



Quarterly publication of Alberta Farm Writers' Association

Tour the Land of the Midnight Sun

AFWA 2002 Summer Tour

by Geoff Ludkin

Come ferry across a river whose waters run to the Arctic. Experience Alberta's Francophone culture. Golf in the Midnight Sun in Alberta's Peace River Country.

The AFWA 2002 summer tour, June 20 & 21, is your opportunity to discover the beauty and uniqueness of northern Alberta.

Arrive in Grande Prairie Wednesday, June 19 and the following morning take a comprehensive look at the region's Fescue industry in the Rycroft area. We will travel to Falher, Honey Capital of Alberta,

where, early in the century, pioneers settled from La Belle Province.

We will cross the Mighty Peace on the Shaftesbury ferry near the remnants of Fork Fort built under the direction of Alexander Mackenzie as he opened up the north country for the Hudson's Bay Company.

The highlight of the day comes at Fairview College. It is the only school in Canada designated to teach mechanics on Harley Davidson motorcycles and has a long relationship with Harley Davidson.

The college will host a barbecue and provide the night's accommodation. This gives us a

chance to get a close up look at their renowned Turf Management program as we golf the campus Par-3 golf course during the summer solstice.

We begin day two with a group breakfast and guest speaker. Then make our way back to Grande Prairie to tour the CanFor forestry mill. We wind up the tour with a picnic lunch at the Beaverlodge Federal Research Station where we'll be able to learn all there is to know about agriculture in a northern climate. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy and get to know the vibrancy of Grande Prairie.

For more information, please contact: Janet Kanters or Geoff Ludkin.

China Ventures

A Chinese agricultural tour is planned for Oct 21-Nov. 4, 2002. AFWA member Jim Hahn will act as a tour escort, with Eric Jerrard acting as tour spokesman.

For more information about the tour, contact Eric Jerrard at 403-782-6666, or Jim Hahn at 403-329-2391, jhahn@telusplanet.net



Member News

AFWA member Debby Gregorash has written for the Sunny South News, Coaldale, for 13 years. Debby is taking a sociology course at the University of Lethbridge called Rural Life: The Culture and Politics of Place. Her recommended reading list includes: A Great Place to Raise Kids by Kieran Bonner and Writing Off the Rural West by Roger Epp and Dave Whitson. "Every small town mayor, county councillor, provincial and national



politician and everyone who works for a large agri-business should read this," says Gregorash.

Geoff Ludkin, previously with Agricore, is now General Manager with Wanham Valley Feeds. You can reach him at 10607 Kateri Dr., Grande Prairie, AB T8W 2N1; 780-694-2464; fax: 780-694-2618; e-mail: gludkin@telusplanet.net

Alberta Turkey Producers moved their office. You can contact

AFWA member and Executive Director of Alberta Turkey Producers Greg Smith at 4828 - 89 St., Edmonton, AB T6E 5K1. The phone, fax and e-mail addresses remain the same.

Simone Demers-Collins has a new e-mail address: simonedc@shaw.ca

Welcome to Eva Lagasse of Farm Press Ltd. out of Lethbridge who joined AFWA in February.

Mary MacArthur has a new e-mail address: mary.macarthur@producer.com

Environmental Farm Plan program

By Debby Gregorash

Here's a good news story for people down on the farm.

While many farmers say they are good land stewards, the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program is their chance to prove it. It is a self-assessment checklist for farmers to calculate their environmental impact and farm safety. An EFP can potentially raise consumer confidence

and investment.

The EFP includes worksheets on many aspects of the farm, including pesticide and fertilizer storage, water efficiency, pest management, wetlands and pasture management. Each topic includes a chart to determine if an operation is high or low risk to the environment, and is determined to be safe.

As John Kolk, Chairman of

the EFP committee writes, "In the end, efforts for environmental sustainability will be acknowledged and market access with new development opportunities will be maintained or enhanced."

To learn more about the Environmental Farm Plan program, call John Kolk, 403-732-4384 or Jack Swainson, 403-343-3172.

Scoops

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Alberta Farm Writers Association

2001 Executive

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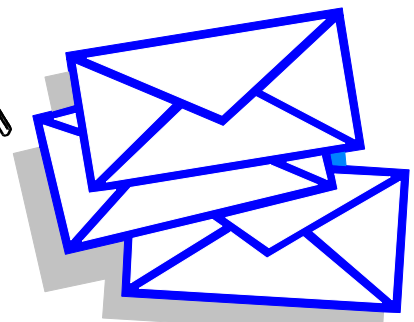
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Hot issues in agriculture

According to AFWA members

Stan Klassen picks
Species At Risk Act (SARA)

Janet Kanters picks
AAFRD restructuring

Debby Gregorash picks
The sub-division of ranchland at the gates of Waterton Lakes National Park for 23 homes. Also a question of where new residents will get their water.

The new regulations for livestock and will the NRCB rubber stamp

all ILO (CFO)?

Says Gregorash, "Speaking of Confined Feeding Operations, who changed that name? Who do they think they are fooling? In the States, they call them Confined Animal Feeding Operations. ILO and CAFO have a word in there referring to animals, at least. Confined Feeding Operation could be a restaurant for all we know. Or a prison, or school lunch cafeteria. I'm calling them CAFO from now on."

Claudette Lacombe picks

Water management and engineering on a provincial scale

Alberta Environment Minister Lorne Taylor's Water Strategy

Environmental Farm Plans

Drought 2002 - if it hits

Agricultural input costs

Les Brost Picks
Ag Summit results

Agrivantage Team

By Les Brost

Agrivantage is a collaborative team of industry and government representatives charged with overseeing and directing the continuation and completion of Ag Summit phase II.

Ag Summit phase I identified initiatives, challenges and opportunities facing the agriculture and food industries. Ag Summit phase II is soliciting more information and developing

options and recommendations for the identified items.

Agrivantage Team chair (and AFWA member) Les Brost says the team is in the home stretch of bringing together the work of the various Ag Summit Action Teams involved in the process.

Brost says there are recommendations coming through that have the potential to dramatically alter the conventional industry landscape.

"There are some great stories here for writers motivated enough to ask questions. I wish that I could write about this stuff," he says.

For more information, check out www.agrivantage.ab.ca, or contact Les at Southern Star Communications, 125 Edgewood Blvd. West, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 5Z6; 403-320-0991; sostar@telusplanet.net

More on the EFP program

The Environmental Farm Plan program Steering Committee established a Part 9 organization under the Company Act and a Board of Directors.

The board has nine members, including John Kolk, AFWA member Paul Hodgman, Glenn Logan, Kim Schmitt, Robert

Filkohazy, Tim Dietzler, two from government (federal and provincial), and an Alberta Beef Producers representative. The first meeting is set for mid March.

They also established an Advisory Committee to support the Board. The group is in the process of defining roles and

responsibilities for the Committee

To date they have talked, listened and received feedback from more than 70 groups.

They will hire a Program Director in the next few months and launch the program during Ag Week in October (13-19), 2002.

Coming agricultural events

March

Peace Country Classic Agri-show 2002

Mar 7 - 9, Grande Prairie,
Alberta Evergreen Park
Contact: Denise Greenlaw
Ph: 780-532-3279
fax: 780) 539-0373
e-mail: egp@telusplanet.net

Growing Organic Conference

Mar 11 - 12, 2002
Red Deer Capri Hotel
Contact Growing Organic
1-800-387-6030

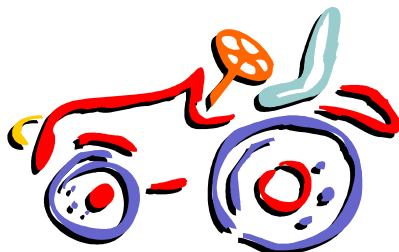
Rainy Creek Soil Conservation Club Annual Workshop

Lacombe Memorial Centre
March 20 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Contact: Harvey Brink
Ph: 403-748-2777

Alberta Institute of Agrologists Provincial Conference and AGM

*Global Change Effects and
Impacts*

March 20-22
Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton,
AB
Contact: Ruth Ball
Ph: 780-492-3651
www.aia.ab.ca/2002



April

4th National Agri-Food Awareness Conference

Growing for the Future
Apr 3 - 6
Victoria, B.C. Conference Centre
Contact: Joy Cooper
Ph: 250-658-4836
fax: 250-658-4837
e-mail: bc.2002@shaw.ca
[http://www.agaware.bc.ca/
conference.html](http://www.agaware.bc.ca/conference.html)

Small Communities Conference

Apr 11 - 13
Legal, AB Community Centre
Contact: Kimberley Primmer
Ph: 780-961-3773
fax: 780-961-4133
e-mail: main@town.legal.ab.ca

Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Alberta Branch Annual Conference

*Alberta Water Strategy - Our
Current Drought and
Promising Solutions*
April 7- 9 Medicine Hat, Alberta
Contact: JoAnn Schebel,
UMA Engineering Ltd.
Ph: (403) 329-4822
fax: (403) 329-1678

May

Strathcona Country Classic

May 24 - 27
Moyer Recreation Centre,
Josephburg, AB
Contact: Linda Walton
Ph: 780-998-2955
fax: 780-998-2955
e-mail: hobbyfm@attcanada.ca

9th International Symposium on the Interactions Between Sediments and Water

May 5-10 Banff, Alberta
[http://www.wsc.monash.edu.au/
iasws/ninthconference.html](http://www.wsc.monash.edu.au/iasws/ninthconference.html)

June

1st Canadian Solid Waste Symposium

June 2- 8 Edmonton, Alberta
[http://www.swanacpc.org/
2002symp.htm#Register](http://www.swanacpc.org/2002symp.htm#Register)

