The United Farmer

January - February, 1983
Facts for Farmers

World Wheat Crown Goes To Alberta

Alberta has captured the world wheat championship at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Jim Miklos of Wentham, south of Lethbridge won the title with a sample of Canuck, a hard red spring wheat variety.

Mr. Miklos made history in the competitions this year by winning first place in open hard red or white spring wheat category as well as placing first in the pedigreed hard red spring class. Agricultural officials say to their knowledge this is the first time these classes have been won by the same person.

Did You Know That?
(Prepared by Agriculture Canada)

— Only one-half a per cent of one year’s world military spending (estimated at one million dollars a minute) would pay for farm equipment needed to increase food production in food deficient nations, enough to bring food security to most by 1990.

— World population is expected to grow from 4.5 billion today to 6.35 billion by the turn of the century; an increase of 50 per cent. About 90 per cent of this growth will occur in the poorest countries. The Third World must import food to meet the needs of its people. In 1960 total food imports were 20 million tonnes; by 1970, this had grown to more than 50 million tonnes; by 1980, the Third World had to import 80 million tonnes of basic foodstuffs.

— In any given hour about 500 people die, most of them children, as a result of starvation. One billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

— In any given hour, Canadians spend nearly $800,000 on alcoholic beverages.

Farm Cash Receipts

Alberta farm cash receipts from the sale of both crop and livestock products are forecast to be down by $80 million in 1982 and to show a further decline of $190 million in 1983.

Chuck Sterling, head of the Alberta Agriculture’s statistics branch reports that Alberta’s grain marketing will be down from last year. The decline in grain prices has resulted from an abundance of world supplies.

A combination of lower prices, less deliveries than Alberta’s record wheat marketing in 1981 and smaller CWB payments will result in lower wheat receipts in 1983. Mr. Sterling says. He also says that cash receipts from feed grains, particularly barley will not increase in 1983 even with an increase in marketings. However, flaxseed deliveries and, to an even greater extent, canola deliveries will provide additional cash receipts in 1983.

In contrast to the situation faced by grain producers, the income picture for Alberta livestock producers improved in 1982. Higher prices combined with some increase in marketings provided an additional 9 cent per increase in Alberta’s farm cash receipts from both livestock and livestock products.

However, Alberta’s livestock receipts for 1983 are projected to be somewhat lower than those of 1982 because of fewer cattle marketings and no change in prices. Alberta hog slaughter figures for 1983 should remain similar to those of 1982 with 1983 prices averaging near those recorded in 1982.

Alberta farmers seeded a record 17.5 million acres of principal grain and oilseed crops in 1982. The province’s summerfallow acreage was the lowest that it has been since 1940.

In spite of a cool spring, drought conditions and an early frost, yields of nearly all crops were above average. Alberta Agriculture’s statistics branch reports that total production of the principal grain and oilseed crops was 15.47 million tonnes in 1982, which is only slightly less than 1981’s record production of 15.57 million tonnes.

In 1982 Stats Canada estimates that the average Alberta yield in kilograms per acre for the principal grain and oilseeds (with the previous five-year average in brackets) is as follows: Wheat 895 (820); oats 1 000 (910); barley 1 075 (1 030); rye 805 (810); flaxseed 510 (480); canola 500 (490).

However the quality of the 1982 crop was much lower than that of the 1981 crop. Disease problems in Alberta were relatively minor, but weather related crop losses were substantially above normal. Claims in Alberta up to December, 1982, totalled 75 million dollars, compared to 33 million dollars in 1981.
C.F.W.F. Awards

UFA Takes Three Top Awards

The Communications Critique and Awards Program is sponsored by the Canadian Farm Writers Federation. Its purpose is to help agricultural communications reach a high standard of professional excellence through a constructive critique of materials produced, and give recognition to individuals producing outstanding materials.

Any farm writer, broadcaster or communicator is eligible to enter. This year there were 200 entries received, representing most of the Canadian provinces. The C.F.C.W. Annual Meeting, at which the awards were presented, was held for the first time in Saskatoon.

Jim Romahn of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record was the Awards Chairman and in his report noted, “Farm writers and broadcasters have produced some excellent material during this past year, and much of it was entered in this year’s competition.”

The Alberta winners were:


Press Column - Terry Hockaday, Cattlemen Magazine for “Hitchin Post.”

News Release - Gayle Honey, Lethbridge Research Station.

Media Kit - Pat Davidson, Alberta Agriculture; Gayle Honey, Lethbridge Research Station.

Company Publications - Alice Switzer, United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited for The United Farmer.

Annual Report - Earl Burns, Alberta Agriculture; Alice Switzer, United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited.

Print Advertisement - Alice Switzer, United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited for “This is United Farmers of Alberta.”

Farm Radio Show - Brian Batter, CFCW Camrose.

Broadcast Television News - Noel McNaughton, CBC Wetaskiwin for “Phone Scam”; Dianne Finstad, CKRD, Red Deer for “Plowing Match”; Armin Hecht, Smoky Lake for “Village Blacksmith”.

Rural Television Show - Dianne Finstad, CKRD, Red Deer for “This Business of Farming.”

Motion Picture - Barry Harris, Alberta Agriculture for “Charnetski”.


Single Color Photographs - Terry Hockaday, Canadian Cattlemen; Dave Bates, Country Guide.

Slide Set - Chris Silk, Alberta Agriculture.
Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers

Initiated in 1980 by the Canada Jaycees and the Calgary Stampede, the Outstanding Young Farmers program was designed to bring greater recognition and appreciation for the achievements of Canada's young farmers. In 1981, the Jaycees and the Calgary Stampede were joined by Cominco Limited and the Bank of Montreal as the major official sponsors.

The program has proven to be an outstanding success. Eight region finalists were again selected this year from across Canada and awarded an expense paid trip to Round-up '82 to compete in the finals.

From these region finalists — Rod King of Penticton, B.C.; Gordon Bussey of Airdrie, Alberta; Barbara Schuweiller, Limerick, Saskatchewan; John Schellenberg, Steinback, Manitoba; John McDougall, Grassie, Ontario; Terrance Gough, Barrie, Ontario; Denis Vallee, Nicolet, Quebec; and Dave Acton, Sackville, New Brunswick, three outstanding Young Farmers were chosen — Gordon Bussey, John McDougall and Denis Vallee.

The United Farmer salutes all the winners, especially Gordon Bussey, a worthy Alberta representative.

Born into a farming family, Gordon has always had a love for the land. Now at age 34, he has 14 years experience at operating his own pedigreed seed farm and livestock enterprise.

As owner/operator of an entire section of land, Gordon has made every effort to try and ensure the continued success of his operation. He has taken courses in welding and other trades in order to reduce the cost of farm repairs and maintenance; has expanded his production of new and more profitable pedigreed crops; participates in a labor exchange with his father to eliminate the need for hired help.

Being a pedigreed seed producer, soil and water management, as well as weed control are very important. Gordon utilizes infra-red photography to check on soil quality and completes annual soil tests to determine the appropriate fertilizer application rates. Reservoirs have been constructed to catch and conserve water for his livestock operation. Ditches are used to drain sloughs and make new areas arable and culverts have been installed in the natural waterways.

Gordon is also active in community and agricultural organizations among them the Canadian Seed Growers Association, Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Alberta Wheat Pool. He is a founding member and acting president of the Rocky View Rural Crime Watch and Range Patrol and this organization has been instrumental in reducing the incidence of rural crime in their community.

Gordon and his wife Joanne have two children, Karen and Jeff.

Gordon Bussey of Airdrie, an Outstanding Young Farmer and one all Albertans can be proud of.
Petroleum Division Appointments

Lawrence Proudfoot, Manager of the Petroleum Division, recently announced the following appointments.

Bill Margach, formerly Region Manager, South and Peace, will become Assistant to the Division Manager.

Bill McNab, formerly Manager of Territory #1, will assume the duties of Region Manager, South and Peace.

Tom Miller, formerly Manager of Territory #4, will become an Assistant to the Manager, Marketing Services, and will assume that position upon the retirement of Gordon Chisholm in late 1983.

The Individual and UFA

This series was started in The United Farmer with a definite purpose — to show that there is a place in modern business for individual initiative. The right to excel is open to every person. Everything that is done that is above average indicates a determination and effort and contributes to a company’s progress such as the growth that has made UFA the largest marketer of farm fuel in Alberta.

Bill McNab

A career man with UFA, Bill McNab joined the Petroleum Division in 1965 as a Petroleum Territory Manager.

Originally from Lethbridge, Bill attended Westminster School and Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. Prior to joining UFA, Bill worked with International Harvester from 1942-1957 and then from 1957-1965 was the I.H. agent at Pincher Creek and also operated an Imperial Oil Limited service station.

In the 18 years Bill has been with our Organization, he has been the Territory Manager in the Calgary, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge areas. As the Region Manager, South and Peace, Bill will have his office in the Calgary head office.

A member of the Baptist Church, he has, over the years, been active in numerous service organizations.

As Region Manager, South and Peace Region, Bill McNab takes over the responsibilities of Bill Margach, who previously held this position. Bill Margach was recently appointed Assistant to the Division Manager.

Specifically Bill McNab is responsible for the R.O.A.M. (Return on Assets Managed) of the South and Peace Region of the Petroleum Division. This includes the day to day decisions that must be made as related to sales, operations, inventories, accounts receivable and net earnings as well as capital budget, projected expenditures and long term planning. Another major responsibility of Bill’s will be his involvement within the Division for the development, implementation and continual updating of efficient marketing strategies.

A close ongoing contact is maintained by Bill with Territory Managers Gordon Gimbel, Tim Church, Fred McMillan and Bill MacPherson, for whose overall performance he is fully responsible. In addition to regular meetings held two or three times a year or whenever necessary, Bill will be spending about 25 per cent of his time in direct travel contact in the South and Peace Regions. He receives input on all operational aspects from the Territory Managers and consults with them on capital expenditures and other pertinent decisions.
The Individual and UFA (continued)

Thomas S. Miller

As Assistant to Gordon Chisholm, Manager of Marketing Services, Tom Miller will work closely with Gordon in the development and maintenance of the physical facilities for petroleum marketing in UFA.

This includes the purchase and sale of property, the purchase and installation of storage tanks for retail and bulk plant operations and the maintenance of equipment.

Tom will also assist Gordon in administering the Petroleum Division’s advertising program, developing new directions in the marketing of tires, batteries and accessories and developing and maintaining an operations manual for Agents and Territory Managers.

Tom was raised on the family farm in the Brooks area. He went to Brooks Composite High and then to the University of Calgary where he obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree.

After graduation, Tom worked as an analyst for 1½ years with Gulf Oil of Canada and then in October, 1978, joined UFA as a Territory Manager with the Petroleum Division. He has been living in the Mannville area and prior to his new appointment was the Territory Manager for Territory #4.

Tom and his family have now moved to Calgary and Tom will be working out of UFA’s head office.

Territory Managers

UFA’s Petroleum Territory Managers have a very important role in the distribution of petroleum products to our members. Their main functions include marketing, control, Agent training, public relations, operations and supervision. Marketing as a primary responsibility involves:

- planning of sales objectives by an Agency.
- maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of what is happening in the market place — particularly as it relates to competitive policies.
- appointing and training Agents.
- providing counsel and leadership to the Agents in the management of their business.

In addition, UFA’s Territory Managers supervise the operation, upkeep and maintenance of Company property throughout Alberta. Control includes inventories, audits, etc., at the Agencies.

Timothy R. Church

Tim Church is a descendent of a well known family in the Hesketh area. His grandparents came to the area in 1919 and Tim grew up on the family farm where his father, Harry, is still actively farming. Tim went to school in Hesketh and Carbon and attended Goldeye Centre and Grand camp, where his leadership abilities became apparent and he was invited to serve on the staff.

In 1978, Tim joined UFA as a fieldman with the Information Service.
Department. In 1982, he transferred to the Petroleum Division and was appointed Territory Manager for Territory #2. Tim works closely with the UFA Agents at Acadia Valley, Calgary, Cereal, Dalum, Delia, Drumheller, Esther, Hanna, High River, Okotoks, Oyen, Rockyford, Rosebud, Strathmore and Youngstown.

Tim enjoys sports, reading and hiking and spends a lot of any spare time in farming on the family farm.

**Gordon Gimbel**

Gordon Gimbel has been associated with UFA’s Petroleum Division for over 25 years but his association with UFA goes back even further.

In 1958, Gordon returned to UFA as Petroleum Territory Manager for Territory #3 and works with the Agents in Beiseker, Carstairs, Delburne, Eckville, Innisfail, Lacombe, Olds, Red Deer, Rimby, Rumsey, Sylvan Lake, Three Hills and Trochu and with the UFA Affiliated Co-ops of Eagle Hill Co-op Association, Spruce View Co-op Association and the Ponoka Co-op Oils Limited.

Gordon is a man of many talents. He has an excellent knowledge of co-operatives, particularly UFA. In addition Gordon plays the banjo and guitar and has played at hundreds of dances over the years. He likes to golf, curl and square dance and is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Masonic Lodge and Gaetz United Church.

**William F. MacPherson**

Bill MacPherson was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and attended St. Patrick’s High School. He then went on to St. Mary’s University in Halifax where he received his Bachelor of Commerce Degree majoring in Marketing and Accounting. His area of concentration during his studies was business administration and his major subjects were marketing and management courses.

While attending university, Bill held a variety of summer jobs. He worked as a janitor in a hotel; a rodman with a survey crew, a warehouseman and as a management trainee in a department store. After his graduation from university in 1978, Bill joined the Hudson's bay Company as a salesman. During his four years with H.B.C. he completed several management courses.

In October, 1982, Bill joined UFA as the Petroleum Territory Manager for Territory #1. In his new position, he will work closely with the UFA Agents at Bow Island, Cardston, Claresholm, Fort Macleod, Granum, Iron Springs, Lethbridge, Lomond, Milk River, Milo, Nanton, Nobleford, Patricia, Picture Butte, Vulcan and with the Arrowwood Co-op Association, Medicine Hat Co-op Ltd., and Pincher Creek Co-op Association.

Bill is now making his home in Lethbridge. He enjoys hockey, skiing and racketball in the winter and softball and swimming in the summer.
The Individual and UFA (continued)

Mark F. McCarron

Mark joined UFA as a Petroleum Territory Manager in November, 1979. He was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and went to St. John's Academy and New Glasgow High School where he was selected as the graduating classes' valedictorian and voted the best all around male student. Mark went on to graduate from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Prior to joining UFA, he was associated with the Bank of Commerce for two years.

As Petroleum Territory Manager for Territory #5, Mark keeps in close contact with the UFA Agents at Alix, Alliance, Bashaw, Bawlf, Buck Lake, Camrose, Castor, Forestburg, Gladstone, Hay Lakes, Holden, Killam, Millet, Stettler, Tolofield, and Wetaskiwin Co-op Refineries Ltd., which is an Affiliated Co-op.

He enjoys most sports, especially hockey, rugby and swimming.

Fred McMillan

Raised on the family farm in the Rosebud area, Fred went to school in Rosebud and Standish and completed his Grade 12 at Viscount Bennett in Calgary. He then went on to take Business Administration at Mount Royal College and an Economics Course at the University of Calgary.

Prior to joining UFA in May, 1975 Fred was associated with Gulf for six years and then with Pacific Petroleum and White. In his years with UFA Fred has lived in Delia, Edmonton and for several years now has been in Grande Prairie.

As Petroleum Territory Manager for Territory #7, Fred maintains a close contact with the UFA Agents at Bay Tree, Beaverlodge, Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Grimshaw, High Prairie, Hines Creek, Hythe, La Glace, Manning, Sexsmith, Spirit River, Valleyview, Wanham, Woking and Worsley and the Girouxville General Co-op Association.

Fred has always taken an interest in community work in the places he has lived. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and most sports.

John B. Pullishy

John joined UFA in 1976 as a Petroleum Territory Manager. Originally from Edmonton, John attended school in Edmonton and Smoky Lake. His parents have been farming near Waskatenau since 1967. John then went on to the University of Alberta where he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree.

Prior to joining UFA he worked for Shell Canada Limited for two years in their Marketing Petroleum Wholesale Division. As Petroleum Marketing Manager for Territory #6, John works closely with the UFA Agents at Athabasca, Drayton Valley, Edmonton, Josephburg, Mayerthorpe, Morinville, Onoway, Radway, Salisbury, Sangueno, Smoky Lake, Stony Plain, Thorsby, Warburg and Wildwood and with the Beaver Creek Co-op Association at Lamont and the Neerlandia Co-op Association.

John enjoys sports, especially fishing and also dabbles in investments (stocks and coins).
Donald A. Reid

Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Don Reid attended Churchill High School. As many of his relatives were involved in farming, Don spent many holidays on farms and one summer worked at repairing grain elevators for U.G.G.

After graduation, Don joined the sales department of a lead manufacturing company in Winnipeg and then became a parts representative for a major Chrysler dealership in Winnipeg. In 1978, he joined Pacific Petroleums in Winnipeg and worked for them in Calgary and in Edmonton as a territory manager in their petroleum sales division. In 1980, Don accepted a position with Turbo Resources and was with them until joining UFA's Petroleum Division in October, 1982.

Don has always been very interested in athletics and was the sports director for a Winnipeg community club. He enjoys most sports and has been involved in coaching baseball, hockey and football. Flying is another interest of Don's and in 1976 he received his private pilot's license.

In December, 1982 Don was appointed Territory Manager for Petroleum Territory #4 and is living, with his family, in Vermilion. His work will bring him into close contact with the UFA Petroleum Agents at Consort, Coronation, Czar, Dewberry, Edgerton, Elk Point, Glendon, Lougheed, Mannville, Myrnam, Paradise Valley, Provost, Spedden, Vegreville, Vermilion, Wainwright and Willingdon.

Meet Bryan C. Bradley

Agency as a dispatcher, was later promoted to manager and in 1968 took over as the Edmonton Petroleum Agent. In his almost 15 years of association with our Organization, Gib not only achieved recognition for his outstanding volume increases but also for his efficient manner of doing business coupled with courtesy and consideration.

Bryan Bradley's family is originally from the Lacombe area. Bryan attended school in Edmonton and Victoria and then went on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alberta. For seven years, Bryan was associated with Briggs Trucking and Equipment Limited in Edmonton, as manager of the trucking company and farm machinery sales and service. This past year, he farmed with Bob and Bernie Briggs in Namao.

Bryan is active in his community and is a board member of St. Stephens United Church and a member of the local community league. He enjoys all sports and has played international levels of volleyball and basketball. He now plays hockey in Sturgeon County and enjoys skiing in the winter.

Bryan and his wife Janet, who is in the school system and on the executive of the Namao Kindergarten Association, have a five year old son James.

Every success to you in your new business, Bryan as the UFA Petroleum Agent, in Edmonton.
Albertan of the Month

James Jespersen

When this story appeared in the October, 1970 issue of The United Farmer, James Jespersen, one of Norman's sons, was nine years old. He was brought up in the dairy business and worked many hours in his dad's barn. He felt it was and still is a good barn.

In 1982, Jim went on his own and it certainly speaks well for FDD Edmonton, that just as his father had before him in 1968, James had FDD Edmonton build his barn for him.

The First Stony Plain Jespersens

It was 1903 when Andrew Jespersen and his brother came to the Stony Plain area. Originally from Denmark, the family had farmed for some years in North Dakota. They shipped some cows and machinery to Edmonton and then they trekked to their homestead in the Stony Plain area. Right from the start of their farm venture, they milked cows.

The Jespersens — milking in Alberta for 80 years.

When Andrew's son Harold, was married, one of the wedding presents from the bride's family, whose name was Gertz, were a couple of milk cows and so the second Canadian generation of Jespersens became dairymen. It was on this farm that Norman Jespersen grew up. Norman remembers that the toughest part of an Alberta winter was getting enough water for the cattle. There wasn't enough water in the well, so the cattle were taken down to the lake, one-half mile away. A hole would be chopped in the ice and then the cattle would balk at getting out on the ice. As Norman Jespersen says, "It was always a performance." Norman can also remember his father and his aunt taking butter they had churned to sell in Edmonton.

Excerpt from The United Farmer - October, 1970.

Cows Cater to Comfort

"Clanking milk pails . . . chaff on the ceiling . . . a tail in the face . . . flies in the milk . . . those are nostalgic minutes out of yesteryear.

"Today it's herringbone parlors, pipeline milkers, stainless steel bulk tanks and environmental control. Experience in recent years has proven that cows cater to comfort and put their best foot forward when leading the good life.

"Progressive dairymen are making the necessary moves to put cow comfort first and at the same time, they're adding convenient features that make life easier for themselves.

"The Edmonton Farmstead Development Department takes pride in the Norman Jespersen Dairy at Stony Plain. All buildings were erected and the systems were completely installed by FDD Edmonton.

"The fact that Mr. Jespersen has doubled his herd and cut back on labour — the fact that a lot of cleaning up has been alleviated — the fact that production is up — the fact that milking time is now cut in half — these are some of the reasons Norman Jespersen is very satisfied with his new dairy operation."

Norman Jespersen

Primarily, Norman Jespersen as his father and grandfather before him is a dairymen. He is certainly aware of the regimented discipline that running a dairy demands, but he feels
James Jespersen, at age 9, getting a good start in the dairy business.

"Everyone's work ties them down in some way."

'everyone's work ties them down in some way' and he is completely adjusted to his routine ways and farming.

Norman has now had his barn for 14 years — at that time the Edmonton FDD representatives who worked on his barn were Ivor Baldwin and Stuart Pendlebury. Norman says, 'the barn has worked well for me' and he fully appreciates the change from hand milking.

Norman and Loretta Jespersen have five sons — Derek who is a missionary in India; Mark who with his wife Colleen and son Jeffrey are on the farm with Norman and Loretta; Lauren who is also considering going into missionary work, James who is now on his own farm and Todd, who is still living at home and attending school.

Norman Jespersen in his milk parlor.
Norman says that all his sons felt at one time that they didn’t want to milk anymore — so they left for awhile, but when Mark and James returned they had decided to go into dairying while Derek and Lauren have decided to work for their church.

At one time Norman faced up to the possibility of his sons not going into dairying, but now that two of the boys have decided to remain in farming he says, “It’s a nice feeling.” He is equally as proud of his two sons who have decided to carry on the work of the church, which has played a very important part in all of the Jespersens’ lives.

**James Jespersen**

James Jespersen had grown up working in his father’s barn and he felt as his father did that it was and still is a good barn. However he did a lot of looking around before he made the decision to have the Edmonton FDD build his barn. He had first considered buying a place that already had a barn on it. James ran into some real “horror stories” when he was looking for a place. A farmer at Barrhead, whose building James had liked, found that his barn was literally falling apart. The concrete started to come away, then the pit caved in and the barn started sliding into the pit. The farmer at Barrhead sued the contractor — but by this time the fellow was no longer in business.

James said stories like this helped him in his decision to go with UFA.

"It’s a nice feeling to have your sons carrying on."

"In these days when companies are going bankrupt as fast as they are going into business, it’s good to deal with a reliable company."

His family had dealt with the organization before and “in these days when companies are going bankrupt as fast as they are going into business, it’s good to deal with a reliable company.”

After his graduation from high school, James had worked off the farm as a mechanic for over a year. He then made the decision that he did want to be a dairy man. He didn’t like the 9-5 routine and although he often works now from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., it is his business and his time.

James bought his cows, quota and a quarter of land from two of his uncles who were dissolving their business. He is able to run his dairy alone and this was another requisite for the barn he wanted. He shares equipment with his father and his brother Mark. The family also raises grain and hay for their own use. James plans to buy a little grain this year but has sufficient hay.

Everyone in the Jespersen family gave some input into the barn design to try and achieve the kind of barn James wanted. The family has always worked this way — as a family — and James was very appreciative of the interest that was taken by
his father and brothers. When they started to work with Russel Greening, Edmonton's FDD Sales Rep., the Jespersens found someone who is fully cognizant of the fact that "when UFA is finished with the building,

"As the customer will have to work in the building twice a day — it's very important to listen carefully to what he wants."

the customer will have to work in the building twice a day — the barn becomes his place of business — so it becomes very important to listen carefully to the customer so that he gets what he wants."

After many consultations the building design was completed and then James made sure the UFA's price was fair and was satisfied that it was.

The James Jespersen barn has many unique features. Many people have come to see it and been impressed and James has received many compliments on his barn. The main thing is that James is satisfied with the move he's made and takes a justifiable pride in the barn, as does UFA's Farmstead Development Department, in particular Russel Greening, who was closely involved in all phases. In fact James had applied a year earlier, when he decided to go on his own, to ADC for a Beginning Farmers' Loan. When the approval for the loan came through, it was harvest time and James was very busy, so Russel went to the lawyers for him to get the contract looked over.

The Building

The exterior walls are Colored V-rib steel with a galvanized roof, 2 x 6 walls with R20 insulation used. The interior is a compressed product with a vinyl shield on the front. It is similar to what Norman Jespersen has in his barn and James wanted this particular product as both father and son found it very maintenance free.

The Manure Holding Pit is constructed with stress concrete beams with the tile and concrete poured over. If James ever wants a calf barn, he can build over this entire pit area and house calves in there. The beams have been stressed for both calf and animal weight.

If you compare it to a free stall, the barn is actually a small barn. If you compare it to a stanchion barn, it's about the same size but it has "confined stalls." At the present time James is milking about 45-50 cows.

The materials used in the barn were the best they could get for the purpose they served. James eliminated some of the automation he could put in later in order to save money, but as for the building proper, he didn't skimp.


Manure System

It's unique and as James says, "I think it's a good one."

The gutter is 36" wide and deep. Simply, the concept is a gravity pit system. The gutter goes along for 45 feet and a 45° angle going up and an 8" drop. There are no mechanical devices as the system is self siphoning — the heavy manure goes to the top — the liquids go to the bottom and keep siphoning into the pit. The manure goes into the pit and from here it is pumped out. The system is efficient and with no mechanical parts, there is "nothing to go wrong."

Cast iron floor grates for the manure system.
Albertan of the Month (continued)

Milk Parlor
The system is a Universal Milking System with an 800 gallon tank. The interior lining in the milk house is lined with the same compressed product with the vinyl shield that is in the barn. Where the cows are, the lining is plywood. In the parlor there is a fibreglass product that can be high pressure washed. James milks with four milkers on each side and has the Universal Milking System, just as his father did. He feels the system milks the cows well and helps keep them more content.

The cows are outside all the time except in the winter. It takes James about 1 1/4 hours to milk. Once he turns the cows out from the milking parlor, he doesn't have to worry about them. They go back and go into their stalls which has an automatic tie up.

On a typical day, James gets up at 4:30 a.m., milks the cows and cleans up. He has taken a course in artificial breeding, so he breeds his own cows. As they are all in separate stalls he can individually feed them. He checks the dry cows, treats any that need it and does whatever else there is to do in the barn. After that until about 4 o'clock, he doesn't have too much to do with the cattle, but concentrates on the multitude of things that need doing on the farm.

Cheryl, James' wife, was born in Edmonton. Her parents live on an acreage in the Stony Plain area. She met James through the young people's group in their church. As with all the Jespersens, the church has been an important part of her life. This is the first time she has lived on a farm and she loves it. In fact Cheryl doesn't think she would ever again want to live in town. She likes farm life as James is home a lot and she appreciates how late he often works and realizes that the meals must be adjusted to his work. James and Cheryl enjoy having both their families nearby and both families are active and dedicated members of the Spruce Grove Alliance Church.

The 5th generation of the Jespersens in Alberta was born on June 23, 1982. He is Adam James and a welcome addition to James and Cheryl's household.

James Jespersen is a hardworking and astute young businessman whose profession is dairying. He has had the best of background and training from a very knowledgeable dairyman, Norman Jespersen.

James wanted a farm where he could be his own boss, do his own work and not have to depend on anyone for labor. He is satisfied with the move he's made — many people have come to see his new barn and been impressed with its working efficiency.

The United Farmer is proud to salute James Jespersen, a progressive young farmer as Albertan of the Month.
The Grain Academy

First started in 1974, the Grain Academy is one of its kind in the world. This unique modern museum is the Alberta Wheat Pool’s Centennial gift to the city of Calgary. The Academy is “dedicated to the farmers who grow all types of grain, scientists who develop worthy qualities of western Canada’s crops and those who operate our grain elevators and terminals.”

On exhibition in the Academy, which is located in the Round-up Centre of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, is a model train display depicting the movement of grain from the Prairies through the Rocky Mountains; a working model of a country elevator; a display of grain and their important uses; artifacts and a mini-theatre.

The working model of a rail transportation system simulates the movement of grain from a country elevator on the prairie to the port of Vancouver, B.C. Recorded train sounds make one feel part of the train as it winds its way through the mountain passes. A terminal model illustrates where the grain from hundreds of rail cars is unloaded.

A motion picture in the mini-theatre may fill you with nostalgia or inspire you with technical information.

Grain is the edible fruit of cereal grasses and some other plants. They are the direct source of more than half our food needs and have sustained humans from earliest times.

The Grain Academy is provided for the benefit of all who care to learn the story and value of food. It is open throughout the year for both the general public and school groups and is a practical and effective way to teach people of all ages about the industry which made the opening of Western Canada possible.

Touring the Grain Academy is an exciting and worthwhile experience. The Alberta Wheat Pool is to be congratulated on their magnificent contribution in honor of Calgary’s centennial.

Groups are very welcome. For appointments phone 263-4594.