



A beautiful looking field of canola south of Moosomin.

Ashley Bocek photo

Crop conditions good in southeast

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The last few weeks have seen crop conditions hit that time where plants are tall and proud, and the canola especially produces those vast seas of intense yellow. After a soggy spring and sudden blast of heat, producers are overall pleased with how crops are responding—even if they've endured some hazy weeks due to forest fire smoke originating hundreds of miles away.

Matthew Struthers, a Cereal Crops Provincial Specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, says he's hearing very positive reports from producers in the southeast.

"Over the last few weeks, reports of the crops look good, but they certainly could go for a drink—especially after the last couple of weeks of those really high extreme temperatures," he said. "Lots of reports are saying that the crops have caught up; the crops were behind, we had a really wet spring, and that slowed a lot of things down, then this blast of heat caused a lot of those crops to spring up. But that also has the flip side of when it's 35 degrees for almost two weeks in a row, that's pretty

hard on those crops as well, especially if the moisture is limiting in some areas. So we'd really like to see a good shot of rain here soon."

Fortunately, soil moisture conditions were able to hold steady through the heat, bumping up maturity a little bit.

"It's very good that we had that spring moisture, it got things off to a really good start, and so hopefully we can just get a shot of rain here and carry through," Struthers said. "I know a lot of crops out in that part of the province are flowering or completing their flowering stage, so that would be very important times."

It seems like the Moosomin region is in a Goldilocks zone with drought conditions in the southwest corner of the province and downright flooding just across the border in Manitoba.

"Over the last few years, when you compare the southeast to the southwest, you guys have certainly got a little bit more moisture," agreed Struthers. "In the southwest it's been very dry down there the last few years and this year looks to be going that same route, unfortunately. So

hopefully they get the rain they need soon."

Struthers recounted a recent drive to Swift Current, and he was amazed to see the stark difference with crop development in that area.

"It's very disheartening, especially after a few tough years, but hopefully they get that moisture and hopefully this smoke is able to keep that heat down," he said.

Another benefit that can be attributed in part to those cool, wet spring days is that it seemed to impact grasshopper populations. Fortunately, the bugs are not strong swimmers.

"The cool, wet weather we had in the spring is, I think, just what we needed to drown out those grasshoppers early on, and that's why we're not seeing such an issue," Struthers said. "Of course, there's probably parts of the province that are reporting higher amounts of grasshopper damage just due to being dry earlier in the spring, but right now, I'd say it's a pretty good year for them compared to last year and the years previous."

Continued on page B3 ^{ESP}

BUILT ON FARMER Relationships.

Grain Millers is a privately held, family-owned company. We depend on **direct farmer relationships** and offer farm gate pricing and contracted grower production. Our Crop Science Team is here to help you with any agronomy questions you may have so you can get the best return on your production.

When you sell to Grain Millers, your grain is going directly into some of the most technologically advanced mills in the world!

We Purchase:

**Oats • Flax • Barley
Wheat • Other Grains**

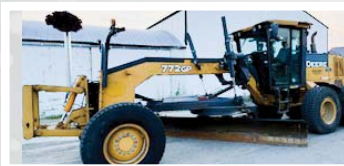
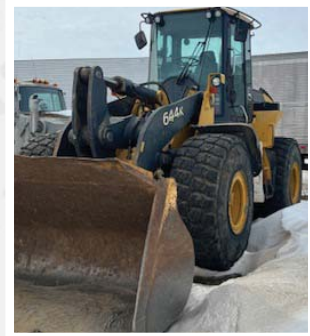
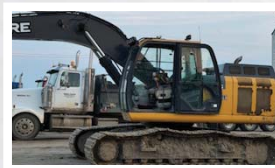


OATS/FEED GRAINS: 306.786.4682
FLAX: 306.933.4644
OTHER GRAINS: 952.983.1269
grainmillers.com | 800.328.5188

Taylor Auctions

LARGE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AUCTION FOR BONNEVILLE TRANSPORT LTD RESTON, MB

This sale will be LIVE IN PERSON w/online bidding Friday September 6th & Saturday September 7th to start at 10 am DST



Sale includes:

- JD 772 Road Grader
- Cat D6T dozer
- JD 210G Track hoe

- JD 744H wheel loader
- JD 644K wheel loader
- Highway tractors
- Tandem gravel trucks

- Trailers
- Screener
- Crusher,
- Cat skid steer and so much more

Don't miss this opportunity to buy some great equipment! Watch for full listing on Taylor.canbid.com or call 204-522-6396

FARM AUCTION FOR KRIS OGREYSIK

LIVE IN PERSON w/online bidding
Tuesday August 13th at 11 am DST
Elkhorn, MB

Sale includes:

- JD 4755 w/1760 original hrs
- JD 9600 combine 2750 separator hrs
- Morris hay hiker
- 28 ft Bourgault air seederw



TIMED ONLINE CONSIGNMENT SALE AT TAYLOR AUCTIONS

Melita, MB
Tuesday August 20th
More consignments welcome!!
To consign call 204-522-6396

Follow us on Facebook 
For more info go to taylor.canbid.com
or call us at 204-522-6396



Crop conditions good in southeast

Continued from front

He also noted that hay is also doing quite well in the southeast, keeping producers busy with baling efforts.

"It's going to be interesting, looking at the hay yields, especially for the southeast," Struthers said. "I'm quite happy with the feed quality, the hay quality is coming back very high—26 per cent is excellent, 66 per cent good, the rest being fair with eight per cent. So that's not bad for quality and the yields aren't bad either. It's really good to see the yields come up a little bit, especially compared to last year, and I think silage yields, there's been some obviously slow growing degree days for any of that corn silage out there. So those yields likely are going to be a little bit lower just because the corn's just a little bit behind."

Smoke has been a benefit

While all the smoke in the area over the past few weeks has been bad for people with breathing issues, it has been an unexpected boon for local crops. Not only has the haze diffused the harsh sunlight during high-temperature days, but the low to nil wind conditions have allowed soil moisture to remain. Many mornings have noted dew on the ground as well. Still, a little shot of rain would be more than welcome.

"Crops are looking really good," said Rylar Hutchinson, who farms in the Rocanville area. "This heat has been nice. If we could get another shot of rain that would be nice. The canola doesn't like the heat, but what can you do!"

He added that the high July temperatures have certainly prompted his crops along.

"The smoky, hazy days have helped a bit with keeping the canola in the flowering stage, so that's a bonus," Hutchinson said. "With the heat we've been having, it's turning things pretty quick. We've been lucky this year, we've had the rains when we needed them and perfect amounts too! Things definitely have retained nicely. With this heat, we hope it doesn't bring any kind of big storms!"

Over in the Gerald area, Kevin Hruska agrees, offering a similar status on what he's observed.

"Everything looks good. It seems like the crops are hanging on pretty good," he said. "With this heat, I don't know, but the smoke and the humidity kind of mitigating the negative effects of the temperature and crops look good. I guess we would take a half inch of rain now. Would be nice to get a rain to cool things down a little bit, clear out this smoke, but everything looks promising."

Up around the Atwater/Stockholm area, conditions are also consistent, according to Blake Duchek.

"It seems to be carrying the crops through, the smoke is definitely helping. The crops would be really burning up, but that smoke helps to take away some of that strength that the sun has. The ground is dry, though, now—two inches of light, slow rain would be wonderful now," he said. "If we don't get any in the next two weeks, it might as well stay away until the end of October. Last year, right around Atwater here, we only had three inches of rain. I think our crops should be just as good as last year because we basically had triple the amount of water this year."

Jeff Warkentin, COO with Hebert Grain Ventures in Moosomin, noted the heat has brought crops back to where they ought to be in terms of maturity, after the rain delayed growth a bit.

"I'd say we're on par, I think it's more of a good average year," he said. "Obviously, with the heat the last few weeks, it's pushed the crop along. As bad as it is for people's breathing, the wildfires have kind of shielded the crops from full-on UV rays. There's definitely a lot areas worse off than we are."

As Warkentin pointed out—and others agree—recent conditions have brought crops back to normal, and maybe in some areas a little bit ahead of schedule.

"We seeded early, and we got a head start on it. Then it got cold and rainy, and we lost that advantage," Hruska explained. "But now with the warmth, it picked it up again, caught it up. So I would say yes, it'll be a touch earlier."

Duchek also describes his crops as being about in the same place as this time last year.

"From the first of July right up to now, the crops have really been growing, so I think it kind of put us back on a normal schedule," he said.

Not out of the woods yet!

The optimism from hot July days may seem intoxicating, but producers are cautious as they head into the dog days of summer.

"You can't count your chickens before they're hatched,



A flax field in bloom meeting a canola field in bloom.

Sunnette Kamffer photo

but things certainly look very promising," Warkentin advised. "Yield looks good, we've seen some slippage in some of the cereal pricing, so that's going to affect profitability, but that can change, too, as the drought goes on out west. It seems to be helping our prices over here."

Duchek is curious to see how the market reacts to current conditions, pointing out new crop wheat was down to \$6.60 per bushel, for example, the lowest he's noticed in years.

"Our expenses haven't followed the downward trend yet," he said, adding he's already booked fertilizer for next year to avoid higher costs later on. "It'll be interesting to see if the markets react."

As a rule, input costs don't seem to ever decrease, and Hruska also referenced the old 'supply and demand' rule.

"Unfortunately, there's a huge crop worldwide, so that's going to be detrimental to our prices I'm sure, but I'd sooner sell a big crop for less money than a little crop for more," he said.

Another factor is the looming question of whether or not there will be a rail strike come early August, which would be crippling for the ag industry in particular. However, when asked if he was concerned about this possible

threat, Warkentin spoke to the more local approach.

"Not particularly, we've sold a lot of grain to the domestic crush and domestic maltsters," he said. "Ourselves, it doesn't affect us a whole lot. The crush in Yorkton has been trading at about a dollar over the export markets, so it makes sense for us to haul there."

As for the grasshopper situation Struthers spoke of, the crop destroyers haven't been a problem yet around Moosomin.

"We haven't had to spray any insecticides," Warkentin said. "We sprayed the entire crop with fungicides, did some of our ground sprayers and did some with the airplane. Touch wood, we haven't seen any insect pressures, so hopefully it stays that way. Obviously, hail and insects are a threat as we go forward until we get it in the bin. We've had enough rain here. It shouldn't be an issue."

As with everyone else, it's time to get those grease guns out in preparation for harvest and the inevitable breakdowns associated with those crucial weeks to come.

"We're calibrating the columbines, going through all the trucks and trailers, grain carts, making sure we're ready for the show, when the show happens," Warkentin said. "There's a lot of setup work now with the technology, you can do a lot in advance and be prepared."



The Saskatchewan Government is spending your tax dollars on a big media campaign to convince you that we have enough wetlands to drain up to 2 million more acres of this vital resource while ignoring the impacts.

Decades of drainage and destruction are already causing:

- toxic algae blooms in our lakes and rivers
- polluting drinking water supplies
- decimated critical wildlife habitat and game and fish populations
- downstream flooding and widespread drought

We are launching an awareness campaign called **Wetlands For Tomorrow to create a safe space for this conversation and we need your help.**

Please share your stories and donate to **'Wetlands for Tomorrow'** by an transfer to wetlandsfortomorrow@gmail.com, or by mailing a cheque payable to Wetlands for Tomorrow.

P.O. Box 995 Indian Head Saskatchewan S0G 2K0.

(Please note we are not a registered charity so we can not provide tax receipt).

Let's at least do as well as Alberta and Manitoba and protect our wetlands!

Follow us @ www.facebook.com/SKwetlands

USask's CDC brings thousands of jobs, billions of dollars

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

A recent report discovered some amazing statistics about the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Data from the CDC Economic Footprint Assessment, which was prepared by EY (previously Ernst and Young LLP) looked at several key areas, such as economic contribution, return on investment, and socio-economic benefits.

Some of the key findings from that report include over 9,000 jobs created in Canada, a contribution of \$17.8 billion in gross farm outputs from 1991 to 2022, over 500 varieties across over 40 kinds of crops developed and released from the CDC since its inception in 1971, and more than 530 peer-reviewed publications produced from the CDC since 2016.

"The remarkable and ongoing successes of the CDC are a confirmation of the world-class agricultural expertise at the university," said Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD), USask's vice-president research. "The researchers with the CDC are giving cutting-edge advantages to growers in Saskatchewan and around the world and continue to be what the world needs as we address feeding a growing population."

I wanted to find out more about what the report means to not only the CDC, but to the agriculture industry and the country as a whole, so I caught up with Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), director of the CDC. He's one busy guy, but was happy to take a break from field work—literally, he was managing a 34°C July afternoon between field tours.

First off, these are some just staggering numbers. What was your reaction when you when you first saw the report's findings?

It was invigorating and humbling all at the same time. The CDC was established back in 1971 with the mandate to develop new crop varieties, to promote crop diversification in Saskatchewan. For well over 50 years, well over 500 varieties, we've been delivering solutions to western Canadian agricultural producers. So we're quite proud of what we've been able to accom-



Research technician Ayla Lichtenwald works in the durum wheat molecular lab at the Crop Development Centre

David Stobbe photo

plish, and the report really just stresses the significant impact that the CDC has had on Western Canadian agriculture.

I was wondering if you could explain the importance of the findings in this report, in terms of innovation here and throughout the world.

We really looked at the report, we were just going through the process right now of developing and implementing a new growth plan, and we thought it was important to have a look at our impact and really assess the economic contributions, the return on investment for farmers and stakeholders that support our programs. We also wanted to take a look at the socio-economic benefits in terms of jobs, research and innovation, and collaboration. From an economic contribution point of view, the CDC has contributed \$1.2 billion in GDP to the western Canadian economy. We did a study back in 2016, and that number—the

\$1.2 billion number—is around half a billion dollars more than what it was even back in 2016. So that's significant. Almost 7,000 full time equivalent jobs based on CDC plant breeding activity, \$254 million in wages and salaries, but probably the most impressive number is the benefit cost ratio, where for every \$1 that's invested in the Crop Development Centre, we return \$11 to Canadian farmers. With net benefits of \$10.2 billion, these are significant. If we consider the lentil crop alone, the pulse breeding that we do at the centre has been so vital to building a strong and vibrant pulse industry in Western Canada. And that benefit cost ratio is for every dollar invested in lentil breeding, it returns \$37 to lentil growers in Western Canada. So just a remarkable impact with the research that we do to western Canadian agriculture.

Our pulses are the best in the world, the most sought after.

Most sought after, absolutely. We have a very productive breeding program and we focus on a whole range of market classes of pulse crops—pea, lentil, chickpea, dry bean—we have a strong pathology program that focuses on improving disease resistance in our varieties, which is so important for not just pulse crops, but obviously all the crops that we work with at the Crop Development Centre. But we're really proud of the work that we do in developing innovative new crop varieties for western Canadian growers.

The the one stat I found interesting, too, was where the report referenced 428 students since 1971. Many of those are now leaders in the ag industry—that must be so amazing to see these students go on to achieve such great things.

Absolutely, and that's one of the very unique things about the Crop Development Centre that we probably don't tell that story well enough and often enough, in that the Crop Development Centre is actually fully integrated into the Department of Plant Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Bio Resources here at the university. That really provides us the opportunity to mentor and train the next generation of crop scientists in real world breeding programs. And 420-plus, that's an impressive number. But equally impressive is since 2016, the CDC faculty have published in high impact scientific journals, well over 500 manuscripts of novel research. That's impressive and important for the CDC, in fact, because our research spans that continuum from the research lab all the way to the farmer's field, all the way to their dinner plates. We can quickly translate the basic research that we do, translate that into innovative, new varieties that are grown and adopted by Western Canadian growers. So that's really what makes the CDC unique. Some of that research is really cutting edge—a lot of it is cutting edge—in the sense of many of the genomic sequencing experiments in our crop plants, where we study the DNA of each of the species, we work with that.

Continued on Page B9 ☞



No physical address? Only a PO Box? Need secure package delivery/pickup?

Currently serving Moosomin & surrounding area

Rural Route provides a physical address for you to receive your deliveries by courier
at a secure indoor pick-up point near you - available 24/7



Safe and reliable — your packages are securely stored in our electronic locker system until you pick them up.



24/7 access to your packages means you never have to wait an extra day to get your package.



Our heated indoor facility will protect your packages from even the coldest Saskatchewan weather.

How it Works?

- TO REGISTER, GO TO RURALROUTEPACKAGE.CA.**
Register for a **monthly or annual** subscription to receive a unit number.
- ORDER ONLINE.**
When filling out an online order form, use the **unit number** along with the shipping address we provide.
- GET NOTIFIED.**
When the package arrives at the lockers, you will receive a text or an email, containing your **one-time access code**.
- OPEN LOCKER.**
Arrive at the lockers at your earliest convenience, **have your one-time access code ready** and follow the prompts on the screen.
- RECEIVE THE PACKAGE.**
The appropriate locker will open, retrieve your package, and close the door. **Pretty easy, right?**

Anyone can deliver to your locker - not just couriers!

- Smart Package Delivery
- Agricultural Supply Pickup
- Local Produce Sharing
- Crafts & Local Shops
- FB Marketplace Dropoff / Pickup
- Medication Distribution
- Community Bulletin Board.
Lockers can have digital screens to display local news or weather.

📍 Now Serving Moosomin, SK

☎ 1.306.380.9978

✉ ruralroutepackagepickup@gmail.com

Harvest in full swing for local beekeepers

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
It's the busy season for local beekeepers, and B. Strong Apiaries near Rocanville is going into their second week of pulling hives.

"We just started harvesting about 10 days ago," said Lance Strong during a tour of their shop last Wednesday. Given how growing conditions for local crops have panned out this year, harvest has come a little bit early. Strong and his team of 19 will be in full-on action mode from now until the beginning of September, drawing from three dozen bee yards within a 30-mile radius.

"This is actually the most straightforward time of the year for us," Strong explained. "We're done working hives throughout the spring, we're not doing any treatments, any kind of supplemental feeding, nothing like that right now. Just strictly bringing honey in. So this time of year, it's basically all brown and not a whole lot of brain!"

It's still early to estimate how this year's harvest is yielding, especially with a string of high temperatures.

"It's hard to say, we're just about done our first pull of each yard. We're about to start a round again tomorrow," Strong said. "It will take a couple of weeks, this next round, so I won't really know until the second round is done what the yield is going to probably be. It's looking good now, as long as there's more to come."

Once daytime temperatures exceed 30°C, bee colonies will divert their attention from collection to keeping the hive cool.

"They basically run their own air conditioner when it's hot like this, they pick up a lot of water from sloughs," Strong said. "They like to bring in air out of the bottom and shoot up the top, keeping the hive cool that way."

One indicator of what production might look like can be viewed in local crop conditions as bees will go for the best source and whatever plant is in bloom.

"Whatever's favourable to the farmers is typically favourable for us," Strong said. "Canola is definitely our cash crop, too. All the moisture is really great, we could use another shot of rain here, I think, just to liven up the topsoil."

Hot days don't seem to bother the bees very much, but for the people performing the manual labour, it can be intensive.

"I'm outside with half the team, and this is not fun to work in," Strong replied when asked if these hot conditions are favourable. "I'd prefer around 25°C. Too hot like this cooks the flowers a bit off the canola, speeds things up, especially when it's kind of dry."

The relationship between bees and canola is an important one. Saskatchewan farmers are the largest canola producers in Canada with around 12 million acres devoted to the crop. It also makes up around 30 per cent of the province's total crop land. Pollinating those billions of flowers is a huge task—one that hard working bees are more than able to tackle. Research from the University of Saskatchewan estimates honey bees contribute \$5.5 billion worth of pollination services every year to Canada's agriculture industry.



Lance Strong pulls a frame from a recently pulled box to show what his team collects and processes.

"One bee yard—around 50 hives on a quarter section of canola—will increase the yield by about eight per cent," Strong said.

As for honey production, Strong says anywhere from 350-450 pounds per hive are considered good years.

"It depends where the bee health is at, how the crops are doing, and the weather. There are a bunch of factors," Strong said, estimating each hive during this time of year contain populations of between 40,000 and 60,000 bees. "Some factors are under your control, a lot of them out of your control."

Yard rent uses the barter system where Strong provides a case of honey in exchange for a safe place for the bees.

"The best bee yards are old yard sites where there's a bit of shelter from trees, some flat grounds to put them in

and enough room to get our big trucks around in," he said.

Bees are busiest right now

It's no wonder the idiom 'busy as a bee' exists as it's certainly based in fact.

"The bees are the happiest this time of year when they have stuff to do," said Strong, adding that cool, rainy days are when one is most likely to get stung when handling a hive as the bees are not as happy during those conditions.

Typically, at B. Strong Apiaries, bees are out in the field beginning in March, then brought back for wintering in October.

"Everybody does things differently. I raise all of our own, especially in the month of June which is big for raising bees and raising queens," Strong said. "Whatever I raise this year and winter is what I have to work with next spring to replace my own dead ones."

So what happens to all those bees once winter hits? Strong says they still keep active.

"The bees don't go dormant like a bear does, it's more like a penguin," he said, describing how bees are wrapped four colonies to a pallet to stay alive through the cold.

"I mentioned the penguin because cold bees on the outside will take turns going to the inside and keep the hive a livable temperature," he said. "As far as the bees go themselves, I'm only touching these from March until October. Four months, I'm not in the colony at all, but we've got lots of other stuff to do."

Winter months are spent servicing equipment, doing vehicle maintenance, marketing honey, and catching up in the office.

Continued on page B8 **ES**



NX SERIES
45-60 HP



0% UP TO 72 MONTHS OR **\$6625 UP TO CASH BACK* (T-L-B)** OR **FREE LOADER***

Purchase a CS, CX, CK, DK, DKSE, NX or NS Series KIOTI tractor and receive a FREE Loader*



Universe
Satellite Sales

520 Railway Ave | Rocanville, SK
306.645.2669
www.universesatellite.com





6 YEAR UNLIMITED HOUR POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

*Offer available June 1, 2024 - August 31, 2024. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in CAD dollars. Additional fees including but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DILL or Sheffield using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. © 2024 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daewoo-CANADA, Inc.



Canada's Rye Company
Medora, MB

Grain buyers of:

- FALL RYE (ALL GRADES)
- YELLOW PEAS • GREEN PEAS
- MAPLE PEAS • FABA BEANS
- MILLING OATS • BROWN FLAX
- YELLOW FLAX • MALTING BARLEY

We also buy organic grains
CGC LICENSED AND BONDED

For pricing and info call the
"Rye Guy" Cal Vandaele
Office: 204-665-2384
Cell: 204-522-5410

July was a month of ups and downs

Well, isn't that some serious heat?!?! After a rather cool spring, with an abundance of moisture in May and June, we certainly have had quite the turn-around in temperatures.

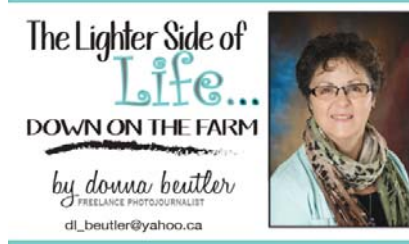
The day we pulled our boat to the lake in late June, we unhitched in rain. The day we actually went to the lake to stay, just a few days later, we arrived in a downpour which made unloading the truck and getting into the camper dry and mud-free a bit of a challenge. So much for the chicken that was slated for over-the-fire roasting that night! While we were crying, 'Rain, rain, go away,' that night in early July, who would have thought less than two weeks later we'd be wishing for a bit more rain!

The start to our vacation away from the farm was delayed by a week or so this year as none other than moi ended up feeling less than wonderful one lazy Saturday afternoon, two days prior to what was to be our first lake day. How interesting that when you end up in the hospital freezing to death that the nurses (and they were oh so wonderful) won't give you a warm blanket because your temperature is too high. I tried to impress upon them that I was so, so cold and really needed a warm blanket. Their response was to bring me ice packs. I guess they didn't know I am more of a warm wheat-bag type of person?

When the nurses in Moosomin moved me from a room down the hall to a room close to the nurses' station with the explanation "Oh it's bigger and it's a private room—you'll like it much better," I knew they were getting a tad more concerned than what they let on. By the time they put another IV into my other hand "just as a precaution" I knew they were indeed concerned. They were right by my side almost every moment of that afternoon and evening as my fever raged on and my blood pressure kept dropping. Okay, now I was concerned!

As the hours progressed, nothing seemed to change and by midnight-ish, I was on my way to Regina. The ambulance attendants told me I was lucky because I was going in the "smooth-riding" ambulance. Hmmmm... I am pretty sure their definition of smooth is somewhat different than mine. It was one of the longest trips to the city I've ever taken, I am sure. How is it that you can be so incredibly tired that you can't even keep your eyes open yet can't sleep a wink?

As the days went on and they tried to figure out what was going on with me, I was hearing "gangrene," "flesh-eating disease," and other rather severe-sounding suggestions to what my body was fighting. By the time they put the tenth IV into my hand, I was ready to find an escape



route out of that hospital. Long story short, I survived a deep tissue infection that took about five days to clearly reveal itself and while I was mighty sick for a few days, I was so well cared for and cared about by family and friends with visits and messages that I couldn't help but be incredibly thankful. While I was in the General, I developed an intense desire for strawberry jello (go figure) and an absolute gag reflex for anything that involved hospital hamburger or tuna fish sandwiches. The antibiotics may have cleared up my leg infection, but no amount of anything can undo the sight or the smell of hospital-prepared meat of any kind. Jello-makers, you rock!

Once I was declared well enough to head home, we began to look forward to the local 4-H show and our upcoming vacation to the lake. The twins, 13, and their sister, 15, have been busy again this year preparing for their local show as well as the regional show, both held over a three-day period at the Whitewood Livestock barns in early July. We were pretty proud grandparents seeing these teens with their animals all skilled up and show-ready. I can't help but think of all the skills they are learning and the dedication it takes to raise an animal for show. Hats off 4-Hers everywhere!

One of the treats for us as we head off to the lake each year is to be joined by various grandchildren now and then. And while our campsite was a bit muddy and the mosquitoes were rather insane that first week out camping, our young camping guests were a delight!

The twins had only one thing in mind—getting out with Gramps on the boat and catching the 'big one.'

Every morning, and not as early as we used to get out

(for some unknown reason), off Grampa and the twins went. And with any luck, we would see them back by early afternoon. Then off they would go again after supper for a couple of hours more to finish off the day. One evening when all of us went out into the 'fish-fly zone,' including the two youngest grands (8 and 10), one of the twins snagged the 'big one.' It was unbelievable! The rod was bent like a U-turn. It appeared Grams and Gramps were both going to need to help out. Gramps stood up to help with the rod, I got the net ready and then there it was—the heaviest, soggiest piece of driftwood we had ever caught!

The afternoons were 'Gramma times' and oh what fun we had. We mini-golfed and we scavenger-hunted and we garage-saled and did some golf-ball searching. We swam and horsed around in the water and made the best of the super hot afternoons. We may even have made the ice cream lady rich in the space of a week and a half, especially on those days that felt like 38C. In fact, who really wants to barbecue chicken on those hot days when a poutine from the beach café will do the trick?!

While there's nothing quite like a break from the farm, there are some worries that don't necessarily disappear under the clear blue skies of a lake day. The reseeded canola and the sprayed, but flea beetle-damaged fields were a bit of a thorn in hubby's side. But there comes a point when you have to accept what is and what will be. And hopefully what will be won't be a big disappointment. This is the first year in my married life that I don't even have a vision of what the crops look like at this time of year because I basically went from a hospital bed to my comfy chair to my RV at the lake, bypassing our canola and wheat fields except for one pass-through down the highway.

But as July whips on by, we are already preparing for moving the RV home from the lake and getting ready for harvest season #50-something (for hubby). Year #47 for me. That seems like an awful lot of harvests under our belt and a whole lot of 'farm memories' we've made. And harvests seem to be the highlight of the year for us because, even though it may be the busiest, most stressful, and craziest time of the year, it's also filled with those moments of amazing sunsets, clear blue skies and star-studded skies, tail-gate meals, family times and funny moments. It's working together to bring in the fruits of our labour and so as our grain farmer friends and readers prepare for the 2024 harvests, hats off to you! See you in August!

New animal production regulations for Sask

The Saskatchewan livestock sector is now supported through The Animal Production Act. The new Act governs animal production in Saskatchewan including domestic game farming, tur farming, wild boar farming (new addition), domestic meat inspection, milk compositional standards, livestock inspection and transportation, animal identifiers, premises identification, stray animals (livestock specific), animal keeper's liens, and livestock dealer licensing.

"These changes are a positive step toward modernizing and streamlining regulatory processes for our producers," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Removing barriers helps this sector continue to grow and thrive."

Areas of interest for the livestock sector include requirements for stray livestock, newly added wild boar farm requirements and new transportation and inspection standards. Specifically, a requirement for all wild boar farms to be licensed and inspected along with a moratorium on new wild boar farms.

"The updated regulations, focused on clarity and congruency, will allow LSS to communicate more clearly with its stakeholders as well as guide our support and enforcement services to the industry in a more straightforward manner," Livestock Services of Saskatchewan CEO Jason Pollock said.

"Sask Pork is pleased to see the province's commit-

ment to regulate wild boar farms," Sask Pork Chair Toby Tschetter said. "The new oversight of these operations will position the province and the pork industry to better respond to wild boar escapes and potential animal disease outbreaks."

The ministry has updated stray animal requirements to provide rural municipalities with more flexibility to address stray animals in their area.

Other changes include clearer requirements for livestock inspection and transportation standards. Additionally, when transporting animals, they must be accompanied with doc-

umentation that specifies the premises identification numbers for the animal's point of origin and destination.

This modernized legislation consolidates four

existing Acts related to animal production into one Act and reduces 10 sets of regulations into a single set. This change reduces red tape and simplifies the legislation.



- Offering premium cutting and wrapping
- Bulk order meat sales (halves and wholes)

ANDREW DICK
306-434-5993
SKBEARCREEK@GMAIL.COM
WWW.BEARCREEKMEATS.CA

ROCANVILLE, SK



ELEVATED APPLICATIONS

Industrial / Agriculture Vegetation Control

- liquid / granular
- fence line maintenance
- cover crop & grass spreading
- insect control

Inquire For
Drone
Applications!

Call: 306-434-5050
Email: elevatedapplication@gmail.com

- Concrete
- Bin Setup
- Repairs
- Parts

Rocanville, SK
d.lonseth@sasktel.net



40+
YEARS
of
SERVICE

QUADRA DEVELOPMENT CORP.

For all your grain bin needs

1-800-249-2708

Dale Cell: 306-435-9627



DK Tree Removal & Maintenance

Tree Removal
Pruning
Stump Grinding
Yard Cleanup
Hedge Trimming

306-608-TREE

(306-608-8733)

USask establishes Jarislowsky and BMO Chair in Regenerative Agriculture

Dr. Kate Congreves (PhD) has been appointed the Jarislowsky and BMO Chair in Regenerative Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) to lead research supporting the wider-scale adoption of beneficial production and environmental practices necessary for food security.

"As the new chair, Dr. Congreves will strengthen Canada's agriculture sector by providing leadership in regenerative agriculture, working with producers to identify and evaluate best practices, and creating new teaching and mentoring opportunities for students," said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioreources at USask. "This investment in USask research means new potential to maximize environmental benefits of agricultural systems and minimize environmental impacts, all while maintaining and increasing food production."

The Jarislowsky and BMO Chair in Regenerative Agriculture was established by a \$4 million endowment with a donation of \$2 million from the Jarislowsky Foundation, \$1 million from BMO, and \$1M from the USask Greystone Heritage Trust to significantly expand research capacity in regenerative agriculture at USask.

"Building a more sustainable future has been a long-standing priority for the Jarislowsky Foundation," said Stephen Jarislowsky, founder and president of the foundation. "The research led by Dr. Congreves and her team will make an impact on agriculture, climate, and food production through advancing the science and encouraging the adoption of sustainable farming practices across Canada and beyond."

The Jarislowsky Foundation supports research chairs to promote excellence in teaching, mentoring and research.

"At BMO, we are long-time supporters of the agricultural sector and proud of our clients, who are among the most innovative producers in the world in regenerative agriculture," said Allison Hakomaki, head of Agriculture,

Public Sector and Emerging Industries, BMO. "We know how vital sustainable practices are to the resilience of our farmers and the future of food in Canada and, driven by our purpose, to Boldly Grow the Good in business and life and our commitment to a sustainable future, we recognize the importance of supporting initiatives like the University of Saskatchewan's research in this field."

During the chair's five-year term, Congreves' research will inform sustainable nitrogen (N) management for healthy agroecosystems. Nitrogen is simultaneously an essential nutrient for crop production and a major environmental concern. Better understanding of N cycling is necessary and is a timely priority with policymakers interested in developing strategies to better manage N. Congreves will explore interdisciplinary collaborations with agricultural researchers in other areas of expertise such as water, livestock and health, and with social scientists, economists, and philosophers to develop evidence-based recommendations that will be pertinent to Canada's progress towards a sustainable future.

"Regenerative agriculture is an ecosystem-based approach to crop production—one that embodies reciproc-

ity with the land by improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing negative impacts of inputs like N fertilizer. A promising strategy to design regenerative agroecosystems is the diversification of cropping systems," said Congreves, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioreources.

Continued on page B12

BIG DOG SEEDS INC.
OXBOW, SK

RED WINTER WHEAT:

- AAC Wildfire
- AAC Overdrive
- Moats

bigdog.farm@sasktel.net
306.483.2963
Cell: 306.483.7738

HAY LINER
HAY TRAILERS

MODELS AVAILABLE:

- 32' Bumper Pull • 32' Gooseneck
- 37' Gooseneck • 42' Gooseneck



ALL TRAILERS COME STANDARD WITH:

- 7000lb Brake Axles
- Break Away Kit
- 235/85/R16 14 Ply Radials
- LED Lighs
- Enclosed Wiring Harness
- 12,000 lb Spring Loaded Jack
- Primed with Rust Inhibitive Primer and Top Coat of Acrylic Enamel for Long Paint Life




MY PRECISION AG LTD.



Expert Advice, Extraordinary Service

Matthew Yanick • Rocanville, SK/Virden, MB • 306-434-6909



Harvest Sale Pricing

Save up to 10% off our harvest products including MAD Concaves, Bushel Plus Smart-Pans and Mini Combines, DuckFoot paddle tines, guidance and yield systems, Precision Cam cameras and more!

Jeff Brown • Carlyle, SK • 306-575-9050

- Precision Farming Displays
- Autosteer Systems
- Application Control Systems
- And more!



CONTACT MATT OR JEFF AT
matt@myprecisionag.ca • jeff@myprecisionag.ca
www.myprecisionag.ca
www.facebook.com/MyPrecisionAg

Penner TRAILERS

We now do TRAILER SAFETIES

- HOURS -
Monday - Friday 8:00am-5:30pm
Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm



\$42,995 + Tax



Over 300 New Trailers in Stock, including Car-Haulers, Flat Deck, Gooseneck, Utility, Cargo, and Stock Trailers. As well as a large inventory of trailer parts and accessories. We offer complete trailer services performed by qualified technicians. Services include fifth-wheel and Gooseneck installations, bumper hitch installations, brake control installations, trailer repairs, modifications, welding repairs, and custom built axles.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE

1620 1ST STREET NORTH BRANDON, MB **SALES | SERVICE | PARTS | RENTALS** PHONE: 204.808.8088 PENNERTRAILERS.CA



Left: Lance Strong stands with some of the daily pull awaiting the extractor machine in the shop at B. Strong Apiaries.

Above: One of the many B. Strong Apiaries bee yards in the Rocanville area.

Harvest in full swing for local beekeepers

ES3 Continued from page B5

"We definitely try to get a lot more family time in during the winter season to make up for our busy season," Strong said.

Industry challenges

Strong grew up in the bee business, having slowly taking the reins from his father over the past 12 years. While his dad enjoys quasi-retirement, the father and son often make time for a morning coffee to shoot the breeze, or for advice on operations.

"It's nice to talk bees with my dad over a game of crib and a beer!" Strong said with a laugh.

There's not a large number of new producers entering the industry in the province right now. One reason Strong can think of is continued low prices. It's certainly not a 'get rich quick' type of scenario, but he's confident in the incremental upward trend of newcomers.

"It's not dying out, just slowly growing out," Strong said.

According to 2023 numbers from Agriculture Canada, there are 1,308 beekeepers across Saskatchewan, representing 8.6 per cent of total producers in the industry across the country. That's an increase of about 200 producers since 2019, but it's a rising number nonetheless.

As with any product, markets are key. "Right now, it's favourable to contract to businesses like a Co-op, but that's because prices are low," Strong said. "There's a lot of honey out there in the world right now, people are having a hard time getting rid of honey right now."

An oversupply is not the only problem producers are grappling with, it's a market flooded with inferior product offered

cheaply to consumers.

"I think one of the biggest things our industry faces is fraudulent honey," Strong said. "There's a lot of honey moving around that's not really honey, it's cut with corn syrup or other products. It floods the market and drives down the price."

"That's frustrating, I think especially for Canadian producers," Strong continued. "We have pretty tight regulations to follow in our country, and as you know, with any other industry in Canada, there's a lot of regulation going on. So it's frustrating when you can get undercut from other countries not held to the same standards."

As with other commodities, the honey market is dictated more from other countries, akin to grain prices fluctuating along with global whims.

Another ongoing challenge for honey producers across the board is labour. Many places employ people from outside Canada through the federal Temporary Foreign Worker program, which doesn't quite align with beekeeping operations. The program favours employers to fill positions with local workers first, requiring many hoops to jump through before allowing a TFW to fill the position. But the actual work is seasonal, with heavy lifting and working in an often hot environment—requirements that many job seekers will bypass right away in favour of more lucrative ventures.

"I get what they're trying to do, but it just doesn't translate to real life," said Strong, who currently has 10 TFW's on his team—some who have been returning for the past 16 years. "We're blessed to have them, they're the hardest workers you'll ever meet."

Before the TFW program, labour resources were comprised of whoever lived

on the farm and maybe a few eager teenagers looking for work over the summer.

"I can employ Canadians for six to eight months, maybe, and that's it," Strong said. "I get why they want something full time."

As for issues affecting the bees themselves, Strong pointed to a small mite that's caused big problems.

"Our biggest thing healthwise as far as bees go is the Varroa mite," he said. "It's a little mite that lives externally on the bee, it's visible with the naked eye. It's basically kind of like a wood tick for bees; It

feeds off their blood and spreads viruses."

The Varroa mite was actually part of a perfect storm of conditions that saw millions of honey bees killed off across Canada during the 2022-23 winter. Given the mites' fast reproductive cycle, a colony can become overwhelmed anywhere between six months and two years.

For the time being, Strong and his team will continue their daily routine of pulling, stacking, extracting, and packaging, all to provide consumers with high-quality Saskatchewan honey.

 A man in a cowboy hat and dark jacket leans on a wooden fence. The background shows a rural landscape with a field and a fence.

Thank you to all of our hardworking farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses!

Daryl Harrison
MLA for Cannington

canningtonconstituency@sasktel.net • (306) 443-4400

 A collage of farm-related images including cows, horses, chickens, and puppies. A central white box contains the company logo and contact information.

Masterfeeds
an **Altech** company

Sold Here

Redfern
FARM SERVICES LTD.

Mineral - Supplements - Salt - More

Virden MB 204-748-1122

 A man in a blue shirt and cap stands in a farm setting, feeding a cow. A large white box with blue text is overlaid on the left side.

FARMING
Because the world needs **REAL FOOD!**

 A small portrait of a man in a suit and glasses.

Dr. Robert Kitchen MP
Souris-Moose Mountain

1-866-249-4697 • www.drrobertkitchen.ca

USask's CDC brings thousands of jobs, billions of dollars

Continued from Page B4

It's the genetic blueprint, if you want to call it. CDC scientists have been up-front and leaders in generating those genomic fingerprints that can then be used to improve the efficiency, precision and speed of plant breeding activities so that we can deliver the very best varieties to growers as quickly as possible.

You explain the research done at CDC as "deliberate, bold and strategic," and as you've mentioned, spanning from the lab to the farmer's field, and you're literally in the field right now! Is this a key component of the overall success?

Absolutely. I call it the Innovation Pipeline, where we conduct basic research, that site generation of scientific knowledge, then we work to translate that to first validate it—obviously important to validate science—and then translate that in the field into field-ready cultivars that are adopted by growers.

There are many examples of the varieties that have been developed at the Crop Development Centre where the idea was started in a research lab, and there was extensive study, genetic study, and graduate student training, generating that knowledge within that flowed directly into the breeding program to develop new cultivars. So an Innovation Pipeline is something that's quite unique at the centre where we're connected from the beginning to the end.

Obviously, what I mean by 'strategic and deliberate' is that our growers and our stakeholders that support our breeding programs, they signal, they communicate to us their priorities. Farmers are telling us, 'we want more yield,' and 'we want standability and good disease resistance.' The customers and market are telling us, 'we want good quality, nutritious, and sustainable product.' So plant breeding sort of integrates all of that to develop the final product that maximizes the agronomic performance—the disease resistance, as well as the marketability—all of these things are important for success.

I call that the Three Pillars of Plant Breeding. Yield is profitability, and then you need stability of performance, which is where resistance to heat, droughts, insects, and disease comes in to make sure that the yield is stable. And then the marketability piece—you can produce a lot of grain, but if you can't sell it, it doesn't translate into profitability. So those three pillars are really important, and really the focus of a lot of the research and plant breeding that we do.

Looking towards the future, is there any sign of this rapid pace slowing?

Our mandate is to grow the centre more than it is and keep up the momentum that started way back in 1971. We're big users of the latest and most modern innovative technologies that are available to plant breeding, such as genomic tools and digital phenotyping, drones, and computer-based decision making software and integrating all of those with field-based testing. So we're quite an innovative group.

I see no signs of slowing anytime soon. As I said, we're working and implementing a sustainable and bold and strategic growth plan that will keep the western Canadian farmers productive, sustainable and profitable in the long term.

It's so amazing that we have this here in Saskatchewan.

It's just a great success story. Success is really the result of good people that are committed to the vision and mission of the centre to be bold and to develop the very best varieties for western Canadian agriculture. Equally important is our stakeholders, our funders that come and invest in the good work that we do, in particular, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, who's a fantastic supporter of the CDC and the work that we do.

So it's the people, it's the stakeholders, all believing in and pushing forward a common vision and mission to really keep us at the leading edge of technology in new varieties that are produced in a sustainable way. We're just all very ex-

cited about the impact that we have, and I'm looking forward to keeping that momentum going.

Right: Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), the director of the CDC.



ARNDT ACRES (DENNIS ARNDT)
TIMED ONLINE FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION
AUGUST 9, 2024 ARCOLA, SK
 Directions from Arcola: 10 miles South on HWY #604, 2 miles east on TWP RD #64 and 1/2 mile south on RNGE Rd 32041

Sale Opens: Friday, August 9, 2024 at 8:00am
Sale Closes: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 10:00am

JOHN DEERE 9430 4WD TRACTOR

- 4368 Hours
- Powershift
- 5 Hydraulics Plus Return
- 800/70R38 Duals



#RW9430P010345

JOHN DEERE 9660 STS SP COMBINE
 & JOHN DEERE 615 PICK-UP HEADER

- 2083/3173 Sep/Engine Hours
- Hopper Extension & Cover
- Crop Saver Pick-Up Attachment



#H09660S721602

JOHN DEERE 4730 SP SPRAYER


- 2062 Hours
- JD Starfire 3000 Receiver & JD 2630 Display
- 650/65R-38 Tires



#1N04730XJD0024421

1998 MACK E7-427 TANDEM AXLE GRAIN TRUCK

- 9 Speed Manual
- Remote Hoist & Endgate
- 1.03M kms



#1M2A18Y8W079923

WESTWARD 9250 SP SWATHER
 & MACDON 963 30FT DRAPER HEADER


- Single Knife Drive
- Free Form Swath Roller
- Cummins Engine



#159228-2004

JOHN DEERE 9430 4WD TRACTOR
 & JD 726 FRONT END LOADER

- 12,850 Hours
- 2 Hydraulics
- 18.4-38 Duals



#4430W005214R

FOR VIEWING CONTACT: Dennis Arndt 306-577-1637

Saskatchewan agriculture helps feed the world and helps fuel our province's growth.

Thank you to our agriculture community for the enormous contribution you make!

Steven Bonk,

MLA

MOOSOMIN CONSTITUENCY

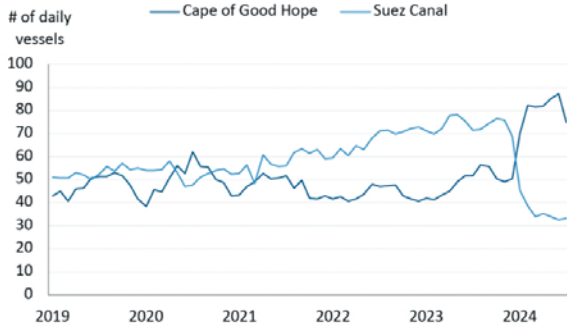
Phone: 306-435-4005

622 Main St.
 Moosomin, SK



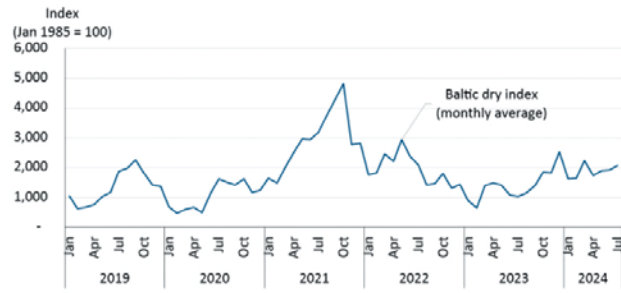
TO VIEW, REGISTER & BID
 visit www.mackauctioncompany.com
 or phone 306-421-2097





Sources: UN Global Platform, IMF PortWatch

Figure 1: Red Sea conflict impacting global shipping routes.



Sources: Bloomberg, FCC calculations

Figure 2: Baltic dry index has trended higher in the last year.

Global shipping bottlenecks and Canadian agriculture

LEIGH ANDERSON
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

Nobody likes to take a major detour on their summer road trip or hail a taxi during rush hour. For most Canadians it's not a pleasant experience especially when timelines are tight. But this is akin to what's going on in the global shipping sector.

Global shipping capacity has been reduced due to detours around Africa from the ongoing unrest in the Red Sea (Figure 1). Currently, there are too few ships to haul containers and the primary reason is because of the closure of the Red Sea (Suez Canal) shipping lanes. Ships are having to travel 30-40% further to reach their destinations and this requires more ships to achieve the same tonnage hauled. In addition, the rerouting of vessels around Africa (Cape of Good Hope) negatively impacts global shipping times and port scheduling, causing port congestion in Asia as ships missed scheduled arrivals. Low water levels in the Panama Canal as well as bad weather and labour issues at key ports have made the problem worse for global transportation.

Those transportation bottlenecks have pushed up ocean freight rates over the last year. The Baltic dry index, a global measure of dry bulk freight prices, has doubled over the past year (Figure 2) while the world container index has more than tripled. Global freight rates in recent years have been volatile. While freight costs have risen in 2024, prices remain lower than in 2021 when shipping costs reached record levels. Most of Canada's exports head to destinations that do not require the Panama or Suez canals, but higher global freight rates do impact Canadian agricultural and agri-food producers and exporters. The consequences of increasing freight rates go beyond those involved in actually moving goods; higher shipping rates could feed into higher consumer prices and potentially disrupt the steady progress being made on tackling inflation.

The discrepancy in some freight rates depends on the commodity hauled (bulk versus container) and the destination. Outbound containers from Asia are facing higher rates than inbound goods. The North America to Asia route is tradition-

ally cheaper but in recent months those prices have also started to rise. Canadian freight rates out of the west Coast remain favourable meaning the impact to Canadian agriculture and food has so far been minimal (Figure 3). West coast grain freight rates have averaged approximately USD \$32 per tonne in 2024, up from USD \$28 per tonne during the same period in 2023. For comparisons the Shanghai container index has risen from an average approximate value of USD \$980 to USD \$2,500 per twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) in this year.

Positive developments on the horizon

Red Sea detours around Africa are not expected to end anytime soon. However, there are reasons to be optimistic about easing global port congestions over the coming weeks. For starters, global shipping companies and their customers are adapting scheduling and arrivals to the new operating environment. To catch up on schedules some large ships were then reloaded on smaller ships to continue to final destinations. While this may have caused short term disruptions at Asian ports, the strategy is likely to improve overall supply chain performance going forward.

Adding to the good news is the fact that water levels at the Panama Canal are reportedly returning to normal faster than expected, courtesy of recent rainfall in the region. As a result, daily transits are now increasing, and are likely to hit 35 next month which is near the historical average of 36 (Figure 4).

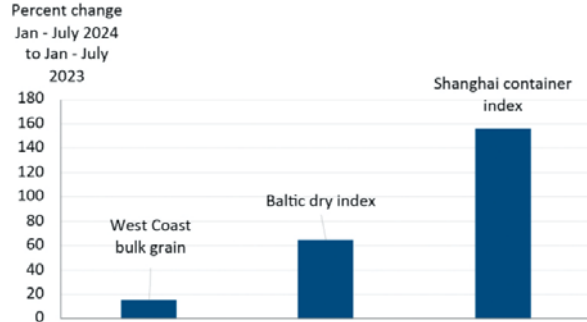
Fuel prices remain a wildcard

While things seem to be moving in the right direction with regards to freight costs, it's worth pointing out that there's still a lot of uncertainty. Fuel prices remain a wildcard considering they tend to respond to changes in oil prices and also to changes in inventory, which can be volatile. These inventories reflect the balance between supply and demand. For instance, this month's U.S.

crude oil inventories are down 19% relative to the last five Julys. Gasoline inventories are within historical levels while distillate inventories are approximately 9% lower (Figure 5). Fuel price reaction to changes in inventory also reflect how they compare to market expectations.

Continued on page B13

Right: Figure 3: Foreign freight rates versus West coast freight rates.



Sources: USDA, Bloomberg, Trading Economics, FCC calculations

DK
40-58 HP

20 SERIES

0% UP TO 72
FINANCING* MONTHS

OR

\$6450
CASH BACK* (T-L-B)

OR

FREE
LOADER*

Purchase a CS, CX, CK, DK, DKSE, NX or NS Series KIOTI tractor and receive a FREE Loader*

Universe
satellite sales

520 Railway Ave | Rocanville, SK.

306.645.2669

www.universesatellite.com

*Offer available June 1, 2024 - August 31, 2024. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in CAD dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DLI or Sheffield using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. 6 Year Warranty for Non-Commercial, residential use only. 6 Year Warranty applies to CS, CX, CK10, CK20, DK10, DK20, NS and NX model KIOTI tractors and must be purchased and registered between September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2024. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. © 2024 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daewoo-CANADA, Inc.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL 2024 SALES ONLINE BIDDING

Check our website often for updates and more sales!!!



15 AUGUST Sheldon Rapley
Kenton, MB



17 AUGUST Larry Dyck
Newdale, MB



18 AUGUST Pre-Harvest Consignment
Brandon, MB



fraserauction.com For complete details and to sign up for online bidding.



FRASER AUCTION SERVICE P: 204-727-2001 | TF: 1-800-483-5856 | Email: office@fraserauction.com | Brandon, MB
Like us Fraser Auction Service Ltd. | Follow us @fraserauction
O/O Scott Campbell / Lori Campbell / Jesse Campbell | Licensed and bonded. P.L. License #918093. Member of M.A.A., S.A.A., A.A.A., A.A.C.

USask establishes Jarislowsky and BMO Chair in Regenerative Agriculture

Continued from page B7

Understanding how diversification can tighten the N cycle for sustainable soil management and regenerative agriculture is a major focus. Congreves' work explores the controls on soil N transformations, plant N uptake, and N losses, and is aimed at better understanding the flow of N and its cycling in diversified agroecosystems.

Congreves joined USask in 2017 and leads an internationally recognized research program focused on sustainable agriculture and horticulture with an emphasis on diversified field crop and vegetable crop production systems. She specializes in soil health measurement and management, nitrogen cycling and use efficiency, and greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation. Congreves is an award-winning researcher and serves USask as a Sustainability Faculty Fellow.

The chair's research will be supported by the BMO Soil Analytical Lab at USask, recently established to help alleviate a critical bottleneck in digital agriculture research and providing key analytical capabilities for research in regenerative agriculture.

About USask: The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is located in Saskatoon on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis. Research, teaching and learning at USask are enhanced by its



Dr. Kate Congreves (PhD) has been appointed the Jarislowsky and BMO Chair in Regenerative Agriculture at USask.

array of world-class centres and facilities. A range of excellent programs, from business, law, and public policy to engineering, agriculture, medicine and veterinary medicine, positions USask to bring unique perspectives to key global challenges. USask has launched the largest campaign in the province's

history to raise \$500M to tackle the world's most pressing issues through leading critical research, supporting Indigenous achievement, inspiring students to succeed, and designing visionary spaces. With more than 25,700 students from around the globe, well-recognized experts, and the support of

our strong community of champions, together we will be what the world needs.

About the Jarislowsky Foundation: The Jarislowsky Foundation was founded in 1991 by Stephen A. Jarislowsky, a prominent Canadian philanthropist and business leader. The foundation's

mission is to promote, support and foster excellence and ethics in education, medicine and the arts, and the environment and climate change. The foundation has 48 research chairs in areas of democracy, governance, public sector management, environment and climate change, Canadian art, and health across

Canada. The foundation supports programs that allow students from diverse backgrounds to discuss contemporary issues with mentors and recognized experts. These programs aim to develop students' critical thinking skills so that they become leaders with strategic vision and thinking. The Jarislowsky Foundation supports more than 80 organizations a year in the arts and culture, hospital foundations, the community sector and climate change. The Jarislowsky Foundation now donates approximately \$10 million per year.

About BMO Financial Group: BMO Financial Group is the eighth largest bank in North America by assets, with total assets of \$1.4 trillion as of April 30, 2024. Serving customers for 200 years and counting, BMO is a diverse team of highly engaged employees providing a broad range of personal and commercial banking, wealth management, global markets, and investment banking products and services to 13 million customers across Canada, the United States, and in select markets globally. Driven by a single purpose, to Boldly Grow the Good in business and life, BMO is committed to driving positive change in the world, and making progress for a thriving economy, sustainable future, and inclusive society.

Christina Weese photo

INTRODUCTORY PRICING

4M - \$3,799
8M - \$5,999

Exclusively Available At

VIRDENAG & PARTS

560 Commonwealth Drive, Virden
Tel: (204) 748-4469
virdenag.ca

Introductory pricing while current supply lasts

INTERNET ACCESS ANYWHERE
ZTE CONNECT HUB 5G

- WI-FI THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE
- GREAT FOR SECURITY CAMERAS & CALVING MONITORS
- FAST ACTIVATION
- PORTABLE
- AFFORDABLE
- RELIABLE

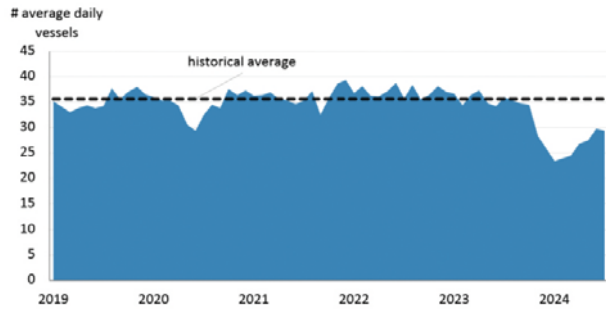
SO UPFRONT WITH MONTHLY PLAN
PLUS PRICING ON A 2-YEAR CONTRACT

COME SEE US OR GIVE A CALL FOR DETAILS

Today's ENTERPRISE

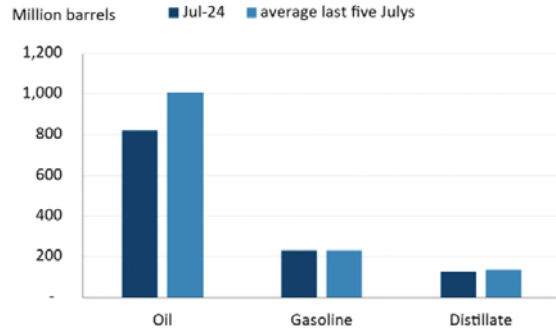
Furniture & Electronics
27 RAILWAY AVE.
REDVERS, SK
306.452.6309

SaskTel
AUTHORIZED DEALER



Sources: UN Global Platform, IMF PortWatch

Figure 4: Panama Canal daily transits trending towards normal levels.



Sources: U.S. EIA, FCC calculations

Figure 5. U.S. crude oil and fuel July inventory relative to the last five July's.

Global shipping bottlenecks and Canadian agriculture

Continued from page B10

The lower-than-average inventories could be supportive of oil prices over the near term, although we're not anticipating a surge anytime soon amid a still-dull global economic outlook. Indeed, we are expecting oil prices to average slightly above USD \$80 per barrel in 2025, not far from current levels. That's not to say there won't be any volatility. Oil prices will fluctuate depending on news that impacts supply or demand (e.g. hurricane season, escalation of conflict on the Red Sea, and U.S. economic trends) but any volatility is expected to be short lived with prices reverting to our projected trend over the forecast period.

Bottom line

Global shipping bottlenecks appear to be easing, which suggests that ocean freight costs may be heading down over the coming weeks. Fuel costs, however, remain a

wildcard, and could potentially derail this downtrend, although at this point we're not expecting a major surge amid a weak global economic outlook. Perhaps the most significant risk related to transportation cost for Canadian agriculture and food is the possibility of strike action that could potentially curb activities at railways and ports. Contingency planning for Canadian exporters remains important to minimize any related disruptions.

Biofuel expansion set to grow market for Canadian oilseeds

JUSTIN SHEPHERD
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

Canadians filling up their fuel tanks as they head out for summer road trips may not think about it, but biofuels – such as ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel – help make the fun possible. Biofuels are blended with fossil fuels to produce the liquid that powers vehicles. Blending biofuels with fossil fuels can help improve fuel quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The drivers for biofuel demand and supply in Canada are influenced by federal and provincial policies as well as global factors – especially what happens in the United States. In the last five years multiple major corporations have announced plans to invest and expand biofuel production capacity. Even if some of these plans do not move

through to completion, North American biofuel production is set to grow in the upcoming years. That's bullish for Canadian oilseed producers.

Productivity is key for ethanol plants while renewable diesel capacity grows

Ethanol holds the title for largest biofuel produced (by volume) in the world. This is true in Canada as well where plants produce nearly 150 million litres of ethanol per month (Figure 1). In recent years, there have been no new ethanol plants built. However, production has increased over time as the existing plants focus on improving productivity by squeezing additional drops of ethanol from each tonne of grain. Canadian ethanol plants also produce small volumes of

undenatured ethanol, used in applications like cleaning products and hand sanitizer (not included in this data).

Up to the end of 2023, biodiesel made up the majority of the fuel falling under the 'other renewable fuels' category in the chart above. The future, though, is in renewable diesel. There are two major reasons why. First, renewable diesel can generate higher carbon credit prices in North America compared to biodiesel. Second, renewable diesel's chemistry is similar to traditional diesel and thus can be swapped out with ease. Earlier this year, new renewable diesel plants came online and immediately doubled Canada's monthly production of 'other renewable fuels'.

Continued on page B17



WOLVERINE DAYS 2024

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2024!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 35th ANNIVERSARY
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION AND RANGE EVENT
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!!

FIREARMS // OPTICS // AMMO // ACCESSORIES USED & CONSIGNMENTS



**#1 RIVER VALLEY ROAD
VIRDEN, MB**

sales@wolverinesupplies.com/204-748-2454/www.wolverinesupplies.com



We make it last

Build a better tomorrow.

Join us to engineer tomorrow's farming
vaderstad.com/ca-en/careers

New sclerotinia tool helps growers assess disease risk and severity

Growers and agronomists looking for help in making sclerotinia spray decisions this summer will have access to a new online tool from the Canola Council of Canada. Available at CanolaCalculator.ca, the sclerotinia risk assessment tool offers both a recommendation about whether or not to spray a canola crop (at 20-50 per cent flower) based on several inputs from the user, along with an opportunity to assess the spray decision by rating sclerotinia severity at maturity (30-60 per cent seed colour change).

The second part of the tool is an economic calculator to provide an estimated return on a fungicide application based on different scenarios. These include percent of infection, fungicide cost, expected yield and market price.

"These new tools are designed to help growers and agronomists make timely, informed decisions on whether a foliar fungicide application is advised," said Chris Manchur, CCC agronomy specialist and lead on sclerotinia stem rot. "Farmers have a lot of choices to make throughout the growing season. It's very exciting to put this new technology in their hands to help simplify decision making and assess potential impacts on productivity and profitability."

Sclerotinia stem rot is one of the most economically significant canola diseases in Canada. Caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, the disease is heavily influenced by environmental conditions leading up to and during the flowering period of canola. Assessing the environment can make it difficult to predict outbreaks and make the decision to spray. That is where the tool comes in.



Sclerotinia stem rot photo that shows early infection on leaves. Growers will want to spray shortly after canola starts to flower and before infection starts, so timing for this article is this week or next week.

The tool also includes a helpful resource library which hosts images, videos and other educational materials, serving as a valuable knowledge hub supporting growers and agronomists in sclerotinia management.

These tools were built following three years of collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and extensive testing with agronomist partners and are an evolution of the sclerotinia stem rot checklist that growers and agronomists have relied on for years. The project was funded in part by the Government of Canada under the previous Canadian Agricultural Partnership - AgriScience Program, along with support from Alberta Canola, SaskCanola and Manitoba Canola Growers.

PRAIRIE-WIDE & HOME GROWN

After 110 years in the business, you probably know the P&H name — but you might not know everything those letters stand for. With over 30 agribusiness locations in Western Canada, including flour and feed mills, we have the best seed, inputs, marketing and agronomic support for you. P&H is built to keep your farm business Profitable & Healthy.

FIND YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS AT PARRISHANDHEIMBECKER.COM

You could be sitting on a **GOLD MINE!**

presenting an EXCLUSIVE Market-Linked GIC for a LIMITED TIME

6.96%

MAXIMUM ANNUAL RETURN

Market-Linked GICs offer the best of both worlds - a guarantee on your original investment and a potentially higher return than regular GICs.

Call your local Sunrise branch for more information.

sunrise.mb.ca



Myrna Drake accepting the award on behalf of her late husband Hugh Drake at the induction ceremony in Winnipeg on July 17.



Hugh's family at the induction ceremony on July 17. From left are Coralee Rozak, Wes Rozak, Rod Frederick, Danny Drake, Myrna Drake, Darwin Drake, Darlene Bowden and Brian Bowden (missing).

Hugh Drake of Elkhorn inducted into Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame

On July 17, Elkhorn's Hugh Drake was posthumously inducted into the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame.

The ceremony was held at Exhibition Place at Red River Exhibition Park in Winnipeg, with a number of Hugh's family attending to accept the induction on his behalf.

Hugh Frederic Drake was born on March 18, 1944 in Elkhorn, Manitoba, and passed away on December 26, 2023. In 1904, Hugh's grandfather, Frederic moved to a farm outside Elkhorn where Hugh grew up farming with his dad. He married Myrna, and today, their two sons Darwin and Dwayne run a 17,000-acre grain, oilseed and livestock operation.

Hugh's grandson Danny is the fifth generation on the Drake farm and operates a forage harvester business as well as farms with the family. In 2004 the Drake family celebrated being a century farm, 100 years working together on the family farm.

Hugh attended Elkhorn High School and dedicated most of his life to service on various boards within the agriculture industry in Manitoba. He served on the Elkhorn Board of MPE for 28 years and became a delegate for Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1980.

The nineties brought the start of a period of unprecedented change to the grain handling industry as well as to farm input supply dealers. The days of having a grain elevator in every town to deliver grain and buy fertilizer and chemical were rapidly coming to an end.

Management and boards of directors were making tough but necessary decisions to close hundreds of smaller elevators and build a small number of large inland terminals. This would require substantial trucking for most producers and many rail line abandonments also caused further small elevator closures and a massive increase of heavy traffic on the road infrastructure.

As a member of the board of directors of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Hugh was often responsible for attending meetings to deliver welcomed news as well as the challenges that come in telling local boards that their elevators would be closing. Obviously, like most changes, many people were not happy and possibly apprehensive of what the future held for their businesses.

The period of change had only begun in the early nineties and by the mid-nineties it was clear to the board that with more multi national companies entering Western Canada and building large facilities, that Manitoba Pool Elevators must get larger in order to compete. The board had more tough decisions to make regarding mergers and acquisition.

Finally, in 1998, Manitoba Pool Elevators merged with Alberta Wheat Pool to form Agricore. Only one board of directors would be required and Hugh stayed on when the new board was formed so the value that both boards thought that he brought to the table was clear, especially during the merger negotiations.

The new board was tasked with an additional challenge in the fall of 1999 when the Grain Services Union decided to go on strike during negotiations for a new agreement to replace the existing agreements each previous company had in place. After months of negotiations and a month strike, the two sides reached an agreement in December.

By 2001, more mergers and consolidations were in the wind. The board decided to merge Agricore with United Grain Growers to form Agricore United. More head office and board member positions were cut again, but Hugh was kept on the new board after the company was formed and became the largest grain handling and farm supply company in Western Canada.

While at Agricore United, Hugh served on the Human Resources, Risk Review and Agriculture Policy Committees and worked to represent farmers during a difficult takeover. Hugh was also instrumental on the board in taking the company public. It traded on the TSX under the symbol "AU," limited voting common shares, convertible nine per cent debentures and series "A" preferred shares.

November 2006, the company became the target of



Hugh Drake

takeover bids from Sask Pool and Richardson. Archer Daniels Midland were also buying shares in AU as well. Sask Pool made several initial offers which Hugh and the rest of the board voted against. Intense negotiations were ongoing for months and in February 2007 the board announced a merger arrangement to form a new publicly traded company to be known as Richardson Pioneer subject to shareholder agreement.

In the months that followed, both Sask Pool and JRI continued raising their bids until eventually an all cash bid of \$20.50 per share or \$1.8 billion total from Sask Pool was accepted when 81 per cent of the voting shares were tendered including all the ADM shares. This marked the end of the Agricore United board and the beginning of the new company Viterra which would have all Sask Pool management on their board.

For 14 years Hugh served as a director with three different grain companies. During this time Hugh also sat on the Heartland Livestock board, an amalgamation of Manitoba Pool Elevators and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool livestock markets. While Hugh was on the board of Heartland Livestock, the board built a new auction barn at Virden, Manitoba which remains operational today.

Hugh dedicated decades of his life to helping these companies succeed and while doing so managed a large family farming operation. Hugh was proud to have the family farm going into its fifth generation.

In the late 80's Hugh participated in the provincial debt review board and played an active role assisting farmers in financial crisis. In 1993 Hugh completed the 20th Farm Leaders course in Winnipeg. This course concentrated on the grain industry. He also received his

Farm Business Management certificate in 1988 from Assiniboine Community College, as well as the Management of Leadership Program certificate from the University of Calgary in 1999. Hugh received the Institute of Corporate Director Designation from the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary in 2005.

In 2008, Hugh became treasurer of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association. He was a member of the board for six years actively supporting canola research, and promoting the health benefits of canola oil and the advantages of canola meal in livestock feed. At the same time Hugh was a director with the Manitoba Flax Growers Association (MFGA) for eight years. Hugh was on the executive committee for most of his time on the MFGA board, and helped with the amalgamation from MFGA to the Manitoba Crop Alliance in 2020.

During this time Hugh was also a member of the Wasagaming Foundation, operator of the Camp Wannakumbac program at the Riding Mountain Conference Centre in Clear Lake. Hugh was the chairman of the board. Camp Wannakumbac is supported partially by donations of corporate entities, and is a place for kids to make friends, have fun and learn.

Hugh's peers described him as an influential leader, great listener, and advocate with a calm demeanor. He was active on a number of boards during trying times in Manitoba, and worked hard to represent the best interests of his organization and farmers. When asked about his favourite experience serving on these various agriculture boards throughout Manitoba, his response was the people he and his wife met. The friends they made along the way and kept in contact with for most of his later years is what he enjoyed most.

Reach of thousands of local readers each month when you advertise in

AG NEWS

Mailed to 10,000 households, farm and business boxes every month in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Upcoming Issues

August 26, 2024

Deadline: August 22, 2024

September 30, 2024

Deadline: September 26, 2024

October 28, 2024

Deadline: October 24, 2024

Reaching 25 communities including larger communities such as Moosomin, Virden, Esterhazy, Langenburg, Carlyle, Redvers, Carnduff, Oxbow, Rocanville, Whitewood, Kipling, Wawola, Elkhorn, Melita, and Reston

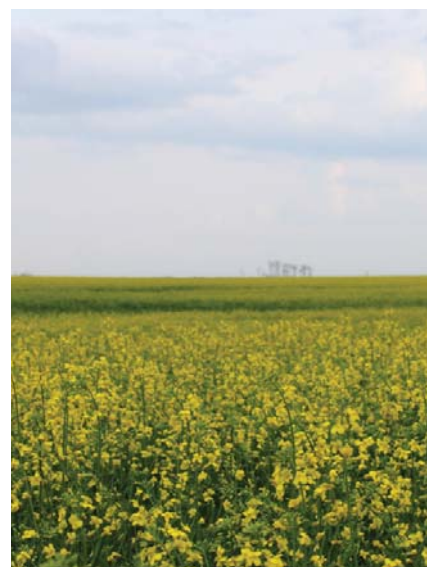
AG NEWS
306-435-2445
world_spectator@sasktel.net
www.world-spectator.com/ag-news



Canola in full bloom

Sunnette Kamffer Photos

Sunnette Kamffer captured beautiful photos of canola in full bloom in a field near Moosomin recently.



Biofuel expansion set to grow market for Canadian oilseeds

Continued from page B13

Biofuels are making up a larger percentage of finished fuels

Canadian fuel blenders have continued to increase the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline over time. While federal and provincial blend mandates contribute to this, ethanol is also a relatively cheap fuel enhancer as it helps to raise the octane in finished gasoline. The most recent data point in April shows that ethanol now accounts for 10% of finished motor gasoline, a new high (Figure 2). This data includes exported fuels as well so we cannot say for certain where it is all consumed, but the trend is on point and Canadian consumers continue to use higher blends of ethanol in gasoline.

Going forward, the percentage of ethanol in gasoline will continue to increase to meet compliance with provincial and federal mandates. It's unclear, however, if the rise in ethanol consumption can be sustained, especially considering the electrification of the automotive sector. With 100% of new light duty vehicles sales set to be zero emission by 2035, eventually the total demand for motor gasoline will start to shrink and, even with higher blends of ethanol, there could be lower total demand for the biofuel.

The demand for biodiesel and renewable diesel blended into diesel are heavily influenced by seasonality in Canada. Biodiesel has strict limitations on its use in winter due to cold weather viscosity issues. Blending during winter falls to near zero before ramping up in summertime, reaching nearly 4% of the

diesel blend. Renewable diesel does not suffer from the same limitations and can be used throughout the year. Looking ahead, more renewable diesel production in North America will allow for more consistent year-round blending which should increase the total biofuel percentage blended in diesel.

Vegetable oils are the primary input to biodiesel and renewable diesel

In Canada, increased renewable diesel production is being supplied primarily by vegetable oils so far, up 51% through the first four months of the year (Figure 3). Fats, tallow, and greases are often preferred as a feedstock/input due to their lower carbon score, but supplies are constrained in Canada. Rather than importing these products, renewable diesel plants are using domestically crushed canola or soybean oil.

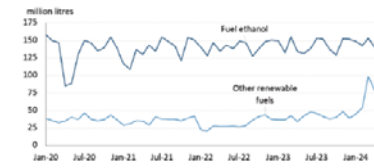
In the U.S., current biofuel tax structures and new credits coming into effect in 2025 via the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act are driving demand for inputs, including Canadian

canola oil. Nearly 1.4 million metric tonnes of canola oil were exported to the U.S. in just the first four months of the year, putting 2024 on track for a record annual tally (Figure 4). The new policy will shift to a producer tax credit, meaning only U.S. production of biodiesel or renewable diesel will be eligible to collect it, potentially harming Canadian biofuel exports. For now, however, canola oil producers are taking advantage of the increased demand to fill U.S. capacity and, as a result, we can expect the majority of oil to flow south.

Bottom line

Canada's oilseed producers are set to benefit from the boom in biofuels across North America. Rising blend rates in gasoline, coupled with increasing oilseed crush capacity and government support over the coming years will further enhance the sector. That's not to say the industry is without risk. Much depends on U.S. policy not only with regards to renewable fuels but also trade, both of which have potential to squeeze Canadian producers. For now, however, the future looks bright.

Figure 1: Canadian ethanol production is flat while biodiesel and renewable diesel are increasing



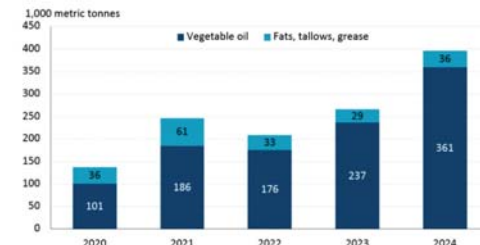
Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 2: Ethanol blend in gasoline continues to trickle upwards while diesel blend is seasonal



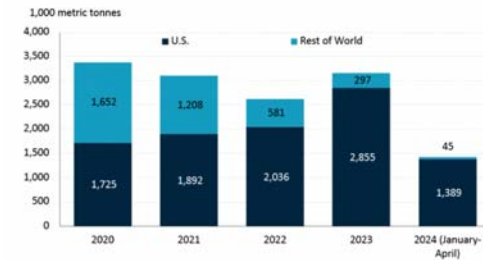
Sources: Statistics Canada, FCC Calculation

Figure 3: Inputs into Canadian biodiesel and renewable diesel production (Jan-Apr)



Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 4: Canadian combined exports of refined and crude canola oil



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application



Redvers
AG & SUPPLY LTD.

BOX 150 (Corner of Hwy 8 & 13)
REDVERS, SK. S0C 2H0

306-452-3444
redvers.agricultural@sasktel.net
www.redvers.ca

Your local
Kubota
Dealer



Kubota

HAYING PARTS IN STOCK

We Carry :
Knives
Sections
Guards



Bumper to Bumper
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE

ROCANVILLE, SK
306-645-2112

LANGENBURG, SK
306-743-2332

Positivity on the state of ag financing

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

With all the challenges facing the provincial agriculture industry, one might expect the financing side of things to be doom and gloom as well. Input and equipment costs never seem to level out or decrease, they only follow an upward trend. Monetary demands placed on producers seem to squeeze tighter more than ever.

Trevor Hanley, Director of Business Banking, Sales, and Advice with Conexus Credit Union has a different outlook. Hanley broke the ice with producers at the Ag in Motion event in Langham, handing out water bottles and hearing their concerns. Discussion topics included interest rates, equipment, land, commodity prices, building a solid financial future, and perhaps the biggest question of all: succession planning.

Taking a break from keeping people hydrated, Hanley spoke with Ag News about his more optimistic outlook and the overall state of financing in Saskatchewan.

I hear you were driving in a cart, handing out some water—has Ag in Motion inspired a possible career change to the H₂O industry?

Not exactly! It's something we've been doing now for a couple of years as part of our presence here at Ag in Motion. It is fun to get out and meet lots of people, hand out some water, and this week, we're very popular with it because it's hot!

That's a great way to start off a conversation—a nice icebreaker, one would say! So what are some of the things you've been hearing from producers during Ag in Motion?

For the most part, producers are optimistic about what's in the field. There's a little bit of concern over some of the heat in pockets where they haven't quite had the same amount of moisture, so a little bit of risk of burn off and that kind of thing. But for the most part, people are happy to be here. They're excited about what's in the field, they're excited about the industry, and good things are happening.

I suppose folks are maybe a little hurried because there might be the possibility of an early harvest with all that rain we had earlier.

Potentially in some areas, I would say. Leading up to the last couple of weeks, lots of people were talking about how we need some heat. There's lots of moisture in the ground, but the crops weren't maybe as far along as they should be or folks were a little bit later getting it in because they had so much rain and couldn't finish. It might be a little bit more spread in terms of harvest this year.

It seems to me like producers are facing more challenges now than ever. But you describe the current financial state as 'optimistic'. Could you expand on that?



Conexus employees Leanne Rushton and Trevor Hanley provide water and discuss finances with ag producers at Ag in Motion.

Photo by Michael Chmielewski, Conexus Credit Union

For the most part, the concerns that farmers are facing or the issues that farmers are facing today aren't necessarily new. The tried and true commodity prices, and we've had some good years with commodity prices, certainly cattle prices are doing well. So it's just how producers are so resilient. They tend to look for opportunities to maximize what they're doing, and in spite of the challenges they find a way through.

Credit unions have a long history in this province, especially during those really trying times like the Great Depression. It seems similar to the gamble producers themselves face every year, with the only sure things being a few inches of topsoil and the fact that it rains sometimes. Is that spirit in credit unions still strong?

One hundred per cent. One of the things I can say about Conexus, our purpose is to champion every member's success for a thriving Saskatchewan—that's what it's all about. We stand by our members, we do our best to support them

through the good times and maybe the not so great times. The credit unions were set up just to do that, to support the local guy and help grow communities. We're very proud to be a part of that.

Conexus is also behind the Cultivator incubator and supports ag in Saskatchewan through the Ag Tech Accelerator. Some exciting things happening in ag tech, too!

It's something that is exciting. It's a little bit new and it sure garnered a lot of attention. Some of the conversations I was having yesterday with folks, they maybe come in to have a little bit of a chat, but once they hear that we're involved in Ag Tech and the Cultivator, there's lots of questions and lots of interest in it.

Our ag tech Cultivator folks, they run these 24-hour startups. It is just amazing. They bring ideas, innovators, founders, marketeers, researchers, programmers all together, and in 24 hours, you start with an idea and you end up with a minimum viable product. It's absolutely amazing. And then they pitch these ideas, and it's

substantiated with market research and data and they've got a working template. It's amazing what can be done.

It sounds like the content of a reality TV show!

You're right, it sure does! Play in the grey, that's what it's all about!

Seems to me like it's just such a big launch pad to illustrate how important Saskatchewan is on a global scale, too.

Absolutely. It's amazing the things that get started in little old Saskatchewan that end up impacting the whole world. Producers are also seeing more outside interest in the ag sector than ever before, especially as it relates to ag tech. Cultivator powered by Conexus is the first credit union-led business incubator in Canada, supporting the province through the Ag Tech Accelerator, and that brings agriculture and tech together. The ultimate goal is to accelerate the growth in Canadian ag tech startups to build and solve global problems.

Do you think that has a part to play with Conexus' connection, the fact that you can have the ability to shift and tailor to specific needs?

We do strive to tailor our ag-specific financial solutions for the reality of being a producer in Saskatchewan. We pride ourselves on having good, robust, in-depth conversations to understand the unique issues of every operation and look to provide service and advice to suit individual members. We certainly do our best to support everyone.

I notice a lot of producers are aging out, and it brings about a lot of questions on succession planning. Is that something that you're seeing more often now, those succession conversations?

Succession has been a hot topic for at least the last decade, and probably even longer than that. I want to say that it continues to ramp up in terms of conversations, but it's just a hot topic. There's lots of conversation around it. There's lots of planning that needs to happen. There's lots of information that needs to be shared with both the exiting generation and the entering generation. It's presenting a lot of opportunities for both. It's something we talked to a lot of our members about, and it's going to continue to be a hot topic for the foreseeable future.

I think that's how most newer producers get into taking the reins. It's very difficult to just decide one day, 'I'm going to be a farmer and spend \$5 million to make a million.'

When I talk about the unique circumstances of every operation, that is certainly a great example of it. We work with farmers that are in kind of the twilight years of their farm production and we work with lots that are just getting rolling, and everybody in between. Every circumstance is unique and we try and do our best to tailor our solution and advice to their specific circumstance.

LAWRENCE HEIN

306-434-6485

lawrence_hein@hotmail.com

www.facebook.com/lawrenceheinrenovations



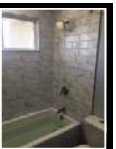
NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

INSURANCE JOBS WELCOMED

Proudly Serving Moosomin & Rocanville & Surrounding Areas!

- Full Exterior Renos
 - Full Interior Renos
 - Custom Decks
 - Drywall Painting
 - Home Maintenance
 - Siding, Soffit & Fascia
 - Tile, Laminate, Hardwood
 - Kitchen Back Splashes
 - Basement Development
 - Custom Showers
- AND MUCH MORE!**

Renovations Handyman Service
Bringing Your Ideas To Life





TIME TO DIG DEEPER



Saskatchewan Potash Grows Communities

Here's a snapshot of the benefits potash mines bring to communities.

AVERAGE SALARY




\$100K per year x 500 employees

= \$50 Million
in wages paid annually

SASKATCHEWAN ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION TAX PAID IN 2022

\$1.2 Billion



PROVINCIAL SALES TAX




\$50 Million

PROPERTY TAX



\$13 Million

PROVINCIAL INCOME TAX



\$6.25 Mil.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT



\$150 Mil.
invested annually per site



↓
Learn more at
timetodigdeeper.com

DODGE CITY DAYS



AUGUST 24TH | 7PM

WAPPELLA, SK

CONCESSION | LIVE BAND | BEER GARDENS

ADULT
\$15.00
(RODEO & CABARET)

STUDENT
\$5.00
(6 & UNDER FREE)

CABARET ONLY
\$10.00
(OVER 19 ONLY)

CASH ONLY - NO ATM AVAILABLE