



December Report

2019 Brad Alexander PAg

PGRs

- Matthew Wright from Brett Young has agreed to give us some Parlay to add to this year's trial, and they will support the registration if we are able to provide some data that shows it's efficacy.

CSWG

- We've met seven times over the phone to discuss the "**Public Trust**" media campaign which will be launching this spring. The messages are laid out more clearly now and the specific staff member who will be handing the account has been briefed on all of the points for defending.

Disease Forecasting Model

- I have met with Syama Chatterton and Mike Harding about using the information gathered in Syama's Temporal Dynamics trial from a few years ago.
- This is definitely possible, however, it will require a statistician's help to develop a formula.
- Syama will be talking with some statisticians and, if she can find one to take on the task, it might be a relatively quick process.
- After the model has been made it will be important to monitor fields and adjust it accordingly over the first year to two.

Ag-ForLife

- Ag-ForLife is building an extensive "Know Your Food" education trailer and they are looking for donations for this costly endeavor.
- The purpose of the trailer is to act as a mobile Ag-Learning environment which will travel to schools and other events around Alberta.
- They are looking for a total of \$500,000 for this project so "any amount will help".

New Type of App

- I was speaking with an app developer at farming smarter who introduced me to a new concept for our proposed app. (Tirone Parker – Nuvex Solutions)
- A stand-alone app has to be encoded differently for each operating system which increases the price, however, companies are now making web-based apps that function the same but are hosted online. These apps are slightly more limited in what they can do, but these limited functions don't matter for our needs. Also, any time we want to make a change to the app it will be much faster and less expensive because it doesn't need to be optimized for each OS.

- From his estimations a web-based app such as what we are looking for should only cost \$20,000 at the very most.

Drones With Chris

- As expected we are reaching the limitations of what we can accomplish with the camera on the Phantom 4Pro Drone. It is still however, a valuable piece of technology that will provide useful data for other projects.
- Chris Neeser has been working on drone projects with the Farm Stewardship Centre using a drone with a multi-spectral camera. Through this he also has a license for the high capacity image stitching software.
- Unfortunately everyone at the Farm Stewardship Centre was laid off just before Christmas and the drone is set to collect dust if Chris cannot find the funding to further the project elsewhere.
- If we are willing to add funding to the work that Chris is doing with drones and weeds then we would gain access to some great data with a very experienced researcher. He isn't certain yet but he thinks that he would need \$20,000-\$30,000 to do this.
- There are more layoffs coming in February so this hinges on Chris still being employed. Our uptake of the project might also help to keep him employed because of the working relationship.
- Also, Chris needs a second trained pilot to operate this drone and I happen to be one.

Mutagenesis Contract

- I emailed out the contract in early December for review and didn't get any responses, likely because of the holidays.
- I have sent it out again with this and hopefully we can discuss it next meeting, or at this meeting with time permitting.

Vapona Purchasing Program

- The price must be right because we have over 450 strips ordered.
- The deadline for ordering is January 15th at which time I will be pre-ordering them.

Spring Meeting

- I've spoken with Shaun Cook from AB-Ag&Forestry, and he would be happy to speak about the project on neonicotinoids in the watercourses. He is the lead on this project.
- We will need to set a date soon to ensure his availability.