



Little Fox Farm, photo by Krysta Meekins



The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon
Agricultural Association
November 2012

NORTH OF 60° AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE AND BANQUET

The YAA is pleased to host a farm bookkeeping and accounting workshop at the Ag Branch's upcoming North of 60° Conference, November 3, 2012! All sessions are free of charge and held at the Westmark, Whitehorse, conference room 5.

First up is *An Introduction to Bookkeeping for Agricultural Operations* with **Susan Rae**, 9:45am - 12:00pm. Susan Rae is a local bookkeeper. She does one-on-one coaching and training of small business owners in setting up financial processes and using QuickBooks. She works with accountants to prepare year-end financial reports and filings for private business and non-profits.

One-on-one sessions will be offered, via registration with the YAA, for those interested in pursuing a 4 session follow-up program with Susan later in the year.

In the afternoon **Lance Stockbrugger** will be speaking on *Best Management Practices and Financial Analysis* from 1:00 to 2:00pm. Lance will discuss accrual vs. cash accounting and explain financial statements. He will explain how we use numbers from them in ratio analysis and how this helps with business decisions.

Lance is a chartered accountant with more than 15 years of public practice, as well as a Saskatchewan farmer. He currently conducts training on financial accounting, succession planning and estate planning.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

The training for the YAA Board of Directors is on **Sat Dec 1**. The YAA is requesting that all directors attend this workshop. Cathie Leimbach, who comes highly recommended from our members who attended workshops with her at the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum in Halifax earlier in the year, will do the training.

Cathie has extensive experience working with board members to ensure organizations run effectively. She has trained boards across North America giving advice on leadership development, governance, team building and strategic planning to rural, farm, health-care and community organizations. She holds a Master of Agriculture (Agricultural Business) degree from the University of Guelph, Ontario and has personal experience as a board member in private for-profit companies as well as school PTOs, the YMCA and other community groups.

The YAA is also hosting a **Governance Foundations** session with Cathie open to the public on Wed Nov 28 from 7:00 to 9:00pm for a cost of \$30. This is geared for members of boards and we have promoted it to local agricultural groups as well as other NGOs. The response has been great and we are looking forward to meeting attendees from a wide range of backgrounds.

CAAP FUNDING ENDING IN 2014

Invitation for proposals

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a 5 year, \$163 million national Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) initiative to help the agricultural sector adapt to new issues as they emerge, and remain competitive. In Yukon, CAAP is delivered by the Yukon Agricultural Assn. (YAA).

Eligible projects could be in the areas of capacity development, traceability, environment, climate change and more. Anyone at any level of Yukon's agriculture and food industry is eligible for funding - industry organizations, aboriginal groups, for profit companies, individual producers, processors and retailers.

For more information, call the YAA-CAAP Council office at **867.668.6864** or Email us at admin@yukonag.ca.

You may also call AAFC toll free at **1.877.290.2188**, or visit AAFC's website at www.agr.gc.ca/caap for additional info in French or English.

Call us, and let's talk.

Any applications for CAAP funding need to be received in the YAA office by December 31, 2012 to allow time for project review, implementation and administration prior to the March 31, 2014 CAAP project end date.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sylvia Gibson, Executive Director, Yukon Agricultural Association / Yukon CAAP Council at 668-6864 or admin@yukonag.ca.

YUKON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

The YAA attended the Oct 24 meeting of YISC along with 10 others from industry, government, the community and academic fields. The council works to educate and advise the public and professionals about invasive species and their risk to ecosystems and economies through activities such as workshops, seminars, and newsletters. They also organise weed pulls and other activities to manage invasive plants in the Yukon.

An invasive species is defined as an organism that is introduced and has negative effects on our economy, environment or health. The term "invasive" is reserved for the most aggressive species that reproduce rapidly and cause major changes to the areas where they become established. There are 154 introduced plant species in the Yukon of which 20 are considered invasive. No introduced animal species are considered invasive at the moment.

YISC is finalising the publication of its 32-page brochure *Why Should I Care About Invasive Species?* This is helpfully broken down into sections for gardeners, landscapers, backcountry users, boaters/ anglers, farmers, guides/outfitters or ecotourism operators, and exploration, forestry or construction workers. It is currently available online as a PDF here: <http://www.yukoninvasives.com/resources1.html> but there will also be hard copies in the YAA office for those interested.

At the meeting, the feeling was that farmers are very important members of the Council's "spotters network" and provide eyes on the land to monitor for invasive plant species.

Copies of the report on the Pulling Together to Meet the Challenge of Invasive Species workshop held in February 2012 were made available. There is one in the YAA office for anyone interested.

The next Yukon Invasive Species Council meeting is Wed Nov 21, location TBA.



Invasive plants, photo courtesy of YISC website

WORKSHOP ON PRIVACY PROTECTION RULES FOR NGOS

Volunteer Yukon hosted a workshop given by former Yukon Ombudsman and Information & Privacy Commissioner **Hank Moorlag** in which the YAA participated. As we deal with the personal information of our membership, as well as financial details when reviewing CAAP funding applications, we felt it pertinent to ensure we are following the best procedures.

The workshop covered a review of existing legislation, best-practices for non-profit organisations, and how to conduct an internal privacy audit. Participants were also given a template for a privacy protection policy for their organisation. For the YAA, this policy would complement the existing Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest documents that directors already sign.



Hank also mentioned that the key role of the Yukon Ombudsman's office is to receive and investigate complaints from the public regarding their dealings with the Yukon Government, and make recommendations to resolve disputes.

Individuals can approach the Information & Privacy Commissioner when conflict arises with government offices over privacy matters or access to information. The Commissioner reviews the decision of the Yukon government under *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) and can overthrow or uphold the decision. In the event that an individual is still unsatisfied that the government is following PIPEDA, they can take the issue to the Yukon Supreme Court.

However, because NGOs are not, for the most part, subject to PIPEDA, the Commissioner's role is not relevant. Instead, Hank recommended that individuals in conflict with an NGO over privacy matters or access to information resolve this problem through mediation. An organisation called Mediation Yukon provides a list of mediators who offer dispute resolution services on many issues (not just privacy) at reasonable rates.



Three Slaves Farm, photo by Ann-Marie Stockley

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FARM INTERNSHIP POSSIBILITIES!

What: The YAA is looking to develop a program that provides education and employment opportunities for young adults interested in agriculture.

When: Summer of 2013

Where: On farms throughout the Yukon

Why: To grow our industry, to provide training, to meet labour shortages,

How: We will be looking for host farms as well as participants and ideas on how to conduct the program.

Please send ideas and information to admin@yukonag.ca

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING FURTHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE YUKON!



These boys compost horse manure and sell it as their "farm business", photo by Ann-Marie Stockley

WHITEHORSE VOLUNTEER AND CAREER FAIR

The YAA had a table at this event on Oct 18, which was jointly hosted by Volunteer Yukon, YuWIN, and Yukon College.

450 people attended and 46 exhibitors were present. We sold memberships, talked about farming and promoted the activities of the YAA - including the local products blog! (<http://www.yukonag.ca/Blog/>)

While the YAA does not utilise many volunteers at this particular time, it was a good chance to raise the organisation's profile in the community.

There was much interest in local food and many people wanted to know how to contact producers directly. As a result, lots of copies of The Yukon Farm Products and Services Guide were picked up.

Photos below by Ann-Marie Stockley



YUKON YOUNG FARMERS

Are you a farmer or producer under 45? The YFF might just be the perfect group for you to join! Yukon Young Farmers was founded in October 2011 as a sub-committee of the YAA to bring together all young and new farmers between the ages of 18-45. YFF aims to:

- ▶ encourage and empower young farmers.
- ▶ create networks to foster sharing, education, and help amongst young farm families

The YFF met several times in the winter of 2011/2012 and also sent 8 delegates to the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF) AGM "Energizing Our Members" in Halifax in February 2012. Attendees felt this was very successful and a worthwhile learning opportunity for Yukon Young Farmers.

Upcoming events include:

- ▶ Sending a delegation to the 2013 CYFF AGM "Inspiring Innovation"
This includes presentations on social media training, board governance training, young producer presentations, and best management practice information sessions. In addition delegates will experience a night out in Ottawa, the opportunity to share their story/passion for agriculture with a video crew from Ag More than Ever; visit the parliament and be motivated by Darci Lang.
- ▶ Workshops in the Yukon
- ▶ Social events and gatherings

Contact the YAA office if you are interested in joining YFF and/or attending the 2013 conference in Ottawa!



BLOG AND NEWSLETTER

The snow has come, and with it the time to do those inside tasks that pile up during the busy farming season!

Over the winter months, the YAA products listing for members on our website blog will be updated monthly instead of weekly.

Would you like to add or change the information you have listed on the YAA website? E-mail or phone the YAA office anytime to update the information you currently have listed on the YAA website - reminders to do so will be sent out monthly. As always, please feel free to share the farm products listing with anyone you think may be interested.

We are also always looking for photos, updates and information for the gallery section of the website and the Plough Boy quarterly newsletter.

Advertising in The Plough Boy Classifieds:

1/8 page - \$20
1/4 page - \$30
1/2 page - \$55
Full page - \$100

Contact the YAA office for details

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