



InFARMation

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Message from the Agriculture Branch

In our summer of 2002 edition of *InFARMation* we mentioned that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Yukon were working on developing an Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement (APF). The Yukon government has now signed the APF agreement which is designed to assist our agriculture industry.

This five-year agreement begins August 1, 2003 and targets key areas meant to contribute to the agriculture and agri-food industry's growth and profitability. The agreement signals a new era of federal-territorial cooperation aimed at enhancing, strengthening and expanding the Yukon's agriculture industry.

Negotiations can now begin between the Yukon and the Federal government, with industry input, on the five key areas outlined in the framework. Those five areas are: strengthening food safety and quality; creating economic opportunities through science and innovation; enhancing environmental performance; renewing the agricultural sector through skills training; and improving access to crop insurance and income stabilization programs by managing business risks on the farm. The details and specific costs of the five individual programs will be determined in the near future through the implementation agreement negotiated with the federal government. You will find additional information on the APF agreement in the body of this newsletter.

Looking to the future, please note that Saturday, November 2nd, 2002 is the date of our 15th annual North of Sixty Agriculture Conference. As usual there will be a "Yukon Grown" banquet on the evening of the 2nd, as well as the announcement of the Farmer of the Year award. Watch for more details over the next few weeks.

On a final note, thanks to all participants, organizers, volunteers and sponsors of the fall fairs in the territory. There is an enormous effort put into the fall fairs program in the territory with great results achieved.

Have a nice autumn and Happy Thanksgiving.
Dave Beckman

FALL FAIRS AROUND THE YUKON

August was a busy month with the Agriculture Branch participating in fall fairs in Mayo, Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Mount Lorne. In Mayo, the local branch of the Yukon Agricultural Association hosted their annual garden, greenhouse and yard competition. Despite the rough frost that hit the Stewart Valley on July 29th, the gardens and greenhouses were productive and well kept. Tony and Matt helped with the judging and Dave Beckman attended the award ceremony and annual BBQ.

In Whitehorse, the Klondyke Harvest Fair was held in Rotary Park once again. While bench show numbers were down a bit from previous years, the array of crops, quilts, baking and preserves was still of high quality and interest to all. Thanks to Barb Drury and the Whitehorse YAA for coordinating the event and the fall fair committee and volunteers for all the work they did to make the fair a success.

The Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce once again hosted the town's annual fair, this time at the rodeo grounds just south of town. Jenny Skelton contributed a number of quality vegetable entries to the bench show which provided for a great show of what can be grown in the area. Other events included kids games, a chicken drop bingo of sorts and a 4-H dog show.

WATSON LAKE FALL FAIR

By Patti McLeod

The year's Fall Fair was once again a joint event between Communities in Bloom and the 4-H Club. We held it on August 24th at the Rodeo Grounds just south of Watson Lake. The weather was beautiful! Our thanks to the Rodeo Association for allowing us to use this great facility and for all their work in getting us set up.

The 4-H Club put on some great horsemanship displays. The pet show is always a favourite. We think that this was a good venue and were happy that everything went well. Kevin Bowers (YG – Agriculture Branch) and Dave Kalles handled all the judging of the produce and we thank them, and all those who brought their produce in for viewing. We have some great gardeners in Watson Lake!

The judging in all other categories was done by local volunteers. The Grand Aggregate prizes were sponsored again by Diamond D. Greenhouses.

The recipients this year were: Patti McLeod (33 points); Jenny and John Skelton (32 points); and Shelly Weedmark (15 points). Johanna Nugent came away with a DD Greenhouses certificate for another "Best Pumpkin". It was a beauty! The winner of the Recycled Planter contest was Gro Brodersen and she was awarded a new composter donated by Sharon Miller. In the children's categories, the grand aggregate

winner in the 7 to 9 age group was Amber Rudd; and in the 10 to 12 age group, it was Stephanie Stone. Way to go!

Sincere thanks go out to Tim and Debra Nehring (NAPA) for their generous donation of many of our door prizes. We sure do appreciate the support! The 4-H Club entered a fabulous scarecrow and took the cash prize donated by Yukon Industries.

STEWART VALLEY HOME GROUNDS, GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMPETITION

Home Grounds

- 1st Jack & Bonnie Smith
- 2nd Ida May Clippert
- 3rd J & R Ronaghan

Vegetable Garden:

- 1st Lee & Mary Persinger
- 2nd Ralph & Norma Mease
- 3rd Jack & Bonnie Smith

Greenhouse:

- 1st Ralph & Norma Mease
- 2nd John Reid
- 3rd J & B Peters

In the commercial category, the North Star came first over the Bedrock by a slim margin of two points. In the greenhouse section, an honorable mention goes to Irene Hutton for planting tomato suckers to produce extra fruit.

Lee & Mary's garden in Stewart Crossing was impressive and they also had the healthiest and most diverse fruit crops in the competition.

Jack & Bonnie Smith made a move into first for home grounds based on their foundation plantings around the porch and the use of old pots, mail boxes and hanging baskets which looked great. Ralph and Norma took 1st in the greenhouse category based on the good production of mature food and the lack of insect damage on any crops in their greenhouse.

LORNE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY FAIR

By Suzette Delmage

Now in it's ninth year, the Lorne Mtn. Country Fair is as close as you can get to an old fashioned Community Fall Fair. Held at the Lorne Mtn. Community Centre, Km 1 of the Annie Lake Road, the Fair offers something for everyone.

The day's activities ranged from children's relay races, scarecrow stuffing and a watermelon seed spitting contest to a swedesaw competition, basket making demonstrations, 4H display, tool and knife display, bake tables and a performance by the "Fiddle Kids".

Local gardeners, young and old, had an opportunity to showcase their produce in a Vegetable and Flower Exhibit judged by Kevin Bowers of the Agriculture Branch. The day's activities were topped off by a Potluck Harvest supper and local musicians singing tunes around a roaring campfire.

KLONDYKE HARVEST FAIR A SUCCESS

By Barbara Drury, KHF coordinator

The Eighth Annual Klondyke Harvest Fair was a success, thanks to a combination of good weather and hard work by many volunteers! Saturday was "mostly sunny", and the day started off at 10:30 a.m. with a great demonstration by Erika Rozsa's Canine & Company group of obedience, agility, and a selection of breeds. People were enthralled watching the dogs go through their paces, and vendors could also watch and enjoy the spectacle.

At noon Yukon Commissioner Jack Cable, the Honourable Scott Kent, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and Larry Bagnell, Liberal MP, welcomed everyone to the Fair and the Bench Show.

A great variety of musical entertainment went on all afternoon, and folks could also enjoy the Farmers & Crafters booths, the animals in the petting zoo, horse rides, the displays, kids colouring corner, free balloons in the YAA tent, the displays in the Bench Show, and the delicious food available at the Midway booths. Petunia, the Urban Milk Cow, was a bit of a fizzle, as her washers for her teats weren't tight enough, and she leaked. She'll be overhauled this winter, and be in milking trim for next year!

Sunday was slower than Saturday, but we were still lucky with the weather...no rain! Sunday saw the popular Kiss the Pig contest won by Duke Connelly, who acquitted himself in discharging his duty! (and the pig only squealed a little bit!)

The Auction, featuring the baking and preserves of the Bench show entries, went well, and a number

of lucky people went home with delicious baskets of goodies.

Congratulations to Rose Berndt who won Grand Aggregate Champion in the Senior division, and to Alan Lebedoff who won Grand Aggregate Champion in the Junior division. Well deserved by both of you!

An appreciation luncheon was held for the KHF Committee on Friday, August 30th at the TC Richards building boardroom. Most members were able to attend, and pizza and fresh garden veggies were enjoyed by all.

Financially, this was the best KHF ever for the YAA in terms of revenues from made from admissions, catalogue sales and venues.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the Klondyke Harvest Fair a reality this year, beginning with the KHF Committee:

Donna McBee - Midway Coordinator
George Green - Midway, Judge
Elaine Thompson - Midway
Rebecca Fenton - Bench Show
Dave Beckman - Bench Show, Setup, Judge
Valerie Whelan - Bench Show, Setup
Tony Hill - Bench Show, Setup, Judge
Rosie Drury - YAA tent, Setup
Annie Avery - Entertainment
Mark Miller - General, Setup
Deborah Cassidy - General, Office, Setup

Elizabeth Schmidt & Mimi Scoretz - Chili booth & decorations
Chili Booth: Vivienne Pelletier, Karen Pelletier & Marion Schmidt
Alan Lebedoff - Dart booth
Kristen Innes-Taylor - Dart booth, Setup, Judge
Set up: Dave Murray, Kevin Bowers, Matt Ball, Robert Bellon & Bruce Nibecker
Colin Nibecker - YAA tent
Jim Dillabough - Petting Zoo
Bench show: Alison Beckman, Mandy Beckman, Julie Ourom & Pat Duncan
Jenny Drury - YAA Tent
Joan Craig - Judge, Registration
Doug Craig - Registration

Judges: Ingrid Wilcox, Marny Ryder, Ruth Treskatis, Ellen Harris, Randy Lamb, Pat Swainson, Michael Delaney, Corrine Wells, Jaime Hanna, Gwen Hanna, Joanne Flynn, Goody Sparling, Babe Richards, Ruth Headley, Evelyn Church, Leissa Gattie-Thurmer, Barb Zaccarelli, Muriel von Finster, Evelyn Neave, Colleen Duncan, Rhea Stewart & Elizabeth Hall
Roy Ness - MC for Saturday
Jeremy Harp - MC for Sunday
Keith & Betty Dye - Auctioneers
Elisa Levy - Bench Show
Susie Rogan - Setup
Christine Miller - Admissions
Bill Drury - Setup
Y2C2 setup: Jessica Jobin, Ryan Sylvestre, Amy Darling, Tyrel Hemsley & Riley Gibson
Jennifer Jay - Facility cleanup, General
Shirley & Richard Odsather - Setup

And a special thanks to: Marsh Lake Tents & Events for doing such a great job with Facility Management; the Kiwanis for helping organize the Kiss the Pig contest; and - Special thanks to Jack Cable, Scott Kent and Larry Bagnell for being our guest speakers!

Special thanks to our key sponsors Lotteries Yukon, the CARD fund, Marsh Lake Tents & Events, Project Yukon, and the City of Whitehorse!

If I have missed anyone I apologize in advance, and ask for your understanding!



Red peppers from John Reid's greenhouse (See story page 2)

RURAL TEAM YUKON

Rural Team Yukon is a partnership among the four levels of government in the Yukon committed to the needs of rural and remote Yukon communities. Through this broad partnership, the Team is acting on its commitment to rural development and working to identify and address the specific community issues and priorities for action in rural Yukon. Rural Team Yukon provides a forum for Team members to share information and develop strategic partnerships related to community priorities in the Yukon. Further, the Team shares information about what each department is doing and explores how government can support rural community development in a more collaborative manner, as a way to ensure:

- more efficient and effective program and service delivery;
- gaps in the existing range of programs and services are identified and addressed;
- strong relationships or networks that can add value to existing initiatives; and
- strengthened relations between all levels of governments to further opportunities for collaboration.

To gain a greater understanding of the challenges and priorities of rural citizens in the Yukon, RTY conducted a survey of 900 citizens. The survey was used to validate and prioritize the 11 priorities in the Federal Framework for Action according specific/local needs. The survey was also used as a basis for discussions at the Yukon Rural Regional Conference, the second in a series of four regional rural conferences.

Based on citizen input from the Yukon Survey and the Rural Regional Conference, Rural Team Yukon developed an Action Plan for 2001-2002. Rural Team Yukon facilitated a number of government partnership initiatives responding to priorities for action that Yukoners identified through the survey and conference. The current activities of the team will continue to address these priorities and will focus on **youth, community partnerships, economic development and increasing awareness of the Canadian Rural Partnership and Rural Team Yukon.**

The Yukon Team has consistently supported projects that improved service to citizens. The Team has been involved in the implementation and delivery of **Service**

Canada and the redesign of the Yukon **Blue Pages**. However, community consultations undertaken by the Team have identified citizens still find it difficult to obtain information about programs and services, particularly in the communities outside of Whitehorse. The Team is supporting the development of a **InfoYukon Directory**, which will feature programs that offer funding particularly those that are unique to the Yukon. The project will bring together information from Federal, Territorial, Municipal and First Nations Governments.

Other partnership arrangements have been made to support various conferences, dialogues and workshops relevant to rural and remote community issues. The Yukon Team have provided support to a **Tourism Conference** (November, 2001) and a **Youth Conference** (February, 2002). The Team also supported Yukon College's **Youth Employment Training Initiative**, which includes a component addressing "Leadership Skills Training". Further, the Team is partnered with an existing organization to bring **E-biz Entrepreneurial workshops** to rural areas.



Ronnigan's greenhouse in behind the Bedrock Motel in Mayo

HORTICULTURE HINTS

Vegetable Storage

With all the heat this year we hope everyone had a bumper garden crop and there is enough produce to store for the months ahead. There are several cost-effective methods for basic home storage of vegetables.

We first printed this article in our fall issue 1991, again Fall 1994 and now Fall 2002 as we feel it this information is very useful.

Suggested temperature, humidity (RH), and maximum storage time for various vegetables follows:

Beans	45°F	85-90%RH	9 days
Beets	32°F	90-95%RH	3 months
Broccoli	32°F	90-95%RH	14 days
Brussel Sprouts	32°F	90-95%RH	14 days
Cabbage	38°F	90-95%RH	4 months
Carrots	32°F	90-95%RH	5 months
Cauliflower	32°F	85-90%RH	3weeks
Celery	32°F	90-95%RH	4 months
Cucumbers	50°F	85-90%RH	3 weeks
Onions	32°F	55-60%RH	8 months
Potatoes	38°F	85-90%RH	8 months
Small Fruits	32°F	85-90%RH	7 days
Squash	60°F	55-60%RH	3 months
Tomatoes (stored on the vine)	60°F	55-60%RH	2 months
Turnips	38°F	90-95%RH	3 months

Root Cellar - can be built large or small; good for long term storage; less messy than indoor storage; cost effective on larger storages requires yard space; not as convenient during winter; high costs on small storages.

Basement (cold room) - most convenient; can be refrigerated; reasonable cost; easy to construct; versatile.

Refrigerator (old one) - convenient; cheap; instant but with limited storage; may fail; poor humidity control; store in plastic bags.

Control of temperature - Temperature is the most critical factor in storing vegetables properly. Temperatures should be accurately monitored (ground level = coolest temperatures) and if the optimum temperature is impossible then strive to maintain a steady level. A simple method useful in the Yukon is to allow cool air to enter the facility at night and to close the area off during the day. A small ventilation fan will make life

easier. Be sure to cool the produce before storing. During the coldest part of the winter you may have to add a little heat to prevent freezing.

Control of humidity - Vegetables need high humidity to store well in most cases. Wet the storage walls and floor before storing. A tub of water with an old blanket will act as a wick and provide moisture. Household humidifiers also work well. Store root crops in perforated plastic bags to allow the vegetables to breath. Storing in damp sand is effective but time consuming.

Control of ventilation - Suggested amount of venting is to allow fresh air in for 5-10 hours per week. Vegetable bins should be slatted and raised off the floor slightly to allow air movement.

Further information on storage and/or blueprints for root cellar design are available at the Agriculture Branch.

AGRICULTURE POLICY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (APF)

With good reason you should all become familiar with the term APF as this agreement will become a cornerstone of the Yukon agriculture industry in years to come. The five-year agreement signed earlier this year between the Federal and Territorial governments is aimed at enhancing, strengthening and expanding the Yukon's agriculture industry. Through the APF the Yukon is allocated an additional \$321,000 per year from the Federal government for agriculture development. This dollar amount is based on a 60/40 split, wherein the Federal Government will provide 60 per cent of the program funding which the Yukon Government will match with an additional 40 per cent in policy framework expenditures. Over the next few months the farming community will be consulted on how to allocate this money. All of the money has to flow through five program elements: food safety; science and innovation; environment; skills training; and risk management. A majority of the funding is to be allocated to a risk management program in the hopes of stabilizing some of the financial risks faced by farmers from unpredictable sources such as the weather. We have also been allocated transition money for the move to the APF August 1, 2003. We are interested in hearing from you on how to best use this funding and hopefully some good discussions will result. If you have any questions regarding the APF please contact Dave Beckman at 667-5287.

WHAT IS THE YUKON MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

This is a program that utilizes trained volunteers to assist home gardeners by providing information and technical data to answer their questions. The program is operating throughout North America and has established itself as a valuable asset in multiplying local gardening educational efforts.

The first Yukon Master Gardener training was initiated in the fall of 1997. The basic training course involves forty hours of instruction and provides a broad background of horticultural subjects to the experienced gardener taking the course. Class subjects include plant botany and physiology, soils, plant taxonomy, outdoor and greenhouse gardening, lawns, house plants, bulbs, herbs, pests and pest control, and ornamentals.

The prerequisites for becoming a Master Gardener include a familiarity with Yukon Gardening conditions and a commitment to return forty hours of volunteer time by providing gardening information to others. After the course of instruction is completed and the student has passed the final exam, then he or she is ready to become a garden educator.

The Agriculture Branch Agrologist together with the Master Gardener determine those volunteer activities that the Master Gardeners participate in. These may include garden clinics, home garden visits, teaching basic gardening classes, working with youth and adult groups interested in gardening, writing newspaper articles, and answering phone inquiries at the branch office during the absence of the agent. The community needs and facilities will help to determine the most effective teaching methods.

Master Gardeners have also contributed time as fair judges and volunteers and have worked with horticulture therapy projects and with youth and adult groups.

How to Express an Interest to Take the 2003 Master Gardener Course

Last years course was held over five straight week days at Yukon College. Other options include two nights a week over eight weeks or three consecutive weekends. Please indicate your course time preference when registering your expression of interest. The course will be offered in the time frame most requested by the participants.

This years course is scheduled to take place in the winter of 2003.

To register please fill out and return the insert in this newsletter to YTG, Energy, Mines and Resources, Agriculture Branch, 10 Burns Road; Phone 667-5838; Fax 393-6222.

This will be a certificate course with a final exam to be written on the last day. The cost of registration includes the Yukon Gardeners Manual, various written handouts and 40 hours instruction. **Space is limited to 25 persons**, so please contact the Agriculture Branch soon.



Irene Hutton shows off her ugly tomatoes
(See story page 2)

*We're seeking your nomination for the
2002 "Farmer of the Year" award.*

*The deadline for nominations
is October 28, 2002!*

Details on page 11.

**YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
CANADIAN ADAPTATION AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (CARD) FUND**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada's \$60 million-per-year CARD fund was initiated in 1995 to foster the increased long-term growth, employment and competitiveness of Canada's agricultural and agri-food industry and agricultural rural areas. The Yukon Agricultural Association CARD Committee (YAACC) is responsible for the administration of the Yukon's CARD fund allocation. The YAACC was established in 1997-98 to foster and promote sustainable agriculture in the Yukon through the use of new technology, better farming practices, new products and marketing opportunities, skills development and better environmental practices.

Funding is currently available to support Yukon agricultural projects from 50 to 75 percent of the total project costs. The YAACC is soliciting proposals from communities, producer groups or individuals in the following areas:

1. Agricultural projects related to the CARD priority areas of research/innovation, human resource capacity building, capturing market opportunities, food safety and quality and rural development. Examples of such projects include:
 - a) Research studies to investigate methods for increasing Yukon crop yields or to determine the feasibility of growing new types of crops in the Yukon.
 - b) Training opportunities to increase knowledge of Yukon agriculture through courses, workshops and seminars.
 - c) Marketing studies to identify and evaluate potential markets for existing and new Yukon agricultural products.
 - d) Community initiatives such as the establishment of community farmers markets, market gardens and root cellars for vegetable storage.

2. Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI): Agricultural projects that address the regional impacts of agricultural practices on water, soil, and air quality, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions.

Interested communities, groups or individuals involved in Yukon agriculture are invited to submit proposals to the address below. For more information or to request an application package, please contact:

Deborah Cassidy
Executive Director, YAACC
Yukon Agricultural Association
203 – 302 Steele Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C5
Tel.: (867) 668-6864
Fax: (867) 393-3566
E-mail: yukonag@internorth.com

Valerie Whelan
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
c/o YTG Agriculture Branch K14
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
P.O. Box 2703
Tel.: (867) 667-5272
Fax: (867) 393-6222
E-mail: whelanva@agr.gc.ca

**The deadline for receipt of proposals is 4:00 p.m.
October 4, 2002.**



Peppers grown in the Little Salmon/Carmacks FN greenhouse

CHANGES TO THE YUKON HIGHWAYS REGULATIONS TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 4, 2002

A Message from Jennie Howie, Director Transport Services Branch, Department of Infrastructure

The Yukon government has approved changes to the Yukon Highways Regulations that support the Yukon Highways Act. The revised Regulations will take effect November 4, 2002 and may affect your business. I would like to draw your attention to some of the changes that are contained in the new Regulations, specifically:

- Weigh station reporting distance has increased from 15 km to 20 km.
- Vehicles weights and dimensions have been harmonized to the greatest degree possible with neighbouring jurisdictions of British Columbia and Alberta
- The weight limits for some vehicle configurations have changed to reflect the national Memorandum of Understanding on Vehicles, Weights and Dimensions. The weight limits have been set at:
 - 53,500 kgs for A-trains (a decrease to harmonize with AB and BC). The new Regulations also contain a provision to allow a higher weight limit of 58,500 kgs for the next two years;
 - 63,500 kgs for B-Trains (an increase of 1,000 kgs over the MOU to be consistent with limits established in AB and BC);
 - 60,500 kgs for C-trains (an increase to harmonize with AB and BC);
 - 57,400 kgs for truck-full trailer combinations (an increase to be more consistent with adjacent jurisdictions);
 In all cases Yukon's new weight limits are equal to the Memorandum of Understanding or establish a higher weight limit.
- In two years, lift axles will no longer be recognized as a load-bearing axle when calculating the legal weight of the load. This change will come into effect in November 2004.
- New limits have been established for inter-axle spacing that are consistent with B.C. and Alberta.
- Markings on oversized (over dimensional) vehicles have been changed to allow the use of a "D" sign, a "wide load" sign or an "oversize" sign.
- Pilot cars (escort vehicles) and oversized loads greater than 3.2m wide will be authorized to move during period of darkness on specific Yukon

highways. This change is consistent with practices in neighbouring jurisdictions.

- Permit fees for overdimensional and overweight loads have increased.
- Overweight and overdimension offenses have been included in the Summary Conviction Regulations and tickets will be issued for these offenses based on the fine levels identified in the Summary Conviction Regulations.
- Limits have been established to address the allowable maximum number of direct road accesses onto Yukon highways. A new provision has been added on highway frontage roads to address situations where public safety would be jeopardized if direct road access were permitted.
- Permit fees have increased for work within a highway right-of-way and for construction of an access to a highway.
- Additional designated highways have been added to the list on which livestock at large are not permitted.
- Abandoned vehicles left for more than 72 hours on a highway will be moved by a peace officer.

Please contact Mary Harris at Queen's Printer (867) 667-5783; Fax: (867) 393-6210; E-Mail: mary.harris@gov.yk.ca to request a complete set of the revised Highways Regulations and Summary Conviction Regulations for a nominal fee. You can also view the new regulations online at www.gov.yk.ca/transportation.

If you have questions or comments regarding the new Regulations please contact by phone at 667-5832; toll free from communities at 1-800-661-0408 local 5832, or email highway.regulations@gov.yk.ca. Briefings on the new Regulations can also be arranged through my office.

FALL FERTILIZING TIPS

Pure grass stands

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient in pure grass stands. Proper fertility can easily double the yields of N-deficient grass stands. Provincial recommendations suggest 90 to 100 pounds per acre of N when soil moisture is good and forage process are high, although soil testing should be used to confirm requirements.

Ammonium nitrate (34-0-0) is the preferred source of nitrogen for hay crops because it's about 20 percent more effective than urea (46-0-0) as a fertilizer source. Urea is not as effective because some of the nitrogen is "gassed off" and lost to the atmosphere in a process called volatilization. Urea losses can be reduced if applied immediately before a rain or a snowfall that dissolves the product and moves it into the soil. Decisions to use urea versus ammonium nitrate must also consider pricing and availability as urea usually costs less and is more readily available than ammonium nitrate.

Early spring applications of nitrogen are only about five percent more effective than applications made in the early fall, which must be weighted against time savings in the spring.

Although not as critical as N, productive grass stands also need P, K and S. Soil tests will help identify crop needs, but general provincial recommendations suggest 20 to 30 pounds per acre P_2O_5 and 30 to 60 pounds per acre K_2O on sandy or organic soils, and 15 pounds per acre S which may be applied in the fall or early spring.

*Source: Dave Kelner, Grainews, July 1999
- adapted with permission*

PFRA SHELTERBELT TREE PROGRAM

This is a reminder that there is a shelterbelt tree program in the Yukon. The deadline for PFRA shelterbelt tree applications is February 2003. The trees and shrub seedlings are available free of charge, however you will be responsible for paying the shipping costs.

Standard shipping by bus varies from 10 to 25 cents a tree, depending on the varieties and volume requested. Orders usually arrive in the Yukon in May. Applications can be picked up at the Agriculture Branch.



William and Elaine Hummel grow giant broccoli in Mayo

SURVEY OF YUKON HORSE OWNERS

JUST A HEAD'S UP...

The Agriculture Branch is working with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to run a survey of horse owners in the Yukon. Current planning is to mail out the survey in late October and follow up if necessary with telephone contact in November. The Agriculture Branch is interested in getting better, more complete information on the number of horses in the Yukon and horse owners thoughts on Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.), more commonly known as "swamp fever". The Agriculture Branch is also interested in finding out about horse feed consumption in the Yukon – imported versus local buy patterns and preferences. So please keep your eyes open for a letter from YTG and help us by filling out the form and mailing it back in the postage paid, enclosed envelope. A report on the survey results should be available early in the New Year.

EQUINE AGING AND EXERCISE

Just when does a horse get old? At what age should you start treating your horse like a senior? What can be done to increase the longevity, vigor and strength of a horse?

These questions and more were answered in a very informative presentation by Karyn Malinowski, Ph.D., a professor and extension specialist in equine science and director of the Equine Science Center, Rutgers University, New Jersey, at the 2002 Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference, held in Red Deer this past January.

Dr. Malinowski and her team, Cynthia Betros, Elsa Schock, Vivien Roegner, Charles Kearns and Kenneth McKeever, undertook a 12-week study to research aging in horses.

"The wonderful fact this research brought to light is that at 15-years of age, our horses are not old," says Malinowski. "With properly controlled diet and regular exercise, horses in the 15-year plus age group can still be enjoying an active healthy life."

In the study, 18 Standardbred mares of varying ages were exercised for 12 weeks. Three groups of horses were formed, having average ages of 7, 15 and 27.

"The middle-aged mares in our test group reached the same levels of aerobic performance as the younger mares. The oldest mares, however, did not have the capability to sustain the intensity of exercise compared with the younger animals," adds Malinowski. "The older mares did improve over the course of exercise, and they

also secreted more endorphin than the two younger groups. Endorphins are naturally produced substances that have a pain-killing effect in the body. In other words, their more active daily regimen had other beneficial side-effects for these older horses."

Before the horses were included in this study, the following physical factors were checked: weight, dentition, pituitary, thyroid, kidney and liver function. The horses were put on a diet suited to their age group. The older horse's diet included slightly more protein, 12 per cent. Their diet also contained phosphorous and calcium.

"Older horses can have more delicate digestive systems, and some of the horses in the study were given their food as a 'soup'," says Malinowski. "The soup was measured out at one-half gallon of water per pound of food. This ensured that the horse was taking in adequate water and their caloric consumption was increased. When working with an older horse, it's also recommended to compensate for environmental conditions, such as extreme heat or cold. In these conditions, older horses should receive 125 per cent of the national recommended consumption of vitamins and minerals."

The exercise regimen for the three test groups consisted of a five-minute warm-up; 15 minutes of exercise of sufficient intensity to raise their heart rate to 60 per cent; 15 minutes of exercise of sufficient intensity to keep their heart rate at the 60 per cent mark; and, five minutes cool down. The effects after 12 weeks of this exercise training showed that while the older age group did not have the same maximal aerobic capacity, they were able to raise their air intake and oxygen use considerably. Older horses do have the capacity to get fit and along with that increased fitness came overall health improvements.

"The most remarkable changes came in the middle-aged group of horses. They were able to increase their air intake and their maximum heart rate to almost the same level as the five-year old horses," says Malinowski. "This study showed that at age 15, horses may be in their middle years, but they are not old and should be exercised and worked to keep them in top physical condition."

The Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference is an annual event held each January. Dates for the next conference are January 10 to 12, 2003. Contact Burwash at (403) 948-8541.

Source: Alberta Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Agri-News; July 29, 2002

Nominate the Yukon Farmer of the Year

The Yukon Agriculture Branch is looking
for your nominee for the annual
“Farmer of the Year” award for 2002.

These are some things to consider when submitting your nomination:

- What has your nominee done this year to be outstanding in their field?
- Did your nominee actively participate in community or farm organizations?
- Did your nominee demonstrate good farm management skills?
- Has your nominee used new and innovative ideas on their farm or agri-business operations?
- Is your nominee generally acknowledged and accepted by peers to run a sound farm operation?
- What percentage of your nominee’s business is involved in Yukon agriculture?
- Did your nominee make any specific contribution of achievement to Yukon agriculture this year?

We will accept only written nominations, including facsimiles and e-mails. Please clearly identify yourself on your submission.

You may drop off your nomination to the Agriculture Branch office at 10 Burns Road in Whitehorse; fax it to 393-6222, or e-mail it to marylynn.drul@gov.yk.ca.

The nomination deadline is 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 28, 2002.

The award presentation will take place on November 2, 2002 at the 15th Annual North of 60 Agriculture banquet at the Gold Rush Inn.

For more information call 667-5838 or toll free call 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5838.

WORLD'S LARGEST OMELETTE

Volunteers from the Brockville, Ontario Area Lung Association cooked the world's largest omelette on May 11 – and will be recognized in the Guinness Book of Records, the Highlighter reports.

People purchased empty egg cartons, with a certificate specifying that the eggs would be used in the history-making omelette, and the funds collected went to the Lung Association.

The project was an engineering and culinary marvel because no one involved had ever tried anything on this scale. The anticipated cooking time of two hours stretched to six hours before the 1,522-square-foot omelette was ready to eat. But, "You can't eat it until it's ready," noted one of the organizers, and to qualify for the record it had to be edible.

The eggs, all 46,000 of them, were donated by Burnbrae Farms Limited, and the Lung Association raised \$12,000. Joe Hudson, president of Burnbrae, noted that "We'd be a lot better at it the next time, but I think it's a once-in-a-lifetime deal. This is not likely to become the next craze."

Want the recipe? Get 10 volunteer chefs and add 300 lbs. each of tomatoes and onions and 160 lbs. of green peppers to the 46,000 eggs. Cook slowly, stir often and be patient.

*Source: Canadian Poultry, 2002
- reprinted with permission*

FOR SALE

Looking for larger set of breaking disks.
Please contact Keith & Sonia Hepner
Box 2 Site 2
Elsa, YT
Phone: (867)995-3107
Fax: (867)995-3110



This space is available to Yukon farmers and producers to buy, sell or trade farm products, equipment or services.

The following conditions apply:

- No dealer or commercial trader listings are permitted;
- Listings will be limited to two issues per request; and
- The Agriculture Branch does not assume responsibility for transactions effected through the use of InFARMation.

TO ALL REGISTERED BRAND OWNERS

We now have the Yukon Brands Registry in database format. It is possible that some of the brands are no longer in use and/or the animals branded with that brand are no longer alive.

We would appreciate you checking with Mary Lynn at the Agriculture Branch to see if your information is correct. Mary Lynn can be contacted by phone at 667-5838; toll free from communities outside Whitehorse at 1-800-661-0408, local 5838; or by e-mail marylynn.drul@gov.yk.ca. You are also welcome to stop by our office at 10 Burns Road to speak with Mary Lynn in person.

InFARMation is...

A Yukon Government newsletter published by the Agriculture Branch at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. If you would like to add your name to the newsletter mailing list, comment on an article or contribute a story, then please write to:

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Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Agriculture Branch
Box 2703 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867)667-3417
Fax: (867)393-6222
Email: tony.hill@gov.yk.ca

If you would like to speak with someone in person please contact Tony Hill at 867-667-3417, outside of Whitehorse at 1-800-661-0408 local 3417, or stop by the Agriculture Branch, we are located at 10 Burns Road.