

Springfield News and Views

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AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Just over 19 million acres were farmed in Manitoba in 2006. Statistics Canada recorded a 9.5% decrease in the total number of farms between 2001 and 2006 in our province. This is attributed to the trend of large farms acquiring smaller farms. In fact the number of farms larger than 3520 acres grew from 642 to 890 in the five year reporting period. In Manitoba cattle farms decreased by 9% and hog farms declined by 23% in this same period. The number of sole proprietorship farms declined by 12% from 2001 to 2006. Organic farming increased from 90 to 196 farms.

TESTING PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Approximately 15% of Manitobans rely on private water supplies for their source of drinking water. Regardless of the type of private water system, routine testing for the presence of microbiological contaminants is recommended. Preferably, the sample should be taken when the system is most vulnerable to contamination e.g. during spring melt or following a **period of heavy rainfall**. Additional testing should be conducted if the well or cistern has been affected by flooding or if there is a noticeable change in the water's taste, colour, odour, or clarity. To encourage sampling of private water systems, the Province of Manitoba subsidizes 70% of the analysis costs associated with one bacteriological sample per year. The current cost to homeowners for the testing is \$8.00. In the event that the analysis indicates that the water sample is contaminated, the province covers 100% of the analytical cost for an additional sample (re-sample) to confirm the initial sample results. Homeowners are responsible for any costs associated with transporting the samples to the lab. The contact number for the Manitoba Office of Drinking Water is 945-8315.

3 SPRINGFIELD PLAYERS SELECTED IN THE MJHL DRAFT

The Swan Valley Stampeders have selected both forward Tim Beck and forward Nick Falk from Oakbank in the 2007 Manitoba Junior Hockey League Draft on June 3, 2007. The Southeast Blades have selected defenseman Rylan Irvine from Oakbank. All three hockey players are from the 2006/2007 Springfield Bantam AA team. Good luck to all three young men in your future hockey careers.