

EVOLVING AGRICULTURE

SEED'S ROLE IN THE CHANGING
FACE OF AGRICULTURE

NEW VARIETIES WHAT'S NEW
IN SEED FOR 2012 **THE F WORD**
TRACKING AND PREVENTING THE
SPREAD OF FUSARIUM **BREEDING**
CHANGE A LOOK AT CEREAL
RESEARCH FUNDING AND THE
RACE AGAINST RUST **FUELING**
TOMORROW ALBERTA'S NEW
RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD

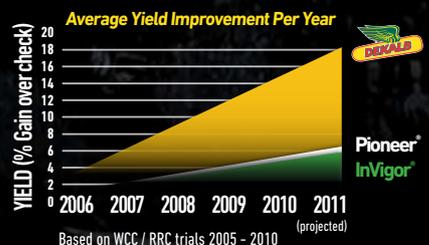




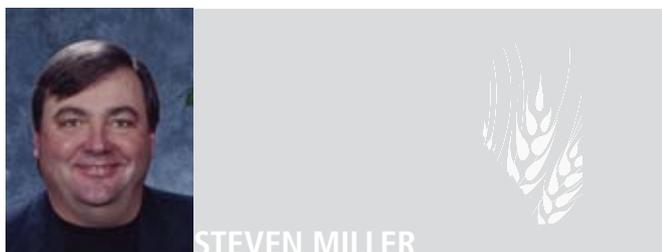
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STEVEN MILLER



RYAN MERCER

ANOTHER growing season has come and gone. It was another challenging year—and as always, the weather was certainly a big part of the story. Unfortunately, the weather is one of the many things that we grain producers have no control over. We certainly have to deal with many different challenges, which ultimately affect our bottom lines—so it is more important than ever to focus on those decisions that we do have control over, so as to maximize the bottom line.

Grain producers are continually being told about new products and technologies that are available to us to help us make more money. Sometimes these pay off, but often they do not fulfill their promises. That being said, it is important to continually look for better and more efficient ways to run the business that pays the bills.

Certainly, growing a profitable crop begins with the seed. By using the best variety suited to your growing conditions, you give yourself the chance of obtaining the maximum yield potential. But variety is not the only variable to consider. By knowing the germination rate and disease levels of the seed, you can source the best seed available. And by having your seed tested, you can make sure that your crop is off to the best start possible.

We hope that you will find this copy of **seed.ab.ca** to be informative, and that it will help you in making these informed decisions.

Steven Miller, President

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants
Email: stevenmiller@mcsnet.ca

WELCOME to the fall edition of **seed.ab.ca**, Alberta’s seed guide. Both the magazine and the website are comprehensive and trusted sources of seed varietal yield performance and agronomic information, but they are also excellent sources for articles and information about key issues currently affecting our industry.

It has been said that the only thing that is certain is change, and agriculture as a whole, and especially the domestic and global seed industry, is a perfect example. The utilization of biotechnology over the past two decades has brought farmers and consumers significant improvements in many varieties faster than ever before. These crops are not only supplying safe and nutritious food for a growing global population, but also feed, fuel and fibre. Never before have industries such as the transportation and aviation industries looked to agriculture as a direct link in the supply chain, as is the case today.

To meet these demands, we, as producers, must strive to educate ourselves and improve our farming operations. Good management and sound decision-making are key. Prior to planting, the producer must assess the various available varieties, and ensure that the seed is tested for germination, purity and disease, such as *Fusarium graminearum*, and have a 1000 kwt on the seed in order to optimize plant density by planting the correct number of seeds per square foot. Precision agriculture technology is also advancing rapidly. We must consider how all of these tools might improve the rate of seed, fertilizer and crop protection products applied to a given area in a field. Once a producer has an established plant stand, continuous crop scouting for weeds, insects and disease, such as rust, fusarium and septoria, is vital for optimum crop health. Your local applied research association can prove very helpful with these and other issues such as crop sequencing and rotation.

Read the articles in **seed.ab.ca** carefully, and contact your local seed specialist if you have questions. I look forward to meeting many of you at various meetings and conferences throughout the winter.

Ryan Mercer, President

Alberta Seed Growers’ Association
Email: rmerc@mercarseeds.ca

Seed Industry Partners



ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA CO-OP SEED CLEANING PLANTS



ALBERTA SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION



MINISTER BERGER

AS the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, I welcome the opportunity to bring greetings to the readers of **seed.ab.ca**, and to thank the Alberta Seed Industry Partnership for their continued work keeping farmers up-to-date with the latest information and issues in the seed industry.

Agriculture is an important part of Alberta's past, present and future and the contributions of the oilseed and grain sector have been many. Through generations of dedication and expertise, Canada is considered a world leader in this industry.

Crop growing conditions for 2011 have been mainly favourable, despite some of the adverse weather conditions we had to endure this summer. I was pleased with the warm, dry fall that allowed most of our producers to get the crops in. I was also pleased to learn that the majority of these crops are normal-to above-average in quality. As harvest winds down, I hope that

you will have some time to read through the many informative articles that **seed.ab.ca** has to offer. It's never too early to start thinking about how you can get the most out of next year's crops! This issue will be covering a wide range of topics; I am sure that everyone will be able to find something of interest and maybe even learn something new.

Once again, thank you to everyone at **seed.ab.ca** for your efforts in putting together another top quality issue. I wish all Alberta producers a very productive and successful year in 2012.

Evan Berger

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



SHAWN BROOK

AS you settle in with your copy of the Fall 2011 issue of **seed.ab.ca**, you might also want to power up your laptop to visit the all-new **seed.ab.ca** website. We are very excited about this new web portal, which offers Alberta growers all the decision-making information you require at the tips of your fingers. User-friendly search tools help you quickly source seed for sale and seed cleaning services, find updates on issues facing the industry, connect to industry resources or check out the magazine online via the new page-flip reader.

This new package of information, combining print and digital content, will keep you informed and prepared to make all your input decisions for the coming year. New varieties continue to impress, but timing is critical to get your hands on these top-performers.

Lastly, we must send out a huge thank-you to all of Alberta's committed seed growers and seed cleaning plants for your commitment to a solid seed industry in Alberta, and for your ever-diligent commitment to Alberta farmers. We hope you find the new **seed.ab.ca** website a valuable tool as you make your variety selections for 2012. As the site continues to evolve and present more features, we also welcome your feedback on tools and information you'd like to see added online.

Shawn Brook, Publisher

seed.ab.ca

Email: sbrook@issuesink.com

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ALBERTA'S SEED GUIDE

Fall 2011

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ASSOCIATION

lorena.pahl, general manager
Alberta Seed Industry Partnership
5030-50 st.
Lacombe, AB T4L 1W8
Ph: (403) 782-8022
Fax: (403) 782-5514
Email: lorena.pahl@seed.ab.ca

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PUBLISHER

shawn.brook

EDITORIAL

kari.belanger, **lindsay.hoffman**, **julienne.isaacs**, **julie.mcnaab**,
shannon.schindle

CONTRIBUTORS

teresa.falk, **andrea.geary**, **angela.lovell**, **rosalie.tennison**

DESIGN

wade.clisby, **jeff.hiebert**, **lesley.nakonechny**, **ashley.somerville**

MARKETING

craig.armstrong, **paige.collette**, **jeff.hamilton**, **hiten.shah**

CIRCULATION

luisa.swanson

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STOPPING THE SPREAD OF FUSARIUM

Preventing fusarium from infecting more areas of the province may mean becoming the “keepers of our neighbours’ fields.”

FUSARIUM head blight (*Fusarium graminearum*) is well established in the southeast and irrigated areas of southern Alberta, according to the conclusions of the recently-released study, *Survey for Head Blight of Cereals and Stalk Rot of Corn caused by Fusarium graminearum in Alberta in 2010*. Researchers who supervised the survey agree that, in infected areas, FHB occurs at economically damaging levels. The survey serves as a warning to growers that, if they don’t manage the disease properly, they could be at fault for its spread to neighbouring fields and districts. The disease may have marched west from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where it has had devastating effects on cereal production, but it is up to southern Alberta growers to prevent it from marching north as well.

“The three key messages we want growers to take from the survey is to know where *Fusarium graminearum* is occurring in Alberta, where it is most intense, and to adopt preventive measures to prevent its spread,” says Ron Howard, a plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in Brooks, Alta. “Even in areas in the province where FHB caused by *Fusarium graminearum* doesn’t exist, growers should adopt a preventive attitude to keep the disease from coming on to their farms.”

The survey was undertaken to determine whether the disease had spread in Alberta, and, if so, to which areas of the province. According to another member of the survey team, the disease has been spreading since the earliest survey in 2001, and is consistently found in most irrigated areas. “*Fusarium graminearum* is becoming more established in southern Alberta, and its presence and impact continue to rise,” reports Michael Harding, research associate with AARD in Brooks. “We surveyed over 900 cereal and corn crops between July and October 2010, where almost half were from southern Alberta. The average percentage of cereal fields across the province infected with *Fusarium graminearum* was six per cent for cereal stubble samples, 13.6 per cent for cereal grain samples and 42.2 per cent for corn stalk samples. In southern Alberta, over 80 per cent of corn fields were heavily infected.”



The fight against fusarium has come home to Alberta producers; it’s no longer just an issue for Manitoba farmers.

Growers who have FHB caused by *F. graminearum* in their fields know there are few options for controlling the disease, but there are some guidelines on preventing its spread. Harding says the Alberta government's Provincial Fusarium Action Committee is in the process of updating its management plan to minimize the spread in light of the survey's findings.

"A number of factors will assist the establishment of FHB," Harding adds. "Humidity or moisture, growing crops, such as corn, which are susceptible to FHB, and using untested seed." FHB caused by *F. graminearum* is well established in the irrigated areas of Alberta due in part to three predisposing factors. First of all, most cereal varieties grown in southern Alberta are susceptible to FHB, especially amber durum varieties. Also, growing corn in rotation with cereals leaves crops vulnerable to infection, as does irrigating at heading. Irrigation is needed to produce a healthy crop, so timely application of irrigation events, as well as the application of a fungicide, are keys to reducing infection.

"Management of FHB requires a multi-pronged approach, and fungicides are just one tool that must be used along with fundamental disease management principles."

– Michael Harding

"There are fungicides available to reduce the effects of FHB," says Harding, "but we cannot rely on fungicides alone to control the disease. Management of FHB requires a multi-pronged approach, and fungicides are just one tool that must be used along with fundamental disease management principles such as proper rotation, the use of clean seed and selection of varieties that have the best tolerance or resistance to *Fusarium graminearum*."

"From an epidemiological point of view, since *Fusarium graminearum* is not frequent in central and northern Alberta, growers should be cautious about introducing it," adds Kelly Turkington, plant pathologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lacombe, Alta., and member of the survey team.

"Consider what you can do with crop management to minimize the chance of your crops contracting FHB caused by *Fusarium graminearum*, such as leaving two years between susceptible cereal crops, doing regular field scouting, and always using good seed and having it tested."

There is no effective seed treatment for FHB, Turkington continues, but starting with good, healthy seed that has been tested and does not have detectable levels of *Fusarium graminearum* present will limit the risk of introducing the pathogen, but will also result in better germination, and will have stronger stand establishment, limiting the chance of the pathogen taking hold in the field.

According to Howard, while fusarium is primarily a pathogen affecting cereals and grasses, it has shown up on potato crops in the United States and has been identified on edible beans in

North Dakota. "We are monitoring these same crops in our areas in case fusarium shows up here as well," he says.

The province's agronomists are spearheading publicity of survey results; they are also assisting by sending in seed samples. With their help, the provincial team is maintaining a vigilant watch on affected and unaffected areas alike. The 2010 survey showed that Ponoka, Wainwright and Two Hills, Alta., had occurrences of *F. graminearum*, and the team will be retesting those areas in 2011 for presence of the disease.

None of the wheat varieties currently grown in the province are resistant to FHB, although some varieties demonstrate reduced susceptibility/intermediate resistance. "Breeders are working to develop tolerant or resistant varieties," Turkington says. It can take years for a variety with the right traits and resistance to be developed, so until a variety is developed, he encourages growers to consult the variety guide to find varieties with some tolerance

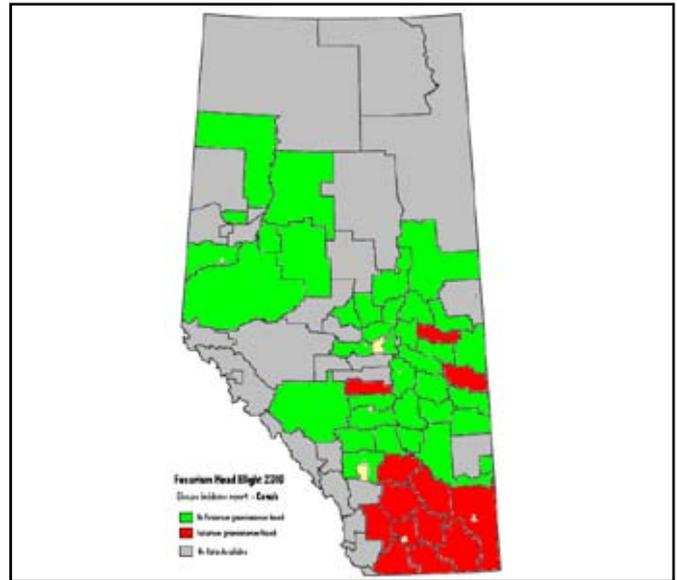


Figure 1. Map of Alberta municipalities in which *Fusarium graminearum* was detected in cereal samples in 2010.

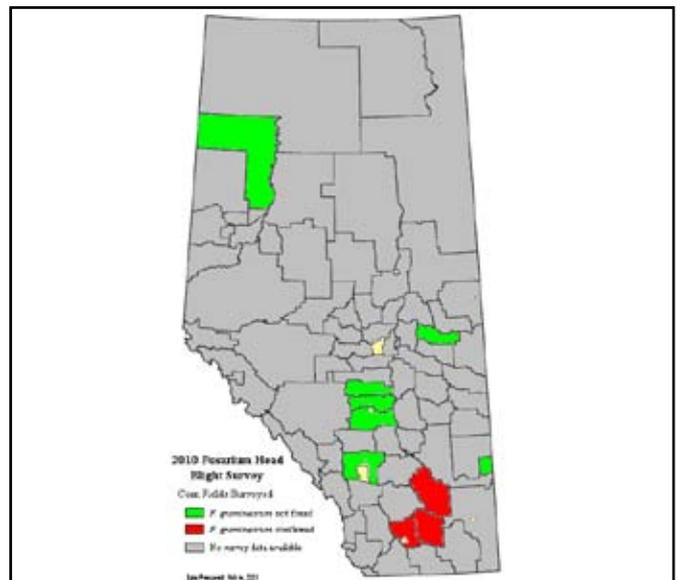


Figure 2. Map of Alberta municipalities in which *Fusarium graminearum* was detected in corn samples in 2010.

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or intermediate resistance levels that can be grown in their zones.

Ryan Mercer, a seed grower based in Lethbridge, Alta. who understands better than anyone how FHB can affect the bottom line, says all Alberta growers, whether they think they have a fusarium problem or not, need to practice the recommended FHB management techniques. "Preventing *Fusarium graminearum* at our farm has been expensive and, in turn, valuable for the last 10 years," says Mercer. "As pedigreed seed growers, we have zero tolerance for FHB in all cereal crops being grown for seed in Alberta." He says the survey results are a big concern for seed growers, but the survey highlights the problem for all growers and cautions them to be vigilant managers. He adds that there are still growers who don't ensure the grain they are using for planting has been tested—negligent behaviour, Mercer believes, because they could be at fault for the spread of FHB.

Mercer says it is the responsibility of all growers, and each individual in the industry, not just those who produce seed, to prevent the spread of *F. graminearum*. "Everyone needs to appreciate the importance of the FHB management recommendations. If we minimize *Fusarium graminearum* on all our farms, we are hopefully keeping it in check." He says due diligence by all growers might prevent fusarium's spread to growers' fields which are currently free of infection.

Fusarium graminearum can be a yield robber and will cut into a farm's potential profit. The survey shows which areas are most

affected and stand to lose the most. It also shows, however, that there is hope—growers in areas of the province that do not show signs of *F. graminearum* can still prevent infection. The authors of the survey are relieved that the disease has not spread more quickly, but whether the disease is present or not, they suggest that all growers should use management to reduce the effects of FHB caused by *Fusarium graminearum* on their own crops and prevent it from spreading to other areas. **rosalie.tennison**

WHERE ON THE WEB

To read the full survey results and learn more about *Fusarium graminearum*, visit **FUSARIUM.SEED.AB.CA**

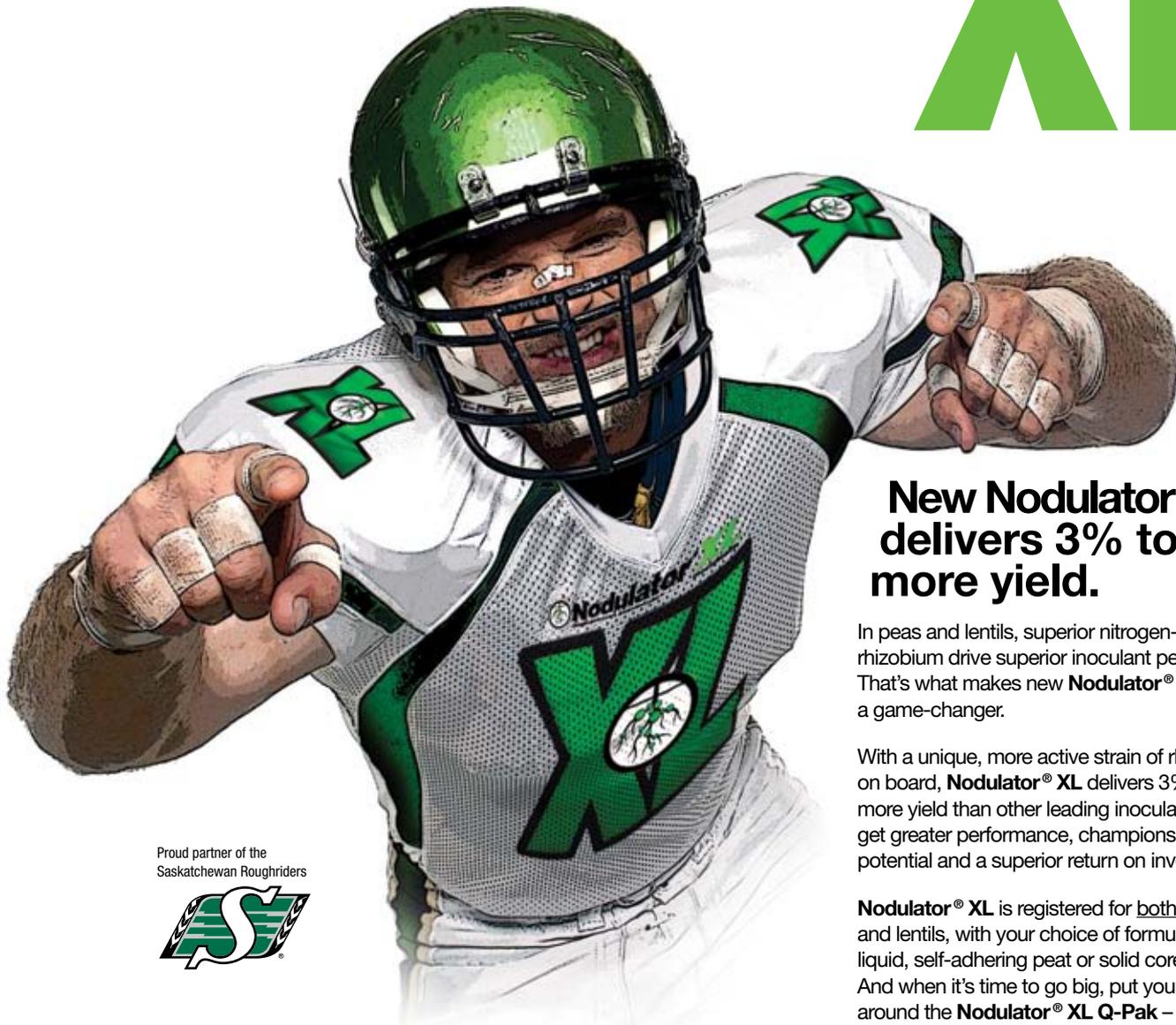


Crop Sampled	Seed Samples			Stubble/Stalk Samples			Total		
	Surveyed Fields	Positive Fields	Disease Presence (%)	Surveyed Fields	Positive Fields	Disease Presence (%)	Surveyed Fields	Positive Fields	Disease Presence (%)
SOUTHERN REGION									
Wheat	196	47	24.0	132	17	12.9	328	64	19.5
Durum	15	6	40.0	13	2	15	28	8	28.6
Barley	18	1	5.6	35	5	14	53	6	11.3
Oats	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0
Corn	-	-	-	22	19	86.4	22	19	86.4
Total	230	54	23.5	204	43	21.7	434	97	22.3
CENTRAL/NORTHERN REGION									
Wheat	131	0	0	158	4	2.5	289	4	1.4
Durum	-	-	-	2	0	0	2	0	0
Barley	12	0	0	39	0	0	51	0	0
Oats	5	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0
Corn	-	-	-	22	0	0	22	0	0
Total	148	0	0	222	4	1.8	370	4	1.1
PEACE REGION									
Wheat	20	0	0	68	0	0	88	0	0
Durum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	-	-	-	7	0	0	7	0	0
Oats	-	-	-	7	0	0	7	0	0
Corn	-	-	-	1	0	0	1	0	0
Total	20	0	0	83	0	0	103	0	0
PROVINCIAL TOTALS									
Wheat	347	47	13.5	358	21	5.9	705	68	9.6
Durum	15	6	40.0	15	2	13	30	8	27
Barley	30	1	3.3	81	5	6	111	6	5.4
Oats	6	0	0	10	0	0	16	0	0
Corn	-	-	-	45	19	42.2	45	19	42.2
Grand Total	398	54	13.6	509	47	9.2	907	101	11.1

Table 1. Percentage of fields confirmed with *Fusarium graminearum* by crop type.

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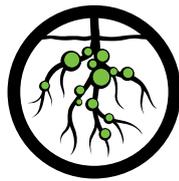


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The "F" Word

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

FUSARIUM head blight is the new "F-word" for southern Alberta farmers. The fungal disease, which costs the Canadian grain industry millions of dollars annually, has established roots in southern Alberta.

Fusarium graminearum first reared its ugly head in southern Alberta about 10 years ago. This devastating disease has been well established in Manitoba since the early 1990s, and in southeastern Saskatchewan since the late 1990s. At that time, it was still a rare pathogen to find in other parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta. However, that has slowly changed, and in the early

part of this decade it became established in southern Alberta on corn residues and small grain cereals.

The province of Alberta declared *Fusarium graminearum*, one of the species which causes FHB, an official pest under its Pest Act in the late 1990s. A few years later, the government released recommendations for producers to minimize the impact of FHB. Two of the key recommendations were that all cereal seed intended for planting should be tested by a seed lab for the pathogen *F. graminearum*, and only seed free of the pathogen should be used for planting.

Rick Stamp of Stamp's Select Seeds in Enchant, Alta., who has also served as president of the Alberta Seed Growers' Association, spends a significant amount of money on FHB prevention. "We only use seed that has zero per cent fusarium and we treat all of the seed that we plant. We use fungicides, and some fields are sprayed three times. So it's definitely expensive to prevent the disease," he says.

This crop year, Stamp estimates that he spent approximately \$25 per acre on FHB prevention, which includes about \$18 per acre for fungicides plus application costs and about \$7 per acre to treat all of the seed used for planting with the most current products, which is over and above basic seed treatments. This is necessary, as pedigreed seed growers in Alberta cannot sell seed that contains even trace amounts of FHB.

"When we combine a field, we take samples from every truckload and send those away for testing to make sure they are not contaminated with fusarium," says Stamp. "If it's not fusarium-free, we're not eligible to use it for seed. A lot of pedigreed seed growers in Alberta have taken losses because zero per cent is a very low number."

While Stamp believes southern Alberta producers are finally starting to realize the full extent of the FHB problem, he thinks more needs to be done to prevent the spread of the disease. "Farmers are having their grain downgraded at the elevator from No. 1 to feed because it has fusarium in it. Finally producers are seeing that it's a problem," he says. "But I don't think we're doing as much as we should be doing to make sure it doesn't spread."

This includes fusarium testing. Stamp says testing is critical because species of fusarium are often only detectable in the laboratory. For the past 10 years the Alberta Seed Growers' Association has been encouraging farmers to test their seed. "We still have a lot of people who are cleaning their own seed and replanting it without testing it first. To me, that's irresponsible



Photo credit: Kelly Turkington, AAFC

Fusarium damaged head of wheat.



Shriveled, fusarium damaged kernels

because we know that fusarium will cross into other crops such as potatoes,” says Stamp. “Even with irrigation, there’s no reason why we can’t try our best to control it.”

Researchers believe irrigation is one reason the disease has flourished in southern Alberta, but not other areas of the province. Irrigation creates ideal conditions for disease development, says Ron Howard, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in Brooks, Alta. Howard says disease development requires three factors: the pathogen must be present, the varieties grown must be susceptible to the disease, and environmental conditions must be favourable for the development of disease.

Kelly Turkington, research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lacombe, Alta., says water management, variety choice, crop rotation and fungicide use are key in the prevention of fusarium. “Southern Alberta is typically a dry area. It’s really only under irrigation that you see an elevated risk, so there’s an opportunity for Alberta producers to manage the environment,” he says.

Southern Alberta’s combination of small grain cereals and corn production also results in an increase in the incidence and spread of *Fusarium graminearum*, says Howard, noting that corn is an even better host for fusarium than cereals. Howard says most southern Alberta producers realize the disease is here, and that it can be quite damaging.

“It’s a disease that deserves a lot of respect. When you deliver your grain to the elevator and find it’s been downgraded because of fusarium then it really hits home in the pocketbook,” he says.

After grade and yield reductions due to FHB, Turkington says the average revenue losses for irrigated CWRS and CWAD in southern Alberta ranged from \$38 to \$44 per acre in the 2009–10 season.

Last year, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development began a survey across the province for FHB, and it is continuing its survey this year.

“We found that the disease is now well established in southern Alberta, predominantly in irrigated areas. We found it on wheat and corn,” says Howard. “In central Alberta we found trace levels of it in three counties, and we’re doing follow-up surveys this year to determine whether it was just chance occurrences or if the disease is becoming established there as well. It virtually disappears when you get out of southern Alberta.”

Fusarium graminearum is not routinely found in central and northern Alberta, says Turkington, however, he expects this to change in the next 10 to 15 years.

That’s not what seed grower Richard Mueller wants to hear. He’s a partner in Rick’s Pedigree Seeds near Barrhead, Alta., where fusarium is not yet a problem. “As seed growers, we are very adamant that we keep it out,” he says. “We thoroughly clean the trucks that are transporting seed to ensure we’re using fusarium-free seed. And we do the testing to ensure it’s not encroaching on us. However, in the back of my mind, it’s inevitable. It’s going to happen sometime, but we want to deter it as long as we possibly can.” **teresa.falk**

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Reacting to Rust

A fungus under control for 50 years is back and ravaging wheat crops in Africa, the Middle East and Asia—and it could be headed this way.

THE disease is called wheat stem rust—once it infects a field, it corrodes the stalks, turning them shades of brown and red that gives the disease its name. Farmers can do little but harvest what's left, sometimes losing 60 per cent of their crop.

The disease has been in remission since the 1950s, but in 1999 a new strain known as Ug99 appeared in Uganda and has now spread across 9 countries including South Africa, Yemen, Iran, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tanzania. Scientists believe if it

reaches North America, it could go from Southern Texas all the way to the Canadian plains. In fact, crop scientists found that Ug99 stem rust is virulent on about 90 per cent of worldwide wheat crops—with statistics like that it is clear that developing new varieties with increased disease resistance is a top priority. As a result, the race is on to develop new wheat varieties that are resistant to Ug99 before it reaches North America.

Scientists have identified a mere half-dozen genes that are immediately useful for protecting wheat from Ug99. Incorporating them into crops using conventional breeding techniques is a nine to 12 year process that has only just begun. And that process will have to be repeated for each of the thousands of wheat varieties on the marketplace today.

"All the seed needs to change in the next few years," said Ronnie Coffman, a plant breeder who heads the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat project, in a New York Times article. "It's really an enormous undertaking."

Working Together

The challenge has sparked a unique co-operative, global response named the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative established by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, and Cornell University.

In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, together with the Department for International Development in the United Kingdom, earlier this year awarded more money—US\$40 million—to continue combating this ancient disease. Cornell University is distributing the funds to continue the work to develop wheat varieties that are resistant to Ug99 and new emerging strains of stem rust disease.

Since 2008, when the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat project at Cornell was first funded by the foundation, researchers have distributed new stem rust resistant wheat varieties for testing and evaluation to more than 125 sites in 40 countries. They have strengthened rust screening nurseries in Kenya and Ethiopia and distributed nearly five tons of Ug99-resistant seed for planting in seven countries that are at high risk for food insecurity, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.



Wheat infected with Ug99 stem rust.

Photo credit: International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center

Canada's Role

In Canada, scientists are also conducting research to combat Ug99. In 2009, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada invested \$13 million into a rust breeding initiative across the country. Tom Fetch, plant pathologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Winnipeg research centre, is the program's lead and he says Canadian wheat growers are better off than their counterparts in most parts of the world.

Research thus far has turned up only a handful of promising resistance genes, but two lines in Canada have shown good resistance: AC Cadillac and Peace. The lines are being used in current Canadian breeding programs, and F4 lines are being screened in the rust plots in Kenya through a partnership between the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute that allows wheat and barley lines from breeders around the world to be screened for Ug99 resistance.

"After six years of testing in Kenya, AC Cadillac and Peace remain highly resistant and we have now found out why," says Fetch. The varieties both have one "major" stem rust gene in combination with the Lr34 gene, a combination conferring high resistance. "Now that we've figured out the genetics, these two

genes are a good starting point for plant breeders," says Fetch. "Two genes are the minimum. What happened with Ug99 was a lot of wheat germplasm in developing countries relied on just one gene—Sr31."

However, Fetch says Canadian breeders never used the Sr31 gene due to quality issues. In fact, it has now been discovered that the presence of the major stem rust gene in AC Cadillac and Peace that give both varieties resistance to Ug99 is actually linked closely to a gene for bunt disease resistance, and was likely bred into the varieties by chance due to the bunt resistance gene. "It's actually an amazing breeding story," says Fetch. "We're just lucky to have brought this major stem rust gene along into these Canadian varieties and have now found out by chance it is resistant to Ug99."

Fetch says the goal now is to incorporate other genes that are also resistant to Ug99. His team screened some old Canadian breeding lines presumably containing the Sr22 and Sr26 genes last winter in Kenya, and found some did contain either the Sr22 or Sr26 gene that are effective against Ug99. "The goal is to use those in combination with Cadillac to create a multi-gene stack of resistance," he explains.

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Fetch's team in Winnipeg is also working on finding new genes by looking at wild species and moving them into common wheat varieties.

The AAFC program is comprised of 18 scientists across the country, including two scientists in Alberta. Rob Graf and Harpinder Randhawa, both working at the Lethbridge Research Centre, are looking at incorporating effective genes into their winter wheat and soft white spring wheat programs, respectively.

While the big international focus has been on wheat, barley is also susceptible to the same strains of stem rust. Fetch says that of the six genes described for stem rust resistance, only Rpg4 was resistant to Ug99. "To my knowledge, none of the barley varieties in Canada or the United States carries that resistant gene," says Fetch. "But barley usually seems to escape most of the stem rust infections in Canada because of its early maturity, so that is somewhat encouraging in the short term."

The Challenge Continues

The disease shows no signs of slowing down; in fact, new strains of Ug99 have now been discovered. Fetch says seven different strains of Ug99, and possibly eight, have now been identified. "The disease is changing. We need to continue to monitor its movement to know which genes are still effective," he says.

Leading wheat experts from Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, who recently gathered in St. Petersburg, Russia for a global wheat event organized by the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, said the evolving pathogen may pose an even greater threat to global wheat production than the original Ug99.

"With the new mutations we are seeing, countries cannot afford to wait until rust 'bites' them," said Ravi Singh, distinguished senior scientist in plant genetics and pathology with the Mexico-based CIMMYT. "The variant of Ug99 identified in Kenya, for example, went from first detection in trace amounts in one year to epidemic proportions the next year. Already, most of the varieties planted in the wheat fields of the world are vulnerable to the original form of Ug99. We will now have to make sure that every new wheat variety we release has iron-clad resistance to both Ug99 and the new races."

The concern over this disease has also created a major feat—global partnership and co-operation—the sharing of genetics in the worldwide battle to stop the disease. "The Global Rust Initiative has really brought people from all around the world together," says Fetch, "to refocus and reenergize efforts on rust research." **julie.mcnabb**

Coming to Canada?

Ug99 was first detected in Uganda in 1999 and since then has spread to at least 9 other countries including South Africa. Tom Fetch, plant pathologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Winnipeg research centre, says its recent movement into South Africa is critical because now it can continue to spread by wind in one of two directions:

1) Directly to Australia across the Indian Ocean, a wind pattern that has spread stem rust in the past. "As a result, Australia is now on high alert and has been ramping up its breeding efforts," says Fetch.

2) Across the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil. "Scientists who study wind patterns have developed a model showing how Ug99 might enter the Western Hemisphere by moving from South Africa to Brazil," says Fetch. As a result, he is in the process of setting up a monitoring system in Brazil as part of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative's tracking project.

WHERE ON THE WEB

See the discussion paper prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute entitled "Combating Stem and Leaf Rust of Wheat: Historical Perspectives, Impacts and Lessons Learned."

WWW.IFPRI.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/PUBLICATIONS/IFPRIDP00910.PDF



A Hero's Legacy

Nobel laureate **Norman Borlaug** spearheaded the development of stem rust resistant wheat in the 1950s and 60s—surely one of the most beneficial finds of human history. Without Borlaug's rust-resistant wheat, which put the disease in "remission" for 50 years, millions more people might have been malnourished.

Borlaug passed away in September 2009, so he was still alive to witness the emergence of Ug99 in Uganda that year. He said the new virulent strain of stem rust is a rallying point for plant breeders around the world. His legacy: before he died he helped to pull together the worldwide initiative to develop new varieties resistant to Ug99, now aptly named the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative.

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DEFENDING AGAINST AN UNSEEN ENEMY

THE PROBLEM OF MYCOTOXINS IS GROWING ON FUSARIUM-INFECTED CROPS ACROSS WESTERN CANADA.

A RECENT global study by Biomin, a leader in the animal health and nutrition industry, found that of nearly 3,000 analyses of more than 800 animal feed varieties around the world, 90 per cent were contaminated with at least one mycotoxin. While mycotoxins have been around a long time—studies report instances of contamination with mycotoxin back in the Middle Ages—awareness of the serious effects of mycotoxins has room to grow.

According to the Canada Food Inspection Agency, mycotoxins are toxins produced by fungi as they infect grain; under the right conditions, these fungi proliferate into colonies and mycotoxin levels increase. Mycotoxins, ingested in large amounts or over a long period of time, have been linked to skin irritation, developmental, reproductive and gastrointestinal problems, and in severe cases, death, both in infected livestock and people. Additionally, several mycotoxins have been identified as human carcinogens. In Canada, the mycotoxins of primary concern for domestically-grown crops are the trichothecenes (including deoxynivalenol, or DON), nivalenol, zearalenone, the fumonisins, ochratoxins (or OTA) and ergot; the most common are OTA and DON.

While the CFIA closely monitors levels of mycotoxins present in domestic and imported commodities destined for human consumption and livestock feed, the risks to consumers and to farmers are significant.

Fusarium a “Gateway” to Mycotoxins

In Canada, the problem of mycotoxins mainly manifests itself across the moister eastern Prairie region and in irrigated cropland in central and southern areas of the Prairie Provinces, following development of fusarium head blight in grain crops. *Fusarium graminearum* is the predominant species of fusarium in some parts of the western provinces. “95 per cent of the diseased wheat kernels, or FDK, in Manitoba are caused by *F. graminearum*,” says Tom Gräfenhan, program manager of microbiology at the Canadian Grain Commission. But the pest is established in Alberta as well. “In southern Alberta last year, in the irrigated areas in crop districts one and two, about one-fourth to one-third of FDK were caused by *F. graminearum*,” he adds.

According to Gräfenhan, there are several mycotoxin-producing

varieties of fusarium in Alberta, including *Fusarium culmorum*. “But in crop districts four and five, the rate of infection is much lower. Small amounts of FDK in central Alberta can be caused by another DON-producer, *Fusarium pseudograminearum*,” he says.

FHB infection is difficult to detect, and impossible to remove from a field once detected because the plants often show signs of infection only after flowering, when it’s too late to apply a fungicide. And mycotoxins are produced naturally by pathogens as they grow on infected crops. “Once the pathogen is in the field it’s too late to stop contamination,” says Gräfenhan.

According to Jeannie Gilbert, plant pathologist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, fusarium fungi find residues of maize and crop stubble “ideal” for overwintering. Infection levels can skyrocket if a fungus is allowed to establish itself in a field

because in the spring it produces spores which can be carried by the wind, says Gilbert. When farmers choose to rotate cereal crops with corn—both of these crops are very susceptible to FHB—this can dramatically increase the chances of infection.

Farm Management is Key

As the problem spreads west, improved farm management practices will be necessary to

control mycotoxin-producing fungi such as fusarium. “Over the years we’ve tried to convince growers that it’s not just a Manitoba or Saskatchewan problem,” says Kelly Turkington, a research scientist at AAFC based in Lacombe. “Fusarium is an established problem in southern Alberta, and it demands a different perspective—it’s no longer an issue that needs to be prevented, but managed.”

Farm management, when it comes to preventing the spread of mycotoxin-producing fungi, must have several elements. First, farmers must select tested seed where the pathogen has not been detected and, if possible, choose resistant varieties. Second, because damaged kernels are especially susceptible to fusarium, growers must make every effort to reduce bird and insect damage to crops. Pest management can include pesticides, Gilbert says, “and if you wish to reduce the mycotoxins, then you have to reduce the fungus, and fungicides may prevent fusarium from colonizing the crop.”

Careful crop rotation is also an effective strategy to slow or prevent FHB from taking hold in a field—susceptible grain crops

“We can’t really eliminate mycotoxins, but we can attempt to educate people on ways to minimize the risk. If the farmer grows a high-risk variety in a susceptible area that’s his risk.”

– Tom Gräfenhan

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(such as corn and durum) can be rotated with certain pulse crops, or oilseeds such as canola. According to Gilbert, "If you use rotations away from corn or cereal crops for at least two years you can reduce the amount of inoculum and thus infections. And if you combine fungicides with crop rotations you increase the chances of reducing mycotoxin contamination."

One of the most effective integrated management techniques involves ensuring that the crop is not over-irrigated during peak infection stages, such as flowering. Turkington, whose research includes the effects of irrigation on crop infections such as FHB, says that irrigating automatically increases the risk of infection. "If you could shut down irrigation during flowering, balancing the crop's water needs against the risk of FHB, this would decrease the risk. There isn't a magic rule of thumb—it depends on the soil type and other conditions. One recommendation is to irrigate as the crop comes into heading, and then shut it off at flowering." Irrigation management should be combined with growing a resistant variety, using a good rotation and when needed applying a fungicide for FHB. Both Gilbert and Turkington emphasize the importance of combining several strategies to effectively manage the risk of FHB and mycotoxin contamination of grain.

Crops should be harvested promptly, dried properly and stored in moisture-controlled environments. Improper drying and storage can result in the growth of mould and mycotoxin production postharvest.

"We can't really eliminate mycotoxins," says Gräfenhan. "But we can attempt to educate people on ways to minimize the risk. If the farmer grows a high-risk variety in a susceptible area, that's his risk."

Farmers are not alone in the struggle against mycotoxins. While harmonized international regulations regarding levels of mycotoxins in domestic and export commodities are not yet a reality, governments are aware of the problem. In Canada, researchers have been focused on fusarium and mycotoxins for years. And according to Gilbert, the findings are constantly pooled by research groups and partnerships. "It's very much a concerted effort," she says. "We work together because it's such a huge problem." **julienne.isaacs**

Fusarium-Resistant Varieties to Watch For

While no Canada Prairie Spring or durum varieties have so far been rated moderately resistant, a winter wheat variety is currently undergoing registration and should be available in 2014.

The following varieties are classified MR:

- In the Canada Western Red Spring wheat class 5602 HR, Carberry, Waskada and WR859
- Two-row malt barley Norman
- Two-row feed barleys CDC Cowboy, CDC Mindon, CONLON and XENA
- Two-row hulless barleys CDC ExPlus, CDC Lophy-I, CDC McGwire and HB705

WHERE ON THE WEB

Fusarium Forum

The Seventh Canadian Workshop on Fusarium Head Blight will be hosted in Winnipeg November 27 to 30, 2011. The forum brings together industry, producers and scientists to discuss progress on FHB in all cereals. To learn more visit WWW.CWFHB.ORG.



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A Drop in the Pool

With changes looming for the Canadian Wheat Board, the impact on the Western Grains Research Foundation may seem inconsequential. However, the WGRF faces some changes if it is going to continue raising funds and making waves in the world of wheat breeding.



JUST like its name implies, the Western Grains Research Foundation was created to kick-start innovation in the grains sector in Western Canada. The WGRF manages an Endowment Fund, as well as the wheat and barley check-off funds. Each of these three funds are distinct, both in the way money is obtained and used.

The WGRF has been putting almost \$5 million a year into breeding research—\$4 million for wheat and \$750,000 for barley. In the context of global breeding budgets in excess of \$1 billion a year for the largest seed companies, the WGRF's investment is small by comparison. In Canada specifically, total investment in wheat research is estimated at \$20 million, of this \$4 million comes from the WGRF and the remainder is primarily Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Performance is paramount because cereal research has lagged behind most other crop types. Not only do they deliver half the return on investment of other crops such as canola and soybeans, but cereals are also lagging behind projected demand. Global wheat production is increasing at only 0.9 per cent each year while global demand is growing at 1.5 per cent or more annually. Wheat production needs to rise 1.6 per cent each year to reach required global production levels by 2020.

Given the importance of cereals to Canada, and especially the west, this gap has got to close. "Collectively, we must address this

"Productivity gains in wheat are less than half that of other crops."

growing gap in innovation," said Jay Bradshaw in a recent speech to the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. "To do this, we will need new approaches to innovation. It starts with more funding, but it also means new partnerships and creative new ways of working together."

Bradshaw's is only one of many voices calling for improvements to the approaches on cereals research. Funding is the front line and WGRF is one of the highest profile mechanisms to achieve improved cereal research in Canada. However, the very mechanism for its funding is now in question with the potential changes to the Canadian Wheat Board.

The How

Currently, the CWB collects check-offs from the final payments to farmers on behalf of the WGRF. "With a change in the marketing role of the CWB, the CWB will no longer be in a position to be the sole collector of the WGRF check-offs. In order to continue a check-off for wheat and barley, an alternative check-off collection system will be needed," explains Keith Degenhardt, chairman of the WGRF board. "The CWB check-off system has worked efficiently for 17 years, but it is by no means the only check-off model available." One of the most likely solutions is to collect money through the private grain companies when they receive deliveries.

Consultations are already underway with the government, agricultural organizations and other stakeholders to help ensure that

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“The WGRF could add a new dimension to its mandate—leverage current Canadian assets to ensure long-term sustainable competitiveness of Canadian wheat growers by encouraging private investment.”

– Garth Hodges

a new system is ready for August 2012. Such consultations are also exploring the rate and scope of the check-off. The WGRF is hoping this change can provide a new impetus for its operations.

On What

Even before all the CWB discussions started, the WGRF was interested in broadening its research check-off. As it stated in 2009, “With the growing use of barley for the domestic livestock industry and with the growing use of wheat for the production of ethanol, the research check-off is leaving out a growing percentage of western Canadian wheat and barley production. Presently the WGRF is stretching the check-off dollars collected on export grains to fund research for domestic industrial uses such as ethanol, as well as for our livestock industries. To adequately fund plant breeding for those uses, we need to collect a check-off on those uses.”

For What

The WGRF is the beneficiary, under the Canada Transportation Act, of funds that were deemed to be in excess of the set revenue cap of the Canadian railways. Excess funds, plus a penalty of 15 per cent, are transferred into the WGRF’s Endowment Fund. In 2007-08, a railway payment of \$67 million into the endowment fund caught the attention of the entire farming sector. This large, one-time increase in resources available to its endowment fund has significantly increased the funds available to WGRF to support research in the coming years.

WGRF is taking a more proactive approach to allocating these funds. While in the past, funds were allocated by the Letter of Intent process, i.e. “ask and ye may receive,” the new Directed Research Program was established to fund specific recommended research. Requests for proposals are issued, inviting researchers to submit research proposals. “We look forward to major accomplishments in terms of supporting activities in areas such as agronomy research, post-harvest handling issues, new crops and crop uses, breeding tools, pest and weather surveillance and dealing with various crop mycotoxins,” says Degenhardt.

With Whom

The seed industry has an intimate interest in the outcomes of changes and policies at the WGRF. For companies such as SeCan, FP Genetics, Canterra and others, access to some of these varieties is essential. Support for public cereal breeding programs creates

varieties that are tendered to seed companies to multiply, manage and market. “The priority of the seed industry is to transfer new technology from the scientist to the farmer. The Canadian Seed Growers’ Association has spent more than a hundred years developing reliable processes to do that. We hope that the WGRF will draw on that experience as they go forward,” says CSGA representative to the WGRF, Joe Rennick.

For many companies engaged in wheat research globally, the way in which the WGRF engages in collaborative processes is equally important. “Access to wheat germplasm and a collaborative spirit would bring private sector investment in wheat breeding to Canada. Recent months have seen significant investment into wheat germplasm and technology by the private sector in many key wheat producing countries, notably with the exception of Canada,” says Garth Hodges of Bayer CropScience. “The WGRF could add a new dimension to its mandate—leverage current Canadian assets to ensure long-term sustainable competitiveness of Canadian wheat growers by encouraging private investment.”

It’s a goal the WGRF recognizes as well. “I believe an important long-term challenge and opportunity for the WGRF is to enhance producer involvement in agriculture research while securing investments from other players as well,” adds Garth Patterson, the new executive director of the WGRF.

The WGRF is considered a small player in cereal research—one of the most important players in cereals research remains AAFC. “At various points—in various ways—we have explored many partnerships,” says Syngenta’s Bradshaw. “In all cases, I think we remain challenged by the question of under-valuing commercialization. The ability to take a piece of science, add value through insertion into genetics, modification for the marketplace, capacity to handle regulatory approvals and related responsibilities, all need to be considered. And that is before you consider the incredible cost of bringing a product to the marketplace for farmers,” he adds.

For the WGRF, AAFC, academia and the private sector to be successful in improving wheat, a new range of collaborative approaches is needed. Success starts with finding new ways to collect the check-off, but that is just a drop in the bucket. It may mean extending the family of interests who are paying for research, and the partners who do that research. It is time to make waves for wheat and these few initial drops may have some important ripple effects. **julie.mcnabb**



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Fresh Faces on the Farm

seed.ab.ca spoke with three young seedsmen about their return to the family seed business and how they're being integrated.

BIOGRAPHIES:



Andrew Kittle grew up in Viking, helping out at the family business, Kittle Farms Ltd., which grew its first pedigree crop in 1978. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of science in agriculture in 2003. Andrew worked for a year and a half at Cargill's Camrose office, until returning to work full time at the family seed business in 2004.



Julie Benci was born and raised on her family's seed farm, Benci Seed Farms, in Carmangay. While attending university, Julie worked as an agronomist's assistant at Cargill and at Monsanto's research farm. After graduating from the University of Lethbridge with a bachelor of arts in agriculture, Julie worked as an agronomist at HyTech Production Ltd., a canola seed company. She returned to the family farm to work full time in 2008, alongside her parents, who started the seed business 33 years ago.



Lee Markert is a third generation seedsmen. His teenage years included helping out at the family seed business, which his grandfather started in 1952. After completing an internship at Dupont Canada, and a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Lethbridge, Lee returned to Markert Seeds to work full time, and to help grow his family's business.

THREE young seed professionals discuss the challenges of returning to the family's seed business and the importance of succession planning. They offer their advice for future generations entering the family business.

seed.ab.ca: What opportunity was presented to you to participate in your family's seed business, and what changes were made to accommodate your return to the family farm?

AK: I always knew I wanted to come home to farm; it was just a matter of when. I don't have any brothers, and my sisters either married farmers or moved to the city, so it wasn't like big changes had to be made; I came home and farmed—it was an easy transition.

My dad, Bill, wanted me to take care of the operations side of the business. My wife and I were renting an acreage six miles away, so we moved to the main yard, and Dad built a house a half-mile away. I've been able to load trucks at night or early in the morning, and Dad doesn't have to do that kind of work now, or answer telephone calls or take seed orders. That was one change he made to accommodate me.

JB: I've always liked the farm, and this was a great opportunity for me to go back to what I loved doing. It offered a nice change, but it was still something I knew. Now, I've taken on a bigger role: I do all of our books, the paperwork for the seed business and inventory control, and I also load trucks and drive the combine. I am also the one that attends the conferences and seminars.



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As soon as I came back, Dad was delighted to give me all of the paperwork. Now, customers call for seed and they ask for me and I can tell them quite a bit about it. My dad's still very much involved, but it's nice because we can do things together. Some of the major decisions my dad still makes, but he does ask for my opinion.

LM: After graduating, I was looking for something to do when the summer was over, and at the time Dad was talking about getting bigger into the canola retail business. He wanted a salesman for 20 hours per week. As it turns out, I went from working 20 hours per week to 60 pretty quick. Now, I spend more of my time at the farm than I do on the road. I've taken on a management role.

My mom and dad had to be prepared to let go of some of the control. They'd been looking after everything from a business standpoint for so long that I imagine they had to prepare for it in their minds. We had to consider our boundaries—where my responsibilities began and where my parents' ended. Initially, it was difficult finding enough responsibilities for me to take on and to keep me busy. We're still working on where the responsibilities begin and end, but it's a gradual transition now.

The other big change was succession in general. I had shown no big interest up until then in coming back to the farm full time. My parents had not planned on being quite as aggressive going forward as they had been up to that point. My return refuelled the engines and instead of slowing down, we put our feet on the gas and kept going.

seed.ab.ca: What have been some of the challenges?

AK: Working with family members is always a challenge. Dad and I work together fairly well, but we do have days where we have different opinions and ways of viewing things. Dad has been farming for 40 years, and has been successful at it for 40 years. He's got certain ways of doing things, and it's worked for him, obviously, because he's still farming. It's challenging because there's a few different things I would like to see on this farm that could be done differently. But it's minor in the grand scheme of things. He's still open-minded—if there's something I bring to the table that makes sense, and is going to work, he's all for it.

JB: The learning curve is huge. It can be overwhelming at times, and although I've been here my whole life, there are some things I just don't know, and have never been involved in. For example, fixing equipment—I'm learning more about that.

The delegating of jobs can be challenging, and the overlap that can occur performing those jobs. For example, my dad will do something he's asked me to do, or I've talked to a person not knowing that he has. Good communication is one of the most important things, making sure you understand each other. But for the most part, our job roles are pretty defined. I'm getting more things to do, which is good. The more I'm in the business, the more I know what needs to be done without having to be told.

LM: Initial challenges were trying to keep me busy, which is not a problem anymore, and giving me some of the responsibilities of running the business while being comfortable enough to step back from it and allowing me to step in.

seed.ab.ca: What would you recommend to other young seed professionals entering the family business?

AK: Talking and communication are key. I think my dad and I have common goals, which is important. Dad has always wanted to increase seed sales on our farm and I have the same vision of producing a high-quality product and increasing sales. Just by our discussions over coffee in the shop we know we're both on the same track, in that we want a quality, clean product that's got high germination, high vigour and everything else. It's from these little discussions that you know where each other is at.

JB: Good communication is the biggest thing. It's also a good idea to work off the farm and then come back to it. To have a different boss, and to work with someone other than your parents, and to take orders from, essentially, a stranger, is good. I have a better relationship now with my parents.

It's a good idea to go to college or university. When you come back to the farm, you have different ideas of how things could be done, a new perspective. Also, I got hands-on experience, and

“You’ve got to learn to swallow your pride pretty quick—when you’re a hotshot coming out of university, you think you know everything.”

the contacts I made in university are also important.

LM: You've got to learn to swallow your pride pretty quick—when you're a hotshot coming out of university, you think you know everything, then you get into the real world and you realize you don't know everything. Once you realize the older generation can teach you something you become a lot more humble and you mature quickly.

Business training is fairly essential. It doesn't have to be a university degree, but be ready to go out there, take some classes, and humble yourself to the point where you know it's not just going to roll together for you.

Develop an appetite for risk because if you're going to be successful, it's the decisions you make now that are going to lead to your success toward the end of your career. You've got to be ready to take risk, to throw capital together, to learn the value of insurance and financing, and everything else pertaining to business.

seed.ab.ca: How has your business prepared for the future in terms of succession planning?

AK: There is still a lot of work to do with our farm in terms of succession planning. It all depends on how far into the future you are looking. My dad and I are fairly open. We have definitely chatted about it.

Succession planning can make or break families. We've seen a lot of farms destroy families when people don't talk to each other, so this has got to be done properly and openly. We have



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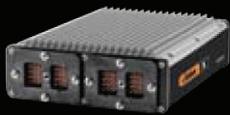
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“Sometimes it’s not black and white; there are a lot of grey areas.”

to figure out what’s going to be fair to me and fair and equal to my sisters—what’s fair isn’t always equal. It’s trying to walk that fine line that every farm doing a transition struggles with.

JB: People I’ve talked to who haven’t done any succession planning wish they had. In the farming industry, succession planning is big because the business is usually passed down from generation to generation. It can be tough—spouses can be involved as well as other siblings, so it’s a big job. Sometimes it’s not black and white; there are a lot of grey areas.

We’ve looked at a few options, but we haven’t decided which way we’ll go yet. Nothing has been written down. I have a sibling and I want it to be fair, and that comes into play.

LM: It’s easy to sit back and say, “Yes, we’ve got a succession plan, and this is what’s going to happen.” But it’s really one of those things that, until you get into the meat of it, you don’t realize all the little things that have to happen in order for it to be successful.

Prior to my return, I imagine my parents had something in place on the legal side of things. When I came back it changed because my parents were at a point in their lives where they wanted to step away, and now it’s more of a transition phase than just a straight legal transfer. It is something we are all working on right now—what our succession plan is.

We’re ahead of the curve in that we want to be on top of it, but we aren’t quite ready to do it because my youngest sister is just finishing university, so she doesn’t know what she wants to do, and my other sister has a full-time job with a company in Lethbridge, so she’s setting down roots there. It’s really at the front of our minds but, in terms of a formal plan, we don’t really have anything set out yet. **kari.belanger**

WHERE ON THE WEB

To read more from our panel on succession planning and attracting the next generation to agriculture, visit SEED.AB.CA.

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PUTTING THE SUCCESS IN SUCCESSION

Top tips for a tip-top plan.

A SUCCESSION plan is much more than the transfer of ownership of a business, such as a family farm, from one generation to the next or to a third party. From ways to increase your farm's profitability, to goal development, or transitioning the next generation for business success, to keeping family relationships strong and healthy, a succession plan is essential for reaping the rewards of one's lifetime of work on the family farm. Jonathan Small, a farm management consultant with MNP in Red Deer, offers some sound advice for families with succession planning on their agendas this fall.

Communication is Critical

There are three important factors in succession planning ... communication, communication and communication. It can't work without it—the family has to communicate.

Communication is more about listening to what others have to say than what you are saying to other people. It is really important that family members listen to one another. One of the pitfalls is that people can make assumptions, but nobody actually communicates.

One way to get families to communicate is to use a professional succession facilitator to ensure everyone feels comfortable communicating what they really want. A facilitator who isn't biologically related to the family members will not assume they know what anyone else is thinking, so they will ask the awkward questions as well as the easy questions.

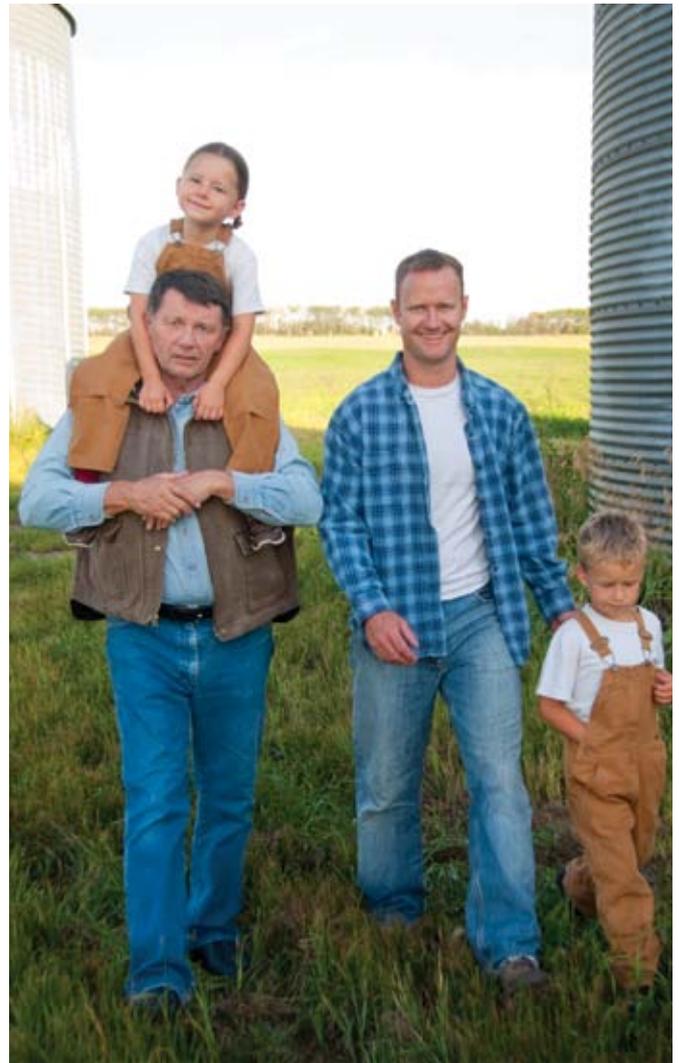
If you can't get that communication flowing, your attempts at succession planning will fail.

Decide Your Goals

The first and most important step in succession planning is discussing goals—what everyone wants. Until you've done this, other experts can't do their jobs. One of the first things to do is to get everyone involved in the succession plan to write down their goals. There are various exercises to focus people on the right areas and make that part flow. At the end of the day, the most critical point is that the goals get written down. When everyone writes their goals out, two things happen:

- it creates a commitment to achieve those goals, and
- each person communicates their personal goals to everyone else.

Be prepared for some surprises and some myths to be overturned!



Pick Your Team

Succession planning is a team sport. Like any team sport, you need a captain, but it's important to remember the captain is not the only player on the team. The captain is not necessarily mom or dad or the kids, it could be a relative, close friend or an advisor. But expect it to be a team sport, and how you pick that team is quite important.

When creating a succession plan, recruiting a team captain can help make dealing with the soft issues, or people issues, which is often the hardest part, easier.

Venue Advantage

The venue makes a difference! When your family is going to talk about succession planning, get away from your place of business, or the family kitchen, because you can easily become distracted by incoming calls or slip into talking about domestic issues. Getting away creates a different mindset and shifts the focus to dealing seriously with the issue of succession planning.

Write It Down

A common mistake people make when succession planning is things get talked about but nobody writes them down. One of

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Everything should be on the table.

the critical advantages of writing things down is it's a very effective communication tool as well as a record. When information is written down, there's no doubt about its importance, it's a record of what was discussed, and it communicates that information very effectively to other people.

No Elephants in the Room

There are often uncomfortable issues in families that nobody wants to talk about. You can't afford not to talk about them. Oftentimes, this is where facilitators earn their money—they won't allow things to be left unspoken. If they are a good facilitator, they'll sense something is not getting spoken about. These issues must be dealt with because sooner or later they'll come to a head.

Everything should be on the table. Sometimes free and frank exchange is challenging in families, and they don't always do well without a referee. Ask yourself, where are the deal breakers in a plan? Handle those issues first, otherwise the rest is a waste of time. Feelings are more hurt if a plan is derailed at the end than if it had been dealt with at the start. That's why it helps to have someone in the room who's not emotionally involved.

Know Your Worth

Situational analysis at its most basic is the net worth—assets and liabilities. Nobody can give you any meaningful advice unless they know what they're dealing with in terms of business and personal assets.

The other part to situational analysis is the goals. Establish a baseline by recording "here's what everyone's got and this is what we want." This becomes your starting point. What the succession plan does is define the end point. The situational analysis is the beginning of your journey—it defines that starting point. The goals define where your family is in relation to the start and end points. You must define these points before anyone can work on a plan for you.

The most important thing about succession planning is the relationships of the people involved. A successful succession plan protects and improves your investment in your relationships.

kari.belanger

Editor's Note:

Jonathan Small, BSc, PAg, is a farm management consultant in MNP's Red Deer office. Jonathan consults to farm clients from Calgary to Grande Prairie, providing management advice on succession planning, production economics, capitalization, litigation support, finance and much more. With more than 28 years of experience, Jonathan has worked internationally, from the United Kingdom to Saskatchewan to Alberta, focusing on primary agriculture the farming industry and related areas.



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Genetically Modified Alfalfa Makes Regulatory Progress

Huge strides have been taken this year towards bringing GM alfalfa to the North American marketplace.

FOR more than a decade, North American regulators have been weighing the issue of planting genetically modified alfalfa, and in January of this year, the United States Department of Agriculture announced its decision to fully deregulate Roundup Ready alfalfa.

After releasing a final environmental impact statement in December 2010, the USDA took another step to ensure this issue received further examination by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss feasible strategies for co-existence between genetically engineered, organic and other non-GM stakeholders.

"After conducting a thorough and transparent examination of alfalfa through a multi-alternative environmental impact statement and several public comment opportunities, United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that Roundup Ready alfalfa is as safe as traditionally-bred alfalfa," said U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, in a statement.

The USDA's APHIS granted non-regulated status for Roundup Ready alfalfa on January 27, 2011. This decision authorized the resumption of sale and planting of Roundup Ready alfalfa, effective February 2, 2011, granting U.S. farmers the choice of planting the technology for the first time since 2007.

Canadian Impact

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's plant biosafety office approved the Roundup Ready alfalfa technology as safe for food, feed and environment back in 2005, but the technology has not yet been commercialized for use on farms in Canada. The CFIA determined these plants with a novel trait do not present altered environmental risk nor, as a novel feed, do they present livestock feed safety concerns when compared to currently commercialized alfalfa varieties in Canada.

The Canadian government has also addressed the issue in Parliament since deregulation status was brought forward in January by the USDA. Canada's private member Bill C-474, which proposed to alter the way crops derived from genetic modification are

regulated, was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 178 to 98. The year-long debate and pressure to support Bill C-474 resulted in increased pressure to stop GM alfalfa. While Bill C-474 did not pass in parliament, it led to a motion for a moratorium on the approval of GM alfalfa in Canada but in March the vote was delayed by members of the House of Commons Agriculture Committee due to the election shut down.

The motion for a moratorium was brought forward by Liberal members of the Committee and was supported by the NDP and Bloc Quebecois members. Without the proposed moratorium, Canada is very close to having GM alfalfa hit its marketplace. The subject of GM alfalfa is expected to be addressed once again this fall in the House of Commons.

Precautionary Steps

Since the USDA deregulation of GM alfalfa earlier this year, the industry has implemented several measures to ensure the crop doesn't mix with conventional alfalfa. U.S. farmers are free to buy and plant Roundup Ready alfalfa, but they must sign a technology stewardship agreement, which states the seed is restricted to use in the United States and is only for producing hay. The producer must also supply their seed dealer with GPS co-ordinates from one point in fields that they seed with Roundup Ready alfalfa.

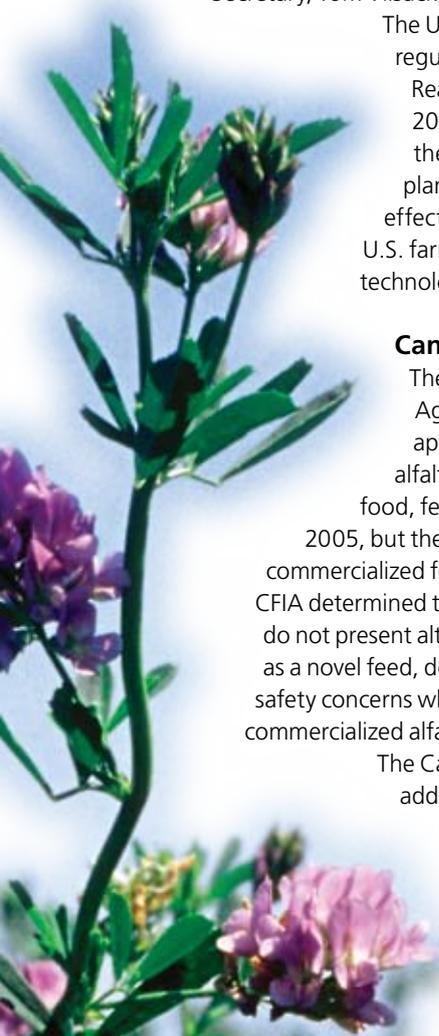
Another requirement is that U.S. producers must harvest their GM alfalfa fields before 10 per cent flower bloom to minimize pollen flow as well as provide their seed dealer with a valid TSA.

Continued Scrutiny

The governments of both the United States and Canada are taking a number of further steps to ensure any issues/concerns are addressed including:

- Reestablishing USDA advisory committees to tackle a broad range of issues, from ensuring the availability of high quality seed, to helping ensure that growers have access to the best tools available to support their production choices;
- Conducting research into areas such as ensuring the genetic integrity, production and preservation of alfalfa seeds entrusted to the germplasm system;
- Refining and extending current models of gene flow in alfalfa;
- Requesting proposals through the small business innovation research program to improve handling of forage seeds and detection of transgenes in alfalfa seeds and hay; and
- Providing voluntary, third-party audits and verification of industry-led stewardship initiatives.

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A RECENT report by RNCOS identified the Americas—namely, the United States, Brazil, Argentina and Canada—as global leaders in bioethanol, producing 90 per cent of the world’s supply. The largest segment of this figure is produced in the United States—49 per cent, according to the report—but recent Canadian initiatives signify a growing commitment to bioenergy. In April, the Alberta Renewable Fuels Standard came into effect, following on the heels of the 2010 Federal Renewable Fuels Regulations.



The United States leads the way in biofuel production.

The Alberta Renewable Fuels Standard requires an average of two per cent renewable fuel in diesel fuel and an average of five per cent renewable alcohol in all gasoline sold in Alberta. Additionally, the greenhouse gas emissions for biofuels must be 25 per cent less than the equivalent petroleum fuel, which will potentially result in a reduction of approximately one million tonnes of GHG emissions each year. The Federal mandate boasts the same figures—five per cent renewable content in gasoline and two per cent renewable diesel.

Economic Stability

To many, the RFS signals the beginning of a necessary shift. Tim Haig, interim president for the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association sees the federal mandate as wholly positive. “A mandate of two per cent biodiesel and five per cent ethanol content in gasoline adds jobs to the economy and stability to commodity prices, and reduces dependence on importing oil,” he says. “The United States spends \$700 billion on importing oil, and that means there’s a tax on everyone in that country. You can reduce that tax by producing your own oil.”

A huge benefit of biofuels production at home, according to Haig, is its effect on the markets. “It becomes a natural hedge for variable commodity prices. Having stability in the agribusiness is huge—it’s been subsidized globally for years and years,” he says. “Volatility in prices is good for traders but not producers. Producers need market stability, and renewables are a big part of that.”

Dennis Rogoza, an advisor on sustainability and biofuels for the Canola Council of Canada, sees biofuels as a major boon to canola producers for the same reasons: “The industry is subject to the vagaries of the international export market. Having domestic markets which are stable is better for the agriculture industry,” he says.

But beyond the markets, according to Rogoza, there will be plenty of other practical benefits. “The construction of biofuels plants, many of them in small communities, will diversify the industry in rural areas and bring high-quality, high-paying jobs. Then there are the environmental benefits—the Renewable Fuels Standard will reduce greenhouse gases, and on the biodiesel side, the more biodiesel you use, the lower the contaminants coming out of the tailpipe.”

Food for Fuel?

Regardless of increased government support for sustainable energy solutions—in Alberta alone the government has pledged \$336 million over the next three years to the program—the food versus fuel debate continues. The chief arguments against biofuels are that the increase in land use for biofuels crops will contribute to global food insecurity over the long run, and that demand for ethanol will increase food prices.

Haig sees the food versus fuel debate as “hypothetical,” and cites petroleum costs as the primary drivers of food prices. “I find it an astounding conversation—I don’t think increased demand for fuel crops has had any effect on food prices,” he says. And with regard to land use, he says that far from biofuels swallowing up food cropland, there are many untapped resources available in Canada alone. “In Canada there are approximately 2.5 million unplanted hectares.”

The food versus fuel debate spreads beyond Canada’s shores, however. Richard Phillips, executive director of the Grain Growers of Canada, sees the question as a “tough” one when discussing the implications of biofuels crop production in countries where

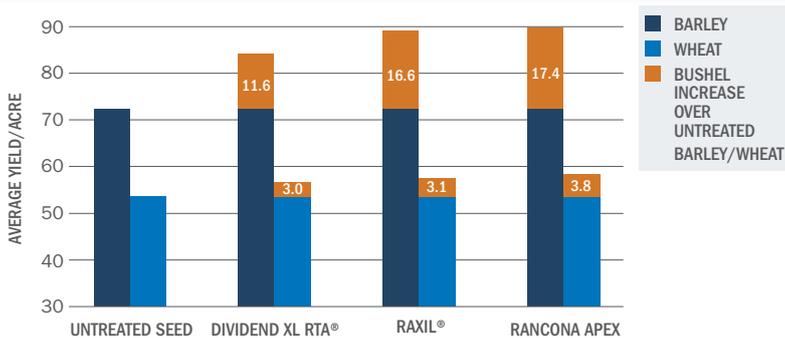
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³ Tests conducted in Alberta (N=5), Montana (N=5), Manitoba (N=2) and North Dakota (N=3). Average of 15 trials. Raxil MD was formulation of Raxil used in trials.

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food can sometimes be in short supply. "In the third world, if you grow biofuels crops you get good cash for them, but when there's a drought, they don't have Sobeys or supermarkets like we are used to, and when you go to the market there are no crops to buy. So there is sensitivity in some third world countries to pressures to grow biofuels crops," he explains. "You might get cash for these crops but you can't eat cash."

Sustainability Matters

In general terms, however, Phillips finds much to applaud about the Renewable Fuel Standard. He says that increased demand for sustainability as a baseline business practice has contributed to the urgency for biofuels production in Canada. "What producers are looking for is to create as much demand as possible for their crops. Renewable fuels create demand and more price competition," Phillips says. "As producers, we face pressures from society to use sustainable methods."

Whether biofuels will have an impact on prices at the pump is not entirely clear, but Phillips says that in Canada, it's more a question of sustainability than cost. "In Canada, we are already fuel self-sufficient. This is more about environmental sustainability in Canada than it is about impacting fuel prices."

"Biofuels are not the total solution, but they're part of the solution," he says. "What's really key is that biofuels get up and going and are tested so they work correctly. You have to get people using biofuels and testing them, and then you can work out kinks, and the next generation after that will be better. But consumer acceptance has to happen first." **julienne.isaacs**

Renewable Regulations Across Canada

- British Columbia: five per cent ethanol, three, four and five per cent biodiesel
- Alberta: five per cent ethanol, two per cent biodiesel
- Saskatchewan: 7.5 per cent ethanol, two per cent biodiesel
- Manitoba: 8.5 per cent ethanol, two per cent biodiesel
- Ontario: five per cent ethanol
- Eastern provinces: exempt until December 2012
- Newfoundland/Labrador: exempt
- Northern provinces/Territories: exempt



Hate
wheat
midge?
Hate
spraying?

Farmers love this.

Prairie wheat growers are turning to midge tolerant wheat for midge control and high yields. And everyone wants this to continue.

That's the point of the Stewardship Agreement. The Agreement limits the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past Certified seed. It's a simple step that keeps the interspersed refuge system at the desired level, preventing a build-up of resistant midge. Protect your yields and grade, and preserve this important tool for years to come. What's not to love about that?

Contact your retailer or visit www.midgetolerantwheat.ca to learn more about these new varieties and how the interspersed refuge system works.



~~Our exceptional canola and pedigreed seed varieties will stop the competition in their tracks! With unrelenting yield momentum, unsurpassed standability and outstanding genetics, we set the pace for performance.~~

~~Don't believe us, just check out our awesome line-up of remarkable seed products.~~

CANOLA

- NEW CANTERRA 1990 – GENRR Hybrid
- NEW CANTERRA 1980 – GENRR Hybrid
- CANTERRA 1970 – GENRR Hybrid
- CANTERRA 1918 – GENRR Open Pollinated

WHEAT

- GLENN – CWRS
- NEW AC™ ENTERPRISE – CWAD
- NEW AC™ CONQUER VB – CPSR with Midge Resistance

OATS

- TRIACTOR

BARLEY

- NEW MERIT 57 – 2-ROW MALTING
- BENTLEY – 2-ROW MALTING
- CDC POLARSTAR – 2-ROW MALTING IP
- CDC COALITION – 2-ROW FEED

PEAS

- AC™ AGASSIZ – YELLOW
- AC™ THUNDERBIRD – YELLOW

CANARYSEED

- CDC TOGO – GLABROUS



Find out more at ShutTheSellUp.ca

YES | YOU | CAN!



Can you find a seed company about the seed and not the sell?

The seed.ab.ca New Varieties List is your heads up to what will soon be available in a field near you.

Some varieties may only be available in limited supply, so make sure you call your local representative for more information. The companies that were asked to supply information are responsible for any claims contained within the list. Always remember that variety performance may vary from region to region. Visit the seed.ab.ca website for company links.

abbreviations

PEST RESISTANCE:

R - Resistant
MR - Moderately Resistant
MS - Moderately Susceptible
S - Susceptible

TRAITS:

Bt - ECB Resistant
HXI - Herculex I
YGCB - YieldGard Corn Borer
CL - Clearfield Production System
GENRR2Y - Genuity RR2 Yield

GT - Glyphosate Tolerant
LL - Liberty Link
RR - Roundup Ready
RR2 - Roundup Ready 2
RR2Y - Roundup Ready 2 Yield
PESTS:
CB - Corn Borer
RW - Corn Rootworm
ECB - European Corn Borer
FHB - Fusarium Head Blight
PRR - Phytophthora Root Rot
SCN - Soybean Cyst Nematode

OTHER:

HU - Heat Units
OP - Open Pollinated
SSZ - Short Season Zone
MSZ - Mid Season Zone
LSZ - Long Season Zone
WHEAT:
CPS - Canada Prairie Spring
CWAD - Canada Western Amber Durum
CWRS - Canada Western Red Spring

BARLEY

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Alliance Seed Corporation Ph: (877) 270-2890 AllianceSeed.com	Taylor	2 Row Malting Hullless	-1 day of CDC McGwire	92% of CDC McGwire	Good	R - Loose Smut MS - Spotted Net Blotch, Netted Net Blotch, Common Root Rot, Spot Blotch, Stem Rust, Surface Borne Smuts	Stronger straw and earlier maturity than CDC McGwire heavier, plumper kernels. Lower FHB reaction and DON content than checks. Malting quality potential with higher malt extract Better protein modification and lower beta glucan content and viscosity than CDC McGwire
 CANTERRA Seeds Ph: (888) 439-7333 CANTERRA.com	CDC Mayfair	6 Row Malting	-1 day of AC Metcalfe	111% of AC Metcalfe	Good	R - Surface Borne Smuts	Unique malt quality profile with plumper kernels and higher extract
	Merit 57	2 Row Malting	+3 days of AC Metcalfe	107% of AC Metcalfe	Fair	MR - Scald, Net Blotch, Stem Rust (Race Mcc) MS - Spot Blotch MS - BYDV	Possesses a superior malting profile that is accepted by Anheuser-Busch. It is a later maturing variety, which contributes to its very high yield potential
 SeCan Canada's Seed Partner Ph: (800) 665-7333 SeCan.com	CDC Austenson	2 Row Feed	0 days of AC Metcalfe	116% of AC Metcalfe	Very Good	S - Scald S - Loose Smut MS - Stem Rust MS - FHB	Top yielding 2 row, feed barley with shorter and stronger straw than Xena. Provides a strong combination of yield, test weight and improved disease resistance CDC Austenson will become the new standard in 2 row feed barley
	CDC Meredith	2 Row Malting	+2 days of AC Metcalfe	113% of AC Metcalfe	Fair	S - Scald MS - Loose Smut MR - Stem Rust MS - FHB	Top yielding 2 row malting variety that has 1% lower grain protein than AC Metcalfe. Plump kernels with excellent malting quality Available through IP contracts with domestic maltsters and Richardson Pioneer
	Gadsby	2 Row Feed	+2 days of AC Metcalfe	110% of AC Metcalfe	Fair	R - Scald MS - FHB MR - Stem Rust, Stripe Rust	Scald resistant feed/forage variety with very large plump kernel
 Viterra Ph: (306) 569-4411 Viterra.ca	AC Major	2 Row Malting	Similar to AC Metcalfe	111% of AC Metcalfe	Excellent	MR - Loose Smut, Spot Blotch I - FHB	2 row malt variety with superior agronomics, excellent malt quality and yields similar to top feed barley Shorter, stronger straw with an excellent disease package, high plump percentage and lower protein than AC Metcalfe

CANOLA

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Bayer CropScience Ph: (888) 283-6847 BayerCropScience.ca	InVigor L120	napus Hybrid LL	-3 days of 46A65 and Q2	134% of 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg	The true replacement for InVigor 5020 featuring early maturity plus a significant increase in yield
	InVigor L135C	napus Hybrid LL	-3 days of 46A65 and Q2	138% of 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Clubroot	InVigor yields with clubroot resistance An excellent combination of early maturity and high yield potential Sold only in areas with confirmed clubroot presence
	InVigor L170S	napus Hybrid LL	+2 days of 46A65 and Q2	137% of 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg	All the yield of an InVigor hybrid with sclerotinia tolerance Available in limited quantities for 2012
 BrettYoung Seeds Ph: (800) 665-5015 BrettYoung.ca	5535 CL	napus Hybrid CL	-1.95 days of 46A65/Q2	127% of 46A65/Q2 2008/2009 Co-op	Very Good	R - Blackleg	A new early maturing CL hybrid very well suited to production in the short and mid season areas In coop trials its strength in the short season zone was evident with a yield of 148% of the checks Seed supply is good
 CANTERRA Seeds Ph: (866) 744-4321 CANTERRA.com	CANTERRA 1980	napus Hybrid RR	-1.5 days of 46A65 and Q2	103% of 45H29	Good	R - Fusarium Wilt R - Blackleg	Adapted to suit ALL growing zones

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 CANTERRA Seeds Ph: (866) 744-4321 CANTERRA.com	CANTERRA 1990	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	+0.5 days of 46A65 and Q2	103% of 5440	Very Good	R - Fusarium Wilt R - Blackleg	The highest yielding hybrid in Canterra Seeds' lineup
 Cargill Ltd Ph: (888) 855-8558 victorycanola.com	VICTORY V12-1	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	0 days of 46A65 and Q2	136% of 46A65/Q2 in MSZ	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	First hybrid of VICTORY's new V-Class line of higher performing canola hybrids Highest yielding RR hybrid registered in the MSZ Part of the 2012 Cargill Specialty Canola Program delivering higher returns and greater peace of mind
 Dow AgroSciences Ph: (800) 667-3852 HealthierProfits.ca	Nexera Hybrid 1012 RR	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	Equal to NX4-105 RR	115% of NX4-105 RR	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Outstanding yield potential, very good lodging resistance for easier swathing \$72.00 more in returns per acre than NX4-105 RR
	Nexera Hybrid 1014 RR	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	+1 day of NX4-105 RR	114% of NX4-105 RR	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Outstanding yield potential, very good lodging resistance for easier swathing \$67.20 more in returns per acre than NX4-105 RR
	Nexera Hybrid 2012 CL	<i>napus</i> Hybrid	Equal to NX4-205 CL	107% of NX4-205 CL	Excellent	MR - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Outstanding yield potential, very good lodging resistance for easier swathing \$33.60 more in returns per acre than NX4-205 CL
	Nexera Hybrid 2014 CL	<i>napus</i> Hybrid	+2 days of NX4-205 CL	103% of NX4-205 CL	Excellent	MR - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Outstanding yield potential, very good lodging resistance for easier swathing \$14.40 more in returns per acre than NX4-205 CL
 FP Genetics Ph: (877) 791-1045 FPGenetics.ca	94H04	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	-1.6 days of 46A65, Q2	123% of 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	High yielding Genuity RR hybrid, early maturity, especially in the short-season and mid-season zones Strong R to blackleg, excellent standability, easy harvesting and low green count
 Mastin Seeds Ph: (403) 556-2609 MastinSeeds.com	ACS-C29	<i>rapa</i> Synthetic	-2 days of Parkland	115% of Parkland	Good	S - Blackleg, Fusarium Wilt R - White Rust	High yield and early maturity, a three-parent background
 Monsanto Canada Ph: (800) 667-4944 DEKALB.ca	DEKALB 73-15 RR	<i>napus</i> Hybrid GENRR	-1.3 days of 73-35RR	106% of 73-35RR	Good	MR - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	A unique combination of high yield potential and early maturity. 2 bu/ac greater than 73-35RR and 72-35RR. An excellent fit for the short seasonal zone
	DEKALB 73-75 RR	<i>napus</i> Hybrid GENRR	-0.5 days of 72-65RR	103% of InVigor 5440	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Great looking plant with strong vigour High yield potential with a great all-round agronomic package New addition to the 73 series by the DEKALB brand
 Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. Ph: (800) 265-9435 Pioneer.com	D3153	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	+1.5 days of 46A65/Q2	127% of WWC/RRC checks 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Exceptional standability and harvestability with outstanding yield potential Available via DuPont at Federated Co-op and selected Independent retailers
	45H31	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	Equal to 45H21	129% of WWC/RRC checks 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Outstanding yield potential with great standability and harvestability
	46H75	<i>napus</i> Hybrid CL	+3 days of 46A65/Q2	130% of WWC/RRC checks 46A65/Q2	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	New hybrid with the CL trait Excellent early growth and outstanding standability and harvestability
	46S53	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	0 days of 46A65/Q2	122% of WWC/RRC checks 46A65/Q2	Excellent	MR - Sclerotinia R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	New hybrid with built-in Pioneer Protector Sclerotinia resistance. Strong disease resistance package and improved standability
 SeCan Ph: (800) 665-7333 SeCan.com	AC Synergy	<i>rapa</i> Synthetic	0 days of AC Sunbeam	117% of AC Sunbeam	Good	R - White Rust	Extremely high yielding synthetic conventional Polish canola Two weeks earlier maturity than Argentine canola
	Fusion	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	-2 days of 46A65 and Q2	123% of 46A65/Q2	Very Good	R - Blackleg MS - Fusarium Wilt	Hybrid RR canola performance at the seed price of an open-pollinated variety Resistant to blackleg and fusarium wilt
 Viterra Ph: (306) 569-4411 Viterra.ca	VR 9559 G	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	+2 days of Proven VR 9553 G	Data available fall 2011 from Viterra testing program	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Yields big, unconditionally Proven VR 9559 G showed an 8% yield advantage over Proven VR 9553 G in our 2010 testing program
	VR 9560 CL	<i>napus</i> Hybrid CL	Mid maturing product Suited to all season zones	Data available fall 2011 from Viterra testing program	Very Good	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Proven VR 9560 CL has a significant yield advantage over previous CL canolas Non GMO premiumMS available for 2011-2012
	VT 500G	<i>napus</i> Hybrid RR	+1 day of 45H21	107% of 45H21	Excellent	R - Blackleg R - Fusarium Wilt	Yields big, stands strong High yielding GENRR hybrid Excellent lodging tolerance – easy to swath, more acres per day

CLOVER

CLOVER

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Pickseed Ph: (780) 464-0350 Pickseed.com	Crescendo	Latino white clover		111% of Alice	Good		High yielding, upright, fine stems, large dark green leaves, active stolon growth in spring, freedom from leaf diseases and virus pressure

CORN

CORN

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Elite Ph: (800) 665-5015 EliteSeeds.ca Distributed by  BrettYoung	Edge R	Silage Hybrid GM	2150 HU	Very Good		MS - Fusarium	Shows excellent promise as a high tonnage variety for growers looking for early maturity silage. Excellent digestibility, high ratings for net energy and plant health.
	E50B12 R	Grain Hybrid GM	2400 HU	Very Good			New grain hybrid that provides high yields and test weights combined with fast dry down in a VT Double Pro Corn for CB and EW protection with only a 5% refuge requirement.
	E50G27 R	Grain Hybrid GM	2350 HU	Excellent		MS - Rust, Drought R - Ear Rot MR - Eye Spot	New grain hybrid that provides high yields and good dry down with superior early season development and excellent stalk strength.
 Hyland Seeds Ph: (800) 265-7403 HylandSeeds.com	HL 3085	Grain/Silage Hybrid GM	2400 HU	Good			Great late season eye appeal, nice standability and stalk quality, excellent ear consistency Good grain test weight and finish
	HL 4122	Grain/Silage Hybrid GM	2500 HU	Very Good		R - ECB, Western Bean Cutworm MS - CRW R - Black Cutworm, Corn Earworm	Excellent grain quality, very good plant structure Excellent tip fill, proven leading genetics for maturity
	8098	Grain/Silage Hybrid SmartStax	2450 HU	Excellent		R - ECB, Western Bean Cutworm MS - CRW R - Black Cutworm, Corn Earworm	Excellent ear consistency Good stalks late into the season, nice grain quality
	8105	Grain/Silage Hybrid SmartStax	2450 HU	Excellent		R - ECB, Western Bean Cutworm MS - Corn Root Worm R - Black Cutworm, Corn Earworm	Consistent ear development with good ear length, very good grain quality with good dry down which supports northern adaptation Strong roots and stalks, very good fall health and late season plant integrity
 Maizex Seeds Inc Ph: (877) 682-1720 Maizex.com	MZ 1244R	Grain/Silage/Feed Hybrid RR	2250 HU	Excellent			Aggressive seedling vigour. Unmatched early flowering. Beautiful test weight on a white cob. Exceptional yield potential
	MZ 1440R	Grain/Silage/Feed Hybrid RR	2250 HU	Excellent			Tall robust plant, very fast grain drydown Attractive overall plant appearance, open husk at harvest
 Monsanto Canada Ph: (800) 667-4944 DEKALB.ca	DKC 26-25	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2125 HU				Dual purpose grain and silage product Top end yield potential Excellent staygreen and plant health
	DKC 27-54	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2175 HU				Excellent test weight with very good drydown Very good plant health and harvest appearance High yield potential
	DKC 27-55	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2200 HU			R - CB	Excellent test weight with very good drydown Very good plant health and harvest appearance High yield potential
	DKC 28-76	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2200 HU				Top end yield potential Performs best when planted at M-MH plant populations. Excellent drydown
 Pickseed Ph: (780) 464-0350 Pickseed.com	PICKSEED 2304RR	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2150 HU	Excellent		R - Northern Corn Leaf Blight	RR2 technology, excellent seedling vigour, good disease package, very good grain quality Extremely fast dry down Tall plant height
	PICKSEED 2411GT/CB/LL	Feed/Silage Hybrid GT/CB/LL	2325 HU	Excellent		R - ECB, Southwestern CB	Agrisure GT/CB/LL, early maturing hybrid, exhibits fast drydown. Adapts well from east to west, excellent stalk strength, tall plant height
 Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. Ph: (800) 265-9435 Pioneer.com	39F44	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2000 HU	Very Good			New ultra-early corn hybrid with the RR2 trait 39F44 shows very good stress emergence and drought tolerance. Exceptional silage characteristics
 Pride Seeds Ph: (800) 265-5280 PrideSeed.com	A4022RR	Grain Hybrid	2075 HU	Excellent		S - CB, CRW	Early maturity, excellent yield, fast drydown Excellent stalks and roots

“It’s more affordable than what you’re using now. Hopefully, that’ll mean an increase in tips.”



Claire’s learned a lot chewing the fat with her customers. Here’s a small taste. This year growers can cash in on the outstanding value of the **Clearfield**[®] Production System for Canola. From the new ARES[™]* herbicide, to new hybrids, including hybrids from Nexera[™], to proven fungicides like HEADLINE[®] and LANCE[®], they’re all priced to ensure a great ROI. Order before December 31st and save up to \$4 per acre† for even more savings! Contact your BASF retailer or visit the diner at clearfield.ca/canola for more juicy tidbits.

* ARES herbicide is in the final stages of registration
† Certain conditions apply. Offer Terms & Conditions available online at clearfield.ca/canola



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CORN

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Pride Seeds Ph: (800) 265-5280 PrideSeed.com	A4023BTRR	Grain Hybrid GM	2100 HU	Excellent		R - CB S - CRW	Early maturity, excellent yield, fast drydown Excellent stalks and roots
	A4240RR	Grain/Feed/Silage Hybrid	2200 HU	Excellent		S - CB, CRW	Excellent yield, dent grain, very good stalks Excellent silage choice for tons and quality
	A4632G3	Grain/Feed/Silage Hybrid	2300 HU	Excellent		R - CB, CRW	Early maturity, excellent yield, fast drydown, excellent stalks and roots. Triple stack hybrid that can be used for grain or silage
	A5004G2	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2375 HU	Excellent		R - CB S - CRW	New early Genuity VT Double PRO hybrid Only 5% refuge required Excellent test weight
 Syngenta Canada Ph: 800-756-SEED NKCanada.com	N04F-GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2150 HU	Very Good			Consistent performance across different environments and seasons
	N04F-3000GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2150 HU	Very Good			Consistent performance across different environments and seasons
	N08N-GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2250 HU	Excellent			Diverse genetics with outstanding top-end yield
	N09T-3111	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2300 HU	Excellent			Great yield potential for its maturity with Agrisure Viptera protection
	N12R-3000GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2400 HU	Excellent			High yields with excellent drydown
	N12R-GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2400 HU	Excellent			High yields with excellent drydown
	N20Y-3000GT	Feed/Silage Hybrid	2600 HU	Excellent			Broadly adapted genetics with high silage yield potential

FLAX

FLAX

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Alliance Seed Corporation Ph: (877) 270-2890 AllianceSeed.com	Prairie Sapphire		Equal to Flanders	103% of Flanders	Equal to Flanders	R - Flax Rust, Fusarium Wilt MR - Pasmus, Powdery Mildew	Prairie Sapphire yields and matures similarly to Flanders in all agro-ecological zones and under conditions of late seeding in Western Canada. Good shattering resistance

PEAS

PEAS

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 SeCan Ph: (800) 665-7333 SeCan.com	Argus	Yellow field pea	-1 day of Eclipse	111% of Eclipse	Very Good	R - Powdery Mildew, Mycosphaerella Blight MS - Fusarium Wilt	High yielding semi leafless Medium sized yellow seeded, food/feed pea

SOYBEANS

SOYBEANS

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 Elite Ph: (800) 665-5015 EliteSeeds.ca Distributed by  Brett Young	Pekko R2	Black RR2	2375 HU	Excellent	Excellent	MR - Sclerotinia Stem Rot, PRR, Iron Deficiency Chlorosis	Earliest RR2 variety available and one of the highest yielding in the early soybean market. Its vigorous early growth makes it ideal for short season areas
	Sampsa R2	Black RR2	2475 HU	Excellent	Excellent	MR - Sclerotinia Stem Rot, Iron Deficiency Chlorosis, PRR	A variety that will take advantage of a longer season combined with strong disease package. A good all around variety with surprising yields. Keep an eye on the yield monitor
 Hyland Seeds Ph: (800) 265-7403 HylandSeeds.com	HS 006RYS24	Black RR2Y	2450 HU	Excellent	Very Good	R - Cyst Nematode, PRR MR - White Mould	High end yield potential, moves north well, good plant standability, new RR2Y/SCN product for maturity
 SeCan Ph: (800) 665-7333 SeCan.com	Chadburn R2	Black RR	2475 HU	Very Good	Excellent	R - Iron Deficiency Chlorosis	High yield potential in an early maturing, RR soybean Medium seed size and excellent lodging resistance Good iron deficiency chlorosis scores
 Syngenta Canada Ph: 800-756-SEED NKCanada.com	S08-K1 GM	Grey	2500 HU	Excellent 47 bu/ac	Very Good		Excellent yield in early maturity zones

WHEAT

WHEAT

Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 CANTERRA Seeds Ph: (866) 744-4321 CANTERRA.com	AC Enterprise	CWAD Spring Milling	Equal to Strongfield	101% of Strongfield	Good	R - Stem Rust, Leaf Rust MS - Smut, FHB I - Bunt, Leaf Spot	Has an intense pigment concentration, similar to Navigator and Commander Grain protein, grain cadmium concentration, gluten index and semolina yield similar to Strongfield

Sclerotinia the hard way.

Sclerotinia is a costly disease for canola growers. Provincial disease surveys* indicate that **82%** of prairie acres are affected by it. Losses can easily top **\$30** per acre... almost **\$5000** per quarter section.

Spraying to control sclerotinia is expensive and uncertain because it depends on critical timing.



Or the easy way.

There's a simple, certain and effective way to limit these losses.

Plant canola seed with the Pioneer Protector® Sclerotinia trait. It puts your first line of defense against this costly disease right into the seed, to protect your yield potential through to harvest.

Control sclerotinia the easy way: **Pioneer Protector.**



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*Average number based on 88% affected in Manitoba, 92% in Saskatchewan and 64% in Alberta. Results from the Provincial Disease Surveys, 2010.

Field results show that Pioneer Protector® Sclerotinia resistance can reduce the incidence of sclerotinia in a canola crop by over 50%. Individual results may vary. Depending on environmental and agronomic conditions, growers planting Pioneer Protector Sclerotinia resistant hybrids may still require a fungicide application to manage sclerotinia in their crop.

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Company	Variety	Crop Type	Maturity	Yield	Standability	Pest Resistance	Specialty Features
 CANTERRA Seeds Ph: (866) 744-4321 CANTERRA.com	AC Conquer VB	CPS Spring	+0.5 days of 5701 PR	102% of 5701PR/5702PR	Good	R - Stem Rust, Common Bunt, Naturally Occurring Stripe Rust R - Leaf Rust Races, Leaf Spots MS - Loose Smut, FHB	The only CPS that is resistant to wheat midge
	CDC Kernen	CWRS Spring	+ 1 day of AC Barrie	104% of AC Barrie	Good	R - Loose Smut MR - Leaf And Stem Rust MS - Leaf Spots I - FHB, Bunt	The grain quality of CDC Kernen is exceptional
 FP Genetics Ph: (877) 791-1045 FPGenetics.ca	AC Muchmore	CWRS Spring Milling	+ 3 days of AC Barrie	118% of AC Barrie	Excellent	R - Leaf Rust R - Stem Rust R - Common Bunt	A semi dwarf that offers excellent yields and standability. Very strong disease package. Short, strong stature makes it particularly suitable for high fertility systems
	CDC Utmost VB	CWRS Spring Milling	- 1 day of AC Barrie	121% of AC Barrie	Very Good	R - Orange Wheat Blossom Midge R - Stem Rust MR - Leaf Rust	The highest yielding wheat to be registered by the Crop Development Centre. It provides an overall package that includes early maturity, high yields, good standability, excellent leaf and stem rust resistance along with the SM1 midge tolerance
 SeCan Canada's Seed Partner Ph: (800) 665-7333 SeCan.com	AC Carberry	CWRS Spring Milling	+ 2 days of AC Barrie	109% of AC Barrie in Co-op Trials	Excellent	MR - FHB, Stem Rust, Loose Smut R - Leaf Rust, Bunt	One of the best agronomic packages ever registered High grain yield, semi-dwarf with short, strong straw Excellent disease resistance and great grain quality
	AC Shaw	CWRS Spring Milling	+ 3 days of AC Barrie	107% of AC Barrie in Co-op Trials	Very Good	MS - FHB R - Leaf Rust, Stem Rust S - Loose Smut MR - Bunt	Highest yielding midge tolerant CWRS wheat with the best level of midge tolerance available Awnless with tall but strong straw. Excellent pre-harvest sprouting tolerance with large seed and high test weight
	CDC Thrive	CWRS Spring Milling	- 1 day of AC Barrie	106% of AC Barrie in Co-op Trials	Good	MS - FHB, Bunt R - Leaf Rust MR - Stem Rust, Loose Smut	High yield potential with early maturity and suited to the Parkland growing regions CL production system for wheat - unsurpassed broad-spectrum control of grasses and broadleaf weeds
	Pasteur	CWGP Spring Feed	+ 7 days of AC Barrie	140% of AC Barrie in Co-op Trials	Very Good	MS - FHB, Loose Smut, Bunt R - Leaf Rust MR - Stem Rust	Top yielding CWGP wheat with low DON accumulation Very strong straw and leaf and stem rust resistance
 Viterra Ph: (306) 569-4411 Viterra.ca	AC Brigade	CWAD Spring Milling	+ 2 days of Strongfield	110% of Strongfield	Very Good	R - Stem Rust, Leaf Rust I - FHB	High yields, high test weights, and I/MR for FHB Improved agronomic performance and reduced cadmium levels while maintaining the strong gluten and high pigment traits
	CDC Stanley	CWRS Spring Milling	Equal to AC Barrie	117% of AC Barrie	Excellent	MR - Stem Rust I - Leaf Rust MS - FHB	Short stature, excellent standability, great leaf disease package. The HIGHEST yield results across all three Prairie Provinces. CDC Stanley redefines genetic potential for all western Canadian wheat growers
	5603HR	CWRS Spring Milling	+ 1 day of AC Barrie	111% of AC Barrie	Good	MR - Stem Rust, FHB R - Leaf Rust	High yield potential and premium disease package VR 5603 HR crops consistently results in higher HVK, lower sprouting, higher test weights and top grades
	5604HR CL	CWRS Spring Milling	- 2 days of AC Barrie	105% of AC Barrie	Very Good	R - Stem Rust, Leaf Rust MR - FHB	Exciting opportunity for the Prairies. Consistently delivered high yield potential. Short stature, great standability, excellent disease package and CL tolerance. These characteristic combine to deliver high volumes of one of the top grading wheats across our trials



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Canola Growers Direct New Performance Trials

A new grower-funded and grower-driven canola variety testing program will soon provide some additional information for farmers to help them make better management decisions.

DATA will soon be available from the Canola Performance Trials (CPT) 2011, which include 26 small plots across western Canada as well as audited field-scale trials conducted by various seed companies to provide depth to the assessment of consistency in variety performance.

The data will be available through an online interactive tool on the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) website with links from provincial grower group websites, as well as in a printed booklet format. The data will be presented in a way that allows growers to explore many agronomic factors, and they will be able to search for trial data in specific geographic areas near their farming operations.

Detailed reporting will include site-specific data on weather, soil type, previous crop, fertility, seeding date and rate as well as harvest date. Disease ratings (for example, for blackleg) from the Western Canada Canola Rapeseed Recommending Committee will be included in the CPT 2011 reporting data.

The small plots component involves established and forthcoming varieties used with the corresponding herbicide systems that are commercially available to growers, and will provide data on agronomic characteristics such as yield, height, lodging and maturity.

The three Prairie canola grower groups – the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission (SaskCanola) and the Manitoba Canola Growers Association – are funding the program, and seed trade companies that participate pay entry fees. The BC Grain Producers Association is participating by conducting trials within the Peace region. A governance committee oversees the program and the CCC is administering the program on their behalf.

To that end, the CPT 2011 governance committee has overseen all aspects of the program, including approval of varieties, protocol design, financial management and overseeing data collection, analysis and reporting. Committee members include representatives from the provincial grower groups including British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta provincial oilseed specialists, three commercial Canadian Seed Trade Association representatives and the CCC.

Rale Gjurić of Haplotech Inc. has been hired to coordinate the trials. His in-depth knowledge, understanding of experimental design and breeding background provide the experience to ensure quality data is provided to growers.

There are a number of differences between CPT 2011 and previous Prairie Canola Variety Trials, which were discontinued in 2009, and were largely funded by private industry. The most important one, says CPT 2011 governance committee chair Franck Groeneweg, a Saskatchewan farmer and a SaskCanola board member, is that the trials will more accurately reflect actual on-farm production practices.

Shortcomings in the harvest management component of previous trials, which were all harvested at the same time, are also being addressed— this year's CPT plots will be harvested at each variety's proper maturity date to eliminate any bias that might have occurred in the past with varieties at different stages of maturity.

Data from the seed companies' field-scale trials is also being independently evaluated. "The protocols used for conducting the trial data analysis and reporting of the seed trade field-scale projects is being audited and sites are being randomly inspected to make sure that it is being done in a scientifically-sound manner and that the comparative data can actually be used," says Groeneweg. "So growers will have the opportunity to measure up the varieties in the small plots and then compare that information to the field trials data and have more of a complete picture."

The auditing process involves qualified professionals with extensive background in conducting field-scale research trials.

Participants in the small plot trials include line companies, independent retailers and seed companies including Viterra, Bayer CropScience, Monsanto, Dow AgroSciences, Cargill, Canterra Seeds, BrettYoung Seeds, FP Genetics and SeCan. For 2011, Monsanto, Bayer, Canterra and Dow are participating in the field-scale program.

According to a survey of 1,359 canola growers conducted in January 2010, variety performance data ranks as third in importance, behind commodity prices and weather information. "The results of CPT 2011 will provide science-based unbiased data to growers in time for them to make their fall seed purchase decisions," says Groeneweg. **angela.lovell**



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In With the New

Results from this year's variety recommending meetings.

EACH February, members of the Prairie Grain Development Committee and the Western Canada Canola/Rapeseed Recommending Committee meet to approve registration of new cereal, pulse and oilseed varieties developed by federal government and private breeders. These newly approved varieties give Canadian farmers more options when they make seeding decisions in the spring.

Health Concerns Drive Canola Development

A total of 83 Roundup Ready, Liberty Link and Clearfield canola cultivars were approved for full registration by the WCC/RRC members with 10 Roundup Ready and two Liberty Link cultivars receiving interim recommendation.

Eighteen of these were varieties with lower amounts of linoleic acid (Omega-6) developed by Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc. (14), Cargill Specialty Canola Oils (3) and Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. (1).

Increasing global demand for cooking oil containing Omega-9 trans-fatty acid, which is healthier for human consumption, is fuelling the development of canola varieties with low linoleic acid. Four canola hybrid varieties that were recommended for registration—2012 Clearfield, 2014 Clearfield, 1012 Roundup Ready and 1014 Roundup Ready—are part of Dow AgroSciences' Nexera line of Omega-9 varieties.

"Canola growers have been asking for new varieties that will set a new standard in profitability and performance," said Mark Woloshyn, Nexera brand manager, in a press release. "We believe these new Nexera varieties will exceed their expectations."

Several canola hybrids from Monsanto's canola breeding program were also recommended for registration, two of which—73-15 RR and 73-75 RR—will be introduced as new DEKALB canola hybrids in 2011.

"The new products were adapted to address the concerns of specific regions in Western Canada," said Dave Kelner, Monsanto's technology development lead for Western Canada, in a press release. "For instance, 73-15 RR works well in areas that are limited in the crops they can successfully grow because of a shorter growing season."

Fusarium Resistance Needed in Wheat

Thirteen wheat cultivars were recommended for 2011 by members of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye and Triticale: five Canada Western Red Spring wheat cultivars; two Canada Western Red Winter cultivars; one Canada Western Hard White Spring cultivar; one Canada Prairie Spring Red cultivar; and four General Purpose wheat cultivars.

When looking at test results for all first-, second- and third-year wheat cultivars, members of the WRT Quality and Disease Evaluation and Agronomics teams focussed on each candidate's fusarium resistance. This was due to the record-high incidents of fusarium head blight that occurred in crops grown across Western Canada last year, because of excessive rainfall. In fact, fusarium damage and other weather impacts were so bad in Canada Western Amber Durum grown last year that no quality results are available.

Graham Worden, chair of the WRT Quality Evaluation team, is concerned about the potential for continuing fusarium damage to CWRS crops.

"It looks like half of the CWRS varieties we're growing in western Canada have poorer fusarium resistance ratings," he says. "There are better varieties coming into our system and they should be adopted as quickly as possible."

Characteristics like yield and milling and baking quality are deemed to be very important by the WRT evaluation teams when judging a new CWRS cultivar, but Worden says fusarium resistance is just as vital. Domestic

and international CWRS customers won't accept a high level of fusarium-damaged kernels because of their link to mycotoxins such as deoxynivalenol (DON) and its potential health risk for humans.

Consumers in many countries are buying more whole-wheat bread and pasta. Since whole-wheat products contain more of the wheat kernel's bran and germ, they may also contain higher DON levels.

Worden would like to see development of a mechanism for the Recommending Committee to use to begin replacing CWRS varieties most susceptible to FHB or other weaknesses. "We should really be thinking about how to get some of these varieties of concern out of the system," he says. One suggestion is the development of a recommended varieties list like the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre's annual malting barley varieties list. This would provide wheat growers with more information when selecting CWRS varieties. Another approach would be to look at a more streamlined deregistration process to remove older, underperforming varieties.

New Barley, Oat Varieties Approved

A six-row and a hullless malting barley cultivar, as well as one oat variety, were accepted by the Prairie Recommending Committee for Oats and Barley.

FB205 is a smooth-awned two-row forage barley with very high forage yield. It will be seen as an attractive alternative for silage

"Canola growers have been asking for new varieties that will set a new standard in profitability and performance." – Mark Woloshyn

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production versus CDC Cowboy, the current two-row forage variety, which has rough awns. It should be well adapted for production across western Canada.

HB08304 is a hulless malting barley line that shows some significant malting quality improvements over hulless barley lines such as CDC McGwire, and over previous hulless malting varieties such as CDC ExPlus. Specifically it demonstrates lower malt protein, higher extract and lower beta-glucan content. It also shows some agronomic improvements such as four per cent higher yield than CDC McGwire, good threshability, good FHB and DON resistance, resistance to spot-form net blotch, loose smut and stem rust.

More Options for Pulse Growers

There were 18 candidate lines considered and approved for registration by members of the Pulses and Special Crops Recommending Committee. Eight recommended field pea varieties include five yellow cotyledon, two green, as well as one orange-coloured variety. This orange variety, MP1882, has a seed weight, protein content and per cent seed coat breakage that fall in between those of the yellow and green pea check cultivars. Four of the yellow cotyledon semi-leafless cultivars, developed by the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatoon, showed improved yield potential over the yellow check varieties, Cutlass and Eclipse.

Eight lentil varieties—three small red, one extra-small red, one

French green, one extra-small and one extra-large green and one Spanish brown—were approved by the committee members. The Spanish brown lentil line, 3097-7, displayed improved yield potential over all check varieties and is taller, which makes harvesting easier. This seed type is suitable for the Spanish market.

The one recommended dry bean variety, NA06-002, is a high-yielding navy bean with upright indeterminate growth, good seed quality and late maturity and is adapted to the Red River Valley in Manitoba.

The recommended fababean variety, FB34-2, has a higher yield and improved lodging tolerance compared to the small-seeded check variety, SSNS-1, and matures earlier than all of the check cultivars.



Two Flax Varieties Added

Members of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Oilseeds voted in support of two flax varieties: FP2300 and FP2270.

FP2300 is a brown linseed line with yield equal to CDC Bethune, and maturity lodging-resistance, seed weight, oil content and iodine value similar to Flanders.

In comparison to CDC Bethune, FP2270 yields similarly over the soil zones of Western Canada, and matures similarly to Flanders, with similar lodging resistance. FP2270's

seed size is significantly larger than that of either Flanders or Bethune. While its oil content is lower, the oil quality is significantly higher. **andrea.geary**



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"We're successful because we have been diversifying over the years," explains plant manager Bryant Kushner. "We've diversified into seed treating, we're a dealer for Champion Feed, and we handle custom grain rolling. We also clean and bag pony oats for U.S. shipment, and we clean and load rail cars with human consumption peas."

For a company with only three employees, that's a long to-do list. "We used to be able to shut the plant down and take holidays at the same time, but we have to rotate our holidays now," laughs Kushner.

In February last year, the federal government invested \$2 million in the plant after the Co-op applied for funding to construct a new facility under the Community Adjustment Fund, a \$1 billion dollar economic stimulus fund through Western Economic Diversification. The money will go towards the \$3.5 million construction of a new seed cleaning plant on 7.5 acres, and enable the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op to invest in new equipment.

According to Kushner, the upgrades will significantly increase the plant's efficiency and ability to serve customers' needs. They will include a colour sorter, which can sort grain by colour rather than size or weight. "It's a specialty product. No other plant in the Peace country has a colour sorter," says Kushner. Among other benefits, the colour sorter can easily remove ergot-infected kernels from grain due to their distinctive appearance.

Other upgrades will include a larger roller mill which will speed up custom grain rolling, and a 100-foot scale for scaling super Bs; the company currently uses a 30-foot scale. "Grain handling time

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"We're successful because we have been diversifying over the years." – Bryant Kushner

will be greatly reduced," says Kushner. The plant will also install a computer system for monitoring and starting equipment right from the main office.

Construction on the new facility began almost immediately following the announcement, and the plant's staff moved into the new building in September.

Kushner sees nothing but benefits for the community over the long-term. "For the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op to continue to be strong and viable in our agricultural community, a new plant was necessary. It will benefit all agricultural producers who are important assets to the community and to every business they support." The company is also looking at using its increased acreage to put up producer bins. And as the business expands and its staffing needs become clearer, more employees will be hired to manage operations.

In light of all these new developments, what are the company's goals for the future? Unsurprisingly, the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op's ongoing mandate is growth. "We hope to eventually acquire extra volume through the plant and to expand our feed business," says Kushner. **julienne.isaacs**



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barley

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BI: AAFC (Lacombe), Dist: SeCan Members

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AC METCALFE

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Smith, Miles A. / Trochu / (403) 442-2693			C
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Selte, Donald / Vermilion / (780) 853-2484			R C
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Hadway, W. Tom & Carol / Didsbury / (403) 335-4929	S		R
Harris, William Peter / Beaverlodge / (780) 354-2823		F	
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Oatway, Ward & G. & L. / Lacombe / (403) 784-3418			R C
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- Jonk, Nicholas / Westlock / (780) 349-5458
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BI: AARD Dist: N/A				
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SUNRAY				
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S	F	R	C
S		R	C
S	F		C
			C
		R	C
S			C
S			C
			C
S			C
S	F		C
		R	
		R	
			C
			C
			C
			C
			C
S		R	C
		R	C
			C
			C
			C
			C
	F	R	

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S	F	R	C
S	F		

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wheat - spring

S F R C

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BI: AAFC (Morden), Dist: N/A
Stamp, Richard & M. & G. & N. / Enchant / (403) 739-2233

HANLEY

BI: AAFC (Morden), Dist: SeCan Members
Klassen, Ken / Rosemary / (403) 378-4408
Lefsrud, Kevin J. & Edmund J. / Viking / (780) 336-2500

PRAIRIE GRANDE

BI: AAFC (Morden), Dist: SeCan Members
Kopjar, Gerald M. / Rowley / (403) 368-2409

TAURUS

BI: Limagrain, Dist: FP Genetics
Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & D. / Lomond / (403) 792-3696

VT50

BI: Viterra, Dist: Viterra
Viterra / Regina / (306) 569-5027
Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / (403) 655-2434

alfalfa

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2410

BI: Dairyland Seed Co., Dist: BrettYoung
Dairyland Seed Co. / Homedale / (208) 772-2465

3010

BI: Dairyland Seed Co., Dist: BrettYoung
BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. / St. Norbert / (204) 261-7932

4S417

BI: Dairyland Seed, Dist: N/A
Dairyland Seed Co. / Homedale / (208) 772-2465

54Q25

BI: Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dist: Pioneer Hi-Bred
Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl Inc. / Lethbridge / (403) 327-6135

54Q32

BI: Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dist: Pioneer Hi-Bred
Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl Inc. / Lethbridge / (403) 327-6135

55V48

BI: Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dist: Pioneer Hi-Bred
Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl Inc. / Lethbridge / (403) 327-6135

AC GRAZELAND BR

BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

AC LONGVIEW

BI: AAFC (Lethbridge), Dist: BrettYoung/FP Genetics
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

AKORI

BI: N/A, Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

DALTON

BI: AAFC, Dist: SeCan Members
Vanderstoel, Jeroen & M. / Enchant / (403) 654-2653

EQUINOX

BI: Forage Genetics Int., Dist: Viterra
Forage Genetics International / Nampa / (208) 466-3568
Viterra / Regina / (306) 569-5027

FORCE

BI: N/A, Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
Northstar Seed Ltd. / Neepawa / (204) 476-5241

GENEVA

BI: Novartis, Dist: Viterra
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

GENOA

BI: Forage Genetics Int., Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

GIBRALTAR

BI: Pickseed, Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
Pickseed Canada Inc. / Winnipeg / (204) 633-0088

HALO

BI: N/A, Dist: Viterra
Forage Genetics International / Nampa / (208) 466-3568

HAYGRAZER

BI: Great Plains Research Co., Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
Northstar Seed Ltd. / Neepawa / (204) 476-5241

HYBRIFORCE-400

BI: Dairyland Seed, Dist: BrettYoung
Dairyland Seed Co. / Homedale / (208) 772-2465

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LEGENDAIRY 5.0

BI: N/A, Dist: Agronomy Company of Canada
 Forage Genetics International / Nampa / (208) 466-3568

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MAGNUM VI WET

BI: Dairyland Research Int. (Clinton), Dist: Seed-Link Inc.
 Dairyland Seed Co. / Homedale / (208) 772-2465
 Petersen, Donald / Tilley / (403) 377-2367

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MARVEL

BI: N/A, Dist: Quality Seeds Ltd.
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MASKA

BI: AAFC, Dist: N/A
 Claassen, Louis & Maryden / Vauxhall / (403) 654-4441
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MEGAGRAZE (MAGNA551 = USA)

BI: N/A, Dist: Quality Seeds Ltd.
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MULTIPLIER 3

BI: N/A, Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
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PICKSEED 2065MF

BI: Pickseed, Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
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PICKSEED 3006

BI: Pickseed, Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
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PROLIFIC II

BI: N/A, Dist: Hyland Seeds
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QWEST

BI: Cal/West Seeds, Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
 Cal/West Seeds / Woodland / (530) 666-3331

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RESPONSE WT

BI: N/A, Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
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RHINO

BI: N/A, Dist: Northstar Seed Ltd.
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SATELLITE

BI: N/A, Dist: Power Seeds Inc.
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Power Seeds Inc. / Pefferlaw / (905) 722-4404
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SPREDOR 4

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STEALTH SF

BI: N/A, Dist: Quality Seeds Ltd.
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WL 357HQ

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WL327

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WL353LH				
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Wiens, Ernest / Rosemary / (403) 378-4812				C

bromegrass S F R C

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Vanderstoel, Jeroen & M. / Enchant / (403) 654-2653				C
Viterra / Regina / (306) 569-5027				C
AC ROCKET				
BI: AAFC (Sainte-Foy), Dist: Viterra				
Noble, Robert / Manning / (780) 836-2337				C
Viterra / Regina / (306) 569-5027				C
ADMIRAL				
BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: SeCan Members				
Card, Gordon B. / Magrath / (403) 758-3444			F	
ARMADA				
BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: SeCan Members				
Andersen, Terry / Bon Accord / (780) 921-3461			F	
CARLTON				
BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: Public				
BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. / St. Norbert / (204) 261-7932				C
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BI: No Rep, Dist: N/A				
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BI: Montana State University, Dist: Viterra				
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BI: Cornell University, Dist: Quality Seeds Ltd.				
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ARC ASPEN				
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ARC MOUNTAIN VIEW

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S F R C

GROUSE

BI: N/A, Dist: N/A

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orchardgrass

S F R C

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KAY

BI: AAFC (Ottawa) Dist: SeCan Members/Ken Long Seeds

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KAYAK

BI: N/A, Dist: SeCan Members

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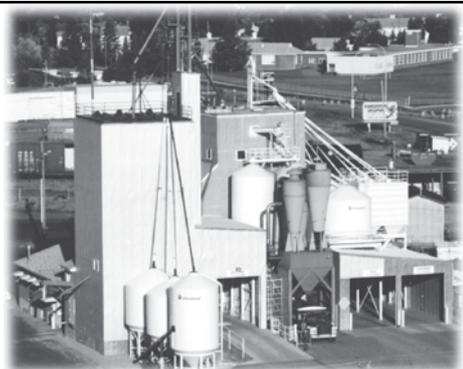
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spike trisetum

S F R C

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timothy

S F R C

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ARLAKA

BI: N/A, Dist: Pickseed Canada Inc.
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Wood, Robert & P. & M. / Bowden / (403) 224-3928

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BOTTNIA II

BI: Henri Malon Ltd., Dist: N/A
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Lickacz, Jerome / Calmar / (780) 985-2433
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DERBY

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PROMESSE

BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung
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wheatgrass

S F R C

AC GOLIATH

BI: Saskatoon Research Station, Dist: SeCan Members
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AC SALTFLANDER

BI: AAFC (Swift Current), Dist: N/A
Miller, Kenneth F. / Milk River / (403) 647-2127

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ADANAC

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wildrye S F R C

WILDCAT BI: N/A, Dist: N/A BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. / St. Norbert / (204) 261-7932	C
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chickpeas S F R C

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CDC FRONTIER BI: CDC, Dist: Sask. Pulse Growers Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / (403) 655-2434	C
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faba beans S F R C

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hemp S F R C

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CFX-2 BI: N/A, Dist: N/A Hemp Genetics International Inc. / Saskatoon / (604)-882-4936	C
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Farmers can get seed cleaned and treated at facilities across the province. Additional services available at several facilities include pulse processing, value processing, pedigreed seed processing, specialty processing, and seed inoculating, as well as seed and chemical sales.



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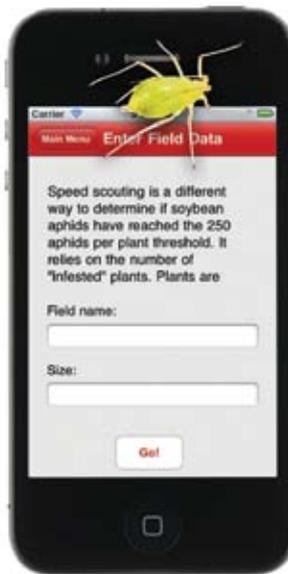
Simulating Drought

Two portable drought simulators—“moving greenhouses” measuring 50 by 100 feet, which can be positioned over crops during testing—have been developed by scientists at the University of Missouri. Researchers move the greenhouses over key sections of plants when it rains, and remove them when the sun is shining, in order to simulate drought conditions in a real world environment. The project was funded by a \$1.5 million Missouri Life Sciences Research Board grant, and when additional resources become available, more simulators will be added to create a network throughout Missouri. “These simulators allow us to examine crop responses to drought stress at the level of the plant community, the whole plant—what happens above ground, what happens below ground—as well as on the cellular and molecular levels. Field conditions also let us examine the interactions with factors such as insects and diseases,” says Felix Fritschi, assistant professor in the CAFNR Division of Plant Sciences.



Assessing Aphid Infestation

Aphid Speed Scout, an application released through iTunes by University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension, will help soybean growers quickly establish whether plants are infested with



aphids. Wayne Ohnesorg, the UNL Extension educator who had the idea for the app, says it’s simple: you select a soybean plant randomly and count its aphids; if 40 aphids are counted the plant is considered infested and the information is entered into the app. After 11 plants have been checked, the Aphid Speed Scout advises you on whether crops should be treated, be tested again in a few days, or whether more plants must be sampled to generate results. The app can be used on smart phones and computers as well as iPads, and was generated as part of UNL Extension’s goal to improve the use of technology to manage information more precisely.

Predicting Ethanol Yields

United States Department of Agriculture researchers have discovered a new and inexpensive way to grade grasses for potential ethanol yields: near-infrared sensing, which measures 20 components in switchgrass biomass, including sugars and lignin, to predict its maximum and actual value for biorefiners. Using the component information, traits including the efficacy of converting sugars to ethanol can be established. Researchers found that they could test samples at about \$5 per sample using NIRS, compared with the hundreds to thousands of dollars conventional testing can cost per sample. NIRS can also be used to develop methods for growing high-yielding grasses for ethanol. While NIRS has been used to grade corn grain, this is the first time it has been used to predict yields for grasses.



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