



# InFARMation

Yukon Agriculture Branch  
Bulletin

Fall/Winter, 2019

Volume 32 Issue 3



## **Sarah Ouellette, Yukon's 2019 Farmer of the Year**

Each year as part of the North of 60° Agriculture Conference and Banquet, the Government of Yukon recognizes a farmer or farm family of the year. This year, Sarah Ouellette, operator of Sarah's Harvest, was chosen as Yukon's 2019 Farmer of the Year. The award is given to a farmer, farm family or farm advocate in the community who shows the commitment and passion for agriculture that shows excellence in accomplishments, volunteerism, good farm management skills, and use of innovative ideas.

Sarah was one of seven farmers nominated by their peers for the award. Sarah's nomination, along with the other six nominations we received this year are a testament to the hard work, passion and stewardship of Yukon farmers. We also received nominations for the following farmers and farm families:

- Tom, Simone and Graham Rudge of Aurora Mountain Farm;
- Allan and Cathy Stannard, Little Red Hen eggs, Mandalay Farm;
- Dev and Louise Hurlburt of Horse Haven Ranch in the Ibex Valley;
- Lloyd Linttot of Porcupine Creek Farm, which is operated by the Carcross Tagish First Nation;
- Megan Waterman of Lastraw Ranch, from Dawson City; and,
- Jen and Loren Sadlier of Klondike Valley Creamery near Rock Creek, Dawson.

The selection of the farmer of the year is evaluated based upon nominations and includes a number of criteria, such as number of years involved in agriculture, accomplishments, volunteerism, good farm management skills, and use of innovative ideas.

Continued on page 2...



Ranj Pillai, Minister Responsible for Agriculture, presents the 2019 Yukon Farmer of the Year Award to Sarah Ouellette. Ms. Ouellette runs Sarah's Harvest, a certified organic farm, at Lake Laberge.

## Director's Message

Thank you to everyone for your support, hard work and ideas during the past six months I have been filling in as the director of the Agriculture Branch.

I was impressed and privileged to work with Agriculture Branch staff and the agriculture community on a variety of initiatives, including Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding, agriculture lands programs, research initiatives, Agriculture Policy to 2030, the sheep and goat control order, animal protection and control legislation development, elk-agriculture conflicts, grazing files, First Nations, Federal/Provincial/Territorial committees, the North of 60° Agriculture Conference and numerous other program areas, events and files.

My time here has reinforced with me that agriculture and food self-sufficiency is a priority for a large number of Yukoners. It was an exciting and busy time. I am headed back to my existing role as operations manager with Yukon's Forest Management Branch with a better understanding of Yukon's agriculture community.

Matt Ball is back to work as director of the branch in January. A priority for Matt will be getting the Agriculture Policy to 2030 through the final steps and approvals. The policy will serve the agriculture sector well as a guidepost to further development and growth of Yukon's agriculture industry. I think the updated policy will highlight the amount of innovative thinking and hard work that needs to occur to maximize the benefits of local agriculture for all Yukoners.

It was a pleasure working with the passionate and committed group at the Agriculture Branch. I have also enjoyed meeting and working with members of the agriculture community, and have newfound respect for the dedication Yukon farmers have for what they grow and raise. I look forward to watching the continued growth of this industry "from the trees" as I return to work at the Forest Management Branch.

Again, thank you to everyone!

Kirk Price - Acting Director, Agriculture Branch

## Yukon's 2019 Farmer of the Year, Continued...

Sarah's small-scale certified organic farm near Lake Laberge produces high-quality vegetables for sale at various locations around Whitehorse. Ms. Ouellette was recognized for her professional, highly skilled operation that not only produces amazing produce, but is also a place that contributes to Yukoners' knowledge and appreciation of agriculture.

Sarah is involved with many organizations that advocate and move Yukon agriculture forward. She has been involved with Growers of Organic Food Yukon, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and the Fireweed Community Market. Sarah is also coordinator of the very successful Kids on the Farm program.

The Government of Yukon presented the award to Sarah Ouellette at the local food banquet held the evening of Saturday, November 2 as part of the Yukon's 32nd North of 60° Agriculture Conference.

Sarah Ouellette is a great example of a farmer who shows the commitment and passion for agriculture in Yukon and we can not think of a better person to honour with Farmer of the Year. Her production is well-planned and well-suited to her climate and soil conditions. Her extensive community involvement and enthusiasm have brought a great appreciation of Yukon farming and incredible local food to many Yukon children and households.

Congratulations to Sarah and all the nominees.

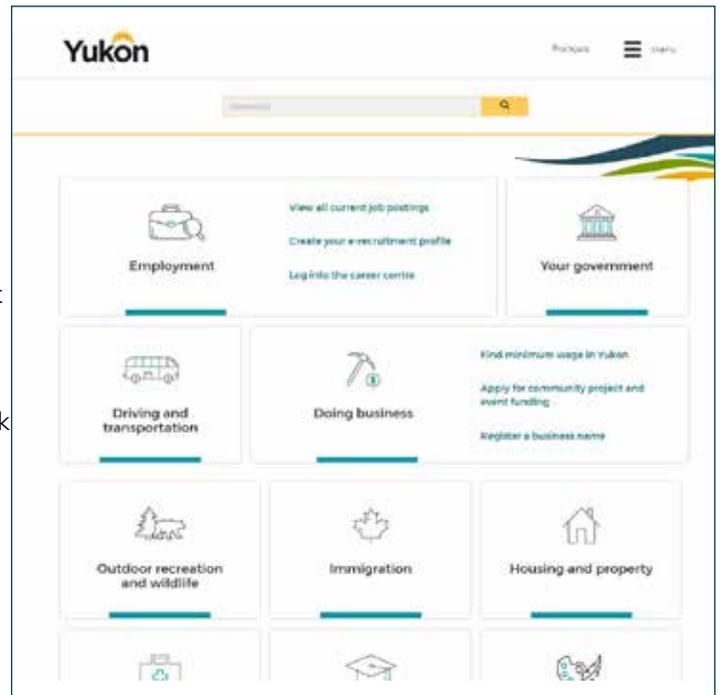
# Yukon Agriculture Branch Website Changes

In February of 2018, the Government of Yukon launched Yukon.ca. The launch of the website was to provide better access to information and a more streamlined approach to service.

The new website provides a central point for users to access tasks quickly and efficiently. On the home page the links direct a user to key areas, including Employment, Your government, Driving and transportation and Doing business, to list a few.

When looking for agriculture information on Yukon.ca, you click on Doing business. Agriculture programs are directed at the agriculture industry and therefore fall in this category.

Following the Doing business link, you can find an immediate link to agriculture funding; this brings you to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding program. To find information on land, hay testing or some other agriculture focused tasks, you can scroll down the page through the sub categories.



Support for agriculture is a sub-category. Here you will find just about everything agriculture-related that you may be looking for on the Yukon.ca page. Navigating the new paths to the farming information will take a little trial and error.

But - following the listed links is not the only way to use this site! You can go to Yukon.ca and type what you are looking for, just as if you were using a search engine.

For example, if you are looking to find information on how to get a premises identification for your farm, just type in "premises id", and this will bring up a list related to your search. The top two results returned from this search are the form to apply and the page providing you information on how to get a premises identification number for your farm.

Typing in your search sometimes involves a little trial and error if you are not use to searching for information this way. A tip when using the search option, is try adding and or changing the words/terms you are using. For example, if you are looking for land to develop into agriculture, typing in "farm land" is not specific enough, but adding agriculture to the search will bring you to the land application, apply for agriculture land web page and development guidelines.

The search option is just like using Google, Internet Explorer, Yahoo or just about any common search engine. You can even skip using Yukon.ca to do your search, but if you are not using Yukon.ca, you will have to add the term "Yukon" to your search.

A filter on the left hand side of the page can help you find information when using the search option. It can help narrow down the results of your search. For example, if you are looking for general information select Web pages, or for specific documents select documents. You can filter by Web pages, Documents, News, Events and Forms.

Detailed information, fact sheets or applications can be found using a search, but you will also find them embedded in the information pages as links.

Continued on page 4...

## Website Changes Continued...

For the most part, the new website is working well and users are able to find information, but there is still room for improvement.

This is where Yukon.ca needs your help. Provide your feedback. If you are not finding the information you thought you were able to find with the old site, please click on the thumbs down at the bottom of the page. After you do this, it will provide a space for you to comment and let us know what didn't work. This allows the web designers to change the site to make it easier to find content, or to add any missing information.

You can also click on the thumbs up if you found the new look helpful. This lets us know the new design is truly making it easier to find information and services.

One additional advantage to the new Yukon.ca website is that it designed to be easy to view on your mobile device.

Check out Yukon.ca and please let us know in the Ag Branch if you have questions or suggestions .

Yukon farms are expanding. See more on this topic on page 8. Below: Klondike Valley Creamery's new barn. Right: Takhini River Ranch's new butcher shop.

## The Corner L.O.T.

Land, Opportunities & Tidbits from the Agriculture Branch's Lands Unit

The advertising for the sale of two new agriculture lots in the Ibex Valley began November 22. With the release of these lots, there are currently four agriculture lots available for sale. These lots follow the planned agriculture land process and are sold using an evaluative process. You are required to submit a detailed farm development business plan as part of your application.

### Pioneer Lane in Ibex Valley

There are two soil-based agriculture lots each six-hectares in size. They are located on Pioneer Lane in the Ibex Valley near kilometre 1,454 on the Alaska Highway.

Go to Yukon.ca to find more information on:

- how to apply
- the release package to learn more about the lots and complete the application
- the lots on our interactive map
- our financial tool to develop your application, and an example

Deadline for applications is January 21, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

### Mayo: Silver Trail subdivision

There are two lots available in the Silver Trail subdivision near Mayo.

Go to Yukon.ca to find more information on:

- the information package for detailed instructions on how to apply.
- the release package to learn more about the lots and complete the application.
- the lots on our interactive map.

Application for these lots are open, and on a first come, first served basis.

### Future lots

More lots are being planned for release in the Upper Liard and Haines Junction areas. When lots become available, we will advertise and can email you. Email [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca) to sign up for land notifications.





## Livestock Health Technican/Meat Inspector Moves Offices

The Agriculture Branch recently welcomed Livestock Health Technician Bastien Ipas to the office. Bastien has been working with the Agriculture Branch and Animal Health Unit (AHU) for a while now as the Livestock Health Technician responsible for territorial meat inspection. Bringing Bastien over to the Agriculture Branch office strengthens the relationship with the Animal Health Unit and provides an additional person in the Agriculture Branch to help with livestock inquiries and operations.

We interviewed Bastien to better introduce him to Yukon's agriculture community.

Hi Bastien - welcome (physically) to the Agriculture Branch.

Q: You have been working as the Livestock Health Technician responsible for territorial meat inspection. How long have you been a meat inspector?

A: I started working as a meat inspector in August 2017 after some training/refresher on Canadian meat inspection procedures in Alberta with a local meat inspector.

Q: Where did you work before becoming one of the territorial meat inspectors?

A: I have diverse work experience locally and at the international level. I started working in France for an organization promoting farming and conservation of endangered heritage livestock breeds.

I also worked in a microbiology laboratory working on farmed fish bacterial diseases.

Then the ever-present memories from a summer spent in the Yukon for a high school internship lead me into trying the adventure of a new life up here. I came back to work as a Hatchery Technician for a local fish farm (Icy Waters). I also worked for a few months for a local landscaping company.

Q: More importantly what is your livestock background, where did you go to school?

A: After completing a biology degree I received a Master's degree in Agriculture (with specialization in livestock and related food industry) in Bordeaux, France.

Q: You're from France!!! What drew you to Yukon?

A: Fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. At the time I wanted to "escape" the crowdedness of Europe and as the North always fascinated me, I seized the first opportunity to come and experience life here. After a summer here I realized the outdoors opportunities extended well beyond my expectations. I also fell in love with the people and with many aspects of "life in the North". The story of many new Yukoners: I came for a taste and never left!

Continued on page 6...

## Livestock Meat Inspector Continued...

Q: What other projects have you been part of during your time with AHU?

A: Along with meat inspections I have been in charge of administrating the Veterinary Services Program. I participated in the review and edit of livestock health related communications (fact sheets, handbooks...)

I worked as a veterinary assistant for the Animal Health Unit veterinarian on various programs regarding both livestock health (farm visits and sampling for the Sheep and Goat Control Order) and Wildlife Health Surveillance Programs on wildlife populations (CWD, Winter ticks, M.o.vi...).

Q: You have had a little time to get familiar with the livestock industry. What do you think are some of the opportunities or risk for the industry?

A: The Yukon's livestock farming industry is living very exciting times, with an increasing number of farms and livestock set to match growing interest from local customers seeking access to locally farmed quality livestock products.

I witnessed the hard work and creativity of local farmers to face the challenges of farming "North of 60". They are supported by local structures and initiatives that work toward locally processing the farmed products (Abattoirs, butcher shops, egg grading stations...).

I am confident that the Yukon's livestock industry is very healthy and will continue growing towards making more quality local foods available to Yukoners.

Q: What has been your most memorable experience as a meat inspector? And, do you have any stories you can share?

A: Operating sensitive equipment (the hog scalding, for example) and keeping water lines running in winter conditions. Animals that are nowhere to be found when the mobile abattoir arrived on farm and have to be gently convinced to walk back from the far side of a property with their face in a bucket of grain.

Q: The season has wound down, do you have any statistics you can provide about the number of animals slaughtered through the inspected chain this year?

A: Both of our local inspected abattoirs (Mobile Abattoir and Naturally Northern Meats) have had increased business for the last few years with numbers being on the rise every season. In 2019 we inspected close to 500 animals in the territory and looking at the numbers I just realized that I personally passed the one thousand animals slaughter inspections mark!

Q: Any comment on quality?

A: Our livestock farming industry in the Yukon is characterized by small/medium scale operations with a great proportion of outdoor/free-range farming and very involved, caring and passionate farmers. The result of the dedication and good work is healthy animals and quality meat products. This sure makes the meat inspector's job enjoyable!



## Meet Your Maker:

A Winter Gathering of Yukon Food Businesses and Farmers

Monday, January 13 5:00-7:00PM

Town Hall - Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Please RSVP on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/77537226933>

By January 6th, 2020

Doors open for booth set-up at 4pm. Booths available for any interested farmers/suppliers

Product samples are encouraged. Please contact Environmental Health to ensure all measures are met.

YAA and TIA are proud hosts of this event. For more information, please call 867-668-3312

Supported by:



Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

# Livestock Legislation Updates

Between the Sheep and Goat Control Order #2018-001 and the review of Yukon's animal protection and control laws, Yukon livestock owners have plenty to think about. The Yukon government's intent on both initiatives is to be proactive about issues arising for industry, and to provide a framework around best management of livestock. There has been ongoing consultation with the agriculture industry to allow for feedback and to ensure the Yukon government is providing options to farmers that strengthen doing business.

## Sheep and Goat Control Order

On November 13, 2019, Government of Yukon held an information session to reiterate the background information around the Control Order, share updates, talk about steps moving forward, and answer questions from sheep and goat owners. The evening hosted 25 farmers, industry representatives and government officials.

The Control Order requires livestock owners to test and contain their sheep and goats. This has been a big change for the industry, with varying levels of understanding on how farmers actively farm sheep and goats and continue to be environmental stewards and neighbors. Containment and testing of domestic sheep and goats for *M. ovi* is well under way. As of the end of October, 36 farms had identified as having goats and/or sheep, 29 farms and a total of 343 animals have completed testing. Nine premises have complete and approved containment fencing and 22 premises have work in progress.

The Control Order comes into effect on January 1, 2020. Currently the Control Order will be in place for five years. The Control Order testing and containment will be assessed annually. For new animals, a permit issued by the Minister responsible for Agriculture (Energy, Mines and Resources) will be required to bring domestic sheep or goats into Yukon. Specific permit requirements will be based on risk assessment when applying for a permit. Complete and approved containment will be mandatory prior to import, and a quarantine area will be required so that the existing flock/herd is not put at risk.

The requirement to fence and do the testing has resulted in farmers pausing to reflect on farming activities, and contemplate whether they want to continue to raise sheep or goats. A few farmers have chosen to exit the industry, but a majority have improved their fencing. We would like to thank the many producers who have dedicated their time, attention and labour to meet the requirements of the Control Order.

## Yukon Animal Protection and Control Laws

Animal Health Unit and the Agriculture Branch hosted meetings over the fall to seek feedback on the review of Yukon's animal protection and control laws. The meeting with the agriculture industry is part of planned consultation with livestock owners in response to the initial consultation in the fall of 2018.

The first phase of consultation engaged directly with communities and sought input from Yukoners through an online survey and collected in a "What We Heard" document. The impetus for the review of the laws was not a reflection of Yukon's farming practices, but a result of a fatal dog attack. However it became apparent during the review that there is a need for legislation that addresses livestock welfare and control of all domestic animals, including livestock.

This second phase of consultation engages directly with the agriculture industry and livestock owners. The meetings have gathered invested livestock owners to serve on an Agriculture Industry Advisory subcommittee to provide direction to government for livestock welfare and control. The subcommittee will provide guidance on:

- Adoption of codes of practice as the welfare standards;
- Slaughter, euthanasia and surgery (castration, beak trim, tooth trim, etc.) standards; and,
- Livestock control and enforcement.

The agriculture subcommittee is meeting with Government of Yukon to discuss the changes required in the legislation. If you have more questions around this process or clarity on how changes may affect your operation please contact the Agriculture Branch or the Animal Health Unit.

For more information, please contact:

Agriculture Branch  
867-667-5838  
agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Animal Health Unit  
867-667-5600  
animalhealth@gov.yk.ca



## Yukon Farmers were busy this past year...

There were a number of barn raisings and agriculture infrastructure projects on the go this past year.

Klondike Valley Creamery, Fox Ridge Farms, Sunnyside Farms and Mandalay Farm (Little Red Hen), built new barns. Little Red Hen (photo to the right) converted an outbuilding into a layer barn.

TumTum's Black Guilt Meats (photo above) built a new butcher shop and storefront at Takhini Gas and Takhini River Ranch built a on farm butcher shop. ColdAcre Farms (photo below) added a second crop box to their operation along with new branding to create market distinction.

ColdAcres were not the only ones working on branding. Yukon Born & Raised Meats - a group of Yukon farmers working together - are building their image and product line in the market.



InFARMation is: A Government of Yukon newsletter published by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Agriculture Branch. If you would like to add or remove your name from the newsletter mailing list, comment on an article, contribute a story, or post an advertisement, please feel free to contact us.

Agriculture Branch  
 Energy, Mines and Resources,  
 Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6

Visit: Agriculture Branch, Room 320, on the third floor of the Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street in Whitehorse.

(867) 667-5838 | Fax: (867) 393-6222,  
 toll-free outside of Whitehorse  
 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5838

Email: [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca)  
 Online: [www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca)