



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - September 22, 2005

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******Welcome to a New I.D.E.A. Member***

Kimber Mader of Parkland Fertilizer Falher in Fahler, Alberta is I.D.E.A.'s newest member. Kimber is in the fertilizer business and has been an independent dealer for two years. Welcome Kimber!

******Harvest Woes in Saskatchewan and Alberta***

Heavy rain over much of Alberta and Saskatchewan and continuing showers last week in many areas has further delayed harvest operations while downgrading crop quality.

Crop specialists with Alberta Agriculture estimate that less than 10 per cent of the provincial crop has been harvested.

In Saskatchewan, the September 11 crop report from the provincial agriculture department pegged overall harvest progress at 34 per cent compared to the five-year average of 46 per cent.

In an area one to two hours east of Saskatoon, rainfall amounts of 150 to 200 mm were recorded the second weekend in September. There is flooding of fields, standing crops that are flat to the ground and swathes that have been washed away. There was also hail damage in the area.

Rainfall amounts of 40 to 80 mm were common in southern Alberta and western Saskatchewan. The rain is on top of previous rainfall events during harvest.

Although the full extent of grade deterioration won't be known until harvest can resume, it's expected that much of the barley intended for malting will now be feed quality. Grade reductions are expected in wheat and durum crops from bleaching and sprouting.

Canola and flaxseed crops are not usually harmed by wet harvest weather.

In addition to quality loss, producers are also concerned that as the season advances, harvested crops may need to be dried, which will mean an extra expense. (Source: 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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*****Changes at Winnipeg Commodity Exchange**

Flaxseed futures and options contracts have been de-activated from trading on the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange's (WCE) electronic trading platform.

The WCE Oilseeds Committee is recommending to the board of directors that the flaxseed futures and options contracts be de-listed due to a lack of liquidity. The flaxseed futures contract has not traded since December 7, 2004. The WCE board will consider the recommendation on October 19.

The September 2006 canola futures contract has been removed from trading and September will be removed as a contract delivery month permanently. This is due to limited trading activity in the September contract month. *(Source: by Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

*****Canadian Soybean Council Created**

Canada's increasingly active soybean lobby has taken a big step in carving out its niche by creating a national soybean council.

Known as the Canadian Soybean Council, it represents Canada's major soybean growers: the Ontario Soybean Growers (OSG), the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association (MPGA) and the Federation des Producteurs de Cultures Commerciales du Quebec (FPCCQ). Its mandate is to work together to improve Canadian soybean producers' profitability.

The council's first focus is identifying and developing new export markets for Canadian soybeans. It has struck a committee to oversee export market development activities. The committee consists of representatives from each of the provinces involved and the Canadian Soybean Export Association, with advisory involvement from the Canadian International Grain Institute.

Murray Froebe, MPGA director, calls export market development "the first step" for the new council. He says that as the various provincial soybean organizations learn to work together, they hope to expand their priorities to domestic and industrial markets, value-added opportunities at the farm gate and new research initiatives.

Adds William Van Tassel, FPCCQ director: "We look forward to seeing our new relationship grow. We are confident this joint effort will benefit growers in all provinces involved."

The council's inaugural collaborative market development activity is a technical course involving visitors from Asia, who will tour various aspects of Canada's soybean industry in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec.

Soybean growers in Ontario in particular have been increasingly active and political through the past few years, as acreage has grown. This year, they were central to the high-profile producer rally at Queen's Park in Toronto, and helped drive the creation of the Ontario Grain and Oilseed Safety Net Committee.

That committee has been a leader in the province's fledgling Farmers Feed Cities campaign, designed to communicate the importance of home-grown agriculture to urbanites and generate more provincial support for farmers. *(Source: by Owen Roberts; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

*****October Member Conference Call**

Our next member conference call will take place Tuesday October 11 at 10:00 a.m SK/AB/portions of BC time (11:00 a.m. in MB).