

October 2008



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The Windssock

Financial "crunch time" looms for farmers

APAS predicts many farmers will see a financial "crunch time" this fall with the amount of cash sunk into this year's crop. While a lot of money was required to get this year's crop into the ground, a representative from Farm Credit Canada said he fears the real effect of higher input costs has yet to be felt.

"To my knowledge there has been an increase but the bigger bang is coming next year," said Roland Kirouac, FCC representative for the Steinbach district in southeastern Manitoba.

The impact of higher crop expenses was softened this spring because many producers had pre-bought or pre-paid for their inputs before prices began climbing so sharply.

"The capital requirements will be even more significant next year. It is hard to say what they will be until we're there but certainly the expectation is that they will be higher than they

were this year," Kirouac continued.

In the high-price environment that the agriculture sector has been for the past year or so, farm lenders, he said, are taking the view that while many producers need to borrow more money, they are likely to be making more money as well. "That is what the lenders would look at. Yes, you require more money this year but we're expecting that your profits will be greater as well," Kirouac said. Glenn Blakley, president of the Agricultural Producers' Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), said the fall months will be "crunch time" for many producers because short-term revolving loans are often due once the crops have come off the fields.

The number and amount of cash advances required this year were higher than ever before and there were plenty of stories around about producers having to move from one lender or supplier to another because their

lending caps had been exceeded, Blakley said.

A lot of industry financing was available to help with operating costs but most of those deferred payments will have to be paid back this fall as well, he said.

"I suspect October is going to be when we see the major price impact, whatever that happens to be. If the prices stay at decent levels I think we will be alright, but with the amount of money that has been injected into this crop, it will still be an issue," Blakley said.

By Alana Vannahme
Country Guide

Did you know...

Alberta is a Canadian crop leader, producing 46% of Canada's barley, 34% of Canada's canola, 30% of the country's wheat, 23% of Canada's honey, and 100% of the nation's sugar beets.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TOM KINNIBURGH

It is mid-October, the season is over, every thing is winterized and stored, and I am gearing up for a busy maintenance, convention, and hockey season. Only sugar beets are left to harvest in the Taber area. The spray season went smoothly in our area with good moisture, lots of work, plus one really big storm. 80 to 100 MPH winds blew down over 150 power lines, and more than 100 irrigation pivot from Taber to Medicine Hat. Large round bales blew up to a mile away, roofs were torn off hog barns and houses and empty bins blew into fields. In Taber one hangar was destroyed and 6 G/A aircraft were damaged. (1 destroyed, 5 damaged). Most of the airplanes were in the hangar that came down. It must have been built like the three pigs straw house, as it collapsed quite quickly. If you are going to build a hangar, fall off of your wallet and build a strong one. It will be worth it in the long term. Remember to get an early start on your annual inspections, have a safe winter, and I will see you at the AAAA, NAAA, and the CAAA conventions.

Aviation Quote ...

"To most people, the sky is the limit. To those who love aviation, the sky is home." *Anonymous*

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**ALBERTA AERIAL APPLICATORS ASSOCIATION
38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 17-18, 2008**

Monday, November 17, 2008

8:30—9:00 a.m.	Registration & Exhibits
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Wild Rose Protective Fund Annual General Meeting MEMBERS ONLY
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break with Exhibitors
11:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Pest Update & Club Root Disease Alberta Agriculture (1 CREDIT) <i>Scott Meers & Murray Hartman</i>
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch with Exhibitors
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	AAAA Annual General Meeting
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee Break with Exhibitors
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Regulation Update & TILMA Alberta Environment (1 CREDIT) <i>Jock McIntosh</i>
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Reception with Exhibitors
6:00 p.m.	Dinner Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Accident & Aviation Safety Transportation Safety Board (1 CREDIT) <i>Wray Tsuji, Senior Investigator</i>
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	<i>Educational Session TBA</i> (1 CREDIT)
11:15 a.m.	Closing

A special room rate of \$105.00 per night has been negotiated with the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer, Alberta. Call 1-800-661-1657 or 1-403-346-8841 by **October 30, 2008** in order to receive the guaranteed room rate. Be sure to indicate that you are an Alberta Aerial Applicators Association delegate.

Complete the attached AGM registration form and return to the AAAA office by **November 10, 2008** to receive the Early Bird Registration Rate.



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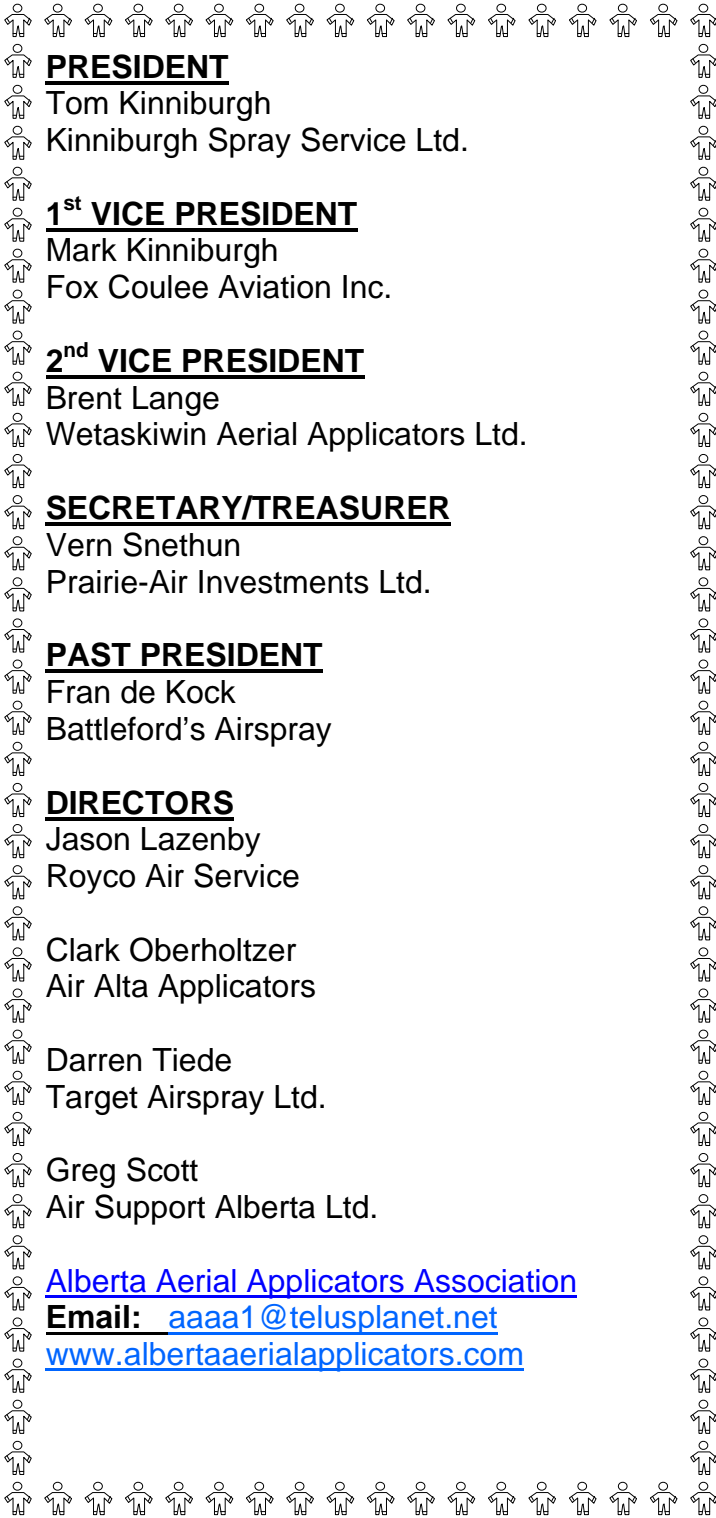
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[Alberta Aerial Applicators Association](http://www.albertaaerialapplicators.com)

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Board Nominations

The Alberta Aerial Applicators Association, (AAAA), is accepting nominations for the 2008/2009 term of the Board of Directors. There are four Board positions open for nomination.

Please complete the enclosed Nomination Form and return to the AAAA at your earliest convenience.

If you plan to nominate more than one individual, a separate form for each nominee must be submitted.

Please note the nominations deadline is
Thursday, November 13, 2008.

Sponsorship Opportunities

If you are interested in sponsoring an event at the Annual General Meeting, donating an auction item, or exhibiting at the AGM, please contact the AAAA office, (Jill Lane - 780-413-0079), for further information.

Register Now for the AAAA Annual General Meeting & Convention and earn 4 License Re-certification credits. See Page 3 for further details.