



## I.D.E.A. Industry Update - October 1, 2004

### **\*\*\*CAIS Deadlines Extended**

In provinces where the CAIS (Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization) program is administered federally, the enrollment deadline has been extended. This includes British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yukon Territory.

Producers who missed the June deadline for enrolling for 2003 and 2004 now have until at least November 1 to join the income stabilization program and pick their coverage level. The deadline for submitting CAIS supplementary forms has also been extended to at least November 1.

A couple reasons are cited for the extension. The new BSE assistance program includes per head payments that can be taken as an advance against the CAIS program. Extending the enrollment deadline will let cattle producers take advantage of this new feature. As well, this year's harvest has turned out to be more troublesome than expected and will affect 2004 income levels.

Statistics from the CAIS program for up until September 19 show a total of nearly \$76.5 million in government contributions delivered to farmers where the program is administered federally. For provinces where the program is delivered by provincial agencies, specifically Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, statistics show a total of over \$53 million delivered to farmers. (Source: Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)

### **\*\*\*Harvest Woes Continue in Manitoba**

Another week into the harvest season in Manitoba and little progress has been made. Crops are deteriorating as the fall moves on.

Beans and sunflowers are reported to be deteriorating from mould. Products registered for control of mould on beans have a protection period of 7 days, but pressure has been excessive for 4 weeks. Producers were already facing a small crop because of the late spring and cool summer but the disease outbreak means further reductions.

On the cereal harvest, little progress was made and any grain harvested required drying. Cereals were being harvested at 20% moisture and dried immediately. While it is reported spring wheat yields are pleasing, the cost of drying hurts the net return. Spring wheat yields are reported at 60 to 65 bushels an acre but most samples have been downgraded because of weathering.

In central Manitoba some winter wheat remains in the field and reports of sprouting were common. (Source: Les Kletke; 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. Annual General Meeting and Conference**

The I.D.E.A. 6th Annual General Meeting and Conference will take place February 7-8, 2005, Winnipeg, SK, in conjunction with the CAAR Convention. Mark the date in your calendars and plan to attend. Conference details will be available in the near future.

**\*\*\*Cat Litter Made from Canadian Barley**

LitterMate has been launched at pet stores in British Columbia. The product is made from ground barley fortified with baking soda for odour control.

LitterMate Bio-Products says barley is naturally absorbent and clumps within ten seconds, making a cat's litter box easier to clean. The clumps can be flushed down the toilet with the rest of the barley litter composted in flowerbeds.

The company claims its product has a natural composition and is safer for cats than clumping litters made of clay.

The litter is being made in Saskatchewan by InfraReady Products, a company with years of experience in making food ingredients. Farmers are paid a premium to grow the special strain of barley used to make LitterMate.

The product retails for approximately \$12 for a five kilogram bag. The company claims cat owners will get two times as much use from the litter as compared to competing products. *(Source: Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

**\*\*\*Crop Protection Sales Top \$1.3 billion**

For the first time in several years, crop protection product sales are up in Canada. CropLife Canada, the trade association representing 90% of all crop protection companies in Canada, announced at its annual conference last week that sales were up three per cent in 2003, totaling \$1.31 billion.

Officials attributed the increase to grasshopper infestations in western Canada, where insect pressure on cereals, special crops and canola drove insecticide sales up by 65 per cent. As well, insecticides for non-agricultural use increased 34%.

Regional distribution of sales remained relatively steady, with 77% in western Canada, and the remainder in Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. More than three-quarters of all sales were herbicides.

While increased sales boost profits, they also leave the industry dealing with more empty plastic pesticide containers. Indeed, the 7.5 million containers sold in 2003 represented a 7% jump in numbers.

To handle the load, CropLife Canada directs a national container management program that has seen 55 million empty containers returned and recycled since the initiative began in 1989. Cam Davreux, CropLife Canada vice-president in charge of stewardship initiatives, said the program continued gaining support in 2003 from farmers, who returned 18.5% more empty containers to collection depots than the previous year.

"The figures are a credit to the responsible use and positive environmental mindset of Canadian farmers," said Davreux. *(Source: Owen Roberts; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*