

To: YAA MEMBERS
From: YAA Board of Directors
Re: Decommissioning of YAA's Storage Bin Program

When did the bin program start?

In 2003, due to requests from industry members, 17 storage bins and 6 augers arrived in the territory and were moved into place on 7 Yukon farms. Although a typical sight on the prairies, agricultural storage bins were then and continue to be unique to the Yukon landscape. In 2004, two more storage bins were purchased and then in 2008 two more bins were brought up to Yukon. Over the past 15 years, four of the 2003 bins have been relocated. Currently, the bins are situated on 12 farms near Whitehorse, Mayo, Carmacks, and Watson Lake.

How was the program funded?

The acquisition of the storage bins was made possible because of generous government funding contributions, including: \$105,000 from the federal Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development fund; \$23,055 from Yukon's territorial government; \$36,200 from Agricultural Policy Framework; as well as in-kind contributions of labour and site preparation from bin holders.

What is the current usage and status of the bins?

A majority of the storage bins are 15 years old. Most bins show signs of severe rust but are still in use. Most bins are used to store fertilizer and a few of the bins are used to store grain. Very few site holders continue to purchase bulk orders of fertilizer with other Yukon farmers and use the bins to store the bulk order. Fifteen years after the commencement of the program, it is apparent that primarily the site holder uses the storage bins or purchases a bulk order and sells the fertilizer.

What is the board's plan?

The YAA board would like to recognize the program's success in bringing agricultural equipment to the territory and now make room for other YAA initiatives. After a year of deliberations and discussions, the YAA board has moved closer to decommissioning YAA's storage bin program. The board would like to see the bins move to private ownership and be the sole responsibility of the site holder.

By what means will the bin program be decommissioned?

A modest price is being determined for YAA's bins/ augers and soon a purchase agreement will be offered to current bin holders. YAA is seeking legal advice for the preparation of documents. If sale agreements are refused, the respective bins will be sold at auction. All revenue will be allocated to a project in the YAA financial accounts and not to general revenue. The board will liaise with members to determine the best use of the funds. One idea that has surfaced is that the money could be seed funding for an agricultural training facility.

Will this decision jeopardize future funding applications?

Matt Ball attended YAA's November 2017 board meeting and this question was put to him. Government of Yukon is neutral on the sale of the bins. It is requested that the bins remain in the Yukon. Agriculture Branch has confirmed that the sale of the bins will not be seen as an obstacle to future funding applications for YAA.

Thank you!

The current YAA board of directors would like to acknowledge the work of all the committee members and site holders who made YAA's storage bin program possible.

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