



## **I.D.E.A. Industry Update - April 14, 2003**

### **New I.D.E.A. Board of Directors**

A new Executive is poised to lead the way for the Independent Dealers Entrepreneurial Association (I.D.E.A.). Curtis Sinnott of Sinnott Farm Services in Pincher Creek, Alberta will serve as President. Pattie Ganske of Parkland Fertilizer (Wetaskiwin) Ltd. in Wetaskiwin, Alberta will fill the role of Vice President and David Dow of Dow Fertilizers Ltd. in Onoway, Alberta, will step down as President to serve as Treasurer. Newly elected to the Board of Directors is Frank Orchard of Orchard Transport in Delisle, Saskatchewan. Continuing on the I.D.E.A. Board is Ron Blair of Blair's Fertilizer Ltd. in Lanigan, Saskatchewan; Allan Kroeker of Terraflex Ag Services Ltd. in Niverville, Manitoba; and Ross McKnight of Linear Grain Inc. in Carman, Manitoba.

### **Changes to Saskatchewan's Ag Implements Act**

The Saskatchewan government has introduced amendments to the Agricultural Implements Act. According to the government, the changes will ensure farmers leasing machinery are protected under the warranty, repair and parts provisions of the Act. The amendments will also change warranty provisions so they will apply from the date of first use of agricultural equipment, rather than the date of delivery. The government says with the update the legislation will reflect current industry practices and be more consistent with legislation in place in Alberta and Manitoba.

### **Syngenta Targets Roundup Ready Canola**

Syngenta is positioning its Touchdown iQ herbicide as an alternative to Roundup within Roundup Ready canola. Touchdown has been registered for use in RR canola and now Syngenta has announced a Touchdown iQ Performance Pledge. Syngenta will reimburse a grower's technology use fee (\$15 an acre) in RR canola in the event the crop fails by June 30 following application of Touchdown iQ in crop for weed control. This is similar to the deal Monsanto has for Roundup within RR canola.

### **Pool Sells Alberta Terminal to P&H**

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has announced an agreement to sell its AgPro Grain terminal at Wilson Siding, Alberta to Parrish and Heimbecker. The Pool says it will continue to compete in the Lethbridge and southern Alberta marketplace through its grain handling and marketing centre at Vulcan. As a result of the transaction, P&H has cancelled plans to construct an inland terminal at Wilson Siding. Under the AgPro banner, the Pool will continue to have five high throughput facilities in Alberta. Pool CEO Mayo Schmidt says only 60 percent of the current grain capacity is required to handle an average crop on the prairies.

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## Canadian Retirement Income Calculator

Retirement planning probably isn't at the top of the priority list for most farmers. But with the average age of farmers in Canada continuing to rise, maybe it should be. Human Resources Development Canada just made the process a little easier with the introduction of a new planning tool available on its website.

It's called the Canadian Retirement Income Calculator and it provides a forecast of annual pre-tax retirement income. The calculator allows you to work through seven modules. You can manipulate most conditions that affect CPP (such as taking it early or reducing the number of years paying into the plan), OAS, RRSP and other income sources. Once you have input the information, you can print a summary and then alter various pieces of data for comparison purposes.

To use the tool most effectively, you will need your most recent CPP statement of contributions as well as RRSP statements and information regarding any other savings or income sources. The website recommends that you allow at least 30 minutes to work through the process and do a rough estimate.

Now that you have all your financial information spread across the kitchen table while you work on your tax return for this year, it might be a good time to check it out. You can find it at [srv260.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](mailto:srv260.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca) or go to [www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca) and search for "Canadian Retirement Income Calculator."

## We Need Your Input

Please answer the questions below and return your form by fax to 306.244-4497:

1. Do you currently use field record keeping software?  Yes  No  
IF YES, what do use: \_\_\_\_\_  
IF NO, would you be interested in using this type of software?  Yes  No
2. As the I.D.E.A. membership has requested, The I.D.E.A. Board of Directors is planning to hold our **2004** Annual General Meeting and conference apart from the CAAR convention (March 2-4, 2004 in Calgary) in a resort location. Please choose your preferred location and time (all Thursday/Friday dates):  
CHOOSE ONE OF:  January 15-16  January 22-23  January 29-30  No Preference  
CHOOSE ONE OF:  Canmore, Alberta  Banff, Alberta
3. Regarding the 2004 I.D.E.A. Annual Meeting and Conference, are you interested in bringing your family with you and staying through the weekend, or longer, as a mini-vacation?  Yes  No
4. The I.D.E.A. Board of Directors is considering conducting a confidential survey of members on service rates, compiling the data and releasing the numbers as a whole back to the membership. Would you be interested in participating in such a study?  Yes  No