

WILD ROSE



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Volume 28, Issue 3

Summer/Fall 2001

A DIFFICULT SUMMER FOR AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA

BY NEIL WAGSTAFF - PRESIDENT

This summer has been aggravating weather wise for many Alberta producers. Where I farm, we were very dry at seeding time. Even with soil conservation practices such as continuous cropping and direct seeding, we had dust storms equivalent to what took place during the dirty thirties. Crops germinated unevenly and some did not get going until late June. The crops were critically short of moisture many times during the summer but fortunately we seemed to get showers just in the nick of time. By late August, we had a close to average crop which was suffering from extreme heat and lack of moisture, when we had the worst hailstorm in years on August 19. Then on September 8 we had -4C of

frost enough to damage the green kernels we still had due to late germination. This summer, weather related problems have negatively affected crop conditions in every part of the country. These adverse weather conditions are affecting all sectors of agriculture directly or indirectly. Compounded by increased input costs and low commodity prices, many grain producers will be facing reduced net income. Many communities and businesses which serve the agricultural industry are also feeling the impact of this serious situation. These circumstances highlight the inadequacy of our safety net programs relative to how effective they are to provide protection for events that are beyond a producers control. As long as our competitors in the U.S. continue to receive significant govern-

ment support, our Canadian government's must realize the need to increase their support for safety net programs, especially for the grain and oil seed sector. This summer I've had meetings with Alberta's Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan, Federal Agricultural Minister Lyle Vanclief, Justice Minister Ann McLellan, the federal Liberal rural caucus, the Alberta Standing Policy committee on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs, and the Prime Minister's Task Force on Agriculture. During these meetings I have stressed the need to make improvements to our safety net programs so that crop producers in particular can be better protected. I have had discussions with both agricultural ministers about the possibility of providing insurance coverage that more closely re-

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT—CONT'D

flects 100% of the cost of production for crops. I have also stressed that NISA has been a valuable program for many Producers.

Wild Rose Hosts CFA Summer Convention

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture held their summer convention in Calgary in late July. Wild Rose is entitled to two representatives at CFA. A number of other Wild Rose directors attended as observers and hosts at social functions.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the need for strong safety net programs that will keep Producers viable. Adequate funding is needed to provide protection to Producers for unforeseen production and market circumstances that are beyond their control.

One whole day was devoted to discussion regarding Canada's position on agricultural trade negotiations.

Delegates had a closed-door session with Sam Watson who is Canada's Deputy Minister of Agriculture where some very frank discussion took place.

One of the highlights of the convention was a very detailed presentation about foot and mouth. We were given details of plans which are in place to deal with an outbreak if it should occur in Canada. The main concern still seems to be whether adequate measures are being taken to prevent this and other animal diseases from entering Canada.

Another interesting presentation had to do with labeling of foods containing or derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). A related topic is the concern about the introduction of Roundup ready wheat.

GMO Wheat

In early August a number of diverse groups wrote a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to,

"immediately prevent the introduction of GM wheat into Canadian food and fields". I believe that the primary current issue is the acceptability of Roundup tolerant wheat by our international customers and whether we have the ability to segregate such grain in our handling and transportation system.

For a number of reasons, Wild Rose was NOT a signatory to this letter even though some other farm groups were. This letter did not focus on Roundup Ready wheat and made references to concerns about agronomic impacts, food safety and environmental damage from all types of genetically modified wheat. These type of concerns are not substantiated by scientific evidence and I believe they should not have been included in this letter. I also have difficulty accepting that organization's like Green Peace, who played a significant role in drafting this letter, have the best interests of Agricultural Producers on their agenda.

Biotechnology has the potential to make positive contributions to the agricultural sector. Farmers should not want to jeopardize research that may have positive health, agronomic and economic results.

Wild Rose Membership

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers relies on memberships as its primary source to finance its operations. Every farmer in Alberta should be prepared to support this organization since its main purpose is to represent its farm members in areas of common concern that can provide benefits to all Agricultural Producers in Alberta. In early November we plan to launch a campaign with a goal to significantly increase our membership. If this is to be successful it will require help from our many dedicated members to contact friends and neighbors. Please make a commitment to help your organization grow and become stronger advocate for Alberta farmers and ranchers.

WATER—IT'S VALUE TO AGRICULTURE

The quality and quantity of our water are becoming subjects of intense scrutiny and debate. Wild Rose Agricultural Producers recently completed a policy paper, which sets out the impact that agriculture has on our water supplies and how this relationship can be improved. It also delves into the subject of water export, where Canada stands in terms of national and international laws and regulations, along with reasons Canada why should protect its water supply.

Water Quality

The agricultural community in Canada has a relatively “green image” on a global scale, which it has earned through taking steps to reduce its impact on the environment, and water supplies in particular. However, Agricultural activities still degrade water supplies with bacteria, nutrient, pesticide and sediment contamination. Nutrients and Bacteria are the most common sources of contamination, and, along with pesticides and sediment, are found in greatest amounts in areas with intensive agriculture. Nonetheless, producers have been able to keep the amount of contamination stemming from their activities in check by improving agricultural practices.

Water Quantity

There is a perception that Canada is blessed with an unlimited supply of water. However, most of Canada’s water supply is non-renewable. As agriculture is one of the main users of water, agriculture producers must ensure that the quantity of water is not depleted. Consequently the agricultural community must engage in the conservation of water along with other water users. Farmers in Alberta and the rest of the prairies must be especially attuned to the availability of water, as much of the area does not receive enough precipitation to produce maximum yield. Nevertheless, the area is still well suited to agricultural production, and receives far more precipitation than agricultural lands in places like the southern United States. Still, the focus of water management must, if agriculture is to remain sustainable, shift

from supply management to demand management. It is the responsibility of all water users to decrease the consumption of water, and there are many ways that farmers can play their part.

Water Export

With predictions mounting that much of the world will be facing shortages of water in the near future, pressure is rising on Canada to share its seemingly abundant supply. It is the large-scale removal of water, or bulk water export, which is currently the source of debate within Canada. Serious questions arise in this debate as to the environmental and economic impact that bulk water removal will have on Canada. While there is significant evidence that the bulk export of water would be detrimental to Canada’s environment, there is little to support the notion that any but the few Canadians directly involved in selling water would benefit from its export.

The federal government’s stance on the export of water is unclear and there is a rift among premiers in Canada about whether or not to sell water. A deciding factor in this debate is how water is classified in terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement. There is considerable disagreement on whether or not water is considered a “tradable good” under the terms of NAFTA. Most experts in the area seem to agree that so long as Canada does not export water and takes measure to conserve the resource, water can be exempt from the terms of free trade.

In the end the future of our water depends on the ability of all parties to take part in its conservation.

This paper is available upon request from the Wild Rose office.

FARM SAFETY WEBSITE DESIGN CONTEST

The message of farm safety is being projected by a new medium. Wild Rose Agricultural Producers in partnership with the Alberta Government's Farm Safety Program have created an innovative website competition to promote farm safety. The Rural Youth Farm Safety Website Design Contest and Project is the first of its kind. Students will submit website designs featuring a strong message on farm safety.

High Schools throughout rural Alberta are taking part in the project. Posters and CD-ROMs containing technical instructions on how to design websites have been sent out to schools. Through the competition, students can build upon their computer skills as they raise awareness about farm safety. Students without access to computers can also take part in the competition by writing and sketching out their ideas on paper. Students can work either as individuals or in groups on the project and are encouraged to enter as many designs as they like.

The deadline for submissions is September 20, 2001. Information on the competition is available through schools and can be found on the Wild Rose Agricultural Producers website at www.wrap.ab.ca.

A panel of judges will go through all entries to select the winners. The winning website design will be posted on AAFRD's website at www.agric.gov.ab.ca. The first place winners will also receive a

\$1,500 scholarship and a digital camera for their school. A second place prize of a \$1,000 scholarship and a third place prize of a \$500 scholarship will also be awarded. The names of winners along with the website address will be announced on CBC Television in the fall.

It is hoped that this website will attract a great deal of interest and raise awareness on farm safety. The website is a long-term project that will be updated and adjusted to reflect the evolving nature of farm life.

Farm safety is in everyone's interest

Today's youth are plugging into technology and relying on the Internet for information and entertainment. The contest is designed to help build their web-savvy skills and make use of their interest – new technology. The contest also works well with the Government of Alberta's plans to provide high-speed Internet access to nearly every community in the province.

"This is a great contest to help young Albertans use their skills, learn some new skills and to give us a new perspective on the issue of farm safety," said Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. "I'm looking forward to seeing the results and the contribution it will make to forwarding the farm safety Message."

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers
Toll-free at 1-877-451-5912
Web site: www.wrap.ab.ca
email at: wrap@planet.eon.net

REFLECTIONS OF THE JOB BY RACHEL BOCOCK

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Working at Wild Rose this summer, I have really had to put my skills to work. I have been fortunate in doing a wide variety of tasks around the Wild Rose office. From writing a policy paper on water issues, helping with the book keeping to stuffing envelopes, I feel like I have done it all. Variety really is the spice of life.

This has been a summer of learning for me. Even having been raised on a farm, there is still a mountain of agricultural issues that I am not well versed in. NISA, shrinkage allowances, intensive livestock regulations, were just some of the subjects that I had to educate myself on. I have also become a bit more computer savvy – fiddling around with databases and publishing. Still, I have far to go . . .

It has also been wonderful to meet some of the people involved in Wild Rose. Everyone has been very welcoming and helpful. It is great to see how hard members and especially the board of Wild Rose is working on behalf of all farmers. I am pleased to be working for an organization that is doing such important work.

Editor's Note: We were very fortunate to have Rachel work for us over the summer months. Since returning to the University of Alberta, Rachel has agreed to help us out whenever her class time permits.

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, 2001. 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

SPECIAL CROPS SECURITY

March 27, 2001

Options for Special Crops Payment Protection
Canadian Grains Commission
600-303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Mr. Graham:

On behalf of the members of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, I would like to provide you with a few brief comments as it relates to the discussion paper on the "Development of Options for Special Crops Payment Protection Programs." As you are well aware, the crop sector of the agriculture economy is experiencing great difficulties. Profit margins are ever decreasing and are nearing critical levels. Producers do not have the luxury of having enough capital in reserve to handling most crisis situations and as such it becomes extremely important that some method of insuring special crops be adopted.

In order to protect producers and to alleviate any extra costs they may have to incur, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers believe that posing security should be mandatory for all grain dealers and companies. This should include any special crop dealers and processors. The demise of Palliser Grain is a prime example of why grain dealers, companies and brokers should be licenses and bonded through the Canadian Grain Commission regardless of whether they buy grain, oilseeds or special crops. New entrants into the markets should not be given the option of not posting security. This would prevent entrants from quickly entering, then exiting from expanding market opportunities.

Arguments that the current system ties up too large a portion of the assets of companies are unfounded. Producers put their trust and their economic viability (in many cases) in the hands of grain dealers and at the very least, their should be no threat of default payment. Security is essential for the producer. Insurance based options are too complex, and as mentioned in the discussion paper, may result in no security at all depending on the number of participants.

Fund based options provide the best mechanisms in providing security to producers, both in the long term and the short term. In order of preference the models we support as follows:

- 1) 3.3.4 Dealer/Processor paid fund with financial backstop and level contributions/threshold for dealer financial soundness
- 2) 3.3.3 Dealer/Processor paid fund with financial backstop and sliding scale of contributions based on dealer's financial soundness
- 3) 3.3.2 Development of a farmer-paid, farmer-controlled fund similar to the Ontario model with a FCC/CGC/Bank financial backstop.

In essence, there are two reasons for selecting this order. First, the costs to the producer should be less and; secondly, the long term stability should be greater.

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers appreciates the opportunity to provide the Canadian Grain Commission with our input in this matter and look forward to our continued cooperation.

Respectfully,

MAXIMUM SHRINKAGE ALLOWANCES

August 8, 2001

Paul Graham
Policy, Planning, and Producer Protection – Shrinkage Review
601-303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G8

Dear Mr. Graham,

In response to the discussion paper of the “Review of Maximum Shrinkage Allowances at Primary Elevators”, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers would like to express its support for the option to “set all primary elevator maximum shrinkage allowances, including tough and damp, to zero”. Once producers have delivered the grain to elevators they should no longer have to be responsible for costs incurred by the elevator operator.

To retain the maximum shrinkage allowances is unacceptable. Producers are often charged the maximum shrinkage allowance whether a weight loss occurs or not. As the review found, there is a wide variation in the gains and losses experienced by elevators. These fluctuations could be caused by scale problems, or different operating procedures. Producers should not have to absorb costs incurred due to inefficiencies or inaccurate scales. These reasons make deregulating shrinkage equally undesirable. Producers should not be penalized for taking their grain to an elevator that for whatever reason charge greater shrinkages than other elevators. Although deregulation could create competition between elevators, the distances that many producers would have to haul their grain to get the best deal would undercut the benefits of competition.

Consequently, the best option is to reduce shrinkage allowance to zero. As your report found, less than 50 per cent of primary elevators would incur a loss from shrinkage of cereals and flax if the allowances for these crops were set to zero. Furthermore, the discussion paper concluded that it is within the ability of elevators to improve their operations in order to minimize shrinkages. Since elevators have control over how much shrinkage occurs they should be responsible for the costs. In addition, measures must be put in place to ensure that real or perceived costs of shrinkages are not simply added to handling tariffs. As producers have no control over the operation of elevators they should not bear the costs of shrinkage.

Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Neil Wagstaff
President

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING POLICY ON AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS JUNE 11, 2001

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is Alberta's largest producer funded, general farm organization representing approximately 5000 producers through its producer unit and associate memberships. In the five years since its inception, we have grown to be a respected voice in agriculture at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Still, we recognize that not all producers are aware of the organization, and that we need to continue to provide producers with a general policy framework that adequately addresses the needs of all producers.

We last met with the Standing Policy Committee in September of 1997. At that time, the agricultural sector was in a far better state financially and the farm safety net package was only starting to show problems. Needless to say, the safety net package as it presently exists does not meet the needs of agricultural producers and long-term solutions need to be developed so that ad hoc programs can become a thing of the past. The following is an outline of some of the questions and solutions that our politicians need to address in cooperation with producers.

To begin with, there has been a long-term drop in agricultural support from all levels of government, but particularly from the federal government. Yes, this was necessary to show our belief that agricultural products should not be subsidized, but unfortunately, the governments of the United States, the European Union, Japan, and even Australia have not been so quick to realize this fact. Thus, our producers are being forced to compete in the international marketplace at an extreme disadvantage. Most recently, this problem has been compounded by record low commodity prices in the grain and oilseed sector. While the grain and oilseed sector has certainly suffered, it is important to remember that it was only a couple of years ago that our hog market collapsed and cattle prices, although doing well at the market, still provide producers with only a small profit margin.

The average net farm income in Alberta in 1999 was about \$30,900, slightly below the national average. While average farm assets have risen approximately 22 % since 1995, liabilities have risen by 49%. More large farms in Alberta were considered financially vulnerable than the Canadian average and the number of Alberta farms classified as having favorable stability has

dropped from 73.5% in 1997 to 69.3% in 1999, again lower than the Canadian average. These statistics are only one indicator of the financial stress that farmers and ranchers are facing.

Safety net programs such as AIDA, FIDP, NISA, and crop insurance all address a portion of the income crisis facing producers, but even combined, they still do not address adequately the fact that farm margins continue to decline slowly. Each program has its problems and we would like to make some brief comments on each of them.

NISA

This spring there were significant events that occurred with regards to NISA. Firstly, cattle were included, a program adjustment Wild Rose has been pushing for since its inception. As of the 28th of May, two thousand three hundred and seventy six (2376) new NISA account applications have been received illustrating the desire of cattlemen to be involved in the program. Secondly, there was a review of the NISA program. Somehow, somehow bureaucracies have convinced the federal government, and to some degree, the provincial government that NISA is not working. This is simply false. There is overwhelming support for NISA from producers, in part, because producers can adapt the program to their particular circumstances. Apparently, because 13% of NISA participants use it as an income enhancement and 12.5% view it as an investment fund, it needs fixing when, in fact, these are perfectly valid reasons for the program. Certainly, NISA could use some minor program modifications, but it is perhaps the most producer friendly program we have, and it is time for the province to participate fully in the program. There must be a good reason why more than 26,000 producers participate in NISA.

CROP INSURANCE

Now, more than ever, is it necessary to have a good crop insurance program particularly with low commodity prices. The government needs to be commended for the crop insurance review it conducted and Charlie Mayer along with his committee members should be congratulated for putting forward the recommendations

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PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING POLICY ON AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS—CONT'D.

they did. As an organization, we are disappointed that all the recommendations were not immediately accepted and introduced for this crop year. The review highlighted the problems in the crop insurance program, particularly the fact *that quite often the cost of coverage will not even cover the cost of inputs*. As an aside, we had urged that Pasture Insurance Program not be cancelled until after the review, and any program modifications could be made in the interim. Yes, there were problems with the program, but unfortunately, over 3000 farmers and ranchers had pasture insurance cancelled last year. This year, a trial project will be run. With the weather problems we are currently experiencing, a pasture insurance program would have been received warmly by producers no matter what difficulties existed in the past.

DISASTER PROGRAMS

FIDP/AIDA/CFIP are all disaster programs which benefit primarily single commodity producers who experience an extreme drop in revenue for one or two years. It doesn't address slowly declining margins and it puts producers at an economic disadvantage for diversifying or for adopting different management styles. Certainly, the province should be commended for changing the qualification criteria to three out of five years, but the inclusion of negative margins would also have been very beneficial. If our safety net package was working properly on the crop side, for example, crop insurance would cover adequately the production side of the equation and the use of FIDP/CFIP would, or should, be minimal.

INPUT COSTS

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers were certainly glad to see that the province has, in part, started to address the need to distinguish the difference between education taxes and municipal property taxes on farmland. We look forward to the Province continuing in this regard.

Producers are appreciative of the electrical and natural gas rebate programs, but it should be noted that even with these rebates, the cost of electricity is still nearly twice as high as it was at this time last year. Farmers are large users of electricity and this has had a detrimental impact on profitability of primary production. These high costs also act as a disincentive for further value-added processing.

The recent acreage payments by the Province were most welcome, but as the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development pointed out, it does not alleviate the financial problems facing the agricultural sector. For ex-

ample, the per acre payment on cultivated acres in many cases did not even come close to covering the additional cost of fertilizer when compared to last year. Coupled with the increased cost of fuel, it leads to dismal prospects for financial stability. There are problems with the acreage payment approach that need to be reviewed. Distribution on a flat rate payment that is not adjusted for production capability is very inequitable. Using past years acres is not fair to producers who have changed the land base they operate.

We continue to urge the federal government to eliminate the federal excise tax on fuel and commend the Minister for continuing to push in this regard.

Finally, while we recognize the need for environmental protection, but we question the environmental fee on oil containers and filters, especially when no recycling program exists in large portions of the province.

PROVINCIAL RAILWAYS

There is a definite need for the Province to adopt regulations that are consistent with federally regulated railways. For example, there are no notification procedures nor processes in place as it relates to rail line abandonment. Rural communities could find their provincial regulated railway abandoned overnight and have no means to appeal this decision. Negotiations are currently underway that would see federally regulated railways responsible for fencing along their lines. If this should occur, we would urge the Province to adopt similar regulations for provincially regulated railways.

SURFACE RIGHTS

Surface rights issues continue to play a significant role in rural Alberta. Settlement agreements have not kept up with inflation, nor is that factor recognized in dispute resolution. Many farmers have indicated that they have settled because they need the cash, not because it was the best solution. It is time that the Province investigate such issues as inflation and environmental compensation when considering surface rights agreements.

FARM SAFETY

Wild Rose is the lead agency for the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program and is very proud of its involvement in a farm web-site design contest currently under-

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PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING POLICY ON AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS—CONT'D

way. We would like to express our appreciation to the Minister for her assistance and would urge members to check out our website for details on the contest. Farm safety often gets lost in the myriad of issues facing the agricultural community and we implore the government to continue to promote farm safety across the province.

AG SUMMIT

There were high expectations when the whole AG Summit process began about a year and a half ago. Hundred of producers were involved as well as a number of other individuals closely related to the agricultural sector. Producers spoke out at the numerous town hall meetings, but somewhere between those meetings and now, a number of issues were lost and reprioritized. The process to bring forward those concerns was poor and there seemed to be a lack of support and direction. Producer involvement is now limited and widespread support has waned. While we are not prepared to say that the AG Summit process was a failure, there is a desperate need to refocus on the key issues that the producers indicated as important. The industry, and not the bureaucracy need to take the lead on initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental issues will continue to be at the forefront with incidents such as Walkerton posing significant threats to agriculture. Producers

have been, and will continue to be excellent environmental stewards of their land. Intensive livestock regulations are needed to both mitigate rural residents fears concerning water and air pollution while at the same time guidelines for agricultural expansion need to be put in place. This has been a difficult issue to deal with and we hope Mr. Klapstein's recommendations will alleviate much of this discontent. Further, on the issue of animal care, we look forward to a quick response from the Honourable Minister on the issue of who will look after compliance on animal care regulations.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture is, and will continue to be an important contributor in Alberta's economy. All primary producers contribute to the industry in some way. Far too often, we have heard from MLA's, bureaucrats, and even farmers, speak of the 80-20 split. They contend that 20% of the farmers produce 80% of the product and that farm policy should be focused on these producers. Not only do we believe this represents a dangerous precedence, we believe that the premise is very far from the truth. Many of the smaller farm operations provide the stock and feed enabling the viability of large operations. Farming needs to be looked at in terms of a viable commercial operation. Often, off farm income is needed to supplement that from the farm. Policies

need to be adopted that represent this reality. For example, we would again ask the Province to help us lobby the federal government to reduce the 15% gross farm receipt proxy used in the calculation of Employment Insurance to a more reasonable 5%.

It would be worthwhile for the provincial government to come onside with many of our commodity organization and the Western Grain Research Foundation, Wild Rose and CFA in pushing for farmers to be allowed to take tax credits for the dollars producers are investing in research through WGRF and their commodity organizations

Federally, we have become recognized as the voice for Alberta farmers. Wild Rose looks forward to working far more closely with the government in developing fair agricultural policy. Our membership represents greater numbers than that of most commodity organizations. Our work with, and through, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture provides all Alberta farmers with an important lobby in Ottawa that goes unnoticed by both producers and our provincial government. We need to seize opportunities to cooperate where and when we can. Our goals are similar, to provide Alberta producers with the appropriate environment to profit while producing the safest, best quality food in the world.

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.

WHAT'S IN A LABEL

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN *AGCARE UPDATE*, SUMMER 2001

Various polls say many Canadians want mandatory labeling of foods containing or derived from genetically modified crops/organisms. Unfortunately, the pollsters rarely or never tell Canadians what this means, nor what the costs might be.

Mandatory labeling does exist or is being introduced in several other countries. As their regulators struggle to develop workable labeling systems under which all foods are designated as either GM or non-GM, the result is proving to be, invariably, large numbers of exemptions and loopholes to address many of the difficulties inherent in such a process – those associated with complex manufactured foods, for example, or abilities to detect, or rules for minor ingredients where non-GM sources are almost impossible to secure (vitamin B12, as an example).

The Europeans, for example, are exempting ingredients made from GM crops if evidence of the modification cannot be detected through currently available testing procedures. Examples are sugars, starch and oil from corn, and processed oils and manufactured products made from canola and soybeans. The Japanese are targeting only the top three ingredients in processed foods and ignoring ingredients where direct detection is impossible. They are also using very high tolerance limits (5%) for GM ingredients. And all of these countries are exempting genetically modified crops/foods developed through processes other than r-DNA technology, despite the fact that scientifically, these products carry equal or greater potential risk. More information on international labeling protocols for genetically modified foods is available on the AGCare website: www.agcare.org.

The voluntary approach being developed by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), upon request from the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, is highly commendable. Rather than force all food or food ingredients to carry a GM or non-GM designation, such an approach allows labeling to be reserved for instances where the origins of food ingredients can be clearly determined. As a result, labeling can be expected to be both more honest and more meaningful, with little need for the exemptions and loopholes instituted within present mandatory labeling regimes elsewhere. It will also be much less costly – those who trust the regulatory system to ensure food safety will not be required to pay the extra costs associated with GM or non-GM food production, segregation, marketing and labeling. Those who wish to purchase foods produced without GM ingredients, and are willing to pay the associated costs (as is now the case with organic foods), will be able to do so.

The CGSB process has taken longer than initially expected: many complex issues must be addressed in order for the multi-stakeholder group to achieve the truthful and meaningful standards that Canadian consumers deserve.

Note: Although Canada's major food retailers have agreed to delay marketing that make GM content claims until clear standards are developed, some individual retailers are eager to exploit what they perceive as a marketing advantage. AGCare found several such claims on products in typical Ontario grocery stores. Consumers should be aware that standards to define what constitutes 'genetically modified' or 'non genetically modified' are still under development in Canada, so such claims are currently based solely on food manufacturers' interpretations of the term, and may not conform to consumers' expectations

Editor's Note: Further Note: The Canadian Federation of Agriculture CFA is also willing to support the draft standard for the voluntary labeling of foods that are and are not products of biotechnology put forth by the CGSB so long as certain changes are made to standards. They are concerned that voluntary labeling may become de facto mandatory labeling if manufacturers and retailers are "pressured to implement both the positive and negative labeling claims." The CFA will only support the CGSB if the following issues are addressed: There must be a requirement that additional information be placed on labels indicating GM products. The CFA wants a prominent easy to understand explanation as to why the gene technology has been used in the particular food. For example "Contains corn produced with gene technology to reduce pesticide use." This will help to ensure that labeling is not misleading and may also build a more positive image for genetically modified food.

- The CFA opposes the reference to the Novel Foods Regulation in the standard. "The Novel Foods regulation uses a much wider definition of genetic modification, which includes some traditional breeding methods that have led to new traits in any organism used for food." Use of the Novel Foods definition of genetic modification would create confusion for consumers who are willing to buy foods that are altered using traditional breeding methods but not willing technology. This would also make the Canadian standard for labeling incompatible with the international standard, which could lead to a major trade distortion.

These are points on which the CFA will not compromise. It is hoped that the CGSB will adopt the CFA's recommendations, which will make the standard far more meaningful.

INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS (ILO'S)

On July 5 Agriculture Food and Rural Development Minister Shirley McClellan announced that the province would assume responsibility for approving livestock operations across the province. The decision was based on the *Report and Recommendations* of the Sustainable Management of the Livestock Industry in Alberta Committee chaired by Albert Klapstein MLA.

The main recommendations that the government will implement are:

1. The Alberta government will develop provincial Legislation for ILOs. The new regulatory framework will include:
 - A provincial approval process for ILOs
 - Technical standards and procedures for new and expanding ILOs
 - Provincial decision making on land use
2. The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB), which reports to the Minister of Sustainable Development, will review applications, issue approvals and monitor and enforce provincial standards related to intensive livestock operations beginning January 1, 2001.
3. The provincial government plans to "establish a consistent and transparent approval process for new and expanding ILOs under the proposed Sustainable Livestock Production Act." The goal is consistent application of science-based standards across the province.
4. The provincial government will monitor and enforce compliance with province wide regulations. It is hoped that this will help to protect the environment and increase public confidence in the industry.
5. The province will still partner with municipalities to develop long-term land use plans. The province still asserts that municipalities will "have a key role in ensuring a sufficient land base for agriculture, while at the same time resolving local concerns in a responsive, community-based

manner".

These measures were meant to address concerns of the public and agriculture producers about the "patchwork" system that was in place when the municipalities controlled the establishment of ILOs. However the report has received mixed reviews from the agriculture community. There are many concerns about the new provincially operated regulatory process.

Why did the government take over the responsibility of approvals for livestock operations?

Some municipal governments did not have the technical resources or expertise to carry out decisions concerning Livestock operations. According to Alberta Pork *technical and procedural errors often occurred rendering the approval of an operation by the local government indefensible in court. Decisions were often made based on emotion and perceptions, which created great uncertainty for producers wishing to develop an intensive livestock operation. Municipalities often put in place regulation that was too restrictive for farmers to comply with. Based on these problems changes had to take place.* However, putting the power of approval in the hands of the provincial government is not necessarily the best way to solve these problems.

Should the government assume responsibility for approving ILOs?

It is the belief of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers that local governments need to retain the ability to make the final decision on the ILOs in their jurisdiction. The community itself should have control over what development takes place in their area. However these decisions should not be arbitrary.

What could have been done to improve the current system?

The provincial government should have supplied municipalities with scientifically

INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS (ILO'S) - CONT'D.

based guidelines for the development of ILOs. Municipalities should also have been provided with more resources and personnel with the appropriate technical expertise. In the past experts have not always been matched with their field. Engineers should be employed to make recommendations engineering aspects or agronomies on agronomy. This common sense change could have made a substantial improvement.

How do the new regulation effect operators?

The provincial government has set out regulations that apply to every operation which contains a number of livestock over the threshold for ILOs as set out by the 2000 Code of Practice for Responsible Livestock Development and Manure Management.

The regulations are strict and inflexible, without distinguishing between ILOs of different sizes. For example, any operation with 300 or more beef finishers is considered an ILO. As the regulation currently stands a producer with 302 beef finishers would be subject to the same rules as someone with 3002 beef finishers. This is a major disincentive for those who are near the threshold level to expand. The cost of meeting regulation penalizes smaller farmers who have just over the amount of livestock considered ILOs. One either needs to stay below the threshold level or develop a huge operation to make meeting the regulations set out for intensive livestock operations viable. In no way does this help producers to diversify.

YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers



Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose - Membership fee :

Producer	\$ _____	(\$117.70)
3 - Year	\$ _____	(\$321.00)
Associate	\$ _____	(\$ 58.85)

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

FARM MACHINERY DEALERS DISAPPEARING BY DEAN LIEN, FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Farmers across Alberta have a lot to worry about these days – high input costs, low commodity prices, drought and now fewer dealerships to handle parts for aging equipment. Closure through bankruptcy, attrition and the amalgamation of several distributors and manufacturers has significantly reduced the number of farm implement dealerships across the province. And we've yet to see the end of this trend.

In Alberta, we saw a loss of 18 bonded and licensed dealerships from year 2000 to 2001. We have also lost 4 distributors in the province. According to Dean Lien, Farmers' Advocate and administrator of the Farm Implement Act, "The decreasing number of dealers has a profound effect on availability of parts and service. A farmer who once had a parts depot within a half-hour drive now may need to travel a couple of hours."

New legislation was recently passed to provide some protection to farm implement dealers. The Farm Implement Dealerships Act, similar to legislation in other provinces, places limitations on a distributor's ability to cancel dealer contracts or enforce restrictive conditions on a dealership. This allows a dealer to market more than one distributor's line.

While this legislation is extremely beneficial to farmers, dealers and distributors by setting out clear guidelines, it can necessi-

tate dealerships having a significant parts inventory. Now, as dealer-servicing areas expand, the variety of equipment to be serviced increases. In addition, carrying greater parts stock, larger facilities equipped with the latest diagnostic tools are necessary to repair the high tech machines now being sold.

Legislation under the Farm Implement Act (FIA) provides the industry with guarantees for new machine performance and availability of parts for machines up to 10 years. Should a new implement fail to perform satisfactorily, within 50 hours or 10 days of use, notice can be filed to the dealer and distributor to repair or replace the unit. The FIA also requires parts be available on an emergency basis within 72 hours (with exception for situations beyond the dealer or distributor's control).

According to the Farmers' Advocate, the most significant component for administering the FIA relates to equipment warranty. Legislatively warranty is available for one year under normal operating conditions. Manufacturers can, and often do, offer longer terms. Warranties not only protect the farmer but they also establish the limits of responsibility for the dealer. To benefit from the specified or voluntary warranties buyers should always ensure the sales agreement is correctly filled out.

Whether the equipment is new or used, any warranty agreed

upon and any other pertinent details should be clearly documented. "A little time spent by both the dealer and the farmer will help to protect the shared business relationship. Doing the paper work correctly can save thousands of dollars later on if a disagreement arises. While legislation exists, it's a much better scenario to avoid a dispute in the first place. When everything is documented, there is no reason for problems," says Lien.

The poor state of the agricultural industry makes the role of service provider to farmers very difficult. Businessmen, both the dealer and the farmer, need a return on their investment, which is something that many are finding difficult to achieve? The significant changes we've seen at the dealership level have placed high financial burdens on most dealers. Farmers have less cash in their pockets to buy new equipment. Enlarged facilities and larger stocks of parts leave dealerships in positions that are more difficult when looking for a decent return on investment. The Farmers' Advocate Office is confident that dealers continue to provide the quality service that Alberta farmers have come to expect.

AUGERS ARE DANGEROUS – WATCH OUT!

(A safety message courtesy of the North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre, July 27, 2001)

Ten auger injuries occurred in just the three-month period of May through July in the Chinook Health Region in the year 2000. Two of these injuries were amputations. Augers are the second most dangerous piece of equipment on the farm, after tractors, and account for 9 percent of hospitalizations from on-farm injuries in Alberta.

At the North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre, we have initiated a study of auger injuries in southern Alberta. At the mid-point of our study, we have found that almost 90% of these injuries occurred with augers that had no shielding, such as a bin sweep, or a very old auger, or a newer auger where the shielding was removed.

Shields are removed on some farms because they can slow down the flow of barley or oats to the auger shaft, or because they are too large in diameter to fit in the door of the grain bin.

We are working with an engineering group that will take these factors into consideration, along with suggestions from the farmers surveyed, to improve the performance and safety of augers in grain handling.

Although auger injuries do occur throughout the year, the majority of injuries happen during the busy times of seeding and harvest. Time pressures cause a person to momentarily forget about the dangers of the auger – over 60% of farmers surveyed said that carelessness (lack of attention and lack of caution, perhaps) was the cause of their accident. Hands and feet are the most frequently injured part of the body, as expected. Amputations of fingers, hands, toes, feet and legs are the gruesome result of many auger injuries. In Canada, one person is killed by an auger injury every two years, on average. Causes of severe injury include being caught in the screw-type shaft, collapse of the auger, and contact of the auger with power lines when being moved.

Remember to use caution when working with augers. Here are some suggestions for your safety:

- Keep all safety shields and devices in place.
- Make an annual inspection of shields, belts, chains, fasteners, winch and cables, etc. Is your auger in good working condition and safe to operate?
- Shut off and lockout power before adjusting, servicing or cleaning your auger.
- Keep hands, feet, hair and clothing away from moving parts. Do not try to unclog an operating auger with your hand or foot!
- Keep the area around the auger free of debris that could cause accidental tripping or falling, and remember that grain on the ground can be very slippery like tiny ball bearings.
- Look up when moving the auger to avoid power lines. Use a truck or tractor to move the auger.
- Make certain that the auger is empty before shutting it down or moving it.
- It is the operator's duty to ensure that children and bystanders keep well clear of the work area.

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.

NISA REVIEW IS GOOD NEWS BY NEIL WAGSTAFF

On May 31st and June 1st I attended the National Safety Nets Advisory Committee meeting in Ottawa. The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss the NISA Review Consultations Report. The overall findings of this report are that NISA is basically a good program that works well the way it is currently designed. Although there are a number of recommendations for suggested changes there is an overwhelming concern that any changes could seriously alter the programs effectiveness.

The good news is that NISA continues to provide a secure base for the future for many Producers. NISA is the only safety net program that many producers can currently rely upon when they have an unforeseen decline in income.

There are nearly 143,000 NISA ac-

counts in Canada. Over the past 10 years Producers have deposited \$2.7 billion into their accounts. These funds were after-tax dollars derived from Producers net earnings. During the same 10 years Governments have contributed \$3.1 billion to NISA. This is an average of less than \$22,000 over 10 years or less than \$2,200 per account each year! Although this is a significant amount over 10 years, relative to the average cash flow of most farms it is quite small. When you add the interest earned on deposits, that total deposited has been \$6.4 billion. During this same time frame Producers have withdrawn \$3.2 billion.

Many federal and provincial politicians and their staff continue to express concern about the total value of the NISA account balances and about the size to which some individual accounts have accumulated.

They seem to have trouble justifying how they can provide more financial support to farmers when these NISA accounts exist.

The amount of dollars that producers do not withdraw when they are eligible to withdraw really bothers these people, even though there are valid reasons why producers do not always withdraw.

Politicians and bureaucrats need to be reminded that more than half of the total funds currently on deposit in NISA came from farmers after-tax net earnings.

We cannot sit idly by and take for granted that we will always have NISA. If we do not want to lose this program, all Producers need to take the time to remind our political leaders of how valuable a tool NISA is to the long term financial security of our farms.

NISA DEPOSIT AND WITHDRAWAL HISTORY

1990 -1999 Stabilization years rounded to \$0.1 Billion

	Fund 1 Producers Contribution	Fund 2 Government Contribution + Interest	Total
DEPOSITS			
Producer	\$2.7		\$2.7
Government Contribution		\$2.9	\$2.9
Bonus Interest Earnings		\$0.2	\$0.2

Total Contributions	\$2.7	\$3.1	\$5.8
Add:			
Interest Earned on Deposits		\$0.6	\$0.6

Total Deposits	\$2.7	\$3.7	\$6.4
=====			
PRODUCER WITHDRAWLS	\$1.1	\$2.1	\$3.2
=====			
FUND BALANCES	\$1.6	\$1.6	\$3.2
Subtract:			
Regular interest earned on deposits		\$0.6	

Government contributions to account balances		\$1.0	
=====			

Note:

Producer deposits for stabilization Year 2000 are still occurring and do not have to be completed until Dec. 31/01, so more current figures are difficult to include.

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS WESTERN PRODUCER SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

The *Western Producer* is committed to working with prairie agricultural organizations. Part of that commitment is to provide financial support through a contracted subscriptions marketing program. The subscription you will receive through this order is identical to that of any other subscriber. The term is not reduced, nor are there any hidden costs to you.

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____
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I would like to pay by: Cheque enclosed _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Visa/MasterCard Number _____ Expiry Date _____
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Month/ Year

Age of subscriber: Under 35 _____ 35 - 39 _____ 40-49 _____ 50-54 _____ 55-59 _____ 60 or older _____

CROPS - ACRES IN PRODUCTION

Total Farm Size	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Wheat	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Durum	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Barley	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Oats	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Canola	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Flax	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Pulse	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Mustard	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	400 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____
Other Crops	6,400 or more _____	4,800 - 6,399 _____	1,600 - 4,799 _____	760 - 1,599 _____	00 - 759 _____	1 - 399 _____

LIVESTOCK - NUMBERS IN PRODUCTION

Beef	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Dairy	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Hogs	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Poultry	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Sheep	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Horses	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____
Other	1,128 or more _____	528 - 1,127 _____	178 - 527 _____	78 - 177 _____	1 - 77 _____

My e-mail address is: _____

I would not like to receive catalogues and special offers from selected organizations with whom The Western Producer shares its subscriber list. Do not share my name.()

The production information we request is optional. It is used to determine what kinds of extra publications you receive with your subscription. For example, if you do not report raising any livestock, we will exclude livestock supplements from your Western Producer. If you report growing canola, we will ensure that you receive the annual Canola Producer magazine. We also do occasionally share name and address information with reputable third parties. We will never share the fact that you are a member of Wild Rose, nor will we ever share your phone number or email address.

If you wish us to share nothing at all, simply select the "do not share" box and we will honour that request strictly. We encourage your participation to ensure the best possible service.

All Wild Rose members are deemed to be involved in agriculture and so all members will receive FARMING magazine 10 times a year, in addition to their regular Western Producer newspaper.

Mail your order directly to **Western Producer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 2500, Saskatoon, S7K 2C4**. On processing of your order, a contribution of \$10.00 will be paid to Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.

NEW FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PRESS UNIFORM: A STORY OF CONFLICT AND CHANGE

Legacies Shared Series # 6, ISSN 1498-2358

\$29.95 paper / ISBN 1-55238-051-3 / 355 pages / 6 x 9 in. / 65 b/w photos

Publisher: University of Calgary Press

Alberta farmers and ranchers know that, in the frustrating business of agriculture, years of bounty inexplicably turn into years of despair. Looking back over the past half century, Jaques recounts the tumultuous history of the Alberta farm organization, Unifarm. This book documents Alberta farmers' quest to increase control over the forces that have had such an impact on their lives and describes how it led them to form organizations which have afforded them measures of stability and security throughout the past century. Unifarm, one of the most enduring of these organizations, is chronicled from its development in the 1970s to its reorganization as Wild Rose Agricultural Producers in 1995. In discussing the relationship of Unifarm to the business of agriculture, Jaques addresses issues of co-operative philosophy, marketing boards, surface rights, commodity groups, and the importance of education and training for members of the rural community. *Unifarm* is an important book that sheds new light on the many facets of Alberta's rich agricultural history.

Author Biography

Carrol Jaques earned her M.A. in the history of education from the University of Calgary after several years of teaching with the Calgary Board of Education. Her enduring interest in the social and political history of Alberta was the driving force behind both her master's thesis on the United Farmers of Alberta and this book on Unifarm. She lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Quotes

"*Unifarm* will add significantly to the body of information about the 'men of soil' and their determination to improve the rural economy in Alberta. Few people ... know the story, the struggles, the disappointments, the triumphs of many self-sacrificing rural individuals. It is simply a story that needs to be told." – *Bruno Friesen, Retired, Alberta Wheat Pool*

"This book is historically accurate and brilliantly written. It is complete in every detail." – *Murray H. Hawkins, Professor Emeritus, Rural Economy, University of Alberta*

"This book will serve as a legacy of the important people, events, conditions, and this particularly important organization...during a significant period in the history of Alberta. It will be valued by students and scholars of social movements, agricultural/farm and rural organizations, organizational development and change, and leadership development." – *Wayne Lamble, Professor, University of Alberta, Institute for Professional Development*

For more information, please contact:

Sharon Boyle, Marketing Manager Telephone: 403-220-5284 Fax: 403-282-0085 E-mail: sboyle@ucalgary.ca

**Please help us celebrate the launch of *Unifarm: a Story of Conflict and Change* by Carrol Jaques
Saturday, November 10 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Airdrie at the Nose Creek Valley Museum, 1701 Main Street North, Airdrie**

**For information phone the museum at 403 948 6685 or Carrol Jaques at 403 286 5955
This book is being published as part of the Legacies Shared Series by the University of Calgary Press**

. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers will be conducting an intensive membership campaign between the dates of November 9th and 16th. Unlike most other provinces, which have some form of assured funding, we in Alberta must rely on a voluntary membership base to fund our very important work. **We need your help!** If you can assist in any way with the membership drive please call any of the numbers on the back page of this magazine and we will make you part of this very important effort.

Here is the easiest way to contribute. If your membership has not been renewed you could really help by rejoining today. Every membership that gets sent in will give us a head start on the campaign.

NEIL WAGSTAFF'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES—ABBREVIATED

May 9	National Safety Net Advisory Committee conference call
May 29	Rod and myself with Howard Migie, policy adviser to Lyle Vanclief
May 31 & June 1	National Safety Net Advisory Committee meeting in Ottawa and joint meeting with National NISA Committee Re: NISA review
June 4	Ag Forum in Red Deer
June 11	Keith Degenhart, Rod, and myself made a presentation to the Alberta Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs.
June 11	National Safety Net advisory committee conference call.
June 18	Canadian Federation of Agriculture tripartite roundtable meeting in Winnipeg. A one day meeting with Minister Vanclief and provincial Agricultural Ministers and/or their department representatives. The topic of discussion, "Beyond Crisis Management - a road map for agriculture".
June 25 & 26	Summer Council and Board of Directors meeting
June 28	Adam Campbell, Rod, and myself met with federal Justice Minister Ann McLellen
July 11	National Safety Net advisory committee conference call.
July 12	Met with Minister of Agriculture Shirley McClellan
July 24-28 and	Canadians Federation of Agriculture summer convention also attended by Keith Degenhardt, Terry Murray, Bill Dobson
August 8	Attended Agricore/UGG merger information meeting - Stettler
August 9	Attended Agricore/UGG merger information meeting - Three Hills
August 20	Made a presentation to the rural federal Liberal caucus
August 21	Dinner with Farmers Advocate, Dean Lean
August 21	Adam Campbell, Rod & myself met with the Prime Minister's Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming in Edmonton.
August 22	Rod and myself met with Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief in Edmonton
September 10	Met with Prime Minister's Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming along with other Board Members

ALBERTA'S OIL PATCH IS DISCOVERING THAT ADR CAN WORK

**BY BILL REMMER P.ENG., ADR COORDINATOR
ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD**

Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes were introduced to Alberta's oil patch at the beginning of the year. Outcomes are being closely tracked now by the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) and its standing committee of stakeholders, with the intention of providing reliable data demonstrating the value of the process in an increasingly challenging regulatory environment.

The standing committee includes representation from a broad cross-section of stakeholders. Its role is to evaluate the EUB's ADR program and issue periodic progress reports, recommend improvements or alterations to the program, and maintain the roster of third-party service providers (currently there are three listings) and mediators (currently 26 listings) located on the EUB's Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>.

The main intention of the EUB's ADR program is to directly involve decision-makers in an interest-based, collaborative approach. The objective is to give decision makers the opportunity to develop a clear understanding of the other party's concerns and issues, give them an opportunity to discuss their interests, and then a chance to develop options for resolution.

Dave Brown, who is co-chairman of Sundre Petroleum Operators Group's community affairs committee, sits on the standing committee.

"The EUB's ADR process has the potential to resolve a very significant number of community-industry related issues quite successfully," says Dave. "I will make a comparison using the old saying 'you can lead a horse to water but if he has no inclination to drink, you can't make him drink.'"

Dave thinks this holds true with participants in the ADR process. "Both sides must have a thirst for a fair resolution to the issues to make the process successful."

So far, the ADR program is showing some moderate success according to statistics gathered on the use and outcomes of ADR for the first six months since the program was launched. Early indications are that the program is working. So far, 94 per cent of facilitations undertaken by the EUB staff with parties in dispute have led to resolution. This demonstrates the important role staff facilitation is playing in the ADR program.

"I think the numbers speak for themselves. With 94% of the cases dealt with so far resulting in resolution, and with considerably less stress for the parties involved, ADR is definitely an improvement over the previous process," said Alan Holt, the Wild Rose Agricultural Producers representative on the EUB standing committee.

During this period, 13 disputes went through the Preliminary ADR Meeting and, subsequently, mediation. Of those, nine were between landowners and companies. Seven mediations were completed by press time, of which four had been resolved, one had been partially resolved and had a hearing scheduled to deal with the outstanding issue, and two had been through hearings. Of the fully resolved disputes, three involved landowners and one was between two companies.

If direct negotiation between the parties and efforts by the EUB staff to facilitate do not resolve the concerns, then the EUB strongly encourages the parties to conduct a Preliminary ADR Meeting. There are professionals who can help them with this. A "service provider" can help with this by delivering logistic,

ALBERTA'S OIL PATCH IS DISCOVERING THAT ADR CAN WORK— CONT'D

convening, and administrative services and assisting the parties in preparing for collaborative discussions. Service providers have business agreements with numerous mediators and other ADR professionals and are able to assist in selecting a mediator. Mediators are independent third parties who manage the mediation process.

The purpose of a Preliminary ADR Meeting is to bring together potentially affected parties to discuss the nature and extent of their dispute and to plan possible options for resolution. The meeting should help clarify the issues under dispute and foster discussion of a suitable system design for their particular situation.

Before the parties feel able to commit to participating fully in mediation or other options many topics may need to be addressed and questions answered, such as:

- Who should participate in discussion, and what level of authority will be required?
- What information will be required, and how should it be obtained? In addition, what assurances do the parties need to ensure that all relevant information will be disclosed?
- How will the mediator be selected?
- What will the role of advisers (e.g., lawyers, EUB staff, and experts) be?
- What are the key issues?
- What are the options available to resolve the dispute?
- What further process steps will be taken?
- What costs should be considered, and how will payment be handled?
- How will matters of timing and deadlines and of confidentiality and privacy be handled?

Strong Commitment to Evaluation

The EUB is committed to monitoring and evaluating its ADR program and is looking to the participants, the service providers, and the mediators to help collect the data needed. Questionnaires have been developed for collecting data into the database. The data will be incorporated into the EUB's ADR annual report, expected to be released by March 31, 2002. Of course, because of the confidential nature of ADR, it is the process and procedures that are being monitored and evaluated, not the matters under discussion among the parties.

For More Information

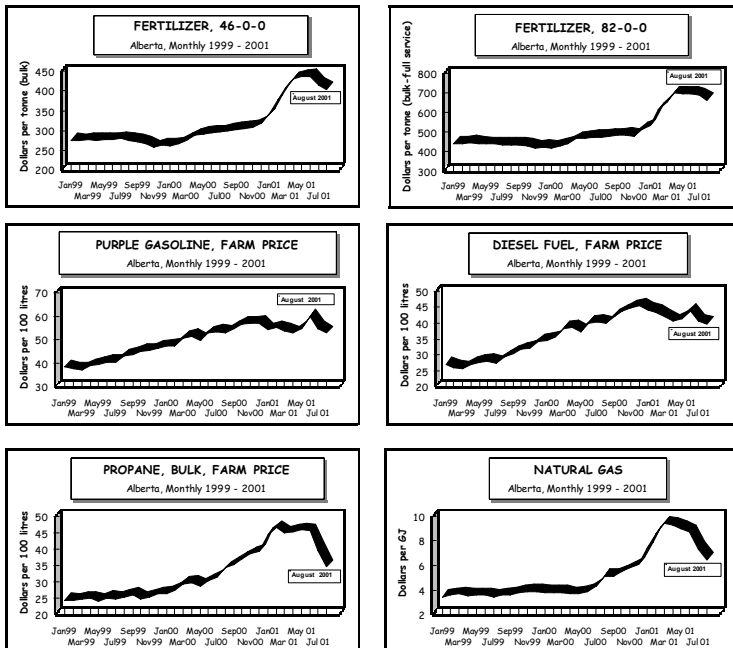
The key document describing the new program is EUB *Informational Letter (IL) 2001-1: Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program and Guidelines for Energy Industry Disputes*, which is available on the EUB Web site <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>. Questions may be directed to Bill Remmer or Mika Madunicky at EUB or to members of the stakeholder committee listed in on the Web site. A special telephone line (403-297-3700) and e-mail address (eub.adr@gov.ab.ca) have also been established to receive feedback and enquiries.

Wild Rose 2002 Annual Convention Coming up Soon!

Mark January 3 and 4, 2001 down on your calendar now.

This year's Convention will be held at the Red Deer Lodge on Thursday, January, 3 and Friday, Jan. 12. Once again, Thursday morning and afternoon will be devoted to seminars and panels. Topic under consideration for discussion include crop insurance, environmental farm plans, genetic modification and the effects of the U.S. farm bill on Alberta agriculture. Thursday evening will be the opening banquet and Friday will be comprised of association business. Please try to attend Regional meetings where resolutions can be discussed and debated for presentation at the Convention. A formalized agenda and registration forms will be mailed out to all members in mid to late November. If you are interested in pre-registering a registration form appears on the next page. Visit our website at www.wrap.ab.ca for more Convention news.

Alberta Farm Input Prices for Selected Inputs



Source: AIMS, Statistics and Data Development Unit, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
 Contact: Maureen Wenger, Phone: (780) 422-2903, Fax: (780) 427-5220, e-mail: maureen.wenger@gov.ab.ca

17-Sep-2001

Alberta Farm Input Prices for Selected Inputs, Monthly 1999 to 2001

Dates	Natural Gas (\$/GJ)			Purple Gasoline (\$/100 litres)			Diesel Fuel (\$/100 litres)		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
January	3.41	3.80	7.37	38.42	47.16	54.11	27.02	34.62	44.17
February	3.58	3.79	8.54	37.34	47.49	55.14	25.95	35.43	43.47
March	3.65	3.81	9.42	37.07	50.71	53.99	25.60	38.44	42.01
April	3.52	3.65	9.25	38.76	51.71	52.86	26.98	38.63	40.63
May	3.57	3.68	9.02	39.49	49.67	54.86	27.62	37.41	41.51
June	3.56	3.90	8.70	40.41	52.71	60.09	28.04	40.05	43.77
July	3.47	4.30	7.31	40.46	53.58	54.95	27.45	40.51	40.61
August	3.57	5.13	6.43	42.92	52.91	52.88	29.23	39.94	39.73
September	3.61	5.12		43.66	54.94		30.49	42.11	
October	3.80	5.43		45.14	56.62		31.67	43.63	
November	3.91	5.78		45.38	56.95		32.22	44.95	
December	3.86	6.09		46.44	57.15		34.21	45.60	

Dates	Propane (\$/100 litres)			Fertilizer 46-0-0 (\$/tonne-bulk)			Fertilizer 82-0-0 (\$/tonne-bulk)*		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
January	24.47	26.47	44.30	274.12	260.71	339.40	439.31	419.50	532.46
February	24.25	27.35	46.48	273.47	265.06	375.52	438.31	428.35	612.91
March	24.64	29.40	44.81	275.82	274.06	408.16	445.00	439.80	651.12
April	24.88	29.78	45.35	275.44	286.61	430.57	438.47	464.81	700.66
May	24.02	28.67	45.84	275.72	291.63	436.02	437.29	468.13	696.11
June	25.19	30.20	45.50	275.72	294.58	437.86	437.88	473.75	695.41
July	24.65	31.32	39.80	278.63	295.06	415.72	435.60	474.62	688.85
August	25.35	34.18	34.53	275.24	299.47	404.27	436.19	480.50	664.50
September	25.96	35.45		271.75	301.79		436.13	482.30	
October	24.87	36.92		266.71	304.56		429.52	486.27	
November	25.43	38.56		256.91	307.90		417.36	480.80	
December	26.26	39.31		262.29	317.86		423.09	511.53	

*Appliator included

Source: AIMS, Statistics and Data Development Unit, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
 Contact: Maureen Wenger, Phone: (780) 422-2903, Fax: (780) 427-5220, e-mail: maureen.wenger@gov.ab.ca 17-Sep-2001

**WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
CONVENTION & SEMINAR 2001
Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer, Alberta
January 3 & 4, 2002**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone/Fax _____

Please check **Package A - \$125.00 ()** **Package B - \$62.50 ()** **Package C - \$62.50 ()**
(Please Note: **GST INCLUDED**)

PACKAGE A ***Thursday, January 3, 2001***
Includes Seminar and Lunch
Evening Banquet-Entertainment

Friday, January 4, 2001
Continental Breakfast
Lunch
Cost: \$125.00 GST included

PACKAGE B ***Thursday, January 3, 2001***
Seminar and Lunch only
Cost: \$62.50 GST included

PACKAGE C ***Thursday, January 3, 2001***
Evening Banquet-Entertainment

Friday, January 4, 2001
Continental Breakfast
Lunch
Cost: \$62.50 GST included

EXTRA Banquet Tickets: \$25.00 per person

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM AT:
Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer, Alberta T4P 1A2
\$84.00 single/double plus taxes
Telephone: Toll-Free 1-800-661-1657

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO:
WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
14815 - 119 Avenue 3rd Fl
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4W2
Telephone: (780) 451-5912 Fax: (780) 453-2669

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS

EXECUTIVE

		Telephone	Fax Code	Area
President	Neil Wagstaff, Box 593, Elnora, TOM OYO	773-3599	773-3599	403
1st V.P.	Keith Degenhardt, Gen. Del., Hughenden, TOB 2E0	856-2383	856-2383	780
2nd V.P.	Adam Campbell, Box 66, Rosalind, TOB 3Y0	375-2133	375-2133	780

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neil Wagstaff	Box 593, Elnora, TOM OYO	773-3599	773-3599	403
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Adam Campbell	Box 66, Rosalind, TOB 3Y0	375-2133	375-2133	780
Bill Dobson	Box 36, Paradise Valley, T0B 3R0	745-2442	745-2062	780
Robert Filkohazy	Box 33, Hussar, TOJ 1S0	641-2480	641-2480	403
Elaine Jones	Box 772, High Prairie, T0G 1E0	524-2523	524-5742	780
Terry Murray	Box 2936, Wainwright, T9W 1S8	842-2336	842-6620	780
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Paul Thibodeau	5204 – 47 Street, Taber, T1G 1G6	223-9087	223-0174	403

REGIONAL DIRECTORS & CONTACTS

Region 1	Contact – Dave Heglund, RR 1, Wembley, TOH 3S0	766-2450	766-3450	780
	Cliff Richards, RR 1, Sexsmith, TOH 3C0	766-2266	766-2537	780
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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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director	Rod Scarlett	451-5912	453-2669	780
		e-mail: wrap@planet.eon.net		
		Web site: www.wrap.ab.ca		
		Toll-Free: 1-877-451-5912		