

Light & Lumber Market shines bright

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Just six months ago, Shellbrook's Brittany Dutka lost her daughter, Callie, shortly after giving birth to her.

Callie was born with Trisomy 22, a rare genetic chromosomal abnormality that affects 1 in 30,000 to 50,000 live births and frequently causes early miscarriages or severe malformations at birth.

For Brittany, her husband, Nick, and their son, Ryker, the loss of Callie left an unimaginable hole. And as she sought to fill that empty space, Brittany had an idea she hoped would help her and others who had suffered a similar loss.

"I wanted to make something that I could be known as her mom," she said. "I do have another child, and I'll get to be known as his mom at day-care and at school. But I'll never get to be known as her mom anywhere."

Soon, the Light & Lumber Rustic Market was born, with the apt tagline of Crafted with Heart, Rooted in Memory.

"Light meaning find your light through devastation, and Lumber meaning picking up the pieces and creating something beautiful out of devastation," Brittany explained.

"I wanted this market to be not just a market; it's a place about community and connection. It's a space for everyone, especially those who have an angel baby among them, so they can have a place to be known as their mom, too."

When creating a brand-new community event, one can never truly tell how it will be received. At the outset, Dutka expected she might be able to secure commitments from maybe 20 vendors and have a couple hundred people come through the gates at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds.

But when the big day finally arrived on Saturday, Sept. 20, she had 51 vendors slated to be on-site, as well as food services provided by Arnie's Grill, Lulu's Fluff n Stuff, M&T Jamaican Cookout, and a Dirty Soda Bar.

Attendance at the market also hit her expectations way out of the park, as more than 800 people came out to peruse vendors' wares, and spend time visiting.

Continued on page 2



Brittany Dutka, her husband Nick, and their son Ryker look on at the inaugural Light & Lumber Rustic Market. Photo courtesy of Brittany Dutka

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Light & Lumber Market shines bright

Continued from 1

“It really spoke to a lot of people. They were very welcoming to [the idea of] being part of something that was more than just a market,” Brittany said.

“It’s been really touching. It’s quite an

honour for me and our family to see the overwhelming response, and that people are just embracing what we’re creating — not only for the community of Shellbrook, but for the loss community as well.”



Facepainting by Nav offered something for the kids.



Guru's Custom Woodworks had a selection of wooden signs and game boards on offer, including this statement piece of a chessboard.

In the spirit of creating a space for families who have lost a child, the Light & Lumber Rustic Market was raising funds for Empty Arms, a Saskatoon-based non-profit that supports those experiencing the loss of a child from pregnancy through early childhood.

A portion of the vendor fees was earmarked for the charity, as well as \$1 dollar from each dirty soda sold. Additionally, the vendor Creative Duo Designs donated 10 per cent of its sales to the cause, and Prairie Mustard donated 5 per cent from its sales.

When all was said in done, the day netted \$3,600 for Empty Arms.

And based on the turnout and response thus far, plans are already well under way to do more good next year.

“Because this is our first one, we’re trying



Patrons discuss wares at Underdog Alpacas' table.

to work out the kinks a little. Hopefully, with each year that goes by, we can make it better and better,” Brittany said.

“I’m hoping that we can bring in a few more things for the kids, and maybe a coffee and tea bar,” she added, noting that the Dirty Soda Bar will also be returning.



Kids share exciting finds with each other at Corso Gemstones' table.



Lulu's Fluff n Stuff helped people beat the heat with something sweet.



Young entrepreneur Shelbs Crochet had a variety of crocheted animals.

FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TOWN OF BIG RIVER

Municipality: Town of Big River

Office to be Filled: Councillor – Number to be Elected: One (1)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the above office will be received by the undersigned at the Town of Big River Municipal Office, 606 1st Street North, Big River, Saskatchewan, during the following times:

- **Nomination Period:** September 25, 2025, to October 9, 2025, during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- **Nomination Day:** October 10, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time

Nomination Requirements:

1. Nominations must be made on the prescribed form and accompanied by a completed **Town of Big River Public Disclosure Statement**, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act* and *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*.
2. A nomination is not valid unless signed by the candidate and the required number of nominators and submitted to the Returning Officer during the nomination period.

Returning Officer:

Noreen Olsen
Town of Big River Municipal Office
606 1st Street North, Big River, SK S0J 0E0

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan, this 25th day of September 2025.

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Spiritwood Community Garden offers growing opportunity

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

In a park-like setting, nestled into the quiet residential neighbourhood on the southeast portion of Spiritwood, 18 gardeners are able to grow their own food in gardens they have planted and tended.

The idyllic setting has matured into a peaceful grounds, where one may sit and enjoy nature among heritage perennials and shrubs when one is not actively gardening. Anchored by a gazebo on the north end of the plot, garden plots are measured out and roped off in the middle, while pathways wind through an interesting array of oddities, niceties, fruiting plants and asparagus under the spruce trees at the south end.

The original goal of the Community Garden, when it was undertaken by Kathy Aumack and Kendra Sanders around two decades ago, was to produce food from the garden to flow through to the Community Kitchen. Aumack, who was the town's Administrator at the time, identified empty spaces

in Spiritwood that could be audited for suitability for a large garden. After eliminating the space near the Pioneer Centre due to high water level, a vacant space behind the Senior Citizens' units along First Street East was selected.

In 2010, Lynnda Berg — then involved with the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region — suggested creating a more attractive space. A grant was obtained for a gazebo, and the committee became owners of Fred and Marion Gatzke's white Victorian-style structure.

As the gazebo was located south of Belbutte on the Gatzke's vast farm yard/orchard, the next obstacle was to move it down Highway #3 and into the centre of a residential neighbourhood in Spiritwood — no small task! Sue Kahl, employed at the Health Centre, recruited her spouse and his flat deck trailer in what proved to be "an eventful trip to town" according to Larissa Swityk-Conacher.

Swityk-Conacher's family cleared the plot in 2011. Nearby resident, Kathy Iverson, donated water and hose to move it across the street, and Phyllis Pe-

terson donated a play set to encourage families to participate.

Initially, a system was set out where the partners of Prairie Community Endeavours would plant the garden and beneficiaries of the garden would receive produce in return for helping to care for the garden by weeding a row. However, through consultation with Oriole Dancer — who had done a similar project in North Battleford — a grant was obtained through Community Futures in order to fund a co-ordinator.

Subsequently, the system shifted to the current "free plot" system. Lis Willick, local resident and volunteer, painted the sign that still stands today, and Shannon MacFarlane was an early volunteer, helping to plant.

When Colleen Reddekopp jumped on board as the coordinator, the space was "taken up a notch," to say the least. Hosting Information Days, as well as providing tours to the youth from the local day-care and the Summer Rec Program helped to grow awareness. In turn, the leftover produce was donated to the Summer Rec Program and to Prairie Community Endeavours.

Funding from Community Futures, the Spiritwood Lions Club, the Spiritwood Ag Society, the Sask Community Literacy Fund, and other local charitable organizations has allowed the Community Garden to become a self-contained park that offers vegetable gardens as well as nature enjoy-



A welcome sign and gazebo are among the many additions made to the Community Garden space over the years.

ment and interest to visitors of all ages.

Reddekopp's son, Garrett, rototills the site and adds compost from the on-site compost bin each year. Paul Dauvin provides rotted manure when needed. Beautification under Colleen Reddekopp's supervision — and many hours of her labour and planning — has evolved in recent years. With the addition of a little free library and a picturesque sitting area with lawn furniture, the space is an ideal backdrop for photo shoots and wedding photographs.

Each year, the call goes out for anyone who wishes to have a plot at the garden to register by the deadline when the space will be divided into plots. Plot numbers and sizes vary from year to year, depending on how many participants have applied. Participants are expect-

ed to plant and tend their garden throughout the growing season, and water is now available from the Senior Citizens' housing units adjacent to the gardens.

Garden tools such as hoes, rakes, and spades, are kept on site as well, allowing for ease of use for gardeners. Perennial garden plants that are native to Saskatchewan gardens are clearly marked with garden stakes, indicating the name of the plant. Rhubarb, peonies, lilacs and hardy fruit trees enhance the park space while adding to the concept of a nature preserve for plants.

The benefits of the Community Garden are many — not only in the physical and mental rewards for those who plant and reap their harvest each year, but through social inclusion and the provision of nutritious foods

for anyone who does not otherwise have access to a space for a garden.

Seasoned gardeners often wander through the park area to see new ideas introduced by others, whether it is interesting lighting, pergolas or pumpkins growing on a trellis. Many of Spiritwood's newcomers have taken advantage of the garden to establish a space where they can grow food while renting a suite that does not allow for yard space to do so.

Community gardening has grown in popularity in Canada since 2014, with a significant jump between 2018 and 2022 according to Nature Canada statistics. While cities saw a drop due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Spiritwood Community Garden held strong through the 2020 season and continues to experience demand.



From flowers, to fruit, to vegetables, things grow high and low in the garden.

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464
Municipal Election 2025

Public Notice is hereby given that:

Dwayne Brad was nominated for the office of Division 6 Councillor and is the only candidate;

Therefore, no voting will take place on October 15th, 2025.

Dated at Leask this 16th day of September, 2025.

Donna Goertzen
Returning Officer

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NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 1

will be received by the undersigned from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm from September 24th, 2025 to October 14th, 2025 and from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm on October 15th, 2025 at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan.

Dated this 24th day of September, 2025.

Colette Bussiere
Returning Officer



30.5-32.....\$1,699.00
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Feds keep failing Sask. canola growers

In the spring of 2023, it seemed like the sky was the limit for Saskatchewan's canola producers.

They were a year removed from the Chinese government's three-year ban on canola imports – a move made in retaliation to the Canadian government's decision to detain Huawei Meng Wanzhou on behalf of the United States – meaning they once again had access to their second largest market for the commodity.

While this was good enough news on its own, producers also had a slew of value-added prospects within Saskatchewan to be excited about, including the Louis Dreyfus Company's and Richardson International's planned expansions of their canola crush facilities in Yorkton, and plans by Cargill, Federated Cooperatives Limited (FCL), and Viterra to construct their own facilities.

In more good news for canola growers, both of the Yorkton expansions successfully went ahead. And so, too, did Cargill's Regina crush facility, which is anticipated to be up and running by the end of this year.

But at the beginning of this year, FCL announced it had shelved its plans to build an Integrated Agriculture Complex in Regina, citing regulatory and political uncertainty, potential shifts in low-carbon public policy, and escalating costs.

In another blow to producers, Viterra did the same after its much criticized multi-billion dollar merger with U.S.-based Bunge.

Though FCL stakeholders remain confident that the company's plans will one day move forward, Viterra's plans seem to be very much dead in the water, with reports suggesting that the reason is because "crush capacity growth has fallen short of projections."

If this were the only bad news canola growers were facing, they might be able to shrug it off. After all, it's not unheard of for projects like these to



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

fall through for a myriad of reasons, even in the best of economic conditions.

But bad news often travels in bad company, and these are far from the best of times, economically speaking.

In addition to the shelved FCL and Viterra canola crush facilities, Saskatchewan canola growers are also caught up in U.S. President Donald Trump's game of tariff chicken and being effectively shutout

of the Chinese market once again – this time by 100 per cent tariffs on canola oil and canola meal, as well as a more recent 76 per cent tariff on canola seed.

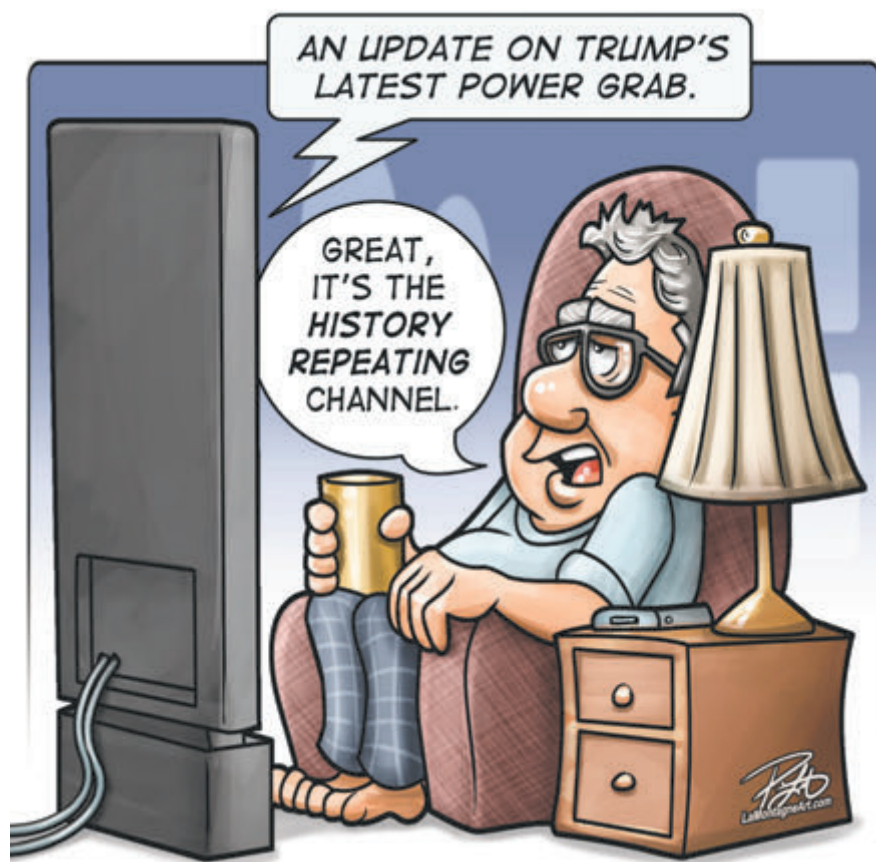
And once again, canola growers can thank the federal government for the circumstances they find themselves in.

In a bid to protect its own investments and policies relating to the EV sector – including \$28.2 billion in production subsidies for automakers VW and Stellantis to build EV battery plants in Canada – the federal government followed the lead of the United States and the European Union by announcing a 100 per cent tariff on Chinese electric vehicles and a 25 per cent tariff on imported steel and aluminum from China in 2024.

Unsurprisingly, the Chinese government was swift to decry the tariffs as an act of "trade protectionism" and a "violation of World Trade Organization rules." With a significant volume of Canadian canola being exported to China – the world's leading oilseed importer – canola producers became an obvious target for retaliation.

In the face of calls from Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and canola growers to head off the very real and obvious threat of Chinese tariffs, the federal government assured them it was "monitoring the issue closely."

And it continued to do so through this past spring, when the Chinese government officially announced



the 100 per cent tariffs on canola oil and canola meal in the midst of the federal election campaign that saw Mark Carney elected as prime minister.

Even after the election, Mr. Carney's government took no action. Instead, MPs took off on their summer vacations and left canola growers in the lurch.

Only this month, with China's addition of the 76 per cent tariffs on canola seed, did the federal government stop monitoring the situation and take action by sending parliamentary secretary Kody Blois to China alongside Mr. Moe, and announcing supports for canola growers. These include the launch of a \$370 million biofuel production incentive, and increasing the amount producers can receive in interest-free advances to \$500,000.

For canola growers facing significant losses this growing season, these types of supports will do little to ease their financial hardships.

Adding insult to injury, federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald suggested earlier this month that an easing of the tariffs on Chinese EVs isn't off the table, and Mr. Carney hit pause on his government's EV mandate.

In other words, canola growers may have lost out on an otherwise

successful growing season, only for the federal government to seemingly back away from its plans to turn Canada into an EV superpower.

They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome.

While China is certainly a bully and a prickly trading partner in the best of times, it seems our federal governments are immune to learning this lesson.

Instead, on two occasions in the past six years, they've played with the bull and left canola growers to suffer the horns.

According to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the canola sector employs 200,000 people in Canada and contributes \$43 billion to the Canadian economy.

This is no small sum, and Saskatchewan's canola growers are the backbone of the industry.

While suggesting that the federal government may consider easing its tariffs on Chinese EVs, Mr. MacDonald said it would need to "take into consideration the impact on other sectors."

If it had only shown this level of consideration for canola growers before implementing the tariffs in the first place, this entire scenario could have been avoided.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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Honeywood caps off strong season

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Autumn seemed like little more than a distant thought on Sunday, Sept. 21, as Parkside’s Honeywood Heritage Nursery welcomed in guests and vendors for its annual A Touch of Autumn event.

While the trees and grounds weren’t necessarily adorned with their normal seasonal splendour, the summery warmth was a boon for Honeywood. All told, just shy of 200 people passed through the gate to peruse and

purchase plants and artisans’ wares, listen to the music of the Mont Nebo Jammers, tour the grounds, and enjoy a delicious lunch of roast beef on a bun (with meat donated by J&R Meats) and apple or rhubarb crisp for dessert.

As usual, the guest artisans, both new and returning, brought a mix of everything to appeal to just about anyone. The list of vendors included: Pam Primeau (purses), Bev Swaby (denim creations and crafts), The Bearded Alpaca, Sky’s the Limit Lazer, Jesse and Lauren

Wyatt (flour), Brenda Lockhart (crochet), Diane Roberts (quilting), Jasmine Allen & Debbie Mueller (Little Bird Bakery), Diane Larsen (baking and crochet), Larry Dale (chainsaw wood carving), Sheila & Zena Johnson (wind spinners and jewellery), Lucille Scott (artwork), and Donna Muller and a group of painters.

Of this list, Brenda Lockhart, Diane Roberts, and Jasmine Allen and Debbie Mueller were all first-time attendees.

“Vendors were up, and all seemed to do very well and seemed very happy,” noted Janie Denton, Honeywood’s manager. “More and more, the vendors just keep wanting to come back because they love the atmosphere of Honeywood.”

With extremely dry conditions throughout the spring and summer, Denton says this was a



Little Bird Bakery made its first Honeywood appearance. Pictured, left to right: Debbie Mueller and Jasmine Allen (owner).

challenging season at Honeywood. Still, she believes it was a good season overall, and that her staff and volunteers helped make the most of it.

Now, as another season at Honeywood comes to a close, Denton says that much

work remains to be done ahead of next year.

“I’ll get to work now, out in the field, and get some more lilies planted, put everything to bed for the winter, and

start planning for next year,” she said.

“Every year we want it bigger and better. But we’ll have to wait and see what next year brings.”



Larry Dale was back with his chainsaw wood-carvings, demonstrating the art throughout the day.



First-timer Diane Roberts had a selection of quilts on display.



Pam Primeau of What A Bag was back with her selection of purses.

FORM 6

SALE BY TENDER
TOWN OF BIG RIVER

1. Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, the Town of Big River offers for sale the following property:
Lot 9, Block 8, Plan 64B05407
Civic Address: 104 5th Avenue N, Big River, Sask

2. A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**Property Tender**” and addressed to:
Town of Big River
Box 220
Big River, SK S0J 0E0

3. Tenders must be postmarked no later than **4:30 p.m. on October 20th, 2025.**

4. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque payable to the Town of Big River in the amount of **10% of the tendered bid.**

Tenders submitted without certified funds will not be considered.

5. The highest, or any, tender is not necessarily accepted.

6. The successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase.

Dated this 25th day of September 2025.

Noreen Olsen
Administrator
Town of Big River

FORM 6

SALE BY TENDER
TOWN OF BIG RIVER

1. Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, the Town of Big River offers for sale the following property:
Lot 7, Block 8, Plan BD1388
Civic Address: 108 5th Avenue N, Big River, Sask

2. A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**Property Tender**” and addressed to:
Town of Big River
Box 220
Big River, SK S0J 0E0

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Noreen Olsen
Administrator
Town of Big River

FORM 6

SALE BY TENDER
TOWN OF BIG RIVER

1. Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, the Town of Big River offers for sale the following property:
Lot 3, Block 18, Plan BD1388
Civic Address: 607 Main Street, Big River, Sask

2. A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**Property Tender**” and addressed to:
Town of Big River
Box 220
Big River, SK S0J 0E0

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Administrator
Town of Big River

Canola tariffs cast shadow over harvest

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When producers seeded their fields this spring, those who stuck to their rotations and planted canola did so with the hope that trade barriers put up by the United States and China would be eliminated by the fall.

Now, with harvest operations in full swing, the shadow of China's tariffs — which include 100 per cent levies on Canadian canola oil, canola meal, and peas, as well as a more recent 76 per cent levy on canola seed — looms larger than ever on the horizon and shows no signs of going anywhere.

"We're certainly disappointed," said Bill Prybylski, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS).

"We've been facing these tariffs for months, and it's only now that our federal government seems to be acknowledging publicly that this is a problem and they're going to have to do something about it."

It was Canada who threw the first trade punch in 2024, when it followed the lead of the United States and the European Union and announced a 100 per cent tariff on imports of Chinese electric vehicles and a 25 per cent tariff on imported steel and aluminum from China.

The federal government made the move to protect Canada's auto sector, accusing China of unfairly subsidizing its EV industry in order to get cheap vehicles into North America. Then, as it's done on multiple occasions over the past few years, the Chinese government retaliated swiftly and harshly, shutting down Canadian canola imports under the guise of conducting an "anti-dumping" investigation.

That investigation will wrap up in March 2026. In the meantime, negotiations between the Canadian and Chinese governments are ongoing, with Premier Scott Moe and Prime Minister Mark Carney's parliamentary secretary, Kody Blois, having just wrapped up a trade trip to Beijing.

Returning from that trip on Monday, Sept. 15, Premier Moe expressed optimism that progress could be made.

"There are going to be steps in building this relationship that will ultimately culminate in the prime minister and the [Chinese] president coming to some sort of agreement ... That's what we hope to see before the end of the calendar year," Moe said during a news conference after his return.

While Premier Moe had once been among those calling for the federal government to scrap the tariffs on Chinese EVs, he's had a change of heart in the days since he returned from China and believes it won't be as simple as making a single change.

Instead, he's calling for a "balanced approach" that takes into consideration Canada's trade relationship with the U.S. and works to protect all Canadian sectors.

For his part, Prybylski agrees.

"From a farmer's perspective, we'd like to see those

tariffs go away, and go back to normal trading. But I suspect there's a lot more to it than simply eliminating the tariffs," he said, reiterating that the tariffs were implemented to keep Canada in line with the U.S. and the EU.

"If Canada was to suddenly remove those tariffs, does that call into question our relationship with our biggest trading partner?"

With a deal with China to end the tariffs still out of reach, producers can take some solace in the fact that the federal government has taken some action to support them.

In early September, the federal government announced more than \$370 million in support for a new biofuel production incentive to help producers "restructure their value chains" and address "immediate competitiveness challenges" caused by China's tariffs. The government also plans to amend its Clean Fuel Regulations to "spur the development of a vibrant bio-fuels industry in Canada."

On the money side, the federal government has temporarily increased the amount producers can receive in interest-free advances to \$500,000, and boosted funding to support "diversification to new markets."

Greeting the announced supports as "positive," Prybylski tempers this statement by suggesting that they should have already existed, with or without tariffs.

"Farmers don't need more debt, they need normalized trading for their canola. All these initiatives aren't going to help me pay my bills this fall," he said.

"What we're hoping for is that agriculture will get the same consideration that the other industries, like the steel and aluminum and automotive industries. They're being supported, and assured from the federal government that there will be support when the time is needed."

According to the Canola Council of Canada, annual canola exports reached \$14 billion in 2024. China was a large portion of this, with exports yielding \$2 billion in Saskatchewan, and \$5 billion in Canada, while the U.S. imported \$7.7 billion worth of canola.

Prybylski says APAS is currently working to track the financial impact Chinese tariffs will have on canola producers, but expects that many farms will be facing "noticeable losses."

"There's always potential, in some of the smaller markets in Africa and Europe, but those will be significantly smaller than the Chinese or American markets," he said. "India is a big trading partner, particularly in pulses, but there's some trade concerns there as well, in that there's threats from India in tariffs on peas."

"It's just a whole bunch of not good news on the trade front."

While diversifying markets is always a positive step forward, other potential solutions would be more long-term fixes and wouldn't help producers in the here and now.

That's why, says Prybylski, it's important for the federal government to find a resolution sooner rather than

later.

"Yields have been good to really good," he said. "It's frustrating knowing that even though we've got a great harvest coming, there's still going to be a lot of red ink with the current situation in commodity prices and tariffs and trade."

This marks the second time in just the past seven years that canola producers have become the unwitting targets of a trade dispute between the Canadian and Chinese governments. After the Canadian government detained Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou for extradition to the United States in 2018, China retaliated by banning Canadian canola imports — though, the Chinese government's official story was that it was concerned about pests.

Prior to this, in 2009, China used fears about black-leg in Canadian canola crops to justify a change to its regulations that required Canadian canola exports to carry certificates proving they were free of the disease.

Gatzke wins September dessert



The Spiritwood Public Library had its Dessert of the Month draw on Tuesday, Sept. 9. The winner was Kathleen Gatzke, who received soft and scrumptious chocolate chip cookies made by Jessica, the daughter of Board Member Steve Buban.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, Branch Librarian

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Trade increasingly shrouded in uncertainty

Imagine being one of those people who must anticipate what will happen in terms of trade these days.

Certainly one can no doubt make educated predictions but the current reality is so volatile any suggestion of what will occur in terms of trade in 30-days seems like it might be more a guess, and only more uncertain the farther forward one looks.

It was not long ago the world seemed largely focused on creating ever freer trade, and alliances came together to work on trade deals geared toward that goal.

While there was always a cautious overtone in the sense countries never want to give up their domestic industry in lieu of free trade — in particular in terms of food security — it seemed there was a general desire to trade.

In trade, there are really good reasons why countries producing quality goods at the lowest cost should trade those goods to countries needing them, and that they should be able to make those deals as unencumbered as is reasonable.

All the efforts of the recent past have at best been shelved of late, if



CALVIN DANIELS

not lost completely.

The world today is very different than it was even a few months ago.

In that regard, one only needs to look south to where U.S. President Donald Trump appears set on shifting that nation massively right, creating a country far more

xenophobic and far more protectionist in terms of trade. Trump tosses tariffs and threats around like they are confetti at a wedding. Making that situation worse in terms of trade is the fact that his word today will likely change tomorrow, and no suggested deal appears to be more than a wavering mirage in his mind.

That has the rest of the world scrambling to create new and reliable trade partners.

But the rest of the world is fraught with issues that impair trade, too.

We have Vladimir Pu-

tin in Russia flexing his muscles with drones over Poland — a rather obvious ploy to see how NATO would react to him showing his desire for more than Ukraine. That is not a stable situation and it does impact trade.

In the Middle East there is the Gaza war being fought between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip and Israel since late 2023. The war has put Israel in a very different light internationally, and has created instability in a key area of the war.

China, too, has created

waves cozying up more publicly to Russia and North Korea while flexing its military might in recent parades — moves which are disquieting. Add in that China also tosses around its own tariff barriers to trade, and that market is rather a question mark, too.

Sadly, none of the things noted above appear anywhere near quieting back to a point of having less negative effects on trade.

So what does that mean for tomorrow? That is the great question that seems rather difficult to answer with any certainty.

Crop Report: Sept. 9 to 15

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Many areas of the province received rainfall this past week causing producers to briefly pause harvest. Harvest is currently 53 per cent complete, which is a 12 per cent increase from last week. The five-year harvest progress average for this period is 73 per cent, while the 10-year average is 62 per cent. Despite the rain slowing progress, it is welcomed by producers in dry areas as it will improve soil moisture conditions.

The southwest region is the furthest along with 66 per cent of crops harvested. The southeast region currently has 58 per cent of the crop in the bin. Harvest is at the same stage in the west-central and northwest regions as 47 per cent of crops have been combined. The east-central region is currently at 46 per cent complete while the northeast has 42 per cent in the bin.

Winter wheat and fall rye harvest is now complete. Field pea and lentil crops are very close to wrapping up at 96 and 91 per cent respectively. Triticale is at 75 per cent harvested. Leading spring-seeded cereals, 72 per cent of barley acres have been harvested. Other spring cereals are also coming along as 66 per cent of durum, 56 per cent of spring wheat, 52 per cent of oats and 20 per cent of canary seed have been harvested. Chickpea combining is progressing slowly with 27 per cent harvested. For oilseed crops, mustard leads harvest progress at 41 per cent. Many producers are beginning to harvest canola with 21 per cent in the bin. Flax and soybeans are the least advanced in harvest progress, with six per cent of flax and 13 per cent of soybeans currently harvested.

Crop yield and quality vary throughout the province due to the fluctuation of rainfall received throughout the growing season. There was significant rainfall in some areas of the province during this reporting period. The Kipling area received

the most rainfall this past week with 100 mm. The Lampman and Aberdeen areas closely followed with 85 mm and 81 mm of precipitation, respectively. Other areas to receive notable rainfall include the Churchbridge area with 78 mm, the Griffin area with 77 mm, the Glenavon area at 75 mm and the Rouleau area with 74 mm.

The precipitation this past week has improved topsoil moisture conditions for most areas of the province. Topsoil moisture conditions for cropland are rated as six per cent surplus, 66 per cent adequate, 22 per cent short and six per cent very short. For hayland, topsoil moisture is six per cent surplus, 58 per cent adequate, 25 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Finally, pasture topsoil moisture is three per cent surplus, 54 per cent adequate, 29 per cent short and 14 per cent very short. After harvest has wrapped up, producers are hoping for lots of rain to restore depleted soil moisture reserves.

Wind, wildlife and waterfowl were the main causes of crop damage this week. Frost on later seeded crops and hail were also reported to be causing damage. Grasshopper activity remains high in some areas, continuing to damage crops.

Producers are still working hard to swath and combine crops. As we move into the later stages of harvest, more producers will be focused on post-harvest weed control, storing grain and hauling bales.

With most producers still busy with harvest, safety should always be a priority in all the work they do. Fire risks are still present when working in fields despite the recent moisture, so it's important to not get complacent. Producers should also be aware of powerlines when transporting heavy equipment. The public is reminded to be patient and exercise extra caution when meeting or passing farm machinery on public roads.

Northwestern Sask.

Rain in the east half of the region caused harvest delays and producers are concerned it will result in downgrading of the unharvested crops that remain. Har-

vest is 47 per cent complete in the northwest. This is a little behind the five-year average of 55 per cent but ahead of the 10-year average of 40 per cent.

Harvest has wrapped up for fall cereal, lentil and field pea crops in the northwest. Barley leads spring cereals in harvest progress with 68 per cent, with spring wheat closely trailing at 67 per cent. Oats are making steady progress as 43 per cent of the crop is off. Finally, 12 per cent of canola is in the bin while no flax has been harvested.

The areas around Blaine Lake and Medstead received the most rainfall in the northwest with 25 millimetres (mm) each, followed by the Canwood area with 24 mm. The Shellbrook area received 17 mm of precipitation.

The rain improved topsoil moisture

conditions from last week but more will be needed to refill reserves. Cropland topsoil moisture is now one per cent surplus, 50 per cent adequate, 29 per cent short and 20 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is 26 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 34 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is 40 per cent adequate, 28 per cent short and 32 per cent very short.

The main sources of crop damage this past week were from dry conditions and waterfowl, with some indicating moderate to severe damage. There were some reports of minor to moderate crop damage due to frost. Aside from harvest, producers in the northwest are currently hauling bales and post-harvest harrowing.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online.

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Shellbrook Royal Purple welcomes national president

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Royal Purple played host to special guests at its regular meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, as members of the community group welcomed Canadian Royal Purple president Fran Bayliss and 1st vice president Angie Smith.

Bayliss and Smith were in the area, having just attended a fall meeting in Beechy, and decided they'd drop in on other Saskatchewan lodges while they were in the province to provide updates and raise awareness about the Royal Purple's up-

coming Purple Thursday campaign.

Additionally, with brain injury prevention being the Royal Purple's national cause, Smith gave a brief presentation on the intersection between brain injuries and intimate partner violence.

Efforts to raise awareness and promote the prevention of brain injuries related to domestic violence are an integral piece of the upcoming Purple Thursday campaign, which will see Royal Purple lodges across Canada donate more than 5,000 care bags, filled with personal hygiene and clothing items, to women's shelters.

"Interpersonal violence [awareness and pre-

vention] is very important," said Shellbrook Royal Purple member Elaine Perkins. "Most women come with just the clothes on their back when they leave situations [of interpersonal violence]."

Hoping to drive further awareness locally during this year's week-long Purple Thursday campaign, the Shellbrook Royal Purple will be hosting an information session in Parkland Integrated Health Centre's Great Room from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15, with guest speakers Nicole Erb of Evergreen Oasis Counselling and Consulting, and BrendaLee Pellerin from the PA Safe Shelter for Women.



Canadian Royal Purple 1st vice president Angie Smith (left) and president Fran Bayliss (right) visited Elaine Perkins (middle) and the Shellbrook Royal Purple on Monday, Sept. 15.

Wutzke inks deal with Minnesota Wild

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A little over a year after he realized his life-long goal of making it all the way to the NHL, Debden-born goaltender Chase Wutzke has taken another step towards his dream.

In 2024, at age 18, the 6'2, 158-pound netminder, who is nicknamed "The Debden Defender" in honour of his hometown, was selected in the fifth round, 142nd overall, by the Minnesota Wild.

And on Monday, Sept. 22, the team announced it had signed Wutzke to a three-year entry level contract.

An NHL entry-level contract is a standardized contract for players under 25, guaranteeing a team's control over the player's rights and providing a fixed salary structure, al-

lowing for the possibility of performance and signing bonuses.

The contract length and salary are set based on the player's age when they sign, and the contracts themselves are two-way contracts, meaning a player's salary depends on whether they are playing in the NHL or a lower league like the AHL.

Now 19, Wutzke posted a 17-25-5 record with a 3.38 goals-against average (GAA), a .895 save percentage (SV%) and one shutout in 50 games for the Red Deer Rebels of the Western Hockey League (WHL) during the 2024-25 season, ranking fifth in the league with 1,371 saves.

Through his 93-game career with Red Deer over the course of four seasons, Wutzke amassed a 40-35-10 record with a 3.21 GAA, a .896 SV%, and two shutouts with Red Deer.



Debden-born goaltender Chase Wutzke has been signed by the NHL's Minnesota Wild.

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

The following property will be offered for sale by tender under the direction of Randy Kirkham, Barrister and Solicitor:

- 2025 Assessment**
NW 02-51-12 W3 157 acres \$307,900.00
RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496
- All bids must be submitted in writing and delivered to Kirkham Law Office at the address below by Noon on Friday, **October 24th, 2025**.
 - This is the home quarter and includes the following:
1980 bungalow approximately 1100 sq ft with deck
Detached 24x48 garage
Storage shed 12x20
1-Good well
Fuel shed 8x12
24x24 barn built in the 90s
Corrals with steel gates
4-Steel Bins on cement floors approximately 1500 bushels each
100 acres seeded to hay all fenced with some cross fencing
Mature wind break around the yard
Property located half mile off the highway and 6 miles out of Spiritwood, SK
 - Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified cheque or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the bid made payable to "Kirkham Law Office". If the bid is unacceptable the certified cheque or the solicitor's trust cheque shall be returned to the bidder.
 - Within 15 days of the opening of bids, the successful bidder shall provide either:
a) the balance of the purchase price; or
b) payment of a sum equal to the difference between the balance of the purchase price and any mortgage financing, together with an unconditional and unequivocal letter of commitment from a recognized financial institution to the mortgagee to finance within 15 days of the confirmation of sale, the successful bidder's purchase of the land for the price stated in the bid
c) Possession date of farmland **November 14, 2025**. Purchaser responsible for all **2026** property taxes.
 - If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
 - The sale of the lands shall be subject to the existing SaskPower easements.
 - The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.

KIRKHAM LAW OFFICE
1652 - 100 Street
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Minutes of a Village of Canwood council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The minutes of the regular council meeting of the Village of Canwood held on Aug. 19, 2025.

Mayor Lorne Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum being present.

Present at the meeting were: Mayor Lorne Benson, Councillors Ken Moar, Ryan Demers, and Greg Edeen, and

Administrator Heather Sten.

Edeen: That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the minutes of July 15, 2025, be approved as presented. Carried

Demers: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of July, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That the financial statements for the month of July, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

Edeen: That the employee attendance sheets for July, 2025, be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the council Indemnity for August, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That the Employee Payroll for the month of July, 2025, including Pay Periods 14 and 15 totalling \$20,190.25 and the Council Remuneration of \$690.00 be accepted

as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the list of accounts payable from Batch 2025-00040 to Batch 2025-00050, which includes all cheques, online payments and EFTs for a total of \$66,130.27 be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the Water Treatment Plant reports for the months of July and August 2025, ALS Lab Water reports from July 15 & 30, 2025 and Aug. 12, 2025, be

accepted as presented. Carried

Benson: That the verbal report by Councillors Edeen & Demers regarding Highway 55 Waste Management and by Councillor Moar regarding Fire Committee be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That we approve the Building Permit Application of Kris Gjerde to construct a detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 4.9 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2023-02. Carried

Benson: That we approve the Application for a Permit to Demolish of Betty Cusator to demolish and remove a detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 4.19 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2023-02. Carried

Moar: That Bylaw No. 2025-05 attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Village of Canwood respecting Drinking Water Conservation, now be read

for the first time. Carried

Benson: That we approve the request for Water Utility Management for Administrators Training on Sept. 4 for Administrator Sten and Councillor Demers. Carried

Benson: That we approve the request for UMAAS Fall Workshop on Sept. 25 for Administrator Sten. Carried

Demers: That we move to in-camera at 8:14p.m. citing The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15(1)(b)(ii) and section 23(1)(b) "personal information." Carried

Benson: That we move out of in-camera at 8:26 p.m. and note that all members of Council and Administration are in attendance. Carried

Edeen: That we approve the wage increase of \$2.50/hr for Office Clerk Couture. Carried

Benson: That the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Sask NDP sets fall priorities

By SASK NDP
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP intends to bring forward interprovincial trade legislation this fall to unite Canadians, boost Saskatchewan's economy, and make life more affordable for the people who call this province home.

"We are in a trade war on two fronts and it's long past time for us to come together as a country and make life more affordable," said Kim Breckner, Shadow Minister for Trade and Economic Development.

"We should all be buying Canadian at a time like this. This is about keeping our dollars in our own country and supporting one another."

The proposed law would make it easier for goods and services to move between Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada by allowing for recognition of similar rules and standards in other

provinces – known as mutual recognition.

Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Ontario, and Manitoba all have some form of mutual recognition law on the books.

The legislation comes as Saskatchewan's economy has taken a pounding amid ongoing trade wars with the United States and China. According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan merchandise exports to China were down 21.1 per cent in July. Year-to-date, Saskatchewan exports to China have fallen 28.8 per cent, and by 48.5 per cent comparing July 2024 to July 2025.

As well, on Wednesday, new data from Angus Reid found two-thirds of Saskatchewan people reported being unable to keep up with the cost of living and more than half said they were finding it difficult to feed their households. Saskatchewan's numbers were the highest in the country.

"This legislation is critically needed," Breckner said. "It will help respond to tariffs, get our economy moving again, and lower costs for hardworking families."

"The Sask. Party government are out of touch and out of ideas after 18 years in power. We need change and the choices we make today will help build a bright future for the people who call this province home."

The Sask. Party has U-turned on the few Pro-Canada trade measures they previously had, putting American booze back on the shelves and no longer prioritizing Canadian companies for public contracts.

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FARM LAND FOR SALE BY ONGOING TENDER

The following property will be offered for sale by tender under the direction of Kirkham Law Office:

NW 36-46-12 W3 EXT 1 & 2, Sfc. Pcl. # 130481669/ 130395371/ 130416375 (Approx. 162 acres less a proposed subdivision of approximately 32 acres)

RM of Meeting Lake #466, Sask.

Assessed Value: \$146,615.00

Cultivated acres: 113

SW 36-46-12 W3 EXT 1, 25 & 27, Sfc. Pcl. # 130416364/ 150496106/ 150496128 (Approx. 145 acres)

RM of Meeting Lake #466, Sask.

Assessed Value: \$138,765.00

Cultivated acres: 127

TERMS:

- All bids must be submitted in writing and delivered to Kirkham Law Office at the address below by **noon on Friday, October 17th, 2025**.
- Bidding will be conducted by ongoing tender. Once all qualifying bids are received all bidders will be informed of the highest bid on each quarter they have bid on. Bidders will then be provided the opportunity to declare their bid final or to increase their bid by at least 2% above the last highest bid. Once all bidders have declared their final bid the bidders shall be informed of the vendor's decision.
- All bids must be in writing and accompanied by a certified payment or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the bid made payable to "Kirkham Law Office". If the bid is unsuccessful the certified payment will be returned to the bidder without interest.
- Within 15 days of the opening of bids, the successful bidder shall provide either:
 - a) the balance of the purchase price; or
 - b) payment of a sum equal to the difference between the balance of the purchase price and any mortgage financing, together with an unconditional and unequivocal letter of commitment from a recognized financial institution to the mortgagee to finance within 15 days of the confirmation of sale, the successful bidder's purchase of the land for the price stated in the bid
 - c) Possession date of farmland will coincide with full payment of land. Purchaser will be responsible for all **2026** property taxes from date of possession forward.
- If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
- The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.
- Property sold "As Is"

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Aardvarks tackle Creighton in home opener

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

High school football action returned to Shellbrook on Thursday, Sept. 18, as the W.P. Sandin High School Aardvarks played host to the Creighton Kodiaks for their 2025 home opener.

Fresh off a 54-20 loss in Wakaw the week prior, the Aardvarks were looking for a crucial win, knowing only the top two teams in their conference will advance to playoffs.

The Aardvarks got off to the right start against the Kodiaks, marching down the field on their first drive and taking an 8-0 lead on a short run from QB Aiden Tait.

On the ensuing Kodiaks' drive, the Aardvarks' defence bent but refused to break, coming up with a crucial stop deep in their own territory. The offence made the most of the defence's hard work, rushing right back

down the field and scoring on another run from Tait to go up 16-0.

Earning a single point on the next kickoff, the Aardvarks took a 17-0 lead into the second quarter. However, a series of missed tackles on defence allowed the Kodiaks to capitalize and close the gap to 17-7.

Once the Aardvarks got the ball back, they began what looked like another promising drive, until a penalty and a handful of missed plays stalled their progress. Fortunately, the defence kept the Kodiaks from capitalizing, and the offence found its footing on its next possession, which ended in a third rushing touchdown for Tait.

Following another defensive shutdown by the Aardvarks, the offence struck again to close out the first half, scoring on a long run from Davin Schmitz to take a 31-7 lead.

The action slowed down when the teams resumed play after half-

time, as both squads went on long, clock-eating drives. The Aardvarks were the only team to strike pay dirt in the third quarter, going up 39-7 on another touchdown run from Schmitz.

As the action moved deep into the fourth quarter, the Aardvarks' offence managed one last touchdown on a run from Tait to take a 45-7

lead. But the Kodiaks would find some rhythm in the dying seconds of the game, scoring on the final play to leave the Aardvarks with a 45-14 win.

With a 1-1 record, the Aardvarks are now gearing up to host Hague under the Friday Night Lights on Friday, Sept. 26. Kickoff for the game is set for 7 p.m.



Dalen Thiel dives and hangs on tight to bring a Kodiaks player down.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 5pm
LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 4pm
SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12 pm -5 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.
BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152
CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501
DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon
LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm
MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.
SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

BIG RIVER: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting – Every Wednesday, 7:30 pm @ Train Station in Big River (Railway Avenue)

SHELLBROOK: Prairie Pickleball Club – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and Beginner Lesson for the month of October! For more information or to register, phone/text: Betty Skarpinsky at (306)747-7377 or Dianne Roberts at (306)619-9295.
SHELL LAKE: Annual Fall Supper – Sunday, October 5 @ Shell Lake Community Hall. Doors open 4:30pm; Supper 5 - 7pm. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$8; Pre-school Free. Sponsored by: Our Lady of Smiles Catholic Church & Partners in Worship Church.
SHELL LAKE: Shell Lake Lions Club – Septemberfest. Dining, Dancing, Elimination Draw. September 27, 2025 @ Shell Lake Lions Hall. Doors Open @ 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm. Elimination Draw Grand Prize: \$1,000. Music By: Dixie Highway. \$60/Ticket - Tickets available at Shell Lake Market 306-427-2044 or Belinda 306-260-4531. Only 200 tickets to be sold.
SHELLBROOK: Skate Shellbrook Registration Open For: Parent & Tot - Starts Oct 19; CanSkate - Starts Oct 15; and StarSkate! Program info & registration: shellbrooksc.uplifterinc.com or email skateshellbrook@gmail.com

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Harvest time is a reminder of the importance of the agricultural sector to both our province and the world. The sector is responsible for **10 per cent of our strong provincial economy and 41 per cent of our total global exports**. Saskatchewan is also one of the most sustainable producers of safe, nutritious food.

Thanks to innovative farming practices, Saskatchewan farmers are producing crops with some of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions compared to other regions. This has been confirmed by the Global Institute for Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan.

As harvest season continues and soon wraps up, ***we thank all the producers, farm families and agricultural workers*** who contribute to Saskatchewan's strong exports and economic growth.



Hon. Jeremy Harrison MLA for Meadow Lake jharrisonmla@sasktel.net (306) 236-6744	Hon. Scott Moe MLA for Rosthern Shellbrook scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net (306) 747-3422	Hon. Eric Schmalz MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers saskrivers.mla@outlook.com (306) 941-9349
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McDavid's contract the talk of the NHL

September is baseball and football season but in Canada, hockey is a 12-month-a-year deal, so no one should be surprised that one of the hottest sports story today — other than Blue Jays' mania — is about Connor McDavid and 'will he or won't he' sign a contract extension with the Edmonton Oilers.

Without an extension, the world's best player will play the 2025-26 season on the final year of an eight-year, \$100 million contract he signed in 2017. But other than stating the obvious cliché that he wants to make sure his next contract is best for him and his family — it will be, no matter how much money is involved — his contract situation will have huge implications around the National Hockey League.

While he'll have plenty of money for the fanciest of cars, the most elaborate

home, the most spectacular off-season travel adventures and nothing but the best in jewels and clothing for his wife, Lauren, what McDavid wants more than anything is to win a Stanley Cup. Since he's been an Oiler since entering the NHL in 2015, he'd love to do it with Edmonton.

But is it possible? Even though the league's salary cap is rising in \$95.5 million this year, \$104 million next year and \$113.5 million the year after, paying McDavid the maximum 20 per cent of the Oilers' total salary could make it difficult for general manager Stan Bowman to surround McDavid with enough quality players to win the Cup.

Yet, if McDavid were to sign a 'home-town discount' contract that allows salary cap room for a couple of extra stars, the NHL Players' Association would



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not be happy, because whatever sum McDavid signs for would be regarded as the ceiling around the league, leaving superstars such as Jack Eichel and Kirill Kaprizov likely forced to sign future contracts for a little less than what McDavid agrees to.

"All options are on the table and that would mean length of term, short term, long term, no term," McDavid told NHL.com. "All options are on the table as I've

alluded to, so that would include a short-term deal."

No-term? Does that mean he'd consider not signing an extension and becoming a free agent on July 1, 2026? Like he said, everything's on the table.

Edmonton's roster still has Stanley Cup talent. Not much has changed since June, when the Oilers lost their second straight Stanley Cup final to the Florida Panthers, whose roster includes no one in the superstar orbit of McDavid or Leon Draisaitl but with more balance than any of the other 31 NHL teams.

"When you're trying to plan the next three, four, seven, nine years of your life, you don't just dream it up in one day, you take your time, talk it over, think about it some more, talk it over again," McDavid told NHL.com.

The winter of 2025-26 may or may not prove to be

a troubled one for McDavid, but the real anxiety will be felt by fans in the 18,500 seats of Rogers Place.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "UFC CEO Dana White says he and his good friend President Donald Trump have worked it out where there will be a major UFC Fight on the Fourth of July right at the White House to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Why? Because nothing represents the state of American politics today like two opposing factions beating the hell out of each other in the nation's capital."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "They're calling it the Geezers at Caesars. Floyd Mayweather, Mike Tyson Agree To Fight"

• Headline at fark.com: "Tyson and Mayweather to appear in special episode of The Walking Dead."

• NFL writer Doug Farrar, after Miami Dolphins

were hammered 33-8 by Indianapolis Colts on the opening weekend of the NFL season: "This was less a contest between two evenly matched NFL teams, and more like what happens when Ohio State or Alabama pays Racoon State Teachers College half a million bucks to get embarrassed by 70 points in a Week 2 non-conference laugh."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "NFL RedZone will soon be disrupted by commercials: But hopefully just the most exciting parts of commercials."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, after the Dolphins' season-opening loss: "The Dolphins in their 33-8 loss in Indy stunk like limburger cheese left in a car trunk."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

BRANDED CONTENT

WORKSAFE SASKATCHEWAN:

You have the right to be safe on the job

In 2024, Saskatchewan recorded its lowest Total injury rate in history at 3.91 injuries per 100 workers, down from 3.95 per 100 workers in 2023. Since the WorkSafe Saskatchewan partnership between the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety was established in 2002, the province's Total injury rate has dropped by more than 65 per cent.

The province's recent record-low injury rates show how far we've come, but serious injuries and fatalities remain a challenge across the province. As a result, WorkSafe Saskatchewan wants all workers to be aware of their rights on the job. That includes the right to work in a safe environment.

All workers in Saskatchewan are covered by three important rights that are intended to keep them safe on the job. Those rights are protected under *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

The right to know

If you are employed in Saskatchewan, you have the right to know about any safety hazards in your workplace. A hazard is anything that might cause an injury or illness. This knowledge is important in protecting yourself and your co-workers.

As a worker, you have the right to receive the training, information and supervision needed to do your job safely. Your employer should tell you how to stay safe before you start your job and before work begins on a new project.

Safety information can be given online, in writing or in person. The information and training may come from a supervisor, co-worker or someone outside of your workplace, but your employer must pay for all training that is part of your job.

Clear communication is also included in the right to know.

Your employer needs to give you the information you require to do your job safely in a way that you can understand. Ask questions whenever any safety instructions aren't clear.

If you don't know or are unsure how to do a task safely, this right ensures you can ask questions. Always ask for information or training when you are given a new task, tool or material to do your work.

The right to participate

Each worker has the opportunity and freedom to get involved in their workplace's health and safety activities. You have the right to share your concerns and ideas about how to make your workplace safer. If you see an unsafe situation on the job, this right gives you a chance to help rectify the situation, preventing injuries to you and your co-workers.

There are several ways for workers to exercise their right to participate, including:

- Report your concerns to your supervisor or manager about any health and safety issues that could cause harm to you or your co-workers.
- Make suggestions to your supervisor or occupational health committee about how to make your workplace safer.
- Join your occupational health committee if your workplace requires one.
- Act as an occupational health and safety representative for your workplace, if given the opportunity.

The right to refuse

Every workplace has hazards, most of which are not likely to cause serious injuries or fatalities. This right applies to those hazards which are considered unusually dangerous to yourself or others. An unusual danger or hazard could include:

- A danger that would normally stop work, like operating a forklift that has a flat tire.
- Something that is not normal for the job, like repairing a

roof in bad weather with dangerous winds.

- A situation you haven't been properly trained for, or where you don't have the right equipment or experience to do the work safely. For example, cleaning windows on a tall building without any training or fall protection equipment.

Using your right to refuse is serious and should not be taken lightly, but as a last resort when the first two rights have failed to protect your health and safety in the workplace.

However, you should also not be afraid to speak up when you believe your work is unusually dangerous. If you or the people around you are at risk, you can say no. You absolutely cannot be disciplined or fired for exercising your right to refuse, as the right to refuse is protected under *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

There are several steps to take when opting to refuse unsafe work, in this order:

1. Stop performing the task. Tell your supervisor what you think is unusually dangerous about the task.
2. Talk to your workplace occupational health committee if you and your supervisor can't reach a solution.
3. If the matter is still not resolved, contact the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety Branch at 1.800.567.7233. An occupational health officer will provide their decision in writing to you and your employer.
4. If you don't agree with the occupational health officer's decision, you have a right to appeal.

Each year in Saskatchewan, approximately 21,000 workers are injured on the job. Working together, we can make Saskatchewan a safer place to work.

For more information on the three rights, including videos and other resources for workers and employers, visit the WorkSafe Saskatchewan website at worksafesask.ca/know-your-rights-at-work.

Know your rights at work

worksafesask.ca



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OBITUARIES

~
Joseph George Horn

Joseph George Horn
1938 – 2025

The family are saddened to announce the passing of Joe Horn on August 29, 2025, in Spiritwood, SK. Joe was born May 22, 1938, in the Norbury District and shortly after that the family moved to the hills in Mildred, in the Wild Bear District.

Joe worked on the home farm alongside his brother Godfrey. Joe's nephew remembers Uncle Joe's initiative in helping on his dad, Jim's, farm. He was willing to give anyone a helping hand whether it be with cattle, seeding, haying or harvesting.

Joe was an energetic worker and learned his skills from working

on the farm. Joe loved dealing with cattle, and everyone associated with them. He had a great knowledge of pure-bred horned Herefords that he raised under the Crooked Hills Ranch name. He was very fond of the British bloodlines and had many Grand Champion and Reserve Champion trophies, banners and ribbons for his animals. Joe later changed to the polled Herefords. He liked to show his cattle in open classes and sold many bulls. Joe and Isabelle hosted the North-West Tours at their ranch.

Joe loved to dance and could be found at many local dances. This is where he met Isabelle Soucy at the Leoville Hall, and it was love at first sight for both. They were married July 28, 1965 and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past July. From this union came 2 sons, Dale born 1970 and Dean born 1974, Joe was a proud daddy.

Joe was a lifelong member in the Lavourite 4-H club and was assistant leader of the

Mildred club, later Joe became a supporter of the Spiritwood club. He passed his love of 4-H along to his sons.

When Joe semi-retired and left the Crooked Hill Ranch he had more time to help other local farmers with cattle and got more involved with the Lions Club, becoming a lifetime member. Joe also enjoyed working and helping people in the lumberyard with his brother-in-law.

Joe's battle with Parkinson's and dementia was something he could not win. He was a special man, good husband and great father. You will be missed, rest in peace Joe! Joe's final resting place is in the Mildred South Cemetery.

Joe leaves to cherish his memory: His loving wife of 60 years: Isabelle Horn, his grandson: Tyler Horn, his daughters-in-law: Lisa Horn, Denise Horn and her three daughters, his brothers/sisters-in-law: Leo and Eliza Soucy, Albert and Betty Anne Soucy, Muriel and, Howard Dickey,

Marlene Soucy, Melva Horn, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends

He was predeceased by: His sons: Dale and Dean Horn, his parents: Frank and Elizabeth Horn, his brothers: Frank and Anne Horn, John and Bertha Horn, Charlie and Cecelia Horn, and Godfrey Horn, his brother-in-law: Roland Soucy, his parents-in-law: Noel and Angela Soucy

I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support with Joe's passing. Everyone at Idylwild Lodge for his care, Beau "Lac" Funeral Home for their help, Delores Beaulac for the wonderful service and her support, the Lions Honor Guard for being there for Joe and the Museum Ladies for the wonderful lunch. Thank you to everyone.

A graveside service was held at the Mildred South Cemetery, Mildred, SK on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 at 1:00pm. with Delores Beaulac officiating. Donations may be made in memory of Joe Horn to the Lion's Founda-

tion of Canada Dog Guides. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements

have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Joseph Hayward

Joseph Hayward passed away in Spiritwood, SK on September 20, 2025, at the age of 41.

Joseph, you have returned home to the arms of the Creator. May he cradle you in His mighty arms until all the pain is gone and you are able to behold paradise, your natural home, in all its glory.

We trust in the Cre-

ator's wisdom and divine plan. We love and miss you.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things have passed away, - Rev 21:4

As per family request there will be no funeral service.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Delores Beaulac, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Leona Schock

There are no adequate words to explain how a benevolent and quietly lived life, is also a great life; but it is the kind of life Leona Schock lived. The book-end to that lovely life came on Saturday, July 12th, 2025, when she passed unexpectedly of a short illness, surrounded by family.

We were lucky enough to hold hands one last time.

Leona left this earth behind on a sunny day when her carefully planted backyard flow-

ers were still in bloom. She went from beauty here to the beauty of that next place. Leona's life was made great by countless small and large acts of kindness, love, and support — support to her family, her cherished friends, and many students whose lives she positively affected while teaching elementary school.

She started her teaching career as a teenager in the early 1950's, being in charge of a one-room schoolhouse, Lynwood School, grades

one through nine. Many years of classrooms followed in Saskatoon, along with late nights spent at her desk devising just the right lesson plans to engage the students in learning, and to cater to each student's strengths. In fact, when Leona retired in 1988, she was deeply missed. During her retirement, not a month went by without meeting at least one former student who would comment that Leona had been their favorite teacher.

Never afraid of hard work, she possessed an inner strength and steely determination. So sitting around in retirement wasn't her style. After teaching, she attained her Canadian Securities Certificate and worked at Richardson Greenshields. Then for several years she was employed by 25th Street Theatre in administration and as Fringe Festival Volunteer Coordinator. This

was followed by clerical work for the Saskatchewan Association of Architects. Leona fully retired in her early 70's, but she still worked out at the gym, lifting weights weekly. She received the 100 workouts t-shirt from Curves and proudly wore it to the gym whenever she went. Tai Chi was also a pursuit she learned along with her daughter, Cynthia.

Fine Art, Literature, Painting, and Interior Design were passions Leona participated in. She surrounded her family with beauty in her flower garden and in her home design, employing well-known Saskatchewan designers like Barb Beavis and Holliday Scott. Every year, the Co-op dividend cheque was spent on flowers for the backyard. When she could afford it, designer clothing was added to her closet and she dressed impeccably all her life.

A pure silk scarf in a gift box was always appreciated, whether for Christmas, Mother's Day or a birthday.

Leona was stylish and beautiful, a woman of quiet faith, quick laughter, and a reluctance to cry. Listening to her tell a joke was more entertaining than the joke itself. Later in life, Leona's time was spent cooking for the family, going for coffee with friends and family, and reading books. Stories and books were her delight and escape. She read every day with one of her cats, Kitri or Zuki curled up beside her, purring.

Leona was predeceased by her Mother, Eva (Wutzke) Neu, her Father Heinrich (Henry) Neu, her brother, Oscar Neu, her sister, Erma Simonar (Warren Simonar) and nephew Bradley Simonar. She also is now reunited with her beloved cats, Kitri and

Zuki.

Leona is survived by her Dear Husband of 65 years, Louis, and her Daughter, Cynthia, and numerous beloved in-laws and friends.

Our hearts will miss this very extraordinary woman every day we walk the world without her. She truly left this world a better place for those whose lives she touched. Her boundless love made us feel like we lived in Heaven here and now. We are comforted to know we will see her on that further shore again some day.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3pm at Shell Lake Lions Town Hall on Friday, September 26th, 2025.

If you feel like honouring Leona's life in tribute, flowers are welcome, or equally, a donation may be made to SOS Prairie Cat Rescue, Saskatoon, in Leona Schock's memory. <https://www.sosprairierecue.com/donate>

Dauvin gambles on growing corn grain

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Sometimes, being a producer means taking chances, trying new things, and hoping for the best.

Aaron Dauvin, a second generation farmer from the Spiritwood area, is doing just that this harvest season by growing corn specifically for grain — a first for the region.

Working alongside his father and two full-time employees, Dauvin is a “born-and-raised farmer” and learned the ropes of his family’s operation by his dad telling him to, “Go get in that and figure it out.”

Together, Dauvin and his team farm about 8,500 acres, and they also own the Pioneer elevator in Spiritwood. Their operation works on a three-year rotation of canola, oats, and wheat, with 150 acres of corn now thrown into the mix.

“Lots of people around here have been growing corn for silage for the last five years or so,” he said, attributing this change to the longer falls and later frosts

the area has been seeing.

“I’d go check their silage crops, and they’d have ears of corn in there that looked like there was potential for them to make seed.”

While corn isn’t commonly grown on a large scale in northern Saskatchewan because the area has lower heat units than the south of the province, Dauvin saw the potential for it to work, purchased some Pioneer variety corn, and seeded it on April 28.

Dauvin says it’s been slow going, as it was supposed to be 120-day corn but has been in the ground for much longer than that. The crop also had to endure freezing twice in the spring, but it still managed to pull through and grow.

“I’m going to let the frost kill the corn, because I want to give it as much time as possible to grow,” Dauvin said of his next steps. “We’ll probably be looking at an early to mid October harvest, because we do have a lot of colour change and it’s milking now.”

Reassured that he’ll at least have a crop to work with later this fall, Dauvin says his goal is that his yield

will be at least 135 bushels per acre. But with a long enough fall, he hopes to hit 150 or even 175 bushels per acre to offset the costs of purchasing new equipment required for planting and harvesting corn.

The seed grain from the crop will be sold off like any other commodity. Though, due to the lack of terminals in northern Saskatchewan, it will mean having it picked up on the farm and shipped south to either a corn mill or a feed lot.

“It’s just another tool in the box, or another rotation that a farmer might put in now,” Dauvin said.

“I wouldn’t go crazy and put your whole farm into it, because it is very risky and the inputs are quite high on it. But if you’re looking for a new avenue of crop rotation, one field or two fields a year wouldn’t hurt.”

Though he’s still awaiting the results of this year’s harvest, Dauvin is already encouraged enough by what he’s seen so far that he’s planning to plant double the corn next spring — meaning closer to 300 acres rather than 150.



Corn cobs from Aaron Dauvin’s first corn field.

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Bovine tuberculosis in Canada

By **WENDY WILKINS**
Ministry of Agriculture

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) does not make headlines often, but when it does, producers need to be ready. Canada has maintained its official bTB-free status since 1985, but occasional cases — usually detected during routine slaughterhouse inspections or trace-outs — remind us how quickly things can change.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is continuing its investigation following the confirmation of a positive cattle herd in Saskatchewan in February 2025. Understandably, Saskatchewan livestock producers have concerns and questions about how this outbreak may impact their herds and their operations.

While disease outbreaks certainly affect livestock, it is important not to forget the human impact. Disease outbreaks and investigations can be stressful on your bottom line, your herd and your mental well-being. This article covers what you need to know to protect your herd and yourself.

What is bTB?

bTB is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, a slow-moving bacterium that affects cattle and occasionally other animals, wildlife and humans. It spreads through respiratory droplets, shared water or feed, and even unpasteurized milk. The tricky part is that infected cattle can carry the disease for years without showing symptoms.

Infected animals may eventually show signs like persistent coughing, weight loss or swollen lymph nodes, but most often, bTB is discovered through surveillance testing or post-mortem exams.

What happens when bTB is found?

When a case of bTB is detected, the CFIA leads the response. The agency's first priority is containment, starting with the immediate quarantine of affected premises and testing of any herds that may have been exposed. Depending on the situation, the CFIA may also:

- conduct follow-up testing on animals that may have been exposed.
- order the depopulation of infected herds; and
- coordinate laboratory diagnostics and disease tracing activities.

These measures are not taken lightly. They are designed to prevent the spread of the disease and protect



Photo credit: WCVN Today/Flickr

Canada's domestic and international beef markets. While the process can be disruptive for producers, it is aimed at limiting broader economic impacts and safeguarding the industry as a whole.

Traceability Matters

Good records — animal movements, Premise Identification (PID) numbers and health histories — are critical during an investigation.

If you can trace where your cattle have been and who they have been in contact with, CFIA can act faster and more accurately.

Be Prepared

If the CFIA ever knocks on your door about a bTB case, they will ask for specific records. Here is what you need to have ready:

- Animal movement records — Any purchases, sales or movements of cattle in or out of your herd in the last five years.
- PID number — Make sure your farm is registered and updated. Remember to update your PID whenever your location or operation changes.
- Herd contact history — Did your cattle graze on community pastures? Do you share fence lines with other herds? Have you bought or sold breeding stock?
- Health records — Past TB tests, veterinary visits, disease history and vaccination records.
- Animal identification — Canadian Cattle Identification (CCIA) tags must be up to date. If animals

were moved, where did they go and when?

Using an electronic record system can simplify this. Even a spreadsheet is better than nothing.

We are here to help

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture is here to support producers impacted by bTB investigations. We act as a bridge between the CFIA and the agricultural community, helping producers navigate the situation with clarity and confidence.

Here is how we can help

- Information and communication: We answer questions, clarify procedures and explain what to expect.
- Access to resources: We help identify financial support and cost recovery programs producers may be eligible for.
- Operational assistance: We work to address challenges like feed access, pasture availability or infrastructure needs during movement restrictions.
- Program feedback: We listen to producers' concerns and pass along feedback to the appropriate program delivery organization to improve future supports.

Producers impacted by the bTB outbreak can contact Livestock Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture by phone at: 306-787-2150

For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture's services and links to important information sources go to the Bovine Tuberculosis in Livestock page.

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Keep safety a priority for harvest season

By **TRISH JOHNSON**
Ministry of Agriculture

Harvest is a critical and stressful time for Saskatchewan farmers, with long hours, intense activity and the anticipation of getting this year's grain in the bin. It also brings many risks and challenges. Ensuring your family's safety during this busy season is essential. Here are some key safety tips for farmers to consider during the harvest:

Communication is key: Consider having regular Toolbox Talks so everyone knows safety is a priority. At the beginning of every day, set a plan and communicate it to family and any other farm labourers. Be sure to communicate if plans change. It's important everyone knows where you are and likewise, it's important you know where others are. What field are you working in? Where are you hauling grain to? Are there kids in the yard or are they at school? Check in regularly and let others know you're okay. Keep your cell phone handy and always call 911 in case of an emergency.

Wear appropriate clothing and Personal Protective Equipment: Gear up with gloves, a hat, safety boots and high visibility clothing. Avoid baggy, loose-fitting clothing and jewelry. Don't wear anything that can get entangled in an auger, power take-off, chain or other moving parts. Consider other preventative measures like sunscreen, hearing and eye protection as well as a respirator for situations where extra protection



is required. Ensure all guards and shields are in place on equipment.

Focus on the task at hand: Always be aware of your surroundings, including road signs and traffic, power lines, moving equipment, augers and bins. Check the weather forecast before you start out and throughout the day. Don't get distracted by text messages or phone calls.

Stay healthy: Avoid alcohol and drugs as even one alcoholic drink can impair your reaction time and ability to operate equipment safely. Stay nourished and hydrated with healthy food and lots of water.

Take breaks: Sometimes even changing tasks will help to manage fatigue and maintain alertness. Get out of the combine and walk around to stretch your legs and move your muscles. When you are tired, you are less productive and more inclined to make a mistake. Get a good rest at the

end of the day.

Safety kits: Ensure you always have a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher close by.

Safety should be a priority for your farm and family not just during harvest, but all year round. Know the risks and make a plan. If you find yourself struggling at any time, Sas-

kAgMatters Mental Health Network and Do More Ag offer a safe space to access free online support designed specifically for farmers. The Farm Stress Line is a toll-free number that producers can use to help manage their stress during this busy time, which can be reached at 1-800-667-4442.



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Agricultural soils of Saskatchewan

By **AUSTIN BARON**
*Ministry of
Agriculture*

Although soil is the foundation for all we grow whether plants or animals we don't often talk about how the types of soil on our operations impact our practices. You may also wonder what the difference between soil and dirt is. Soil is often thought of as a living being; it is a complex web of biological, chemical, geological and physical interactions and can sustain growth and life.

When soil is removed from a place where it can carry out these functions (under your nails, on your floor, or in the box of a truck) it becomes dirt. Soil scientist, Hans Jenny, originally describes the soil formation factors as climate, organisms, topography, parent material and time. Because there are so many variations to this formula, soil varies greatly when you travel even a short distance.

The parent material here in Saskatchewan has a wide range, from glacial till (sediment carried by moving glaciers,) to lacustrine (deposits left by large glacial lakes.) Parent

material will influence soil texture; where glaciers ground up rocks, we tend to see mixed textures, but with lacustrine we see well sorted or stratified textures (mostly clay, mostly silt or mostly sand.) The different particles of sand, silt and clay influence the ability of water to move throughout the soil profile along with retaining and providing nutrients to the plants that grow there. Moisture will move downward faster in soil with a sandy texture, where it will infiltrate more slowly through soils with heavy clay content. Clay particles have a higher cation exchange capacity, meaning they have a higher ability to hold on and exchange other cations (ionic nutrient forms of magnesium, calcium, sodium, potassium, and others.) Although there are many types of soil in Saskatchewan, there are three main orders we see in agricultural land: chernozemic; solonchic; and vertisolic.

Chernozemic soils are the most abundant soils in Saskatchewan. These soils were developed under grassland conditions which cre-



ated what soil scientists call an Ah horizon. This layer of soil is developed by the long-term addition of organic matter from the historical grasslands. Chernozems can develop on any soil texture, from heavy clay to sand. In chernozemic soils with higher clay content, there is the possibility to see the clay from the top layer having leached into the lower horizons. This creates a layer with higher content of fine clay that give the soil a plate-like structure that breaks horizontally. This layer may be mistaken for a plow shear layer, but actually is formed by

the movement of clay, not implements.

Solonchic soils are formed under the influence of sodium. The sodium can be present from marine shale or ground water over long periods. Due to sandy soils having a lower ability to hold onto cations (such as sodium), solonchic soils are more likely to have a clay or loam texture, though not always. These soils can develop a hard pan, and sometimes have round topped columns present below the initial topsoil. Because of the salinity and potential hard structure, these soils can inhibit root

growth and restrict which crops grow here.

Vertisolic soils in the prairies are found in regions with parent material consisting of at least 60 per cent clay. These soils are found in flat areas historically covered in glacial lakes (e.g. the Regina Plains and Eston area.) The clay in these soils swells with moisture and shrinks when drying, creating slickensides. This feature is an almost shiny surface where the clay rubs together. It is also known to crack when it dries out. This cycle causes mixing of the soil and can look like tiger stripes when a soil

pit is dug.

If you are wondering how to find out what kind of soil you have on your operation, you can visit the Saskatchewan Soil Information System website. This is an online database where historical soil maps are compiled, and you can find texture, salinity, agricultural capability ratings and more. If you have questions about what annual or forage crop will do best on your soil, please reach out to your local Crops Extension Specialist or Agri-Environmental Specialist, or you can contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



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Canwood Library summer highlights

By **BEV WYATT**
Library Board

The Canwood Public Library was abuzz with fun and excitement this summer as it welcomed 192 Kids to an array of activities. These included painting with Lucille Scott, Raelyn

Vezeau from Wapiti with virtual reality headsets and crafts, games and storytime with Bev our Librarian.

The library's "Storybook Summer" wrapped up with a special picnic lunch at the village park. All this was made possible by partnerships with the Summer Youth Program, Wapi-

ti, SIGA, Affinity Credit Union and Access Communications, as well as the Library Board members; helping hands!

It's said "It takes a village" and this was truly evident in the summer joy we were able to bring to our youth!

The Library Board members and

staff were also instrumental in supporting the Fiddle Show held in August. We plan, advertise, set up, provide suppers, make desserts, man the stations, and generally make sure things go smoothly.

All in all, we had a tremendous summer!



Local artist Lucille Scott led art programming for kids at the library.



The Canwood Library's "Storybook Summer" wrapped up with a lunch in the park.

Better heating method makes legumes easier to digest

By **ELLA FUNK**
Canadian Light Source

While they have been part of our human diet for centuries, legumes like peas and beans are ultimately seeds for the next generation of plants. To protect themselves from being eaten by animals and insects, they contain "antinutrients" that are hard for animals – and humans – to digest.

These antinutritional compounds – which include tannins, lectins, trypsin inhibitors, and phytic acid – are broken down when beans and peas are heated. However, the large ovens that food processing companies currently use to heat beans and peas are inefficient. They can burn the outside before the inside has

reached a temperature hot enough to deactivate the antinutrients.

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have identified a new heating method – using radio frequency (RF) waves – that appears to be both more effective and efficient than the approach currently used in the industry.

Tolen Moirangthem, a PhD student from the group, compares RF waves to microwaves. "When you put a cup of water in the microwave, the water heats up, but the cup doesn't. The same is true for the pea—the water inside heats up, but the rest of the pea doesn't."

Scientists call this process "selective heating," because

it can heat some areas within a material but not others. It seems to help maintain the desirable nutritional properties in pea or bean, which can break down with regular heating methods. And unlike the long heating times of traditional processes, the RF heating method only takes a few minutes.

The team hypothesized that during RF heat treatment, the water inside a legume expands and turns into steam, which would cause the pores inside to explode from the pressure. In turn, this would create larger pores in the samples, as well as more pores in total, as the steam looked for ways to escape.

Using the Canadian Light Source at the USask, the research group confirmed

that the beans treated with RF heat did in fact have more pores, and the heating method reduced the amount of an antinutrient (proteins called trypsin inhibitors)—by 81 per cent.

"We know that we have big potential with this project," says Moirangthem "Animal protein is very expensive in

different parts of the world, so we need sustainable plant protein that can be produced at mass volume to feed the world population."

This new heating method could help make bean and pea crops even more environmentally friendly to process, with the bonus of making legumes easier to digest.

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Planning ahead for your extensive wintering sites

By **LEEMA MATHEW**
Ministry of Agriculture

With fall upon us, it is a good time to start planning your livestock wintering site. Winter feeding areas can influence animal health, soil conditions and water quality. Extensive wintering management is the practice of keeping the livestock outdoors during winter using field-based feeding methods. Early planning allows you to manage manure more effectively, minimize environmental risk, and ensure livestock are wintered in a safe and comfortable environment.

Choosing the right location is the first step. Ideally your wintering site should be located on well drained, elevated ground to prevent runoff from pooling. The site should be at least 100m away from surface water, wells, or creeks to protect wa-

ter quality from potential nutrient runoff. Having natural shelter like trees or utilizing portable windbreaks can help to reduce windchill stress on animals.

Access is another important factor. Can you reach the site reliably during winter? Will machinery be able to deliver feed and water without damaging the land? Answering these questions ahead of time saves time and reduces stress when winter arrives.

Good wintering site design helps keep animals comfortable and protects the environment. When animals have adequate space and shelter, it reduces trampling of feed and manure build up in high use areas of the wintering site. Making sure water is easy to access keeps animals from gathering in sensitive areas, helping to prevent erosion and nutrient runoff. Improper wintering site management can lead to nutrient buildup and environmental

damage. Practices like bale grazing or swath grazing help spread manure evenly across the site. Rotating wintering sites can also reduce long-term damage to pastures and soils.

Winter may feel far off, but taking steps now ensures your livestock and your land are well-prepared. Thoughtful planning today will pay off better animal performance, reduced cleanup in spring, and healthier soil and water resources in the long term.

There is funding available through the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP) Extensive Wintering Site Management BMP, to support improving extensive wintering sites.

Reach out to your local Agri-Environmental Specialist or contact the Agriculture Knowledge Center at 1-866-457-2377 to explore options that fit your operation.

Western Canada leads low-carbon oat production

By **PRAIRIE OAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION**
Submitted

A new study confirms Canadian prairie oat growers as global leader in sustainable oat farming.

The Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) is proud to celebrate the release of new research from the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan, which confirms what many Canadian farmers already know: Western Canada is leading the world in low-emission, sustainable oat pro-

duction.

The comparative carbon footprint study, released July 7 by GIFS, analyzed oat and barley production across Canada and internationally, and found that Saskatchewan and Western Canadian farmers produce oats with the lowest carbon intensity relative to other jurisdictions in the study.

"This study validates the efforts our farmers have been making for decades," said Ambrely Ralph, POGA Co-President. "From reduced tillage and diverse rotations to precision fertilizer use and continued innovation,

our growers are showing the world what sustainable agriculture really looks like. This is a major win for Canadian oats on the global stage."

The study's carbon life cycle analysis followed globally recognized standards, and the findings are consistent with previous research on crops such as wheat, canola, peas, and lentils. One of the key differentiators in the Western Canadian production system is the integration of regenerative practices that both reduce emissions and increase soil carbon sequestration.

"Canadian oat growers are not only producing a healthy, in-demand food

product — they're doing it with an environmental footprint that's second to none," Ralph added. "This kind of data gives us a more information to use when talking to potential international customers and when working with Governments around the world, including right here in Canada."

POGA believes this evidence-based research is essential to informing future policy and trade decisions, ensuring that sustainability standards reflect actual on-the-ground practices and outcomes. To view the full study and learn more, visit <https://gifs.ca/wp->

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CWRC launches review of wheat breeding system

By **SASK WHEAT**
Submitted

The Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) has engaged Synthesis Agri-Food Network to review Canada's wheat breeding innovation system in an effort to safeguard its ability to serve the evolving needs of Canadian farmers.

A review of the current wheat breeding landscape will help the CWRC identify and address potential risks and opportunities in the

Canadian system while ensuring it continues to generate elite varieties for farmers across the country.

“Canadian farmers need a wheat breeding innovation system that is globally competitive, prevents technology gaps and maintains choice and competition in the marketplace,” said Dean Hubbard, CWRC chair and a farmer near Claresholm, AB.

The CWRC engages in core breeding agreements (CBAs) with Agriculture and Agri-Food

Canada, the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre, the University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta, investing over \$9.5 million per year on behalf of western Canadian farmers. Since the introduction of the CBA model, farmers have become a key funding partner for public wheat breeding in Canada, with their contributions representing almost half of the estimated total public varietal research and development costs.

These CBAs, and oth-

er investments in public plant breeding in Canada, have generated significant returns for both farmers and the public over the last several decades. CWRC CBAs have



resulted in the registration of more than 40 new wheat varieties across multiple wheat classes, and a recent study found that farmers received \$33 in benefits for ev-

ery dollar they invested in wheat breeding from 1995 to 2020.

“As farmers, we have contributed a lot of our hard-earned dollars to this important research and the CWRC must ensure those dollars are directed wherever they will produce the largest impact,” Hubbard said. “This review represents a proactive approach to ensuring farmer investments in public breeding programs continue to produce strong results we can see firsthand in our fields.”

Gene editing leads to drought-resilient wheat

By SHAYNEE MODIEN
LJI Reporter, Shaunavon Standard

Recent developments in research aim to improve wheat during times of drought. Due to Canada's changing climate and market needs, scientists at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have developed a more drought-resilient wheat.

Dr. John Laurie and his team at the Lethbridge-based AAFC are leading the way in researching newly developed genes affecting drought tolerance. The scientists have been working with circadian clock genes that regulates plant growth and response to environment and have created ge-

netic variety at these genes.

While the study of genes in agriculture has been ongoing for decades, Dr. Laurie's team has recently been focusing on circadian clock genes since these genes have been important for crop domestication, including for wheat.

By taking lessons from natural genetic variation, the team aimed to tweak a particular wheat circadian clock gene. This “slight tweak” was accomplished, and according to Dr. Laurie, the team has accelerated a natural process that has resulted in improved drought-tolerance.

Numerous tests have been conducted since the discovery, and the results have consistently shown

that this specific mutation significantly improves drought tolerance. Dr. Laurie notes that “editing genes to improve drought tolerance” is a viable approach.

The researcher emphasizes that they “know exactly which gene we’ve changed” that can help make wheat crops more resilient. Drought tolerance is known to involve many genes, making it a challenging trait for plant breeders to incorporate into elite lines.

As Dr. Laurie mentions, answering questions like “Why did one small change in a single gene make the plant drought-resilient?” is the focus of follow-up research and continued work towards further crop improvements.

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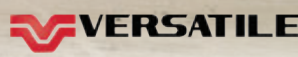
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Blending water to improve quality

By **JORJA BECK & NATASHA WILKIE**
Ministry of Agriculture

Water quality issues have been a common challenge faced by Saskatchewan livestock producers, specifically high levels of inorganic compounds such as sulphates. Sulphates can affect the health and productivity levels of one's livestock herd. Livestock water consumption is essential for survival and poor water quality not only limits the amount of water being consumed but also causes production losses and decreased margins. Thankfully, water treatment technologies and innovations are becoming more accessible to producers in Saskatchewan to mitigate the effects of poor water quality.

One of these innovations is by designing a system that blends water from two different sources, generally from one of high quality with one of lower quality. Blending these water sources together can minimize the negative effects of poor water quality and aid in water utilization. Blending water is not a new practice and has been used in many industries internationally; however, it is important to see how



Water sampling can help producers identify potential water quality concerns.

it can work on Saskatchewan farms and ranches. For this reason, we followed a producer who was working with their local specialist and through water testing, found that one of his sources was high in sulphates. The producer determined that blending two of his water sources revealed similar results as a reverse osmosis system, which filters out water impurities.

To begin, he collected a wa-

ter sample from both sources and brought them to a regional office where they were sent away for initial water testing. With this information, he was able to determine the proper blending ratio from each source. Producers can also work with a regional Livestock and Feed Extension Specialist to determine a water blending ratio that meets water quality standards for their type of livestock.

The water blending process at this producer's operation was conducted by teeing the two water sources into one conjoined water outlet that was accessible to livestock. The use of valves on each line allowed the flow amount to be controlled from each water source, as more of the good-quality water was needed to dilute the poor-quality water. If water sources are further apart, water blending can be accom-

plished by placing a small building between the different water sources, which will house a header plate, pressure tank, and a pump for blending and distributing the water.

With this setup, lines from the different water sources will enter the header and be combined, with the blended water leaving the header through a single line to distribute to water bowls. Other set up options could include the use of a mixing tank where all water enters before being distributed to watering bowls and troughs. Water holding tanks may be important to keep up with water demand, especially during the heat of summer, or if any equipment malfunctions.

The important thing to remember is that there are multiple options for producers to improve their water quality for livestock consumption. In this particular operation, the blending of water sources resulted in a relatively simple and cost-effective solution for improving poor water quality. If a producer has access to multiple water sources with variable conductivity levels, it is a simple way to reduce the challenge of poor water quality and improve the water your livestock consume.

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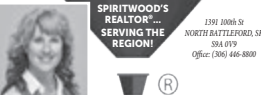
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PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
(in-person only)
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
(in-person and online
via Facebook live)
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Rev. Jordan Clark
306-850-0429
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
11 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804
ANGELICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday Service - 11 a.m.
Joint H.C. Service
June 29 - 11am - St. Andrew's
Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes resume
in the fall
306-469-2258
Youth Nite:
Fridays at 7 p.m.
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
(in-person and online
via Facebook Live)
10 a.m. - Sunday School

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Folster

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath
School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Pastor Myshan Irving
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGELICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC

SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake - 1:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Phinh Do

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every 1st Wed. 7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

FIELDS OF HOPE
(HOFFNUNGSFELDER)
MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush (May thru Sept)

10:00 am Worship
Rabbit Lake Mennonite
Church (June thru Sept)
2nd Sunday - 10 am Worship

BETHEL

Medstead
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th Sunday, 10 am - Worship
Pastor David Jensen

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

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Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

LAKELAND

COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

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Shellbrook Library hosts kickboxing presentation

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, Travis Schmalz came to the library to teach attendees about kickboxing. Travis showed attendees a video on his cell phone of his kickboxing training with one of the fighters at Momentum Martial Arts, a gym

which he attends in Saskatoon.

Travis talked about the history of kickboxing and how it developed in its modern form. Kickboxing developed predominantly from karate in America and Europe and was combined with boxing techniques in the 1960s to 1970s to a fluid form of continuous fight-

ing. It used elements of boxing such as gloves and a ring.

Muay Thai is an ancient form of kickboxing developed independently in Thailand and the surrounding area. It became a sport in the

1900s by including boxing gloves and a ring. Muay Thai became popular worldwide. Its practitioners were successful against American style full contact kickboxers because Muay Thai has a larger range of strikes.

Muay Thai became an effective form of training combined with Brazilian jiu jitsu when mixed martial arts became popular in the 1990s.

Travis informed attendees about the three main forms of kickbox-

ing and demonstrated how to perform a fighting stance, properly balance, and correctly perform footwork while participating in Muay Thai. He demonstrated proper striking techniques with a participant.



Travis Schmalz gives a presentation about kickboxing.

Unlocking efficiency through yield mapping

By **JAPJYOT SINGH SANDHU**
Ministry of Agriculture

The growing season is coming to an end and harvest is in full swing across the province. As the combines roll through the fields, they gather valuable yield data. Yield map data can be used to visualize and understand the productive and non-productive regions within the fields. This data can be automatically uploaded to the cloud (online), where it can be accessed and downloaded for analysis post-harvest. In cases where the combination lacks cloud storage, data can be manually downloaded for analysis. The yield maps can provide insight into the outcome of management practices that were implemented in previous years.

Yield maps are valuable tools for understanding variability in different areas in the field, such as low-lying areas and knolls. Yield maps can help identify various zones within fields, such as consistently marginal and productive areas. These zones can then be managed using different practices, allowing for the reduction of inputs, such as fertilizers, in zones that consistently produce lower yields.

A yield map can highlight areas that generally

produce optimal yields based on historical data, that may have a nutrient deficiency and should be soil tested. When conducting soil testing, it is important to sample marginal areas along with productive areas to gain a thorough understanding of nutrient availability for the following year, thus reducing the risk of over-application of nutrients. This approach helps achieve two of the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship: the right place and the right rate.

Furthermore, multi-year yield maps offer valuable insights into the productivity of different crops and yield trends of different varieties over the years. This information helps refine the selection of varieties and seeding rates for different zones and inputs based on historical yield data. Using yield maps, variable rate applications can be developed, which can help reduce the amount of seed and fertilizer used in less productive marginal zones and may allow for alternative management options. Additionally, variable-rate seeding can help reduce input costs as fertilizer and seed prices continue to rise.

Please, contact your local crops extension specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for additional information.



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