

*For landowners
who care*

Western Farm & Forest

Sustainable Land Management Opportunities

FALL 2006

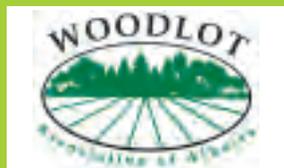
A good time
to think about
shelterbelts

Chronic wasting
disease
boosts the
deer hunt



**Mountain
pine beetles
move north**

Page 4



WRAP and WAA members!
This is your official membership magazine!
Please see inside for association news

Stewardship funds receive a boost

Alberta farmers and ranchers can apply for \$50,000 through the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program (CAFSP) for environmental improvements on their farms and ranches.

The October announcement represents an increase of \$20,000 from the amount available previously. CAFSP is a federal cost-share program which pays for 30 or 50 per cent of the cost of approved projects. Producers provide the balance of the funding.

Before applying, producers must complete an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), which is a voluntary self-assessment of a farm or ranch's environmental strengths and weaknesses. Applicants attend two local work-

shops to learn about and complete their EFP. Producers are also provided with details on the CAFSP program at these workshops. The plan is then submitted to a regional EFP review committee. Once approved, producers can apply for funding.

The producer's own time and equipment are eligible expenses that may be contributed towards the project.

Projects that have been especially popular among previous applicants include: improved cropping systems;

product and waste management; relocation of livestock confinement; improved manure storage and handling; and wintering site management.

Contact:
Bob Cameron
PFRA Calgary
403.292.5720



Sarah Seinen

DOUBLE the cut
DOUBLE the production

...it's all in the math

In less than two minutes, saw a log 10 ft long by 8 inches, into 1" boards.

SELECT 3620 double-cut band sawmill

Excellent performance with high production capabilities and top quality sawing.
 Complete hydraulic system & computerized networks
 Cuts in both directions with 4" double-cut blade
 NDV with 58 hp John Deere diesel engine and dual hydraulic pump
 Stationary units and many options available

Call now for your free information package!
(613) 673-1267
 www.selectsawmill.com

5880 County Rd 17
 Plantagenet, ON
 CANADA K0B 1L0

WILD ROSE
 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The most popular farm cookbook is back in print!

Canadian Farm Women's Country Classics Cookbook

Prices: Picked up: \$22; Delivered: \$30

Available by contacting Wild Rose Agricultural Producers or mail in an order form with the following information:

Name: _____ Number of cookbooks: _____
 Address: _____ Pick up or Delivered: _____
 City: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Postal Code: _____

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers
 #102, 115 Portage Close
 Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2R5
 Phone: 780-416-6530
 Or toll free @ 1-888-616-6530
 Fax: 780-416-6531

On the cover: Main photo by Canadian Model Forest Network; index photo by Doug Macaulay

Western Farm & Forest

Western Farm & Forest magazine promotes innovation and sustainability on farms and woodlots in Canada's four western provinces. It is mailed four times a year to private landowners and to related equipment suppliers, government departments and officials.

The mission of the magazine is to inform and inspire landowners about the economic, ecological and social opportunities available to them through sustainable, integrated management of their resources. We promote the objectives of the Woodlot Association of Alberta, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, and other organizations consistent with our mission.

Submission of articles and photos on any aspect of innovation or management on the farm or woodlot is welcomed.. Please contact the Publisher for information on length and desired subject matter.

Publisher:

MediaMatch West Communications Inc.
Phone: (780) 432-0112
E-mail: dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com
Editor: Sarah Seinen

Editorial Advisors:

Victor Brunette, WEP
Dennis Quintilio, WAA
Rod Scarlett, WRAP

Subscriptions:

\$25 per year, incl. GST,
or free with WAA or WRAP
membership

Undeliverable copies should be
returned to:

#4, 10028-29A Avenue,
Edmonton AB, T6N 1A8

Canada Post Corporation
Agreement # 40009376
Customer # 01056026
ISSN: 1717-3515

Woodlot guru heads east

Our dynamic manager of the Woodlot Extension Program has headed east – or in his words, “back to the Ottawa Valley barnyard,” where he has both family and strong cultural roots.

Victor Brunette made a difference during his tenure here in Alberta and significantly improved province-wide delivery of woodlot awareness and services. He was an articulate and consistent contributor to this magazine and we will miss his insight and enthusiasm for sustainable resource management.



Victor Brunette

Victor was a thoughtful commu-

nicator and he spoke with conviction usually blended with humour, and he was a great role model for his extension specialist colleagues.

He has fond memories of Alberta and leaves very optimistic about the future of the Alberta Woodlot Extension Program.

Victor's new employer is l'Agence Regionale de Mise en Valuer des Forets Privees Outaouaises, a partnership that delivers extension programs to 12,000 woodlots on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. We wish Victor all the best. We were fortunate to have him in Alberta for a short but productive period.



**Dennis Quintilio,
WAA**

Busy season coming up

As a grain farmer, my busiest time of the year should be behind me. Things went fairly well for us this year. The crop was a bit above average in yield and of very high quality. Harvest weather was great and the breakdowns were infrequent and of the simple, inexpensive variety!

However, as I look to the months ahead, I realize that for me the heavy season is before me.

For a general farm organization, like Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, winter is the busy season. I look for this to be a busier year than ever. We have regional meetings ahead where we consult our members. The Canadian Wheat Board elections took place this fall and the “Dual Market” debate will be vigorous. We will be electing a new Premier in Alberta, which will certainly be of

interest to farmers in this province. We will be involved in the evolution of the CAIS program and the design of “APF 2.”

On top of all that, when I became President, I vowed that the membership of WRAP would be doubled in three years. I don't like to fail on fulfilling my promises. The need for a unified voice for farmers in Alberta is vital.

I know I don't speak for everybody but we need to continue to develop policy democratically and speak out as well as we can.

Are you willing to play your part in that process?



**Bill Dobson,
Wildrose
Agricultural
Producers**

Beetles move north

By SARAH SEINEN

A strong wind this summer showered the pine forests of northwestern Alberta with millions of mountain pine beetles.

“We, at Weyerhaeuser, Canfor and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, believe that we had a significant influx of beetles into our Forest Management Areas (FMAs),” said Pat Wearmouth, a forester with Weyerhaeuser Alberta. “I believe there could be millions, if not billions, of beetles.”

He said it looks as though the tiny, rice-sized beetles were caught up in a wind that blew them from west of Kakwa-Willmore Interprovincial Park in a northeasterly direction towards Fairview. “Literally, they were rained out over a large part of Weyerhaeuser’s FMAs – not everywhere, but they’re showing up in pockets.”

As part of this recent incursion, people have been finding infested trees in and around Grande Prairie, Fairview and Fox Creek – the farthest northeast of the British Columbia border the beetles have ever been.

“We are confirming reports received from the public and industry,” said Erica Lee, a pine beetle prevention specialist with the provincial government, in August. “We’ll conduct detailed surveys in the fall and that will give us a good understanding of the extent of the infestation.”

From 2002 to 2005, Alberta averaged about 2,000 beetle-infested trees. Last year, however, that number climbed to 19,000. In B.C., more than



Doug Macaulay

A pitch tube is a tree’s natural defence against mountain pine beetle infestation

8.5 million hectares of pine forests have been affected by the beetles.

“There is a significant threat not only to the forest products industry but also to all users of the forest resource,” said Wearmouth. “It wasn’t just us that were affected. Numerous acreages, parks, and recreational areas such as the Wapiti Nordic Ski Trails are all infested to some degree. We’re encouraging people to have a look at their pine trees, and to realize that this could become a very serious problem for communities, industry, watersheds, wildlife, recreation and tourism.”

Wearmouth said they will not know the gravity of the situation until the ground surveys are complete and the trees begin to die. “It’s definitely worse than we want, but maybe we can keep it under control.”

Weyerhaeuser has shifted some of its survey and layout crews to look for pine beetles.

For some reason, though, this year it’s more difficult than usual to see the characteristic pitch tubes that signal the beetles’ presence. “It seems the sap that the tree tries to pitch out isn’t running very well. I suspect it

may be drought. The crews almost have to walk right up to tree to see the tubes, which slows them down considerably,” said Wearmouth.

To reduce the spread of beetles, Weyerhaeuser is working with the provincial government to look at adjusting its harvesting sequences in the coming year to remove stands of infested pine.

Wearmouth said the county of Grande Prairie and the provincial government are also working together to develop a strategy to get rid of infested trees that are found on municipal or private land. Typically, infested trees are cut and burned.

“We’re more than willing to take a look as well,” he said.

If you find a pine infested with beetles, call 310-BUGS immediately and report the location. For more information, visit www.srd.gov.ab.ca and click on the Mountain Pine Beetle link.

Contact:
Pat Wearmouth
780.539.8283
pat.wearmouth@
weyerhaeuser.com

Pine beetle: a woodlot owner's view

By SARAH SEINEN

As I listen to Gordon Kerr talk about managing the family woodlot for mountain pine beetle infestation, I can't help but think, "Is there anything he can do to stop the bugs from killing his trees?"

Perhaps I'm just cynical, since I spent the past five summers in central British Columbia, driving on dirt roads and highways lined with red and grey beetle-killed trees.

But Kerr knows about beetles too. In the 1970s his family's ranch in the Crowsnest Pass was plagued by a pine beetle infestation. And even though the beetles haven't made their way

Mountain Pine Beetle

into his Water Valley, Alberta, woodlot yet, they are getting nearer every year – with the closest infestation about 60 kilometres away.

Still, he is confident that something can be done – and he has a plan.

Gordon and his wife Marilyn manage a quarter section (about 65 hectares) of forest about 40 minutes northwest of Calgary. Their woodlot is full of mature pine, with a sprinkling of spruce and aspen. They know that their 125 year-old pine trees are prime fodder for beetles.

"We want to keep our woodlot in a healthy state – not devastated by dis-



Access trails make it easier to remove infested trees

ease or full of ancient, old growth trees – and to maintain a certain level of biodiversity," said Kerr, a retired ecologist and biologist, and former president of the Woodlot Association of Alberta.

Mountain pine beetle management has been a part of the Kerrs' woodlot plan since 2001, when they started to think about logging some of their more mature pine and created access trails to provide for that.

"It's so important that woodlot owners monitor their trees and prepare for infestation by developing access corridors so that the trees can be removed easily if need be," said Gordon, noting that a logging truck can get within 200 metres of any tree in his woodlot.

Late every summer, Kerr walks through his woodlot, searching for infested trees. "Fortunately, I haven't found anything yet, but at least I know what I'm looking for," he said.

Most woodlot owners along the eastern slopes of the Rockies are aware of the looming mountain pine beetle infestation, said Kerr.

The challenge is that as the threat of pine beetle becomes more acute, the market for mature pine worsens, making it economically unviable for woodlot owners to harvest their trees.

"Given what the market pays for pine, we're not encouraged to log our trees," said Kerr. "We barely break even, after hiring a logging company and preparing the land for natural forest

regeneration or buying seedlings to replant. I have concluded that the threat of beetles outweighs wood prices so we are going to market most of our pine now."

The Alberta government has committed \$20 million for mountain pine beetle detection and treatment and public education. Kerr said the details are still in the works, but he expects the funds will be filtered through municipalities and counties to assist landowners. "This is definitely part of the solution," he said, adding that the Woodlot Association of Alberta is also keen to help woodlot owners in their battle against the beetle.

"What concerns me is that even though there are thousands of woodlot owners in Alberta, generating about 10 per cent of the province's forest products, we're constantly fighting for recognition," he said.

The best way to manage pine beetle infestation in Alberta, and to prevent it from spreading across the country, is to coordinate control efforts on both public and private land, said Kerr.

Contact:
Gordon and Marilyn Kerr
780.434.0512



Be prepared for pine beetle infestation

Look for signs of pine beetle

Pitch tubes and sawdust signal the presence of mountain pine beetle in your trees

By MICHEL PROULX

Albertans living in the eastern slopes and northeast of the Kakwa-Willmore Interprovincial Park are being asked to look for signs of mountain pine beetle activity in light of recent findings of infested trees in the area.

Mountain pine beetle

Mountain pine beetle-infested trees were found in and around Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fairview, Berwyn and Fox Creek last August.

Officials with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development said the beetles flew *en masse* in a three-day period from British Columbia, traveling in some instances up to 400 kilo-

metres.

Typically, a mountain pine beetle that emerges from a tree for a flight will travel 50 to 100 metres before trying to infest another tree. However, in some cases, large numbers of beetles can fly higher and catch a jet stream – winds at high altitudes – that help them move much greater distances.

The beetles that recently infested pine trees will mate this fall and then die. The larvae they produce will take at least a year to mature. They will then emerge from the tree, fly and look for another tree to infest, starting the cycle over again.

This provides officials with a window to control the populations as much as possible, something the provincial government has been doing since mountain pine beetles were first detected in Alberta.

As part of its strategy to limit the spread of the mountain pine beetle, the provincial government is helping municipalities deal with infested trees in their jurisdiction.



Cut and burn can help control the spread of mountain pine beetle infestation



A little pest with a big impact

What to look for and who to call

A mountain pine beetle-infested tree will have one or both of these signs:

- **Pitch tubes**, which are creamy globs that look like crystallized honey coming out of the tree's bark
- **Sawdust** found at the base of the tree and sometimes in the bark's crevasses

If you spot these signs on a pine tree, note the location and report it by calling 310-BUGS. An official will follow up within two weeks.

Deer hunt

Hunters can help prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease

Doug Macaulay

By SARAH SEINEN

Hunters in Alberta have a greater chance of harvesting deer this fall, due to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development significantly increasing hunting opportunities in areas of risk for chronic wasting disease.

Beginning this season, the provincial government extended the season dates in wildlife management units 150, 151 and 234 in east-central Alberta, with the landowner season open until January 15, 2007. Alberta also increased the number of huntable days from three to six in some areas, issued more permits and offered tags for three deer with each licence – compared to the previous one tag with each licence.

Chronic wasting disease is an ultimately fatal disease of cervids (primarily deer and elk, both farmed and wild). “It has the potential to eliminate local cervid populations and is considered a significant threat to deer populations,” said Margo Pybus, provincial wildlife disease specialist with the department’s Fish and Wildlife Division.

This year’s harvest is targeted at does and fawns, with a requirement that the first two deer taken on a three-deer licence must be antlerless. “By taking more antlerless deer, we increase the effective reduction of the population,” said Pybus.

Based on increased evidence of chronic wasting disease in wild deer in Alberta and Saskatchewan in 2005 and early 2006, Alberta will test all deer harvested in wildlife management units 150, 151, 234, 256 and 500 for the presence of the disease. Hunters are asked for their co-operation with the new mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer taken in these areas.

To detect potential spread of the disease beyond these key areas, hunters are also encouraged to voluntarily submit the heads of deer harvested in wildlife management units 144, 148, 152, 162, 200, 202, 203, 232, 236 and 238. Hunters will be notified of test results within six weeks.

Heads should be frozen and submitted at any Fish and Wildlife office during business hours, or at one of 20 drop-off freezers scattered throughout the target areas. The freezers are open 24 hours.

Some people incorrectly associate chronic wasting disease with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, but the two diseases are different. There is no scientific evidence to suggest that chronic wasting disease can infect humans.

“Landowners play a key role in helping us close the door on further spread of the disease and in keeping it

closed once we get rid of chronic wasting disease,” said Pybus.

Hunters must seek permission from landowners in order to legally hunt on occupied private lands and leased public lands. Similarly, government staff seek permission from landowners when conducting winter disease control programs.

To date, there are 13 confirmed cases in wild deer in Alberta. Current data indicate that the disease is limited to a small area along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border near Empress.

From January to March 2006, Sustainable Resource Development staff collected 1,668 deer, of which nine were found to be positive for the disease. The cost of winter surveillance was about \$470,000.

Ongoing surveillance of wild deer and elk in Alberta began in 1998. Until the first case was discovered in a wild deer in Alberta last September, more than 6,000 wild deer and elk samples had tested negative for the presence of the disease.

Further information is available at www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/diseases/CWD

Contact:
Margo Pybus
780.427.3462
margo.pybus@gov.ab.ca

Think about safety this hunting season

Hunter education focuses on safety and access protocol

By SARAH SEINEN

Whether you're pursuing wildlife with a firearm or a camera, it's always a good idea to think about safety first.

With hunting season in full swing, safety is the top priority for the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA), says president Robert Gruszecki.

Public Lands

All hunters in Alberta – recreational or landowner – must complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course or an equivalent hunter education program. This year, the association will provide hunter and conservation training for about 55,000 students, and it will graduate its one millionth student.

"Students and graduates of our programs are taught to be absolutely certain of their target and beyond," says Gruszecki. "They believe and understand that they are responsible for a projectile until it stops."

Hunters should be aware of what is beyond their target: up to a mile for rifles, several hundred yards for shotguns and 200 yards for bows.

AHEIA encourages hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to learn as much as possible about the species they encounter. "Find out where it lives, what habitat requirements it has and what it eats," says Gruszecki.

With education comes increased awareness about appropriate clothing and safety gear, he says. Important things to consider include telling

someone where you are going, being equipped to spend the night outdoors, making sure you have signalling equipment with you, and determining if you will be hunting in an area occupied by bears. Hunters also need to be aware of ungulate behaviour during the rut.

"Hunting is a very safe and enjoyable activity if certain precautions are taken," said Gruszecki.

In addition to safety education, the association teaches hunters to be aware of all issues related to land access, including landowner rights and laws regarding access.

"What we tell everyone is that you must seek permission for private and leased public land," says Gruszecki.

He encourages hunters and recreational users to use Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's

recreational access website (www.srd.gov.ab.ca/land/recaccess) and toll-free hotline (1-866-279-0023) for information about agricultural leased public lands.

Under the *Public Lands Act*, leaseholders must allow reasonable access to leased land. But they can restrict access under some circumstances, such as where cattle are on the land or where access is by anything other than by foot, including off-highway vehicles. Hunters (and other recreational users) must contact the leaseholders before going on the land.



Hunting For Tomorrow

An instructor shares safe hunting tips with a young hunter

If there is a disagreement, a dispute resolution process is available.

Private landowners concerned about illegal hunting activities on their property should contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office or RCMP detachment as soon as possible. They can also contact the 24-hour Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800, toll-free.

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association has Centres of Excellence located at Alford Lake, Calgary and Edmonton. Courses are offered year-round at the centres and throughout the province by about 3,200 certified volunteer instructors.

More information about hunting is available at www.aheia.com, www.huntingfortomorrow.com, and www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/hunting.

Contact:
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
Edmonton
780.431.2871
Calgary
403.252.8474
info@aheia.com

Be wise about bears on your property

By SARAH SEINEN

Bears are on their usual high-calorie diet this time of year and will do almost anything to obtain food, says wildlife biologist Jim Allen.

That is why it's so important to eliminate access to food and waste around your farm, ranch, apiary, home and yard.

With more people working, living and enjoying outdoor activities in bear country, the number of problem bear occurrences in Alberta has been increasing. Since 1993, there have been 27 significant human-bear conflicts involving both black and grizzly

Fish and Wildlife

bears. Two people were killed. Encounters, property damage and injuries can be prevented and reduced through programs such as BearSmart.

Alberta's BearSmart program provides practical solutions for preventing and reducing bear-human conflicts. Rocky Mountain House was the site of the provincial launch of the BearSmart program for agricultural producers in August.

"By following BearSmart tips, you help maintain your own safety, protect your property and ensure the future of Alberta's bear populations," says Allen, the fish and wildlife pro-



Sarah Seinen

Grains are prime feed for bears



Hunting For Tomorrow

Bears live to eat, consuming up to 25,000 calories a day (10 times more than the average person)

gram manager in the Foothills Area for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

Although bears prefer natural vegetation, they will eat nearly everything including cereal crops, livestock, pellet feed and silage. They consume up to 25,000 calories per day, or 10 times more than the average person.

"Bears have been busy trying to fatten up for winter," says Allen. "Spilled grain, livestock carcasses and household garbage are open invitations."

Grain should be stored in a solid facility, and any spillage should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

He also encourages landowners to properly dispose of animal carcasses, following the *Livestock Diseases Act* and the *Public Health Act*. Carcasses should be delivered to a rendering plant, burned completely, or buried and covered with lime. If an agricultural producer thinks a bear has been killing their livestock, they should contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office as soon as possible.

Electric fencing can be an effective method of preventing a bear's access to grain or bees. Either portable or permanent electric fencing that is properly grounded and well-maintained will reduce most bear conflicts at bee yards.

"A fence will work well initially, but if the bear knows there is food behind it, he might be willing to put up with an electric shock," says Allen. "Our focus is to keep bears from becoming habituated to an area. Once a bear is used to getting food from human sources, it's a short step to a serious problem."

For more information about the Alberta BearSmart program, contact the nearest Alberta Sustainable Resource Development office or visit www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/bearsmart.

Contact:
Jim Allen
403.845.8237
james.allen@gov.ab.ca

Shelterbelts require seasonal maintenance

By SARAH SEINEN

Now that harvest is wrapped up for another season, it may be the ideal time to start thinking about shelterbelts.

Perhaps you are just getting started or perhaps you already planted and mulched this spring. In either situation, there are things you can do to improve the long term sustainability of your shelterbelt, says Don George, agroforestry specialist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Prairie Farm

Shelterbelts

Rehabilitation Administration.

"It's not too late to be thinking about shelterbelts for your yard or fields," George says. "If you plan to plant next spring, you need to be putting some efforts into site preparation now."

For a shelterbelt going into hay, pasture or grass-covered land, it's important to get rid of all grass and other plants. Weed competition is the biggest reason that shelterbelts don't establish, says George.

Once the area has been sprayed for weeds, the next step is to prepare the site for planting by cultivating or discing. "If you can get the site prepared well in advance, you're going to



Yard belt

PFRA



Field belts

PFRA

have increased survival and health of your plants," says George. Also, plastic mulch doesn't lie down well unless the ground is well-cultivated.

For those of you who planted trees or shrubs in the spring, you could walk along your shelterbelt and do some maintenance. If plastic mulch was laid down after planting, its edges may have loosened and need to be buried again.

"It's also a good time to look and see if any of your trees have died, so you can order replacements," says George.

A shelterbelt reduces soil erosion, protects buildings, livestock and roads, traps snow for run-off and provides wildlife habitat.

"People have used shelterbelts for a long time in Alberta – they're certainly a worthwhile endeavour," says George. "And they're becoming more popular." In 2004, there were 193 sites in Alberta; in 2005, the numbers

dropped slightly to 128 sites but rebounded nicely in 2006 with 232 sites.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) has two programs that encourage the development of shelterbelts: the Prairie Shelterbelt program and the Shelterbelt Enhancement program. "Or, as I call

them, the tree program and the mulch program," says George.

Under the tree program, the PFRA provides trees and shrubs to farmers and landowners free of charge. The mulch program is used to help establish the trees by supplying the landowners with plastic mulch and use of the PFRA's applicator.

There are 18 tree and shrubs species available in Alberta. The most common ones are villosa lilac, green ash, Manitoba maple, hybrid poplar, Colorado spruce, caragana and choke cherry.

Applications for trees and mulch arrive throughout the year, but the highest volume come in after fall harvest, says George. The mulch program applications are not accepted after November, but people can apply for the tree program until March 15.

This is the last year that the free-of-charge mulch will be offered through the PFRA, as the four-year program is coming to an end. "Folks will have to buy it on their own, but they can still use our applicator," says George. He notes that if farmers want to get plastic mulch or fencing, there are funds available through the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company.

For more information, visit www.agr.gc.ca/pfra.

Contact:
Don George
403.340.4291
georged@agr.gc.ca



Tried and true - Victor Brunette on a recent horseback trip in Alberta

Woodlot specialist says goodbye

The time has come for me to pack up and travel eastward. Early this summer, I was offered the opportunity to lead program change for a woodlot organization in the Ottawa Valley. I weighted all pros and cons. After considering the cultural links of my family and the economic advantages of

Woodlot Extension Program

undertaking the move at this time, we chose to head back east again. I feel like a horse who has explored and grazed the back forties and who is galloping back to the barnyard.

My new employer is l'Agence Regionale de Mise en Valeur des Forets Privees Outaouaises, a partnership that delivers woodlot awareness, stewardship planning and cost-shared silviculture services to some 12,000 woodlot owners in 75 municipalities on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

I will miss the challenges and rewards of the Alberta program and the overheated economy. I will miss the challenges that the Woodlot Extension Program (WEP) is attempting to achieve by addressing rural land stewardship issues with farmers,

ranchers and woodlot owners. I am proud of the progress achieved toward province wide delivery of woodlot awareness and services, and I am proud of the change of attitude of many Albertans who care for sustainable resources and land use. I am thankful for the support offered by WEP partners and WAA directors over the past two years. I am convinced that WEP will continue to be fully funded, and will achieve its goals of forest retention on rural landscapes.

The long and winding road: a WEP staff update

Fall is a season of demonstrations, field days, and ag service board tours. The woodlot extension specialists have been on the road. From Barrhead to Bonnyville, and Whitecourt to the Cypress Hills they go wherever trees are part of the rural landscape. They present information about tree crops, riparian areas, sawmilling and shelter-belts.

Peace River specialist, Doug Macaulay is busy taking calls and listening to landowners with concerns about Mountain Pine Beetle. Look for him at future information sessions in the Peace Region. He is also a techni-

Good luck to Toso, Doug and Martine, our enthused extension specialists, who carry the good news about sustainable woodlots. I will keep fond memories of my stay in Alberta.

Contact:
Victor Brunette
819.663.5691
agence.outaouaise@
qc.aira.com

cal advisor for Environmental Farm Plans.

Based in Edmonton, the tireless Toso Bozic, is interested in the value added business opportunities and the farm diversification aspects of woodlots. He also helps develop management plans with landowners. Both Doug and Toso work hard to promote beneficial forest management practices in Alberta's agricultural areas.

For answers to your woodlot questions call Doug (780) 624-6425 or Toso (780) 415-2681. Dial 310-0000 for toll free access.



1



2

Cypress Hills woodlot demo day

The Woodlot Association of Alberta in cooperation with the Woodlot Extension Program hosted a workshop and demonstration tour in the most southeastern corner of the province.

During two very sunny days on September 9 and 10, more than 50 people converged on the town of Elkwater, Alberta and the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

In the rustic ambience of the Elkwater Community Hall, the workshop delivered several woodlot-related presentations including Cypress Hills provincial park management, fire and pest management, mountain pine beetle, shelterbelt management, and eco-tourism (see photo 1).

The demonstration tour stopped throughout the Cypress Hills provincial park starting at the top plateau. There the tour observed agro-forestry operations on a range improvement site in which the pine was logged and natural forages were allowed to re-establish for grazing (2).

After stopping at the Cypress Hills viewpoint (3) the tour proceeded to visit the Reesor sawmill operation which has a modified circular saw for a board and beam operation (4). The sawmill stop also included a demonstration of a firewood splitting operation.

The final stop on the tour was to the most southern woodlot in Alberta ever to receive the Master Woodlot Stewardship Award (5). Nestled in the Cypress Hills park boundary, the last tour stop was association director Dan Reesor's woodlot.

During the walk through his woodlot Dan explained and shared with participants his experiences, challenges and approaches to timber harvesting and forest management.

To conclude the day tour, participants were treated to a catered steak barbecue and an interesting, informative and thoroughly entertaining presentation from Mr. Clay Yorshenko on the history of Fort Walsh and Elkwater (6). For more information on Woodlot Tours and Events visit www.woodlot.org



3



4

2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors for the Woodlot Association of Alberta:

Top row (l to r): Dan Reesor, Louise Horstman (secretary), Juri Agapow, Conn Brown, Peter Mills (president), Gordon Kerr (past president)

Bottom row (l to r): Hamish Kerfoot, Pieter van der Schoot (vice-president), Mathieu Bergeron

Absent: Dennis Quintilio, Jamie Giberson (treasurer), Lorne Carson



Reflections on our trees

We set around the campfire
The light it was low
And up above an open sky
The moon she was a glow

They told the tales of planting trees
And living out in the wood
They spoke of things that they had done
And others that they should

They told tales of woodlots
Of thinning out their trees
They told of scares they'd had with bears
They set to rattling their knees

We talk about our forests
That are disappearing fast
We hope that by the way we're living
We have some trees that last

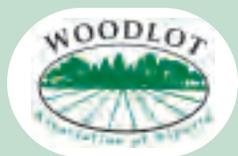
So as you gaze upon your woodlot
And decide to fall a few
Be thinking of the future
To your posterity take a view

Will they have some trees to fall
An be able to watch others grow
To watch them autumn, spring, and summer
And to see them weighted down with snow

So as you fall, be planting
With an eye to our posterity
And we hope that by our livi' in
They will have a tree

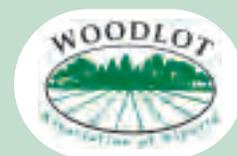
Or maybe a whole woodlot
That's been managed well with time
Where they can gaze upon the trees
And think upon this rhyme

Scott Reesor – woodlot owner and cowboy poet
www.reesorranh.com



Woodlot Association of Alberta

Membership & Materials Order Form



Name: _____ Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ P/Code: _____ Ph: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Woodlot Size _____ ha / ac. Legal Description: _____

Woodlot Objectives: Timber Revenue - Forest Products - Wildlife - Aesthetics - Conservation

\$30.00 One Year Membership	\$ _____.
\$50.00 Two Year Membership	\$ _____.
\$100.00 One Year Corporate Membership	\$ _____.
\$40.00ea Woodlot Management Guide / Manual (Includes Shipping & Handling)	\$ _____.
\$10.00ea Woodlot Management Video (VHS) (Includes Shipping & Handling)	\$ _____.
\$40.00ea 2005 Forestry Business Directory (Includes Shipping & Handling)	\$ _____.
\$30.00ea Alberta: A Centennial Forest History (DVD) (Includes GST, Shipping & Handling)	\$ _____.
Total (GST EXEMPT)	\$ _____.

- Payment made by cheque enclosed
- Payment to be made using our Credit Card (below).
- Please send an Invoice for payment

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

[VISA] [AMEX] [M/C] # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Authorization Signature: _____

Mail or Fax this form to the Woodlot Association of Alberta Office.

Make Cheques Payable to:

Woodlot Association of Alberta

18008 - 107th Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2J5

Ph: (780) 489-9473 Fax: (780) 489-6262

Web: www.woodlot.org E-mail: fisla@fisla.com

New offerings from woodlot initiative

Eight new information primers and four regional workshops on ecological goods and services are being rolled out by the Private Woodlot Strategic Initiative (PWSI) in the near future.

PWSI is an ongoing collaboration between the Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN) and the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners. The initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of experience and information among organizations and individuals that wish to further sustainable forest management on private lands in Canada.

New primers coming shortly

Perhaps you've seen these one-sheet primers written for family forest owners. The six existing primers are designed specifically for woodlot managers, covering topics suggested by family forest owners from across the country. They cover subjects such as species at risk, certification, taxation and woodlot management planning.

A series of eight new primers will be available, in time for Christmas, covering issues such as: selling wood from your property; the benefits of silvicultural investments; opportunities in non-timber forest products; and managing for biodiversity.

To obtain copies of the six existing primers contact your local woodlot association or visit the CMFN website (modelforest.net) and access them through the publications database (they're downloadable), or simply call Canada's Model Forest Program at (613) 992-5842. And look for the next set of eight shortly.

Regional workshops coming in New Year

In collaboration with other organizations interested in promoting dis-



Canadian Model Forest Network

Woodlot owners benefit from information sharing

cussion on the topic of encouraging provision of ecological goods and services in Canada, the PWSI will be holding a series of four regional workshops across the country in February 2007.

Ecological goods and services (EGS) is a way of referring to the many benefits — such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic values — that accrue to society from well-managed forests. Private woodlots, due to their location in close proximity to populated areas, provide many of these benefits through their good stewardship.

The workshops will feature a “lessons learned” session based on a successful EGS program in Costa Rica, where a flow-through compensation program has encouraged landowners to manage for a multitude of benefits. Regional and local speakers will round out the panel, which will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with good woodlot stewardship, and provision of a variety of non-timber benefits.

Meeting the Stewardship Challenge publication still available

In 2004, the Canadian Model Forest Network's PWSI published Private Woodland Owners — Meeting

the Stewardship Challenge.

The report highlights the work of private woodlot owners across Canada who have placed a priority on caring for their woodlots, allocating time and money to retain the multiple benefits their land provides.

Along with highlighting woodlot owner contributions to stewardship across Canada the report provides background information on woodlots broken down provincially for further discussion within

the woodlot community of where we are today and what the challenges are in the future.

If you would like to obtain a copy please contact your local woodlot association, model forest or the CMFN Secretariat at (613) 992-5874.

Making a difference on the North Saskatchewan

This past June, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, a non-for-profit society made up of more than 200 stakeholder groups and individuals interested in the healthy functioning of the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta published a guide to assist municipalities in watershed stewardship. It includes a section on Woodlots and Agroforestry, written by the Woodlot Association of Alberta, with assistance from the PWSI. The guide includes a discussion on the value of woodlots in watershed stewardship and provides some best management practices to mitigate environmental damage during timber harvest and removal activities. The Guide can be accessed at www.nswa.ab.ca.

Contact:
CMFN Secretariat
613.992.5874
modelforest.net

The language of innovation:

Biorefinery defined

By DAVID HOLEHOUSE

As Alberta explores opportunities for the economies and technologies of tomorrow, terms such as “biorefinery” and “biorevolution” are heard more and more often.

Alberta Forestry Research Institute (AFRI), along with its sister institutes, Alberta Life Sciences Institute and the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, envisions the biorefinery as one of the drivers of a new competitive position for industry and communities. Bill Hunter, co-chair of AFRI, offers some definitions around the term, as well as some examples of how a biorefinery might look.

Biorefinery: a facility in which woody and/or plant material (biomass) is converted into power, fuels and chemicals.

“A biorefinery would seek to fully utilize all components of the biomass to make a range of foods, fuels, chemicals, feeds, materials, heat and power, in proportions that maximize economic return,” Hunter said.

And finding a starting point to get the concept rolling in Alberta should not be difficult.

“Pulp mills across North America with inefficient technologies are shutting down because they can’t compete on price against mills in South America and Asia,” he said. “But Alberta’s strong northern fibres are still needed to mix with those cheaper pulps. What’s needed is a way for our mills to find new solutions to competitiveness.”

The business of retooling for the biorefinery is not pie-in-the-sky, Hunter said. He expects the necessary strategic partnerships and cross-sector

collaborations will emerge within three to five years. And the results will include long-term viability in the forest products sector, energy self-sufficiency for remote communities, product diversification and more.

Alberta is already gearing up to join the leaders of the biorevolution, which is marked by a shift from today’s fossil-fuel-based economy to one that uses forest and other carbohydrate resources for a growing portion of its energy and chemical products.

Alberta Forestry Research Institute hosted a workshop in Edmonton in March 2006, led by AFRI board member Jack Saddler. Saddler is an international expert in conversion of wood fibre through enzymes and fermentation, and Dean and Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia. Also at the table were representatives of the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Alberta Energy Research Institute and the Alberta Research Council – all engaged already in the bioeconomy of tomorrow.

Part of AFRI’s thinking is that Alberta can continue to flourish as a developer and exporter of traditional hydrocarbon fuels and products. But it can also open up a whole new growth trajectory by becoming a world-class developer of bioproducts that support affordable energy, rural sustainability



The forest of the future is much more than trees

and forest-sector innovation.

Saddler agreed the province’s strongest economic opportunities will lie in bioconversion to produce transportation fuel, energy and chemicals.

Major international companies are making bioplastics from easily-converted plant sugars, such as those in cane and corn. Research to find enzymes capable of cheaply converting the sugar found in woody cellulose is now also bearing fruit, opening the way for trees to become biodegradable plastic products. A vast range of other goods, from hydrogen fuel to paint to diet pills and bullet-proof vests, could also become the forest products of tomorrow.

Canada is still working to develop a bioproducts strategy, and in the meantime Alberta and British Columbia might find an advantage in working together on some initiatives, Saddler said.

The Alberta Forestry Research Institute was established by the government of Alberta to serve as a resource to government and industry in the development of research priorities for forestry innovation.

Contact:
AFRI
780.427.2567
don.harrison@gov.ab.ca



Why not insure your farm with a company founded by farmers?

Farming isn't like other businesses. That's why The Co-operators offers insurance plans designed to meet your specific needs. You can get all the coverage you need to protect your livelihood from potential losses. It's what you would expect from the leading multi-product insurance company in Canada.

Let us help protect your life's work with the right coverage for you.

To find a Co-operators agent near you, visit www.cooperators.ca



Home Auto Life Investments
Group Business Farm Travel

 **the co-operators**
A Better Place For You™

Farmers need to work safe

As the harvest winds down for another year, we can all reflect on the fact that we live in a real land of opportunity in Canada and especially in Alberta.

Although not everyone has enjoyed ideal growing conditions throughout the province, most producers have harvested a pretty decent crop. We have some top quality grain on our farm this year for a change! There was an excellent hay crop and silage was good as there was a lot of rain in the spring to stimulate growth.

Livestock markets remain relatively strong especially considering that the price of feed is a bit of a bargain. The cost of inputs remains a huge problem but, given the conditions in which we operate as farmers, 2006 has evolved as a bit more positive year than some.

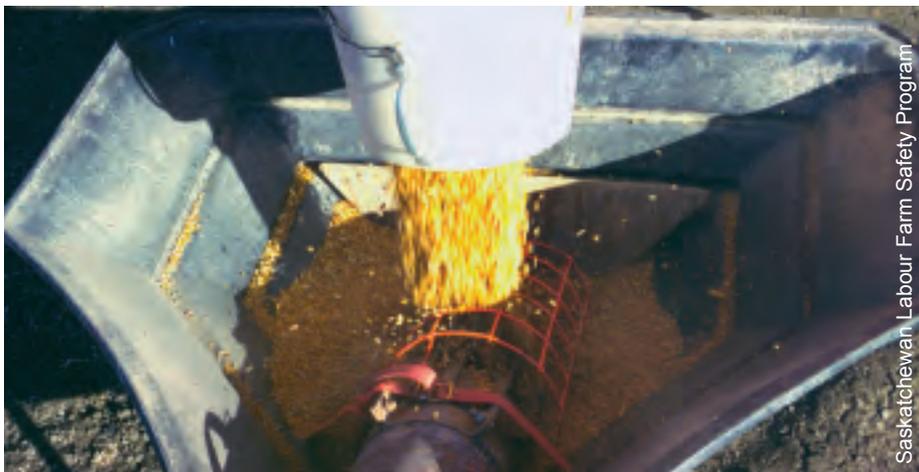
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Bill
Dobson*



Farm safety

In almost every newsletter that I have written, I have encouraged farmers to work safely. I continue to feel very strongly about that message. Unfortunately, the accidents continue to occur and the farming remains one



Saskatchewan Labour Farm Safety Program

Shields on augers prevent many serious injuries

of the most dangerous occupations in Canada. We can make all the excuses to ourselves that we like but the accident rate in our industry is simply unacceptable.

We need to become very aggressive in addressing this issue or we will have some very stringent rules placed upon us. Wild Rose Agricultural Producers will be working very diligently over the next year to address the farm safety problem.

It is time for every farmer in Alberta to look at their own operation and farming practices to mitigate the risk involved in agriculture.

Input assistance

On August 18, Minister Doug Horner announced an assistance package of \$261 million to address the high cost of inputs for farmers, especially grains and oilseeds producers. This is a considerable amount of money and we are thankful for the help.

We have made it very clear to the Minister over the last two years that the high costs of fuel and fertilizer have been putting extreme pressure on the industry through these times of

low grain prices.

I should have been delighted with the announcement but found myself in the very disappointing position of having to criticize the program.

The major flaw is the delivery of the program through the 2004 CAIS calculations. Many producers had come through very difficult years between 1999 and 2003. There was a good crop in 2003 which was mostly marketed in 2004. This left many farmers with poor reference margins for their calculations and a higher production margin in 2004 so they were not eligible for a CAIS payment at all in that year. It seems like a fairly simple thing to me to give farmers a rebate on their fuel and fertilizer purchases.

What was even more disappointing to me was the lack of consultation on the delivery of this assistance to Alberta farmers. Other provincial governments would consult with their provincial farm organizations to design the best program for farmers.

Once again the need for a strong general farm organization that would work with government is very evident.



Sarah Seinen

Most producers enjoyed a healthy harvest this fall, with plant growth stimulated by lots of spring rain

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization

The CAIS program continues to stumble along. It has been a continually evolving program from the start. The federal government has vowed to eliminate CAIS and replace it with basically the same program. I have attended two National Safety Net Advisory Committee meetings this summer to deal with this and other safety net issues. Hopefully, someday we will have a safety net program that works for farmers and is acceptable to the federal and provincial governments. Don't hold your breath on this one though!

Canadian Wheat Board

The matter of the future of the CWB has hit the boiling point over the last couple of months. It is the policy of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers that farmers should make the deci-

sions regarding the future of the Canadian Wheat Board.

I have and will continue to vigorously defend that position. If there is to be significant changes to the structure of the Board it should be decided by a binding plebiscite of producers.

We believe that a question needs to be very direct and understandable such as "Do you wish to see malting barley removed from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board?" This is a serious matter that needs to be well thought out by western Canadian farmers.

Most farmers that I talk to want to see the Wheat Board continue but there is varying opinions on the question of whether the CWB could survive in an open market scenario. I have been around this issue a lot and I am quite sure that the last thing that many of the prolific advocates of a dual market are concerned with is

whether the Canadian Wheat Board survives.

I encourage everyone to really think this issue through and let your thoughts be known to governments and CWB directors.

Finally...

My third year as President of WRAP is almost over. It is hard to believe that this time has gone by so quickly. I committed to this position for three years so now I have to make a decision as to my future involvement. This is a great industry and a wonderful organization to work in. Although there have been plenty of frustrations, there has also been many rewarding and interesting moments as well. Continue to stay safe folks and hopefully I will have a chance to talk to you at a Regional Convention in your area this fall.

No guarantee on federal safety net

Imagine if, one day at the circus, the ringleader went to the tightrope walker and said, "Sorry, I can't tell you if you'll have a safety net for today's show. You won't know if the net is there or not until you actually fall. Oh, and even if we do get a net, we don't know if it will be big enough to go under the whole tightrope. Now up you go!"

*Bob Friesen
President, CFA*



The tightrope walker would probably tell the ringleader exactly where he could stuff his big hat.

Yet that is exactly what the CAIS (Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization) program expects of farmers. Go out and farm. If you have a bad year you won't know until much later if the government safety nets programs will be there to help, or how much help you'll get. CAIS is not pre-



Income stabilization program is neither predictable nor bankable, says the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

dictable and it is not bankable, and now there's talk of prorating, so it's hardly a safety net at all.

Earlier this summer the federal and provincial agriculture ministers announced their commitment to the development of a "new margin-based program to stabilize incomes". This new program is CAIS with expanded negative margin coverage and inventory valuation changes. There is no question these changes are positive and will improve CAIS, but they won't create the necessary predictability or bankability.

All the federal political parties have agreed: CAIS doesn't work for all commodities and all regions. The Conservative government has proposed some positive changes but farmers have worked together over the summer to consider what programs would work best for farmers. There is broad agreement that work should be done immediately to explore splitting disaster from stabilization, examine a new and improved NISA-like program to replace the top 15 per cent of CAIS and create the kind of predictability and bankability that is needed.

When farmers had NISA accounts they always knew how much money

was there to help them in hard times. The cost to governments for a NISA program would not likely be greater. More predictability and bankability for no added cost: it's a win-win for all stakeholders.

Of course no one program can address all needs and all regions. To address the unique needs of different provinces, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) believes the federal government should act now and help fund provincial companion programs.

This fall CFA and its members will be undertaking a campaign urging our elected representatives to split disaster from stabilization, consider a new and improved NISA stabilization program and fund provincial companion programs to address regional needs. And we need your help. Canada's provincial general farm organizations will be handing out postcards addressed to the Prime Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Chuck Strahl, and local MPs. Take a card, sign it and send it in.

Farmers need to take control of national safety nets policy by pushing governments to implement farmer-developed solutions.

from farm to fuel

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture aims to tweak national biofuels strategy

Canada's government reaffirmed its commitment to developing a national biofuels strategy this summer. A bold and visionary plan could build a new industry in rural Canada, create rural jobs, support rural communities, make significant contributions to the environment and improve farm incomes from the marketplace.

There is no doubt that farm incomes are depressed and have been in steady decline. The government has committed to ensuring there are opportunities for farmers to participate, find new technologies and new markets to put more money in producers' pockets. In achieving this goal, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), of which Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is a member, is contributing several proposals for consideration.

A key message the CFA continues to advocate is a whole value-chain strategy using various components, strategically designed to build a world class biofuels industry here in Canada. All components must be designed together to work together.

Strong primary research

The CFA proposes focused public research at the federal and provincial levels. Research grants to universities will help develop new energy specific varieties, new energy crops, increased production efficiency, improved processing techniques and crops bred for high energy content that yield high-quality by-products for use in

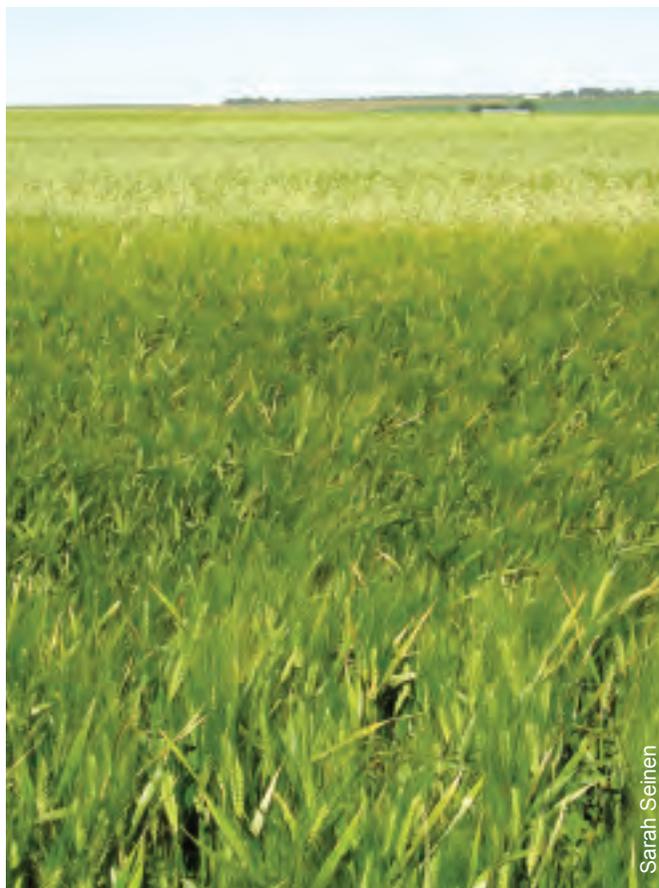
both ruminant and monogastric live-stock rations.

Continual extension and tech transfer

To ensure biofuel initiatives and primary producers thrive, the industry must continually innovate, increase productivity and efficiency. The CFA recommends a number of initiatives aimed at research transfer, technical and business extension including producer information sessions, extension resources and specialized advisory services.

Competitiveness of domestic feedstock

It is undeniable that feedstock competitiveness will become a hot-button issue with regards to biofuels production. United States direct subsidies to biofuel feedstocks such as corn, wheat, canola and soybeans must be acknowledged. A biofuels strategy that builds an industry importing feedstocks will not create gains for Canadian primary producers. Just as in biofuel processing, incentives are needed to provide competitive parity with United States programs. To ensure a competitive biofuels industry can exist in Canada, Canadian biofuel producers need competitive policy.



Sarah Seinen

The CFA urges all level of government to build a competitive policy for primary grains and oilseeds production that is competitive with the U.S. and will build a foundation that will support value added industries such as the biofuels sector. Canadian producers are competitive in production but they need more tools than they currently have to be truly competitive in distorted global markets.

Together, these three proposals work in partnership with those put forth by other stakeholders. The CFA stands ready to partner with governments and other stakeholders to develop specific design and aid in implementation and service to support producers in this industry.

Contact:
**The Canadian Federation
of Agriculture**
613.236.3633
info@cfafca.ca

Don't let fire snuff out your operation

A fire can have a devastating impact on your farming operation. That's why prevention is key. If a fire does occur, it's also important that you know how to minimize the damage.

Here are some tips to help prevent and put out a farm implement fire on your property:

Fire prevention tips

- Keep a multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher securely mounted outside the cab on all tractors, self-propelled combines and swathers. Maintain the unit as per manufacturer's instructions.
- In addition to the dry chemical extinguisher, a water-filled extinguisher can be kept and used on fires that do not involve any plastics, rubber or petroleum products.
- When placing implement in winter storage, disconnect all batteries.
- When implements are removed from storage, check all visible wiring for signs of rodent damage.
- Every season check all hydraulic hoses and connections on combines, swathers and balers for leaking and deterioration. Replace any brittle or cracked hoses. Pay special attention to high heat areas such as engine compartments; a hose or connection failure in this area has a high probability of starting a fire.
- Keep implements clean. Accumulations of oil, grease, and other combustibles around the engine area are especially hazardous. Gauge your cleaning schedule to the weather and dust conditions.
- At the end of each day, check all bearings for heat build-up. Do not delay the replacement of bearings that will no longer accept grease.



North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre

Be prepared to stop baler fires early. Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it

Putting out a fire

- If a fire occurs on an implement with an engine, turn the engine off before investigating. If the fire was caused by a broken hydraulic or fuel line, a running engine will continue to pump fuel and/or oil into the fire.
- If a fire breaks out in a round baler, eject the bale before attempting to extinguish the fire. The large amount of combustible material contained in a tightly packaged bale makes a fire almost impossible to extinguish when it's inside the baler.
- Direct the nozzle of the dry chemical extinguisher toward the base of the fire. If the fire is in an enclosed area, gain access to the enclosed area prior to discharging your extinguisher. Remember, if an accelerant is feeding the fire, try to remove its source prior to discharging the fire extinguisher.
- If a fire breaks out on a pull-type implement in windy conditions, position your tractor into the

wind before you stop to fight the fire and be prepared to unhitch the tractor and move it away from the burning implement.

- As a second line of defence, dirt can be used to smother a fire. A spade shovel attached to the implement on a bracket can be used for this purpose.
- As an absolute last resort, driving the implement to a water source might be considered. However, think about what you might be setting on fire along the way.

This information was provided by The Co-operators. It does not substitute for a thorough loss prevention assessment. The Co-operators will not be responsible for any loss or damage which the reader may suffer as a consequence of having relied on this article.

If you have any questions or would like more information on fire safety or loss prevention, talk to your local Co-operators agent or visit www.cooperators.ca

Are you takin' care of business?

The 12th annual Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) conference will take place November 15 to 17 in Canmore, Alberta. The theme "Taking Care of Safety is Good Business" will provide an opportunity for industry professionals, farm owners and employees to discuss agricultural injury prevention from a risk management perspective.

To register or to get more information, visit the CASA website at www.casa-acsa.ca or call Laurel Aitken, Farm Safety Coordinator, AAFRD at (780) 427-4231.



New council to look at labour and skill shortages

The federal government will invest \$1 million through Canada's Sector Council Program to help create a new sector council for the agricultural industry, announced Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resource and Social Development in September.

"The Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council (CAHRC) will help to ensure that we maintain a competitive and highly skilled Canadian agricultural industry," said Finley. "This initiative highlights the Government of Canada's commitment to work closely with the agricultural industry to address skill shortages and help recruit and retain skilled workers." In 2005, the Canadian agricultural sector boasted a total labour force of 333,200 people.

The Council will include stakeholders in the production, cultivation, raising, growing, and harvesting of conventional and non-traditional agricultural commodities.

"The Canadian agricultural industry is being faced with long-term human resource challenges that will require a joint effort across the sector," said Danielle Vinette, executive director of the CAHRC. "The creation of the Council will provide an effective forum to foster such a co-operative effort."

Human Resources and Social Development Canada supports sector councils in various sectors of the Canadian labour market including automotive, biotechnology, steel, aviation, mining and petroleum.

The Government of Canada's Sector Council Program helps sector



The interim Board of Directors for the Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council, including Terry Murray of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

stakeholders to form partnerships that undertake work force skills development activities. Sector councils operate at arm's length from the government. They bring together industry leaders and educational stakeholders in key industries to share ideas, concerns and perspectives about human resources and skills issues, and find solutions that benefit the sector in a collective, collaborative and sustained manner.

Sector councils play a vital role in helping to strengthen and grow the Canadian labour market, thereby contributing to the productivity and competitiveness of the Canadian economy and standard of living of all Canadians.

"The agriculture industry faces an incredibly wide variety of human resources challenges" said Mervin Wiseman, the co-chair of CAHRC's interim Board of Directors. "While the agriculture industry work force is getting older and is shrinking, there is more and more competition among industries for highly skilled or specialized workers. These problems, as well

as the lack of seasonal employees must be dealt with in a prompt manner."

"We are ready to start working" said Terry Murray, the other co-chair of the interim Board of Directors. "We would like to thank the government and particularly Minister's Finley team for their understanding of the necessity of such a sector council for the agriculture industry."

There are currently 18 farm organizations involved in the interim Board of Directors of the Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council, including provincial farm organizations and commodities organizations. Its mission is to represent the Canadian farm production industry to identify and to develop innovative solutions to issues of human resources development, management and employment.

Contact:
Danielle Vinette
613.236.3633
vinette@cahrc-ccrha.ca

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS 2006

EXECUTIVE

	Address	Telephone	Fax	Email
President, Bill Dobson	Box 36, Paradise Valley, TOB 3R0	780-745-2442	745-2062	wadobson@telusplanet.net
1st V.P., Lynn Jacobson.	Box 1914, Enchant, TOK OVO	403-739-2153	739-2379	l_jacob@telusplanet.net
2nd V.P., Humphrey Banack.	Box 6, Round Hill, TOB 3Z0	780-672-6068	679-2587	gumbo_hills@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neil Wagstaff	Box 593, Elnora, TOM OYO	403-773-3599	773-3599	neilwag@agt.net
Keith Degenhardt	Box 239, Hughenden, TOB 2E0	780-856-2383	856-2384	kjdegen@telusplanet.net
Bill Dobson	Box 36, Paradise Valley, TOB 3R0	780-745-2442	745-2062	wadobson@telusplanet.net
Robert Filkohazy	Box 33, Hussar, TOJ 1S0	403-641-2480	641-2480	rafilko@telus.net
Terry Murray	Box 2936, Wainwright, T9W 1S8	780-842-2336	842-6620	tmurray@telusplanet.net
Humphrey Banack	Box 6, Round Hill, TOB 3Z0	780-672-6068	679-2587	gumbo_hills@hotmail.com
Lynn Jacobson	Box 1914, Enchant, TOK OVO	403-739-2153	739-2379	l_jacob@telusplanet.net
Lawrence Nicholson	Box 137, Seven Persons, TOK 1Z0	403-527-6804		lnichol9@telus.net
Andrew Peden	Box 69, Minburn, TOB 3B0	780-593-2114	593-2114	pedenfarm@telus.net

REGIONAL DIRECTORS & CONTACTS

Region 1, Irv Macklin	RR 1, Wanham, TOH 3P0	780-694-2375	694-2378	tellirv@telusplanet.net
Region 2, Ron Matula	Box 1336, High Prairie, TOG 1E0	780-523-2953	523-1904	ronsnow@telusplanet.net
Region 3, Emil Schiller	Box 117, Flatbush, TOG OZ0	780-681-3782	681-3782	
Region 4, Don Shepert	Box 49, St. Brides, TOA 2T0	780-645-2159		shepert@telusplanet.net
Region 5, John Hrasko	RR 1, Carvel, TOE OH0	780-967-5867	967-2804	
Region 6, Andrew Peden	Box 69, Minburn, TOB 3B0	780-593-2114	593-2114	pedenfarm@telusplanet.net
Region 7, Terry Lee Degenhardt	Box 239, Hughenden, TOB 2E0	780-856-2383	856-2384	kjdegen@telusplanet.net
Region 8, Bernie Von Tettenborn	Box 1001, Round Hill, TOB 3Z0	780-672-6976		
Region 9, Alan Holt	R.R. 1, Bashaw, TOB OH0	780-372-3816	372-4316	eaholt@telusplanet.net
Region 10, Robert Filkohazy	Box 33, Hussar, TOJ 1S0	403-641-2480	641-2480	rafilko@telus.net
Region 11, Jim Deleff	Box 388, Consort, TOC 1B0	403-577-3793	577-3793	lynndeleff@hotmail.com
Region 12, Vacant				
Region 13, Ken Graumans	Box 85, Seven Persons, TOK 1Z0	403-832-2451	832-2044	graumans@telusplanet.net
Region 14, Merv Cradduck	Box 4612, Taber, T1G 2C9	403-223-8465		
Region 15, Garry Gurtler	Box 67, North Star, TOH 2T0	780-836-2125	836-2125	laddie@telusplanet.net

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director, Rod Scarlett	#102, 115 Portage Close Sherwood Park, T8H 2R5	780-416-6530 Toll-Free: 1-888-616-6530	416-6531	wrap@planet.eon.net www.wrap.ab.ca
----------------------------------	---	---	----------	---------------------------------------

Yes! I wish to join the Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Postal code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Membership fee:

1 year - \$137.80 (130 + 7.80 GST) \$ _____

3 year - \$381.60 (360 + 21.60 GST) \$ _____

Associate - \$58.30 (55 + 3.30 GST) \$ _____

GST#: R122545304

A receipt will be mailed out to you.

Type of agricultural operation: Grain _____ Cattle _____ Hogs _____ Poultry _____ Horticulture _____ Other _____

Please make cheques out to **Wild Rose Agricultural Producers**

VISA or Mastercard (please circle one)

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Send to: Wild Rose Agricultural producers, #102, 115 Portage Close, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2R5

Coalition looks at future of Canadian Wheat Board

Major farm organizations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have come together with a unanimous position that the Canadian Wheat Board Act must be respected and that there can be no unilateral changes to the Canadian Wheat Board by the federal government.

A coalition has been formed consisting of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Wild Rose Agricultural

Producers, National Farmers Union, Keystone Agricultural Producers and Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

The coalition is concerned about the mandate given to a task force recently created by federal agriculture minister Chuck Strahl, which has been instructed by the federal government to examine not if, but how, to eliminate the single desk.

WRAP president Bill Dobson said, "It has always been the position of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers that farmers should be the ones who make changes to the Canadian Wheat Board. I see the information provided by this coalition enabling producers to make intelligent decisions on the issue."



What's It Worth?

Find Out Here!

The Official Farm Equipment Value Guide.

The Official Guide of the Industry used by equipment dealers, banks, tax auditors, credit institutions, appraisers and others.



The Official Guide contains detailed specifications and resale values for 60 years of Major Farm Equipment.

Included Machinery:
Tractors, Combines, Balers, Forage Harvesters, Mower Conditioners, Skid Steer Loaders, Sprayers & Windrowers.

Brought to you by Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.
To Order Contact Rod Scarlett
Phone 1-888-616-6530 toll-free

Retail & Non-members \$69.00

Members \$50.00

102 115 Portage Close
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2R5

Fax: 780-416-6530
E-mail: wrap@planet.eon.net

Support
your
Provincial
Farmers'
Organization



welcomes

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

ImageWear by Mark's Work Wearhouse has **paired** with WRAP to offer a WORK CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR benefits package to all members of **Wild Rose Agricultural Producers**.



Using the ImageWear Cash Account Card, all you have to do is show the card at any Mark's Work Wearhouse store in Canada, to receive a

10% savings off the regular retail price on items listed on the card:

Any CSA Safety Footwear; Mark's Work Pants & Shirts; Coveralls; Denver Hayes/Marks/ Wrangler Jeans; Denver Hayes & Marks T-shirts; Gloves; Socks; Winter Underwear; Ear Protection.

Contact the Wild Rose Office
780-416-6530
for your card

If there are any concerns while shopping at MWWH please have the Store Manager call **Meaghan Thom** at ImageWear

This offer is valid at any **Mark's Work Wearhouse** Store

Timber buyers



Purchasing deciduous standing timber for portable chipping (reduced debris, exceptional utilization) in North Western Alberta

Contact Person:

Steven Krahn, Forest Resources Supervisor
Ph: (780) 624-7473 or Cell: (780) 618-9717
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.

Pulp Mill Site, Postal Bag 6500, Peace River AB, T8S 1V5



Purchasing softwood lumber and timber
Dimensions from 4" x 4" to 12" x 12" inclusive
Lengths 8-26 feet

Contact: Terry Edwards to discuss
Ph: (306) 342-2080

L&M Wood Products
Glaslyn, Saskatchewan



Purchasing coniferous sawlogs in the Whitecourt and surrounding area

Contact Person: Rick Smith
Purchase Wood Coordinator
Ph: (780) 648-6360 or Cell: (780) 778-9005

BLUE RIDGE LUMBER INC.
P.O. Box 1079
Whitecourt AB T7S 1P9



Purchasing deciduous logs in Northern and central Alberta

Contact person: Larry Lefebvre
Ph: (780) 523-2101 • Fx: (780) 523-2204

Tolko Industries Ltd.
Bag 3000, High Prairie AB, T0G 1E0



Purchasing timber in North Western Alberta and promoting farm woodlot development.

Woodlot Information: Fred Radersma
Silviculture Superintendent

Ph: (780) 831-2516 Cell: (780) 518-2304
Wood Procurement Forester: Joe Hustler
Ph: (780) 831-2514 Cell: (780) 518-2303

Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP
Bag 6700, Grande Prairie AB, T8V 6Y9



**Millar Western
Forest Products Ltd.**

Purchasing coniferous sawlog and deciduous material in the West Central Alberta area

Contact person: Max Matthews
Wood Procurement Forester
Ph: (780) 778-2221 Cell: (780) 778-1560

5004-52 Street
Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N2



**ALBERTA-PACIFIC FOREST
INDUSTRIES**

Purchasing deciduous logs in Northeastern Alberta

Contact person: Ernest Ramsum

Ph: (780) 525-8394 Fax: (780) 525-8097

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
Box 8000, Boyle AB, T0A 0M0



**Vanderwell Contractors
(1971) Ltd.**

Purchasing coniferous sawlog material in the North Central Alberta area

Also supplying woodlot extension services as time permits

Contact person: Lou Foley
Purchase Wood Coordinator
Ph: (780) 849-3824 Cell: (780) 849-7881

Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
Box 415, Slave Lake AB, T0G 2A0



Apache Firewood Splitter

Designed for a small operator who needs maximum production

- 1 person operation
- Will buck and split 14" logs up to 16 feet long
- Splits 1.5 - 2 cords per hour
- PTO drive, or
- Diesel Kubota engine for an independent unit
- Morris connection: PTO drive unit available with 20hp gas Honda engine

Apache Log Skidder

Ideal for small logging operations or for hard-to-reach places. Simple, efficient operation

- Up to 400 ft. winch line
- Can accept 2 - 8 chokers
- Works from a 3-point hitch
- Sizes appropriate for 16- 150 hp operation
- PTO operated winch with manual or hydraulic brake



Apache
Forest Products Inc.



7015 Sparrow Drive, Leduc, AB
Toll Free **1-866-986-0067**
www.apacheforest.com