



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - February 15, 2002

First Variety of New Forage Barley Class Set for Release

A barley variety designed for a different purpose will see a limited release this spring. AC Ranger is the first variety within a new forage barley class.

The variety was developed by Mario Therrien of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Brandon Research Centre. He says AC Ranger will give the expanding cattle industry a new, more flexible option when it comes to forage.

"It has high biomass for silage, but also features good grain yield and quality," says Therrien. AC Ranger is a smooth awned variety, meaning no barbs to irritate an animal's mouth.

While the variety has many advantages, it does have poor resistance to diseases such as Fusarium Head Blight and glume blotch. AC Ranger will be widely available in 2003. Other improved varieties with the forage barley class should be available in the years ahead.

Therrien's breeding program is supported by the Barley Check-off Fund, administered by Western Grains Research Foundation.

Sask Pool plans to Sell CSP Foods

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool continues to sell off assets to reduce its debt load in the hope of returning to profitability.

The Pool says it has entered into an agreement to sell substantially all of the assets of CSP Foods to Dawn Food Products (Canada) Ltd., a subsidiary of Dawn Foods Inc. Dawn Foods Inc. is a full service bakery supplier and distribution company based out of Jackson, Michigan. CSP currently sells Dawn Food Products into Canada under a licencing agreement.

The Pool expects to receive net cash proceeds from the sale of approximately \$35 million, subject to adjustments and holdbacks. The sale is expected to close on February 25. As a result of the sale, the Pool says it expects to record an after tax loss of \$14 million or \$0.37 per share in its third quarter of fiscal 2002.

CSP has production operations in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Etobicoke, Ontario. It is an integrated manufacturer and distributor of food ingredients to the bakery, food services and retail grocery sectors.

502 - 45th Street West, Second Floor
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
CANADA S7L 6H2

Tel: (306) 933-4904
Fax: (306) 244-4497
office@independentdealers.com



NISA Deadline Reminder

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has issued a reminder that March 1, 2002 is the deadline to apply for an interim withdrawal from the NISA program for 2001.

An interim withdrawal from the Net Income Stabilization Account is based on an estimate of a producer's 2001 withdrawal entitlements. NISA interim withdrawal application are available by calling 1-800-665-6472.

US Senate Passes Controversial Farm Bill

In a 58-40 vote, the Senate has passed the Farm Bill. Highlights include:

- \$45 billion in spending over the next 5 years
- Conservation spending doubled
- Limits subsidy amount a farm can receive
- Pork and other products are required to be labeled with their country of origin
- Meat packers are banned from owning or controlling hogs and other meat animals within 14 days prior to slaughter
- \$8.4 billion for domestic nutrition programs
- Private financing for food sales to Cuba permitted
- Subsidy rates boosted for grains along with a safety-net program when prices are low

The differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill will be worked out by the Conference Committee.

Saskatchewan Farmland Ownership Law: A Time for Change?

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 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.

502 - 45th Street West, Second Floor
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
CANADA S7L 6H2

Tel: (306) 933-4904
Fax: (306) 244-4497
office@independentdealers.com