

Haney Farms Quarterly



Box 280
 Picture Butte, AB
 Canada T0K 1V0
 Phone: 403-738-4517
 Fax: 403-738-4420
 Email: office@haneyfarms.com
 www.haneyfarms.com

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Summer Arrives

It is hard to believe that June has arrived already and with it has come perfect spray conditions along with some moisture. Due to the early seeding this year, it is almost time to start applying fungicide to cereal crops. Time moves at a fast pace.

This spring in many ways has had its adversity though. It was the worst spring for winter kill in fall seeded crops for 15-20 years, BSE is still reeking havoc in our Canadian economy, and regular gasoline is above ninety cents due to the high demand for oil.

The Summer 2004 issue is loaded with information that I think you'll find interesting. There is information on a new Durum variety. The middle section is packed with a special look at BSE. The first part of the special BSE section is comments from community members on the effects of BSE and where people think that we are headed next. On the third page are two articles concerning BSE. The first one looks at how ge-

netically modified food can create a sense of safety for customers in the long run as it pertains to the BSE situation. The second article, is from the Farmers Independent Weekly and describes what some Municipalities in Manitoba are doing to fight the protectionism of the United States head on.

I would like to thank both Reuters News Service and The Farmers Independent Weekly for allowing these articles to be reprinted.

The back page of the Quarterly sees a contribution from Seed Treatment Specialist Ted Labun of Syngenta commenting on the importance of focusing on stand establishment whether you seed late or early and gives us ten steps to focus on in order to accomplish it.

Please enjoy the latest edition of the Haney Farms Quarterly.



Henry Wall seeding AC Harper in the spring for silage



Can you believe this was all green in the fall?

You can supply feedback to shaney@haneyfarms.com. Have a great summer and remember there is life after BSE and this crisis to shall pass

Westwind Airspray and Haney Farms Join Forces



Haney Farms and Westwind Airspray are pleased to announce that they are joining forces to provide our customers with better service. Westwind will be using the Haney Farms air strip in order to service the County of Lethbridge and Enchant area better.

Peter Hansen, Owner/General

Manager of Westwind Airspray, looks forward to another aerial application season. Moisture in many parts of Southern Alberta has been good and now it is time to begin to consider protecting your crop from leaf diseases and pests. Peter has two planes to make sure that your crop gets sprayed on time and

you get the results that you need in order to protect your crop. Whether it's canola, special crops, wheat or barley, your crop is susceptible to unwanted pests and disease so make sure that you are scouting your fields today to ensure you hit the proper windows for application.

BSE Just Won't Go Away

Political issues continue to delay the re-opening of the border. Our friends (sarcasm intended) at R-Calf continue to try and put the screws to the Canadian Cattle industry while basing their arguments on fallacies and lies. It is amazing nowadays that scientific facts do not matter, because sensationalized lies produce better ratings and get the headlines while the truth and facts are secondary and buried on the back page.

We talked to several people all connected some way or another to this issue and asked them, where do we go from here whether the border opens or not?

Rick Casson—Member of Parliament—Conservative Party of Canada—The past 400 days have truly tested the strength of those involved in all aspects of the Canadian cattle industry. The highs and lows (sadly, mostly lows) of the BSE border closure have left many producers barely hanging on. Although it would be better to speak with a single united voice in determining solutions to this situation, some of the ideas coming forward from the various groups connected with the industry, certainly deserve serious consideration. Slaughter capacity, searching for new markets, testing regimes, international BSE protocols and so much more must all be reviewed. As we continue to push for an open border, I am confident the industry will come through this stronger and better prepared for the future.

Dr. Toni Nelson—Acting Dean—Faculty of Management—University of Lethbridge—The citizens of Alberta have responded to the BSE situation with tremendous support. I have been to dinners all over the province and beef was served at everyone. No one ever question the quality of the product (Alberta Beef).

Herb Locke—Farm Sense Marketing—the Japanese border is key and the US-Canada border will not open until after the US election. The Japanese are acting non-scientifically to the US and the US is using the same tactic on Canada. The two issues (Japanese closing out the US and the US closing out Canada) are very much tied together.

Brent Gatzke—Territory Manager—Syngenta Canada—Anything new coming to the market is not gaining a lot of interest from producers. Farmers are thinking twice if not three times about former quick decisions. The intensity of discussion at the urban level has diminished, while at the farm level it is still at the top of everyone's mind.

Dale Butler—Partner—Butler Coyle Financial—The cattle industry is very vital to the Southern Alberta economy. The BSE crisis has had a very negative effect and no industry in this area is immune from its swath. It truly has been a very frustrating experience. Overall I feel that clients are doing more protective financial planning in case of major financial disaster.

Gordon Nolan—Operations Manager—Canterra Seeds (Winnipeg)—In Manitoba, Feedlot owners do not have the options that Albertans do in the sense that Manitoba producers do not have large killing plants on the north side of the border that they can access. Plants in the northern US were their natural market.

Dave Whittaker—Owner Manager—Fountain Tire North Side Lethbridge—BSE has impacted our business huge. We are just as anxious for the border to open as feedlot owners. Last time I checked cattle had to be moved by truck and trucks need tires. If cattle aren't moving, tires are not selling. This has been our worst

year ever.

Bill Daye—Partner—Daye & Co—Edmonton—The BSE issue has brought to the forefront how significant the livestock sector is to the Alberta economy. The ripple effect has been throughout the whole economy not just the feedlot and cow calf sector. We have seen wide sweeping problems across many clients from different industries.

Bob Graham—Owner/Manager—Graham Treating Systems—Talking to American Livestock producers at tradeshow in the US, they are saying that despite the fact that they have had a great economic run due to the border being closed they feel it has to reopen soon. This is mainly because the American and Canadian herds have mingled for years and keeping it closed would look foolish to American customers of beef.

Brad Fournier—Provincial Supervisor Feeder Associations—BSE has taken its toll on not only two cows but an entire industry. The strength of producers and Feeder Co-op members has been an asset. I look forward to the blue skies ahead once the border issue is solved. I am moderately optimistic about a summer border opening.

Dallas Harty—Owner Manager—Sobeys Garden Market—Lethbridge—The community has come together to support the livestock industry. The beef industry is a big part of the Lethbridge economy. The citizens of Southern Alberta did everything they possibly could to support the industry in its time of trouble. Canadian citizens never ever questioned the integrity of Canadian beef when the outbreak first happened. In fact beef sales rose 15-20% depending on the area.

“If cattle aren't moving, tires are not selling!”

“Slaughter capacity, searching for new markets, testing regimes, international BSE protocols and so much more must all be reviewed.”

“Keeping it closed would look foolish to American customers of beef.”

Scientists Produce Cow Immune to Mad Cow Disease

TOKYO - Kirin Brewery Co, Japan's number-two beer maker, has succeeded in producing a cow that is immune to mad cow disease, but experts said it was too early for livestock producers to celebrate.

Kirin officials said yesterday the company had produced jointly with a U.S. company a cow that carried none of the "prion" proteins that cause the brain-wasting disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

BSE is passed on by an infectious protein particle called a prion. Neither a living organism nor a virus, it is a misshapen protein that can convert other proteins to the deadly form by touching them.

The animal, produced through genetic engineering, is still in its mother's womb and expected to be born early next year, Kirin officials said.

Kirin, which has previously branched out into pharmaceuticals, produced the cow after conducting joint research with U.S. biotechnology firm Hemateck LLC in Connecticut.

The two firms plan to use the cow to develop medicines for diseases such as hepatitis C, pneumonia and rheumatism, a Kirin spokeswoman said.

Although cows that are not immune to BSE could be used to produce antibodies for medical or pharmaceutical products, the firms feared that doing so would cause worries among consumers, the Kirin officials said.

Kirin had no plans to disclose the medical technology to any third parties including livestock producers, they added.

"Because there are ethical issues

involving gene recombination, we have no intention of disclosing the technology," said a Kirin official. "We never do any gene recombination to produce anything that can be eaten."

A livestock industry official said it would probably be a long time before the technology would be used for mass production.

"This appears to be good news for livestock producers, but I think it will take a long time before cows immune to BSE can be produced on a large scale," said Soichi Kagawa, managing director of the Japan Livestock Industry Association.

"I think there will be a patent issue that could make it difficult for livestock producers to use that technology," he added.

This story is courtesy of Reuters

No More North Dakota Shopping Sprees?

Councillors in the rural Municipality of Stuartburn want Manitobians to stop shopping in North Dakota until the border opens to live cattle exports to the United States.

A resolution passed at the council's May 18th meeting calls on the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, other Manitoba municipalities and similar associations to lobby citizens to voluntarily stop shopping in North Dakota until the US ban on live cattle imports from Canada is lifted.

Reeve Wally Happychuk said local cattle producers are frustrated and angered with recent statements by North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan and other political leaders suggesting beef cattle from Canada are not safe to eat and that the ban should be continued.

"The message we're trying to send is that trade is bilateral," Happychuk said. "They ship corn and soybeans to Manitoba; trade works both ways."

The resolution says there is no

scientific basis on which to justify continuing the ban in place since a single cow was diagnosed with the disease May 20 last year. "If North Dakotans value cross border shopping, they need to pressure their politicians to do more to get the border open," Happychuk said.

Happychuk said the resolution has prompted some calls of concern from North Dakota.

Stu Briese, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, said the resolution will come up for debate at the associations June district meetings. If it is approved, it will go to the annual general meeting in the fall for debate. "At the moment, we are taking no action at all, and we won't until we get a good feel from our membership," he said.

He expects the notion of taking retaliatory action will generate some interest among rural residents who have lived with the BSE effects on trade for nearly 13 months. "It's getting to be a real

frustration," he said. "People keep telling us that it's not politics but I'm starting to think that it is."

Many rural residents slip across the border for a weekend of relaxation and shopping in Northern US communities. Briese said while he doesn't know specifically how many dollars are involved, "it would be a substantial amount; there's a lot of cross border stuff."

Briese said he expects to see little progress towards opening the border with the presidential election pending in the US and a federal election later this month in Canada.

But he said there is a downside to taking retaliatory action. "It always comes back to haunt you sooner or later."

"The Americans are very protectionist and we don't want to give them an excuse for more protectionism," he said.

*By Laura Rance (Associate Editor)
Farmers Independent Weekly
(Reprinted by permission)*

Stand Establishment—Critical for Maximizing Yield Potentials

Crop production has come a long way in the last 10 years.

For example, the introduction of soil conservation practices, new varieties, new technology in seeding equipment, new seed treatments, and unique weed management strategies have now provided growers with tools to optimise yield potentials. However every year is different and the spring of 2004 had it's own challenges. A very warm April encouraged many growers to seed earlier than usual. There is always a higher risk of frost damage as the crop emerges when seeding is done early but growers have found that the benefits of higher yields outway the risks of crop damage due to frost. However the question may be when is early to early. Soil moisture was also below normal in many areas so seed placement made management decisions challenging. Then of course insect pests were predicted to be higher than normal due to the warm winter. That is why getting back to the basics is so important to optimising stand establishment in the

spring which will result in high yields in the fall.

Unfortunately there is no silver bullet to optimize stand establishment however a combination of management practices will reduce the risk of poor crop stands early in the spring. Below are 10 management techniques that can make a difference.

1. Proper crop rotations
2. Seed quality (germination and vigour)
3. Testing for any seed-borne diseases that impact germination and vigour i.e. fusarium
4. Seed-to-soil contact at seeding
5. Seeding date
6. Seeding rate and depth
7. Optimising fertilizer placement
8. Weather (frost/cold)
9. Herbicide management (carryover and tank contamination)

10. Seed treatments to prevent damage from seed and soil-borne diseases

Field scouting to manage weeds, diseases, and insects like grasshoppers, flea beetles, cutworms, and wireworms.

All of the above factors are in control of growers regardless of the different challenges we face each spring. A truly integrated approach early in the spring to promote stand establishment will pay dividends throughout the growing season as we approach harvest in the fall.



Ted Labun
Seed Treatment Specialist
Syngenta Canada



Wireworm damage in 2004

Contest Winners are Drawn

In the last issue we told you about the two contests that we were running for all of our seed customers.

For every purchase over 1000 bushels your name is put into a draw for a free 36 game voucher for the Lethbridge Hurricane's 2004-05 season.

Also, for every 800 bushels of seed you

bought you received an entry into a draw for one of three one hour flights over the Picture Butte area in a Cessna 172.

The winner of the 36 game voucher is Darryl Groenenboom of Groenenboom Farms Ltd.

The winners of the one hour flights over the Picture Butte area are Nolan Cattle

Company, Serfas Farms and John Schooten.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all of our customers for your business this spring. We look forward to providing you with your pedigreed seed needs in the future.

New Durum (DT-712) becomes AC® Strongfield

DT-712, a new durum variety for retail release in the spring of 2006 owned by Secan, has been named AC® Strongfield.

Kevin Yaworsky, Secan Marketing Representative—Alberta and British Columbia, stated that AC® Strongfield was a high yielding durum (13% more than Kyle in the 200-2002 Co-op trials) with low Cadmium levels."

Other features include:

- 1 day earlier to maturity than Kyle, Avonlea and Navigator.
- Higher test weight than Kyle, Avonlea, Navigator and AC Morse
- Straw strength is equal to Avonlea

- Lower Cadmium levels at 100ppb than AC Morse (208 ppb) and Avonlea (232 ppb)

Please come see this variety for yourself in our demonstration plots along Highway 519, east of the home farm. Enclosed is a map of the plots so that you can navigate your way through them at your leisure.

