

The PLOUGH BOY



Archive photo, unknown.

BITS AND BITES

1. YUKON FARM SCENES/08

(l to r) Pelly River Ranch potato pickers taking a break, Haying at R. Nielsen farm, PRR cattle, Matt Ball & Dave Andrew at research farm field day , ACAAF Board discussing project proposals.

2. BULK FERTILIZER

Small farm operators & market gardeners who only need 1 or 2 tonnes can save time, money & handling over bagged fertilizer by ordering through one of our bulk bin site holders. Call for details.

3. AG WEBINARS

Got some spare time this winter? The Cdn Farm Bus Mgt Council (CFBMC) sponsors seminars which you can participate in live via the web, or visit their archives later. Check out their offerings at www.farmcentre.com

4. YAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This year's AGM has been scheduled for April 25. Mark your calendars and plan to come out. A formal notice of the AGM along with a call for nominations for directors, and for the board executive positions, will be issued soon. Meanwhile, think about who you would like to see on the board, or consider volunteering yourself. Oh yes, you do need to be a member to vote, Current memberships expire as of the AGM, but we would be pleased to receive your renewal now. Still the best deal in town at \$10 per year, or \$100 for ten years.

R.I.P. - THE ADVANCING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD (ACAAF) PROGRAM

ACAAF was a five year, industry based, quick response program designed and funded by Agriculture Canada to encourage and support innovative ideas, enterprise, and solutions to emerging issues not covered by other programs. Under ACAAF, hundreds of excellent projects have been supported across Canada, including Yukon. Without ACAAF, most would not likely have been realized. Unfortunately, the authority for the ACAAF program will expire on March 31, 2009, along with the APF (Ag Policy Framework Agreement), which ACAAF was designed to compliment. Although the APF will be succeeded on April 1 by the new 'Growing Forward' program, the question yet remains whether there will be a replacement for ACAAF. Indications are, however, that if a new program is authorized, it

will not only have a new name, but may also be somewhat different in nature. In addition to a possible change in objectives, the new program will likely also become a contributions based program rather than grants based as was the case with ACAAF. The implications of this change are not yet clear, however, it appears certain that administration and accountability will become more complex and more rigorous. How well this will accord with the needs of industry remains to be seen. Meanwhile, The Yukon ACAAF Council still has a healthy uncommitted bank balance which it can use to support worthy projects beyond March 31 under the current parameters of ACAAF. Accordingly, we continue to invite your ideas and your proposals for projects to advance Yukon agriculture or a sector of our industry. Call the YAA office for program details.

Positive thinking?

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Who will take over the farm when I retire?

By Vanessa Falle

Both lifelong farmers and first timers alike will, at some point, ask themselves this question. No one plans to see their hard work dissolve due to a lack of planning but too often, that's exactly what happens.

This past December, I attended the Young Farmer's Summit of the Americas along with my husband; Ray and another young Yukon farmer; Cain Vangel where we were introduced to a phrase that was referenced over and over again throughout the course of our 4 days in attendance. That phrase is **Succession Planning**. This subject addresses issues such as the passing of the proverbial torch, establishing policies that deal with the distribution of responsibilities & compensation, and having a clear vision for the business to ensure its growth potential for the next generation.

We were split into groups where we worked closely with a variety of agriculture business experts. Some of whom shared ideas and solutions with us to empower

us as farm managers to take an active role in our individual businesses and make them better, stronger. Another subject that was discussed was that of **Best Management Practices**. This topic covered elements that included annual goal setting, clear job descriptions for all farming participants, understanding value chains, and leadership. These last two points, value chains and leadership were explained very comprehensively and I was inspired by the opportunities that I saw for my own family farm business. I saw how I could be a stronger manager and more invested business partner with both my suppliers and my customers. I also saw how significant each of the relationships I had with my employees, colleagues and suppliers are and gained new insight into how I could best maximize the potential of all those relationships.

Above all else, the single most important thing I learned at the summit was to be proactive within my family farm business and to have policies in place to safeguard against damaging circumstances so as to better equip all the players in collectively reaching a mutually beneficial outcome for everyone, including the

business itself. No matter how long you've been farming, it's never too late to improve your management system and to take steps toward making your business work more effectively.

We returned from the conference with a renewed sense of direction and motivation which is exciting to say the least. We also brought back with us some fantastic printed materials that were provided to us by all the presenters & farm management professionals. Copies in both French and English will be available at the YAA office for anyone who is interested in reading them. We also purchased a copy of Dick Wittman's guidebook about building effective farm management systems. Order forms for this workbook are inside the materials being left at the YAA office.

CYFF (CDN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM).

Our three young Yukon farmers who went to this year's CYFF Summit of the Americas conference Dec 5-8 in Calgary, came back pumped. They would like to start a CYFF Chapter in Yukon. Interested? Then call Ray or Vanessa Falle @ 867.668-2296, or send them an email at info@lotuspaperie.com. Ray, Vanessa and Cain Vangel will also be doing a presentation on the CYFF at the YAA AGM April 25. This will be a good opportunity to come out and learn more.

NEED A FARM MECHANIC?

CALL THE YAA...

and let us know what machinery you need serviced, - the year, make and model, and a description of the problem. We are making a list of people who need a farm mechanic. If we get enough interest, it may be worth while for a southern machinery dealer to send a mechanic to Yukon for one or two weeks in late March or April to service equipment right on our farms. If a shop is required for your service work, and you do not have one, perhaps an arrangement may be made with a neighbor who has a facility. Regarding costs, each person would have to pay his own service and repair charges directly. As for travel costs, we hope we may be able to get help, but even if not, having a group of users share those costs sure beats having to pay for it all individually. First though, lets determine whether there is enough interest. No promises here, but let us know your needs and we will see what we can do.



Demonstrating the mobile chicken abattoir at the Mt Lorne Community Centre Wildwood Festival

CHECK IT OUT!

ADVICE YOU CAN BUILD ON

Hi Rick, this is just a brief encouragement to consider stressing solar greenhouse principles to extend our short growing season. There are four decades of experience with solar greenhouse technologies in Canada, and lots has been learned by pioneering projects which have followed these general guidelines:

- 1/ Site selection which maximizes solar gain from Spring to Fall and minimizes summer overheating.
- 2/ Partial in-ground construction, especially on the northern exposure, to reduce heat loss on the north.
- 3/ At least double glazing with inexpensive UV resistant materials. Insulated shuttering in some cases.
- 4/ The addition of isolated thermal mass usually by concrete insulated on the exterior with extruded polystyrene.
- 5/ A mid-winter shutdown to allow freezing and control of pests or other invasive agents.

These five guidelines would extend the short Yukon growing season to 6 months from 3 months, and make a major difference to agricultural productivity without causing a disproportionate increase in energy costs.

Thanks for considering these ideas. Best of luck with your program.

- Phil Thompson
Energy Specialist, Technical Support Unit
Highways & Public Works

A notice to all organic producers and producers--

Growers of Organic Food Yukon (a Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers), in collaboration of OFC (Organic Federation of Canada), is currently doing an outreach project in the Yukon to promote organic production. GoOFY wishes to establish consensus that it should represent the Yukon on the OFC (the national organic industry organization). GoOFY 's representative Claire Desmarais is currently on the OFC board and has been directing the formulation of the Canadian Organic Standards. These standards are now published and will come into effect across Canada by June 2009.

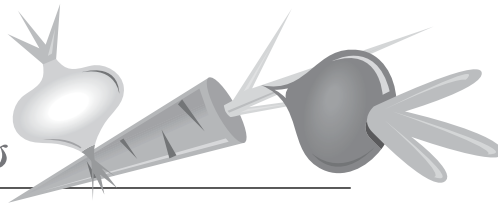
GoOFY would also like to provide information about the Canadian standards and organic certification. We hope to produce a one day event this spring, where more information will be available in the form of speakers and published material.

GoOFY would like input from growers and processors in the Yukon who are currently using organic methods or interested in transition to organic production.

Please contact Joanne Jackson Johnson at 660-5128 or jjj@northwestel.net if you have input or questions about these issues.

Food

is everybody's business




Do you have an idea for a project that could benefit Yukon's agriculture or agri-food industry?

Contact the Yukon Agricultural Association to learn how you could receive funding support through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program. To be eligible, projects must fit the program criteria (available upon request) and address an emerging issue or have the potential to advance the industry.

Projects can range from investigating better farm practices and varieties, to new food development, to environmental and health issues as they relate to food production, to feasibility studies and business plans.

For more information, please call
Yukon Agricultural Association
(867) 668-6864
or visit us online at
www.yukonag.ca
or www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf



 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

 Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



MARKETING YUKON GROWN

Hello! My name is Dustin Davis, I am co-owner, along with my partner Brook, of Cabin Fever Adventures. Our new wilderness tourism company is based out of Whitehorse and we are year-round Yukon residents. We have already made a commitment to serve organic food on our trips and will be working with Horizon Distributors out of BC. However, we would like to explore the feasibility of increasing our use of locally produced food. Our trips start in early June and go through to early September. If you are interested in a new potential client, please contact us through our website at,

www.cabinfeveradventures.com and let us know when your individual crops or products normally become available.

This information is essential for us to be able to plan our food menus seasonally

to be able to take advantage of local food. We are also interested in locally raised meat, cheese, etc. We are not concerned if you're not certified organic. I was raised on a subsistence farm and ate nothing but organic food when I was a kid, even though none of it was certified organic. We will however want to know about your farming practices.

Furthermore, if any of you have your own websites and are interested in link exchanges, please let me know. We would like to increase the visibility of Yukon farming and in turn would like to increase the connectivity of our own website and provide our clients an opportunity to better understand our business connections. Please take a look at our Environmental and Social Initiatives page to see what type of a

PINING FOR TREES...

John Lenart of Klondike Valley nursery is interested in making contact with others who have experience with growing any of the very hardy pine nut trees in the north. This includes *Pinus Cembra*, *P. Siberica* and *P. Pumilla*. If anyone has producing trees with mature seed being produced this would be most welcome information. Our trees are up to 6 feet tall but not productive yet. We are growing *P. Siberica* from several seed sources and are producing seedlings for future local sales. Contact us at

Klondikevalleynursery@hotmail.com

company we are trying to become. We believe that because we are spending not just our money but the money of our clients, we have an increased ethical responsibility to use this opportunity to effect positive change. Hope to speak with you soon!

DID YOU KNOW...

EGG PROTEIN IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE FOOD PROTEINS, WHICH MEANS IT CONTAINS ALL THE CRUCIAL AMINO ACIDS. ONE EGG CONTAINS ABOUT 30% OF DAILY REQUIRED VITAMIN K WHICH IS VITAL FOR HEALTHY BONES. EGGS ALSO CONTAIN CHOLINE, A BRAIN NUTRIENT THAT AIDS MEMORY, AND LEUTIN, A PIGMENT NEEDED FOR HEALTHY EYES

According to most women ---

Men Are Just Happier People -
What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack.

You can be President. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress - \$5000. Tux rental -\$100. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public.

You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. Your belly usually hides your big hips. One wallet and one pair of shoes one color for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.



No wonder men are happier.
...except when we are in the dog-house with our woman...like, now, perhaps?

ENERGY STRATEGY

HEY, did anybody read YTG's draft energy strategy? Per the following excerpt from the Star, January 26, it even includes agriculture. *" It also recommends increased support for the agricultural industry, as a means of promoting locally grown products and reducing energy costs associated with transporting goods into the territory."* — This can only be good. Even more so if it leads to support for the establishment

of critical infrastructure needed for our agriculture industry to grow, and to provide a good supply of locally produced fresh and processed products well into the shoulder seasons, if not year around. Our wish list includes a multi use processing facility for red and white meat slaughter, and for food development and secondary processing and marketing. We see that the new federal budget has designated money for slaughter facilities as well as for shovel ready general infrastructure projects. Well, have we got a good proposal for the funders to consider!

On-line Farm Safety Photo Library

An on-line farm safety photo library has been created on www.casa-acsa.ca with 80 photos showing the safe way to work on farms or ranches. The project is being launched by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), in partnership with Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited, and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA).



...and finally...

Speaking of 'shovel ready' projects...

Our politicians seem to have been creating quite a pile of them lately. Come to think of it, most farmers know quite a bit about shovel ready projects. Perhaps our farmers can provide our politicians with some good advice on proper handling.:

A thought for a better community and the next generation ...

"We must all plant trees we will never get to sit under". _Walter Lipman.

Helping Yukon's Ag Industry

YTG's Agriculture Branch of Energy, Mines and Resources, in conjunction with Agriculture Canada, has provided funding support for many projects to help Yukon farmers acquire needed industry infrastructure, knowledge, and equipment. Given the small size and developing nature of our agriculture industry, and the fact that the nearest ag service centre is in Fort St. John, the help which has been provided by our federal and territorial governments through programs like the APF and ACAAF, agencies like PFRA and Farm Credit, and the hands on research, information and advice provided by our local Ag Branch staff, has given an immense boost to our industry. For example, an irrigation pipe press which was needed to repair broken pipes, was purchased with government assistance on a cost share basis by small groups of farmers operating as a cooperative. Other projects, like the mobile red and white meat abattoirs, and the fertilizer bins, were purchased with 100% government funding for use of the agricultural community at large. Recently, the

YAA has acquired a manure spreader and has a no till drill on order, both of which we expect will be well subscribed by YAA members and the general agriculture community alike. Yukon's community of organic growers, and our farmers markets, have also been helped through these government programs and services.

Agriculture is an important part of the social and economic fabric of our community, and investments in our agriculture industry are investments in the best interest of our community at large. Food is indeed everybody's business. Likewise, the industry which produces it. Thank you for your support. Bon Appetit!

Perhaps You were wondering

about the impact of farmers markets. UNBC has done some studies you may find interesting. Check them out at

www.unbc.ca/planning/localfood

Their 2007 report on the Skeena Valley Farmers market says the following:

In British Columbia there are about 100 known markets, up from 60 known markets in 2000. This growth reflects the increasing role of farmers markets in local food systems and their contributions to British Columbia's communities. As the Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, recently stated:

"One of the benefits of farmers markets that receives little attention is what they do to bridge what I call the urban agricultural divide. By speaking directly with the people who grow and produce the food products, the consumer establishes connectivity with the source, and that's something we need more of in a world where many youngsters think what they're eating comes from the supermarket"

BC's Agri-Food Update,
November 2005

NEWSLETTER MATERIALS?

Yes, we encourage and gladly accept your contributions. ...articles, events, announcements, historical figures and facts, photos, community news and whatever other interesting tidbits come to mind. Thanks to those who contributed to this issue.

May 24, 1974 - May 24, 2009

The YAA's 35th birthday is coming up. A few stories about agriculture and some of the people who were involved back then would be appreciated...plus photos, if you have them.

NEWSLETTER ADS

are welcome. \$20 for 1/8 page, \$30 for 1/4, \$55 for 1/2, and \$100 for a full page. Classifieds are free, but keep em short, OK.

This year's bison hunt

The Game Branch set this year's harvest target at 200 animals. As of Thursday, Jan 29, 38 kills have been reported. If you are wondering where to drop off a spare roast, or to take out/renew a membership, our office is at

203-302 Steele Street

(corner of Steele and 3rd),

Drop in for coffee or just to say hello. Until then, good farming and God bless.

Rick Tone, Executive Director.