



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - January 18, 2002

Canadian Agriculture Ministers to Meet in Toronto

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief will meet with his provincial and territorial counterparts in Toronto next week. The meeting will be on Thursday, January 24.

Vanclief wants to continue work towards a new national agriculture policy for the country. He has billed the proposed changes as wide ranging. However, agriculture did not receive an increased allocation in the recent federal budget.

Crop Insurance Changes in Manitoba

Manitoba's Agriculture and Food Minister Rosann Wowchuk has announced changes to that province's crop insurance program for 2002. She says there will be higher coverage levels at no extra cost to producers, a pilot program for pasture insurance and an increase in the number of insurable crops.

Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation will use its reserve to maintain current premiums while coverage levels increase, due to a forecast increase in grain prices.

A forage restoration benefit will be introduced. Producers whose tame hay crops are destroyed by excess moisture will be paid \$40 an acre for no additional premium. Payments will be cost shared by the provincial and federal governments.

Other changes include a pilot program for pasture insurance and the addition of ryegrass as an insurable crop. MCIC will also raise the quality guarantee on oats to a higher grade which will result in an increase in coverage.

Manitoba claims to have the highest percentage of insured acreage (over 80%) of any province as well as the lowest administrative costs.

The deadline for Manitoba farmers to sign up for crop insurance is April 1.

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

The I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting and Conference is scheduled to take place February 11-12, 2002 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This is must-attend event. Conference details and registration information is available online at www.independentdealers.com/conference.htm.

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