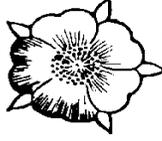


WILD ROSE



NEWS

PUBLISHED BY WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Volume 30, Issue 2

April – August 2003

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- ♦ *President Neil Wagstaff's remarks on this summers' trials and tribulations*
- ♦ *On-farm food safety initiatives by Bill Dobson, 1st Vice President*
- ♦ *The Government's perspective on the new business risk management program*
- ♦ *A report on the activities of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance*
- ♦ *A quarterly update of the grain handling system*
- ♦ *Robert Filkohazy, Board member and his activity summary*
- ♦ *The Co-operators and Wild Rose sign a membership agreement*
- ♦ *Our Step student's update on farm safety*
- ♦ *Upstream oil and gas reclamation update*
- ♦ *Respiratory awareness on the farm*
- ♦ *Executive Director's report*
- ♦ *Brent McBean, Board member reports on his activities this summer*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY NEIL WAGSTAFF

Good winter snowfall along with spring snow and rain gave most Alberta farmers reason to be optimistic for this coming year after what many endured last year. This positive outlook quickly changed on May 20th when it was announced that a northern Alberta cow had been found with BSE and countries to whom we export beef, closed their borders to all cattle, other ruminants and their meat.

Provincial and Federal governments along with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency quickly and rigorously undertook internationally agreed to steps that were designed to establish the source and cause of this animals disease. Fortunately, they were not able to identify any other animals with BSE.

As we now know, undertaking all the required scientific steps agreed to internationally has not been adequate to satisfy our trading partners. Not only has this created a crisis for Canadian farmers but I believe also has serious implications worldwide to how countries in the future will respond if they have a plant or animal disease outbreak. Canada has been penalized for being open, transparent and honest, which will discourage other countries from

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CONT'D

responding in a responsible manner.

Can Farmers Count on Government?

No one could have predicted the devastating outcome that has resulted from this discovery of one BSE infected cow. Governments have also responded with considerable ad hoc funding intended to help soften the impact on Canadian farmers who have been frozen out of an export market. The first support provided was for slaughtered animals only and then later support was to hold finishing animals longer. This has raised a lot of questions as to whether this has been an appropriate and adequate response. There are many producers who will not benefit from this ad hoc funding! They may have to rely on the proposed new NISA program.

For some time now, one of the many concerns that farm organization leaders have been expressing about the new proposed safety net program package has been that it would not be able to deal with a major disease outbreak. On the other hand, Ministers of Agriculture and government officials continued to insist that the new NISA program (which is now being called the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program or CAIS) would cover all circumstances and that no additional funding in the form of ad hoc programming would be available. How quickly things can change! No one imagined a circumstance as serious as we have been faced with in the summer of 2003.

It is now obvious that the new CAIS program will not be capable of providing adequate support for widespread disasters and ongoing long-term depressed prices or declining margins. In the future it will be necessary for federal and provincial governments to provide supplemental ad hoc funding for these types of circumstances.

Government officials have continued to ignore many of the other concerns that producer organizations have expressed about the proposed new NISA program. Now that Alberta has signed the implementation agreement for the Agricultural Policy Framework with the federal government the structure of this new safety net program is close to being finalized. This program will require significant producer

contributions and the development of its design should have been a partnership between producers and government but it was not. The task for producers now will be to get an understanding of how this program works and to figure out how they can best participate in it.

Farmers working together for farmers

Agricultural producers are becoming a smaller and smaller percentage of the Canadian population. In order for farmers to be able to influence decisions that Governments make that affect them, it is absolutely necessary that they work together through farm organizations.

The BSE crisis has in one way or another affected all agricultural producers right across the country. It is encouraging to observe how so many farm groups in the country have worked both publicly and behind-the-scenes with efforts to get the border open. How all these farm organizations responded to the situation is a good example of how farm organizations can work together to help the whole industry.

During trying times farmers and ranchers will work together to help each other. The events of the past two years should make Alberta producers realize that we need a stronger general farm organization in Alberta if we are to more effectively provide support for Agricultural producers in this province.

We can only be stronger with more members and more financial resources. Please talk to your neighbors and fellow producers and encourage them to become a member of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. Better yet, talk to your MLA about the need for a levy to all agricultural producers in order to support General Farm Organizations in Alberta.

WHAT'S NEXT !!!—A REFLECTION OF THIS SUMMER BY ROD SCARLETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On May 20, 2003 a single case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) was reported in a herd in northern Alberta. Since that time the Alberta and Canadian agricultural industry has been suffering serious economic and social consequences. Despite the fact that the animal in question was not tested for nearly three months while it sat at an understaffed, overworked provincial testing facility, it is important to note that the animal itself never reached the human food chain. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately began the arduous task of tracing back herd origins and thoroughly developed a scientific case indicating that there was no risk to human health and that the threat of further cases was contained. Furthermore, an international team of experts recommended changes to the food safety system, some of which have been adopted.

With the scientific evidence in place the battle then shifted to the political arena and that's when farmers and ranchers alike began to feel mounting frustration. The first thing that needed to be saved was the infrastructure, that being feedlots and both provincial and federal governments anteed up. Subsequently, the provincial government has announced other programs to ensure that the system remains somewhat viable, in the meantime hoping, praying and no doubt working towards the full and complete opening of the U. S. border.

Certainly work done by the Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and numerous other farm groups has been instrumental in the partial opening of the border. Just as important has been the work all farmers, ranchers and farm groups have done in promoting consumer confidence. No other country has ever seen its consumption of beef go up after a reported case of BSE. It is, however, very important to remember that this is not, was not and never will be solely a cattle issue.

Hogs, sheep, deer, elk, buffalo, chicken, turkey and any other meat has been effected, perhaps by decreasing demand or by decreasing price. If you don't think it has implications for grain, think again and take a look a feed barley or feed wheat prices. Then again you may want to check out how the local auction mart is doing, or the local implement dealer, or the local grocery store. This is an issue that has struck at the heart of rural Alberta and has spilled over into the big cities where secondary food processing is feeling the impacts.

Wild Rose has played an integral role in relaying to the public, information on how the rural economy is being impacted. Since May 20, 2003 we have conducted over 600 media interview internationally, nationally, provincially and locally. We have been contacted by federal officials and Members of Parliament for information and updates. Other farm groups have kept us up-to-date and in the loop. From the province, we have had little contact, but that's another story for another time.

It has been estimated that \$11 million dollars a day has been lost in the cattle industry economy alone since May 20. By the end of August, that total amounts over \$1.1 billion and the cost is still climbing. Will farmers and ranchers ever recoup their loses; well, that's highly unlikely. Certainly, there are programs in place that will help, but it may be too little, too late for some. In some respects that is the nature of business. Yet, rural Albertans need to reflect on whether or not they are willing to watch their friends and neighbors being taken over by larger operations. If nothing else this crisis has shown governments' that programs can't be universal in nature. No matter how large, highly intensive operations need to be treated differently than diversified operations.

This summer has given no reprieve from last year's drought. When, and if, the border to the U.S.A. is fully reopened it will give all us all time to reflect on what we could have done and what we should have done. Until that time, we will continue to work towards the opening of the border, to maintain public confidence and to improve our representation of you our members.

REPORT TO WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS FROM GRACE MACGREGOR ON THE CLEAN AIR STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

In September, 2002 I accepted the position of WRAP's representative to the Board of Directors of CASA as an *alternate director* representing the agriculture industry. Terry Lee Degenhardt had served well in this position; Herman Schwenk, Coronation is the *director* representing agriculture from the Alberta Beef Producers (formerly ACC).

CASA, established in 1994, is comprised of stakeholders from government, industry and non-government organizations (eg. health & environment groups). Its vision:

The air will be odourless, tasteless, look clear and have no measurable short or long-term adverse effects on people, animals or the environment.

All CASA groups, including the board of directors, committees, working groups, project teams and implementation teams use a consensus-based process to reach decisions and make recommendations.

AB Environment, AB Health & Wellness and AB Energy provide core funding. Additional funding for project teams and airsheds is provided by industry, NGOs and other government departments.

Operations

Airsheds

With CASA Board approval, airsheds are established to deal with air quality issues within a specific region of the province. CASA provides the framework, CASA vision and consensus decision-making model within which the airsheds operate.

2002 Science Symposium

The first CASA science symposium

"Air Quality and Health: State of the Science" was held in Red Deer in June 2002. Terry Lee and I attended the symposium and it was excellent – an extremely well planned symposium with a good mixture of general and technical presentations. Proceedings are available through the CASA web site www.casahome.org.

Flaring/Venting Team

AB Energy and Utilities Board implemented CASA's flaring team 1999 recommendations for reducing solution gas flaring and by 2001 estimated that solution gas flaring had been reduced by 50% from the 1996 baseline level. In 2002 the flaring and venting project team made an additional 39 recommendations to reduce flaring and venting in Alberta – these recommendations have been included in a revised EUB Guide.

Vehicle Emissions Team

This team initiated the first-ever 'Breathe Easy' vehicle scrappage program in Calgary in March 2002. It encouraged owners of pre-1988 vehicles (newer vehicles produced 30 times less smog-related emissions than pre-1988 vehicles) to turn in their older vehicles in exchange for bus passes or small credits, and was overwhelmingly successful.

Of particular interest to us in agricultural operations is the diesel particulate filter demonstration project. These filters, combined with ultra low sulphur diesel fuel (not yet commercially available, but mandated for 2006) have the potential of reducing particulate matter emissions by 80%. Two ETS buses were retrofitted with the filters in January 2003 and will be tested through

early 2004 for their efficacy in cold climates. For further information about this project, check www.cleanbus.ca.

Electricity Team

This is an enormous project which seeks to develop air emissions standards and performance expectations for the Alberta electricity sector and measures for existing and new electricity facilities. The team expects to present their final report at the September 2003 CASA board meeting, but I encourage any WRAP members to attend briefing sessions that should be held prior – I'll try to ensure you are aware of the dates. The recommendations of this team may have an impact on electricity use in the agricultural sector.

Animal Health Project Team

This team disbanded following its final report to the board in March, 2003. The team developed a herd and environmental records system (HERS) which can be viewed on the CASA web site www.casahome.org. This record system was developed to assist producers in collecting and recording animal health data prior to, during and after any oil/gas activity in proximity to livestock operations with the intention of identifying potential health impacts on livestock.

The team recommended the establishment of a Human and Animal Health Implementation team to implement their recommendations and those of the Human Health team, which was disbanded in 1999 – their recommendations primarily involved monitoring sites. I asked that

CASA—CONT'D

WRAP have two members on the new Human/Animal Health Implementation team, one representing the human health side, and one the animal health side. These representatives are:

Dr. David Swann, MD (Human Health)
Calgary, AB
swann@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Swann worked closely with Dr. Paul Hasselback of the Chinook Health Region in identifying effects of ILO air quality issues on human health

Dr. Margaret Fisher, DVM (Animal Health)
Edmonton AB
margaret.fisher@telusplanet.net

Dr. Fisher is a practicing veterinarian with experience with CFIA and interest in air quality issues.

The first meeting of the Human/Animal Health team was held June 17th – please don't hesitate to contact either Dr. Swann or Dr. Fisher or me with your comments or questions.

Grace MacGregor
Phone (780) 856-2230 * Fax (780) 856-2015
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ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY BY BILL DOBSON

On June 12, 2003, representatives from provincial farm organizations and various commodity groups met in Ottawa. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concept of developing a central body to deliver all on-farm food safety programs. This was the second such meeting of this group. A tentative business plan was presented by consultants Don Wilson and Charles Gracey.

Although the costs of administrating this delivery body will be vast, there still should be a large saving from each commodity doing their own program. The challenge remains that there are nineteen groups of extremely varying size that are all at different stages of putting a food safety program in place. The saving could be significant for farmers who would require several audits for various commodities.

The farm leaders who attended this meeting will meet again in the fall of 2003 and should at that time be in a position to examine a more detailed plan for this

multi-commodity delivery mechanism.

There is little doubt that food safety is an issue that will be with us forever. The BSE experience has shown us how truly vulnerable we are as a nation considering that we rely so heavily on exports. We will have to make every effort to assure our customers that our food supply is produced in the safest manner possible. If we clear the hurdle of deciding if we want on-farm food safety programs, then it becomes a matter of putting the most efficient and effective plan together.

I sit on a steering committee, sponsored by the Canada Grains Council, which is working on a program for the grains and oilseeds sector. I would encourage any Wild Rose Agricultural Producer member who has thoughts on any On-Farm Food Safety program to call the office or me at my home number listed on the back page of this publication. These programs will be a large part of farming in the very near future and your input is most welcome.

LINDSAY PAULSEN
WRAP'S FARM SAFETY SUMMER ASSISTANT

Currently as the Farm Safety Summer Assistant I have been very busy. My employment began on May 26th. I have been working on many projects concerning Alberta Agriculture's involvement in the UFA Farm Safety Day Camps. I did up 4 posters consisting of themes; Chemical Safety, Machinery Safety, Animal Safety and Sun Safety. These posters have been distributed at the UFA Day Camps and at Tradeshows with the Ropin' The Web Display. I have also done up a poster for the Farm Safety Poster contest, where the applicants draw how they stay safe on their farm. These posters have also been distributed at the Day Camps and at trade shows.

I will be attending six day camps for Farm Safety. I attended day camps in Oyen on June 3rd and 4th, New Surepta on June 24th, Innisfail on July 3rd, Valleyview on July 8th, and Rimbey on July 10th. I will be attending the UFA Farm Safety Day Camp in Vulcan on the 12th of August. I have been doing presentations at all of these camps. I did general farm safety at Oyen and Rimbey. At New Surepta, Innisfail and at the upcoming Vulcan day camps the topic presented being chemical safety. The Valleyview presentation consisted of water safety and a farm safety quiz. The camps require me to work with children aged 4-15. The children are very receptive and I try to make the presentations as enjoyable and interactive as possible. It has been very rewarding and enjoyable doing the presentations at the day camps. I have been given the opportunity to meet and work with many people around the province.

Between the Farm Safety Day Camps I worked The Ropin' The Web/ Food Safety display promoting Farm Safety at many trade shows. These trade shows including the Dairy Congress in Leduc, the Calgary Stampede in Calgary and Klondike Days in Edmonton. I enjoy the diversity of the people stopping by to see the display as many of them have opinions on agriculture and it is enjoyable talking and interacting with the people at the functions. Coinciding with my travels I have been working in the office at Alberta Agriculture doing various tasks, and working on the computer. I have assembled six fact sheets on different areas of farm safety and they will be published upon final editing and completion.

For the next month and a half I will be finishing up fact sheets, and mainly working on the lesson plan and the session outlines to complete the planning of the Farm Safety Needs Assessment Workshop that will take place on August 27-29 at camp HeHoHa which is located North West of Edmonton. I will be working on other projects as needed.

Attention Members

We have moved out of our old office on 149 Street and have taken up temporary residence in Sherwood Park. We have signed a lease agreement with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops who are building new offices in Sherwood Park. We hope to be moved in to our new premises by the end of January, 2004. All our mail however, remains going to 14815 119 Ave. The phone numbers also remains the same.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY ROD SCARLETT

Farm Safety

I currently serve as the Vice-President of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. I recently travelled to Windsor to finalize a reorganization of the Association which will be taking place over the course of the rest of this year. The Association is funding through CARD at \$1,000,000 for this year. Of this \$85,000 is allocated to Alberta for provincial projects. Wild Rose acts as the lead agency in determining where this money get spent. This year we were approved for 5 different projects:

1. Safe Livestock Handling for 4-H 15,000 Jennifer Woods has been contracted to deliver 10 courses to 4-H clubs.
2. Children's Safety Needs Assessment \$9500 Our STEP student, Lindsey Paulsen is working with Alberta Agriculture to design and carry out a short course with 4-H.
3. Farm Health and Safety Plan Resource \$8400 Collect data from the industry and help develop a web based workplace health and safety plan.
4. North American Guidelines for Children's Safety \$8400 Reproduce the guidelines for distribution
5. Canadian Agricultural Safety Week \$5500 Provide a press kit to media

Industry Landowner Relations

As Wild Rose Rep., I sit on the committee to provide a producer prospective on landowner relations with the oil and gas sector. A roundtable is being scheduled for October 26-27 in Red Deer.

Farmer Rail Car Coalition

I sit as a Board member of the FRCC. In April Sinclair Harrison was in Edmonton and I accompanied him to meetings with the Alberta Canola Commission who gave a letter of support for the organization. Weekly updates are provided to the office and can be forwarded if anyone is interested. The sale of the federal fleet is proceeding slowly, and it may be delayed until after a federal Liberal leadership convention.

Grain Transportation

Wild Rose provides input to the CTA on the setting of the revenue cap. There continues to be a monitoring of the system and I recently met with Quorum officials to discuss their report. They will be looking to find producers who will assist them in determining new length of haul information and information that will assess the producer impact of fewer elevators.

Miscellaneous

Over the last couple months I have attended meetings with AFAC, the Federal Alberta Caucus, The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food and The Co-operators. I have revised the policy manual and the bylaws and they are available for distribution. After meeting with representatives of Canada Young Farmers Forum, I am pleased to say that we will be running a concurrent agenda for young farmers at this year's convention. Continuing talks with federal officials on Agricultural Policy Framework initiatives has lead to the industry discussing the need for a Agricultural Sector Council for human resource information and development. A meeting in October will help determine whether this initiative will go ahead.

FARM SAFETY
THE FACTS ON RESPIRATORY AWARENESS
RESEARCH BY LINDSAY PAULSEN

The farming community is regularly exposed to dusts. These airborne particles contain many contaminants, which can cause damage to the respiratory system. The dusts particles contain many common irritants including harmful gases, cereal grain particles, cellulose hairs and spikes, starch granules, spores of fungi, insect debris, pollens, rodent and animal hair, skin, and excretory powders, mineral particles and bacteria. Many permanent, serious debilitating illnesses can result from contamination to these particles.

On the farm there also are other breathing hazards including poison gases, chemicals, molds, welding fumes and exhaust fumes. Breathing protection is necessary to preserve the lungs. The National Safety Council in the US reported 300 workers on large farms were incapacitated due to respiratory conditions – in 1990 – 1/3 of all respiratory conditions were caused by dust.

Animal Dust:

- Most of the dust contaminants in animals areas, are in confined feeding facilities
 - o These dusts include those from animals, feeds, and feces
 - o In a confined poultry area or hog area – dusts are feathers, feather particles, air and skin particles, dried skin material, dried fecal material, dried seed and feed products, fungi and bacteria

Grain Dust:

- From the movement and transportation of grain products
 - o 60 – 75% organic
 - o 25 - 40% inorganic
 - o Grain dust particles contain insect parts and mites, hairs, feathers, and excreta of rodents and birds, plant matter fragments, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, metal fragments, lubricating oils or paint chips, fungi and bacteria

Inhalant dangers on the farm can also come from chemicals used on the farm including; pesticides, anhydrous ammonia, cleaning solvents and disinfectants.

Farm-Related Respiratory Conditions

There can be systematic reactions to the dust found in grains and animal areas. The symptoms of these conditions are; airway reactivity, asthma, chronic airways obstruction, reoccurring influenza, coughing, expectoration, wheezing, chest tightness and eye and nasal irritation. Nuisance dusts can also cause problems. These are dusts that due to repeated exposure cause hardened non-functional lung tissue.

TODS (Toxic Organic Dust Syndrome)

- Also called Grain Fever
- Resembles a flu or mild illness
- Can be due to confinement house gases and cotton dust
- This is a non-permanent disease. It is treatable if the doctor knows of a farming background

Farmer's Lung Disease

- One of the most serious implications found in the farming community
- This disorder is an allergy caused by dust from moldy hay, straw, and grain. May seem like the common cold and is commonly dismissed as such. Will cause permanent lung damage if not treated. The disease is not infectious.
- An over sensitivity to farm dusts causes the fine particles that reach the lung to cause an allergic reaction to produce a lung inflammation. The body reacts to invading contaminants to which the immune system cannot counteract. This inflammation causes the lungs to become scarred and

FARM SAFETY—CONT'D

therefore have permanent damage. This lung damage cannot be repaired or treated. When there is an increased sensitivity there is a more severe reaction with fewer exposures.

- Every exposure increases the risk.
- Farmers Lung is caused by inhaling small spores of mold, that occurs in moldy hay, straw and silage.
- In moldy hay, grain and its dusts, many bacteria and fungi are present.
- Tiny bacteria that are inhaled are small enough to get into and accumulate in the lower lungs producing toxins. There can be 250, 000 bacteria on a pinhead. The spores that are inhaled are called endospores and they thrive in moist warm conditions found in moldy hay. Bacteria produce them – usually appear as dry, white or gray powder or clouds.
- Some people can become sensitized to the dust, but:
 - o Dust can cause gastrointestinal problems
 - o Can also cause skin reactions
 - o If the inhalant is high in proteins it causes a greater allergic reaction
- Can result in chronic farmers lung, asthma or bronchitis

Controlling of Conditions

Prevention:

- Keep animal areas and grain areas as clean and dust free as possible.
- Be aware of the timing, and hazards of the dust release and common places where the dust can hide
 - o Rust and Smut spores can be inhaled from grain harvests
 - o The greatest risk is late winter and early spring.
- Realize how harmful the contaminants are, along with the form of contamination
- If using chemicals read the labels
- Use mechanics to remove air contaminants (fans, filters etc)
- Have ventilation in place
- Work outside and avoid working in small dusty confined areas
- Use respirators and masks, two types:
 - o Air Purifying – removes contaminants from the air; needs sufficient oxygen supply
 - o Oxygen Providing – provides oxygen in oxygen deficient areas; respirators and self – contained breathing apparatus's

Management:

- Use mold inhibitors
- Bale at the correct temperature
- Dry grain before storage and use ventilation to cool it down
- Ventilate all areas that are at risk for dust exposure
- Wet down feed that is moldy or dusty
- Use a mechanical or automated system to prevent dust from becoming a problem
- Wet down the top of the silo to dampen the dust
- Wet bins when cleaning them
- Always use respiratory protection

Conclusion

Dust contamination of the lung's can cause serious implications if preventative measures are not put into place. Small steps to reduce the amount to contaminants inhaled can lead to a reduction in health problems. Be very careful when working with dusts as diseases from rodents can be passed to the dust from feces. When experiencing symptoms of an inhalant - related disorder make sure that the doctor is notified of a farming occupation so that proper diagnosis is made.

PRESIDENT' NEIL WAGSTAFF'S ACTIVITIES

March

- 13 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call regarding proposed new Safety Net programming.
- 17 National Safety Net Advisory Committee Conference call
- 18 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call with provincial Agriculture Ministers and officials.
- 24 Central Alberta Agricultural Societies planning meeting
- 27-29 Northlands Farm and Ranch Show

April

- 2 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call
- 3 Jim Fisher Agri-talk show
- 4 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call
- 14-15 Co-operators Insurance Group Annual General Meeting
- 22 Rod and I met with the Federal Alberta Liberal caucus

May

- 1 National Safety Net Advisory Committee Conference call
- 7 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call
- 30 Mary & I helped Rod & Bill Dobson do the final move and clean up from what has been the Wild Rose and Unifarm office for many years.

June

- 9 Canadian Federation of Agriculture conference call
- 25-27 Wild Rose Summer Council meeting

July

- 4 Surface Rights Association meeting regarding coal bed methane
- 8 Farm leaders roundtable with Agriculture Ministers in Winnipeg
- 22-26 Canadian Federation of Agriculture summer convention

August

- 5 Met with Alberta Treasury Branch Agricultural managers regarding the new NISA program and the BSE crisis.



YES! I wish to join Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I enclose - Membership fee :

Producer	\$ _____	(\$117.70)
3 - Year	\$ _____	(\$321.00)
Associate	\$ _____	(\$ 58.85)

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5L 4W2

Telephone: 780-451-5912 Fax: 780-453-2669 e-mail: wrap@planet.eon.net

THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM (CAISP) - THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

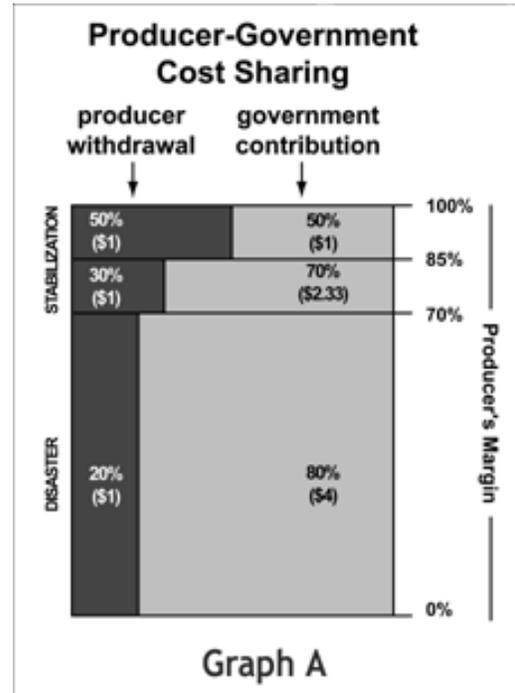
Highlights of CAISP

The new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAISP) will:

- provide a permanent disaster program which farmers can rely on, instead of the ad hoc programs that were available in the past;
- offer more stability by protecting both small and large drops in income;
- provide equitable treatment to all farmers, across all commodities and in all provinces;
- better direct funds to where the need is;
- provide a streamlined set of user-friendly programs that work well together

How it would work...

Payments under the new program would be paid out when a farmer's claim-year margin falls below his or her reference margin. But instead of making a deposit based on eligible net sales and waiting for funds to build up over several years, the farmer would annually select a level of protection, ensure the appropriate deposit was on account, and in so doing would immediately secure entitlement to substantial government benefits that would be paid out when he or she experienced a decline. And as the producer's loss deepened, the government would assume a greater share of the cost to replace those losses. Graph A shown here illustrates how this would work. As you can see, in the event of a margin decline, a producer would receive, at minimum, one dollar from government for every dollar withdrawn from the producer's account, because the first 15 per cent of a producer's loss (the part between 100 per cent and 85 per cent of the margin) would be cost-shared 50:50 with government. For the next 15 per cent of loss, the government share would be \$2.33 for every producer dollar. And for the portion of the decline that fell into the "disaster" zone – that is any part of the loss that was between zero and 70 per cent of the reference margin – the producer would receive \$4 from government for every dollar of his or her own funds.



What producers need to do...

With a relatively small refundable deposit, the new program allows producers to secure protection covering both large and small drops in their margin. At the beginning of each year, producers will receive a letter from the administration, indicating their average production margin and asking them to make a decision on how much risk protection they desire. Based on this choice, producers will need to ensure they have the appropriate amount on deposit in their account. If the producer's income drops below his or her average income in previous years, the producer will withdraw funds from the account and receive a payment from governments to offset the income decline.

The refundable deposit...

To secure protection, the producer would make a deposit. The deposit would be fully refundable, meaning that the producer never loses it. It is not a premium. If a producer had a decline, he or she would withdraw some or all of the funds on account, as necessary depending on the size of the loss, and would receive a government payout to help return that producer as

MONITORING THE WESTERN GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM—HIGHLIGHTS—FIRST QUARTER 2002-2003 CROP YEAR

Among the highlights from the first quarter's report:

Industry Overview

- Grain production for the 2002-03 crop year declined by 29.3 % to 30.1 million tonnes due to a wide-spread drought. This level of production is about half of the average for the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 crop years. Other measures affected by decreases in volume include:
 - o Overall grain supply declined by 29.6% to 36.1 million tonnes.
 - o Railway movements during the first three months fell 35.1% to 3.7 million tones in reflection of reduced grain volumes.
 - o Shortline railways were particularly hard-hit – originated traffic fell by 51.6% to 0.2 million tonnes.
 - o Volume to Vancouver reduced by 72.6% to 1.0 million tonnes because of GWU lockout.
 - o 0.8 million tonnes effectively redirected to Prince Rupert.
 - o Volume to Thunder Bay increased by 5.3% to 1.6 million tones – overall share climbed to 44.5%.
 - o Churchill volume fell by 50.6% to 0.2 million tonnes.
 - o Country Elevator throughput for the first quarter fell by 26.6% to 5.8 million tonnes.
 - o Average elevator capacity turnover ratio declined by 16.0% to 1.1 turns.
- Elevator rationalization by the major grain companies continues – grain delivery points fall by 9.0% to 314; country elevators by 9.6% to 452.
 - o Elevator storage capacity falls by 3.7% to 5.9 million tones.
 - o Elevators capable of loading in multiple-car blocks falls 3.4% to 282 – accounts for 62.4% of total elevators, and 86.2% of total storage capacity.
- Western Canadian rail network remained unchanged at 18,909 route-miles. 46.2 route-miles of CN's Saskatchewan network assumed by the Wheatland Railway – increases shortline railway network by 1.5% to 3,137 route-miles.
- Terminal elevator unloads fell by 45.7% to 34,364 railcars as a result of diminished grain supply.

Commercial Relations

Tendering

- The Canadian Wheat Board's minimum tendering commitment doubles to 50% of total shipments.
- 134 tender calls were issued by the CWB during the first quarter of the 2002-03 crop year.
- 411 bids were received from 17 grain companies offering an aggregated 2.0 million tonnes.
- 222 contracts concluded for the movement of 1.1 million tonnes – marginally below the CWB's 50% commitment.
- CWB estimates sharply lower overall transportation savings for the first quarter at \$4.9 million.

Other Commercial Developments

- Vancouver's Grain Workers Union locked-out by the British Columbia Terminal Elevator Operators Association in August.
- Agricore United and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool initiate restructuring of their respective corporate debts.
- The United States launched trade complaint against the grain-trading practices of Canada and the CWB.
 - o Imposes preliminary countervailing and anti-dumping duties on imports of wheat and durum from Canada.
 - o Final determinations by the US Department of Commerce expected later this year.
- License-exempt producer-car loading facilities increase from 5 to 24 during the first quarter.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS—CONT'D

System Efficiency

At 65.4 days, grain moved through the GHTS distinctly faster than in the preceding crop year, but fell slightly short of besting the 64.6 days achieved during the 2000-01 crop year.

- Average number of days-in-store at country elevators declined by 4.9% to 36.5 days.
- Average weekly stock-to-shipment ratio fell 5.7% to 5.0 – indicates tightening of elevator inventories in the face of lower shipments.
- Average railway car cycle increased by 23.9% to 18.9 days during the first quarter – reflects reduced grain volumes, and effects of the GWU lockout in Vancouver.
 - o Average empty transit time increases 29.1% to 9.1 days.
 - o Average loaded transit time increases 19.4% to 9.7 days.
- Proportion of grain traffic moving in multiple-car blocks fell marginally to 72.6%.
- Railway incentive payments, estimated at \$10.7 million, fall by 33.7%.
- Posted railway freight rates increased by 4.0% in mid-August.
- Terminal elevator throughput fell by 38.1% to 3.3 million tonnes during the first quarter.
- Proportion of grain directed to West Coast terminal elevators falls to 44.7% due to the GWU lockout.
- 145 vessels loaded at Western Canadian ports during the first quarter - Average time in port fell by 8.2% to 4.5 days.

Producer Impact

- Posted tariff rates for elevator handling activities have increased – Receiving, elevation and loading from 4%-20%; Cleaning from 1%-25% for most commodities; and storage from 15%-50%.
- The price for 1 CWRS wheat climbs to \$308.00 per tonne (CWB return outlook price) by the end of the first quarter, but begins to fall in the face of expected crop production, increased international competition, and a stronger Canadian dollar.
- Recent changes in input costs:
 - o Country elevator handling – up by 1%-50% depending on activity and commodity.
 - o Rail transportation – up by 4%.
 - o Terminal elevator handling – up by 1%-10%.
- Changes in the price of 1 CWRS wheat, and export basis input costs, suggests a modest improvement in the producer's netback for CWB grains in the 2002-03 crop year.
 - o Per-tonne financial returns still tempered by sharply reduced grain volumes.
- By the end of the first quarter, the average Vancouver cash price for 1 Canada canola climbs to about \$450.00 per tonne, but also begins to fall in the face of higher expected crop production, increased competition, and a stronger Canadian dollar.
- Changes in the price of 1 Canada canola, and export basis input costs, suggests a modest improvement in the producer's netback for non-CWB commodities in the 2002-03 crop year.
- Per-tonne financial returns still tempered by sharply reduced grain volumes.

Other released studies that can found in the Papers directory include Monitoring Producer Netback and Monitoring Other Producer Impacts.

The Q2 for this crop year is in its final stages of preparations and is expected release later in the summer.

Note: The 2002-2003 Crop year first quarter report of the Grain Monitor can be found by going to the "Papers" directory of the Quorum website (www.quorumcorp.net)

WILD ROSE SIGNS MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

On August 20th, 2003 representatives from Wild Rose Agricultural Producers and The Co-operators Insurance Group signed an agreement designed to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. Wild Rose (and its predecessor Unifarm) has been a member-owner of The Co-operators for over thirty years.

Doug Wright, the Vice President of Co-operative Business Development commented at the signing that "this agreement is as much about relationships as it is about business. The Co-operators are pleased to enter into this agreement and look forward to working together to address the insurance needs of Alberta farmers and ranchers.

Bill Dobson, 1st Vice President of Wild Rose also sits on the Board of Directors of The Cooperators. He said, "We are quite excited about the signing of this agreement. Alberta farmers are very important customers of the Co-operators and insurance is extremely important to rural Albertans. This Agreement will guarantee that Wild rose remains in a position to see that insurance needs of the farming community are met" Bill went on to say the "We look forward to building stronger ties between Wild Rose and The Co-operators in the future.

BRENT MCBEAN - BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The summer of 2003 with BSE, grasshoppers and the variable weather, I know will be one that we will speak about many years down the road, much as our fathers and grandfathers have spoke about the situations and years that they remember from our their own farming careers. On behalf of and as a director of Wild Rose since attending the summer council meeting in Vermillion in late June, I have attended the Outstanding Young Farmer Alberta/NWT division awards banquet and presentation in Lethbridge in early July, I have given Media interviews to Global television on the BSE outbreak and potential consequences to the Alberta Ag industry as a whole. As well as speaking to and arranging for the Western regional reporter for the Toronto Star to meet with some producers in this area while he was preparing a major story for the newspaper. The stories he prepared appeared in the Saturday August 9,2003 edition of the paper and illustrated the depth of the situation to the people in eastern Canada. I also was contacted by Barry Wilson of the Western Producer, about the results of a survey of early May that said generally producers in Canada were optimistic about the future. I asked him to consider the timing of the survey noting that most farmers are optimistic in the

spring time.

I have also traveled to Nisku for a meeting with Rod and representatives from the Canadian Young Farmers forum who were traveling Canada trying to improve support for their organization and wanting Wild Rose to develop a Young Farmers program at our annual convention, watch for details on that in the future.

Possible the issue that I have spent the most time on both personal and in bothering Rod and other board members have been trying to develop some sort of response for Wild Rose in the face of this BSE crisis, I had felt that after a certain amount of time this issue became more the just a beef issue and affected all farms in some way or another and thusly that Wild Rose needed to try and do whatever it could. After working on a few ideas we had decided on course of action and were preparing to launch it on the 14th of August for a August 20-21st effort. With the partial opening of the borders to the US and the Mexico on August 8th the decision was made to put the idea on hold but keep developing it so that it would be ready if the executive decided to use it at some point in the future if exports of Live cattle do not develop. Hopefully it'll be time wasted and the export markets will

ROBERT FILKOHAZY—BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Environmental Farm Plans

We had our official launch of the program in Nisku on February 18, 2003. It was very successful and well received. The Board of Directors has hired and trained 12 facilitators who have put on numerous workshops with over 150 participants. Agenda items in progress are the development of a Peer Review Committee and an Evaluation Plan targeted to be ready for this October.

GMO Wheat Committee

The unconfined release of Roundup Ready Wheat is a cause of considerable concern for wheat customers, farmers and the entire grain industry. As a result of that, I have been representing Wild Rose along with other farm organizations from across Canada and the CWB to try and convince Monsanto and the federal Government to postpone the introduction of RR wheat. We have made it very clear that we have NO argument with the science or safety of the technology, only the market acceptance of GMO wheat. To date, we have lobbied the Ag. Standing Committee, sent a joint letter to Minister Vanclief, and have requested from Monsanto to withdraw its application to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for approval.

Agri-Environmental Advisory Committee

I was recently appointed to this committee representing Wild Rose along with 25 other stakeholders that include s farm leaders, academics, industry, environmentalists and government agencies. The purpose of the committee is to provide guidance to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on federal policies and programs that address agri-environmental issues in Canada. The initial agenda was full including info and updates on the APF, the National Agri-Environmental Health Analysis and Reporting Program, the Farm Environmental Management Survey, the National Water Supply Expansion Program, the Environmental Technology Assessment for Agriculture Program, and the AAFC Sustainable Development Strategy. We also had a presentation on Offset Systems to do with Canada achieving its Kyoto commitments.

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UPSTREAM OIL AND GAS RECLAMATION PROGRAM UPSTREAM OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

For the past year and a half Dalton Trentholm of Newbrook has represented Wild Rose in the development of this new program. On behalf of the members, we wish to extend our appreciation for his hard work in this area.

Introduction

As a result of continued growth in Alberta's oil and gas sector and in order to improve Alberta Environment's ability to effectively manage remediation and reclamation, the Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation Program is changing on October 1, 2003.

The program, which applies to all upstream oil and gas facilities including well sites, batteries and pipelines on private and public land, will shift the inquiry process from a formal, onsite inspection to a thorough, administrative and technical review of industry certificate applications, complemented by random field audits.

All reclamation and remediation work must be completed to Alberta Environment's standards before a reclamation certificate will be issued. Industry will be required to submit information on reclamation and contamination site assessments with each reclamation certificate application and provide this information to landowners/occupants.

Alberta Environment continues to work with stakeholders to finalize program changes and is committed to ongoing stakeholder involvement to address any issues that may arise through development and implementation of the program.

Key Changes

Over the last year, Alberta Environment consulted with landowners, industry and other affected stakeholders to identify how the Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation Program could be improved.

On June 25, 2002, Alberta Environment hosted the first of three stakeholder workshops aimed at facilitating open discussion about Alberta's Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation and Remediation Program. During the workshop, sessions focused on:

- A review and assessment of the current program. Issues and opportunities faced by the current program were discussed, taking into account influence and pressures in the program and stakeholder interests.
- The guiding principles that would provide a foundation for a reclamation and remediation program.
- Process and delivery alternatives. This included an open exchange of ideas on possible alternatives for improving the reclamation and remediation program.

The information gathered from the first workshop was used to develop a proposal for further discussion with stakeholders. Some recommendations from workshop participants were:

- Effective and sound environmental stewardship is paramount.
- The program should be clear, effective and simple.
- Government does not need to deliver all parts of the program, but should have an oversight role and be accountable to ensure the program remains effective.
- Government should set remediation and reclamation criteria.
- Include remediation into the reclamation program.
- Review the well site reclamation criteria.
- Roles and liability and accountability should be clearly defined for all parties.

THE AGRICULTURAL OPERATION PRACTICES ACT—CONT'D

- Involve landowners earlier in the reclamation process.
- Enforcement action, if necessary, should be fair, effective and timely.
- Conduct annual program reviews with stakeholders.

Two additional workshops were held in January and March 2003 with the same stakeholders to review proposed changes in the reclamation process and gather feedback related to making a transition to an audit process. A draft document provided to stakeholders outlined the administrative and technical review of each application, audits for reclamation and contamination, landowner involvement in the remediation and reclamation process and use of specialist sign-off.

Program Highlights

Program highlights include:

- The inquiry process will shift from a formal, onsite inspection to a thorough administrative and technical review, complemented by random field audits and an enhanced complaint process.
- Contamination status will be included as part of the reclamation certificate. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and/or a Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment will be required with each application.
- All application information must be complete and meet both reclamation criteria and remediation requirements.
- Landowners can still appeal any reclamation certificate issued, and an operator can still appeal the Director's decision to refuse an application.
- Approximately 15 per cent of all sites certified under the new program will be subject to field audits. Sites on public and private lands that were certified under the old program will NOT be audited. Green area sites previously certified are subject to audits.
- Audited sites will be thoroughly inspected. Surface reclamation success and contamination compliance will be checked by visual observation and intrusive sampling along with lab analysis to determine if sites meet reclamation criteria and remediation requirements.
- Reclamation certificates will be cancelled at audited sites or following a landowner/occupant complaint if the site does not meet reclamation criteria or remediation requirements. Companies can appeal the cancellation of a reclamation certificate.
- A form has been developed to assist landowners or occupants in filing a complaint regarding site conditions to Alberta Environment or Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. As in the past, complaints can be forwarded at any time during construction, operation, reclamation or following reclamation of a site. Substantiated complaints may lead to the cancellation of the reclamation certificate.
- Landowners/occupants on private land and occupants on public land will receive all site information on reclamation and remediation.
- For reclamation certificates issued after October 1, 2003, the industry liability period for surface reclamation issues (topography, vegetation, soil texture, drainage etc.) will be increased to 25 years from the current five-year period.

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THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM (CAISP) - THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from page 11)

close as possible to his or her reference margin. But if no decline occurred, the producer's deposit would stay in place to secure protection the next year. And if the producer wanted to choose a different level of protection the next year, the amount on deposit could be adjusted accordingly.

Choices for protection...

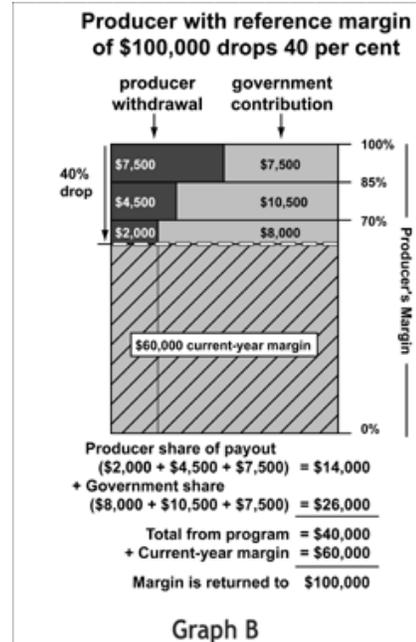
To ensure the effectiveness of the new program, a minimum protection option has been established. This option would guarantee that for any losses up to 40 per cent of the reference margin, the producer would be fully covered. And in the event of a margin decline to zero, the producer would be returned to 70 per cent of the reference margin. The cost of this minimum risk protection would be a refundable deposit equal to 14 per cent of the producer's reference margin.

Beyond the minimum option, producers could choose any amount of protection they liked, up to a maximum. Maximum protection could be accessed with a deposit of 22 per cent of the reference margin, and would provide either full or close to full protection in even the most severe loss situations.

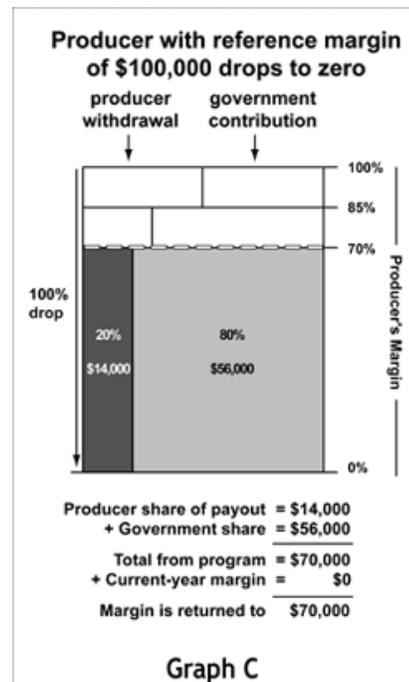
Pay-outs would always be calculated in a way that ensures the producer always receives the greatest possible government benefit. To calculate the government contribution, one would first determine how much of the producer's loss was in the "disaster" range – that is, the bottom 70 per cent of the margin – and that amount would be cost-shared at the most advantageous rate of 20 per cent producer, 80 per cent government. Working up, the next 15 per cent of the margin decline would be cost-shared 30 per cent producer to 70 per cent government, and the rest would be cost-shared 50-50, until the producer's deposit was exhausted, or the producer reached 100 per cent of margin, leaving some money on deposit for the following year.

The graphs here show how this would work. Graph B illustrates what would happen if a producer with a \$100,000-margin selected the minimum option, placing 14 per cent of the reference margin (or \$14,000) on account, and then had a margin decline of \$40,000. In this case, \$10,000 of that loss would be in the disaster range and would be cost-shared at \$4 from government for every producer dollar. The next \$15,000 of loss, in the lower stabilization tier, would be shared at the rate of 30 per cent producer and 70 per cent government, and the rest 50:50. The end result is, the producer's margin would be returned to 100 per cent, with the pro-

ducer drawing down all of his or her \$14,000-deposit, and receiving a payment of \$26,000 from the government.



Graph C shows how that same \$14,000 would be applied if the producer's margin should fall to zero. In this case, \$14,000 on deposit would generate a government payment of \$56,000, to return the producer to 70 per cent of his or her historical level.



THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM (CAISP) - THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Deposit options...

When producers put funds on account, that money is theirs, to be used when needed - it is not a premium. Depending on whether a producer experiences a margin decline, the producer will either draw on deposited funds to receive a payment from governments, or leave the funds on account to secure protection the following year. At the beginning of each production year, the deposit can be adjusted if the producer chooses a different level of protection.

A "discount deposit" option is available during the first two years of a producer's participation in the program, as well as for the two years immediately following a severe income decline. This option allows producers to secure protection by placing just one-third of their deposit on account. It ensures all farmers have immediate access to protection, with no need for a long account build-up period. It provides effective protection for beginning farmers and for those who experience back-to-back disasters. If a margin decline occurs, the producer will need to place the remaining two-thirds of the deposit on account to access the full government benefit.

Production margin...

CAISP is based on a "production margin," which can be up to 50 per cent larger for some farms than the current "gross margin" calculation. Only the expenses directly related to the production of a commodity, such as fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and feed – all of which tend to be highly variable – will be deducted from eligible revenues to arrive at the production margin. As a result, the new program will be more responsive to the risks posed by rising input costs. And because the margin will be larger, producers will get more support in a significant downturn. The larger size of the production margin also means that fewer farmers are likely to have "negative margins," which are not covered under existing programs – so these farmers are more likely to receive assistance under CAISP.

Transition to the new program...

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAISP) will be rolled out later this year and in 2004, which will allow time for producers to become familiar with new program features. NISA and CFIP will pay out benefits for 2002. In the change-over to the new program, producers will not lose any of the money currently in their accounts. They will have full access to these funds—including the money from previous government contributions.

President's comments Re: new CAIS program

If you have read the government perspective of the new CAIS program I expect that you may be somewhat confused. Don't feel bad. I have been fairly close to the development of this program for the past two years and I am confused when I read this article! Until recently this program has been referred to as the new enhanced NISA. It has very little resemblance to the NISA program and should never have been called such!

The government's positive spin on this description of the new CAIS program needs to be carefully considered as I feel it is somewhat deceiving. Most farm organizations also continue to have a lot of concerns about this program because from a Producers perspective it has some pitfalls and shortcomings. Many feel this program is fundamentally flawed because it is based on stabilizing a production margin and not Net Income.

I am assuming that this new program will go ahead as planned by late fall. I expect that prior to early November, all Producers will need to have their bookkeeping up-to-date and spend some time carefully determining the level at which they will participate in this program. Contrary to the government description, many producers will find that the amount of deposits that they will be required to make will be substantial and not "relatively small"! As well, the amount of government benefit for many will actually be less than what they would have received from the former NISA and FIDP program combination with an additional cost to producers.!

The delay in getting this program under way does give Producers an advantage for 2003. They will practically know what the likelihood of withdrawing will be before they need to make their deposit decision. This will allow them to fairly closely match the level of participation deposit they need to make relative to the likely level of withdrawal they could be eligible for.

Government literature to this point time has had most of the emphasis on how withdrawals take place and very little on producer deposit considerations. The real challenge for producers will be how to determine their level of deposit they should make for 2004, which must be made prior to March 31/04. It is quite possible that those who are eligible to withdraw funds for the 2003 production year will have to make this decision before they receive any of the 2003 withdrawal funds! For some this could potentially put a drain on cash flow so be sure to talk with your banker, financial advisor, accountant etc. well ahead of your year-end.

WILD ROSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

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