



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

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

Plans for the I.D.E.A. Fourth Annual General Meeting and Conference are well underway. Our format will be similar to last year, with a host reception just prior to the CAAR convention on February 10, 2003, followed by our Annual General Meeting and Conference on February 11, 2003. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. More details to follow shortly.

CAAR Crop Management Forums

CAAR is hosting a series of Crop Management Forums, as follows: Tuesday November 26, 2002 in Guelph, ON; Wednesday November 27, 2002 in Winnipeg, MB; Thursday November 28, 2002 in Saskatoon, SK; Friday November 29, 2002 in Red Deer, AB; and Friday February 14, 2003 in Saskatoon, SK. The cost for CAAR members is \$80.25 each (including GST) and \$96.30 (including GST) for non-members. For details, call CAAR at 204-989-9300 or email info@caar.org.

CWB Election Becomes Nasty

The vote for Canadian Wheat Board Directors is becoming nasty. The start of the election coincided with the spectacle of some Alberta farmers going to jail for running the border in '96. Now, the warring factions are both launching allegations of unfair election practices.

The National Farmers Union, a big supporter of single desk selling, claims that Monsanto may be buying farmer influence. The NFU says one or two of the candidates supporting dual marketing are serving on a farmer advisory panel for Monsanto "to assist in ensuring the positive introduction of Roundup Ready wheat in Canada". The NFU has complained to the CWB Election Co-ordinator.

The NFU has also written to Monsanto asking for a complete list of farmers serving on the panel as well as a list of farmers who have been sponsored by Monsanto to attend meetings outside of Canada. The NFU says it's concerned about unidentified farm organization leaders secretly operating as "contractors" to Monsanto.

Meanwhile, dual marketing candidates are complaining about an open letter sent to farmers by the Chair of CWB Directors, Ken Ritter. They allege that Ken Ritter used his office as a platform to put forward personal views in support of single desk candidates. Represented by an organization called CARE, they are also complaining to the Elections Coordinator.

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Economic Benefits of Pork Production Stay Local

The Prairie Swine Centre at Elstow, Saskatchewan has conducted a study to determine the distribution of economic benefits from pork production. The PSC Elstow Research Farm has a 600 sow farrow to finish operation which operates like a commercial farm. It was used to measure spending patterns.

The study found that \$1.62 million or 71 percent of total expenditures were incurred within 80 km of the barn.

According to John Patience, author of the study and President of Prairie Swine Centre, close to a quarter of a million dollars or 11 percent of the total was spend with the local rural municipality of Blucher. An additional \$460,000 or 20 percent of expenditures were made in the neighbouring rural municipalities. The study discovered that 80 percent of all expenditures were made within the province.

The 600 sow barn mills feed on site. During the year studied, \$600,000 worth of cereal grains were purchased.

EU Market Remains Open for Wheat and Durum

The European Union has agreed that only imports of lower-quality wheat, feed barley and malting barley will be subject to tariff rate quotas. High quality milling wheat and durum will continue to have unrestricted, duty-free access to the European market.

On July 26 of this year, the EU notified the World Trade Organization of its intent to place tariff rate quotas on all imported cereals. The EU claimed that large volumes of low priced wheat from eastern European countries were disrupting its internal cereals market.

Following negotiations with Canada and other major trading partners, the EU softened its position to include only low quality cereals in the tariffs.

According to Ralph Goodale, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Canada exports nearly one million tonnes of high quality milling wheat and 400,000 tonnes of durum annual to the EU. This is about 45 percent of EU imports of high quality wheat.

The value of Canadian wheat exports to the EU over the last five years has been about \$500 million annually.