

Spring 2012



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The Windssock

President's Report

It was nice to see a great turn out at the CAAA in Montreal. I would like to thank everyone involved in the convention planning as well as all the sponsors and exhibitors. Thank you to Pratt & Whitney Canada for their great hospitality in Montreal and the tour of their facility. It was simply amazing. Not to mention all the other things Montreal had to offer.

Since the AGM we have been busy with a few things here in Alberta. The power companies have been pushing really hard to place a few new large power lines around the province. Some local organizations have won by getting the line to move elsewhere but the challenge is still difficult for us. No matter what, the line is going to be built somewhere.

In areas where aerial application is used they are realizing that maybe they need to look at other ways to work with the local producers. Things that they are looking at are smaller towers so that the applicator can still maneuver over them as well as work a quarter section with a line on the north and west side as an example.

If they are willing to work with us here it will really help on the aerial application end of things. Ideally we would like to see the lines go away but the thing is they need to get the power there one way or another. If we work

with them maybe this will open the possibilities of coming up with even better ideas.

Just recently I was able to attend the first of a few Municipal Council meetings on the development of MET towers. I put together a small presentation with information from the CAAA as well as the NAAA. It seems that showing them the pilot's view, or lack of, really opened their eyes to our problem at hand. I have one council making motion's for the towers to be marked as well as an online database for any aerial applicator in the Municipality. I have a couple more to meet with next month and I really hope we can get the same response.

The 4A's would also like to ask for volunteers for Aggie Days as well as the Calgary Stampede. If you are interested please notify the office and they will give you the times and the dates. If you don't volunteer we will find you!!

Cheers Shaun Kinniburgh

Think Safety First!

Message from the Beekeepers Commission of Alberta

Spring has come early this year, or winter has forgotten us in Alberta. Beekeepers are able to get a good start to the season, and farmers are preparing for seeding and spraying. There are about 700 beekeepers in the province that own over 265,000 hives. Many of us are commercial size and depend on bees for our livelihood and are partners in this business with the many farmers on whose land we keep bees. We understand the need for timely application of pesticides and appreciate the efforts of aerial applicators to work with us as well as the farmers whose crops you spray.

Landowners or renters are able to give you contact information for beekeepers should the need arise to move hives for spraying. We are able to move bees at night, and may require a day's notice. A more simple precaution is to avoid spraying between the hours of 7 am to 7 pm as this is the time bees will forage on blooming crops. Following the label and spraying when drifting is not likely is also a good practice.

We look forward to cooperating with our farmers as well as aerial applicators this farming season. If you have any questions, you may contact me, our provincial agriculturalist Dr. Medhat Nasr or our General Manager Gertie Adair.

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2012 CAAA Calibration Clinics

The CAAA CAP Clinics start on May 15, 2012 in Taber, Alberta. Analyst Dennis Gardisser and Assistant Analyst Clayton Rempel will be criss-crossing the three prairie provinces finishing in Manitoba on May 31, 2012. If your location is on route between clinics, contact the CAAA office at 780-413-0078 to see if an



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Recognition Award 25 Years of Service to the AAAA

The following members have been recognized for over 25 years of service to the AAAA's. If you or someone you know is missing from the list please contact the office.

Scott Kinniburgh	Ken Dechant
Al Halverson	Larry Garber
George Walker	Gordon Murray
Ted Jensen	Barry King
Gerry Murray	Fred Kinniburgh
Jack Kinniburgh	Brian Kinniburgh
Bill Wutzke	Tom Kinniburgh
Don Miskey	Brent Lange
Walter Thompson	Calvin Murray
Ron Klive	Clarke Oberholtzer
Ervie Miller	Terry Spence
Harvey Abbott	Rick Orcutt
Bruce Wutzke	Dave Shearer
John Wittwer	Wayne Stier
Neil Mclean	Ralph Tiede
Don Mclean	Gary Moffat
Ted Nelson	Peter Hansen
W.F. "Doc" Keith	Greg Scott
John Skodopole	Kelly Dube
Larry Garber	Bruce Gair
Bob Balisky	Bob Matthiessen
Harvey Abbott	Darren Tiede
Jack Appleton	

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The Risk is Real - Stay Safe!

Construction of meteorological and other towers in rural areas is a concern to many in the aviation industry.

Often these towers do not have lights or other marking devices, and they are just under 200 feet tall—falling outside regulations governing tall structures. The dull color and small footprint can make these uncharted towers difficult to see.

In addition, they can be erected in hours, making these vertical obstacles a major safety risk to aerial applicators plus other

industries including helicopter emergency medical evacuation services, law enforcement, aerial firefighting, predator control, pipeline patrols, aerial wildlife surveys, and others.

The number of meteorological, cell phone, wind energy, and other towers erected in agricultural regions has increased significantly during the past several years. Due to the expected growth in the wind energy industry and increase in internet and cell phone usage the increase is projected to continue.

To stay safe this season, remember that returning to a field after a few days or even a few hours does not guarantee there are no obstructions as you may find a tower that wasn't there earlier. The small size of the tower may leave little ground disturbance (footprint) to indicate the tower's presence. At times, however, the footprint may be easier to spot than the tower itself!

And most important, remember to always fly above 500 feet except when the operation requires flying at a lower altitude.

Raising a New Crop of Alberta Farmers

Group to Help Lure New Blood

The Alberta government hopes young minds can help it rejuvenate the province's agriculture industry.

Agriculture Minister Evan Berger has named 12 people aged 18 to 39 to sit on a new council to recommend how to attract youths to farming.

Carla Amonson, an Evansburg-area producer and council co-chairwoman, said the minister "has noticed the demographics, that the average age of producers in Alberta is 51 years old and there is going to be a number of them exiting in the next 20 years."

Ensuring that people are "coming into the industry to fill those gaps is very important," said Amonson, manager of the West-Central Forage Association.

Members of the new Next Generation Advisory Council represent industry sectors such as media, technology, education, processing and primary production.

"What these talented individuals share is a commitment to agriculture in our province," Berger said. "They will play an important role in helping to encourage other young people to pursue a career in our agriculture industry."

Amonson said finances are one the biggest hurdles discouraging young people from entering the industry.

"There are definitely high capital costs, especially if you're looking at primary production.

"The cost of land has skyrocketed in the last six or seven years as well as equipment and things like that."

Reprinted from the Edmonton Journal March 22, 2012



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