

# InFARMation

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

Fall 2004

Volume 17 Issue 3



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## Message From the Agriculture Branch

*Hi Folks. Well the summer of 2004 has gone by very quickly. It may go down as one of the hottest on record, as well as one of the driest. There were some outstanding hay, vegetable, and grain crops this year because of favourable growing conditions, but it certainly required added water to obtain the high yields.*

*As many of you are aware we are in the process of reviewing the 1991 Agriculture Policy. The Government of Yukon has released a document "Revising the Yukon Agriculture Policy" which is now available for review and comment. There is currently a round of public consultation taking place. A revised Agriculture Policy will be drafted based on input and comments from the consultation. It is planned to have a new policy in place by early 2005. If you wish to obtain a copy of the consultation document please call the Agriculture Branch at 867-667-5838, toll free at 1-800-661-0408, or check the website [www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture).*

*I am also pleased to announce that the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program is now available to Yukon farmers. This program is designed to protect farmers from serious income losses and thus offer income stabilization. It is a cost shared program between the Government of Yukon and Canada. The deadline for applying for the 2003 and 2004 production seasons is November 30, 2004. Please contact the Agriculture Branch for more information or you can call the CAIS office in Winnipeg at 1-866-367-8506. The CAIS office in Winnipeg is administering the program for the Agriculture Branch.*

*On a final note, the Agriculture Branch is please to welcome Denis Lacroix as Agriculture Research Technician to our staff. Denis is working with us for the fall and winter as Matthew Ball is attending the University of British Columbia to obtain his Masters Degree in Soil Chemistry.*

*Hope you have a great fall and don't forget to put the November 6<sup>th</sup> Agriculture Branch Conference and Banquet on your calendar.*

*David Beckman, Director*

*Annual North of 60<sup>o</sup> Agriculture Conference will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Masonic Hall*

## Help Us Update the Yukon's Agriculture Policy

There is still time to give us your thoughts on proposed changes to the Yukon Agriculture Policy. The policy is being updated and revised through a consultation process to reflect new challenges facing the Yukon's Agriculture industry.

"The Yukon Agriculture Policy was first introduced in 1991 and although it has served us well, it is now time to make some changes that will help us face new challenges and take advantage of many new opportunities," Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang said.

The existing policy, *Agriculture for the 90's*, was put in place to address the key issues facing the agriculture industry at the time, which centered on land availability and industry support.

Topics being discussed in the review include agricultural land pricing; subdivision of agricultural land; length of agreements for sale; utilization of agricultural land; and land use planning.

"The public review process will build on the work done through the 1999 evaluation and recent industry studies. The new policy will address some program opportunities that came about through the Agricultural Policy Framework agreement that we have with the federal government as well," Lang added.

The issue of the management of game farms or game farm animals will not be addressed in this consultation process. Game farms in the Yukon are managed and regulated through the *Wildlife Act*, the Game Farming Regulations and the Game Farming Policy and are separate from the agriculture policy.

Copies of the Agriculture Policy Review Paper are available from the Agriculture Branch, third floor of the Elijah Smith building or the main information desk of the Yukon government administration building in Whitehorse. Electronic copies of the policy review paper are also available online at [www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture).

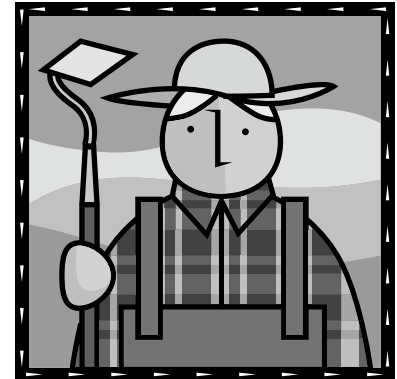
For additional information call the Agriculture Branch at (867) 776-5838 or toll free from the communities 1-800- 661-0408 ext. 5838.

**DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS SEPTEMBER 30.**

## Nominations Sought for the Yukon 'Farmer of the Year' Award

Our annual fall conference is on the horizon and the Agriculture Branch is now calling for nominations for the 2004 Farmer (or Farm Family) of the Year.

The award will be presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual agriculture banquet November 6 at the Masonic Hall in Whitehorse.



Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Agriculture Branch with a brief explanation of why the candidate(s) are worthy of the award.

Criteria may include a significant contribution to agriculture development in the Yukon; development of an agri-business; assistance to the future of agriculture in the Yukon; good farm management practices; or any other reason you feel your candidate should be chosen.

The deadline for nominations is 4:00 p.m. November 3. All nominations must be in writing and signed by the nominator(s).

Take some time and think about the many people you know that have made a contribution to agriculture in the Yukon over the past year.

Submit your nomination by fax 393-6222, by email to [marylynn.drul@gov.yk.ca](mailto:marylynn.drul@gov.yk.ca), or hand deliver it to the Agriculture Branch Room 320 in the Elijah Smith Building, Whitehorse.

**Don't Miss "The ABC's of Local Organic Farming" the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference**



The 17<sup>th</sup> annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference will be held in Whitehorse November 6. This year's theme is "The ABC's of Local Organic Farming". The Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GOOFY) have been working throughout the summer with the Agriculture Branch to organize the conference agenda and a banquet of locally produced organic foods to close the conference Saturday night.

**Kathleen Kneen**, the editor of BC Organic Grower and coordinator of the BC Food Systems network, which links people involved in community-based action and advocacy for sustainable, equitable food systems, will be making a presentation on "Why Buy Local?" This topic is particularly relevant to all Yukon producers, but will also be interesting for consumers, processors and urban gardeners as well.

**Rochelle Eisen** is also coming back to the Yukon for the conference. Rochelle used to inspect Yukon farms for organic certification back in the mid 90's, before there were any local people trained to do the job. For the past couple of years Rochelle has been running "Cyber-Help For Organic Farmers" through the Certified Organic Association of BC. She will provide an entertaining presentation on cyber-help and computer links that connect the industry.

GOOFY will bring delegates up to speed on the local organic farming industry and some of the opportunities and challenges of organic farming north of 60°. Topics will include Community Supported Agriculture; production share systems currently in place; labour issues facing the industry; and the different types of organic production taking place in the Yukon, from livestock to field crops and vegetable production.

This closing banquet will take place at the Masonic Hall, and takes on a new twist this year with locally produced, organic foods prepared by gourmet chef Mary-El Kerr.

Fare for the banquet includes organic pork, beef, turkey and pot-hole lake raised arctic char, locally produced, fresh salad greens, a variety of vegetables, cheese, honey and eggs.

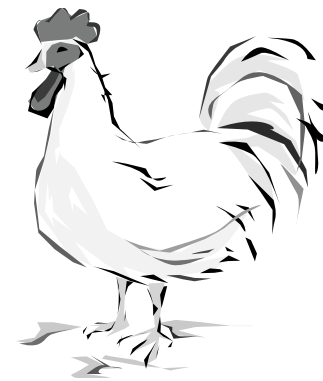
Of course, Dave Beckman will MC, with corn-ball jokes and Yukon agriculture trivia. The Farmer of the Year award will be presented, followed by a power-point presentation on the circumpolar conference in Sweden.

Seating will be limited in the Masonic Hall so book your tickets early by calling Marylynn at 667-5838.



**Food Safe - Transportation Incentive Program**

The Yukon Agriculture Branch is once again pleased to announce that funding under the APF is available to both beef and poultry producers to assist them in transporting animals to the abattoir located at Partridge Creek Farm. Producers can call (867) 996-2068 to discuss processing of animals.



With this program, and the increased use of the abattoir, the Yukon is taking steps to ensure that locally grown products are as safe as possible for consumers.

For more information on how to participate in this program call the Yukon Agricultural Association at (867) 668-6864. Deadline for submissions is December 15.

## Attention Farmers

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program is now available in the Yukon. By participating in CAIS, you will be protecting yourself from both small and large declines in farm income.

For information on how to join the CAIS program for 2003 and 2004, contact the CAIS Administration at **1-866-367-8506**, or visit the Web site at [www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram)

The deadline to join the program for 2003 and 2004 is November 30, 2004. Please contact the Administration well in advance of the deadline as we must obtain information about your farm business for you to join CAIS.

**CAIS Administration**  
P.O. Box 3200 Station Main  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 5R7  
Fax Number: (204) 983-3947

## Avis aux producteurs

Le Programme canadien de stabilisation du revenu agricole (PCSRA) est maintenant offert au Yukon. En participant au PCSRA, vous vous protégez contre les baisses importantes ou non de revenu agricole.

Pour obtenir des renseignements sur la façon d'adhérer au PCSRA pour 2003 et 2004, veuillez communiquer avec l'administration du PCSRA au **1-866-367-8506**, ou consulter son site Web à l'adresse suivante: [www.agr.gc.ca/pcsra](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pcsra)

La date limite d'inscription au programme pour 2003 et 2004 est le 30 novembre 2004. Veuillez communiquer avec l'administration bien avant la date limite puisque nous devons obtenir des renseignements sur votre exploitation agricole afin que vous puissiez participer au PCSRA.

**Administration du PCSRA**  
C.P. 3200, succ. Main  
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 5R7  
Télécopieur : (204) 983-3947



## Yukon Delegates to Attend 5<sup>th</sup> Circumpolar Agriculture Conference in Umea, Sweden

A delegation of 16 Yukoners will be attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Circumpolar Agriculture Conference in Umea, Sweden Sept. 27-30. Thirteen delegates received funding through the Science & Innovation Chapter of the Canada Yukon Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) Agreement.

Delegates include representatives from the White River First Nation and the Aboriginal Women's Council; Youth representatives and a chaperone from the Watson Lake 4-H club; Pelly River Farm; Aurora Mountain Farm; Yukon Organic Growers Association; Yukon Agricultural Association; Yukon Game Growers Association; and Yukon Gardens.

Delegates from the Yukon are providing a number of oral and poster presentations to the conference on topics including traditional use of country foods; community supported agriculture; nursery propagation of native trees; historical role of



agriculture in the Central Yukon; 4-H activities; and best management practices for Yukon crop production. Reports and presentations on the conference and information exchange will be available to Yukon agriculturalists after delegates return to the Yukon.

For more information on the Circumpolar Agriculture Association, visit the web site [www.svs.is/caa](http://www.svs.is/caa).

## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL KLONDYKE HARVEST FAIR NOMINEES

### BEST GARDEN COMPETION 2004

#### HOMEGROUNDS:

- 1st Bev Wheldon
- 2nd Patty Toole & Brian Langevin
- 3rd Irene Kwok

#### GREENHOUSES:

- 1st Patty Toole & Brian Langevin
- 2nd Dorothy Burke

#### VEGETABLE GARDENS:

- 1ST David & Jane Wiebe
- 2nd Teresa Lindsey
- 3rd (tied) Sandra Pryor / Eva Steheln

### AGGREGATE SECTION WINNERS

#### VEGETABLES

- Sr. (tied) Kathy Kruse / Roy Ness
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff



Photo submitted by Edward Lee

#### FLOWERS'S AND PLANTS

- Sr. Jane Wiebe
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff

#### TRADITIONAL NATIVE CRAFTS

- Sr. June Bruton

#### PRESERVED FOODS

- Sr. Judy Lightening
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff

#### HOME BAKING

- Sr. Sherie Walker
- Jr. Alan Lebedoff

#### QUILTING

- Joanne Love



Photo submitted by Yukon Agriculture Association

#### KNITTING

- Judy McCarthy

#### CROCHETING

- Bev Wheldon

#### HOMADE WINE & LIQUEURS

- Tulio Albertini

#### BEST LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

- Sr. Jim Dillabough

#### PET COSTUME CONTEST

- Sr. Judy Ligthening
- Jr. Alya Graham

#### RECYCLED CREATIONS

- Sr. Karen Berrel

#### SCARECROW CONTEST

- Sr. McCauley Lodge

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

- Sr. Dianna Malloy
- Jr. Jennessa Tlen
- Overall Ruth Thorn

#### COLORING CONTEST

- Age 4-6 Jamie McLeish
- Age 7-9 Hailey White
- Age10-12 Nicola Brenda

#### GRAND AGGREGATE – Dorothy Burke

- 1st Runner-up – Jane Wiebe
- 2nd Runner-up – Judy Lightening

#### JUNIOR AGGREGATE – Alan Lebedoff

- 1st Runner-up – Wesley Walker

## WATSON LAKE FALL FAIR

Watson Lake's Fall Fair was very well attended with a greater number of exhibitors yet fewer exhibits than previous years - certainly attributable to this summer's unusual warm and dry weather. Patti McLeod of Watson Lake has submitted the results of the 2004 entries.



Photo provided by Randy Lamb: MMM! Fresh Delicious Veggies.

### Adults:

#### GRAND AGGREGGATE

- |     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 1st | John & Jenny Skelton       |
| 2nd | Joe Thompson & Nancy Moore |
| 3rd | Johanna Nugent             |

BEST PUMPKIN - Johanna Nugent

### Kids (0-12yrs):

#### GRAND AGGREGGATE

- |     |                 |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | Vanessa Carlson |
| 2nd | Jason Carlson   |

BEST PUMPKIN -  
Taran Nugent



Photo provided by Randy Lamb:  
This year's Prized pumkins.



## New Program Offers On-Line Organic Education

Organic agriculture uses an understanding of biological processes instead of chemical inputs.

This understanding can be difficult for people who were trained in a different style of management. Learning by experience can be slow and costly.

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada has responded to this need by developing a collection of web-based courses leading to a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture.

Web-based courses offer students the opportunity to learn from a broad range of experts without leaving their farms, jobs or families.

Students interact with faculty and other students across the country. A mix of farm-based students and university level science keeps the courses grounded in reality while providing a solid knowledge base.



Classes are available for credit at a second year university level. To obtain the certificate from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, a student must take at least four courses for credit (at least two from NSAC) and obtain at least a 60 percent average. People who do not wish to do assignments or take exams, but are still interested in the information and discussions, are welcome to register as non-credit students. Farmers, organic and conventional, are particularly encouraged to participate.

A variety of organic courses are available, including five offered through NSAC and one through each of the universities of Manitoba, British Columbia, Guelph and Saskatchewan. Four courses will be offered this fall and five in the winter.

## Evapotranspiration!?

Humans perspire: Plants transpire. Evapotranspiration is the evaporation of water through a plant's leaves and stems. Water vapors dissipate primarily through stomata which are sophisticated pores located on leaf surfaces. As water evaporates from these pores, a pull is created allowing for roots to absorb more water. This is somewhat analogous to using a straw to drink water. A plant that droops or wilts throughout the course of the day is losing more water than it is taking in...an obvious sign that it needs a drink! This is also the reasoning behind cutting back some of the foliage when dividing plants. By reducing the total leaf surface area, you allow the root system to establish itself without giving the plant the additional stress of having to send copious amounts of water to the above ground structures.

Evapotranspiration is necessary to plants' survival. Water movement cools the plant and is the driving force behind the transport of essential nutrients. This process also maintains turgor which is the water pressure preventing the plant from collapsing. Evapotranspiration is also crucial to a plant's survival because as water vapors are 'sucked' out of the stomata, a void is created for CO<sub>2</sub> to come in, allowing the plant to breathe and photosynthesize. The rate of transpiration is also not constant. It is much more rapid during

**Q: Why did the Algae take a 'Lichen' to the Mushroom?**

**A: Because he's a 'Fungi'**



the daytime, when there is low ambient humidity, high temperatures, as well as windy conditions. The reverse is also observed: evapotranspiration rates slow down when soils are dry and when temperatures are colder.

When soils are too moist and the air is too humid, the transpired water is not necessarily evaporated.

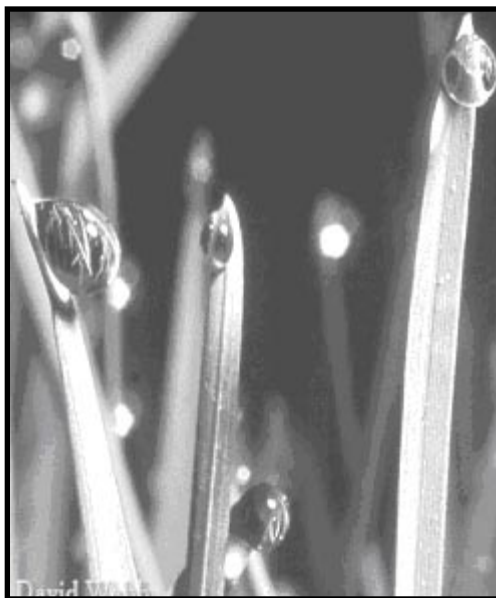


Photo: Guttation on tips of grass blades. By David Webb  
[www.botany.hawaii.edu/.../GuttationClose.jpg](http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/.../GuttationClose.jpg)

This is often noted on muggy, windless mornings when drops of water can be observed hanging from the tips of leaves or grass blades. This specific process known as guttation, via specialized structures called hydathodes, is the result of plants reducing their internal water pressure. Such morning sights are often mistaken for dew or deposition.

Adapted from: Therese Ciensinski's article 'Transpiration' in the August/September 2004 Issue of *Organic Gardening*.

### **Did You Know? Some Bacteria That Live on Leaf Surfaces Increase Frost Damage**

When leaves are cooled to temperatures in the -3 to -5°C range, the formation of ice crystals on the surface (frost) is accelerated by certain bacteria that naturally inhabit the leaf surface, such as *Pseudomonas syringae* and *Erwinia herbicola*, which act as ice nucleators.

**Source:** Lindow, SE *et al.* (1982) Bacterial Ice Nucleation: A Factor in Frost Injury to Plants. *Plant Physiol.* 70:1084-1089.

## Are you interested in joining 4-H?



The Whitehorse 4-H Multi-Club is ready to begin a new season this fall and we are looking for new members and leaders. 4-H Club projects from last season included horses, model airplanes and leatherwork. Projects from previous years have included dogs, llamas, pigs and sewing. If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please contact Tracy Bowers at (867) 633-8416.

## Traditional Herbal Cucumber Juice for a Fever



Finely chopped cucumbers  
Sea salt to taste  
Pinch of dill or ground celery seeds (optional)  
Add salt to cucumbers.  
Let stand 1-2 hours.  
Strain and add herbs, if using.  
Take 1-2 teaspoons every 2 hours.

### InFARMation is...

A Yukon government newsletter published by the Agriculture Branch of 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:

#### InFARMation

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](mailto:tony.hill@gov.yk.ca)

Or call Tony Hill at 867-667-3417, outside of Whitehorse at 1-800-661-0408 local 3417.

We are located in the Elijah Smith building, Room 320. Stop by for a visit anytime.

Web site: [www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture)

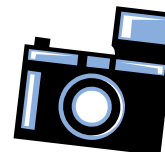
## Classifieds



**CUSTOM LAND  
CLEARING:**  
All Seasons. Ph 667-7844

**OAT BUNDLES FOR  
SALE:**  
Call 668-6742

## Photo Contest



Get out your camera this summer ... we are holding a photo contest for the best Yukon Agriculture Photo. The deadline for submissions is October 13, 2004. The winner will be announced at the Agriculture Banquet in early November. The winner and runners up will be showcased at the Banquet. Prizes will be announced in the fall addition of InFARMation. Bring your photos into our office on the third floor of the Elijah Smith building in Room 320 or,

Mail your photos to:  
Agriculture Photo Contest  
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources  
Agriculture Branch K-320  
Box 2703 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

**Q: What did the father  
buffalo say to his son on the  
first day of school?**

**A: Bison**