

INFARMATION

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VALERIE WHELEN, SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR AAFC RETIRES

Valerie Whelen has been serving as the point person for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to Yukon for 17 years. In February Valerie retired from her post. The following is an open letter from Valerie Whelen reflecting on her time working with Agriculture Canada in the north and her long career with the federal government. Thank you Val for the role you played in developing Yukon's agriculture Industry.

OPEN LETTER FROM VALERIE.

As I retire from my position of Senior Industry Development Officer with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, I would like to say good-bye and thank you to everyone that I have worked with over the 17 years that I have been in this position.

It has been the most rewarding position of my 34-year career with the federal government and I am grateful that I have had this opportunity to learn about Canada's north and be part of the advancement of the agriculture and agri-food industries in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

When I started my career, I would never have expected to end up working in Canada's northern territories and, least of all, in the field of agriculture. I was a city girl, born and raised in southwestern Ontario, with almost no agricultural experience when I arrived. My degree is in chemistry and I began my career with the federal government as a chemist for Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa working in the CANMET Energy Research Laboratories for 9 years and then went on the work as an Equipment Standards Officer in Canada's Energy Efficiency Regulatory Program for 8 years. My life changed when I met the Yukon's Chief Electrical Inspector, now my husband, at a conference in Calgary in 1999 and he suggested that I should visit the Yukon. During that visit, I was caught by the spell of the Yukon and started to look for a job in Whitehorse. I consider myself very lucky to have found the position with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and I am now a true Yukoner who plans to spend the rest of my life in the territory.

Although the work has been at times challenging, I have seen a significant increase in the support for agriculture in the north and considerable advancement in the industry here. I have worked closely with the Yukon Agriculture Branch in the delivery of the Agriculture Framework Policy Initiative and the Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 funding programs and have been extremely excited to see the start up of significant commercial enterprises for vegetable, egg and meat production. The Government of the Northwest Territories is now actively promoting the development of their agriculture and agri-food industry and is in the processing of implementing their first food production strategy. Nunavut has no "traditional agriculture" but agriculture program funding has been used to support wild harvest of plants and animals native to the north as well as initiatives to address northern food security issues.

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DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Hi folks, spring has been slow to come this year, or at least compared to the recent years. It is a good reminder that we have a short time to grow and have to use best practices and have everything in order heading in to the growing season. Floating row covers are always a good approach for row crops to moderate temperatures and avoid frost damage. Whether it be for root vegetables, greens or berries it is important to have a strategy to prevent frost damage. For equipment, crack open the manual and get the fluids, filters and lubrication done. Keep an eye on tire pressure, the wrong tire pressure can lead to roll over and gives poor fuel economy anyway.

Our diversified agriculture industry continues to grow and provide a range of food products through the local stores, restaurants, caterers, community markets, and the farm gate. In order to support the industry and look to the next 10 years, we are in the midst of a review of the 2006 Agriculture Policy. Looking to a new policy that reflects the needs of our industry, our neighbours and our community. The policy consultation is ongoing until June 29, please feel free to pick up the phone and call our office to chat about what would help you succeed in the years ahead.

Other important news is that Minister Pillai, our federal partners and the Agriculture Branch launched the Canadian Agricultural Partnership with a new suite of programs directed towards our producers and helping to move the industry forward. The new programs support the agriculture industry in areas such as value added processing, environmental management practices, training, education and business development. The program guide and application form are on our website.

Be safe out there this spring, may the rains rain as you need.

VALERIE WHELEN RETIRES
CONTINUED...

During my time with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, I have worked hard to highlight the unique nature of the territorial agriculture and agri-food industry to my colleagues in Ottawa as well as provide information that allowed the territories to specifically address the needs and priorities of the industry in their funding programs. I am certain that my replacement, Anne Savoie, will continue to provide similar support to the northern industry.

In the future, I expect to see more advancements in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut agriculture and agri-food industries and wish everyone involved in these endeavours success. Support for local food production is important in the development of these industries and I will continue to promote local food wherever and whenever I can throughout my retirement.



Matthew Ball
Director of Agriculture
Energy, Mines, and Resources | Agriculture Branch



Photo: Collin Remillard and Kathy Pritchard, of Fox Ridge Farm have made recent inroads to the retail market. You can find their locally raised and butchered cuts of pork and sausage at Whitehorse grocery stores – Big Way Copper Ridge and Super A Porter Creek.

IT'S TIME FOR AN AGRICULTURE POLICY REVIEW

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Government of Yukon is updating the 2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy and is initiating a consultation period ending June 29, 2018 to gather feedback.

Updating Yukon's Agriculture Policy will reinforce our commitment to increase Yukon's ability to be more self-sufficient in food production and support a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector.

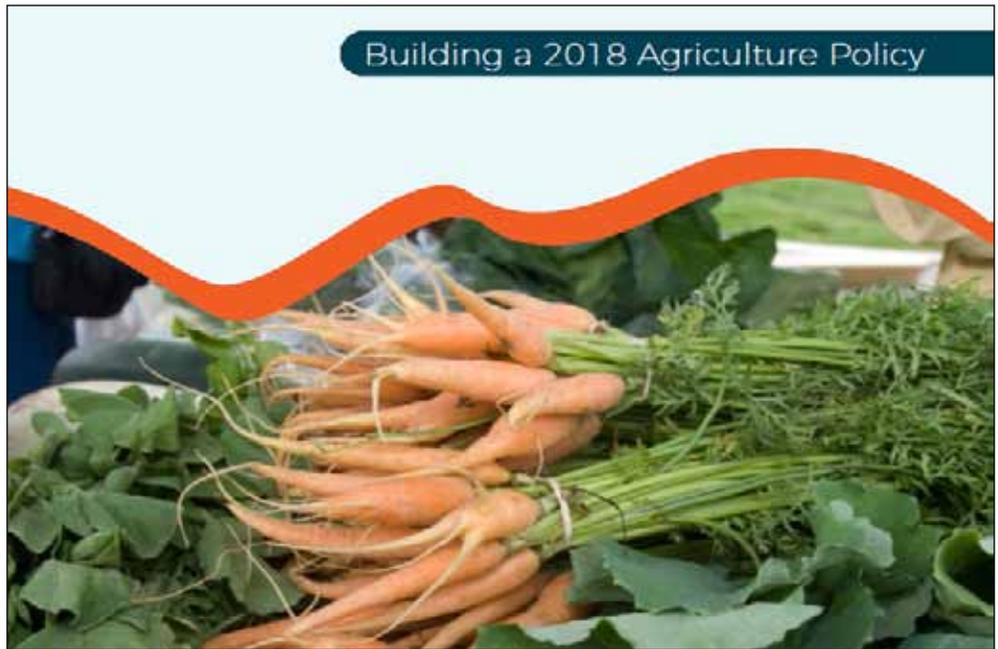
An updated policy will be Yukon government's fourth agriculture policy since the introduction of its first agriculture policy in 1982. Each policy has strengthened the government's ability to support the development of agriculture in the territory.

The goal of the 2006 policy was to encourage growth of a Yukon agricultural industry that:

- produces high quality products for local consumption;
- is economically viable;
- operates in an environmentally sustainable manner; and
- contributes to community well-being.

The policy's vision was to develop a Yukon agriculture industry that significantly increases its production of healthy locally grown food for local consumption. To support this, government has given a priority to:

- expanding the agricultural land base in a carefully planned manner;
- improving utilization of agricultural lands; and
- providing support for programs and infrastructure that help the growth of an economically viable and environmentally sustainable industry.



The 2006 policy also established the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) to provide advice on agriculture development and management in the territory. This committee includes broad representation from the industry, including producers from a variety of agricultural sectors. The policy also makes a commitment to evaluate itself no later than in its tenth year of implementation.

For the past 10 years, the Agriculture Branch has worked closely with the AIAC to implement the policy and promote responsible agricultural development. Through this collaborative process, the AIAC and Agriculture Branch have identified the policy priority areas that should be reviewed and updated.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has prepared a discussion document to gather information from farmers, industry, First Nations, municipalities and other stakeholders on the 2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy and identify potential revisions to help shape an updated policy to guide industry for the next decade.

Public consultation begins May 14, 2018. To provide input into the public survey visit www.engageyukon.ca.

Feedback can also be provided in the following manner:

- In person: If you would like to meet with Agriculture Branch Director Matt Ball to discuss your input, please call (867) 667-5838 or (800) 661-0408, ext. 5838 to make an appointment.
- Email: Written comments can be emailed to: agriculture@gov.yk.ca
- Mail: Written comments can be mailed to: Agriculture Branch, 320-300 Main Street, Whitehorse, Y1A2B5
- Phone: Phone in comments to: (867) 667-5838 or (800) 661-0408, ext. 5838
- Fax: Submit comments by fax at: (867) 393-6222

Based on feedback received during the engagement process, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will draft an updated Agriculture Policy this fall.

We look forward to your feedback.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP
HOW TO APPLY
TO CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAMS



Yukon's new agriculture funding program, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, became available April 1. The new partnership is a five-year commitment by our federal and territorial governments to grow Yukon agriculture. A broad range of funding programs are available to help Yukon farmers, ranchers and processors with production, innovation and profitably.

To find out more about what kind of agriculture projects can be funded, check out the Canadian Agricultural Partnership guide available at our office or online, and contact the Agriculture Branch to discuss your next farm project and plans. Even if direct funding is not available for your project, there is support we can provide through our extension program. So feel free to contact the Agriculture Branch to discuss your next agriculture investment.

The program is available to Yukon's:

- Producers, farmers, ranchers or growers
- Processors or retailers
- Producer or processor organizations
- Agriculture non-profits and governments, including First Nation governments

There are a wide range of programs with varying funding levels. Funding may be provided to help offset up to 50 to 60% of project costs. You can apply multiple times as you tackle different projects on your farm each season.

If you have an on-farm project that requires an investment, become

familiar with the new program guide and/or discuss your project with the Agriculture Branch to determine how you can access funding or support.

YOU NEED TO APPLY FIRST!

To access funding, you need to apply and be approved before you start your project or make any purchases. The application process is meant to ensure the funding flows to Yukon agriculture. The application form is available online or a hard copy can be picked up or mailed upon request.

The application collects information about:

- Who you are, where you farm, contact information, business number and livestock premise ID designation.
- A description of your operation. This includes a description of the property, any farm history (e.g. when the farm was established), what you grow or raise, how much you produced last year, where you make your sales, what are your inputs and who is involved in the farm operation (e.g. family business).
- A description of what you are planning to do. This should be in line with a project area listed in the guide. This will include a description of your project, what it includes, any designs if it is infrastructure and how do you plan to install it or what you want to do, such as training or developing a business plan. A project description should include the objectives, commodities involved, target groups, start date,

any partners or other stakeholders if applicable. Include additional information such as previous reports and studies that relate to the project. Also, attach relevant information such as meeting agendas for workshops or internship resumes.

- A detailed budget and supporting quotes. Provide your detailed budget in the Funding Request portion of the application. Depending on the number of items in your budget, there is a supplementary financial worksheet that you can download from our website or you can add your own spreadsheet outlining the costs.
- Explain how your project benefits the Yukon agriculture industry and how it matches up the objectives of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. This prompts you to describe how the project relates to one more of the described project outcomes. Explain what industry support there may be, and what the benefits of the project to industry, public and your business are.
- Outline your expected results and how they will be measured and shared. For small projects, please keep this simple.

If you have any questions regarding your draft application or the Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs, we are here to help. Please contact the Agriculture Branch staff.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS
Applications can be submitted at any time, and depending on the

project area are reviewed monthly either by a program manager or by a Project Evaluation Committee.

The applications should be submitted by the first Friday of each month to make it in to the monthly review.

All applications are reviewed by a program manager and they will work with the applicant if additional information is required for the review process. Decisions on funding will be made following review by the Project Evaluation Committee or the project manager. Feedback about project approval will occur within 2 weeks of the first Friday of the month or two weeks after being received for projects that are approved by a project manager.

For more information related to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and to download the guide and application visit the Agriculture branch's website and look for the link. You can also contact the Agriculture Branch at agriculture@gov.yk.ca, 667-5838 if you have questions, need help or would like to brainstorm ideas. Staff at the Agriculture Branch are here to help.

FIRST-EVER CANADIAN CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF RABBITS

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and the Syndicat des producteurs de lapins du Québec (SPLQ), working in partnership with other provincial rabbit groups, in February announced the release of the first-ever Canadian Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Rabbits.

Canada's Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They serve as the foundation for ensuring that farm animals are cared for using sound management and welfare practices that promote animal health and well-being. Codes are used as educational tools, reference materials for regulations and the foundation for industry animal care assessment programs.

NFACC's Code development process is a unique consensus-based, multi-stakeholder approach that ensures credibility and transparency through scientific rigour, stakeholder collaboration and consistency. The development of the Rabbit Code was led by a 12-person Code committee comprised of rabbit producers, animal welfare and enforcement representatives, researchers, veterinarians, and government representatives. Aiding in their work was a three-person Scientific Committee that included research and veterinary expertise in rabbit behaviour, health and welfare. A public comment period was held in early 2017 to allow the public and all stakeholders to provide input.

Canada's Codes of Practice are a powerful tool for meeting rising consumer, marketplace and societal expectations relative to farm animal welfare. Codes support responsible animal care practices and keep everyone involved in farm animal care and handling on the same page.

The Rabbit Code is the twelfth Code of Practice developed through NFACC's Code development process. For more information on the Codes of Practice and NFACC's Code development process visit www.nfacc.ca.



Funding for this project has been provided through the AgriMarketing Program under Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

National Farm Animal Care Council NFACC is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders created in 2005 to share information and work together on farm animal care and welfare. It is the national lead for farm animal care issues in Canada. NFACC would like to acknowledge the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) for their role in securing funding for this project. For more information on NFACC visit: www.nfacc.ca.

INTRODUCING THE NEW AAFC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Anne Savoie is the new Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Senior Industry Development Officer for the territories. AAFC, and Anne's role in the territory is to support the Yukon Agriculture Branch in the delivery of Canada-Yukon cost-shared funding programs to aid in the development of the Yukon agriculture and agri-food processing industries. The senior Industry Development Officer also functions as the secretariat for the Bilateral Management Committee that is responsible for the overall management of joint federal-territorial funding programs. Anne is Yukon's contact to big Ag "AAFC" who are responsible for the development and delivery of agriculture policies, programs and services. AAFC's mission is to provide leadership in the growth and development of a competitive, innovative and sustainable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. AAFC supports the sector from the farmer to the consumer, through all phases of producing, processing and marketing of farm, food and agri-based products.

The following is a short Q&A introducing Anne Savoie:

- Are you a Yukoner? I grew up in a small town called Plessisville in southern Quebec. My family moved to Quebec city where I went to elementary school and high school. I moved to Montreal for my undergraduate degree and to Vancouver for my master's degree. I came to Whitehorse in 1997. Both my kids were born here and Whitehorse is where I have lived the longest so I would definitely call myself a Yukoner!

- What is your agriculture background? I didn't grow up on a farm, but I spent the first few years of my life in a small rural community with a farm very close to my house. I always felt a connection to the land and to food production. For my undergraduate degree, I studied at McGill University's Faculty of Agriculture (MacDonald College) and then went on to do a Master's degree in Pest Management at Simon Fraser University. My work experience has been quite varied. I worked on a few research projects, including soil microfauna analysis in Quebec, vegetation analysis on public grazing lands in Alberta, shade tree pests in Indonesia and seed orchard pests in BC. I also worked as a biology and forestry instructor, before eventually pursuing studies and a career in adult education, managing the French Language Training Program for the Government of Yukon. So I strayed from agriculture for a number of years, and it is great to be back working in this field!

- What have you been doing since you moved to the Yukon? Other than raising 2 kids and working, I enjoy hiking, traveling and discovering new areas and new cultures. I also enjoy berry picking and gardening, with all the challenges that come with our short growing season.

- You have been with the Agriculture Branch since January, what stands out in your short time?



As the only Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada employee in the North, I am somewhat of an orphan... but the Agriculture Branch has adopted me and definitely makes me feel like one of their own. With the end of the Growing Forward 2 program and the launch of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, things have been busy and it has been quite a steep learning curve for me. I am glad to have the support from everyone in the branch who can share their knowledge and steer me in the right direction. I have attended several AGMs and met with farmers and community groups. I also sit on the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Project Evaluation Committee and these provide great windows into our local agriculture industry. In my position as the only AAFC employee north of 60, I work to support the development of agriculture and

administer the cost-share funding programs with all three territories. I find it interesting to see where each territory is at in the development of their agriculture industry. I am impressed with the open communication and the genuine desire to help from the folks at the Agriculture Branch.

- Do you have any interesting agriculture fact about yourself you would like not to share? I tumbled down the side of a hill on a 3-wheel ATV while doing work on public grazing lands in the Peace River country in Alberta. Those were the good old days when we had no helmets, no emergency radio (and no cell phone)! Not long after that, I came face to face with a sow and cub, and then was threatened with a gun by a lady who didn't want to let me go through her property to get to the public grazing land. It was a fun summer!

- Any shout-out to Val? Valerie delayed her retirement to make sure we would have a good amount of overlap and I am so thankful! I wish there was a way to transfer all the knowledge and information she has in her head directly into mine! Happy retirement Valerie!

MARKETSAFE COURSE

FRESH LOCAL FOOD, HANDLED WITH CARE

MarketSafe is for farmers, food processors and producers who make, bake or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets, farm gates or other types of temporary food vendors. The next MarketSafe course is set for Saturday May 26, 2018, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This program was created to increase awareness and knowledge of food safety and safe food handling procedures. It is intended for farmers' market vendors, market managers, farm gate vendors and others who may make, bake or produce food products for public consumption outside of regulated food service establishments.

MarketSafe certification is not a legislated requirement, however, some markets do require their vendors to have a valid MarketSafe certificate. The MarketSafe course is not equivalent to FOODSAFE Level 1.

Pre-registration is required, and the course fee is \$75.00 per person including tax.

To find out more contact the Yukon Tourism Education Council (YTEC), phone 867-667-4733 or email: info@yukontec.com

PRODUCER PROFILE JOE & LILA CORCORAN

This edition of the producer profile pays tribute to Watson Lake/Upper Liard producer Joe Corcoran. Joe passed away in June of 2017 and his wife of 30 years, Lila, shared his story of how he developed a 88 hectare piece of land into a productive agriculture property. Joe, like many Saskatchewan boys grew up on a family farm near Kincaid, SK. He sought work away from the family farm, with jobs in Alberta and eventually landed him in Yukon.

His venture into agriculture started with an airstrip in the Upper Liard area, on Cormier Creek rd., around the same time as he met Lila in 1988. Lila shares that Joe was like many Yukoners and enjoyed working hard and staying busy. Joe started farming the edges of the airstrip and in '89 applied to develop land into agriculture. In '94 they built a house and continued on developing the farm. It started with a garden where he grew potatoes, carrots and cabbage for the local community.

In the 90s, Joe was given a horse, which encouraged further development of his property into pasture and hay lands. He developed three productive fields that allowed him to grow and sell hay to local horse market, and he supplied hay as far as lower post. Joe also had a few laying hens, with about 38 birds at the height of production. The eggs and some laying birds were sold to neighbors and friends. This story is an excellent example of how Yukon's farmers feed their local communities.

Thank you, Lila for sharing Joe's story.



WHERE TO GET YOUR FERTILIZER OR SEED

With many new entrants into Yukon's farming community and as farmers look for easier and cheaper ways to source their seed and fertilizer, we often get asked the question of **"where can I get fertilizer and seed?"**. Depending on how far you want to cast the net in your search for fertilizer or seed there are many sources that you can access within and outside the territory. Locally, there are both direct and indirect Yukon-based options. You will need to factor in how much you need, and the time and money you plan to invest (simplicity versus savings).



Northern BC and Alberta are the closest outside locations for Yukon farmers when sourcing bulk seed and fertilizer. Many Yukon farmers have figured out how to secure these inputs and will either share their contact, share any excess they have, and/or work with you to order additional amounts for your farm. All you have to do is network with fellow farmers. The best way to get to know your fellow farmer is to directly ask for their input. Another easy way to reach out to the farming community is to join the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA). You can contact YAA at 867-668-6864, email them at office@yukonag.ca or check out their web page at www.yukonag.ca.

After polling a few Yukon veteran farmers on who they use for bulk fertilizers, recommendations pointed to two popular fertilizer suppliers in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek:

- Crop Production Services, Fort St. John, 250-785-3445, or
- Agro Source Ltd, Dawson Creek, 250-782-4449.

Give these fertilizer suppliers a call, to see what kind of fertilizers they can supply, what their minimum order quantity is, what formats do they supply, i.e. pallet of 25 kg bags, totes, or truckloads, and what options they have for delivery or pick up.

Before ordering fertilizer, it is recommended to get your soil tested and base your fertilizer orders on the test results. Custom fertilizer blends are ideal, but using blends that the supplier has also works and may save you a little money. If you have questions around fertilizer, what blend works best, how much to add, or how to get your soil tested please contact the Yukon Agrologist, Randy Lamb: randy.lamb@gov.yk.ca or call 393-7410.

For market garden operators who grow on a smaller scale and use one 25 kg bag at a time, there are many sources of synthetic and natural/organic fertilizers. You can search the internet for fertilizers and order online or hit your local

hardware or garden store. Some of the local garden stores provide a good selection of fertilizers for market garden operations. Both Cliffside and Yukon Gardens carry conventional and organic options, and if they do not have the products on their shelves, they are typically able to order 25 kg bags of fertilizer you need, if you give them some lead-time. The City of Whitehorse now provides their locally produced compost that was tested and approved in April 2017 by the Organic Materials Review Institute. It is available in both small and large volumes either from the source or from local vendors.

Seeds can be easier to source, but on the other hand can be more complicated because of sheer number of varieties and mixes you can buy. When picking what varieties to grow in your field, the key is researching, networking and experimenting. For field crops, you want to talk to other producers to understand what has worked for them. You also want to know the site conditions of where you intend

to plant. Ask yourself how wet is the land or will you be irrigating, what is your intended use (i.e. pasture or hay, horses or cows) and do you have any salinity, moisture or soil constraints before sourcing seeds.

In the territory, Yukon Grain Farms, Hurlburt Enterprises and feed stores supply grain, forage and hay seed options, along with bulk potatoes. You can find their contact information in Yukon Farm Products and Services Guide

www.yukonag.ca/guide.

For field crops, the go-to for bulk seed orders for some Yukon farmers is Fosters Seed located in Beaverlodge and Grande Prairie. They carry a wide selection of seed that are suitable to cooler climates. Their customer service group can help you with selecting what you want to plant and their website is easy to navigate. For more information go to www.fosterscanada.com, or contact them at 1-800-379-4804.

If you are looking for a specific variety of cereal, pulse or oilseed, the Alberta seed guide has a search options to help you find seed suppliers. Go to www.seed.ab.ca

For market gardeners, there is a wide variety of seed catalogues and seeds to choose from. Everyone has his or her favorites, and the many experienced Yukon producers have nailed down what varieties work best in their operation and microclimate through ongoing trial and error. When trying to choose what to grow, ask your neighbor or fellow grower about what varieties they plant. You can also research and experiment in your own garden.

Recently retired Yukon garden growers Grand Dowdell and Karen Digby provided information on what seeds they use in their

successful Dawson Market Garden operation, including the variety. You can find this information at through the EMR Library or on line at: goto.gov.yk.ca/seedguide

The following is a list of the seed catalogues Grant and Karen shopped from:

- William Dam Seeds, www.damseeds.ca, (their go-to for a bulk of their seeds)
- T&T Seeds, www.ttseeds.com
- Veseys, www.veseys.com
- West Coast Seeds, www.westcoastseeds.com
- Stokes, www.stokeseeds.com

Just a reminder: when selecting seed potatoes, source quality seed potatoes, and rotate where you plant your

potatoes. By sourcing proper seed potatoes, you are limiting the introduction of potato diseases as certified seed potatoes have standards that limit the presence of diseases. Although the table potatoes bought from the grocery store may work for you, there are several down-sides to using them. They may have been sprayed with anti-sprouting agents, you may not know the variety or if they are suitable for short seasons and you may increase the chance of introducing potato diseases into your garden operation. In Yukon's cool soils these diseases can remain in the soils for years, reduce yields and result in an increased incidence of scab, black scurf and rot.

If you have any questions regarding this article please contact the agriculture branch. Email agriculture@gov.yk.ca or phone 667-5838.

RAISING CHICKENS 101 WORKSHOP

Yukon Young Farmers' spring workshop, Raising Chickens 101, took place on April 22. Yukon Farmer Darrin Sinclair led the workshop which covered important topics about poultry nutrition, incubation, housing and equipment. Dr. Mary VanderKop, Yukon Chief Veterinary Officer, attended the workshop and presented information about health and disease management as well as the veterinary services program. Almost 30 people attended the event and educated some new and experienced farmers.



KEEPING YOUR FLOCKS HEALTHY

On Saturday, February 24th, 2018 Yukon Agricultural Association hosted a day-long workshop about the care and management of healthy sheep and goats. BC experts and veterinarians Dr Glenna McGregor and Dr Helen Schwantje covered off nutrition basics, biosecurity, disease and parasite management, as well as wild and domestic sheep interactions. Yukon's Chief Veterinarian Dr. Mary VanderKop and Agriculture Grazing Management Coordinator Matthew Larsen talked about Yukon government programs relating to sheep and goats.

The day was shared live via the internet for producers who wanted to participate but could not make it into town in February. A recording is available for those who would like to catch up on the the care of sheep and goats. You can find these YouTube recordings on the branch's website publication page at www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca

ORGANIC CONFERENCE AND AGM

Grower of Organic Food Yukon members Bart Bounds and Sarah Ouellette attended the annual Certified Organic Association of BC (COABC) conference held in Abbotsford, BC, in February of this year. The conference is an opportunity to connect with organic growers and to gather information around new and emerging trends in the sector. The theme for the 2018 conference was bioregionalism: Creating Resilience in a Changing Climate.

There was a wide range of topics covered this year that helped inform the participants. Bart and Sarah shared the talks that stood out for them:

- Climate Smart Organic Farming, Mike Bomford, Department of Sustainable Agriculture, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Best Business practices and Market Tools for Farmers Selling at Farmers Markets, Heather O'hara BC Association of Farmers Markets and Arzeen Hamir, Amara Farm
- Food Systems in a changing environmental, economic, and societal climate: our path to a sustainable food system future, Kent Mullinix, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Sustainable Land and Food Systems - Indigenous Peoples, Social Justice, and Original Instructions (keynote speaker), Dawn Morrison, Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Bart also attended the Organic Federation of Canada board meeting as Yukon's representative. Funding for Bart and Sarah to attend the conference and AGM was provided from Growing Forward 2.

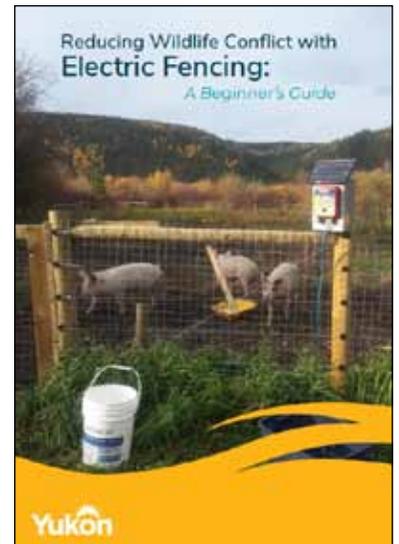
USING ELECTRIC FENCES TO DETER WILDLIFE

This guide provides practical information to properly design and install an electric fence. Electric fences effectively deter wildlife from livestock pens, chicken coops, beehives, dog kennels, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, berry bushes, bird feeders, compost and garbage.

From this booklet, you will learn:

- How flexible electric fencing can be to suit individual needs - from lightweight portable options to permanent wildlife exclusion fences around livestock or poultry.
- How to design an effective electric fence.
- How to select the appropriate components for your electric fence.
- The importance of properly selecting and leveling your fence line.

The guide is available on the branch's website publication page at www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca



INFORMATION is:

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

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