

Humphries see potential for growth of lamb industry

BY KARA KINNA When Mark and Jill Humphries began raising lamb in Canada eight years ago, they didn't realize just how little Canadians

they didn't realize just how little Canadians ate lamb in comparison to people in the UK and Europe. The Humphries moved from England to Canada, and live near Elkhorn, Manitoba, where they own a greenhouse and have around 300 Suffolk and Texel ewes. "Raising lamb is something we did before we came to Canada," says Jill. "We had a flock over there (in England) and lamb is a lot more of a popular meat over there. In the supermarket, alongside beef and pork, you would have lamb in equal quantities.

and pork, you would have lamb in equal quantities. "When we came here, the price of lamb was very high, and if fit in well with beef production, because sheep and cattle are a good mix. It gives the pasture a break with the different animals if you run them in different rotations. "I think we were blissfully unaware of the fact that sheep is a rarer meat (in Canada). To find that lamb is treated like buffalo and emu and ostrich and all those

Canada). To find that lamb is treated like buffalo and emu and ostrich and all those different sorts of meats, that was a bit of a shock, really. We didn't expect that. And it wasn't something that we looked into when we came." Despite lamb not being a staple of Canadians' diets, the Humphries forged ahead with their lamb production, and today produce around 500 lambs a year. Jill says there is a growing market for lamb. lamb.

In adjoint of the set of a growing induct to lamb. "It's a growing one because we have more Filipino and European people coming in Canadians as a whole see lamb as what their older generations ate in the war, which was mutton. And mutton is a strong tasting, cheaper meat that people would have eaten. A lot of people are very wary of eating lamb because of that. So you're up against a bit of a stigma. "Two-thirds of the world's population live on either lamb or goat, but mainly lamb. Whether it's Europe, whether it's Asia, it's all lamb. And when you get to North America, it's not anywhere near as popular."

The Humphries ship their lamb on the hoof to Winnipeg, but have also started to sell more and more lamb locally, having it butchered at local abattoirs in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. "We sell a fair proportion locally," says



Jill. "We sell it through our greenhouse. Even when the greenhouse is closed, we sell meat all year around. And we sell it through Hi-Way Grocery in Virden and Moosomin Asian Food Mart, and at local restaurants. And the rest of it is shipped to Winnipeg and Ontario.

"Those are the two main markets. There's a huge Asian market in Winnipeg for it, and the same in Ontario. But as we've done more with it, and done lamb burgers and ground lamb, and shown people how to cook it and made it more of a Canadian every day sort of food, it's definitely improved.

definitely improved. "For ourselves alone, each year it has doubled in popularity. "Since we've started selling it through Hi-Way Grocery we've doubled up each year on how much we've sold. Before, I think people were very used to going and buying a whole lamb or half a lamb, whereas they can just go to one of these shows and just huy a package of chose or

whereas they can just go to one of these shops and just buy a package of chops or a leg of lamb. "The two things that we found that increased our sales is, number one, taking it to the shops and allowing people to buy smaller amounts. But the other thing is, we vacuum-pack a lot of our lamb, and they can see it. It's traditional to wrap everything in paper, but if you don't know what it is and you can't see it, you're not going to spend money on something you. going to spend money on something you have no idea what to do with.

"We've got regular customers now that come back for it. And the greenhouse—it's been very funny because at the greenhouse people come for plants and they see the lamb for sale, and then they try it."

Jill says they go so far as to cook things like lamb burgers to allow people to have a try of the meat. She says they also are happy to show people different ways of cooking lamb. "We show them how to cook it and what

the easiest way to cook it is," she says. "At the moment it's cheaper than beef,

It doesn't cost an arm and a leg to buy a lamb steak."

lamb steak." Jill says there is potential for more growth in the industry, especially in Saskatchewan. "Canada only produces 20 per cent of its own lamb consumption, the rest is imported," she says. "There's lots of people going into lamb production. A lot of the Hutterite colonies did when pork went down in price. I know of some big flocks in Saskatchewan, which are north of Regina. And Saskatchewan is a fairly prominent province as far as is a fairly prominent province as far as I'm concerned. Saskatchewan has a very good sheep development board run by some very go-ahead people, who do a very good job. And also there is a co-operative in Saskatchewan that is very buoyant. The sheep development board in Saskatchewan also markets sheep for farmers." Continued on page 31 187



Strong outlook for **Canadian food manufacturing**

Despite weak Canadian consumer spending, the outlook for Canadian food manufacturing remains bright thanks to rising demand from the U.S. and other for-eign markets, according to The Conference Board of Canada's latest Canadian Indus-trial Outlook: Canada's Food Manufactur-

ing Industry. Canada's food manufacturing's industry is forecast to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2016

"Faced with weak disposable income gains and rising household debt, Canadi-ans will be more frugal when it comes to how they spend their food budget," said Michael Burt, Director, Industrial Economic Trends

'Luckily for food manufacturers, Canada's new trade era of lower commod-ity prices, a weaker Canadian dollar, and strengthening demand from south of the border will open up new opportunities for the food manufacturing industry."

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite weak Canadian consumer spending, Canada's food manufacturing industry is expected to post solid growth in 2016, thanks to record high export lev-

Weak consumer confidence, moderate wage growth and rising household debt means Canadians will be more price-conscious in 2016.

Labour costs are forecast to be the larg-est contributor to industry costs, growing by an annual average of 5 per cent over the next two years.

Weak consumer confidence moderate wage growth and rising household debt means Canadians will be more price-con-scious and more likely to choose generic brand products and items on sale.

And, although food manufacturers will still benefit from increased demand for private-label products, the margins they make on these are likely to be smaller than the ones associated with brand-name goods.

One segment of the industry that can expect to see strong growth is seafood manufacturing.

With a growing number of Canadians trying to curb their red meat consumption due to various health-related concerns, Canadians' appetite for seafood products

Likewise, the rising number of baby-boomers is expected to support growth in demand for seafood and fish products. Foreign markets' demand for Canadian manufactured seafood products is also expected to continue to grow robustly, as improving incomes in emerging markets support demand from high-quality sources of protein.

Export growth is expected to remain a bright spot for food manufacturers. Industry export levels are at record highs and the combination of a weaker Canadian dollar and stronger U.S. economy is expected to continue to support export growth going forward. According to a recent Conference Board

According to a recent Conterence Board of Canada report, Canada's food manufac-turing is among the very few manufactur-ing industries ready to benefit from the U.S. recovery and able to ramp up produc-tion to meet this rising demand. With cost growth outstripping reve-nues, pre-tax profits fell to \$3.6 billion in 2015

2015

This year, pre-tax profits are forecast to reach \$3.9 billion as cost growth moder-ates and revenue growth is projected to remain healthy.



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Couple sees lots of support in wake of fire

Continued from page 21 The help has come from everywhere.

The help has come from everywhere. "You can go through the names, and it's people I went to high school with that I haven't seen for 15 years, and people I taught in dental school down in the U.S., and as a former dental student you know that they don't have any money to give," says Bruce. How does it feel to know they have the support of so many people? "It's humbling," says Bruce. "It's really overwhelming." "It makes you realize what's important," adds Steph. "We lost a lot of stuff but we have all these amazing people in our lives who will support us through something like this."

who will support us through something like this." "We have the support of people here and back home, and the U.S. where we lived for the last three years, and it's just overwhelm-ing." says Bruce. "We're very grateful for ev-erything," says Steph. "It's unbelievable. We never expected the support that we got." The couple say the support they have re-ceived already has helped replace most of what needed to be replaced immediately. "If anybody wants to help us," says Bruce, "they can help us by buying a coffee for the

person behind them in line at Tim Hortons or babysitting a friend's kid so they can go out, or help out people who do need it, because we're both fortunate enough to have good employment—we'll be able to replace our

employment—we'll be able to replace our things. I would rather people put their en-ergy into helping people who really need it. "It is a humbling reminder of just how good people can be. People from everywhere who you've not seen in over a decade, people you've just met, some people we've never even met before have all helped out." "It makes you realize what's important," says Steph. "A couple of the bigger anony-mous donations on GoFundMe were from people who have survived house fires and

people who have survived house fires and people who have survived house fires and had gone through that experience before. They felt that this was something close to their heart—that they wanted to help. I know that if someone is ever in need, we'll feel the same way, too, because we know exactly how if feels.

"My new year's resolution was to simplify "My new year's resolution was to simplify my life," says Steph with a laugh, "This is not what I meant. We want to replace the essen-tials now, but you realize that physical things aren't important, and you realize what is im-portant."

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BY STEVE SUTHER Rewards for hitting the Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®) brand target have never been greater, even after 11 con-secutive years of growing supply. A survey of CAB-licensed packers Cargill, JBS, National and Tyson showed they paid a record \$51.8 million in grid premiums in 2015, and more than \$550 million over 20 vears. years

That does not count the smaller amounts for cattle grading AAA, or the Prime premiums for the hundreds of thousands of cattle that supply the increasing demand for CAB Prime in the U.S. Specific to Canada, packers report paying nearly \$2 mil-

lion annually over the past four years. That's higher than a decade ago, although production has increased with the rate of qualification nearing 28% some weeks this year, double that rate even five years ago. The annual 3.6 million cattle accepted for the brand now account for 16% of all North American fed beef, but the US Department of American in the bindhord the bindhord

how account for 18% of all room American fed beer, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported the highest packer premium ever just last November at \$10/cwt., and the highest average premium for CAB in February. It's all driven by product demand, as the premiums match CAB's advantage over the Choice and AAA cutout value, says CAB President John Stika.

Value, says CAD resident John Stika. "For a company with the mission of adding value to Angus cattle through our branded beef program, it's sat-isfying to see the market working to reward producers, even as they supply us with more product to keep setting sales records," he says. CAB premiums were barely measurable for the first 19 years though first poted in the 1980e but the second balf

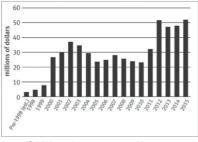
vers, though first noted arely ineasurator for the first p years, though first noted in the 1980s, but the second half of the brand's 38-year run shows increasing momentum. More than half of all grid premiums ever received for CAB acceptance have been paid in the last seven years. More than 41% of cumulative CAB premiums have come index and 1% of cumulative CAB premiums have come in the past five years.

North American cattle are clearly getting better, thanks to a combination of value-based marketing opportunities and enabling genetics, observers say,

Bruce Cobb, general manager of Consolidated Beef Producers (CBP), Canyon, Texas, says these better cattle are easier to market for feeding customers from Iowa to Texas, who sell more than a million head annually.

Cobb says Angus genetics have fueled an evolution, especially obvious in Texas where quality grades move up a step each year to where 90% Choice (AAA) pens are

RENEGADE



CAB brand premiums paid by year

becoming the norm.

"Angus are a big part of that," he says. "We keep pro-gressing toward that new commodity of high quality and vield.

Fear of discounts kept producers from using grid and Fear of discounts kept producers from using grid and formula marketing for years, says market economist Scott Fausti, South Dakota State University: "In these last few years with strong demand for beef, packers were making more allowances, and as more producers used grids and formula contracts, they learned to take more precautions to avoid discounts."

Controlling genetics, health, management and market timing, producers have been able to reap more rewards than discounts, he says while noting a need for more transparency in pricing. Documenting practices and de-veloping relationships with cattle feeders should lead to more positive information and higher bids for improving cattle

"The premiums all begin with that steak on the plate, and they trickle back through the system all the way to the ranch and to me as a purebred Angus producer," says Jerry Connealy, Whitman, Neb.

For y Connealy, Whitman, Neb. "CAB truly is a pull-through demand entity in the mar-ket," he adds. "The commercial guy may not always think about why he's getting \$5 or \$10 more per hundred for his calves, but that's what is pulling it to him. It's flowing back from the packing plant and feedyard."

Mike Kasten, commercial Angus producer from Mill-ersville, Mo., says there is no reason to let up on selection pressure that led to an average marbling EPD of 0.62 for

\$25 CAB-Choice boxed sprea \$20 - Rolling 6-week ave rage CAB pri \$15 \$10 \$5

Relationship between CAB-Choice boxed premium and the CAB grid premium

2015-born calves. That's because the Angus database allows simultaneous selection for other traits, and proven

lows simultaneous selection for other traits, and proven demand says marbling pays. "The average consumer has never had a Prime steak," he says. "They love our product but they haven't even tried our best – just think about how we'll drive demand forward as we continue to ratchet quality up." Drawing on decades of organizing alliances, feeding and selling on grids, Kasten says marbling is one of the best rick management tools.

and seeiing on grids, kasten says marbing is one of the best risk management tools. "Last year was not a good one for profits, but in pens with average per-head losses of \$220 or more, we saw profit from those that gained more than 3.75 pounds a day or graded Prime – doing both meant \$100 profit," he

without using more resources, high-quality premiums can pay another \$100 or \$150 above the market most years. "That gives you a lot of leeway," Kasten says, "and it is often pure profit."

serious pull-back in carcass weight – we're certainly not going back to 1,225 or 1,250 lb. – simply because genetics have adjusted," Cobb says. Producers have adjusted and gone through their own

version of culling during widespread drought, he adds. 'It caused an early exit for those who were not approachin cause an early exit for mose who were not approach-ing it as their core business. Those expanding now have the ability to expand their game with better genetics that pay the premium on top of any negotiated base advan-tages."

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Plain and Valley



Some of the sheep on the Humphries' farm. The Humphries raise Texel and Suffolk sheep.

amb growing in popularity

Continued from 25

"We sell quite a lot of our sheep in Saskatchewan. We show at Agribition each year and then there's a sale after

each year and then there's a sale after the show. And then the Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association also have a big sale." Jill says the meat that is destined for Winnipeg is shipped on the hoof, but they also butcher their own lamb locally in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She says a lack of processing facilities for lamb can be a bit of a problem. "Everything is shipped live to

"Everything is shipped live to Winnipeg apart from the stuff we butcher ourselves. That's one of the

big problems with it, there's nothing in between, it's either a big processing plant or it's your local butcher. There's

plant or it's your local butcher. There's not much in between," she says. Jill says there is a market for breeding stock. "We breed pedigreed Suffolk and pedigreed Texel," she says. "So we sell the best of the pedigrees to other flocks

flocks. "We want to stay the same in unity." We want to stay the same in size and just improve in quality. It's very difficult finding good quality pedigreed stock. The sheep population in Canada is only the size of one of the American states. So it's a very small number of sheep in

Canada. And so when you're trying to improve your bloodlines, it's not easy

Iill says one of the benefits of raising lamb is that it's something that young families can get into, and the animals are easy for children to handle and

are easy for children to handle and help raise. "Young families can get into it, whereas if you were handling cattle your little ones wouldn't be there, they'd have to be strapped somewhere out of the way. Your whole family can get involved with sheep. Our kids from a very early age have been used to herding them and seeing to them."



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Meeting on closure of Grades 7-9 at Wapella:

Parents express frustration with board

** Continued from page 4 "I will always support freedom of choice for par-ents to make the choice of the education they want for their child. I know every child has different needs, different require-ments and I think it's im-portant that parents have portant that parents have the ability to choose the best option for their child.

best option for their child. "But I also feel that op-tion must be available for me. We have a large groundswell of young families. You see that groundswell, you see that growth, and you see that excitement within our community." "My daughter is in grade six this year and her mother and I hope sho will be able to continue

will be able to continue her schooling here in Wa-pella," Brian Schinke told the board. "The grade six parents have all met and we would prefer unani-mously that our children do remain here. Personally I don't see any benefit in placing more students in Moosomin School which is to my understanding pretty much at maximum classroom sizes as it stands right now.

'In the smaller classes that Wapella provides, if the students need help I believe they have a bet-ter chance to have some one-on-one time with the

one-on-one time with the teacher. "The projected enrol-ment shows we should be able to phase in one grade per year and get our atten-dance numbers back up to where they should be to be a viable school again. We a viable school again. We would all like to keep our children closer to home. It's a safer environment, we have all chosen a smalltown lifestyle. It's what we want for ourselves, it's what we want for our families. "It is my understanding

that the school division has put a transportation policy into place and it has basi cally been ignored. People have requested transfers

her or

THRIVING.

for minimal reasons, and they have been granted. What we need is the back-ing of the school division, to say no, your children cannot be transported out of here. Not without a damn good reason. The only way our school can survive is if you folks stand up for it."

stand up for it." "The numbers that you've shown are a little bit skewed, in my opin-ion, because they're not re-flecting what the numbers would have been had you said no to these children who have now transferred to McNumbton School to McNaughton School. This school can be a decent small town school. You just need to give it a chance to shine."

. currently have ΥI а daughter attending Wa-pella School in grade one, and two more younger children I fully intend to have enrolled in this school when they get old-er as well," Sandy Hintz er as well," Sandy Hintz told the board. I'm quite concerned about how per-manently becoming a K-6 school will affect our com-munity. I believe it will multiv. I believe it will make it more difficult to at-tract people to move here if this happens. I have had people personally tell me why would I move there if my kids are going to be going to another school right away? It just doesn't make sense. This would cause a decrease in house values as well as affect the businesses that we have. If people have to go to Moo-somin to attend their chil-

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dren's school functions, chances are they will do the rest of their business there as well, and we're already seeing that, and we can't afford to have it get wors

"I have been told by our division representa-tive Carol Flynn that to keep our school viable we need to attract people to the community to get our enrolment numbers up, as well as encourage every-one to stay. Anyone can see one to stay. Anyone can see that we have grown more in the last five years than we have in 20 years, and with neighboring Mooso-min and Rocanville two of the places that are very popular with the econom-ic activity around, we're starting to see younger starting to see younger families look this way because of the more afford-able housing compared to those other towns. I think we have done our part very well, but unfortu-nately every time we gain more kids, and hope to build our school back up, the board allows more kids the board allows more kids to get on the bus, parked 20 feet away from the Wa-pella School doors, that was originally intended only for students to attend Moosomin for grades that were not offered in Wapella. Now basically it's a free-for-all for anyone who

"The constant wonder-ing of how many parents will send their kids to Moosomin because it's just so easy to do so causes us to lose enrolment numbers

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which then leads to less teachers, which then leads to triple and quad grades which leads to frustrated which leads to frustrated teachers, overwhelmed kids, and quite frankly pissed off parents. In my mind, that's the definition of major educational in-stability. Yet no one seems to care. Kids are treated as numbers, and we're al-ways told that it's the bud-get and we're only allowed so much money, so I as-

get and we're only allowed so much money, so I as-sume we'd call this a busi-ness. So why isn't anyone concerned that the busi-ness is failing? "We have lots of people who care about our com-munity and our school and we curbert it 100 per cent

we support it 100 per cent so I'm asking, who is the board going to support? The people who want to be here and chose to be here for a reason, or the negative people who don't want to be here and won't support it. I have no prob-lem with anyone attending their school of choice, but if they feel that strongly they want to be somewhere else, maybe they should arrange their own trans-portation and take them right to the school or the division line. But to after division line. But to offer them the service to walk

by our doors and get a free ride to another school is very inefficient management and is not fair at all to the parents of kids who want to be here. "If the board cares and

wants to see our school succeed they should be storeed they should be stopping transportation immediately for kids who have grades offered here in Wapella School." One mother in the audi-

ence said she drives her child from Moosomin to Wapella for playschool, and said she would pre-fer them to attend Wapella School for the smaller class

She asked if the school division would provide transportation for her child from Moosomin to Wapella, as it provides transportation for several students from Wapella to Moosomin. She was told that would

not be permitted.

The school division projects that if students stayed in Wayella, enrolments would not exceed 60 students, meaning four full-time equivalent teachers and the need for triple combined grades. The school division

could not provide num-

bers late last week on how many students from the Wapella attendance area are attending school in Moosomin.

"I think it went well, I think there were important facts exchanged by both sides, and I think that's the most important thing," Mark Knutson said following the meeting. "I feel I was being listened to. The actions of the board will show whether they heard

us." Sandy Hintz said following the meeting that he is optimistic that the parents' presentations made an impact on the board. "I think the board is still

"I think the board is still confused about the trans-portation," Sandy Hintz said after the meeting, "We want the transportation to stop for grades that are of-fered here. If parents want to go regardless, they can drive."

He said the community

He said the community will keep trying to con-vince the board to keep Wapella as a K-9 school. "We're going to win," he said. "We're going to keep pushing. Once we get the numbers on kids who are going to Moosomin, we're going to bulk to the bard going to talk to the board again. "



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FCC adding \$500 million to Young Farmer Loan

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Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is adding \$500 million to its ongoing commitment to a loan program aimed at helping young farmers become established in the industry.

Launched in March 2012, FCC's commitment to the Young Farmer Loan has grown to \$2 billion over four years, with almost 6,000 loans worth more than \$1.3 bil-lion approved, as of Dec. 31, 2015.Shawn and Natalie Paget with son Oliver "FCC is proud to support the next generation of farm-

ers through every stage of their career," FCC President and CEO Michael Hoffort said. "Products like the Young Farmer Loan can make a real difference for producers

Ioking to enter the industry or grow their business." The Young Farmer Loan provides qualified producers, under age 40, with loans of up to \$500,000 to purchase or improve farmland and buildings. The loan includes variable lending rates at prime plus 0.5 per cent, a special fixed rate if producers choose that avenue of repayment and no loan preserving forc.

and no loan processing fees. Shawn Paget, owner of Riverview Farm Corporation, used a Young Farmer Loan three years ago to acquire more land for his Hartland, New Brunswick-area potato

farm. "FCC's Young Farmer Loan was exactly what we need-PICC's found our operations in order to grow a wider va-riety of cash crops, such as soybeans, corn and cereals," Paget said. "Access to flexible financing is very important when you are starting out or trying to become more es-tablished in the industry. It's more than a loan – it's an investment' it the future of forming "

investment in the future of farming." Enabling young producers to borrow with no fees at af-fordable interest rates helps them develop a solid credit history and build their business.

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"The long-term success of Canadian agriculture relies heavily on our ability to attract and retain young, innova-tive people to the business of agriculture," said Lawrence MacAulay, minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canaa. "By helping the next generation become established in this vital industry, FCC is fulfilling an important part of its mandate and a key commitment of this government." To find out more about the demographic impact of young farmers on Canadian agriculture, read the latest

Ag Economist blog post at www.fctc.de/ performants Ag Economist blog post at www.fctc.de/ performants ing products and services that support young producers, such as the FCC Transition Loan, FCC ag Knowledge Ex-change events, FCC Publications, FCC on Campus, and FCC Management Software for both accounting and field In 2014-15, FCC approved more than \$2.4 billion in fi-

nancing to farmers under age 40, representing more than one-quarter of the \$8.6 billion in disbursements last year to help customers expand or start their operations. For more information on the FCC Young Farmer Loan

visit www.fcc.ca/youngfarmerloan or producers can call

Visit www.rCCcaffee at 1:800-387-3232. FCC is Canada's leading agriculture lender, with a healthy loan portfolio of more than \$28 billion. Our em-ployees are dedicated to the future of Canadian agricul-

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Young farmers looking to bright future

Canada's young farmers are looking to a bright future in agriculture, despite the general trend of an aging industry. They often count among the country's most suc-cessful producers and lead the charge to innovate and capitalize on new opportuni-

SOBERING FARM DEMOGRAPHICS

bolering FARM DEMOGRAPHICS Between 1941 and 2011 (the last Census data available), Canadian operations de-clined from more than 700,000 parms to just clined from more than 700,000 farms to just over 200,000 farms. Between 2006 and 2011, 23,643 operations (10.3%) disappeared. We also see fewer producers entering the industry for each five-year census period than the one preceding it. Canada's farm population is aging, with the average farmer now 54. Here's some in-teresting history: In 2001, the average age for a Canadian farmer was 49.9

farmer was 49.9

In 2011, there were more producers 55+

than other age groups (48.8% of the total population), for the first time in Census history

history The proportion of young producers has shrunk since 1991 by more than half. In 1991, producers under 35 comprised 19.9% of the total population. In 2011, they made up 8.2% of the population. In 2011, they made up 8.2% of the population. CANADIAN AG ATTRACTS NEW, YOUNG PRODUCERS In 2006, 30% of entrants were under 40 In 2011 15% of new entrants were under

In 2011, 15% of new entrants were under

These figures may reflect the well-known barriers to entry for young producers, but it's also the case that of all entrants in 2006, more were under 40. There's cause for more optimism in this figure as well, although it may not be obvious at first glance. NOT A SIMPLE STORY The 2006 Census showed just as many

35

producers under 40 exited the industry as



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Accidents always happen to somebody else

A least that's what Réjean Pommainville thought until that summer afternoon in 2009 when he fell from the top of a load-ed hay wagon and shat-tered his left heel on the

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ground. "It changed my life," says the third-gener-ation farmer, who was 54 at the time.

Still dogged by chron-ic pain from the injury, which required metal

plates and 14 screws to fix, he was forced to quit dairy farming and take up cash crop production, which is less physically demanding. That's why Pommain-

Terminal Office

ville puts so much stock in initiatives like Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW). Held in mid-March since 1986, CASW features a mix of live and online activities that highlight farm safety according

to a particular theme. When you've done something all your life, you don't stop to consider the danger.

This year launches a new three-year campaign, dubbed Demographics.



There are a host of peo-ple who live on, work at ple who live on, work at or visit farms, from fam-ily members and friends to suppliers and service providers," says Marcel Hacault, executive di-rector of the Canadian Agricultural Safety As-sociation (CASA). "For the next three years we'll drill down deeper on the dangers these individu-als face, using data and personal stories of injuries

Safer farms for all

and fatalities on Canadian farms. Headquartered in Winnipeg and funded by vari-Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Farm Credit Canada, CASA co-ordinates, develops and runs a variety of safety training and awareness programs across the coun-try. CASW is both a cornerstone and the marquis event in the organization's efforts to help Canadian farmers recognize and manage safety risks. As in past years, the 2016 comparison will feature

As in past years, the 2016 campaign will feature two official launch events with safety workshops, and Internet-driven ac-tivities dealing with safety and demographics. "It helps get our mes-sage out in the media and on social media," he says. "And it's a good time of year to raise awareness

year to raise awareness and get safety on people's minds, because the farming season is just getting going.



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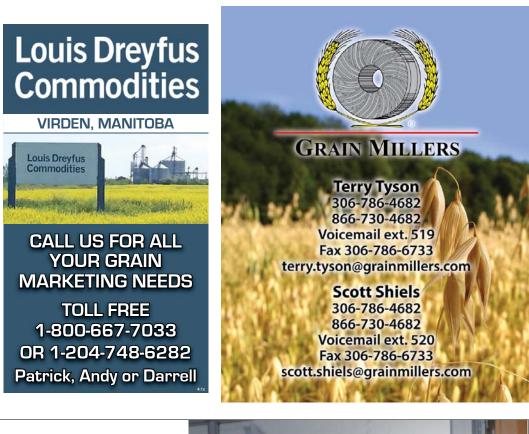
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Agriculture and optical head-mounted displays



A host of next-generation intelligent, wearable devices are hitting the market today, but I'm most excited about how agriculture might take advantage of optical head-mounted displays. That's nerd-speak for products like Google Glass: essentially a pair of glasses with a built-in visual display, camera and processor. Instead of looking at the screen of your smartphone or tablet, you see the content in the upper corner of your lens.

Sound far-fetched? It's not. When we say next gen-

eration, we're talking two

years - or less! Google Glass has been around for a few years, but hasn't achieved the market share envisioned. The challenges are mainly cultural. It's too easy to collect video and other information in a very unobtrusive way, and there are legitimate ques-tions about how we should use them in day-to-day set-tings. But for agriculture, I see huge potential. Instead of looking at the

screen of your smartphone or tablet, you see the content

in the upper corner of your MAKING THE CASE FOR

GOOGLE GLASS

Imagine a hog producer walking along a row of far-rowing crates. He stops in front of a sow and, using voice commands and Google Glass, pulls up the production records for that specific animal. Without touching a phone, tablet or heaven for-

bid, a paper-filled binder, he sees all that he needs to know.

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from a device you hold in Dr. Robert Kitchen, MP

Google Glass could be used to pull up yield or fertility maps for a specific location while in that field. Pest ID apps and product selection tools could also be accessed. Schematics and user manu-als could be viewed while actually working on equipment. Familiar functions on a

Souris-Moose Mountain

AMILIAR FUNCTIONS ON A NEW DEVICE Google Glass is really not doing anything that you can't do with a smartphone. It's just shifting the interface

your hands and touch to glasses you wear and talk to. Microsoft HoloLens, launched last November, is another device you wear like glasses. In this case, they're more like goggles. This device integrates high definition holograms into the real space around you. You direct the functionality using voice, hand gestures and gaze recognition (it detects where you're looking). A potential use might be to view and learn more about a new piece of equip-

The hologram would be full size and 3-D and appear very real viewed through the goggles. You would be able to walk around the virtual machine and use hand gestures to learn about various features

There will be even more There will be even more exciting ways for us to take advantage of these tools in agriculture once we get broader access. Keep an open mind and start think-ing about how you might use them.

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looking to bright future farmers Young

☞ Continued from page 34 This high rate of 'churn' among young farmers—lots of entries and lots of exits in one five-year period—contrasts especially with producers over 60 who experience the least churn (a high exit rate from the industry but low entry rate). What are we to make of this? The high

turnover of Canadian young farmers could indicate internal turmoil and instability. It may however indicate something else altogether. YOUNG ESTABLISHED PRODUCERS

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In an industry that continues to attract young producers, a number will exit

quickly after entry as the majority estab-lish themselves on successful operations. If the young established producers were struggling, it would be a different story -but they often out-perform the rest of the industry. In 2006 and 2011, they were both more likely to appear in the producer class with the highest revenues and least likely to appear in the class with the lowest expression. to appear in the class with the lowest rev-enues (Figure 1).

The churn of young producers entering and exiting agriculture may be a residual of experimentation and inno-vative en-trepreneurship. It's this kind of entrepre-neurship that sustains a complex industry as it responds to new and varied consumer

preferences and opportunities in techno-logical innovation. It can signal necessary structural change within sectors and spur industry innovation as older, established operators adopt new ideas to compete

with those newly arrived Competing in a challenging environ-ment, young producers can help to change the game and inspire vitality and growth in Canadian agriculture.

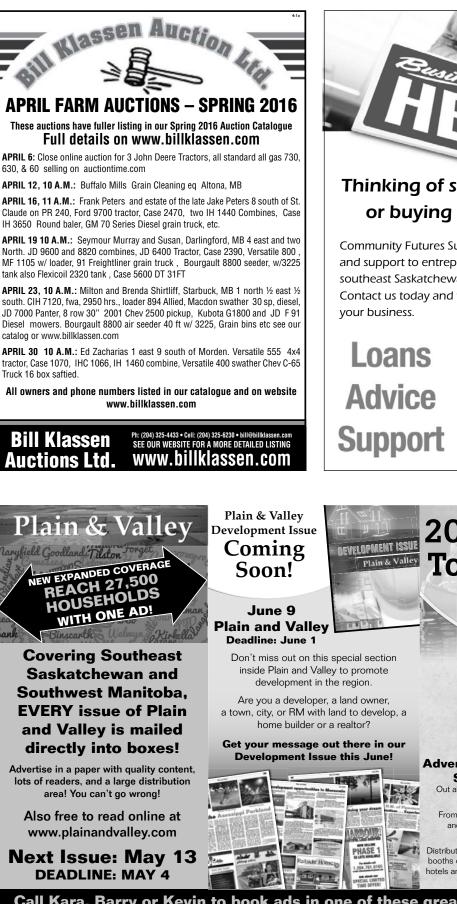




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The humorous side of rural life Saskatchewan cartoonist Frank Wilson takes a look at spring on the Prairies



"I would say this brings ice fishing up to a whole new level ... "



ne finally str ut of the



Just wait 'til I appear at the Farm Progress Show with this self-ord



"See, I told you spring was here. You're lookin' at the south end of some north



"If she pushes that rig any faster she's gonna hafta get a dog with longer legs

5

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"No doubt your idea of retiring to a south sea island has sor at least here in Saskatchewan we don't have to worry about me merit, Rufus, but

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Canada Safety Council is reminding Canadian families to take precautions while on the farm

Farming is a very rewarding, im-portant and invaluable industry in Canada. But for all of its benefits, it is also one of the most danger-ous industries, and the reality of the profession is that children are often around the workplace. This means exposure to hazards includ-ing toxic chemicals, unpredictable livestock and potentially dangerous machinery. This exposure makes it absolutely crucial that children be taught about the potential dangers around them and how to avoid put-

around them and how to avoid put-ting themselves at risk. This year, the Canada Safety Council is reminding Canadian families to take precautions while on the farm, ensuring the safety of children by understanding the con-cerns and paying attention to detail. According to a study by Cana-dian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR), 272 Canadians under the age of 14 died between 1992 and 2012 in agricultural-related fatali-ties, with approximately 45 per cent of those being four years of age or younger.

of those being four years of age or younger. The most common causes of death among children are machine by drownings (15.2 per cent,) ma-chine rollovers (11.1 per cent,) ma-chine rollovers (11.1 per cent,) an-imal-related injuries (6.5 per cent) and being crushed by or under an object (5.1 per cent.) Often, bystander runovers occur when children are playing on the farm or near a worksite. The farm

vehicle is usually in reverse, and the adult is not expecting the child to be there. This fact alone makes it crucially important to set aside an area reserved for playing in the yard. A fenced-in area with self-locking gate closures will ensure that the child's exposure to runover-related

danger is greatly reduced. It's important to remember that what may seem to be an obvious safety measure isn't always so obvi-ous, especially with younger chil-dren. Teach them which areas are off-limits or dangerous. As they get older and start helping out around the farm, take the time to teach them the proper way of doing things, ex-plaining and enforcing safety as the primary goal. Keep in mind their limited experience and strength when assigning tasks, giving them age- and size-appropriate responsi-bilities.

bilities. That being said, it's not enough to tell children how to do things safely. Especially when it comes to work-related tasks, children are driven to follow examples set by their parents and other adults. Farmers and workers have to make sure that they're following safety protocols and being careful, or the message will ring hollow to chil-dren and they will not see it as important.

Take the following precautions to ensure that your farm is safe for children: • Inspect your farm with your

children for any areas that contain hazards. Make sure to not only identify the hazards, but also to ex-Plain why they're dangerous to the children and, if possible, take steps to mitigate the danger.
Before setting children to work on age-appropriate tasks, check local laws to ensure that they are of le-

gal age to operate farm machinery.Train older children before setting them to work on anything. Ensure they understand the prop-er operation of machinery they're

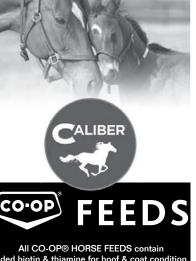
being asked to use, and that they know what to do at all times.
Never allow extra riders on any

equipment. Extra rider runovers are a very common cause of injury. • Drownings on the farm occur, especially among children six years old or less. Fence farm ponds, ma-nure pits, and any other source of water that could pose a drowning risk

 Designate a specific fenced-off area that is solely for playing. En-sure that it is kept far from animals, as even calm and normally docile animals can become dangerous if the first field that either the archeirs off they feel that either they or their off-

they feel that either they or their off-spring are threatened. • Keep all farm chemicals out of the reach of children and locked away in a cabinet, room or building. • Keep grain bins off-limits for children—it takes only a few sec-onds for a person to become help-beely traned under flowing crain

lessly trapped under flowing grain, where they could suffocate.



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The superior formulation of RANCONA PINNACLE gives excellent seed coverage with markedly less buildup in seed-treatment equipment, resulting in improved seed emergence, healthier seedlings, and higher yields. In university trials throughout North America RANCONA PINNACI E has demonstrated higher yields when compared to other leading seed-treatment products.

RANCONA PINNACLE ENDS UP ON YOUR SEED. NOT YOUR EQUIPMENT

Microdispersion technology means more active ingredient ends up on your seed and not your equipment - so you'll get more out of your seed treatment investment

"Seed adherence is one of the strong points we really like about RANCONA PINNACLE," says Art Hollinger of Precision Ag Services Ltd. "It distributes so well over the seed surface, almost instantly. Plus it's very easy to use, since we don't have to dilute it with water.

Whether a grower treats seed on-farm or has treatment done by a retail supplier, RANCONA PINNACLE is the easy-to-use choice to protect investment and vields.

For more information on RANCONA PINNACLE, visit Precision Ag Services Ltd. or call 1-866-761-9397.



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Edward & Cathy Dureault

Wolseley, SK | April 16, 2016 · 10 ar

Strong growth in Sask pulse exports recognized Saskatchewan Trade and

Export Partnership (STEP) will be leading a strong contingent of Saskatch-ewan exporters to two major international food forums - the Pulse Con-clave in Jaipur, India to be held February 17 to 19, 2016 and the Gulfood Show in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) February 21 to 25, 2016. STEP President and CEO

Chris Dekker noted that the trade mission is timely given the growth in Saskatch-ewan pulse exports and the UN General Assembly de-claring the year 2016 as In-ternational Year of Pulses.

"India purchased over \$1.5B in pulses from Saskatchewan including \$960M in lentils in 2015 - both record numbers," Dekker said. "And the UAE is the fifth largest market for Saskatchewan lentils and peas and has demon-strated strong growth potential." The India Pulses and

Grains Association ex-Grans Association ex-pects over 800 delegates from around the world will participate in the con-clave. The Gulfood Show in Dubai is now considered in Dubai is now considered the world's largest annual food and hospitality show with nearly 5,000 exhibi-tors from 5 continents and 120 countries.

"The global food indus-try meets at the Gulfood Show to trade and unveil the latest tastes, trends and innovations", Dekker said. STEP is privileged to have the Honourable Lyle Stewart, Minister of Agri-

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culture serve as the mission lead during the India por-tion of the trip. "Minister Stewart's lead-

ership will greatly enhance our presence and will as-sist with the objective to maintain Saskatchewan's

position as Canada's top exporter to India." STEP is a non-profit, membership driven, govmembership driven, gov-ernment/industry partner-ship, decigned ship, designed to promote the growth of Saskatch-ewan's export industry.



Mike Rotteau: 306-435-4004

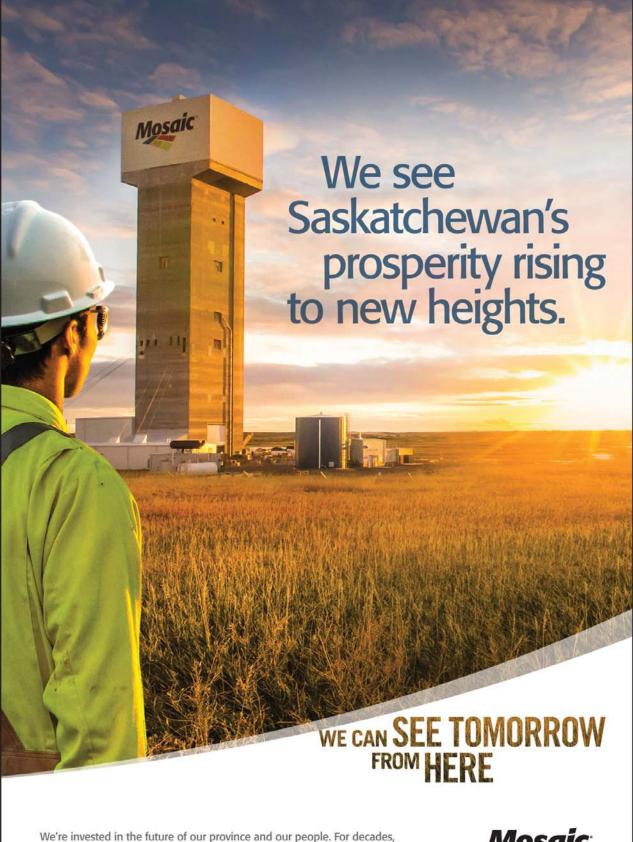
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1999 International 9 00 & 2008 Drake 36 Ft AUCTION LOCATION: From WOLSELEY, SK, go 4.5 km (2.8 miles) South on Grid 617, 4.7 km (2.9 miles) T/ATruck Tractor · 1987 International 9900 Eagle T/A Grain Truck 2008 Drake 36 FtT/A Grain Trailer · 2013 Abu 16 Ft Equipment Trailer · 2005 Custombuilt 8 Ft Equipment Trailer · Seed Hawk 4210 42 Ft Air Drill · Flexi-Coil 1110 Tow-Behind Air Tank · Rogator 1064 100 Ft High Clearance Sprayer ... AND MUCH MORE! For up-to-date equipment listings, please check our website: rbauction.com **b** RITCHIE BROS. Borderland Co-op Moosomin • Rocanville • Whitewood • Maryfield • Surrounding Area AND CO-0P'S 2016 110L 205L 1000L 3.60/L 3.50/L 3.45/L 3.50/L 3.40/L 3.30/L case price \$25.99 case price \$33.99



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Ritchie Bros.' largest on-the-farm auction hits \$24 million

flooded a family farm in Bonanza, Alberta on March 30 for Ritchie Bros.' largest on-the-farm auction ever. In just nine hours, more than \$24 million of farmland and equipment was sold.

The unreserved pub-lic auction attracted close to 2,200 bidders from 26 countries, including more than 1,350 online bidders. Approximately 24 percent of the equipment and real estate sold to online buy-

estate sold to online buy-ers. "The strength of the Western Canadian farm-ing industry was on full display in Bonanza this week," said Tyler Ruttan, Regional Sales Manager, Ritchie Bros. "We as whup atten-

"We saw huge atten-dance onsite and online, resulting in very strong pricing on the farmland, with more than 50 parcels of scale actets colling for of real estate selling for just over CA\$13 million in total. We also saw great re-sults for the large selection of equipment and trucks in the auction."

the auction." On auction day, Ritchie Bros. sold 7,400+ acres of real estate—including two home quarters—as well as 800+ equipment items for two families: the Nobbs and the Marshalls. All items were sold with

All items were sold without minimum bids or re-serve prices.

"It was an emotional day, especially selling the land that was homesteaded by my father and grand-father," said Danny Nobbs.

"We are happy with the results—land sold for al-most double of what it's sold for historically in the

Barry MacPherson: 306.424.7678

Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager – Kevin Ortt: 306.451.7388 800.491.4494



There were total sales of more than \$24 million at this Ritchie Bros. sale at Bonanza, Alberta.

area. Our new iron also sold very well. We are very happy we teamed up with Ritchie Bros." EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS: Five 2015 Case IH 580 quadtrac tractors sold for a combined \$2+ million Ever 2014 Clase Lorige

Four 2014 Claas Lexion 780 4x4 combines sold for a

combined \$1.6 million Four 2014 Claas Lexion 670 track 4x4 combines sold for a combined \$1.4+

million A 2014 Case IH 620 quadtrac tractor sold for \$480,000

A 2015 Case IH 4440 120ft 4x4 high clearance sprayer sold for \$380,000

Ted & Julie Mansuy

Parkman, SK | April 29, 2016 · 10 am

er sold for \$380,000 A 2014 Case IH 4430 120-ft 4x4 high clearance spray-er sold for \$345,000 Three Elmers Haulmas-ter 2000 grain carts sold for a combined \$350,000 Two 2013 MacDon M155 35-ft swathers sold for combined \$251,000

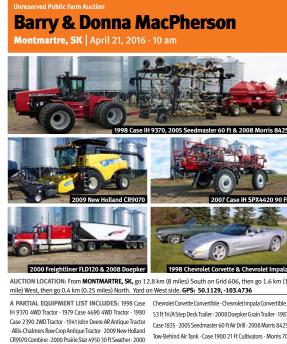
A 2012 Case IH Puma 215 MFWD tractor sold for \$130,000 50+ CANADIAN

ON-FARM AUCTIONS IN APRIL Ritchie Bros. will contin-ue to conduct its full-service, professional auctions from farm-to-farm across Western Canada in April.

With each auction, Ritchie Bros. sets up on an owner's farm to sell their equipment.

equipment. Many of these auctions also include real estate (farmland, recreational, residential and grazing lease), livestock and household items

4:1c



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