

A PEAVEY INDUSTRIES PUBLICATION | SPRING 2020

# CONNECTED

*To the Land*

**DRONE  
FARMING**

GRANDMOTHER'S  
**VOICE**

**HORSES:  
READYING  
FOR THE  
SHOW**





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# GREETINGS

## A MESSAGE FROM PEAVEY INDUSTRIES LP PRESIDENT AND CEO, DOUG ANDERSON

UP  
FRONT

**W**elcome to the Spring 2020 issue of Connected to the Land. We have truly enjoyed the process of providing this semi-annual magazine to you, our customers, since our inaugural issue in the Spring of 2017 – and fully appreciate the helpful and positive feedback we have received from readers to-date. Please continue to share your 'Connected to the Land' comments and suggestions so we can continue to effectively 'connect' with your interests and lifestyle.

In this issue we bring you a variety of articles covering industry topics as well as rural home and lifestyle interests or hobbies – including an article on Drones with a focus on their use in the industry.

As always, the range of topics is diverse, with this issue also including articles on maple syrup, showing horses and cattle allergies, to name just a few. Also, don't miss the article introducing our annual Community Agricultural Grant recipients from 2019. We are proud to be able to give back to the communities we serve and the Ag Grant is just one of those ways.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as the last, and if this is your first, welcome to Connected to the Land! Please share any comments or suggestions by email to [feedback@peaveyindustries.com](mailto:feedback@peaveyindustries.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

*Doug Anderson*

Photo by Drew Kenworthy.

# DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

Our most recent magazines are online at  
[connectedtotheland.com](http://connectedtotheland.com)



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### Peavey Industries LP

7740 - 40 Avenue  
Red Deer, AB T4P 2H9  
P: 403-346-8991  
F: 403-346-3432

E: [feedback@peaveyindustries.com](mailto:feedback@peaveyindustries.com)



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**President & CEO**  
Doug Anderson

**Director, Marketing & Customer Experience**  
Jest Sidloski

**Marketing Manager / Magazine Project Lead**  
Alanna Wilson

**Cover / Brand Design / House Ads**  
Stephen Kowalczyk



**Publisher**  
TNC Publishing Group

**Editor**  
Eva Stefansson

**Marketing Director**  
Nancy Salatino

**Art Director**  
Anne Allen

**Marketing**  
Eva Stefansson

**Accounting & Administration**  
Nancy Salatino

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# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT



Check out Peavey Mart or TSC for more on these & other events!

## AUGUST



### Bark in the Park - August 17, 2019

We were happy to support this Winnipeg Goldeyes annual event and promote our pet food and rewards program with the help of two local Peavey Mart staff members (and their dogs). So much fun – we'll be back again this August!

## SEPTEMBER

### Appreciative Inquiry Workshop - September 9 & 10, 2019 Peavey Industries Vendor Trade Show - September 11 & 12, 2019

These events were not open to the public, but we don't mind sharing what we are doing to improve how we interact with each other as well as our customers. The Vendor Trade Show is an annual event; Managers from all Peavey Mart and TSC stores attend and have the chance to meet with vendors and suppliers – to provide and receive feedback on in-stock products and to see what is new or coming to stores in the future. We are always about serving our customers better.

## OCTOBER

**Peavey Industries Community Agricultural Grant**  
2019 grant recipients were announced in October. An article with more information on the initiatives receiving funding in 2019 begins on page 16.



### Community Agricultural Grant

## NOVEMBER



### Gord Bamford Announcement

In the works since September, Peavey Industries LP officially announced a 5-year agreement with Canadian country music star Gord Bamford in November. For more information on this exciting partnership, please flip to page 9.

## DECEMBER



### Heat the Feet (Nov/Dec)

For this past year's seasonal giving campaign, we ran "Heat the Feet" across the country in all stores. Customers were given the opportunity to purchase a pair of socks for just \$1 and then either leave the socks at the store for donation or take them home for themselves. Thanks to everyone's generosity, over 200,000 pairs of socks were donated to shelters and community groups across the country.

## JANUARY

A sleepy month for everyone, we still managed to attend the Edmonton Pet Expo January 24-26, 2020 with a Peavey Mart booth!

## FEBRUARY

### Family Day Giveaway

TSC Stores held an in-store draw in the days leading up to Family Day. Each store gave away a child's fishing rod, in conjunction with the Family Day licence-free fishing weekend in Ontario.



### Canada's Agriculture Day - Tuesday, February 11, 2020

In celebration of 'Canada's Agriculture Day', all Peavey Mart and TSC Stores offered coffee and donuts – as well as an in-store draw for one \$500 Gift Card from all Peavey Mart entries and one \$500 Gift Card from all TSC Store entries. There was also a one-day, in-store 12% discount on all agriculture products.





# Canadian Artist Gord Bamford And Peavey Industries LP Announce Endorsement Agreement

## Country Music And Country Lifestyle Icons Join Forces

TORONTO, ON - Decorated Canadian country music artist Gord Bamford has announced he will soon be partnering with Peavey Mart, MainStreet Hardware and TSC Stores parent company, Peavey Industries LP. The 5-year collaboration will begin January 1, 2020 and will provide heightened opportunities to both Bamford and Peavey Industries to connect with their rural fans and customers in communities across the country.

Bamford will begin a grassroots Canadian tour Soon and Peavey Industries and its three brands will have a presence on the tour in addition to providing resources and support to Bamford's goal to offer ticket sales as fundraising opportunities to local youth and community organizations via the Gord Bamford Foundation. Additional collaborative projects or programs will be launched over the next five years; this tour is just the beginning of what promises to be a strong and mutually oriented, long term partnership.

"I'm excited to partner with a grassroots company like Peavey Industries and their affiliated brands - Peavey Mart, MainStreet Hardware and TSC Stores," said Gord Bamford. "Their brand values align perfectly with my way of life, and I look forward to a great partnership. I am very grateful of this opportunity to grow my career, and for their generous support of the Gord Bamford Foundation and all its initiatives."

The Gord Bamford Foundation is a not-for-profit organization raising funds for initiatives that include or involve music, education, health care, sports, and multi-use facilities to benefit youth across Canada. To date, the Foundation has raised in excess of \$4-million! As an ongoing patron of the Foundation, Peavey Industries LP will continue to provide support outside of, and in addition to, this new endorsement agreement.

Peavey Industries LP is proud to have recently become "Canada's Largest Farm and Ranch Retailer" by virtue of their combined three brands. Across the country and on a daily basis, Peavey Mart, MainStreet Hardware and TSC Stores assist their loyal rural customers, most of whom have identified with these brands for years; President and CEO, Doug Anderson is thrilled to have this new partnership in place, allowing Peavey Industries LP's brands to be so closely associated with award-winning Canadian artist Gord Bamford.

"Gord has the same level of appreciation as we do - for small towns, close-knit communities, farming, ranching and the rural lifestyle. This partnership provides an entirely new avenue for Peavey Industries in our constant effort to connect on the deepest level with our rural customers and their communities," said Doug Anderson. "We honestly couldn't be more excited to get started!"

**Peavey**  
INDUSTRIES LP 





# GRANDMOTHER'S VOICE

## DISCOVERING OUR CONNECTIONS TO THE LAND AND TO EACH OTHER

Story and photos by Jodie Harbour.

I picked up my first issue of *Connected to the Land* in September 2019. The title intrigued me. I was immediately inspired by the opening greetings of the publication by the President of Peavey Industries, Doug Anderson: "With our customers fully in mind, it is our goal to offer something for everyone". I continued to read the magazine and was quite impressed with the articles and information published. Throughout the read, there were significant words and phrases like 'proudly Canadian, rooted, community and partnership'. The articles offered direction and education on equipment, supplies and how to care for farmland and more. I enjoyed the production and culture of the magazine and it caused me to propose an article.

As an urban Indigenous woman, I have been on a journey for over 20 years seeking the connection to my culture. I suppose this is the association I had to the magazine title and the offering to write. However, I have learned through teachings from my Elders that there is always more insight to a message when something activates your spirit. Ever since I have developed and nurtured this relationship to my Indigenous roots, it seems I attract opportunities like this to share a story or knowledge that I can narrate to my culture.

As I explored Peavey Industries publication more thoroughly online, I found some words again shared by President Doug Anderson: "We are all connected to the land. We care for the land, we're all farmers at heart. We want the freshest, healthiest food, and a lot of us will grow it ourselves, as natural as possible. We want our children to see where food comes from and appreciate the work that goes into its growth. Being connected to the land means we are down to earth and approachable". As I read his words, simultaneously I could recall Elder David Grey Eagle assert, "We must remind the people that the land is our connection to Mother Earth and each other. It is the connection to our past and our DNA. We truly do not own the land and it is our responsibility to protect her natural resources for our coming faces." I thought, 'I wonder if Doug knows he is speaking Indigenous Indigeneity.

Being 'Connected to the Land' or, as I introduce myself, 'being one with the land', is a credence that has been revealed to me and that I have adopted over the years. Although since earliest time, Original People existed to appreciate their stewardship for Mother Earth, it is important to know that not all Indigenous people view themselves in that way. They may not know their direct lineage as a result of colonization and genocide

and so it is important to understand and develop compassion for our Indigenous brothers and sisters who do not yet identify. It is also the responsibility as Canadians, to understand that when referring to Original People, this could mean Indigenous, First Nations, Métis or Inuit Peoples in Canada. Connection to the land can also be viewed as a spiritual commitment with laws that govern relationships with the natural world so that we can live in harmony with all creation. Each Nation or group has its unique affiliation, their own traditional knowledge and oral traditions that will continue to remind them of how to connect to the land and all existing creation.



Genealogy and research for my family's heritage became very steadfast when I received documents that my Uncle had been exploring himself. The disheartening records revealed intergenerational trauma of suicide that had affected three generations before me. My Great Grandmother at age twenty-nine, my Grandmother at age forty-two and my father at age fifty-two, were all noted as taking their own lives. Although a sad discovery, this information motivated me more than ever, to reclaim the heritage for my family.

Seven years ago, through much perseverance, research and guidance by spirit, I ended up at a genealogy group that gathered monthly on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory Reserve in Ontario. During these potluck events, stories, articles, census forms, pictures, documents, support and direction were shared to help people find their family lineage. Due to the colonization of Turtle Island, (an Indigenous name for Canada and United States), people were traveling from many territories to return to their homelands in hopes to find their birthright. Today this program continues in a larger capacity.

On my fourth visit to the meetings, Grandmother Renee Thomas-Hill, the initiator and facilitator of this program, was asked to look at my family documents. She stood beside me and asked for me to indicate who my family was. As my finger skimmed the page, her hand rested gently on my shoulder. I pointed to the name on the census form and spoke that the name belonged to my Great Grandmother. Before I could breathe, Renee said "I have been waiting for you". As I shed tears of disbelief, she explained that before her mother passed to the spirit world, she invited Renee to continue the journey to locate the women in her family that would complete their matriarchal lineage. I represented one of the women in the ancestral lineage that was missing.

Since then, Grandmother Renee continues to enrich my life with Indigenous values and beliefs that inspire me to share with others. The last several years, I have immersed myself in the Indigenous Issues and mainstream education happening in Canada. I am currently an Indigenous Education Advisor Assistant in the Halton Catholic District School Board in Ontario as well as a Co-Founder of Grandmothers Voice, an Indigenous Directory platform that connects Indigenous people and services. My first thought when I picked up the 2019 Fall issue was 'I would be so impressed if this had Indigenous content'. My second was, 'if not, it will be an opportunity to offer a perspective that could move others to appreciate the essence of Indigenous people'.

Just to be clear, I am not a graduate of an Indigenous University or College program. Before my involvement in the school board 2 years ago, I was a self-employed, entrepreneur and business owner for 30 years on a journey of healing my family's intergenerational trauma. For me, working in a bureaucratic organization was transpired by my passion, curiosity and what the education realm



## THE LANDS WE SHARE

*The website [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca) provides a searchable and explorable map of traditional lands and Indigenous peoples who have called these areas home. While not a perfect or official / legal map per se, it provides a learning tool to discover more about the history of the area and those we share the land with. It is searchable by territories (screenshot shown), languages and treaties (South America and Oceania are also included but not shown here).*

classifies as "personal development"; I refer to it as "spiritual engagement and healing". My spirit has appreciated the involvement thus far.

The information that I share originates directly from experience, knowledge shared by Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge Holders (also known as Knowledge Keepers) and for those of you who welcome; my Ancestors. Within keeping this article as an introduction to Indigenous connection to the land, this would be a suitable time to introduce a subject that has surfaced in many capacities nationally, the Land Acknowledgement. Over the years, there has been much mainstream media regarding Indigenous issues, hence the initiation to write this article and to make space for the responsibility to learn about history. With the intention to clear a vague understanding of the need for the Land Acknowledgement, I will attempt to simplify and signify its necessity.

While I have communicated briefly the importance of land to Indigenous people, the Land Acknowledgement became a national proclamation as an act of conciliation, following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2008-2015. Although I couldn't locate an exact place of commencement of this instruction to our nation, I understand through my Cayuga Nation that the Thanksgiving Address, "Words

before all Else", has the same objective as a Land Acknowledgement by greeting the Natural World before we begin any community gathering. It has been explained by Knowledge Holders to me that, Indigenous People have been introducing themselves through their connection to the land and with each other for centuries. I consider these practices an opportunity to remind people of their responsibilities.

There continues to be conversation and inquiries around "how to facilitate a land acknowledgement". Acknowledging territory shows recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples, their presence both in the past and



*An overview of treaties that have been signed, across Western Canada. Some regions – like most of British Columbia, parts of Quebec and Newfoundland – have never been ceded in a treaty. Screen capture courtesy of [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca).*



An overview of Indigenous languages spoken across Western Canada can be found at [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca) (screen capture).

the present day, while forming healthy mutual relations. When considering all the context above, I can appreciate the intimidation for someone's first time introducing a territory or traditional lands. However, to extend the introduction beyond and make it more meaningful for the source and the audience, my suggestion to the educator, host, keynote speaker, student etc. is, do as our ancestors did. Introduce yourselves through the connection to that treaty territory, traditional land or the observation with the natural world that surrounded you prior to the gathering. A land acknowledgement without action is just a statement.

Connecting to the land is an acknowledgement, recognition, acceptance, appreciation, tribute, greeting and gratitude to the land, energies and resources that continue

to sustain our human life and spirit. No matter where you live in Canada, you live on Indigenous territory. It should be a priority to learn more about the places we call home and the neighbourhoods we live in. This is how we will recognize our own distinct nations within our communities.

The Indigenous People have been doing ceremony and praying over many decades for this era to arrive. The prophecies speak of this time that humans will have the capacity to see with 2020 vision through their hearts and spirits for the need to cherish the sacred waters and protect the resources Mother Earth provides for our sustainability. Getting our nation connected to the land will continue us all on our journey to connect with each other. 🍁

*Jodie Lynne Harbour is a Co-Founder of Grandmothers Voice, a National Indigenous community and website platform that focuses on the Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health of Indigenous Women and Girls. The emphasis encourages wellbeing for its members while providing mentorship programs that provide training and support for employment opportunities. Grandmothers Voice also has the capacity to offer Trauma-Informed and Cultural Safety Protocols and Cultural Training Program Development for Corporations and Organizations wanting to embed an Indigenous framework or content into their processes and environments.*

*As an entrepreneur for over 20 years, Jody has co-managed Paramount Work Gear, a successful North American Sales Agency exclusively representing major workwear and accessory brand manufacturers that cater to major retailers and industrial distributors.*

*Away from the office Jody is an Indigenous Educator and a public speaker of traditional values and honoring Mother Earth. She currently resides in Oakville Ontario is married of 25 years, the proud mom of a 19-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter.*



Special bonus: See page 36 for a traditional recipe for corn soup.



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# HORSES

## READYING FOR THE SHOW

*Story by Helen McMenamin.*

**S**howing off your horse, maybe finding how the two of you compare to others, meeting new horse friends can take you and your family to trail rides, training events or sales but sooner or later it's likely you'll be heading for a horse show. Preparation is the key to making things fun for you and your horse and your best shot at bringing home a ribbon or two.

Practice all the exercises involved in the classes you plan to enter, but don't rush through the simple things. Make sure your horse has a strong foundation and don't go looking for special equipment or fancy techniques.

"The fewer gimmicks you use in training, the easier it is to make the transition to the show ring," says Sandy Rebalkin Hester, an Alberta trainer who's won more than her share of ribbons for herself and clients since she was 15. "The horses that take a lot of time and extra work are those that have been handled without being disciplined – they can learn to have no respect for people."

Don't be shy, work with a trainer to develop sound basics. – That can be hard, especially for young people, but it can mean a safer ride and a better partnership between horse and rider, whenever more advanced skills come later.

Once you've decided to go to a show do as much as possible to be familiar for you and your horse as there are quite enough new things to make both of you nervous on show day. If there are patterns in classes you're interested

in, learn a few patterns or sometimes do just small parts of an exercise. – It's amazing how big a challenge it can be to remember a pattern for the first time at a show or to get your horse to follow a different pattern to the one you've practiced.

Take your horse to either the place where you'll be showing or to an unfamiliar arena. Even top trainers who work towards taking horses to big shows are intimidated riding into big events and horses feel the same. Make it as easy as you can. Be sure there's no issues loading or being around strange horses.

It's tempting to get your horse looking good with new tack, but if you do make sure it fits and your horse is happy working in it. Use it for a few practice sessions.

Clean tack in good order beats flashy and new. Clean and inspect all your tack well before the show. Leave yourself time to replace any screws or other parts or make extra holes so everything fits well, with a little room for adjustment. Then you can give things just a little extra shine before you load the trailer.

Local shows often include fun classes. They can be well worth the entry fee as a chance to relax and let you and your horse enjoy yourselves and get to know some new people.



For young people and a parent, 4H offers opportunities to learn horse skills with a show at the end of the year that likely includes classes open to non-members. 🍁

Helen McMenamin is a freelance writer living in Lethbridge, Alberta.

## SHOW CHECKLIST

Make sure you meet the show rules and call the organizer if you're unsure about anything. You or your horse may be disqualified if you don't comply with all the rules – from unsafe footwear for you or lack of health documents for your horse. If you can, recruit a friend with experience to help you at your first show.

Do as much as possible well before the show. Then all you have to do is breakfast and load up.

- **Papers:** Health verification from your vet etc. as required by show committee.
- **Feet:** Schedule farrier for a week or so before the show.
- **Grooming:** You should do any clipping that needs attention on the fetlocks. Also brush out tail and mane a few days ahead and wash or thoroughly groom the day before. Use sheet to keep horse clean overnight.
- **Clean tack** (approved for horse and class).
- **Tack box:** brushes, hoof pick, grooming aids and cloths, first aid for horse – vet-wrap etc.
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- Cash for lunch or fun classes.
- Phone with vet phone number.
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- **Protects**—goats, sheep, cattle
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### Electric Netting 120' x 20"



- **Protects**—gardens, sweet corn
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# PEAVEY INDUSTRIES COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL GRANT

## KICKSTARTING CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Story by Helen McMenamin and Alanna Wilson.

Every year since 2013, the Peavey Industries Community Agricultural Grant has helped to fund innovative projects, primarily with a focus on agriculture. Organizations with proposed or ongoing projects designed to, in some way, sustain a local rural area, town or city, are encouraged to submit an application for consideration each spring during the grant application period.

In 2019, acquisition of the TSC Stores retail banner in Ontario was finalized and meant Peavey Industries stores, under their now-three different banners, spanned from BC to Ontario. Early on in the acquisition, Peavey Industries had implemented a matching \$50,000 grant fund to be awarded to Ontario applicants through TSC Stores; then, in 2019 the two separate grants were combined into one totaling \$100,000. This is not to say that one grant in the amount of \$100,000 was awarded to one applicant! The tradition of splitting the total grant and awarding lesser amounts to a greater number of projects is a concept that remains top of mind for the selection committee. Combining the Peavey Mart and TSC grants into one has increased the number of eligible applications across a single, larger total area of five provinces; therefore, the competition has changed in this one regard.

The 2019 grant awards saw a split once again, with two organizations being awarded funds

to kickstart their innovative and insightful projects, both of which address widespread health issues that are often stigmatized.

From a record number of applications, Farm Management Canada and Do More Agriculture received funds to develop and deliver day-long workshops on mental health for farmers and their communities. The second recipient, St. Andrew's Centre in Edmonton, were delighted to be awarded with the opportunity to repurpose a sunroom where residents can grow year-round food crops with hydroponic equipment. They hope to convert an existing water feature into a small aquaponic operation at the same time.

### MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN FARM FAMILIES

Farm Management Canada and Do More Agriculture will use their \$52,500 Peavey Industries funding to offer one-day workshops designed by Do More Agriculture to train farm families and members of rural communities to recognize signs of stress and build strategies to support their own mental health and the skills to help others. The workshops will be delivered by FMC staff that has been bringing business management to farmers for many years.

In the past, specialists at FMC found that using sound business management practices

including assessing risk and having a plan to manage and mitigate it was enough to enable farmers to sleep soundly. Now, they see a need to tie mental health awareness to farm business management.

Poor mental health is an all too common problem and it's compounded by social stigma particularly among farmers. It might seem obvious that farmers endure a lot of stress from dizzying costs, and the risks of damaging weather, disease in crops and livestock and sudden market changes. All of these challenges have become more acute in recent years, but there are new threats. In a recent survey, farmers brought up fears of animal rights fans invading their farms and others said they'd been called terrible names and threatened on social media especially after sharing their stories.

Research by Dr Andria Jones-Bitton at the Ontario Veterinary College has shown 45 per cent of farmers across Canada would likely be diagnosed with high stress, 58 per cent with anxiety and 35 per cent for depression, scores as much as 80% higher than those among the general public. Farmers also have high rates of anxiety and depression as well as burn-out and two-thirds of those in her survey showed resilience scores below the general public.

In the short term, stress can move us to action, but if it's prolonged or very high it



can lead to poor decision-making – perhaps compromising safety on the farm. FMC wants to know the effect of mental health on farm business decision-making and vice-versa.

Now FMC is hoping they can use questionnaires before and some months after their workshops to understand the links between business management and mental health. They also hope to see improved resilience among attendees.

Jones-Bitton and her grad student Brianna Hagen have developed a course to promote mental health literacy among Canadian farmers called 'In the Know' that's available in person or online. Originally it was designed for vets, agronomists and other farm professionals. "Farmers like to talk to people who understand farming," she says. "In the Know is now available online – the pilot of the course convinced me that mental health literacy can be taught."

The researchers are also working on other projects to better inform farmers on mental health, how to cope with the stresses of running a farm in a healthy way, and how to start safe mental health conversations.

Two approaches don't mean duplication. There's a real need for all approaches. "Farmers need to maintain mental wellness to maintain productivity and they feed the world," says Hagen. The Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food agreed with her opinion. Last spring it called

for investment in educating stakeholders who work with farmers to detect the signs of distress and building capacity in mental health awareness and prevention of illness among farm families.

## REDUCING FOOD INSECURITY AMONG SENIORS

In Edmonton, where Peavey Mart opened a brand new store in 2019, a Peavey Industries Community Agricultural Grant award of \$50,000 will enable a 303-unit seniors' living complex to renovate their existing sunroom and water feature to accommodate hydroponic/aquaponic gardens for food production.

Many of the over-60 residents living at St. Andrew's Centre can cook in their suites or choose home cooked meals at the on-site restaurant. However, some residents have limited incomes that leave little room for fresh vegetables, which are so good for our health.

In the summer, many residents grow vegetables in their own garden boxes that allow even those with limited mobility to enjoy gardening with help from the Centre's staff or full-time gardener. The restaurant uses produce grown on-site and it is also available at the regular farmers' market held in the Centre's common area.

The facility's gardener and interested residents will be trained to manage the new



equipment as it is installed, giving them the skills and confidence to manage the facility and program. In a hydroponic system, plants are anchored in a synthetic medium and fed with a nutrient solution. Aquaponics is simply adding fish that use the oxygenated water and their waste nourishes the plants. In some commercial systems, the fish are harvested for food but in this system the koi (goldfish) will be permanent residents.

Lessening food insecurity will benefit St. Andrew's residents, but just being around greenery and moving water has been shown to lighten people's mood. Many residents at St. Andrew's say being able to garden is one of the things they like best about living there.

By adding the hydroponic garden to their own raised gardens and the living wall of tropical plants in the atrium, it will give them more opportunity to garden year-round. They'll meet nutrition needs for themselves and others through peaceful, healthy means and they hope to inspire people in the surrounding area to grow their own food. 🍁



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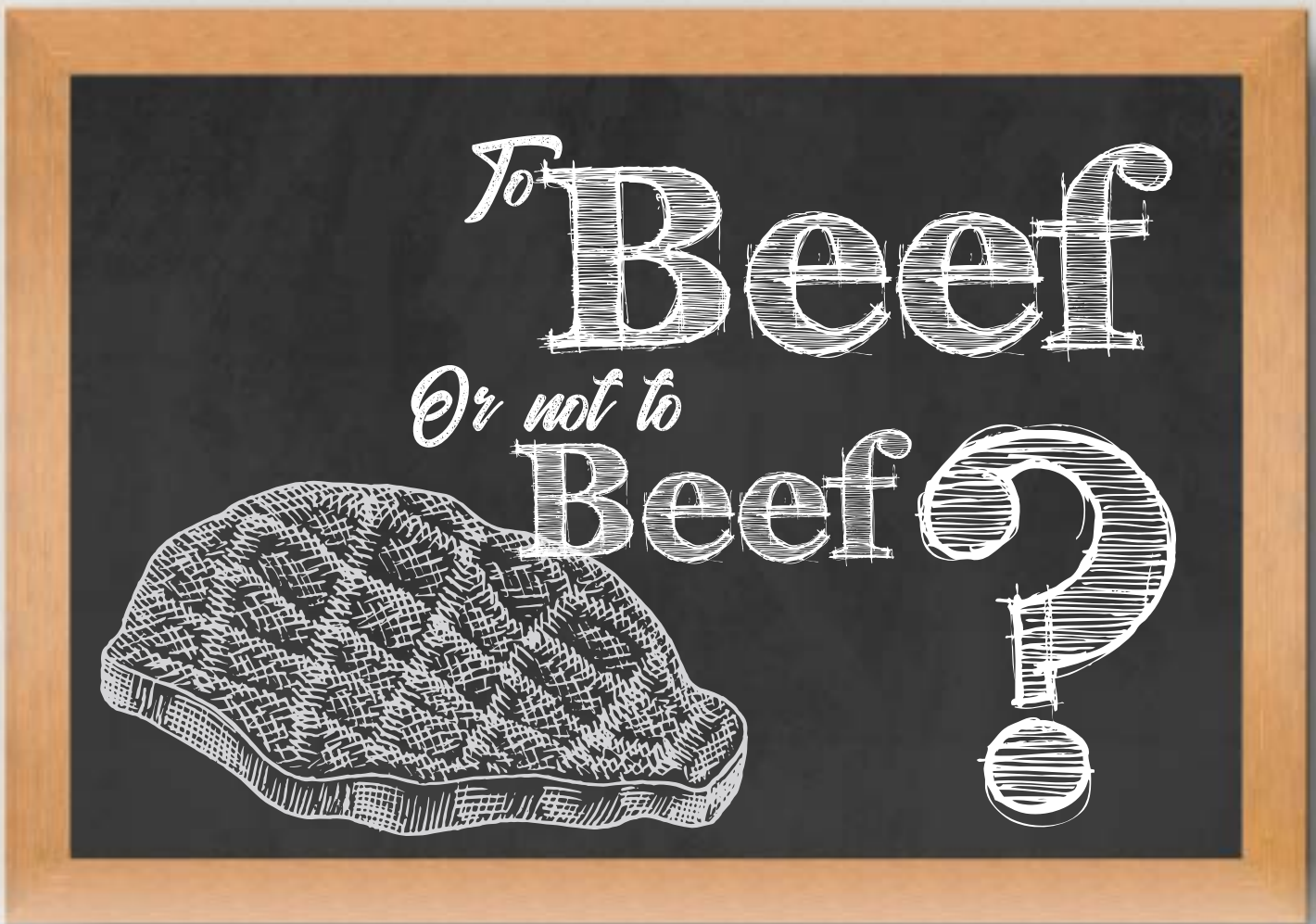
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## WHAT'S BEST FOR THE PLANET – AND US?

Story by Helen McMenamin and Alanna Wilson.

**B**eef production and consumption are a hot topic in some circles, with valid points raised on both sides of the discussion. There are consumers who believe beef to be a healthy food source, while others believe it is not. Concerns have also been raised on the topic of beef production including land use, water use and greenhouse gas emissions.

While differing outlooks on the topic of beef are not new to the table, over time the debates and discussions have remained cordial for the most part. Both beef supporters and non-supporters seem willing to understand the other's perspective on choosing to eat beef or not, and production concerns can be reduced when addressed and answered clearly – with relevant, correct information.

The Economist and the Beef Cattle Research Centre have stated it takes 16,000 litres of water to produce a kilo of beef (273 L for a 6-oz steak) – 99% of it to grow feed or forage. This includes hay or grazing for almost all of a mother cow's life and in varying amounts for a beef animal's life, along with barley, corn or other crops that help to produce tender beef.

Some of the moisture included in beef's water footprint returns to the water cycle – draining

into waterways or evaporating and returning as rain or snow. And, as more water-efficient crops are developed and irrigation gets more efficient, less water is needed. It has been suggested that beef uses 20 times the land as beans for a gram of protein. However, different protein sources do require different types of land or soil. Limited areas of southern Canada can produce bean, lentils or chickpeas, yet these areas could be ideal for cattle.

Cattle may use only 20% of their feed to build their own bodies, much of it bones and guts, but they can graze rough country with sparse feed indigestible to other species and produce nutritious protein. Even for grain-fed beef, the feed is high fibre forage that humans and other livestock cannot digest. Thanks to their rumen digestion cattle are able to turn indigestible plant fibre – chaff, straw, old grass and by-products from brewing and other non-protein feeds – into high quality beef protein.

The 80% of feed that cattle “waste” returns to the soil. Grazing cattle build up the soil without machinery. Cropland that is put into pasture for a growing season or longer has fewer weeds and needs less fertilizer. Cattle waste moves carbon into the soil where it improves soil fertility and moisture-holding, nourishing soil microbes as part of a carbon

storage system. Many scientists consider soil to be Earth's most important carbon sink.

From the remnants of the grassland ecosystem that once covered the entire Great Plains, a third of Canada's farmland, supports two-thirds of our wildlife. Cattle country is habitat for many endangered species, some brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to stewardship by the cattle industry.

Cattle do exhale methane as a side effect of their digestion, with actual amounts varying with management, but less than the numbers attributed to them. Cattle today are bigger with a larger proportion of lean meat, they are more fertile and live longer, so each cow delivers more beef animals and they grow faster. This greater efficiency means a smaller environmental footprint. 🍁

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**“ Flying a drone over his crops doesn’t make them grow any better, but having a bird’s-eye view... can give... a much better sense of how the whole crop is looking... ”**

# ING DRONES

**USEFUL INFORMATION AT A REASONABLE COST**

*Story by Lee Hart.*

**F**lying a drone over his crops doesn’t make them grow any better, but having a bird’s-eye view of what’s happening on the far side of a quarter or half section of canola or peas, for example, can give David Carlson a much better sense of how the whole crop is looking.

Stopping in a couple of different locations in a canola field on his farm near Gwynne, east of Wetaskiwin, in central Alberta, for example, Carlson says he can launch the drone to “zip across a quarter section in a matter of minutes.”

As the drone camera transmits images back to an app on his smart phone, he can see real time images of crop over the rest of the field. He can look for insect damage, weed patches, areas of poor performing crop, look at overall crop colour, and get a sense of crop maturity.

“The value for us so far is more about field specific verification,” says Carlson who farms with family members including his son Brendon. “We know how the crop looks in the immediate area where we are standing, but how does it look over the rest of the field. Realistically I am probably not going to walk to the far side of every quarter or half section. However, we can launch the drone and have a really good look at the whole field.”

Carlson who crops wheat, malt barley, canola, peas, faba beans and some times quinoa, figures the drone is complimentary to services provided by the farm’s crop consultants, Farmer’s Edge. As part of their agronomic services, Farmers Edge work with satellite imagery for the Carlson farm.

“Satellite imagery is very useful,” says Carlson. “But, we’re finding the drone allows us to look at the whole field, and also focus in on specific spots in real time, today. We know how the crop is looking where we are standing but it is nice to have the verification if the rest of the field is looking the same way. The drone can give us some idea of insect damage, or identify any cutworm patches, or just identify an



*Photo: different colourations within a crop revealed by aerial photo – Brett Galambos, Westgreen.*

*In addition to aerial photos and footage, a drone can take images that would give a sector-by-sector breakdown of conditions in the field (simulation based on photo above).*

area that looks different from the rest of the field. We might identify an area we will walk into to have a better look.”

The Carlsons have been using a drone to better scout their fields since August 2019. Working with the Edmonton-based company, Landview, Brendon attended a drone school, which provided hands on experience in learning how to fly a drone, provided hands-on experience with various types and models of drones, and also helped students complete the federal certification process for drone owners and operators.

“You can also complete the certification online, but we liked the idea of the school because it provided hands-on experience and also covered the broader applications of how drones can be used in agriculture,” says Carlson. “We’re just at the starting point, but down the road this technology can be equipped with other scanners and other levels of artificial intelligence that will help with weed, disease and insect identification, for example. It will potentially be used to determine treatment thresholds and timing of crop protection products. There is much more to come.”

Similarly, drones can play an ever-increasing role in livestock production as well. As Dr. John Church, with Thompson River University in Kelowna, B.C. is showing through his research, a drone is not just a tool that can help beef

producers locate and track cattle on pasture. Drones equipped with various sensors can play an important role in livestock production and management.

In Saskatchewan, Brent Galambos says the agronomy team at his company Westgreen Crop Inspection, based in the Saskatoon area, all use drones to help them monitor crops over the growing season.

“The drones improve our efficiency and make it possible to check more of the crops in a shorter period of time,” says Galambos, who is one of five full time agronomy team members. Two summer students also use drones to monitor crops.

“You walk into a field in three or four locations and the field may be a quarter section, a full section and in some cases even two full sections,” he says. “You can check those spots where you’re standing, but it is important to know how the rest of the field looks. That’s where the drones come in. You can fly it out over the whole field, view the images on your smart phone and really get a good look at the whole crop.”

Galambos says since they’ve been using drones for the past three seasons he’s run into different scenarios. “I’ve seen sometimes the spots where I stop to check represent only about 20 per cent of what’s happening in the field, and sometimes it represents 80 per cent.

With the images and videos captured by the drone you can get a confirmation what is happening over the whole field.”

Galambos says this is particularly useful when scouting fields for crop maturity, the presence of disease, and trying to determine fungicide timing. “These drones provide excellent visuals,” he says. “Sometimes I’m just looking for color changes in a crop. Why is this patch different than the rest?”

Drones are also very useful for scouting for clubroot in canola. Westgreen has one summer student who specializes in scouting fields for clubroot. The disease causes premature ripening of the crop.

“With the drone we can identify patches where the crop may look dead or is drying out, that leads us to investigate those areas more



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closely,” he says. “The drone images can alert you to any number of crop issues and once you see that then you can go to that area for ground truthing.”

Markus Weber initially launched Landview five years ago to sell drones and related equipment, and then quickly saw a need for the school to familiarize farmers with drone technology, provide training in their operation, and explore some of current and future roles for the technology in crop and livestock production. Landview offers the only drone school in Canada specific to agricultural production.

“The first year we had 25 students and this past year we had 250 students,” says Weber. “Farmers are interested. When we offer a school we are drawing farmers from within about an hour’s drive of the location. And it’s not just young farmers interested in this new technology. Probably the average age is 50 years and up. Farmers who come to the school aren’t looking at this as a toy, they want to learn how it can benefit their time management, and help improve both crop and livestock production efficiency.” Landview is planning to offer 20 different two-day drone schools across Western Canada in 2020.

Weber says the sky is the limit when it comes to cost of various drones and accessories. “But the reality is you don’t need anything really fancy,” says Weber. He says models in the \$2,500 to \$3,000 range have excellent quality cameras, that are simple to use, reliable and with the use of cell phone apps can provide an ever increasing amount of information. 🍁

*As a journalist for more than 40 years, Lee Hart has focused on reporting on and commenting about the Canadian agriculture industry for the past 30 years. A former field editor for Country Guide Magazine, he has been a writer and editor for Grainews for the past 15 years — based in Calgary, AB.*

*Additional uses for drones in farming have been coming onstream, including locating cattle and spraying fertilizer.*



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# CHANGE OF SEASON

## STORING WINTER TOOLS, AND READYING FOR THE SUMMER

Story by Dan Kerr.

**E**very year the ritual seems the same; when the snow is finally gone we put away the winter tools and haul out the summer stuff, but are we putting them to bed properly?

Avoiding failure by repairing, replacing and storing properly will help to ensure reliability next season. Now is the time to go over your equipment entirely and look for the bent, broken, worn out and missing then replace/change those belts, chains, tires, bearings, filters and oils along with lubricating existing cables and bearings. If it's dull, sharpen it.

### EQUIPMENT TIPS

These engines work hard for their money and prefer good oil, clean gas and unrestricted air supply. Synthetic oil is good for stored engines as it seems to stick better to the metal preventing surface rust, and eases the extreme cold temperature starts.

Fluid film is an excellent product to prevent rust when used for under carriages such as mower decks. I prefer the liquid version, as I use it on leather boots and gloves as well: it's a lanolin based product that will not degrade adhesives. Note here, try a little on an inconspicuous spot, as it will change some leather dyes.

I always store an engine with a full fuel tank topped with a fuel stabilizer, as this prevents the gaskets from drying out and condensation

from building up.

Spark plugs should be checked for digression and replaced if necessary.

I remove the air filter and hold it to a light source to show the accumulation of impurities. If it's dirty, replace it.

Another thing I always do is keep a supply of parts that are normally replaced, picking them up during the season when the shelves are in season, so I can put the equipment to bed ready to wake up.

### HAND TOOLS

Shovels, picks, scrapers and other hand tools will need attention as well. Have a good look at that shovel: is it cracked? How about picking up a replacement while they're on sale at the end of season, for a back up? If you've invested in wood-handled tools, consider a coat of fluid film after a roughing with some sand paper.

At the end of the check list, I remove any rust, and get out my paint brush. If the oxygen

can't get to the steel, the steel can't rust. High temperature paint is also available for the exhaust systems. As for colour, if you can't match it, black is slimming.

If you've season prepped your summer equipment, all you have to do now is the exchange from the shed: out with the summer and in with the winter. It should only take a couple of minutes!

All of these supplies are available at Peavey and TSC stores for both seasons along with oil recovery containers, rust and high temperature paint. It may seem like a lot of work, but the equipment is worth it. My blower is over 25 years old and still going strong. 

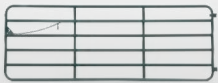
*Dan Kerr learned photography in his dad's darkroom, then progressed to providing photos and articles for magazines, and crime scene photographs for the Ontario Provincial Police, as a forensic identification officer.*



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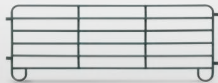
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6772	290981	939/6	14.5	12.5	39	330
6773	291859	1047/6	14.5	12.5	47	330



### Horse Fence Class 1

Deacero Code	Peavey Code	Filler Gauge	Top / Bottom Gauge	Mesh Spacing	Fence Height	Roll Length
					(')	(')
6793	296364	12.5	10	2x4	60	100
6795	296365	12.5	10	2x4	48	100



### Sheep & Goat Fence Class 1

Deacero Code	Peavey Code	Filler Gauge	Top / Bottom Gauge	Mesh Spacing	Fence Height	Roll Length
					(')	(')
6964	296366	13	12.5	4X4	48	100



### Barbed Wire High Tensile Class 3

Deacero Code	Peavey Code	Gauge	Barb Style	Barb Spacing	Length
				(')	(')
7203	298202	15.5	4 PTS	5	1320



### Barbed Wire Commercial Class

Deacero Code	Peavey Code	Gauge	Barb Style	Barb Spacing	Length
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7128	200305	13	4 PTS	6	1320



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# CATTLE ALLERGIES

**WHILE RARE, ALLERGIC REACTIONS ARE URGENT – FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOLUTIONS**

*Story by Roy Lewis DVM*

**W**ith only the rare occurrence of allergic reactions in cattle they are not mentioned much in veterinary case reports; therefore, research into the exact causes is almost impossible. However, today's modern producers give cattle more in the way of vaccines and antimicrobials. With longer acting products that are only approved subcutaneously or intramuscularly and not intravenously, the risk level of allergic reactions is elevated. The carrier or base in the products also can cause allergic reactions so you never know when one will arise. The treatment is very effective if given in time, so I thought this was an ideal time to raise the whole issue of allergic reactions in the cattle sector.

Most commonly, allergic reactions come about from the parental administration of products such as vaccines or antibiotics. It is clearly marked on all labels by pharmaceutical companies these products rarely can cause allergic (anaphylactic) reactions and to administer epinephrine as an antidote. Less commonly, an allergen can be inhaled or taken

in orally. A reaction may be local, such as can happen with a bee sting where the tissue in a large surrounding area becomes very swollen, or cattle get less localized hives or wheals.

Allergic reactions typically involve either the skin or respiratory system in cattle. In the industry, we are most concerned with the full-blown reaction where eventually the lungs fill with fluid resulting in pulmonary edema and death, and how there is an antidote if it is given in a timely and correct manner.

Generally speaking, severe reactions happen within fifteen to twenty minutes of the insult. Clinical signs might include uneasiness, increased respiration and the most noticeable signs can be swollen puffy eyelids and copious amounts of salivation. Bloat and staggering often follow these clinical signs. Signs then can progress to collapse from the lack of oxygen where the animal turns blue and dies. It is a good routine to get into, to take a quick look at cattle after processing (vaccinating) and once they have settled, to observe anything abnormal. If castrating cattle with a knife and

covering with penicillin we always observe the pen for two things: excessive bleeding and any telltale signs of an allergic reaction. It has been my experience with antibiotics if you get one reaction, there may be several in the group. It is often the carrier of the antibiotic such as procaine in penicillin that is the trigger. There can be a genetic susceptibility in a herd to a specific allergen. Mark down the animal affected, especially if it is a breeding animal as it could reoccur next time, and that product needs to be avoided on that animal, for sure.

In producers' treatment kits there should always be a bottle of epinephrine, the universal antidote for allergic reactions. The bottle will often get dust covered and expired so check once in a while and replace it if necessary. It will be way too late to go to the neighbors or rush to the veterinary clinic to purchase a bottle. A bottle on hand could prove to be a very worthwhile investment and it is not an expensive product. Allergic reactions happen too fast; even if you have a bottle and it is expired (which is often the case) it can be used in a pinch and may

save the life of the animal. Efficacy may be decreased and you may need to use more to get the desired results. The one good thing about allergic reactions is you know right away if the treatment is working.

Dosage of epinephrine is generally one cc per hundred pounds, given subcutaneously or intramuscularly (the product comes in the strength of 1mg per ml). One may want to hurry up the process by giving it intravenously but that can cause heart fibrillation. If given this way, it is diluted to a 10 percent solution with saline and only ¼ of the dose given – I personally don't recommend it. If the animal is having difficulty breathing, it is fractious, so best to give it quicker by the other routes described. I have a tendency to split the dose in two places, giving one subcutaneously and the other intramuscularly. Clinical signs should begin to decrease within minutes. You are not done yet; often the dosage may need to be repeated several times as the epinephrine wears off and the allergen is still present, so keep the affected ones under close observation. You want at least an hour after the last treatment before being fully confident the allergic response will not return. Corticosteroids such as dexamethasone may also be prescribed for longer coverage or a diuretic such as salix (lasix) given to remove excess lung fluid and antihistamines may be prescribed. Do all this in consultation with your veterinarian and have a protocol in place. It is good if he/she is aware of any allergic

reactions, as several steps may be taken. Often, if their product is involved the pharmaceutical manufacturer wants to know about it and check the product. You may be advised not to use the product if there is thought to be genetic susceptibility, as I talked about earlier. Record the one animal to avoid it in the future and if several animals are involved that product may need to be avoided completely on that ranch.

Individual reactions can occur with some products if not approved for intravenous usage and you happen to hit a small arteriole when injecting. This likelihood has been dramatically reduced with most products now approved subcutaneously. If given properly subcutaneously it is almost impossible to hit a big enough vein or artery. With intramuscular products such as daily penicillin, it is a good preventative to first place the needle and then attach the syringe with the product. If blood comes bubbling out of the needle it is best to pull it out and place it in another location. I always tell farmers I could induce an allergic reaction every time by giving penicillin intravenously. We must remember vaccines can cause these same allergic reactions and I am worried that the odd time vaccine is inadvertently given intravenously yielding a very acute allergic reaction. Again, in these cases it may be the adjuvant in the vaccine that is the culprit.

Our management practices have reduced many individual allergic reactions. Pharmaceutical companies also monitor which carriers and immune stimulators cause more reactions and try to develop effective, but less reactive ones. Hopefully you will never have an allergic reaction on your farm. But if you do, have epinephrine on hand and labeled – it is cheap insurance and most definitely could save several lives. Make sure to keep the expiry date in mind and replace it when expired. You can stabilize a life and death situation. I want you all to go out to your treatment kits and please make sure they are stocked with a bottle of epinephrine! 🍁

*Dr. Roy Lewis graduated from WCVM (Western College of Veterinary Medicine) in 1981 and was a partner at the Westlock Veterinary Clinic until Jan 2013. He has been a large animal practitioner for 38 years, mainly with beef cattle (both commercial cattle and purebred herds). His interests are preventative medicine, fertility (both bulls and cows), and animal welfare. He has written numerous producer articles in magazines such as the Western Producer, Alberta Farmer Express, Simmental Country and the Charolais Banner. Roy joined Merck Animal Health 2012 as a technical services veterinarian part time until 2020. Roy is also part of Lewis Farms, a family-owned purebred Simmental & Angus cattle (1000 cows), grain and potatoes mixed farming operation near Spruce Grove Alberta.*



**Hopefully you will never have an allergic reaction on your farm. But if you do, have epinephrine on hand and labeled...**





# TAP DANCING

## TAPPING FOR MAPLE SYRUP

Story by Pat Kerr.

**S**pring, melting snow, sun shine and maple syrup are all the same to many people in eastern Canada. It's an annual tradition held closer than hockey. Crisp, bright mornings draw many to the forest for its tasty and now we know, nutrient rich treat.

Judy Hughes of Rose Valley Maple Syrup in Ontario said, "We had 200 taps and buckets. Now we have 3,000 taps and vacuum lines. There is no comparison. I enjoy the marketing – talking with people. My husband loves the bush. He is out there from when the bugs leave until they return."

Because sap flows up the xylem or sapwood, the taps are placed around the tree at the same height. Never place one tap above another. The perfect day for maple sap run is between 5° and 6°C following a night of -5° to -6°C with low pressure or over cast. If the season warms too quickly, bud break happens and the run is over. While a March snow fall can keep the roots cool and prolongs production.

Today's taps are called "health spiles" being smaller than the older, larger bore taps, with the smaller spiles Hughes said, "The hole can completely close over by the next season."

Historical documents of tapping in Canada go back to 1684 and the pattern is alarming to some watching the more erratic weather. Early thaws and late freezes make the timing of the tapping challenging as the tree's capillaries can close during the season. However, Cal Gilbertson of St. Joseph Is said, "There is no sign of losing the maple or the syrup season. We have lots of freeze/thaw cycles and with

better forest health and better technology, we have better production than we've ever had."

All our Canadian maples can be tapped but the highest production is from the sugar maple. However, for those in other forest types birch, walnut, butternut, and hickory can also be tapped but each is a distinctly different product and timing.

Birch is usually not used on pancakes. It has a stronger flavour with a completely different sugar that should be processed using reverse osmosis not just traditional boiling. It is used in place of vanilla in baking and on fish. Walnut has the same rich, sweetness as maple with a nutty taste but its limited availability prices it 2 to 4 times higher. Butternut is not advised as it is an endangered species. Hickory syrup is often made using brown sugar and boiled bark instead of the sap so true hickory syrup is about extinct.

Tapping of maple trees is a well-studied science. It can start as early as 20 and continue past 200 years. However, best practice guidelines for the other species are not available. We do know walnut can be tapped at 10 and birch should be given a sabbatical every 5 or 6 years.

Maple syrup contains over 54 compounds that play key roles in human health. Birch syrup has been used medicinally for centuries in Europe.

Front lawn trees are usually legally owned by the municipality although the home owner may be expected to water the tree. Some



*When done correctly, tapping maple trees is a safe, environmentally friendly way to obtain a nutrient rich sugar. The capillaries close over within days and the entire hole can close before the next season. Photo by Dan Kerr.*

municipalities are concerned that amateur tapping could result in damage to the tree and they are correct. Before you tap any front yard tree check your municipal by-laws, visit your local maple syrup producer and talk to the farmer about safety and techniques. But don't be discouraged, tapping is a Canadian heritage, produces a unique nutritional product and increases appreciation of trees.

*Pat Kerr is a Master Gardener and author of 2 books promoting native diversity. My Tree, My Forest encourages gardeners to support their yard trees to be part of a thriving eco-system. We are Planting a Forest is a short children's pamphlet on growing native trees from seed.*

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# THAT'S DELICIOUS!

## TROPICAL CHICKEN SALAD

*Recipe and photo by Tu Le.*

**D**uring hot evenings in the summer, turning leftovers like roasted chicken, into a salad, is a great way to have a refreshing meal without having to turn on your stove.

Makes 4 servings.

### INGREDIENTS: SALAD

- 2 medium ripe mangos (still firm)
- 2 ripe avocados
- ½ pound of leftover roasted chicken
- 1 cup of arugula
- ¼ cup toasted walnuts

### INGREDIENTS: DRESSING

- 2 tbsp orange juice
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp grainy mustard
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- salt & pepper

### FOR THE SALAD

Peel mangos and slice. Half avocados, scoop out flesh, remove pit and slice. Shred chicken into bite size pieces. Combine first 4 ingredients in a large bowl and gently toss with dressing. Divide into 4 bowls, top with toasted walnuts and serve.

### FOR DRESSING

Whisk together all ingredients in a bowl, season to taste. 🍁

*Tu Le is chef and co-owner of Jack's Burger Shack, Jack's Sandwich Shack and Jack's Mobile Shack, in St. Albert, Alberta.*



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# TASTY AND REFRESHING

## STRAWBERRY RHUBARB SUNRISE

*Recipe and photos by Tu Le.*

**F**ill 9 ounce cocktail glass with ice add tequila, orange juice and drizzle syrup ovetop. Replace tequila with soda water for a refreshing mocktail

### THE COCKTAIL

- ½ ounce strawberry rhubarb syrup (recipe follows)
- 1 ¼ ounce tequila (or soda)
- 6 ounces orange juice

### STRAWBERRY RHUBARB SIMPLE SYRUP

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 pound strawberries
- 1 pound rhubarb chopped into ½ inch pieces
- juice of 1 lemon

Combine first all ingredients in a large saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil then reduce to simmer for 20 minutes. Cool mixture blend and strain thru fine mesh strainer. 🍁



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# CORN SOUP

## A TRADITIONAL RECIPE

Recipe by Lori Harris.

**T**his recipe was handed down in our family. We hope you enjoy it.

### TRADITIONAL CORN SOUP

Gather the following ingredients:

- 1 quart of lyed white corn
- 2 cups of dried dark red kidney beans, soaked overnight
- 1/2 lb of salt pork cubed
- Enough water to cover

Put all ingredients into a big pot. Boil until pork is cooked.

Serve with homemade scones. 

*Mentored by chefs, growing up, Lori Harris didn't have wild game dinners – but when she started her catering business she received requests for venison and moose and decided to follow her heart. Starting her own business has fulfilled a desire to cook, feed people and to share her traditional cuisine with others.*

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