

Haney Farms Quarterly



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Its Harvest Time

Welcome to the fall edition of the Haney Farms Quarterly. It is difficult to believe that fall has arrived. Combines are moving through the fields as farmers are hoping to get harvest done as soon as possible due to the fact that the crops around Southern Alberta look tremendous and there are frost concerns.

Don McDowell has joined Haney Farms to fulfill the Seed Business Manager duties. Don brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to our company. He has worked all over Western Canada in the seed business. Please refer to the bottom of the front page for

Don's welcome message to all our readers.

Robb Dunn of the Lethbridge Research Station has contributed an article on the forage value of winter triticale.

An informative article on grain drying and storage will enhance your understanding of the options that exist if the inclement weather persists.

On the back page is an article that appears on the Canadian Cattlemen's website which lists the frequently asked questions in regards to the strategic plan for the beef cattle industry delayed



The Haney Farms Feedlot Team accepts their prize at the Calgary Stampede

marketing program.

We hope that you enjoy this quarterly publication and that it will provide you with valuable information that will allow you to make better decisions.

Haney Farms hits the Jackpot at the Calgary Stampede

For several years Haney Farms has entered the Calgary Stampede's stock show. This year Haney Farms walked away with the Grand Champion pen of heifers and the Reserve Champion pen of steers at the Alberta Fed Beef Expo.

All of the entries are judged in High River and the champions are taken to the Stampede grounds the next day to be auctioned off at the World Auctioneering Championships.

"It was a very exciting day for all of the staff of Haney Farms be-

cause this truly was a team effort, said Mike Pollard, Feedlot Manager. "What was really special was the fact that most of the feedlot staff were at the competition to see the judging and to take part in the celebration afterwards."

Haney Farms Announces the Newest Edition to our Team



Don McDowell standing in front of the new durum, AC Strongfield

While sitting down to write this biography, the question arose....who cares? Choosing a company to deal with in regards to your farming or ranching needs is about products and services. Right???

On further thought, products and services probably describe me best.

I've been in the grain industry for 25 years and pride myself on my seed knowledge and my ability to

assist our customers using that knowledge.

I worked in the feed industry for a short while and then was employed by the Canadian Grain Commission in the Lethbridge office. I currently hold a CFIA grader license. Pedigreed seed and special crops have occupied me for the last 15 years. My wife Kimberly, our young son Donovan, and I have a home in Nobleford.

I believe our role as the seed grower is very simple. We multiply the new varieties and provide them to the commercial producer.

The benefits of using pedigreed seed are higher yields, weed free, guaranteed germination, and vigor. Choosing which pedigreed seed is sometimes not so clear. This is where all of the people at Haney Farms and I are of benefit. Call us!!!

The Benefits of Winter Triticale

“Due to the disease problems that continuous cropping barley can cause, it is becoming more and more important to think about your crop rotation.”

Due to the disease problems that continuous cropping barley can cause, it is becoming more and more important to think about your crop rotation. There are alternatives such as spring triticale, winter triticale and corn. All three have pro's and cons. Every year we notice that more and more people are turning to winter triticale for a variety of reasons for their silage acres.

1. Reduction in leaf disease for planted crop year and the following crop
2. Less leaf disease means less spraying, higher yields and more free time for you
3. Reduction in spring work
4. Earlier silage harvest (3rd week of June in O4)
5. Increased tonnage
6. No reduction in feed value compared with corn and barley.
7. Allows you to farm within a more viable crop rotation

8. Chance to plant warm season forage immediately after harvest and to chop a second crop in the fall, which increases tonnage per year per acre on your farm.

The adjacent table shows some research plot results from the 2001 silage harvest. Bobcat gives a great tonnage and also will stand up compared to Pika and the barley varieties. Our Bobcat yield this year was 14MT at 70%.

When you consider the input costs and yield this gives you a higher return per MT than corn.

Another possibility is to plant

Sorghum Sudan grass or millet after the winter triticale is cut in order to take off another crop in the fall. The sorghum will thrive in the heat of the summer while planting barley might suffer.

Portions of this article are courtesy of www.ropintheweb.ca

2000/01 Silage Yields S. Alberta Irrigation

Variety	Yield (kg/ha)	Protein (%)	ADF (%)	NDF(%)	Lodging (1-10)
Earl	9740	10.5	29	57	1.0
Harper	11310	9.8	30	59	1.5
Pronghorn	11410	9.1	30	57	1.0
Bobcat	12590	11.7	31	57	1.5
Pika	13570	10.6	33	59	6.5

Table courtesy of Lethbridge Research Station

Grain Drying and Storage



Haney Farms' Vertec Grain Dryer

Once a cereal crop is harvested, it may have to be stored for a period of time before it can be marketed or used as feed or seed. The length of time cereal can be safely stored will depend on the condition it was harvested and the type of storage facility being utilized. Grain binned at lower temperatures and moisture contents can be kept in storage for longer periods of time before its quality will deteriorate. The presence and build up of insects, mites, molds and fungi, which are all affected by grain temperature and grain moisture content, will affect the grain quality and duration of grain storage.

Proper conditions to store grain effectively are those which prevent or discourage the growth of micro organisms and insects. Such conditions involve control and maintenance of:

nance of:

1. moisture content of grain
2. the temperature of the grain
3. condition and soundness of the grain
4. and the oxygen supply of the storing environment

Aeration is the process of ventilating stored grain at low air flow rates with the purpose of maintaining a fairly uniform grain temperature throughout the bin to prevent moisture accumulation at the top (or bottom) layers of the bin due to natural convection. The amount of air required to change the temperature of the grain may not change the moisture content very much. Although aeration is not a grain drying system and should not be considered as such, some drying can occur when the weather is very dry and the fan is run for a very long time. Moreover,

the low airflows (1-2 litres/second/cubic metre) used are not sufficient for reliable safe storage unless grain temperatures are near or below 0 °C.

The primary purpose for aeration is to achieve or maintain a uniform grain temperature throughout the bin. Some drying can occur in aeration systems, but generally grain going into aeration bins should be within about 1% of being dry enough for long term storage.

Advantages of Drying

1. Allows for harvesting tough grain and thereby reduces losses from weather and wildlife.
2. Extends available harvest period.
3. Earlier harvest is possible.
4. Drying tough or damp grain can reduce or eliminate spoilage in storage.

5. May improve market grade and acceptability of grain.
6. May afford alternative market outlets for grain.
7. May eliminate necessity of swathing to obtain "dry" grain.
8. May improve malting quality by reducing kernel peeling and cracking during combining. However, most maltsters will not knowingly buy grain which has been artificially dried.
9. Since artificially dried grain usually contains near maximum allowable water content, the extra weight generates more dollars when sold.

Disadvantages of Drying

1. Requires extra capital for equipment, energy and operation.
2. Requires extra labor and inconvenience of handling unless centralized facilities are available.
3. Requires some experience to operate effectively.
4. May impair quality of malting barley if not operated properly (low air temperature).

The high temperatures in grain dryers can damage the grain. The maximum allowable air temperatures for drying will depend on the crop in question and the end use

of that crop (refer to table on the right).

Courtesy of www.ropintheweb.ca

Maximum Allowable Air Temperatures for Grain Drying

	Seed	Commer-	Feed
Wheat	60	65	80-100
Oats	50	60	80-100
Barley	45	55	80-100
Flax	45	80	80-100
Canola	45	82	---
Peas	40	—	45

Values given are air temperatures going into the dryer and are not the temperatures of the grain itself. Temperatures are in Celsius.

Forage Production with Winter Triticale

By Dr. Robb Dunn, P.Ag

Winter triticale is a productive forage crop choice for dryland or irrigated crop rotations. It always ranked at or near the top for irrigated silage biomass yields in southern Alberta agronomy trials by Alberta Agriculture researcher Ross McKenzie. Winter triticale has slightly better winter hardiness than winter wheat but will occasionally succumb to our harsh weather conditions. This year was one of the worse that I've seen since coming to Lethbridge in 1990. The two main factors were the rapid transition to winter in late October followed by a prolonged period of ice encasement. Winter hardiness improves with a gradual transition to cold weather in the late fall period. Ice encasement during the early winter is rare for southern Alberta and can literally smother the actively growing plant tissue that is slowly respiring over the winter period.

Winter triticale is a versatile crop that can be used in several scenarios. It makes a good feed and is palatable, standing up well to livestock grazing. Mid-August plantings can be October grazed with some potential for spring grazing or late June forage production. Winter hardiness will be compromised with fall grazing. Mid to late September plantings can be spring grazed until late May and then left for mid-July

forage. Grazing in the fall or spring will reduce yield and delay silage development with a higher demand for both water and nutrients.

Spring planted mixtures with barley or oats can be grazed through the entire summer with the spring cereal providing early grazing and the winter cereal coming along in mid to late summer. Spring planted winter cereals lack vigor for the first 3 to 4 weeks after emergence compared to spring cereals but will not head out which is preferred for mid to late summer grazing. Another option is to plant the spring/winter triticale blend, silage the spring crop as normal and graze the re-growth in late summer/fall.

Winter triticale can be harvested for silage in late June with the potential to follow up with an early July oat, barley or warm season forage. Pat Pavan with the Southern Applied Research Association at Lethbridge is investigating several warm season forage types compared to oats. These include proso millet, foxtail millet and forage sorghum types that have shown some promise as a double crop system under irrigation.

Bobcat winter triticale is the new awnless variety from Alberta Agriculture's Lacombe breeding program that is especially good for silage or greenfeed. Without awns

it makes an acceptable green feed whereas Pika winter triticale would best be silaged. Bobcat is up to 20 cm shorter than Pika and tends to stand up which is a huge benefit for irrigated production. Pika has better winter hardiness and a reputation for faster early season growth for grazing compared to Bobcat that may be an advantage in some situations.

Finally, a couple of other benefits for winter cereals include their wider planting and harvest window along with their improved soil and water conservation advantages. Winter cereals are efficient moisture users because they develop and mature during the early spring and summer period compared to spring crops. Soil cover is a big issue for southern Alberta and winter triticale seeded in late August or early September will usually provide good protection during an open winter period. New growth begins to kick in by early April and provides excellent spring cover. Later planted winter cereals (after mid-September) do not produce enough cover to hold the soil and should be direct seeded into anchored crop residue that will prevent wind erosion and improve winter survival.

For more information on winter triticale varieties or agronomy, contact your local seed grower, crop advisor or phone the Ag Info Centre at 1-866-882-7677.



Bobcat seeded in the spring to demonstrate spring grazing potential

"It [winter triticale] makes a good feed and is palatable, standing up well to livestock grazing."

Questions and Answers on the Strategic Plan for the Beef Cattle Industry Delayed Marketing Program

August 25, 2004

1. What is the Canadian Cattlemen's Association Strategic Plan for the Beef Cattle Industry?

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has developed a Strategic Plan for the Beef Cattle industry. The Strategic Plan will assist the Canadian beef cattle industry to recover from the current crisis and be better able to withstand trade disruptions in the future. CCA has presented the plan to the Federal Government and we are awaiting their decision on adopting the plan.

Key features of the plan are increasing slaughter capacity in Canada, and delaying marketings to better manage cattle marketings to capacity until additional capacity is available. Other aspects of the plan include a marketing plan for additional beef produced in Canada and alternative tax strategies and cash advances/loan guarantees/debt restructuring to assist producers with current equity issues. The complete plan can be viewed on the CCA website www.cattle.ca.

2. Why do we need a delayed marketing program?

Increased slaughter capacity in Canada is coming on-line. However this does not address the immediate market situation related to the oversupply of fed cattle and the resulting downward pressure on cattle prices. The upcoming fall run will place increased pressure on producers and the market as a large calf crop comes to market. Producers facing tightened cash supply over the next few months will be forced to market their cattle into an already oversupplied market. This upcoming fall will be a critical time for Canadian producers, and as the increased slaughter capacity is developed in Canada, we must ensure that we retain the producers that serve as the foundation for our industry.

The objectives of the delayed marketing program are to stabilize or improve current pricing and to assist in the orderly marketing of cattle this upcoming fall. To accomplish this, the CCA is pursuing two programs – a program to address fed cattle and one to delay a portion of the 2004 calf crop.

A delayed marketing strategy must be coupled with the efforts to expand slaughter capacity or it merely pushes the problem ahead.

3. When will it start?

The CCA is currently working with government to gain its support of the strategy. The CCA has been stressing the absolute importance of implementing the program as soon as possible. Timing is critical. As cattle age in the system, the 2003 calf crop

will be approaching maximum age to enter feedlots to be eligible for export meat to the U.S.A. in spring/summer 2005. In addition, getting as many cattle as possible through the system in an orderly way is also a critical timing problem as producer decisions are made in the late-August to December 2004 period. The CCA is working to achieve government buy-in and announcement of program details as quickly as possible.

4. What is being proposed for a delayed slaughter cattle program?

The main objectives of the slaughter cattle program are to stretch out the inventory until the increased capacity is on-line and to stabilize or increase current prices for cattle while maintaining current slaughter levels. Fed cattle can be placed on a maintenance ration for an extended period of time with reduced weight gain while maintaining desirable carcass characteristics. It is imperative that the program does not interfere with the packing plants' ability to continue processing at current levels.

Cattle will have to be a minimum weight to qualify for the program.

Eligible cattle will be delayed from slaughter for 90 days, with producers compensated for the feed costs for that time period. The program would be phased out as the price stabilizes at or above the minimum price.

5. How do you know that we'll see an improvement in cattle prices?

The program will begin by targeting a large number of slaughter cattle. A trading range will be determined, tied into the U.S. price equivalent. If the necessary price increases are not realized, more cattle will be set aside.

6. What will prevent the packing

plants from decreasing their slaughter numbers?

The U.S. price equivalent that we target will be such that it is still beneficial for the packing plants to continue processing at full capacity.

7. What is being proposed for the 2004 calf crop program?

The desired outcome for the calf crop program is to match the marketing of the 2004 calf crop to increased capacity, therefore allowing for the slaughter of the 2003 calf crop. A percentage of the calves normally finished in the 2nd and 3rd quarter would be eligible based on weight (15% of the calf crop is being proposed). Monthly allocations would be made and producers would voluntarily apply for an allocation. The calves enrolled in the program could be sold at any time to declared buyers, but could not be sold as finished cattle for twelve months. Therefore, cattle enrolled in the program would need to be permanently identified. Producers would be eligible for additional feed costs (i.e. \$1/day). The CCA is also pursuing a cash advance on cattle enrolled in the program to assist producers with cash flow, repayable upon sale of enrolled cattle.

8. How much of the 2004 calf crop would still come to market?

Currently, 25% of calves are set aside each year. Payment would be based on setting aside an additional 15% of calves until fall 2005. It's predicted that this year's calf crop is 6.3% larger than the previous year. It's also anticipated that some producers will be forced to sell calves that they would normally set aside, due to financial pressures.

The calves being delayed will work their way through the system eventually. With the increased capacity coming online through the next few years, we need to ensure that the industry doesn't downsize at this critical time. This program would provide producers with some breathing room to make more rational marketing decisions and create some order in marketing throughout this fall. (Courtesy of www.cattle.ca)

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