



## I.D.E.A. Industry Update - June 20, 2003

### Highlights from Farm Progress Show

The Western Canada Farm Progress Show is underway at Regina Exhibition Park. The show was officially opened Wednesday morning in a brief ceremony featuring John Buhler as guest speaker. Buhler purchased the Versatile tractor manufacturing plant in Winnipeg in 2000. These are the only tractors being built in Canada.

BASF held a media event at the Farm Progress Show to talk about Clearfield wheat and Adrenalin herbicide. CDC Imagine, the first Clearfield wheat variety, should be commercially available on a limited basis in 2004. It's a CWRS variety comparable to the top varieties currently being grown. However, it has been bred with resistance to the "imi" group of herbicides. Producers will be able to spray CDC Imagine with the herbicide Adrenalin, controlling not only a broad spectrum of weeds, but also any volunteer wheat and barley. BASF officials say the price tag for Adrenalin has not yet been determined.

Bourgault has unveiled four new products at the Farm Progress Show. The 1650 Round Bale Mover has capacity for 16 bales and the bales can be picked from either side. Bourgault's 5730 Air Coulter Drill is called "The Cattleman's Machine." It's a low disturbance way to seed and fertilize hay and pastureland. The Bourgault 6550 Air Seeder is touted as the world's largest air seeder cart, with a four tank design and a 550 bushel capacity. Bourgault has also launched the second version of its Mid Row Bander. It has a larger disc and a threaded adjustment rod for easily raising and lowering the coulter.

Also at the Farm Progress Show, New Holland has announced that its name will now appear on Flexi-coil air drills, air seeder carts, sprayers and tillage tools. New Holland is in big letters. The Flexi-coil name is in smaller print and the colour of the equipment is now blue, rather than Flexi-coil gray. Flexi-coil equipment marketed through dealers other than New Holland, will still carry the Flexi-coil name and the gray colour. CNH Global, which owns New Holland as well as Case IH, purchased Flexi-coil a few years ago. The Saskatoon manufacturing plant builds seeding equipment for both companies.

The 26th Annual Western Canadian Farm Progress show runs from June 18 to 20. The show features 100 acres of farm machinery as well as outdoor demos, including GPS auto-pilot systems, grain vacs and bale loaders. The popular new inventions area features nearly 50 displays. The International Business Centre is expected to host more than 300 buying delegates from around the world. In total, more than 40,000 people have an opportunity to see over 650 exhibits in one location.

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### **Mad Cow Quarantines Lifted**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says its mad cow investigation is nearing completion. Testing is finished and all quarantines have been lifted. All tests have come back negative for BSE. The comprehensive investigation has not identified a single additional case. No one is able to say when the border will reopen to Canadian beef exports. Losses continue to mount in the feedlot sector. The federal government has also announce a compensation package for the beef industry

### **Grasshopper Control Assistance in Alberta**

A \$10.5 million federal / provincial program has been launched in Alberta to help producers defray their grasshopper control expenses. The program is available to producers in areas of severe and very severe infestations and will pay up to \$4 an acre.

Farmers will receive a \$2 initial payment per treated acre for control of grasshoppers on their land and adjacent roadsides. Depending on the program uptake, farmers may receive an additional payment of \$2 per treated acre.

Applications are now available. Copies of applicable invoices and receipts must be included with the application. More information is available through the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at 1-866-882-7677. Application forms are available from the Rural Services Division at 780-422-9167. Applications are also be available at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca).

Federal participation in the program was made possible by Alberta signing the implementation agreement for the new Agriculture Policy Framework.

No assistance for grasshopper control has been announced in neighbouring Saskatchewan even though broad areas of that province are also expecting a severe grasshopper infestation.

### **Many Areas of Saskatchewan Need Rain**

Crops are deteriorating in some parts of Saskatchewan's central and northern grainbelt. Conditions are variable due to the scattered nature of rainfall, but many producers in the Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford regions say rain is needed soon. The weekly crop report from Saskatchewan Agriculture carries the headline "Crops in Good to Excellent Condition." However, the report notes that moisture and crop conditions deteriorated in central and northern areas during the past week as warm temperatures combined with strong winds. "General rains will be needed soon to prevent crop deterioration and stress," says the crop report. Insects were cited as the main source of crop damage during the past week, specifically grasshoppers, flea beetles, cutworms and wireworms.

### **\$3.1 Billion in New Loans Approved by FCC**

The annual report from Farm Credit Canada show the corporation approved \$3.1 billion in new loans last year. That's an increase of 28 percent from the previous year. Loan approvals were up in every region of the country. For ten straight years, the FCC lending portfolio has been growing.

FCC reported income of \$96.8 million for 2002-03. "All of our profits go toward funding further growth in our lending portfolio and toward developing new products and services to benefit the industry," said John Ryan, President and Chief Executive Officer.

The largest number of FCC loans, nearly 26,000 are in Saskatchewan. Ontario is second with over 18,000 loans. However, Ontario is first in total value of loans at nearly \$3 billion, followed by Saskatchewan at about \$1.5 billion.

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