIDA. The initial intention of this ruling was to prevent non-farming shareholders from benefiting from safety net programs. A committee has been formed to take a look at possibilities, and to make a recommendation.

REALIZED NET FARM INCOME (\$ MILLIONS) '97 AND '98

Province	1997	1998	% Change	Province	1997	1998	% Change
British Columbia	161	181	12.3	Saskatchewan	948	531	-43.9
Quebec	753	785	4.2	Alberta	613	353	-42.5
Ontario	489	417	-14.7				
Manitoba	432	286	-33.8	Canada	3455	2671	-22.7

Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ALBERTA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Why are Greenhouse Gas Emissions Important? Over the last century, modern industry and lifestyles have rapidly increased greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the Earth's atmosphere. The majority of scientists studying this issue believe that these increasing concentrations are contributing to global warming. Rapid global warming could result in such problems as more severe weather events, more forest fires, and damage to water resources.

Canada has committed to reduce the nation's GHG emissions to 6% below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012. Canada's emissions have continued to grow since 1990, making our target more distant. The national and provincial processes to address Canada's commitment have indicated that all GHG emitters will be expected to do their fair share in reducing emissions. In addition, recent surveys show the majority of consumers in Canada and abroad believe action has to be taken now on GHG emissions.

The livestock industry also has an immediate economic stake in reducing its emissions because these emissions represent a loss of costly feed energy and nutrient inputs.

Emissions from Alberta's Livestock Industry

Alberta's livestock industry contributes about 1% of Canada's total GHG emissions. (For information on the contributions of other industries, see *Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry*, another bulletin in this series.)

The main gases emitted by the livestock industry are methane from the animals, and methane and nitrous oxide from manure handling and storage. Methane and nitrous oxide are very potent in terms of their greenhouse warming effect compared to carbon dioxide, the main GHG emitted by most other industries. Methane is 21 times more potent and nitrous oxide is 310 times more potent than carbon dioxide, per unit of gas.

Figure 1 shows the relative proportions of GHG emissions from the animals and their manures by livestock type in Alberta for 1996. The "Other" category includes sheep and lambs (0.63%), poultry (0.02%) and diversified livestock (0.75%). (Diversified livestock include bison, elk, deer, goat, alpaca, llama, emu, ostrich, rhea and wild boar.)

All animals produce methane during digestion. Cattle and other ruminants, however, generate relatively large amounts due to the slow fermentation of feed in the animal's fore-stomach, called the rumen. In 1996, beef cattle accounted for 91% of the GHG emissions from Alberta's livestock sector.

Manure emits methane when it decomposes under low oxygen conditions, such as poorly aerated stockpiles or lagoons. Nitrous oxide emissions from manure depend on the storage method, application method and rate, manure type and soil conditions.

If the industry's practices remain the same as those used in 1990, annual emissions from Alberta's livestock population are projected to increase by 38% from the 1990 level. The projected increase is due to expected increases in feeder cattle, dairy cattle, hogs, poultry, bison, elk and deer numbers.

Reducing Emissions from Animals

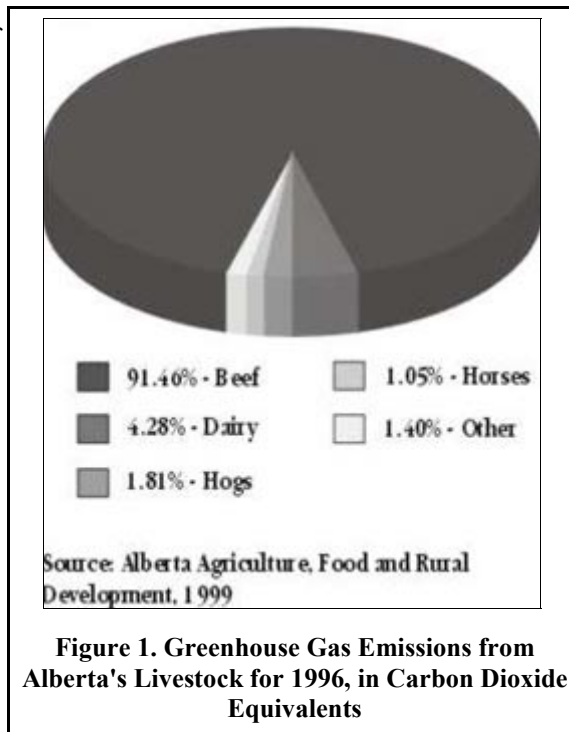
Many Alberta cattle producers and feeders are already reducing emissions by improving production efficiencies. Increased efficiency lowers emissions because fewer cows are needed to achieve the same number of calves. Due to adoption of improved practices, 9% more calf is now being weaned per cow exposed to breeding, compared to a decade ago.

The most promising future avenues for reducing methane emissions from beef cattle are listed below. With further research and development, these strategies combined could reduce GHG emissions from Alberta's livestock industry to close to the 1990 level by 2008-12.

- **Increasing calf crop percentage**
Greater adoption of practices to improve production efficiency could further increase the calf crop percentage.
- **Feeding higher quality feeds and balanced rations**
This approach creates a hostile environment for the microorganisms that produce methane in the rumen. Some of the options include: high grain diets; ensiled rather than dried forages; and protein and mineral supplements.
- **Feeding ionophores**
Ionophores are common feed additives that reduce methane formation by rumen bacteria. An ionophore rotation

may be needed if the bacteria are able to gradually adapt to new ionophores.

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GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONTINUED ...

- **Feeding lipids**
Plant-derived edible oils, like canola oil, added to cattle feed not only add energy to the diet but also inhibit methane production. However, this approach may not always be economical.
- **Adding bacterial supplements to feed**
Bacterial supplements may be able to convert methane in the rumen to carbon dioxide and may also improve digestion of feed.

Reducing Emissions from Manures

Options to reduce methane emissions from manure include: applying manure to land more often, rather than stockpiling or storing it in lagoons for long periods; and aerating manure during composting. Options to reduce nitrous oxide emissions include: avoiding excessive manure applications, and optimizing application timing. These practices make the most of the available nitrogen and reduce the risk of nutrients being car-

ried by runoff to water bodies.

Reducing Emissions from Hay and Pasture Land

Hay and pasture land are generally more effective than annual crops at storing carbon in the soil, and thus have relatively low GHG emissions. For pasture land, the key is to avoid overgrazing. Well managed hay and pasture land also prevent soil erosion and protect water quality.

Summary

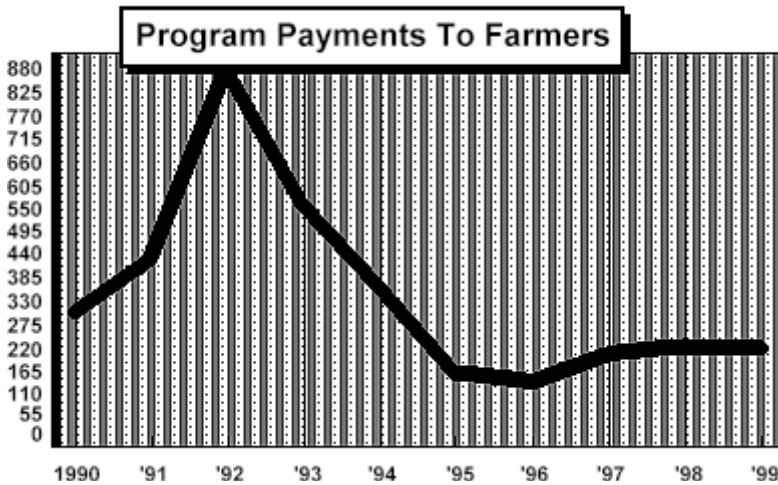
Governments and consumers are expecting all industries, including the livestock industry, to reduce GHG emissions. Increased adoption of existing practices to improve the calf crop percentage could significantly reduce the livestock industry's emissions. As well, promising methods to reduce emissions could be developed through more research. Reducing emissions can improve the industry's production efficiencies, conserve soil and water resources, and contribute to efforts to slow global warming.

SELECTED FARM INCOME STATISTICS - CANADA & ALBERTA (\$ '000) 1995 - 1999

Year	Canada	Alberta	Canada	Alberta	Canada	Alberta	Canada	Alberta
	Total Farm Cash Receipts				Total Farm Market Cash			
	Market Receipts Plus				Receipts - Crops Plus		Farm Debt Outstanding	
	Program Payments		Total Net Farm Income		Livestock & Livestock Prod.		At December 31	
1995	27,173,510	5,949,173	3,496,678	1,029,356	25,868,094	5,771,795	25,676,236	6,613,478
1996r	29,295,888	6,523,148	4,484,086	896,229	27,977,156	6,371,262	27,229,576	6,704,554
1997r	30,026,177	6,466,934	2,398,274	489,950	28,913,994	6,249,205	30,346,252	7,369,574
1998r	29,785,118	6,409,431	2,677,022	329,441	28,365,321	6,168,324	33,090,112	7,951,627
1999r	30,463,617	6,549,055	3,037,822	446,191	28,482,963	6,311,443	35,153,381	8,373,135
	Crop Market Cash Receipts		Realized Net Farm Income		Program Payments		Value of Farm Capital	
					To Farmers		At July 1st	
1995	13,161,289	2,635,805	2,780,673	636,029	1,305,416	177,378	146,946,403	37,603,321
1996r	14,116,740	3,008,457	3,182,810	902,304	1,318,732	151,886	155,777,372	39,948,019
1997r	14,273,406	2,684,617	3,354,684	593,330	1,112,183	217,729	164,159,191	42,660,272
1998r	13,913,589	2,521,014	2,601,413	339,013	1,419,797	241,107	169,316,209	44,221,656
1999r	13,283,287	2,326,679	2,630,524	182,353	1,980,654	237,612	174,775,064	46,384,403
	Livestock and Livestock		Farm Operating Expenses		Net Cash Income - Total			
	Products Market Cash		After Rebates & Before		Farm Cash Receipts Minus		Value per Acre of Farm Land	
	Receipts		Depreciation		Farm Operating Expenses		And Buildings (Dollars)	
					After Rebates			
1995	12,706,805	3,135,990	21,224,072	4,519,316	5,949,438	1,429,857	634	515
1996r	13,860,416	3,362,805	22,716,616	4,762,197	6,579,272	1,760,951	689	553
1997r	14,640,588	3,564,588	23,160,304	4,973,736	6,865,873	1,493,198	709	573
1998r	14,451,732	3,647,310	23,535,345	5,133,094	6,249,773	1,276,337	717	580
1999r	15,199,676	3,984,764	24,094,064	5,392,447	6,369,553	1,156,608	727	596

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 21-603E, Agriculture Economic Statistics; and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (May 2000)

PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO FARMERS 1990 - 1999



Annual Percent Change	
1990	-43.2%
1991	38.8%
1992	101.6%
1993	-35.3%
1994	-33.7%
1995	-53.6%
1996	-14.4%
1997	43.4%
1998	9.5%
1999	-2.7%

Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development

AIMS SURVEY REVIEW

As a means of enhancing and better meet the data and information needs of clients, the Statistics and Data Development (SADD) Unit of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) is currently conducting a review of its monthly Agricultural Input Monitoring Survey, otherwise known as AIMS.

As background, the SADD Unit, in partnership with Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP), has been conducting a survey to collect farm input prices in Alberta, since 1976. The data and information generated from the survey, the only one of its kind in the Province, has been extremely useful and important in the establishment of benchmark data for selected farm inputs, for use in program and policy evaluation, analyses, etc. Given that some agricultural practices/inputs may have changed over the years,

it is only prudent that a survey review be undertaken.

As part of the review process, it would be appreciated if you as the primary user and/or your subject area specialist (s), could take a few minutes to review the AIMS information on the following page and provide comments. Your input is especially important in addressing such issues as:

- Is the data in its present format useful?
- Are the specifications for the existing inputs accurate and representative?
- What new inputs should be added, including their representative specifications?
- Which inputs should be dropped?
- Other suggestions.

In the interest of time, it would be appreciated if you could forward your responses as soon as possible, as we would be evaluating all users responses during the first week of September. In the event that you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to call me at

(780) 422-2903.

Alternatively, you can e-mail me at

maureen.wenger@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely

Maureen Wenger
Survey Operations Manager

ALBERTA AVERAGE FARM INPUT PRICES

ITEMS	JUL 1999	JUN 2000	JUL 2000
LUMBER 2X6 SPRUCE, M.....	606.97	593.12	571.16
SHEATHING, PLY., SPRUCE, 9.6mm, 4X8 SHT.....	17.031	17.06	16.53
CEMENT, 40 KG.....	8.84	9.03	9.18
BARN PAINT, OIL BASE, 20 LITRES.....	70.09	69.87	70.09
PIPE, PLASTIC, 3/4", 75 PSI., 100' COIL.....	24.35	23.48	23.87
RODS, RE-ENFORCING, 10mm x 6 METRES.....	4.08	3.92	3.91
BARBED WIRE, 12 GAUGE, DOUBLE STRAND.....	42.29	43.12	43.29
TRUCK TIRES, 1ST LINE, P235-75R-15, ER.....	118.40	124.15	124.45
BATTERY, 12VOLT, 525 CRANKING AMPS, 24 SERIES...	74.84	78.05	77.69
V-BELT, 1/2" x 70", EA.....	10.25	9.79	9.74
ANTIFREEZE, 4 LITRES.....	8.57	9.39	9.45
MECHANICAL REPAIRS, PER HOUR.....	54.00	56.83	56.83
BALER TWINE - SISAL 9000', PER BALE.....	35.09	35.31	35.28
FARM LABOUR, PER MONTH, WITHOUT BOARD.....	1672.69	1838.33	1845.00
TRACTOR, 100 HP/UP.....	77737.84	83395.80	83339.47
TRACTOR, 170 HP/UP.....	150977.75	154590.69	154456.63
COMBINE, SELP-PROP.....	208366.13	220532.56	220532.56
CHISEL PLOW 23-27 FT.....	24017.69	25232.14	25500.88
ROUND BALER, PULL TYPE.....	33967.12	34859.60	34610.07
DOUBLE DISC, HVY DUTY, 19-21 FT.....	24371.47	27953.69	27586.29
TRUCK, 1/2T., FORD/CHEV.....	23001.76	24545.73	24230.63
CALF STARTER SUPP., (20-24%), 25 KG.....	9.78	9.99	10.07
DAIRY SUPP., (32%), 25 KG.....	11.11	11.15	11.22
HOG SUPP., (40%), 25 KG.....	12.51	12.32	12.32
BROILER GROWER COMPLETE FEED, (18-20%), 25 KG..	9.35	9.99	9.81
CATTLE MINERAL, 25 KG.....	19.56	19.69	20.03
FEED BARLEY, NO. 1, (FARM GATE), BU.....	2.12	2.01	2.01
FEED WHEAT, NO. 1, (FARM GATE), BU.....	2.79	2.75	2.73
HAY, GOOD QUALITY BALED, TON.....	72.23	71.86	80.15
FERTILIZER, 46-0-0, TONNE, BULK.....	278.63	294.58	295.06
FERTILIZER, 11-51-0, TONNE, BULK.....	416.75	398.22	397.22
FERTILIZER, 82-0-0, TONNE, BULK (APPLICATOR INC).	435.60	473.75	474.62
2-4D LOW VOLATILE, 20 LITRES.....	105.45	111.57	111.41
AVADEX BW, LIQUID, 5 GAL.....	194.42	194.49	191.95
TRIFLURALIN, TREFLAN, 17 LITRE CASE.....	241.08	254.42	245.92
PENICILLIN, INJECTABLE, 100 CC.....	7.11	7.30	7.49
VITAMIN A D E, INJECTABLE, 100 CC.....	9.40	10.29	10.20
SEED, WHEAT, 100 KG., BULK.....	26.76	28.12	28.32
SEED, BARLEY, 100 KG., BULK.....	26.56	26.14	26.91
SEED, CANOLA, TREATED, 100 KG., BAGGED.....	392.22	384.38	405.06
PURPLE GASOLINE, 100 LITRES.....	40.46	52.71	53.58
DIESEL FUEL, 100 LITRES.....	27.45	40.05	40.51
PROPANE, BULK, 100 LITRES.....	24.65	30.20	31.32
NATURAL GAS, GJ.....	3.47	3.90	4.30
OIL, FOR DIESEL ENGINES, 5 LITRES.....	9.83	9.92	9.89

ALL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS WERE REPORTED TO BE IN GOOD SUPPLY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2000 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FARM LABOUR AND GOOD QUALITY HAY AND FEED GRAINS IN SOME AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.

ISSN 0704-917X

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED

Ralph Goodale, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, released a Memorandum of Understanding on June 29th, signed the day prior, regarding the changes in the western grain handling and transportation system.

The goal of this Memorandum of Understanding is to allow for the logistical arrangements pertaining to grain movement to be more efficient, commercial and competitive. This is to be achieved through a contract-based approach within the relationships among the CWB, railway companies, and grain companies. Moreover, potential for further productivity gains and cost savings may be possible, and can subsequently be more fairly shared by all of the system's participants, including farmers too.

The Memorandum stipulates that the CWB, as all other system participants do, will provide all pertinent information so that an independent 3rd-party can monitor, measure, and report upon the impacts of the reform package.

When the CWB deems it necessary to flex its railcar allocation powers for fulfillment of its statutory obligations, it will need to give 14 days advance public notice. It will also need to give an analysis telling why it needs to use these powers and the impact of using them.

The Memorandum also maintains that the CWB conduct its operations on a good faith basis. It needs to observe commercially sound standards of business and behavior. It will, of course, expect everyone else to also act in a similar fashion.

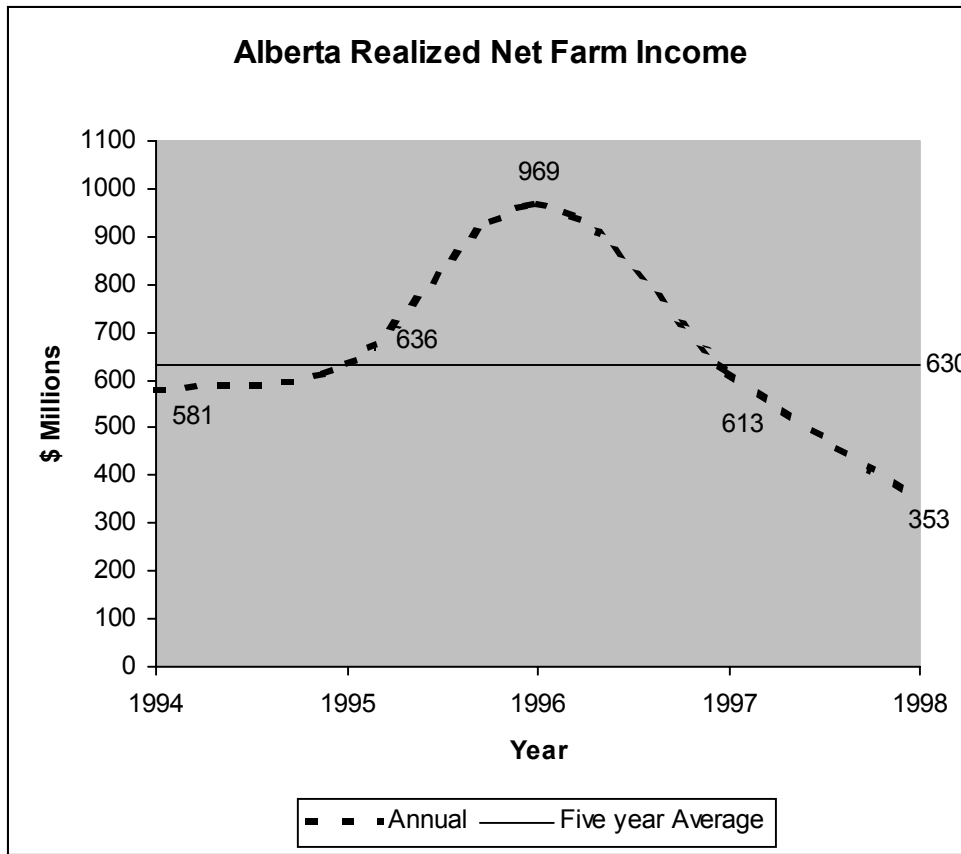
ALBERTA FARM CASH RECEIPTS BY TYPE '71 - '99

	Crops		Livestock & Products			Program Payments			Total Receipts		
	\$ '000	% Chg.	% of Total	\$ '000	% Chg.	% of Total	\$ '000	% Chg.	% of Total	\$ '000	% Chg.
1971	334,912		41.2	462,883		56.9	15,782		1.9	813,577	
1972	377,546	12.7	39.1	550,969	19.0	57.1	36,142	129.0	3.7	964,657	18.6
1973	449,350	19.0	36.1	755,510	37.1	60.7	39,610	9.6	3.2	1,244,470	29.0
1974	839,224	86.8	48.0	830,030	9.9	47.5	78,717	98.7	4.5	1,747,971	40.5
1975	969,083	15.5	51.0	890,635	7.3	46.8	42,024	-46.6	2.2	1,901,742	8.8
1976	886,006	-8.6	46.7	927,546	4.1	48.9	83,178	97.9	4.4	1,896,730	-0.3
1977	888,600	0.3	45.3	1,000,348	7.8	51.0	73,767	-11.3	3.8	1,962,715	3.5
1978	905,171	1.9	39.5	1,297,265	29.7	56.7	86,543	17.3	3.8	2,288,979	16.6
1979	1,150,301	27.1	40.5	1,586,795	22.3	55.8	105,865	22.3	3.7	2,842,961	24.2
1980	1,429,786	24.3	45.5	1,646,450	3.8	52.4	68,215	-35.6	2.2	3,144,451	10.6
1981	2,049,703	43.4	53.2	1,701,080	3.3	44.2	99,163	45.4	2.6	3,849,946	22.4
1982	1,870,078	-8.8	49.1	1,680,777	-1.2	44.1	261,238	163.4	6.9	3,812,093	-1.0
1983	1,932,142	3.3	51.5	1,678,258	-0.1	44.7	140,896	-46.1	3.8	3,751,296	-1.6
1984	1,861,683	-3.6	46.7	1,794,500	6.9	45.0	331,643	135.4	8.3	3,987,826	6.3
1985	1,550,628	-16.7	40.4	1,811,291	0.9	47.2	475,657	43.4	12.4	3,837,576	-3.8
1986	1,333,459	-14.0	35.2	1,789,095	-1.2	47.3	661,085	39.0	17.5	3,783,639	-1.4
1987	1,313,560	-1.5	32.5	1,919,707	7.3	47.5	805,522	21.8	19.9	4,038,789	6.7
1988	1,637,745	24.7	36.7	2,081,308	8.4	46.6	748,287	-7.1	16.8	4,467,340	10.6
1989	1,860,196	13.6	40.4	2,179,241	4.7	47.4	560,032	-25.2	12.2	4,599,469	3.0
1990	1,641,397	-11.8	38.3	2,323,575	6.6	54.2	318,119	-43.2	7.4	4,283,091	-6.9
1991	1,537,300	-6.3	36.3	2,257,436	-2.8	53.3	441,528	38.8	10.4	4,236,264	-1.1
1992	1,503,855	-2.2	30.4	2,557,853	13.3	51.7	890,028	101.6	18.0	4,951,736	16.9
1993	1,565,580	4.1	31.0	2,914,894	14.0	57.6	576,163	-35.3	11.4	5,056,637	2.1
1994	2,169,482	38.6	38.9	3,018,469	3.6	54.2	382,209	-33.7	6.9	5,570,160	10.2
1995	2,635,805	21.5	44.3	3,135,990	3.9	52.7	177,378	-53.6	3.0	5,949,173	6.8
1996r.....	3,008,457	14.1	46.1	3,362,805	7.2	51.6	151,886	-14.4	2.3	6,523,148	9.6
1997r.....	2,684,617	-10.8	41.5	3,564,588	6.0	55.1	217,729	43.4	3.4	6,466,934	-0.9
1998r.....	2,521,014	-6.1	39.3	3,647,310	2.3	56.9	241,107	10.7	3.8	6,409,431	-0.9
1999r.....	2,326,679	-7.7	35.5	3,984,764	9.3	60.8	237,612	-1.4	3.6	6,549,055	2.2

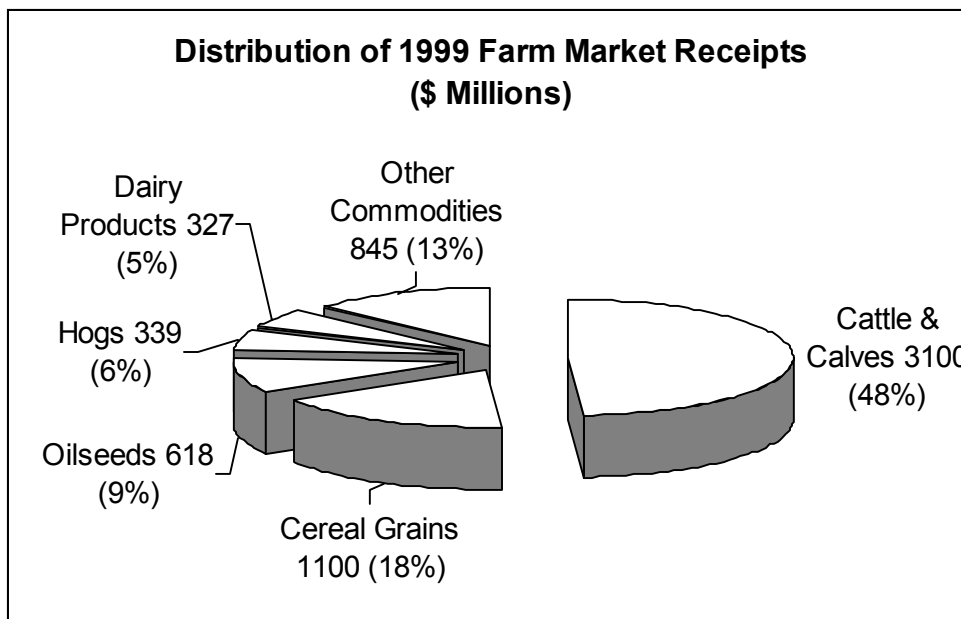
Note: Livestock and Products refers to livestock and livestock products.

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 21-603E, "Agriculture Economic Statistics"; and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (May, 2000)

NET FARM INCOME & MARKET RECEIPT DISTRIBUTION



Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development



Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development

A COMMENTARY ON THE JULY CFA CONVENTION

BY ELAINE JONES

My first CFA (Canadian Federal of Agriculture) Convention was an eye opener and should be a wake up call for all farmers to become proactive in government farm policy.

CFA, on a very limited budget, is in some way involved with most federal government decisions concerning farmers. Often their input seems to be ignored, but they remain there nonetheless. This is evident in all their documentation.

The CFA is working hard to find a consumer acceptable definition for genetically modified foods. During the meeting, a comment was made that genetic modification has been going on since the beginning of time – only it was referred to as mutation and hybridization, and was accomplished by Mother Nature.

Federal Ag minister Lyle Vanclief gave us a pep talk about farm gate diversification, but he didn't have an answer to the over-production from the niche markets we would be supplying.

The Federal Government, without really admitting it, relies heavily on CFA to look into numerous trade issues, such as Singapore's suggestion of a fair trade agreement with Canada. The frustrating and head-hanging aspect of across the border free trade with the US, is getting the idea across that to lower or eliminate subsidies, we need mutual cooperation? ...etc

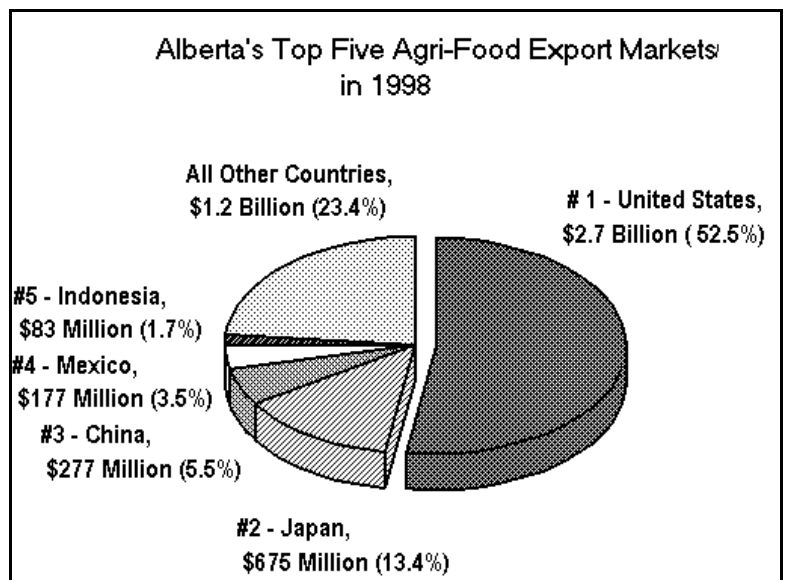
There is just a huge volume and diversity of issues on CFA's plate, and I came out of the meeting having difficulty finding something to touch on. The 200+ pages of information coming out of the meeting attests to the tremendous job CFA has undertaken.

If farmers are to maintain a degree of independence and freedom to produce, we really **MUST** have strong provincial and federal organizations representing us.

Submitted with respect and admiration,
Elaine Jones.

ALBERTA'S AGRI-FOOD EXPORT STATISTICS 1998

Alberta's Top Five Agri-Food Export Commodities in 1998		
	\$ Millions	% Share
Wheat	1178.4	2.3%
Beef	940.9	18.6%
Live Cattle	694.8	13.8%
Canola Seed	558	11.1%
Canola Oil & Mustard Oil.	150.4	3.0%



Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

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2 nd V.P.	Terry Murray, Box 2936, Wainwright, T9W 1S8	842-2336	842-6620	780

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Region 4	George Quaghebeur, Box 143, Thorhild, T0A 3J0	398-2465	398-3748	780
Region 5	John Hrasko, RR 1, Carvel, T0E 0H0	967-5867	967-2804	780
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Region 7	Bill Dobson, Box 36, Paradise Valley, T0B 3R0	745-2442	745-2062	780
Region 8	Bernie von Tettenborn, Box 1001, Round Hill, T0B 3Z0	672-6976	672-6976	780
Region 9	George Friesen, RR 4, Lacombe, T0C 1S0	782-2408	782-1678	403
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Region 11	Paul Marshall, Box 179, Delia, T0J 0W0	665-2363	665-2363	403
Region 12	Contact –		---	
Region 13	Ken Graumans, Box 85, Seven Persons, T0K 1Z0	832-2451	832-2044	403
Region 14	Paul Thibodeau, 5204 – 47 Street, Taber, T1G 1G6	223-9087	223-0174	403
Region 15	Contact – Jim Allan, Box 133, Berwyn, T0H 0E0	338-2260	No Fax	780

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