

# Wild Rose



# News

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## President's Report

by

## BILL DOBSON

It has been three months since I have taken over as President of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. If I ever had any notions that this would be a dull experience, those thoughts have certainly disappeared!

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the work of our former President, Neil Wagstaff. The dedication and high quality effort shown by Neil over the past four years has benefited every Alberta producer. He has made a positive impact on farm leaders from one end of Canada to the other and he will always be an inspiration to me, personally. Fortunately, Neil remains on our board of directors and we all wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

I have made a commitment to spend three years as President of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. It is an elected position and I will certainly need to earn that privilege. There needs to be stability in the leadership of an organization like this and I am determined to strengthen Wild Rose during my time as President. I have set out five personal goals that I will use to measure my effectiveness in office.

**In three years:**

- ◆ **Our membership number will be doubled**

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## President's Report - Cont'd

- ◆ We will have improved credibility with producers and government
- ◆ Wild Rose will be adequately staffed to provide a level of service that will be satisfactory to its membership
- ◆ Our bills will be paid (as they are now)
- ◆ We will be a full fledged member of The Canadian Federation of Agriculture

These are very ambitious targets, but absolutely vital to the future of this organization. **It will be done**, and the beauty of it is, I don't have to do it alone! We have very strong team of board members, regional directors and our executive director, Rod Scarlett. I am absolutely convinced of the need for an effective General Farm Organization in the Province of Alberta and look forward to the challenge of accomplishing these goals.

### BSE Crisis Continues

There is probably little than needs to be said regarding this issue as it has absolutely dominated farm meetings and news over the past ten months. The effect of the interrupted trade with the United States has been devastating for the entire livestock industry and the Canadian rural economy. Wild Rose Agricultural Producers certainly does not pretend to be the primary representative of the Alberta cattle industry. We do, however, have an interest in the entire livestock area and have offered industry and government our services as required. Alberta Beef Producers has worked tirelessly in their attempts to get the border re-opened and I would like to commend them on the work that they have done. There is little doubt that the solution is resumed trade with the United States. Hopefully, the review of comments after April 7<sup>th</sup> will be brief and positive. We all remain cautiously optimistic that the border will be opened to movement of live cattle by mid-summer.

Are there positive aspects to the BSE issue? It's hard to find them but it has been good to see cattle producers discussing the concept of co-operative livestock processing facilities. There is strength in working together and perhaps it takes tough conditions to remind us of that. As an export-dependent country we are very vulnerable and we must stick together as an industry. Testing and traceability procedures have been improved throughout North America. The industry will no doubt come out of this stronger than ever.

The governments of Canada and Alberta have certainly showed a commitment to agriculture over the past year. The dollars injected into the system have provided some money but also an invaluable show of support. Today it is BSE but tomorrow it will be something else. It is absolutely essential for the agricultural industry to have the ongoing support of the people of Canada through these difficult times. It is our responsibility, as a farm organization, to offer suggestions as to how financial assistance can be deployed in the most effective manner.

### Wild Rose Annual Meeting

The 2004 Annual Meeting was very successful. A two-day Young Farmers Forum was held in conjunction with the AGM. It was inspiring to observe the enthusiasm of the future leaders and participants in this conference. We intend to make this an ongoing relationship. Day one of the Wild Rose meeting was filled with seminars and the second day was the actual AGM. We are currently assessing this format to see if this makes for the most effective and enjoyable program. The Board would like to thank Rod Scarlett for his tireless effort in putting this conference together and to the sponsors who contribute so generously to this event. We may rotate the Annual Meeting to another city next year. This would make the travel easier for a new group of members and would provide us all a change of scenery.

### Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Keith Degenhardt and I attended the CFA Annual Meeting in Ottawa from February 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>. Our association with this group continues to be one of our biggest frustrations at Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. Alberta, one of the strongest agricultural forces in Canada, is highly under-represented at the national level. Our associate-membership entitles us to one delegate at the AGM while BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec all have fifteen. Agriculture Minister Speller told me directly that CFA is a respected farm to which he intends to listen. He wants to listen - we are barely there! Alberta wonders why we aren't heard federally.....

We did, however, attend the meeting and took part in many of the discussions on resolutions. CAIS, the agricultural economy and BSE were certainly the key topics. Speakers included **Bob Speller**, Federal Minister of Agriculture, **Bob Friesen**, President of CFA, **Jack Wilkinson**, President of

## President's Report - Cont'd

International Federation of Agricultural Producers, **Michael McCain**, President of Maple Leaf Foods, **Stewart Wells**, President of NFU Canada and **Richard MacDonald**, Executive Director of the National Farmers Union of the United Kingdom.

Although BSE has been the big item of discussion over the past year, many other areas of agriculture are under extreme pressure. Trade issues, depressed grain prices, transportation, food safety, soaring energy costs and Avian flu in poultry are all impacting the industry.

### Strategic Planning Session

On March 4<sup>th</sup> the Board of Directors and Executive Director of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers spent a full day

planning out the course of action for the organization. I was very pleased with the determination that was shown by everyone. We discussed many new ways of building membership, obtaining badly needed resources and revitalizing our organization. Although dedication is very important, eventually it takes money to be able to do the work that a member expects when they pay their dues. I am confident that we will continue to be "the voice of agriculture" in Alberta and give you excellent value for your investment.

I am excited about the future of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. It will be my pleasure to lead this organization and I wish all agricultural producers in Alberta an excellent year.

## Alberta EFP has successful first year

*Editor's Note: Robert Filkohazy, Wild Rose Board member and Regional Director of Region 10 sits on the EFP Board*

**A**lberta's farm community moved 830 steps closer to enhanced environmental stewardship in the first 48 weeks of their EFP program. That's the number of farm units that have taken part in a free, confidential, risk assessment workshop offered by the non-profit Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company (AEFP).

Since the program started, a total of 90 EFP workshops were held across the province, from Edgerton to Wildwood and from Fort Vermilion to Aden. Trained, local facilitators, with personal farming experience, lead the workshop sessions in which participants work through a comprehensive binder. After the first of the two program workshops, participants go back to their farms or ranches and assess their environmental risks and opportunities.

When they have completed the assessment, they take the second workshop, to help them create a plan of action to enhance their operations. All assessments are confidential and the plans of action, like the workshops themselves, are completely voluntary. A review of the plans of action, still in its pilot stages, has also started.

"We're aiming for at least 1500 farm units to have participated in the environmental farm plan program between March 31, 2003 and April 1, 2004," says Therese Tompkins, EFP program director. "Given the response we've had to the program so far, I think that's a realistic goal." Further,

Tompkins credits this success to the numerous contributors throughout the Alberta agricultural community and industry.

Though all workshop evaluations are confidential, a number of participants have offered public comments on the program. "Completing an environmental farm plan helped me step back from the day to day management of my farm and look at some of the potential areas of environmental impact," said Murray Marsh, a Carstairs area farmer who participated in one of the workshops offered last fall. "It was sort of like being on the outside looking in."

Workshop participants also said that completing an EFP would have economic as well as environmental benefits for them. "It's a hugely useful risk management tool, not just environmental, but economic and safety," said one farmer. Other participants noted that EFP was a way for producers to communicate to the general public their deep commitment to the care of agricultural resources and also provided individual farms with safe ways to identify potential problem areas and get reassurance about the way they're operating.

For more information on the environmental farm plan program, contact AEFP at 1-866-844-2337 or check the web site at [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com)

# Reflecting on the past, looking towards the future: President's report to the 2004 AGM by Past president Neil Wagstaff

Last year at this time I started my report by lamenting about how difficult a year 2002 had been for Alberta farmers. However, the devastation that we have seen in our industry during the past seven months is more than anyone could have imagined or predicted. Also, something that is commonly misunderstood by the non-farming community is that the mad cow (BSE) crisis is not just a cattle issue because in one way or another it has affected all Agricultural producers.

Farmers tend to be optimists or they would not be in the business that they are in. However, the stress many have endured over the past few years is becoming unbearable. When the Agricultural economy is under stress the need for effective general farm organizations and adequate Safety Net programs becomes very important.

During the past year, a considerable amount of my time has been spent working towards changes and improvements to the new enhanced NISA program, which is now referred to as the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization or CAIS program. I must remind you that during last winter and early spring both federal and provincial government officials were adamantly saying that with this new safety net program there would be no more ad hoc funding for agriculture. At the same time, nearly every farm organization in the country was saying that this new program will not work very well for industry wide disasters, regional disasters, long-term low commodity prices and Trade injury impacts.

Things can sure change quickly! The discovery of one cow in Alberta with BSE, which quickly affected producers all across the country, soon made government officials realize that ad hoc program funding was necessary. But at the same time government officials continued to express that the CAIS program was going to be the save all for Canadian farmers. For some time there will continue to be debate as to whether appropriate programming was initiated as a response to the BSE crisis.

The new CAIS program is far from perfect and if it is to be as effective a safety net as what we have had in the past there is significant need for improvement and changes. The CAIS program does have the potential, with some changes, to be one effective component of what needs to be a bigger envelope of safety net programming.

We need to have programming in place that can deal with:

- Major disasters that affect one sector or region.
- The impact on our farm economy brought about by competitive country policies and activities. This is not just subsidies, but things like decisions to go to war and fiscal policies that can cause rapid changes in exchange rates, which are two things that have occurred during the past few months.
- Situations where a producer has several poor years in a row brought about by circumstances beyond the control of the individual farmer.

## Wild Rose's future

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers has continued to be an effective voice for Alberta farmers even though we have operated on very limited resources. Unfortunately, during the past year I have seen too many occasions when we could have done more if we had had more financial capacity. I believe that the importance of a general farm organization has become very obvious to many Alberta farmers under the stressful conditions that we have experienced in the past two to three years. But I continue to be frustrated with our inability to manifest this strong farmer support into significant membership growth.

It continues to be obvious that a volunteer system of membership is a very difficult way to fund a general farm organization. One problem is that all farmers benefit from its activities whether they financially support the organization or not. It seems that we unfortunately need to provide some individual benefit in order to create the incentive to be a member. We also need to somehow find a way to establish a general levy or a checkoff system to fund general farm organizations in Alberta. All the other provinces other than Alberta have realized this over the past 15 years and have introduced legislation or some mechanism has been established to accomplish this.

I have made similar comments at every annual meeting for the last three years. But I must repeat, that if we do not find a way to significantly increase our membership or financial resources our organization will continue to have financial insecurity and an inability to undertake new endeavors that can benefit Alberta's Agricultural Producers. **It is an absolute shame that the province, which has one-**

## Past president's report- Cont'd

quarter of the agricultural production in Canada, has a general farm organization with the least amount of financial resources.

During the past year Wild Rose has continued to be a significant voice speaking out about agricultural issues. The media continues to rely on us for comments, Agricultural story ideas and arrangements for interviews. This is a very important role for Wild Rose Agricultural Producers because the public needs to better understand agricultural issues but at times it has overwhelmed us during the past few months.

### Why should farmers lobby?

I often think that many farmers underestimate the importance and value to them of having someone represent their interests to government decision makers. It is important that government decision makers are educated about issues from a farmer's perspective. That's what lobbying is all about.

Industry, agribusiness environmental groups and other special interest organizations all have very well organized and financed lobbying efforts federally and provincially. For example; during one trip to Ottawa Terry Lee Degenhardt and I happened to be sitting next to a fellow who was a senior executive with the Railway Association of Canada. He told us that the railways have in excess of 70 full-time lobbyists working in Ottawa! Grain companies, food processors, Agricultural Chemical companies, and animal rights groups all have well-funded, well-organized lobbyists. What is best for these organizations is often not necessarily in the best interests of Agricultural producers. **Primary agricultural producers need to more willingly provide financial support to farm organizations so that they can provide a counterbalance to other strong lobbying efforts.**

Lobbying becomes more important the bigger government is and the farther away it is. That means that the most important lobbying that is needed on behalf of Alberta farmers is in Ottawa.

### CFA Membership

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) membership directly represents all commodities produced in Canada except for beef cattle. Also, each province's general farm organization is a member of CFA. With this in mind, CFA

really represents all primary agricultural producers and is recognized nationally and internationally as the voice for Canadian agricultural producers.

Wild Rose is fortunate to be involved with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture as an associate member. We have a special status that allows us to participate almost as a full member but at a reduced associate membership fee. At times this arrangement has become an irritant with other CFA members and should be an absolute embarrassment to Alberta producers and the Alberta government.

We rely on CFA to represent Alberta farmers on many issues at the federal and international level. Led by CFA president Bob Friesen, CFA staff and other member representatives are doing a remarkable job of representing the interests of Canadian farmers at International trade negotiations.

### Summary

I would like to thank all the other board of directors for their support and help during the past year. I would like to extend a special thank you to our executive director, Rod Scarlett, who has faithfully worked with us under conditions that sometimes have not been the most ideal. It has again truly been a team effort.

It has been a privilege and an enjoyable experience serving as your president for my fourth year. It certainly has had its challenges and has involved a lot of time away from home and away from the farm. I've had the opportunity to get to know leaders of farm organizations from across the country and internationally. I have traveled from one corner to the other of this great province during the past year and I have met farmers both large and small who produce many different commodities.

As many of you already know, in early December I informed by fellow board of directors that I would not be seeking the position of president for the coming year. This was not an easy decision but I feel it is time for someone else to take the leadership of your farm organization. I don't foresee retiring in the near future so as long as my primary source of income is from farming, I will continue to be involved in some way with farm organizations.

Thank you for your support and the best to all in 2004.

## District 101 Annual Meeting by Peter Hoff, Chairman

Many of you may wonder where District 101 is! Bill Dobson will tell you it's a long way from Paradise Valley! District 101 basically encompasses the County of Wheatland, which is just east of Calgary and is part of Region 10.

The meeting was held in Hussar on the 11th of March. Since our membership is at the county level we strive to bring topics of local interest.

Our first speaker was to have been the county agricultural fieldman, Russ Muenchrath. Due to some upcoming deadlines, Russ was unable to attend. Armed with a fax from Russ, I passed on information regarding the 2004 strychnine program to control golphers, the high level of grasshoppers expected in the spring and the county fusarium plan.

Dean Lien, Alberta's Farmers' Advocate was our main speaker. Dean is a good friend to Wild Rose and always has lots of interesting stories from his tenure as advocate. He gave us an outline of his multi-faceted job and then spoke more specifically about negotiating surface rights leases, changes to the farm machinery dealership bonding process and where farmers experiencing stress can turn to.

Robert Filkohazy, Region 10 Director gave a brief descrip-

tion of regional activities including resolutions from the Three Hills meeting in December. He also described the highlights at the convention and some of the more interesting resolutions debated there.

Since Region 10 is hosting the Summer Council meeting, Robert also gave an update on progress in planning the event.

President Bill Dobson kindly made his way down to south central Alberta to provide us with an update on both the provincial and national issues facing agriculture today. Just fresh from the CFA annual convention he expounded on the virtues of a strong national farm lobby and the need to bring a unified message to Ottawa. Bill left time at the end of the meeting to encourage feedback and answer questions that arose. Once again, the topic of memberships and funding was a concern for those attending. It was clear that, although a lot is accomplished with very little, some changes need to be made to deal with funding shortfalls.

After a brief (and acclamation style) election, the meeting was adjourned for further informal discussion and coffee refills.

We didn't solve all the world's problems, but we agreed to keep trying.



We have moved!  
Our new office location is:  
#102, 115 Portage Close  
Sherwood Park, Alta.  
T8H 2R5

New phone: 780-416-6530

New fax: 780-416-6531

\*Many thanks to our new landlord,  
The Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd.



# Farm Safety Fact Sheet

## Safety for Aging Farmers

**M**any Alberta farmers continue to farm after the age of 60. According to Alberta Labour Force statistics, nearly half the seniors in the workforce in Alberta are farmers. Out of 24 farm related fatalities in 2002 in Alberta, 38 percent of deaths were people ages 59 and older. Tractor rollovers were the most common cause of injury followed by being pinned or hit by machinery.

Seniors often have to deal with physical factors that decrease their ability to perform tasks, which in the past were routine. These changes can affect reflexes, quickness and accuracy while performing farm chores. The loss of vision and perception can also impair the ability to operate machinery properly.

### The Facts

- ♦ From 1990-98, 36 percent of all farm fatalities in Canada involved senior farmers. The majority of these deaths were caused by tractor rollovers, and the second most common was being pinned or struck by a machine.
- ♦ In an aging population, many physical factors influence the ability to perform and accomplish farm tasks, which in the past were considered routine. The physical abilities that decline are good strength, flexibility, eyesight and hearing. Farmers may compensate for decreased physical capacities by adopting unsafe work habits or taking shortcuts in established practices.
- ♦ Quick reactions and accuracy are very important when dealing with machinery. Reaction time is dramatically affected by age. Muscles lack the ability to work as fast as they once did. Restricted head or neck movement may affect the ability of

the aging farmer to see and maneuver machinery.

- ♦ Balance and control of motion is also affected by aging. Loss of balance can lead to dizziness, which can cause a fall, leading to injury especially if working around moving or unguarded parts of equipment.
- ♦ As age increases, vision decreases. For a 40 year old to see as clearly as a 20 year old it takes four times the amount of light. For a 65 year old, it takes double that of the 40 year old. To add to the risk, farmers rarely work with enough light. A disability in vision can result in a lack of awareness of approaching dangers, or a lack of ability to operate machinery properly.
- ♦ As aging progresses, hearing loss occurs. Farmers usually suffer more noise related hearing loss than the general public. This could lead to the inability to hear approaching hazards.
- ♦ General health issues such as arthritis and rheumatism are more prevalent in older farmers and decrease mobility.
- ♦ The use of prescription drugs can also affect the safety of the farmer; drugs can slow reaction times and decrease ability.
- ♦ Depression is an illness that occurs in 15 percent of all adults over 65 and can lead to an inability to handle physically demanding situations.

### Issue

Senior farmers have a higher risk of injury and death as a result of the

physical limitations of the aging process. Work practices and views on safety are deeply ingrained and difficult to change after a lifetime of farming. For farmers who view risk taking as routine, the added risk brought on by age-related disabilities can easily lead to injury or death.

### Safety Precautions

Farmers can decrease the hazards of farming in their senior years by constantly assessing their abilities against the demands of the tasks on the farm. Work with family members and friends to improve safety conditions by carefully analyzing the hazards of each task on the farm and considering the physical and intellectual abilities required to do the task in a safe manner. Make adjustments to the task or assign the task to a different person as necessary.

General precautions to consider:

- ♦ Increase the light in low visibility areas.
- ♦ Complete tasks while there is lots of daylight. Vision is most hampered at dusk and dawn.
- ♦ Take regular rest breaks, as fatigue leads to injury.
- ♦ Self-assess abilities and limitations on a regular basis
- ♦ Install gates, doors and animal handling facilities that are easy to use. Use safety devices such as handrails and guards on equipment.
- ♦ Decrease the chance of falls by having non-slip flooring and handrails.
- ♦ Tractors are a main danger, make sure they are well maintained.
- ♦ Ensure that tractor ROPS are in

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Safety for Aging Farmers - cont'd

(Continued from page 7)

- place (retrofit if necessary) and buckle up
- ♦ Get regular medical checks and check prescriptions to ensure they will not cause problems when operating machinery.
- ♦ Work with others or at least have a cell phone or radio with you.

### Conclusion

Farmers over 60 are at high risk for injury and death on Alberta farms. By acknowledging personal limitations and working with friends and family to decrease hazards, senior farmers can continue to work on the farm in a safe environment. The farm community, friends and family can take an active role in ensuring that senior farmers work in a safe environment.

### Reference Information

Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development Website  
[www1.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca)  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1841A.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1841A.pdf)  
<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ec414.pdf>  
New Brunswick Farm Safety  
<http://www.nbfarm.com/farmsafetygateway/seniors.htm>  
Fatal Farm Injuries in Canada 1990-98 - The Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program  
<http://meds.queensu.ca/~emresrch/caisp/>

\* Funding for this and other farm safety fact sheets was provided by Wild Rose Agricultural Producers in cooperation with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

## Summer Council Meeting & Agri-Tour 2004

Region 10 is pleased to be hosting this year's Board of Directors and Regional Directors summer meeting. The three day event will take place in Strathmore at the Oxbow Country Golf Course on June 27, 28 & 29. The agenda will include a Sunday afternoon get-together; Monday morning board and regional directors meeting followed by an Agri-Tour with a reception and barbecue after returning; and a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday.

A feature we have decided to add this year is an Agri-Tour; with invited MLA's and Municipal elected officials to join our board and directors on a tour visiting with some of our local leaders in the industry showing some of the positive things producers are doing. As space will be limited; we are encouraging all Regional Directors to plan early to be involved in an opportunity to liaise with our elected people.

For more info and details contact Robert Filkohazy at (403) 641-2480.

## The Co-operators

On April 14 - 16, Co-operators Insurance held their Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Terry Murray and Neil Wagstaff attended as delegates representing Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. Bill Dobson also attended as a member of the Co-operators Board of Directors. This has been a very challenging period of time for the entire insurance industry. Although the net after-tax income of \$64 million for The Co-operators in 2003 was a significant improvement over 2002, the challenges of the auto insurance segment of the business continue.

Delegates participated in several workshops discussing the future of the industry and the Co-operators. As a result of the Member Loyalty Program contract signed last summer, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers will be receiving a payment as laid out in the agreement.

Bill Dobson, President of Wild Rose, was re-elected to the Board of Co-operators for a three-year term.

# Where are we now?

## By Rod Scarlett, Executive Director

The old adage "hope springs eternal" is nowhere more prevalent than in agriculture in 2004. We all know about the problems concerning BSE, but now we have avian flu, potential drought, and potential grasshopper infestations. Added to this is the relative confusion surrounding how the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program will work, how it relates to crop insurance and whether or not it will effectively assist numerous producers in disaster situations and you have a recipe for considerable concern.

Rest assured that if one were to look on the most pessimistic side, it certainly would not be very promising. Even the most optimistic producers out there certainly recognize that there are difficulties and obstacles to overcome. Somewhere in between is the real world. If there is one message that I think governments and farm groups have come to realize (and if they haven't they better) it is that you must hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Despite the best efforts of all those involved, it is clear that we have all been unprepared for the far-reaching damage, both economically and mentally, that the BSE crisis has inflicted on not just farmers and ranchers, but on the agricultural industry in general. Today as look out of the window, the agricultural sector is being warned of potential drought and grasshopper problems. This could conceivably compound an already difficult situation and all of us should be looking into that crystal ball and coming up to with the answers to the various "what if" scenarios.

Governments need to do exactly the same thing, and they must be prepared to provide producers the tools to adequately address the multitude of scenarios. Is CAISP the answer? Probably for some but maybe not for all. Crop insurance? Private insurance? There are a variety of tools out there but when all is said and done, the fact remains that margins are not good and that many farms rely on off-farm income to operate the farm business.

At the 2004 Convention of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, you will notice that there were a number of resolutions passed that directly impacted the economic well-being of the farm community. We, as an association need to be diligent in promoting those initiatives at all times and individual members must do so. Most of the resolutions only ask for variations to existing programs or tax regimes. They allow for the opportunity to increase margins.

Many deal with the new CAIS Program.

Since the convention, Wild Rose has continued to respond to daily, if not hourly, requests from the media for information, for contacts, or for comment. This is a vital role in that it gets our message out to the general public. Since our members consist of feedlot owners and hog farmers, grain growers and cattlemen, sugar beet growers and elk producers along with just about every other commodity grown or produced in the province, it is our job to ensure that everyone be treated fairly, and that is not an easy task. Your Board of Directors represents a pretty diverse group and is certainly representative of just about every commodity. Their work, and the work of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture ensured that at least some money was available to all farmers when the federal government recently announced its major aid package.

Over the course of the last four months, our new President Bill Dobson has been tirelessly working on behalf of all farmers and ranchers in the province. He has attended meetings from one end of the province to the other, from one end of the country to other. He needs your support and encouragement so don't hesitate to contact him. I am certain he would appreciate it.

Perhaps one of the most important achievements in the last four months has been the solidification of a working relationship between Wild Rose and a new and emerging group called the Young Farmers of Alberta. A founding convention will be taking place in July that will solidify a working relationship and we will be reporting in more detail what is happening in the next issue. Many thanks to Brent McBean and Lisa Anderson for getting this off the ground.

As the title of this article indicated, I wanted to focus on where we are now but I lost focus right from the start. What I really want to say is we have moved and we are now in our new office. The new address is:

**Wild Rose Agricultural Producers**  
**#102, 115 Portage Close**  
**Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 2R5**  
**Phone: 780-416-6530**  
**Fax: 780-416-6531**

So that, as they say, is where we are at. Have a great spring!

# WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 8th ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2004

## **CAIS Program**

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.

## **CAIS Program**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal Government to make the CAIS Program producer deposits tax deductible.

## **CAIS Program**

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.

## **CAIS Program**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to change to seven year averaging instead of five; for calculating Reference Margins in the CAIS Program.

## **CAIS Program**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to include machinery repairs as an eligible expense for calculating Production Margins for the CAIS Program.

## **CAIS Program**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to allow all custom work to be eligible for both Income and Expenses in calculating Production Margins for the CAIS Program.

## **CAIS Program**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to allow farmers to roll Fund II of their NISA Account into the CAIS Program as a tax exempt deposit. (Referred to the Board)

## **BSE**

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).

## (Resolutions – Cont'd)

### On-farm Food Safety

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers support the development of On Farm Food Safety Programs provided that such programs are:

- Producer-led, national and accessible
- Commodity specific
- HACCP-based and auditable
- Consistent, modular and expandable
- Recognized in Canada
- Internationally accepted
- Affordable

### Crop Insurance

Be it Resolved that WRAP approach Agricultural Financial Services Corporation to verify if Oat Producers are being disadvantaged by Oats being tied to the Barley Complex in association with the Spring Price Endorsement Program, and if so to make immediate modifications. That is, if oats standing alone and priced out of Chicago would be beneficial to farmers, that WRAP lobby AFSC to modify the 2003 Spring Price Endorsement Program for Oats.

### Dry Matter

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Canadian Grain Commission to implement the practice of having all grains purchased on an "As Dry Matter" basis in order to ensure that producers are being properly compensated for the actual product and weight that they are selling.

### Capital gains

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to index the Capital Gains Exemption to allow for inflation.

### Electrical bill service charges

Whereas the Service Charge of electrical Power Bills seems excessive relative to the Energy Charge, therefore:  
Be it Resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers request that the Alberta Public Utilities Board review the Service Charge of electrical Power Bills.

### Deregulation

Be it resolved that Wild Rose support and endorse the following Resolution passed in 2003 by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties supported by the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops:  
*WHEREAS the Province of Alberta deregulated the electrical and natural gas industries in 2001;  
AND WHEREAS the Province's goal is to develop a competitive, efficient deregulated utility industry to ensure Albertans have dependable and affordable energy;  
AND WHEREAS Alberta's farmers, businesses, industry, residents and not-for-profit groups have faced hardships through higher annual energy costs, inconsistent provincial rebate programs, unfair and inefficient billing procedures and uncertainty in market supplies and contracts;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta abandon and reverse the process of deregulation of utilities.*

(Continued on page 12)

## (Resolutions - cont'd)

*(Continued from page 11)*

### **Best management practices**

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 deceased animals in order to address animal health and environmental concerns.

### **BSE**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge the Provincial and Federal Government to implement testing for all cattle over 30 months for B.S.E. (Referred to the Board)

### **Coal-bed methane**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the Alberta government and the E.U.B to ensure that the interests of the agricultural industry be considered and respected during the development of the Coal-bed methane industry.

### **Sectoral Council**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers support the concept of a Sectoral Council for agriculture in the area of human resources for Canada.

### **Weather channel**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby Environment Canada to have only one language per weather channel frequency.

### **Farmer Rail Car Coalition**

Be it Resolved that WRAP actively continue supporting the Farmer Rail Car Coalition for Purchase of the Fleet of Rail Cars for the Movement of Grain.

### **Administration**

Consistent with WRAP being the, *Advocacy Group for Alberta Farmers'*, and due to the recent Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) Annual Fall Convention being attended by over 60 MLA's, and every Provincial Conservative Caucus member minus one, therefore:

Be it Resolved that all Resolutions Carried at the Annual WRAP Convention be forwarded to the Chairman of each Agricultural Service Board of each Municipal District and County in Alberta.

### **Check-off**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers continue to strive for a producer check-off based on an additional license plate fee.

## (Resolutions—cont'd)

### **Check-off**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers continue to press for a check off for general farm organizations.

### **Pasture Insurance**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers encourage AFSC, in co-operation with other appropriate stakeholders, to re-introduce a workable and effective pasture insurance program for the 2004 crop year.

### **Canadian Grain Commission**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the federal government to review and change the Canadian Grain Act regarding the Canadian Grain Commission's role and policy in licensing, bonding, and guaranteeing payment to producers when licensed and bonded grain merchants fail.

### **Biotechnology**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the federal government to develop a biotechnology policy, which considers market and consumer acceptance before licensing transgenic wheat and other new transgenic crop introductions as part of the overall crop licensing procedure.

### **Western Grains Research Foundation**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers lobby the federal government to contribute to research funding foundations such as the Western Grain Research Foundation the value that farmers have contributed to the nation by early action practices that have sequestered or reduced emissions of carbon.

### **Administration**

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers' membership fee be increased to \$130.00 + GST for a one year membership and to a total of \$360.00 + GST for a three year membership.

### **Plant Breeders' Rights**

Whereas farmers have always enjoyed the right to use some of their own crop production for their own seed use:

And whereas Canadian Plant Breeders Rights Legislation enshrined farmers seed use rights in law:

And whereas farmers rights to use their own crop production for their own seed represents a major competitive factor in the seed marketplace which serves as a check and balance over seed costs:

And whereas the recent introduction into the marketplace of legal instruments that require membership fee be farmers to relinquish all rights to use any portion of their own production for seed, serve nullify farmers' traditional seed use rights, therefore:

Be it resolved that Wild Rose Agricultural Producers urge our federal government to firmly establish the legal supremacy of farmers' seed use rights as was the original intent of the Canadian Plant Breeders Rights legislation.

## Food Facts

In 2000, Canadians spent 10 per cent of their income on food. (Income per capita was \$27,016 in 2000, while expenditures on food and non-alcoholic beverages (including restaurant meals) totaled \$2,790. Source: AAFC, Statistics Canada)

In many other parts of the world, the cost of food is significantly higher. See the table below.

**1999 - Percentage of Net National Disposable Income (NNDI) spent on food and non-alcoholic beverages (excluding restaurants) Source: OECD\*\***

Canada* - 6.73 %	France - 9.21%	Germany - 7.73%
UK - 6.9%	Australia - 8.75%	USA - 5.49%
Italy - 10.58 %	Netherlands - 6.65%	Sweden - 7.28%
Mexico - 19.03%		

\*Note: the difference between CFA's number (10 per cent) and the OECD's (7 per cent) is that the 10 per cent also includes expenditures in restaurants.

\*\*The difference between the OECD's 1999 numbers versus 1996 (which were used last year) is that they changed their methodology -- they used personal disposable income before, whereas now it's the NNDI, which tends to be higher

The share of NNDI spent on food in Canada has been declining since 1992. It was 7.39 percent in 1988, and was 6.73 per cent in 1999. The OECD gives a few reasons for the decline, including "the considerable choice and availability of high quality food both domestic and imported, at reasonable prices."

Between December 1997 and December 2001, the price Canadian consumers paid for food increased by 11 per cent. In con-

## YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**I enclose - Membership fee :**

<b>Producer</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>(\$139.10)</b>
<b>3 - Year</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>(\$385.20)</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>(\$ 58.85)</b>

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, #102, 115 Portage Close, Sherwood Park, Alta. T8H 2R5  
Telephone: 780-416-6530 Fax: 780-416-6531 e-mail: wrap@planet.eon.net

## 2004 Board of Directors

A new Board of Directors was elected at the 2004 convention. Briefly, here are some of their responsibilities and what they have been up to since January.

**Bill Dobson—President** Bill sits on the Board of The Co-operators Ltd and is actively involved in the Canada Grains Council on-farm food safety program. Additionally he is well versed on safety nets and represents Wild Rose at most CFA functions. Bill also has spoken at various Regional and district meeting and has met with the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on numerous occasions over the last three months.

**Keith Degenhardt—1st Vice President** Keith once again serves as the Chair for the Western Grains Research Foundation and sit on the Board for the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Keith is also our resident expert in the Science and Innovation sector of the APF.

**Terry Murray—2nd Vice President** Terry has taken up the cause of human resources in the agricultural sector and now sits on the planning committee for a new Sector Council for agricultural. Terry is one of our renewal gurus.

**Lynn Jacobson—Director** Lynn is one of two new members on the Board and brings a vast amount of experience serving as President of the Alberta Soft Wheat Growers Commission. Lynn has jumped right in where others feared to tread and represents farmers on the Farm Implement Board. He has attended meetings on grain transportation, international trade, and has a wealth of experience in dealing with safety nets.

**Doris Ludlage—Director** Another Board member with experience as Doris also sits on the Alberta Hatching Egg Board and on the Canadian Broiler Hatching Egg Marketing Agency. She has extensive knowledge in the field of on-farm food safety and has represented us in Ottawa on this issue.

**Robert Filkohazy—Director** Robert sits as a Board member of the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan. In addition to his environmental expertise, he also is well versed in risk management issues and is responsible for the environment pillar in the APF.

**Brent McBean—Director** Brent sits as our rep on the Canadian Grain Commission and is actively involved in on-farm food safety issues. In addition, Brent is our liaison to the newly emerging Young Farmers of Alberta. He also sits on a newly formed committee on coal-bed methane.

**John Sloan—Director** John is the second of the new Board members and has taken on the onerous task of updating our web-site and our membership lists. No doubt his contribution has already been invaluable.

**Neil Wagstaff—Director** We were all pleased when Neil agreed to let his name stand for the Board at the convention. Despite being on holidays, Neil worked on a funding plan for the association. He also represents farmers on the Farm Implement Board and has extensive knowledge in business risk management issue as well as sitting on a newly formed committee concerning coal-bed methane.

### Animal Care Alert Line

Call: 1-800-506-CARE (2273)

If you have concerns regarding the care of livestock;

If you are experiencing management problems

# WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS 2004

EXECUTIVE	Address	Telephone	Fax	Area Code	e-mail
Bill Dobson, <b>President</b>	Box 36, Paradise Valley, T0B3R0	745-2442	745-2062	780	wadobson@telusplanet.net
Keith Degenhardt, <b>1st V.P.</b>	Gen. Del., Hughenden, T0B2E0	856-2383	856-2383	780	kjdegen@telusplanet.net
Terry Murray, <b>2nd V.P.</b>	Box 2936, Wainwright, T9W1S8	842-2336	842-6620	780	tmurray@telusplanet.net

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neil Wagstaff	Box 593, Elnora T0M0V0	773-3599	773-3599	403	neilwag@agt.net
Keith Degenhardt	Gen. Del., Hughenden, T0B2E0	856-2383	856-2383	780	kjdegen@telusplanet.net
John Sloan	10021 - 106 Ave. Grande Prairie, T8V 1J6	539-2004	539-2732	780	sloan@gprc.ab.ca
Bill Dobson	Box 36, Paradise Valley, T0B3R0	745-2442	745-2062	780	wadobson@telusplanet.net
Robert Filkohazy	Box 33, Hussar, T0J1S0	641-2480	641-2480	403	rafilko@telus.net
Doris Ludlage	Box 370, Elk Point, T0A1A0	724-4118	724-4181	780	tludlage@mcsnet.ca
Terry Murray	Box 2936, Wainwright, T9W1S8	842-2336	842-6620	780	Tmurray@teluplanet.net
Brent McBean	Box 12, Site 12, R.R. 1, Strathmore, T1P1J6	734-2281	734-2280	403	mcfarms@telusplanet.net
Lynn Jacobson	Box 1914, Enchant, T0K0V0	739-2153	739-2379	403	l_jacob@telusplanet.net

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS & CONTACTS

Irv Macklin, Region 1	R.R. 1, Wanham, T0H3P0	694-2375	694-2378	780	telliry@telusplanet.net
Ron Matula, Region 2	Box 1336, High Prairie, T0G1E0	523-2953	523-1904	780	ronsnow@telusplanet.net
Emil Schiller, Region 3	Box 117, Flatbush, T0G0Z0	681-3782	681-3782	780	
Glenn Flanders, Region 4	Box 14, Elk Point, T0A1A0	724-2269	724-4740	780	pigpen@telusplanet.net
John Hrasko, Region 5	R.R. 1, Carvel, T0E0H0	967-5867	967-2804	780	
Gero Wendorff, Region 6	R. R. 1, St. Michael, T0B4B0	896-2131	896-2131	780	
Terry Lee Degenhardt, Region 7	Gen. Del., Hughenden, T0B2E0	856-2383	856-2383	780	kjdegen@telusplanet.net
Adam Campbell, Region 8	Box 66, Rosalind, T0B3T0	375-2133	375-2133	780	ajcfarm@telusplanet.net
Alan Holt, Region 9	R. R. 1, Bashaw, T0B0H0	372-3816	372-4316	780	eaholt@telusplanet.net
Robert Filkohazy, Region 10	Box 33, Hussar, T0J1S0	641-2480	641-2480	703	rafilko@telusplanet.net
Jim Deleff, Region 11	Box 388, Consort, T0C1B0	577-3793	577-3793	403	lynndeleff@hotmail.com
Vacant, Region 12					
Ken Graumans, Region 13	Box 85, Seven Persons, T0K1Z0	832-2451	832-2044	403	graumans@telusplanet.net
Paul Thibodeau, Region 14	5204-47 St. Taber, T1G1G6	223-9087	223-0174	403	
(contact) Jim Allan, Region 15	Box 133, Berwyn, T0H0E0	338-2260	No fax	780	

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Rod Scarlett, <b>Executive Director</b>	#102, 115 Portage Close, Sherwood Park, T8H2R5  Website: www.wrap.ab.ca	416-6530	416-6531	780	Wrap@planet.eon.net
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