



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - July 9, 2004

*****Gene-Altering Procedure Could Transform Crops into Vaccines**

Kan Wang, associate professor of agronomy and director of the plant transformation facility at Iowa State is, according to this story, developing a corn plant along with other ISU researchers that carries a vaccine for E. coli bacteria, which could be used for animals or humans. For seven years, Wang has been developing genetically altered corn that holds a gene that carries a vaccine for E. coli bacteria. She has grown it in Iowa for three years and has begun growing it in Colorado. Wang develops the E. coli vaccine in corn similarly to how normal vaccines are developed. In corn plants, Wang takes the critical component of the E. coli bacteria that gives immunity and inserts it into the corn plant's genes. (Source: AGNET)

*****Britain's Organic Appetite Grows by £1.7M per Week**

Demand for organic food in Britain is, according to this story, outstripping the rest of Europe for the first time. As the remainder of the Continent reports waning enthusiasm for naturally produced food, Britain's revolution in healthy eating shows no sign of abating. The rise in sales of organic produce is huge, running at £1.7 million a week, according to the Soil Association. Amarjit Sahota, director of Organic Monitor which analyses the industry's global market, said that in monetary terms, the British market is now the fastest-growing in Europe. UK firms selling organic produce online report a doubling of turnover over the past year. Some are struggling to meet demand.

The turnaround is most pronounced in the infant market. Four in five babies are now fed largely with organic produce. The revised projections for growth from the organics industry say it will expand from £1.1bn to £3.5bn over the next five years. (Source: AGNET)

*****Soil on Stone Imports Results in \$10,000 Fine**

Failure to remove potentially contaminated soil from commercial granite shipments has resulted in a \$10,000 fine for a Delta, British Columbia importer. West Coast Granite Manufacturing Inc., pled guilty to two counts of contravening the Plant Protection Act. West Coast Granite Manufacturing received repeated warnings over the past several years from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency about excessive amounts of soil on imports of stone. On two most recent occasions, Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors observed excessive amounts of soil on granite blocks being imported by West Coast Granite Manufacturing. The shipments, originating in Brazil and Zimbabwe, were potentially infested with pests that could pose a substantial risk to the environment, agriculture industry and domestic plant life in Canada. (Source: AGNET)

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

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

*****Slow Crop Development**

The slow pace of crop development continues to be a concern over most of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Delayed seeding, below normal temperatures and continuing precipitation are all contributing factors.

The crop report from Manitoba Agriculture says all special crops in the central region are in crucial need of warmer weather. The development of beans, soybeans and corn is a particular concern. The report also notes that in the eastern region, corn should be twice as tall as it is.

In Saskatchewan, welcome rains have fallen in the northwestern and west-central regions over the past week. Most of the province has adequate moisture. Saskatchewan Agriculture says at least 82 per cent of spring cereal crops are in good to excellent condition, but over 80 per cent are behind normal development. Saskatchewan flax and canola crops are reported to be 69 and 65 per cent in good to excellent condition, respectively, but 84 per cent are behind normal development. Over 75 per cent of pulse crops are in good to excellent condition, but 73 per cent are reported as behind normal development. *(By Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

*****Free CAIS Applications**

Some farmers can get their applications for the new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program filled out for free.

The charge at an accountant's office can range from a few hundred dollars to more than a thousand, depending upon the complexity of the file. A small number of farmers are getting their CAIS paperwork done at no charge by CAIS staff.

The CAIS program is federally administered in six provinces - British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. There are two CAIS offices, one in Winnipeg and one in Regina.

For farmers who call and make an appointment or just stop by one of the offices, free assistance is available.

Program officials say the service has not been advertised and make no apologies that it is being provided free to only a small, select group of farmers. They admit they would be unable to handle a large influx of producers.

Private accountants contacted for their reaction were surprised. They use CAIS offices to get clarification on a wide number of issues, but were unaware that a free service for farmers was available.

The toll free number for contacting the CAIS program is 866-367-8506. *(By Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*