



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - July 14, 2003

Changes to BSE Compensation

At the meeting of Agriculture Ministers which wrapped up Thursday in Winnipeg, there was a decision to adjust the BSE compensation package which provides some financial support for cattle producers selling animals for slaughter. The payment grid has been adjusted to further encourage producers to obtain the best price possible when selling their animals. Under the changes, producers selling for rock bottom prices will receive a reduced level of government support.

The Ministers also called for the suspension of further supplementary import permits for beef coming into Canada. This will affect beef imports from countries other than the United States. Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief agreed to follow up immediately with his colleague, the Minister of International Trade, on this issue. There was not general support for suggestions from Saskatchewan that beef imports from the U.S. be curtailed. This is against Canada's trade obligations and was viewed as counterproductive by most attending the meeting.

The Ministers supported a number of changes to the animal health and food inspection system, including new rules to completely remove Specified Risk Materials such as the brain, spinal cord and eyeballs of beef animals from the food chain.

Lyle Vanclief met with Yoshiyuki Kamei, Japan's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on Saturday in Ottawa. Japan is seen by many as the main roadblock in reopening the border to Canadian beef.

Federal-Provincial Farm Water Program for Alberta

A Canada-Alberta Farm Water Program has been announced. The program is to help Alberta farmers develop reliable supplies of fresh water for irrigation, livestock and other uses.

The new program, made possible by Alberta signing the Agriculture Policy Framework last month, will provide \$11 million in funding for Alberta producers this year. The provincial share is \$5 million. The federal portion of \$6 million is money previously committed to Alberta under safety net programs, which has been recommitted to the province under the APF.

The program will pay one-third of development costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per producer for eligible water supply projects. Producers must complete their projects by March 31, 2004 and submit their applications by April 15, 2004.

Producers are encouraged to contact Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Rural Services Division at 780-422-9167 for application and resource information before any construction begins. This will allow producers to access technical expertise on project design.

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

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

More Discussions About Canaryseed Association

Two more meetings will be held in July for canaryseed growers to discuss the possibility of establishing an association. There are about a thousand canaryseed growers in Saskatchewan and the province is the largest producer and exporter of canaryseed in the world.

On July 17 at 1:00 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Kernen Research Farm, University of Saskatchewan. A discussion about organizing a Saskatchewan Canaryseed Growers Association will be followed by a tour of the canaryseed plant breeding program research plots at the Crop Development Centre. There is no cost, but pre-registration is requested. Call 306-933-5567 in Saskatoon.

A second meeting will be held on July 30 at 1:00 p.m., at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station, Indian Head. Again, there will be a discussion about an association and this will be followed by a tour of the canaryseed agronomy research program at the station. There is no cost, but pre-registration is requested. Call 306-695-4250 in Indian Head.

The events have been organized by Ray McVicar, special crops specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. His phone number is 306-787-4665.

There are an estimated 620,000 acres of canaryseed seeded in the province this year. There has never been an association to represent the interests of growers.

Canola Research Agreement ...by Kevin Hursh (July 7, 2003)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Alberta Canola Producers Commission have entered into a five year \$1.75 million research agreement on integrated crop management. ICM research in canola agronomy involves the study of weeds, plant diseases, entomology and soil fertility.

AAFC and ACPC are each committing \$75,000 a year over the length of the agreement. As well, AAFC is pledging the equivalent of about \$200,000 a year from departmental research facilities in Lacombe, Beaverlodge and Lethbridge. This will involve the services of scientists, technicians, and other resources.