



## **I.D.E.A. Industry Update - November 22, 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 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.

### **Canadian Western Agribition Kicks Off**

Canadian Western Agribition Canada's Premier Agricultural Show and Marketplace, kicks off Monday, November 25 and runs through to Saturday, November 30 at Regina Exhibition Park, Regina, Saskatchewan. For show details, look online at [www.agribition.com](http://www.agribition.com).

### **Young Farmers**

Another major release of information from the 2001 Census of Agriculture shows the number of farmers under the age of 35 has fallen by more than one-third since the 1996 Census. The total number of farm operators has fallen by 10 percent to 346,200. (Each farm can report up to three operators.)

The group of farmers 35 years of age and under represents only 12 percent of all farmers. Nearly 20 percent of self-employed workers in the general labour force are under 35. In the entire labour force, 40 percent of all workers are under 35.

However, young operators are well represented in large farms. This is the only class of farms which is growing.

"High capital assets, aside from making farming a possibility for young farmers through inheritance, may also be enough to lure them from attractions of higher pay, regular hours, paid vacations and the other advantages associated with a job off the farm," says a news release based on the report.

Among farm operators, the median age is 49 years. For the comparable labour force population of self-employed workers, it is 44 years.

On farms with receipts over \$250,000, the median age is 46 - the lowest of all the income classes. This category of farms also had the lowest proportion of operators working off-farm jobs - less than 19 percent, compared to 45 percent overall.

Of young farmers in the over \$250,000 sales class, only 23 percent have non-farm jobs. In classes under \$250,000, 64 percent of young operators work at non-farm jobs.

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

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