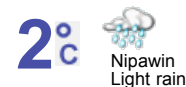




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## Family operated farm to be featured on TV

### Local News

By Melissa Mangelsen/Nipawin Journal

Posted 5 days ago

Bedard Creek Acres, which is located 7.7 kilometres north of the community of Snowden, will be featured on an upcoming episode of the Prairie Farm Report, featuring their edible flower crops, along with a number of other potentially lucrative cropping ideas.

The episode is scheduled to air on CTV Saskatchewan, Oct. 23., at noon.



Lyn Brown (middle), daughter Angela Hoffort (right), Carly and Joel Page (left- children of Brown's partner) as they process a batch of red clover blossom syrup.

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The company is family owned, operated and managed by all the female entrepreneurial descendants of the original farm family.

Rocky Neufeld who is with Agcom Productions Limited, which is the company that produces the Prairie Farm Report said there are a couple things that make this particular farm so unique.

"The value added aspect of it makes it unique. A lot of farmers are just selling the crops. These ladies are adding value to it," said Neufeld.

He said another unique aspect to the operation is the fact that it is ran by all female entrepreneurial descendants.

Lyn Brown and her daughters Angela, Carmen, Arianna and Crystal run the business. They work well together because they all offer something different to the business.

Lyn has a strong business background, Angela is the scientist with her bachelor's degree in engineering, from the University of Alberta, Arianna is described as the dynamic, motivated sales force apprentice and Crystal, who is the youngest, has the job to taste test the products and occupy her nieces and nephews.

Lyn said her father also helps out, and each of them have partners who do things to help them out as well.

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"My oldest daughter, for instance, her husband is a chartered accountant, so he helps out with accounting and gives us some advice," said Lyn. She said each person involved adds a bit extra to the mix.

Lyn acquired a half section of productive farmland from her parents Allan and Reta Birkenthal and saw it as an opportunity for her and her family. She didn't look at it from a traditional farming viewpoint. She did some research into the land and discovered that it was possible to create syrups and jellies from edible flower crops they were able to grow on their farm, including the red clover and black pansy.

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Lyn said from a 60-acre field of Red Clover or Black Pansies they could utilize the blossoms to produce well over a million bottles of syrup.

"I wasn't just interested in growing regular crops, such as wheat or whatever," she said. They grow red clover as an alternative crop to put nitrogen back into the soil.

"I knew that we grew red clover well, but I wanted to do something with it that was different and would be value added. I did some research, tried recipes and found something that worked and we started to market it."

Upon marketing the product, they took it to various farmer's markets, and discovered that it had a lot of consumer acceptance.

Currently their syrup is being produced at the Food Service Science Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. As demand for their product increases they are hoping to eventually build their own federally inspected processing facility in the area.

"We would like to be able to open our own processing facility, right now we're limited to how much we can process," said Lyn.

The processing facility they use, is used by other processors from all over Saskatchewan.

"If we had our own processing facility we could process right from the time the red clover blossoms start to bloom, until the time they ended, which is about six weeks."

What they do now is determine a weekend to pick as many flowers as they can, and the following week they take them to Saskatoon.

"We only have so many days to use it. So we're only able to make so much production."

Another aspect that makes Bedard Creek Acres so unique is that they are the only company in the world producing Red Clover Blossom syrup. They are receiving a lot of business from people within Canada and are looking towards the international markets in the near future.

They attended a global food show in Montreal and had representatives from as far away as Japan and Iceland express interest in making significant purchases.

"We're a really young company so global interest is interesting," said Lyn.

To expand to an international level, they would need the processing facility, as they would be unable to produce what is needed.

At the global food show in Montreal, they were also recognized as one of 37 products that are considered trends and innovations products for the future.

"That was pretty cool because it's a very large global trade show and there were a lot of products there," said Lyn.

The product is new to the market, and are made from the finest of flowers and herbs grown on site at the organic family farm.

Bedard Creek Acres is continually experimenting with different herb and edible flower products. Their inspiration for their products comes from the landscape of North Central Saskatchewan.

Their website is quoted as follows, "We are surrounded by the untapped flavours of wild herbs and edible flowers such as Dandelion, Nasturtium, Borage, Violets, Roses and Apple Blossoms. Nature is full of flavour sensations just waiting to be discovered."

Weekly shows of The Prairie Farm Report are streamed at [www.prairiefarmreport.com](http://www.prairiefarmreport.com). The program also airs on a number of different stations on mini dish services.

Neufeld said that they found out about the farm by word of mouth, as well as some reading in other publications and seeing them on the local news.

To purchase products from Bedard Creek Acres, visit their website at [www.bedardcreekacres.ca](http://www.bedardcreekacres.ca). Red Clover syrup is their signature product, which as a floral, sweet, light flavour. You may also purchase their products locally from Lyn.

"It's like purchasing right from the farm gate, so you're saving on shipping and a number of different things, and because you would be purchasing it directly from me, there would be a bit of a discount," said Lyn.

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