



A tough harvest

Wet conditions frustrate farmers

BY KARA KINNA

Local farmers have been frustrated this harvest by wet weather that has hampered progress and dropped the grade of some cereal crops.

Soggy field conditions, wet grain, late summer and fall rains, and humid weather have all made for a tough harvest for farmers this year.

Mark McCorrison, who has crops near Moosomin, Rocanville and Fleming, said harvest has been stressful. He said Thursday he was hoping to be half done by the end of that day, but it had been slow going.

"I don't have a single dry bushel of grain on the farm and it's been pretty stressful," he said.

"We finished the wheat a couple days ago and I've had two days of canola harvest now. I have just canola left and I have just over 3,000-3,500 acres to go.

"Bin storage has become a problem for me because local terminals won't take wheat without sending it in for what they call following numbers, which is signs of sprouting that you can't see with the eye, because of the excessive moisture. We are dealing with poor quality wheat and then nobody will take grain that is wet.

"I'm running out of bin space and electricians have had to come out to my farm just because I've never been in the situation where every fan in every bin has to run all at the same time. We've had a couple of stuck combines, the grain cart's been stuck once. With a tougher crop it has been harder on the combine so we've had more maintenance.



Craig Roy submitted this photo of cutting wheat at Spring Creek as part of the World-Spectator's harvest photo contest.

"Compared to last year it has been a harvest from hell."

McCorrison says he's trying to dry his grain out before taking it to the elevator.

"We're running aeration fans, and I own what we call a frost fighter,

and then I also have one rented, so we are pumping hot air out in front of the fan so that there is hot air going through the bin, and my most wet grain, it's trying to put hot air into the bin to help dry it down.

"It's pretty frustrating

because the wheat seems to have low protein this year and also with it being wet, if you do haul it to the elevator, then they knock you for drying charges. It's hard to get much more than \$5.25 a bushel for wheat. Last year I was selling it off the

combine for \$7, so it's a major cut in revenue.

"As for yield, the bushels seems to be there. Both canola and wheat seem to be yielding good, but it's been a real struggle to get it off the field, and now with an inch of rain in the forecast, it's getting to

the point where the yard is finally firming up and the fields are firming up, and then we'll be back to square one again (if we get the rain)."

McCorrison says the elevators won't take any more wet grain.

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Catherine Trask (right) and Xiaoke Zeng study farmers' exposure to body vibrations.

USask researchers look to help farmers live pain-free with the use of mechanical exoskeletons

Up until now, farmers have been suffering in silence.

Which is why Dr. Catherine Trask (PhD), Canada Research Chair in ergonomics and musculoskeletal health at the University of Saskatchewan, told The Western Producer she is taking on the task of determining the suitability of exoskeleton use in agriculture.

In the article, she speaks about how farmers have high rates of back injuries and, according to Canadian Census of Agriculture, the number of back-related injuries is set to rise as farmers age. She says that exoskeletons—a wearable device that acts as a passive lifting structure - can reduce

postural and muscular load while performing manual farm tasks.

"If there was a farmer who was looking to avoid back pain or to avoid a recurrence of back pain, this might be something that could come up on their radar. It's the kind of thing that could be useful," Trask said in an interview with The Western Producer.

Similar technology is already being used in manufacturing and heavy industry contexts. While the team are researching the physical benefits of using the exoskeleton in farming, they will also explore experiences, perceptions and potential barriers to using exoskeleton in farming.

Trask and her team are

looking for 18 volunteer farmers from central Saskatchewan, both male and female, who are over the age of 18 to participate in the study.

"We're looking for all kinds of commodities and really trying to get a range of tasks. We're measuring throughout the 2019 growing season and we're looking for folks involved in grain production, oilseeds, pulses but also ranching," she said.

The study will see participants doing a variety of movement-focused daily activities such as shovelling grain or doing equipment repairs while wearing an exoskeleton equipped with wearable sensors that monitor muscle activity.

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Michael Nickerson, a professor of food and bioproduct sciences at the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

USask-led group awarded \$1.65 M to train young scientists for expanding plant protein industry

BY USASK RESEARCH PROFILE AND IMPACT
An interdisciplinary university group led by University of Saskatchewan researcher Michael Nickerson has been awarded \$1.65 million by the federal granting council NSERC to train a new generation of innovative plant protein scientists to help industry satisfy the exploding worldwide demand for meat alternatives.

Investment in research and training presents a novel and exciting opportunity to leverage our university's expertise and investment in both agricultural research and agri-food and bioproduct development for a sustainable future," said USask Vice-President Research Karen Chad. "By working across disciplines and institutions, and engaging with industry, this innovative project will provide young scientists with

strong technical and leadership skills to advance the expanding protein ingredient industry," she said. Nickerson said global demand for plant protein ingredients is expanding due to population growth, the high cost of animal-derived proteins, and a large group of consumers who've chosen a "flexitarian" diet—mostly vegetarian and meat only occasionally—for ethical and health reasons.

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University and industry benefit from agronomist-in-residence

It has been two and a half years since Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers (MPSG) and the University of Manitoba joined together to create the Agronomist-in-Residence program, an applied research position designed to help bridge the gap between classroom and farmers' fields.

The goal: to hire a research agronomist focused on pulse and soybean production issues who would not only advance University's research expertise, but also share that knowledge with industry and students. And since she joined the Department of Plant Science in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences in late 2016, Kristen MacMillan has not only checked off all those boxes, she has far surpassed the high expectations of this innovative program.

"The Agronomist-in-Residence program is completely unique - no other university in Canada, and possibly in North America, has taken this specific type of approach," said Martin Scanlon, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

"Agronomic research represents a continuum from ba-

sic scientific exploration to the practical extension of best practices to farmers. Kristen has been a key fulcrum in the interplay between basic research and near market science. She has also contributed immensely to our experiential learning programs by providing hands-on opportunities and challenging our students to solve real-world problems."

Protein demand booming

The idea of a resident agronomist was conceived to help build applied research capacity, and today it is especially relevant with the escalating demand for protein in Canada and around the world. The Manitoba government has signaled its interest in growing this capacity through the Protein Advantage Strategy, a consultative plan aimed at facilitating growth and investment in protein production and processing, and the research and development which supports these sectors. One such investment is the \$400 million pea protein processing facility under construction by food ingredient company Roquette at Portage la Prairie.

Daryl Domitruk is the Director of Research and Production for MPSG, which represents more than 4,000 farmers in Manitoba who grow soybeans and pulses, including edible beans, peas, faba beans, lentils and chickpeas. He says the MPSG's collaboration with the University of Manitoba was partly driven by the need to add capacity in order to sustain the production of pulses and soybeans, which are so critical to a successful protein industry.

"MPSG members are very keen and determined to see their research dollars generating practical results," he added. "Meeting growers' near term needs is at the heart of the Agronomist-in-Residence program and, in fact, drives everything MPSG does. The other factor at play for MPSG was the relative scarcity in Manitoba of research capacity dedicated fully to pulses and soybeans. The existing research community was doing all they could for our crops, but their time quickly becomes fully committed across a wide range of crops."

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The magic and mayhem of the harvest season

The oil. Where could the cooking oil be?

I mean, really, how could I possibly misplace it? It was day 15 or maybe 22 of harvest (they tend to run together) and I was once again in a mad rush to get supper for 10 out to the field.

The potatoes were cut for home made french fries but the oil was nowhere to be found.

I sometimes misplace my car keys, yes, but the oil? How can you misplace your oil?

My daughter-in-law had no idea where it was.

My daughter hadn't borrowed it.

It had vanished.

In my hurry, I grabbed some flavoured olive oil and made do with what I had. Later that evening I was combining with the twins (now seven) and I was still wondering about where the heck the oil had gone when I said, "I wonder where my canola oil is." And wonder of wonders, I hear, "We know where it is!"

"Where? Where is the oil?" I asked them, expecting a clear and concise answer. Their response, yet again was, "We know where it is."

I went home late that night still not knowing where the oil was.

The next night, *deja vu*, my sidekicks were back in the combine with me and I once again asked them about the oil.

"In the spare bedroom," one replied. I needed more specifics so I asked them to expand on that. The other one said, "Under the dresser!" with the underlying sentiment not spoken, but implied, "Where else would it be?"

What I didn't know

(since I had been away during the September long weekend) was that the kids had been at my house playing 'store' over the weekend.

Well not only was there oil under the dresser, but an expansive supply of dry goods that belonged in the pantry.

I couldn't help but wonder what kind of store would keep their groceries on the floor under the bottom shelf but I didn't even ask.

I will know however, where to look for the oil next time. And pray the lid is on tight!

Despite the crazy, busy time of year that it is for grain farmers, it's also the most fabulous time of year!

The sunsets are beyond compare, the wheat is this amazing shade of gold and the combines are rolling along all around us.

Of course there are the inevitable combine break downs that wreak havoc on our plans for the day and the glamour of the season meets reality head on more often than not.

I was thinking that after my 'stone meets header auger' moment (or was that a rock?) a couple of years ago, that the guys had forgotten all about it, but wouldn't you know,

The Lighter Side of Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM
by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTO JOURNALIST
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someone had to say how nice it is to drive a combine with a perfectly smooth header auger (not ours obviously). How rude!

I write this column late at night after a full day on the combine. I have concluded that looking for a half ton truck in the dark is somewhat like looking for a needle in the haystack.

I have had three additional pairs of eyes helping me and telling me which way to go. Finally one of the twins says, "If I was driving, Grandma," ... pause ... "I wouldn't have a clue which way to go!" Not so helpful after all.

At any given time, the twins know exactly which combine their dad is driving and which one Grandma is driving. They both look the same to me.

Green, basically. As we go back and forth

(for hours and hours), they talk about roosters, hogs and goats.

They would like to get some

Roosters. Hogs. Goats. They really would especially like to be able to 'slop the hogs.' It only costs \$80, they tell me, to get a hog. And if it's pregnant it could have babies and they would have lots of hogs to slop.

"How much would a rooster cost," they ask me.

Of course, all things animal are out of my league, although I tell them I did have a goat once.

I suggest they get goats. But, I tell them, Grandpa will park his machinery next door, far, far away, if they get goats. And maybe never go out to the farm in the car—ever!

They think goats climbing on the vehicles would be the best part of having goats!

One of our discussions this harvest centred on which combines would be theirs when they get big.

One is going to have the 9500, the other the 9600 some day.

"What about Grandpa's combine?" I ask. "Who is going to get that one? The one with the slightly dented header auger?"

"No one," they say. "Grandpa's going to keep driving that one forever." I'm thinking I may need to explain retirement to them one of these days.

One night we were finishing up a field of canola a couple of miles from home base.

The darkness and the dust that lingered made it a little difficult to see,

but as the three combines made their way up and down the field, it was exciting (to me) to approach the 'end zone' and be able to park my machine for the night.

The guys headed over with the other two machines to another field to finish up there.

The next day, my husband tells me I missed three rows on that field we had been working on the day before. Now, exactly where is the logic in that?

How possibly could there be three operators combining in one corner of the same field but only one (moi) missed three swaths. Go figure.

As harvest winds down, leaving us with only a couple more days, I can't say I'll be sad to say we're done, but at the same time, I will look at the end of the season with a bit of nostalgia—after all, each harvest season has its own unique history—especially as seen through the eyes of the next generation's farmers!

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WCVM internship primes vet for large animal practice

BY LYNNE GUNVILLE

Dr. Robin (Rob) Stevens had been a practicing physiotherapist for several years when he decided to adopt Cola, a rescue dog from Taiwan. Although Stevens knew he could provide a better life for Cola, he had no idea that his new pet would ultimately lead him to a new path in life as well.

"I think that deep down inside of me I'd always wanted to be a veterinarian," says Stevens who had moved to Canada from South Africa in 2008. "Cola just kind of sparked the fire inside me again, and so I started taking undergraduate classes so I could apply for veterinary medicine."

By the time Stevens had graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in 2018, he'd developed a keen interest in large animals, particularly dairy cattle and therioegenology (reproduction). He decided to apply for a one-year ruminant field service internship at the WCVM—an opportunity for him to determine whether large animal medicine was the best fit.

Since Stevens had grown up in a South African city, he lacked the experience of many of his Canadian classmates who came from farms. He hoped the internship would allow him to learn more about the veterinary care of production animals while working with local producers and learning the small but important aspects of large animal medicine that aren't taught in veterinary school.

He wasn't disappointed. As a member of the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre's Ruminant Field Service team, Stevens spent most of his days driving to local farms and providing a range of services that included pregnancy diagnoses, estrus synchronizations, bull breeding soundness evaluations, calving and treatment of sick animals.

Although Stevens and his team worked mainly with beef and dairy cattle, they also provided care for sheep and goats as well as

the odd llama or alpaca. He particularly enjoyed the dairy herd health.

"I enjoy having an ultrasound in my hand and using my hands to diagnose pregnancies from as early as 30 days on," says Stevens.

"Calving is also fun. Correcting a dystocia [difficult calving] or doing a C-section right there in the barn—it's a surgery where you're basically the technician, surgeon and anaesthesiologist all in one, and getting a live animal out after is extremely rewarding."

In addition to his field service duties, Stevens participated in a research project that explored the possibility of reusing costly progesterone inserts. He also helped investigate a commercial beef farm's high incidence of respiratory disease in calves to determine if the issue was caused by insufficient immunoglobulin in the cows' colostrum (first milk).

Stevens valued the chance to work with and learn from the other members of the field service team, including Drs. Fritz Schumann, Kamal Gabadage, Nathan Erickson and Chris Luby.

"They taught me some wonderful things—different ways of seeing and approaching

cases," Stevens says. "They have a wealth of knowledge and experience, and they would help me and give me advice when I needed it. I had some really good mentorship during this past year."



Dr. Rob Stevens completed his one-year clinical internship in June 2019. "The level of experience and the mentorship and the value that you get in terms of your academic advancement is second to none."

benefited from the chance given by prestigious veterinary specialists and to meet people from other educational institutions all over North America.

"The connections that I made were the most valuable part," says Stevens. "I've ac-

tually sent a couple of emails with questions for people that I met at the conference. Just attending those lectures and making those connections was very valuable for my career and education."

Now that Stevens has completed the one-year field-service internship, he's moved to Smithers, B.C., where he's working with Dr. Mike Des Harnais (WCVM '00) at his practices, Babine Animal Hospital and Driftwood Veterinary Services.

Since the Smithers area has no regular veterinarian for routine bovine work, Stevens will focus on the ambulatory large animal services and hopes to expand the large animal field service side of the practices.

"I'm looking forward to building a practice where you have people who trust you and your opinion and value the hard work and effort that you put in and the friendships that you create," says Stevens. "I learned a lot about that from Dr. Schumann—if I could be half the doctor as someone like Dr. Schumann, then I'd consider myself to be a success."

In addition to working as a clinician, Stevens is hopeful that there will be a teaching role for him in the future, perhaps through setting up clinical rotations for fourth-year WCVM students at his practice.

When Stevens looks back on his year as a clinical intern at the WCVM, he appreciates the education and the knowledge he gained and recommends that anyone considering an internship should be prepared for hard work but great value.

"The level of experience and the mentorship and the value that you get in terms of your academic advancement is second to none," says Stevens. "I've met a lot of wonderful people here, and I've made a lot of good friendships. There's a team aspect here at the WCVM, and that's probably the most important part. It's been a wonderful team."

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Wild pigs invade Canadian provinces—an emerging crisis for agriculture and the environment

Wild pigs—a mix of wild boar and domestic swine—are spreading rapidly across Canada, threatening native species such as nesting birds, deer, agricultural crops, and farm livestock, research by the University of Saskatchewan (USask) shows.

The first-ever published survey of the wild pig distribution in Canada has found a rapid expansion in the invasive species' range, which is increasing by nine per cent a year.

"Wild pigs are ecological train wrecks. They are prolific breeders making them an extremely successful invasive species," said Ruth Aschim, a PhD student who led the research published today in Nature Scientific Reports. "Wild pigs can cause soil erosion, degrade water quality, destroy crops, and prey on small mammals, amphibians and birds."

Wild boar were brought from Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s to diversify Canadian livestock production. Others were imported as 'penned game' for shooting.

The hybrid wild pigs have rapidly multiplied and spread, making them the most prolific invasive mammal in Canada.

By 2017, they had spread exponentially across Canada, from British Columbia to Ontario and Quebec, with the majority in the south-central half of Saskatchewan. Their territory has increased by 88,000 square kilometres per year, on average, over the last decade.

Concentrated on the Canadian prairies, wild pigs currently have a range of over 750,000 square kilometres, the USask research found. The researchers found the territory of a male wild pig can be as large as 300 square kilometres in the summer, with sows covering up to 230 kilometres.

The research team, based in USask's animal and poultry science department in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, has mapped the pigs' range as it expands since their initial introduction onto the landscape in the early 1990s.

Their maps, published alongside the USask research, show that wild pigs are now firmly established in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, with populations scattered in B.C., Ontario and Quebec.

Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, the North West Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut do not currently host wild pig populations. A group of escaped wild pigs in the Yukon



A sounder of wild pigs. Mature females and their litters of various ages, in Saskatchewan, Canada feeding on harvested crop residue. The hybrid wild pigs have lighter coloured fur than true Eurasian wild boar.

were removed last summer.

Wild pigs typically weigh between 120 and 250 pounds. They have around six piglets per litter, per year.

They are adapted to very cold temperatures, and can breed in any season, living in pigloos burrowed into the snow. Sexually mature within four-to-eight months, they feed on all common types of farmers' crops, including corn, wheat and canola. They also eat insects, birds, reptiles and small mammals.

"The growing wild pig population is not an ecological disaster waiting to happen—it is already happening," said USask's Ryan Brook, lead researcher for the Canadian Wild Pig Project, a Canada-wide research program, and Aschim's supervisor.

"Wild pigs are so widespread that they are a major challenge to control in Canada and eradication is only possible with a comprehensive plan to deal with this highly efficient invasive species. In Saskatchewan they are already posing significant risks to agriculture and livestock production. Our mapping of their expanding territory shows just how quickly they are spreading. This is a rapidly emerging crisis."

The USask research team surveyed the pig distribution using eight different complementary monitoring methods, including capturing and fitting tracking collars to

wild pigs, trail cameras, surveying hunters, government staff, and farmers, and getting the public to report sightings. The team did not record wild pig numbers in this project.

"Wild pigs are able to survive and thrive in a wide range of environments and climates," said Aschim. "They are omnivores, very adaptable and are able to rapidly expand their range into unoccupied areas."

Farmers have reported wild swine raiding farms, scattering, frightening, and interacting with livestock, destroying crops and eating hay bales and grain. They can also be destructive and use their long noses and thick strong necks to root up soil and vegetation, degrading habitat, and tearing up ground set aside for conservation purposes.

Their main range is on agricultural areas south of Saskatchewan's boreal forest.

Wild pigs can adapt to almost any climate, from North Africa to Russia and Canada, and now have the widest distribution of any large mammal on earth. They thrive in the U.S. and Australia and have been documented in the Galapagos Islands. They cost U.S. agriculture more than one billion U.S. dollars per year.

The research was funded by the U.S. Plant and Animal Health Inspection Service, National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture), Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, University of Saskatchewan, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Cyril Capling Trust at USask.

We wish the Agriculture Sector the very best as harvest nears completion!

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Be careful on highways this harvest

With harvest underway, more farm machinery and heavy trucks are moving around on Saskatchewan roads. Drivers and farmers are reminded to keep safety a top priority during harvest.

"Harvest is a busy time for the agriculture community and often leads to

many large vehicles on the roads," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit said.

"We stay safe by planning ahead and allowing additional time for travel."

Drivers are being asked to take extra precautions when passing slow-moving farm equipment and to be

respectful of other drivers. Producers need to ensure lights are working and adjusted before moving equipment on highways and to regularly inspect and maintain their equipment. They should also know all height, length and weight restrictions on their farm vehicles and when permits

may be required.

Travellers are reminded to slow to 60 km/hr when passing emergency and service vehicles parked at the side of the road with their lights flashing, including:

- tow trucks;
- tire service vehicles;
- highway equipment; and

• emergency vehicles (police, ambulance and fire).

This will ensure drivers, passengers and crew members can do their jobs safely.

If you're planning to travel, check the Highway Hotline at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline, which provides up-to-date

information on construction and emergency road closures that could affect travel plans.

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$9 billion in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 14,000 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways.

Fiscal sense builds fiscal strength

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN

Building financial strength is a multi-step process, experts say, that takes years to establish. Engagement in how farm revenue is dealt with, along with some financial education are critical steps in building financial strength of the farm operation.

When it comes to generating revenue, making it often receives greater consideration than where it ends up going,

according to Vanessa Stockbrugger, founder of Alberta-based WomenCents. She stresses the importance of being engaged when it comes to how money's spent, saved and invested.

"No one cares more about your money than you do," Stockbrugger says. "If you don't make it a priority, nobody else will."

Mark Verwey, BDO Canada's national agriculture indus-

try group leader, adds that increasing revenue for its own sake doesn't work.

"The measures to increase revenue have to take into consideration the bottom-line impact," Verwey says. "Financial institutions need to see profitability and the ability to service existing and new debt."

Verwey says the financial strength of balance sheets and statements of operations must be taken into consideration, and it's important for the results of both to trend in a positive direction.

Stockbrugger believes Canadians' financial knowledge has room to grow. The population doesn't need to become experts but should have the base knowledge necessary to understand what they have—financial assets, physical assets, insurance, debt, transition plans—as well as available options.

This can partly be achieved by building knowledge through independent, unbiased sources like the Canadian Total Excellence in Agricultural Management, Stockbrugger and Verwey recommend.

"Knowledge is power, and the more you have, the greater your competitive advantage," Verwey says. "It's important to measure your success in dollars and cents and know financially the impact of your decisions. It makes it a lot easier to repeat your success when you know how your decisions impact your bottom line."

While busy juggling everything else on the farm, building a strong team of financial advisors can be integral to achieving farm financial success by filling in the knowledge gaps, Verwey says.

Stockbrugger underlines the importance of remaining engaged at this stage and probing your advisors for any clarifications or other answers you need.

"Make sure that you ask until you understand," Stockbrugger says.

Engagement in how farm revenue is spent, saved and invested, as well as basic knowledge in financial terms are just some of the steps farmers can take to build financial strength in their operation. Financial knowledge is power, experts say, and the more farmers have, the greater the competitive advantage.

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USask-led research teams to improve agriculture through genomic science

Wheat, lentils and livestock will be the focus of a \$24.2-million investment over four years by Genome Canada and its partners in three University of Saskatchewan-led research projects aimed at ensuring Canada remains at the cutting-edge of these agricultural markets.

"The agricultural sector is critical to Canada's economic growth and to improving food security, both at home and abroad," said USask Vice-President Research Karen Chad.

"Working with our many academic, government and industry partners, this leading-edge genomics research in our rapidly growing biosciences cluster will help crop and livestock producers address key challenges and opportunities, advancing our goal to be the university the world needs."

More than half the funding—about \$13 million—comes from co-funders such as the Saskatchewan government, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Western Grains Research Foundation, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, the Alberta government, Alberta Wheat Commission, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, USask, and partners in the beef industry.

The three USask-led projects, administered by Genome Prairie, are part of a \$76.7-million investment, including partner funding, in eight new projects across the country announced July 23 by Canada's Science and Sport Minister Kirsty Duncan to advance sustainability and productivity of Canadian agriculture, agri-food and fisheries.



University of Saskatchewan crop scientist Curtis Pozniak.

wheat breeder Curtis Pozniak and AAFC molecular geneticist Sylvie Cloutier will use genomics to improve the breeding and production of wheat, a vitally important

crop in global food security.

"Wheat is the most important crop for current and future global food security because it supplies the most calories and protein to the global population," said Pozniak, who has played a key role in international discoveries to decode the bread wheat and durum wheat genomes.

"Meeting the challenge of increasing wheat production to match the growing demand for food over the next 20 to 30 years is of paramount importance. We will apply cutting-edge genomics to fully access diversity in wheat breeding and to enable new sources of diversity for enhancing yield and managing producer risk to important diseases."

\$7.4 MILLION—ENHANCING THE VALUE OF LENTIL VARIATION FOR ECOSYSTEM SURVIVAL (EVOLVES)

Building on USask's renowned history of lentil breeding success, USask plant scientists Kirstin Bett and Bert Vandenberg aim to improve lentil productivity through genomics.

"The industry is seeking to enter the high-value food and ingredients sector and expects future lentil varieties will support this new venture," said Bett. "We aim to accelerate incorporation of specific quality traits in breeding through strategic use of genetic variability, enabling Canadian producers to rapidly capture emerging market opportunities."

As the largest lentil producer and exporter in the world, the Canadian economy already benefits from \$2.5 billion in export revenue.

Continued on page C22

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Sharpen communications skills to keep farm running smoothly

Determining individual strengths and weaknesses and where everybody fits in a farm operation is a challenge that can be made easier with good interpersonal skills.

"It's a risk if you don't have good interpersonal skills, and communication skills in particular," says Karin Naslund of Legacy Family Business Advisors and LifeBright Learning.

COMMUNICATION

It's important to communicate effectively, to be very specific,

detailed and supportive, she says.

"The interpersonal part and building the relationships with the people you're working with is critical for retaining staff," Naslund says. The trouble is these skills haven't received much attention, making it particularly challenging for new hires, who are burdened with the expectation they'll hit the ground running with little communication necessary.

"There's an assumption that maybe they have been on a farm

or have knowledge about farming, and they will know specifically how to go about doing something," Naslund says.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Everyone stresses playing to strengths, but how do you get there? "Are you willing to do performance appraisals or give difficult feedback when people are no longer performing at your level of expectations?" asks producer and farm family transition coach Elaine Froese.

Sometimes employees don't match the roles and responsibilities they've been given, notes Ken Keis, president and CEO of Consulting Resource Group. But, he asks, has the manager really paid attention to what that person is best at?

"Before you can really have deep relationships, you need to understand the personal style or personality of the other people," Keis says.

PUSH FOR CHANGE

Millennials and Generation Z drive for more transparency on the farm, attempting to do away with secrecy while opening lines of communication, according to Keis.

Adds Froese: "Decision-making is an interpersonal skill that affects whether or not people feel they have collaborative decision making - and it's win-win for everyone - or whether they feel it's autocratic or almost dictatorial."

She explains the younger generations learned different management styles and people skills in college and working off the farm.

Further, they're more intent on treating the farm as a business, and they have a greater realization that the interpersonal piece is critical to a successful operation, says Naslund.

GENERATIONAL GAP

The result is a generation gap, with the future successors frustrated by their perception of the previous generation's poor communication skills.

Meanwhile, the older generation is convinced kids these days don't deal well with criticism.

Technology may be the culprit, as face-to-face conversations have been replaced by instant responses on smartphones. The trouble is, the latter lacks the tonality of verbal communication, Froese points out.

BOTTOM LINE

A focus on understanding employees' strengths and weaknesses and acknowledging generational differences are key to retaining a solid team of farm employees. Attention to these areas, experts say, is a form of risk mitigation.



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USask-led group awarded \$1.65 M to train young scientists for expanding plant protein industry

Continued from page C5

"This project is a huge opportunity for students, who will acquire the skills needed for a rapidly growing plant protein ingredients industry that needs graduates who can hit the ground running," said Nickerson, a professor of food and bioproduct sciences at the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

"By incorporating four-month industry internships into the program, we will train scientists who will have a blend of leadership, science training and human dynamics, and an understanding of what issues really impact the development of the protein ingredient industry."

NSERC's six-year Collaborative Research and Training (CREATE) award includes eight co-applicants and 12 collaborators. The project, called Canadian Agri-food Protein Training, Utilization and Research Enhancement (CAPTURE), includes scientists from USask, University of Manitoba and University of Alberta, and aims to train 71 highly qualified personnel—10 PhDs, 44 master's students and 17 undergraduates. Including cash and in-kind support from the institutions, government, and industry partners, the investment totals \$4 million.

"In addition to plant proteins having huge implications for the health of Canadians, there will be considerable economic and social benefits to Canada as we diversify ingredients and foster innovations in the food industry," Nickerson said.

Efforts of Prairie governments to build a strong value-added plant-ingredient processing sector have been effective, said Nickerson who holds a Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Protein Quality and Utilization.

"There's a huge wave of industry investment happening across the Prairies, whether it's Roquette building a huge pea protein fractionating plant in Portage la Prairie, Verdient Foods investing in a plant in Vanscoy, or the involvement of big players like AGT Food and Ingredients," he said.

As processing plants expand and more players come on stream, companies can't find enough highly qualified personnel with not only technical and scientific knowledge, but soft skills such as leadership, project management, communications, and creative thinking, Nickerson said.

- Trainees will focus on five key research areas:
- Improving the quality of protein feedstocks;
 - Developing innovative dry and wet fractionation (separating crop seeds into protein, starch and fibre components);
 - Improving the properties of plant proteins to create new uses or increase nutritional quality;
 - Developing value-added applications;
 - Examining supply chain and market development opportunities for plant protein ingredients and identifying barriers to moving new ingredients to market.

CAPTURE also will help develop a protein research network on the Prairies where the feedstock is grown, said Nickerson.

USask resources such as the Crop Development Centre and Global Institute for Food Security, and facilities such as KeyLeaf, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the National Research Council, make Saskatoon a great hub to build a protein network, he said. The group is also working with

provincial food development centres and integrating with the industry-led Protein Industries Canada (PIC) supercluster.

"Building this protein network is really important because it will make us that much more ready for when the protein supercluster comes online, not only with our students but in research collaborations among the group's industry interactions," said Nickerson.

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FCC review suggests modest farmland value increase for 2019

Average farmland values in Canada are showing only modest increases for the first half of 2019, according to a review by Farm Credit Canada.

The national average for farmland values fell from a 6.6-per-cent increase in 2018 to a three-per-cent increase in the first half this year. If this increase holds steady for the remainder of this year, it will be part of a five-year trend of softening growth in average farmland values.

"There might be some minor market adjustments along the way, but the days of sharp increases in farmland values have been replaced by more modest growth," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief agricultural economist.

FCC's review showed lower increases from 2018 in British Columbia (2.7%), Al-

berta (1.6%), Saskatchewan (2.9%), Ontario (3.3%) and Quebec (2.8%), while Manitoba (6.2%) showed a slightly higher increase. Publicly reported transactions in four Atlantic provinces have yet to be reviewed and assessed.

Average farmland values have increased every year since 1993; however, increases were more pronounced from 2011 to 2015 in many different regions. In 2015, the average increase was 10 per cent, and since that year, Canada has seen more moderate single-digit increases in average farmland values.

"Now we appear to be moving into a time of cautious buying, where producers are focusing more on improving productivity and building resilience in their operations," Gervais said.



Most Canadian farms continue to be in a good financial position and the overall farm debt-to-asset ratio remains lower than the 15-year average, so many producers are in a position to purchase land if it's part of their business plan.

"The balance sheet is still strong, but uncertainty in markets and the fact that farmland values have climbed rapidly in the past may be giving some producers reason to pause," Gervais said. "Others may have already expanded their operations and are now exploring other strategic investments."

Changes in commodity prices, uncertainty around global trade and some challenging weather conditions may have also taken some of the steam out of farmland values. Producers can prepare for these unpredictable circumstances by maintaining a risk management plan while remaining focused on the big picture, according to Gervais.

"Demand for Canadian agricultural products is projected to remain strong at home and abroad in 2019-20, so there is a long-term positive future in agriculture," he said.

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Manitoba hosts Protein Summit

The Manitoba government is hosting the Manitoba Protein Summit, a gathering of crop and livestock industry leaders, processors, academics, government and other stakeholders brought together to gain new insight into protein opportunities, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler announced Thursday.

"Plant-protein demand is increasing at more than six per cent per year, with world demand expected to double by 2029, and animal-protein demand expected to double by 2050," said Eichler. "Historically, Manitoba has always been strong in protein production. However, by gathering here today, we are discussing additional opportunities that will make sure we can reap economic benefits through expanding livestock and plant-protein production and processing."

At the summit, the province released a first-of-its-kind sustainable protein strategy, called the Manitoba Protein Advan-

tage. This strategy will focus future efforts and encourage leadership and industry collaboration to make Manitoba North America's protein supplier of choice, the minister said.

Earlier this year, the Manitoba government consulted with industry stakeholders to develop the new strategy. Manitoba held 77 individual meetings with more than 300 participants and received more than two dozen written submissions that helped develop the new strategy.

Key priorities of the strategy include attracting new investment and jobs in plant- and animal-protein processing, growing the hog industry to meet current processing capabilities, seeking opportunities to grow beef and other animal-protein production to meet market opportunities, and positioning Manitoba as a leading research and development centre in North America for plant-protein extraction technology. The strategy also has a focus on innova-

tion while continuing to produce sustainable protein, including facilitating research to reduce greenhouse gases from animal-protein production by 15 per cent per kilogram of protein produced, as well as reduced water usage, energy use, and waste in production and processing.

"Since 2016, Manitoba has attracted over \$1.5 billion in agri-food investments," said Eichler. "The strategy will maintain the Manitoba government's focus on creating an environment for investment attraction while supporting research and innovation, and reducing red tape."

As part of the strategy, the Manitoba government is making key investments to further protein innovation, said Eichler. The Food Development Centre (FDC) will be receiving \$362,000 to support protein sector innovation and commercialization. This investment in equipment will accelerate the pace of protein ingredient development and further position the FDC as a

leading protein innovation

Last week's summit also marked the minister signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to become part of the Protein Highway, a cross-border network for plant-based protein innovation. Through the partnership, Manitoba will become part of an innovation network to increase collaboration opportunities for Manitoba researchers and companies across the Prairie provinces and U.S. Midwest and Great Plains regions. The MOU will establish and continue collaborative activities between the parties related to research, innovation and commercialization projects.

Also announced at the Manitoba Protein Summit was the creation of the Manitoba Protein Product Challenge, a competition that will bring together protein entrepreneurs to accelerate commercialization of plant- and animal-protein products. The first challenge will take place in March 2020 on Farm and Food Awareness Day.

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Manitoba provides livestock producers with funding

The province of Manitoba is advising that livestock producers who have been affected by dry conditions on pasture can apply for funding to support water access and management under Ag Action Manitoba, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler announced today.

"We recognize that many producers are feeling the effects of our dry summer and that they may require additional assistance to secure a safe and reliable water supply for their livestock," said Eichler. "Properly functioning and adequately protected ground and surface water sources are essential to ensuring the health of livestock and ground water sources."

Funding is provided through the Managing Livestock Access to Riparian Areas beneficial management practice (BMP) under Ag Action Manitoba - Assurance. Eligible projects and related costs include:

- drilling new or deepening existing wells, test hole drilling, screening, casing, well caps and related activities;
- installing water pumps and required plumbing components and related activities, such as professional and contractor fees;
- constructing new or rehabilitating existing dugouts including professional and contractor fees; and
- establishing alternative watering system equipment and permanent fencing to restrict livestock access to surface water and dugouts.

To be eligible, applicants must complete an environmental farm plan (EFP) that will help manage risk on their farm related to water quality and supply, soil health, air quality and biodiversity. Producers have until Nov. 1, 2020, to submit their EFP statement of completion.

Ag Action Manitoba - Assurance: Beneficial Management Practices provides targeted incentive programs to



agricultural producers and select industry service providers to advance the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs). These practices reduce identified environmental risks, improve agro-ecosystem resilience, build public trust and improve environmental sustainability of farm operations in Manitoba.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis until Oct. 11. Priority will be given to applicants within federal tax deferral areas, as identified at www.agr.gc.ca under Drought Watch.

Producers can contact their local Manitoba Agriculture office or call the department (toll-free) at 1-84-GROW-MB-AG (1-844-769-6224) for more information on any of these programs and services or go to www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture under Quick Links.

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Incorporating the farm: Here's what to expect

Making the jump from a sole proprietorship farming operation to a corporation brings with it several advantages, along with some additional management responsibilities.

weigh those of sole proprietorship.

BOTTOM LINE

Deciding to incorporate the farm can be a big decision

but learning about different tax rules and how incorporation limits risk can be positive developments for a farm operation, experts say.

TAX CHANGES

One advantage of incorporating is the ability to defer taxes.

Todd Kirkpatrick is a partner with PSM LLP in Lloydminster.

He says tax deferral creates options. "Maybe you want to delay a capital gain on some land, maybe you own some farm assets personally and by rolling into the company, you've got an opportunity then to lay a tax bill later on," Kirkpatrick says.

Katya Loree, a manager with Catalyst in Calgary, says farmers will have to do a separate corporate tax return.

"There may be some tax election forms that we need to complete to make sure that moving things like inventory and equipment doesn't trigger a taxable event for the previous farm operation," Loree says.

Weigh the pros and cons before deciding to incorporate your farm.

NEW BANKING

With the change comes more responsibility on the banking side, according to Loree, including getting another bank account and setting up credit cards.

"All of the long-term debt and credit cards would need to be put into the corporate name, so there would be some discussions with the bank to make sure that could all be set-up."

LIABILITY SHIFT

Kirkpatrick is quick to point out incorporating is about limiting risk.

"It tells the world that your only liability risk is the money you have invested in the company.

"So, if I started a farming corporation and I invested \$10,000 into it, and then there was major oops that wasn't insurable, I wouldn't have any more risk than my initial investment."

WHO TO TELL?

It's important to spread the word once all details are settled with the accountant and lawyer.

Both Kirkpatrick and Loree say farmers should notify their banker, insurer and retailers they regularly deal with about the change.

Kirkpatrick says the considerations when making the change from a sole proprietorship to incorporation should centre around tax.

If a farmer is thinking about making the jump, he says, they need to ensure tax savings of incorporating out-



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USask-led research teams to improve agriculture through genomic science

Continued from page C13

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A multidisciplinary team led by Cheryl Waldner, USask professor of large animal clinical sciences, and Simon Otto, University of Alberta assistant professor of public health and a USask alumnus, will study diagnostic testing for antimicrobial resistance in livestock management, a growing challenge to human and animal health around the world.

This work holds promise to radically accelerate diagnostic testing time for livestock producers and greatly improve the use of antimicrobials (antibiotics) to treat bacterial infections in cattle, swine, poultry and other food animals, said Waldner.

"The idea for this project comes from an increasing need to ensure the safe use of antimicrobials as the world faces the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance," Waldner said. "Disease-causing bacteria are increasingly able to resist the antibiotics

used to treat them, and the agriculture industry is being called upon to improve antibiotic stewardship in livestock."

Integrating genomic technology (such as handheld devices to sequence samples) into diagnostic strategies will revolutionize livestock production, she said. The research team will work closely with beef industry partners, including feedlots and veterinarians, to ensure that the diagnostic testing methods are optimized.

Genome Prairie is also the lead centre for a project awarded \$1.1 million over three years from the Genomic Applications Partnership Program, and with co-funder support, the project will total \$4.4 million. Led by University of Manitoba scientist Vince Palace, the project at the International Institute for Sustainable Development - Experimental Lakes Area addresses cleaning oil spills in sensitive freshwater ecosystems using non-invasive tools.

"Congratulations to the research teams at the University of Saskatchewan and IISD Experimental Lakes Area for their diligent efforts working with Genome Prairie to develop first-in-class projects," said Genome Prairie President and CEO Reno Pontarollo. "We look forward to working closely with these researchers to help achieve the best possible benefits for the Prairie provinces, Canada and the world."

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APAS releases 2019 federal election proposals

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan has identified five of the most pressing issues that Saskatchewan farmers are facing ahead of the 2019 federal election:

- Agricultural Risk Management programs
- Protecting producers from trade injury
- Rail infrastructure and performance
- Climate change
- Rural quality of life

Saskatchewan producers are currently dealing with a wet harvest after extreme drought earlier in the growing season, as well as the fallout from international trade wars. APAS has come up with several actions that can be taken by the next government to better shield Canadian producers—and the jobs they create—in these situations.

"Federal political parties like to highlight the potential for agriculture to continue to grow the economy and provide jobs," said APAS president Todd Lewis. "APAS believes strongly that if Canadian decision-makers want to benefit from agriculture on the campaign trail, they need to put their money where their mouth is and make com-

mitments to provide a fair share to protect us when times get more challenging."

Pointing out that Canadian agriculture supports one in eight Canadian jobs, Lewis also encouraged Saskatchewan producers to speak to their local candidates about the APAS proposals and the importance of the agriculture industry.

Reinvest in Agricultural Risk Management

Farmers are constantly looking for new ways to increase the productivity of their businesses and stay competitive in a rapidly changing world. Producers have made huge investments into their operations over the past decade, generating significant growth within the Canadian economy, and supporting 1/8 of all Canadian jobs.

Ongoing trade wars, droughts, and escalating production costs have increased business risk for Canadian producers, and the Government's share of programs to manage these risks have not kept up.

AgriStability was intended to protect farmers against severe revenue drops during turbulent market conditions. Unfortunately, thousands of producers have left the program due to inadequate coverage levels and frustration with AgriStability's administration.

A recent APAS estimate of AgriStability coverage for price-risk suggested that a Saskatchewan farm with average yields, prices and expenses over the past 5 years would not qualify for coverage even if the price of canola fell to \$7.16 per bushel.

Market disruptions and rising costs have created an environment of serious uncertainty for Canadian producers, so in this federal election APAS wants to see real commitments to fix AgriStability:

- Remove AgriStability coverage limits that are based on a farmer's allowable expenses from the previous year.
- Restore AgriStability coverage to 85% of a producer's historical margin.
- Make AgriStability payments to farmers faster and more predictable.

Protecting producers from trade injury

Saskatchewan's producers expect the Government of Canada to maintain productive diplomatic and trade relationships with other countries because our business depends on access to global markets.

Canadian agricultural exports are currently being impacted by foreign governments, who chose to hurt farmers as an easy way to send political messages to federal politicians in Ottawa.

Continued on page C29



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MP1615	108 MT	3000		51'
MP1620	136 MT	4000		61'

GRAIN ONLY SMOOTH WALL BINS				
SIZE*	MT BASED ON 62LB CU FT	BUSHEL	APPROXIMATE	MIN AUGER LENGTH
GM3000	108 MT	3000		51'
GM4000	136 MT	4000		61'
GM5000	165 MT	5000		71'
GM5300	175 MT	5300		61'

- PLEASE NOTE:**
- MP bins in stock are complete with skid manway, poke hole and 3 view glasses.
 - GM bins in stock are complete with skid, manway and 3 view glasses
 - Can be sold without skid if bolt on not needed



1620 Meridian

*For sizing of Meridian bins, the first two number are the diameter of the bin, and the second two numbers are the side wall of bin.

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FX 1590 Belt Conveyor



FX1545 Field Loader

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Why evolving food preferences are showing more demand for protein

BY LEIGH ANDERSON

SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST WITH FCC

Shifting demographics and health considerations are broadening our palate for proteins and higher quality food. These trends matter for Canadian agriculture, in both the domestic and export markets.

Diversity and quality matter for the domestic market

Canadian per capita beef consumption has been declining over the long-term; yet Canadian beef demand is still strong. Consumption trends generally evolve because of preferences, but they also are function of prices and income.

The annual growth rate on the market size for plant-based protein in Canada was 4.8% in 2017, expected to grow annually by 5.6% by 2022.

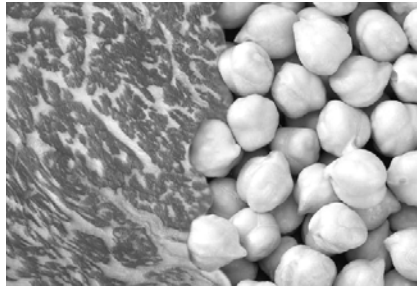
The global protein market from field peas is projected to grow by 11.9% to US\$359.4 million in 2022 from its estimated value of US\$191.7 million in 2017.

Canada is expected to mirror this global growth, reaching US\$31.6 million by 2022 creating additional value add for Canadian pulse growers. However, economic research on consumer market size and preferences is in its infancy.

For example, two studies (one from the University of Saskatchewan and a joint study from Wageningen University, Michigan State and Purdue) found that a majority of U.S. consumers prefer beef burgers when alternative protein prices were the identical. Both also suggest the market share for plant-based burgers is between 15%-20%.

This only scratches the surface when it comes to actual food options are available to consumers. Prices matter and are a reliable signal of desirability. There is evidence of a stronger demand for higher quality beef. The spread between AAA and AA beef cutout values has been increasing in the last decade (Figure 1).

Relative prices between animal and plant-based proteins will influence consumers' purchases. There appears to be room for a diverse supply of proteins as growth is found in many segments of the two protein categories.



Growth in emerging markets

The make-up of the domestic demand for animal proteins determines what Canadian businesses have to offer in export markets. Outside of North America, particularly in Asia and other emerging markets, meat consumption continues to grow.

The 2019-2028 OECD Agricultural Outlook projects over the next decade that global meat consumption will grow at an annual rate of 1.10%, a lower pace than the previous decade of 1.74%. However, emerging countries are projected to have a higher growth rate of 1.41% than developed countries at 0.59% (including Canada). This is especially true in Asia where population growth and rising incomes result in increased per capita consumption.

Opportunities for Canada will be plentiful as Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) countries are projected to increase imports (e.g. Vietnam 3.54%, Malaysia 2.70%) to meet growing consumption.

Growth in protein consumption is a bright light in food markets amid current trade tensions. Amid the competition for the share of consumers food dollars, businesses need to pay attention to the competitiveness of their products (price vs quality) and the evolution of food preferences.

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R.M. OF FERTILE BELT - NO 183 PUBLIC NOTICE

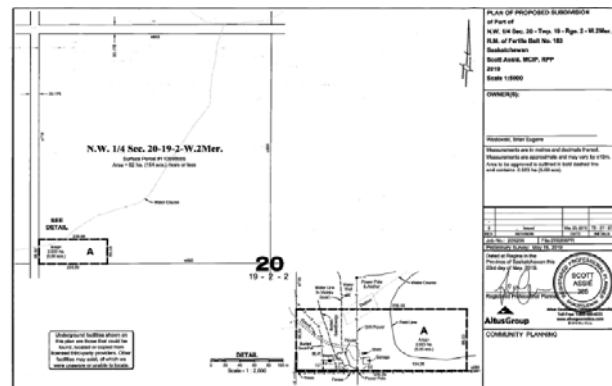
Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt No. 183 intends to adopt Bylaw No. 2019/04 to amend Bylaw 2005-03 known as the Zoning Bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007.

INTENT: The following changes will be made under this amendment:

- Certain land locations currently zoned as AG-2, Intensive Agricultural District, will be changed to CR, Country Residential.

AFFECTED LAND: The affected land is legally described as follows:

Portion to be approved is outlined in a bold dashed line. Parcel A contains 2.023 ha (5 acres), proposed subdivision of part of the NW 1/4 20-19-2-W2, dated May 23, 2019 by Scott Assie, MCIP, RPP



REASON: The reason for the amendments is to rezone a certain area from intensive agricultural to country residential.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Municipal Office located at 301 Ohlen Street, Stockholm, Saskatchewan between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the RM of Fertile Belt No. 183 council chambers in the Village of Stockholm (301 Ohlen Street, Stockholm SK) to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt this 16th day of September, 2019.

Signed: Lorie Jackson, RMA Administrator



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Strong family foundation crucial for farm success

Family dynamics can play a huge role in what occurs in the family farm business.

Understanding the family members involved in the operations – their personalities; the ways they do tasks; how they react; their beliefs, wants and expectations – can help leaders work with their family, as well as prevent or resolve challenges and issues before, or as, they come up.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Jim Soldan, a family business trainer in British Columbia, says those challenges can be countless.

“Although there are the common ones, there are myriads of ones that are specific to each family and these need to be plumbed,” Soldan says. “This takes time, skill and wisdom to flesh out.

“Overcoming the challenges, collectively as a whole family team, is what brings real success to both family and family business, or conversely, if not overcome, lead to ultimate disaster and extinction of the family and the family business.”

Soldan says to overcome challenges, there needs to be both effective communication and a strong foundation.

“Your family and family business survival hinges completely on effective communication, but you can’t have effective communication without a foundation, and you can’t have a foundation without effective communication,” Soldan says. “They need to be done in parallel.”

“You can’t have effective communication without a foundation, and you can’t have a foundation without effective communication.”

RELY ON EACH OTHER

Collectively, each member’s role in the farm business, as in the family, ought to be to have each other’s backs.

“This can only come from a cultivated attitude of taking an active interest in each other’s life, knowing, quite clearly, their concerns, hopes, expectations, assumptions, priorities, beliefs, fears and values in regards to their personal lives, their own family, the family at large and the business,” Soldan says. “Within all of this, there is the necessity to embrace a positive attitude and compliance to the family business meeting and all the guidelines for its success.”

MATCH SKILLS TO JOBS

Gordon Colledge, a farm advisor in Alberta, agrees it is important to understand family dynamics.

“Understanding the family that creates the conflict - or understanding the family that is trying to come together - becomes very, very important in a family-owned-and-operated business,” Colledge says.

He believes it’s particularly helpful in guiding those involved in the farm to take on the roles they are most suited for.

“It is neat when we can have people work according to their strengths, so when they sit around the table and all



want to have a position, there should be room for that. They all need to listen and learn and support,” Colledge says.

BOTTOM LINE

Understanding individual family members in the farm

business has several benefits, such as preventing or resolving challenges before they come up.

Experts say each member’s role in the farm operation, as in the family, should be to have each other’s backs.

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A practical alliance

University and industry benefit from agronomist-in-residence

Continued from page C7

For Kristen, coming to work at the University of Manitoba has meant coming full circle. She received her Diploma in Agriculture, B.Sc. (Agronomy) and M.Sc. (Cropping Systems) from UofM, and then in 2013 joined MP5G as their first production specialist where she advising farmers and agronomists on soybean and pulse production. Kristen also took on the role of director of research and production, and led the development of the organization's first strategic R&P plan. She is also involved in crop and livestock production on the family farm near Marquette where she gains valuable insight and aims to practice her own advice.

So when the Agronomist-in-Residence was created, she was the natural choice for the job.

Connecting researchers with producers

One of the principal requirements of Kristen's position was to design a robust applied research program, engaging scientists, industry and farmers throughout the province and contribute to the development of best agronomic practices for growing soybeans, edible beans and field peas in Manitoba.

"Currently, some of the areas I'm exploring are seeding practices and seed quality in soybeans, nitrogen management in dry edible beans, designing new pulse intercrop systems and next year, I will be initiating new work on field peas. Overall, I'm interested in studying agronomic practices and systems that address productivity, profitability and sustainability goals in our farming systems," said Kristen.

Working with crop research centres and farmers, she has trial plots stretching from Melita and Dauphin, and from Carman to Portage and Arborg. Kristen, along with her team of research technicians and summer students, has conducted multi-year studies on varying management systems and environments. The results of her studies are integrated into award-winning fact sheets and visual guides, news articles and reports to assist farmers and agronomists in decision making. In addition to informing regional crop production practices, her work is also supporting policy and providing new data on western Canadian soybeans to the scientific community.

And when she isn't on campus or out in the field, she is at producer meetings and conferences, connecting with the people that utilize and inform her research program.

"One of the challenges in the general scientific community is the time gap between research and adoption," said Kristen. "For agriculture in Manitoba, the network of outreach and extension is evolving to better connect research and those practicing in the field."

William Pallister is a Portage-area dry bean farmer who connected with Kristen at the winter bean meetings. He is also a Faculty alum, graduating with his Diploma in Agriculture in 2015 and his B.Sc. (Agribusiness) in 2017. William describes the Agronomist-in-Residence as "a resource that combines both practicality and research."

"Kristen has been an excellent agronomist and researcher on behalf of bean growers. We are able to make decisions on our farm with greater confidence knowing that her research is behind us," he said. "She has also been great for



Kristen MacMillan with diploma students in the soybean field agronomy course

bumping ideas off of when we are trying out new things on the farm."

Learning by doing

While research and outreach are significant activities for Kristen, a third dimension of the Agronomist-in-Residence is as educator, understandable considering its setting at the University of Manitoba.

She has guest-lectured in courses such as Crop Production Principles and Practices and Advanced Cropping Systems, where she provides case studies and real scenarios for students to analyze.

"Kristen has been a pioneer in our experiential learning program and is focused on learning outcomes.

She can see the value in introducing students to applied research and extension," said Michele Rogalsky, Director of the School of Agriculture.

"Many of our students are farmers and farm managers, and she is preparing them for their own operations and for the future of the industry."

Last summer Kristen designed and launched a Soybean Field Agronomy course for diploma students that helped develop critical thinking skills while practicing integrated crop management, one of the first experience-based curricula offered in the Faculty.

Each student monitored a soybean field, developed crop scouting skills and applied their knowledge to make sound agronomic decisions.

They also developed an understanding of the knowl-

edge transfer process, a model she has coined "From Theory to Practice", by touring her agronomy research plots at Carman and attending an industry field day.

The course is now in its second summer with eight students honing their analytical and communication skills.

From theory to application

In reflecting on her progress so far as the University's first Agronomist-in-Residence, Kristen sees a common theme emerging: the demand for and appreciation of experience-based learning and practical application.

"In the classroom, I can see the enthusiasm when students connect theory to application. When speaking with farmers, they appreciate my approach as a scientist, agronomist and farmer and involving them in the process through conversation at extension meetings. When collaborating with research colleagues, we strike a balance with understanding fundamental mechanisms and their value in the field and how they might sometimes be different."

As the program approaches the end of its third year, Kristen continues to break ground on new ways to help students, researchers and farmers explore the opportunities created by the heightened demand for protein sources.

"Pulse and soybean farmers are seeing the research results at the farm level and they can be proud to know that the reach of this program has been gone beyond that to the University and industry level, which will provide a cascading impact on how we approach discovery and application of agronomic research," she said.

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APAS releases 2019 federal election proposals

Continued from page C23

Trade wars have caused serious income problems for Saskatchewan farmers and existing federal insurance programs weren't built to handle the economic fallout from price drops due to trade disruptions.

Meanwhile, governments in other jurisdictions are stepping in to protect their domestic farmers from trade injury. Market loss compensation rates are as high as \$57 per acre in some counties in North Dakota.

In this federal election, APAS wants to see commitments to create a new "Trade Injury Support Program:"

- Federally funded program to compensate farmers for lost export sales due to trade disputes.
- Support offered for the duration of trade disputes, or until Canada's existing risk management programs are changed to provide coverage for trade-related income drops.

Improving rail infrastructure and performance

Having an efficient and reliable transportation network for moving grain exports to global markets is critically important to Saskatchewan's agricultural producers.

Canada's rail transportation system has struggled in recent years to meet the demands of increasing grain exports and this has caused costly delays for farmers, plus damage to Saskatchewan's credibility in export markets. Over the past 20 years, the average time a vessel sits in a Canadian port waiting to load grain has more than doubled from 4.3

days on average in 1999/2000 to an average of 10 days in 2017/18.

In this federal election, APAS wants to see a commitment from the federal parties to improve transportation infrastructure for grain exports:

- Investment into rail infrastructure programs to increase export capacity at a rate commensurate with forecasted production trends.
- Improve federal regulations to provide better enforcement of reciprocal service agreements between railways, grain shipping companies, and producers.
- Improve the transparency and oversight of overall rail network performance.

Fighting climate change through recognition and resilience

A carbon tax is clearly bad for Saskatchewan's agricultural producers. As price takers in global markets, farmers are unable to pass along the added costs of a carbon tax and it only harms their businesses without reducing carbon emissions.

Saskatchewan's cropland and prairie grasslands are critical assets in the global effort to fight climate change because of the carbon sequestration benefits these lands provide, and farmers are the owners and managers of these important environmental protection resources.

In this federal election, APAS wants a commitment to developing a federal carbon offset program that

- Provides meaningful recognition of current agricultural activities that offset carbon emissions.
- Provides financial support to maintain existing carbon sinks such as wetlands and grasslands.
- Provides fair compensation to producers for voluntary sequestration or emission reductions.

As an additional step towards reducing carbon emissions, APAS supports the development of a national mandate to allow 10 percent ethanol content in gasoline and 5 percent biodiesel content in diesel.

Improving rural quality of life

Despite its importance to the provincial and national economy, rural Saskatchewan faces significant labour and infrastructure challenges. We need additional federal leadership and investment to ensure that rural areas have the necessary services and infrastructure to attract and retain people and investment. In this federal election APAS calls for commitments to:

- Increase federal investment into rural internet and cellular coverage, including clear timelines for achieving meaningful improvements
- Change the Income Tax Act to encourage intergenerational transfers of farms and reduce the tax burden on retiring producers.
- Make it easier for beginning farmers to access federal capital programs like the Advance Payments Program and the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act.



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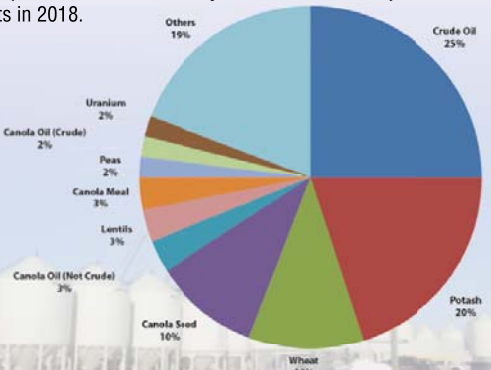


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Honourable Warren Kaeding PAg
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HARVEST 2019



Photo by Kent Becker



Photo by Craig Roy
"Cutting wheat at Spring Creek"

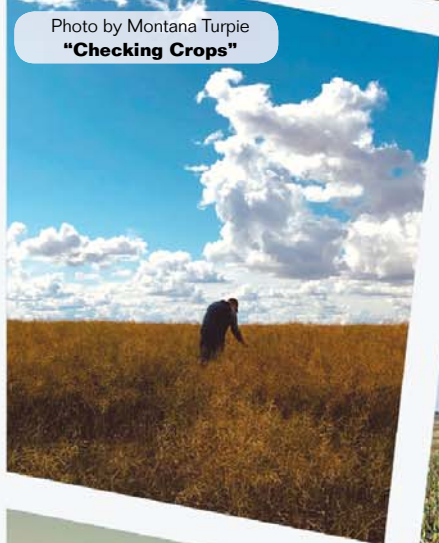


Photo by Montana Turpie
"Checking Crops"



Photo by Elize Steyn



Photo by Danny O'Connor

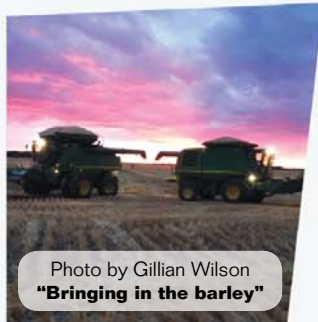


Photo by Gillian Wilson
"Bringing in the barley"

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Fall Harvest Photo Contest

The World-Spectator has asked readers to submit their best photos of harvest 2019. The winner of the contest will win \$100. Photos can be emailed to photos@world-spectator.com



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FALL 2019 SALE SCHEDULE

- SEPTEMBER 2019 -

25	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
28	Saturday	Little Valley Quarter Horse & DAC Farms	
30	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.

- OCTOBER 2019 -

2	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
4	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
9	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
14	Monday	No Butcher Sale Receiving Feeders: 10 - 5, Presort	
16	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
17	Thursday	Sheep & Goat Sale	12 Noon
21	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
23	Wednesday	Presort Charolais Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
28	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
30	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	10 a.m.

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- NOVEMBER 2019 -

4	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
6	Wednesday	Presort Charolais Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
11	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
13	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
15	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.
18	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
20	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
22	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.
25	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
27	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
29	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.

- DECEMBER 2019 -

2	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
4	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
6	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.
9	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
10	Tuesday	No Borders Charolais Sale	
11	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
13	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.
15	Sunday	Bonchuk Farms Female Production Sale	
16	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
18	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
20	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.

Sale dates and times subject to change.

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Harvest only 28 per cent complete in southeast Sask by Sept. 16

Less than half the five-year average of 64 per cent

Rainfall and cool weather kept harvest at a slow pace in the southeastern region last week.

Twenty-eight per cent of the crop is now in the bin, up from 24 per cent last week but well behind the five-year (2014-2018) average of 64 per cent for this time of year.

An additional 36 per cent of the crop is swathed or ready to straight-cut.

Warm and dry weather is needed for fields to dry up and for harvest operations to continue.

Much of the region received significant rainfall last week that has left standing water in some fields.

Rainfall in the region ranged from 14 mm in the Tantaloon area to 80 mm in the Pense area.

The Carnduff area received 36 mm of rain, the Kisbey area 50 mm, the Moosomin area 39 mm, the Grenfell area 37 mm, the Weyburn area 38 mm, the Vibank area 48 mm, the Regina area 42 mm, the Marquis area 62 mm and the Radville area 28 mm.

The Indian Head area has received the most precipitation since April 1 (426 mm).

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 25 per cent surplus, 73 per cent adequate and two per cent short.

Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as two per cent surplus, 91 per cent adequate and seven per cent short.

Crop Districts 2A and 2B are reporting that 72 per cent and 19 per cent of the cropland, respectively has surplus topsoil moisture at this time.

The majority of crop damage this past week was due to localized flooding and strong winds.

There have been many reports of crops sprouting and bleaching due to excess moisture and downgrading is expected at the elevator.

Harvest is most advanced in the southwest region, where 37 per cent of the crop is now combined. The west-central region is at 26 per cent. The northeast region has 15 per cent combined, the east-central region 12 per cent combined, while the northwest region has 10 per cent.

Across the province, 90 per cent of winter wheat, 88 per cent of fall rye, 78 per cent of field peas, 75 per cent of lentils, 39 per cent of barley, 17 per cent of durum and oats, 13 per cent of spring wheat and six per cent of canola is now in the bin. An additional 56 per cent of canola is swathed or is ready to straight-cut.



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It has been a challenging year, but we salute all of the farmers in our area working hard to get the 2019 harvest in!

THE WORLD-Spectator

A tough harvest

Wet conditions frustrate farmers

Continued from front
 "I have taken some to the elevator until they wouldn't take it anymore, and I have lots of it contracted to go to the elevator but they just won't take it. It is overwhelming their drying system because everyone is in the exact same boat where we are all taking off wet grain just because it is late in the season."

McCarriston says the moisture has affected the quality of his wheat.

"I never got one bushel of what you would call number one wheat off. It has all been number two so far. I'm worried that some of the stuff I haven't taken to the elevator to have graded yet could be a number three. The falling numbers, it's kind of something that goes along with sprouting, and the problem is that the grain just sat out in the field wet and warm for too long, so it's trying to grow before it's harvested again. If it sprouts, that automatically knocks it back to feed value, and feed value is \$4.50."

McCarriston says poor harvest has not only made it tough for him, but for the people he's working with.

"The material is all wetter so it's harder on the combine which is more maintenance and more plugged combines. We are kind of trying to power through, but it hasn't been a fun harvest. It has been very hard on myself and on the guys," he says.

"We have only actually had one full day of harvesting where the combines are going by 9 am and go until 10 pm. We have been having to quit an hour af-

ter dark because it is too damp.

"In the mornings the last few days it is almost like a fog and then by the time that fog lifts and we get going, it is almost lunch time. We are just not getting the long days in that we normally would, and now it is late in the year so it just seems right after supper it is already dark. You don't get much of an evening. It is tough on the guys when you are out in the dark, and the dust is really hanging. It is a really thick dust this year and I noticed that with myself and everybody else there is more coughing."

"It has not been a fun harvest at all but we are definitely trying to power through it. It has been trying. I guess one upside is that we are getting the moisture we need for next year's crops."

John Van Eaton, who farms at Maryfield said he was about 60 per cent done harvest last week, and was taking off the last of his wheat. He said he had all of his canola left to do.

"About the end of August we got a fair bit of hail in our area and since then we've had about eight inches of rain, so that's been a challenge," he says. "Because we haven't done any canola yet, I'm not sure if it has really affected the quality of the canola, but certainly it has affected the quality of the wheat."

"We haven't noticed any sprouting in our samples, but certainly it is bleached and it will be down graded and probably has some mildew."

"We've taken some earlier seeded wheat in and

it was Number 1, but I haven't taken in any of this later stuff. I'm hoping that it could still be a two because it is not sprouted, or it doesn't look like it's sprouted. But if it is a two, it's a poor two."

"We've combined very little dry wheat. Most of it has been tough, and so we are trying to reassign our aeration bins and our drying capabilities."

What kind of weather do the farmers need now?

"To finish harvest and get whatever fall work we need done, we need seasonal temperatures and dry weather right to the end of October," says Van Eaton. "Our straw baling is completed but we like to do some fall work and some spraying and stuff."

"We really need the next five to six weeks to be at least seasonal temperatures and dry weather."

Wendy Leeds, an agronomist with Sharpe's Crop Services in Moosomin, says harvest is behind where it normally is at this time.

"I would say the progress to date is probably 35-40 percent, which would be quite a bit behind our normal," she says.

"The duration of our wet and humid weather has affected quality of the cereals. I haven't heard enough about canola to see if there are any issues there."

"Typically when we have extended periods of wetter weather, the cereals end up starting to sprout, so then that causes issues with grain."

"Canola is a bit more resilient, but it can start to have issues as well with sprouting depending again on the duration and where

it's at in its process of ripening."

She says it's tough to have much good to say about this year's harvest, but there are some longer-term benefits of the moisture.

"One positive about the moisture is that we will have a recharge of our moisture levels," she says. "The other thing, too, is anybody who has planted winter cereals, they are looking in great condition because of the weather

they have had access to, so that's a positive for anybody who has done that."

"We are still not late in the world of harvest, but it's been obviously trying for everybody because of the higher moisture content of our grains. It's not as easy to dry them down."

What do farmers need now?
 "Sun, wind and above normal temperatures would be handy," she says. She says the staff at Sharpes are doing what

they can to provide assistance to the local farmers, and are already looking to next year's farming season.

"We are always available this time of year to chat with our customers to help pass the day on the combine," she says. "And we are active in the fields getting ready for next year—soil testing, checking for weed development, looking for any disease presence. Anything that will help our farmers with crop planning for 2020."

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Kola brings in harvest for Foodgrains Bank

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

While time is vital to farmers in the late harvest of 2019, farmers in the Kola area left their own fields behind on Tuesday and spent some precious harvest hours harvesting a crop to benefit people they will never see.

The Crossborders Growing Project at Kola is one of the longest running projects to benefit the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

And the time they took away from their own harvest operations could make all the difference for people in developing countries who do not have access to stable food supplies.

The farmers volunteering their time on Tuesday harvested 10,900 bushels (net) of canola off a 275 acre field. There was 25 per cent hail damage on the field.

The farmers were working with equipment provided by local implement dealers.

They were working with three grain carts, and nine combines, including machines from Rocky Mountain Equipment, Mazergroup and Pattison Ag dealerships from Moosomin, and six semis.

Gordon Janzen, Manitoba regional coordinator for the Foodgrains Bank, spoke to the crowd about the Foodgrains Bank's mission to start off the day.

About 175 people were there for a pork on a bun lunch donated by Hylife. The meal was organized and sponsored by BDO and Sunrise Credit Union in Virden.

After lunch, tractors and combine operators waited a few hours for the grain to dry to an acceptable level.

They received the go ahead at 3:15 pm and the combines fired up. It took approximately three hours to finish the field. All grain was delivered to Viterra in Fairlight.

The Crossborders Growing Project has raised more than three quarters of a million dollars for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank since 2000.

Founded in 1983, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 church and church-based agencies working together with the goal of ending global hunger. In 2018-19, the Foodgrains Bank was able to help more than 800,000 people in 36 countries have enough to eat.

Each year, the Canadian government provides the Foodgrains Bank with \$25 million in matching financial support, to match the funds raised through growing

projects across Canada.

The Foodgrains Bank helps in five main ways:

- It provides emergency food for people who are hungry because of things like war, drought, and unfair international trade policies.
- It provides tools and trainings so that hungry people, many of whom are small-scale farmers, can feed themselves.
- It supports programs that improve nutrition, especially for children and nursing mothers, and that provide nutrition education and training for families, and works to end global hunger through education and advocacy.
- It works to influence national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger.
- It tries to engage and educate Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank members work with trusted partners overseas to make sure food goes where it is intended. Assistance is carefully and closely monitored, and Foodgrains Bank staff and volunteers regularly visit project sites to conduct audits and do other monitoring.

In spite of some very challenging logistics in foreign ground transportation and distribution, together with civil unrest or war, Foodgrains Bank staff know that more than 95 per cent of food gets to where it is needed.

(When I reported from Afghanistan I watched the Kabul Widows Project distribute Foodgrains Bank flour, lentils, canola oil and iodized salt to families with no other means of sustenance. Each family received enough food to meet their needs).

The Foodgrains Bank has relatively low administrative expenses because of its reliance on volunteers. Three percent of the organization's expenses goes toward administration, and an additional three percent goes toward fundraising and resource development.

The Foodgrains Bank relies on volunteers to raise funds and awareness to help the group offer assistance in the developing world.

Growing projects, relying on farmers volunteering their time and businesses contributing inputs and machinery, are the main source of funding for the Foodgrains Bank.

Scenes from the Foodgrains Bank harvest Tuesday, Sept. 17

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