

MINISTERS SPEAKING POINTS
18TH ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND BANQUET
YUKON INN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005 7:00pm

- Good evening and welcome to the 18th annual Agricultural banquet, it's my pleasure to be here tonight.
- I've already noticed that someone is missing tonight and want to take a minute to acknowledge Dave Beckman for his 18 years of service to the Agriculture branch and the agriculture community.
- Dave Beckman has retired from the Energy, Mines and Resources branch and moved to Alberta. I would like to wish Dave all the best in the future, his unique sense of humour will surely be missed by all of us here.
- I would like to thank everyone for coming here tonight and also all of the guest speakers for traveling here to present at this year's conference.
- I hope everyone had the opportunity to attend the conference today and learn about the programs offered to Yukon farmers that included the topics of:
 - renewal
 - farm succession
 - environment
 - risk management and the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) program
 - Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) and
 - organic production standards
- It is great to see the growing number of programs developing in our territory.

- Many of the programs discussed today are part of the Canada-Yukon Agriculture Policy Framework agreement (APF) and the programs that it offers. This Policy is a long-term action plan for Canadian agriculture that will assist in the growth of the industry throughout the territory.
- The APF has allowed us to strengthen the local agriculture industry by bringing in federal dollars for development in the areas of food safety and quality, environment, renewal, science, and innovation and risk management.
- The Agriculture branch of Energy, Mines and Resources offers a range of programs and services in support of this growing industry.
- One great project developed through the Yukon government Agriculture branch is the Yukon Gardener's Manual.
- I recognize and congratulate the efforts and assistance given by many Master Gardener graduates, course instructors and our Agriculture branch. This is truly a grown-in-the-Yukon product.
- Yukon gardeners of all experience levels can benefit from the material in this publication, which has been eight years in the making.
- This book was funded in part through the Agricultural Policy Framework agreement.
- While we are on the topic of programs and policy – I would like to take the time to thank those of you who provided feedback during the review of the Agriculture Policy.
- The Yukon government is dedicated to supporting agriculture and recognizes that the needs in the Yukon often differ from those in other parts of Canada.
- I would also like to take this moment to recognize Doug Craig, who made a large impact not only in the agriculture industry but on our entire community.

- We were saddened to hear that the former president of the Yukon Agriculture Association passed away recently. Doug was an innovator who achieved great success in his lifetime. His compassion and determination was greatly admired by everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed by all.

CLOSING

- Thank you to everyone for helping this industry to continue to grow.
- I am committed to working with you to support a healthy agriculture industry.
- I look forward to congratulating this year's farmer of the year winner a little later this evening.
- Have a great night and enjoy the gourmet selection of Yukon grown food!