

# INFARMATION

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

Fall, 2015

Volume 28 Issue 3

## LOCAL FOOD STRATEGY

ENCOURAGING THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF YUKON-GROWN FOOD.

Over the last two months, the Agriculture branch has been seeking public input on Yukon's draft Local Food Strategy. The Yukon government is committed to encouraging the production and consumption of fresh, healthy, local food. "Creating a Yukon-specific Local Food Strategy will lead to greater production of local food and more resilient farms and farm-support businesses," said the government announcing the start of the public consultation.

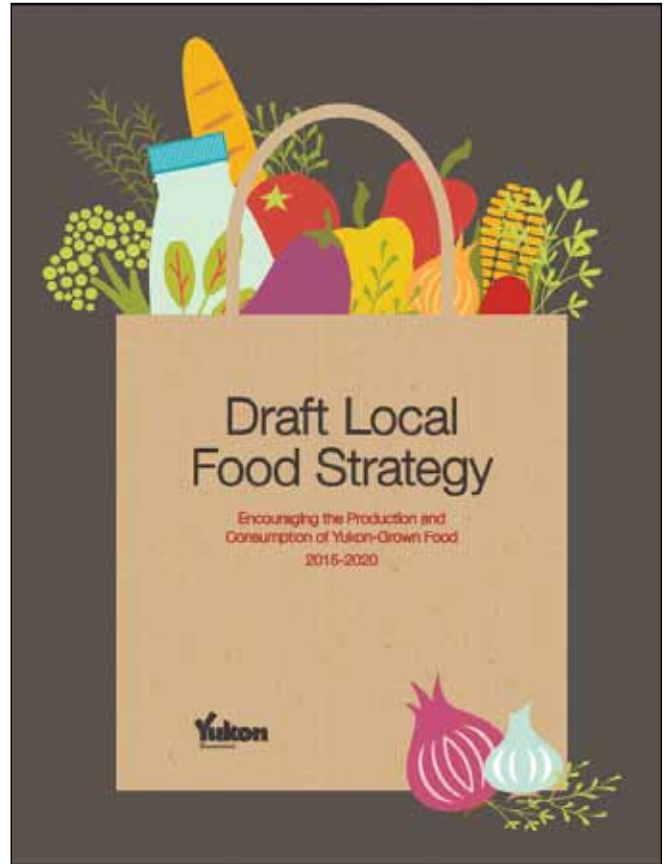
The draft strategy's objective is to encourage Yukoners to make healthy and local food choices and to increase the production and consumption of locally grown vegetables, meat and other food products.

The draft Local Food Strategy was compiled starting late in 2014 with input from the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee, local food producers and processors, and community groups. The document addresses the following five aspects of Yukon's local food system:

- Production
- Processing
- Distribution
- Access and availability
- Consumption

Copies of the strategy were mailed out to all Yukon First Nations and First Nation development corporations, along with Yukon municipal governments, renewable resources councils and other associations and councils throughout the territory. Branch representatives travelled to Dawson City, Carmacks and Haines Junction in August to discuss the draft food strategy, and to meet with producers, community leaders and First Nations on the topic of encouraging local food production and availability. "Yukoners have provided input on making local food available in communities throughout our territory," said Agriculture branch Director Tony Hill.

The Yukon government thanks everyone who filled out the questionnaire and provided their feedback on the strategy. The consultation phase is now complete and the Agriculture branch will use the feedback it received to inform the final version of the document. Once the final strategy is approved, we'll begin implementation.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE AGRICULTURE BRANCH

As usual, the fall agenda is filling up fast and I'd like to let folks know about some of the initiatives we are working on and others happening in the agriculture industry that may be of interest to you. I'll start with the consultation on Yukon's Local Food Strategy.

Over the past two months staff from Energy, Mines and Resources have been travelling to communities, attending farmers markets and meeting with stakeholders to talk about a series of initiatives aimed at increasing the production and use of local food. The feedback we have received has been tremendous and it has been interesting to see a web of contacts develop and such a broad range of topics brought forward.

The end result of this process will be a five year strategy focused on supporting the production, processing, distribution and access to local food. The strategy will help build awareness about the types of food grown and harvested in the Yukon, ways to access and utilize those foods and the nutritional, social and economic benefits to supporting and consuming local foods. Thank you all for your interest and advice.

Another new initiative this fall is a pilot program to reduce the cost of veterinary care to farmers who raise animals for food. The Veterinary Services Program provides up to \$1,000 per farm premises to cover the fees charged by a veterinarian to travel to your farm and for professional services provided. This program is being offered by the Animal Health Unit on a first-come first-served basis until March 31, 2016.

Packages and application forms can be requested by contacting [animalhealth@gov.yk.ca](mailto:animalhealth@gov.yk.ca) or by visiting Yukon veterinary clinics to pick one up. There is also a more detailed article on the program in this newsletter.

A reminder that our Annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference and Local Food Banquet is scheduled for November 7 & 8 this year at the Westmark Hotel in Whitehorse. Topics for the two days of seminars have now been finalized and details can be found in this issue of the newsletter. Of course the Farmer of the Year award will take place and I encourage anyone to make a nomination (in writing please) for an individual, family or industry builder who deserve recognition this year.

Finally, a couple of industry milestones significant in the development of the Yukon agriculture industry are worthy to mention. The Fireweed Community Market celebrated its tenth year of operation this fall and the branch would like to congratulate the champions of the market society that have made this market so successful over the past ten years.

And... Farmer Robert's Store has opened! Congratulations to Robert and Simone for creating a hub for local food and opening a federal egg grading station. A toast to both the Fireweed Market Society and Farmers Robert's with best wishes for many more years of successful operation.

Enjoy the fall season  
Tony Hill, Agriculture Director

Photos: The mobile abattoir has added a scalding and dehairer for swine. The new piece of equipment makes processing swine through the abattoir quicker and easier. The end product is also much cleaner for further processing.



For more information contact the mobile abattoir operator:  
Tum Tum's Black Gilt Meats at [tumtum@yukonfood.com](mailto:tumtum@yukonfood.com) or 867-393-4628.

## FARMER ROBERT'S STORE

YUKON'S NEW LOCAL FOOD STORE

Farmer Robert's store is now open. Although still under construction they are selling dry goods, teas, nuts, spices veggies, fruit and now milk and fresh bakery products. They have opened up slowly to get a feel for the business, train staff and work out the kinks.

Farmer Robert's is owned and operated by local farmers: Robert Ryan and Simone Rudge. The store is located in the old Harley Davidson shop, conveniently situated just off Quartz Road, amongst Whitehorse's big box stores. This is no box store! Nicely painted barnboard red, the building has a welcoming rustic farm feel that makes you want to stay a while. With a mix of natural wood, tin and post and beam, you just feel like you are closer to where your food comes from.

Farmer Robert's store is focused on providing a place for local producers to sell what they grow. Robert and Simone recognize they have hurdles because there is not a large supply of local food and currently most operations are selling farm gate and are not in a position to supply much more. They want to be the distribution hub for local farmers and are meeting with growers to figure out how they can work with them to increase the supply of local food. As farmers themselves, they realize the challenges in growing, pricing and storing product for sale. There is no doubt they have demonstrated their commitment to the local market by opening a store with this focus. This may seem like a lot of risk, but they can see that things are changing in the Yukon agricultural landscape and there are a few growers that are ready to scale up their operation but have



been limited by their access to the market. For Robert and Simone this is the right time to make this investment and be the one-stop shop for Yukoners looking for groceries that are grown close to home.

Farmer Robert's is not only focused on local food, they are also focused on good ethically sourced food and are stocking their shelves with items that are in line with the values they believe in. Simone and Robert are big proponents of local products, but they are also focusing on filling the shelves with ethical food. What is ethical food? For Robert and Simone, it is a lot of things, and they do their research when sourcing it. They use holistic management principles when deciding if the food they are bringing in is right for Farmer Robert's. Organic, sustainable, local is their goal, but when this is not available, they use a holistic decision tree to get the next best thing. They are thinking about how far the food travels, considering how the food is grown, and what corporate practices their suppliers follow. Currently they are sourcing as much locally as possible, bringing in fruit, veggies and dairy products from B.C. and complementing it with items from further away as they help grow the local food chain. They are proud

of the food they have sourced and believe it fits a niche with food conscious Yukon consumers.

Farmer Robert's will be carrying local eggs once their egg grading station is registered and supply comes on line. They will be operating a bakery, meat shop, a deli and cheese section, and are currently stocking dairy products from Avalon Dairy. The Tea Barn where you can stop and stay a while and enjoy soup and sandwiches, coffee and tea before your grocery shop is ready. Farmer Robert's will be a place to do more than just pick up your groceries.

If you are a producer, stop in and meet with Robert and Simone to see how you can supply. Need groceries? You won't be disappointed with the products Farmer Robert's Store carries. The thought that goes into sourcing their food is second to none.

For more information on Farmer Robert's, go to [www.farmerroberts.com](http://www.farmerroberts.com) or follow them on Facebook. You can contact them at 1-867-456-2178 or [Farmer-Roberts@yukonfood.com](mailto:Farmer-Roberts@yukonfood.com).

You can find them at 21 Waterfront Place, Whitehorse.

## YUKON PRODUCER PROFILE

HIGHLIGHTING PRODUCERS AND THEIR AGRI-BUSINESSES

This column is an opportunity to introduce you to Yukon farm operations. This segment features Yukon's amazing producers, farm products and strategies Yukon producers use to overcome some of our climate, production and market obstacles.

## CARCROSS/TAGISH AND SELKIRK FIRST NATION COMMUNITY GARDENS

IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY

This edition of the producer profile features two of Yukon's community gardens. Carcross and Pelly are just two examples of First Nation communities looking to agriculture as a way of building their community, becoming more food secure and working towards healthier food options.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation community garden is located at Choutla Creek, just up the hill from the airport, with a beautiful vista overlooking Lake Bennett. The community garden is composed of two large green houses, with two main gardens and a new third garden expansion to help with potato rotation. They are growing



typical market garden/greenhouse veggies, with potatoes, carrots, lettuce mixes, cucumbers and tomatoes as the core crops for the community.

The garden is a team effort for the First Nation, with staffing and wages coordinated by the FN office. The garden activities are managed by the garden co-ordinator. Students are hired to help with the everyday activities of the gardens. When there are larger projects, such as building a wash station for produce, or building a new garden, the community brings in other workers from the Transitional Employment Program to help.

They are distributing what they grow to the community elders, single parents and programs that need healthy food. Surplus production is sold in Carcross Commons and the money generated is used to reinvest into the garden. In 2014 the community garden grew 2,000 pounds of produce, and with so much growing in 2015 they should exceed that.

The Selkirk First Nation community garden and greenhouse in Pelly has a split location with the two commercial greenhouses centrally located and easy to find, just east of the North Klondike Hwy, a few hundred meters in from the Pelly Store. The garden is on the west side of the North Klondike highway, behind the campground. Both sites are welcoming thanks to the bright colours of the greenhouse and garden fences, and the nice mix of flowers that accent the greenhouse and garden.

Pelly's community garden is a joint effort with the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon College. The garden crew is comprised of local grower Kathy Kruse, who has been hired as an instructor to develop the growing knowledge in the community. There is a garden supervisor, a few staff members hired by the First



Photo: Carcross/Tagish First Nation Community Garden co-ordinator Reta Johns talking about the 2015 season.

Nation and this year there are two students learning about growing. The greenhouses and garden produce the mainstream market garden vegetables, with a few new products, such as lemon cucumbers to add some fun to the mix. They also started the season producing flowers for the community to get things going until the vegetables came on.

The mandate of the Pelly garden and greenhouse is to produce local healthy food for the citizens of Selkirk First Nation. The produce is distributed primarily to Elders, but is sometimes distributed to other community members as well.

Pelly and Carcross have similar successes and challenges. The greenhouse and gardens are doing well, and community members have figured out what grows well at their locations. The challenges are not uncommon to northern agriculture: a primary one is having lots of vegetables ripen at the same time and having to figure out how to distribute the harvest. Another challenge the community gardens face is what to do with the veggies; some have gotten away from using fresh produce and are unsure

how to use it at home. They are addressing this by looking at ways to educate and promote the use of market garden vegetables in the community. Like any garden, staying on top of the weeds can be a challenge and staffing is a concern at times when the community is drawn away to other activities that are more exciting than weeding.

Both locations are looking at ways at becoming more commercial and trying to understand how they become more sustainable. Currently they have the support of their FN offices to help with the cost of staffing and growing, and are not following a formal business model to ensure long term viability. But when you talk to those involved with the gardens about the long term sustainability of the garden, they are confident that the operation is sustainable. Not necessarily because it will generate money, which is a goal, but because it has so many other positive benefits to the community that warrant the investment. We're hearing similar messages from different communities repeatedly: community gardens provide healthy, safe fresh food as well as learning and

working opportunities. How could a place that grows food and is a source of pride for the community not be sustainable.

The community gardens in Pelly Crossing and Carcross are producing successfully and helping meet their community members' intimate connection to locally-harvested food.

## COMMUNITY GARDENERS GATHERING

On March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research (AICBR) in partnership with Yukon Government-Agriculture Branch, Community Development Fund, Public Health Agency of Canada, Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon, Growers of Organic Foods Yukon, and others hosted a community garden and economic development gathering called Working Together to Grow More. Fifty five participants registered and attended the gathering, including most communities from across the Yukon.

This gathering was an opportunity to bring Yukon growers and others together to build relationships, network and share their knowledge and challenges with each other. Participants also had an opportunity to benefit from experts in growing, building capacity for community economic development, and engaging with others who are growers and leaders for food security in their community.

For more information please check out the gathering's final report on the AICBR website.  
[www.aicbr.ca](http://www.aicbr.ca)



Photo: Garden Instructor Kathy Kruse and Jean Van Bibber sharing their stories about the Selkirk First Nation community garden.

**YUKON NORTH OF  
60° AGRICULTURE  
CONFERENCE**  
“OUR LOCAL FLAVOUR”  
November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference will be held during the day on Saturday and half day Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The conference theme is “Our local flavour” and the intent is to add to the momentum of Yukon’s Local Food Strategy and address some of the challenges and opportunities for Yukon producers.

Conference topics include: pasture raised beef, weed management, and farm site planning. We will also have local producers talking about their farms, including a perspective from an Alberta-turned-Yukon Farmer.

**THE ADVANTAGES OF PASTURE  
RAISED BEEF**

Dr. John Church is an associate professor and is the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Cattle Industry Sustainability at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The scope of his work encompasses production of grazing animals through to harvesting, raw and value added meat products, and the preservation of the natural resources on which these industries depend.

John will talk about pasture raised beef and the benefits of grazing animals to the finished product and the effects of grazing management on the environment.

**PLANNING YOUR FARM**

Good management practices can answer many questions related to the planning of a farm. Where should I put the well in relationship to my livestock? What should I be thinking of when locating the compost pile? Are there strategies I should use if I suspect permafrost? What are the building permit requirements related to outbuilding construction? Our local experts will try to address some to the best management practices to consider when laying out your farm, or planning for the long term.

**WEED MANAGEMENT**

Yukon’s Invasive Species Council is working to help farmers prevent the introduction and manage the spread of invasive species in the territory. Experts from the council will be on hand to talk weed management.

Early detection and rapid response are important to weed management. Experts will present management strategies for keeping weeds out of pastures and fields. The implementation of weed management strategies can help farmers limit the amount of weeds in crops and fields, and will keep pets and livestock safe from noxious plants.

**STORIES FROM YUKON FARMERS**  
Farming is a challenge everywhere in the world and Yukon is no different. From bountiful harvests to heavy July frosts, Yukon farmers are hit with just about everything. Hear from some of our local producers on how they are overcoming the challenges of farming in one of the toughest places on the planet, and how they found their niche in farming.

**FOOD RETAIL**

From using the abattoir to selling to the big stores, there is a wide range of rules to keep in mind when considering supplying to local retailers. Join the Agriculture Branch and local retailers to discuss the challenges associated with entering the retail chain.



## Growing Forward 2

*A Canada-Yukon initiative providing funding to Yukon's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products industry*

*Growing Forward 2 offers programs in the areas of business risk management, business development, food safety training and development, marketing, research and the environment.*

*Take a look at the Growing Forward 2 Programming Guide on our website at [www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca) for funding opportunities. You can also contact the Agriculture Branch for more information or to request a hard copy of the programming guide.*

**Currently accepting applications**

Phone: 867-667-5838

Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5838

Email: [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca)

**Yukon**  
Government  
Gouvernement

**Canada**

## A NEW VIEW OF YUKON AGRICULTURE

Born and raised Alberta farmer, Leona Dargis shares her upbringing on the family farm in North Eastern Alberta, the life challenges she faced on the farm and her next farming challenge north of 60°, on a property just outside of Whitehorse.

She is the eldest of five daughters who were raised on their family farm consisting of 7,000 acres of cropland and a 4,000 head feedlot. Together they learned the values of hard work, perseverance and gratitude. After the sudden passing of her parents in 2007, Leona and her sisters, carried on their legacy in continuing to operate the farm business all while supporting each other to pursue their dreams. Earlier that same year Leona graduated from Olds College with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agribusiness. Her leadership role in representing the next generation in agriculture is global. She leads by setting an example and will share her stories that exemplify how to take unimaginable change, adapt to it and succeed.

The conference agenda will be posted on our website [www.agriculture.yk.ca](http://www.agriculture.yk.ca), and emailed to Yukon agriculture associations and groups. The conference will be held at the Westmark Whitehorse and is open to all, so no need to register. Please watch for the agenda, and join the presenters for their informative talks.

If you are from out of town, Growing Forward 2 is offering assistance for you to attend. Contact the Agriculture branch for more information.

## LET'S RECOGNIZE YUKON FARMERS

NOMINATE A FARMER OR FARM FAMILY  
FOR THE 2015 YUKON FARMER OF THE YEAR

The annual presentation of the Yukon Farmer of the Year provides an opportunity to bring our attention to the efforts of farmers and farm families in our communities. We need your help; nominate an individual and/or a family that is putting their best foot forward.

The farmer of the year award is presented during the annual fall North of 60° Agriculture Banquet. Although only one farmer/farm family is recognized, all the nominees are identified and their stories are shared. This is our way of celebrating the steps being taken to make Yukon's agriculture industry stronger.

There are many things our farmers do for the community, including:

- Growing healthy local food
- Providing Yukoners local choices
- Creating more local businesses and jobs
- Providing educational opportunities for schools and growers
- Making Yukon more sustainable, innovative or resilient
- Increasing awareness and/or availability of local food
- Providing services to the agriculture industry
- Advocating or demonstrating good farm management practices
- Or whatever you think is important to our local agriculture community...

Who we should recognize is up to you! Share your story of the Yukon farmer or farm family that you would like to see as Farmer of the Year. Write it down in an e-mail, letter, or fax. As part of your nomination, please include a brief explanation of why the candidate(s) is worthy of the award.

If you have any reservations about your nomination, work with your Agriculture association or group, or even a neighbor to submit the nomination. Try to provide all the reasons you feel our producers should be recognized.

Nominations must be submitted in writing (letters, facsimiles and e-mails will be accepted) and signed by the nominator(s). The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

Submit your nomination to:

Agriculture Branch  
Suite 320, Elijah Smith Building  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Fax: (867) 393-6222  
Email: [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca)

This year's Yukon North of 60° Agriculture Banquet is November 7, 2015, at the Westmark main ball room in Whitehorse.



**YUKON GOVERNMENT  
ESTABLISHES  
ELK/AGRICULTURE  
CONFLICT HUNT**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is responding to concerns from Takhini River area farmers about crop damage by creating a new type of elk harvest opportunity that will start this fall.

“The government’s goal is to train elk to avoid agricultural properties through aversive conditioning, consistent with the draft management plan,” Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko said. “This new management tool will be used carefully, with the preventative measures by farmers as well as the behaviour of the elk taken into account.”

The Elk/Agriculture Conflict Hunt complements the existing permit hunt, which is now underway. In the event of elk problems at a farm in the buffer zone, Conservation Officers will use a priority list to contact individuals willing to harvest an elk on short notice, using a permit with terms and conditions specific to the incident.

“The government has heard from farmers that elk have been causing significant damage to their fields, crops and fences so we are adding the conflict hunt to our tool box for keeping elk away from farms and back in the wild,” Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

The Yukon government is ensuring that First Nations with settlement lands within the Takhini herd’s range will also have the opportunity to participate in the new hunt, consistent with the overall allotment used in past years.

The Elk/Agriculture Conflict Hunt priority list uses the order determined earlier through the elk Permit Hunt Authorization (PHA) lottery to ensure fairness. The government has sent a letter to the first 100 individuals (of the more than 500) who were not successful in the lottery this year but indicated they were interested in other elk harvesting opportunities if they arose. The letter lets them know their position on the priority list and provides additional information on the new hunt should they be called.

Only the Takhini Valley herd (about 200 animals) will be subject to the Elk/Agriculture Conflict Hunt. The range of the Braeburn herd (50-60 animals) does not bring it into conflict with agricultural properties. Aversive conditioning works best with larger groups of animals (e.g., more than five) that have not been habituated or have been in a conflict situation for only a short time period.

Learn more about the Elk/Agriculture Conflict Hunt: [www.env.gov.yk.ca/elk](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/elk)

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF ELK/AGRICULTURE CONFLICT HUNT**

- Preventative Measures: Action has been taken earlier to reduce the risk of conflict, e.g., hazing, fencing.
- Group size and composition: Because aversive conditioning works best with larger groups of animals, a minimum number of elk must have been present for more than 24 hours, e.g., 5 bulls, or 10 cow/calves, or a mixed group of 10. Concerns over fewer elk or individual animals may be addressed by Conservation Officers on a case-by-case basis
- Location: Agricultural land parcels that are commercial operations, outside city limits, and within the buffer zone.
- Permission: Permit holders will secure consent to hunt elk from residents living within 1 km of the farm property.
- Elk behaviour: There is reasonable expectation that hunting will influence elk behaviour and the animals will begin to avoid the area.

**PROCESS FOR LANDOWNERS**

- Landowners are to contact Conservation Officer Services Branch (COSB) at 867-667-8005 (or 1-800-661-0525 after hours) with details about their elk complaint, e.g., elk locations, potential hazards, and other relevant information.
- COSB, the Fish and Wildlife Branch (FWB), and the Agriculture Branch will investigate the complaint to determine eligibility for a conflict hunt in consideration of the general guidelines listed above.
- COSB will use the Priority List to contact a willing hunter and issue a Wildlife Act permit and the conditions the hunter must abide by to hunt an elk.
- The hunter must complete the hunt in a time frame identified by the conservation officer and as specified on the permit.
- The hunter must remove the carcass (including offal) to ensure carnivores are not attracted to the area, and comply with mandatory reporting and submission requirements.



## THE CORNER LOT (LAND, OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS)

The Agriculture Land Program makes land available through planned agricultural subdivisions. Here is an update on the current Agriculture planned land projects:

- **Haines Junction Agriculture Subdivision:** The extension to the road has been completed. One lot is planned to be released during the winter of 2015/16 to title holders within the subdivision who require more land for their current operation. The remaining three lots will be released in 2016/17.
- **Takhini Crossing in Ibex:** Two 6 hectare lots near Takhini crossing in Ibex will be released in Spring of 2016. A YESAB review has been completed on the project with a recommendation to allow the project to proceed. The next phase of the project is to upgrade the access. The lots are planned to be available in the Spring of 2016.
- **Ibex area (former Heynen lands):** The Agriculture branch is planning to release four 65 hectare lots in 2016. Currently they are subject to consultation with First Nations and a YESAB review.
- **Sunnydale area:** Four medium sized lots ranging in size from 24 to 34 hectares, are being planned in the Sunnydale area near Dawson, in line with the West-Dawson Sunnydale Local Area Plan. The project has been submitted to YESAB and is now in Adequacy stage. These lots are planned to be available in 2016.

All Planned Lots will be released through the Agriculture Planned Land Application Review (APLAR) process. If you would like additional information, please read Info Sheet #13 on our website:  
[www.emr.ca/infarm22](http://www.emr.ca/infarm22)



### AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE CULTIVATING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FARMER November 25 – 27 2015 Regina, Saskatchewan

BE PART OF THE ONLY NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON FARM MANAGEMENT.

The Agricultural Excellence Conference is a one-of-a-kind event in Canada that brings diverse industry experts and stakeholders together from across disciplines, regions and production sectors to share and explore beneficial farm management practices and insights with leading farm business thinkers.

The 2015 conference theme, Cultivating the Entrepreneurial Spirit, highlights the importance of having the knowledge, skills and tools to seek out, assess and take advantage of opportunities to succeed within the changing global marketplace. Top notch speakers and interactive learning sessions will assist Canada's farmers in making informed decisions and taking calculated risks.

#### FEATURES:

- PLENARY SESSIONS
- CONCURRENT LEARNING SESSIONS
- THE GREAT DEBATE: Are we losing our social license to farm?
- BRIDGING THE GAP FORUM: Young Farmers' Bear Pit & Young at Heart Forum
- DISCUSSION PANEL: Farming in 2050; What can we expect? How can we prepare?
- BUILDING A NATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR CANADA
- FARM MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES SHOWCASE

VISIT [WWW.FMC-GAC.COM](http://WWW.FMC-GAC.COM)  
EMAIL [INFO@FMC-GAC.COM](mailto:INFO@FMC-GAC.COM)  
CALL 1-888-232-3262



## NEW VETERINARY SERVICES PROGRAM

A pilot program to improve access to veterinary care will benefit Yukon farmers who raise animals for food.

“Veterinarians are specialists in disease diagnosis and health monitoring and can help farmers take measures to improve the health of Yukon livestock,” Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko said.

The pilot program will also help Yukon veterinarians build their capacity for treating livestock because it covers the cost of consulting with experts.

“This government is committed to producing safe, wholesome food in order to contribute to food security in Yukon,” Minister of Energy Mines and Resources Minister Scott Kent said. “Supporting healthy livestock populations on local farms helps us get closer to that goal.”

The pilot program reimburses enrolled farmers up to \$1,000. The program covers:

- Veterinarian travel costs;
- Professional service and farm call fees; and/or
- Fees for up to three phone consultations with the veterinarian.

Farmers with six or fewer poultry are eligible for up to \$250 of coverage. Farmers are still responsible for paying fees for testing samples and drugs, vaccines or treatment required for animals.

A maximum of 30 farmers can enroll in the Veterinary Services Program. Qualifying livestock species are: beef and dairy cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, swine, alpacas, llama, yaks, elk, bison, muskox, and fish. Horses are not covered as they are not raised for food in Yukon.

## HOW TO ENROLL

You need to fill out and submit an enrollment form to the Animal Health Unit at the address below. You must also have or apply for a Premises Identification Number. Contact the Animal Health Unit for specific direction.

If you haven't signed up but need a veterinarian because of a livestock emergency, ask your vet for an enrollment package at the time of their visit to your farm. Some of your costs might be covered if you apply within seven days of the visit.

The pilot program will run until March 31, 2016 and is funded through the Growing Forward 2 program, in association with the Agriculture Branch of Energy, Mines and Resources. It may be renewed if an evaluation shows it is successful and financial support continues to be available from the Growing Forward 2 fund.

For more information:  
[www.emr.ca/infarm23](http://www.emr.ca/infarm23)  
 Contact Animal Health Unit  
 Phone: 867-667-5600  
 Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5600  
 Fax: 867-393-6263  
 Email: [animalhealth@gov.yk.ca](mailto:animalhealth@gov.yk.ca)  
 Address: Box 2703 V-7  
 Whitehorse, Yukon,  
 Canada Y1A 2C6

## NORTH OF 60° AGRICULTURE BANQUET

NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

The North of 60° Agriculture Banquet is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, November 7th at the Westmark Whitehorse main ballroom. The banquet features a delicious meal featuring local grown food.

You can get your banquet tickets at the Agriculture Branch front desk. Seats are limited, so don't wait, with local ingredients on the menu and at \$25.00 a ticket, they are sure to go fast.

Guests are welcome at 6 p.m. to catch up and trade stories. Dinner will be at 7 p.m.

For more information or to buy banquet tickets, please contact the Agriculture Branch. Contact details in the box below.

### INFARMATION IS:

A Yukon government newsletter published by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Agriculture Branch. If you would like to add or remove your name from the newsletter mailing list, comment on an article or contribute a story, please feel free to contact us.

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