



Who IS ON THE FARM

Martin Burton is owner and operator of Labrador Farms, based in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. He has been involved in farming for over twenty years, having been a part-time farmer for most of his life, before deciding this year that the time had come to switch to full-time. Martin started off his farming operation with cattle, hogs, and a few vegetables. He decided briefly to stop raising animals, but they have since returned. Now he has cows, goats, pigs, and vegetables on his 82-acre farm, including 4 acres of potatoes.

Martin found that operating the farm on a part-time basis was becoming too much work on top of his full-time job he had last year. One of the jobs would have to go, and in the end farming won out. Now that farming is his full-time day job, a typical day on the farm starts at about 7:30am.



inside Agriview

Who is on the Farm.....1

Presidents Message.....3

Feature:

NLFA annual General meeting and seminar to take place in Gander...4

Agricultural Member Profile:

A variety of vegetables on the West Coast.....5

Events & Happenings:

Agrivantage update.....6

Circumpolar conference hosted in Labrador.....6

Agri-Adapt Inc. Update:

Preparing for the possibility of Arian influenza.....8

Creating a food & beverage processing association for the Atlantic Region.....9

Baccalieu homestead feasibility being examined poultry research 10

Labrador Report12

Announcement:

2007 Projects at Campbellton Berry Farm.....13

Classifieds.....15





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Who IS ON THE FARM

Martin starts by letting the cattle out of the barn, allowing them to roam and graze throughout the day. Next, he feeds the other animals, and cleans the barn and any other parts of the farm in need of a cleaning.

Labrador Farms has evolved over the years, having to adjust to the harsh climate of Labrador. Martin had to give up his farm animals and switch to strictly vegetables a couple of years after he started farming, as he was unable to get to the animals in the winter to feed them and care for them, since the road to the farm was not being plowed during the winter. But this was later rectified with a combination of a truck with a blade, a snow blower attachment for his tractor, and the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, who will now plow the road after heavy snow-falls.

The great distance of the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area from major centres is also a concern for farmers in the area. It is very expensive to have items shipped from Lewisporte, but that is where most items originate. Having hay sent from Lewisporte nearly doubles the cost, from \$240/ton to \$460/ton. Occasionally hay can be sent from Quebec at a significant savings when hay is available and transportation can be found. Sometimes hay can be shipped from Quebec for as little as \$100/ton, but it is rarely available when transportation is obtainable.

To make the farm more consis-



tently cost effective, Martin has plans to get into hay production himself. He has the necessary equipment ordered and is in the process of clearing land to use for the hay production as a cost saving measure.

There are plans for expansion in the future at Labrador Farms, specifically to introduce more cattle next spring. Additional farm acreage has been added as well, as Labrador Farms recently acquired 50 acres on top of the original 32 acres. The farm also has a great opportunity to expand even more in the future. If Martin decides to expand in the next five years, he has 75 acres available in a surrounding lot which he has a hold on for that period.

Having faced challenges related to transportation, climate, and snow removal, and still managing to expand over the years, Labrador Farms has proven that farming in northern regions of the province is in good health and has not yet even begun to reach its potential. The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture is pleased to profile Labrador Farms, and to recognize the hard work and dedication of Martin Burton towards the advancement of agriculture in our province.

By Matthew Carlson

Index of Advertisers

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Agribusiness..... | Back Cover |
| Central Daries..... | 13 |
| Childrens Book..... | 4 |
| For Sale..... | 10 |
| Kubota..... | 7 |
| NL Chicken..... | 9 |
| Stone Valley..... | 11 |
| WHSCC..... | 5 |



Mervin Wiseman
President

It seems we only had but a fleeting moment to reflect on the events affecting agriculture in 2007 when significant new issues appear on the radar for the coming year. Nothing is expected to dominate the agriculture landscape in 2008 more than the review of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Area. The

review, which commenced hearings in late January, was announced by the Minister of Natural Resources in a news release on August 23, 2006. The media release was clear on the objective of the review, which is "to ensure that only lands of agriculture importance are included in the Agriculture Zone". While the release may have outlined government's perspective and the driving forces behind the review, it might have also foreshadowed its outcome.

The background as well as comments from respective ministers in the release (Minister Kathy Dunderdale and Minister Jack Byrne) did indeed set the stage for an exercise that is clearly a reconciliation of issues affecting urban and agriculture interests. The release spoke of population pressures and commercial growth related to industries like oil and gas. Balancing this against the backdrop of a vibrant agriculture industry taking place on the door step of the Northeast Avalon urban areas, are clearly the main operatives involved in the land review.

As the NLFA prepares for its presentation to the review Commissioner, Felix Collins, the outcome is anything but clear. After more than a year since the review was first announced, the Federation has not been able to ascertain a coherent position from individual farmers located in the St. John's Agriculture Development Area (ADA). Judging from some private views that have been expressed by farmers, there is a sense that many farmers would like to avail of the market benefits that could accrue from having their land released from the encumbrance of an ADA. These farmers should not be misunderstood as being greedy. Rather, they have developed a deep rooted feeling of cynicism and skepticism about an ADA that has been, in many ways, very dysfunctional. The inability to recover a lifetime of investment in land development does little to motivate farmers to fight for the protection of their land through the retention of an ADA.

Finding rationale for the protection of agriculture land contained within the ADA is not difficult. An inventory of good agriculture land is a function of producer and industry viability. In addition, it is the cornerstone of food security for all our urban populations. A secure food source that is fresh, healthy and safe represents a

fundamental need that is becoming more and more difficult to entrench in today's global mind set. It is necessary for green cover and mitigation measures for the protection of our water supply. While the production of food has traditionally been the primary function of farmers, we are seeing, in other jurisdictions, more and more farmers engaged in the provision of ecological goods and services to the public.

Understanding what land in the St. John's Urban Region ADA is of 'agriculture importance' against everything at stake is not always clear. Understanding how government and more importantly, how the commission will define 'land of agriculture importance' are even less clear. Predicting how the review will affect the current land base in the ADA is however fairly clear and predictable. Reviews have not been kind to the preservation and protection of agriculture land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area. Previous reviews have seen total acreage reduced more than half from its original allocation in 1976 of over 60,000 acres to approximately 30,000 acres.

Our propensity to subjugate land behind other urban interest is well established. A study released by Statistics Canada in 2001 and updated in 2005 entitled "The Loss of Dependable Agriculture Land in Canada" indicates that by 2001 about one-half of Canada's urbanized land was located on dependable agriculture land." Our ability to address this issue in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador will in large part default to those charged with reviews like the one currently underway. In this respect the current review is a test of a much broader issue.

In presenting to Commissioner Collins the federation will surely take the opportunity to articulate the long standing position of our organization, on behalf of farmers. We will illustrate the need for a more comprehensive approach to agricultural land use across the province. Some of these include the establishment of a Land Use Advisory Council that is inclusive of farmers and other stakeholders; the need to establish better policy that reflects current trends and better defines values associated with land; the need to establish a better process for land allocation; and the need to develop or maintain government programs that facilitate transition of agriculture from one generation to the next.

While the land review has to deal with a special dynamic at play in the St. John's Urban ADA, the commission must be aware of the broader implications of its outcome. Undoubtedly, the review will have significant meaning for agriculture land use and agriculture land value in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Notwithstanding issues that are unique to the area under review, farmers can be assured that the long standing resolve to protect agriculture land as an instrument of industry and the broader public good will be well represented by the Federation of Agriculture.

NLFA Annual General Meeting and Seminar to Take Place in Gander

March 5th and 6th, 2008 - Albatross Motel, Gander, NL

"NL Agriculture: A Brighter, Safer, and Prosperous Future!"

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and seminar will be held on March 5th and 6th, 2008 at the Albatross Motel in Gander. The early bird registration fee is \$90 for producers and \$100 for non-producers (a \$20 discount applies for **AgriVantage Cardholders**) for the two-day event if you register on or before March 2nd, 2008. The cost is \$100 for producers and \$120 for non-producers thereafter, with the same \$20 discount available for **AgriVantage Cardholders**.



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The fee includes your registration for the seminar and AGM, lunch for two days, nutrition breaks, and one ticket for the banquet, held on March 5th. Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$45 for producers and \$55 for non-producers (a \$10 discount applies for **AgriVantage Cardholders**). To pre-register, please fill out the form sent in the AGM information mail-out and send it back to our office with your payment on or before the pre-registration deadline. If you did not receive the mail-out, please call our office at 747-4874.

Hotel reservations can be made directly with the Albatross Hotel by calling toll free, 1-800-563-4900. **AgriVantage** members: don't forget about the reduced rates available for members at the Albatross, as it is a part of the Steele Hotels chain. Please specify the Federation of Agriculture as we have a block of rooms reserved on a first come first served basis.

Resolutions to be considered at the AGM are requested at your earliest convenience so that they may be included in participant's registration packages. These should be sent by Wednesday, February 6th, 2008.

This will be an excellent opportunity to network with other farmers, government personnel, guest presenters, and your federation representatives. We look forward to seeing you in Gander!



A Variety of Vegetables on the West Coast

Elaine and Glenn Wells own and operate a 20-acre vegetable operation in Cartyville on the West Coast of the province. But this is no ordinary vegetable farm, as there is a very diverse selection of vegetables grown on Wells' Farm.

The farm has typical Newfoundland vegetables that are seen growing on many farms in the province like carrots, turnip (and turnip greens), beets, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, celery, certified seed potatoes, and lettuce. On top of that there are seasonal items like pumpkins and different variations of some of the vegetables. For instance, there are four kinds of lettuce grown at Wells' Farm – iceberg, romaine, green leaf, and red leaf.



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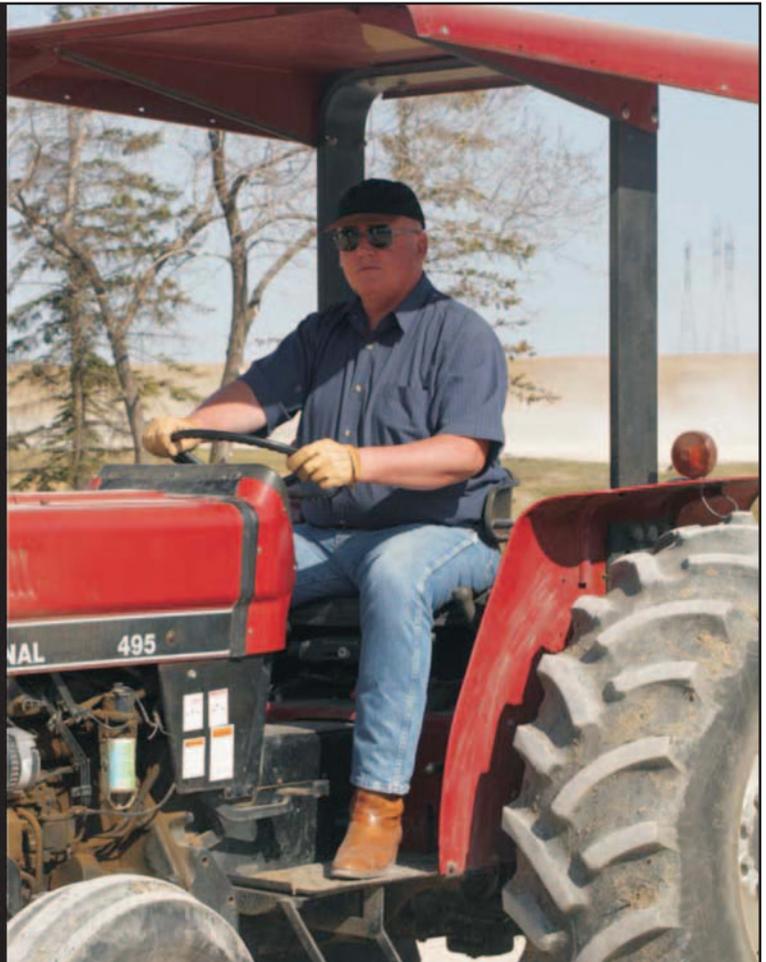
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Perhaps the most interesting thing about Wells' Farm is the non-traditional vegetables grown. These include squash, herbs, and Chinese vegetables, like bok choy. These items are catching on as tastes are changing and people are trying new foods.

The Wells are very fond of the farming lifestyle. Elaine got into farming when she met Glenn, who comes from a family of farmers. Glenn's grandfather was the first in the family to start farming, having begun with vegetables, cattle, sheep, and hay. Glenn's father continued the tradition with an egg operation. Glenn started his and Elaine's vegetable operation about 25 years ago.

Wells' Farm employs two full-time workers and two to four part-timers as they are needed. But finding employees to work on the farm is often difficult. This past year, the Wells had to hire all new employees, having lost many of their previous employees to jobs in Alberta. Part of the solution to this problem is mechanizing the farm operations. The Wells are moving in that direction and have just bought a carrot harvester, and a bigger potato harvester. While the Wells like to give employment opportunities to their community, the market simply isn't there, so alternatives like mechanization must be embraced.

When the vegetables from Wells' Farm are harvested, most are sold to Coleman's supermarket. The remainder is sold on-farm at the farm market held there on Saturdays. Coleman's has a distribution centre in Stephenville, where the vegetables are sent to be distributed to individual stores. Recently, interest has been high for local produce, with the combination of the effective 'buy local' advertising campaign and concerns about the safety of food imported from overseas.

The wide selection of vegetables which sets Wells' Farm apart from other operations, combined with the innovations used to counteract the shortage of labour, and the healthy market for local vegetables has undoubtedly lead to the success of the farm. This success is sure to continue well into the future.

AgriVantage Update

Launched in September, the AgriVantage program has offered agriculture producers tremendous savings through membership. AgriVantage members will receive discounts at AGM events in March in addition to the discounts available on travel, pest control, farm equipment, fuel, and now farm management software. Farm Credit Canada's Ag Expert software now qualifies for a 10% discount for AgriVantage members! The membership program has been a success so far, with a steady stream of new members. It's not too late to get in on the action! Sign up today by visiting our website [www.nlfa.ca], and following the 'Member Benefits' link.

Circumpolar Conference Hosted in Labrador

By Matthew Carlson

Canada hosted the 6th tri-annual Circumpolar Agricultural Conference from September 30 – October 3, 2007 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. Delegates from the United States, Russia, Norway, Sweden, and across Canada attended the conference. This year's theme was "Northern Agriculture - Evolving with a Changing World".

The conference opened with professional horticultural consultant and author Ross Traverse giving his keynote *The Past Present, and Future of Agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador*. There were presentations throughout the conference on various topics including cloudberry production, reindeer breeding, and insect expansion resulting from climate change.

At the closing dinner, Gwynne Dyer, syndicated columnist and native Newfoundlander, delivered his keynote *Northern Agriculture and the Climate Wars*. Dyer believes it is likely that when climate change has taken its course, a lot



of the current agriculturally rich nations will be in a desert-like state. This could in turn create wars over the remaining food supplies, which would be concentrated closer to the polar regions of the planet. Dyer's overall message was one of warning: reduce energy consumption before it is too late.

Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) provided \$106,000 for the conference from Collective Outcomes. The conference was organized by the Circumpolar Agricultural Association (CAA), a non-governmental organization which aims to be a forum for people involved in Northern Agriculture. Partnered with the CAA for the organization of this conference is



the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce.

The conference was a great success and also served as a means of promoting agriculture awareness in the province, particularly in Labrador.



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In Newfoundland and Labrador
the ACAA program
is delivered by the
Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI)

Preparing for the Possibility of Avian Influenza

By Matthew Carlson

The Newfoundland and Labrador poultry industry has been working toward organizing an emergency preparedness plan to deal with the possibility of an avian influenza, or "bird flu", outbreak in the province. The Egg Producers and Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador have hired an employee to work with the Department of Natural Resources to compile the necessary geographical information required in case of such an outbreak.

As part of this project, specialized computer hardware and software has been purchased to collect the data and ensure its compatibility with various computer systems. A database consisting of farm location, water courses, field size and condition, drainage, location of neighbours, and prevailing winds will be compiled.

Having this data compiled and available to authorities in the event of an avian influenza outbreak is essential to allowing them to make well informed decisions in a timely manner. Being able to respond quickly is vital to

stopping the outbreak from spreading, protecting public health, and the industry.

The initiative encompasses not only commercial operations, but also backyard sites, as an outbreak can occur anywhere, and the response plans and data collection must take that into account.

After the data is compiled, information on how to deal with an outbreak will be sent to producers. This will include a specific individualized plan for each producer.

The project is being funded through Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) as a Pillar I initiative, providing an industry-led solution to the emerging issue of avian influenza. ACAA is providing funding of \$44,541.62 for the project.

ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.



Creating a Food & Beverage Processing Association for the Atlantic Region

The New Brunswick Food and Beverage Processors Association is a trade association representing food, fish, seafood, and beverage processors. The association started off by representing organizations within its home province. But over the years since it was incorporated in 1999, there has increasingly been memberships from other Atlantic Provinces. It currently represents 350 organizations in Atlantic Canada, with only about half of those in New Brunswick.

In recognizing that the food processing industry is more of a regional than provincial industry, the name of the association will be changed to the Atlantic Food and Beverage Processors Association. There are also plans to become more of a regional organization in function as well as in name.

A complete rebranding will need to take place in order for the change of name to be effective. This will include a rebuilt website which will reflect the new broader mandate of the association. The board of directors of the association will also seek to have greater representation from the other Atlantic Provinces.

The project was funded through Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) under Collective Outcomes, with the Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island councils contributing, for a total of \$49,000.

ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

Poultry Industry Emergency Preparedness Plan

The Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) has been a collaborative effort among all stakeholders in the poultry industry to develop a preparedness plan to mitigate the catastrophic effects of a disease outbreak and other disasters that may occur in the poultry industry. The document ensures that emergency management procedures are available to deal with the threat of potential disasters and will help limit the effects of any disaster that may occur by having our industry on guard with a plan of action. Biosecurity will also be enhanced through the EPP by preventing the virus from coming into contact with other poultry flocks and individuals. This will help minimize the risk to the general public and help alleviate concerns the public may have regarding disease transmission.

The EPP aims to provide technical, logistical and managerial resources required by the poultry industry to prepare for, and manage poultry emergencies in Newfoundland and Labrador. Emergencies such as; Acts of God, excessive heat or cold, tornados, earthquakes, flooding, extended power outages, food safety episodes, contamination, transportation shut-downs, animal rights activism and so on.

The Emergency Preparedness Plan will provide direction in the event of an emergency and will be a vital element in mitigating any disaster that may occur. This EPP will complement the Canadian Food Inspection Agency efforts if they are required to be involved or the plan will act as a stand alone approach if the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is not required to take action. It will provide the poultry industry with an effective strategy for dealing with emergency situations. Public good, industry sustainability and due diligence has been achieved through the development of the EPP.

The Poultry Industry would like to thank the Agricultural Policy Framework and the Department of Natural Resources for having the wisdom to fund this proactive approach to disaster mitigation; we realize that without its support the industry would struggle to develop these types of resource tools.

Baccalieu Homestead Feasibility Being Examined

By Matthew Carlson

Mariner Resource Opportunities Network (MIRON) Inc., in partnership with Sunburst Farms and the Baccalieu Trail Producers' Cooperative, is seeking to develop an agritourism based farm operation that would recreate a traditional Newfoundland outpost homestead as it would have existed in the early 1900s.

This project is focused on the viability of the development. A Project Manager has been hired for 26 weeks to complete a feasibility study which will result in a final report with a series of recommendations for future direction. A business plan will later be developed and submitted for funding consideration. The Project Manager will travel to an established and successful farmstead in Hillsborough, New Hampshire as a means to become further educated on these types of enterprises by seeing one during day-to-day operations.

If the homestead project proceeds as it is planned, there will be tremendous employment opportunities created. This is particularly true

for individuals with barriers to employment as a farm environment provides a setting for such persons to relieve frustration, acquire new skills, and achieve personal fulfillment.

The planned property would feature a traditional farmhouse as it would have existed a century ago, barns to house heritage farm animals, root cellars, garden plots to cultivate heritage crops, and other structures such as outhouses, sawmills, and stores. The main farmhouse would serve as a bed and breakfast. The operation would feature all manual labour, with only the help of a Newfoundland pony, to maintain authenticity.

Funding for the project was provided through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program as a pillar II initiative, with ACAAF providing 60% of the costs of the study. Service Canada is providing the remaining funding. ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

To submit applications to the ACAAF council, please contact the NLFA office at 747-4874 or info@nlfa.ca.

Poultry Research

The Atlantic Poultry Research Institute (APRI) currently is conducting two studies which will be of benefit to the poultry industry. One deals with increasing useable egg production and the other with increasing chicken and turkey breast meat suitable for processing.

The APRI was established to further regional interests relating to poultry production through scientific research.

The egg production project is related to egg shell durability. Older hens generally produce softer shelled eggs, which are more likely to break. Reducing the frequency of thin, soft shells and cracked or broken eggs will benefit the bot-

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tom lines of producers and processors.

The goal of the study is to establish the relationship between the presence and quantity of specific proteins in uterine fluid of chickens and the strength and quality of egg shells produced. Equipment will be used to assess the microstructure of the shells, looking for differences from hens of varying ages, genetic backgrounds, and different diets.

The poultry meat study is attempting to address the issue of a significant amount of chicken and turkey breast meat being unsuitable for manufacture in high quality processed products. This is due to accelerated postmortem metabolism that results in a loss in protein functionality. The study will look at the causes and possible solutions to the issue. Increasing the amount of useable breast meat, by understanding the causes of unsuitable meat, will allow for

greater success in value-added processed products.

The projects are being funded through Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) as Collective Outcomes initiatives, with all Atlantic Councils contributing to the projects. ACAAF is providing \$31,160.00 for the poultry meat study with \$5,297.20 coming from the Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) in Newfoundland and Labrador. ACAAF is providing \$30,000.00 for the egg shell study with \$6,300.00 coming from AACI in Newfoundland and Labrador.

ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

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In the Spring 2007 issue of the *AgriView*, the Labrador Report attempted to provide the background of the situation at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, in which a number of farms have had to shut down their food production activities because of their proximity to the Airbase.

Optimistically, it was reported that the Federal Government was in a process which would see initial offers of compensation made to the affected farmers by January 2008. However, this is not likely to happen according to that schedule.

It appears that a number of the affected leaseholders in the area have engaged a lawyer, and have filed a class action lawsuit against the Department of National Defense. While the action appears to represent all the leaseholders in the area, neither the representative plaintiff nor the lawyer is willing, after receiving a written request, to advise other leaseholders of the plan for the class action, including the venue and timing of the certification hearing. Meanwhile, the Department of National Defense's legal representative is advising that the January 2008 schedule must be postponed until after the class action has been certified, heard, and resolved.

Meanwhile, this issue has spilled over to affect the ongoing development of a recently assigned Agricultural Development Area which is some 15 kilometers distant from the affected area, on the eastern side of the town. The Mud Lake Road Agriculture Development Area (ADA) was initiated by a request from the Lake Melville Agricultural Association in 2001, investigated and mapped by the Agrifoods Division, and opened with a potential of 16 fifty acre lots by a Call for Proposals in the early spring of 2004. Three lots were approved in 2004 and these farmers have carried out a continual process of clearing and

developing their lots since then. In the Fall of 2005, the Agrifoods Division constructed a 4,000 foot agricultural road as part of the Area's design. A second call for Proposals had been issued with a deadline of June 30, 2005. Unfortunately, at that time an allegation that contamination exists within the new ADA was made to Provincial officials by the lawyer representing the class action. For this reason, the applications for additional leases in the area have been placed on a hold awaiting the results of environmental studies, which apparently were not carried out prior to the initial designation of the Area for agricultural development. The Phase I report appears to have identified no serious problem and the Phase II report is expected to be delivered by March 2008.

To further complicate the matter and place an additional constraint on the development of the new ADA, provincial officials have adopted the position that the entire remaining 13 lots of the Mud Lake Road Area should be reserved as a relocation site for the farmers who may be expected to relocate from the stigmatized Zone adjacent to the Airbase. This position was taken when the Department of National Defense advised the Province, as well as the leaseholders and/or their lawyers, of its willingness to acknowledge the stigmatization of the Churchill River Agricultural Zone and to provide compensation to leaseholders for the relocation of their food production activities from the stigmatized Zone. However, the Provincial officials have made no effort to ascertain who would wish to relocate to the Mud Lake ADA, or what their requirement for land may be. Furthermore, this relocation process must now await the outcome of the class action's certification hearing, and if certified, the court's ruling on the matter.

All in all, it does seem that the Goose Bay contamination issue is going to have a negative influence on the development of agriculture in the Central Labrador Region for some time into the future. On the other hand, on a more optimistic note, future Labrador Reports shall review the Dairy Feasibility Study for Central Labrador and the outcome of mapping for other land development, as well as more positive individual farm developments such as this issue's 'Who Is On The Farm'.

Frank Pye is an ordained United Church Minister who was engaged as an Adult Education Administrator with the Labrador College for ten years prior to his "retirement into farming" in 1996. He and his wife Carole Joyce operate Grand River Farm at Happy Valley-Goose Bay. He represents the Lake Melville Agricultural Association on the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture.

2007 Projects at Campbellton Berry Farm

By Philip Thonley

A complete systems approach to providing Strawberry plant requirements is being tried at Campbellton Berry Farm. In order to accomplish this we have, with the help of APF, AACI and Provincial and Federal Departments, put almost all of the most important factors in place. The next few years will tell how well the components can be made to work together to give a high-quality, consistent product.





These factors are:

1) Reliable, controllable, good-quality water sources which also control field water-table levels and can store excess rainfall for our dry periods. The funded forebay, which is our own design based on one by Ducks Unlimited, is key to this end.

2) High-capacity, reliable, light-weight, irrigation distribution system which we have in place through years of investing. Traditionally this has been an overhead design for both frost control and irrigation requirements. This overhead design is ideal for frost control and so must be retained, but is not the best way of meeting other plant requirements.

3) The whole point of irrigation is to meet plant moisture requirements when natural soil mois-

ture is not enough. The best way to do this is to provide water directly to the plant roots in a timely and controllable fashion. The funded equipment for drip irrigation enables this to be achieved.

4) Reduction in competition for water and nutrients from evaporation, weeds, and other plants! This is what the funded embossed mulch will achieve, enabling crop row-spacing to be maintained.

5) Reduction in severity of winter injury and enhancement of plant temperature. The funded row covers are a good step in this direction.

6) Meeting, but not exceeding, the nutrient requirements of the crop delivered to the root-zone as needed including all major and minor and trace elements to support photosynthesis. The funded fertilizer injectors are crucial to man-





agement of these.

7) Once the strawberries have fruited, there has to be a good, efficient way to pick them, even in poor weather. The Harvest Aid, made possible by AACI, is showing promise here.

Without a systems approach to this, it is only too easy to find that the level of benefit is that of the lowest factor. This has been likened to trying to fill a wooden barrel with one broken stave - you will never achieve what the system is capable of without *EVERY FACTOR AT 100%*! This is an attempt to do just that. We know that we have been operating our barrel with broken staves which this level of investment will fix. We expect a 60% increase in

yield for a 37% increase in cost. Reported yields elsewhere are higher.

Observations this fall already show stronger, healthier plants with their promise of higher yields. This has been on the basis of plant size, numbers of crowns and tissue analysis.

Information will be shared with producers, Horticultural Council, Federation of Agriculture, government workers, researchers and regulators. In fact there have been two Demonstration Days in Sept/07. This and other reports are currently being circulated and Web pages under construction will be available at the Farm Website nfupick.com.



BEEF ANIMALS FOR SALE.

Young cows in calf with yearlings at heel. Angus X, beef steers and heifers. Young bulls and older cows. All grass fed. \$1.00 to \$1.25 per lb., live weight.

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To submit articles in the classifieds section please contact John Moores at 747-8311 or by email: jmoores@nlfa.ca



The New **ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM (APP)**

Making Programs Work Better for Farmers: Improvements for 2007 and beyond

- Higher cash advances available
- More money available interest free
- Expanded coverage to include livestock and an additional variety of crops
- More choice and flexibility

www.agr.gc.ca/app

THE NEW ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

The Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP) and the Advance Payments Program (APP) have been merged into a single program, and a number of significant improvements have been made starting this year.

Program improvements

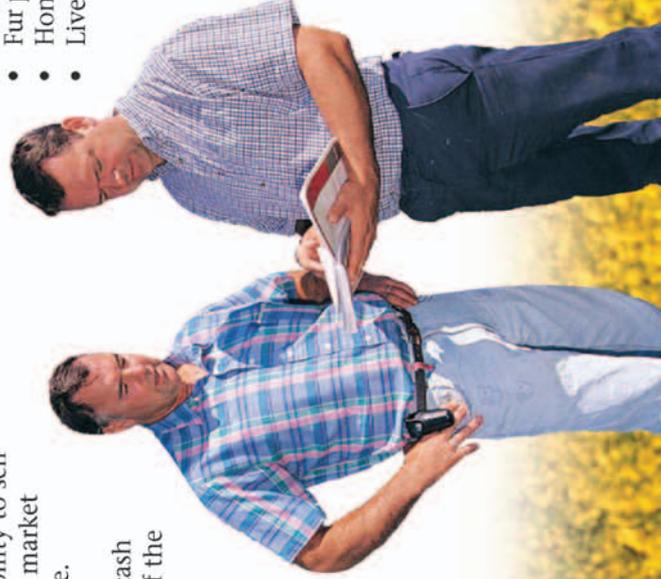
The limit on cash advances has increased to \$400,000.

- The interest-free amount on cash advances has doubled from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Producers now have a longer period of time to get and repay cash advances.

Why participate?

Cash advances help producers access cash flow when they need it most. They also give producers flexibility to sell their products whenever market conditions are favourable.

Producers can receive a cash advance on up to 50% of the expected average market price of the agricultural product or commodity. A portion of cash advances is interest free.



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Important information about repayment

With the new APP, the production period runs up to 18 months from April to September of the following year. A production period refers to the maximum period of time during which a producer can take a cash advance and repay it

Eligible agricultural products

- Crops
- Field crops (including berries)
- Fur pelt
- Honey, maple syrup
- Livestock