



Native Agri Update

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Holiday Hours: The Stirling and London offices will be closed for the holidays at 1:00 pm Tuesday December 24 and reopen at 8:30 Thursday January 2, 2020.

FARM AND BUSINESS FINANCING

IAPO is pleased to announce the return of the Beginning Farmers Program and the First Nation Business Startup and Expansion Program.

Beginning Farmer Program

The Beginning Farmer program is designed to support new beginning First Nations farmers between the ages of 16 and 40 through all stage of farm business startup. BFP will support the creation, development and investment in the new farm businesses.

Eligible farm businesses include: livestock, crop, vegetable, fruit, maple syrup, honey, floriculture and nursery production, mixed farming and aquaculture. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact IAPO if they are unsure whether their new farm business idea qualifies.

Successful applicants will take part in an evaluation to establish current business and skill levels. This information, in conjunction with training and support, will be used by the participants in the creation and support of their multi-year business plan.

Eligible participants will be able to access financing and cost share funding to finance their new farm business. Eligible costs include livestock, equipment, machinery, materials, inputs, building costs, storage etc. On approved projects, participants are eligible for financing up to \$50,000 and a 30% cost share grant.

IAPO is accepting applications on an ongoing basis. Participation is limited and selection will be based on applications submitted.

For more information or an application, contact IAPO at 1-800-363-0329 or info@indianag.on.ca.

First Nation Business Startup and Expansion Program

This program is designed to support the success of high potential business startups and expansions. Aiming to address barriers to financing, FNBSEP provides business financing and grants to qualified First Nation entrepreneurs and businesses. Areas of financing include:

- **Seed Capital:**
- **Start-up and Early Stage Loans**
- **Expansion Capital**
- **Business Acquisition**

The program is available to support qualified First Nations farm and agribusinesses across Ontario. It is also available to support qualified First Nations businesses in all sectors in South Central and Eastern Ontario. Qualified businesses and entrepreneurs are eligible for funding of up to \$200,000 and grants of up to \$20,000.

For more information or an application, contact IAPO at 1-800-363-0329 or info@indianag.on.ca.

The BFP and FNBSEP are made possible through the support of the Indigenous Economic Development Fund.



Indigenous Economic
Development Fund

The views expressed in this article are the views of IAPO and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province of Ontario.

CARBON TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARMERS

source: ofa.on.ca/resources/ontario-farmers-take-action-now-to-be-exempt-from-fuel-charge/

In April of this year, the federal carbon pollution pricing system went into effect and a charge was added to everyday fuels for fuel delivered in Ontario for air, marine, rail and road use.

All Ontario farmers are eligible to receive an exemption from the fuel charge for used in tractors, trucks or other farm machinery, by completing an exemption form available through Canada Revenue Agency.

Eligible farming machinery is property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or tractor, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, or an industrial machine or stationery or portable engine.

Fill out the exemption form, 'L402E' today, available online on the CRA website, and provide a copy to your fuel distributor. Keep an additional copy for your own farm records. If you have any questions regarding the form or the process for your farm, feel free to reach out to IAPO.

YEAR END REPORTING

source: www.fbc.ca/blog/importance-keeping-good-farm-records-and-accounting-agricultural-businesses

We have made it to the end of another year. With 2019 coming to a close and 2020 just around the corner, it is time to start pulling together our year end farm reports.

To be successful, farmers need to be good producers, as well as financial managers and that means keeping accurate farm records. Farmers need an accurate farm records system for bookkeeping, and financial planning to track all of the farms business activities.

Here is a short list of what to pull together for your end of year report:

- Detailed list of all farm inventories (supplies, feed, crops, livestock, honey, maples syrup etc.) as of December 31 with values
- Complete updated list of machinery, equipment, land and buildings with values. Make note of any additions or sales.
- List of unpaid bills and prepaid expenses
- List of sales made for which money has not been received

Market Information

BEEF MARKET WATCH

Prices are courtesy of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending Thursday December 12, 2019.

Changes here reflect the difference in prices from the week of October 10, 2019 to the week of December 12, 2019. Weekly reports provide prices on a per cwt basis for the week but do not include Friday sale results.

Mid to late December sales normally reflect a slower market with the holiday season approaching and demand for other proteins like turkey.

Rail grade prices are stronger again based on limited reporting. Fed steers are down and heifers are up. Stocker steers have bounced back somewhat compared to October while heifers continue to slide. Cull cows and bulls are down in price again. Rail grade steers are up \$6 while fed steers are off \$4 and heifers are up \$3.

Cull cows and bulls are down \$10 and \$13 respectively following a seasonal trend. Demand for ground beef usually declines through the holiday season. Prices tend to strengthen early in the new year.

Stocker steers are up \$2 to \$10 depending on weight category and heifers are steady for 600-700 lb weights and off \$17 for 700-800 lb weights.

Beef exports to the U.S. are up 8% to date over 2018 and

imports are down 13%. Recent signing of the new NAFTA agreement now called Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) should stabilize trade between the three countries.

Category	Price Range \$	Ave Price	Top Price	Change
Rail Steers	235-245			+6
Fed steers	123-141	135	152	-4
Fed heifers	117-139	131	148	+3
Cows	43-63	52	103	-10
Bulls	63-93	7	114	-13
Stocker steers				
700 – 799	155-205	187	218	+2
600 – 699	168-221	201	235	+12
500 – 599	179-234	218	253	+10
Stocker heifers				
700 – 799	121-162	147	183	-17
600 – 699	140-183	165	215	+1
500 – 599	136-190	167	230	-5

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt) *ML*

CROP MARKET

Adapted from Market Trends Commentary for Dec-January 2020 by Phillip Shaw GFO www.gfo.ca

Corn It's easy to ignore the corn left in US fields and how that might affect prices as we move forward when March corn futures are \$3.81. As of Dec 14th, there is about 1 billion bushels in the field, which is nothing to sneeze at. However, it seems the market is unconcerned.

South American corn remains a big competitor to US corn globally. This South American corn from Brazil will get planted in January and February. Keep in mind that approximately 70% of the Brazil total corn, comes from this Safrinha winter corn crop.

Seasonally, corn futures tend to trade higher from here into June.

Soybeans There can be an argument made that soybeans have the most upside vs. corn and wheat simply looking at where we've come in one year.

A year ago, the soybean ending stocks

figure had ballooned over 1 billion but now has been cut by more than half to 475 million. It all happened because of big crops and China pulling back. However, there are signs of life. African Swine Fever in China is showing signs of mitigating as the latest numbers show hog numbers bottoming out and even increasing. Of course much of the decrease in ending stocks had to do with less production. Higher prices now will depend largely on the record crop apparently been grown in Brazil.

Wheat Chicago wheat has seen some improvement based on a variety of

factors.

There has been weather related issues in wheat in far off places like Europe, Australia and Argentina. US acreage of course is way down historically, as wheat falls out of favour. However, the rest of the world has picked up that slack, moving the production goalposts.

In Ontario, a solid 1 million acres looked to be planted, with contract prices currently near the \$6.88 mark for July 2020 SRW harvest. These are good prices based on our seasonal Ontario wheat price history.

Coming Events

- Jan 3-9** **Grey Bruce Farmers Week** - Elmwood
www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca
- Jan 7&8** **Southwest Agriculture Conference** - Ridgeway
www.southwestagricultureconference.ca
- Jan 17** **First Nations Maple Syrup Meeting** - Whitefish River First Nation Community Centre - see back page for details
- Jan 25&26** **Guelph Organic Conference** - University of Guelph
www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Livestock Information

BODY CONDITION SCORING

Body condition scoring is a useful tool for all livestock. Hands-on is most effective. However in some cases it means handling the herd or flock by running them through a chute. Quiet animals can be assessed by moving among the group. In this article there is reference to beef cattle in particular however the application is good for other livestock. Ewes with long wool are quite difficult to assess by eye. A hands-on body condition assessment can result in some surprises.

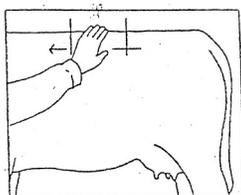
One of the best times to body condition score is during fall processing or pregnancy checking. This will give you time to add condition on thinner cows before winter sets in. Reproductive performance in the spring depends on nutritional planning in the fall.

The more often you body condition score throughout the year the better you'll be able to manage their nutrition to keep them at a score of 2.5 to 3 year-round.

Body condition scoring is a low cost, hands-on method to determine the body condition (amount of fat cover) of animals. Where it is practical and safe hands-on is more accurate than just looking at the animals. Animals in later stages of pregnancy may appear to have more fat cover. A hands-on evaluation of the body condition score will give you a much better sense of fat cover.

In Canada, body condition is scored from 1-5, with 1 being extremely thin and 5 being obese. A score of 3.0 is ideal. Feel for fat cover with your hands at the short ribs, the spine, the hooks and pins and either side of the tail head.

Checking the short rib area.



An animal in ideal condition will have a thin layer of fat in these areas, so it will take some pressure to feel the bones. A very thin animal's bones will be quite prominent and sharp. Thin cows may experience calving difficulty, lost calves, be late rebreeding and have



photo source: www.beefresearch.ca/research/body-condition-

lighter weight calves. More open heifers and cows often result.

Beef cows with an ideal body condition score (2.5 to 3.0) rebreed up to 30 days sooner than thin cows, which allows more cows to calve in the first 21 day cycle. This can mean extra lbs in calf weaning weight since the calves born earlier in the calving season will be heavier at weaning time. Cows in ideal body condition also have pregnancy rates double those of cows in poor condition, have improved milk production, fewer cases of abortion and stillbirth, healthier calves, and have fewer instances of calving problems.

The salvage value of cull cows in good condition is also higher.



In an overweight animal, you won't be able to feel any of the individual bones through the thick layer of fat. Very fat cows often experience calving difficulty, weak calves, are slow to rebreed, have low weight calves and higher feed costs.



Cattle that are thinner or fatter than the rest of the group could be sorted and managed separately. Your winter feeding groups might look something like this:

Mature Cows in Good Condition - These cows will do well on average quality hay

Replacement Heifers/2nd Calvers - These animals are still growing and need better quality feed to meet their requirements. They also don't compete well with older cows for feed. They need good quality forage, and may require supplementation.

Thin and Old Cows- These cows need good quality forage and will need some supplementation to get through the winter in good condition.

Contact IAPO for hay analysis to assist in determining your animals' needs.

MLC

Crop Information

TALES ABOUT TILLAGE

After harvesting your crops every producer ponders the thought of what to do next? Till the field in the fall, leave it until spring, how deep do it go. All of these questions have a variety of answers and they are unique to each operation. With a relatively wet spring, and harvesters in a rush to get the crop off for fear of losing it, compaction should be a top concern for most farmers this fall. With larger equipment and a moist fall, ruts aren't hard to find in local fields. When considering your options there are a few questions that you should have including soil erosion, cost per acre for tillage, and time of tillage.

Conventional Tillage

source: www.sciencemag.org/news/2007/08/dirty-truth-about-plowing



The art of ploughing has pretty well been left in the past, however ploughing is still very efficient at aerating soil and burying residue.

Conventional tillage uses heavy discs, plows, disc rippers, and other deep tillage equipment. Conventional tillage leaves

less than 30% residue on the field, and often completely flips over the entire seed bed leaving no residue on top. This leaves finer soil particles vulnerable to both wind and water erosion, which can be even more prevalent if done in the fall. The benefits of turning the soil over however include reduced the potential for disease and pest pressure on the top layer of the soil. That being said, custom plow rates are in the 25-35\$/ac, so this comes at a significant cost. On average, 6 gallons of fuel/acre are used in conventional tillage systems. In addition, plowing vs no-till shows a soil loss that is 20 times higher. With all of the nutrients and organic matter in the soil, losing 1.5mm of topsoil per year from ploughing can prove to be costly. Building up soil health over years is a difficult task to achieve, and losing it down the ditch would be an unfortunate loss, so be sure to manage you timing and choices of heavy working.

Conservation Tillage

source: www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/conservation-tillage

Conservation tillage is the practice of tillage leaving at least 30% of the crop residue on the top of the field. Vertical tillage is one of the implements used that greatly reduces the amount of erosion in the field as it does not penetrate the soil deeply, nor does it turn the soil directly over. This reduces disease and pest pressure, while reducing the amount of erosion that occurs. High speed discs are very economical and usually only require one pass of the field, allowing for preparation of the seed bed in one pass. Custom rates vary based on the size and type of implement chosen, however the rates average between



Salford RTS in action



source: fieldcropnews 70% crop residue RTS

12-25\$ and also require minimal passes to be prepared for planting. 30% residue cover is difficult to achieve in cereals if the crop residue is removed for straw, however with use of a Salford RTS, or similar minimum tillage implement, the crop residue can come in the germination and growth of volunteer cereals. In general, fuel costs are significantly reduced with conservation tillage as only once pass is required to achieve optimum results, with fuel costs per acre under 4 gallons. Conservation tillage allows for an economical blend between no till, and conventional tillage, and can also help control late season weeds reducing herbicide usage.

No Till

No till farming is the practice of farming with no tillage. Coulters added to the front of planters and seeders chew through residue, allowing for the seed trench to be opened up with minimal disruption to the rest of the soil. No till has average soil erosion almost identical to that of non-agricultural land. While no till does reduce the amount of passes over your field, it does make you more susceptible for pests that can reside within the crop residue as it deteriorates. With the reduced tillage, more herbicides are required to control weed escapes, and classes of herbicides are recommended to reduce the chances of resistance. No till ground can take longer to warm up in the spring resulting in later planting dates, however the symbiotic relationship found in unworked ground should help offset the cooler conditions. No-till planting rates can be a bit more expensive than planting on worked ground, with a premium of 1-2\$/ac. After all is said and done, the estimated fuel cost for no till farming is pegged at less than 2 gallons per acre. This results in a 4 gal/ac savings over conventional tillage, not counting the benefits of soil preservation, cost of ownership of equipment, man hours, and soil health. Although at times a no till field can look unsightly vs. a perfectly plowed and prepped seed bed, the economic and ecological benefits are definitely worth exploring.

In the end, there are pros and cons with each tillage method. It is important for farmers themselves to analyze their farms and make decisions with a goal in mind. Don't work the ground just to work it, have a plan in place, and make sure you execute it to the best of your abilities with the environment, economics, and yield in mind.

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Other News

MAPLE SYRUP

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 17 to get the latest information on maple syrup. The First Nations Maple Syrup Seminar has become a favourite annual event offering a wide range of information on maple syrup production and marketing. Here are the details of this year's session:

First Nations Maple Syrup Seminar
Whitefish River First Nation Community Centre
6 Rainbow Valley Road, Birch Island
Friday, January 17, 2020

10:00 a.m. - Welcome

10:15 a.m. - "Maple Industry Update"

Todd Leuty, Agro-Forestry Specialist, Ontario
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food

11:00 a.m. - "Sugar Bush Maintenance"

Dean Assinewe, Forestry Specialist

12:00 p.m. - Lunch, Visit with Exhibitors

1:00 p.m. - "Funding Opportunities"

Camden Lawrence, IAPO Business Advisor

1:30 p.m. - "Adding Value to Maple Syrup"

Tom Stevens, Nipissing First Nation

2:00 p.m. - "Finishing tips"

Brian Bainborough, Maple Ridge Farm, Lapierre Dealer

2:30 p.m. - "Modern equipment designed for the Small Producer" Josh Holmes, CDL Dealer, Oro Station

3:00 p.m. - Adjourn

Maple syrup equipment will be on display

To register contact:

Sandy Jacko at sandyj@whitefishriver.ca or 705-285-4335 ext: 216

If your community or organization has a project or initiative involving First Nations food and/or farming you'd like to share with others in the newsletter, for details contact IAPO at info@indianag.on.ca for details.

Vegetable Planting Chart source: Vessey Seeds 2020 Seed Guide, pg. 75, www.veseys.com

	Approx. Days to Germination	Approx. Seed Required per 50 ft. of Row	Approx. Yield per 50 ft. Row	Space Between Plants	Space Between Rows	Direct Seed	Transplant Early	Transplant after Frost	Weeks to Start Ahead
Beans - Bush	6-10	125g 500 seeds	50 lbs.	2-4 in.	18-24 in.	✓			
Beans- Pole	6-10	125g 500 seeds	75 lbs.	6-8 in.	18-24 in.	✓			
Beets	7-15	10g	50 lbs.	1-3 in.	12-24 in.	✓			
Broccoli	7-10	pkg(40-50 seeds)	25-35 heads	14-20 in.	24-36 in.	✓	✓		
Cabbage	7-10	pkg(40-50 seeds)	25-35 heads	12-24 in.	24-36 in.	✓	✓		4-6
Carrots	14-21	5-10g	45 lbs.	1-3 in.	18-36 in.	✓			
Cauliflower	7-10	pkg(40-50 seeds)	25-35 heads	18-24 in.	24-36 in.	✓	✓		4-6
Celery	20-30	package	50 heads	6-9 in.	18-24 in.			✓	8-10
Corn	7-10	50g 200 seeds	3-4 dozen	8-10 in.	24-36 in.	✓			
Cucumber	7-10	10g 350 seeds	60 lbs.	6-12 in.	36-60 in.	✓		✓	3-4
Eggplant	7-12	2 pkgs(30-40 seeds)	50 lbs.	18-24 in.	24-36 in.			✓	8-10
Lettuce - Leaf	7-10	10g	25 lbs.	1-5 in.	18-36 in.	✓	✓		4-6
Lettuce - Head	7-10	pkg (60-70 seeds)	50 heads	12-18 in.	18-36 in.	✓	✓		4-6
Melon	5-10	2 pkgs(40-50 seeds)	50 fruit	24-36 in.	36-72 in.			✓	3-4
Onion - Seed	10-20	10g	30-40 lbs.	5-6 in.	18-30 in.	✓	✓		6-8
Onion- Sets	N.A.	100 sets	30-40 lbs.	5-6 in.	18-30 in.	✓			
Peas	7-10	250-375g	15 lbs. shelled	3-4 in.	24-36 in.	✓			
Peppers	14-20	2 pkgs(30-40 seeds)	25 lbs.	12-24 in.	18-24 in.			✓	8-10
Potatoe	N.A.	5-7 lbs	50-75 lbs	10-12 in.	24-36 in.	✓			
Pumpkin	7-12	10g(30-40 seeds)	100-150 lbs.	24-48 in.	48-72 in.	✓		✓	3-4
Radish	5-7	10-25g	50 bunches	1 in.	12-18 in.	✓			
Rutabaga	5-7	5g	75 lbs.	4-6 in.	24-30 in.		✓		
Spinach	8-10	500-1000 seeds	20 lbs.	3-6 in.	12-18 in.	✓			4-6
Squash - Winter	7-12	10g 30-40 seeds	175 lbs.	48-72 in.	18-36 in.	✓		✓	3-4
Squash- Summer	7-12	10g 40-50 seeds	45 lbs.	36-48 in.	12-18 in.	✓		✓	3-4
Swiss Chard	7-15	25g	40 lbs.	1-2 in.	12-18 in.	✓			
Tomatoe	8-10	pkg(20-25 seeds)	75 lbs.	24-36 in.	36-48 in.			✓	6-8
Turnip	5-7	5g	50 lbs.	4-6 in.	18-24 in.	✓	✓		4-6
Watermelon	10-15	10g	30 fruit	9-12 in.	36-72 in.			✓	3-4

Note: all the above information is approximate and is intended as a guide only. Yields will vary greatly depending on variety, spacing, fertility, moisture, temperature and level of pests.