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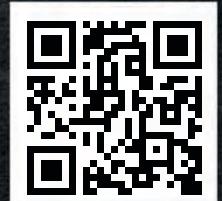
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# The **Cutter's Edge**



## In This Issue

2022 ACCHI Convention  
Saskatoon Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Wildfong Enterprises:  
100 Years Family Strong

Elmer's Manufacturing:  
Life on the Demo Run

Creekside Custom Harvest  
Harvest & Silage Experts

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[www.acchi.com](http://www.acchi.com)

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**The Cutter's Edge**  
May 2022 / Issue 23

# President's Message

It doesn't feel like long ago that we published the first "The Cutter's Edge" however it was in July, 2011. We strived to produce an agricultural magazine with current and relavent harvesting information. Today we are proud to deliver you the twenty second issue! We continue to bring you a publication chock full of the latest in technology, harvesting challenges and fascinating articles featuring our harvest family.

ACCHI truly is a close knit group. When I started out and attended my first ACCHI convention I met a well-established custom harvester and he guided me and showed me the ropes from lining up work in the U.S. to border paperwork. During the harvest run my crew has jumped in to lend a helping hand to other fellow crews. There are so many benefits to the comrades made through ACCHI and taking a membership. If you are thinking of joining our group contact me and I would gladly discuss them all with you.

It's time to dive into another issue! Learn about The Clearinghouse that started in January, 2020. The online database gives employers access to information about Commercial Driver's License driver drug and alcohol program violations. This issue's harvester profile is about One Sleeve Harvesting. Gloria and Victor Allison, along with their son Jordan, are a skilled Saskatchewan team that started their business in 2003. In our dealer profile Titan discusses the advantages of low sidewall technology tires to custom harvesters. Enjoy these articles plus much more.

I hope everyone had success this year despite the drought. I hope to speak with many of you at our annual convention in December. As always contact me with any ideas, challenges or successes.

## From the ACCHI Office

It's been another trying year of unknowns in Canada. Those involved in agriculture resiliantly gamble daily with the what-ifs of life only surviving through faith, family and friends.

As I write this I can hear the welcoming sound of water running in the eavestroughs. Everyone in Saskatchewan has had enough of the long, stormy winter. I truly wish there was a way to share our snow because we have never piled this much up in our yard.

With the mandates slowly lifting we begin to live life like before Covid. The office is quiet since last years crops where scarce and for the most part there wasn't a large demand for custom harvesters. We are hopeful that this year will bring change and abundant crops requiring farmers to need the aid of custom harvesters.

We were unable to have an Annual Convention although we did have a face-to-face business meeting which was held in Moose Jaw. We look forward to seeing many of you at our 2022 Convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The dates are November 30 to December 2, 2022. The host hotel for our event will be the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre as well as a trade show at the CNH Training Centre. There is a block of rooms set aside so please book before November 15, 2022. You can book online at <https://www.saskatooninn.com/rooms-and-suites.php>.

Our trade show will have representatives from our sponsors on hand to have a one-on-one discussion answering any questions about equipment, insurance, etc.

Our harvesters who head south to custom harvest have started their paperwork for the process required to get across the line. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as our Canadian harvesters share their exciting journey.

As you browse this magazine you will find many current, relavent articles for your reading pleasure. We are very grateful to all of our contributors as well as our supportive sponsors of this magazine. We are also very pleased with our publisher Sundown Graphics who does a fantastic job of each issue.



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# ACCHI Annual Meeting

Article written by: Lynn Prevost

The Association of Canadian Custom Harvesters Ltd. held a face to face business meeting in January at the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa in Moose Jaw. It was great to gather in person even though our numbers were small. Thank you to our new members who came out to join us. Getting feedback from them was inspiring to the executive.

We addressed a few business-related items regarding crossing the border last year with restrictions that were in place due to Covid.

The 2021 scholarship winners were announced. Check the magazine to read about our deserving recipients.

A member will be looking into further information regarding e-logs and what the laws are going forward. Currently information is not the same in regards to each province.

ACCHI placed an ad in the Prairie Ag Catalogue anticipating farmers seeking professional custom harvesters will reach out to our members.

Check this issue for reports from board members who attended the NCAE meeting in Washington and the USCHI meeting in Texas.

Our executive changed with Ryan Doyle stepping in as president. We are grateful to Shawn Thacker for his many years of service on board.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our 2021 Annual Convention from November 30 to December 2. Saskatoon Inn is our host hotel and the trade show will be at the CNH Training Centre. Call the office or a board member for further details.

# NCAE Annual Meeting

Article written by: Mike Van Driesten

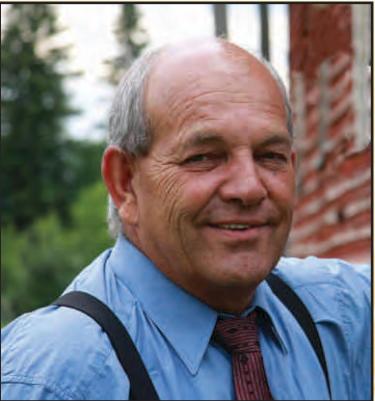
I attended the meeting for the National Council of Ag Employers (NCAE) held in Washington D.C. February 8-10, 2022. Jenny Bashutski was also in attendance. The event was filled with meetings and listening to several different speakers.

Doug Rand, Senior advisor for USCIS, spoke about how they are trying to streamline things internally within the USCIS. The issue was brought up that it seems to be very hard to communicate with USCIS and that nobody seems to have contact there anymore.

Dale Lim, from the US Dept. of State, talked about how vaccination status is not going to affect visa approval from a DOS standpoint. At this point, CBP will ask you to attest to being vaccinated and might ask for proof of a vaccine that has been approved by either CDC or WHO. This is in effect until April for sure but is being constantly monitored.

On another note, it appears as though we will have to segregate truck drivers from equipment operators and pay different wage rates. This will have no effect on the 2022 season and there is a possibility it could get stalled if it gets tied up with litigation. Just the same I think it is an issue we will have to monitor closely.

## In Loving Memory...



**Garth Allan Thacker 1955-2021**

The Association wishes to extend their sincere condolences to Flo and the entire Thacker family.

Garth was born in Taber on May 20, 1955 and raised on a farm north of Burdett. He loved to farm with his family and harvesting was his passion. Starting 'Thacker Harvesting' and traveling with his brother Shawn and son Cole were wonderful years full of adventure. Hunting and fishing with friends and family always made for laughs and great stories to be shared over a cup of coffee or a beer at the bar.

Garth was kind, loving and gentle. Always proud of his children and grandchildren he took great joy in watching them in their activities or gathering for an event. Garth enjoyed road trips with Flo and helping her grow a bountiful garden. We will all miss him dearly.



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# USCHI Convention

Article written and photos by: Gloria Allison

We, Victor and Gloria, registered at the Amarillo Civic Centre and picked up our packages for the U.S. Custom Harvester's Convention 2022. We met up with Mike and Brittany Van Driesten, from Fort McLeod Alberta, and enjoyed our breakfast together.

Our first session was speaker Lesley Kelly of High Heels and Canola Fields from Watrous Saskatchewan. Lesley spoke on mental health in agriculture and was an informative speaker. Next it was time to explore the trade show which focused on grains, cotton, and silage. We talked with several of the reps and learned a lot about new headers, concaves, header trailers, knife sections, guards and so much more! After lunch, Vic attended the combine clinics that were put on by Case IH, John Deere and Gleaner. It was interesting to hear how manufacturers have progressed, improvements in production, and issues they have overcome.

The gals went to the women's luncheon and had an afternoon of fun! Lesley was our guest speaker and after she spoke, Brittany and I introduced ourselves. She was thrilled to see other Canadians! Then it was onto a bus to the Metropolitan for a glass of wine, appetizers, and a dessert drink. Wow, we were treated like Royalty!

We enjoyed hospitality hour hosted by John Deere followed by supper. Our Canadian group was introduced and welcomed to the convention. To end a perfect day, we paraded across the street to the auditorium to enjoy a live concert featuring Reckless Kelly from Austin Texas.

The next day, we attended the State Trooper's presentation with the federal and state officers present. Their presentation was excellent and their videos hilarious. Some people should not be on the road. There was a Q&A session after.

Off to hospitality hour and more visiting. Supper was enjoyed by all 905 convention participants. The speaker was from Gleaner as they sponsored supper. The silent auction winners were announced and then the live auction started. The money raised goes to the Association and scholarships. Such a fantastic fun evening!

The last day of the convention was semi-formal night. We started with the Boy Scouts bringing in the flags, then the National Anthem was sung along with the Pledge of Allegiance. An amazing supper was served and then scholarships were announced followed by draws.

They inducted several people into the Hall of Fame. They started with a video of their accomplishments and then the presentation. Well done! Next new board members were announced and then the convention was called to a close.

We said our goodbyes and it is hard to believe that we met some of these people only a few short days ago. We are looking forward to staying connected through social media and may our paths cross again in the future. We are planning to attend the next convention! Thank you USCHI for welcoming us into your family.

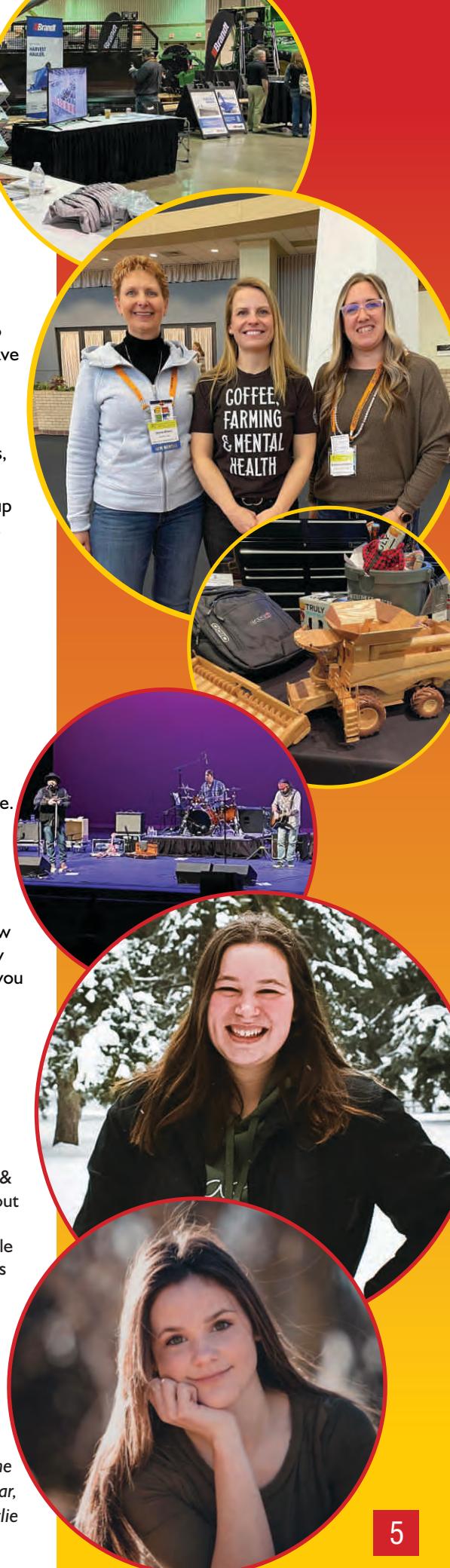
# 2021 Scholarship Winners

Article written by: Brittany Van Driesten

The recipient of the Cliff Petersen Memorial Scholarship 2021 is Tilynn Petersen. She is currently a first year Ag Business student at Lakeland College. Tilynn is the daughter of Lee & Dana Petersen; L. Petersen Farms. Spending her summers on the harvest trail; she started out as mom's sandwich maker but soon graduated to operating the tractor/grain cart and then finally to the combine. Growing up on the harvest run helped her to realize that many people depend on the crops we grow and harvest. Harvest has had a huge impact in her life and has helped her with the decision to pursue further education in agriculture.

The recipient of the Debbie Hepworth Memorial Scholarship 2021 is Kierstyn Doyle. She is majoring in science and education at the University of Lethbridge beginning fall of 2022. Kierstyn is a daughter of Ryan and Kathryn Doyle; R & K Doyle Harvesting. She has spent summers on the harvest run with the family since she was a baby. She helped Kathryn with cooking, crew chores and caring for her younger siblings. She is a bright young woman and wonderful to talk too.

"Thank you for the scholarship! I am very honored and appreciative to have received it, as the convention was one of my favorite places to be growing up. I am sad it was cancelled last year, but look forward to it being in Saskatoon, as I am going to the U of S." - Thanks again, Baylie



# WILDFONG ENTERPRISES

100 Years • Family Strong

Article written by:  
Brigitte Kelly,  
Sundown Graphics



## GREAT-GRANDPA ART

Over a century ago, Arthur Wildfong came to Saskatchewan from Ontario on a custom threshing crew with his brother Roy. It was 1917 and the pair headed towards the Palliser triangle with only the shirts on their backs, and a whole lot of hope that they'd get lucky on the way.

Art and Roy eventually found work and settled in Craik, Saskatchewan. They started farming on their own in 1919 after they saved up enough to get started. Art then met and married Ella in 1923, and soon after (a little too soon for propriety sake), Vern was born and their family was started. Over the years, Art and Ella's children grew up helping on the family farm... preparing for their future.

## KANSAS OR BUST

In 1947, Art's sons Vern and Bert received an opportunity of a lifetime. The war years had reduced the work force drastically and the US needed help from Canadians to harvest their wheat crops. They were short of baseball players too, which lead to the women's baseball league and Vern's wife Hazel pitching for the Rockford Peaches!

Art decided to take a gamble. He bought brand new machinery for the first time ever. He purchased a 1947 Maple Leaf grain truck and a Massey Harris 21 Harvest Brigade Special. The sign on the side of the truck said "Wildfong Bros" and beneath that, a taped-on sign that read "Kansas or Bust!"

The harvest run was an incredible success! They sent enough money home that summer to pay off the truck and combine. For Vern, it was the start of a record-holding 52 consecutive years of custom combining.

## ANOTHER GENERATION

Bert eventually built up his own farm near Craik and added satellite farms in the Riceron and Rouleau areas. He had an especially industrious mind, well-known for his innovative and efficient ideas.

As the younger brothers Jim and Ray grew up, they would travel down south to help their brothers as well. Gladys, Art's daughter kept busy farming with her new husband Joe on his farm in Silton. The large family always remained close-knit over the years - all immersed in farming.

The Wildfong family farmers were part of the original founders of the Palliser Wheat Growers, which is now the invaluable group that is known as Western Canadian Wheat Growers.

The next generation brought new ventures. Bert and his son Rick founded Harvest Services in the 1980s, where they sold thousands of airfoil chaffers, precision bored concaves, and plastic feeder chains across North America. They ran that until 1995, when the company was transitioned to key employees. Harvest Services is still running today.

## MODERN WILDFONG

In 2015 Rick's son Russ and his wife Beth took over the 9000 acre family farm. They primarily produce cereals, oilseeds and pulses such as red lentils, yellow peas, spring wheat and canola. They are also experimenting in soybeans and corn to help understand the challenges of the American market, and to design better solutions for improved threshing.

Today Russ continues to run Wildfong Concaves along with his sister Danielle and their father Rick. They manufacture and sell combine parts using stronger harder steel than any other manufacturer in Canada. They build Concaves for John Deere and Case IH, as well as Front Accelerators and Threshing Elements for John Deere combines.

Danielle manages all of the marketing, website building, and concave sales. Danielle also recently completed her Family Enterprise Advisor designation (FEA) course and now manages a farm consulting and coaching business called Your Legacy Coach, where she advises with accountants, investment professionals and leaders of family enterprises.

Rick still combines and plays a large role in running the concave business with his children. His wife Debbie taught at the local school for 40 years and is now teaching at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon. The couple enjoys hobby farming and cherish being grandparents.

Russ and his family live on Bert and Reg's original farm from the 1950s - just a mile away from his parents. Russ' wife Beth comes from an entrepreneurial family as well, and has taken over her family's real estate development business. Russ and Beth have two beautiful children; Art is five and named after his great-great grandfather, and Claire is four.

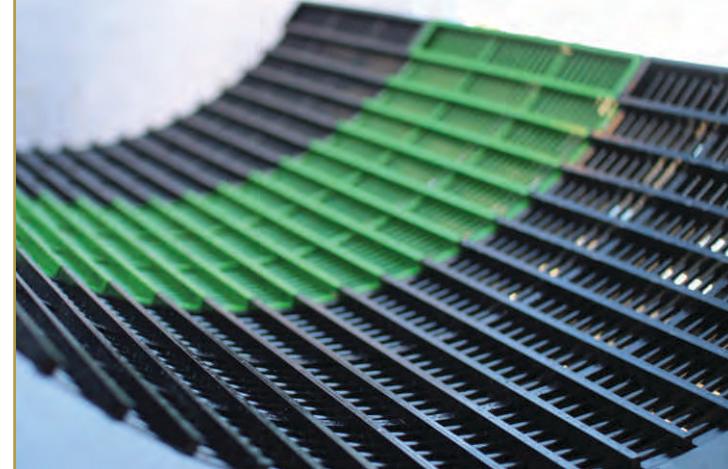
The Wildfong legacy is generations strong, and as they continue to thrive as a trusted name in the industry, Russ quietly hopes his children will have future success with the family business too.

"Maybe someday Art will even carry on the custom combining tradition."

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# ELMER'S MANUFACTURING

## Life on the Demo Run

Article written by: Elmer's Manufacturing

As seeding and planting season roll across the prairies, custom harvesters and producers begin cutting winter wheat near Seymour Texas. For many harvesters this is the starting line for an annual migration that meanders thousands of kilometers through country back roads and busy interstates, hauling over-sized loads and chasing maturing wheat.

Many of the crews are based in Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, a few from neighbouring states and a spattering from western Canada. Workers come from all over the world to experience the great American harvest working long hours when the conditions are right and finding interesting ways to keep entertained during rain delays. Harvest can run from Texas wheat in May to corn and beans in the mid-west in December.

Mixed in with local producers and harvesters you'll find the HaulMaster demo team from Elmer's Manufacturing. A fixture on the harvest run for the last five years, Elmer's actively promotes and demonstrates the HaulMaster grain cart, proudly boasting of the many unique features and benefits. When asked what makes the HaulMaster different Brad Friesen, Elmer's Sales Manager, says "I'm happy to list more than thirty HaulMaster features which make it superior if you have the time, but it's the people that make this cart great. From the producers and harvesters providing post-demo feedback, to our team of engineers that implement the ideas into production, everyone's input is so important".

Warm accolades aside the HaulMaster is really a different grain cart. Between 2017 and 2019, Elmer's introduced a right-hand discharge, lowered the overall height and center of gravity, eliminated any chains or belts, reduced auger wear and grain damage, reduced horsepower consumption per bushel and significantly reduce regular maintenance. Since the introduction of the first grain cart fifty years back, the augers have always discharged to the left to avoid contact with the combine auger when unfolded. Even after the introduction of a foldable auger many years ago the left-hand discharge remained, despite the natural tendency of most people to look over the right shoulder. Friesen goes on to say "the tractor seats are now designed to move much further to the right, the hydraulic controls are on the right, the scale monitor is typically on the right, there's no passenger in the way, the cart auger spout when folded is on the opposite side of the cart then the combine head. Why wouldn't you want the cart to discharge on the right? It is way more user friendly and ergonomically correct. The only advantage to having a left-hand auger is that you can leave it unfolded while in the field, but augers are so big today they really should be folded, and Elmer's has helped there as well by providing a simple double tap fold/unfold feature with HaulMaster Pro. As for the possibility of damaging the right-hand auger in a collision Friesen states "...at Elmer's we replace about 2 augers/year from collision damage, all of them left-hand,



sometimes they're up and sometimes down, this leads to collisions. With right-hand they're always stowed".

Elmer's demonstrates a variety of carts during harvest depending on the area, but all the carts are equipped with right-hand discharge, proprietary HaulMaster Pro with joystick, auto-gate for weight and speed, hydraulic jack and much more. Friesen says they demo with a dealer tractor when available but expects those opportunities to be limited in 2022 due to scarcity of equipment. Demos with dealer tractors are typically a half day while those using the producers tractor are a full day. In either event the team at Elmer's is cautious not to hinder the harvest. During a typical demo the Elmer's crew will bring the cart to the field and be ready to go well before that day's harvest is to start. If using the producers tractor, pictures are taken before disconnecting from producer's cart to ensure everything can be reconnected as it was, then connected to the HaulMaster using only one hydraulic circuit for all the auger functions, the seven prong plug for the scale functions and running the joystick cable into the cab. Once connected the crew will explain the many great HaulMaster features, ride in the buddy seat for a couple unloads to make sure the operator is comfortable, leave contact number and let the operator run on their own. Later in the day the crew member will return, typically taking a lap in the combine with the decision maker to answer any questions, return to the cart tractor to conduct an "exit interview" and then leave for the remainder of the demonstration.

Mike Van Driesten, of Van Driesten Harvesting, demonstrated the HaulMaster in 2021 and said "The demo program went really well; it was an easy hands-on way to try out the product and see how it compared to the machines we were currently using. I recommend all harvesters should try this program".

This year's demo program will cover Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Minnesota.

To apply for a demonstration its best to go to [www.elmersmfg.com/demo](http://www.elmersmfg.com/demo) or call Elmer's at 204-324-6263.

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# CREEKSIDER CUSTOM HARVEST

## The Only Harvest & Silage Experts You Need

Article written by: Trinity Funk, Sundown Graphics



**G**oing back to the beginning, what began in 1991 as the small family farm grew, especially over the last 12 years, into Elk Creek Dairy Farms and Creekside Custom Harvest. In the early years, the employees that worked for the dairy farm followed Gideon and his father into their journey of custom harvesting. Recently, however, the custom silaging business has taken off and Gideon has been able to hire additional staff dedicated to the harvest sector. They started small scale with one 400hp chopper and a few local dairy farms; now they are silaging experts in Alberta, Saskatchewan and expanding into Montana. Today their equipment includes, 4 800hp forage harvesters, 2 combines, 5 high capacity Ag-Bag silage baggers, 2 Packing tractor a dozen silage trucks, additional equipment needed to support making high quality forages. Gideon notes. In addition to harvesting they provide corn seed, canola seed, forages, inoculants, and several farm supplies including baler twine, net wrap, silage plastic, bale film and silage bags.

Gideon Stoutjesdyk began his journey in farming at the age of ten making 50 cents an hour. Eventually, with hard work and a passion for the job, that 50 cents turned into a farming partnership with his father, Brian. What started as a 160 cow dairy farm turned into two separate entities, the family farm and Creekside Custom Harvest. The idea to begin custom harvesting came to reality when Brian and Gideon felt that the forage needs of dairy farmers were not being met.

This last year posed a challenge with the drought that occurred and the ever changing Covid restrictions. Due to the fact that harvesting is a seasonal job, Gideon and his father are able to hire workers that travel home for the summer, however, with the borders being closed he wanted to be able to support his employees with work around the farm. Unfortunately, the work load was not large enough to support the number of staff, so in turn Gideon took that time of difficulty as an opportunity to introduce a wet feed program to his operation, similar to Cargill's forage program in New Zealand. With the shortage of feed in Alberta, Gideon takes corn silage, and other forages, compacts them into a round bale, and hauls them to ranchers "we are providing ranchers with feedlot performance and efficiency" he explains. With the introduction of large compactor, Gideon ended the interview by noting that they probably have the largest line up of forage packaging/storing equipment in all of Canada.

Creekside Custom Harvest has years of experience in the field! Their team can help you create a custom plan for your crops to produce high quality silage. The team can complete the whole process from harvest to stored silage or any part of the process you need. Contact Gideon at 403-331-8672 about your needs.

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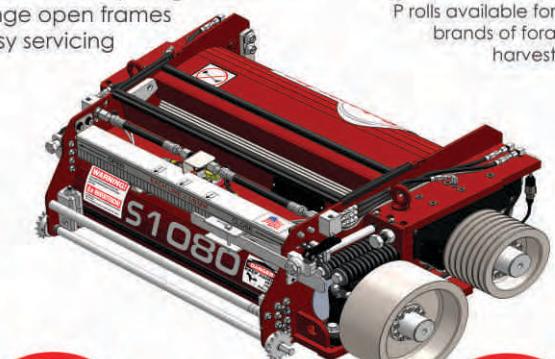
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# CHRIS BEAUDRY'S JOURNEY

Coping with Alcoholism, Depression, Shock & PTSD

Article written by: Trinity Funk, Sundown Graphics



*Farming is a lifestyle that includes long hours, unpredictable weather conditions and fluctuating market prices. Many farmers have experienced or live with various forms of mental illnesses that often go overlooked. The pressure of farming and the stress of life is what led to the mental health journey for Chris Beaudry, the former assistant coach of the Humboldt Broncos. Chris has had quite the journey in coping with alcoholism, depression, shock and PTSD. The decline of Chris's mental health began at a young age when he recalls his mother coping with her own trauma. This would lead to her yelling and beating him during her most severe outbursts. Chris recounts memories of his childhood saying "I remember when my dad would come home, it was like a wave of relief. Mom couldn't do anything to us when dad was home." During his father's absences, Chris began to form an idealized image of his father as the protective figure in his life and began placing him on a heroic pedestal. He feels that his father was a large factor in his decision to take up farming.*

The stresses of the farm and struggles of his childhood led Chris to use alcohol as a way of coping. Chris recalls alcohol as being the only substance that gave him a personality and made him feel happy. Unfortunately, this only fuelled his anxiety and spiralling depressive thoughts. He confirms that it did affect his ability to farm, deal with hardships and cope with problems. He mentioned a time when he began constantly blaming his father for always leaving him alone to fix everything singlehandedly. Chris explained that the agitation caused by minor inconveniences were enough to send his thoughts spiraling out of control. "I remember the one time a tractor tire broke, I felt frustrated and thought it was my fault, and if I couldn't get it fixed then I couldn't finish harvesting, and if I didn't finish harvesting then we weren't going to make any money and if we didn't make any money then we couldn't live and at that point I may as well just kill myself." Chris clarified that mental breakdowns as drastic as such were frequent and would happen over the smallest of inconveniences.

The explosions of destructive anger and sporadic mood changes became so frequent that Chris' mom and sister began to see the worrisome changes to his daily behaviours. They mentioned on various occasions that he had a problem with his drinking and should seek help. He admits that he was creating extra suffering for himself and hit a point when he couldn't distinguish his thoughts from reality. It was at that point that he sought out help at an AA group. From there he was able to get sober and really begin to live life again. That was, until the night of the bus accident.

The trauma caused from having to witness such a horrific crash led Chris to another depressive spiral. "I remember showing up to the scene and seeing the sod bags, which looked very similar to the hockey bags and thinking there were too many hockey bags laying on the side of the road." The following day he was called in to identify the boys at the morgue. There were so many people to identify they couldn't stop working on setting bones, stitching skin and zipping up bags as he tried to identify the bodies. The images of that day stayed with him for months following, and no amount of work on the farm was able to bring him any kind of relief. His passion for farming had diminished and the only thing he could think of was getting back to the hospital to be with those boys. Farming was no longer a priority and his work on the farm suffered as a result.

It was through his process of healing and working with a homeopath, Chris was able to begin addressing his PTSD from the crash. As he journeyed through his healing process he decided farming was not for him anymore and has turned to public speaking. He explains that "when you share your painful story, you cannot only heal yourself but you can start the healing for someone else." Based on his experiences Chris has become an advocate for anyone living with a mental illness and is able to help people cope with the traumas they may be facing. He notes that the belief that farmers are tough and need to "just deal with it and move on" is detrimental to their well-being. Everyone should be able to seek the help they need and gain access to materials to help them address the mental health they may be facing. Work is important, but you can't work if your mental and physical well-being are diminished.

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