



Spring AGRICULTURE



Proper pesticide application for both you and public trust

**By Brent Flaten, PAg, CCA,
Crops Extension Specialist**

Proper pesticide application is an important management strategy that provides a benefit to producers, primarily in the reduction of weeds, diseases and insects, while providing acceptable crop tolerance; it is also becoming increasingly important for global market access of our products. Public trust and acceptance of modern food production is based on "doing the right thing." Proper pesticide application within an integrated pest management system is important in keeping and gaining that public trust.

First, remember that using pesticides is only one of the strategies farmers have for pest management. Pesticides should always be used in conjunction with other pest management strategies, for an integrated approach. Integrated pest management combines cultural, chemical, mechanical and biological strategies. Cultural strategies involve managing ecosystems to minimize organisms from becoming economic pests. Examples include diverse crop rotations, use of winter crops, biennials or perennials, and variety selection with certain disease or insect tolerances. Mechanical strategies may include strategic tillage, mowing or clipping weeds before seed set and destruction of weeds in chaff while com-

binning. Biological strategies may include application of biological pesticides or general releases of natural insects to reduce weeds such as leafy spurge and scentless chamomile.

Proper pesticide application involves using the right product for the pest of concern, at the right rate for effective control, on the right crop and at the right time for both the pest and crop. This requires following pesticide labels very carefully. Doing otherwise may not only reduce pest control or cause crop damage, it may also cause increased pesticide residues in the harvested crop. Maximum residue limits (MRLs), which include considerable safety margins, are considered by Health Canada to be safe pesticide residues in crops. They are a requirement for registration of pesticides and are based on labelled uses only, which includes correct crop timing and pre-harvest intervals. Also, find and follow correct buffer zones on the label to avoid unacceptable contamination to surrounding areas.

Scout fields prior to pesticide application to identify potential pests and the crop stage, including when the crop is most susceptible to pest damage and the stage for proper pesticide application, if required. Also, recognize that beneficial organisms such as parasites play an important role in controlling insect pests



Proper pesticide application is important for improving production, market access and public trust.

and certain weeds and diseases. Continue to scout to determine pest population changes and their potential damage to crops.

Use economic thresholds when deciding to take control measures for pests. Refer to the Guide to Crop Protection and other information sources for these thresholds. Eradication of pests is rarely a realistic goal or even a wishful goal. Saving pesticide applications for when pest numbers are above the economic threshold is cost effective, while reducing pesticide exposure and selection pressure towards pesticide resistance.

Refer to Sprayers 101 for proper sprayer equipment, utilizing the right sprayer nozzle, speed, etc. for best pest control while reducing spray drift.

An increasing issue has emerged lately in regards to MRLs for our export markets. In the past, most countries followed

an international standard MRL for any given pesticide on a particular crop. Now, some countries assess and establish their own pesticide MRLs on crops they either produce or import. This means that a crop that was treated with a registered pesticide here in Canada, may not meet the importing country's designated MRL if it is significantly lower than ours. With the accuracy of modern detection equipment, this means the crop may not be allowed and the shipment rejected. Check with your grain buyers for any of these potential export restrictions for your crop as part of your crop planning.

Proper pesticide application as outlined above is important for improving production, market access and public trust.

For more information contact a Crops Extension Specialist at a Regional Office near you or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

CO-OP PREMIUM LUBRICANTS

SPRING OIL SALE

DMO | THF | GREASE

TOTAL EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

SAVE 25¢/litre*

BOOK NOW WITH YOUR LAKE COUNTRY CO-OP AGRO TEAM!

CO-OP AGRO

<p>Prince Albert Agro: Agro Centre: (306) 922-2476</p> <p>Shellbrook Agro: (306) 747-2122</p>	<p>Kinistino Agro: (306) 864-2202</p> <p>Spiritwood Agro: (306) 883-2236</p>	<p>Domremy Region: (306) 423-5242</p> <p>Blaine Lake Sales: (306) 497-7258</p> <p>Hoey/Rosthern Region: (306) 961-4535</p>
---	--	--

WWW.LAKECOUNTRYCOOPAG.COM
* PRICING IN EFFECT UNTIL APRIL 30, 2019

AgroPak

"Proud to Support and Salute our local farmers who work hard everyday to bring us the very best!"

Tait Insurance Group Inc. offers many company Agro Pak options to protect your dwelling and belongings, and provide you with liability protection. It's flexible – so you can insure your farm buildings and contents, machinery, tools and livestock. Many other options are available to meet your specific farm needs. Broad coverage, protection and peace of mind – Agro Pak has it all. Drop by or call us today!

AutoPak

Auto Pak is customizable insurance that protects you and your family from loss not covered by basic plate insurance. With an Auto Pak Package policy, you can increase your liability coverage, lower you deductible, access rental vehicles, get glass repairs and even have your brand new vehicle replaced if it's totalled.

TAIT INSURANCE

GROUP INC.

3 locations to serve you

Shellbrook 306-747-2896	Leask 306-466-4811	Canwood 306-468-2227
----------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

www.taitinsurance.ca

office@taitinsurance.ca

Politicians must be cautious in a global economy

Even in the best of times, agriculture can feel like little more than a crapshoot.

As a producer, you can control your seeding rotations, and the chemicals you spray (or don't spray, if you're an organic producer) on your crops, and even the tools and equipment you use to monitor and care for your fields.



**JORDAN
TWISS**

~
News Editor

Beyond this, however, the rest is essentially dependent upon forces that are well beyond a producer's control. And, unfortunately for producers, it doesn't take much to turn an otherwise perfect growing season into an absolute nightmare.

For those of us who grow our own food in small home gardens, a tough growing season is undoubtedly a nuisance and a waste of a few dollars, but it's nothing more than that.

For producers who make their living off of the land, though, a bad growing season can make the difference between breaking even or going bust — though, of course, there are programs for producers, such as AgriStability or crop insurance programs, that help offset the risks of the farm business.

With so many elements of the agriculture business being beyond a producer's control, it's more important than ever, in this globalized economy, that pro-

ducers are able to rely upon their governments to not make things harder for them.

This, however, isn't always an easy thing for some governments to do. And the ongoing trade spat between Canada and China, over the latter's ban on all Canadian canola exports, is just one recent example of a well-meaning government doing more harm than good.

According to the official record, China imposed the ban, which bars Canada from a country that accounted for 40 per cent of its canola exports, due to concerns about pests — concerns that, according to science, are entirely unfounded.

But, as anyone who follows international trade knows, the official record is, more often than not, only a small part of a bigger story. And, in this case, the full story is, as Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan president Todd Lewis puts it, that food and politics don't go well together.

Ever since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau brought his Liberal government's brand of feel-good politics to Ottawa, he hasn't shied away from criticizing the Chinese government's human rights record in incredibly public settings.

In September of 2016, Mr. Trudeau introduced a chill into Canada-China relations when he used a week-long trade mission to the country, and more specifically a meeting with Shanghai's business elite, to "encourage China to do more to promote and protect human rights."

Matters only worsened at the end of 2018, when Canadian police arrested Meng Wanzhou, the CFO of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, at the behest of the United States, prompting China to retaliate by detaining two Canadians on suspicion of "endangering state security".

After this, the Canada-China relationship hit sub-zero temperatures to start 2019. First, in early January, China imposed a death sentence on a Canadian accused of smuggling drugs into the country, earning further human rights and rule of law critiques from Mr. Trudeau.

Then, Mr. Trudeau further angered the Chinese government by firing Canadian ambassador to China John McCallum in late January, and even became the object of ridicule when news of the ongoing SNC-Lavalin scandal first broke.

This political tit-for-tat has continued since, culminating in China's ban on Canadian canola imports.

It's a gravely serious issue — one that Saskatchewan's canola producers had no part in, and one that Mr. Trudeau's government says it is intent on fixing.

But even if Mr. Trudeau is taking the matter as seriously as he says he is, it's likely going to take a lot of work to right the ship that his self-righteousness, combined with the Chinese government's pettiness, effectively capsized.

To be fair to Mr. Trudeau, the Chinese government is wholly deserving of any criticism it receives on issues relating to human rights and the rule of law. But it's also true that there are far more tactful ways to criticize a country that is one of the largest markets in the world.

Perhaps Mr. Trudeau was hoping that his public criticism would rally allies to his side to apply joint pressure to the Chinese government, or, at the very least, shame the government into changing its stripes.

But, in truth, he should have known better, and now it's prairie producers who are paying for his costly mistakes.

As small players in a large global economy, our elected leaders would be wise to exercise more caution.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

- APR 27** Estate of the Late Richard Dyck
9:00 a.m. | Warman, SK | Select Online Bidding at 1:00 p.m.
- MAY 4** Mike and Minnie Parchoma Real Estate and Contents Auction Sale
10:00 a.m. | Blaine Lake, SK | Select and Online Bidding including real estate at 2:00 p.m.
- MAY 5** Mason Acreage Estate Auction Sale
10:00 a.m. | 16km east of S'toon on Hwy 5, yard on south side of hwy
Online Bidding at 2:00 p.m.
- JUN 1** Manz Acreage Auction Sale
10:00 a.m. | From Circle Dr., 7km south on Hwy 11 to Baker Rd., 6km east on north side of hwy | Select Online Bidding 1:00 p.m.
- JUN 15** Burgardt, Wright & Kissick Farm Equipment Auction Sale
9:00 a.m. | Kerrobert, SK | Online bidding at 1:00 p.m.
- JUN 17** Miller Springview Farm Auction Sale
9:00 a.m. | Ruthilda, SK (Biggar Area) | Online bidding at 1:00 p.m.
- AUG 3** Western Horse Related Collectables and Antique Auction Sale
9:00 a.m. | Kindersley, SK

See For More Info & Bid Online At
BODNARUSAUCTIONEERING.COM

Book Your Sale Today
306.975.9054 or 1.877.494.2437

Bodnarus Auctioneering Provincial License Number 318200

DEMO RIDE DAY!

May 4th

10 am – 3 pm

Coffee & Donuts

Each person who rides a demo will have their name entered into a draw for a prize!

LIKE US ON FB

We have factory certified technicians, a knowledgeable parts department, and a personable Sales and Finance team.

NABER

POWERSPORTS

151 SERVICE ROAD EAST, SHELLBROOK
Beside NABER FORD

306-747-6100

www.naberpowersports.com

The work we do – 1.6 million kms, and still enjoying it

By Dave Hyndman

Bryan Wingerter takes a wide sweeping turn with the Fast Genetics Kenworth, wide because he is pulling a 53-foot trailer behind. He is on his way to the barn near Cater, Sask. to pick up a load of pigs.

Bryan is one of several Fast employees who delivers pigs to customers, and from barn to barn, and basically wherever they need to go.

On this day, he is loading 100 from the barn at Cater and another 65 from the Tri-North barn near Mildred and delivering them to a spot near Shell Lake to be transferred to another trailer, and thence to market near Neepawa, Man.

On this day, as well, he has a passenger, the reporter, who is determined to find out just what a livestock hauler does.

There is probably no business in the Spiritwood area that has the worldwide impact to match that of Fast Genetics. And getting the pigs from the several barns in the area to their final destination, well, that's where Bryan Wingerter comes in.



Bryan Wingerter preparing to enter the trailer. Hard hat, boots, coveralls – and for comfort, kneepads. Biosecurity is critically important.

He has been driving for Fast Genetics for eight years, and spent the previous seven working in the barns, so with fifteen years handling pigs, he knows what he is doing.

How many kilometres has he driven in that time? He can't tell right off the bat, and offers to go back through his logs and add them up.

No, an estimate is fine.

An average of 200,000 a year, he says. I suspect the figure might be underestimated a bit. He delivers pigs to points in southern Manitoba, southern Alberta, and many points in between, as well as locations into the United States.

In fact, it's the trip he's scheduled to make tomorrow that he's excited about. It's only 36 pigs, though, not a big load, and one for which he'll use "the one-ton". He'll make stops to unload at two Hutterite colonies in Montana, colonies that like to acquire breeding stock from Fast Genetics.

Because of biosecurity procedures at various hog producing locations between here and Montana, he estimates an additional 500 km of travel to avoid them.

**

We arrive at the Cater barn, and Bryan expertly backs the trailer and lines up perfectly with the chute door.

He exits the cab and reaches into a compartment, pulling out a blue tub which he carries to the back of the truck. In the tub are high rubber boots, a pair of coveralls, and kneepads. He explains that he'll be crawling on his hands and knees for a bit, and the kneepads make it a bit easier on him.

For the next 10 to 15 minutes, he is spreading salt and shavings throughout the trailer, on all three levels and the upper spot at the back that is called "the doghouse".

On this day, he has about a dozen bags of shavings that he throws to the various levels, and then using a utility knife, he slits them open and spreads the contents around. This provides bedding for the pigs, who, once in motion, will tend to settle down and make a bit of a nest.

The amount of shavings used depends a lot on the weather. On cold winter days, for example, it's not unusual to use about two dozen bags to provide enough protection for the animals on their journey.

And he's on his hands and knees for a lot of it.

With the shavings spread out, he's ready to open the doors and take on his cargo. He likes to take them about six to 10 at a time, just enough so that if the lead pig needs a bit of persuasion, he's close enough to provide it. Once a group gets going, the loading moves fairly smoothly. The group is moved into a pen – there are lots of them in the trailer – and then he admits another group, continuing this way until all are aboard.



Backed up to the loading chute. 100 pigs will be loaded onto the Fast Genetics trailer.

After all 100 are on board and penned, he takes a minute to wipe the sweat from his brow. Despite it being a cool day, about 4 degrees Celsius with a bit of wind, he has had a workout. He takes off the kneepads, undoes the coveralls and drops them down to his ankles, and then steps out of the boots into his own shoes. Like a fireman, he's ready for the next part of the delivery.

The blue tub goes back into the compartment, and he sits in the driver's seat and begins the paperwork.

**

There's lots of paperwork involved in transferring livestock from one location to another, and heaven help the guy who doesn't fill it out properly. Wingerter does. He's very conscientious about making sure everything is entered properly. By the time a pig gets from Point A to Point B, its every movement is tracked, and it can be traced at every juncture and, if need be, from Point B back to Point A.

Today's load is a "split load", with pigs from two different barns going on the same transport. Two barns, two sets of paperwork.

**

For All Your Concrete Needs

• Grain Bins • Barns • Shop Floors - Industrial & Farm • Free Estimates • Ready Mixed in Shellbrook with hauling as far as Glaslyn, Big River, Hafford and north to Weyakwin

Sterling Concrete & Hauling LP

Hwy. #3 North Shellbrook

1-306-747-2496

SHEWCHUK
SEEDS

Contact Mike:

306-497-2800 | Cell 306-290-7816



Saluting the farmers!

TIMBERLINE TRAILERS
and Fabricating Ltd.

- Parts • Sales & Service
- General Welding & Repairs

We do:

- Frame straightening
- Wheel alignments
- Axle straightening on all trailers
- Replace bottom panelling on stock and rotten grain trailers & any welding and fabricating

~ Government Safety inspections ~
~ SGI Approved ~

Prince Albert, Sask.



Phone

(306) 953-1970

Fax

(306) 953-1972

Spiritwood
Tire & Lube

KELLY TIRES **DUNLOP**

GOODYEAR

– Service Truck

– AG Tires

– Commercial Tires

– Automotive Tires

Shop: 306-883-2760

Cell: 306-883-9399

GREG'S WELDING

Greg Penner

306-768-8555
Carrot River, SK

Specializing In All Types Of Portable Livestock Handling Equipment, Panels, Shelters, Feeders, Etc.

Now Selling Premium Crop Protection Products
New Wrap, Twine, Silage Plastic, Silage Bale Film, Grain Bags

The work we do – 1.6 million kms, and still enjoying it

On the trip back to Spiritwood, we talk about what the rest of the day has in store. After transferring them to another transport, he'll clean out the trailer and call it a day.

When will that be? About 2 p.m.

2 p.m.? Makes for an early day.

However, he started at 4 a.m., so that will make it about a ten-hour day once he's done.

I was to meet him at Northern Feeds at 6:30, which, I will admit, is way earlier than my normal get-up time. When he finally arrived in the other semi, he had already loaded the 65 from the Tri-North barn, and they were on board waiting to join the 100 from Cater.

When we arrived from Cater, he backed up and lined up the two trailers perfectly, and then the loading process began, starting with the blue tub.

**

The blue tub is part of the biosecurity procedures followed to ensure that nothing foreign gets into the cargo to jeopardize the health of the animals. The driver of the Neepawa-bound unit also had a blue tub. Anytime the drivers are inside the trailers or around the animals, they must wear the boots



Once the pigs have been transferred, both drivers do their paperwork, exchanging copies for their respective records.



Preparing for pigs involves laying out shavings for bedding. Because of the tight quarters, much of it is done on hands and knees – hence the value of the kneepads.

and coveralls, and then remove them when they leave the trailer.

The transfer of the 165 will take place a kilometre or so south of Shell Lake, a spot chosen because it's flat and two semis can line up easily.

**

The transfer of the 165 takes place fairly smoothly, Bryan driving the pigs in small groups into the other trailer, and the other driver moving them into pens in his trailer. Within a half hour or so, all 165 are aboard, and the two drivers settle in to the paperwork, exchanging copies for their respective records.

On the way back to Spiritwood, we chat about what has just taken place and what comes next. I had only been with him for less than five hours, but I was convinced of one thing: the driving is the easier part of a trucker's job.



One of the few opportunities to stand at full height, he begins spreading shavings at the upper level.



The trailers are lined up together end to end for the off-site transfer of the 165 pigs. All transfers are done off site as only Fast Genetics trucks can load from Fast Genetics barns.

J & R

CORRAL CLEANING



Ron Toews Derek Toews
306-883-7124 306-883-9952

Box 123, Leoville, SK
S0J 1N0

MANITOU MAINE-ANJOU

FULLBLOOD GENETICS SINCE 1970

WE RAISE THE REAL MAINE-ANJOU CATTLE

SERIOUSLY THIS IS THE ULTIMATE CROSS IN ANY CROSSBREEDING PROGRAM!

BULLS FOR SALE AT THE FARM



GARY & SANDY GRAHAM

MARSDEN, SK grahamgs@sasktel.net
(306) 830-0883 www.manitoumaineanjou.ca

What is CUSMA? And how will it affect you?

By Philip Legrand, International Trade Policy Analyst, Regina

On November 30, 2018, Canada, the United States and Mexico officially signed the Canada – United States – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). Also known as USMCA in the United States and T-MEC in Mexico, the agreement was the culmination of several rounds of negotiations over one year. The agreement will go through each country's domestic ratification process.

Importance for Saskatchewan's agricul- tural community

The United States and Mexico are Saskatchewan's largest and fourth largest agriculture export markets, respectively. In 2017, export shipments to the U.S. were valued at \$3.5 billion and exports to Mexico were valued at \$746 million.

What has stayed the same

Under the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and CUSMA, Canada benefits from reduced tariff rates. These reduced rates give Canadian agri-food exporters an advantage because their exports are cheaper relative to international competitors. All food and agriculture products that had zero tariffs under NAFTA will remain at zero under CUSMA. CUSMA has preserved most of the dispute settlement provisions. Having an impartial dispute settlement is important because it provides a way to fairly resolve trade disputes.

What has changed

There are some new features specific to agriculture included in CUSMA. First, palm oil originating from non-CUSMA countries can be used to produce canola and soybean margarine in a CUSMA country. The end product will be designated as originating from a CUSMA member state. This means margarine will be traded

duty free amongst CUSMA members. Another development is U.S. wheat producers can receive a grade from a Canadian elevator for deliveries of wheat varieties registered in Canada that are grown in the U.S.

Canada's supply-managed sectors (dairy, poultry and eggs) received a lot of media attention during the negotiations. The federal government granted additional access to its domestic market for supply-managed products. Increased access

will be phased in over a period of several years to allow Canada's industry time to adjust. The federal government agreed to eliminate Class Seven pricing on milk protein concentrates, infant formula and skim milk powder and will establish a new pricing system for these products to address U.S. concerns. Working groups have been convened to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of the new policies.

Canada, the U.S. and

Mexico have agreed to cooperate further in biotechnology through consultations and information sharing on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and emerging technologies such as gene editing. The agreement includes commitments to minimize the effect on trade from the detection of low level presence of GMOs not approved in the importing country. This will ensure Canada's agriculture sector remains competitive and agricultural trade will not be

disrupted going forward.

Finally, CUSMA incorporates the Canada-U.S. Consultative Committee on Agriculture, which works to address trade irritants and is staffed by high-ranking officials from both federal governments. CUSMA also includes the committee's terms of reference, which includes a direct role for provincial agriculture ministers and state agriculture secretaries in identifying irritants and providing input on solutions.

Funding for invasive plant control: invasive plant biocontrol and targeted grazing BMP

By Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg, Agri-Environmental Specialist, Outlook

Producers face many challenges when controlling invasive weeds on pastures and rangelands, including vast hard-to-reach areas that make chemical and mechanical control impractical. Targeted grazing, also referred to as controlled grazing, is the use of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals. Various studies and established programs show that grazing weeds and brush at the right time, duration and intensity can effectively reduce their abundance.

Managing invasive plant infestations often requires an integrated approach with significant investment in time and

resources. Targeted grazing can be a viable weed management tool when weed infestations are too large in size or when chemical or mechanical control are not feasible or cost effective.

Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Farm Stewardship Program, cost shared funding is available to eligible producers and pasture grazing associations to contain and manage large scale invasive plant infestations. The Invasive Plant Biocontrol and Targeted Grazing BMP provides 50 per cent cost shared funding of eligible expenses to a combined maximum of \$45,000 per year; with a maximum of \$5,000 for biocontrol and \$40,000 for targeted small ruminant grazing per project per year.

The noxious weeds for which targeted grazing projects can be eligible for fund-

ing include leafy spurge, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, absinthe, common burdock, and common tansy.

When applying to the Invasive Plant Biocontrol and Targeted Grazing BMP, a pre-approval application must be submitted prior to any work on the targeted grazing project being completed. If you are considering a potential project, you are encouraged to reach out for program assistance.

For further information on CAP programs or for technical assistance regarding a specific on-farm project, visit our website. You can contact a Ministry of Agriculture Programs Specialist or Ministry of Agriculture Agri-Environmental Specialist at your closest Regional Office or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for programming inquiries.



**KEEP SAFE!
LEARN FIRST AID!**

Call
306-953-8350

www.parklandambulance.com

PARKLAND AMBULANCE
PRINCE ALBERT
We Care For You

Salute to the Farming Community



Boyd's Garage

Desmen, Michelle, Gavin
& Payton Boyd, Owners
105 B McMurphy Road
Medstead, Sask.

boydsgarage@sasktel.net

Tel: 306-342-4610

- Automotive & Farm Parts & Repairs
- Gas & Propane
- Air Conditioning
- Wheel Alignments
- Tires

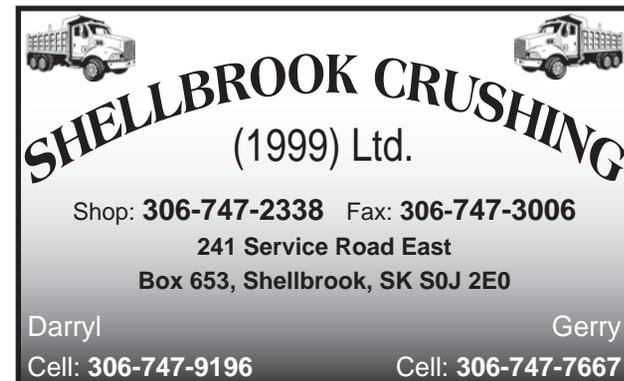
METAL TECK
WELDING LTD.

**HEATING COOLING
PLUMBING**

Specializing in Heavy & Light Equipment
Repairs & Fabrication

FREE ESTIMATES

Curtis Simmonds Owner/Operator
306-961-7431



SHELLBROOK CRUSHING
(1999) Ltd.

Shop: 306-747-2338 Fax: 306-747-3006
241 Service Road East
Box 653, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0

Darryl Gerry
Cell: 306-747-9196 Cell: 306-747-7667



The Right
Balance
Provincial Budget 2019-20

Budget 2019-20 provides a stable foundation for Saskatchewan farm and ranch families with increases to the right programs and services, and continued investments in important research.

Learn more at saskatchewan.ca/budget



Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net



Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net



Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Are backyard chickens right for you?

Raising backyard chickens has been a growing phenomenon for several years. Many cities have passed laws legalizing backyard chickens, encouraging many to raise chickens as a rewarding hobby.

One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and often tastier than store-bought varieties. Hens can lay one egg per day. Multiply that egg per hen, and breakfast is always available.

Another benefit to chickens is they produce a natural fertilizer that can be used in gardens. "The Old Farmer's Almanac" says chicken manure can be composted, aged and eventually added to the garden. In about six months, a person will accumulate about one cubic foot of manure per chicken. Egg shells and other compostable material can be added to create an even richer formula.

Chickens also can help control bugs around the yard, offers the experts at Tractor Supply Company.

Before investing in backyard chickens, people should determine if chickens will fit with their lifestyle. Costs and care are a big consideration.

Each chick will cost anywhere between \$3 to \$5 a bird. Then there's their feed to consider. The most expensive item will likely be the coop. The experts at The Happy Chicken Coop, a resource for raising chickens and starting coops, says handy men and women can build homemade coops, but ready-made ones will cost a few hundred dollars. The coop will need to offer around four square feet of space per chicken (or what's recommended for the breed).

Despite being seemingly independent birds, chickens need people to be active caregivers. They require

feed and water daily. The chickens will need a caregiver while you vacation. People who are frequently away from home should reconsider chickens.

Chickens also are prone to worms, parasites and lice. They need to have rear feathers trimmed to stay clean and sanitary, and they will require an area where they can "dust" and self-groom. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises not to cuddle and kiss chickens like pets because they can carry salmonella. Not every coop is completely varmint-proof, and some chickens may succumb to predators. Squeamish or sentimental folks may find chickens aren't the right fit.

Chickens require commitment and care that many people can provide. It is essential to do one's homework to ensure that backyard chickens are a sound investment.



Spring CLEANING

KINISTINO | HUMBOLDT | PRINCE ALBERT
(306) 864-3667 (306) 682-9920 (306) 922-2525



\$300,000
HR3780A (PA)
\$35,000 DROP!

2013 CASE IH 500 QUADTRACK
1793 HRS, 10 HID LIGHTS, PTO 1000, LIGHTS 4 HID CAB, 6 X HYD HIGH OUTPUT 57 GPM, CAB SUSPENSION, DIFF LOCK, GROUND SPEED SENSOR, POWER BEYOND, TRACKS 36", TOW CABLE, TOP CON AUTO STEER LESS MONITOR, ACCUSTEER READY

\$299,000
PN3498A (PA)
\$51,000 DROP!

2014 NEW HOLLAND SP.365F
1357 HRS, 10 SEC CNTRL, 120FT, 1600GAL, BOOM LEVELLER ULTRAGLIDE, BOOM TILT, ELEC FLUSH & RINSE CONTROL, FENCE LINE KIT, INTELLIVIEW, AUTOGUIDE, INTELLISTEER, FLOATS, TRIDEKON SAVERS, 2 X NOZZLES, DELUXE CAB

\$135,000
\$30,000 DROP!

2017 BOURGAULT 5810
62 FT 9.8" SPACING, SPEED LOC ADAPTERS, 3 1/2" STEEL PKRS, MUDSCRAPER PKG - 3 1/2", SINGLE SHOOT, 8 PORT 6000 LEADING, SQUARE SEED BOOT PKG, AUTO AIRSEEDER CLUTCH SWITCH -491/591, DBL WALKING CASTER WHEEL PKG 13.5X15

\$275,000
HR3886A (H)
\$50,000 DROP!

2014 MORRIS C2 & 9650
71" LARGE OUTLET HEAD AIR PKG, 9D PRIM DUAL SHOOT TILLAGE DIST, QUAD STEER HITCH, SHIELDCORE DS BOOTS, 600 LB WING WEIGHT KIT, CARLYLE PACKER TIRES, DUAL FANS, TOPCON APOLLO X30, SECTIONAL CONTROL AND CONVEYOR

\$79,000
PB3623A (PA)
\$15,000 DROP!

2011 BOURGAULT 3310
75" 12" SINGLE SHOOT LEADING AIR KIT, MRB III'S, 4.5" SEMI-PNEUMATIC PACKER, 3" SPREAD TIPS

\$205,000
N22961D (K)
\$15,000 DROP!

2013 ROGATOR RG1300
3212 HRS, 120" - 20", TURBO, VIPER PRO MON, 1300GAL SS, FRONT 380/90R46, REAR 380/90R46, TIRES 650/65R42, ACCUBM SEC CNTRL, AGC COMMAND, AUTOBOOM WHEELS, CLEAN OUT, HID LIGHTS, RAVEN PHOENIX 300 REC, RAVEN SMARTRAX

\$340,000
HR3886A (H)
\$20,000 DROP!

2013 NEW HOLLAND T9.670
2200 HRS, PTO, 16SPD PWRSHIFT, 6 X HYD FLOW 55 GPM, LIGHTS 6 HID, AUTOGUID NAV CONTROLLER INTELLISTEER, DIFF LOCK, CAB LUXURY, MEGA FLOW HYD PUMP 113 GPM, INTELLIVIEW IV, NEW TRACKS 36" HIGH IDLER, WARRANTY

\$99,000
PB3411A (PA)
\$66,000 DROP!

2014 BOURGAULT 3320
3320 ODA 76" 12" SPACED DUAL SHOOT, 2" FULL CARBIDE SPREAD TIPS, MRB'S 3 SET UP FOR DRY, 4.5" SEMI-PNEU PACKER WHEELS, DUAL SHOOT SINGLE RUN BLOCKAGE MONITOR

\$265,000
PB3633A (PA)
\$10,000 DROP!

2013 BOURGAULT 3320 & 6550 ST
60" ODA, 10", 4.5" ROUND SEMI-PNEU, DBL SHOOT AIR KIT TRAILING, MRB'S III W/CLOSER TINE CARBIDE SCRAPER, EDGE ON FR DEL KNIFE HOLDER, REAR DUALS, 3/4 TIPS INSTALLED, 4 TANK, CALIBRATION BOX, 591 MONITOR, 10" DELUXE AUGER

\$135,000
HN3594B (H)
\$10,000 DROP!

2008 MILLER 4240
FLOATS AND SKINNIES, 5 SECTION ACCUBOOM ULTRAGLIDE, 100' MONO-BOOM, RAVEN SMART TRAX, 1000 GALLON POLY, TRIDEKON DIVIDERS

\$98,000
N23176B (K)
\$11,000 DROP!

2008 MILLER A40
2644HRS, 1000GAL, 100' MONO W/ 3 WAY NOZZLE BODIES & TIPS, 20", HYD AXLE ADJUST, TOOLBOX, FOAM MARKER, ANGLE DRIVE, 5SPD, RINSE TANK, E-Z GUIDE 500 W/ E-Z STEER AND E-Z BOOM, RAVEN 460

\$375,000
HN3661A (PA)
\$25,000 DROP!

2016 NEW HOLLAND T9.530
269 HRS, PTO, 10 FRT WTS W/BRKT, LIGHTS 3 HID, 4000# REAR BALLAST, 6 HYDS, LIGHTS 7 HID, TIRES 800/70R38 DUALS, DRAWBAR HIGH CAP, DIFF LOCK FRONT & REAR WHICAP, LUXURY CAB, NAV II-OMNI

China's canola ban could be felt locally

By Jordan Twiss

When one works in the agriculture industry, one gets used to the inherent risks involved with farming and learns ways to mitigate their impact.

But no matter how much work one puts into their farm, it only takes one small thing – a stretch of too much or too little rain, a sudden outbreak of disease, or some unwanted pests or weeds – to unravel it all.

With the spring thaw in full effect, prairie canola producers are learning this lesson anew, thanks to a decision by the Chinese government to ban all Canadian canola exports.

And it's not just large-scale exporters relearning this lesson. The ban could even have local impacts, turning the upcoming Field of Dreams fundraiser, which was supposed to be a typically lucrative canola crop, into something more like a nightmare.

"We are hopeful that the China ban will come to a resolution, or alternative export



markets will arise," said Field of Dreams Committee member Shauna Tait. "But as we have seed in place, and with rotations in mind, the plan as of now is still to continue with canola."

Officially, the Chinese government has said that the ban was implemented due to concerns about pests. But

given the frosty diplomatic relationship between Canada and China in recent months, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan president Todd Lewis says he isn't buying the Chinese government's story.

"Food and politics don't mix very well, and this is a situation where it seems like it's something far

from the farm gate – a diplomatic spat, more than anything, it seems like – that we're being caught in the middle of," he said.

Without saying as much, Lewis is, of course, referring to Canada's arrest and pending extradition of Meng Wanzhou, the CFO of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, at the behest of the United States.

Lewis says that the science behind the Chinese government's pest claims simply don't add up, and that Canadian producers have every reason to be confident in the product they're delivering from the farm gate.

"Grain companies themselves have inspection processes, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has processes in place, and the Canadian Grain Commission has protocols and procedures as well," he explained.

"So all along the value chain, as it goes from the farm gate to being put on a boat and shipped, there's a number of protocols and safeguards in place, and they've been accepted over the decades with China."

Calling the Chinese government's ongoing canola ban "pretty suspect" and "disappointing", Lewis says this isn't the first time that it's pulled a similar stunt – In 2009, fears about black-leg in canola crops prompted China to change its regulations and require Canadian canola exports to carry certificates proving that they were free of the disease.

Growing with you.

Affinity Credit Union Member, **Severson Farms**

Empowering SK farmers for generations to come.

Sow the seeds of success with a partner who cares. Our ag specialists are there for you, season to season, with advice and solutions to keep your farm thriving.



1.866.863.6237 | affinitycu.ca



Treat your SEED Right.

BTYR Seed Treatment
**Quicker stronger emergence!
 More even germination!
 Better overall color!
 Great root development!**

Seed treaters available!

**Call today!
 306.747.4744**

Back to Your Roots
 Soil Solutions Inc.
www.back-to-your-roots.com

China's canola ban could be felt locally

But while the Canadian and Chinese governments have their diplomatic tiff, Saskatchewan's canola producers are having to decide what they're going to do this growing season, now that they've lost access to a market that accounted for 40 per cent of the province's canola exports.

"Spring's a time for optimism is farm country. But it's pretty hard to be optimistic on the canola side right now," he said.

"We're seeing short-term prices being affected. Producers that have canola in the bin and still have crop to market this year are very concerned about the prices they're being offered now. In some cases there's no bid right now," he added.

Compared to wheat or pulses, which are also among the province's major agricultural exports, Lewis says that canola is one of the

more expensive crops a producer can seed. Estimating that canola costs hundreds of dollars per acre seeded, he explains that canola requires high inputs, and that its costs begin adding up the moment it's put into the seeder.

For this reason, he says it's imperative that the federal government negotiate a resolution to the ban.

"Canola is the cash crop in Saskatchewan. It pays the bills on a lot of farms and is a reliable source of income. We need a fair price for it."

While the full impact of China's ongoing canola ban won't be known until all the seed is in the ground, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit says it's very likely that the acres of canola seeded this growing season will be down.

And with canola being an important part of the crop rotations for



many Saskatchewan producers, he says that the federal government is on a tight deadline to resolve the Chinese ban.

"The Federal government is going to be going into an election in the fall, so September is probably the deadline for any discussions, politically, to take place," he explained. "We're very worried about the timeline, and we've raised that with the prime minister."

Barring an expeditious resolution to the ban, Marit says the

other alternative would be to seek out other markets. He adds that Minister of Trade and Export Development, Jeremy Harrison, recently had some success with a trade mission to Indonesia, which has shown some interest in the province's canola, pulses and cereals.

That said, however, the province has to be careful not to run afoul of any trade agreements, and Marit says it's not always so simple for an export-reliant jurisdiction.

"Unfortunately, when we're a trading jurisdiction, with so much of our product being exported, it puts us at the mercy of these countries," he said.

"Countries, when they're importing those significant numbers, will always use that capacity to drive down a price, or to increase competition. India did the same thing by putting tariffs on lentils and pulses."

Agreeing with Marit's assessment, Lewis says that opening up new markets, while certainly

possible given the high quality of Canadian canola, will take some time.

"We need to expand our markets and get them not so centered on China. It's not going to happen overnight, though. When we lose China, 40 per cent of our market, overnight, it's going to be hard to replace that buying power in the short term," he said.

"Long term, if we can get our product out around the world, there will be demand for it."

In the absence of a swift reversal of China's canola ban, both Lewis and Marit are urging producers to ensure they've registered for programs like AgriStability, which help producers offset losses they may experience due to extreme weather, or other major events or catastrophes.

The deadline for producers to apply for AgriStability is April 30.

**WISHING OUR FARMERS
A SAFE AND
PRODUCTIVE
SEEDING!**

**RANDY
HOBACK MP**
PRINCE ALBERT

79 11TH STREET WEST, PRINCE ALBERT, SK S6V 3A8
RANDY.HOBACK@PARL.GC.CA
MPRANDYHOBACK.CA • 306-953-8622

Kawasaki

**2.99%
FINANCING
OVER 84
MONTHS!**

DEMO RIDE DAY!

May 4th
10 am – 3 pm

Coffee & Donuts

Each person who rides a demo will have their name entered into a draw for a prize!

We have factory certified technicians, a knowledgeable parts department, and a personable Sales and Finance team.

**NABER
POWERSPORTS**

151 SERVICE ROAD EAST, SHELLBROOK
Beside NABER FORD
306-747-6100
www.naberpowersports.com



GM EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Get instant savings on ALL
Bridgestone, Firestone
and Pirelli tires

UP TO **\$50**

From March 15
To May 31, 2019



Mail-in rebates, *for even more ways to save.*



UP TO

\$100 IN REBATES
MARCH 15
TO JUNE 15



UP TO

\$100 IN REBATES
APRIL 1
TO MAY 31



UP TO

\$80 IN REBATES
MARCH 15
TO MAY 31



UP TO

\$70 IN REBATES
MARCH 20
TO MAY 15



GET

\$40 IN REBATES
MARCH 20
TO MAY 15



Enjoy our
30 Day Price Match Guarantee.



\$150 INSTANT DISCOUNT
From March 15
to May 31, 2019

Combine eligible rebate offers with a \$150 instant discount on a set of new tires at GM Canada dealerships when paying with your Scotiabank® GM** VISA® Card



FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
FROM **\$59.95**

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY



Ph: 306-747-2411
TF: 1-800-667-0511
505 Service Road East • www.shellbrookchev.ca