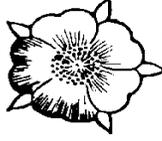


WILD ROSE



NEWS

PUBLISHED BY WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Volume 30, Issue 4

September – December 2003

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- ♦ *Check the inside of this edition to find out about the upcoming Convention and Seminar. We arranged a great array of guest speakers and have put together a very interesting program. We are also very pleased to help run the Alberta Young Farmer Forum in conjunction with the Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers of Alberta/N.W.T.*
- ♦ *Fire Extinguisher information*
- ♦ *The 2003 Canada/Alberta Farm Water Program*
- ♦ *Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY NEIL WAGSTAFF

As I think about the past year and look into the future I foresee a number of issues that should be of concern to Alberta farmers.

Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization program (CAIS)

At the top of my list is the fact that all too often federal and provincial government officials proceed with developing and designing farm programs with very little consultation with farm groups. The new safety net program, now called CAIS, is a prime example of where farmers are expected to be partners but had minimal input into this program design. This program is far from perfect and will require a number of changes if it is to be affordable for producers and be an effective income stabilization and disaster Safety Net. This is an issue that affects all agricultural producers, so it is appropriate for a general farm organization such as Wild Rose Agricultural Producers to have this as a priority during the coming year.

Accrual Accounting for all farmers may be coming

The vast majority of Agricultural producers use the cash basis of accounting for taxation purposes. It is a method of accounting that

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CONT'D

farmers are very familiar with and which provides some degree of taxation management . I see many indicators that make me believe that the federal government is aggressively working towards requiring all producers to report farm income on an accrual basis. If it is important to maintain the cash basis of accounting it will require diligent lobbying by farm groups.

Many changes in taxation are needed

There are a number of changes that need to be made to the rules and methods of collecting taxes from agricultural producers. Collecting education taxes on farmland in Alberta is no longer fair or appropriate. This issue has been studied to death with recommendations to make changes but so far no action has been taken. How farm land is treated for education taxes varies considerably from one province to the other. However, there is concern in every province that still has educational property tax on its farm land.

Many income-tax rules that affect farming operations need to be changed. Some rules simply need to be updated to reflect current conditions on the farm and the effect of inflation. Some examples where changes are needed are: restricted farm losses, capital gains exemptions, capital cost allowance rates and the ability to average income over a period of time such as five years for income tax purposes.

Communicating with the media

As agricultural producers we are becoming a smaller and smaller minority in the Canadian political environment. For this reason, it is very important that the general public be kept informed about agriculture and issues that affect agricultural producers. I believe that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers has made a significant contribution to help improve the general public's understanding of Agriculture. This activity can be very time consuming for directors and staff and in the future it will be necessary to continue to work with the media.

BSE Crisis is far from over

The mad cow (BSE) crisis has affected many farm-

ers other than beef producers and it is far from over. Even when all borders are opened for all ruminants, it will take a long time for many producers to recover. This event may have permanently changed agriculture as we have known it. Governments may find it necessary to put in place additional programming to deal with some of the ramifications brought about by the discovery of one cow with BSE. Many producers wonder whether the provincial and federal government response to this situation so far has been timely, appropriate and adequate? In the future it may be necessary for farm organizations to be more pro-active in providing governments with more guidance when they develop new programs.

The importance of lobbying

Agribusiness, chemical companies, railways, environmental groups and labor unions all have very strong well organized lobby efforts in Ottawa. These organizations all have an impact on agricultural producers. For example, the Canadian Railway Association has 75 employees in their Ottawa office most of whom are lobbyists. In contrast, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has less than 10 employees! We need to somehow strengthen the agricultural lobby in Ottawa.

Farmers tend to underestimate the importance and value that effective lobbying can have on policies and programs that affect them. Alberta farmers do not contribute their fair share towards federal agricultural lobbying relative to the fact that nearly 25% of Canada's agricultural production takes place in Alberta. For this reason alone Alberta needs to have some system whereby all farmers contribute to general farm organizations who work on behalf of all farmers on issues that are not commodity specific.

Farmers need to work together

In conclusion, it is very clear to me that agricultural producers must more aggressively influence decisions that Governments make that affect them. In the future more farmers must get more actively involved and work together through farm organizations.

CANADIAN FARM BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES IMPROVING ACCESS TO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

What are the objectives of the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services?

Through the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services, Canadian producers will have access to a range of advisory services that will help them meet the goals they have set for their businesses. Successful businesses set goals for the short term and have a vision of where they want to be in the long term.

How will the program work?

The Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services program includes five components:

Initial consultation: Every producer has different needs to ensure the success of his or her farm business. To determine those needs and which of the advisory services might benefit the producer most, an officer will discuss the various options available with the producer, either by telephone or in person. To ensure they get the most from these advisory services, this discussion should be the first step producers take before they access the available services. There will be no cost to the producer for this service.

- **Farm Business Assessment and Action Plan:** This component of the program will provide eligible producers with up to five days' worth of consultation services. There are two parts to this service: **Farm Business Assessment:** A consultant will review past records and the current situation, discuss goals and objectives, and help producers determine their current options in meeting their profitability goals. This service will give producers up to three days' worth of consulting, and will result in producers identifying their goals and options for the future. Each producer will receive a business profile, a statement of assets and liabilities, a farm business ratio analysis, an income and expenses statement for the previous three years, and other information related to the farm business.
- **Action Plan:** Following the Farm Business Assessment, producers will have access to two days' worth of consultation services to help them assess their options for increasing farm profitability and establish a plan to implement the option they have chosen. This service will result in financial planning (including cash-flow planning), projections of options and a written report.

The cost of consultant services, valued at \$2,000, will be paid by the federal government. The producer will pay a fee of \$100 to the consultant.

- **Specialized Business Planning Services:** This component offers assistance to producers in preparing the specialized plans needed for their businesses, such as diversification, marketing, human resources, expansion, risk management and succession plans. To assist them in developing these types of plans, producers will work with a consultant, based on their needs, with expertise in a specific area. This service will be available in early fall. In terms of cost, the federal government will pay 50 percent of the total consultant fees, up to a maximum of \$8,000. Producers will be responsible for paying the balance.
- **Follow-up:** After using the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services, a consultant will follow up with producers to discuss how they are progressing in relation to the plan they developed and to offer further advice to the producer, if needed. There will be no cost for this service.
- **Planning and assessment for value-added enterprises:** This service will be available to producers who are considering establishing or expanding a value-added enterprise. It will provide them with assistance in retaining the services of a business-planning professional to develop certain feasibility assessments and, if appropriate, a comprehensive business plan for specific enterprises. This planning will facilitate access to capital. This service will be available in early fall. The cost for this service has yet to be determined.

Please note, producers can use each of the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services to their full extent once in the five-year period of the program, which ends in March 2008.

When will the program be up and running?

The program is available in those provinces that have signed the agreements on implementing the APF. Please note that the program delivery will vary by province or territory. Producers who would like to participate should complete an application form, which is available on the Web site at www.agr.gc.ca/renewal/cfbas, or they can contact a program officer by telephone at 1-866-452-5558.

For more information

More information on the program or other Renewal initiatives can also be obtained from this Web site at www.agr.gc.ca/renewal or by calling 1-866-452-5558.

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS CONVENTION AND SEMINARS

January 7, 2004 - Day 1

8:00 - 8:30 Registration and coffee

8:30 - 8:35 Introduction and welcome

- Neil Wagstaff, President, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers
- 8:35 - 9:15 "Prospects for beef export markets"
 - Cam Daniels, Vice-President, Canadian Beef Export Federation

Intro by Robert Filkohazy, WRAP Regional Director

9:20 - 9:40 "Insurance rates and how are they impacting agriculture"

- Gary Herback, Regional Vice-President, The Co-operators

Intro by Bob Smook, WRAP Regional Director

9:40 - 10:15 "Changing the way we identify grain"

- Chris Hamblin, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Grain Commission

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee

Intro by Keith Degenhardt, WRAP Vice-President

10:35 - 11:10 "International trading relationships: What's next?"

- Bob Friesen, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Intro by Terry Murray, Board Member, WRAP

11:10 -12:00 "The rural economy: What has happened to it?"

- Jack Hayden, President, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
- Ted Sutton, Dean of Agriculture, Lakeland College

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

Intro by Claude Smith, WRAP Board Member

1:05 - 1:45 "What Farmers need to know about coal-bed methane"

- Peter Watson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment
- Mike Ekelund, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Energy

Intro by Brent McBean, WRAP Regional Director

1:50 - 2:20 "An update on the changing world of carbon credits"

- Jilene Sauve, Agricultural Air Issues Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Intro by Doris Ludlage, WRAP Board Member

2:20 - 2:45 "Issues, trends and questions for Agriculture"

- Doug Livingston, Farmer, Vermilion

2:45 - 3:00 Coffee

Intro by Bill Dobson, Vice President WRAP

3:00 - 3:45 "Agriculture, industry and politics, a corporate perspective"

- Jim Dinning, Executive Vice President, TransAlta

Intro by Neil Wagstaff, President WRAP

3:45 - 4:30 "What is happening at the federal level"

- Ralph Goodale - tentative

4:30 Wrap-Up

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND CANADIAN OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS ALBERTA N.W.T.

Alberta Young Farmer Forum 2004 Seminar January 7, 2004

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration and coffee
- 8:30 - 8:35 Welcome
- Outstanding Young Farmer representatives Richard Stamp and Lisa Anderson
- 8:35 - 8:50 "What is the Canadian Young Farmer Forum?"
- Mark Richards, President, Canadian Young Farmer Forum
- 8:50 - 10:15 Farm business management: "Strategic planning and business arrangements"
- Merle Good, Tax Specialist, Alberta Agriculture
 - Dan Matson, Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture
- 10:15 - 10:30 Coffee
- 10:30 - 11:15 "Should you deal with the media, and if so, how?"
- Cindy McCreath, Communication Specialist, Canadian Cattlemen's Association
 - Dianne Finstad, Producer/Host, This Business of Farming, RDTV
- 11:15 - 12:00 "Marketing trends in agriculture"
- Jerry Bouma, Agricultural Consultant, Toma and Bouma
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:45 "The aging farmer, opportunities and consequences"
- Ray Bollman, Statistics Canada
- 1:45 - 2:15 "Why young farmers should be concerned with risk management"
- Bob Friesen, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- 2:15 - 2:45 "What is the Farm Business Management Council and what can it do for you"
- Bill MacFarquhar, President, Farm Business Management Council
- 2:45 - 3:00 Coffee
- 3:00 - 3:45 "Agriculture, industry and politics, a corporate perspective"
- Jim Dinning, Executive Vice President, TransAlta
- 3:45 - 4:30 "What is happening at the federal level?"
- Ralph Goodale- tentative
- 4:30 Wrap up and process for selection of CYFF delegates

WILD ROSE CONVENTION—CONTINUED

2004 Annual Convention and Seminar

January 7, 2004 - Evening

6:30 p.m. Convention Opening Remarks -Neil Wagstaff, President, Wild Rose Agricultural Pro-
ducers
Introduction of Guests
6:45 **Guest Speakers**
• **Art Macklin, Chairman, Canadian International Grains Institute**
• **Jack Wilkinson, President, International Federation of Agricultural Producers**
Banquet
7:30 Social
Silent Auction

Thursday, January 8, 2004 - Day 2

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:45 Welcome and Call to Order - Neil Wagstaff
Approval and/ or Additions to the Agenda
Call for acceptance of the Minutes of the Seventh Annual Convention as circulated
Nominations Open
President's Report - Neil Wagstaff
9:10 Board of Directors Report - Keith Degenhardt/Bill Dobson
9:20 Executive Director's report
9:25 Financial Report - (Financial Review conducted by Colleen Ewashko of C. Ewashko
Accounting)
presented by Rod Scarlett
Motion to Approve Submitted Financial Statements
Motion for the Ratification of the actions of the 2003/2004 Board of Directors
9:30 Discussion and voting on 2004 Resolutions
10:30 Coffee Break
10:45 **Dean Lien, Farmers' Advocate**
11:00 Discussion and voting on 2004 Resolutions - continued
12:15 p.m. Nominations For the Board of Directors Close
12:15 Lunch Q & A Panel, **Bob Friesen, Jack Wilkinson and Neil Wagstaff**
1:15 Close of Resolutions
1:30 Presentations/Election of 2004/2005 Board of Directors (if necessary)
1:45 Discussion and voting on 2004 Resolutions - continued
2:00 Election Closes
2:30 Election Results
Coffee Break Sponsored by
Board Meeting
3:30 Executive Announced
Discussion and voting on 2004 Resolutions - continued
4:00 New Business
Summary President Elect
4:45 Motion to Adjourn

**WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS in conjunction with
CANADIAN OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS, ALBERTA/N.W.T.
present
Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, CONVENTION & SEMINAR 2004
As well as ALBERTA'S YOUNG FARMER FORUM**

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, Alberta

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January 7 and 8, 2004

Name

Address

.....(Postal Code).....

Telephone/Fax

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\$95.00 ()

Please Note: GST INCLUDED

PACKAGE A *Wednesday, January 7, 2004*
(Wild Rose or the AYFF) Includes Seminar and Lunch
Evening Banquet-Entertainment
Thursday, January 8, 2004
Continental Breakfast
Lunch
Cost: \$133.75

PACKAGE B *Wednesday, January 7, 2004*
(Wild Rose or the AYFF seminar) Seminar and Lunch only
Cost: \$65.00

PACKAGE C *Wednesday, January 7, 2004*
Evening Banquet-Entertainment
Thursday, January 8, 2004
Continental Breakfast
Lunch
Cost: \$95.00

EXTRA Banquet Tickets: \$25.00 per person

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877-451-5912
Fax: (780) 453-2669

2003 CANADA-ALBERTA FARM WATER PROGRAM

REPRINTED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
BACON BITS, AND CHARLENE NODDINGS

Long-term water supplies are vital for the continued long-term sustainability of Alberta's agriculture industry. In recognition of this fact, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's (AAFRD) farm water program has provided support for more than 13,000 water development projects since its start in 2001. As of May 31, 2003, more than \$25 million has been paid through the program in grants to help producers develop reliable supplies of fresh water for domestic use, livestock watering, fish farming and small scale irrigation.

Thanks to the recently signed Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) Implementation Agreement, a cash injection of \$6 million in federal funding has increased water program funding to \$11.5 million for the 2003/04 year. The new Canada-Alberta Farm Water Program (CAFWP), which essentially replaces the previous program, pays one third of development costs, to a maximum of \$5,000 per producer, for the following eligible water supply projects:

- Wells that provide a long-term source of water that is more reliable than surface water sources during times of drought.
- Dugouts that meet minimum size standards and provide a long-term water supply.
- Stock dams, which are potentially eligible as reservoirs, that provide a source of water for livestock.
- Spring developments that collect and hold underground water sources that make otherwise unusable water sources available for livestock.
- Livestock, fish farming, small-scale irrigation or domestic water projects that are combined with field irrigation. While CAFWP does not fund field-scale irrigation, AAFRD recognizes that field irrigation development is often integrated with domestic, livestock or small-scale irrigation.
- Farmsite connections to a new water source, which are added to the existing yardsite distribution system. This approach would also include development of remote water for pastures as part of a long-term system.
- Pipelines for pastures, water co-op pipelines and water storage as part of a long-term system.
- Fencing that enhances and protects the water supply.
- Test holes, construction surveys, materials analysis or professional consultant fees to help producers make informed decisions related to sourcing of on-farm water supplies. These steps ensure the development of high quality, high volume water sources.

To be eligible under the CAFWP, active producers must produce \$10,000 worth of farm commodities annually. Applicants have until March 31, 2004, to complete their projects and until April 15, 2004, to submit an application. AAFRD encourages producers to contact the Rural Services Division for resource information before beginning CAFWP projects.

Rural services staff will advise producers on program and project eligibility, while Alberta Agriculture Water Specialists/Technologists can help producers make informed decisions on the best farm water solutions and options available for their farms. Water specialists have a wide range of technical experience and information, and can provide the producer with local surface and groundwater resource information, project design criteria, on-farm consultation and the latest water supply publications. Experience has shown that producers who accessed technical expertise on project design before construction realized a cost savings above and beyond the program funding.

For additional information on the program or help with application details, producers can contact their regional Alberta Agriculture Water Specialist (for more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's Ag-Info Centre toll free at 1-866-882-7677) or Rural Services Division at (780) 422-9167 (toll free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000).

2003 CANADA ALBERTA WATER PROGRAM –CONT'D

Applications for the CAFWP can be obtained through the Rural Services Division of AAFRD, at MLA constituency offices, or they can be downloaded from the department website at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/farmwater/index.html.

Charlene Noddings
Information Officer - Edmonton
Telephone: (780) 427-3012 Fax: (780) 427-5921
E-mail: charlene.noddings@gov.ab.ca

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ON THE FARM

COURTESY OF LAUREL AITKEN, FARM SAFETY COORDINATOR, AAFRD

Handling a fire on your farm depends on having all the proper safety equipment in place, and fire extinguishers are one of these crucial pieces of equipment. Fire extinguishers should be located in the following areas: workshop, barns, farm vehicles, combines, balers, tractors, and in the house.

In the stores you see many types and sizes of extinguishers, so which ones should you buy? Well, that depends on the location and the class of fire that may start in that location. Remember, if you use the wrong type of extinguisher, you may cause a more severe problem! Here is the type of fire extinguisher needed for a particular location:

Workshop	10 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher 5 pound dry chemical ABC extinguisher
Barns	10 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguisher
Farm Vehicles	5 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
Combines	10 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguisher
Balers	2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguisher
Tractors	10 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher
Silos	20 pound dry chemical, multi-purpose ABC extinguisher 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguisher

- What does "ABC" mean? Just remember this rule of thumb:

A is for **ASHES**.

Ash fires are: wood, cloth, hay, straw, or any material that will burn to an ash.

B is for **BARRELS**.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS—CONT'D

Barrel fires are: paints, petroleum products, and other flammable liquids.

C is for **CURRENT**.

Current fires are: motors, engines, electrical, etc.

Fire extinguishers with DRY CHEMICAL will last approximately one second for every pound of dry chemical in the extinguisher. For example, a 10 pounder would last 10 seconds.

- WATER fire extinguishers will last 30 seconds for every gallon of water. For example, a 2.5 gallon water extinguisher will last 75 seconds.
- All vehicle and machinery fire extinguishers should be mounted on the outside near the door.
- Fire extinguishers for buildings should be mounted near the exit doors.
- Some balers are equipped with bracket mounting areas on both sides of the baler.
- Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly, and have a tag with the date of the last inspection.
- Turn all dry chemical extinguishers upside down and tap them on the bottom to loosen the powder stored in them. The indicator on the extinguisher shows the charge of gas (nitrogen) that will force the powder out.
- Train everyone over the age of 12 in the use of fire extinguishers. They should also know how to:
 - get everyone out of danger
 - call the fire department
 - fight small fires only
 - pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire, and squeeze the handle
 - start fighting the fire approximately six to ten feet away using a back and forth motion



YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose - Membership fee :	Producer	\$ _____	(\$117.70)
	3 - Year	\$ _____	(\$321.00)
	Associate	\$ _____	(\$ 58.85)

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

SOME OF THE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CONVENTION

1. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers along with the other farm organizations in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Grain Growers of Canada, and now the Canadian Cattleman's Association continue to push for full negative margin coverage in the CAIS Program.
2. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers continue to strive for a producer check-off based on an additional license plate fee.
3. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge the Provincial and Federal Government to implement testing for all livestock over 30 months for B.S.E. and other diseases as deemed necessary.
4. Whereas the American border remains closed to this day to Canadian live ruminants, and; Whereas Canadian livestock producers, feedlot operators, truckers and associated industry members continue to suffer from the border closure;
Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge the Canadian Government to take every measure available to them to right the cross border livestock trade as originally allowed under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
5. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal Government to make the CAIS Program producer deposits tax deductible.
6. Be it Resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge the Federal Government to include machinery repair costs as an eligible expense in the CAIS Program calculations.
7. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge the Federal Government to include deemed (i.e. letter of credit) deposits for the CAIS Program.
8. Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge both the Federal and Provincial governments to examine ways to encourage all producers to use best management practices in disposing of animals in order to address animal health and environmental concerns.
9. Be it resolved that the interests of the agricultural industry be considered and respected during the development of the Coal-bed methane industry.

Attention Members

We have moved out of our old office on 149 Street and have taken up temporary residence in Sherwood Park. We have signed a lease agreement with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops who are building new offices in Sherwood Park. We hope to be moved in to our new premises by the end of January, 2004. All our mail however, continues to go to 14815 119 Ave. The phone numbers also remains the same.

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS—2003

EXECUTIVE

	Telephone	Fax	Area Code	E-mail
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2ND V.P. Keith Degenhardt, Gen. Del., Hughenden, T0B 2E0	856-2383	856-2383	780	kjdegen@telusplanet.net

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Region 14	Paul Thibodeau, 5204 – 47 Street, Taber, T1G 1G6	223-9087	223-0174	403	
Region 15	Contact – Jim Allan, Box 133, Berwyn, T0H 0E0	338-2260	No Fax	780	

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