

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Poltava Dancers coming to Moosomin for Ukrainian fundraiser

Kim Poole photo

The Poltava Dancers Ukrainian dance troupe will be coming to Moosomin April 30 for a fundraiser for Ukraine relief, organized by Moosomin's Ukrainian community. This photo is from a previous visit of the Poltava Dancers to Moosomin.

Ukrainian community plans major fundraiser

Local fundraising efforts have already raised more than \$40,000

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Moosomin's Ukrainian community has raised more than \$40,000 to date for Ukrainian relief efforts, and is planning a major fundraiser for Saturday, April 30—a Ukrainian supper and entertainment by the Pol-

tava Dancers, a world-famous Ukrainian dance group.

The local Ukrainian community's efforts to support Ukraine started six weeks ago with the opening of the Support Ukraine Fundraising Centre, and soon expanded

into a plan to welcome refugees to Moosomin.

Plans came together soon after for a fundraiser featuring the Poltava Dancers, who have performed to sold-out events in Moosomin in the past.

"So far we've raised \$40,000, and it's just hard to believe how supportive everybody is," says Roman Chernykh, a member of the local Ukrainian community and owner of TJ's Pizza in Moosomin.

Continued on page 5

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Whitewood Farmers and Friends Bonspiel held March 25-27



The 2022 Farmers and Friends A event winning team were, from left, skip Jeff Hurting, third Tyler Hartung, second Claire Decock and lead Bob Hartung. The foursome counted one in the final end of a tie game to win the 2022 trophy.

By DONNA BEUTLER
The Whitewood Farmers and Friends Bonspiel held March 24-27 raised over \$83,000 at what has become known as one of the biggest curling events in southeast Saskatchewan. While this figure is not the final tally, the amount includes the \$69,150 raised from the fundraiser auction as well as the \$8,080 raised at the silent auction. Not only has the event become a great fundraiser for Whitewood and area, but it also has become a great weekend of curling fun for the 64 teams that have participated in each of the five years the event has run.

In a nail-biting A Event final at the bonspiel, the Decock rink led by skip Jeff Hartung won against Team Krupski in what had been a tie game at the end of the 7th. Hartung's team included third Tyler Hartung, second Claire Decock and lead Bob Hartung. Team Decock's shot stone wasn't able to be removed by the Krupski team's final rock as the game concluded 6-5 for Decock's rink at the end of the 8-end game.

Team Knapp (Regina Raptors) consisting of skip Kelly Knapp, third Dean Clark, second Trent Knapp and lead Brad Fekula were the B Event winners in a 7-0 win against Team JK Metals.

Team Gamble with players skip Ben Gamble, third Braydan Mohns, second Haylee Jameson and lead Maria Leippi played Team Meredith in the C Event game to win in an extra end of play. With a 7-3 lead by Team Meredith at the end of the 7th, Team Gamble counted four to tie the game in the 8th. Though Meredith had the hammer, their last rock went through the house, leaving the Gamble rink counting one for an 8-7 win.

In the D Event game with the Trent Brister team playing the Collin Istace team, Istace was down two with the hammer coming home. Though Team Istace was able to count one, the Brister team won with a 6-5 score to take the event. Brister's team consisted of skip Larry Thorburn, third

Garry Leach, second Gloria Leach and lead Trent Brister.

This year's spiel marked the 5th year of the 64-rink event, the largest Saskatchewan bonspiel under one roof. The event may have lost two years due to the pandemic, but rolled seamlessly into the 2022 year for a weekend full of curling action and fun for curlers and spectators alike.

Farmers and Friends committee member told the Moosomin World Spectator that it was such an amazing weekend and couldn't say enough about the curlers, volunteers, sponsors and committee members who make it all possible.

"I think the fact that we have had to wait two years to celebrate our 5th anniversary made it all the

more exciting and special," Beutler said. "The tremendous success of the event is overwhelming when you really think about it — so much great feedback from the curlers and sponsors and so much money raised for a lot of different community groups. It was amazing!"

Along with all the curling action, the local Farmers and Friends committee had a live Calcutta, a draw to the button, a silent auction, an envelope raffle, an elimination draw door prize, a prize for best dressed team and a fabulous duelling piano show on Saturday night. On top of that was the Friday night live auction which included 39 donated items up for bid.

The live auction started with a homemade quilt be-



ing auctioned off with all proceeds going to STARS. The quilt, a work of art by Whitewood locals Sharon and Darrell Armstrong, was made to help raise money for STARS after the Armstrongs were impacted by the need of a STARS ambulance in their own lives. Not only was one "stars" quilt made by the Armstrongs but a second quilt as well which was also auctioned off specifically for STARS. \$1400

The committee started a recreation lifetime achievement award in 2018 in order to recognize a member of the Whitewood community for their commitment and dedication to sports in Whitewood and Chad Kelly was proud to announce this year's deserving winner, Shirley Kodman who has held various roles in a number of sports over the years.

"I was so overwhelmed and very humbled to be recognized alongside Dennis Scott (2019 winner) and Everett Thompson (2018 winner)," Kodman told the Moosomin World Spectator. "This award means so much to me."

Presenting the Bert and Doris Page Memorial Trophy to the A event winners at the end of the final day were their great grandchildren, Carter Page, Kel-

bree Page and Kaleb Page, children of Cam and Tracy Page of Whitewood.

The Farmers and Friends bonspiel, in the first four years of its existence, raised over \$250,000. In 2018 the committee started a grant program and anyone involved in the bonspiel can apply for funding for projects. Since 2018, nearly \$90,000 has been given out to 30 groups from 11 different communities.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Ukrainian community plans major fundraiser

Local fundraising efforts have already raised more than \$25,000

Continued from front

"It's just amazing the support from everybody. Everybody says how can I help with Ukraine, with the refugees, every day people are saying I have a place for the refugees, I can help.

"It feels great! Our fundraising is just amazing for our size of town. We also shipped 500 kg of humanitarian supplies to Ukraine. We're still working to get even more, but at this point right now we've got lots of clothes and everything else.

"We're looking forward to the refugees to come over so we have to start getting ready for that as well, so when people arrive, they don't have to wait, they will get their help right away.

"At this point right now I'm already working with one family. He's been working on the cruiseships, he's a friend of mine, and he's from Kharkiv. When his work was done and it was time for him to go home, it was February 24, and there was war in Ukraine.

"In a couple more days his wife called him and said that their home was gone. She left right away and now she's in Poland in a refugee camp, her and the little dog. Her son wasn't able to leave Ukraine because he's over 22 so he stays behind, and that's just sad to see those families being separated.

"People don't know what's happening next and it's scary. You had a nice life one day and then the next day everything is gone and your family's split.

"So now he is in the United States and I'm helping him, connecting him with a lawyer so he can get his paperwork done and then be able to arrive in Canada and his wife will arrive from Poland to Canada as well.

"They're coming to Moosomin. We're still working on the process but I'm hoping very soon we're going to see them here. That's the first step, you know, one step at a time and I'm glad we as a community were able to help these people. It feels really good. We've got two lives already saved. That's important.



Kim Poole photo

A scene from a previous visit of the Poltava Dancers to Moosomin

"I've just been approached by a couple businesses and they asked me if I can do Ukrainian lunches for their businesses, so that keeps me busy for the lunches. Just today, MNP ordered 16 lunches and I'm happy to do that as a fundraiser.

"It makes me feel good because at least you can do something.

"You can do something for your people, for the freedom fight, and it feels great, but at the same time my heart is with Ukraine right now.

"I cannot express how much pain it's causing for all of us being away from our homes and not being able to fight there right now."

Upcoming fundraiser

"Our big fundraiser will be the Poltava Dancers on April 30," said Chernykh.

"I actually had a conversation with Olga (McCarthy) a few months ago before the war started and I said 'listen, we need to bring the Poltava back to Moosomin. Olga said, 'let's do it, let me figure

out who we can raise the money for,' and then we were going to do it some time in March or April.

"Unfortunately the war came in Ukraine and now it is a great opportunity for us to raise money for the people that need it right now.

"So we decided to go ahead with that on April 30. It's going to be a big fundraiser. We're going to have 400 tickets, so that's going to be a big fundraiser.

"The Ukrainian community will be doing 400 meals—perogies, cabbage rolls, everything. We have started planning it and we're meeting every weekend, all of us, and we'll be ready for it."

Tickets are available at the World-Spectator office and at TJ's Pizza for the Poltava Dancers fundraiser. Tickets will be \$60 each.

The Conexus MCC Centre will be set up with tables of 8, and purchasers of full tables will receive a complimentary bottle of wine for the table.

Hopes for Ukraine

Chernykh said he is inspired by the way Ukrainians have stood up against Russian aggression.

"I am definitely positive that we will win," he said. "We're already winning. This is the moment where things can be fixed once again and forever. We can get all our territories back, we can eliminate all those hot spots around Georgia and Moldova.

"I hope we can get our Crimea back, it's a place where I used to go as a kid and it's always been Ukrainian, and I'm hoping something may happen within Russia and people in Russia will start realizing it's time to do something about it and it's time to fight. That will cause less killings in Ukraine, but it's just a hope.

"Right now my biggest hope is just that our Ukrainians are going to fight and we will win. I'm positive about it.

"As President Zelensky said in his speech to the United States Congress, it's all our countries we're fighting for right now. Ukrainians are fighting for freedom and democracy. If we want to protect our way of life. If we want to live this life, we need to fight for it and we need to protect it."

Encouraged by meeting

Chernykh said he took a lot of encouragement from the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting in March, where a large crowd came out to show their support and offer their help for the Ukrainian community's efforts on fundraising and on hosting refugees.

"It was so great to see the support at that meeting," Chernykh said. "I feel great support from the businesses here, from the community, from the Chamber of Commerce. It was a great meeting and there was lots of useful information that we're taking from that. It was good to see the support, it was good to have everybody together to share information, and now we can move on to the next steps."

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Left: The Carnduff Red Devils celebrating their Big Six championship after winning Game 4 on home ice in Carnduff. **Right:** Red Devils captain Kody Martin with the Big Six championship trophy. Rachelle Apperley photos

Carnduff Red Devils seize Big Six championship

The Carnduff Red Devils are Big Six Hockey League champions after coming out victorious in a battle for the championship over the Redvers Rockets on Friday, March 25 when the Rockets were topped 6-2 in Game 4 of the final by the Red Devils.

Leading 2-1 in the best-of-five series, the Red Devils had a chance to win a championship on home ice and

they didn't pass it up. The Rockets scored in the first and second periods, but the Red Devils were hungry for the championship and outpaced the Rockets with a goal in the first period, then three goals in the second period and two in the third period to put in a solid win and claim the championship in front of a home town crowd.

Despite the loss, it was a good season overall for the

Rockets, who topped the regular season standings two points ahead of the Red Devils, before battling their way through league playoffs to meet the Red Devils in the final.

There are no easy games in the Big Six Hockey League, and the Red Devils proved that by upping their game during the final to get the best of the Rockets in the end.

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Wawota holds 7th Annual Sledge Hockey Tournament

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On the weekend of March 25, the seventh annual Wawota Sledge Hockey Tournament took place. Melanie Brimmer of Wawota said she was happy to see so many friends and families come out in support of the event.

"There were 13 teams and lots of spectators, it was a really great weekend," she said.

The history behind why the Sledge Hockey Tournament originally began was because Brimmer wanted everyone to feel included.

"The tournament is about supporting acceptance and inclusion," she said.

"My son was in a car accident in '07, and I started the tournament just so he could play hockey again with his family and friends. He's paralyzed from his chest down. So that was the initial idea and we just carried on from there."

Brimmer said this tournament benefits other members of the community.

"I think it gives them awareness of what it's like living with a disability, and the tournament is not just for people living with disabilities either, there's lots of people who are not sport oriented or have different reasons why they don't play and this is just about



coming out and having some fun.
"Everyone is equal and no one needs to feel like they're not good enough, that's the most important thing that we do."
Sweaters and t-shirts for the 2022 Sledge Hockey Tournament were sold, along with a draw where all proceeds went towards the town's rink.
"Every year I donate it back to our rink, a part of it goes to STARS Air Ambulance and this year I purchased all the merchandise, so that will go towards that as well."

Continued on page 8

Left: Three time champions of Wawota's Sledge Hockey Tournament. **Top row:** Mitch Porter, Matthew Fahlman, Billy Easton, and Melanie Brimmer. **Bottom row:** Jesse Schill, Lucas Porter and Maddie Mansfield. Missing in the photo is Walker Porter and Emmett McCarthy.

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Left: The Jamieson Team from Moosomin at Wawota's Seventh Annual Sledge Hockey Tournament. From left are Owen MacMillan, Ty Nagy, Rooen Locke, Rory Poole, Zayn Leslie, Dawson Garvey and Levi Jamieson.

Wawota holds 7th Annual Sledge Hockey Tournament

Continued from page 7
 "This is our seventh year hosting the tournament, we had to take two years off of course because of Covid, but this is an annual one-weekend event for us."
 Throughout the years, Brimmer said the event has raised just over \$50,000. The funds have covered the cost for the tournament and have been given back to the community's rink and STARS Air Ambulance.
 She shared what she is most proud of from the tournament.
 "I'm happy that everyone came together

and had so much fun. By the end of the tournament, kids were like 'I forgot how much fun this is, I can't wait until next year.' That's what people walk away saying, which is nice."
 Brimmer said they plan to host another tournament for sledge hockey next year.
 "We plan to do it next year. When I started it I said I'll go as long as everyone still wants to do it."
 "It just seems to be getting more popular, and that's what I'll continue to do as long as people want to do it, I'll keep doing it."



Above: Sadie and Kasen enjoying sledge hockey in Wawota, during the weekend of the town's annual sledge hockey tournament.



Left: Two different Wawota teams faced off against each other at the Sledge Hockey Tournament.



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Ambulance funding for Moosomin, Kipling, Redvers, Indian Head, Oxbow

Third ambulance crew funded for Moosomin, increasing capacity 50 per cent

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Increased funding from the provincial government will add to ambulance capacity in five southeast Saskatchewan communities. Some of those communities have had a critical shortage of ambulance capacity in recent months.

In Moosomin, funding will be provided for a third ambulance staffed with three full-time employees eight hours a day, and 16 hours on call.

The province is providing an \$11 million funding increase to EMS services.

An investment of \$7.3 million will support stabilization of emergency medical services (EMS) with additional paramedics, ambulances and funding in 27 communities across the province, with a particular focus on rural, remote and northern areas.

“Our government is committed to getting emergency medical services for our residents back on track by addressing critical areas of need with a dedicated focus on rural, remote and northern communities,” Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley said.

“EMS is a valuable part of our overall health care system, and we are grateful for the service they provide. This significant new investment will strengthen ambulance services in 27 communities across our province.”

The new funding will add 70.7 full time equivalent positions and will address critical priority areas in communities across the province, including Indian Head, Kipling, Moosomin, Oxbow, and Redvers in southeast Saskatchewan.

In both Moosomin and Indian Head, the funding will cover an additional ambulance staffed eight hours a day, and 16 hours on call.

In Kipling and Redvers, the funding will mean an increase in paid hours to staff current resources on wages eight hours a



A Hutch Ambulance vehicle in a Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade. Moosomin is now being funded for three ambulance crews, an increase from the two full-time crews that have served the community for decades. Hutch Ambulance will be going from six to nine full-time employees staffing its ambulances in Moosomin. In addition, the province is increasing funding for ambulance services in Kipling and Redvers to staff current resources to eight hours a day, 16 hours on call.

day, and 16 hours on call. Previously those ambulances were just operated with on-call staff.

In Oxbow, current blended positions will be converted to staff the ambulance eight hours a day, 16 hours on call.

Also included in the \$11 million budget increase for emergency medical services is \$653,000 to expand community paramedicine to rural and northern communities by adding three additional full-time positions and covering training costs to further en-

hance and stabilize available supports.

The community paramedicine positions will be split as follows:

One between Beauval and Buffalo Narrows; One among Wynyard, Wadena and Wakaw, and potentially other locations in the area; and One will be targeted to one or more First Nations communities.

Community paramedicine provides patients with increased access to mobile health services closer to home. Paramedics apply their training and skills in commu-

nity-based environments, often outside the usual emergency response and transportation model.

Also, \$1.5 million will provide ongoing support for wage increases implemented in 2021 for paramedics working for contracted EMS services to help recruit and retain staff.

“Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan (PSCS) is pleased with the announcement in the provincial budget that lays the foundation in addressing the crucial needs of ambulance services and paramedics in the province,” PSCS President Steven Skoworodko said. “We look forward to ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Health as well as the SHA of paramedics abilities and needs.”

Saskatchewan’s Medical First Responder Program will also receive \$593,000 in annualized funding to maintain recruitment levels of new members, add another 2.5 full-time positions, and maintain training levels and new equipment.

As part of this year’s total increase, \$1.3 million will support annualized costs for the additional resources approved and implemented in Regina and Saskatoon in 2021-22.

“We are very appreciative of the government of Saskatchewan providing additional funding for Emergency Medical Services,” Saskatchewan Health Authority Vice-President, Provincial Programs Corey Miller said. “This will help reduce wait times for patients and gaps in service in many rural areas. It also demonstrates a commitment to supporting patients and EMS staff.”

The funding increase provided in this year’s budget will add resources and capacity to stabilize services and respond to emergencies in a timely manner. It will also help address gaps within rural and remote communities through community paramedicine and enhancements to the Medical First Responder Program.

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Nutrien to add 150 jobs across Saskatchewan

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Nutrien plans to add 150 new positions across Saskatchewan as it ramps up capacity to meet growing fertilizer demand and the lack of supply from Belarus, which is under sanctions.

"The world potash market continues to evolve daily and there is considerable uncertainty with regards to production levels in Eastern Europe as a result of the conflict in Ukraine and the sanctions on Belarus," BJ Arnold of Nutrien told the World-Spectator last week.

"On March 16, we announced a plan to increase 2022 potash production capability to approximately 15 million tonnes in response to the uncertainty of supply from Eastern Europe.

"The majority of this additional volume is expected to be delivered in the second half of the year and the additional capacity will come from our six low-cost potash mine sites across Saskatchewan.

"Achieving this significant increase in production will require additional resources to complete and we are looking to hire approximately 150 people in addition to our current levels."

Nutrien says it does not know at this point how many of the new positions will be at Nutrien Rocanville

"As for specific site details, we are currently evaluating and will continue to work hard to meet our customers' needs in a safe and sustainable way," said Arnold.

Rocanville is Nutrien's largest and lowest cost mine, with a nameplate capacity of 6.5 million tonnes.

Nutrien had said March 16 that in response to the uncertainty of potash supply from Eastern Europe, it plans to increase its potash production capacity, and plans to add to its workforce in Saskatchewan.

Nutrien said it plans to increase its potash production capability to approximately 15 million tonnes in 2022, an increase of nearly one million tonnes compared to previous expectations.

The majority of additional volume is expected to be produced in the second half of the year.

"Our thoughts and sympathies are with those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine and we hope for an immediate de-escalation of this conflict. The impacts of this conflict extend beyond Eastern Europe as a disruption in supply of key agriculture, fertilizer and energy commodities, which could have implications for global food security," said Ken Seitz, Nutrien's Interim President and CEO.

"Nutrien is responding to this period of unprece-



Nutrien plans to add 150 jobs across Saskatchewan as it ramps up production to meet expanding fertilizer needs. Nutrien has not yet determined how many of those jobs will be at

Nutrien Rocanville, but Rocanville is the company's largest and lowest cost mine.

dent market uncertainty by safely expanding potash production to help provide our customers with the crop inputs they need. We continue to closely monitor market conditions and will evolve our long-term plans to ensure we utilize our assets in a safe and sustainable manner that benefits all our stakeholders," added Seitz.

Nutrien's 2022 potash production is expected to increase by nearly 20 percent compared to 2020 and account for more than 70 per cent of global production added over this period.

The company is planning a small increase in its 2022 capital expenditures and will be hiring additional employees across its network of potash mines in Saskatchewan.

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In response to question about Moosomin airport:

Premier says it's time for discussion on airports

Everett Hindley says airport issue has to be looked at from health care perspective

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said it's time for "a strategic discussion on where our significant airports are in the province" and Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley said Moosomin's airport issue has to be looked at from a health care perspective, after Moosomin's airport was raised in a question at the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities convention.

Local municipalities have been working on an airport expansion project to provide a longer paved runway for Moosomin Airport.

Part of the reason for the expansion is so the airport can accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance. Local doctors say a paved runway that can accommodate the fixed-wing Air Ambulance, along with a CT scanner at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre in Moosomin, would lead to improved patient care for stroke victims in southeast Saskatchewan, and much improved transportation between SEICC and stroke and trauma centres in Saskatoon.

The airport project has received the maximum contribution under the province's airport capital funding program for three consecutive years, but still has a lot of money to raise before the project can be completed.

RM of Martin administrator Cheryl Barré raised the issue at SARM.

"I'm the administrator for the RM of Martin and assistant administrator of the RM of Moosomin. Does the province have a strategy for rural airport infrastructure versus just repairs?" she asked. "The reason I ask is, in Moosomin a local collaboration of entrepreneurs and RMs ranked a paved runway as a priority number one. The key reasons being healthcare, stroke, getting children to the Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, corporate investment, key regional accessibility by air. We want our rural communities to thrive and we realize with this collaborative approach, it



Work on Moosomin's airport expansion project in September 2021

doesn't always feel like the province is on our side."

"Thank you, and yes we do have a program out there for the rural airports and we've actually had quite an uptake on the rural airport program," responded Highways and Transportation Minister Fred Bradshaw, whose department is responsible for the airport infrastructure grant.

"We will partner with the various different communities on the airports.

"As a former ag pilot I certainly know that we need these airports around, in our

various rural communities.

"It's something that we are well aware of, and we have been working with the various different rural areas to help and assist with the rural airports."

Premier Scott Moe then interjected to provide his thoughts.

"On that, there's an interesting thing going on in Moosomin on the economic development file where there's some tremendous involvement by a number of employers in the area that are really coming together to really prioritize what they see in their community and their region, or what would advance investment essentially, and when you quite often look at economic development, we all look at it as what can we attract, what new business can we attract to the community and really I think the focus that I see with the individual I met from this group was how do we attract people who can work in our community and raise their family in our community. So looking at it from the per-

spective of things like recreational centres, looking at it from the perspective of organized sports for children and young families that ultimately would move to your community.

"The airport piece does have a health-care aspect to it in some areas of the province. We have STARS that has some broad coverage across the province, but I know being in the north there's some areas where fixed wing aircraft are still necessary.

"The airports also have a role to play as Saskatchewan grows with the investments that are arriving here, some of those larger global companies, BHP likely among them, and Nutrien. These very significantly sized companies, when they have decision makers come in from time to time, they might come in by air.

"So it may be time for us to join and have a strategic discussion on where our significant airports are in the province and what they are actually doing and the area they're serving, not just the community where they're located, but the broader region around that location.

"We have Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton and a few others, but we might want to have a geographical look at what our airport infrastructure is across the province and I can't think of a better individual to do that than our pilot in cabinet, Fred Bradshaw."

The premier then asked Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley to comment on the issue.

"Actually Minister Bradshaw and myself had a meeting with representatives from Moosomin earlier this past fall, organized by MLA Steven Bonk, just to raise this very issue from a number of different perspectives and specific to the rural healthcare provision in the community of Moosomin and the area it serves," said Hindley.

"That is an important area for us as government. We have to take a look from that perspective and that angle and to look at what does that area serve in terms of healthcare.

"That includes road ambulance, air ambulance, STARS, accessibility to the community, making sure that the residents of Moosomin and area have the ability to access the health care that they need. So we're looking at it from that lens as well.

"We had a very good meeting when we met this past fall and I know we're taking a look at some options there and some potential ideas here for the future. So thanks for raising the question."



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Southeast College in Moosomin has a new Health Care Cook program starting in fall 2022. The program combines theory and hands-on training in cooking healthy foods for residents in health care settings.

Health Care Cook program starting in fall at Southeast College in Moosomin

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Southeast College in Moosomin has introduced a new Health Care Cook 38-week certificate program, that focuses on teaching the knowledge and practice of cooking healthy foods for residents in health care settings.

The program starts August 29 and ends June 16, 2023.

"The Health Care Cook program is designed to train health care cooks to work in health care settings. Anything from a hospital to a long-term home, to a personal care home, to private care facilities," said Sheena Onrait of Southeast College. "The program is very health focused, rather than your typical commercial cooking program that teaches you a broad base of cooking skills, this program is very cus-

tomized to health care settings."

"The students will learn how to modify diets to meet texture and nutritional requirements. This program really teaches them how to work with food preparation in order to meet some of those dietary restrictions and medical conditions for residents, when you are working in a health care facility."

Onrait said there are 10 spots available in the program and people who are interested, should sign up online as soon as they can.

"I would encourage anyone who is interested in the program to either book an appointment with one of our student advisors through our website, or they can also reach out to the local campus in Moosomin to have any questions answered as well."

What will students be learning?

Onrait said because the program is a combination of theory and field work, students will be able to practice cooking in the kitchen at the Mike Schwan Arena.

"It will be a combination of theory and hands-on skills, because it's cooking and because students will be learning what to do with the kitchen and such, there will definitely be a lot of hands on in areas of general cooking skills, kitchen operations and a heavy emphasis on safety and sanitation as well," she said.

The meals prepared by students will be served as lunch or dinner specials within the community.

Onrait said Southeast College has been trying to offer this program for a while, but had to figure out logistics first.

"We wanted to offer this program for quite some time, it sometimes can take a while to find the spaces that are suitable and optimal for learning."

The Moosomin and Whitewood area is great for the program as there is a demand for health care cook jobs, she said.

"We just felt like the Moosomin and Whitewood area was also a great opportunity for us to host this program for the first time," said Onrait.

"Every year we go through a consultative process with both internal and external stakeholders, we go through to see if there's a need for these job in the area, is there a student demand, all sorts of those things factor in to where we decide to host a program and which programs we decide to offer."

"We definitely have some data that supported the fact that health care cooks are needed in the region, if not just in the region but in Saskatchewan as a whole. We

look at the region, but we also look at the bigger picture of Saskatchewan as well."

Considering the Health Care Cook program is a brokered program from Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Onrait said students who complete the program will receive two certificates.

"Even though our students take the programming through Southeast College, we broker the majority of our programs from Saskatchewan Polytechnic" she said.

"Once a student graduates, we will issue a certificate from Southeast College, as well as they will also get a certificate from Saskatchewan Polytechnic because they are the credit granting agency."

Register online for the program

There is no deadline to apply for the program, however Onrait said she recommends people apply as soon as possible.

"We're really excited to offer this program, it's a challenge but a fun challenge every time we offer new programs," she said.

"It takes a little more work to spread the word and get the students in the community really interested about new programs, but it's also really exciting to offer something new in a community that we haven't offered it in before."

Onrait said individuals who are interested should apply for the program and if they have any questions, they should contact the student advisors of Southeast College.

Other full time programs offered at Southeast College are the Electrician and the Continuing Care Assistant programs.

Onrait said both programs have limited spots available and anyone interested should apply online as soon as possible.



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5th Annual Southwest Business & Entrepreneur Expo hosts Your Town Rising speakers

The Municipality of Souris-Glenwood, RM of Pipestone, Town of Virden, RM of Wallace-Woodworth, Town of Melita, Municipality of Grassland and Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester have come together for their 5th annual business expo being held in Souris April 27

To mark the fifth anniversary, the Southwest Business Expo has put together another exciting line up of speakers that will provide innovative ideas and tools for business and communities to succeed.

We start the day by highlighting our past business pitches over the last five years to showcase both the impact of the event and celebrate the businesses ongoing success. An interactive panel discussion, showcasing business within the region to share their path to success, is always a highlight.

The afternoon allows for registrants to choose between a fantastic lineup of speakers from Siere, Tweedia and Your Town Rising.

"Although our virtual expo last year had the ability to reach a broader audience, we are very excited to bring the focus of this event back in person to Souris with an amazing speaker line up, and unite our business community within the Southwest again," says Echo Finlay, Economic Development Officer, Municipality of Souris-Glenwood.

Another unique annual feature of this event is the Business Pitch Competition. The competition will take place on April 26 in Souris with winners announced at the event on April 27. This is open to start-

up entrepreneurs and existing businesses looking to expand. Aside from receiving feedback from an expert panel of judges, they will get a chance to win cash prizes.

We are thrilled to introduce this year's Keynote and Session speakers from Your Town Rising, Leslie Fournier and Gregg McLachlan. Two small-town Ontario business owners, just like you, and re-thinkers, who have been there, done it and helped others succeed. They really do know small towns.

We are also very excited to announce that in partnership with some of our participating municipalities of the Southwest Business Expo, Leslie and Gregg will be doing one on one downtown walkabouts to hear our stories, challenges and help communities see possibilities and ways forward. They will be in the following towns on:

- April 25: Kenton, Elkhorn, Virden
- April 26: Souris
- April 28: Municipality of Grassland
- April 29: Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester

April 30: Melita, RM of Two Borders, Municipality of Brenda-Waskada

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Drilling activity looks like it is going to take an upswing in Southeast Saskatchewan this year. There was more paid for leases in this one sale than there was in all the sales in the last fiscal year. The vast majority of the activity was in Southeast Saskatchewan where 177 leases were offered and 142 were sold for a total of \$17,111,929.83 for an average price of \$1,439.15 per hectare. There was also one drilling license issued in the south east for \$204,118.65.

Sask April oil and gas offering raises \$19.3 million

Offering exceeds total provincial oil and gas rights sales for entire 2021-22 fiscal year

Saskatchewan's April public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights, held on Tuesday, April 5, has generated \$19,307,203.94 in revenue for the province, more than ten times the revenue generated by the April 2021 offering.

The April sale is the first of six oil and gas public offerings scheduled for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The previous five sales raised \$6.1 million in February 2022, \$1.4 million in December, \$1.9 million in October, \$3.1 million in August, and \$0.5 million in June 2021.

With this result, the first public offering for the 2022-23 fiscal year has already exceeded 2021-22's total of \$14,988,127.34.

Of the 208 parcels offered, 169 parcels received acceptable bids, representing over 23,000 total hectares.

Four parcels received bids that were rejected as unacceptable after a technical review, and no bids were submitted for the remaining 35 parcels.

The average bonus bid was \$816.80 per hectare with the highest acceptable bid at \$24,318.44 per hectare.

Southeast Saskatchewan produced the highest interest, bringing in \$17,111,929.83 for 142 parcels totalling 11,890.306 hectares.

Seventeen of those parcels alone received total bonus bids of \$12,193,442.53.

The next sale of the current 2022-23 fiscal year is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

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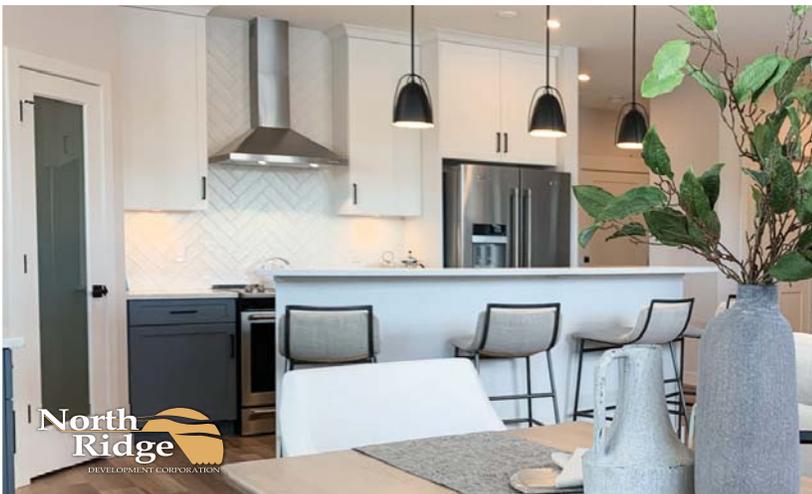
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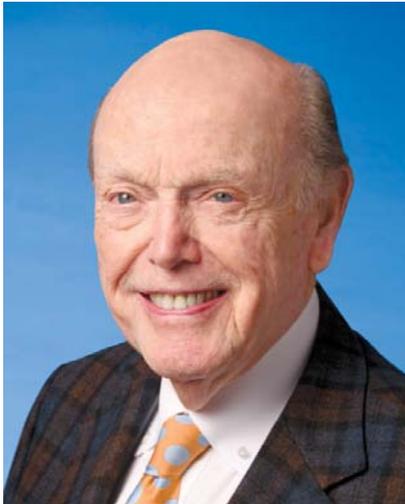
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Jim Pattison receives Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award



The Government of Saskatchewan has recognized Jim Pattison with the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to Saskatchewan's economy and his dedication to philanthropy.

Mr. Pattison was privately presented with the award in February 2022.

"Jim Pattison is the pride of Luseland, Saskatchewan," Premier Scott Moe said.

"His success is attributed to his hard work, dedication and consideration for the greater good. Saskatchewan is

proud to present Mr. Pattison with the award, as his contributions to the province have benefited so many."

Pattison started his career as a car salesman and is now the CEO, chair and sole owner of the Jim Pattison Group, Canada's largest privately held company. The group owns Pattison Agriculture in Moosomin.

Pattison is also the owner of Ripley's Believe It or Not!, Guinness World Records, Save-On-Foods, Quality Foods, Real Estate Development and many media outlets across the western provinces.

He is also a philanthropist. Pattison donated \$50 million toward the construction of the children's hospital in Saskatoon, which is now named in his honour. Because of his generosity, many families in Saskatchewan are able to seek medical help and treatment closer to home.

"Mr. Pattison has not only enriched Saskatchewan's economy, he has also improved the lives of the citizens in our province," Moe said. "I want to personally thank Mr. Pattison for his work and continued contri-

butions."

Pattison has always found ways to give back to the province. In July 2017, he arranged for Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe's crystal and rhinestone encrusted dress, made famous when she wore it to sing "Happy Birthday" to then United States President John F. Kennedy, to be displayed in his hometown of Luseland, drawing observers from far and wide. The dress made further stops at his Save-On-Food locations in Saskatoon and Regina, as well as other store locations in western Canada.

The Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award recognizes non-residents of the province who have made outstanding contributions to Saskatchewan and the development of the province's economy, culture and society.

Nominations for the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award may be proposed by any ministry, agency or Crown corporation of the Government of Saskatchewan, or authority in which the government is a direct partner.

Including Pattison, 25 people have received the award since its inception in 1997.

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Borderland Co-op continues to build

**Moosomin liquor store now open • DQ to be built at Whitewood
Work on Moosomin food store expansion could begin within a year**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Borderland Co-op has opened its newest operation, a liquor store next to the C-Store in Moosomin.

The liquor store opened on March 17, two years after Borderland's new head office opened in Moosomin. Prior to that, the last major project for Borderland in Moosomin was the opening of the home centre in 2015.

The next project for Borderland will be a DQ next to the Whitewood C-store, and Borderland is looking ahead to the expansion of the Moosomin food store.

Liquor store open

The new liquor store opened March 17.

"It took a little longer than we thought, just because of all the supply chain challenges," said Borderland Co-op General Manager Jason Schenn. "There were delays and unfortunately that just keeps adding to the price. The more time everybody's got to spend on site waiting on stuff, it doesn't get cheaper so it eats up the contingency pretty quick, but we're glad to finally be ready to open."

The liquor store adds three new full-time and three new part-time jobs.

Why was the liquor store a priority for Borderland?

"We have a market there, with the highway, that is massive," said Schenn. "When we first built the C-Store we were continually evaluating traffic flow and just what the traffic patterns are, and determining how can you keep attracting people to come off the highway and visit our site and visit the community."

"One of the things that we found is if you have complementary things out there then it's something to grab, it's another reason for people to turn off the highway."

"Obviously the Tim Horton's was the first big thing for us to try and do that. That was immensely successful and so we've been looking for other ways to branch out as well."

"So when this opportunity came along we were excited to add that to what we can offer at that site."

"We now have three C-Stores down Highway 1—Moosomin, Whitewood and Broadview, and we have one at Grenfell as well but it's off the highway."

"We're trying to structure our C-Stores so we can give a different kind of offering in each one so that if we don't have somebody pull in at this particular site we might have something at the next site that might make them pull in and support another one of our communities that we're in."

Borderland has invested about \$2 million in the liquor store and expects it to add up to \$2 million a year to its sales.



Borderland Co-op opens new liquor store in Moosomin

Borderland Co-op opened its liquor store next to the Moosomin C-Store March 17. Morgan Muir, left, is the assistant manager, and Trena Kelly, right, is manager of both the gas bar and the liquor store. The new store is the third liquor store in Moosomin, along with the Uptown Liquor Store and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority store.

"We're hoping that we're going to be in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million to \$2 million worth of volume a year in liquor sales and then there's going to be the additional litres of fuel and C-Store sales that will come with it as well," he said.

Schenn said a grand opening will be held on the May long weekend.

"We will be doing a grand opening for the May long, a 'kick off the summer' kind of deal, while we're just doing a soft launch here right now, just to get open and start sorting out some of the kinks."

"We started out with

what we think is a pretty robust selection. There's about 1,000 different items in the store and we've got lots of capability to add more."

"We're hoping that as people come in and say 'hey can you get this?' 'can you get that?' we'll be able to add what people are looking for. Of course we've got the entire SLGA catalogue and then all the different craft breweries and everything else like that, that are out and about around the countryside that we do have access to."

Continued on page 19



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Borderland Co-op continues to build

Continued from Page 18

"Things within SLGA it's really simple, we can get that kind of stuff within a week kind of thing. Some of the more far flung breweries and that kind of thing that you have to get from direct is usually a two to four week lead time, but we definitely have space to add more variety to the lineup."

Whitewood DQ

Borderland is working on building a DQ in Whitewood, next to the C-Store there.

"DQ came to us and asked us about it, so we had to do a lot of thinking about it, because it's not really one of our traditional business lines, but there are a couple other Co-ops that have entered into that as well so we've got a little bit of expertise to draw on there, and we decided to go ahead with it."

Schenn said the DQ could be open by the summer or fall of 2023.

"We're off to drawings right now so once we get the drawings done, and go out to tender to get ourselves a contractor, hopefully we get digging maybe by mid-summer or late summer and then the supply chain issues will dictate when we will actually open, but our basic target is kind of like late summer/fall of 2023 to be finally open."

Schenn said the DQ will be a good addition to the site.

"We've got two of the electric vehicle charging stations there with Tesla and with our own, and the drivers of electric vehicles come there, and they're sitting there 40 minutes while their vehicles charge and there's not much for them to do.

"There's only so much convenience store shopping and things like that they can do while they're there. So having a restaurant there nearby that they can go and have a coffee or lunch or whatever the case might be is something they've been asking for, and just in general in the community, we've been talking with the town a fair amount about their economic plans and what they're trying to do, and it was kind of interesting, through the process one of the things that was identified is that there's not a lot of student opportunities for employment and that kind of fast food kind of a restaurant fit perfectly with what we were already working on."

Moosomin food store

Schenn said work will begin this spring on demolition of the former Tino's Restaurant site to allow the expansion of the Moosomin food store.

"There is a pile of planning work that is going in behind the scenes right now and it all starts with getting that area cleaned up and ready. The biggest challenge right now is the supply chain issues because we're seeing various components, critical components like refrigeration being



Borderland Co-op opens new liquor store in Moosomin

Borderland Co-op opened its liquor store next to the Moosomin C-Store March 17. Borderland CEO Jason Schenn in the walk-in beer cooler.

10-12 months out.

"It's the same thing with the DQ project as well. They're saying that their refrigeration stuff is eight to 10 months out. It almost adds a year to every project."

"We were hoping to get moving a little quicker on the food store this year but that's going to be our challenge. We've got a base set of concept drawings that we have designed already for an expanded marketplace store."

"Ideally we're looking to go around a 10,000 square feet addition so it's not a small addition to the store."

"We have 17,000 square feet, so adding 10,000 actually puts us being a little bigger than some of the other ones around. I think Virden is around 22,000."

He said the demolition of the north end of the building south of the food store is the first step.

"We're hoping to get that done this spring," he said. "Once we can get that cleaned up, then we've got a better space for really adjudicating what we've got, and we'll have to fix the wall up on the north side of that building after the demolition so they've got a good exterior wall to work with. Then we can actually know what we're dealing with for actual real space and talk about setbacks and all those other things so that we can finish our concept

designs and then start working through the whole process of finding a consultant to do the drawings and then working towards that expansion."

When could work begin on the project?

"In an ideal world within the next year," says Schenn.

"But that's a tall order these days getting anything out the gate fast. The hope is trying to get into construction next year sometime and then it will probably be almost a full year construction cycle unless something changes with some of the major components because with refrigeration, mechanical, food service, that kind of stuff we'd be adding to the store, that has very, very long wait times."

"We're looking at a few other projects in other communities as well like C-Stores and that kind of thing. I just got a message the other day that the underground fuel tanks are 60-70 weeks out so it's kind of crazy the way it is out there to try and get some projects done."

"We've got a huge list of projects over the next decade that we want to get done that impacts every community that we serve. We want to make sure we balance all those kinds of things and keep everybody as happy as we can. We'll never please everybody but we're definitely working to do our best."



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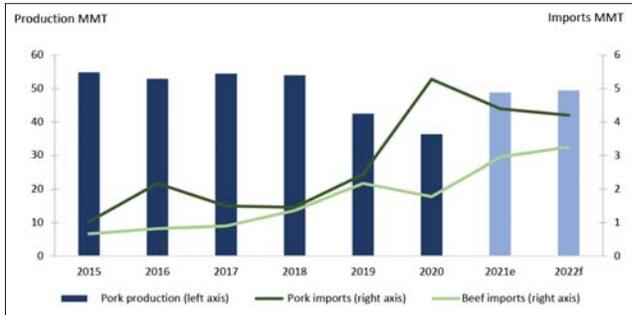
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Alberta 850 lb. steer	200	185	200
Ontario fed steer	160	155	145
Ontario 550 lb. steer	230	220	215
Ontario 850 lb. steer	195	185	155
Ontario market hog	100	80	85
Ontario feeder hog	145	105	100
Manitoba market hog	95	75	90
Manitoba feeder hog	155	95	125
Isowean \$/head	60	60	50

Above: Table 1: Livestock prices (\$/cwt) are expected to improve year over year and to exceed the 5-year average.



Above: Figure 1: Chinese '22 pork production growth likely to limit pork imports; beef imports continue to grow.

2022 cattle and hog sector outlook

The three major trends to monitor for cattle and hog operations in 2022 include:

- China's red meat imports and its efforts to rebuild its pig herd
- Feed costs
- Stabilizing red meat demand

It will be another year of split margins in the cattle sector—positive for cow-calf and pressured for feedlots. Prices will rise year-over-year (YoY) and be better than their respective five-year averages (Table 1). But, continued growth in feed costs has taken—and will continue to take—a big bite out of profitability.

Average hog prices should be higher in 2022,

both YoY and relative to their five-year averages, and that will help produce positive margins for isowean operations. But it will also be a year that farrow-to-finish operations in the East will benefit more from a relative feed cost advantage than those in the West, where some profitability challenges may be present.

At the end of last year, higher cattle placement led to a strong supply of fed cattle in early 2022. But high feed costs mean fed cattle will be marketed at lower weights, leading us to forecast Canadian cattle production at 6.4 billion lbs. in 2022, a 2.5% YoY loss. That, along with lower beginning stocks, has dampened the forecast for

exports in 2022.

Hog production, forecast at 6 billion lbs. in 2022, is flat compared to 2021 production.

Three trends to watch in 2022

1. The legacy of ASF and China's efforts to rebuild its hog herd

In 2022, China's hog production is forecast to grow YoY, and pork production will grow 5%, the second year in a row it's risen (Figure 1) after low prices and disease outbreaks led to higher YoY slaughter in 2021. Pork imports will decline as domestic pork production is expected to help total meat supplies reach pre-ASF levels but remain elevated beyond historical levels. In 2021, they fell

16.7% from the sharp high seen in 2020, and they're expected to fall a further 4.5% in 2022. Year-over-year growth in beef imports is expected to continue for the second year in a row, with the USDA forecasting 10.2% growth in 2022 after 65.5% growth in 2021.

According to some commentators, China has struggled to produce its planned meat output for several years now. Some Chinese estimates suggest that by following their current five-year livestock plan, Chinese producers will regain the output of 2014 only by 2025, primarily by recapturing the pork production lost to ASF. The national plan calls for increased self-sufficiency in livestock and meat production, a questionable goal given the country's available land and clean water supplies.

China's pork production may be stalled for the short term as disease continues to take a toll and the sow herd continues to rebuild, implying opportunities for Canadian exporters. Chinese imports of Canadian pork exploded in 2020 (Figure 2). They then fell 54.9% YoY in 2021 while remaining 65.7% above the previous five-year average. It's the same story for Japan, where lower YoY exports were still 16.9% above their five-year average.

Exports to our other principal import markets gained in 2020 and continued to grow in 2021. That suggests global pork demand remains elevated and can be expected to support price growth soon.

2. Feed availability and prices in Canada

While feed costs remain well above their five-year averages in Eastern and Western Canada in 2022,

they should drop YoY.

As prices for livestock rise and feed costs decline, the livestock-to-feed ratios in Canada's east and west are expected to improve moderately. For cattle, the improvement in prices expected in 2022 won't be enough to offset the steep increase in feed costs seen in 2020 and 2021, despite a levelling of feed price increases in 2022. The price-to-feed ratio is projected to be flat and at lower levels than the last two years (Figure 3).

3. Domestic red meat demand expected to gain ground in 2022

Between 2015 and 2019, the annual average Canadian consumption growth for the two red meats averaged -1.0% for pork and 1.0% for beef. In 2020, YoY pork domestic availability fell while beef remained steady.

Continued on page 21

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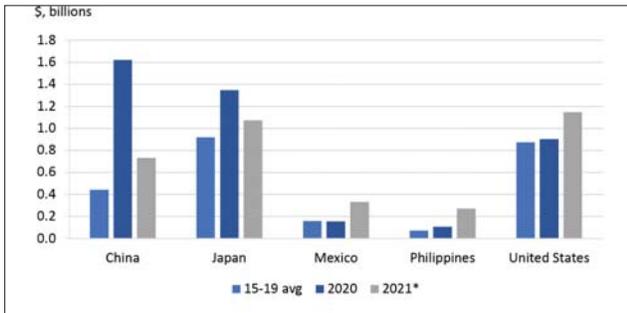
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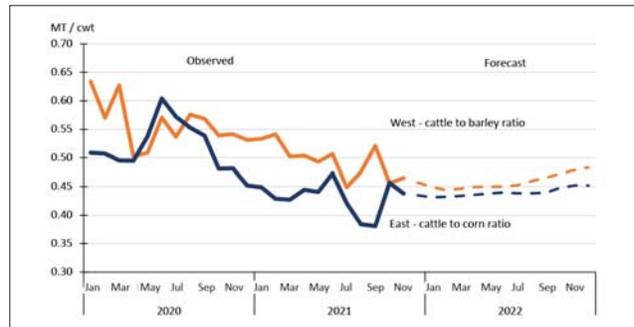
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Above: Figure 2: Growth in 2021 Canadian pork exports to U.S. and others help offset lower exports to China.



Above: Figure 3: Cattle prices have declined relative to feed prices.

2022 cattle and hog sector outlook

Continued from page 20

Preliminary estimates suggested declining Canadian beef consumption in 2021, but that may prove to be a unique aberration that will reverse in 2022. Domestic consumption had been slowly climbing for five previous years and stabilized in 2020. Pork consumption declined 10% YoY in 2016, pulling down the five-year average, then it quickly gained ground between 2017 and 2020. But the first year of the pandemic was extraordinary in terms of the sudden fall in pork consumption - and whatever decline in 2021's red meat consumption is realized may paint an even bleaker picture.

It may not be as bleak as it seems, however. The falling consumption can be explained by dips in household income while meat prices rose, foodservice shutdowns and two years of huge boosts to Canadian red meat exports. Retail inflation in December stood at 11.9% and 8.4% YoY for beef and pork, a higher figure than other animal products such as chicken (6.2%), eggs (3.8%) and dairy (3.0%). We should see less inflation over the next few months as various supply chain issues are sorted out. But prices for red meats are likely to stabilize at high levels given higher costs across the entire supply chain and strong domestic and global demand.

We should see less inflation over the next few months as various supply chain issues are sorted out. But prices for red meats are likely to stabilize at high levels given higher costs across the entire supply chain and strong domestic and global demand.

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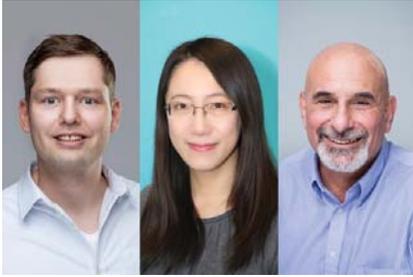
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New federal funding to enrich USask digital agriculture research



Dr. Ian Stavness (PhD), Dr. Lingling Jin (PhD) and Dr. Leon Kochian (PhD).

A University of Saskatchewan (USask) Computer Science and Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) team has been awarded \$125,000 in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) to support the development of innovative greenhouse imaging and computing infrastructure.

Data-driven processes and decisions are increasingly important in the agriculture sector. Although large amounts of farm and plant data are being collected by growers and scientists, the ability to create actionable information from these large datasets remains a key challenge.

To fill this gap in the rapidly expanding digital agriculture sector, the USask team, led by Dr. Lingling Jin (PhD), assistant professor of computer science in the College of Arts and Science, and GIFS research leaders, Dr. Ian Stavness (PhD), Research Chair in Computational Agriculture, and Dr. Leon Kochian (PhD), Canada Excellence Research Chair in Global Food Security, will use the new funds to build the Green SkEye platform. This innovative infrastructure combines state-of-the-art computing and plant imaging hardware to analyze plant populations in greenhouses at an unprecedented level of detail.

"At USask our researchers are working hard with the

future in mind, and that means developing technologies that can contribute to greater food security around the globe," said Vice-President Research at USask, Baljit Singh. "We appreciate this investment, which allows us to help us attract and retain world-class expertise."

The platform will build on the foundation and strengths of the GIFS-led Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC), including data science and bioinformatics. GIFS' Plant Growth Facility will also provide greenhouse space and resources, as well as serve as a testing ground for the Green SkEye platform. GIFS will also provide additional funds for the development of this platform, with other funds and support flowing through the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Food Security, led by GIFS.

"The Green SkEye platform represents an innovative solution to a challenging problem in agriculture and that solution would not be possible without our strong agtech ecosystem," said Dr. Steven Webb (PhD), GIFS chief executive officer. "We are excited to provide both matching funding and infrastructure for this collaborative project that contributes to our vision of a world where everyone has access to safe and nutritious food."

Current plant imaging systems widely used for research and commercial purposes are large and expensive. The Green SkEye platform is a made-in-Saskatchewan plant imaging system that will be globally unique, capturing real-time colour and near-infrared images at a fraction of the cost of commercial solutions for imaging plants in specialized chambers or on robotic gantries.

"The unique data generated by the Green SkEye system, in combination with existing field and genotyping data platforms, will provide a competitive advantage, helping attract and retain outstanding new researchers working on deep learning, data analytics, bioinformatics, genomics, and phenomics research," said Jin.

The transdisciplinary collaboration enabled by the project will advance our understanding of the interactions among the different elements of the agricultural system, ensuring Canada stays on the cutting edge when it comes to agricultural productivity and food security.

"This new facility builds upon data science and bioinformatics foundations established in the CFREF-funded Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Cen-

ter, led by GIFS," said Stavness. "It will result in collaborations between GIFS, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Crop Development Centre, and a number of industry partners."

Funding provided through JELF helps institutions attract and retain outstanding researchers by providing up to 40 per cent of the cost of academic research infrastructure, with remaining funds solicited from other public and private sources.



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New study shows strong return on farmers' investments in wheat breeding

According to a new study, western Canadian farmers have received nearly \$33 in return through varietal improvements for every dollar they invested in wheat breeding.

In 2021, the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC), which includes the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Alberta Wheat Commission, and Manitoba Crop Alliance, along with the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF), and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC), began working together on a study to quantify the benefits of wheat breeding investments by western Canadian producers over the past 27 years.

The three farmer-led crop commissions comprising CWRC receive funding through mandatory but refundable producer levies on grain sold. The commissions contribute a large portion of their budgets towards innovative research on farmers' behalf. Genetic and agronomic advancements to achieve maximum yields, and achieving a consistent end-use quality are properties on which the Prairie commissions base their research programming.

"This study clearly indicates that farmer investment in public breeding programs is working and is providing substantive returns to farmers," says Fred Greig, Chair of the CWRC and Manitoba Crop Alliance representative. "Current information will allow CWRC and wheat commissions the ability to affirm our investment strategy and/or adjust it to bet-

ter utilize farmers' hard-earned dollars."

The CWRC, WGRF, and SWCDC worked with Dr. Richard Gray and Dr. Katarzyna Bolek-Callbeck to update the previous studies that examined wheat farmers' return on investment (ROI) for wheat varietal development.

Only yield improvements were considered when calculating the benefits to farmers to keep the estimate as conservative as possible. Including other traits such as improved insect and disease resistance would have further increased ROI but are dependent on specific environmental conditions and are difficult to assess. Improvements in agronomic practices over the same period were also not included in the final ROI estimates.

"Our measure is conservative because we don't include many other potential benefits. It does provide a very defensible estimate because we can measure it accurately," says Gray. "Wheat yields are something that everybody sees. They understand that the new varieties are better than the older varieties, yielding better, and improved yields are the key trait that delivers value back to the producer."

The report also outlines that varietal development investments have a trickle-down benefit to all of society, with taxpayers reaping the returns, as well. Enhancing breeding capacity and maintaining funding relationships and budgets will be key to ensuring the continued success of farmer investments in varietal development moving forward.

The full comprehensive report is available at wheatresearch.ca.



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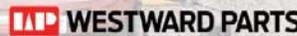
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Flea Beetle Damage on Canola

Scout for flea beetle damage in several places throughout the field, including field edges, hedgerows, and bluffs, ideally at five points, in a "W" pattern, checking 10 plants at each point (to get a representative sample).

10% **20%** **25%** **35%** **50%**

25% is the action threshold and 50% is the economic threshold

Once the action threshold is reached, consider applying foliar insecticide if prior to the four-leaf stage and if flea beetles are still present and actively feeding (by checking for evidence of fresh feeding wounds and/or damage to newly-emerged leaves) to prevent reaching economic injury levels.

Feeding damage is less of a concern with moderate temperatures, good soil moisture and an adequate plant stand, but it becomes a greater concern with lower plant stands, lower moisture and higher temperatures.

Stem Feeding
Include the inspection of cotyledon stems when flea beetle scouting. No specific threshold exists to evaluate the impact of stem feeding, but due to the function of the stem (supplying water to the leaves) and its fragility when young, stem feeding can be more damaging than leaf defoliation and even cause plant fatality (especially under hot and dry conditions).

2 cm
3/4"



Flea beetles become active with the first extended period of warm weather in April and May. Striped flea beetles (shown) emerge from winter rest one to four weeks before the all-black crucifer flea beetles.

Canola seeding steps to reduce flea beetle risk

By KEITH GABERT

Canola growers can take steps before or at seeding to improve crop competition against flea beetles. These include:

Residue management

Standing stubble protects soil from erosion and collects more snow. Stubble also improves flea beetle management by providing shelter from wind. With direct seeding, the remaining stubble can keep flea beetles feeding on leaves—and not down on the stems. A few bites on a leaf are far less damaging than a few bites on the stem.

Seed decisions

If growers have some wiggle room on last minute seed treatment decisions, they may upgrade their seed treatment. Enhanced insecticide seed treatments will improve flea beetle protection, especially when used in combination with the following management practices. Arrange a check strip comparison if you have two seed treatments on the same variety.

Aim for five to eight plants per square foot

This target is good for yield, and more plants mean fewer flea beetles per plant and more seed treatment per acre.

Take steps for fast emergence and more vigour

Rapid emergence and vigorous early-season growth can extend seed treatment protection until the four-leaf stage, which is generally considered to be the end of the flea beetle risk period. To achieve these objectives, seed shallow, at a reduced speed, into a warm, moist seedbed. Use only safe rates of seed-placed fertilizer. Our best recommendation is to use only phosphorus in the seed row and no more than 20 lb./ac. of actual phosphate. Higher rates of seed-placed fertilizer can add more stress, slow the pace of growth and reduce the plant stand.

Once the crop has emerged

Even with all of these steps, flea beetle damage can still reach the economic threshold of 25 per cent leaf area loss across the field. If feeding is a concern, scout frequently, especially in warm, dry conditions that are ideal for flea beetles.

Flea beetles become active with the first extended period of warm weather in April and May. Striped flea beetles emerge from winter rest one to four weeks before the crucifer flea beetles, and it may take three weeks for all overwintering adults to emerge.

Canola Watch has good tips on the spray decision and tips to improve results. Please go to canolawatch.org/fundamentals, click on the Insects section and read "The flea beetle spray decision: 8 steps" and "How to assess leaf area loss from flea beetles".

Keith Gabert is a Canola Council of Canada agronomy specialist and a contributor to Canola Watch. Subscribe for the timely agronomy emails at canolawatch.org/signup.

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Possible impacts of the Russia/Ukraine conflict

Country	Barley	Corn	Canola	Wheat	Sunflower oil
United States	179 (9)	58,219 (1)	160 (6)	25,113 (3)	44 (12)
Ukraine	4,604 (4)	26,930 (4)	2,541 (3)	19,132 (5)	6,003 (1)
Argentina	2,779 (5)	35,034 (2)	14 (10)	12,647 (7)	721 (4)
Russia	5,155 (3)	4,173 (6)	488 (4)	37,179 (1)	3,168 (2)
European Union	6,700 (1)	4,205 (5)	288 (5)	31,322 (2)	755 (3)
Brazil	0 (NA)	32,484 (3)	0 (NA)	736 (17)	0 (NA)
Canada	2,339 (6)	1,393 (12)	9,182 (1)	22,435 (4)	1 (25)
Australia	5,903 (2)	65 (29)	2,754 (2)	16,267 (6)	2 (24)

Table 1. Average exports in thousand metric tonnes between 2017 and 2021 (rank in parentheses).

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia touches us all. The unfolding tragedy hits close to home given the large Ukrainian community in Canada. Acknowledging the immense human and economic tolls of the war, we will focus here on the economic impacts on the Canadian ag and food sectors of the conflict and the associated sanctions.

Trade with Ukraine and Russia

An expected outcome of the war is that trade with Ukraine will slow down and that sanctions imposed on Russia will make trade with that country more difficult. Both Ukraine and Russia are not large trade partners to Canadian ag and food businesses. In the last five years, Canada has exported on average \$65 million in ag and food products to Ukraine and imported for about \$33 million of these products. Over the same period, on average, Canada has exported \$80 million and imported for \$93 million in ag and food products to Russia. These markets are small compared to Canada's main trading partners, nonetheless they can be important to some Canadian businesses.

Grains and oilseeds

We expect the war to have an important impact on the grains and oilseeds market, adding more volatility to already unpredictable markets. Ukraine and Russia are ma-

ior exporters of barley, corn, canola, wheat and sunflower oil (Table 1). If the conflict and accompanying sanctions negatively impact the production or the movement of those commodities, shortage on the world market or shifts in trade flows would cause prices to rise.

Ag commodity markets have already been shaken by the war. Last Thursday, futures for corn, soybean, canola and wheat were significantly up, some even hitting their daily upper limit. However, those gains were erased soon afterward as it appears that products related to the energy sector might be exempt of US sanctions. On Monday, following the announcement over the weekend of new and tougher sanctions on Russia, markets were again on edge with wheat up more than 5%.

Fertilizers

Fertilizer prices are already inflated because of various disruptions from the pandemic. The conflict could add to these disruptions if sanctions affect Russia's fertilizer exports.

Continued on page 26

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Possible impacts of the Russia/Ukraine conflict



put in nitrogen-based fertilizer production.

Macroeconomic conditions

An indirect effect of the ongoing conflict is that investors are turning to the USD as a safe-haven currency. Oil prices should currently favour a stronger Canadian dollar but the uncertainty regarding the conflict in Ukraine is supporting a strong USD.

Going forward, what will happen will depend on how the conflict develops. If the loonie stays weak, it will boost exports, help growth but also make imports pricier and cause additional inflationary pressures at a time when inflation is hitting levels not seen in a generation. This might force the Bank of Canada to take a more aggressive approach to curb inflation by raising interest more rapidly than otherwise. Another possi-

ble outcome is that the war and sanctions will cause global economic growth to slow down, weaken inflationary pressures and

delay expected interest rate hikes from western central banks. It is too soon to predict which scenario will prevail.

Continued from page 25
This is in addition to Russia's self-imposed export quota on fertilizer to control inflation within its borders.

2. natural gas pipeline. This will not impact natural gas prices in Europe in the short term. However, if sanctions affect the on-

going flow of natural gas, it will cause prices to spike in Europe. This will further boost fertilizer prices as natural gas is a key in-

In 2020, Russia was the world's largest fertilizer exporter with exports reaching US\$7 billion (World Bank WITS database). China, which is also limiting its exports, was second at US\$6.6 billion and Canada was third at US\$5.2 billion because of its potash exports.

Energy

Russia was the world's third largest oil producer in 2020 (or second depending on the source). If sanctions limit Russia's exports, this would further contribute to rising oil prices. Oil prices have been rising already because of the uncertainty caused by the conflict.

Russia is a major natural gas exporter to Europe. Amongst the sanctions already imposed, Germany has suspended the certification of the Nord Stream



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Farmland values up 14.7% in SE Sask

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

According to FCC's 2021 Farmland Values Report there was an 8.3 per cent increase in average farmland values for Canada last year, an increase from the 5.4 per rise in values in 2020.

Saskatchewan reported an average increase of 7.4 per cent in farmland values. This came after a 5.4 per cent increase in 2020 and a 6.2 per cent increase in 2019.

Manitoba farmland values increased by 9.9 per cent during 2021, following a 3.6 per cent increase in 2020 and a 4 per cent increase in 2019.

The FCC Farmland Values Report highlighted some significant increases in aver-

age land values in several areas, with the highest recorded in Ontario of 22.2 per cent and British Columbia of 18.1 per cent. Two of the Atlantic provinces followed with increases of 15.2% in Prince Edward Island and 12.3% in Nova Scotia.

Farmland values grow in eastern Saskatchewan

While much of the Prairies were impacted by drought in 2021, Chris Préfet, appraiser for Saskatchewan at FCC, stated that farmland in eastern regions of the province increased in value because they were impacted less by the drought.

Continued on page 31



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Ukraine invasion will strain grain supplies

The Russian invasion of Ukraine will strain world grain supplies for months to come, driving up prices and inflation rates, said a panel of economists on Tuesday. "God forbid we have a weather problem this year," said Dan Basse, head of AgResource Co., who described war in the Black Sea region as the greatest supply shock since World War I.

"This is the biggest supply shock that we can find, looking backwards at our data to 1914 ... on a caloric basis," he said, amounting to about 11% of the world's annual consumption.

"A war that extends to June would be catastrophic for the spring crops" of corn, wheat, and sunflowers, added Basse during an online forum organized by the Farm Foundation. "The question is, can they (Ukrainian farmers) get it in the ground?"

Private consultant William Liefert said Ukrainian grain production "will suffer from major harm" to the infrastructure for moving grain and obtaining seeds and other crop inputs. If Russia gains control of Black Sea ports, it could prevent Ukraine from exporting grain from this year's harvest or grain held over from the 2021 crops. Economic sanctions were expected to push Russia into a recession.

Russia is the No. 1 wheat exporter in the world and Ukraine is No. 4 in corn. Wheat prices surged to record highs following the invasion. Corn and soybean prices also are up due to tightening supplies.

The uncertainties over the outcome of the invasion will keep grain prices high and exert inflationary pressure, said Basse. The U.S. inflation rate, already the highest in four decades at 7.9%, could peak at 8% or 9% in late summer, he said.

"I think all bets are off now" regard-

ing inflation, said Joe Glauber, of the IFPRI think tank, because of questions over the volume of future grain production in Ukraine and Russia and how much of it would reach the world market.

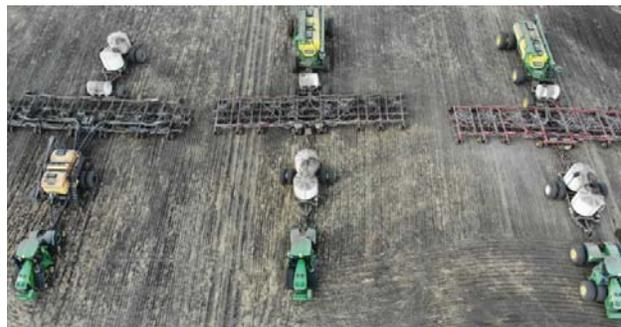
"I know this isn't necessarily the most popular suggestion, but I think the (United States) should consider suspending these mandates" for biodiesel production and use, said Glauber. "To me, food sort of trumps that."

The Renewable Fuel Standard guarantees biodiesel a share of the U.S. fuel market and a \$1-a-gallon tax credit is offered to producers. Some 40% of U.S. soybean oil is used in making biofuels. Soy oil is also used as an ingredient in foods ranging from baked goods to salad dressing. A bushel of soybeans yields 11 pounds of oil during processing.

"Our forecast for the year ahead is that combined maybe these two countries will do 20 million to 22 million tonnes of wheat (exports)," said Basse. "Our estimate is that (Ukraine) is going to be down around 50%, or almost that, at 22 million tonnes" of corn production in 2022, with exports also down sharply.

India and Australia have huge wheat inventories, which partially will fill the gap created by war in Ukraine. But drought dragged down crop production in South America in recent months and the U.S. and Canadian wheat belts have been dry for months, so grain supplies could remain tight, said Basse and Glauber.

One side effect potentially would be farm income at the highest level ever due to continued high commodity prices, said Basse. At the same time, demand for U.S. grains could press the transportation network to its limits. "The pipe to export facilities may not be big enough."



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2022 Grains, oilseeds and pulses sector outlook

The major trends to monitor for grain, oilseed and pulse operations include:

- Inflationary pressures on crop inputs
- Geopolitical tensions and global trade

It was another extraordinary year in 2021. We witnessed record-breaking drought in parts of Canada and the U.S., unrivalled shipping rate increases and increasingly costly global demand for most crops amid ever-shrinking supplies. In Canada, grains, oilseeds and pulse producers did well, with an estimated 11.9% year-over-year (YoY) growth in farm cash receipts. They took a hit on expenses, as general inflation on goods rose 4.4% YoY, and farm inputs increased, on average, by 12.0% for the first three quarters of 2021.

Commodity prices will continue to boost revenues throughout the 2021-22 and 2022-23 marketing years (MY) (Table 1). We forecast prices for all principal field crops to remain elevated above their five-year averages, even though for all but yellow peas, red lentils and spring wheat, they're projected 5.1% (canola) to 9.1% (durum) lower YoY in 2022-23.

Global supplies of principal crops improved in 2021, but many are still tight. That, along with record-low Canadian supplies and persistent global demand, is expected to maintain strong Canadian prices throughout 2022.

Profitability to be challenged by input costs in 2022-23

While revenues should be good for the 2022-23 MY, the biggest concern will still be profitability. Input costs continue to rise from elevated levels, although the speed at which they do so is expected to taper off. We expect producers of all major field crops to be profitable throughout the MY, although margins will be tight on barley and spring wheat.

Wheat

The USDA projects 2021-22 Argentinian wheat production at a record 20.5 MMT, a 16.2% YoY increase and the European Union at 138.9 MMT, a 9.4% YoY increase. Russia and Ukraine are projected to have produced a combined 108.5 MMT. Global wheat supply, expected to be stable YoY in the 2021-22 MY, will still be tight, with global ending stocks forecast to be the smallest since 2016/17. Canadian total supply is even tighter at 32.1% lower YoY. The good news is that, aside from the lowered yields, the quality of the Canadian crop was good. That will help with revenues as higher quality wheat offers a premium in global export markets, a boon in a year when Canadian exports are expected to be 38.3% lower YoY to 16.3 MMT according to AAFC.

While all seeding estimates are likely to change in the coming months when more information can be included in the analysis, FCC's preliminary seeding forecasts for durum and non-durum wheat show slightly higher acres YoY in 2022.

Corn

With Western feed stocks in short supply for the 2021-22 MY, AAFC has projected a YoY increase of almost 50% in corn imports, primarily to the West. Along with record-high Eastern Canadian corn yields and production, they boosted total supplies for the 2021-22 MY to 19.2 MMT, also a record. Carryout stocks are expected to decline slightly YoY, with domestic feed use and exports rising. Chatham prices are currently expected to be extremely high throughout the MY.

While corn prices are expected to be above average for 22-23, acreage in 2022 is expected to fall, due to high fertilizer prices and competitive pressures from higher-priced crops.

Soybeans

The Canadian soybean supply for the 2021-22 MY is the lowest in three years, as 2021 carry-in stocks, production and imports all declined YoY. And although carryout stocks will be 53.1% higher YoY, they're still expected to be 27.5% lower than the 2019-20 carryout. Globally, YoY strong

production won't be enough to keep ending stocks from dropping again, as continued strength in global demand will support prices that remain above the five-year average.

Planting estimates show Canadian soybean acreage is likely to gain in 2022. Several factors are behind the increase. First, fertilizer costs are expected to lower corn acres (where relatively more nitrogen fertilizer is required). Second, newly minted U.S. renewable fuel mandates are calling for a large increase in the use of soy oil while human oil consumption continues to rise.

Canola

Very tight Canadian supplies are the cornerstone of this marketing year's story for canola and, at 14.5 MMT, are expected to reach a 13-year low. Stocks were low to begin the year, and a 40% dint in overall Canadian yields (46% in Saskatchewan) reduced total production to 12.6 MMT, a 35.4% YoY decline. But, as with wheat, the quality of the smaller crop is high.

Given the low stocks, domestic crush and exports are forecast lower YoY, exports by 48.7%. That's despite strong global demand for oilseeds expected throughout the MY. The pace of exports is strong at the beginning of this MY (Figure 1), which may dampen demand from domestic crushers throughout the rest of the year.

With low supplies hampering world trade, canola pricing could be subject to considerable volatility in 2022. Nonetheless, they should remain well above their five-year average. Prices for the 2022-23 MY are forecast lower YoY, but still 72.5% more than the five-year average.

Canola acres are projected to gain the most in 2022, with global and Canadian stocks so low, prices so high and a crop that will be highly profitable.

Any further strength in the oilseeds markets will only bolster canola prices before planting.

Lentils and peas

Tight stocks provide most of the story for Canadian pulse crops too. Dry pea supplies have fallen to 2.8 Mt for the 2021-22 MY, a 43% YoY drop. Domestic use is expected to fall, exports will likely tumble more than 40%, and carryout stocks are expected to plummet 90% to 50 Mt for the year. With a large decline in 2021 production due to low yields, Canadian lentil supplies have also fallen to 2.1 thousand kt, representing a drop of slightly more than one-third.

FCC forecasts the total seeded area in 2022 to rise for dry peas and decline for lentils.

Trends to monitor in 2022

1. Inflationary pressures on inputs, energy, equipment and land

For many producers, the largest hurdles of 2021 came from the steep growth trends across many different expenses. According to a database of Alberta farm input prices, year-over-year prices spiked across categories of fertilizers, machinery, energy, labour and seeds, with costs of fertilizers and fuel rising between 20 and 27% (Figure 2). The meteoric price gains for inputs in 2021 were partly due to price contractions in 2020 that were reversed in 2021.

However, while the YoY gains for fertilizer and energy were more pronounced than their respective three-year averages, four-wheel-drive tractors, canola seed and general farm labour were more expensive in 2021 than they averaged between 2018 and 2020. Wheat seeds were slightly cheaper last year than in 2020, and the average of 2018-2020.

What's more worrying than the base-year effect (of comparing 2021 prices to an unusual year of pandemic-led price declines) are the supply chain issues that have exacerbated the inflationary pressures.

In the U.S., fertilizer production had fallen in 2020 in response to anticipated curtailed demand arising from COVID, and it was further limited by natural gas shortages due to both the Texan freeze and Hurricane Ida. Those constraints occurred at the same time of unexpected and large boosts in demand for fertilizer in response to higher commodity prices from both U.S. and global buyers. And global supply was hampered when China, the world's largest producer of phosphate, introduced export taxes.

This year, fertilizer production and exports are likely again to be subject to supply chain disruptions, possibly pushing prices higher (Table 2) - although the worst increases appear to be behind us. Energy costs are expected to also rise, with farm diesel, oil and purple gasoline averaging 14.3% price hikes in 2022.

Land values are also expected to have risen as producers respond to high commodity prices and low interest rates by vying for more acres. Watch for the FCC Farmland Values Report on March 15 for more detail.

2. Geopolitical tensions and global demand

The U.S. is at the heart of two current geopolitical conflicts, each with implications for Canadian agriculture. The Biden administration must respond to China's noncompliance in meeting its import commitments, but the 2020 Phase One trade deal has proven to be as precarious as it seemed when struck. China has purchased no more than 55% of the total volume of imports it had promised to buy by January 2022. Their imports of ag commodities are better, with close to 80% of the agreed-upon volumes. As a huge grain importer, especially with the ongoing hog herd reconstruction, China's imports can lead to sustained periods of high grain prices.

The threat of war between Russia and Ukraine is growing. Russia's warnings of U.S. interference in its domestic security are stoking European and U.S. talk of "massive" sanctions should Ukraine be invaded. Economic sanctions could be applied to the trade of agricultural commodities and create more supply chain issues with implications for price volatility. As the world's largest exporter of wheat in 2020, Russia will limit exports with an 8.0-million-ton wheat export quota in 2022 spring and early summer. The conflict could also further deplete very tight global supplies of fertilizers.



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Saskatchewan introduces enhanced measures to control feral pigs



The Government of Saskatchewan is taking steps to proactively enhance and broaden the regulation, monitoring and control of wild boar and feral pigs in the

province.

The Ministry of Agriculture is developing regulations for licensing existing commercial wild boar farms and imposing a

moratorium on any new farms. Regulations for wild boar/feral pigs will also be developed under The Pest Control Act, which would specify the various monitoring and control efforts as well as public obligations to report.

Additionally, annual funding for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) Feral Wild Boar Control Program for surveillance and eradication efforts in the province is being doubled to \$200,000.

"Increasing feral pig surveillance and eradication efforts, along with declaring them a regulated pest, are proactive measures to help ensure the health of both the agriculture industry and the natural environment in Saskatchewan," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "These are substantial steps that improve risk management and protect the resilience and security of our agriculture industry, which is a critical component of our provincial economy."

Feral pigs are invasive and established within localized regions of the province, including agricultural production areas,

and represent a significant problem due to damage caused to hay and crop land and to natural areas, as well as their potential to spread invasive plant species. They also harass livestock and wildlife, and are potential reservoirs for livestock diseases such as African swine fever, a federally reportable disease that is not yet present in North America but is a serious threat to the Canadian pork industry.

The SCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture work closely with the public, producer associations like Sask Pork, and rural municipalities to monitor and deal with feral pigs in the province. This issue is among various areas of mutual interest and cooperation between the province and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) which recently requested a collaborative, long-term solution to the wild boar/feral pigs issue in Saskatchewan.

All wild boar/feral pig sightings should be reported immediately by contacting a local SCIC office or calling 1-888-935-0000 (toll-free).

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21	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale	
23	Saturday	Exotic/Poultry & Small Animal Auction	12 Noon
27	Wednesday	Preset Sale	11 a.m.
28	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale	

- MAY 2022 -

4	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
		Bred Cow & Pair Sale	1 p.m.
11	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
18	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.
		Sheep & Goat	2 p.m.
		Tack	6 p.m.
		Horses to follow	
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		Bred Cow & Pair Sale	1 p.m.

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Farmland values up 14.7% in SE Sask

Continued from page 27
 "In line with the national trend, we saw factors in with interest rates, the favorable commodity prices, they were able to somewhat offset as the farming income was not as impacted from the drought," Préjet said.
 "The east side actually saw lesser impact from

that drought so the operations in that half, generally speaking, were able to take advantage of higher commodity prices with their slightly better yields. That increased farming income which increased demand, and supply wasn't able to keep up with that demand."
 Although drought played an important role in reducing yields in some areas of the country, Préjet said eastern Saskatchewan was less impacted.

"It's that impact from the drought, they are able to get a bigger yield than the west half might have got," he said.
 "Because of that, they (eastern regions) were able to capitalize on the higher prices which then generates more income, that then gives more purchasing power or more strength for demand, with more

demand comes more competition and it leads to the higher market values that we saw this past year."
 Out of the six regions in Saskatchewan, FCC reported the east central and southeast regions as the highest increase for its average of farmland values.

The east central region increased by 11.3 per cent, averaging \$1,900 per acre and the southeast region increased by 14.7 per cent, averaging \$2,200 per acre, in FCC's 2021 report.
 "The southeast and east central region had better growing conditions, more timely rains that kind of thing, an overall less impact from that drought so that paired with the lower interest rates and crop insurance pay outs, they were able to generate more income and that increased that demand. Those were the main things that we

saw in those two regions there," said Préjet.
 A common trend that FCC found for farmlands increasing in value in most areas in Canada, was because of high commodity prices, he said.

"Let's say your yields are registered to what it normally would be, but then the commodity prices are higher, you're then generating more farm income where you have more working capital, you can then use that towards your operation," Préjet said.
 "Some farmers were using that towards buying land, and with that purchasing power from that increased income, they were able to compete more for properties. That purchasing power led to more competition, with the supply staying the same but the demand increasing, that generally leads to increases

in market values."

He said the purpose of FCC's annual Farmland Values Report is to get feedback and to help producers plan ahead.

"It's another tool that operations can use to plan, to prepare themselves and to get a feeling about what's going on in the markets and their areas," said Préjet.
 "They're there locally, they do see and hear from farms in the area, they know their own markets so they use this report and on top of what they know already, to gauge where the market is going."

Préjet was asked what he thinks the future of farmland values in Saskatchewan will be.
 "I can say that our economics team does see the commodity prices being strong for the rest of the year. There is the uncertainty of how the crop season is

going to go, obviously we can't predict that, but there is some optimism going forward this year. We'll see how things play out."
 "I think farmland values increasing throughout Canada just shows the strength of the industry really, and that's just reflected again in Saskatchewan. There's a strong demand which means farms are doing well overall, obviously some are facing more challenges than others but overall it just speaks to the strength of the industry."

He said the reason why Canada increased its overall farmland values was because of higher commodity prices.
 "It leads back to the higher commodity prices, low interest rates and just that environment that we were in last year, those were probably the main factors that drove the market."

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Provincial Budget

SARM, APAS pleased with support for rural Sask

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) both say they are pleased with the provincial budget released on Wednesday.

"SARM appreciates this budget's increased dollars for initiatives and programs that benefit rural Saskatchewan and believes this government is on track despite the deficits incurred in recent years due to pandemic, weather events, and more," stated SARM in a press release Wednesday.

"Understanding that the bridge infrastructure deficit is growing, and additional investment is critical for Saskatchewan, SARM appreciates the investment to the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) Program of \$22.5 million, including \$7.5 million in stimulus funding."

"Road and bridge infrastructure is integral to rural life," SARM President, Ray Orb says. "This will help RMs maintain and improve economically strategic municipal roads and bridges that support agriculture, energy, forestry, and other rural-based sectors."

"The success of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector is imperative for the province's economic growth," continues SARM in its release. "Agriculture producers in Saskatchewan can take comfort knowing the province is funding the Business Risk Management Programming at \$338.5 million and enhancing programs like Crop Insurance (and others) to ensure support will be there when it's needed. SARM also appreciates the continued investment in irrigation expansion."

"As municipal revenue sharing remains a reliable (and preferred) model for funding, one that RMs count on to serve their communities, SARM is disappointed that the funding was decreased for the second budget in a row, reduced to \$276 million. While increased funding to the municipal revenue sharing is needed, SARM greatly appreciates the continuation of the Targeted Sector Support Funding at \$1.5 million, money earmarked for capacity building and intermunicipal co-operation."

After the backlog and strain resulting from Covid-19, SARM is very appreciative of the budget focusing on funding and initiatives to improve our overall healthcare system. SARM is pleased with the inclusion of key rural focused initiatives such as physician recruitment, long term care, and funding for more healthcare pro-

gramming and services in rural area."

"Continued investment to reduce rural crime is also welcome news," says Orb.

"SARM appreciates the noteworthy investments of \$50.7 million to create a Provincial Protective Services branch and a \$2.5 million increase for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

"With broadband being a service that is essential to the livelihood and economic growth in rural Saskatchewan, SARM hopes the \$337 million investment in information and communications technology infrastructure will reach rural Saskatchewan to further contribute to a network of reliable, and affordable broadband across this province."

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is supportive of the provincial government's 2022-23 budget for the Ministry of Agriculture.

"While the province continues to manage the debt after Covid-19, APAS remains appreciative of the government programs geared towards helping agriculture thrive in Saskatchewan," APAS President Ian Boxall said. "Given the higher crop values and crop production costs, we are especially appreciative to see the increase in Crop Insurance coverage for 2022-23."

APAS is appreciative of the \$338.5 million investment to fund business risk management programs. Among the programs included in the budget are Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest, and Western Livestock Price Insurance.

"Producers are coming off of a historic drought and heading into one of the most unpredictable years on record," Boxall said. "It's important for the provincial government to support producers in case another drought is on the way this summer."

APAS is also appreciative of new investments in research,

irrigation, and PST measures to support agriculture.

Moving forward, APAS would like to see the provincial government continue to invest in programs such as AgriInvest, AgriStability and AgriRecovery to help producers through challenging times, be it economically or due to drought.



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Bidding starts: Fri. Apr. 22 @ 9am

Bidding ends: Sun. May 1 @ 6pm

FEATURING: 24k gold plated collector coins, 1954 \$1000 bill; 1954/67 Cdn replacement bills; variety of Cdn silver coin incl. error coins & key date coins for 5, 10, 25, cent pcs; 50 cent coins & silver dollars; US mint sets & coins; US Morgan silver dollar; variety of bills; foreign coins; RCM sets & double dollar sets

Online-timed Yard Equip. & Tool Auction

for Myrna Green, Rocanville, SK.

Bidding Starts: Fri. May 6 @ 9am

Bidding Ends: Sun May 15 @ 1pm - soft close

FEATURING: Snap-on Tool chests & tools; lg. selection of shop tools, JD R tractor; Motorhome; Household items; various yard equip. & more

Online-timed Collection Sale for Joey Bohun

Bidding Starts: May 13 @ 9am

Bidding Ends: Sun May 22 @ 6pm

FEATURING: Gulf Gas Bowser w/Globe, peddle car, antique furniture & glassware, Tonka & other collectible toys, garden collectibles & much more, please check our site closer to sale date

Online-timed Collection Reduction

for Don & Jean Cuvelier

Bidding starts: Fri. May 20 @ 9am

Bidding ends: Sun. May 29 @ 6pm - soft close

FEATURING: License plates; Coca-Cola cooler; variety of oil & tobacco tins; gas pumps; vintage toys; glassware; carnival glass; crockery; vintage Snap-On tool box; jukebox; Fender Strat Diamond Ann. electric guitar; Fender Mustang amp; & more - lots of variety.

Online-timed Farm Retirement Auction

for JK Bolton Farms Ltd - Keith & Joan Bolton

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Ways to better optimize fertilizer efficiencies

Everyone is cringing at the price for fertilizers right now, considering it has nearly doubled since last season. Farmers can't help but wonder "why do I even need to use fertilizer?" and is it worth the effort? In short, yes, but there are ways to better optimize fertilizer efficiencies.

Phosphate fertilizers are important because they are a significant source of the phosphorus (P) that the plant needs to grow. Phosphorus is required by plants for many vital functions, including photosynthesis and respiration. Phosphate is crucial for cell division and the development of new tissue, making it even more critical in early plant development. Studies have shown that early season deficiencies have a greater impact on yield than deficiencies later in the season.

So why has the fertilizer price been going up so much lately? The short answer is input prices are rising. The costs of the inputs in fertilizers have gone up significantly, particularly diammonium phosphate (DAP) which has nearly doubled in price, which increases the cost to produce phosphate fertilizers. Additionally, the cost of natural gas has gone up a lot over the past year, contributing to the rise of the fertilizer cost of production. And of course, one can't help but notice the sky-rocketing prices of gasoline right now, as we are over 50 per cent more expensive than this time last year. This is escalating the cost of transportation of products.

Furthermore, changes in supply and demand have also had a large impact on the price of fertilizer. There have been price increases for many crops, like corn, soybeans, and wheat in the past year. This has increased the number of



farmers looking to grow these crops, and as these crops, particularly corn, often need more fertilizer, this has increased the demand for fertilizer. Many

farmers often apply more fertilizer than necessary for these crops in fear of profit or yield loss. And finally, the supply of fertilizers has been greatly impacted by

many things, such as we are still experiencing some of the effects of the supply chain disruptions that have occurred due to Covid-19. As well as some complica-

tions with imports due to sanctions being put on exports and some countries limiting what their producers are allowed to export.

So, given all of that, is

there a way to increase fertilizer efficiency and potentially lower the amount of fertilizer to be added to the soil this spring? There are several factors that affect the availability of P in the soil. A major factor, especially in the Canadian prairies, is soil temperature. Low soil temperatures reduce P solubility. This and other environmental factors can be counteracted somewhat, by banding phosphate fertilizer, so that it is close to the seed, aiding in early root development. Additionally, biologicals which contain P solubilizing bacteria like XiteBio® Yield+ help to increase P availability either from fixed soil P or from fertilizers, which in turn improves crop productivity throughout the growing season resulting in greater yield.

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Nuffield Canada Scholarship applications are open

Applications for 2023 Nuffield Canada Agricultural Scholarships are now open and the deadline to apply is June 30, 2022.

The Nuffield Scholarship is a prestigious rural leadership program available to Canadian citizens who are involved in any aspect of agriculture. Its goal is to attract mid-career scholars with a passion for agriculture who are ready to challenge themselves in a program of self-directed international travel and study. The experience results in personal and professional benefits, while adding value to Canadian agriculture as scholars assume positions of greater influence in their field.

This \$15,000 scholarship provides individuals with a unique opportunity to: access the world's most extensive network in food and farming; achieve personal development through travel and study; and deliver long-term benefits to Canadian farmers and growers, and to the industry as a whole.

"Nuffield Canada is part of a global network of Nuffield alumni who support each other in their travel studies to learn more about various aspects of agriculture," explains Blake Vince, Nuffield Canada Chair and 2013 Scholar. "This unique scholarship opportunity develops new influencers that go on to reshape our Canadian agricultural sector with revitalized innovation, global perspectives, and leadership."

Recipients can come from



The 2022 Scholars for Nuffield Canada are from left: Odette Menard (QC), Lauren Park (NS), Ingrid Johnston (BC), Ken Coles (AB), Shawn Moan (SK), and Mark Phillips (PE). Nuffield Scholars have 24 months to complete their travel study, write a report, and present to the Board. 2023 Scholar applications are open now through to June 30 at nuffield.ca.

Theresa Whalen photo

any capacity of primary production, industry, or governance of agriculture and must do a minimum of 10 weeks of travel study within 24 months to examine and research an agriculturally relevant issue. They then write a report on their self-directed research findings and make a presentation at Nuffield Canada's Annual General Meeting.

"The opportunity to become a part of a global network of leaders in agriculture and the chance to explore new ideas abroad compelled me to apply for

the Nuffield scholarship," said 2019 Canadian Nuffield Scholar Ryan Boyd from Forrest, Manitoba. "The scholars that I have met over the years have been impressive individuals and all can't say enough positive things about their Nuffield experience."

The 2022 named scholarship sponsors are Canadian Canola Growers Association, Alberta Wheat Commission, Farm Credit Canada, and the PEI Department of Agriculture and Land. However not all sponsorships are crop-related as

additional sponsorships are coming online and there are also sponsorships by Nuffield Canada Alumni. Scholarships are open to livestock, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, organic and Indigenous production, or any other relevant sector of modern agriculture. Anyone interested in learning more about Nuffield Canada and the application process please visit www.nuffield.ca.

Nuffield Canada was established in Canada in 1950 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in

1986. It currently has more than 130 alumni. As part of a larger international community, Nuffield Canada has affiliate organizations in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, South

Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Zimbabwe. Scholar recipients become members of the global Nuffield alumni network, more than 1,800 strong, who in return host and help current traveling scholars.



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Easton family farm in the family for generations

The Easton family will be receiving their 75 Year Award from the Canadian Angus Association on April 4, at the Eastondale Angus farm near Wawota, during their annual spring sale. The family have been raising Angus cattle for 79 years, and Erica Easton, right, is the fourth generation of the family to be involved in the farm, along with her parents Shelley Easton (left) and Dale Easton.

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Easton family has been operating a family farm near Wawota for generations. They have raised Angus cattle for much of that time and this year, they will be receiving the 75 Year Award from the Canadian Angus Association.

The association recognizes individuals and families that have demonstrated a long-time commitment to the Angus breed in Canada, through maintaining a continuous membership in the association for at least 50 years.

Dale Easton of Eastondale Angus, said the family farm started when his grandfather came to Saskatchewan for more opportunities.

"It was my grandfather who started here, he came out with his father from Ontario and homesteaded out here. He started his own place here in Wawota," he said.

"My grandfather chose to raise angus cattle, and we've stuck with what he picked and we've really enjoyed the ride along the way."

Erika Easton, is the fourth generation of the Easton family to be involved with the farm.

"I just like the lifestyle and I really enjoy doing other things in farming that takes you to a lot of places, whether it's the shows or the sales to see different people, I meet people across all of Canada and even around the world," Er-



ika said.

"I've had great opportunities from the business to do lots of travelling and I couldn't really imagine myself doing anything else."

"I love the farm, I love everything we do here, from working with the cattle to going to the shows and sales. I really enjoy working with the cattle and being out there when I can," she said.

Erika began her experience of working on the family farm around the age of six.

"I always said I wanted to do it, even when I was younger I couldn't really imagine doing anything else," Erika said.

"I was the only child so I was outside and helping around on the farm a lot which was great. I still help now when I'm not working, but I definitely had chores when I was younger and if I had animals of my own, I had to go make sure they were cared for, too."

Dale was asked if he thought

the family farm would pass on to his children at the time he took over the business.

"You don't really think of those things at the time, you just hope you can make it to the next year. Farming is not an easy deal, the cow business has been good. It hasn't been real lucrative, but it's provided us a good way of living," he said.

"It would be neat for it stay in the family, but it's her decision whether she wants to. She's got to do what's best for her in the

future, how long she does it we don't know."

Challenges and rewards of running a cattle farm

Dale described what producing and running a cattle business is like.

"Every day is caring for the livestock, you're either making feed for winter or feeding them, or making sure they're in the pastures they're supposed to be in, getting bred and being ready for the next calf crop, preparing for a bull sale or marketing some females to other producers, commercial or purebred," he said.

"You go with the seasons, summer you're preparing for winter feeds and winter you're feeding them, now spring we're preparing for a bull sale."

One of the biggest challenges of farming cattle is calving season, Dale said.

"Probably calving is the most because it's keeps going for a long time, it's hard work, you're dealing with calving 24 hours a day, and you can be dealing with weather issues," he said.

"But we enjoy it, I enjoy breeding cattle and trying to make them better all the time. It's definitely a lifestyle, in the purebred industry you meet a lot of people. We know people right across Canada that are not only in the Angus industry, but across the livestock industry."

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Western Manitoba farmland values up 17.6, 12.2%

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

According to Farm Credit Canada (FCC)'s 2021 Farmland Values Report there has been an 8.3 per cent increase in average farmland values for Canada, up from a 5.4 per cent increase in 2020.

The annual report provides a look at the regional land value trends across Canada in price per acre.

In FCC's report, Saskatchewan reported an average increase of 7.4 per cent in farmland values. This came after a 5.4 per cent increase in 2020 and a 6.2 per cent increase in 2019.

Manitoba farmland values increased by 9.9 per cent during 2021, following a 3.6 per cent increase in 2020 and a 4 per cent increase in 2019.

The FCC Farmland Values Report highlighted some significant increases in average land values in several areas, with the highest recorded in Ontario of 22.2 per cent and British Columbia of 18.1 per cent. Two of the Atlantic provinces followed with increases of 15.2% in Prince Edward Island and 12.3% in Nova Scotia.

Manitoba's southwest grows farmland values

FCC's appraiser for Manitoba, Peter Alder, said the value of farmland increased in Manitoba because of the low interest rates and the high commodity prices, but he also said it's a combination of other factors as well.

"Overall we see increases across the province here in Manitoba, and over the years we've had a steady increase, a steady demand for farmland. Maybe in the Westman area and Parkland area we had to catch up a little bit," he said.

"It's a matter of supply and demand, let's say you have some healthy farm operations that want to expand their land base and if that piece of land comes up for sale and it's good quality land, they will be willing to pay that extra amount for the land."

Alder "It comes down to the quality of that piece of land, if that piece of land is able to produce a good yield, based on the high commodity prices, it will be much more desirable for the farmer. It is one of the drivers, I wouldn't say it's the main one, I think it's a combination of many drivers."

Manitoba's farmland regions in Parkland and Westman increased the most in the province, according to FCC's



Kevin Weedmark photo

A field of sunflowers between Reston and Virden. Western Manitoba saw the highest increases in farm values in the province, with a 17.6 per cent rise in Parkland and 12.2 per cent in Westman.

2021 report.

Parkland increased its average farmland values by 17.6 per cent averaging \$2,600 per acre and Westman increased by 12.2 per cent averaging \$3,100 per acre.

Although the southwest regions in Manitoba reported a higher increase compared to its eastern regions, Alder pointed out those regions were somewhat catching up to the province's eastern areas.

"That 12.2 per cent increase in the west man area, it may be a little bit above the average but we were a little bit lower in the past years, and that factor of catching up as well, I think that played a role too," he said.

Regions such as eastman increased by 5.4 per cent yet averaged in farmland values at \$4,800 per acre, which still remains higher than Manitoba's southwest regions.

"At the end of the day it comes down to healthy farm-

ers, good productive land, high commodity prices and land prices. As well, we had some online auctions or tender sales, that's what you'll find most of the time for land sales."

"We see fewer sales that go through a real estate agent, if I have a close tender sale or close auction, first of all I have control of who the land will go to as a seller, and secondly as a buyer, I might be willing to bid a little bit more or to pay more to get that piece of land. There's not that interaction between the buyer and seller anymore and I'm not saying that's a main driver but certainly those are the transactions where we see \$200 being paid more, per acre."

Alder spoke about the link between the commodity prices and crop insurance coverage playing a role in increasing the province's farmland values.

"At the end of the day if I have a piece of land and I do my math regarding how much yield I would get or how much I wouldn't, then I'd factor how much I would get from my insurance coverage," he said.

"I guess we had a rough ride because of the drought and the heat stress on the vegetation (last year), but even if I still get some money from my crop insurance it still gives me some cash flow to be invested again. With the high commodity prices due to the supply issues we had, that certainly makes the math for the farmer look better to invest into land that is more expensive."

Alder was asked what he thinks the future of farmland values in Manitoba will look like.

"Based on the path that Manitoba has been on for several years and based on the history from its numbers, I would suspect that the values will steadily increase. In some areas it will be more pronounced, in some areas a little bit less, but overall based on historical values, we'll see an increase of our land values over the next couple of years."

"Here in Manitoba supply and demand is a main factor, strong healthy farms that's on the supply managed side, or on the grain side as well. The quality of the land starts to play a role as well, if we have that plateau land for example versus grain land and vegetation land, that might be a factor as well. We will see in the next couple of years how it will evolve if we have drought, these are all factors that might influence the land value but the overall drive for us in Manitoba is supply and demand."

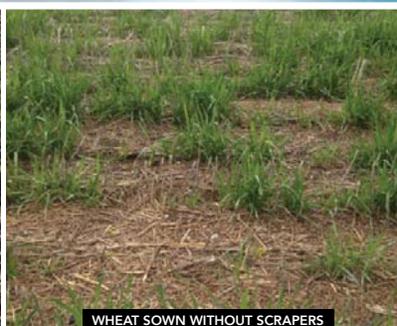
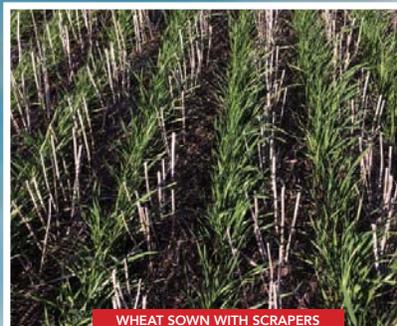
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Easton family farm in the family for generations

Continued from page 35

"We have good friends in other breeds of cattle that we talk to too, where we've bounced off ideas and learn from each other as well."

"It's a lifestyle in the way your life really revolves around it, it becomes a big part of your life, and you get to enjoy the outdoors and continue to learn."

Shelley Easton said she likes to be around the cows because they all have personalities.

"We like to go out and see their calves, watch them grow and come to the sales."

She said the most rewarding part about farming is the calf crop.

"The calf crop is great, when they wean, seeing what their mothers produced, seeing the calves you produced in the year, if you improved them, that's probably the most rewarding part."

Dale said they aim to calve about 220 calves a year.

"When I was a kid at 15 years old, is when I got to understand the industry more. We've increased our land base a bit since then, but to think a farm would keep 200 cows in 1975, there was no thought of that, probably you would keep 50 cows back then, but compared to those years you've probably quadrupled your production," said Dale.

The family said in the purebred industry, farming is a 365 day a year commitment.

"You can't go away for two weeks and leave them, they're not immune to getting sick or things just happen and you need to be there for them when they do," said Shelley.

"Dale and Erika go to the pastures every day to make sure they are accounted for and their water's checked, making sure that they have enough grass to be fed or if they need to be moved somewhere else."

History behind the farm

It's been 24 years since Dale's father passed on the family farm to him.

"In 1998 is when my dad retired to town. I've been here my whole life and grew up with my grandpa at this farm."

"I lived with my parents in this house and my grand-



Erika and Dale Easton at their family farm—Eastondale Angus—near Wabota, Saskatchewan. Erika will be the fourth generation of the Easton family to be part of the family farm.

father used to live in the house Erika currently lives in," said Dale.

"He bought his first Angus female in 1943 and took a membership in the Canadian Angus Association the year after. The history of the farm has been good to us, there's been tough times but good times. He started the farm back then and Erika's now the fourth generation."

Erika spoke about how being the fourth generation of the Easton family, has given her an advantage.

"I've had the opportunity to work alongside dad, we have a good foundation as far as our cows and not only that, but our customer base that we sell to every year," she said.

"I'm very fortunate to not necessarily have to start from scratch, that's a huge advantage compared to someone who is just starting up."

"We have an idea of where we want to go with the cattle, we've taken this long to build up our cow herd to where we are today and that shows to other producers the quality that we have."

The Easton family was awarded the Canadian Angus Association 50 Year Award in 1998 and will be receiving the 75 Year Award this year.

Shelley said Dale's dad would have been proud of the family for receiving the 75 Year Award.

"On April 4 we have our annual sale and there's someone from the Canadian Angus Association coming out to make the presentation to us," she said.

"Dale has never left here, I joined and Erika's never left, it all happened on this farm. This is the place

where everything started so receiving the award at the farm only feels right."

Dale was asked why he decided to stay in the cattle industry for 50 years.

"We do this for a living, that's how we make our bread and butter. Shelley and I both had off-farm jobs when we were younger, but it's our own living now," he said.

"We worked off the farm when my parents were here and when my grandfather was, and when my parents retired, we took over."

"I was raised with five brothers and sisters on our family farm, we all had our chores."

"I probably had the most interest in pure bred cattle to take over the business, the others probably didn't have that desire, they had other things they were focused on—or maybe because I was the eldest I got to choose first."

Easton family's most memorable experiences

The Eastons were asked what their favorite memory of being in the cattle industry is. "Being a part of four generations of being on the farm, I think that's incredible," said Shelley.

"Being here when grandpa and grandma were here, when all the families were here and they all had a living off the farm, I think that was quite the memory."

"There's kind of a toss up between that and when the calves are born which is pretty exciting too, but I think seeing great grandma and great grandpa here was pretty neat. Even when Dale's brothers and sisters were here because they were all still at home, so for

me that was the best memory, everyone being there at one time."

Dale said his favorite memory was working with his grandfather and father.

"With my dad and grandpa, the three of us working together was neat to experience it, but it's limited to how many actually get to work on a daily basis with their grandpa and dad," he said.

"Another great memory, this was after dad retired, but every four years they have this World Angus Forum and in 2009, Canada hosted it. It was in Spruce Meadows just outside of Calgary, we took cattle to that and it was magnificent."

"It was mind blowing how big and how good it was, people from all over the world were there. We bred and raised a bull that was reserve champion at



The second generation of the Easton family farm, (left) Joyce and George Easton received the 50 Year Award from Canadian Angus Association in 1998. This year, Dale Easton and his family will be receiving the 75 Year Award from the association.

that show and that probably was the highlight for me, when we won, it was pretty neat. We bred the bull and sold it to another breeder, but we still had an interest in it and when he was reserve champion at that show, it was pretty neat, our years of production came to a head."

"That would be my greatest memory, it would be tough to top but you know every year we have a really good sale."

Being a director to moving up to president for Saskatchewan Junior Angus Association, Erika said that has to be one of her greatest experiences.

"For me besides the world forum show, every year the junior association has a summer show and we actually drove down to one in Ontario. That was fun be-

cause it was a bit like a family trip, then we got to go to the show too so that was a memory that always come to the top of my head," she said.

"Then as I've gotten older I've gotten my own cows too, it's always cool when I can show my own cow, it's something that I've raised or responsible for that cow family."

"Last year I showed a heifer that was my own at Agribition and in a show in Brandon, it's neat to have my own name on it too, not just a farm name, that's probably my favorite memory. I was also able to go to New Zealand, Canada sent over three teams of youth over and I was able to captain one of the teams and we were the reserve world champions to one of the other Canadian teams."

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