



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - June 18, 2004

*****Crops Flooded, Seeding Stalled**

Substantial rains in recent weeks have been a blessing for most of the dry areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan. However, excessive moisture is creating problems in southeastern Saskatchewan and much of Manitoba.

According to Saskatchewan Agriculture, as much as 40 per cent remains to be seeded in some southeastern areas. Across the southeast, 84 per cent of crop reporters rate moisture as surplus on crop land. There has been extensive flooding.

Even in areas without surplus moisture, cool, damp conditions have slowed crop development. Across Saskatchewan, only 33 per cent of cereal crops are rated as normal for development, with oilseeds at 29 per cent and pulse crops at 38 per cent.

The crop report from Manitoba Agriculture says that in some southwestern portions, only 50 to 60 per cent of the crop is seeded. Some seeding is being accomplished by aeroplane and custom floaters, since conventional ground equipment can not navigate in saturated fields.

Manitoba Agriculture reports that in eastern areas many fields are in poor condition, but it is too late to reseed. Seed dealers report large acreages of soybeans will not be planted. Sunflower and corn acres will also be reconsidered, depending on the weather. *(By Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

*****Sask Pool Sells Mexican Terminal**

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool no longer owns a position in a port terminal facility located in Manzanillo, Mexico. The Pool has completed the divestiture of its 50 per cent share.

"It is one more step towards restoring the Pool to a focused grain handling and agri-products leader on the Prairies," said CEO Mayo Schmidt. A few weeks ago, the Pool completed the sale of its hog barn facilities, which were also considered non-core assets.

The Mexican facility was created through a joint venture between Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and a Mexican partner. The terminal was originally announced in 1997 and opened in 1999. It was supposed to handle three million tonnes of product per year, but never reached its potential.

In 2002, the Pool wrote off the investment. *(By Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

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*****I.D.E.A. Member Conference Call**

Join us for a member conference call on June 25, featuring the latest Market Outlook by Mike Jubinville of ProFarmer Canada. Look for details regarding the call in your email inbox or fax machine, or call the I.D.E.A. office at 306-933-4404 to find out how to participate.

*****We Need Your Feedback . . .**

1. According to survey results, the majority of I.D.E.A. member prefer to hold the next I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting and Conference in conjunction with the 2005 CAAR convention, scheduled for Tuesday February 8 to Thursday February 10 in Winnipeg. When would you like to have the I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting take place:

Monday February 7 (evening social) & Tuesday February 8 (Annual General Meeting and Conference)

OR

Thursday February 10 (evening social) & Friday February 11 (Annual General Meeting and Conference)

2. Regarding your employment recruitment needs, do you require any of the following services:

Professional Recruitment Agency: Yes No

Online Advertising for New Employees: Yes No

Fax your responses back to the I.D.E.A. office at 306-244-4497 or email us at office@independentdealers.com.