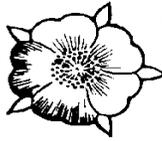


WILD ROSE



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Volume 27, Issue 2

Spring 2000

A STRONG VOICE FOR AGRICULTURE BY NEIL WAGSTAFF

“if Wild Rose is to truly be the Voice of Agriculture in Alberta, we must all make an extra effort to get more of our neighbors and friends to become Wild Rose members.”

A common message emerging from the Ag Summit 2000 workshops, held throughout the Province in April, is that Primary Producers need a stronger voice! At Present Wild Rose is the only organization in Alberta that can say it is a Voice for all Alberta Farmers. The media and the Federal Government in particular recognize that Wild Rose is a good representative of farmers in Alberta. Unfortunately, it often seems that the Alberta Government does not give Wild Rose the same level of recognition, especially when it comes to policy development.

The only way that Wild Rose can become a much stronger voice is to have a larger membership. I know that many farmers are supportive of Wild Rose. Unfortunately, when it comes to voluntarily becoming a member, farmers all too often will not take the initiative on their own.

This newsletter is being distributed to many farm households that are not Wild Rose members. If you believe that Agricultural Producers in Alberta do need a strong voice and you are not a member of Wild Rose, please consider becoming a member.

Current supporters of Wild Rose can no longer continue to be complacent when it comes to recruiting new members. Unfortunately, many farmers for some unknown reason need to be personally approached one on one before they will actually purchase a membership. If Wild Rose is to truly be the Voice of Agriculture in Alberta, we must all make an extra effort to get more of our neighbors and friends to become Wild Rose members. At the end of the Annual Convention I asked each person present to make a commitment to recruit at least one new member in the coming year. If every member was to make a similar commitment our membership could double and Wild Rose would be a significantly stronger Voice for Agriculture.

By the time this newsletter is distributed seeding will be well under way across the Province. If your farm is anywhere near as hectic as ours is at this time of year, you will not have time to fill out a membership application until a rainy day. So put this newsletter on top of the pile of things to do and try not to forget how important it is to support an organization that is becoming a Stronger Voice for Agriculture in Alberta.

Neil Wagstaff - President

Return To:
WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
14815 - 119 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 4W2
“Cnd Publication Mail Product #177253”

Send To:

REGISTRATION FOR TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE USERS WATER ACT APPLICATION PACKAGE INFORMATION

There is no fee to the applicant to register the volume of water used for traditional agriculture use. All applications for registrations must be completed and filed within three (3) years from the date the Water Act (the “Act”) came into force. The Act came into force January 1, 1999.

What is the purpose of registration?

If you were using water for raising of animals and/or applying pesticides on the date the Act came into force, you may benefit by registering this use. Registration is on a voluntary basis.

If you choose to register, your water right will be protected similar to a license. If you choose not to register, your ability to use (divert) water will not be protected during times of water shortages.

Who can register?

Only the landowner may register, even though an occupant who does not own the land may benefit from the registration. To qualify as a registrant:

- a. you must be the owner of land
 - (1) that adjoins a river, stream, lake, natural water course or other natural water body, or
 - (2) under which groundwater exists,
- a. you or an occupant were diverting the water on the date the Act came into force from any source mentioned in (a), and
- b. the water must be used for the purpose of raising animals or applying pesticides to crops as part of a farm unit.

What quantity of water can be registered?

The registrant is entitled to the amount of water in use on the date the Act came into force up to a maximum of 6250 cubic metres of water per year per farm unit.

What priority will be assigned to the registration?

The priority number of the registration will correspond to the first known date (year, month, day) of water withdrawal for the purposes of raising animals and/or applying pesticide to crops from sources of water on land (s) specified in the application for registration. This date cannot be earlier than July 1, 1894.

The current owner or occupant need not to have conducted the original diversion but it is required that the original diversion took place from the source(s) identified in the application.

What is a farm unit?

The Regulations define this as an agricultural operation that is carried out by a person, solely or jointly with one or more persons on any parcel of land owned or occupied by that person, and that constitutes, in the opinion of the Director, one agricultural operation.

What happens if my volume of water use exceeds 6250 cubic metres per year for my agricultural operation?
You may apply for a license to protect the volumes of water use exceeding 6250 cubic metres per year. A streamlined licensing process will be followed resulting in minimal, if any, additional costs or information from the landowner.

What if a landowner has a registration and the land is later sold?

WATER ACT APPLICATION PACKAGE INFORMATION CONT'D

The registration is appurtenant to the land (stays with the land) so it will be amended to show the new owner's name. A registration cannot be transferred to other lands. You should notify Alberta Environment when you sell your land(s) to which a registration is appurtenant.

What if anyone or I disagree with the priority number assigned to my registration or if I disagree with another person's registration?

Within five (5) years of obtaining a registration, any person who believes that the priority number of the registration is incorrect may appeal the validity of the priority number to the Court of Queen's Bench. The Court may make any order to amend the registration, as it considers appropriate.

What if the landowner already holds a license but wants it changed to a registration?

If the registration requirements are met, a landowner who holds a license under previous legislation may apply. Note, the license may be amended or cancelled in relation to the registration.

What if a landowner with a registration decides later to use the water for purposes other than traditional agriculture?

Registrations only apply to traditional agriculture use. If the purpose of use is changed (e.g. to irrigation, industrial, etc.) the landowner must apply for a license. The date the license application is received will reflect the priority number.

Good Value Farm Insurance

When it comes to farm insurance, good value means:

- working with friendly, knowledgeable people
- personalized farm estate planning
- prompt claims settlement
- competitive rates



Good value also means having your policies backed by a company you can trust - The Co-operators. You have dedicated your life to the success of your farm. That's why you should consider making proper plans for the orderly transfer of your farm assets. At The Co-operators, we believe good value Farm Estate Planning is an essential part of today's operation.

*130 offices to serve you.
Check your Yellow Pages for the office closest to you.*

 **the co-operators**
A Better Place For Your

Home Auto Life RRSPs Farm Business Group

CWB OFFERS NEW MARKETING OPTIONS

A Fixed Price Contract is being offered by the CWB to address farmers' requests for greater price flexibility to manage cash flow for their farming business. The fixed price contract, which also includes a basis component, allows farmers to lock in a price for Canada Western Red Spring wheat (excluding Canada Western Feed wheat) before the beginning of the crop year. The CWB price pooling system remains for farmers who choose this option, and will continue to provide farmers with pooled payments for grain marketed by the CWB.

CWB price pooling

Price pooling provides farmers with the average selling price that the CWB receives from the sale of Western Canadian wheat and barley during the crop year (adjusted for grade and delivery location), independent of when the farmer makes delivery during the crop year. Farmers are paid an initial payment when they deliver their grain. The Government of Canada guarantees this initial payment. During the crop year, farmers may receive additional payments called adjustment payments if warranted by the level of revenue in the pool accounts. After the crop year but prior to the final payment, interim payments may be issued. All funds left in the pool accounts, after marketing costs, are paid to farmers as a final payment during the first week of January following the end of the crop year.

Fixed Price Contract

A fixed price contract enables farmers to lock in the full price that they will receive for Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat (excluding Canada Western Feed wheat) prior to the crop year. There are two components available to farmers in the fixed price contract. They can lock in the fixed price for a given quantity of wheat or they can lock in a basis for a given quantity of wheat and lock in a price at a future date. Farmers will continue to receive the initial payment upon delivery. An additional payment will be issued by the CWB to ensure that the farmer receives the difference between the fixed price and the initial payment. These payments represent full payment for the wheat and there are no further payments owing to the farmer.

- ◆ Establishing a price under a Fixed Price Contract

Beginning April 27th and every month up to and including July 2000, the CWB will announce a Fixed Price Contract pricing schedule along with the CWB Pool Return Outlook (PRO).

The CWB fixed price will be based upon the mid point of the PRO for No. 1 CWRS, 13.5% protein, less a discount for risk, time value of money and administration.

The basis will be the difference between the CWB's fixed price and the relevant Minneapolis Grain Exchange futures price ad-

justed to Canadian dollars per tonne. The farmer must lock in the futures price prior to delivery.

The fixed price and basis will be available to farmers on the CWB web-site (<http://www.cwb.ca>), through account representatives at 1-800-ASK-4-CWB, and via Fax on Demand. Farmers can select the fixed price or basis on the day of the PRO announcement and each day for up to four business days. The fixed price or basis offer may be withdrawn at any time and without notice.

- ◆ Registering for a Fixed Price Contract

By pre-registering, farmers can take advantage of the convenience of the CWB's toll-free telephone service to commit to a Fixed Price. To pre-register, farmers will sign a Fixed Price Contract terms and conditions, made available to all farmers by direct mail, by calling the CWB toll-free number, fax on demand, or local elevators. The farmer will be assigned a PIN number. The PIN number is an electronic signature, making it possible to commit to a contract over the telephone. Receiving the PIN does not commit the farmer to a fixed price contract until the farmer uses it to commit a specific tonnage.

- ◆ Delivering for a Fixed Price Contract

Farmers will deliver for a Fixed Price Contract using the same delivery mechanisms as pooled grain, namely acreage-based delivery opportunities and delivery contract calls. If required and if the farmer has taken full advantage of all delivery opportunities throughout the year, additional delivery opportunity will be provided by the end of the crop year.

Upon delivery, farmers will receive the CWB initial payment for the grade and protein of the wheat delivered for a Fixed Price Contract. Shortly after, the CWB will pay the farmer an additional payment representing the difference between the fixed price and the current initial payment for No. 1 CWRS, 13.5% protein, less all deductions. Or, in the case of a basis, the CWB will forward to the farmer the difference between the basis plus the relevant futures price less the initial payment and minus all deductions.

Contingency Fund

A contingency fund will be established so that the fixed price program will have no impact upon the pool account. Although a surplus or deficit may occur in a given year, the contingency fund is expected to break even over the long term.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD

Introduction

The CDRC EUB Dispute Resolution Consulting team was assembled in early December 1999. The purpose was to assist the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) and multi-stakeholder steering committee with the design of a system to improve EUB facilitation and to introduce mediation and other collaborative options into the EUB application process. The overall objective was to improve the tools available to EUB staff to facilitate the easy resolution of application disputes using a flexible ADR process resulting in:

- Enhanced efficiencies, and meeting of stakeholders needs
- Better use of time and other resources
- Improved land owner-industry and industry-industry relationships

The obligation of industry to solve problems through its public consultation process remains the mainstay of the EUB system.

Currently, approximately 5% of proposed developments within the EUB mandate involve unresolved issues or conflict and these appear to be increasing in numbers and intensity in recent years.

Presently, issues and disputes between landowners and energy companies that involve the EUB are resolved in a number of ways. Some means are informal and flexible, other means are more formal. The options can be viewed as existing along a continuum. At one end of the continuum are processes allowing parties control over influencing and shaping the final arrangement, such as informal negotiation. At the other end is the process of a formal EUB hearing, which results in a final decision being made for the parties.

The piece identified to be strengthened from the EUB's available dispute resolution spectrum is, to quote from a participant at the Conflict Solutions 2000 Conference, "something between the kitchen table and the hearing process". The major recommendations in this report deal with completing the EUB continuum of dispute resolution and focus on strengthening the role of staff in facilitating early resolution and establishing a neutral mediation process. These ADR processes are additional tools for resolution and are not intended to replace the first step of public consultation.

Summary

This report focuses on enhancing the EUB's current culture of facilitative support to industry and stakeholders. The tools of increased facilitation and the option of mediation are added to support an interest-based negotiation environment. Stakeholders are encouraged to continue to take responsibility for creating an equitable and effective EUB Dispute Resolution System.

The EUB becomes involved in the resolution of issues within industry and between industry, landowners and the public:

- *As an application for development is being prepared*
- *When an application is considered to be non-routine*
- *In operational issues*

Traditionally, EUB staff have provided facilitation toward resolving these issues or the matters, then were directed to a Board hearing for decision.

Facilitation

The EUB has committed increased resources to support the facilitation role of staff so more potential disputes are resolved early.

A facilitator is a coordinator of an informal problem solving process. The role of a facilitator is to encourage participation in this process by relevant parties, manage their input and assist in the creation of an effective resolution. EUB facilitators are also, in effect, a party to the resolution process because they represent the regulatory body that sets standards and policies affecting the parties.

EUB CONT'D

Mediation

There will be situations that are too complex, time consuming, controversial or confrontational to be resolved by staff through facilitation. *It is recommended that the EUB establish voluntary mediation as an available alternative and that the Board strongly encourages its use.*

Mediation is defined as

“A collaborative conflict resolution approach in which two or more parties in dispute are assisted in their negotiation by a neutral and impartial third party and empowered to voluntarily reach their own mutually acceptable settlement of the issues in dispute. The mediators structure and facilitate the process by which the parties make their own decisions and determine their outcome, in a way that satisfies the interest of the parties in the dispute.

Staff may request parties to consider mediation, the parties may choose on their own to use it and in some circumstances, the Board may strongly suggest its use.

The administrative aspect of planning and coordinating mediation would be managed between an internal EUB staff and an external service provider. A service provider is an outside organization or company with recognized expertise in case management and is available to assist parties in their preparation for mediation.

The mediation process need not be limited to resolution of matters within EUB jurisdiction alone. It is conceivable that parties may also need to resolve compensation or other issues as well. These are easily accommodated within an inclusive mediation process. *The EUB is recommended to engage other regulatory agencies in further discussions to address overlapping jurisdictions.*

Many questions need to be addressed and answered for parties prior to them being able to commit to participating fully in mediation. *It is recommended that initially the parties attend a mediated Preliminary ADR Meeting.* It is anticipated that, in most cases, the Preliminary ADR Meeting will be of limited duration and nominal costs. At this meeting, they will explore and reach agreement on issues such as timing and deadlines, confidentiality and privacy, costs, role of advisors and further process steps.

In some cases, parties will need to address the need for scientific and technical information. At this meeting, they can jointly determine the information required and a collaborative and cost effective means of obtaining it.

The outcome of this Preliminary ADR Meeting is that parties may:

- Settle their issues quickly in that meeting
- Participate in subsequent mediation
- Proceed to other dispute resolution processes such as a Board hearing.

Skilled mediators are integral to an effective ADR program. Parties will be able to select a mediator from a prepared roster of qualified mediators. While every mediator brings his or her own unique style to a mediation, generally, the process involves the parties communicating with each other to:

1. Identify and clarify their issues;
2. Identify their specific needs and concerns related to the issues;
3. Generate options for resolving their issues; and
4. Create agreement.

The outcomes from a mediation are that:

1. All issues are resolved;
2. Some or all of the issues remain unresolved. In this case, the parties and the EUB will determine the most effective way to reach a settlement, likely a hearing.

EUB CONT'D

It is recommended that EUB field and head office staff be available as a resource to the parties and the neutral mediator on request for both the Preliminary ADR Meeting and subsequent mediation. Staff are able to:

- Act as an impartial source of information about the issues in dispute including scientific and technical information.
- Provide information about EUB policies, rules and practices
- Provide fair and impartial guidance to parties about the likely approach of EUB management and/or the Board to any particular issue.

The EUB is recommended to create a position for a Coordinator of ADR Services. The person in this role would be responsible for implementing the ADR initiative.

Questions were raised during the consultation process of how mediated agreements would be enforced. When terms of the agreement are within the EUB's own guidelines, no concern is anticipated. Some situations may not be as straightforward. In those cases, beginning with the Preliminary ADR Meeting, the mediator and the EUB staff should alert parties to possible enforcement concerns. The parties must be encouraged to clarify, if necessary, enforcement options appropriate to their situation.

The costs for parties in mediation include direct costs for a mediation service provider and a mediator, as well as reasonable costs for legal counsel. Other costs related to specific expert and technical information could arise.

It is recommended that the EUB undertake further consultation on how industry will fund this settlement process.

Training Program

EUB staff will be expected to take a more active role in facilitating issues that arise between industry and landowners and between industry members. They will also be involved in assessing situations for mediation. To do these competently and consistently, *it is recommended that staff participate in an EUB developed training program for conflict resolution, facilitation skills and mediation awareness.*

It is also recognized that facilitation and mediation efforts would be well supported if a culture of interest-based conflict resolution exists within the EUB. *It is recommended that all EUB staff participate in several days of related training.*

Finally, industry, landowner and public stakeholders are encouraged to acquire training and education in interest-based dispute resolution processes.

Communication

It is recommended that a comprehensive communication plan involving external stakeholders be developed to support this initiative.

* Alan Holt represented Wild Rose Agricultural Producers on the Steering Committee which oversaw the development of the proposed dispute resolution formula.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Recently, the Federal government introduced new legislation as it relates to Endangered Species. According to Kim Meegan, CFA Policy Analyst, the legislation, at this point, is not all that bad - certainly better than the previous attempt. The main concern with the legislation is with compensation. . Meegan says there is a government committee being struck to

address this issue. The legislation states that where an endangered species is found and listed, a recovery team of primarily scientists goes in, assesses the situation and creates an action plan. Meegan is confident that the producer/landowner will be involved in creating the action plan.

GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION REFORM AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAY 10, 2000 ANNOUNCEMENT

Each year, producers export an average of 30 million tonnes of grain, valued at \$6 billion. Accordingly, Western Canadian grain farmers need an efficient and reliable grain handling and transportation system.

The government's decision follows extensive consultations undertaken by former Supreme Court Justice Willard Estey, and the recommendations made by Arthur Kroeger in September 1999 on how best to implement Justice Estey's vision of a more effective system.

Both the Estey and Kroeger reviews confirmed that changes are required in the grain handling and transportation system. These changes successfully balance the interests of various stakeholders, and ensure that producers can deliver their products at a reasonable cost and efficiently to port.

The reform package contains six main components:

1. Replacement of the current maximum railway rate scale with a cap on annual railway revenues from grain;
2. Funding for prairie grain roads;
3. Creation of a more commercial and competitive system for moving grain from country elevators to ports, which will be achieved through the expansion of tendering for Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) shipments to port;
4. Improvements to the Final Offer Arbitration (FOA) provisions of the Canada Transportation Act;
5. Improvements to the branch line rationalization process; and
6. Continuous monitoring and reporting by an independent private-sector third party to assess the impact of these changes.

Implementation of this package requires legislative amendments.

REVENUE CAP

Effective August 1, 2000, an annual cap on the revenues that can be earned by Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) from grain traffic will replace the current maximum freight rate scale. This will allow the railways more flexibility in negotiating freight rates and service packages and will encourage efficiencies.

The revenue cap for crop year 2000-01 is set at \$27.00 per tonne for the two railways combined. This represents a reduction of \$5.92 per tonne, or 18 per cent from the estimated effective rate of \$32.92 per tonne for 2000-01. This is an estimated \$178 million reduction in railway revenues for a typical 30-million tonne annual movement.

Under the revenue cap, railways will have flexibility to vary individual rates to reflect efficiency and offer more innovative

service. Compliance will be monitored by the Canadian Transportation Agency, based on actual grain movements and distance hauled. Any railway earnings in excess of the cap will be repaid with a penalty. The revenue cap will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation starting in 2001-02. Additionally, tariff rates for single car movements originating on branch lines will not be allowed to exceed main line tariff rates for similar movements by more than three per cent.

GRAIN ROADS

The Government of Canada recognizes that grain handling and transportation reforms will increase pressures on rural roads and, in consequence, is prepared to make a contribution of \$175 million over five years to help address this problem.

GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS

The CWB role in the grain handling and transportation system will be modified. The CWB will operate through contractual arrangements with the railways, grain companies and farmers. The CWB will also have the ability to negotiate overall car supply requirements with the railways to move the entire volume of its business to port. However, for the portion of its business that is tendered, the CWB will contract with the grain companies, who will in turn contract with other parties for transportation and other services.

The CWB will tender the logistics of at least 25 per cent of its wheat and barley shipments to the ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Thunder Bay and Churchill in crop years 2000-01 and 2001-02, and at least 50 per cent of its shipments to the four ports in crop year 2002-03.

For non-tendered grain shipments, the industry and the CWB will determine how rail car supply will be allocated among shippers. Should circumstances arise where the CWB feels compelled to use its regulatory car allocation powers to fulfill its mandate, it will provide prior public notice and make public an impact analysis of its use of the power. The details for implementing these new elements will be confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board and the CWB prior to the coming into force of the legislative amendments.

SAFEGUARDS

The government will modify existing Final Offer Arbitration provisions contained in the Canada Transportation Act as follows: The Final Offer Arbitration provisions will be modified to address a long-standing complaint from the shipper community that the process is too long and expensive. Final Offer Arbitra-

GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION REFORM— CONT'D

tion will have a simultaneous offer structure with a summary process for disputes under \$750,000.

Amendments to the Act will permit a shipper to exclude references to the proposed rates when initially submitting a matter for FOA. After ten days, the shipper and the railway will exchange their final offers, including rates.

Parties involved in arbitration for freight charges which will total less than \$750,000 can elect to use a simplified FOA mechanism. In this faster process, the time between the shipper filing the initial submission and the final decision will not exceed 30 days. At the request of the shipper — or for arbitration of disputes above \$750,000 — the existing 60-day process will be followed.

The establishment of a three-person panel — only if both parties agree — will provide an opportunity for a larger panel to hear more complex disputes.

The issue of more open access to rail lines is being referred to the upcoming review of the Canada Transportation Act for priority consideration of effective ways to enhance competition in the railway sector, including enhanced running rights, regional railways and other access concepts, with an interim report on this issue within its first six months of work.

BRANCH LINES

Provisions for branch lines will be enhanced to further facilitate transfer of grain dependent branch lines to community-based shortlines and measures will be put in place for railways to provide transitional compensation of \$10,000 per mile annually for three years, to affected municipalities/counties/communities when a grain line is closed.

When a railway transfers a grain line segment, the railway will be required to operate the remaining part of the branch line for three years.

To discourage "de-marketing" of grain lines (i.e., purposefully deferring maintenance or lowering service levels to make the line uneconomical) the Agency will be able to:

1. order the company to improve services on the grain line;
2. grant running rights to another party; and
3. require the railway to identify the grain line for discontinuance in their three year plan.

MONITORING

As part of its policy decision on grain handling and transportation, the Government of Canada will establish a mechanism of continuous monitoring, measurement and reporting to provide information to the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, and other interested parties on the impact of these reforms, and the overall performance of the reformed grain handling and transportation system. Should the monitoring identify any problems or opportunities to improve the system further, the government will be in a position to act.

This mechanism will be put in place by an independent, private sector third party who will assess:

- the benefits to farmers;
- whether the CWB marketing mandate is adversely affected;
- the effect on grain handling efficiency;
- the effect on railway efficiency;
- the effect on port efficiency for grain; and
- the overall performance of the grain handling and transportation system

BIOTECHNOLOGY NOTES

- Consumer Reports magazine has called for labeling of all foods made from genetically modified products. As a plant breeder recently noted, this might be a dandy idea: Almost all food would be labeled since there's some GM crop (Bt corn starch, Roundup Ready soybean oil, etc.) in most foods and consumers would soon become accustomed to seeing the "Genetically Modified Food" label.
- A straw poll at a recent American Farm Bureau meeting concluded that farmers, concerned about potential problems marketing genetically enhanced crop varieties, are backing off seed purchases. Intended Roundup-Ready soybean acreage purchases were down 15%, Bt corn down 22%, and Bt cotton down 26%.
- ADM, the corn processing giant, in early February rescinded a warning issued last September and will not require that farmers and grain elevators segregate genetically modified and non-GM crops. Referring to opposition to GM crops, ADM Chairman G. Allen Andreas commented that: "The pendulum is beginning to swing back."
- BST is banned in the 15-national European Union, but a five-year moratorium against its use will expire at the end of the year. Therefore, the European Commission has recently proposed a continuation of the BST ban.

THE NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE MAGOG, QUEBEC APRIL 28-29, 2000

I was honored to have been selected to attend the above conference.

The federal government has been looking at rural Canada from a different perspective for the last several years, which I believe is a result of the outcry from their decision to close rural post offices. They found rural Canada is important to the future of all Canadians, in ways that cannot be measured only in dollars. They have committed \$20M over five years to study and implement new ways to deliver services to rural Canada.

Two years ago the first rural conference was held in Belleville, Ontario to gather input from rural Canadians. The Prime Minister appointed Andy Mitchell as Secretary of State for Rural Development last summer. Mr. Mitchell's two mandates are to improve the quality of life for rural Canadians, and to co-ordinate efforts and agencies of the federal government in rural Canada.

Five hundred Canadians from all regions of Canada (23 Albertans) gathered in Magog, Quebec to provide input to the government, and also bring ideas and information back to our communities. I found Andy Mitchell a very approachable individual, eager to listen. Although we worked long hours the interaction with other Canadians and government people was valuable to all participants. The federal government seems to have a greater appreciation for the economic importance of agriculture in relation to our overall economy than they did a few short years ago.

The conference agenda was about ½ plenary sessions, and ½ breakout groups with community leaders telling their success stories which resulted from government providing "seed" money and communities providing volunteers who had vision and deter-

mination to strengthen and sustain these communities. The power of partnerships was exemplified in numerous cases. The government focus is definitely moving to that of facilitator, planting the seeds and providing start up capital and access to government services versus imposing their vision from the top down. The people who benefit from strong communities are the best people to develop them.

The 'communication revolution' has provided access to government in an unprecedented manner. Private companies are providing Internet access to remote communities with the government being the anchor tenant to make them economically feasible.

All Canadians can now access government in two ways, via the Internet at www.rural.gc.ca or by dialing 1-800-OCANADA. We have been assured a real person will answer, providing access to some 35 agencies.

It was encouraging to note the last speaker to address the conference was Dr. Bob Church from Airdrie. His positive vision for the future is typical of most Albertans: embrace change rather than confront it, and all rural Canadian communities will survive.

I encourage all our Wild Rose members to contact the government in one of the above ways, and I think you will find some resources you can apply to your community.

Alan Holt

WGRF REPORTS PROGRESS ON PRODUCER INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF), which has been pursuing the availability of research tax credits for producers on contributions made to the Wheat and Barley Check-off, says a recent response from the federal finance department in Ottawa is positive news for western crop producers.

Research tax credits have been widely used in industry as part of a government effort to foster scientific research and experimental development. However, because of the wording in tax legislation, farmer contributions to the Wheat and Barley Check-off administered by the Foundation have not qualified for a tax credit.

WGRF first approached government on the issue in 1995, then again in late 1998. The Foundation and other commodity organizations met again with government in the fall of 1999 with a formal request to consider changing the income tax legislation to allow for a research tax credit for producers.

The response from the federal finance department was positive and a step forward even though it turned down the actual request, says WGRF Executive Director, Lorence Peterson. The letter clearly states that agricultural groups are not eligible for the credit because they operate as non-profit organizations. A

private sector firm qualifies for the tax credit because it is liable for the income on the results of that research, while a producer commodity organization is exempt from taxes.

However, the response did indicate the government would be prepared to examine whether the compliance and administrative requirements for scientific research undertaken by agricultural commodity groups could be simplified and streamlined, so that individual producers could claim and receive the tax credit with minimal effort on their part.

This represents "significant, positive feedback from Revenue and Customs Canada," says Peterson. "The next step for the Foundation is to work with the federal government to find a method to make these changes."

If the tax fund is made available for the Check-off, the Foundation plans to pursue a tax credit for the Endowment Fund, its other funding source. The Endowment Fund was established in 1983 from the \$9 million of farmer contributions remaining when the Prairie Farm Emergency Fund was discontinued. The Endowment Fund generates approximately \$750,000 annually, which the foundation allocates to crop research.

NATIONAL NEWS

Quebec—The Quebec agricultural sector will receive \$2.1 billion over the next seven years. In last month's budget, Finance Minister Bernard Landry promised \$300 million a year for farm support programs.

Nova Scotia—The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing announced that 99 extension services jobs have been cut as a result of the April 11, 2000 budget with an estimated savings of \$2.6 million.

New Brunswick—After Premier Bernard Lord announced sweeping cuts to agriculture, he was forced to backtrack as a result of an extensive farm lobby effort. The proposed cuts are now frozen until the government consults with farmers.

Call: 1-800-506- CARE (2273)
Animal Care Alert Line

**If you have concerns regarding the care
of livestock;
If you are experiencing management problems**

This publication is circulated to approximately 2,000 members of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.

The advertising rates are as follows:

1 page	\$500.00
½ page	\$250.00
¼ page	\$125.00
Business Card	\$ 50.00

ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE LOBBIES ON BILL C-17—ANIMAL CRUELTY PROVISIONS

March 22, 2000

The Honorable Anne McLellan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
707 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Sent Via Fax: (613) 943-0044

Dear Minister McLellan,

Subject: Bill C-17 (Section 182, Animal Cruelty Provisions)

On behalf of the livestock industry in Alberta, the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association commends Justice Canada for developing more comprehensive legislation for animal cruelty, including the strengthening of the penalties. We wish to restate our opening comments from our Dec. 14/98 brief to your department. We stated:

- the care and well-being of the majority of domesticated animals is our responsibility;
- we recognize the need and benefit to our industry for clear, modernized animal cruelty provisions that are supported by society and that significant, societal-supported deterrents are necessary;
- our industry has expressed some frustration with the limitations of the legal system and the fact that when there is a conviction regarding animal abuse, sentences are often minimized;
- we firmly insist this reform process can in no way alter our business of raising and handling livestock other than to improve avoidable animal abuse.

Your department indicated in its Backgrounder that Bill C-17 amendments do not target or modify normal animal care practices governed by more specific legislation. After reviewing the proposed Bill C-17, AFAC concludes that the Bill needs to more explicitly and clearly articulate the principle that generally acceptable practices in the livestock industry fall outside of the intent of this legislation. If it is not your intent to target normal practices, this must be clearly stated within the body of the legislation.

To that end, it is our firm position that:

- **Given the elimination of the existing wording (willfully and without lawful excuse) that the wording in Section 182.1(1) which would premise all of the stated offences in sub-paragraphs a-i inclusively, read as follows “everyone commits an offence who, without lawful excuse...”**

AFAC Response to Bill C-17 cont'd

- **Section (2)(2) of the Animal Protection Act revised Statutes of Alberta be added to Bill C-17 at the end of Section 182.1(1) as Subsection (2) to read as follows: “Proof that an activity was carried on in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management, husbandry or slaughter will constitute ‘lawful excuse’”.**

We understand the nature of the Criminal Code being a penal statute, the aspects of the act and the intent to commit the act (respectively referred to as ‘*actus reus*’ and ‘*mens rea*’) will be considered in the context of prevailing principles of Criminal Law. This is irrespective of the provisions of Bill C-17 as presently stated. Criminal Courts when dealing with criminal offences, as contained under the provisions of the Criminal Code, are influenced by their own intrinsic guidelines, which factor into prosecutions. These are essentially our safeguards.

Sincere regards,

Mike Hart, Chairman
Guy Fontaine, Vice Chairman
Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association

SAFETY FACTS FROM THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURE INJURY SURVEILANCE PROGRAM (CAISP)

- Entanglement in operating equipment is the leading cause of serious injury on Canadian farms. Entanglement in farm equipment was responsible for 28% of hospitalized machinery-related injuries between 1990 and 1996. Entanglement in machinery accounted for 10% of all work-related farm fatalities.
- Entanglement injuries on Canadian farms involve many different types of agricultural machinery. Types of agricultural machinery causing entanglement injuries on Canadian farms include (but are not limited to) power-take-off devices (15%), grain augers (11%), harvesters (11%), balers (8%), tractors (7%), and combines (6%).
- Entanglement injuries on Canadian farms peak during the summer and early fall. Over half (53%) of the entanglement injuries on Canadian farmers occurred between July and October.
- Certain types of entanglement injuries, such as PTO injuries involving clothing entanglement, peaks during cold weather months. Among PTO entanglement injuries, 60% of fatalities and 56% of hospitalized injuries occurred during the fall and winter months (October to March).
- Falls are an important cause of hospitalized injury on Canadian farms. Falls account for 33% of non machinery-related hospitalizations.
- Animals are an important cause of non-machinery hospitalized injury on Canadian farms. Almost one-third of non-machinery related hospitalized injuries that occurred on Canadian farms involved animals. Four out of five of these injuries were caused by being crushed or struck by the animal (most commonly cows.)
- Drowning is a common cause of non-work-related death on Canadian farms. Drownings were the most common cause of non-work-related fatalities that occurred on Canadian farms between 1990 and 1996, accounting for one in five deaths.
- Woodcutting activities are an unrecognized cause of death on farms. Between 1990 and 1996, 26 fatalities on Canadian farms involved activities related to woodcutting.

YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers



Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose - Membership fee :

Producer	\$ _____	(\$107.00)
3 - Year	\$ _____	(\$288.90)
Associate	\$ _____	(\$ 53.50)

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5L 4W2

Telephone: 780-451-5912 Fax: 780-453-2669 E-Mail: wrap@planet.eon.net

LETTER TO HONORABLE LYLE VANCLIEF

April 11, 2000

Honourable Lyle Vanclief
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
356 Confederation Building
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Vanclief:

During a September, 1999 meeting organized to discuss the ongoing income crisis in western Canada, you challenged representatives of our organizations to present you with suggestions and options for government action to address the serious situation.

As a group and individually, we have made a number of suggestions to you and your officials. We believe that our suggestions were well thought out and reasonable for both government and farmers. Our goal was to deal with the income crisis both by addressing the costs imposed on farmers and by improving their revenue. In making our proposals, we wanted to create a comprehensive package that would assist farmers through this difficult time, and ensure that they will be able to capture the opportunities that will be presented by an improved international trading environment.

During a recent meeting, our organizations agreed that while the various initiatives that have been recently announced by government are very much appreciated, what is really needed is a comprehensive approach to this serious situation. It is clear that the low price period and the resulting significant reductions in income are not short term problems, but will likely exist for the next few years. Once again, we request that your government take a comprehensive approach to dealing with the income problems in western Canada including the following measures:

1. Reduce and/or eliminate Government imposed and other costs

- Reinstatement of the rebate of federal excise tax on farm fuel. Include a formula for rebating the excise tax paid by farmers on diesel used by rail locomotives, and commercial trucks used to move grain and oilseeds.
- Not only freeze, but roll back many of the user fees paid by producers for services either provided by or required by the federal government. Many of these services benefit Canadian consumers and should be paid by all tax payers.
- Take immediate action to reduce the impact of federal taxation on the manufacture, transport and distribution of farm inputs such as fertilizer and crop protection products
- Take positive steps to create a more efficient, affordable and accountable grain transportation system, and ensure that the benefits are returned to farmers.

2. Measures to address income deficiencies resulting from low prices

- Adequately funded, meaningful national safety nets programming, including improved NISA, affordable crop insurance and a well funded disaster assistance program
- Consideration of additional programs such as environmentally targeted acreage set-asides, permanent cover programs, trade equalization payments and farm recovery programs.

Mr. Minister, as we have said before, if this government wishes to ensure that the grain and oilseed industry in western Canada is able to capture the benefits that will be presented by an improved world trade agreement, it must take immediate steps to assist producers. We believe that we have outlined a responsible and reasonable package of initiatives and, once again, urge you to give them your full consideration.

Don Dewar
President,
Keystone Agricultural Producers

Neil Wagstaff
President
Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Jim Wilson
Vice-President
Agricore Cooperative Ltd.

Marvin Wiens
Vice-President
Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

FREE TRADE: GOOD FOR WHOM?

BY MARTIN CLARK

Every day, American farmers are exhorted by commodity groups and farm organizations to support free trade. We are told that exports are our salvation--our best hope for better prices--since our domestic market is "mature" and little growth in usage for our products can be expected at home.

As failure of the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle this winter highlighted, however, free trade is not universally welcomed and applauded. Indeed, free trade is not a blessing to all. In some cases, farmers are the ones who are hurt.

There seems to be universal confusion among leaders in our farm sector regarding the reasons why the Seattle WTO meeting failed. The General Press for example, blamed the failure on Labor Unions, Environmentalists, and other Extreme Activists. True, several hundred demonstrators got out of hand in their confrontation with the police and did considerable property damage during the Seattle Talks. These unlawful acts which should not be condoned, received major emphasis in the press, but there is more to the story. It is easy to see how even well-meaning groups can be misled, given the portrayal of the events at the meeting by the general media. But we all should do our homework before placing blame.

The official WTO delegates in Seattle represented 135 nations in the world. There was enough genuine opposition among the delegates to result in a complete failure of agreement in the trade talks.

In addition, there were nearly 45,000 people there besides the registered delegates. These people participated peacefully in seminars, workshops and strategy sessions to voice their opposition to policies of the WTO. Fierce

opposition from outside the official meeting came from both rich and poor nations, but mostly from developing and Third World countries from the Southern Hemisphere.

Trade union representatives, human rights groups, environmentalists and representatives of hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also voiced opposition. Most of these NGOs are involved in developmental assistance programs at the village level in developing and Third World nations. They see the detrimental effects of unbridled trade "up close and personal."

The trade protesters in Seattle had a range of complaints, but the one probably heard most loud and clear was that the WTO has gone too far in setting up undemocratic rules that promote the interests of multinational companies driven only by the desire to maximize profits of rich nations and the corporations themselves.

In 1999, fewer than 30 of the richer, developed nations contributed more than \$280 billion in direct farm subsidies to help their own farmers. Here in the United States, farm subsidies totaled more than \$22.5 billion dollars, and they are forecast to exceed \$17 billion dollars this year. Without this massive influx of taxpayer dollars, many of our farmers would have been unable to meet their financial obligations.

Poorer nations often find it difficult to pursue food security (ability of their own farmers to produce their own food) in the face of international pressure to open up their markets and import foodstuffs. These nations must have the right to protect their own farmers to be able to produce their own food, without the fear of economic or political intimidation by the United States and other rich nations. Poor nations seldom have the luxury to subsidize their farmers, who represent a high percentage of their population. We had a similar percentage of farmers in

the United States in the early 1900s.

Since 1991, I have had the privilege of serving as a volunteer or technical assistant on agricultural developmental assistance assignments to Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania and Kazakhstan. These new, independent democracies, which were formerly under Communist rule, have welcomed joint-venture capital from the West to rejuvenate their ailing businesses and industries. Far too often, leaders in these poorer nations have been taken in by the "free-traders" and opened their borders to food and grain imports that have decimated their own farm economies.

In 1992, Finland was exporting butter and cheese to Estonia, priced so cheaply, the Fins were coming over and buying large quantities to take back home. Estonian farmers were receiving only about \$6/cwt. for milk and there were thousands of tons of Estonian butter and cheese in storage.

In August of 1993, Estonian farmers reported they could get only \$52/metric ton (2204 lb.) for wheat, barley, rye or oats--when they could find a buyer. For wheat, \$52/metric ton would be only \$1.38/bushel. Estonian farmers were paying more than 30% interest on operating capital. At the same time, it was reported in the English version of "The Baltic Press" that the United States was negotiating with Latvia (Estonia's next-door neighbor to the south) to send them 200,000 tons of PL-480 corn. The Latvians would need to pay as much as \$50/metric ton freight to receive this "free" corn.

In western Poland in March of 1994, frozen chicken leg-parts, imported from the United States were selling for 89¢/lb. In the same store, neatly packaged frozen whole Polish chicken processed in a town nearby was selling for \$1.04/lb. A few days later, when I got back home in Dyersville, Iowa, chicken leg-parts were

(Continued on page 16)

BASIC TRADE POLICY GOALS — CONT'D

(Continued from page 15)

priced at only 49¢/lb. Polish farms average only about 18 acres, and interest on borrowed money at that time was running 30% to 50% per year.

In June of 1994, the Dutch were sending cheese to Estonia. The Estonians said the quality was such that it should have been fed to livestock, yet this cheese was neatly packaged and taking the place of Estonian cheese. The farm price for milk was only slightly more than \$6/cwt. in Estonia. Farmers were discouraged that their government was not protecting their borders.

In April of 1993, while at a former collective in Hungary, I found they could often not market butcher hogs because the processor was busy slaughtering hogs from Western Europe. At that time, butcher hogs were \$38/cwt. in Hungary and \$52 in the European Union.

In 1995, a German company had joint-ventured with a very large former State fruit processing plant in western Poland. The plant was processing fruit from Germany, while nearby Polish farmers' fruit was rotting in the field.

About the same time, a multinational ice-cream bar company had purchased fran-

chises all over Hungary. The company was bringing dairy products from Western Europe to sell in these franchises, while the farm price for milk was as low as \$6/cwt. and Hungarian dairy farms and processing plants were going bankrupt. I was told that more than half the dairy products sold in the cities in Hungary were imported.

Smithfield Foods, the largest vertically integrated hog producer-processor in America, recently bought one of the largest slaughter plants in Poland. The present-day market-inexperienced Polish farmers are no match for such sophistication. It would be like Smithfield Foods moving into Iowa in 1910.

These are just a few examples of poorer nations' farmers suffering from unprotected markets. Similar cases have been documented all over the world. These are some of the same reasons people from poorer nations were so disturbed with the WTO in Seattle.

Instead of using the WTO to force poor and developing nations to accept our agricultural surpluses, we should help them become self-sufficient in food production. Most of those countries economies are rural- and agrarian-based economies. Driving farmers into the cities to swell

the unemployment lines ultimately contributes to instability of governments.

Martin Clark
1429 1st Ave. E.
Dyersville, IA 52040
Phone: (319)-875-7095
e-mail: mclark580@earthlink.net

Now retired, Martin Clark has a B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from Iowa State University. He was a livestock and grain farmer in north central Iowa for 17 years. He raised commercial and seed stock hogs, had a cow-calf operation, finishing out the calves and a ewe flock from which the lambs were fattened.

When he was 42 years old, he returned to Iowa State for a Masters degree, then spent most of the rest of his working years as an employee of a livestock cooperative and a farm supply cooperative.

Since 1991, he has spent over a year on 15 volunteer and technical assistance assignments with farmers in Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania, Kazakstan and Brazil.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PAST MEMBERS!!!!

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ OUR NEWSLETTER. AS A PAST MEMBER OF OUR ORGANIZATION, YOU HAVE RECEIVED A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF THIS ISSUE. YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND HELP ENSURE AGRICULTURE HAS A VOICE! NOW'S THE TIME!

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

January 12	Keith Degenhardt attended the Alberta Animal Farm Care (AFAC) annual convention in Edmonton
January 18	Robert Filkohazy attended the Canadian Grain Commission meeting in Three Hills Neil Wagstaff interviewed on Jim Fisher
January 27	Rod Scarlett addressed the West Central forage Association Annual Meeting in Wildwood
February 7	Alan Holt attended Ag Forum in Red Deer Rod Scarlett attended the Ag Summit Leaders Workshop
February 8	Keith Degenhardt made a presentation to the Agriculture & Forestry Senate Committee on "The Present and Future State of Agriculture in Canada" in Ottawa Alan Holt met with FCC officials to consult on changes
February 9	Keith and Rod had a conference call with KAP and SARM on grain transportation Alan Holt attended the Alberta Sugar beet Growers AGM in Taber Terry Murray attended the REA's AGM in Edmonton
February 14	Keith and Rod had a conference call with KAP and SARM on grain transportation Keith Degenhardt attended AFAC meeting in Calgary
Feb. 22-25	Neil Wagstaff attended Canadian Federation of Agriculture Convention in Ottawa, along with Don Dewar, President of Keystone Ag. Producers, met with a number of government officials regarding proposed changes to Grain Handling and Transportation (Estey & Kreoger recommendations). He conducted a number of media interviews regarding announcement of \$400M Federal/Provincial Aid to Manitoba & Saskatchewan grain producers
February 23	Adam Campbell attended the Alberta Surface Rights Coalition Annual Meeting
February 29	Wild Rose Board Meeting attended by all Board Members
March 1	Alan Holt attended an EUB Dispute Resolution meeting in Calgary
March 2	Robert Filkohazy and Adam Campbell met with Frank Gomme of the US Dep't of Agriculture in Calgary
March 3	Keith Degenhardt had a conference call reviewing research projects funded by the WGRF Rod Scarlett met with Brian Kelly representing Transport Canada on value added processing
March 6	Neil Wagstaff and Robert Filkohazy attended District 101 Annual Meeting in Hussar
March 7	Neil Wagstaff attended Co-operators Insurance Group Alberta Delegates Annual Meeting Rod Scarlett attended the Alberta Safety Net Coalition meetings in Edmonton
March 8-9	Keith Degenhardt attended the WGRF spring meeting in Edmonton
March 13	Neil Wagstaff had a conference call with National Safety Net Advisory Committee Adam Campbell and Bernie van Tettenborn attended a Greenhouse Gas Forum in Nisku
March 17	Keith Degenhardt attended the AFAC annual meeting and ALPS workshop in Edmonton
March 20	Alan Holt attended an EUB Dispute Resolution meeting in Calgary Neil Wagstaff and Rod Scarlett had a conference call with KAP, Agricore & Sask Pool (Group of 4) re: strategy to get Gov't to review fees & taxes on Ag inputs
March 20-24	Nearly every Board member and a number of Regional Directors helped man the booth at the Northlands Farm and Ranch Show
March 27	Neil Wagstaff and Rod Scarlett had a conference call with KAP & SARM on grain transportation
March 30	Neil and Rod had a "Group of 4" conference call development of letter to Federal Government Neil Wagstaff attend the Alberta Safety Net Coalition meeting in Olds
April 6 & 7	Neil Wagstaff attended the National Safety Net Advisory Committee meeting in Winnipeg
April 10-11	Keith Degenhardt attended the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute workshop
April 12-13	Neil Wagstaff and Alan Holt attended the Co-operators Insurance Group Annual General Meeting in Calgary
April 13	WRAP Board of Directors Meeting by conference call
April 18	Neil Wagstaff was a guest on Jim Fisher Agri Talk Show
April 28-29	Alan Holt attend a Rural Initiatives Conference in Magog, Quebec
April 29	Rod Scarlett met with Samy Watson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY

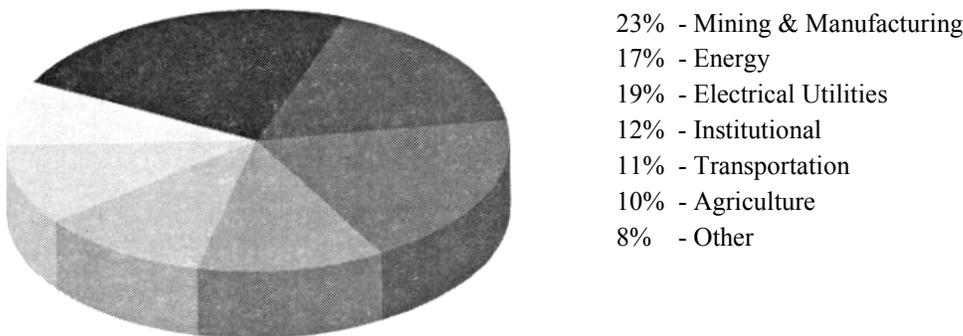
What Determines the Levels of Greenhouse Gases?

Although most greenhouse gases (GHGS) occur naturally, modern industry and lifestyles have increased greenhouse gas emissions. Human activities have raised GHG levels by introducing new sources or interfering with natural sinks. The levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are determined by a balance between sources and sinks. Sources are processes or activities that release greenhouse gases; sinks are processes, activities or mechanisms that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

What are the Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Canadian Industry Sectors?

In Canada, the GHGs emitted by the various industry sectors are estimated annually.

Figure 1. Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector - 1996

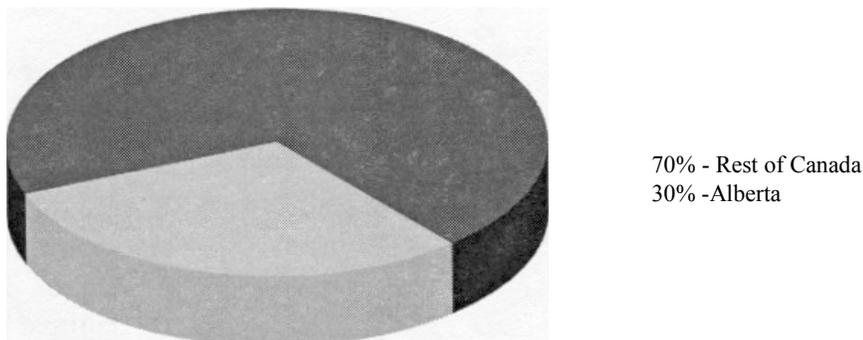


*Source: AAFC. AESA Greenhouse Gases Workshop Proceedings 1999

Environment Canada, based on methods developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), has determined the agriculture sector is responsible for 10% of total emissions of greenhouse gases in Canada (Figure 1). The Canadian agri-food sector which represents about 8 - 10% of Canadian manufacturing activity, contributes 0.5% of the total Canadian GHG emissions. When farm fuel consumption is taken into account, the emissions from the agriculture and agri-food industry increases to 12% of total emissions in Canada.

The burning of fossil fuels accounts for 80 to 85% of human-made carbon dioxide emissions. Of Canada's total agricultural and agri-food industry's GHG emissions, 30% is emitted by Alberta (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Alberta's Contribution to Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry

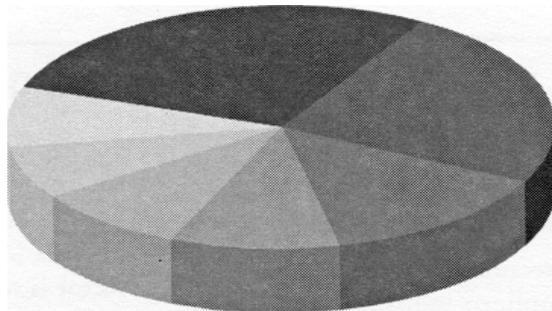


GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY - CONT'D

How Does Alberta's Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry Compare to Other Alberta Industries?

Comparing the various industry sectors across Alberta, the majority of GHG emissions stem from carbon dioxide emissions in the utilities, transportation and energy sectors (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Alberta's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector—1996



28% - Energy
24% - Electrical Utilities
14% - Transportation
10% - Agriculture
9% - Mining and Manufacturing
7% - Institutional
8% - Other

The agriculture sector in Alberta accounts for 10% of the total GHG emissions, less than half of either the energy or electric utilities sectors. Adding the agri-food sector's emissions and farm fuel consumption increases the industry's total emissions to 12%. The agriculture sector's main emissions are nitrous oxide and methane. The agri-food sector's main emission is carbon dioxide.

What Makes the Agriculture Sector's Emissions So Different?

Nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide are the main greenhouse gases emitted by the agriculture and agri-food industry. Although carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas emitted by other industries, the agriculture sector primarily emits methane from livestock and nitrous oxide from fertilizer. Because emissions from agriculture are different, strategies that work in other industries, such as reducing fuel consumption and using more efficient light bulbs, won't be the entire solution for agriculture. Our industry will need creative solutions to reduce GHGs that specifically address our unique situation.

What are the Opportunities for the Agriculture Sector?

Agriculture is in a unique position because of its ability to 'capture' atmospheric carbon in growing crops and then store a portion of that carbon in soil organic matter. This process is known as carbon sequestration or carbon storage. Agricultural soils can be a source (emitting CO₂) or a sink (storing CO₂) for carbon dioxide depending on the management of that soil. The Prairies account for 80% of Canada's 68 million hectares of farmland. Therefore, agriculture can make a significant contribution to meeting Canada's GHG reduction targets.

Conservation farming practices, including direct seeding and good fertilizer placement, have increased soil carbon, helping 'offset' GHG emissions, reducing the industry's net emissions. Reducing GHG emissions simply means that we grow crops and raise livestock more efficiently, cutting back on wasteful losses of inputs such as nitrogen (nitrous oxide) and energy (methane). Adoption of conservation practices will help to reduce GHG emissions.

Sources:

1. Environment Canada. 1997. Global Climate Change, "Greenhouse Gases".
2. Environment Canada. 1997. Global Climate Change, "The Science of Climate Change".
3. AAFC (Les Haley). 1999. AESA Greenhouse Gases Workshop Proceedings. "Agriculture and Climate Change".
4. AAFRD Greenhouse Gas Team. 1999. Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Alberta Summary Statement.
5. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. 1998. The Health of Our Air: Toward sustainable agriculture in Canada. Research Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

SIGN ON THE LINE

BY DEAN LIEN FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Whether it be from the local dealer with a machine purchase or your neighbour who is renting land to you, on a daily basis farmers across Alberta are hearing this familiar line, "Sign on the Line". Caution should be exercised when it comes to *signing on the line*. Be aware that you may be committing yourself to a long-term obligation. This can be in your best interests, as long as you know what you are signing.

The most prevalent type of agreement today follows increased energy exploration and relates to seismic, well site and pipeline agreements. The high value of crude oil (\$25+ US) has subjected rural Albertans to a flurry of activity in the petroleum development field. In view of the increased seismic activity it is prudent to ask questions of the particular company and to specify in writing those conditions you want in the contract. Examples of specific items could include testing of wells before and after activity, the use of vibroseis vs. dynamite, repairing fences, crop damages, supervision over livestock, time of day for activities, plugging of shot holes and who is the person conducting the activity. Listing these items avoids disputes later on when issues come into question like the patched or not repaired fence. Of course with seismic there is no need to sign if you don't want to allow them on your property – this is your choice. Surveyors can enter your land; however, it is a courtesy that they inform you and also it is a fact they are responsible for any damages.

In the case of a well site, whether gas or oil, the negotiation factor is still there however a company can apply to the Energy Utilities Board if location is non agreed to or to the Surface Rights Board for a Right-of-Entry Order if compensation is in dispute. In this process it is advisable to sit down with the land agent, discuss the terms of the lease including the size and location, the required roadways, compensation for crops, damages, nuisance, reclamation procedures, possibility of pipelines and processing facilities. All of these items can be negotiated. If the provisions in the agreement offered do not address your individual concerns, amend the agreement before signing. This type of lease contract is for a long time and should be entered into with care. Proper research and review is critical. A call to the Farmers' Advocate Office is probably a good idea, giving you the opportunity to get an outside opinion or advice before you *sign on the line*.

Any development whether pipeline, road widening, etc., that requires temporary or permanent easement should be carefully investigated as they are usually a long term proposition and can effect your own farming operations years hence.

Farmers and ranchers have long memories. At one time a handshake was equally as good as a 10 page notarized document. However, we know in this day that type of agreement doesn't suffice, even though the intent is good. We recognize on a daily basis here at the Farmers' Advocate Office that a signed agreement outlining what's intended saves unlimited time and confusion. We always suggest you have a written agreement on most dealings, especially on leases, rentals or agreements to purchase.

Despite the fact that agriculture today in many instances is facing difficult times there will always be farmers buying new and used equipment. Having a sales agreement that is specific to the machine, complete with details will solve many problems when it comes to warranty claims, trades, payment options and the definition of *field ready*. All too often machines are sold and the paper work is left partially completed, resulting in a conflict involving the purchaser and seller. Signing by both parties on an agreement that is complete protects both when a dispute arises.

It is evident with the over 7-8000 calls received each year by the Farmers' Advocate's Office that rural Albertans, like everyone else, don't take seriously enough the value behind having a detailed agreement signed by all parties. An agreement, relatively simple, stating the facts as far as who is responsible for what and any terms including time and finances will undoubtedly save time, money and, often, a friendship.

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers
Toll-free at 1-877-451-5912
Web site: www.wrap.ab.ca
email at: wrap@planet.eon.net