

Tars' Tale-Spins

Keeping Perspective as the World Wobbles



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After two very strange, difficult years, everyone was showing tentative optimism that 2022 would finally be a year signified by a return to something near 'normal.' The labour and supply chain issues causing difficulties and cost increases were being taken in stride. The flood recovery in Sumas Prairie continues. A new Crossroads Hub for supporting people in Sumas Prairie has opened. In-person events are returning...

Then Russia attacked Ukraine.

Disturbing and devastating on so many levels, it has sent shock waves around the world, accompanied by a myriad of unwelcome consequences that will impact us all. Markets of all types are stumbling as the ramifications are still not fully known. What is known...is that everything will be under more duress in 2022.

It seems unbelievable that just as the world was starting to stabilize, it was kicked once more, knocking it off balance for another year.

But I can't leave this here with a dismal, sour look ahead. We always have a choice - and most farmers I know, choose hope, choose 'get on with it' as their way forward. Spring is here and grass will grow again. The tilled soil will soon be dotted with corn sprouting. It is this cycle of life that keeps farmers on the land - often for generations. Farming is a long-vision calling.

This is the second year we are featuring a variety of articles centering on Farm Safety. This theme was well-received last year, and we felt it important to continue highlighting this vitally important aspect of farming. It's not a comfortable topic and most of us would rather focus on anything else! But I invite you to take the time to read the articles that seek to inform you and support your farm. The wildfires and floods really put emergency preparedness on the front-burner. Fires and injuries are an ever-present risk on farms. Our intent is not to sensationalize but to normalize the topics so that more farms will embrace a safety culture that ultimately saves lives, livestock and a lot of stress.

I was thrilled to see the level of support provided by volunteers to the Adopt a Farmers Field Day in Sumas Prairie on March 12. A special thank-you to the youth who came out to help - a U15 Chilliwack hockey team, families who brought their children, the Sumas Holstein 4-H Club, Matsqui Holstein 4-H, Chilliwack District 4-H, and Pitt River 4-H Lamb, Beef and Swine. The people around our communities care about farmers, farming and food. Let's keep them close.

The minimized in-person socialization for the past two years has highlighted the significant value of social contact and relationships in every direction. Like all of you, I'm excited to get back out and relish the opportunities to mingle with our friends who share dairying in common.

As the world continues to wobble, let's hang on and do what farmers do best - persevere through the uncertainties and continue to produce food. And let's do it together!

Please be safe everyone as you get busy with Spring farming!



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