

in the Sector at

Taking off the crop at the 2017 Harvest for Hope just north of Moosomin.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Local growing projects feed the hungry

Every fall, two local growing projects take off crops and donate the proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to feed hungry people around the world. The proj-ects are entirely run by volunteers and depend on dona-tions to get the crop in the ground and care for it during

the growing season. At harvest, local farmers who volunteer their time get together to take off the crop, and celebrations are held on

All donations to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are

The foodgrains bank provides emergency food for people who are hungry because of things like war, drought, and unfair international trade policies. They also provide tools and trainings so that hungry people, many of whom are small-scale farmers, can feed themmany of whom are small-scale farmers, can feed them-selves. They support programs that improve nutrition, especially for children and nursing mothers, and that provide nutrition education and training for families. They also work to end global hunger through education and advocacy, and work to influence national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger.

Harvest of Hope

Moosomin

Harvesting more than just grain is what Moosomin's Harvest for Hope has been doing now for the past five

Harvest for Hope has been using norm for the second years. It's really all about providing hope and food for hun-gry people in times of crisis, and that's exactly what this harvest project does. What do you need to bring in a harvest like this one? Well, this year, in a wheat field just a few miles north of Moosomin, it took three swathers, seven combines, one hare organ cart, three semi units, a handful of operators, large grain cart, three semi units, a handful of operators,

arge grain Cart, intee semi units, a nanorul of operators, and just a few hours of time. Growing a crop that is marketed for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is what Harvest of Hope at Moosomin does. This year's crop was all wheat—270 acres—and, once the combines started up, it took only three or four hours for farmers and businesses in the area to get the

hours for farmers and pushesses in the area to be the crop off. "To be able to work together on land like this in order to help others," is really what it is all about according to Rick Block, the Saskatchewan Regional Representative of



Enjoying the lunch at the Harvest of Hope just north of Moosomin on harvest day.

the Foodgrains Bank who was on hand at the Harvest for Hope site on Friday, Sept. 1. Approximately 70 others were also there to see the combines start up for this season of threshing for a good cause

cause. Kyle Penner, one of a group of about eight people who keep this project going from year to year, says the Ca-nadian Foodgrains Bank's mission statement sums it up well for him: "Our goal is a world without hunger." "The Foodgrains Bank provides food in times of cri-sis for hungry people in the developing world," Penner said. "It helps people grow more food to better feed themselves."

themselves

Penner went on to say that Canadians grow food

in massive quantities and Canadians generally have enough to eat, so this, he feels, is a great opportunity to help people who need it. Harvest day could probably best be described as per-fect—blue skies, warm temperatures and a beautiful breeze, not to mention the labor and machinery that helped bring it all together. A line of combines created a perfect harvest back-drop as Kevin Dyck from the Moosomin Baptist Church prayed for God's blessings on this year's Harvest of Hope crop prior to a chili and bun meal being served by Conexus representatives to supporters and participants of this year's Harvest of Hope project. Many individuals and many local businesses support the harvest project at Moosomin, helping not just to bring in the harvest, but to seed and fertilize, to spray the crop and then to cut it just prior to combining it.

in the harvest, but to seed and fertilize, fo spray the crop and then to cut it just prior to combining it. The John Deere dealership at Moosomin is one of the many who are involved in more than harvesting the crop. They use the land as a place to showcase their seed-ing equipment and to train their staff in how the equip-ment works. "We provided the seed and offered free drying last year," Cory Woywada, General Manager of Parish and Heimbecker Moosomin, said of P&H's involvement in the project.

Mazergroup (New Holland) and Pattison Equipment (John Deere) both had combines in the field, as did several individual farmers, all of who helped bring in the

eral individual farmers, all of who helped bring in the 2017 crop. "This is our first year donating," RPM Ag's Lynne Ketcheson said of her company's involvement. "We do-nated the use of a Versatile tractor and an Elmer grain cart to be used for this year's harvest," she said. "We keep a running tally (with the cart)," RPM's Neil Driver said. "We will know exactly the tonnage that gets duranted into the semi."

dumped into the semi." "The project becomes successful, like ours is, when lo-

"The project becomes successful, like ours is, when lo-cal supporters get behind the project—many hands make light work," Penner said. "This means that crop inputs like rent, seed, fertilizer, fuel, equipment, and labor are donated. The 'burden' of growing a successful crop is shared across the commu-nity, with many parties doing what they can, whether a little or a let". little or a lot."

Plain and Valley



Canadian farm debt is on the rise

taled roughly 70% of all

farm assets in 2016. Since land as a share of

farm assets has been rising,

so has farm debt. Total liabilities in Cana-

dian agriculture reached \$90.8 billion in 2016. (NOTE: This is about \$5

billion less than the value we provided earlier, which included the additional household portion of farm

Since 2012, the annual growth of farmland values

has been increasing faster than the annual growth of

2017 may be the year farm debt growth takes the

If so, it'll be because of

softening farm cash re-ceipts and the addition of higher borrowing costs.

The recent Bank of Can-ada interest rate hikes will affect the value of farm

debt outstanding, driving

Farm King

farm debt outstanding.

debt).

lead.

it up.



BY AMY CARDUNER FCC AGRICULTURAL ECONO-MIST

Canadian producers have recently taken on more debt.

This is, in part, due to the farmland values and the overall intensive capital-ization of agriculture.

Both increased recently. Historically low interest rates have also pushed up debt levels.

That may sound worry-ing but, at least for the mo-ment, there's no cause for alarm.

That's the overall mes-FCC Ag Economics' Out-look for Farm Assets and Debt 2017-18, released to-

day. The sector has been fi-nancially stable for years and, thanks to rising net cash income, that should continue into 2018.

We expect increases in overall debt and their ac-

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companying interest pay-ments, but the sector is well-positioned to handle those

those. For one thing, while both debt and payments are likely to become higher over the next year, their growth will be gradual enough to allow producers to absorb the extra costs.

Farm debt highly correlated with

farmland values Farm debt has risen in re-cent years, and it's largely

the result of farmers buying more farm land. The low-interest environment of the past 15 years, along with the strong farm cash receipts that boosted income, pushed farmers to buy more land. All that activity drove up

the value of farmland. In fact, farmland gained

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so much value relative to all other farm assets, it to-

But it takes a back seat to net cash income, the factor that will have a larger im-pact – and an impact that is good news for debt repay-

Rising net cash income matters more than

interest rates

Canadian agriculture has been booming over the past 10 years, thanks to a \$19 billion increase in farm cash receipts. With those revenues, and interest rates at historical

lows, producers borrowed more to expand their operations.

We expect net cash in-come to remain healthy over the outlook period, meaning producers will be able to repay the debt they

do incur. Canadian ag is in a good position to weather the cur-rent interest rate climate. For more on Canadian farm debt and assets, see FCC Ag Economics' Out-look for Farm Assets and Debt 2017-18.

Amy joined the FCC Ag Economics team in 2017 to monitor agricultural trends and identify opportunities and challenges in the sector. Amy grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and continues to support the fami-ly operation. She holds a Mas-ter in Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University and a Bachelor in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatch-

ewan.



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12-year old Jessica Raiwet excels in English riding

BY DONNA BEUTLER

A lifelong love of horses has led 12-year-old Jes-sica Raiwet of Whitewood to the equestrian sport of English riding. Jessica's love of the sport has her not only looking

towards the competitions she goes to now in Sas-katchewan and Manitoba, but also looking to the future—maybe even the Olympics one day. Her passion for this sport is evident in everything she

has to say about it. Jessica has participated in 10 shows since February of this year, most recently the Heritage provincials in Moose Jaw on the Sept. 30 weekend.

"It was so much fun," Jessica says. "And I am so proud of my mare (Bellis-sima) and I. We ended up placing in the top five in every class.

Jessica also received Jr. highpoint crossrails champion for the weekend and overall Junior Champion in the hunter division.

Jessica competes in a number of areas within English riding, including English dressage. This is a series of different tests that the rider and horse do wherein the horse follows a pattern and the rider guides the horse to change gaits within that pattern.

"You need to be neat and tidy," Jessica said, ex-plaining that horse and rider must both be "very pretty.

Jessica also competes in English pleasure and in hunt seat classes. She competes in hunter jumping as



Jessica Raiwet competing at the Saskatchewan Horse Federation Provincial Finals held in Moose Jaw Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

well. "Low hunters is crossrails two foot and up where you have to have control of your horse at a consistent pace over fences following a course pat-tern," Jessica explained. "You also need to look neat and tidy, both you

and your horse. "Presentation is key," Jessica explained of competing in dressage and hunters.

Jessica will be moving up to high hunters which is crossrails two foot six inches and up. She will also be trying show jumping which is a timed event while jumping over fences. Jessica says the toughest part for her when she goes to shows is the early morn-

touched one when she was

"From there," Marcy said, "I couldn't keep Jess away from them. If she ever was out of my sight,

I knew to go and look by the horses and there she would be admiring them

or petting them." Jess says she rode West-ern before she discovered

ern before she discovered English and has now been riding English for about 18 months. "My mom signed me up for English riding les-sons with a coach from Windthorst," Jessica said, explaining that she had a friend taking English rid-ing who encouraged her to give it a try. "I then moved on to a coach from

to give it a try. "I then moved on to a coach from

Qu'Appelle who was more familiar with the shows."

on their farm several miles south of Whitewood. Here,

jumps and ground poles. "I used to practice any-where I could, now I have

my very own space. I prac-tice my jumps when we go for lessons to Ace Eques-trian by Qu'Appelle," Jes-sica says. "My coach is

Jessica's parents have re-

When I go to a show, I have to get up at 5:30 or 6:00 in the morning. When we went to the big show in Brandon, it was even ear-Vior 4:00 a.m.

lier, 4:00 a.m. "The biggest challenge for me at a competition is making sure my mare is looking her best. She comes first and has to look beautiful and sometimes the white can be hard to keep clean.

Jessica has an upcoming Jessica has an upcoming 'jump for the cure' show in Brandon and a clinic in Moose Jaw for hunter jumping before the year is over, and then it will be time to deaide in conbe time to decide, in consultation with her mom what shows she will go to in 2018.

How it all began

"I have been taking les-sons since I was five years old," Jessica says, "but mom had me on horses since I could walk." Raiwet's mom Marcy

confirms that Jessica in-deed has loved horses since the moment she first



Ph: 306-645-2032 Rocanville, SK

we work on many things during either private or group lessons."

Some of that work might include exercising over poles, jumping, ground work, dressage, and lead changes. Jessica says what they work on often de-

they work on often de-pends on what kind of show is coming up. "It's so fun!" Jessica says of her training ses-sions where she is often preparing for upcoming competitions. Jessica says she always wanted to try jumping and now that she has, "I love it!"

bas, "I love it!" Besides her mare Bellis-sima, Jessica has another jump with and still does at home a bit in order to keep her in shape. It is only Bellissima, though, that she takes to competitions.

What the future holds

Jessica is totally commit-ted to her sport and defi-nitely wants to continue in English riding, Besides her goal of one day making it to the Olympics, Jessica to the Olympics, Jessica would like to experience working in different barns like Spruce Meadows (a show jumping complex at Calgary), as well as even going to Europe one day too. "There are so many op-portunities L think out

"There are so many op-portunities I think out there," Jessica said of Eu-rope. "I think I just have to get there one day." With a passion for riding and doing everything and anything with horses, Jes-sica's future will no doubt include equestrian sports. She also enjoys cross coun-try runnine, paintine. try running, painting, shooting her bow and, in her own words, "riding, riding and oh, more horseback riding!"

Jessica hopes to someday become a coach/trainer when she gets older so she can share her passion with others and teach them the proper horse maintenance and care for animals, proper riding, how to jump and "how to strive for your goals in life."

cently set up a big outdoor arena for their daughter From a parent's perspective Jessica practices pretty much every evening. Her home arena has nice sand,

"There is a lot of com-"There is a lot of com-mitment with this sport as there is with any sport you put your kids in," Marcy says. "If it weren't for the parents getting them to their practises and shows, keeping their spir-its up and pushing them forward, they wouldn't be in it. I do have to say any sport, though, that any sport, though, that involves an animal does have a little more respon-sibility involved," Marcy adds. "It takes a bit more of your time and you can't be in a rush—always give yourself more time."

Marcy shares her daughter's love of horses her and has always enjoyed riding since her early 20s, often participating in trail

riding. As for Rob, Jessica's dad, he may not ride but throws his full support into his daughter's love of the sport and makes sure the hay used to feed Jessica's horses is put up every summer.



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Student studies vitamin A-boosted chickpeas

In developing countries, more than three million children are at high risk for permanent blindness due to severe vitamin A deficiency.

by Federica Giannelli

But University of Saskatch-ewan researchers think that the power of a little seed could make a difference.

"Chickpeas are a well-known source of protein and minerals," said Bunyamin Tar'an, plant sci-ences professor and chickpea breeder at the U of S Crop De-velopment Centre. "Now due to our latest research, we can add to the list that chickpeas are also a good natural source of vitamin

His PhD student Mohammad Rezaei, an Iranian student at-tracted by U of S agricultural research excellence, has been studying how to increase the natural content of vitamin A in chickpeas. This would help Tar'an develop new varieties to combat dietary deficiencies.

combat dietary deficiencies. "Developing new chickpea va-rieties will help keep Saskatch-ewan—and Canada—among the world's top producers of puls-es," said Tar'an. In a 2016 published study, Rezaei identified the genes in chickpea DNA that control the

plant's production of vitamin A.

He used the chickpea whole genome sequence generated from the collaboration of Tar'an's lab with many national and international research institutes and universities.

Rezaei said new chickpea varieties could boost Canadian exports to the Middle East and India, where chickpeas are the most common alternative to meat.

meat. And with vegetarian lifestyles increasingly taking over Western countries, "vitamin A-boosted" chickpeas would also greatly benefit the health of Canadians. Research shows vitamin A en-hances brain function, improves

sight and skin health, and it may naturally slow down aging. Rezaei has also found that green seed chickpea is the variety with the highest concentration of vitamin A currently available on the market. This concentration is even higher than the first de-veloped variety of Golden Rice, a genetically modified organism (GMO) grown in areas where people struggle with vitamin A deficiency.

Rezaei's next goal is to find the



Student Mohammad Rezaei found the secret to boost vitamin A in chickpeas.

genetic markers—key regions of the chickpea genome—associat-ed with the vitamin A trait which 'paints' veggies yellow, orange

and red.

He has been dissecting thousands of chickpea seeds from more than 250 known varieties

carrying different concentrations of vitamin A to study how this trait is transmitted to their "children" and isolate the best lines

Once Rezaei has identified the genetic markers, Tar'an would use them for a marker-assisted selection to speed up the process of developing new varieties. This technique would enable him to cross, pre-select and release only the most promising chickpea lines that carry the genetic mark-ers associated with higher vita-

ers associated with higher vita-min A production. Funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Tar'an and Rezaei's study is one of the many cutting-edge plant breeding projects led by the U of S Crop Development Centre (CDC) to improve and develop

(CDC) to improve and develop new crops. "Since the 70s, the CDC has been under the international spotlight for releasing hundreds of new varieties of pulses includ-ing lenti, pea, chickpea, dry bean and faba bean, and for hosting some of the most successful pea and lenti breeding programs worldwide," Tar'an said.

Grain handlers spend big as Canadian crops set to feed more

The gatekeepers of Canada's rich agriculture exports are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade export terminals as they prepare the country to become an ever-growing bread basket to the world.

world. Canadian grain shipments have been steadily rising and hit a re-cord high in the last crop year. And Canadian companies are making long-term bets on the growth of crop exports.

Statistics for the 2016-2017 crop year show Canada continues to improve on the massive logistical hurdle of moving prairie grains to global markets.

"It was the best year we've ever had in terms of total movement and total amount of grain that was exported," says Mark Hemmes, president of Quorum Corp., which monitors grain shipping for the federal government. The numbers show Canada's rail

network moved 50.7 million tonnes of grain from Western Canada for a five per cent bump from the year before, with about 39.7 million of that getting shipped to the ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert and

Thunder Bay. Farming techniques and climate change are set to make Canada even more productive, says Karl

even more productive, says Karl Gerrand, chief executive of grain handler G3 Canada. The company, which bought a majority stake in the Canadian Wheat Board's assets after it lost its single desk in 2012, is in the midst of spending more than half a billion dollars on a modern grain shipping terminal in Vancouver, the first built from scratch at the

port since the late 1960s. Gerrand says climate change will also increase international demand for Canadian agriculture, which has already seen a big jump in chigment to Asia. in shipments to Ásia.

in shipments to Asia. "What you're going to find over time, and research would indi-cate, is that geographical areas like Canada, the northern climes, will become more efficient at growing grains, at the expense, unfortunate-ly, of the more southern climes," Gerrand savs.

errand says. G3's terminal will be a dominant player, with capacity to ship about eight million tonnes a year, but all the major grain handlers have been making investments.

Winnipeg-based grain handlers Parrish and Heimbecker Ltd. and Paterson GlobalFoods have a West Coast terminal in the works that will be able to ship about four mil-

will be able to ship about four mil-lion tonnes of grains a year. The export terminal, to be built on the Fraser River in Surrey, B.C.'s port lands, is still going through regulatory review with a potential construction start next year. And further north, Ray-Mont Logistics International officially opened its new grain terminal in Prince Rupert at the end of August, which can ship about a million tonnes a year.

The recent investments come on top of work wrapped up last year, including Viterra Inc.'s tripling the capacity of its Vancouver terminal to six million tonnes a year, and Richardson International doubling the capacity of its terminal coubling the capacity of its terminal, also to about six million tonnes. Hemmes of shipping monitor Quorum Corp. says the capac-

ity and efficiency investments are needed, since farmers have im-proved grain production by about 2.5 to three per cent a year for the past five years, with more growth on the way

on the way. He says the latest efforts, are part of a long-term push to improve grain transportation, with travel times cut in half since he started monitoring the system in the early

"It used to be 70, sometimes as A used to be 70, sometimes as much as 80 days to get from the farm to the time it got on a vessel at the port. That's down into the low 40s now. So the system has become far more efficient." As Canadian farmers continue to improve officiencies and wordword

improve efficiencies and produce more grain, handlers and exporters commit to investing in the growth of crop exports.





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Canadian Foodgrains Bank Local growing projects feed the hungry

^{FS} Continued from page 29 Penner sees no foresee-able end to the project. It has had five successful years and he feels that as long as there is a need, local support, and momentum, there is no reason why it couldn't go on indefinitely.

The project raised over \$200,000 to the end of 2016, which is then matched four which is then matched four to one by the federal gov-ernment. The 2017 crop generated 9,000 bushels. Organizers are hoping to top \$250,000 this year.

Cross Borders Community Project

Kola For almost 25 years the

people in the community of Kola, Manitoba have been

Kola, Manitoba have been helping others less fortu-nate around the world. Land is donated along with seed, fertilizer, and machinery, along with time to plant a field with a crop that, when harvested and sold, the funds will be cost to The Canadian Ecod sent to The Canadian Food



Harold Penner of the Canadians Foodgrains Bank addressing the crowd at Kola.

Grains Bank. The money raised by the community will be used to feed those in need around the world.

This year's event at Kola saw a crop of canola har-vested by a number of new combines on loan by local

combine dealers and a very long line of grain hauling trucks to take it to the elevator. However, before the harvest there was a field lunch held near the harvest site with a large number of people who came out to help and support the event.

Steven Bonk, MLA





Children waiting for a chance to ride in one of the many combines at the Kola harvest day.

Before the meal was served, local farmer Don Neufeld, whose family has been involved with the project for many years, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their on-going support of the Cross Borders Community Project. He was followed by Har-

old Penner, the regional rep of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, who explained that more than ever these harvest events are important since today so many parts of the world are in crisis and in need of a helping hand.

nand. Before the lunch, grace was given by the Kola Church minister, and oh what a field lunch. All the food was donated by BDO,

A salute to

I would like to express my

community for the huge

contribution you make to our

province's economy.

Sunrise Credit Union and Louis Dreyfus Grain, and not only did they donate the food, their staff prepared and served it up to the large crowd in attendance. A large part of the crowd was made up of the whole stu-dent body and staff of Kola School, who got a firsthand look at what it was like to

help others. As people got their lunch, many had brought lawn chairs and blankets so it looked like a giant family picnic on a beautiful authe fields to watch the huge combines in action or the grain hopper cars that un-loaded the combines when they were filled.

At one location along the At one location along the edge of the field were an ex-cited group of school kids waiting for their turn for a combine ride around the fields as the combines ate up the long stocks of golden wheat that laid in neat rows

throughout the fields. The organizers of the project and the harvest turnout were very pleased with the continuing community and business sup-



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BDO staff members Suzanne Chapman and Donna Hunter serving the

field lunch at the Kola Cross Borders Community Project.



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Agriculture Safety Day held in Maryfield

A Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was held at the Maryfield rink on Sept. 28 for students from Grade 3-6. Students from Maryfield, Wawota, Redvers, Bellegarde, and Manitoba Mennonite Schools attended the safety day. The all day event was sponsored by Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions, Enbridge, Farm Credit

Cindy Thompson teaching the children about being transported in an ambulance. Kyson Gavelin trying out the stretcher.

Corporation, the Maryfield Ag Society and the Maryfield Health Centre. Students spent the day rotating between stations, attending demonstrations, doing hands on activities, and learning lessons about safety.

While many of the items were agricultural focused, there was also general safety information, such as fire safety, internet safety, and sun safety.



Cam Thompson teaches the children about tractor safety. In this photo they are demonstrating the visibility issues a tractor has, and how to



Doug Brady helping children out of a window to demonstrate the procedure to take in a house fire. This trailer teaches children how to get out of a fire safely, by touching a warming doorhandle, crawling across the floor when there is smoke in the area, and crawling out a window.

stay within a reasonable distance of a moving tractor. DR. ROBERT KITCHEN, MP Souris-Moose Mountain





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Getting to the bottom of low protein

WENDY SCHATZ LEEDS, P.AG, CCA

LEAD AGRONOMIST, SHARPES SOIL SERVICES LTD Harvest timing always bring the question "why is my wheat protein lower than my neighbors?" De-bunking the coffee shop talk and getting to the bottom of low protein requires an understanding of several vari-ables on your farm. Simplistically, low protein

is the result of insufficient available Nitrogen. There must be enough Nitrogen in your system, both soil and applied fertilizer, for your targeted yield. Any extra ni-trogen then has the potential to go to protein. A good rule of thumb is that one bushel of wheat needs 2.5 bus/ lb of N. So a 60 bushel yield at 13.5% per cent protein will need 150 lbs of N both from

soil and applied fertilizer. Yield and protein work inversely to each other. In a inversely to each other. In a productive farming opera-tion, agronomists like my-self use yield and protein as a gauge for crop use of N. For instance if you have N. For instance if you have applied sufficient N for your yield target and are expe-riencing lower yields and higher protein, there were bushels left on the table. If you achieved a higher than targeted yield but low pro-tein them more N is gooded tein then more N is needed to satisfy the equation. If you have reached your tar-geted yield and have 13.5 per cent protein, you have often efficiently used your resources.

Simplistic moves to a bit more complicated when you add the following varimore

ables to the equation. Soil N – Soil tests to 24 inches help to understand the N at depth that a plant can grow and access. Soil tests also give an indication of how much additional N is needed to be applied.

Organic matter – indicates the amount of N that can be mineralized from the soil and available to your crop-often later in season when more N going to protein. Varieties – Some wheat varieties are more predis-

posed to slightly higher pro-tein.

Balanced nutrients - increasing only N without looking at P, K and S levels is not ideal. A balanced feris not ideal. A balanced fer-tility program leads to the best yield potential. Sulfur is a critical part of protein production in the plant. In cereal crops applying a 10:1 ratio of N to S is a good prac-

Economics – it will take 30-40 lbs of N for one per cent protein increase. If pro-tein spreads are not great it may not pay to try to increase. Moisture/Environment

tise

mother nature's wild card in determining the true genetic vield expression of the plant, effecting all aspects of N uti-lization in the equation.

One strategy to boost pro-tein if growing conditions are good is a split applica-tion of N. Top dressing extra N before the flag stage may

TRAILERS

lead to both a yield and pro-

lead to both a yield and pro-tein bump. Top dressing at boot to heading may just lead to a protein bump. New re-search is being conducted in collaboration with John Heard (Manitoba Agricul-ture, Food and Rural Devel-correct) and the Manitoba opment) and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association

Association. New higher yielding wheat varieties we will see coming to the market will generally have a lower protein content.

They are looking at top dressing later in season to dressing later in season to boost protein levels follow-ing the "7-10-20-30" rule. Application 7 days post fu-sarium fungicide timing; 10 U.S. gallons of 28-0-0 and 10 gallons of water; spray-ing when temperatures are below 20 degrees Celsius; an 30 lbs of N.

30 lbs of N. Hope this quick insight into protein helps your pro-duction decisions on the farm.



Wendy Schatz Leeds is the Lead Agonomist at Sharpe's Soil Services Ltd.



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Automation in Agriculture

New technology is transforming agriculture

you were at Rocanville's Museum Day on Sept. 16, If you were at rotations in discussion buy on even to watching threshing machines and steam tractors fired up for an old time harvest, you probably marvelled at how much farming has changed in the last century. Where automation will take farming in the next hun-

Where automation will take farming in the next hun-dred years is anyone's guess. John Deere recently spent \$305 million to buy a robot-ics company. John Deere has been around for almost two centuries, but it has its eyes on the future, says Deanna Kovar, a marketing director for John Deere. Its acquisition, Blue River Technology, is a startup that makes agricultural robots capable of identifying weeds and other unwanted plants, and dosing them with high-precision sprays of herbicide, without wasting herbicide on soil or crops.

on soil or crops. The smart sprayers operate much the same way as con ventional spraying equipment, but these come equipped with computer vision, artificial intelligence and automat-ed sprayers, with cameras that use machine-learning soft-

ware to discern the difference between plants. The technology works in conjunction with a traditional tractor, and their addition makes the farming tools more

advanced, and more appealing to potential consumers. The first tractors revolutionized agriculture with an unprecedented leap in efficiency, as one machine was able to do the job of multiple farmhands. As technological capabilities have evolved, agricultural

tools have, as well. "People assume that farmers don't use technology,"

"People assume that farmers use technology, says Saskatchewan farmer Kim Keller. "In fact, farmers are often on the forefront of using technology, and we use a lot of technology in our day-to-day operations," says Keller says, creator of an app called Farm at Hand, which was designed to keep track of surgetiving from coading and hervosting schedules to of everything from seeding and harvesting schedules to equipment, stock and sales (it was later sold to FarmLink Marketing Solutions).

In addition to this kind of farm management software, some farmers use drones to monitor their fields and col-

Identified and their cope. And now, robots can even be the farmers. The Hands Free Hectare project, out of Harper Adams University in the U.K., successfully planted, tended and harvested 1.5 acres of barley using only autonomous ve-bidge and denore. hicles and drones.

According to Jonathan Gill, a technical developer and researcher on the project, the team decided, "Let's take the brains from a drone and put it in a ground rover that can actually do all of the tasks.

"An entire crop could be grown from start to finish



John Deere has acquired Blue River Technology, maker of 'smart' machines like the See & Spray, which uses artificial intelligence to identify weeds and robotic sprayers to dose them with herbicide. (Blue River Technology)

without us ever going into the field." (See the full story

According to Kovar, Blue River's smart system can sig-nificantly cut down the use of herbicides, pesticides or other agricultural chemicals.

other agricultural chemicals. "The sprayers can pass over the entire field but only put the crop protectant on the weed, reducing—by a dramatic amount—the product that has to be sprayed across the field," says Kovar. Keller explains that traditional farming equipment, which has steadily grown in size, can be taxing on soil health and, ultimately, on crop yield. "If the ground is compacted, it becomes a lot harder for plants to grow," she said hie

Machinery that doesn't require a human driver can re-

Machinery that doesn't require a human driver can re-duce the weight and size of the equipment, thus compact-ing the ground less. There are potential financial benefits, too. "I think that we're in a really exciting time in agriculture and there's a lot of change happening." says Keller. "There's a lot of in-vestment going into agriculture, and farmers aren't quite seeing that return yet, but I do think in the coming years that that will change."

With each step forward comes new challenges. For instance, as tractors have become more advanced, they have become reliant on proprietary software. While the machines might be capable of impressive operations— like automated steering—farmers are no longer able to fix their tractors themselves. The changes coming in agriculture will require more citils of temporators.

skills of farm workers

"What we're trying to actually do is increase the skill level that farm workers will have, where they'll become a fleet manager overseeing the autonomous vehicles," Gill said. While the repetitive motions of crop tending can be done more effectively and with more precision by autonomous vehicles, the agronomy and all of the difficult deci-sions still need to be done by humans, he said.

Such such a second by humans, he said. From Keller's perspective, as the industry evolves, jobs won't disappear, they'll just change—and that could be a good thing. 'Maybe it will free us up from doing very labour-intensive jobs to doing jobs in other parts of our operation," she says.

"It's sort of like the old adage: you're able to spend a little bit less time *in* your business and a little bit more time on your business.



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Valleyview Co-op constructing bulk seed treater facility

Vallevview Consumers Co-op Ltd. is excited to an nounce plans to expand services at its Virden Agro Centre with the construc-tion of a Bulk Seed Treater Facility.

After a thorough evaluation of the financial benefits, Valleyview Consumers Coop Ltd views this project as a great way of adding value members/customers. while growing their Crop Protection business.

With the recent construc-tion of a 27,500MT fertilizer facility in Brandon, MB by Federated Co-operatives Limited, Valleyview Con-sumers Co-op Ltd custom-ers benefit from direct local access to purchase product, blending capabilities, and market intelligence.

market intelligence. David Wowk, General Manager states "Part of Val-leyview Co-op's Mission Statement is to provide cus-tomers with quality goods, exceptional services and superior facilities, ... With the addition of these two fathe addition of these two faclitics in conjunction with what already exists in the association, we've moved closer to accomplishing that

This bulk seed treater fa-cility will serve Valleyview's entire farm trading area. David McAulay, Agro Di-vision Manager, comments, "With the construction of this facility, we feel there was an opportunity to meet our customer demands in the marketplace and this bulk seed treater facility cre-ates a one stop shop for our customers.

The bulk seed treater fa-cility is state of the art. It is an USC treating system with five meridian seed bins holding capacity of 5,000 units of soybeans or 3,300



A rendering of the new bulk seed treater facility being built by Valleyview Co-op at its Virden Agro Centre.

bushels of wheat per bin. The system is capable of treating seed at 1,600 bush-els/per min. Valleyview els/per min. Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd strives to have assets that are constructed with quality

and have longevity in order to serve for the future. This bulk seed treater facility will be able to treat the seed with micro nutrient fertilliquid inoculant, and izer, seed treatment

The construction of a ulk seed treater facility bulk bulk seed treater facility puts Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd in a position to keep growing for the future while maintaining and ex-panding our level of service

to our customers. David McAulay states "At Valleyview Consum-ers Co-op Ltd, we are constantly working with our customers to find ways to better serve their business

and be more efficient." The construction of this facility shows the commit-ment of Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd to the farming community in Southwestern Manitoba.

Ottawa's tax changes could kill family farm

Two things have always been certain: death and taxes. We can now add a third: botching the promotion of a tax reform for political gains. Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau's tax reform has

been a communications disaster, on both sides of the debate.

Various claims made about Ottawa's intentions to re-vamp our tax system for small corporations have been ridiculous. Some predict a recession due to the proposed changes. Others declare the end of entrepreneurship as we know it.

We should all take a deep breath and figure out how the changes will truly impact our economy. And in particu-lar we need to focus on how Morneau's vision for taxing small corporations will impact the agrifood sector.

The tax system is generally not about pensions, legacy and social programs. But it is for family-owned business-es and there are thousands of them in agrifood. Canada has more than 43,000 incorporated farms, compared to 23,000 in 2001. We have fewer total farms today, but more of them have become corporations to encourage the next generation to take over the farm.

The federal government's proposed changes to capital gains rules would make it more expensive for a family member to acquire the farm than for a third party to do

member to acquire the farm than for a third party to do so. This is a critical piece of a highly complicated puzzle. Keeping families and jobs in rural Canada is not easy. Many agricultural producers use our tax system wisely to secure the future of their businesses. In the food process-ing, retailing and service sectors, countless family busi-nesses wonder how family values embedded in anything the corporation does can survive the next generation. Morneau has also addressed income sprinkling. Corpo-rations can now hire family members, reducing the fax

rations can now hire family members, reducing the tax rate for everyone. The rules about who can be compen-



sated and at what level are ambiguous at best. Morneau wants to change that and for good reason. Many small corporations pay family members who don't necessarily work for the company in order to avoid taxes. This should

But defining tasks in a family-owned business can be difficult. Many of the contributions made by family mem-bers are ad hoc and can't easily be categorized. Recipes, tricks of the trade and family traditions all matter a great deal to small food outlets (it's difficult to imagine apply-ing the same standard to accountants, doctors or den-tists). A family business is like, well, a family. At a family-owned farm, restaurant or small food processor, job

IUy-owned tarm, restaurant or small food processor, job profiles are vague at best. This political nightmare began in July when the federal government launched consultations on how best to ad-dress tax planning practices it believes are used to gain unfair advantages. Consultations end on Oct. 2. Individuals set up corporations to pay less taxes in a variety of ways and Ottawa's intentions are noble. But the hombacit to a promote the advances.

But the bombastic tone used to promote the changes

has been hurtful. Ottawa's condescending rhetoric labels small business owners as cheats, greedy tax evaders try-ing to dodge the system by using loopholes. This is sim-

ply insulting. The government anticipates that the new regulations

will bring in barely \$250 million a year, so the Liberals aren't using the changes to increase revenues to pay for a

ballooning deficit. This is about politics, pure and simple. Prime Minis-This is about politics, pure and simple. Prime Minis-ter Justin Trudeau's agenda to serve the middle class is driving these changes, although the changes will actually harm middle class farmers and business owners.. The stakes are high in agrifood industries. This isn't about being unwilling to pay more taxes. It's about the viability of an entire economic sector. Our tax regime should differentiate and give the rural economy and family corporations some level of immu-nity.

nity.

In fact, Ottawa should find fiscal incentives to help the

agrifood sector grow. Right now, it's not clear how this can be achieved.

As the federal government tries to bring more fairness to the fiscal landscape and fix a largely urban issue, it shouldn't penalize the agrifood sector. Despite Morneau's disgraceful performance as a tax re-

form salesman, changes will most likely happen, to the despair of many.

But even Canadians with corporations would have difficulty understanding what's being proposed. The confu-sion has led to a certain hysteria and that's the government's fault. When it comes to taxes, painting everyone with same brush is unacceptable. Ottawa will get its way in the end but it should at the

very least accommodate the unique intricacies of our agrifood sector.

Sylvain Charlebois is Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Insti-tute for Market Studies, dean of the Faculty of Management and a professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Dalhouse Uni-versity, and author of Food Safety, Risk Intelligence and Bench-



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Selling? Hammond Realty has sold over 65,000 acres

of farmland so far this year and demand continues to be very strong. New farmland listings are needed. If you are contemplating selling or just want information, contact Anne or Alex and put their Acres of Expertise to work for you



New ag tech creating buzz

BY CRAIG LESTER

A new types of hopper made to fit on most types of combines is creating a lot of talk this fall.

And no, it wasn't created by the traditional companies known for rolling out new fancy gizmos, but rather a father-son tandem out of Battleford, Sask.

Trevor Scherman and his father Pat, farmers and owners of ScherGain, developed a drop-pan to measure losses in be-hind the combine. Scherman says it was created to be sim-

ple and accurate using volumetric measuring.

'You don't have to weigh anything and you just dump it into a grain gauge and you look at a chart and you can see what your losses are on the chart," Scherman

says. "It asks what crop you are harvesting, asks how big your header size is and from there, the chart tells your losses to the mil-

limeter in the grain gauge." Scherman says farmers go to do a lot of work to grow their crop and it's a shame if it is only to have profit be thrown out the back-end of the combine. He says they've had clients find they were throwing away

more than \$60 per acre. Scherman says the device has been an instant seller with very little marketing. It was debuted at canolaPALOOZA in Saskatchewan this summer, where they sold 20 in one day. Since then, they have been manufacturing them in their yard non-

Scherman says their tag line reflects the

"The most money per hour you will ever make farming is setting your combine and knowing your losses," he says.

Water management

The topic of water management in fields has seen significant growth over the past As a result, companies vears. are starting to develop technology to provide farmers with surface and sub-surface solutions to excess water in their field.



ment. ment. Steven Gillis, who is an ag technology sales specialist with RME, says the pick-up in conversations in the western Prai-ries can be attributed to the precipitation they received in northern Alberta in recent years

"There's a lot of guys there dealing with substantial water for the past few years and lost a lot of crop with it," Gillis says. "It wasn't uncommon to see a combine in front of seeding equipment and that's be-cause of the water last fall that kept them from getting the crop off." And while it may be a new conversation in Alberta, it's a familiar one in Manitoba.

"When you go into the Winnipeg region, Red River Valley area water management it is just part of normal farming practices. You go west of there to the Saskatchewan/ Manitoba border, it's fairly common practice, but not to the same extent it is in central Manitoba."

Part of the solution involves tile drainage, where Gillis reminds farmers they should know their soil before they come in and install it.

"With tiles, if you have clay, it's a very different solution than if you got light sandy soil. If you have sandy soil water, it will move through it very quickly. You can

win nove integrative receiver y quecky. For can place your tile lines further apart and still have an effective solution." "If you have heavy clay and the water can permeate the soil, your tile lines need to be closer together. That's something you need to be aware of before you go in here and start doing the installation." there and start doing the installation." Gillis says one of the advantages of their

set-up is they can work with any brand of equipment.

Bottom line

Improved efficiencies are frequently within reach with some inventive thinking and technical know-how - and farm shows are a great place to see the latest innovations



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