



## I.D.E.A. Industry Update - November 29, 2005

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### **\*\*\* I.D.E.A. Annual General Meeting and Conference**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the I.D.E.A. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference on the evening of Monday February 13, 2006 in Saskatoon, SK, in conjunction with the CAAR convention. Our brief AGM will be followed by feature speaker Bill Goodbar, VP of AgriCapital who will focus on the state of the agriculture industry. The evening will close with a social, complete with wonderful appetizers and a cash bar. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. An agenda and registration form is online at [www.independentdealers.com](http://www.independentdealers.com).

### **\*\*\*Ecological Goods and Services Pilot Project Launched**

A three year pilot project has been launched in Manitoba that will reward producers for being responsible stewards of the land. It's called the Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S) pilot project.

Producers in the Rural Municipality of Blanshard will receive a financial incentive to develop and maintain natural environments on their land, integrated with their agricultural lands. There may also be support for other farming practices that provide environmental benefits.

The Agricultural Policy Framework of the federal and Manitoba governments will provide up to \$75,000 in transition funding this fiscal year to help prepare the program. There will be additional funding in subsequent years. Other funding partners include the R.M. of Blanshard and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. The project will be administered by the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation.

The concept originated as the Alternate Land Use Service project, which has been championed by Ian Wishart, vice-president of Keystone Agricultural Producers.

Evaluation of the pilot project will be undertaken through the University of Manitoba. (Source: Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)

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### **\*\*\*\$755 Million to Grain and Oilseed Producers**

The federal government has announced a direct payment to assist grain and oilseed producers across the country. The amount allocated is nearly \$755 million. This is on top of the \$492 million that went to grain and oilseed producers earlier this year under the farm income payment program.

Unlike previous assistance packages, this one will go exclusively to grain producers.

“The value of grains and oilseeds production is down approximately \$2 billion this year compared with the average over the past ten years,” said the federal news release announcing the assistance. “U.S. domestic support for specific commodities, rising fuel prices, and a high Canadian dollar have had a major effect on these producers, along with poor weather conditions in some parts of the country.”

The federal government has released a long list of eligible crops. They include wheat, corn, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flax, buckwheat, rye, triticale, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, canaryseed, a large number of dry beans, linola, coriander, hemp, caraway seed, fenugreek, safflower, fababeans, kamut, kanaf, quinoa and spelt.

It's expected the money will be paid based on sales data from previous years. Since this information is available to the government from other programs, most producers would not need to make an application.

There will likely be an initial payment with the majority of the money. A final payment would be made later.

This assistance will count as income for calculating benefits from the CAIS (Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization) program. In other words, it will reduce CAIS payments.

The government is promising more program details soon. *(Source: Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

### **\*\*\*Canada's First Commercial-Scale Biodiesel Plant**

Rothsay, a division of Maple Leaf Foods has announced the commissioning of Canada's first commercial-scale biodiesel plant. The new facility has the capacity to produce 35 million litres of biodiesel annually and is located in Ville Ste. Catherine on Montreal's South Shore.

Rothsay is using animal fats and recycled cooking oils to produce the biodiesel, which can be used in diesel engines without modification. Rothsay pioneered the process at a smaller pilot plant in Montreal over the past three years.

Rothsay is a rendering company providing a recycling service to the food processing industry. It operates five rendering facilities nationwide. The company will now be a major player in Canada's emerging biodiesel industry. *(Source: Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

### **\*\*\*Agriwebinars**

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC) is presenting a fall and winter series of free webinars. The online seminars cover hot topics in agriculture and feature well-known leading edge experts. Accessible via dial-up and high speed, the series offers a unique opportunity for farm managers, agribusinesses and commodity groups to communicate directly with experts they might otherwise never be able to meet. Attending a webinar is a lot like watching a TV show. When you register (registration is free), you'll be given a password that allows you to enter all of the webinars (so you only register once). Each webinar is on a web page that allows you to hear the presenter, see the slides and submit questions via text chat. For more information, go to: <http://farmcentre.com/english/agriwebinar/webinars/index.htm>.