



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - February 8, 2002

I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting and Conference

The I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting and Conference, scheduled to take place February 11-12, 2002 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is quickly approaching. There is still time to register. For details, look online at www.independentdealers.com/conference.htm or call the I.D.E.A. office at 306-933-4904.

Tax Credits Extended to Research Checkoffs

Canadian farmers who contribute funds for research and development will now be eligible to receive a tax credit for their investment. The change was announced by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in association with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The Western Grains Research Foundation which administers a check-off on wheat and barley sold through the Canadian Wheat Board has been one of many farm organizations lobbying the federal government for the change.

The federal government says that in order to qualify, agricultural associations will have to act as agents for farmers in all matters relating to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program. An information sheet is being sent to associations to explain the process.

Investment tax credits have long been available for investments in research, but up until now this has not been available to farmers contributing through a levy or check-off.

Agricore United Announces New Directors

Agricore United has appointed G. Allen Andreas and Paul B. Mulhollem, both of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) to serve on the company's Board of Directors. Andreas and Mulhollem fill vacancies left by Burnell Kraft and Craig Hamlin, the previous nominees of ADM, who have served four years and three years, respectively. Andreas is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ADM. He also serves on a number of U.S. and international advisory committees. Mulhollem is the President and Chief Operating Officer of ADM. The company is one of the world's largest processors of soybeans, corn, wheat and cocoa.

The Board of Agricore United consists of twelve directors elected by farmer members plus three non-member directors elected by shareholders.

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Saskatchewan Farmland Ownership Law: A Time for Change?

How do Saskatchewan's farmland ownership laws affect our current state of economic activity? Could modifications improve agribusiness development in Saskatchewan, or does the current legislation already do the job? Saskatchewan's farmland ownership laws, often the subject of heated debate in the past, are planned for review by the government during the upcoming spring legislative session. But what are the real issues surrounding farmland ownership? How does the public really feel?

As a means of finding answers, The Centre for Studies in Agriculture Law and the Environment (CSALE) and the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Saskatchewan are co-hosting a conference, *Saskatchewan Farmland Ownership Law: A Time for Change?* The conference, scheduled for Monday February 18, 2002, will bring together experts to provide information about farmland ownership legislation and its impacts, and to provide a forum for public discussion of the issues.

The conference will begin with a description of Saskatchewan's farmland ownership legislation and how it compares to adjacent provinces. This is followed by papers looking at farmland from an investor's viewpoint and the impact investment could have on the structure of the family farm. After lunch, the first two presenters look at the social and economic impacts of non-resident investment. The last session is made up of a panel of producers to discuss the impacts and the issues from their own perspectives. Ample time for questions and audience feedback is provided.

The conference will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday February 18, 2002, Room 105, Thorvaldson Building, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Registration is only \$53.50 (including GST) per person and includes lunch. Details are available from Richard Gray at (306) 966-4026, or Joanne Kowalski at (306) 966-8893.

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