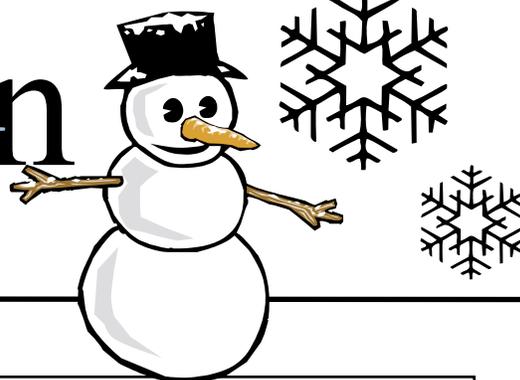


InFARMation

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

Winter 2003

Volume 16 Issue 4



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Message From the Agriculture Branch

Season's Greetings!! This message is being written on December 3rd, 2003, the outside temperature is a balmy -20°C and we have had a good dumping of snow so far this winter. The snow is great to see and overall the weather has been pretty good this winter.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching it is time once again to reflect on some of the agriculture activities over the past year. Production of red meat has increased slightly over the past year, while white meat production fell slightly. The Game Farm sector certainly faced a number of challenges which led to a significant number of animals being slaughtered for meat production. Honey production increased while the greenhousing and vegetable sectors held their own. Forage production this past year was excellent and thus there was an increase in overall tonnage.

A highlight of the past year was the signing of the Canada-Yukon Implementation Agreement as a follow-up to our signing of the Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement in 2002. These are cost-shared agreements (60% federal / 40% territorial) that ensure additional federal funding to the territory over the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2008.

Looking back at branch activities over the past year, we provided a Food Safety Incentive Program, a Master Gardeners' program, food safety and meat processing workshops, and as well worked with several farms to establish forage cropping history and mapping of fields with a GPS system. In addition there have been 12 agriculture land titles issued and numerous agreements-for-sales. We also held the 16th Annual North of 60^o Agriculture Conference and we are working toward the upcoming 5th Circumpolar Agriculture Conference which will be held in Sweden in late summer of 2004.

Overall, 2003 was a good year for agriculture in the territory with continued slow but steady growth. So here's hoping and wishing that you all have a great Christmas and the best to you in 2004.

Dave Beckman
Director, Agriculture branch



Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement Update

As most of you are aware the Yukon has now signed both the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) Agreement as well as the Canada-Yukon Implementation Agreement. The Industry APF Advisory Group which consists of Bill Drury, Dave Andrew, Sheila Alexandrovich, Wayne Grove and Art Hutchison met with government officials on October 3, 2003 to start discussion and planning on how to put in place programs for APF funds. On November 1, 2003 members of the committee met with Yukon government officials and Business Risk Management (BRM) specialists from Alberta to consider BRM programs for the territory. Further meetings are planned for early in the new calendar year.

The Director of the Agriculture Branch as well as other branch staff are working closely with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials on the planning and implementation of appropriate programs under the five main APF pillars. These pillars include Renewal, Environment, Science and Innovation, Food Safety, and BRM.

On November 28, 2003, Dave Beckman and a representative from NWT government attended an information and APF planning session in Edmonton with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. This was an excellent session and included laying the groundwork for the committee structure for each of the pillars.

An indepth discussion took place regarding the funding of infrastructure under the APF agreement. Infrastructure expenditures are permitted as long as it comes from the 40% share provided by the Government of Yukon. It is expected that this expenditure would in turn leverage out the 60% share from the federal government for other Yukon APF Programs.

Yukon Beef Producers Benefit From APF Funding

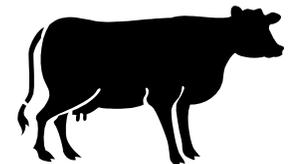
A \$10,000 joint federal/territorial contribution helped Yukon beef producers improve the safe handling, slaughter and processing of beef. An initiative through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) agreement, the contribution was made to the Whitehorse Agricultural Association who administered the program and offered producers a transportation incentive to make use of the

territorial abattoir.

“This is an initiative to benefit all Yukon beef producers so they can have equal access to the licensed abattoir, regardless of where they farm in the Territory,” said Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang. “It is a proactive approach to enhance food safety and handling procedures, a top priority nation wide, while supporting a facility that is vital to the growth of our industry.”

The incentive was \$0.20 per pound of hanging slaughter weight and was based on the costs to transport, hang and back-haul meat to producers. With an average dressed weight of 600 pounds, producers received approximately \$120 per animal. Approximately 50 animals were estimated to be delivered to the abattoir as a result of this initiative as compared to the annual average of 20. (On average the abattoir received between 14 – 20 animals per year over the last three to four years. With the majority of the animals coming from 2 producers.)

The transportation incentive was designed to increase the number of producers who slaughter their animals at a government approved and licensed facility, with the added benefit for all of adding to food safe handling procedures and allowing access to retail food outlets.



Abattoir Transportation Incentive Update

By all accounts, the incentive to encourage the increased usage of the abattoir by red meat producers was a success. By the end of October, a total of 39 cattle were processed which represented an increase of 21 animals over the year previous. These animals were supplied by three beef producers. In a follow up meeting with producers, there were some challenges identified that the Agriculture branch will be pursuing this winter. An added bonus, as a result of having animals processed at the government inspected abattoir, a local butcher shop was able to market Yukon grown beef and was looking for more to sell. It is these positive results that we are hoping to build on to encourage the investment and growth of the beef sector in the Yukon.

North of 60° Agriculture Conference

The theme for the 16th annual agriculture conference, held this fall in Whitehorse, was horses. The morning session began with a presentation on equine dentistry by local expert Cliff Hanna. Cliff's presentation on "*How to Become Tooth Savvy*" was very informative and included a table full of trade tools that would encourage anyone to floss.

Jim Pollock followed Cliff with a talk about "*Horse Selection and Conformation*," what to look for in a horse and how to do it. Anyone that would like a copy of Jim's presentation should contact Marylynn at 667-5838. The afternoon session began with a presentation by Dr. Larry Friscke on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) and West Nile Virus. The audience was split on the EIA testing issue and a vigorous debate for and against testing ensued. The West Nile presentation was a little less contentious although there were comments on the merit of showing a video of affected horses and what purpose it served. The horse session wrapped up with a presentation by April Clay on "*Mind Tools: Thinking Rider Skills for Competition and Life*." April's presentation included lots of audience participation and

great tips on creating a "*Performer*" when it comes time to get into the ring.

Two concurrent meetings took place on Saturday in the adjacent room to the horse seminar. The morning session was about *Business Risk Management Programs for Yukon Agriculture*. Rick McConnell and Tom Crozier from Alberta Financial Services Corporation led discussions on the different program options that might suit Yukon farmers and explained how each might work in our industry. The afternoon session, led by Dave Beckman, was on the Yukon Agriculture Policy review. Participants discussed everything from agriculture land utilization to subdivision, taxation and extension services in an attempt to develop an agriculture policy that will guide the industry over the next decade.

The conference wrapped up late in the afternoon and the tables were cleared in preparation for the annual "*Yukon Grown and Raised Banquet*." Over 120 attended a well prepared meal of produce, poultry, fresh eggs and fine meats from farms around the Yukon. In addition to Dave's jokes, which were actually pretty good this year, greetings were provided by Minister Archie Lang, NWT Farmers Association president, Ruth Boden, YAA president, Doug Craig and Valerie Whelan, AAFC Yukon manager.



Ruth Boden (left) holds up an apple purchased from John Lenart's Dawson City greenhouse while Evelyn Coleman writes out a \$35.00 cheque! The auction held at the annual agriculture banquet raised close to \$1,400 for 4-H Yukon.



Rick McConnell (left) and Tom Crozier (right) from Alberta AFC enjoyed the banquet in the company of the Agriculture Branch's new meat inspector Zodie Grove.

Yukon Agriculture branch photo

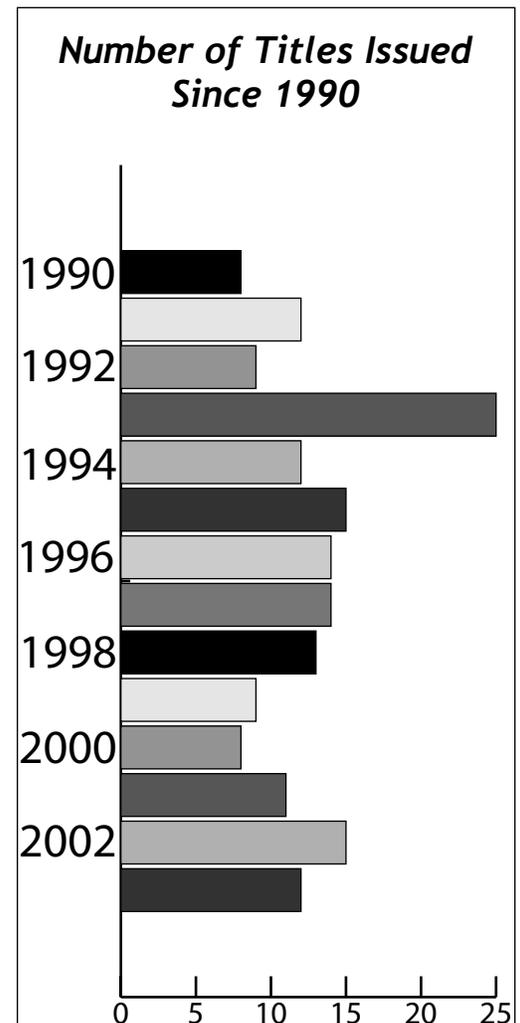
Agricultural Land Titles Issued from 1990 to 2003

Edward Lee, Agriculture Land Coordinator

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of titles issued</u>	<u>Total Area +/- in hectares (ha)</u>	<u>Annual Average Parcel Size (ha)</u>
1990	8	290.90	36.36
1991	12	390.12	32.51
1992	9	420.99	46.78
1993	25	1,016.77	40.67
1994	12	399.88	33.32
1995	15	741.73	49.45
1996	14	605.52	43.25
1997	14	538.07	38.43
1998	13	657.29	50.56
1999	9	446.33	49.59
2000	8	241.00	30.13
2001	11	327.50	29.77
2002	15	350.10	23.34

2003			
Jan. 1- Nov.17	8	288.15	
2003 projected			
Nov.18-Dec.31	4	97.03	
2003	12	385.18	32.10

Total titles issued 1990 to 2003	Approx. 177
Total area titled	Approx. 6,811.38 ha.
Average parcel size per title	Approx. 38.48 ha.
Average # of titles issued/yr	13
Average # of hectares titled per year	524 ha.



Looking at the Weather from an Agriculture Point of View

Climate is the major limiting factor to agriculture in the Yukon because of the short frost free period and lack of heat units during the growing season. Agroclimatic capability ratings are a measure of the degree of limitation imposed by climate on agricultural production. These ratings are derived from 30-year normal data collected by Atmospheric Environment Services of Environment Canada. They represent a measure of the amount of heat available to crops during the growing season. The agroclimatic rating is modified to account for local climate patterns, such as frost occurrences, which affect the length of the growing season. Agroclimatic classes range from Class 1, 1400 – 1600 Growing Degree Days (GDD) (no restrictions) to Class 7 (unable to be used for any agricultural purpose).

Class 1 1400-1600 GDD	These lands have no significant limitations that restrict the production of the full range of common Canadian agricultural crops (none in Yukon).
Class 2 1200-1400 GDD	These lands have slight limitations that restrict the range of some crops but still allow the production of grain and warm season vegetables (none in Yukon, based on a 30 year average).
Class 3 1050-1200 GDD	These lands have moderate limitations that restrict the range of crops to small grain cereals and vegetables (in a few localized areas in Yukon).
Class 4 900-1050 GDD	These lands have severe limitations that restrict the range of crops to forage production, marginal grain production and cold-hardy vegetables (valleys of central Yukon).
Class 5 700-900 GDD	These lands have very severe limitations that restrict the range of crops to forages, improved pastures and cold-hardy vegetables (the most common class of agricultural land in Yukon).
Class 6 <700 GDD	These lands have such severe limitations for cultivated agriculture that cropping is not feasible. These lands may be suitable for native grazing.
Class 7	These lands have no capability for cultivated agriculture or range for domestic animals.

The number of growing degree days (GDD) are calculated beginning the fifth consecutive day of the year with mean temperatures above 5°C, and terminated the day of the first killing frost (-2.2°C) which occurs after mid-July. During the 2003 growing season the Takhini test plot recorded 642 growing degree days. This temperature factor is adjusted upward by 18% to account for the boost plants receive from the long hours of daylight north of 60° latitude. As you head further north the GDD is adjusted incrementally higher (Dawson City is adjusted by 22%). Therefore, the 642 GDD recorded in 2003, becomes 758 *Effective* Growing Degree Days (EGDD) at the Takhini Test site, just outside of Whitehorse. The first killing frost occurred on Aug 9th. The agroclimatic rating for 2003 was Class 5 (700-900 EGDD), which is fine for growing hay and cold hardy vegetables but one class too low for the maturation of spring seeded cereal grains. This is the normal agroclimate classification for this area.

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
EGDD	859	595	901	972	957	784	838	729	758
Frost Free (days)	44	25	45	35	50	50	51	18	40
Killing FF (days)	67	50	74	81	85	68	77	51	54
Precip (mm)	107	162	125	57	145	179	159	98	123
Max Temp (°C)			28.7	34.1			30.8	27.3	29.1

Looking at the table above, the test plots recorded only 40 frost free days in 2003, bang on average over the past 9 years. In comparison, the Whitehorse airport records a 30 year mean frost free period of 87 days. An explanation for this difference is that the airport site regularly receives winds that tend to keep the temperature above freezing, while the forested sheltered nature of the Takhini Valley site reduces air movement and therefore frosts are more common.

What does all this mean for crops? This year with only 54 days between killing frost (-2.2°C), the potato crop was smaller in size and yield than in most other years. The strawberry crop was not affected as flowering was pretty well finished and the frost didn't cause any damage to ripening fruit. The raspberries were in a development year, producing fruiting wood for next year's crop, so they were not affected either. In a normal fruiting year, the raspberries would have been flowering and forming fruit on August 9th, and a killing frost would have been a limiting factor on the 2003 crop.

Winter YUKON GROWN Market

For the past few weeks Garrett and Heidi from Wild Blue Yonder Farm have been selling Yukon grown potatoes and root crops in the foyer of the Elijah Smith Building. This market, held every second Thursday, is open to anyone selling Yukon agriculture products. This is a great opportunity to get product exposure and let people know about your farm operation. Please contact the agriculture branch at 667-3417 if you would like to participate.

Why Buy Local?

Attached to a letter sent to the Agriculture branch by Sheila Alexandrovich, on behalf of GOOFY (Growers of Organic Food in Yukon) was a quote from the May/June issue of Canadian Geographic that helps to explain why you should buy locally by highlighting the transportation/environmental cost of bringing in our food:

“The average food molecule in Canada travels 2,000 kilometres from its point of origin before hitting a grocery cart. A summertime barbeque therefore supplies just one-tenth as much energy (in food calories) as was used to transport the ingredients.”

- Jodi Di Menna



Sign up Now - to become a Yukon Master Gardener

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, 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, he or she is ready to become a garden educator.

There are still a few spots left for this year's course. Below is the information you will need to register:

- When:** Monday and Wednesday nights starting January 12, 2004
- Time:** 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- Where:** Yukon College, Room #A2402
- Registration:** YTG, Energy, Mines & Resources, Agriculture Branch Room 320, Elijah Smith Building: 668-5838 Fax: 393-6222
- Cost:** \$95.00 + GST = \$101.65 total
- Instructors:** Tony Hill, Bruce Bennett, David Murray, Ingrid Wilcox, Roy Ness, Bev Gray, Randy Lamb, Deborah Pitt & Valerie Celusiak

This will be a certificate course with a final exam to be written on Wednesday, February 25.

The cost of registration includes the Yukon Gardeners Manual, various written handouts and fact sheets and 40 hours of instruction.

If you are planning to register, please contact the Agriculture branch soon. **Space is limited to 25 persons.** Public advertising for any remaining spaces will begin in mid December.

2003 Research and Demonstration Results

Tony Hill, Agrologist

This was the second year of an input management trial, in collaboration with the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, held at the Agriculture Test Plots. The purpose of the trial was to examine best management practices for growing Yukon crops. In the small fruit section of the trial, precise water and fertilizer application was coupled with mulch and row cover techniques to determine the optimum growing conditions for each crop. The following summary highlights the results of this year's strawberry trial. A detailed report will be available this January under the title: "*Yukon Agriculture Research and Demonstration Report – 2003 Progress Report.*"

Strawberry Trial

On April 28, the straw mulch that was applied to the strawberry rows the previous October, for winter protection, was removed from the rows and an assessment was made of the over-wintered plant stock. There was very little difference in the survival rate of plants covered with straw and those plants left uncovered. This came as a bit of surprise considering that the trial site did not receive substantial snow cover until late January.

Transplanting to replace gaps in the rows where plants didn't establish in 2002 took place during the second week of May. A light weight floating row cover was applied to half of the rows in the trial to see if this would improve any of the production results. The row cover chosen provided up to 4° F of frost protection, provided protection from the wind and created a micro-climate that increased air temperature and reduced water losses from evaporation.

On June 11th, the row covers were removed when the first flowers were observed on the plants under the row covers. The Cavendish variety was well into flowering, displaying three times as many blooms as the Kent variety. In the rows without row covers the first flowers were just beginning to show. The plants under row covers were also noticeably larger than the uncovered plants.

Harvesting began on July 11th. Both the Cavendish and Kent varieties that had been under row covers produced fruit a full week earlier than the rows without covers.

Cavendish produced fruit earlier than Kent, by a few days, but also finished producing fruit earlier than Kent, regardless of the row cover treatment.

The other variable used in the trial was two different fertilizer levels. Fertilizer levels were based on recommendations from the British Columbia strawberry production guidelines. Calcium nitrate was applied at a 30ppm to half the test plots and 60ppm to the other half between the 2nd and 8th week of the season. Between week 9 – 18, during the fruiting period, all varieties received an equal amount of potassium nitrate. All plants received an equal amount of ammonium phosphate fertilizer in the first week following transplanting in May.

The different fertilizer levels had a significant effect on the fruit production of the varieties under row covers and a minimal to negative effect on the production of fruit on the varieties without row covers. Under row covers, the Kent variety receiving 30ppm of calcium nitrate (CaNO₃) only produced 77% of Kent that received 60ppm; and the Cavendish variety receiving 30 ppm produced 76% of the Cavendish receiving 60ppm CaNO₃. Without row covers, the Cavendish that received less fertilizer managed to produce 93% as much fruit as the plants receiving the higher rate and in the Kent there was actually a slight (less than 1%) decrease in production for the plants receiving the higher rate of fertilizer.

The major difference in fruit production in 2003, was between the plants with row covers and those without. Without row covers, Cavendish averaged 65% of the production of the same variety using covers and Kent without row covers averaged 85% of production of Kent with row covers. Overall, Cavendish was not as productive a variety as Kent, averaging 80% of Kent's production with row covers and less than 60% of Kent's production when no row covers were used. Just under 10% of total production was culled due to either insect or bird damage, rot, or poor pollination resulting in small misshaped berries.

See the *2003 Progress Report* available in January for further details.



Business plans help farmers stay on track

*Paul McKeague, Manager, Environmental Awareness & Stewardship
(reprinted with permission)*

A solid business plan will help a farmer get a loan at the bank, but the benefits go far beyond that.

“A business plan helps people stay on the right track, keep their direction,” says David Rose, an agricultural finance specialist with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Yet polling by Ipsos-Reid indicates only 16 per cent of Canadian farmers have such a plan, well behind rates in the United States. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are now moving to improve farmers’ access to business planning services under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), a national plan to strengthen Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sectors.

The Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS), expected to become widely available this fall, are the cornerstone of the plan’s strategy to help farmers renew their operations in the competitive global industry. These services will assist producers in meeting their goals and increasing their profitability through the development of a business assessment and action plan.

Most farmers have general goals for their operation, but a formal business plan backed up by solid financial statements helps producers to stay focused and prosper, says Rose.

The new business advisory services, available to beginning farmers and farmers with at least \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales, include consultations of up to three days to put together an assessment. This will generate a business profile and financial statements and result in farmers identifying their goals and options for the future. Up to two days will subsequently be spent assessing the options for increasing profitability and then establishing an action plan to implement the option the farmer chooses.

The cost of these services, valued at \$2,000, will be funded by the federal government, with the farmer paying a \$100 fee to the consultant.

“Many farmers think about their goals but don’t write them down”, says David Lichty, manager of agricultural lending at the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union in

Kitchener, Ont. “Putting a plan on paper gives them something to review and may make them think a bit more - not just about the goal but how to reach that goal.”

Lichty and Rose say a good business plan will definitely make it easier to get a loan at a bank, as long as it’s backed up with solid financial statements which are necessary to determine whether goals are achievable. Both emphasize that keeping good financial records lays the essential groundwork for a good plan and sound decisions.

“The best farmers I know tie their financial statements to the way they farm,” says Rose, who assesses the finances of farmers for the CIBC in central Ontario from his base near Barrie. “They don’t just look at the numbers. These farmers look at the numbers and their cropping program or their management practices in their production system, and then these farmers look at ways they can change things to improve the bottom line or decide where they should be investing capital and so on.

But Rose notes that not all farmers currently have the full combination of different skills necessary to do all this effectively. “The more people can be assisted in developing such skills, the better it is for everybody,” he says.

“Every farmer has a different skill set. Most are very good production managers, but few really enjoy digging into their records to assess the financial performance of their business. Good production skills alone are not enough in these days of tight margins and uncertain markets.”

One advantage of a formalized business plan is that it can be shared with other people in the farm operation, such as spouses, children or parents. “This is important to ensure everybody’s rowing in the same direction,” says Rose.

Under the CFBAS, assistance will also be offered to producers in preparing specialized business plans in such areas as diversification, expansion, marketing, human resources and succession.

Governments will invest an estimated total of \$330 million over five years for CFBAS and all the other renewal programs which will help Canadian producers keep pace with change and thrive in their

knowledge-intensive industry. So far, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and the Yukon have signed the agreement required to begin delivery of CFBAS and other APF programs.

Complementing these services are Internet tools such as the Benchmark for Success program, which already allows farmers across the country to compare their farms to similar operations, enabling them to identify areas where improvements can be made or where opportunities may lie.

The Internet tools can be accessed at www.agr.gc.ca/compare.

For more information on CFBAS and other renewal services and programs, please consult the renewal Web site at www.agr.gc.ca/renewal or call 1-866-452-5558.

October 2003



Fertilizer Trial on Yukon Rangeland

Patricia Smith, Grazing Management Coordinator

During the growing season of 2002 and 2003, a fertilizer trial was conducted on Yukon rangeland. The study site was located on a southeast slope at the Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest near the Takhini River. A randomized block design was used to compare the grazing capability of unfertilized native range to native rangeland fertilized with varying levels of potassium, phosphate and nitrogen. The study looked at the productivity and nutrient level in plants palatable to livestock and the productivity of unpalatable plants under the various fertilizer treatments.

During both years of this trial, adding phosphate and potassium to the soil did not significantly increase productivity of grasses or weeds, but adding nitrogen to the soil increased the productivity of both grasses and weeds. The increase in productivity was proportional to the amount of nitrogen added to the soil, however

the productivity of weeds increased much more than the productivity of grass. Soil fertilized with nitrogen produced up to 2.4 times as much grass as unfertilized soil and up to 5.2 times as many weeds. This indicates that the limiting factor for plant growth in the study area was the soil level of nitrogen. This was not surprising as soil analysis done before the trial showed that soil in the study area had very low levels of nitrogen, was deficient to marginal in phosphate and had optimal levels of potassium.

Grass grown on soil fertilized with nitrogen had significantly higher levels of crude protein than grass grown on unfertilized soil. This is expected as plants require nitrogen to produce protein. Adding potassium to the soil did not increase the crude protein level of grass in either year of the trial, however in 2003, grass grown on soil treated with phosphorus had higher levels of protein than grass grown on untreated soil. The reason for this is not known, but one possibility is that the added phosphorus allowed the plants to grow more vigorously thereby increasing their overall protein level.

The results of this trial suggest that applying fertilizer is not an economically feasible method of rangeland improvement because applying fertilizer to rangeland causes weeds to significantly outgrow grasses. Since adding nitrogen to soil does increase the growth of grasses as well as the crude protein level, adding nitrogen to stands of native grass where there is little weed growth might be beneficial. There doesn't appear to be an advantage to adding phosphorus or potassium to the soil of rangeland.



Hot off the Press

Lyle Vanclief, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has announced his retirement and will be succeeded by Robert Speller.

Mary Lynn's Best Recipes

Sloppy Joe Burritos

“Yukon Grown” Lean ground beef 8 oz
 Canned black or kidney beans, rinsed and drained 1 cup
 Chopped green bell pepper ½ cup
 Taco seasoning mix 1 pkg (35g)
 Chunky salsa 1 cup
 Water 1/3 cup
 Colby or cheddar, sliced or grated 1 pkg (454g)
 8 large flour tortillas (about 9”)C

- Cook beef in large frypan until no longer pink.
- Mix in beans, green pepper, salsa, taco seasoning and water
- Bring to boil, reduce heat and cook on medium low, uncovered for 10 minutes.
- Arrange cheese in centre of each tortilla.
- Spread about 1/3 cup (80 ml) of meat mixture over cheese; roll up tortillas and tuck ends under.
- Microwave on HIGH, 2 tortillas at a time, covered with vented plastic wrap for 1 minutes.

*Merry Christmas to All...
 And to All a Good Night*



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:

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 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 on the 3rd Floor Elijah Smith Building.

Web site: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture

Carrots Supreme



- Cook the amount of carrots you need.
- Once cooked, pour a small amount of maple syrup over them with chopped almonds or pecans.
- Serve hot.

Yukon CARD Fund Update

Valerie Whelan, AAFC Manager, Yukon and NWT

The Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Committee met on November 30, 2003 to review CARD project proposals that had been submitted in response to the Fall 2003 Call for Proposals. One project, submitted by Dawne Mitchell from Dawson City, entitled “From Seeds to Harvest”, was approved for funding of \$5000.00 to provide an agricultural training program in Dawson.

The Yukon CARD program is in its final year and is scheduled to end on March 31, 2004. This program has been very successful in the Yukon, providing close to \$400,000 in funding for approximately 50 agricultural projects over the past six years. At this point, it is not expected that there will be any further project proposals considered for funding under this program.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) representatives were in Whitehorse on September 3, 2003 to consult with the YAA CARD Committee and Yukon agricultural industry members regarding a new proposed program that will replace the CARD Fund in April 2004. The new program, tentatively called the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, will focus on the three “pillars” of innovation, technology transfer and agricultural information gathering and is intended to complement programming that is being implemented under the Agricultural Policy Framework. AAFC is currently seeking final approval for the ACAAF program and more details on the program will be forthcoming in early in the new year.

Who is never hungry at Christmas ?

The turkey - he's always stuffed !

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