

# INFARMATION

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

Winter 2012

Volume 25 Issue 4

## STEVE & BONNIE MACKENZIE-GRIEVE AWARDED FARMERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2012

Every fall, the Agriculture Branch solicits nominations from the farming community for a farmer or farmers that have made exceptional contributions to the agriculture sector over the past twelve months. This year two nominations were received and, as usual, they were both well deserved. The two nominees are vastly different on scale, but are both exceptional at accomplishing the same goal: providing high quality local food to Yukoners.

The runner up this year was an urban gardener with a long history of carrot production and participation in the Whitehorse Farmers markets of earlier days – Gertie Girouard. Hers is a story that would inspire any gardener and speaks to food security in Yukon in the ways it was done before there was an agriculture industry, modern transportation infrastructure or big box stores.

Gertie grows a garden on Klondike Road. Her nominator speaks of Gertie as an asset to the City and one that should be recognized for the pride she takes in producing her crop.

Although her production is small, it's always been more than she needs and provides quality food for others. If we all did that we would be closer to being self-sufficient.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS: STEVE & BONNIE MACKENZIE-GRIEVE

The Yukon Grain Farm has been in production for twelve years and is now one of the most successful farming operations in the North. This year, however, Steve and Bonnie went above and beyond their already high standard.



Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers congratulates Steve and Bonnie MacKenzie-Grieve at this fall's North of 60° Banquet.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE AGRICULTURE BRANCH

Season's greetings! As usual, the past year brought a full slate of events in the Yukon agriculture sector and it's time to reflect on a few of those milestones.

Starting back in January, the Agriculture Branch held a facilitated visioning workshop to help guide the development of programs to be offered under the next Growing Forward Policy Framework Agreement. Participants were asked to envision what they wanted the agriculture industry to look like 10-15 years from now and to consider the programming needed to get there. The Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee took the results of the workshop and spent the remainder of 2012 revising the programs offered under Growing Forward and crafting the new programs to be offered starting in April 2013.

The story of the summer was that summer was really late getting here. May was cold, but June (uary) seemed even colder, all leading up to the frostiest July 1st weekend we've ever seen. That weekend was a bit of a setback for vegetable producers, but eventually the weather did improve and overall

production didn't suffer too much. The other big event in May was the release of the Census of Agriculture Statistics in Yukon and across Canada. Farm numbers and sales were down a bit in Yukon from five years ago and as if to emphasise the point, Yukon's only bison farm sold their herd to a farm in Saskatchewan in June. That leaves only a handful of elk producers in the game farm industry. The silver lining in all this was the organization of the Yukon Young Farmers group, the next generation of Yukon farmers looking for opportunities and meeting the challenges of farming north of 60°.

In August, after many years and a generation of effort, the Yukon Agriculture Association signed a lease for 65 ha. of crown land zoned for agriculture and grazing just north of Jim Dillabough's farm on the North Klondike Highway. Plans are underway for community infrastructure that will sustain the industry and increase food security as the industry develops.

In September, Yukon agriculture was showcased when we hosted the annual meeting of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture

from across Canada, in Whitehorse. This was a great time of year to show Ministers our farms and farm products. The meeting was productive, with agreement being reached on the policy framework for the next Growing Forward agreement, now commonly referred to by the Canadian agriculture industry as the "Whitehorse Agreement."

Finally, in November, the Agriculture Branch celebrated 25 years of service to the agriculture industry in Yukon including our 25th anniversary issue of this newsletter and our 25th annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference and Banquet. The banquet was a great celebration of Yukon food, friends from 25 years ago, the return of the live auction for charity, live music and the well deserved Farmer of the Year Award for 2012 that went to Steve & Bonnie Mackenzie-Grieve.

All-in-all, a pretty good year. From all of us at the Agriculture Branch, we wish you a festive break over the Christmas season and all the best in the New Year.

Tony Hill  
Director, Agriculture Branch

## Farmer of the Year

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They were involved in the From the Ground Up, a healthy choice fundraiser in two local schools this year. Students sold boxes of fresh Yukon Grain Farm vegetables with 50% of the proceeds going to the schools and 50% to the farm. An initiative of the Health Promotion Unit of Health and Social Services, the program was a win-win for everyone:

- the Grain Farm sold vegetables and employed people,
- the Health Promotion Unit shared information on healthy eating,
- the schools easily raised money for school projects; and
- families learned that it was possible to support Yukon agriculture by buying fresh, nutritious food from Yukon farmers.

In the words of one nominator:

*Steve and Bonnie were willing to make it work and insured that all orders were filled. They were diligent in their attention to detail and strive for the very best products that they give out to the community. They have very high expectations for their produce and only provide top quality; this was apparent in the vegetables they provided for the Healthy Choice Fundraiser Campaign.*

Steve and Bonnie were also the first Yukon farmers to implement the Canada GAP program developed by the Canadian Horticulture Council. GAP or Good Agricultural Practices, is an on-farm food safety program for companies that produce, pack or store fruits or vegetables on farm. To become certified in this program you must train staff, document procedures and follow a rigorous hazard analysis approach. Your

processes are audited by a third party who visits your operation, reviews your records, inspects your facilities, interviews your staff and assesses your conformance to the program.

GAP is a process that applies equally to organic or conventional operations to provide consumers with assurance that the products they receive are safe and attest to the on-going food safe operation of the business. As mentioned, this is a time consuming and expensive program to implement on farm, but it gives buyers an added incentive to do business with the Yukon Grain Farm and provides consumers with safe and healthy produce.

Most impressive of all, however, was seeing Yukon Grain Farm produce proudly displayed, front and centre when you walked into the local Whitehorse grocery stores this year.

When Steve and Bonnie were called to let them know about the

award, it was evident that this was something they were proud of too. Stores don't give up their prime retail space unless it's for a product that will attract customers and make them money.

Yukon Grain Farm has cultivated a relationship and built a value-chain. They deliver a quality product at a fair price and the store owners go out of their way to display it prominently and keep the displays in top condition. This does a lot for all Yukon farmers. Consumers from all over Yukon and beyond go into these stores. Consumers who have never been to the farmers market are reached here and are impressed by the quality and freshness grown in Yukon by the Yukon Grain Farm.



## NORTH OF 60° AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

This year's 25th Anniversary Conference was held in partnership with the Yukon Agricultural Association.

Kam Davies, Agriculture Spatial Database Administrator, opened the conference this year on Friday, November 2, with an introduction to the new Lands Viewer ([emr.ca/landsviwer](http://emr.ca/landsviwer)). This service is available to the public online and provides mapping tools that can be used for agricultural purposes.

Following Davies was a presentation by David Beckman, Yukon's former director of Agriculture and now a farm crop insurance adjuster for Alberta Financial Services Corporation. He spoke of the benefits and limitations of crop insurance in Alberta and detailed some of the statistics. It was interesting to note that for forage crops, where they insure 10% of forage crops for a total of 391,335 acres, the premiums were \$4.9 million and the total loss for last year was only \$95,200.

The Agriculture Branch may be celebrating 25 years, but for the final presentation of the evening, local historian Michael Gates introduced us to an agricultural adventure that began a month before the establishment of the Yukon Territory. He shared the tale of George Tuxford and his two companions. The three men were determined to herd cattle and oxen along the Dalton Trail to the Yukon River and then float down to the Klondike Gold Fields in the spring of 1898. For more stories of the early cattle endeavours, Michael Gates recently published, "Dalton's Gold Rush Trail: Exploring the Route of the Klondike Cattle Drives" and it is available in local bookstores or online.

The conference reconvened Saturday morning at 9 a.m. with a brief overview of the Agriculture Branch's history delivered by the director, Tony Hill.

The Animal Health Unit's field veterinary officer, Dr. Jane Harms, introduced one of the unit's current projects: developing an Animal Health Program. There is very little documentation regarding past animal health issues in the territory and no published resource available to the public. An animal health program would provide information such as what questions to ask when purchasing livestock to ensure health and what treatments are available for different health issues. Having such a program will help monitor animal welfare, increase feed conversion, improve food safety and reduce treatment costs. Dr. Harms is looking for feedback from farmers to help design the program to fit the territory's needs. Comments regarding what you think a Yukon Animal Health Program should look like, specific health issues that you've identified, specific

education required, and/or goals for livestock please contact one of the following people:

Dr. Jane Harms, Field Veterinary Officer: 667-8663

Dr. Mary Vanderkop, Chief Veterinary Officer: 456-5582

Kevin Bowers, Agriculture Development Officer: 667-3043

The final session in the morning was a very helpful presentation about bookkeeping by Susan Rae, a member of the Quickbooks ProAdvisor Team. One of the critical aspects of running a small business of any kind is preventing the shoebox effect – a box of haphazard receipts to be sorted 'later.' To keep bookkeeping costs low and increase your chance of finding an accountant willing to work with you, Susan recommended the following:

- Keep a separate bank account and credit card for the business,
- Write on each receipt what it was for,
- Keep all receipts (originals) and copy them; stapling both together,
- Don't add miscellaneous personal items such as gum and pop to work purchases – pay for them separately.

The presentation continued into more detail outlining how to set up a chart of accounts and use basic bookkeeping software – she recommends Quickbooks. If you are interested in one-on-one sessions with Susan Rae to help set-up your business's books, YAA has some funding available. Please contact Sylvia Gibson, executive director, at 668-6864 for more information.

Continuing on with the theme of finances, we were introduced to financial analysis by Lance Stockbrugger,

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## SUSAN RAE'S TIPS FOR FINDING AN ACCOUNTANT

- Ask colleagues if they use an accountant and if they are accepting new clients.
- The cleaner (more organized) your financial records, the easier it is to find someone willing to work with you.
- When you first meet, remember it is an interview for both of you – consider that it will be a long-term relationship.

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a chartered accountant and farmer from Saskatchewan. The presentation began with defining two different approaches to accounting: cash basis vs. accrual basis. Accrual basis accounting is more complex, but allows for easier financial analysis. By comparing different ratios of assets, liabilities, and owner's equity, one is able to calculate indicators of upcoming cash flow problems. In addition to analysis, Lance also touched on how the structure of your business influences taxation. Sole proprietor businesses, partnerships, and corporations are all taxed differently and there are pros and cons to each.

Knowing where the business stands at any given time helps farmers make informed decisions. For example, when one is considering whether or not to finance a large purchase on a short or long-term basis, financial analysis can be used to indicate whether or not there are already large payments to be made in the next 12 months. The requirements to be able to make any of these calculations: clean records, solid bookkeeping, and a farm-savvy accountant.

The focus shifted from money matters to water woes in the mid-afternoon with a presentation by Matthew Ball, Agrologist with the Agriculture Branch, on the new Yukon Irrigation Strategy. Yukon experiences a semi-arid climate, and precipitation is a substantial limitation for native and domestic plant growth. Irrigation provides farmers with water security, expands options for crops and feed, increases crop yield and improves crop quality. Currently in Yukon, only 18% of croplands are irrigated. An irrigation strategy for Yukon has been developed to help overcome the main obstacles

impeding more widespread irrigation. Action steps recommended in the report include creating an irrigation act and an irrigation development plan. Some of the big picture benefits: increased local food production, a stronger farming economy, and better resilience to climate change. For more information on the strategy, please contact Matt at 393-7410.

Starting a farm is an intimidating prospect, especially for young people. The average age of a farmer in Canada is over fifty and still trending upwards. Ann-Marie Stockley, the chair of Yukon Young Farmers, invited all prospective, new, and experienced farmers between the ages of 18-40 to be part of Yukon Young Farmers. The group is not all about business, it has socials too! For information about upcoming events, check out their facebook page "Yukon Young Farmers".

Kent Mullinix from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in B.C. was the final speaker of the conference. Kent and his team are spending the next three years designing a sustainable food system for Yukon agriculture; a project sponsored by the Yukon Agricultural Association. There will be three phases: resource and capacity assessment, food system design, and development of an implementation plan. For more information, please contact Kent at 604-612-1252.

The 25th Annual North of 60° Conference wrapped up at 5 p.m. on Saturday allowing for a short break before the Yukon Grown Agriculture Banquet. A big thank you to the Yukon Agricultural Association for their help hosting the conference and thanks to all the presenters and participants for making the conference a success.

## THE CORNER L.O.T. (LAND, OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS)

### LAND OPPORTUNITY

The Agriculture Branch has an immediate over-the-counter application opportunity for land in the Haines Junction planned agriculture area. Lot 1059-2 is still available for immediate application. Contact David Murray at the Yukon Agriculture Branch for details.

### INTENSE COMPETITION

The Agriculture Branch has received 16 applications for a 5.6 ha non-soil based parcel located approximately 500 m east of Gentian Lane (about

3.5 kilometers east of the Carcross Cut-Off). The competition closed to applications on November 16, 2012. Applicants now have until February 1, 2013 to submit a viable non-soil based farm business development plan for evaluation to the Agriculture Branch. The planned land evaluative process has been used for three land sales to date and this is the first time multiple applications have been submitted for one lot.

### TWO MORE SMALL PLANNED LOTS ARE AUTHORIZED FOR SURVEY

On November 15, 2012, subdivision authorization was issued for two 6.2 ha parcels of Yukon land from an agriculture reservation near Takhini Crossing in Ibx Valley. The survey (because of winter's onset) will take place next spring and the lots are to be offered for sale as early as possible in 2013. These lots are for soil-based agriculture and, given their location within twenty-five minutes of downtown Whitehorse, will likely be sought after parcels.

## NORTHERN SOIL AMENDMENTS TRIAL

In partnership with the City of Whitehorse, the Agriculture Branch initiated a long-term trial at the Research Farm in 2010 to test the effectiveness of soil amendments in northern soils. A soil amendment is a material added to the soil to improve its properties. Deciding which amendments to use is always a challenge as farmers must consider the distance products need to be transported, the availability of local products, and the increasing cost of fertilizer. The four major amendments being studied are synthetic fertilizer (NPK), organic fertilizer (ORG), city compost (COM), and city compost and lime (C&L). In 2011, biochar was added in combination with each of the other four treatments, and plots with humic acid were also added in 2012. It is still too early to draw conclusions from the biochar and humic acid plots, but with three years of data on the original four amendments, trends are starting to appear.

A different vegetable was grown each year starting with beets in 2010, carrots in 2011, and kale in 2012. The COM and C&L kale plots yielded significantly less than both the ORG and NPK plots. Lime was



2012 Kale grown at the Agriculture research farm.

only added to the C&L plots in 2010, but made a very clear difference in yield compared to COM plots by the third year. The average plant weight from plot treated with compost and lime was ~120 g heavier than a plant from a straight compost plot (see Figure 1).

The ORG kale samples were found to be slightly heavier than NPK samples, but results are within a range that it could have just been a sampling error. Regardless, the organic fertilizer produced comparably sized kale in the

third year of the trial – the first of the alternative fertilizers to do so. The blood meal, bone meal and potassium sulphate mixture contained the same amount of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium sulphate as the synthetic fertilizer, but the nutrients took longer to become available.

Over multiple years, it was expected that the yield in the compost, compost and lime, and organic plots would be well below synthetic

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TABLE 1. AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

	2010	2011	2012
<b>Synthetic Fertilizer (NPK)</b>	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium
<b>Organic Fertilizer (ORG)</b>	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium	100 Kg/ha Nitrogen 20 Kg/ha Phosphate 50 Kg/ha Potassium
<b>Compost (COM)</b>	45 t/ha	40 t/ha	35 t/ha
<b>Compost and Lime (C&amp;L)</b>	45 t/ha + 6.7 t/ha lime	40 t/ha	35 t/ha

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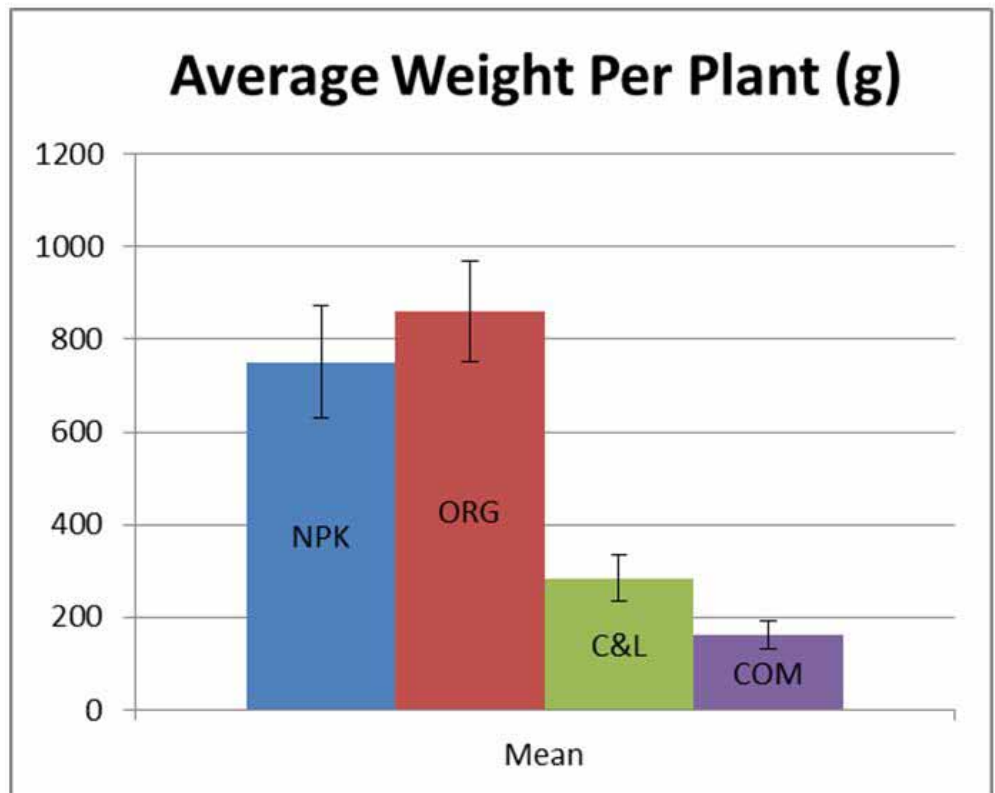
fertilizer in the first year and increase steadily until reaching comparable yields. Figure 2 compares the yield of each crop against the yield from plots treated with synthetic fertilizer. For example, in the first year, the COM plots produced half (50%) the yield that NPK plots produced.

For the first two years of the trial, all three alternative amendments produced less yield than synthetic fertilizer. In 2012, the third year of the trial, the ORG plots produced kale plants comparably sized, if not larger, than the NPK plots. The COM and C&L plots defied their previous trend, and yield from both plots dropped considerably. The cause of the decline in production is still being investigated at this time, but a few theories are being considered including:

- The variability of City compost,
- Specific nutrient requirements of kale,
- Possible salinity of City compost used in 2012.

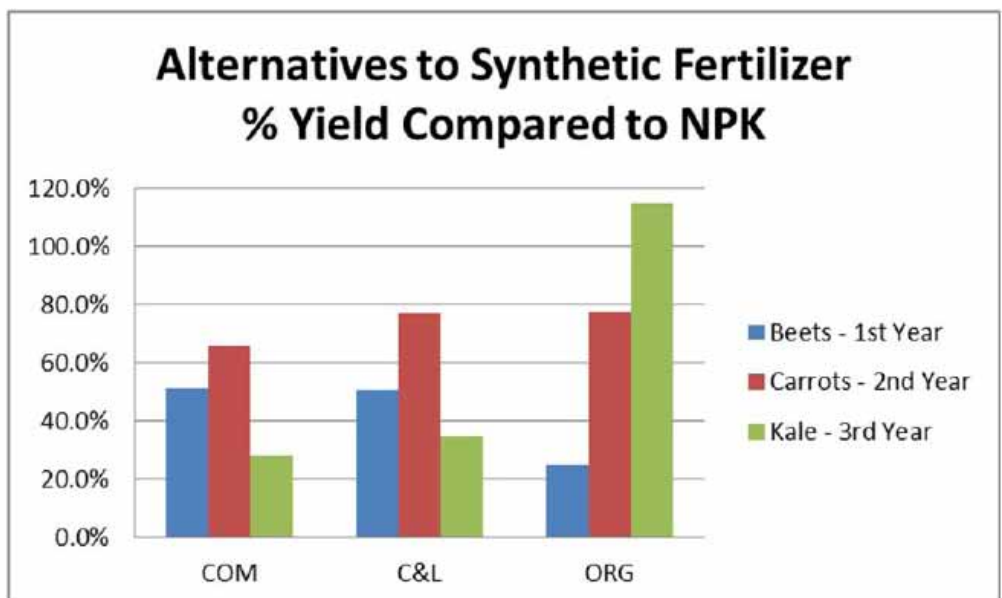
The soil amendment trials at the Research Farm will continue in 2013, further exploring the use of biochar and humic acid, as well as compost, lime, and organic fertilizer. Kale that was not used for sampling this year was harvested on two occasions and donated to the Whitehorse Food Bank. A more detailed report of the soil amendment trial will be available with the publication of the Research and Demonstration 2012 Progress Report in early 2013.

FIGURE 1. AVERAGE WEIGHT PER KALE PLANT (G)



\* Error bars represent 95% confidence levels

FIGURE 2. PERCENT YIELD COMPARED TO NPK OVER THREE YEARS



## WHERE WAS SUMMER?

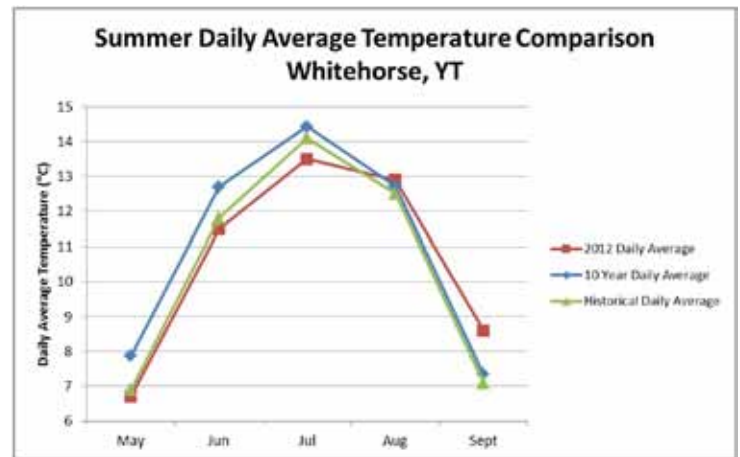
Last fall's weather question was *How cool and wet were July and August?* This year many of us in the Whitehorse area were simply asking *Where is summer?*

Looking at historical (1971-2000) daily averages, Environment Canada's data suggests summer actually did happen. May, June and July's daily averages were only roughly 0.25 degrees cooler than normal and August was slightly warmer. The true story, however, can be found in the daily minimum and maximum temperatures.

In May and June, the daily highs were 1.5 and 1 degrees cooler and the daily lows warmer than normal. Thus the early summer felt significantly cooler without much effect on the daily average temperature. July also remained cool with even the daily minimums dropping below normal.

Our concept of "normal" summer temperatures is also changing. The past 10 years have typically been warmer than the previous 30, with the exception of 2008. The graph to the right compares the historical daily average (1971-2000) against the past 10 years (2002-2012) and 2012. May, June and July's average daily temperatures were at least one degree colder relative to 2003-2011 averages which then asks the question, what is normal?

Precipitation levels in May were higher than normal by ~13% in the Whitehorse area and June was very close to average. Though July wasn't particularly warm, only 31.6 mm of rain fell – well below average. August had



few days of substantial precipitation, but when it rained it really rained. On August 22 and 23 a total of 17.8 mm of rain was recorded by Environment Canada – more than the entire month of May!

By Environment Canada's standards, the Dawson area enjoyed a very warm June, with average daily temperatures more than 1.5 degrees above normal. May and July showed a similar story to Whitehorse's weather with daily maximum temperatures lower and daily minimum temperatures higher than historical averages. August was within half a degree of normal temperatures to finish off the summer.

Precipitation in Dawson was below historical averages through June, July and August, with only May seeing more rain/snow than normal. June and August were especially dry, only 24.3 and 26.4 mm were recorded, almost 40% less than expected.

## NORTH OF 60° AGRICULTURE BANQUET

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual North of 60° Agriculture Banquet was held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Westmark and celebrated 25 years of service by the Agriculture Branch. As is the tradition, the tickets sold out several days before the event as the lure of a Yukon grown meal is hard to resist. With Icy Waters Arctic charr and elk roast from El Dorado Game Ranch for the main courses, no one was left disappointed or hungry. There were also potatoes, carrots, and turnips from the Yukon Grain Farm and kale and tomatoes from Circle D Ranch.

The Agriculture Branch was pleased to have a number of special guests at the banquet: the Honourable Brad Cathers; Jack and Faye Cable; Jim and Dorothy Smith; Bill Klassen, former Deputy Minister at the Department of Renewable Resources; Al Alcock, former president of the Yukon Agriculture Association; and David Beckman, former Director of the Agriculture Branch.

Every year, the Farmers of the Year award is presented to farmers who have been nominated by their peers for demonstrating commitment to Yukon agriculture and a passion for farming. This year, the Agriculture Branch was pleased to present Bonnie and Steve MacKenzie-Grieve with the 2012 Farmer of the Year Award (full article on front page).

There was both a silent and live auction that raised \$2,700.00 for the Freedom Trails Therapeutic Riding Association. Fiddlers on the Loose provided live music before the meal, and the Sunday Night Jam Band took over near the end of the evening with a lively country sound for dancing. Thank you to all those who helped make the banquet happen, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

*People say they come for the delicious locally-grown food but we bet many come for Tony's banquet jokes. Turn to the last page for one of this year's zingers...*



## TRULY ORGANIC

### 12 CRITICAL STANDARDS OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMS

With the increased interest in less processed foods, labels such as grain-fed, free run, free range, natural, and organic are becoming common. To be ORGANIC, farms have to meet very detailed standards and be certified by a 3rd party certification body. The following are some of the key practices of organic farms.

#### CROPS

1. Use organic seeds, bulbs, tubers, cuttings, transplants, etc.
2. Absolutely no use of genetically modified organisms.
3. No use of synthetic fertilizers.
4. Increase fertility and biological activity of the soil by:
  - a. Crop rotation
  - b. Compost
  - c. Non-Compost plant and animal material
  - d. Non-processed manure
  - e. Manure processed using physical, biological, or chemical treatment with only permitted substances.
5. Manure must be sourced, in order of priority, from on-farm organic sources, off-farm organic sources, and non-organic sources that meet the following criteria
  - a. Non-organic operation is not a fully caged system where livestock are unable to turn 360°
  - b. Livestock are not permanently kept in the dark.
6. Weeds are managed by cultural and mechanical means, only using permitted substances when needed.

Permitted Substance: to be on the list, substances are evaluated on their necessity, origin and mode of production, and impact of its production and envisioned use.

#### LIVESTOCK

1. Herbivores are required to have access to pasture during the grazing season and access to open air at other times when weather conditions permit (0.13 ha/ animal unit).
  - a. All other animals are required to have access to the outdoors when weather conditions permit.
2. Animals must be kept in conditions that accommodate their health and natural behaviour.
3. The livestock variety must be suitable for the specific site conditions and be considered disease resistant.
4. The feed for organic livestock must be organic and may not contain any additives, preservatives or medications that contain unpermitted substances.
5. Breeding must be done by natural methods, though artificial insemination is accepted.
  - a. Reproductive hormones to trigger and synchronize estrus may not be used.
6. Vaccinations and medications are limited to treatments containing only permitted substances (with some exceptions)
  - a. The use of parasitic treatments is also limited.

\* Should an animal require further “non-organic” medical treatment, the owner is obligated to do so regardless of whether or not the animal will lose its “organic” status.

A farm must be at this standard for 12 months and not have used unpermitted substances for 36 months prior to certification.

Farmers may not claim to be “organic” unless these criteria are met. There is also a separate set of criteria for the transitional period between conventional and organic farming. This is not an exhaustive list and the official standards listed in the Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards and found online at [emr.ca/infarm04](http://emr.ca/infarm04)



## COOPED CLUCKERS GAIN CITY'S CONSENT

This past July, Whitehorse joined a long list of Canadian municipalities that have said “yes” to urban chickens. There are, however, a number of conditions that must be met, including obtaining approval from 60% of one's immediate neighbours. For more detailed information, the new bylaw is listed below:

*(Bylaw 2012-29 passed July 9, 2012)*

OFFICE CONSOLIDATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL  
BYLAW 2001-01

### APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO KEEP HENS

36. A person shall not keep hens in urban residential areas of the City unless that person:

(1) is the owner of, and resides on, property included in Schedule “B” attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw or, if such person resides on property not owned by him, has written permission from the owner to keep hens on the property;

(2) makes an application to the City in a format as determined by the Designated Officer and agrees, by providing his written authorization, to the City circulating the application to property owners within three metres on all sides of the applicant's property;

(3) acknowledges by written declaration that he has read, understands, and will follow the rules respecting the keeping of hens in the City which shall be included in an information hand-out provided by the Designated Officer; and

(4) agrees in writing to update the City with any changes to the information included in the application within 72 hours of such change.

### REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR HEN PERMIT AND DECISION

37. Within seven days of receipt of an application for a hen permit, the Designated Officer shall:

(1) ensure that such application is complete and meets all requirements of the bylaw;

(2) if such application is not complete, or it contravenes a provision of the bylaw, return the application to the applicant after which the applicant may address such deficiencies and resubmit;

(3) if such application is complete, and meets all requirements of the bylaw, photocopy such application and provide it to property owners within three metres on all sides of the property;

(4) include with such application a request for the property owner's consent or refusal to consent to the application, which shall be completed by the property owner and returned to the Designated Officer by mail or in person within 14 calendar days, the failure of which shall deem such property owner to have consented to the application;

(5) review the application and responses within 14 additional calendar days;

(6) if all other requirements of the bylaw have been met and at least 60% of the canvassed property owners have consented to the application, approve the application and issue a permit to the applicant; and

(7) if less than 60% of such property owners have consented to the application, reject the application.

38. Despite any other provision of this bylaw, the decision of the Designated Officer respecting the application for a hen permit is final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal. (Bylaw 2012-29 passed July 9, 2012)

39. Despite any other provision of this bylaw, the Designated Officer may refuse to approve an application and issue a permit, or may revoke an existing permit for the keeping of hens, if an applicant or a permit holder has been convicted of, or has outstanding fines for more than one breach of this bylaw relating to the keeping of hens. (Bylaw 2012-29 passed July 9, 2012)

### KEEPING OF HENS AND COOPS

40. Once a person has obtained a hen permit under this bylaw, such person shall not keep any more than six hens on a property. (1) A permit holder may not at any time keep a rooster.

41. A person who keeps one or more hens shall:

(1) provide a coop which shall be constructed according to the requirements and specifications of the Zoning Bylaw;

(2) keep each hen in the coop at all times;

(3) provide each hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the hen in good health;

(4) maintain each coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances;



- (5) construct and maintain each coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it, or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal;
- (6) keep a food container and water container in each coop;
- (7) keep each coop securely closed at all times;
- (8) remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner;
- (9) store manure within a fully enclosed structure, and store no more than three cubic feet of manure at a time unless directed to remove and dispose of such manure sooner by the Designated Officer;
- (10) remove and dispose of all other manure in accordance with the Waste Management Bylaw;
- (11) keep hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens;
- (12) not slaughter, or attempt to euthanize, a hen on the property;
- (13) not dispose of a hen except by delivering it to the pound keeper, or to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, mobile slaughter unit, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens lawfully; and
- (14) not keep a hen in a cage except when actively transporting the hen off of the property.

#### LIST OF ZONES IN WHICH URBAN HENS ARE PERMITTED

Pursuant to the City of Whitehorse Zoning Bylaw, only single family or duplex housing within the following urban zones shall be permitted to have hens.

1. CM1 – Mixed Use Commercial
2. RD – Residential Downtown
3. RC2 – Country Residential 2
4. RCS – Comprehensive Residential Single Family
5. RCS2 – Comprehensive Residential Single Family 2
6. RCS3 – Comprehensive Residential Single Family 3
7. RS – Residential Single Detached

(Bylaw 2012-29 passed July 9, 2012)





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRODUCER PROFILE

The Agriculture Branch is currently looking for our next producer to profile. This column is an opportunity to introduce readers to some of the interesting farm operations in Yukon. The segment features a variety of Yukon's amazing producers, farm products, and stories of how farmers are overcoming some of our climate, production, and market obstacles.

If you want to suggest a Yukon farmer or even volunteer to be featured in an upcoming issue, please contact the Agriculture Branch through the information at the bottom right corner of this page.

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FENCING ON GRAZING AGREEMENTS

Recently, the Agriculture Branch worked with the Department of Environment, local agricultural industry groups and grazing agreement holders to develop a document outlining Best Management Practices for fencing on Yukon Government grazing agreements. This document provides fencing construction guidelines and specifications that should contain horses but allow safe passage of wildlife. These Best Management Practices are for fencing on grazing agreements, but would be suitable for any situation where horses need to be contained.

The Best Management Practices bulletin is available at the Agriculture Branch office and it can be viewed on the Agriculture Branch website ([emr.ca/grazeland](http://emr.ca/grazeland)).

## TONY'S BANQUET JOKE

*The School of Agriculture's Dean of Admissions was interviewing a prospective student. "Why have you chosen this career?" she asked.*

*"I dream of making a million dollars farming in Yukon, like my father," the student replied.*

*"Your father made a million dollars farming in Yukon?" echoed the impressed dean.*

*"No," replied the applicant.*

*"But he always dreamed of it."*

### INFARMATION is:

A Government of Yukon newsletter published by the Agriculture Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. 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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