Food Truck Wars at Moosomin Lake Elkhorn Western Weekend





#### Wind storm damage

SPECIAL FEATURES

**INSIDE!** 

A wind storm July 15 caused extensive damage across the area, affecting many farms and agriculture businesses. Above and below, damage to grain bins and a farm storage building north of Moosomin. At right, damage to the Viterra terminal at Grenfell. Below right, debris from the Paterson elevator at Grenfell thrown across the street.







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## Local farmer concerned about future fertilizer regulations

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK Moosomin farmer Mark McCorriston is adding his voice to the farmers and industry groups saying that fertilizer curbs planned by the federal government will hurt agricul-ture, will hurt the Canadian economy, and will ultimately

ture, will hurt the Canadian economy, and will ultimately lead to less food being grown and people going hungry. The federal government has set a target of reducing emis-sions from fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels, by 2030. "I'm not saying that everyone planet-wide shouldn't try and do something about it, but we aren't big enough glob-ally to make a difference if it's just us, Canada, and then the Netherlands is doing something about fertilizer. They've had lots of protesting. We won't affect things on a global scale so it will just be taking money directly out of Canadian farmers' pockets." he says.

scale so it will just be taking intoney directly out of Canadian farmers' pockets," he says. "The other thing is, Canada is a country that's trying the help the world but we're just going to starve third-world countries if we use less fertilizer and grow less food. Until world hunger is basically eliminated, we should probably just keep moving forward the way we are."

McCorriston says fertilizer is crucial to modern farming, "It's crucial," he said. "I'm not saying that there aren't the odd organic farms that seem to make a living doing it, but at one time everybody organic-farmed and it wasn't working so they came up with fertilizer and chemicals to get more bushels per acre

"If you take fertilizer out of your scenario, it is still go-ing to cost you the same amount of manpower, the same amount of wear and tear and the same amount of diesel fuel. You'll just be putting less fertilizer down with the seeds and growing less bushels. So the cost will be there and you'll just produce less. "It's a voluntary 30 per cent reduction at this time, so

whatever you're using, which varies—fertilizer is a very personal thing with farmers. Everybody has their own blend of fertilizer that they use. Some people use more and some people use less, but ultimately it's your choice based on what you feel your land needs or what your soil testing shows you need.

'If you cut back fertilizer, the impact wouldn't be as apparent right away, but after five years it would be apparent because slowly you would be taking the nutrients out of the

land and not replacing them." McCorriston said this is not the time for the government

"I just feel like we've made huge leaps and bounds. "I just feel like we've made huge leaps and bounds. There's new kinds of fertilizer, one being called ESN, which slowly releases nitrogen throughout the year as the plant needs it, then it becomes available so that you're not maybe neuton in the method at the beginning. With farmers carry-ing as much stress as they do, I just wish that we'd be kind of left out of things for a while." McCorriston said the federal government has not consult-

ed with the agriculture industry on how curbing fertilizer



Mark McCorriston is concerned that cutting back fertilizer usage will have a negative effect on farmers, the economy, and world food supvla

use would impact the industry.

"I'm not even sure where it's coming from," he said. "The federal government announced this without even consult-ing any of the Saskatchewan or Western Canadian Ag lead-ers politically. The Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture commented saying that they weren't even consulted over this radical idea.

"Ultimately, Saskatchewan carries over 50 per cent of the brunt. It will affect Manitoba, not as much Alberta, but be-tween those two provinces Saskatchewan has to carry the biggest cross. Over 10 years they're predicting a loss just shy of \$50 billion from the agriculture industry." He said a drop in Canadian food production would have slobal reportusione

He said a drop in Canadian food production would have global repercussions. "Not only is it hurting farming, it's hurting the global food market. And there are all those retailers that have es-tablished business and that's their livelihood—selling fertil-izer. It would be a huge impact to them as well. We're kind of our own economy in agriculture. We work together, we buy fertilizer and they sell it. It would be a huge impact to them as well." He said there is no way to reduce fertilizer usage without immacting food production.

impacting food production.

"Definitely the more fertilizer you use the more you grow. It's maybe not instantaneous—you wouldn't see it the first It's maybe not instantaneous—you wouldn't see it the first year, but say over three to five years of using more fertilizer, your yield is just slowly climbing. If you want to grow 50 bushels per acre of wheat, you'll have to use so much ni-trogen, so much phosphate, so much sulphur, and so much potash. Then it's also a balance of if you use more nitrogen and phosphate, then you have to use more potash to help the crop stand up. Potash is the strength in the stem so if you're using more than the other, you need to have the blend stay the same within reason. But some people have blacker dirt so their land has more natural fertilizer than other people. "It varies area to area and it varies from farm to farm. Everybody in the area on average uses fertilizer and a fair

Everybody in the area on average uses fertilizer and a fair amount of it."

amount of it." "If we have to cut back on fertilizer, we'll just start to grow less grain, yet our costs will be the same. As a whole Western Canada will produce less grain on average with ex-penses being the same. Unless there's going to be some kind of subsidy, it'll just be more money out of our pockets. I just don't feel that agriculture is wealthy enough as an industry to handle this hit."

He said he hopes feedback from agriculture and the pub-lic will kill the fertilizer plan, as it killed a federal plan to label ground beef as hazardous to health.

"I'm hoping that it's kind of like this meat labelling thing. It just gets quiet and goes away. I feel that by not speak-ing up there's more of a chance that nothing might happen. People need to speak up. They have to lobby and have their prices heard voices heard

#### Major impact

Fertilizer Canada, the group representing manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors for nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur, has warned "cutting fertilizer applica-tions to meet the federal government lertilizer emissions targets could reduce farm income by \$48 billion over the next eight years." That figure—\$48.36 billion over the years 2023 to 2030—

comes from the summary of a report the group commis-sioned from MNP.

sioned from MNP. The figure covers Canada's production of three crops— spring wheat, canola and corn and is based on a target pro-posed for the European Union. "If Canada adopted the EU model, the potential economic impact of reduced fertilizer use would be devastating to Ca-nadian farmers," Fertilizer Canada said. "The EU model" refers to a target laid out in the "EU Green Deal," proposing to reduce "nutrient losses" of nitro-gen and phosphorus by at least 50 per cent by 2030. According to a November 2020 report prepared for the European Parliament's committee on agriculture and rural development, that target would "reduce the use of fertiliz-ers by at least 20 per cent by 2030."





An aerial photo of the crops between Moosomin and Fairlight, Sask last week. Taken by Kevin Weedmark.

### Crops coming along despite some wind damage

Strong storms that blew through Southeast Saskatchewan this past week left some crops lodged, damaged buildings, bins and machinery and blew some hay swaths across some fields. The region also received rain this past week which will help crops develop their seeds and kernels, but it did cause delays to some producers who were waiting for cut hay to dry down.

waiting for cut hay to dry down. Scattered rain showers were received across the region with the Regina, Radville and Grenfell areas seeing the highest concentration of precipitation, receiving more than 50 mm. Much of the region experienced anywhere between nil and 30 mm, some areas needed the rain while others are now dealing with low areas flooding again and difficulty entering fields. Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 17 per cent sur-

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 17 per cent surplus, 62 per cent adequate, 10 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is rated as 16 per cent surplus, 71 per cent adequate, six per cent short and two per cent very short. Due to most of the region having adequate moisture since the beginning of the growing season, many producers report their crops look very good, besides the areas that are flooded out.

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Fifty-three per cent of fall cereals, 51 per cent of spring cereals, 54 per cent of oilseeds, and 59 per cent of pulses are rated to be at their normal stages of development for this time of year. The recent heat and humidity have accelerated growth of some crops while excessive moisture has slowed others.

Haying operations continue in between rain showers. Livestock producers currently have 26 per cent of the hay crop cut and 22 per cent baled or put into silage. Hay quality is rated as 37 per cent excellent, 53 per cent good and 10 per cent fair.

Most crop damage this past week was due to strong windstorms, lodging, heat and grasshoppers. Producers are busy haying, doing yield assessments, applying pesticides and getting equipment ready for harvest.

Across the province as a whole, crops continue to advance quickly due to hot, humid days over the past few weeks. The humidity has slowed haying. When humidity is high, cutting hay becomes more challenging and hay that is cut does not dry down as quickly which can result in lower quality feed. Canola across the province has suffered from the heat and humidity. Many producers are reporting that their crops have experienced heat blasting and are worried about the effect it will have on their yields. If the heat continues with minimal rainfall, crops will be ready for harvest sooner than normal, similar to the 2021 harvest. Many areas in the province experienced wild weather systems this past week with hail, thunderstorms and even tornados occurring leaving crops, buildings and trees damaged.

**B**3

Ings and trees damaged. Provincially, 74 per cent of the fall cereals, 65 per cent of the spring cereals, 61 per cent of the oilseeds and 74 per cent of the pulse crops are at their normal stages of development for this time of year. Producers have indicated that cereals are heading out and are hopeful that the head will fill now that moisture is adequate in many areas. Canola is flowering and podding throughout the province.



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## **USask was first choice for** Agribusiness diploma graduate

Harley Pelzer chose the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) for his education as it's 'one of the best agriculture schools'

BY BRETT MAKULOWICH Pelzer will official-ly graduate with his Diploma in Agribusiness today at USask Spring Convocation taking place in-per-son at Merlis Belsher Place.

Originally from Melville, Sask., he knew since high school he wanted to

pursue agribusiness. "I loved to learn about agriculture," said Pelzer, who grew up on his fam-ily's mixed grain farm. "I wanted to expand my beau! edge about crop science while I also found the business side of the farm very intriguing. I liked to see where expenses

and revenue came from and how to plan ahead for any unpredictable occurrence. Agribusiness seemed to be the perfect fit for my post-secondary education."

Students in the agribusiness program study the structure and organization of the agri-food sector and develop business skills relevant to farm input, on-farm businesses, processing, transportation, credit and marketing. They also learn about business management, economics, mar-



The Agribusiness Diploma was the perfect fit for Harley Pelzer's post-secondary education.

keting, finance, sales, as well as the legal and institutional environment that charac-

"I choose this diploma program over others offered at different universities be-cause the University of Saskatchewan is highly accredited and one of the best agriculture schools."

Two learning experiences that were a highlight for Pelzer during his diploma were his Agribusiness Taxation and Prin-

ciples of Selling courses 'Agribusiness Taxation was my favou-

was very applicable to farms and made me understand taxes and how to calculate them.

"In my Principles of Selling course, we had a guest speaker from Cervus Equip-ment. He demonstrated how he gets customers' attention and how it comes from your attitude and being willing to under-

stand the customer.' USask students can choose to complete either a two-year di-ploma or a four-year degree in agribusi-ness. Graduates of the diploma program are eligible for the technical agrologist designation with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. Students of the twoyear diploma can also choose to ladder into

"The diploma pro-gram is shorter but still enough time to learn a lot of knowledge and useful information," said Pelzer. "The Ag-Bio diploma programs have electives so if a person wants to ex-pand their knowledge, they can take different courses they are pas-

sionate about. Versus other institution's diploma programs where it's only mandatory classes." Pelzer's future plans include helping

run his family farm and finding a financial job he can balance with his farm responsibilities.

"My experience at the College of Agri-culture and Bioresources was amazing. They offer great courses and lots of ways to get involved and have fun.



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## Ferguson family farm celebrates 75 years

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER The Ferguson family of Moosomin re-cently celebrated 75 years of owning their

family farm. Donny Ferguson, second generation to own the farm, said the family was happy to reach this important milestone. "The celebration was good, we had

about 40 people here, it went in conjunc-tion with the Cowboy Mounted Shooters event because my two nieces and the one husband are involved with it," said Ferguson

"It's great having a family farm. My parents came here in 1947 and my mom rode down from Drinkwater, Saskatchewan on a train.

Ferguson said his mother at the time made friends with the neighbors in the area who helped them settle into town.

"When my mom came to town she stayed at the people's place next door, Florence and Kenny Henderson, who were good friends of ours," he said. "She stayed there and Mr. Henderson fired up his old modeled T-cart, showing her all the fields he could in the winter

her all the fields he could in the winter time. She took pictures and then showed it to my dad, then they bought it from Carl who is now somewhere in Califor-nia. He went down there because of his

health and sold the farm to my parents." Ferguson said he graduated from high school in 1968 and went to work in Alberta for a couple of years. After four years he came back to Moo-

somin to take over the family farm. "I rented half of the farm in 1972 and

rented some other land. Then I purchased some cattle and began working part-time at the cattle auction market for 18 years at the same time while working on the farm," he said. "Then in 1974 I bought some of the land

"Then in 1974 I bought some of the land from my dad and when he passed away I ended up buying the rest of it. I also farmed with my father-in-law Don and Helen White for about 15 years too." Ferguson spoke about how much the farm has developed over the last 50 years. "We've done quite a bit of pushing bush in the 50s and all of 60s, then we had to do a couple of due outs around

had to do a couple of dug outs around the farm. We also have a new barn because the other one burned in 1959," Ferguson said.



The Ferguson family of Moosomin recently celebrated having their family farm for 75 years. Top: Gerry and Donny Ferguson, (bottom) Elaine King and Darline Marshall.

I put up a new house and garage on

the farm too, there's a two new machine

sheds now. I've put up seven cattle and horse sheds outside for the animals."

Ferguson was asked what the farm life was like in 1972 compared to what it is like now in 2022.

'We've made some improvements, but more or less it's the same. I rent out some now, but I have more cattle and horses now than my dad did. I'm proud but my health is so bad that I should probably cut down."

He said what he loves most about living on a farm is the animals and the spring when all the babies are born. "I mainly farm because I like living

"I mainly farm because I like living here, but I also like my animals," he said. "I've got about 70 cows left and 50 hors-es left, the most rewarding part is spring, to get winter over and see all the new ba-bies, and to see everything turn green." He said having family on the farm makes it easier to farm.

Although his two daughters live on different farms with their own families, Fer-guson is hoping to pass down the family farm to the next generation.

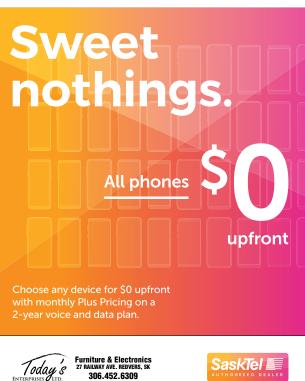
"My daughters live around here, they have their own farms with my two sonin-laws. We've got four grandchildren so hopefully someone will take over here, eventually when I'm kind of done with it," he said.

"I hope to not be done with the farm soon but I have failing health, I have to cut down quit a bit each year here. It's hard mentally, but it's not hard physically because I realize I can't do what I used to do

Despite the challenges, Ferguson said he knows his parents would be proud that the family farm is still going strong.

"My parents have passed away, my mom passed away when I was four years old which was tough to overcome in my family. Then my dad passed away in 1992. I know they would think it's real good that we're still farming," he said.

"We're trying to keep going, we try to keep the yard nice and trimmed up and everything, and to keep the fences mended. It was a bad winter but we're past that now'





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#### Ag News - Moosomin, Sask.

Monday, July 25, 2022

## **Real-time results** from soil testing

BY TREVOR BACQUE

BY IREVOR BACQUE If there is one thing many farmers wish for more of, it's time. After all, when it is crunch time, there never seems to be enough hours in a day. Whether in the hustle and bustle of spring or a busy autumn, the minutes and sec-ond a ne a dead are always at a compliance.

bustle of spring or a busy autumn, the minutes and sec-onds on a clock are always at a premium. It's no different for crop farmers curious to know ex-actly what's in their dirt. Soil tests give calculated read-outs of macro and micronutrients as well as information about pH and other sensitive information. There's just one problem: it can take an agonizing amount of time to receive this information.

Traditionally, you must probe and take a soil sample and send it to a lab for analysis. It enters the lab's queue before being analyzed, and results are sent back. This pro-cess can take days to weeks. Even a few days can be too long, especially when you're trying to make educated de-cisions about what fertility program to run on your soil. What if you could reduce the wait time to 25 seconds?

Innovative technologies are changing the way soil sam-pling works. One such technology uses a mobile probe that works with cloud technology to provide results in seconds, not weeks.

Resembling a sleek metal detector, this high-tech soil probe will, within seconds of being plunged into the ground, give a readout of every key metric one could want. According to Samuel Fournier, CEO and founder of Canadian tech start up ChrysaLabs, the innovation a past job. Continued on Page B7

### UPCOMING **Online-timed Antique &**

**Collectible Auction** FOR ESTATE OF FERG WATT Bidding starts: Fri. July 22 @ 9am

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# Spectator



## An eventful summer in Saskatchewan

"The boys are missing!" That is not what you want to hear from your 11-year old grandson when you have two other grandsons camping with you at the lake. Gramps and I jumped out of bed and raced all 12 feet to the sofa pull-out where we had put all three to bed some five hours earlier.

Fortunately we hadn't lost any young boys - the two presumed missing ones were snuggled under the covers in a deep sleep and the one who though this twin brother and younger cousin had vanished sheepishly crawled

and younger cousin had vanished sheepishly crawled into bed and went back to sleep. Yes, summer finally arrived in Saskatchewan and after a late start and finished to seeding, we headed to the lake to enjoy some great fishing! The twins were determined they would catch the "big" one that got away last year and wouldn't you know, we had just thrown our hooks in when Wyatt caught something! And it was big! With bit rod hen right over even I stepned in to assist. Trying his rod bent right over, even I stepped in to assist. Trying to reel that thing in took everything we had and finally Gramps had to use brute strength to bring up what had to be a whale-sized fish. Well it wasn't whale-sized and it wasn't even a fish but rather a two-foot Square piece

couple of great weeks at the lake we thought we better head home and regroup.

head home and regroup. That night, like many other nights this year, the sky lit up with lightening, the thunder literally rolled and the wind made its mark on Saskatchewan. Losing power is one thing but losing trees and shingles and bins and who knows what all was downright disheartening. The day after a particularly nasty storm and just mere



hours after my brother and his family left on vacation, hours after my brother and his family left on vacation, we went to check his famiyard only to find bins over and the old hip roof barn in pieces all over the yard. "Do I need to come home," he asked. "No," I said. We picked up all the barn wood strewn all over the yard and left the big old roof part right where it was for when he gets home. "I din't want you to miss out on any of it," I told him alongside the pic I texted him. "We left some for you to do!" As for the bins that toppled, yeah, we left those for him too. for him too.

It's been an incredibly challenging year on the farm be-tween wet fields, flea beetles, rain, hail, wind and hail. Hubby, even at the lake, is thinking mostly about the crops. How much rain did we get and how much of the crop is lodged. The farm grands were busy in the spring as they pre-

pared for the local and regional 4-H shows and sales and I came home for the local to watch them show their sters. And while I beam with pride at these youngsters and their 4-H peers, you will see me making a quick exit long before regional. This part of the business when the steers are sold is tough on me. After all, if it was up to me,

In the below respectively and the set of the fine!

Soon, lake time will end and our thoughts will turn to harvesting but not in early August like the last few years. Harvest is a ways off and while rain is better than years. Farvest is a ways off and while rain is better than no rain, so most say, I am hoping we won't have to deal with combines and semis getting stuck in the field. I know we are a long way from the bin just yet, fel-low farmers but here's hoping the rains and those nasty

storms ease up and that the end result is a positive one!

### **Real-time results from soil testing**

#### Secontinued from Page B6

"It took so long and was so expensive," he says. "I thought, 'there has to be a better way to do this."

This is where tradition meets innovation. An agronomist pushes in the probe into the earth, and spectroscopybased and electrical-conductivity sensors begin to work based and electrical-conductivity sensors begin to work and compile data. That data is then wirelessly transmitted to a cloud where the agronomist's data is instantaneously run through its machine learning program, the spectrum is converted and a report containing all vital soil infor-mation—N-P-K, pH, pH buffer, CEC, OM and micros—is sent to the farmer on their app. The entire process takes less than 25 seconds, opening up a world of possibilities for the industry. for the industry.

tor the industry. "It's also a fantastic tool for people looking to scout in their field and get a diagnosis right now to know what kind of action they should be taking," Fournier says. The tech itself also creates a geo-reference for the farm-er so they know exactly where the probe was plunged. If they forget, they can simply hop on the app, which has it all logged.

Aimed at agronomists, retailers, research centres and agriculture input companies, users pay an annual sub-scription fee and can analyze as many soil samples as they wish. With regular use, you can drive the price down to as little as \$2 per sample, quite an improvement com-pared to the going rate of \$20 or more per sample at a lab. Fournier says agronomists should aim to do as many

"One big setback was paying per analysis," he says. "If I have to pay for every sample, I will send less and less. Every time you plunge, you are taking your wallet with you. The more information you have, the better decisions you make." you make

That information allows farmers to create dialed-in fertility maps instead of guessing or laying down just-in-case amounts of certain nutrients of fertilizer because

in-case amounts of certain nutrients of refuilzer because they did not want to wait for soil sampling. "Soil is the backbone of ag," he says. "It is what helps you grow a farm. You need to ask a lot of questions to get solutions. More answers let farmers make better deci-sions for their field."

The technology isn't for everyone, however. Dale Cowan is the agronomy strategy manager and senior agrono-mist at Agris Co-operative in Chatham, Ont., and says with any new technology, there is always a critical proof-of-concept phase; a phase in which the probe still sits. He is the first to admit that current methods are time consuming, but he also believes they're proven by 60-plus years of soil testing results and lab analysis.

"We have to focus on the right things," he says. "It's not about reducing the cost of a soil sample, it's about reli-ability. A soil sample can be \$15 to \$30, but it's guiding millions of dollars in fertilizer decisions every year."

In his experience, Cowan says what a probe and tradi-tional methods display from the same field at the same location does not convince him it's time to completely discard traditional soil sampling methods for new-school probes.

"I always give tech the benefit of the doubt, but you have to show me," he says. "It's too early to pass a lot of judgment."



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# USask Livestock and Forage Centre joins Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network

The University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) has joined the Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network.

The Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network—led by Olds College Smart Farm is a network of Smart Farms committed to sharing data and expertise that will help farmers, industry, and creators better understand, use, and develop smart agricultural technologies with a goal to accelerate the development and adoption of agriculture technologies across Canada. The network was launched in 2021 and also includes Glacier FarmMedia Discovery Farm located at Langham, Sask, and Lakeland College located at Vermilion, Alta. For Dr. Joy Agnew (PhD),

Applied Research at Olds College, the network's expansion and collaboration across different agricultural zones and land bases brings more depth to the projects and technology evaluations conducted at Canada's smart farms, and that will benefit farmers and developers.

and developers. "We are so pleased to welcome the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence into the Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network," said Agnew. "With additional partners come additional opportunities in applied research and education that will help producers maximize technology and data when they're making those sometimes tough farm management decisions. Independent validation of ag technologies is critical and so is ensuring that validation is done using more than a single smart farm and more than one agrace impatic zone ".

one agro-climatic zone." At USask's LFCE, researchers investigate different aspects of beef cattle production "from soil to supper" and test drive new options to enhance animal welfare, animal health, product quality, and food safety on Canada's farms. LCFE has facilities, agricultural, environmental, economics and veterinary researchers to help support the advancement of innovation, education and adoption of agriculture technology, practices, and solutions in Saskatchewan and beyond. "We are delighted to

"We are delighted to bring in the livestock aspect as we join the Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network, and collaborate with Olds Coll lege, Glacier FarmMedia Discovery Farm at Langham, and Lakeland Coll lege," said Dr. Scott Wright (PhD), executive director of LFCE. "We believe this network of smart farms creates an opportunity to facilitate and support ag tech innovation, development, and demonstration in support of sustainable production and to help producers maximize technology and data. We look forward to the road ahead."

Linking smart farms across the country multiplies the learnings and

Saskatchewan agriculture

helps feed the world and helps

fuel our province's growth.

Thank you to our agriculture community for

the enormous contribution you make!

Steven Bonk,

MLA

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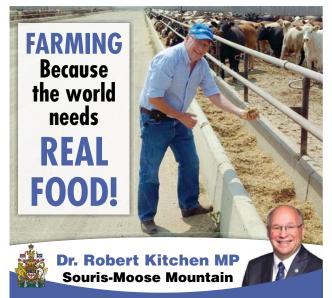
atchewan generated to connect farmers with industry and reighted to search partners to find ock aspect practical solutions to ag

practical solutions to ag challenges. With funding from the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN), the Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network initiative will

accelerate the development and adoption of ag technologies and systems, helping producers manage their risk of production to improve the productivity and sustainability of their farms.

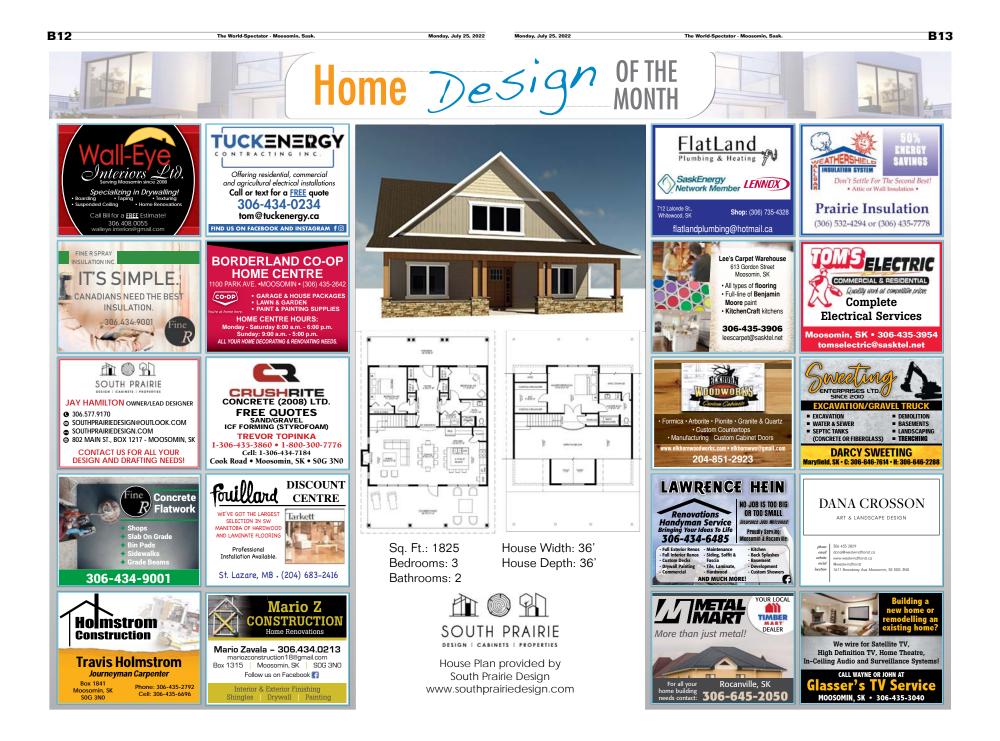
Agnew announced that the LFCE was joining the network on Tuesday, July 19 during a Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network presentation at Ag in Motion at Discovery Farm Langham, Sask.

Visit oldscollege.ca/ smartfarmnetwork to learn more about the Pan-Canadian Smart Farm Network, or contact Olds College Centre for Innovation to inquire about joining the network.



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Scenes from previous August long weekend events at Moosomin Re-gional Park. This year the park is planning Food Truck Wars on the Au-gust Long Weekend, along with bounce tents, musical entertainment, and much more!



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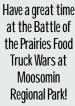












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Some scenes from the August long weekend event at Moosomin Regional Park last year, including Shifty Morgan performing, bounce tents and market vendors. This year the park is holding a Food Truck Warz event, live music, a market, kids activities, and much more on the August Long weekend. See page 6 for full details.





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Take time to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the Food Truck Wars Weekend possible!

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Monday, July 25, 2022

The World-Spectator - Moosomin, Sask.



# Light at the end of the food inflation tunnel?

Once again, the numbers coming out of Statistics Canada were discouraging. The food inflation rate in the country was 8.8 per cent in June, which is still higher than the general inflation rate.

Everyone is affected by higher food prices. Americans learned last week that food inflation at the grocery store was 12.4 per cent, a 41-year high. Despite all this, consumers can see some light at the

end of the long tunnel we've all been passing through in recent years.

First, I believe food inflation in Canada may have al-ready peaked. Supply chain challenges are still there, making the movement of goods more expensive, but things are slowly improving. Pandemic protocols around the globe are increasingly becoming predictable, making logistical planning much easier. In February, the Russian invasion of Ukraine pushed commodity prices higher, making input costs an issue for most farmers and food manufacturers. But this seems to have stabilized as well.

Markets are much calmer than before and, most im-portantly, more predictable. If nature continues to coop-erate, Canada's agricultural sector should see a strong harvest this year, helping to keep commodity prices lower and costs down. Again, more good news. Since March, food sales at dollar stores have increased by 18 nor cont, according to Nilone IO. Sales at discount

by 18 per cert, according to NielsenIQ. Sales at discount stores have also increased by five per cent since that pe-riod, so consumers are clearly trading down, and grocers know it. More discount store conversions are on the way in Canada. We have seen at least 15 new major discount stores in the country so far this year alone. Depending on the week, consumers can save between 25 per cent to 40 per cent at a discount store, compared to a regular grocery outlet.

But the Canadian Dairy Commission played party pooper by recommending an unprecedented second in-crease of 2.5 per cent for September 1, as schools open in the fall. This latest increase comes after a record 8.4 per cent hike in February. As a result, the price of butter is up almost 20 per cent since December. In some markets, fluid milk is 25 per cent more expensive than last winter.

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The 2.5 per cent at the farm will look more like six per cent to 10 per cent at retail, for all consumers. As prices

cent to to be per cent at retail, for an consumers. As prices stabilize in most sections of the grocery store, dairy will continue to be the exception for a while. To add insult to injury, we also learned last week that executives at the Canadian Dairy Commission – federal employees – received bonuses last year. The Crown corporation refused to disclose the amounts or reasons that bonuses were given. There's nothing wrong with bonus-es, but the lack of transparency is simply unacceptable. Taxpayers and consumers deserve better. Our quota system was designed to make our dairy sector immune to inflationary cycles. Something is not working. Interest rates are also going up. Last week, the Bank of Canada made an almost unprecedented move, deliver-

ing a jolt to consumers everywhere by raising its bench-mark interest rate a full percentage point. This is the big-gest one-time increase since August 1998.

Since the announcement, mortgage brokers have been busy. For many households, the cost of shelter spiked, making it harder to spend on anything else.

But food is a necessity. Before the interest rate hikes, But food is a necessity. Before the interest rate hikes, the market was flooded with cash, and some consum-ers had no qualms about paying \$28 for a T-bone steak which obviously contributed to higher prices in our economy, including at the grocery store, especially for premium products and categories. As fewer people can now afford a \$28 T-bone steak, we are expecting some prices to soften or even drop a little. Simple food eco-nomics.

With higher rates, though, our Canadian dollar will With higher rates, though, our Canadian dollar will strengthen against the American greenback, making im-ports cheaper. And we do import many food products. This will likely help consumers who purchase centre-of-the-store dry goods, whose prices have skyrocketed recently. But the American Federal Reserve is also plan-ning another rate increase, which could put pressure on our dollar. Interesting times. Higher rates are bad news for mortgage owners but good news for imports. Overall, we should not expect prices to drop anytime soon, year to year, but the rate at which food prices are rising is slowing down. Food inflation is critical for our food economy, but a 10 per cent rate is not sustainable. As predicted in December of last year by Canada's Food Price Report 2022, we should end the year at about seven per cent, as forecasted, unless some other geopolitical crisis occurs.

crisis occurs

This is still high, but it's not 10 per cent.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.





**B18** 

### Fairmede 4-H Beef Club 87th Achievement Day results

Fairmede 4-H Beef Club held its 87th Achievement Day on June 11 in conjunction with the Fairmede Agricultural Soci-ety Fair. Judge for the day was Nolan Glover from Wawota, Saskatchewan and our MC was Blaine Huston from Bran-don, Manitoba. Record Book Judges were Nora Lynne and Judy Gibson from Moosomin. Our club has 16 members this year: Erica Adamson; Rory, Nate and Luke Greenbank; Colt Hall; Cheyenne and Levi Jamieson; Hayden and McKenna Jamieson; Drew and Jenna Leeds; Cohen Neville; Bo Schnei-der; Brooklyn Smith; Sawyer and Brooklyn Van Meer. vey)—Prize 1. Colt Hall Junior Record Book-Clifford & Beth Miller 1. Hayden Jamieson 1. McKenna Jamieson 1. Brooklyn Van Meer Nate Greenbank Erica Adamson 3. Cohen Neville CloverBud Showmanship-Adam & Olive Dietrich Memo-Intermediate Record Book-Jean Morrow Levi Jamieson
 Rory Greenbank
 Brooklyn Smith rial 1. Luke Greenbank 2. Bo Schneider 3. Jenna Leeds 4. Sawyer Van Meer 4. Drew Leeds Pee Wee Class For Future 4-H Members who are not old enough to be a Clover Bud—Keith Turpie—Prize Senior Record Book—Stuart & Edith Doane Memorial 1. Cheyenne Jamieson Junior Showmanship—Brian McTavish Memorial 1. Colt Hall 1. Hayden Jamieson 1. McKenna Jamieson Erica Adamson
 Nate Greenbank
 Cohen Neville Questionnaires Pee Wee Questionnaires 1. Colt Hall 1. Hayden Jamieson 1. McKenna Jamie 1. Brooklyn Van Meer Intermediate Showmanship-LanKenn Seeds & Agro Ser-Clover Bud Class Project can be either Calendar Year Calf, Market Steer or Yearling Heifer—Ron & Isabelle Dietrich—Fairmede 4-H 1. McKenna Jamieson 1. Brooklyn Van Meer vices 1. Rory Greenbank 2. Levi Jamieson 3. Brooklyn Smith CloverBud Questionnaire-Murray & Kathy Doane Beef Club-Prize . Jenna Leeds . Sawyer Van Meer 1. Luke Greenbank 4. Drew Leeds Jenna Leeds 1. Bo Schneider 1. Sawyer Van Meer Senior Showmanship—Stoney Creek Cattle Company 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 2. Luke Greenbank 3. Bo Schneider Heifer Class Yearling Heifer—Kleven & Judy McDougall Grooming Class Pee Wee Grooming—C4 Leather Works (Katelyn Garvey)— Junior Questionnaire-Gordan & Darlene Doane Nate Greenbank 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 2. Brooklyn Smith 3. Erica Adamson Prize 1. Colt Hall 1. Hayden Jamieson 2. Erica Adamson 3. Cohen Neville 1. McKenna Jamieson 1. Brooklyn Van Meer Intermediate Questionnaire—John Houston Memorial 1. Brooklyn Smith Heifer shown by First Time Member-Ronald Clements Memorial 1. Erica Adamson 2. Sawyer Van Meer 2. Levi Jamiesor CloverBud Grooming—Conexus Credit Union 1. Luke Greenbank 2. Rory Greenbank 3. Drew Leeds 2. Sawyer Van Meer 3. Jenna Leeds Cow/Calf Class Senior Questionnaire - Brian McTavish Memorial Two-Year-Old Cow & Calf-Doane Grain Farms 4 Bo Schneider 1. Chevenne Jamieson Public Speaking Pee Wee Public Speaking—Darcy & Diane Jamieson and family—Prize 1. Colt Hall 1. Levi Jamieson 2. Brooklyn Smith Junior Grooming—Allan & Merle Hambleton Memorial 1. Nate Greenbank 2. Erica Adamson Market Steer Light Market Steer-Barnard Bros Custom Corral Cleaning 3. Cohen Neville 1. Hayden Jamieson 1. McKenna Jamieson 1. Brooklyn Van Meer 1. Levi Jamieson 2. Drew Leeds Intermediate Grooming-Wilson & Rhoda Hall Memorial 1. Rory Greenbank 2. Levi Jamieson 3. Brooklyn Smith 3. Cohen Neville Heavy Market Steer-Fairmede 4-H Beef Club CloverBud Public Speaking-Darcy & Diane Jamieson and 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 2. Rory Greenbank 4. Drew Leeds Family 1. Jenna Leeds Jernia Leeus
 Luke Greenbank
 Bo Schneider
 Sawyer Van Meer Senior Grooming—Rhonda Hall—McPhail Travel Special 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 3. Nate Greenbank Market Steer Shown by a New Member-Ronald Clements Best Project Exhibited by a New Member-Dr. Henry Mc-Carthy-Plaque Memorial 1. Bo Schneider Junior Public Speaking-Lawrence & Corrine Crawford 1. Nate Greenbank 2. Cohen Neville 3. Erica Adamson 1. Erica Adamson Simmental Sired Market Steer-Gordon & Linda Fisk Best Pair by Same Member-Ross Clements Memorial 1. Rory Greenbank 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 2. Levi Jamieson 2. Nate Greenbank Intermediate Public Speaking-Darren & Darlene Fisk **Championship Classes** 3. Brooklyn Smith 1. Rory Greenbank 2. Levi Jamieson 3. Drew Leeds Highest Average Gain Award (Market Steers are weighed in December and again prior to Achievement Day) Grand Champion Heifer-Floating Trophy-Fairmede 4-H Grand Champion Hener—Frozang Hopiny . . . Beef Club • David & Karol Garvey and Family • Heartland Livestock, Virden—Keeper Plaque • Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner Grand Champion—Cheyenne Jamieson 3. Brooklyn Smith Senior Public Speaking – Hebert Land & Cattle Co. 1. Cheyenne Jamieson FLR Farms-Darren & Darlene Fisk & Family-Trophy 1. Cheyenne Jamieson First place in each age group will have their name engraved on Angus Turpie Memorial trophy as well as receive a prize donated by Keith Turpie and Diane & Darcy Jamieson & Judging Class Reserve Champion Heifer • Greenbank Acres Inc. • Mannle Farms—Prize • Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner Reserve Champion—Brooklyn Smith Pee Wee Judging 1. Colt Hall 1. Hayden Jamieson Family. Fairmede 4-H Participation Awards Attendance: Club Meetings—10 Points Functions: Judging or Grooming Demonstrations, Weigh Days, Fundraisers etc.—5 Points Club Level Speaking: 25 (first), 20 (second), 15 (third), and 10 points each for remaining placings in each category. Achievement Day Activities: 25 (first), 20 (second), 15 (third), and 10 points each for remaining placings in each category. •Showmanship •Grooming •Record Books •Questionnaires •Judeine McKenna Jamieson
 Brooklyn Van Meer Cloverbud Judging-Ron & Elaine Fawcett Champion Two-Year-Old Cow & Calf-Floating Trophy -Irene Turpie Memorial • Prestige Builders Inc—Owen Wushke 1. Jenna Leeds 2. Luke Greenbank Diane & Darcy Jamieson and Family—Prize
 Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner
Grand Champion—Levi Jamieson 3. Sawyer Van Meer 4. Bo Schneider Junior Judging—Robert McDougall Memorial 1. Cohen Neville 2. Nate Greenbank Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Cow & Calf • Greenbank Acres Inc. • Mannle Farms—Prize • Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner Reserve Champion—Brooklyn Smith Iudging 3. Erica Adamson Highest Overall Points—Decisive Ag—Riley Hole 1. Cheyenne Jamieson—205 points Intermediate Judging—Corey & Tammy Flaman 1. Rory Greenbank 2. Levi Jamieson Supreme Champion Female Second Highest Overall Points-Hebert Livestock Ventures Bridgeway Livestock—Floating Trophy
Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner 3. Drew Leeds 4. Brooklyn Smith 2. Rory Greenbank—190 points 2. Nate Greenbank—190 points Supreme Champion-Levi Jamieson Senior Judging-Westwood Land & Cattle (Kevin & Penny Leaders Participation Award-Fairmede Agricultural Soci-Champion Market Steer-Floating Trophy-Fairmede 4-H Woods) etv 1. Cheyenne Jamieson 2. Rory Greenbank Beef Club
 GBT Angus 1. Cheyenne Jamieson Heartland Livestock, Virden—Keeper Plaque
Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner
Grand Champion—Cheyenne Jamieson **Record Books**  Nate Greenbank
 Luke Greenbank Pee Wee Record Books 1. Colt Hall 4. Levi Jamieson 1. Hayden Jamieson 1. McKenna Jamieson 1. Brooklyn Van Meer Reserve Champion Market Steer • Diamond R Stock Farm (Brad & Jayne Rutten) • Mannle Farms—Prize • Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner Clark Lewis Memorial Award-Plaque-Fairmede 4-H Beef Club This prize is awarded to someone who has contributed to the club, but who is not a club member, nominated by and CloverBud Record Book-Gordon & Linda Fisk Reserve Champion-Rory Greenbank 1. Luke Greenbank 2. Jenna Leeds voted on by the club members who will receive this special honour. Showmanship Class Pee Wee Showmanship—C4 Leather Works (Katelyn Gar-Sawyer Van Meer Westwood Land & Cattle-Kevin and Penny Woods and

4. Bo Schneider

family

B19

### **B20**

CANADA



# Thanks to the 4-H Steer Buyers





**Rory Greenbank** Thank you to Redvers Ag for purchasing my steer. Without the support from these businesses the 4-H program wouldn't be a success. I plan on putting some of the money away for my future education and use some for my animals for next year.



**Nate Greenbank** Thank you to MNP for purchasing my steer. I really appreciate the support. I plan on putting some of the money away for my future education and using some to grow my cow herd. Thanks again for support from all the businesses.



#### Bo Schneider

I would like to say a huge thank-you to Prairie Livestock for the purchase of my Steer Joe and supporting the 4-H Beef program. I plan on using the money towards my future education and a Birthday gift I forgot to get my sister from January.



**Cheyenne Jamieson** Thank you to Pharmasave Moosomin, Darcy Rambold for purchasing my steer Bronco. Your continued support of the 4-H Program is greatly appreciated! I will be donating \$100 from my steer sale proceeds to my brother's Love 4 Levi Account and putting the rest towards my education.



Levi Jamieson I would like to say a huge Thank You to Kentrax Transport, Rocanville, Ken and Tracy Kingdon for purchasing my steer Colorado. Your support of the 4-H Program is greatly appreciated! I plan on putting the money towards eventually purchasing a Life Essentials Lift for helping me to get into tractors and equipment. I will be donating \$100 from my steer sale proceeds to SEICC to put towards the new CT Scanner.



**Drew Leeds** Hi! Big thank you to Twin Auto and Ag for buying my steer (Larry) this year. Enjoy the meat! Thanks for supporting 4-H again this year.

# Thank you very much! FAIRMEDE 4H BEEF CLUB

Would like to thank our 2021-2022 sponsors and everyone who helped make our year a success!

- 4-H Parents & Families
- 4-H Leaders
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- GL Apparel & Promotions
- David and Karol Garvey
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# **Fairmede 4-H Beef Club Awards**







A group photo of the Fairmede Beef Club

Back, from left: Brooklyn Smith, Bo Schneider, Rory Greenbank, Erica Adamson, Drew Leeds, Cheyenne Jamieson

Middle row: Levi Jamieson, Cohen Neville, Nate Greenbank, Sawyer Van Meer, Jenna Leeds

Front row: Colt Hall, Luke Greenbank, McKenna Jamieson, Brooklyn Van Meer, Hayden Jamieson



Brooklyn Smith received the Reserve Champion Heifer Award.



Cheyenne Jamieson received the Best Pair by a Member Award.



Pee Wee Members from left: Hayden Jamieson, Colt Hall, Brooklyn Van Meer, and McKenna Jamieson



Levi Jamieson received the Supreme Champion Female Award.



Cloverbud members from left: Sawyer Van Meer, Bo Schneider, Jenna Leeds, and Luke Greenbank



Rory Greenbank received the Reserve Champion Steer Award.



Cheyenne Jamieson received the Grand Champion Heifer Award.



Cheyenne Jamieson received the Grand Champion Steer Award.



Levi Jamieson received the Grand Champion Two-year-old Cow/Calf Pair Award.



Brooklyn Smith received the Reserve Two-year-old Cow/Calf Pair Award.



Erica Adamson received the Best <sup>J</sup> Project by New Member Award.



Westwood Land & Cattle – Kevin & Penny Woods and family were recipients of the Clarke Lewis Memorial Award. Presented by Cheyenne Jamieson to Linda Fisk, accepting on behalf of Woods family

### Producers can adapt to the new economic reality in Canadian agriculture

Canada's agriculture industry is in a good position to weather inflationary pressures and higher interest rates, according to Farm Credit Canada's chief economist.

economist. "We are in a unique position where record farm revenues are helping to offset the impact of a sharp increase in input costs and rising interest rates," J.P. Gervais said. "The key for producers is to pay close attention to projected income and expenses to avoid any cash flow challenges that could put pressure on opcations."

"The ability to service debt is arguably the most critical financial risk indicator for a farm operation," he added.

FCC's most recent projections suggest farm cash receipts could climb 15.9 per cent to \$96 billion in 2022, driven by robust commodity prices and prospects of much stronger crop yields than last year. This would surpass the 2021 record high, which was itself an increase of 14.9 per cent over 2020. "Even if our projections were more modest, the

"Even if our projections were more modest, the Canadian agriculture industry certainly seems financially healthy and in a good position to weather inflationary pressure and higher interest rates," Gervais said.

ngner interest rates, Gervais said. Yet, operations will need to adjust to farming under higher interest rates - a situation unlike the one experienced for the last 15 years. The Bank of Canada increased its overnight rate by 2.25 per cent in the span of five months and further incremental increases are expected within the year.

incremental increases are expected within the year. Inflationary pressures on farm inputs are widespread. Fertilizer prices saw a year-over-year increase of at least 50 per cent, and even more than doubled in some cases. Feed prices climbed more than 40 per cent year-overyear and farm fuel has increased by more than 35 per cent. Inflationary pressures on farm inputs have dampened the outlook and contributed to an overall increase in farm debt, which rose by 7.1 per cent to \$129 billion at the end of 2021.

Gervais recommends producers test various scenarios regarding commodity and farm input prices, yields and interest rates to better understand their financial risk exposure. They can then identify different strategies to mitigate those

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"If a producer is already carrying significant financial risk, then reducing the risk of rising interest rates may be a prudent strategy." Gervais said. "I'm not saying that every producer needs to understand how different scenarios could play out and to do what's right for their business."

play out and to do what's right for their business." By sharing economic knowledge and forecasts, FCC provides solid insights and expertise to help those in the business of agriculture and food achieve their goals. For the most recent economic insights and analysis on farm cash receipts, interest rates and inflation, visit FCC Economics at fcc.ca/Economics.



An aerial photo of the crops between Moosomin and Fairlight, Sask last week.



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### Pulse regional variety trial data now available virtually

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG) is making it easier to learn about pulse variety performance by launching a new tool which provides regional variety trial (RVT) data for pulses, covering up to twelve years of data. Timely and transparent data will enable pulse growers in Saskatchewan to make more informed decisions.

Through the Variety Release Program, SPG has developed over 120 pulse varieties available to growers, royalty-free as part of a 15-year breeding agreement with the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and other private companies have released additional pulse varieties. As farmers plan for future production years and make seeding decisions, there are some intriguing options to consider moving away from older, historically grown varieties, into newer and better performing varieties. In 2021, SPG took over the co-ordination

In 2021, SPG took over the co-ordination and execution of the pulse and soybean RVTs for Saskatchewan. RVTs provide an unbiased and transparent testing system of long-term variety performance and have been a reliable resource for growers and agronomists when choosing varieties. This new tool developed by SPG takes the information to a new level and provides data on varieties by location and allows comparative yield analyses between varieties that will help growers make informed choices for their farm.

SPG can show growers, agronomists, and seed growers the benefits and yield advantages of specific varieties in specific growing regions of the province through the pulse regional variety trial portal. Data collected from regional variety trials is uploaded to the virtual portal, and can be compared across locations, years, and varieties to get the best variety recommendations at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere.

anywhere. The pulse regional variety trial portal is optimized to provide an easy to use and efficient platform to showcase photos and videos from the field:

 Interactive Map – Find pulse varieties suited for different regions in Saskatchewan and view detailed data for each variety.

 Variety Details – In-depth details are available for different crop types and varieties including charts, tables, and coming soon, photos and videos. This portal is a key tool for delivering transparent data to growers.

• Compare Varieties – Select a crop type and see comparative historical yield data for selected varieties. This tool offers a clear look at newer varieties compared to older varieties.

Users can visit the pulse regional variety trial portal to access up-to-date data and information for pulse varieties in Saskatchewan.

When they are ready to purchase seed mentioned in the portal, they can visit the Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association Interactive SaskSeed Guide or the Canadian Seed Growers' Association Seed Locator.

The RVT portal can be accessed by visiting RVT.saskpulse.com or by clicking the "Compare Pulse Variety Data by Region" button on the SaskPulse.com homepage.

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We're moving the agriculture industry and the world forward – today and for generations to come. Nutrien invests in community initiatives and partnerships that enhance the quality of life in the regions where we operate and that reflect the goals and values of our company.

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