



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon Grain Farm owners named Yukon's Farmers of the Year

WHITEHORSE—Steve and Bonnie MacKenzie-Grieve, owners of the Yukon Grain Farm near Whitehorse, were named the 2012 Farmers of the Year at the North of 60° Agriculture Banquet on Saturday, November 3.

"Steve and Bonnie are very deserving of this award and recognition from the public," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Brad Cathers said. "The produce grown by the Yukon Grain Farm and sold at local grocery stores raises consumer awareness of Yukon agriculture and showcases the excellent quality of food that can be grown in Yukon."

This year, the MacKenzie-Grieves implemented the Canada Good Agricultural Practices program (for food safety) during the production, packing and storing of their vegetables.

They also worked with two Whitehorse schools on From the Ground Up, a healthy choice fundraiser in which students sold boxes of locally-grown vegetables. Initiated through the Health Promotion Unit of Health and Social Services, the fundraiser was very successful and other schools have already expressed interest in the program for next year. The initiative showed youth and their families the importance of supporting local farmers, raised awareness of local food production and promoted healthy eating within the community.

The Yukon Grain Farm has been in operation for 12 years and produces primarily grain for feed as well as potatoes and other root vegetables. The farm grows and sells 400 tonnes of Yukon Gold, Red Norland and Amarosa potatoes each year.

Each year, Yukon's Agriculture Branch recognizes a farmer, farm family or farm advocate who has made an outstanding contribution to Yukon agriculture. Recipients are nominated by their peers for their commitment to, and passion for, local farming.

For more information on agriculture in Yukon visit www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca.

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