Facts for Farmers

Mapping Soil Salinity
Scientists at the Agricultural Canada Research Station, Lethbridge, are developing a technique for using Landsat satellite photographs to identify and map saline-soil areas. Researchers who have tried the technique in a test area in southern Alberta say it looks quite encouraging. When the technique is perfected, a salinity map will be produced for the entire Prairie region. Such a map will provide, for the first time, a reliable estimate of how much land is affected by salinity, which continues to reduce farm income and cause water-management problems.

Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc
The Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc is nearing completion and is expected to officially open in the early summer. Funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund at a cost of $8.6 million, it is designed to respond to requests from agricultural commodity groups such as those involved with beef, pork and dairy products and with grains, oilseeds, etc. It will provide food processors with a facility where they can develop and test their products under Alberta conditions.

Grain stabilization payments
. . . Under proposed changes, a payment of more than $300 million is forecast for the 1983-84 crop year as grain stabilization payments. There were 123,000 Canadian farmers enrolled in the program in 1982. The payment would translate into a payment in excess of $5,000 to an individual participant who has contributed the maximum levies in each of the last three years.

Trade Surplus
. . . Canada's agricultural and food trade surplus continued to grow in 1983, reaching more than $4.3 billion. Since 1978, Canada's agricultural trade balance has improved from $1.1 billion to more than $4 billion a year as exports have grown much more rapidly than imports. Led by record grain shipments, total exports were valued at $9.5 billion. Wheat worth $4.6 billion, accounted for almost half of the value of Canada's annual food exports. All other grain exports rose to $1 billion. Oil seed and their products totalled nearly $816 million.

Farm Cash Receipts
. . . Cash receipts from wheat delivered in 1983 were $4.6 billion. Saskatchewan receipts were $2.5 billion. Alberta wheat producers received more than $981 million and Manitoba receipts totalled $571 million.

. . . Total cash receipts from cattle and calf production in 1983 for Alberta was $1.1 billion. Saskatchewan was $450 million and Manitoba was $280 million.

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture every year, the Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference was again an outstanding success. Approximately 430 Alberta farmers heard speakers from across North America outline many constructive ways of improving a family farm business.

Dr. Y.T. Kee of the University of Manitoba gave a lively talk on the Pursuit of Excellence, Japanese Style. "As farmers," he said, "we must strive to do common things uncommonly well."

Dr. John McCullough, a back surgeon from Akron, Ohio, noted that farmers are prone to develop back problems and he described a technique he has invented to help people who suffer from slipped discs in their lower back.

John Ward, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, illustrated the importance of having a strong, united and informed family when it came to succeeding in a family farm business. His discussion provided some encouraging and helpful information on how farmers can improve their chances of passing on their farms from one generation to the next.

The conference featured a computer vendor fair.

Dan Hilsenteger and James Obniawka of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, the co-ordinators of the conference, said the excellent response to the conference, assures the next conference. Plans are already underway for the next conference to be held in early 1985.

Alberta Honey Situation
In the Peace River region, early honey extractions were disappointingly low, and many beekeepers were pessimistic about their 1983 crop despite the large acreage of clover. However, the exceptional honey flow that developed during August and September resulted in an average yield of 90 kg per hive, which was more than double the 1982 average yield and well above the long-term average.

In central Alberta, where weather conditions were normal, the honey crop was 6 per cent above that of the previous year and similar to the long-term average. However, in southern Alberta very dry conditions limited plant growth and reduced the nectar flow in the spring with the result that the honey crop was only 57 per cent of the 1982 crop.
“Farmers in the Oil Business”

During the 1920’s, it became evident that the farm tractor was here to stay and would soon replace the horse. Instead of growing their own power and fuel, farmers were going to have to buy it in the market place.

and a beginning was made in the sale of gasoline and tractor fuels by directing the purchases of farm members to the agencies of a firm of petroleum suppliers. UFA Central was gradually being pressed by members into the ownership of facilities and the physical handling of goods. It was the necessity of a central control and investment of capital in oil storage and equipment that brought about a change in policy.

1936 was the first full calendar year that UFA marketed petroleum products and fuel sales for that year, totalled 1.8 million gallons. The next 20 years showed steady increases in sales and in 1956, volume sales were 26.4 million dollars.

On January 1, 1957, UFA purchased the assests of Maple Leaf Petroleum Limited for one million dollars. The assets consisted of some 50 bulk plants throughout Alberta, inventories and accounts receivable. UFA really became the “Farmers in the Oil Business”.

Member support continued to increase and by 1970, the dollar value of UFA’s petroleum sales was 16.57 million dollars; in 1980, sales were 109.6 million dollars. In 1983, the Petroleum Division again broke their own records with sales of 183.78 million dollars.

UFA’s Petroleum Division has shown an excellent sales growth, and millions of dollars have been returned to our members on their purchases from UFA. In just the last five years, Petroleum Patronage Dividends allocated to members on their purchases, have amounted to 41.49 million dollars.

UFA is the only major petroleum marketing company, totally owned by Albertans. Outstanding support from its members-owners has made UFA the #1 marketer of farm products in Alberta. There are 126 UFA Petroleum Agencies and Member Associations in Alberta ranging from Manning in the north to Milk River in the south; Bay Tree in the west to Acadia Valley in the east. Only top quality products that reflect the latest advances in research and technology are sold. Our Agents know their jobs and understand the importance of a dependable fuel supply.

UFA welcomes Joe and Beth Trembecki and Mark and Clare Birch, the new Agents at the new Petroleum Agencies in Brooks and Taber – business people in their own towns who are supportive of their communities.

Petroleum Division

Many of the people on staff in the Petroleum Division have a lengthy tenure with UFA and have made their own singular contribution to the outstanding growth of this Division. Lawrence Proudfoot is Manager of the Petroleum Division; Bill Margach, Assistant Manager; Bill McNab, Region Manager South and Peace; Tom Miller, Manager, Marketing Services; Dee Mathison, Secretary and Terry Cable, Administration Assistant. Territory Managers are Tim Church, Calgary; Gordon Gimbel, Red Deer; Bill MacPherson, Lethbridge; Mark McCarron, Camrose; Fred McMillan, Grande Prairie; Don Reid, Edmonton; Jerome Stang, Vermilion and Keith Tully, Calgary.

Region Manager North of the Petroleum Division and also Manager of the Edmonton Lube Warehouse is Harold Lee. He is ably supported by Robin Dickson, Administrative Clerk and Brian Temple, Warehouseman.
At The Openings

The winds may have been a bit cool but that certainly was no deterrent to the hundreds of Brooks and Taber area farmers and ranchers who came to the official opening of the Brooks and Taber Petroleum Agencies.

It was a busy time – hundreds of hamburgers were consumed – there was time for socializing and farm business discussions but most importantly, the opportunity was there to meet Joe and Beth Trembecki and Mark and Clare Birch. The new Agents at Brooks and Taber are eager to show area residents that they provide an efficient and reliable service and that every litre of fuel or oil and every kg. of grease purchased earns a dividend.

Brooks

Brooks is the headquarters for North America’s largest boundaried irrigation district served by one dam. The system covers 2,340 square miles, bigger than all of Prince Edward Island.

In September, 1982, UFA officially opened its 27th Farm Supply Centre in Brooks. In 1983 the Brooks Centre, managed by Don Balderson, achieved sales of 1.81 million dollars.

On May 7, 1984, UFA officially opened a new Petroleum Agency at Brooks. A barbecue, hosted by UFA, was held to mark the occasion and to welcome the Agents Joe and Beth Trembecki.

The New Petroleum Agency

sales for two years. During the winter months he also did carpentry and construction work. For the past eleven years, Joe and his wife, Beth, have been involved in farming on their 400 acre irrigation farm. They raise grain, hay and cattle.

On February 27, 1984, Joe Trembecki was appointed the UFA Agent at the new Petroleum Agency in Brooks. As Joe noted, "My good wife Beth is a partner and bookkeeper in the Agency. She is a "hockey mother""

Joe and Beth Trembecki

Originally from the Lethbridge area, Joe Trembecki went to school in Picture Butte and Duchess. He worked as a carpenter for eleven years in Calgary and then was in machinery

to our four sons Richard, Tom, Gerald and Steven and is also involved in crafts.

Joe is active in the community and is director of the Duchess Grazing Association, a member of the Duchess Recreational Association and of the Knights of Columbus. For hobbies the family enjoys (you guessed it) hockey and also bowling.

Best wishes for success in your new business as the UFA Agents in Brooks, Joe and Beth.
Shell Agent and was in partnership with him for five years. These many years of experience, gave him an excellent background in the farm fuel business. For the last two years, after leaving Shell, Mark has been an independent trucker, hauling glass from Redcliffe to Lethbridge.

Mark’s wife Clare, also graduated from the Taber High School and had previously managed a self service gas bar and before that, helped Mark in the petroleum bulk plant.

In February, 1984, Mark was appointed the first Agent at the new UFA Petroleum Agency in Taber. Clare is doing the books and also pumps gas at the Agency.

This is a busy family. Mark and Clare have three daughters Deborah 10, Annie 5 and Rebecca 2—who are involved in Guides and piano and tap dancing lessons. Clare is the chairperson for the local advisory committee to St. Patrick’s school, an AMA driver-trainer and makes the time to collect for the Diabetic Association.

The Birch family enjoys camping and Mark also likes playing the guitar and motorcycle travelling. Every success to you, Mark and Clare in your new business as the UFA Agents in Taber.

Taber
Agriculture is the Taber district’s basic resource. Taber has the only sugar factory between Vancouver and Winnipeg – the Alberta Sugar Co., which processes the beets grown in southern Alberta. Taber is the hub of an irrigation district and has been called the “town that water built in the land of the lo-o-ong sun”.

In April, 1982, UFA officially opened its 26th Farm Supply Centre in Taber. In 1983, the Taber Centre, managed by Pat Robison, achieved sales of 1.67 million dollars.

On May 8, 1984, UFA opened a new Petroleum Agency at Taber. A barbecue, hosted by UFA, was held to mark the occasion and to welcome the Agents, Mark and Clare Birch.

Mark and Clare Birch
Mark Birch was born in Taber and graduated from the Taber High School. His father had farmed in the Vauxhall area at one time, and his uncle is still farming there.

For fifteen years, Mark worked with his father as a
The new UFA Petroleum Agency in Taber.

Official opening ribbon cutters Lawrence Proudfoot, Manager of the Petroleum Division; Clare and Mark Birch and Joe Machacek.

Delegate Joe Machacek, Taber, welcomed everyone on behalf of UFA.

Petroleum Division well represented by Keith Tully, Bill MacPherson, and Bill McNab.

We’d Like You To Meet

Bryan Bradley of Yellowhead Petroleum Products Ltd., who is the UFA Agent in Edmonton, recently appointed Robb Hornland as the petroleum manager at Stony Plain.

A native of Edmonton, Robb received his matriculation certificate from Jasper Place Composite High School and then went on to graduate in 1978 from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Upon graduation, Robb worked for Abbott Laboratories as a sales territory manager for northern Alberta. In 1980, he joined Gainor Medical Canada Ltd. as northern sales rep. In 1981, Gainor opened an office in Calgary and Robb was appointed the new branch manager. While in Calgary, Robb met his wife Cathy, who now teaches at M.E. Lazerte High School in Edmonton. In 1983, Robb was appointed marketing and sales manager for Gainor Medical in Edmonton. In March, 1984, Robb joined Bryan Bradley at Yellowhead Petroleum Products and will manage the Stony Plain Agency.

Robb enjoys all sports and while attending University played volleyball at the international level. He is also interested in computers and woodworking at his home in west Edmonton.

Robb Hornland
Recognition of Service Awards

Administration

30 Years

Gordon Gimbel
Territory Manager
Petroleum Division
December 31, 1954

25 Years

Joe Miller
Supervisor
Farm Supply Accounting
April 22, 1959

15 Years

Harold Lee
Region Manager North & Manager Edmonton Petroleum Warehouse Petroleum Division
September 1, 1969

5 Years

David Braa
Production Co-ordinator I
Data Operations
April 16, 1979

Yvonne Bourque
Data Entry Operator
Data Operations
July 16, 1979

Terry Cable
Administration Assistant
Petroleum Administration
April 2, 1979

Lucie Caissie
Collection Clerk
Credit Department
November 16, 1979

Diane Frey
Senior Clerk
Printing and Stationery Department
December 3, 1979

Dee Mathison
Secretary
Petroleum Division
January 22, 1979

Mark McCarron
Territory Manager
Petroleum Division
October 1, 1979

Tom Miller
Manager of Marketing Services
Petroleum Division
October 16, 1978
(Promise to get your 10 year Service Award in on time, Tom)
The word co-operation is derived from 'co'- together and 'opera'- work. It means working together. A co-operative is an organization based on co-operation. It is owned by and operated for those using its services. Co-operatives start from need. There are many kinds of co-operatives organized to meet various needs. Some co-operatives sell and store wheat for farmers. Some distribute farm supplies. Others provide specialized services like electric power or fire insurance. There are co-operatives formed by fishermen, cotton growers, fruit growers, cattlemen and many others in diversified occupations. Farmers in Ceylon co-operatively market their vegetables. In Canada's far north, the Eskimos sell fish and handicraft articles through co-operatives.

Today, it is rare for co-operatives to be unsuccessful. Yet, it is certainly not a new business concept. Documentary evidence shows a group of Scotsmen formed the Fenwich Co-operative Society of Weavers in 1761. Many other co-operatives were formed in England, Scotland, Ireland and on the continent. The people who organize these associations had common needs. Some wished to lessen the price spread between producer and consumer. Others wished to improve the quality of merchandise they bought. There were those who wanted the use of a service that they could not usually afford.

Scientists who study the behaviour of people agree that co-operation is a natural urge of man. These early organizations were willing to co-operate. They had common objectives. Hundreds were formed, but they were small and short lived. They all eventually failed.

In 1884, in a small industrial town in Lancashire, England, a group of desperately poor weavers established a co-operative. Their organization was to provide a guide and inspiration to following co-operatives. Conditions in those days were difficult for the worker. Hours of labor were long and pay was exceedingly low. This small group of twenty-eight people decided they could improve their economic position by working together. They planned to have a small food store. Their stock would consist of flour, butter, sugar and oatmeal. The price of these staple foods was so high that the average worker could not afford them. The poor quality of the food offered on storekeeper’s shelves often made it inedible. At considerable sacrifice, each worker managed to save five dollars. With these meagre savings, they founded the Rochdale Pioneers Co-operative and opened a small food store. They gave honest weight and measure. The food on their shelves was unadulterated. They saved money and learned to carry on business for themselves. Today, this historic society has 54,000 members and does yearly business of four million dollars.

What made the Rochdale Pioneers Co-operative so successful? The men who formed it were not economists or scholars. However, they did profit from mistakes of the past. They drew up rules with the greatest care. These men were essentially reformers ready to make sacrifices to obtain their goals. They had a vision of the better society that might be obtained through their efforts. While they were inspired, they were practical enough to know that if they wanted a better world, they must work to obtain it. The store they established was not of prime importance in their plans. It was simply the most practical place to begin.

Time has proven the wisdom if the Rochdale principles which are adhered to by most co-operatives today. The three most important of these principles are open membership, democratic control and patronage refunds. Open membership means anyone who can use the facilities
or services of the organization, regardless of their race, creed, financial or social position is able to join. Democratic control means each member may buy only one share. He is entitled to only one vote. The importance is on the person and not on the money he owns. Members must meet periodically to decide on the policies of the co-operative. At the meetings, they have equal voting strength regardless of the extent of their business with the co-operative. This prevents any individual from gaining control.

The last mentioned principle, patronage refunds, is of particular importance. History gives Charles Howarth, one of Rochdale’s original members, credit for thinking of it. Howarth bitterly remembered the failure of another co-operative with which he had been associated. He knew it would be useless to operate the new store in exactly the same way. He spent many hours mulling over the problem. Finally, a solution occurred to him. He impatiently raced in the middle of the night to his friends to tell them of his new idea.

Patronage refund means the society’s earnings, over and above expenses, are returned to the members in proportion to their purchases. A co-operative makes no profit. Instead, earnings are recognized as savings by the members doing business together.

A member benefits by the extent he used the co-operative facilities or services. In a private corporation, the earnings are divided among the shareholders on the basis of the investment each has in the business. This now famous principle of patronage refunds is one of the main features of a co-operative.

Today, the primary objective of a co-operative is the same as it was a hundred years ago. It is to provide a service to members and not to make money by offering a service to others. By adhering to and improving the Rochdale principles, co-operatives have expanded and met with success.

The greatest growth of co-ops is in Europe. In Sweden, one in every two families belongs. In Europe, the co-operative strength lies in cities and industrial centres.

In Canada, farmers have been the backbone of the movement. However, the farmer co-operative movement is firmly implanted in Scandinavian countries. Almost all the meat produced in Denmark and Sweden is processed in modern co-operative packing houses. Also, the largest share of all dairy and poultry products is sold there co-operatively.

Co-operatives have not brought wealth to any single individual. They have improved the economic position of their members. The economic benefits of co-operatives have mainly to do with savings and can readily be measured. Co-operatives are now well established in the most advanced nations in the world. It is significant that their development has been greatest in the democratic nations. Where there is an opportunity for people to have a wide choice in the way they do business, co-operatives flourish.

Statesmen, humanitarians and world leaders see co-operatives as one means by which the less fortunate people of the world may help to raise their standard of living. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations strongly supports co-operatives and is encouraging their development in many lands.

The results of the efforts of the Pioneers have reached beyond their dreams. The Rochdale principles are the basis for a movement extending to all parts of the world. The millions of dollars paid in patronage refunds each year to members of the co-operatives are solid proof people can work together in a self-help and democratic way to economically improve themselves. This was the original concept of co-operatives, and is still the ultimate goal.
Women’s Institute was founded in 1897 in Ontario by Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee. The statement “a nation cannot rise above the level of its homes, therefore we women must work and study together to raise our homes to the highest possible level” was the first goal and the primary objective of this organization. By 1930, rural organizations had been formed around the world and the first Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1933. Today, ACWW is the only international organization representing country women and homemakers. It links together 9 million members in more than 300 different societies from more than 60 countries.

The Alberta Women’s Institute was first formed in 1909 in the Vermilion area. Thirty-eight women met, on the same day their husbands attended an UFA meeting, and organized the Lea Park Women’s Institute. In 1912, the Provincial Government aided in setting up a train known as the “Mixed Farming Special Train.” Miss Roberta McAdam and Miss Georgina Steven travelled with the train and lectures and demonstrations were given at various stops in Alberta.

Through the efforts of Miss McAdam and Miss Stevens, a number of Women’s Institutes were organized. An annual government grant of $5 per branch was given to any branch that had 20 members and held a minimum of three meetings a year. The first year, Lea Park, Pincher Creek, Raymond and Verdant Valley received the grant.

United Farmers of Alberta was holding their annual convention in January, 1915. Some of the Women’s Institute members went to the meeting with a view to a possible merger with the United Farm Women of Alberta. Because, Alberta had only been a province for ten years, it was felt that possibly only one rural women’s organization was needed. However, the UFWA constitution stated that membership be limited to only the wives and daughters of practicing farmers. This excluded the Women’s Institute members from villages and small towns, so the merger did not take place.

Miss Mary McIsaac was appointed as Superintendent of the Alberta Women’s Institutes and helped plan the first Alberta convention. It was held in Olds in February, 1915. Invitations were sent to 42 branches and there were over 100 women in attendance. Isabel Noble of Daysland was elected the first president of the Alberta Women’s Institute.

During the next few years, travelling libraries were set up as were local hospitals, maternity homes, community halls and many more needed facilities. By 1921, there were over 200 Women’s Institute branches in Alberta.

Today the programs of the Women’s Institutes in Alberta reflect the concerns of the 80’s. There are many educational programs and projects – scholarships are awarded – support is given to the Alberta Women’s Institute Girls’ Clubs. The A.W.I. works closely with the Alberta Safety Council, the Farm Safety Branch of Alberta Agriculture, the Canadian Red Cross.
Alberta Mental Health, Adult Education, Agricultural Boards, to name only a few of their affiliations.

Briefs and resolutions have dealt with protection of our environment, educational concerns, pornography, pensions, estate planning and much, much more.

The 75th Anniversary of the Alberta Women's Institute was held May 28 - 31, 1984 at the Olds College. Nearly 400 women from all areas of Alberta were in attendance. The convention theme was Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Presiding at the meeting was Kay Rowbottom, President; Kathryn Habberfield, 1st Vice-president; Beryl Ballhorn, 2nd Vice-president; Directors Betty Welter, Marguerite Withers, Olive Meyer, Hazel Pryszlazny and Dorothy Williams. In addition to the annual convention business, interesting workshops were held on Safety, Electricity and the Environment, Pornography. The guest speaker at the banquet was Bernice Noblitt, President of the F.W.I.C.

At the 1984 meeting, Kathryn Habberfield, Langdon, was elected President; Beryl Ballhorn, Wataskiwin, 1st Vice-president; Holly Hallett, 2nd Vice-president, and the Directors elected were Ruby Walker, District #1; Ruby Ritchie, District #2; Olive Meyer, District #3; Shirley Thomas, District #4 and Noreen Olson, District #5.

President's Address at 75th Annual Meeting

Mrs. Kay Rowbottom, the vivacious and hard-working, outgoing president of A.W.I., reflected on her three year term. "Some of the issues we have worked on have been Producer and Consumer (Bridging the Gap), Land Use brief, studies and input into the divorce laws, the new Canada Health Act, pornography, pension reform. Briefs were presented to respective commissions. Our programs at the branch level have been varied and dealt with local problems, in particular, our Safety Program met with great enthusiasm and much was accomplished. "The Alberta Women's Institute has 164 branches with a membership of 2,370. The strength and longevity of our organization shows the sincerity of our members towards enhancing the education of ourselves as well as others. "Rural Women's University" is a title given to us by our contemporaries and one we treasure."

Rural Women's University

Congratulations to the Alberta Women's Institute on their 75th Anniversary. Their realistic and logical approach on various issues and the constructive work in the areas of social, educational and health reform that this organization has accomplished is worthy of recognition and commendation.
Appointments

Bill McCartney, Chief Executive Officer of United Farmers of Alberta, announced the appointment of Kaichi Nishimura as Planning Analyst, effective April 1, 1984. He will report to Cameron Ross, Manager of Corporate Planning and Management Services.

Kaichi’s extensive and lengthy experience in marketing statistical work as well as other functions within UFA, will be an invaluable asset to him in his new responsible position.

Ron Fernley, Purchasing Manager of the Farm Supply Division, has appointed Randy Pearce as Manager of the Farm Supply Distribution Centre in Edmonton. The appointment was effective May 1, 1984.

Born in Edmonton, Randy attended various Edmonton schools. When he was twelve, he moved with his family to Gibbons and grew up on the family farm, which was a mixed farming and dairy operation. He went to Gibbons Junior High and Bon Accord Senior High.

From 1968 - 1971, Randy assumed full management of his family’s small dairy operation. In October, 1971, he joined UFA as a Customer Service Rep. at the Edmonton Farm Supply Centre. In 1976, he became Shipper/Receiver at the Edmonton Distribution Centre; in 1978, he was promoted to Warehouse Supervisor; in 1979, he became Assistant Manager and in 1984, was appointed to his present position as Manager.

The Distribution Centre is an important segment of the Farm Supply Division’s operations. The volume of transfers to the Farm Supply Centres has increased significantly in the last few years due to the sales increases at the individual centres and the broadening of the product lines assembled at the Distribution Centre.

In addition to his many years of practical experience, Randy has taken several courses among them UFA’s Business Management Training Course. Randy and his wife Irene have two children – Jocelyn and Kimberly. For hobbies Randy enjoys skiing, both downhill and water and farming.

Harold Lee, Region Manager North of the Petroleum Division, recently announced the appointment of Jerome J. Stang as Territory Manager of Territory #6.

Originally from Provost, where he grew up on the family farm, Jerome went to St. Thomas Aquinus School at Provost and St. Anthony’s College in Edmonton. After graduation he went on to N.A.I.T. where he received his Certificate in Business Administration with a major in accounting. He then took a post graduate course in management at the University of Alberta.

Prior to joining UFA, Jerome was in the farm machinery industry for 14 years in accounting sales and management.

Some of his responsibilities as Territory Manager are planning of sales objectives by an Agency; maintaining and up to date knowledge of what is happening in the market place, particularly as it relates to competitive policies; appointing and training Agents; providing counsel and leadership to the Agents in the management of their business.

In this responsible position, Jerome will be in contact with the UFA Agencies at Athabasca, Dewberry, Elk Point, Glendon, Josephburg, Mayerthorpe, Morinville, Myrram, Onoway, Radway, Sangued, Smoky Lake, Spedden, Willingdon and the Beaver Creek Co-op Association Ltd., in Lamont and Neerlandia Co-op Association in Neerlandia.

Jerome, his wife Vikki and their three children will be living in Camrose. Jerome is a member of the Knights of Columbus and Toastmaster International. For hobbies, he enjoys hunting and fishing.
1984 Co-op Seminar for Youth

Youths, ages 13 to 19, are eligible to attend the 1984 Rural Education and Development Association (R.E.D.A.) Co-op Youth Seminars.

The program, now in its 23rd year, is held in the secluded setting of Goldeye Centre located 100 kilometers west of Rocky Mountain House. Overlooking Goldeye Lake, the centre, with its ideal facilities and secluded setting, provides a perfect site for learning and fun.

The theme, this year, "Take a Break - Co-operate" indicates that the seminars deal with concepts of co-operatives, community life and leadership skills.

Enjoying recreational activities, meeting new friends and generally having fun are incorporated into the program.

Three levels are offered:

A Teen Seminars (Ages 13-14) - 3 sessions: July 9 - 15, July 21 - 27, and August 2 - 8. The objectives of these seminars is to provide the opportunity to

1. Experience living in a community.
2. Introduce basic leadership and communication skills.
3. Become aware of the co-operative movement.
4. Become aware of the individual and group roles in a community.
5. Have fun and meet new people.

B Youth Seminars have as their objectives:

1. Practice in communicating, interpersonal and leadership skills.
2. Living in a community.
3. Awareness of young people's role in their community.
4. Growth in their understanding of co-operatives and agriculture.
5. In a natural environment, fun and growth in personal interests.

C The Grad Seminar's theme is "Door to the Future." The following concerns will be discussed:

1. A place to live, budgeting, etc.
2. Adjusting to surroundings - socially, economically, co-operatively.
3. Environmental impact on young adults - a practical workshop in ecology, camping.

Youth Program, the cost to be assumed by UFA. This motion was also passed at the 1983 and 1984 Annual Meetings. In 1982 and 1983, UFA Delegates sponsored over 40 young people each year, and our Delegates will again be able to sponsor one participant from each Sub-district in 1984.

More information can be obtained from the Information Service Department, United Farmers of Alberta or from the Rural Education and Development Association, 14815 – 119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9.
From Human Power to Combines

Originally, the basic power source in agriculture was the farmer and his family. All of the everyday chores – from splitting wood, providing water, milking cows were done by hand.

Most field operations were also done by hand. In Europe, the home of many Alberta farmers, muscle power for field work was very practical. The fields were small and there was adequate farm labor. This was not the case on the Canadian prairie. Early farmers quickly found that the only way to prosper in their “new land” was to cultivate their entire 160 acre farm. A man using a scythe or a cradle could only cut about two to three acres of crop in a very long hard day. Though human labor was utilized for most work on the farms of the 1800’s, animal power had been adopted for some of the heavier work.

Oxen were the first form of animal power. There were a few Indian horses and the odd horse in an area, but oxen were more suited to the pioneer lifestyle. The cost of oxen was about half that of horses. They were less susceptible to disease, easier to handle and care for, did not need to be fed grain and the ox never depreciated – as the pioneer family could always eat it when the ox became old and feeble. Though oxen had many advantages, they had some notable disadvantages. They were slow compared to mules or horses, were strong-willed and an ox would not vary its gait for anyone. They also had a built-in sense of time – once they worked their ten hours, they were finished for the day.

Mules were also found as sources of animal power scattered through the prairie areas. It was commonly agreed that they were a stubborn animal, but they were certainly less stubborn than oxen. In fact, mules were reliable workers.

However, the most popular form of power at the turn of the century was horses. They became a sign of progress and prestige and occupied a very special place in the hearts of the early settlers. For these sentimental reasons as well as a number of practical reasons, horses were the backbone of prairie agriculture for many years. At the turn of the century, horses were in very short supply. A farmer had to take meticulous care of his horses as he could not afford to have a horse sick and lame. Every horse a homesteader owned had to work. Care had to be taken to ensure the harness fit properly so that harness sores did not develop. Much time was spent grooming and “rubbing down” a horse at the end of the day to minimize the chance of stiffened and sore muscles the next morning.

Resourceful settlers also relied on other forms of power. Windmills were quite common, especially to run grist mills or pump water.

Through the mid and late 1800’s farm implements were undergoing great improvement. The first thresher and power sweep on the prairies was used in Manitoba in 1875. In 1878 a thresher and power sweep unit were operating at North Battleford. A power sweep had arms radiating from its central shaft. Horses were hitched to these arms. They walked in a circle turning the sweep and generating power as oxen tended to get dizzy. Tread mills were inclined movable platforms that powered a shaft or a belt. An animal would step on the treadmill forcing the movable platform to rotate, generating power. Both treadmills and power sweeps were hard on the animals and were soon replaced by steam. Stationary steam engines were used to power threshers, saw mills, pumps and any other machines that
did not require movement. These steam engines using belts were a more efficient, steadier and more convenient form of power than horse-driven sweeps or tread mills.

In 1892 J.I. Case introduced a gasoline powered tractor. Within a few years, there were nine companies, among them were Massey Harris, McCormick, Deering and International Harvester. the labor problems and help boost agricultural production, import duty on tractors was rebated. For $795 cash, a farmer anywhere in western Canada, could take delivery of a Fordson tractor. In 1918, there were 1132 Fordson tractors brought into Canada. Tractor sales continued at a record pace.

Tough small gasoline tractors were enjoying much popularity, horses continued to predominate. Horse numbers peaked and the controversy as to which was the most efficient – the gas tractor or a horse – also peaked. The economic euphoria of the 1920’s gave way to the post war recession and drought and depression. The bottom fell out of the market for agricultural commodities, while the price of gasoline reached 30 cents a gallon. With the price of wheat down at the twenty cents a bushel level, farmer’s could not afford gasoline for their tractors. Out of sheer necessity, harnesses were repaired and the horse again became the power unit on the prairies. Tractor imports fell from a high of 21,777 in 1921 to 136 in 1933. While the tractor of the 1940’s was by far superior to the model that preceded it by ten years. The writing was on the wall. The days of the horse were numbered. From a peak of 806,200 in 1921, only 164,000 remained in 1955. The combine steadily replaced the threshing machine. Hay was being baled. Four wheel tractors were a common sight and tractors of over 130 horsepower were available.

Steam powered threshers made their appearance in Alberta quite early. By 1885, there were three steam threshers in the Edmonton area and in early September, 1889, a steam thrasher unit arrived in the Lethbridge district. Through the latter part of the 1800’s and first ten years of the 1900’s steam power became quite common. It was well accepted as the ideal type of power for threshing machines and sawmills but quite a controversy developed as to which mode, steam or horse, was most efficient for field work. Because of the high initial cost, approximately $2,000 per unit, and the need for long, large fields, steam tractors did not come into common use.

By 1885, there were several steam tractors in Alberta.

Gasoline tractors made their first appearance on the Canadian prairies in the first decade of the 1900’s. By 1910 the steam engine was being replaced by the gasoline models and in fact, few companies continued to manufacture steam tractors.

As the first world war developed in Europe, Canadian farmers prospered. Markets were buoyant but laborers for farming were hard to get. Many farmers turned to the small gasoline powered tractors, replacing manpower with capital and technology. As the war wore on, Canadian agriculture continued to flourish. The federal government made agricultural production a high priority, enunciating the slogan “Food Will Win The War.” Farm labor was at a critical stage. To alleviate the need for labor, a 15 cent per bushel tax on wheat was enacted. This caused a great deal of controversy. The tax was designed to throttle production, but was soon reduced to 7.5 cents per bushel. With declining wheat prices in 1921, farmers were hard pressed for financial relief. The government paid a bountiful $795 for each horse purchased.

Agriculture began in Alberta with many of the same tools being used that had been used for 500 years. Agricultural technology, without a doubt, accelerated the pace of development of this, Alberta’s first mega-industry.

Norman Edgar, father of Ken Edgar, UFA Agent at La Glace, and the oxen he used in the Peace River country in 1912.

Pictures courtesy of Glenbow Archives and Ken Edgar, La Glace.
Lacombe Research Centre

A meat research centre, the first full-scale abattoir for conducting research in Western Canada, was officially opened on May 14, 1984.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan officially opened his department's 2.7 million dollar research centre located at the historic Lacombe Research Centre which has been in operation since 1907. The new research centre contains a kill floor, coolers for carcasses, laboratories for scientific evaluation of meat and processing methods and a computer to handle data.

The Lacombe Research Centre has a long record of accomplishments in meat research and breeding of animals especially suited for the meat processing industry. Before the arrival of the new centre, research staff did a lot of their meat work in commercial abattoirs. It will now be done on site.

The multi-disciplinary scientific team, using the new facility, comprises a physiologist, technologist, biochemist, microbiologist and a sensory evaluation expert. They will become involved in joint-venture research projects with universities and meat processors - along the lines of a current co-operative project with Canada Packers in nearby Red Deer.

The Honorable Eugene Whelan, in his address to the more than 400 people at the official opening, said that the federal government intends to do all it can to see that the livestock and meat industries in Canada overcome their problems and move ahead in an atmosphere of prosperity this province are generated from livestock sales. This amounts to $5 billion annually. Production, processing and marketing of beef is an important part of the agricultural industry."

"The total amount spent on food processing research in all of Canada amounts to about one-tenth of one per cent of all food sales. That level of research is a drop in the bucket for an industry so large and with so much potential. Research cannot solve all problems, but it can do a lot. Approximately 40 per cent of all economic activity in the country is directly or indirectly related to our agri-food industry and basic research on muscle metabolism, storage on shelf life for meat and so on.

The kill floor takes up about a quarter of the building. Approximately 24 animals are processed a week, at the present time and one-third of these will be hogs.

Mr. Whelan noted that Alberta has co-operated extensively with his department towards bringing a new red meat stabilization plan into being as the existing arrangements do not ensure producers a fair economic return. At the present time there is a wide range of conflicting federal and provincial plans, to support cattle, hogs and sheep and what is needed was an orderly, simple income support structure for the country's red meat producers.