

Alberta Seed Guide

ADVANCING SEED IN ALBERTA

FALL 2015

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Quality Matters

Seed selection and quality are the foundation for success

The Four Pillars of Seed Testing
Examining the GM Alfalfa Debate

Clubroot Resistance in Alberta: What's to be Done?

Getting Serious About Soybeans

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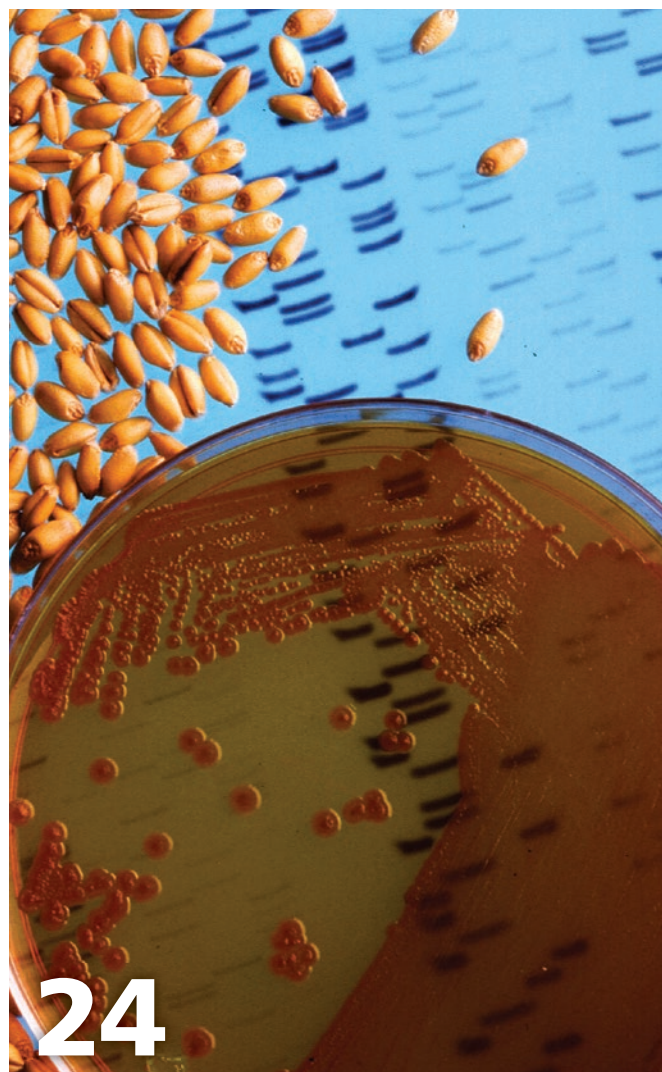
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ON THE COVER: Seed analysts at Leduc's Seed Check Technologies count germination tests. The Fall 2015 issue of the *Alberta Seed Guide* looks at the issue of seed quality, and its importance to your farming operation. On page 8 we examine seed testing and what value the various tests can have for you, and how they can help protect your investment. "Making the Transition" on page 14 sheds some light on how seed quality — namely, the need for new varieties of malting barley — is of crucial importance to Alberta's malt barley industry. On page 20, we look at fusarium and how to select the best varieties for your farm. There's a lot more within these pages as well, and we hope you enjoy this new issue of the *Alberta Seed Guide*. Cover photo courtesy Seed Check Technologies

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Fall 2015



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MINISTER CARRIER

AS Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to the readers of the *Alberta Seed Guide*. This important resource provides a wealth of information related to this essential and vibrant sector of our agricultural economy.

The long-term success of our agriculture industry relies on a strong commitment to innovation, research and development, environmental stewardship and sustainability. Through valuable tools like the *Alberta Seed Guide*, producers can stay connected and up-to-date about the latest developments in crop science and the latest agricultural practices that result in enhanced quality and efficiency of production.

Agriculture continues to be an enormous contributor to our communities and to our provincial economy, generating exports of nearly \$10 billion last year and employing more than 86,000 people. Our government is committed to supporting a thriving and sustainable agriculture sector that will add to the strength and diversity of our economy. As we move forward together, we will continue to foster the entrepreneurial spirit, hard work, innovation and commitment to excellence that is the foundation of the agriculture sector and the highest quality of life for Albertans.

Thank you to the Alberta Seed Growers' Association and the Alberta Seed Processors for their continued work on behalf of the agriculture industry, and best wishes for continued success to our producers.

Oneil Carlier
Minister



DAVID BISHOP



DURING one of the massive rain events of 2014, when neighbours were helping neighbours bucket out basements and move valuables to higher ground, one old-timer is on record as having said, “Well, we are only two weeks away from the next drought.”

Unfortunately, for some, 2015 showed that dry weather pattern that most of us just wanted to forget even existed. On the bright side, a year ago, there were reports of massive vegetative growth with disappointing grain yields. So far this year, reports from fall seeded crops are encouraging, with hopes that preliminary visual yield estimates have been understated.

One thing about the business of agriculture is that there are no guarantees — when growing conditions get tough, that’s when management of the fine details seem to make or break a crop. Going into next year, there may be thoughts about cutting back on inputs, including seed and seed protection. However, managing for a successful crop means doing the right things. Ensuring that you have the best seed genetics possible, the highest quality lab-tested seed. Investing in quality seed treatments to protect your seed investment, again, is simply good management.

When bushels are abundant, marketing grain on volume seems to work just fine, but in years when harvest volumes are expected to be lower than the five-year average, it becomes important to add value to your farming economics. Many of our 67 seed and grain processing facilities in Alberta have state-of-the-art equipment that can not only clean seed, but also can be utilized to upgrade commodity grains for domestic or export markets. For example, optical sorters that are in many facilities can easily remove ergot, with low cleanout rates.

A lot is happening in the seed and grain processing business, ranging from new legal legislation governing Plant Breeders Rights on all of the crops we plant in Western Canada, to opportunities in filling sea containers for export markets. Additionally, we currently have two new builds in progress at Lougheed and Enchant, where the boards of those plants deemed it necessary to rebuild to meet the needs of their farmer shareholders.

There are many reasons to stop by your local seed and grain processing plant to catch up on the news, to submit that seed sample to a seed lab for testing, or to book grain cleaning.

Please enjoy this edition of the *Alberta Seed Guide* — we endeavour to address pertinent topics related to the seed and crops sector of western Canadian agriculture.

Best wishes

David Bishop
President
Alberta Seed Processors
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GLENN LOGAN



FALL is a time of change. As the seasons change and our focus on the farm changes from harvest to marketing and planning next year's crop, we welcome you to the Fall 2015 edition of the *Alberta Seed Guide*. Our goal each year in producing this magazine and the seed.ab.ca website is to give you access to insightful information and useful tools – allowing you to make informed decisions as you select the seed varieties and products for your farm.

Innovation in the seed industry is at an all-time high. In recent years the seed industry has been very active in launching varieties with new traits and improved agronomic characteristics. Some of these reduce the need for pesticides while others help mitigate the effects of adverse climactic conditions. I am sure everyone has heard one or two stories this year about a field that surpassed expectations given the drought in many areas of our province. The purchase of certified seed helps further fuel this innovation and respecting Plant Breeders' Rights helps ensure the growth of the seed industry in Canada.

Our theme for this issue is Quality Matters, and in today's competitive agriculture marketplace, nothing is truer. Producing a quality product is the key to accessing premium markets and getting top dollar for your grain. More and more 'quality' is assessed not solely on the characteristics of the physical crop, but by the whole production system used to grow it. Canada No. 1 isn't always enough to get top dollar anymore. End users want to know what type of seed you used, its health characteristics, what management practices you employ on your farm, storage segregation tactics and much more.

As a seed grower, the concept of quality and record keeping has been part of my business for many years. To produce pedigreed seed, seed growers must follow rigorous production, inspection and seed testing standards and the end product we sell comes fully guaranteed – the blue tag says it all. Using certified seed as

one of the tools on your farm is a great way to access marketing opportunities, both locally and globally, but there are many other benefits to certified seed use.

Talk to your area seed grower and learn more. They are a wealth of information – after all, they grow your seed locally. We hope you enjoy the articles in this issue of the *Alberta Seed Guide* and don't forget to visit seed.ab.ca to help you find the right seed for your farm.

Glenn Logan
President
Alberta Seed Growers' Association
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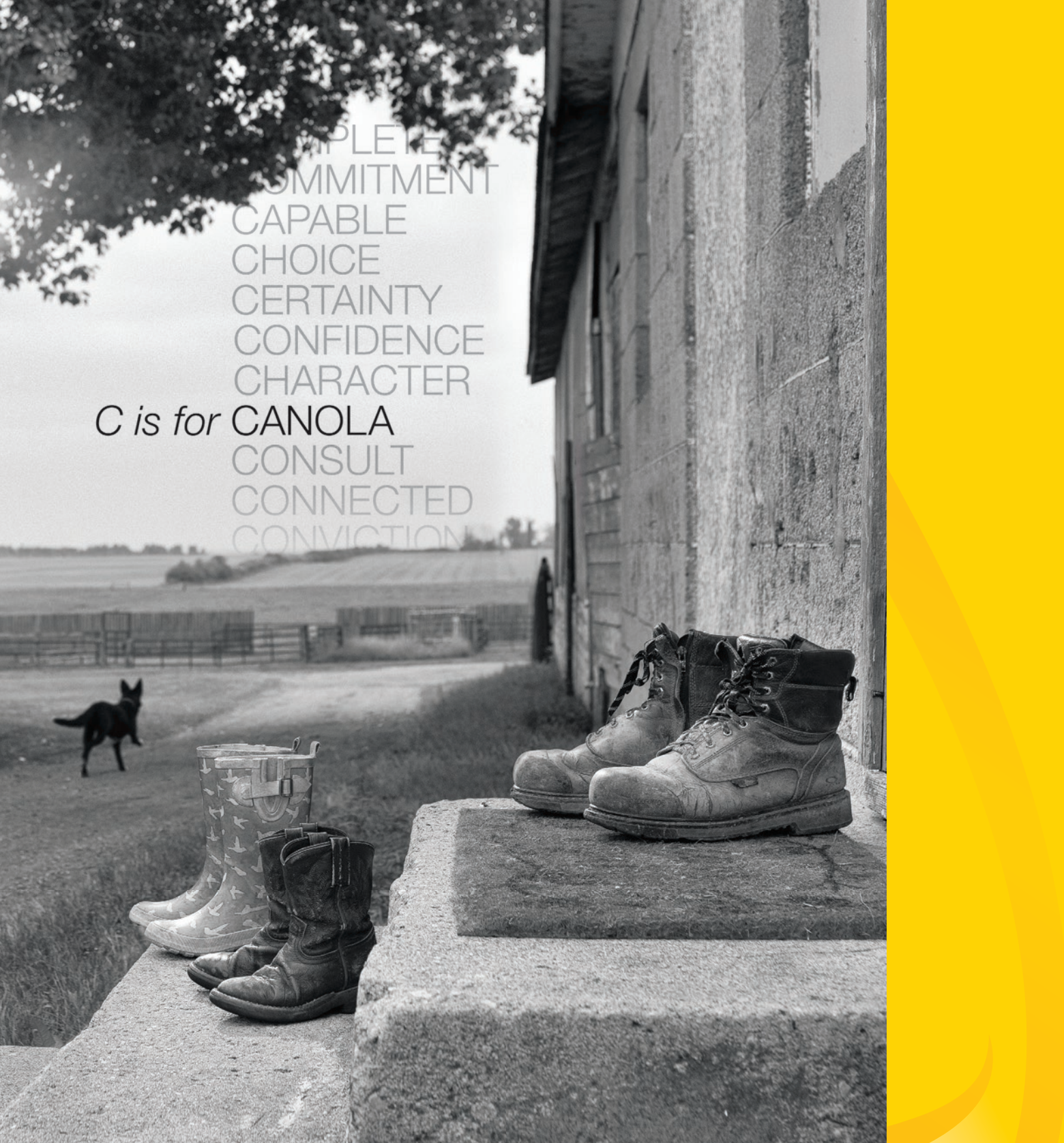
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Four Pillars of Seed Testing

Do you know the basics of seed testing? No worries — we give you the lowdown on what the major tests do and what you need to know about them.

SEED testing doesn't have to be complicated, but it can often be a challenge to get an understanding of what the basic seed tests do and what they tell you.

It's a major reason why seed testing labs try and make things easier on customers who might otherwise be confused as to what to ask for when getting seed tested.

"We want to streamline the testing and provide recommendations for certain crops based on time of year," says Holly Gelech, business development manager at BioVision Seed Labs based in Sherwood Park, Alta., Grande Prairie, Alta. and Winnipeg.

BioVision offers a slate of testing packages designed for both cereals and peas/fababeans.

"How do we test? How does a germination result happen? What methods and procedures do we use? These are all common questions we hear," Gelech says.

According to Gelech and other seed testing experts we interviewed — namely, 20/20 Seed Labs president Sarah Foster and Seed Check Technologies co-owner Morgan Webb — the major common seed tests fall into four main categories, and looking at each one is a helpful way to get an understanding of seed testing.



1. Germination Testing

What is It?

According to Webb, the objective of germination testing is to determine the maximum germination potential of the seed. Testing under field conditions cannot normally be duplicated. Laboratory methods have evolved in which controlled conditions are used to give rapid and complete germination for the majority of samples of a particular species.

The seed analyst plants pure seed under prescribed methods for the species being tested. The seeds are incubated for the predetermined period of time.

“Germination is the best starting point for any seed lot, as you want to know if it’s going to be capable of producing healthy, normal seedlings that will produce plants that can develop to maturity,” Webb says.

Webb explains that seeds are often sorted into four categories that make up the test results.

Normal Seedlings: Seedlings possessing the essential structures that are indicative of their ability to produce useful mature plants under favourable field conditions.

Abnormal Seedlings: A seedling that does not have all essential structures or is damaged, deformed or decayed which prevents normal development.

Dead Seeds: Seeds which are neither hard nor dormant or have not produced any part of a seedling.

Fresh Seeds: Viable seeds, other than hard seed, which fail to germinate when provided prescribed germination conditions.

What it Tells You

According to Foster, a germination test provides a wealth of information about a seed that a grower needs to know. It reveals how well a seed is going to perform under optimum conditions — fundamental knowledge that every grower should have about the seed he or she is planting.

“Reading a germination test is like reading a book. It tells us what happened to the seed before it came into the lab, whether it’s right off the combine or if it’s been cleaned,” she says. “There are certain symptoms that show up that tell us if it’s been subjected to frost or drought, or if it’s too high in moisture.”

She notes that it can also pick up on disease and pathogens that may exist in the seed.

According to Webb, there are a variety of things that cause seedling abnormalities, and the germination test can help you determine what caused them, and it will alert you to them so you can know beforehand what quality of seed you are planting.

Causes of seedling abnormalities, Webb notes, include mineral deficiencies in the soil; frost damage; heating damage; mechanical damage; insect damage; chemical injury; declining vigour; and pathogenic infections.

What to Watch Out For

Although a germination test is fundamental and will tell you some very basic things about your seed, there are some common mistakes growers make when reading their test results.

“One of the most common mistakes is that people add abnormal seedlings into their germination number at planting, and

they shouldn’t,” Webb says. “Abnormal seedlings don’t have the structures or ability they need to produce a normal plant.”

However, he notes that dormant seeds can sometimes be included in the germination number, depending on when the test is being done. If testing in the fall, you can sometimes tentatively figure them in. Retesting in the spring will verify that the dormancy is broken.

Gelech recommends checking the report to see if the seed analyst included any specific comments along with the germination result.

“Our analysts will report if there is low germination, and they will describe some of the seedling symptoms they see. An example would be ‘primary infection observed.’ What that means is during the germination test, fungus was growing from the seed. That’s an indicator of seedborne disease,” Gelech says.



An example of mechanical damage in seed.

Photo courtesy SeedCheck

2. Vigour Testing

What is It?

If a germination test provides you with one side of the coin in regard to knowledge about how your seed will perform, vigour testing gives you the other side of that coin.

“After germination we recommend following up with a vigour test right out of harvest, and this is something producers should get in the habit of doing. The germination test will test it at optimum conditions, and now we’re going to stress it and see how strong that seed really is,” Foster says.

Germination is a standardized test, whereas vigour is not standardized, and is subject to each lab’s protocols.

What it Tells You

According to Foster, seeds are placed under stress in a cold environment to determine the potential for rapid and uniform emergence. Also called seed health or seed viability testing, several tests fall into this category.

“Vigour is a term for all the different cool stress, accelerated aging, and compaction tests. It’s an umbrella term for a number of different tests,” Foster says.

According to Foster, in a vigour test the seed is introduced to a stressful environment unfavourable to seedling development.

This environment can be cool, cold or warm, or a combination of either high humidity and high temperatures, or heavy moisture at low temperatures.

If the seed lacks vigour, one or more of these created stressors will suppress seedling growth but, if the seed is vigorous, it will withstand one or all of these stressors and grow as if it were on stimulants.

Taken together, vigour and germination test results provide a complete performance profile for a wide range of field conditions and can help guide important seeding decisions, such as when to seed: should you wait for warmer soil temperatures or can this seed survive an earlier planting into cooler soils?

“If done right out of harvest, the whole idea with germination and vigour testing is to determine if it has planting potential six months from now. It tells you whether it has longevity, if it’s going to store properly, and if it has real issues,” Foster says.

“You can make a decision on your seed quality now, so you can decide if you want to purchase new seed or if you’re going to manage any issues found in the seed.”

What to Watch Out For

Webb notes that when a seed lab is accredited, it is often accredited for germination and possibly purity, but not for vigour testing.

“It’s important to have a conversation with the lab you use about what kind of vigour test they’ve done and what that means. You should be able to compare germination tests you got from one lab on the same seed lot to one you sent to another lab. If you’re comparing vigour, they may have done different tests. It’s important to know what test they’ve done and what it tells you.”

According to Gelech, the cool stress test attempts to recreate early spring planting conditions by analyzing the uniformity of emergence under cool conditions, with adequate moisture. This test often represents a lower test result, in contrast to the germination, which would be the highest expected emergence. Common variance between these two values is 10 per cent.

An accelerated aging test exposes the seed to high temperatures and humidity. The seeds are grown for a certain period of time similar to a germination test, and the number of normal seedlings are reported.

A compaction test involves doing a cool stress test in compacted soil to see how it will perform under adverse soil conditions.

3. Disease/Health Testing

What is it?

Seed health or disease testing detects any fungal, bacteria or other issues in a seed lot that you might not want to introduce to your field, or that could cause problems, Webb notes.

Common tests, according to Gelech, include:

Cereals: *Fusarium graminearum*; *Fusarium ID* (five species), *Cochliobolus sativus*, True Loose Smut, Fungal Scan (all species of fungi)

Pulses: *Ascochyta*, *Botrytis*, *Anthraco*, *Sclerotinia*

“Full fungal scans are becoming more common,” Gelech notes. She says there’s more awareness than ever of seedborne pathogens, and farmers want to know what threats might lurk on their seed. She says that while *Fusarium graminearum* gets a lot of press, there are actually five common species of fusarium that can affect seed in Western Canada.



Fusarium-infected seed.

Photo courtesy Seed Check Technologies

“It’s imperative to find out if there is a testing requirement and which seedborne diseases are present in your seed.”

—Holly Gelech

What it Tells You

Seed health and disease testing can help a farmer in other ways than just knowing what lurks on his or her seed. For example, testing for fusarium is imperative to an effective fusarium management program (see story on page 18).

“When you’re buying seed treatment, it’s good to know what kinds of seedborne disease you have, as well as potential for other disease that could be in the field. Seedborne disease is a good start, because if you’re introducing new seed from somewhere, you could be introducing new pathogens that you don’t have already,” Webb says.

“When it comes to ascochyta in peas, for example, there are seed lots with none at all, but many seed lots will have a small percentage of the pathogen and others may have high levels. There are provincial plant pathologists in the Prairies who will recommend levels of less than two per cent infection. If a seed lot has a low level of infection and you apply an effective seed treatment, you may feel more comfortable planting that seed. If the seed lot has high levels of infection, you might not consider using the seed even with the seed treatment.”

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Foster agrees. “We know there are seed treatments on the market that can control most disease pathogens within a certain percentage, but there’s no point trying to make a silk purse out of a pig’s ear,” she says. “Seed treatment is not a magic bullet. You need good seed to start with.”

What to Watch Out For

According to Gelech, different areas of Alberta and Canada are affected by different diseases. Pests, including those that are seedborne, may be regulated provincially or federally.

“It’s imperative to find out if there is a testing requirement and which seedborne diseases are present in your seed,” Gelech says.

For example, in Canada, all certified pedigreed barley seed must be tested for true loose smut.

4. Purity Testing

What is It?

According to Webb, purity testing is required by the Canada Seeds Act to determine whether or not a lot makes a Canadian seed grade.

There are two main areas used in physical purity testing:

Percentage Test: This test breaks the quantity analyzed down into pure seed, other crops, weed seeds, inert matter, and ergot or sclerotia bodies. The results are expressed as a percentage by weight.

Examination by Count: This test is an examination of known quantity of a seed lot for contaminants.

Purity testing is usually done at a seed plant by an accredited grader, Gelech notes.

What it Tells You

Webb says purity testing provides useful information to the producer planting the seeds. It can tell you if other crop kinds, fungal bodies or weeds that you do not have or want in your area exist in a seed lot. It will also tell you the number of these contaminants so that you can keep from planting large quantities of them with your crop. Many weed species can be extremely invasive and difficult and expensive to control once established.

“With larger seed crop kinds, most growers are shooting for a pretty clean purity. With smaller seeded crop kinds the purity has to be done by a laboratory,



Photo courtesy Seed Check Technologies

The objective of germination testing is to determine the maximum germination potential of the seed.

“Seed treatment is not a magic bullet. You need good seed to start with.”

—Sarah Foster

and there is a tolerance for weeds and other crop kinds allowed in there. It is possible to ask for that test, but usually if it’s graded certified already it’s met a standard that’s pretty high,” Webb says.

What to Watch Out For

Purity often refers to two things, according to Foster, and it’s good to be aware of

this — varietal purity and physical purity.

“Varietal purity should technically be seen in the field by the field inspector,” she says. “As far as purity testing goes, physical purity is the test the grader does to make sure there’s no weeds or other crops, or inert matter in your seed.”

Marc Zienkiewicz



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MAKING the TRANSITION

Industry stakeholders say the barley industry must transition to new varieties in order to keep up with demand and stay competitive.

WHEN it comes to malting barley in Western Canada, AC Metcalfe is king. It makes up the lion's share of malting barley acres in both Canada and Alberta. With high levels of extract and diastatic enzymes, its reputation for brewing performance generates strong demand from both domestic and export markets, according to the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC).

CDC Copeland is the second most dominant malting barley grown on the Prairies. Thirty-two per cent of all barley grown in Alberta in 2014 was of this variety.

"They work very well in the malting and brewing process. They're very forgiving. End users around the world love them," says Peter Watts, managing director of the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) in Manitoba. "Canadian malting barley is renowned for its high quality."

But there's a problem, Watts notes. Both varieties have been around for over 20 years, and despite their popularity, the industry simply won't be able to grow and use AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland forever.

"We're a victim of our own success with these varieties. They don't yield as well, they're starting to have some disease issues and other deficiencies," Watts says. "Twenty years is simply too long to be growing the same malting varieties, primarily because they're not efficient to grow for producers, and that doesn't allow Canada to be more competitive on both the domestic and global markets."

The answer? According to Watts, the malt barley industry in Western Canada must transition to new varieties — and the sooner it does so, the better.

Searching for a New Malting Barley

A number of barley varieties are being promoted as replacements for AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland, but finding the perfect fit is not so simple. It's been attempted in recent years, but didn't quite work out as many had hoped. And considering how long it takes to actually bring a new variety to market, there's a lot on the line when it comes to launching one.

Pat Juskiw, barley breeder at the Alberta Agriculture Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe, Alta., spent the summer of 2015 researching new varieties and actually made some selections that will be brought to market — in about 10 years, she says with a chuckle. It's an example of how time-consuming and expensive it is to actually bring a new variety of barley to market.

And if a new variety ends up not being popular with an end



The Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre supports the commercialization of Canadian malting barley and malt through applied research and analysis in its pilot malting and brewing facilities.

user like the brewing industry, that means a lot of time and resources have been wasted.

"This is what happened to CDC Meredith. Great variety, high yielding, low levels of beta glucan so it went through the malt-house fast. The maltsters were happy," she says. "But then the brewers began making beer with it on a large scale and they found it had a bitter aftertaste."

CDC Meredith was registered in 2009, and after AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland is now the third most popular barley variety grown in Alberta. But according to Juskiw, it just doesn't seem to have what it takes to fulfill all the characteristics prized by the brewing industry.

"The breweries will take it when they have nothing else to take, but they've decided they don't want it as a replacement for AC Metcalfe or CDC Copeland," Juskiw says.

As a result, the malting and brewing industry continues its search for a successor to the two dominant varieties, says Rich Joy. He's the director of malting and technical Services for Canada Malting Company in Calgary, which is the largest malt company in Canada producing around 450,000 metric tonnes of malt each year for brewers and distillers around the world.

“People got excited when CDC Meredith came around. Right off the bat it had about 13 per cent higher yield than AC Metcalfe, and it garnered a lot of interest very quickly. It also has a better disease package than AC Metcalfe. As a result, with it being registered as a two row malting variety, it went through co-op trials and the committees sanctioned it equal to or better than check varieties,” Joy says.

“But some of the quality deficits in regard to malting became more apparent as you did more and more commercial trials, and that’s why a lot of malting companies backed off on it.”

The good news, according to Joy, is there are several up-and-coming varieties that may end up replacing AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland.

New Players

After two decades of testing, Bentley barley from the Alberta Field Crop Development Centre is getting noticed. According to data from Alberta Barley, Bentley’s positive performance in the 2012 CMBTC trials have boosted its reputation as a whole-package barley. Bentley performed as well as AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland in most test categories. In addition, it had the highest extract yield and the highest per cent plump kernels of the three varieties.

Bentley is the fifth most popular variety grown in Alberta at the moment, comprising only 4.6 per cent of total barley acres in the province, according to CGC data.

The AC Newdale variety from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada also shows promise. It’s Alberta’s No. 4 barley in terms of total acres. According to the CGC, with good friability and low levels of beta-glucan, it performs well in the brewhouse. Its more moderate levels of enzymes, soluble protein and free amino nitrogen (FAN) make Newdale well suited for all-malt brewing.

But according to Joy, one variety to really watch is Syngenta’s AAC Synergy. In terms of total barley acres in Alberta, it ranks at only No. 10. But despite being an underdog at the moment, Joy said it might have what it takes to replace AC Metcalfe and CDC Copeland as the next big variety in the brewing industry.

“It’s rivaling CDC Meredith in terms of yield, around 15 per cent



Pat Juskiw, barley breeder at the Alberta Agriculture Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe, Alta., says it can take over 10 years to successfully commercialize a new malting barley variety.



Peter Watts is managing director of the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre, and says 20 years is simply too long to be growing the same malting barley varieties.

higher than AC Metcalfe and eight per cent higher than CDC Copeland. As a result, there’s a lot of interest in it,” Joy says.

Other varieties worth watching in the future include the University of Saskatchewan’s CDC Polarstar, currently Alberta’s No. 6 barley in terms of total acres, and CDC Bow, which comes out of the University of Saskatchewan as well.

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Transitioning to New Varieties

According to Joy, brewers have a quality wish list for the barley they use. Preferred barleys should have ultra-low protein, low enzymes, low FAN, high extracts, and a particular flavour profile.

But if the malting and brewing industry hopes to adopt newer varieties on a timely basis, a solid plan is needed to facilitate the change, says Watts.

"It's obvious that the industry needs to do a better job as an industry to transition to new varieties of malting barley over the course of time," he says.

"We have to have a strategy that spans the entire value chain to encourage both end users and producers to embrace new varieties on a timely basis so we are maximizing the value of the investment we make in breeding."

In this post-Wheat Board era, Watts says developing such a plan is crucial to the future of the malt industry in Canada. "Different countries around the world have systems in place for that, and in Canada it's fair to say that because the Wheat Board was partially responsible for the marketing of malting barley and commercialization of it — they were the de facto market development agency."

In the post-Wheat Board area, the cereal grain industry has had to fill that void, he notes, and adds that the malting barley industry in particular has a challenge on its hands due to the fact there are numerous competing crops out there.

"We talk a lot about specialty crops like pulses and mustard, but malting barley is just about the only crop that's completely sold and marketed on a variety-specific basis. It's all identity-preserved," he says.



The malting and brewing industry continues its search for a successor to the two dominant varieties.

According to Watts, the fact that barley is a very sensitive crop that has to germinate when it arrives at the malthouse in order for it to be useable makes it unique among all other crops. "It must be kept in specific conditions and handled very carefully. It's very complicated to grow, to move, to handle, to market, and ultimately to deliver to the end users and process," he notes.

"All those factors combined make malt barley a highly specialized industry."

Marketing newer varieties to the malting and brewing industry will require a coordinated effort in order to encourage end users to adopt them, Watts adds.

"We have to get the technical quality data from the new varieties in their hands as soon as possible so they can evaluate it, and we have to get new product into their hands quickly if they decide they want to give them a go. We pour millions of dollars a year into cereal breeding programs in Canada to have the best quality varieties. If those varieties aren't picked up and grown by end users, that money is not being invested wisely and essentially is being wasted."

Joy says there's added pressure from corn taking over acres in Alberta as well.

Garson Law, research manager for Alberta Barley, says despite the challenges it faces, Alberta's barley industry is a strong one that can overcome whatever challenges it faces.

"Certainly there are corn acres, but equipment, storage, drying, and export logistic issues would suggest corn isn't really in a position to take over barley acres," he says.

"Our main competitors are canola and pulse crops, which are of higher value than corn. Shifting to barley varieties that have better agronomics, while also meeting the demands of end users especially in the malt industry, can dramatically improve the economics of barley in the future."

Marc Zienkiewicz

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New Winter Cereals Create Opportunities for Growers

Brasetto hybrid fall rye finds a niche among bakers and distillers, while AC Emerson wheat is helping growers stand up to fusarium.

AS Canada moves into the frigid months, growers are thinking about diversifying rotations and conversation is turning to winter cereals. There are unique new options to consider now, and two in particular saw hugely successful years in 2015.

The first commercial crop of AC Emerson winter wheat was harvested in 2015, and according to Canterra Seeds — which holds the distribution rights to the variety developed by Rob Graf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge — the widespread launch was hugely successful.

AC Emerson holds the first resistance (R) rating for fusarium among any class of wheat, and although most of the crop was grown in the eastern half of the Prairies, it has a place in Alberta due to increased concerns about fusarium.

“The response has been very positive. We didn’t have an easy winter last year and winter survival was good across the board,” says Brent Derkatch, director of operations and business development, Canterra Seeds. “Yield, quality and protein levels have all been very positive so far. We haven’t heard any specific negatives coming from a feedback perspective.”

AC Emerson also falls into the popular CWRW milling class. It’s similar in yield to CDC Falcon, and has improved winter hardiness over CDC Falcon and Flourish. It also sports medium maturity and also has resistance to stem and stripe rust.

“When you combine the good milling characteristics of this variety with the disease resistance, it’s an attractive option for farmers planting winter wheat,” Derkatch says.

In fact, the crop performed so well — 154,000 commercial acres were planted, according to figures from the Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Team — that the major stumbling block it encountered had nothing to do with the variety itself.

“There’s been a lot of pressure on winter wheat acres. With so many canola acres re-seeded this spring due to frost damage, the canola crop in some parts of the country is later than what was originally planned, and a lot of farmers like to seed winter wheat on their canola stubble,” Derkatch says. “There’s also been high-yielding spring wheat varieties with yields similar to winter wheat this year, so there’s environmental and market dynamics at play that extend beyond the variety.”

With CDC Falcon being re-designated to the general purpose wheat class, Derkatch says it was the perfect time to launch Emerson on a large commercial scale.

Despite Alberta not having as big of a fusarium problem as other parts of the Prairies, Derkatch sees a strong future for



Photo courtesy Canterra Seeds

AC Emerson holds the first resistance (R) rating for fusarium among any class of wheat, and although most of the crop was grown in the eastern half of the Prairies, it has a place in Alberta due to increased concerns about fusarium.

Emerson in Alberta as a result of its fusarium resistance.

“With the R rating for fusarium head blight, it’s an offensive strategy when farmers in Manitoba are choosing Emerson to manage fusarium levels. In Alberta, it’s a defensive strategy to prevent the disease from gaining momentum there. When you have a variety with genetic resistance, that’s a key tool in the toolbox.”

But he cautions growers not to look at Emerson as a fool-proof way of preventing fusarium in their wheat.

“Even with Emerson, we highly recommend an appropriately-timed fungicide application to manage fusarium. The R rating doesn’t mean immunity — it simply means it has an advanced level of resistance. We recommend farmers use all the tools at their disposal to manage their wheat crop effectively.”

Milling and Distilling: Brasetto Takes Off

2015 is the first season Brasetto hybrid fall rye will be planted by farmers. Brasetto hybrid fall rye shows a distinct yield advantage with yields that are 20 to 25 per cent higher than the check vari-



Photo: Lesley Nakonechny

Brasetto was developed by German-based KWS, the leading rye breeder in the world.

ety currently available in the market. Brasetto was developed by German-based KWS, the leading rye breeder in the world, which has provided FP Genetics with the first viable cereal hybrid ever registered in Canada.

It's being marketed primarily to millers and distillers.

"We're just in the process of finalizing shipments of seed to growers who will be growing it. We're expecting about 20,000 acres of Brasetto being seeded this fall. This was an excellent launch year. We beat all expectations," says Rod Merryweather, CEO of FP Genetics.

"We expect this to grow to considerably more acres next year and the years to come. It's delivering some tremendous results for fall rye growers."

Like AC Emerson wheat, the eastern Prairies received the bulk of seed shipments for its launch.

"The little bit of seed we had last year primarily went into Manitoba, and a bit in Saskatchewan and a bit in Alberta. In southern Saskatchewan and Alberta it didn't do well because of the severe drought, but we were still able to get 40 and 50 bushels of yield, which was OK, but wouldn't pay the bills long-term," he says.

"In Manitoba growers saw over 90 bushels an acre in some cases with the rest reporting yield in the 80-plus range. Generally, they're seeing a response in bushels per acre about 15 per cent above winter wheat."

Not a company to rest on its laurels, FP Genetics already has plans to replace Brasetto with another KWS hybrid fall rye variety — Bono. It's currently in the testing stage.

"When you combine the good milling characteristics of this variety with the disease resistance, it's an attractive option for farmers planting winter wheat."

—Brent Derkatch

"This will create a major shift when launched next year. It's 10 per cent higher yielding than Brasetto, and if we can add another eight or nine bushels to the yield, that will help the rye market grow even more," Merryweather adds. "It will be the first cereal to be able to hit yields of 100 bushels per acre on a regular basis."

KWS also granted Canadian marketing rights to another hybrid fall rye variety, Guttino, to the SeedNet group based in southern Alberta. Guttino enjoys substantially higher yields than non-hybrid varieties, more stable falling numbers, and significantly better cold tolerance than winter wheat.

Marc Zienkiewicz

Fusarium and Your Farm

As *Fusarium graminearum* makes inroads across the province, how do Alberta producers select the best varieties for their farms and protect their investments from infection?

THE presence of *Fusarium graminearum* continues to increase in varying degrees across Alberta, especially in the southern region of the province. Consequently, it's becoming more important for Alberta producers to choose cereals with fusarium head blight tolerance. How do producers go about selecting the right varieties for the areas they farm?

Choosing the best variety involves a number of factors, says Brent Derkatch, Canterra Seeds' director of operations and business development.

First and foremost is to look at multiple sources of information, such as data from seed guides and seed distributors, he says.

Seed guide data is generated from small-plot trials, he says, and it's an excellent place to begin. After that, check out data that is closest to real-life management techniques. Seed suppliers and seed growers are an excellent source of field-scale commercial production management producers can relate to, he says.

"Seed producers often have multiple years' experience working with a variety before farmers can get their hands on it. Use that expertise. They're managing the seed increase on a large-field scale and generally under management practices that would be similar to what a commercial farmer would use."

After trawling through all available data, producers should take a step back and determine what markets they're targeting — is it a high-yield feed market or a high-quality, high protein market? There are many important factors for assessing varieties in addition to yield and disease resistance, such as protein and maturity. It's the combination of attributes that will make the variety successful for the farm.

"Don't rely solely on the genetics — just consider it another tool in the toolbox. Utilize all the tools available to you to manage an effective crop."

—Brent Derkatch

Derkatch also recommends planting different crop types (such as winter wheat), different varieties within a crop type, and different maturity levels, which helps spread out harvest timing, workload and risk.

"Any time we're making recommendations to farmers, we want them to make sure they're spreading their risk. As [farm operations] get larger and larger, farmers need to be able to manage



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their businesses, and a big part of that is spreading the workload," he says. Producers will then have the best opportunity to be profitable across the farm.

When it comes to fighting FHB in Alberta, Canterra Seeds winter wheat variety AC Emerson is a game-changer. It's the first wheat variety ever in Western Canada to be resistant to FHB. Derkatch sees the introduction of this variety as a defensive strategy to keep the disease at bay, rather than the offensive measure it is in the eastern Prairies where levels of *F. graminearum* are much higher.

Even though AC Emerson has a disease-resistant rating for FHB, that doesn't mean immunity, says Derkatch. "It's important that farmers realize whether it's a disease resistance rating for fusarium, or any disease in any crop, an R rating doesn't equal immunity. We're still recommending, with Emerson for example, farmers utilize fungicide to control fusarium in the crop. Don't rely solely on the genetics — just consider it another tool in the toolbox. Utilize all the tools available to you to manage an effective crop," he says.

"We don't expect genetic resistance alone is going to be sufficient to stay ahead of Mother Nature. In many cases diseases evolve in time, so it's important to keep it off balance by using all the tools."

Slow the Spread

Gayah Sieusahai, a pest regulatory officer for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, says it's essential to use FHB-tolerant varieties in areas of Alberta where *F. graminearum* has been detected. He

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also recommends a defensive strategy of using FHB-tolerant varieties in areas that do not have detected levels of *F. graminearum*-infected seed.

“The use of tolerant varieties, if available, should be encouraged to slow development of FHB in areas without FHB infestation. Tolerant varieties should be used to prevent disease as part of a FHB management strategy,” says Sieusahai.

The presence of mycotoxins, such as deoxynivalenol and zearalenone, produced by *F. graminearum* reduces the marketability of grain. Cereal and corn producers at risk for FHB losses are encouraged to create fusarium management plans for their farms including as many best management practices as possible to limit the introduction, escalation, spread and economic impact of the disease.

Unfortunately, says Sieusahai, there isn’t one BMP that can control FHB on its own; however, when combined, the BMPs listed below add up to good control.

“*F. graminearum* is a pathogen all cereal and corn producers in Alberta should familiarize themselves with and be ready to manage,” says Sieusahai. It represents a serious threat to the industry, he says, but can be successfully managed using the following recommendations:

Phase 1: Before planting and at planting

- Use healthy seed that has been certified free of *F. graminearum* by an accredited lab
- Choose a variety that has the best resistance/tolerance to *F. graminearum*
- Crop rotation — allow more than two years between cereal crops avoiding corn in rotation with small grain cereals where possible



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Brent Derkatch of Canterra Seeds.



Tom Steve, Alberta Wheat Commission general manager.

- Field selection — avoid fields at high risk for *F. graminearum* (i.e. fields surrounded by corn or with a recent history of severe head blight)
- Apply a fungicidal seed treatment with *F. graminearum* on the label
- Increase seeding rates to promote a uniform stand and shorter flowering window
- Stagger planting dates so the entire farm is not flowering at the same time

Phase 2: In-crop

- Avoid irrigation at flowering
- Scout field to determine the level of *F. graminearum* present
- Consider a well-timed fungicide application with a product that has *F. graminearum* on the label

Phase 3: Harvest management

- Combines can be adjusted to blow out fusarium-damaged kernels, which are lighter than healthy kernels, to help avoid downgrading losses
- Thoroughly chop and spread straw to encourage rapid decomposition of residues
- Sanitize equipment to avoid spreading infested crop residues
- Control volunteers and grassy weeds

Detailed BMPs can be found in the *Alberta Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan*.

Relax Zero Tolerance Policy

In Alberta, industry stakeholders are strongly advocating a loosening of the zero tolerance policy for *F. graminearum* under the province’s *Agricultural Pest Act* because they say their ability to access new and innovative varieties that offer higher yields, improved agronomic traits and better resistance to diseases, such as FHB, is being limited, if not restricted, by the policy.

“We want our producers to grow the best varieties of wheat, and this policy, as fusarium continues to march west, is starting to impact that ability,” says Tom Steve, the Alberta Wheat Commission’s general manager. “We’re starting to get to a point where good quality seed is in short supply if the zero tolerance policy is followed to the letter.”

F. graminearum was added as a declared pest under the act in 1999 as an attempt to keep it from becoming established in the province. Since then, *F. graminearum* has spread to almost

all regions of Alberta. According to Steve, industry stakeholders are in agreement that action needs to be taken. "We've evolved from a position where not many years ago it was felt fusarium could be kept out of the province, but now it's more of an issue of controlling it. I think it changes the tone of the discussion and the approach," he says.

Recently, the Alberta Fusarium Action Committee proposed changes to the Alberta *Fusarium Graminearum* Management Plan to designate areas of the province as commonly found or not commonly found. A commonly found designation will apply where 20 per cent of cereal seed samples test positive for *F. graminearum* collected over three or more consecutive years, whereas areas with less than 20 per cent will be considered not commonly found.

Seed intended for sowing will be allowed up to a maximum of five per cent *F. graminearum* incidence level in areas designated commonly found, while not commonly found areas will retain the non-detectable levels of *F. graminearum*.

These new designations will shift the focus of preventing establishment of *F. graminearum* to managing the pathogen in commonly found areas, and not commonly found areas will continue with prevention and management options.

Steve says the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is embarking on a few significant initiatives to create grower awareness about the need for best management practices to control FHB in addition to a comprehensive two-year *F. graminearum* survey to determine provincial infection levels.

"We see leadership on the part of the industry and on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which is now

"We want our producers to grow the best varieties of wheat, and this policy, as fusarium continues to march west, is starting to impact that ability."

—Tom Steve

proactively encouraging best management practices and getting a handle on the infections levels."

As the Fusarium Action Committee awaits further direction from the ministry, Steve feels confident the change industry stakeholders seek is on the horizon.

"I'm optimistic. We have a fairly broad consensus in the industry — the Alberta Seed Growers' Association, the Alberta Wheat Commission, seed development companies — who are saying this issue needs to be addressed. From that perspective, it would be very difficult for the decision-makers to say, 'no, we have to maintain status quo.'" **Kari Belanger**

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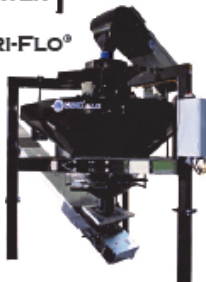
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Ag Industry Keen on Biological Enhancements

Biological seed enhancements are enjoying a surge in popularity and that trend is expected to continue for years to come.

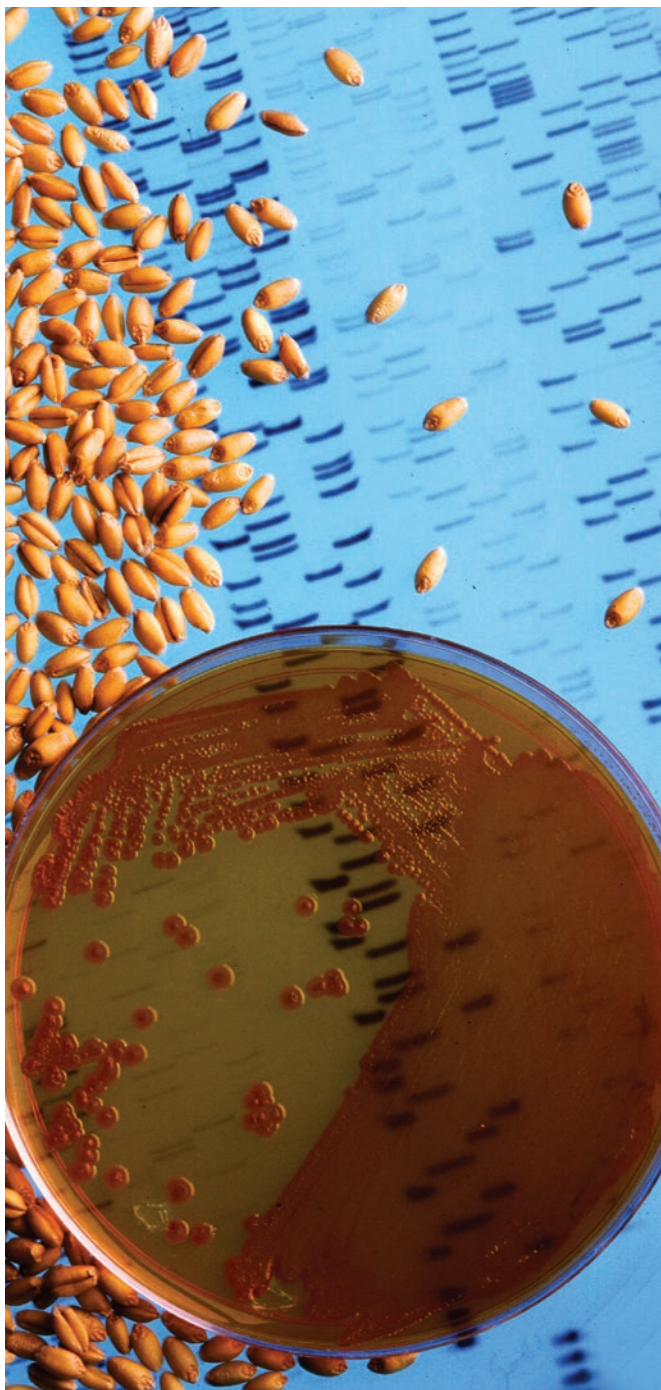


Photo credit: USDA

BIOLOGICAL seed treatments and enhancements have become an increasingly big business in Canada. According to Research and Markets, the non-chemical seed treatment market was valued at nearly \$5.27 million in 2015 and that number is expected to climb to \$8.15 million by 2020.

So what exactly is biological seed treatment? In layman's terms, it involves putting a living organism, in most cases bacteria, on the seed. The biological agent works by releasing metabolites that possibly inhibit pathogen growth or stimulating the host resistance, or by competing with the pathogen for space on the seed and preventing the disease from accessing the seedling. In some cases, biological treatments can also enhance seedling growth due to a positive interaction with the plant or the fixation of nitrogen.

While biologicals are not yet as popular in Alberta as in Eastern Canada, according to industry experts, there have been some notable successes. Nitrogen-fixing *Rhizobium* bacteria are used on a variety of pulse crops (with a 99 per cent treatment rate). In addition, some bacterial strains including *Bacillus* and *Pseudomonas* have been used as growth promoters in fungicide products such as Kodiak and Serenade, while faba bean seed soaked in a suspension of *Bacillus megaterium* resulted in a reduction of damping-off and root rot caused by *R. solani* and other root pathogens.

Growth No Surprise

Russell Trischuk, a technical marketing specialist in functional crop care for BASF, says he's not surprised by the growing demand for biological treatments. In fact, he says the expected growth in the sector was a major factor in BASF's decision to acquire Becker Underwood three years ago.

"It's kind of the evolution of where agriculture has gone," he says. "I think we're going to see a continual increase in products for different crops."

Biologicals fall into four main categories. "Each category is very different and they have different places in the environment for agriculture," says Gary Harman, chief scientific officer for Advanced Biological Marketing, an Ohio-based developer, manufacturer and distributor of agricultural biologicals.

Microbials: Bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa and viruses — all living organisms — are used in the formulation of microbial products.

Many spore forming and non-spore forming bacteria are known to be effective against a wide spectrum of insects and diseases. One of the more notable microbial products is *Bacil-*

lus thuringiensis (Bt), which is a spore-forming bacterium that produces toxins that, after ingestion, cause rapid gut paralysis and death of certain insects, especially caterpillars, explains Chris Williamson, a University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension specialist. "Bt is a naturally occurring soil bacterium, but chemical manufacturers have developed a process to formulate it and make it commercially available.

Biochemicals: These are naturally occurring compounds or synthetically derived compounds that are structurally similar and functionally identical to their naturally occurring counterparts.

They are characterized by their non-toxic mode of action that might affect the growth and development of a pest, its ability to produce or pest ecology. Biochemicals might also have an impact on the growth and development of treated plants, including their post-harvest physiology.

Biopesticides: Also commonly known as biorationals, these can be biochemical or microbial.

"Biorationals improve crop quality and are safe to humans and other non-target organisms," says Ted Melnik of Valent BioSciences Corporation, a leader in the discovery, development manufacturing and commercialization of biorational products. "They present suppliers of quality food and fiber with an added degree of flexibility. Biorationals are used in organic, as well as conventional production systems, and can contribute greatly to the marketability of a crop by creating value that extends all the way to the end-user."

Biostimulants: The biostimulant industry is improving agricultural sustainability and soil health, while generating significant new economic growth, writes Brian Cornelious, Agricen director

of applied sciences, in a blog post about biostimulants. But the definition of biostimulants is evolving and definitions differ around the world. However, there is general consensus that biostimulants are neither pesticides nor fertilizers.

Another Tool for Alberta Growers

Trischuk says a couple of factors have contributed to the increased demand for biologicals. There weren't a lot of new chemically-based innovations discovered in the 1980s and early 1990s, he says, so microbiologists began investigating biological alternatives and the fruits of those labours are now finally starting to come to fruition. Another factor, according to Trischuk, has been the growing demand by consumers for more "natural" food products.

Aside from using a biological agent such as a bacteria, there isn't much difference between the way a biological treatment is applied to a seed compared to a chemically-based treatment. "It's basically in a carrier that's friendly to living organisms, sprayed onto the seed very much the same way a fungicide-based seed treatment would be applied to a plant," Trischuk says.

One of the newest biological seed treatments to make its way to the Canadian marketplace is Syngenta Canada's Clariva pn, the company's first entry into the biologicals market. It was registered for use with soybeans earlier this year and is expected to be available for commercial use in 2016.

Clariva pn will provide growers with another tool in the fight against soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), a worm that attacks the roots of the plant and can have a devastating effect. It works by releasing the *Pasteuria nishizawae* bacteria into the soil, which



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creates a protective zone around the plant's roots. The nibbling pest comes into contact with the bacteria in the soil and is eventually killed by it. In trials it has worked best with resistant or moderately resistant varieties.

"The bacteria is naturally found in the soil in low concentrations. What we've been able to do is grow it out into higher concentrations, apply it on the seed and within that zone give in-season protection to suppress the SCN," says Nathan Klages, seed care and inoculants product lead for Syngenta Canada.

Klages says the product has proven to be effective in trials conducted in Ontario and the company expects similar results when it becomes commercially available next year. Syngenta's marketing efforts for Clariva pn are being concentrated in southwest Ontario for now, but Klages says the company has begun testing in Manitoba and it could eventually become an option for Alberta growers.

Although SCN is something not thought to be a concern in Alberta, researchers like the University of Manitoba's Mario Tenuta, Canada research chair in applied soil ecology, say that's wrong. He says as more growers in Alberta begin to grow soybeans, SCN will become a real threat they need to be on the lookout for.

"Whenever you expand the growing region for soybeans, soybean cyst nematode follows shortly afterwards. That's what we've seen happen south of us in the United States, it happened in Ontario and it's happening in Quebec now," he says. "There's a bit of a delay — about a decade or two — before you see it causing problems once the crop is introduced. It's a concern for Alberta if they're going to grow soybean, because history tells us it comes along with the crop."

BASF currently has two biological treatments available to growers in Western Canada. Nodulator N/T, which contains *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* and the MBI600 strain of *Bacillus subtilis*, which provides enhanced nitrogen fixation by increasing plant vigour, root mass and nodule formation. It also offers Nodulator XL for pea and lentil crops.

According to Manas Banerjee, CEO of Manitoba's XiteBio Technologies, traditional inoculants introduce bacteria that must compete against that which is already present in the soil. The concept behind XiteBio's products is what Banerjee calls bacterial synergy — the process of working with, rather than against, microbial organisms in the soil to help convert nitrogen to a form plants can use, while invigorating the soil by creating a relationship between bacteria already present in that soil and the bacteria the grower is introducing.

"Our technology takes care of what you have in your soil. It invigorates the natural microflora you have and creates a synergy. Rather than trying to outcompete certain microflora, it tries to make a friendship with it. The chance of success is much better that way," Banerjee says.

Even though biologicals are applied in much the same way as chemical-based treatments, there are some significant differences growers should be aware of if they are considering using them.

The major difference, according to Trischuk, is that biological treatments contain living organisms and need to be handled accordingly.

"Whenever you expand the growing region for soybeans, soybean cyst nematode follows shortly afterwards."

—Mario Tenuta



Soybean cyst nematode on the roots of a plant.

Photo courtesy Syngenta Canada

Proper Storage Critical

Sheau-Fang Hwang, a research scientist in plant pathology with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, agrees that proper storage is critical to maintaining the effectiveness of biological treatments.

She also suggests growers be aware of the fact that "these treatments may be influenced by conditions such as temperature, moisture and so on, depending on how favourable these are to the microorganism(s) involved. This can result in less consistent performance than those associated with chemical treatments."

Hwang says one of the upsides to biologicals is that unlike most chemical treatments, they will not lose their efficacy because of a build-up of resistance in the pathogen population.

Trischuk says he expects the demand for biological seed treatments will continue to rise as manufacturers and growers learn more about them. "There's a reason BASF made that \$1 billion investment three years ago in Becker Underwood," he says.

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Up to Scratch

As seed treatment popularity continues to grow, new standards are set to take effect. What are the standards, and are seed treaters ready for them? Plus, what producers should consider when choosing on-farm, mobile or commercial seed treatment facilities.

AS of Jan. 1, 2017, only seed treatment operations that have successfully completed an audit of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standards will be eligible to receive and apply designated seed treatment products.

Designated seed treatment products are commercial products designated by Canadian registrants for use in Canada. As new seed treatment products are developed, the list of designated commercial products will expand. Only designated commercial products will fall into the category. There will still be on-farm products that anyone can use when the label is followed. Audits are facilitated by the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association, and sites must successfully complete an audit conducted by an accredited AWSA auditor before the January deadline to become accredited.

The standards were created by CropLife Canada and its members to provide uniform environmental health and safety practices for the storage and handling of designated commercial seed treatment products in Canada.

Pre-audited sites have until Dec. 31, 2016, to successfully complete a full audit. Sites not audited by that time will lose all grandfathering privileges. Audit frequency is to be every two years, and the audit itself is a combination of mandatory and scored items.

Western Canadian seed growers, seed cleaning cooperatives and agri-retailers (including everyone involved in the commercial application of seed treatment products) will be affected by the new standards. If a facility is not in compliance, all manufacturing and distribution members of CropLife Canada will be notified to suspend shipments of designated seed treatment products. However, meeting the new standards may not be much of a hurdle for many seed treating operations.

“The vast majority of the industry are doing what we’re asking within the standards the vast majority of the time. That said, it’s a change management process... What we’re really asking them to do is standardize it or put it in form,” says Russel Hurst, CropLife Canada’s executive director of sustainability and stewardship.



As of Jan. 1, 2017, only seed treatment operations that have successfully completed an audit of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standards will be eligible to receive and apply designated commercial seed treatment products.

Hurst has been involved with the creation of the new code since its inception. CropLife Canada organized the steering committee tasked with developing a set of commercial — not on-farm — seed treatment standards to address a gap in industry stewardship as well as provide consistency surrounding seed treatment activities.

Drafted by a multi-stakeholder working group of registrants, distributors, agri-retailers, seed cleaning cooperatives, seed growers, the Canadian Seed Trade Association and Canadian

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Seed Institute personnel, and relevant provincial and federal government agencies such as the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and Alberta Environment and Parks, the standards are a result of industry participation spanning five years.

"It's been an odyssey," says Hurst. "We didn't know it would be a five-year implementation pathway. It's been a good process because it takes longer to implement something when you engage all stakeholders across the entire value chain. A great deal

"We had a lot of — not always easy — conversations, but we came together as an industry to determine where we wanted to get to."

— Russel Hurst

of credit goes to the seed trade and seed grower associations and all the individuals who participated throughout the process... We had a lot of not-always-easy conversations, but we came together as an industry to determine where we wanted to get to."

Simply put, Hurst says the group wanted to improve the way seed treatment products are applied and ensure they are applied in accordance with label guidelines. The new system does not mean you have to be certified to treat seed, simply that you must be certified in order to receive and apply certain designated products.

According to Jeff Daniels, DuPont Seed Treatment Enterprise's technical agronomy and application lead, proper application is essential to treated seed stewardship.

"Ensuring proper application of seed treatment plays a vital role in the success of the seed as well as the proper stewardship of it," he says.

Responsible stewardship practices help maintain seed and seed treatment integrity, which helps keep the active ingredi-

ent on the seed to achieve maximum crop health benefit for the investment, he says.

Of the standards' 76 protocols, 66 are existing regulations, such as fire code, building code, occupational health and safety requirements and, in some cases, provincial pesticide regulations or legislation.

"We took the best elements of these provincial regulations and put them into a national standard," says Hurst.

The remaining 10 protocols are essentially best management practices industry stakeholders felt were important to be included. "It's not required by law, but as an industry we've determined it's a really good thing to do," says Hurst. "As an industry we can say, 'Here is the standard, everybody agrees to the standard, now meet or exceed the standard.'"

However, a greater degree of variability exists between seed treatment operations with respect to buildings and structures, especially between Eastern and Western Canada. Developing standards to account for these differences wasn't an easy process, says Hurst.

"In terms of building and structure there's a big variability and it really depends on East-versus-West type commodity crops you're treating, time that you're treating, and volume you typically treat prior to season or just in time. That's where we're seeing the wider swings in terms of what we're asking facilities to do," he says.

Across the Prairies, seed growers, agri-retailers and seed cleaning cooperatives must decide whether or not to have their facilities audited.

"If they choose to use products that are on the designated product list, it's going to be a business decision for them," says Hurst. He suggests seed treatment operators consider the following:

- Do operators anticipate their customers will want products on the designated seed treatment products list to meet their agronomic needs?
- Does an operator want to shape his/her business to be that service provider?
- If operators choose to go through the standardized processes, is it going to make them more efficient?
- Will it improve their bottom lines beyond just selling products to their customers?

Hurst says CropLife Canada and AWSA are providing as much information as possible to operators well ahead of the January 2017 deadline in hopes of eliminating 11th-hour decisions about compliance or non-compliance with the standards.

This fall, industry stakeholder groups will review and provide



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feedback on the latest version of the standards before release of the final version. At that time, the designated list of seed treatment products by registrants will also be available.

One sector that will not be affected by the new standards or the designated seed treatment products list is on-farm seed treaters. No grower would ever have access to and never has had access to a seed treatment product intended for commercial use only, says Hurst. "They would not see a product they've always had access to all of a sudden show up on the designated list."

All being said and done, the new standards should provide more comfort to both registrants — that their products are being applied and used as they are intended or as the label states they should — and the PMRA, with respect to environmental health and safety consistency through a third-party audit process, says Hurst.

Demand for seed treatment products is strong and growing. Producers recognize seed treatments' agronomic value, but their use and application is still a learning process, says Hurst.

The standards also address the issue of uniform application of these products. Seed treatments are highly technical and ensuring they get placed on the seed in a uniform manner is crucial. For example, if half of the seed has 100 per cent of the product and the other side has none, producers could run into product performance issues.

"If the technology is not applied to the seed in the appropriate manner to ensure it works properly, growers aren't getting the greatest return on their investment... and that's not good for our industry. These products are tested for years to ensure that if used appropriately, they'll do the job they're set forward to do," says Hurst.

With increasing demand for seed treatment products, many growers will be evaluating what application methods best fit their operations — on-farm, commercial or mobile.

After growers make the decision to treat their seed, they should consider which application method is most convenient and efficient for their operations, says Bill Chapman, a crop business development specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

On-farm seed treatment systems, such as Graham's G3 applicator, treats seed uniformly, efficiently and effectively, says Chapman. One advantage of on-farm systems is once they're calibrated, growers can treat only the seed they need. "We saw a large uptake of the G3-type systems in Alberta over the past 10 to 15 years with larger cereal producers because of the convenience of treating only the seed they need, and then they're not storing it," he says.

It's easy to apply seed treatment at the on-farm level with certain seed, for instance small grains, says Hurst. "Understand what you want to achieve," he says. "What are you set up for?"

If growers choose to treat their own seed, time may be a factor to consider as well as access to the appropriate handling equipment. "You want to ensure you're treating the seed appropriately. If you can achieve all of that, on-farm treating could be a very good scenario," says Hurst.

When time is of the essence, mobile seed treatment application may be the answer for some growers, such as Ag Growth International's Storm Seed Treater. "Independent dealers have purchased mobile-type treaters that farmers can take to their own farms or treat in the independent's yard, depending on the setup. The benefit is you've got a bigger, faster setup that you

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can quickly treat your seed with," says Chapman.

Growers looking for efficiencies in their operations may want to consider commercial seed treaters. "They're calibrating equipment, monitoring their [application] rates, they've got fully-trained staff and use proper safety equipment. If you don't like handling treated seed and doing all the work yourself, you can easily book your seed through a seed plant. It's very convenient — order everything up, take it home and store it in your seed bin," says Chapman.

In addition to convenience, quality control and efficiency, growers may benefit from commercial seed treaters' expertise, especially with more complicated seed treatment mixtures, such as fungicide-insecticide combinations, micronutrients or growth stimulants, says Hurst.

However, when it comes to seed treatment application and the bottom line for producers, it's not how they apply it, but that they apply it, says Chapman.

Kari Belanger

Seed Treatments: You're in the Driver's Seat

Applying seed treatments is essential for seed protection during the early stages of growth as well as for maximizing crop yield, says Bill Chapman, a crop business development specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

"Seed treatment is like the automatic transmission fluid in your car. It's something that's required to run that transmission. All the nuts, bolts and steel won't go very far unless you've got transmission fluid in your car," he says. "It's part of the process. It can eliminate many surface-borne diseases."

Whether you're using certified or bin run seed, treating that seed is essential.

"It's important to treat your seed as part of the disease management process," says Chapman. "It's critical we all think seriously about treating seed whether it's wheat or barley, especially for diseases like fusarium head blight. There are many producers growing their own seed who might have one or two per cent fusarium in their sample, and if you're replanting it, it's going to multiply exponentially."

In addition, seed treatments offer extra protection to seedlings — which are often planted in unfavourable conditions — in the first few weeks. Thus, getting the crop off to a good start and maximizing yield, he says.

Another word of caution during seed treating time is to clean out trucks and equipment between moving treated seed and moving grain. "You've got to make sure there's no treated seed getting into the grain handling system," says Chapman. Calibrate all equipment accurately, and handle seed treatments and treated seed carefully while wearing appropriate safety-approved gloves and footwear, he adds.

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GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT SOYBEANS

Relatively new as a crop rotation tool in Alberta, soybeans are becoming a lucrative option for growers in the province.

IT all comes down to choosing the right variety for your farm, according to experts who are working towards developing and promoting the use of soybeans in crop rotations in Alberta.

According to Alberta Agriculture's Ron Gietz, this crop should be considered by producers looking to expand their farm investments. "Soybeans are a viable option to producers because they reduce nitrogen costs," says Gietz. "You also need to choose the right variety based on heat units and what will be a good match for your particular growing area."

While Gietz notes that researchers and companies within the province are working on developing soybean varieties suited to Alberta's varying climate, he expects adoption to increase as more varieties come to market over the next few years.

"It's important to have varieties that are more suited to Alberta's growing conditions, which are very different from neighbouring Saskatchewan and Manitoba. We have found that growing the right variety suited to Alberta growing conditions is just as profitable as in other provinces."

Gietz notes that crop researchers in Brooks, Alta. are conducting soybean research with promising results. "The benefits are enormous," says Gietz. "Ongoing research is essential to help fill a niche by offering another option in crop rotations by filling a non-grain placement in the rotation lineup."

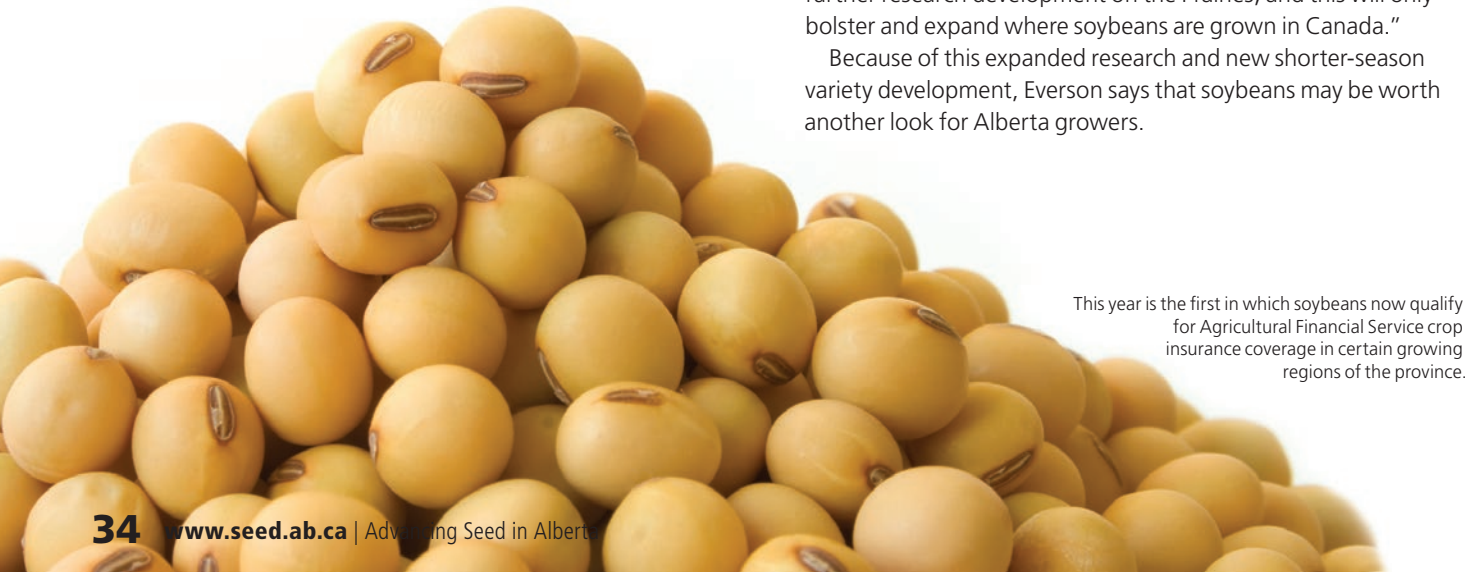
He adds that with soybeans beginning to be mixed into producers' rotations, they are also seeing Alberta companies making investments within the province to accommodate soybean supplies.

Jim Everson, executive director with Soy Canada, says his organization is very excited not only about current ongoing research projects underway in Alberta, but the growing presence of soybeans in Canada overall.

"We are excited to see acreage in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario growing," says Everson. "Expanding acreage has led to further research development on the Prairies, and this will only bolster and expand where soybeans are grown in Canada."

Because of this expanded research and new shorter-season variety development, Everson says that soybeans may be worth another look for Alberta growers.

This year is the first in which soybeans now qualify for Agricultural Financial Service crop insurance coverage in certain growing regions of the province.





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It all comes down to choosing the right variety for your farm according to experts who are working towards developing and promoting the use of soybeans in crop rotations in Alberta.

Indepth Research

Manjula Bandara, pulse and special crops research scientist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry at the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks, has been conducting research for the past decade to find the well-suited soybean genotypes for Alberta growers, particularly for the southern region.

Bandara notes that this research has involved collaborating not only with various seed companies, but also alongside provincial agricultural production and processing organizations. "From Ontario to Alberta, research has been on-going in side-by-side with field trials," he says.

While Manitoba grows roughly 1.3 million acres of soybeans each year and Saskatchewan grows approximately 300,000 acres, Alberta only grew roughly 10,000 acres last year. Bandara hopes that his research will help to increase acreage numbers in Alberta and produce new varieties adaptable to the province. "Soybeans need to be able to compete with other existing crops in order to be considered in crop rotations," says Bandara.

Bandara's current project began two years ago and will continue for the next two years. He and colleagues are conducting soybean research in southern Alberta under supplementary irrigation.

It's a major challenge to find the right variety for Alberta's varying climate. Bandara points to several main areas that he and his team are working on for varietal selection within the province:

"We are excited to see acreage in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario growing,"

— Jim Everson

1. Finding the most suitable genotypes
2. Determining the optimum amount and frequency of irrigation at the appropriate growth stage
3. Seeding density and row spacing
4. Important diseases that influence seed yield and quality of soybeans growing under supplementary irrigation in Alberta
5. Determine difference in yield/soil advantage to competitive crops, such as dry bean

While his research has another two years of funding, Bandara plans to take the information from his research and place it into a workable manual of guidelines for producers in the province who want to expand their crop rotations.

Soybean Potential Growing

Bandara and Tilley-based soybean grower and pedigreed seed producer Patrick Fabian are conducting large-scale field trials at Fabian's farm on soybean seeding density and row spacing.

Fabian has been growing soybeans on his farm for the past eight years and is proud to be working with Bandara to find the right varieties and agricultural practices that would enable Alberta producers to grow soybeans profitably.

"The industry has come a long way with new varieties and agronomy standards to where I can yield in the mid-to-high 50 bushel-per-acre area," says Fabian.

Fabian notes that this year is the first in which soybeans now qualify for Agricultural Financial Service Crop insurance coverage in certain growing regions of the province. "Crop insurance is a definite bonus when considering your crop rotation, and this is an incentive to grow soybeans."

While Fabian notes that the availability of insurance is promising, he feels the ongoing research is very important to lending more validity to growing the crop within the province. "Research is key to providing credibility that soybeans can be productive and profitable to grow in our region of the Prairies," he adds.

"Line companies are also seeing the advantage of growing soybeans in Alberta since we are already halfway to the West Coast, and growers last year saw a freight advantage of \$1.40 price premium compared to Manitoba."

However, Fabian notes that producers do need to use caution, as a fall frost can greatly impact yield potential. "Soybeans have a low input cost, add nitrogen to the soil and help to clean up a field for a high-value crop the following year. To me that's a win/win situation."

More Work Ahead

Bandara has future plans of further research into soybeans in the province. He hopes to conduct further testing across the Prairies looking at not only yield, but chemical makeup as well.

"Further research on appearance and chemical composition is important," says Bandara. "We hope to conduct testing on oil content, protein profile and meal quality."

According to Gietz and Fabian, independent and unbiased research is necessary to keep momentum for this crop into the future. "It's important to understand the cost/benefit of the crop on individual farms," says Gietz. "Varietal development will help to bring shorter-season soybean varieties to Alberta which are better suited to growing conditions and will be the best match to a specific growing region."

Fabian hopes to only see increased adoption of soybeans by producers in Alberta as a viable, profitable and affordable crop. "Profitable returns will only help to make soybeans competitive within crop rotations on farms, and this is where continued research is necessary." **Shannon Schindle**



To access Alberta Agriculture's report titled 'The Potential for Soybeans in Alberta' go to: <http://goo.gl/j65Lyy>

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Honeybees on the Rise

According to Statistics Canada, this critical pollinator has been increasing in number in Alberta and across the country.

BEES are an essential component of Canadian agriculture, with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada recently pegging the value of honeybees to crop pollination in this country at more than \$4.4 billion. In recent years, concerns have been raised in Canada and around the world about bee population declines and long-term pollinator health, prompting questions about the sustainability of the Canadian honeybee industry.

Figures from Statistics Canada, however, indicate the number of honeybees in this country has been rising over the past decade. The amount of bee colonies rose from 615,541 in 2005 to 694,217 in 2014 — an increase of almost 13 per cent. The numbers have been rising in Alberta as well, with bee colonies in the province numbering 282,000 in 2014, a 12 per cent increase from 2005.

“We have more hives, maybe more than we’ve ever had before,” says Grant Hicks, president of the Alberta Beekeepers Commission. He estimates the total number of hives in the province currently “to be very close to 300,000.”

Hicks adds the El Nino weather pattern that the province experienced this past year helped boost the numbers, because milder winters enable hives to flourish.

Lee Townsend, who operates TLPR Honey Farms in Stony Plain, Alta., agrees the number of bees in Alberta is as high as it’s ever been. He says growing demand for pollinator services for crops like canola and blueberries in Alberta and across Canada, as well as more demand for honey worldwide, are among the reasons why.

Townsend says there are also more beekeepers and bigger pollinator businesses in Alberta. According to StatsCan, there were 930 beekeepers in Alberta in 2014, which is 200 more than a decade earlier.

Rod Scarlett, the executive director of the CHC, cites a number of other factors behind the honeybee growth trend, including better bee stock, improved hive management and an enhanced understanding of bee diseases and pests like Varroa mite. He says advances in recent years have enabled both beekeepers and growers to get a better handle on managing risks to bee health.

“We have a few more tools in the tool kit,” Scarlett explains, citing integrated pest management as one of those tools.



Figures from Statistics Canada indicate the number of honeybees in this country has been rising over the past decade.

According to Hicks, a miticide product that’s been widely used in Alberta since 2007 has been 95 per cent effective against Varroa mite, which has enabled beekeepers to successfully control the pest.

Neonicotinoid insecticide-treated seed and its impact on pollinator health have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years. Scarlett acknowledges there’s a growing awareness in the agricultural community of the need for pesticide risk reduction and management practices that should benefit honeybees in the long run.

“The whole farm community, which includes beekeepers, is taking a good look at the use of pesticides,” he says. “It’s a part of the piece of the puzzle.”

Townsend maintains the use of pesticide-treated seed hasn't been a big problem for Alberta beekeepers. "We've yet to see an issue with it," he says, adding it's incumbent on growers and beekeepers alike to ensure they're following best practices for handling treated seed.

Hicks says the use of pesticide-treated seed in canola production in Alberta hasn't had an adverse effect on bee health in the province due to good stewardship by growers and enhancements in dust-reduction technology. "Treated seed is the most benign method of insect control in terms of threat to honeybees," Hicks says.

Health Canada lists a number of factors that impact the risk of toxic pesticide exposure to pollinators, including the use of treated seed, type of planting equipment, planting conditions, flowering resources (i.e. crops, weeds and trees) and bee yard locations.

It has devised a set of best management practices (BMPs) that growers can follow to reduce the risk to bees and other insect pollinators from exposure to dust from treated seed. According to Health Canada, these BMPs provide a toolbox of options that should be used in combination wherever possible.

Highlights of Health Canada's good stewardship practices for pollinator protection and the responsible use of insecticide-treated seed are as follows:

Follow Pesticide Label and Seed Tag Directions

In order to minimize risks to human health and the environment, always read and adhere to directions for use on pesticide product labels or on treated seed labels (related to personal protective equipment and buffer zones, for example).

Practice Integrated Pest Management

Practicing integrated pest management when choosing seed treatments is essential for sustainable pest control. This approach can include cultural practices to discourage pests (for example, crop rotation) as well as correctly identifying pest problems and risk factors before making a decision to use treated seed. Use insecticide treated seed only when necessary; if insecticide treatment is required, use the lowest effective seed treatment rate.

Communicate with Beekeepers

Communication and co-operation among growers, custom operators and beekeepers on the timing of planting treated seed and the location of hives can help reduce the risk of bee incidents. This communication will enable growers to know which fields have hives located close by and provide advance notice to beekeepers of planting intentions. This in turn will allow beekeepers to ensure hives are located strategically, take actions to temporarily protect or relocate hives where feasible, and ensure clean water sources are provided.

Recognize Pollinator Habitat and Reduce Dust Exposure

Bees collect pollen and nectar from flowering crops, trees and weeds, as well as water from puddles and moist soil in or beside fields. Pollinators can be exposed to treated seed dust when it is carried in the air or deposited on food and water sources. It is important to monitor environmental conditions, as pollinator exposure may be increased under very dry and/or windy condi

Setting New Standards

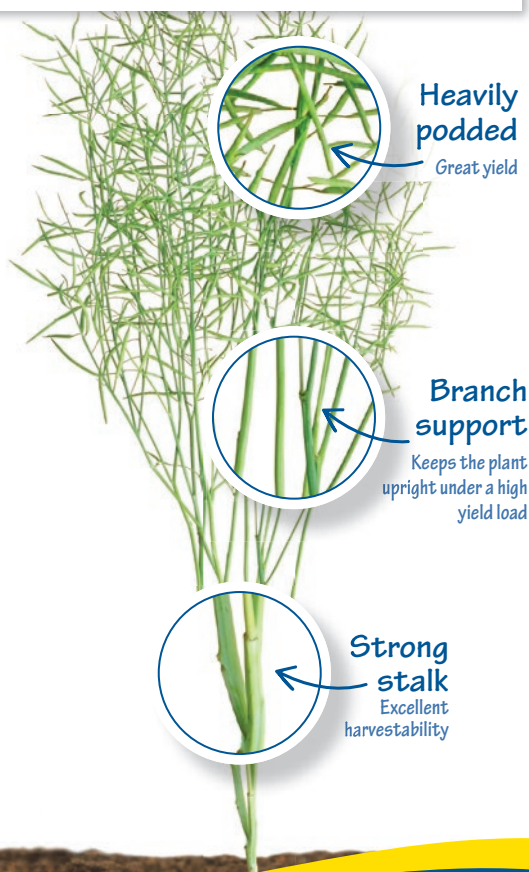
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tions that favour dust transport. Avoid planting treated seed under these conditions if flowering plants, standing water or bee colonies are located downwind, and follow best practices to reduce dust exposure. Control flowering weeds in the field before planting so that pollinators are not attracted to in-field forage.

Avoid Generating Dust when Handling Treated Seed

Handle treated seed bags with care during transport, loading and unloading in order to reduce abrasion, dust generation and spillage. Do not load or clean seeding equipment near bee colonies, and avoid places where bees may be foraging such as flowering crops, trees or weeds. When turning on the seeder, avoid engaging the system where dust may contact honeybee colonies or foraging pollinators.

Manage Planting Equipment to Reduce Dust Drift

Growers should take care to reduce/control dust containing insecticide that is exhausted from seeders. Always follow directions provided by planting equipment manufacturers and keep up-to-date on new use practices. Clean and maintain planting equipment regularly, including the fan housing and hoppers of air-assisted planters. Use deflector equipment, where appropriate, to direct exhaust to the ground level, thereby reducing dust drift.

Use Appropriate Seed Flow Lubricant

Although they are not widely utilized in the West, seed flow lubricants may affect the generation of dust during planting, so it's important to carefully follow the use directions for dust-reducing fluency agents. When using a seed flow lubricant for planting corn or soybean seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides clothianidin, thiamethoxam or imidacloprid, only a dust-reducing fluency agent is permitted to minimize the potential for abrasion that produces insecticidal seed dust. It is not permitted to use talc and graphite as a seed flow lubricant for corn or soybean seed treated with these insecticides.

Ensure Proper Clean-up and Disposal

Take care when cleaning up after planting seed and follow provin-

“The whole farm community, which includes beekeepers, is taking a good look at the use of pesticides.”

—Rod Scarlett

cial/municipal disposal requirements. Spilled or exposed seeds and dust must be incorporated into the soil or cleaned up from the soil surface. Keep treated seed and dust away from surface water. Do not leave empty seed bags or leftover treated seed in fields or the environment, and participate in collection programs for seed bags where they are available.

Report Suspected Pollinator Pesticide Poisonings

Contact the appropriate federal/provincial authority in the case of any pollinator poisonings that may be related to planting of treated seed. See the Health Canada pollinator protection webpage for appropriate federal and provincial contacts and for additional information.

According to Hicks, following Health Canada's good stewardship practices for pollinator protection benefits both growers and beekeepers.

“These BMPs were developed co-operatively to maximize risk reduction to beneficial insects,” he says. “Following these BMPs will be profitable to both farmers and beekeepers.” **Mark Halsall**

**WHERE
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WEB**

See the Health Canada pollinator protection webpage for appropriate federal and provincial contacts and for additional information.

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The GM Alfalfa Situation — Three Perspectives

Opinions continue to be split on the issue of genetically modified herbicide-tolerant alfalfa in Canada.

ROUNDUP Ready alfalfa seed — created and marketed by Forage Genetics International (FGI) — is now available commercially in the United States. It's also approved for sale in Canada as well, but FGI has made the decision to hold off on commercial sales of the herbicide-tolerant genetically modified alfalfa, despite the fact that it was granted full food, feed and environmental approval by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2005.

Tests are underway in Eastern Canada involving select growers to determine how well the product performs. However, FGI currently has no plans to launch the product commercially anywhere in Canada. A push is on — led by Forage Seed Canada — to keep Western Canada free of GM alfalfa. Forage Seed Canada is concerned growers will lose export markets that will not accept any traces of GM alfalfa in imported hay and seed.

"FGI will not sell traits in Canada this year," says Mike Peterson, Forage Genetics International global traits lead. "No decisions have been made by FGI as to whether we will sell alfalfa traits in Canada in 2016, or beyond."

This year, the company expanded on-farm field trials with farmers in Ontario and Quebec, adding eight growers for a total of 20 farm cooperators. According to feedback gathered from farmers in the 2014 trial program, Roundup Ready alfalfa delivers outstanding weed control, superior crop safety, quick stand establishment and vigorous growth.

We spoke to representatives of three groups regarding the issue, to get their take on the situation and what may happen in the future.



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Heather Kerschbaumer
President
Forage Seed Canada
Fairview, Alberta

Forage Seed Canada president **Heather Kerschbaumer** is a pedigreed seed grower along with her husband John. Together they operate Golden Acre Seeds in Fairview, Alta. Golden Acre Seeds produces both conventional and organic seed.

Kerschbaumer and Forage Seed Canada — which represents provincial forage seed associations — are strong advocates for keeping Western Canada free of Roundup Ready GM alfalfa until such a time that export markets like the Middle East, Mexico, China, Japan and South America become more accepting of the presence of GM material in shipments of alfalfa. Currently, they want forage seed and hay that's free of traces of GM material.

Kerschbaumer has firsthand experience having shipments of seed either rejected or reduced in value as a result of GM material being found in it, and fears that those export markets will be lost if GM alfalfa is grown in Western Canada. Earlier this year, she lost a sale of clover seed to Europe due to the presence of some GM canola seeds in the shipment, despite the fact it was certified organic.

"Until the rest of the world accepts GMO crops, why would we want to totally abandon our export markets?" she says. "We're not opposed to the technology, we just don't want to be con-

taminated. But how do you build a wall to ensure contamination doesn't happen?"

Although a wall cannot be built to protect growers who don't want GM alfalfa traits making their way into their fields via pollination, the idea of coexistence has been proposed by some. The Canadian Seed Trade Association has developed a coexistence plan for Eastern Canada, which includes best management practices. A list of these best management practices is available at cdnseed.org, under "Facilitating Choice Through Coexistence."

"As far as Forage Seed Canada is concerned, our coexistence strategy for Western Canada is simply this — we cannot coexist," Kerschbaumer says.

"For example, it's hard not to find GM canola anymore, or crops you can grow side by side without the fear of contamination. But it's different with canola — canola doesn't grow in ditches and cross-pollinate with something three miles away. With alfalfa seed, you see that all the time. We need to keep the integrity of non GM alfalfa safe, and it's our position that we cannot do that if we're growing GM alfalfa in close proximity to non-GM alfalfa."

Forage Seed Canada released a position paper on the issue. In it, FSC says it opposes the release of GM alfalfa in Western Canada until:

- a strong identity preservation system for alfalfa varieties is in place in Canada
- a rapid, cost-effective, sensitive, accurate test based on each export market's specific requirements for the specific transgene is available
- issues including legal or fiduciary pertaining to responsibility, liability, loss of markets, insurance, and consequences of contamination are clarified
- a current economic impact assessment on how the product would impact forage seed markets is done
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Bill Brown
Field Sales Agronomist
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Bill Brown has seen Roundup Ready alfalfa up close and personal. He's helping oversee trials in Ontario where around a dozen growers are growing the crop on small plots on a contract basis.

He says while the jury is still out on whether or not it will actually be commercially available in Ontario, he says the response so far has been good among those who have seen it perform.

"The nice part is shortly after the plant comes out of the ground, they can go in and spray their glyphosate. In the past they had to use other products like [Embutox] that were hard on the alfalfa," he says. "With Roundup Ready alfalfa they're finding there's no setback at all. It's getting all the weeds, while other products didn't get every weed that was there. They're getting better production and a good-looking field of alfalfa. That's on the positive side."

A downside is there are still quite a few growers in Ontario that put grass with their alfalfa mixtures as well, he notes, and glyphosate would kill the grasses.

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"It's a good product, but at this point the response has been tempered. How do we add grasses and still be able to use glyphosate on alfalfa? Some people are looking at controlling those early weeds and coming back and maybe putting grass into the stand in early fall if they want grass in it," he says.

"In Ontario we have large dairy producers who use straight alfalfa, so I think that's where a lot of the interest is, rather than from the haymakers who like to see grass in there."

Brown is aware of the coexistence debate in Western Canada, and says the biggest issue he foresees in Eastern Canada is organic farmers being concerned about possible contamination from GM alfalfa. Right now, he says the crop is being grown in Ontario strictly for hay and not seed, meaning cross-pollination cannot occur.

"We don't have a lot of hay exports here, most of it is sold for livestock feed or it gets shipped south for horses. The main users here have no issue with it."

But, he adds it is important to take everyone's point of view into consideration, and eyes are on the result of the coexistence discussion in Western Canada. But, he adds, as new traits are stacked with the GM alfalfa, the product will almost certainly become more attractive to growers as it evolves.

"There may be more movement forward at that point in time. We've experienced the same thing with corn, soybeans, canola and sugarbeets. Until the export markets accept them, it's only a matter of time before it is available. We want our producers to be competitive not only with world markets but also with our neighbours to the south, and if they have a competitive advantage in the U.S., then we can't compete as well as we otherwise could."



Dave Carey
Manager of Policy Initiatives
Canadian Seed Trade Association



Crosby Devitt
Executive Director
Canadian Seed Trade Association

Dave Carey, CSTA manager of policy initiatives, says there are a few misconceptions around the GM alfalfa trait as it has received approval and varieties have been registered.

"When we had the coexistence planning workshop for alfalfa hay in Eastern Canada, there were some groups that came thinking it was an opportunity to stop the regulatory process, but CSTA is not a regulatory body, and it had already received full CFIA approval," Carey says. "At this point it's a business decision of Forage Genetics International."

Carey says it is important to note that current discussion surrounding the commercial release of Roundup Ready alfalfa are for hay production and not for seed production. According to Forage Genetics International, the company has no intention of selling seed for anything but hay production in Eastern Canada.

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“It’s a good product, but at this point the response has been tempered. How do we add grasses and still be able to use glyphosate on alfalfa?”

—Bill Brown

“Additional work on coexistence has been ongoing, with a commitment from FGI and CSTA to develop a Hay-to-Hay Coexistence Plan for Western Canada. The goal is to have this plan completed by January 2016,” Peterson says. “The plan for Western Canada is in response to requests for additional stewardship actions that address the possibility of product moving from Ontario/Quebec to Western Canada. At this time, FGI does not have plans to introduce biotech-enhanced alfalfa traits to growers in Western Canada.”

CSTA defines coexistence as: “A framework that guides the implementation of stewardship and best management practices to be employed in order for three production systems (organic, conventional and GM) to successfully coexist.”

“The value of a coexistence plan is critical as biotech alfalfa moves closer to market,” says **Crosby Devitt**, CSTA executive direc-

tor. “The owner of the technology and the varieties sees this as a critical component before going to market because no one in the value chain wants to see one person doing something that negatively affects other stakeholders.

“The organic hay producers who are not interested in the technology should be able to coexist and run their business as they see fit. And that’s the challenge, but it’s also the opportunity. We’re striving for a successful coexistence plan that is collaboratively developed and accepted by all stakeholders.”

Carey and Devitt want to be clear: Coexistence planning and the commercialization of Roundup Ready alfalfa is not a regulatory issue — it was approved in 2005 after it underwent livestock feed, environmental safety and food assessments conducted by the CFIA and Health Canada. **Marc Zienkiewicz and Julie McNabb**

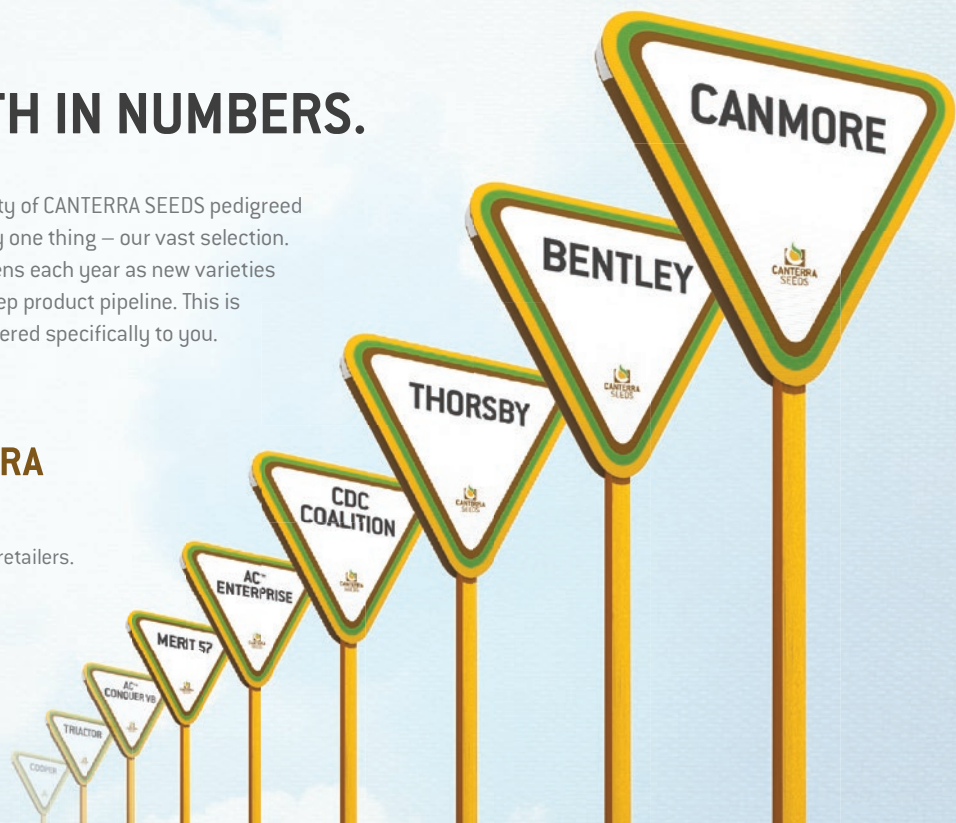
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Finding Middle Ground

Short crop rotations continue in popularity and profitability. Meanwhile, disease and pest pressure is on the rise as is stress on disease- and pest-resistant traits and crop protection products from pushing rotations. If short-term gain means long-term pain, where's the middle ground?

THE numbers speak for themselves. Short-duration canola rotations, such as canola-wheat, are most profitable for western Canadian producers — under certain conditions.

"Net returns are as high for one-in-two canola as for longer rotations when the price of canola is high relative to other options, and when you're using a disease-resistant variety, and the resistance is working," says Murray Hartman, an oilseed specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Food and Bio-Industrial Crops Branch.

Farmers are businesspeople, he says, and they wouldn't be if they weren't making money. And while Hartman encourages producers to do what's right for their farm operations — which often involves focusing on short-term profit — higher returns from shorter rotations may mean trade-offs down the road.

"I can't fault producers for saying, 'my focus is two or three years' net returns, and 10 years from now is a very small focus for me.' They make their decisions and that's the right decision," he says.

Despite decreased yields of up to 20 per cent, short-duration canola rotations still pencil out ahead of longer ones. Producers also attach value to the short rotation's simplicity as there's only two crops to manage and they don't have to worry about mixing things in the bin. However, focus on short-term profitability may be short-sighted.

"You're opening yourself up for long-term pain... If we get new pests and new strains, and resistance breeding or [crop protection] products haven't kept up, you're going to have to grow something else because we can't control these things in canola," says Hartman. "You might not grow canola well at all in 10 years."

Increased Disease

Research studies and surveys indicate short-duration rotations increase disease prevalence (how often a disease is found) and incidence (how many plants are infected) in a field. Over the past 15 years, short rotations have resulted in a strong trend toward increased disease prevalence and incidence of blackleg, root rots and clubroot, for example. Which, in turn, puts pressure on disease-resistant traits and crop protection products, such as seed treatment fungicides.



Murray Hartman, oilseed specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Food and Bio-Industrial Crops Branch.

If disease increases, yield may be affected to some extent, but not enough to trouble producers, says Hartman. However, if the durability of a disease-resistant trait is also overcome, for example, if clubroot resistance is completely bypassed by the pathogen because the pathogen has shifted to a different pathotype, then "we're back to square one," says Hartman. "We don't have any good resistance and it's a pretty sizable yield loss when that new strain takes over."

Breeders in other countries discovered clubroot resistance was only efficacious for up to three crops, and then the pathogens shifted and the resistance did not work well. With that knowledge, Canadian scientists reasoned the useful life (durability) of clubroot-resistant traits would last for two crops planted every four years, resulting in a total of eight years of effective resist-

ance. During those eight years, scientists hoped to breed new types of resistance to introduce into the rotation.

However, with short-duration canola rotations, the single gene resistance bred into clubroot-resistant traits was overcome after four or five years, says Hartman. "If we had a whole menu of different resistances available it wouldn't be such a big concern," he says.

Not only that, producers' faith that science will come to a timely rescue may be misguided. The first clubroot-resistant trait was brought to market earlier than the predicted eight years because genetics from winter canola shortened the road to registration. But it won't be as easy the second time around, says Hartman. Scientists must find new resistance genes in related species, such as the turnip, which is a harder, longer process.

In addition, scientists believe up to 10 different pathotypes exist on the Prairies. "That is a real big concern: that we have no way of handling these new pathotypes... How do you breed for that and keep resistance for the old pathotype because that is still the prevalent one?" says Hartman. "In the next five years, it isn't going to make or break us. But in the next 10 years, it's going to become a significant challenge."

That's just one disease. In the field, root rots, blackleg and new diseases, such as verticillium wilt, can complicate matters.

However, blackleg resistance in Western Canada differs from clubroot resistance in that two forms currently exist — a specific



Todd Hyra, SeCan's Western Canada business manager.



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single gene resistance and what's known as mini gene resistance, which slows down the disease in a crop. These two forms of resistance have stopped blackleg from becoming a major problem, says Hartman. Nonetheless, shorter rotations may result in a greater presence of blackleg on the seed, which can affect trade as it did in 2009 when China blocked Canadian canola seed shipments.

The feasibility of rotating blackleg resistances to prevent durability erosion in Canada is only just being assessed. Even if rotating different resistances was possible, it only addresses the blackleg issue and not other concerns in the field, such as root rot and clubroot.

Disease-resistant traits may help, says Hartman, but "it's not nearly as effective as rotating the whole crop."

The efficacy of crop protection products is also affected by short rotations. For example, some weeds can overcome herbicides used in herbicide-tolerant canola when used with short rotations. In addition, using only one herbicide system can result in weed population shifts within a field. The use of glyphosate year after year as well as repeated use during the growing season (pre-seed burn-off, in-crop and pre-harvest) can select for glyphosate-resistant weeds.

In addition, the suspected overuse of seed treatment insecticides due to short rotations has resulted in a shift in flea beetle populations from crucifer to striped in some regions, forcing producers to spray for striped flea beetles post emergence.

"Any time you have something in short rotation, a new pest comes in and it's just like a buffet. If you've got a short rotation,

it's going to become well established and spread very quickly," says Hartman. "With the canola-wheat rotation, we're just favouring wheat and canola pest problems. The issues are going to be similar for wheat in short rotations," says Hartman.

Short term, while canola remains a top revenue crop for producers, short-duration canola rotations will remain popular. However, increased disease and pest pressure, and stress on crop protection products and disease- and pest-resistant traits due to short rotations may take a big bite out of profits in the long term with millions of dollars at risk.

"In the next five years, it isn't going to make or break us. But in the next 10 years, it's going to become a significant challenge."

— Murray Hartman

"In Alberta alone, the last number of years we've had roughly a \$2-billion per year crop ... if we lose even 10 per cent of that in 10 years' time — because we can't grow as much yield, or on as many acres — that's a couple hundred million dollars right there. It adds up quickly on a large-acre crop," says Hartman.

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Long-term Solutions

When trying to find the middle ground between short-term profitability and the long-term economic stability of the industry, Hartman has a few suggestions:

Recent research shows a one in three rotation may offer a sustainable solution for industry stakeholders. This rotation could be sustainable if constant, detailed scouting is carried out, there are sources to alternative blackleg resistance and different clubroot resistance, and herbicide systems are being rotated.

When using short rotations, scout fields diligently and often, checking for signs of any new diseases and, if possible, rotate to a different variety with a different known resistance.

If a producer can't rotate canola to other crops, rotate crop protection systems on that field every two to three years.

If a disease or pest issue is not being controlled by the products in a producer's management plan, extend the rotation.

Because a sustainable one-in-two canola rotation is unrealistic and the one-in-four rotation is not economically feasible, Hartman says he's optimistic about the one-in-three rotation. Support from both public and private institutions for blackleg and clubroot resistance breeding is ongoing and may provide future tools for growers.

Higher Midge Populations

Canola isn't the only billion-dollar industry that could be affected long-term by short rotations.



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“When you push rotations, you’re going to provide the opportunity for higher midge populations.”

—Todd Hyra

As part of the Midge Tolerant Stewardship Team, Todd Hyra, SeCan’s Western Canada business manager, has witnessed first-hand the effect short rotations have on wheat midge populations. Protecting the durability of midge-resistant traits in wheat is top priority for the stewardship team.

“When you push rotations, you’re going to provide the opportunity for higher midge populations,” says Hyra, putting additional pressure on the refuge in midge-tolerant wheat varieties.

“If there are more midge there is going to be more feeding damage on the refuge or the susceptible component of the stand. The stewardship of allowing farm-saved seed one generation past certified, ensures the population of susceptible plants is not too low, and the refuge remains in there that second year.”

According to Hyra, wheat midge can cost producers about \$36 per acre or 15 per cent damage. As few as one midge per four or five heads can cause damage at this economic threshold, where traditionally control measures, such as spraying, would be required. However, if wheat prices are higher than \$6 a bushel, the yield potential is greater than 40 bushels per acre, or the damage is greater than 15 per cent, then losses escalate beyond \$36 per acre, says Hyra. On an annual basis, wheat midge can cost the industry from \$60 million to 70 million, he says.

The loss of the midge-tolerant trait would force producers to spray or lengthen crop rotations; however, Hyra says he’s seen midge populations drop over the past five years because producers are respecting the stewardship component of midge-tolerant wheat.

“Growers have been using midge-tolerant wheat in high pressure areas. They haven’t been spraying. The beneficial insects have been increasing and keeping everything in balance,” he says.

“Whether it’s insects, diseases, soil disease or weeds, rotating crops will help spread the risk of resistance development and potential build-up of pests. Everything growers can do to break some of those cycles by employing a proper crop rotation is going to be of real benefit to them long term,” says Hyra.

Kari Belanger

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A Place for Farmers

The Alliance Seed Cleaning Association is more than just a cleaning plant — it's a pillar of the community.

WHEN Terry Howe started working at the Alliance Seed Cleaning Association in 1980, it looked much different than it does today.

After a tough struggle to raise the needed share capital, the seed plant was opened in November of 1957. For the first two decades of its existence, cleaning and treating of cereals was its main business. But things have changed.

Those changes began when Howe took over as manager. In 1984, the plant went through a major upgrade with the addition of a new 30-foot scale, metal siding, a 2,000 bushel-per-hour receiving leg, and new overhead hopper bottom bins. A canola treater was set at the plant. Canola was treated outdoors with this unit for many years, treating 5,000-6,000 bags annually.

The changes kept coming. Another small upgrade added a building to house the canola treater. Bin bottoms were replaced with steel hoppers inside the plant, a new indent was put in to increase capacity, and an Oliver gravity table was added to put out a better product. With the added machinery, a power upgrade was also completed.

In 1996 another major upgrade began, around the time Peggy Erion began working there as a bookkeeper. This past January, Erion took over for Howe as manager upon his retirement.

"Our goal is to carry on with the legacy Terry has left us," she says. "He made us into something really special. We do so much more than just clean seed now. We've become a pillar in the community. We've become a recognized business here."



The Alliance Seed Cleaning Association plant as it looks today.

The village of Alliance is located in central Alberta, 160 kilometres east of Red Deer. Established as a station on a Canadian National line in 1916, Alliance is located on Hwy. 602.

Despite its community's tiny size and population of only around 200 people, the Alliance Seed Cleaning Association plant has 250 shareholders and a capacity of over 800,000 bushels a year. It serves a radius of around 300 miles, according to Erion. A far cry from the old days.

Although most of the canola treating business is gone now due to the rarity of common varieties being grown, the plant's No. 1 seed is wheat, followed by barley. As far as export and commodity upgrading goes, it deals mostly in peas, with some lentils and fababeans thrown into the mix as well.

In 2010 a colour sorter was installed. Another big upgrade took place in 2014. The plant added 7,500 bushels of clean storage for incoming and outgoing grain. It now boasts more warehousing and storage space than ever. A new seed treater was installed in the spring of 2014, and the plant can now treat 600 bushels in 15 minutes.

It's all about keeping its customers happy and keeping up with the times, Erion says.

"Farmers are always looking at timing — it's always about saving time. They want to pull in and out, not sit here for two hours. We're here to make things as efficient as possible for them."

Efficiency is Key

That need for efficiency is what has driven the many changes that have taken place at the plant over the years.

"In the old days we needed farmers to haul up to 11 p.m. if we wanted to be able to clean around the clock," Erion says. "Now we have the storage where they can haul in, and we have enough grain stored and we can move it into the plant and no one has to haul. It doesn't matter if it's incoming grain or outgoing clean grain."

Additionally the plant acts as a kind of storefront for Battle River Railway, a

"We do so much more than just clean seed now. We've become a pillar in the community."

—Peggy Erion



The plant as it appeared when it was first built.



co-op that bought the local region's shortline in 2010, so being able to move grain fast is hugely important. Alliance Seed Cleaning Association also buys and processes peas for Toepfer International (formerly Western Grain & Processing), WA Grain and Pulse Solutions based out of Innisfail, and Swiss Singapore in Vancouver.

"With us being involved in pea buying and Battle River Rail, we're in tune with what farmers are looking at and what their options are," Erion says. "There is a local co-op of farmers who recently built a loading facility in town and we're helping them with coordination."

Such efforts keep farmers coming through the door of Alliance Seed Cleaning Association, asking questions and offering the association a chance to help them out, she says.

A desire to help farmers with their day-to-day challenges has made the Alliance Seed Cleaning Association more than just a seed cleaning plant.

"We're a central hub in the community for agriculture, and we like that. We like it when the farmers come in and have

their coffee and chat about what's going on, what their struggles are. It gives us a chance to see how we can better things for them by improving grade or improving other things," Erion says.

In recent years, the business has expanded to include a retail outlet for feed and veterinary supplies. Alliance Seed Cleaning Association is now a retailer for Master Feeds, offering a wide range of supplies including dog and cat food.

"We are an hour away from another agricultural store like Peavey Mart. Having a syringe or a bag of milk replacer on hand, that's a huge benefit for people in the community. When our spring rush is on, farmers really appreciate when we're open from 8 a.m. until midnight," Erion says.

"Farmers have asked us if we'll stock grain auger hoppers and shovels. We're always looking at expanding. We don't want to just tap into farmers, but acreage people and townspeople as well. We want to get as many people as we can through our doors and see them more often." **Marc Zienkiewicz**

The Alberta Seed Guide 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
I - Intermediate Resistance
MR - Moderately Resistant
MS - Moderately Susceptible
S - Susceptible

TRAITS:

AM - AcreMax
Bt - ECB Resistant
HXI - Herculex I
YGCB - YieldGard Corn Borer

CL - Clearfield Production System

GENRR2Y-Genuity RR2 Yield
GENVT2P RIB - Genuity® VT
Double PRO Refuge in a Bag
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
IDC - Iron Deficiency Chlorosis
PRR - Phytophthora Root Rot
SCN - Soybean Cyst Nematode


ALFALFA

ALFALFA

Company	Variety Info	Use (Hay or Grazing)	Winter Hardiness	Merit Tested in Canada (Y/N)	Highlights
 BrettYoung brettyoung.ca 1-800-665-5015	Stronghold Tap Root	Hay	Excellent	Y	High yield and quality Great choice for dairy producers Excellent disease resistance
 Proven SEED CPS Canada provseed.ca 	Spredor 5 Creeping Rooted Medium to Upright	Hay and grazing Multiple cut	Excellent	N	Fifth generation creeping root trait Adapted as a legume pasture rejuvenation Tested and proven yields in salt tolerant trials





BARLEY







BARLEY

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 CANTERRA SEEDS canterra.com 1-877-439-7333	Canmore General Purpose 2-Row	1 day later than Xena	115% of AC Metcalfe	R to Smut MR to scald IR to FHB	Greatly improved lodging Higher percentage plump and higher test weight Shochu market opportunity

CANOLA

CANOLA

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 Bayer CropScience bayercropscience.ca 1-888-283-6847 	InVigor L241C Hybrid <i>napus</i> LibertyLink	1 day earlier than the average of the checks	102% of the checks (InVigor 5440 & Pioneer 45H29) in 2012/2013 WCC/ RRC Co-op trials	R to Blackleg R to Clubroot* *To predominant pathotypes at time of registration	InVigor L241C is the newest clubroot resistant InVigor hybrid with outstanding yield potential, strong standability and a mid maturity suited for all clubroot affected regions of Western Canada. InVigor L241C yielded 2% higher than InVigor L135C in Bayer internal trials
	InVigor L157H Hybrid <i>napus</i> LibertyLink	1 day earlier than the average of the checks	97% of the checks (InVigor 5440 and Pioneer 45H29 in 2013/2014 WCC/ RRC Trials	R to Blackleg	InVigor L157H is the newest Evolution hybrid in the InVigor Health hybrid offering. It matures a day earlier than InVigor L156H and offers growers higher yield potential plus the security of a contract premium
 BrettYoung brettyoung.ca 1-800-665-5015	6076 CR	+2.4 days of 5440 and 45H29	99% of 5440 and 45H29	R to Clubroot Pathotype 2,3,5,6,8 Intermediate Res to Clubroot Pathotype 5X R to Blackleg	New high yield clubroot-resistant hybrid Large plant with excellent harvest characteristics
	6080 RR	+0.86 days of 5440 and 45H29	108% if 5440 and 45H29	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	Mid maturity hybrid with excellent yield potential A more compact plant with excellent standability and harvest Adapted to all canola production zones
 CANTERRA SEEDS canterra.ca 1-877-439-7333	CS2000 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR	Mid	105% of 45H29	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt R to Clubroot	High yielding hybrid with best available clubroot resistance Resistant to clubroot pathotypes 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and intermediate resistance to 5X
	CS2100 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR	Long	110% of 45H29 in Long Zone	Multigenic R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	High yielding hybrid with multigenic resistance to blackleg and higher observed pod shatter tolerance Resistant to blackleg pathotype groups 2, 3, 4 & T
	CS2200 Hybrid <i>napus</i> CL	Mid-Long	101% of 45H29	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	High yielding non-GMO hybrid with good standability and R to blackleg

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 Cargill Canada 1-888-855-8558 	VICTORY V-Class V12-3 Hybrid <i>napus</i> GENRR	1/2 day earlier than checks* *Co-op checks 5440 and 45H29	103% of 45H29 ¹ ¹ First year co-op trials (all-zones), 2014	Multi-genic blackleg resistance delivering an R rating R to Clubroot R to Fusarium Wilt	NEW VICTORY® V12-3: The first specialty canola hybrid to combine clubroot resistance with multi-genic blackleg resistance V12-3 has very good early season vigour and great yield potential with excellent standability. V12-3 is part of the Cargill Specialty Canola Program delivering Higher Returns for growers. Contact your Cargill representative or independent dealer for more information
 Dow AgroSciences healthierprofits.ca 	Nexera 1020 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR	LSZ & MSZ 1.5 days earlier than 1012 RR	107% of 1012 RR	R to Clubroot R to Fusarium Wilt	Strong early season vigour Excellent standability - easy to harvest Next generation Nexera RR hybrid - improved profit and yield potential, improved disease package
	Nexera 2022 Hybrid <i>napus</i> Clearfield	LSZ & MSZ	108% of 2012 CL	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	Multi-genic blackleg resistance Excellent standability - easy to harvest Highest yielding CL hybrid in Dow AgroSciences comparison trials
	Nexera 1022 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR	LSZ & MSZ	104% of 1012 RR	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	First Nexera RR hybrid with multi-gene blackleg resistance Strong early season vigour
 Proven Seed / CPS Canada provenseed.ca 	PV 533 G Hybrid <i>napus</i> GENRR	Mid	104% of DKL 74-44 BL	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	High yield Very strong blackleg resistance Excellent standability
	PV 200 CL Hybrid <i>napus</i> CL	Mid	104% of VR 9560 CL	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	High yield World class standability Leader in Clearfield segment
	PV 580 GC Hybrid <i>napus</i> GENRR	Mid	97% of PV 530 G	R to Clubroot R to Fusarium Wilt	First true multigenic clubroot resistant variety High levels of resistance to clubroot pathotypes 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 and newly emerged pathotype 5X Excellent alternative disease package for clubroot management





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Midge tolerant wheat protects your crop against devastating pest damage, but it's up to you to protect the technology. The Stewardship 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 proper level, preventing build-up of resistant midge. Without the refuge, we risk losing the one and only tolerant gene. There is no plan B.

Protect this important tool. Plan for high yields and quality grades for years to come. Contact your retailer or visit www.midgetolerantwheat.ca.

CANOLA

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 DuPont Pioneer pioneer.com/canada (306) 385-3001	46M34 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR	Mid Maturity	101% of Pioneer® hybrid 45H29 in straight cut, Proving Ground™ grower managed field trials across Western Canada in 2015	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt R to Pod Shatter and Pod Drop	New hybrid with built-in resistance to pod shatter and pod drop - contains the Pioneer Protector HarvestMax trait Excellent early growth, great standability and high yield potential Available exclusively from Pioneer Hi-Bred sales reps
	45CS40 Hybrid <i>napus</i> RR/SCL/CR	Mid Maturity	101% of Pioneer® hybrid 45H29 in Proving Ground™ grower managed field trials across Western Canada in 2015	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt R to Sclerotinia R to Clubroot	New hybrid with built-in resistance to clubroot and sclerotinia - contains the Pioneer Protector Plus traits Excellent early growth, great standability and high yield potential Available exclusively from Pioneer Hi-Bred sales reps
  DEKALB DEKALB.ca 1-800-667-4944	75-45 RR	-1 relative to 74-44 BL	100 % of L130* 107% of 45S54* *Monsanto's 2014 field scale trials	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	Unique combination of early maturity and high yield potential Fits very well in short season zones like Alberta Similar standability to 74-44 BL
	75-65 RR	0.8 relative to 74-44 BL	99% of L252* 103% of 45S54* *Monsanto's 2014 field scale trials	R to Blackleg R to Fusarium Wilt	Strong agronomic foundation and improved pod integrity that offers the option for straight cutting Dark seed coat and is slightly later maturing than 74-44 BL Strong yield potential
 Syngenta SyngentaFarm.ca 1-87-SYNGENTA	SY4105 RR	Mid- season		R to Clubroot	Delivers excellent early-season vigour with strong yield performance
	SY4166 RR	Mid-to- long		R to Blackleg	Newest Genuity Roundup Ready canola hybrid from Syngenta Good early season vigor and high-end yield potential Multi-geneic blackleg resistance

CORN

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 BrettYoung brettyoung.ca 1-800-665-5015	E46J77 R GT Hybrid Grain and Silage	2150	Excellent	GT Tolerant Smut Tolerance to Goss's Wilt	An early maturing hybrid with the Agrisure GT trait for the early corn production areas A dented kernel with a very strong stalk
 Dow AgroSciences dowseeds.ca	DS80A27 Grain Corn	2300 CHU	Excellent	SmartStax	New genetics with excellent top end grain yield, strong emergence and early season vigour for cool conditions
	4085 Grain Corn	2275 CHU		Herculex Xtra RR2	Strong early season vigour and emergence for cold wet soils, early flowering with hard textured grain for northern adaptation
	TMF86H77RA Silage Corn	2550 CHU		SmartStax Refuge Advanced	Consistent yield, good digestibility, high tonnage with excellent starch scores, semi-flex ear provides flexibility across variable plant densities, widely adapted for variable soil types
	TMF91Q25 Silage Corn	2750 CHU		SmartStax	Very tall robust plant with new leafy genetics, nice ears with adequate husk coverage and excellent disease scores
 PRIDE Seeds prideseeds.com 1-800-265-5280	A4199G2 RIB GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2175 CHU	Excellent grain yield	GENVT2P RIB R to ECB	Genuity® VT Double PRO RIB® hybrid delivering above ground insect control. Very early season grain corn hybrid. Strong agronomics with very rapid emergence and strong spring vigour. Features early flowering. Refuge in the bag that provide enhanced trait protection with the benefit of automatic refuge compliance

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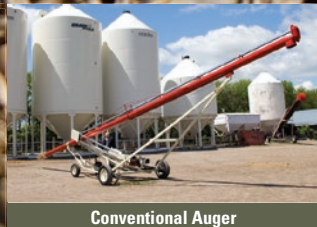
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Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 <p>PRIDE Seeds prideseeds.com 1-800-265-5280</p>	A5433G3 RIB GM Hybrid Feed	2325-2475 CHU	Excellent tonnage, digestibility and energy	GENVT3P RIB R to ECB	High yielding silage choice Genuity® VT Triple PRO® RIB Complete® PRIDE G3 hybrid delivering above and below ground insect control. Provides high biomass and outstanding starch levels. Excellent drought and stress tolerance. Early flowering for maturity rating. Outstanding emergence, early seedling vigour, standability and health. Refuge in the bag that provide enhanced trait protection with the benefit of automatic refuge compliance
 <p>DuPont Pioneer pioneer.com/canada (306) 385-3001</p>	P7005AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2000	5.3 bu/ac increase over Pioneer® hybrid P7213R across 27 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	Earliest corn hybrid that yields, manages harvest timing and provides built-in protection against corn borer Optimum® AcreMax® corn hybrid for ultimate simplicity - no separate refuge required Adaptable for areas with lower heat unit potential Excellent yield potential, good test weight scores and husk cover
	P7202AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2050	5.9 bu/ac increase over all competitor corn hybrids in 26 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	Ultra early corn hybrid with corn borer protection built for Western Canada Optimum® AcreMax® corn hybrid for ultimate simplicity - no separate refuge required Produces large kernels and better test weights Adaptable for areas with lower heat unit potential
	P7211HR GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2050	2.1 bu/ac increase over all competitor corn hybrids in 34 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	HX1, LL, RR2	High yielding corn with corn borer protection Produces large kernels and better test weights
	P7632AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2225	5.5 bu/ac increase over competitor corn hybrids with 61% wins, across 62 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	Adaptable for areas with lower heat unit potential Ultimate simplicity for the grower, no separate refuge required, technology in the bag Good stalk strength and excellent root strength for ease of harvest
	39V09AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2275	3.2 bu/ac increase over Pioneer® hybrid 39D97 competitor corn hybrids across 7 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	Optimum® AcreMax® corn hybrid with high yield and strong Goss's wilt resistance Ultimate simplicity for the grower, no separate refuge required, technology in the bag Very good drought tolerance Good root strength for improved standability and ease of harvest
	P8387AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2500	3.4 bu/ac increase over all competitor corn hybrids, 67% Wins across 3 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015).	AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	High yielding corn with strong Goss's Wilt resistance for high heat unit potential areas Ultimate simplicity for the grower, no separate refuge required, technology in the bag Choice of harvest management - silage or grain corn hybrid
	P8542AM GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2600		AM, HX1, LL, RR2, YGCB	High yielding silage corn hybrid for Western Canada Ultimate simplicity for the grower, no separate refuge required, technology in the bag Very good root strength and average stalk strength for improved standability and ease of harvest
 <p>DEKALB DEKALB.ca 1-800-667-4944</p>	DKC 23-17 RIB	2075 CHU		GENVT2P RIB	Early flowering, early maturing Excellent harvest appearance and agronomics; fast drydown Brings improved yield potential to its maturity zone

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 DEKALB DEKALB.ca 1-800-667-4944	DKC23-21	2075 CHU		RR2	Excellent early cold emergence and vigour Above average plant health and disease tolerance Very good test weight
	DKC 32-12 RIB	2450 CHU		GENVT2P RIB	Top end yield potential Improved agronomics over existing offerings in the same RM and a shorter stature Good ear flex and performance under drought stress Good test weight and grain quality
 Maizex Seeds Inc.	MZ 1610R Silage/Grain	2100CHU (71RM) Silage	Very Good	RR2	Early flowering hybrid results in rapid grain setup Industry leading early maturity Outstanding seedling vigour
	MZ 1625R Silage/Grain	2200CHU (74RM) Silage	Excellent	RR2 Roundup Tolerant	Leading agronomics Tall, robust plant type Impressive yield potential
	LF 730CBR Silage	2300CHU (74RM) Silage	Exceptional	Genuity VT Triple Pro	Consistent industry leading yield potential Unmatched early vigour combined with early flowering Rapid grain setup for impressive starch values
	LF 804CBR Silage	2450CHU (80RM) Silage	Very Good	Genuity VT Triple Pro	Early grain setup Tall, robust plant type Aggressive spring vigour

CORN

FLAX					
Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 CANTERRA SEEDS canterra.com 1-877-439-7333	CDC Neela	+1 day to Bethune	105% of Bethune		Excellent yield potential compared to Bethune Significantly higher iodine value than Flanders and Bethune

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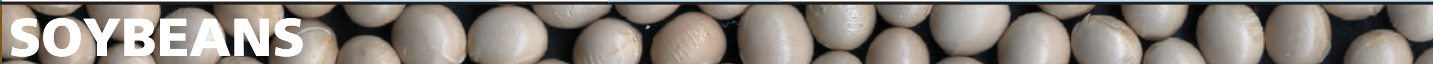
RYE



FALL RYE

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 FP Genetics fpgenetics.ca 1-877-791-1045	Bono Hybrid	1.3 days later than Prima	163% of Prima		20 cm shorter than Prima High falling number Excellent winter survival



SOYBEANS



SOYBEANS

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
 BrettYoung brettyoung.ca 1-800-665-5015	Notus R2	2300 CHU 00.1 Rel Mat	Excellent	Tolerant to IDC Rps1c gene for PRR Good tolerance to White Mould	A new early maturity soybean Excellent yield and maturity combination Excellent disease and stress tolerance
 NorthStar Genetics northstargenetics.com (204) 262-2425	NSC WATSON RR2Y	2225 CHU	Excellent	Excellent IDC tolerance VG White Mould resistance	Exceptionally early, Relative maturity 0007 Exceptional early season vigour and very good bottom pod height Relatively tall stature, forms abundant cluster pods. Many pods having 4-5 seeds
	NSC GLAD-STONE RR2Y	2375 CHU	Excellent	Excellent IDC tolerance VG White Mould resistance	Introduced last year, was limited due to seed availability, will be available wide-scale this year Relative maturity of 004. Extremely aggressive growth habit forming a very branchy plant, well suited for wider row spacing (20 inches & greater) commonly found on modern planters If solid seeded with an air seeder (12" row spacing or less) a lower seed rate is recommended (180,000-190,000 seeds per acre) to allow it to fill out properly. In demonstration plots, has shown to be a top yielder under a wide range of environmental conditions
 DuPont Pioneer pioneer.com/canada (306) 385-3001	P006T78R GM Hybrid Food/Feed	2425	Pioneer® variety P006T78R was 2.0 bu/ac higher with 69% Wins over Pioneer® variety 900Y61 across 52 Proving Ground™ large scale field trials in Western Canada (2014-2015)	Glyphosate Tolerant 1C phytophthora resistance	New early soybean with excellent yield potential and very good harvest standability Excellent early emergence for better ground cover Very good white mold tolerance for disease protection against a yield robbing disease
 DEKALB DEKALB.ca 1-800-667-4944	24-12 RY	2425 CHU		GENRR2Y	Strong iron chlorosis tolerance Good field tolerance to phytophthora root rot Well-suited to all row widths and soil types
	25-11 RY	2500 CHU		GENRR2Y	Above-average white mould and iron chlorosis tolerance Best-suited for heavier soils Fits well in no-till systems
 Syngenta SyngentaFarm.ca 1-87-SYNGENTA	S0009-M2	2275 CHU	Yield results forthcoming	Rps6 gene for Phytophthora root rot field tolerance Very good white mould tolerance Very good IDC tolerance	The first triple zero (000) maturity group soybean variety from Syngenta Very good disease package
	S007-Y4	2350 CHU	SK – 35.4 Bu/Ac AB – 63.5 Bu/Ac (2014 Western adaptation trial)	Very good IDC tolerance Strong Phytophthora root rot field tolerance with Rps1c gene Very good Sclerotinia white mould resistance	Excellent disease package High yields, strong emergence Broad adaptability

WHEAT

Company	Variety Info	Maturity	Yield	Disease/Pest Resistance	Highlights
MASTIN SEEDS Mastin Seeds mastinseeds.com (403) 556-2609	Go Early CWRS	-2 days CDC Go	105% CDC Go	I to Stripe Rust R-I to Stem aand Leaf Rust R to Common Bunt	Large kernels
Proven[®] SEED CPS Canada provenseed.ca Crop Production Services 	5605HR CL CWRS	Equal to AC Barrie	106% of AC Barrie	I/MR to FHB R to Leaf Rusts	Heavy bushel weights Clearfield weed management system Good fit where complex field conditions exist
	CDC Titanium CWRS	1 day earlier than AC Barrie	103% of AC Barrie	Midge Tolerant MR to FHB R to Stripe Rust	Highest FHB rating of all midge tolerant varieties Improved standability compared to others in class Excellent and flexible choice without sacrificing yield
 CANTERRA SEEDS canterra.com 1-877-439-7333	Thorsby	- 4 days Carberry - 1 day Harvest	106% AC Barrie	R to stripe rust & leaf rust MR to stem rust I to FHB	Excellent yield potential with earlier maturity Higher test weight and thousand kernal weight

WHEAT

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Delivering More Choice to the Marketplace

The Prairie Grain Development Committee supported the registration of more than 30 wheat, rye and triticale varieties, adding more choice in the marketplace for farmers.

THIS year the Prairie Grain Development Committee met Feb. 23-25 in Banff, Alta., to review new cultivars and put forth those that will deliver benefits to farmers or end-users.

PGDC is comprised of four independent recommending committees responsible for the testing, evaluation and recommendation of grain crop candidate cultivars for registration in Western Canada. These include the Wheat, Rye & Triticale Committee, the Oat & Barley Committee, Pulse & Special Crops Committee and the Oilseeds Committee.

The annual PGDC meeting serves as a forum for the exchange of information relevant to the development of improved grain cultivars for the western Canadian prairies.

The Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye & Triticale (PRCWRT) consists of three evaluation teams focused on agronomy, disease and end-use quality.

"There were a record number of lines supported at the meeting this year," says Curtis Pozniak, PRCWRT chair.

In total, 35 cultivars were considered of which 17 (full and interim) were automatically supported. The remaining cultivars were considered by the Cultivar Voting Panel. Two of the 35 cultivar lines put forth were not supported for cultivar registration.

"The increased number of cultivars supported this year will provide farmers with a greater choice of cultivars that are best

suited to their production systems and unique environmental conditions," Pozniak says.

Fourteen cultivars were put forth and supported for full registration by all three evaluation teams – agronomy, disease and end-use quality. These include, but are not limited to, Canadian Western Red Spring varieties BW965 and BW966, both put forth by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Semi-arid Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC) in Swift Current, Sask. Also part of this mix is T235, a spring triticale from Seed-link in Lindsay, Ont., and RT209 and RT210, both fall ryes from KWS Lochow GMBH in Einbeck, Germany. Canada Western Amber Durums included DT577, DT578 and DT579 put forth by the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at the University of Saskatchewan, and DT856 put forth by AAFC SPARC.

Pozniak adds that this was the second year the committee implemented its revised operating procedures by which a cultivar voting panel, comprised of 23 members, considered candidate cultivars not automatically endorsed by the three evaluation teams. An additional 11 varieties were supported for registration after the variety was presented and voted upon by the PRCWRT cultivar voting panel.

The voting panel consists of seven members from each evaluation team plus one representative each from the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and the Canadian Seed Trade Association,



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which helps to ensure balanced representation of entire value chain when looking at new cultivars.

Pozniak says that the committee also considered a number of cultivars for interim registration, most notably for the cultivars of Faller and Prosper. "This required the PRCWRT to set aside our operating guidelines to allow subjective assessment of these cultivars, which provide 'niche' value," he says. "This supports the flexibility of our current operating procedures."

Interim Registration

Faller, a variety put forth by North Dakota State University Research Foundation and Seed Depot Corp. — the exclusive licensee and distributor in Canada — received a three-year interim registration. Faller was previously part of a closed loop intellectual property program in Manitoba. This interim registration will enable them to expand market development. The foundation also introduced its sister variety, Prosper.

The cultivar voting panel also supported interim registration for W530, an experimental hard white winter wheat, designed for use in the Asian market for steamed buns. Bred by R.J. Graf of AAFC at the Lethbridge Research Centre, this particular variety has exhibited great load quality, functionality and produces a very white flour.

Belvoir and Sparrow, both wheat varieties that fall into the Canada Western General Purpose class, also received interim registration and can be used in the ethanol, livestock and general purpose markets. These two varieties demonstrated higher yields and are later maturing. FP Genetics' Elgin ND, a Canadian Prairie Spring Red wheat, also received interim registration.

Oilseeds

The Prairie Recommending Committee for Oilseeds reviewed eight flax varieties, and all eight were recommended for registration — five brown varieties and three yellow varieties. One yellow variety, Omega, was put forward for interim registration. Two brown mustards and one oriental mustard were recommended for registration. Reports suggest the biggest challenge for the PRCO will be the number of co-op trials conducted moving forward. AAFC and Crop Production Services are pulling their breeding programs during the next two years, which leaves only the Crop Development Centre. The idea is to reduce the number of co-op trials from three to one, meaning the brown, yellow and Northern trials will likely be combined into one. Multiple sites would still exist but the number of independent co-op trials and check varieties would be reduced. **Lorena Pahl and Julie Deering**



For a full listing of all varieties recommended at the PGDC meetings earlier this year, visit the new seed.ab.ca.

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Fighting for Forage Seed

Heather Kerschbaumer didn't plan on being a seed grower, never mind representing the Canadian forage seed industry. Now she's doing both.



Heather Kerschbaumer and her husband John operate Golden Acre Seeds in Fairview, Alta. She's also president of Forage Seed Canada.

HEATHER KERSCHBAUMER is the president of Forage Seed Canada (FSC), a national voice representing all grass seed and legume seed producers in the country.

She also grows conventional and organic pedigreed seed with her husband John. Together they own Golden Acre Seeds in Fairview, Alta., growing seed for brome grass, creeping red fescue, crested wheatgrass, orchardgrass, and alfalfa.

Add it up and it's a tall order for someone who didn't plan on being in agriculture in the first place.

"I didn't go to school for agriculture. My husband is a third-generation farmer, and when I married him I just sort of found myself in the middle of it," she says.

Golden Acre Seeds is about 8,500 acres in size, split evenly between organic and conventional seed production. They also clean forage seed, a business they've built over the years. They're currently doubling the size of the plant due to high demand.

"It will be like a brand new plant again and should be back in operation by the end of the year," she says. "Every time you build them, you get a little wiser and make it a little better."

Now 54, she sees a bright future ahead for forage seed in Canada, but that future won't come without a fight. It's a major reason she assumed the role as president for Forage Seed Canada.

"The more involved you get and the more knowledge you gain, the more committed you become," she says.

Getting Respect

According to Kerschbaumer, the Canadian forage seed industry is beginning to command the respect it deserves. But it wasn't always that way.

"Back before we even had AgriStability, there were times where disaster payments were paid out to spice people, the ginseng guys, for crop acres, but nothing for forage seed. We wondered why everyone else got these payments, but someone who had creeping red fescue or brome grass acres never got anything. Anyone with alfalfa seed never got anything," she says.

"The reason was we were lumped in as 'forage' and not considered to be on the seed side of things. We approached the province and federal government and they said, 'Get yourself a national voice and come to the table.'"

In 2007, FSC was born. It is currently made up of five provincial seed associations, including the Alberta Alfalfa Seed Commission, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Saskatchewan Leafcutter Association, Manitoba Forage Seed Association, and Peace Region Forage Seed Association.

FSC represents Canadian forage seed producer's concerns regarding all national forage seed issues. One of the initial projects undertaken by FSC was to put forage seed growers on the radar of the federal government. One big issue was the above-mentioned Grains & Oilseeds Payment Program (GOPP) payments that forage seed producers in Canada missed out on for years.

Most recently, one issue has come to the top of FSC's agenda — genetically modified alfalfa. Although Roundup Ready alfalfa has been approved for sale in Canada, Forage Genetics International — the company that markets the product — is holding off on a Canadian commercial release. Although some small-scale trials are underway in Eastern Canada, FSC wants to keep

Western Canada free of GM alfalfa so as not to lose export markets that don't want any GM materials present in hay or seed shipments.

"People often say, 'I don't see the problem with this. It's coming, it's scientifically proven to be safe, there's all kinds of documentation that says it's not any substantially different than regular alfalfa, so why aren't we at the forefront of this and being accepting of it?'" Kerschbaumer says.

"Why would we want to be first when the rest of the world says they don't want it? The rest of the world is going the other way. We need to protect the integrity of our alfalfa until such a time that the rest of the world accepts it. In our opinion, coexistence is impossible."

For Kerschbaumer, the effort to keep Western Canada free of GM alfalfa is just another way of defending the industry she has grown to love.

"If we get everyone on-side, anything is possible," she says. "The more involved you get and the more knowledge you gain, the more committed you become."

A Face for Forage Seed

Kerschbaumer is helping put a face on a forage seed industry that is often not given as much attention as other sectors. Forage seed producers face unique challenges, she says, and having a national voice helps put those challenges in the spotlight.

"The reason we have so many provincial forage seed associations is so we can fund research on our own crops. In general,

the big companies don't bother with these little crops. While they spend money testing new chemicals on wheat and canola, we have to pay for our own research on whether it will work on forage crops," she says.

"The various forage seed associations pay for their own research and apply for matching funds to try and expand the amount of research they can do. They have to do their own testing and apply for minor use registrations, and hire someone specific to do that job."

Despite the challenges that come with being in the forage seed industry, Kerschbaumer says she enjoys meeting new people and being involved in an industry as varied as forage seed. She encourages farmers to use only high-quality pedigreed seed that meets — if not exceeds — the standards set for certified seed, especially when it comes to alfalfa and fears of contamination.


"In most cases we encourage people to use certified seed, but when it comes to the GM alfalfa issue, it's got me convinced that where we're going to bring contamination in is going to be from certified seed that's being brought in from growers who aren't paying close attention," she says.

"Here in the Peace region we're advising people to buy your seed locally from the Peace."

She adds that as the profile of the sector is raised, the quality of forage seed increases as well.

"I think there's still a light at the end of the tunnel, and that's why I keep on going."

Marc Zienkiewicz



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PEDIGREED SEED PRODUCTION IN 2015 — BY THE NUMBERS

Some preliminary statistics from the Canadian Seed Growers' Association on what the year looked like for Alberta's pedigreed seed industry.

Crop Kind	2015	2014
Alfalfa	35,967	27,602
Barley	49,333	43,555
Beans	60	20
Bromegrass	3,495	3,315
Clover	1,536	1,285
Faba Beans	5,363	6,210
Fescue	7,756	4,952
Flax	8,346	7,493
Hemp	3,295	3,926
Lentils	2,139	1,126
Mustard	2,103	2,055
Oats	5,630	4,264
Peas	30,189	25,515
Rape	44,960	53,199
Rye	1,254	2,067
Ryegrass	680	N/A
Soybeans	588	711
Timothy	15,966	16,272
Triticale	2,171	3,317
Wheat	77,526	68,003
Wheatgrass	3,349	3,215
Minor crops	395	450
Grand Total	302,100	297,331



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- Flax

- large seed, good yield

Abarth

- Yellow Pea

- large seed, high yield



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COVER CROPS MOUNTING A COMEBACK

Cover crops are once again a cropping consideration in Alberta, thanks in part to weed and pest resistance in some plants and an increased focus on integrated farming methods.

WHAT was once a fixture in some quarters before falling into disfavour appears to have found a new generation of fans in Alberta.

Cover crops such as red top turnips, sugar beets, forage rape-seed, alfalfa, red clover and winter peas have been the subject of renewed interest across Alberta over the past several years. Cover crops can provide a number of benefits including reduced wind and water erosion, improved soil quality and a reduction in weeds, diseases and insects.

While cover crops have been utilized for centuries, there was a marked decline in their use with the introduction of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. The recent increased attention in cover crops has been thanks in large part to the development of pest and weed resistance issues in some plants and an increased interest in integrated farming systems that include both synthetic and biological elements.

“Yeah, there has been more interest the last five years or so I would say. Every year we’ve done more and more cover crops,” says Greg Stamp, a seed grower with Enchant, Alta.-based Stamp Seeds.

“I think people are just looking to get that extra use out of their land if they do have empty land at some point in the year. A lot of people are also looking at preventing erosion or improving the soil they are working without as much tillage as they might have [used] in the past.”

Patrick Fabian, president and CEO of Tilley, Alta.-based Fabian Seed Farms, says another factor in the recent resurgence of cover crops is that farmers now have far greater access to information than they used to. Thanks to the Internet, growers can now find out what has or hasn’t worked in virtually any corner of the globe, he says.

Access to Information

“We used to have [local publications] and that was pretty much it,” Fabian says. “Now we have access to what farmers are doing all over the world. A lot of these concepts and ideas are being brought up here and introduced.”

The challenge when it comes to cover crops in Alberta is most parts of the province have a relatively short growing season compared to more southern climates. Still, results to date have been promising.

Fabian says he has spoken with a number of growers across the province who have reported success with tillage radishes, sugar



The tillage radishes on the left of the card were planted Aug. 15, as opposed to the ones on the right which were planted on July 10. The early seeded ones emerged and had enough daylight to go into the reproductive stage, and the size of the roots is a clear indicator of where the energy went.

Photo courtesy Patrick Fabian



One of the most effective options for many growers is a cover crop mixture, according to seed grower Patrick Fabian.

Photo courtesy Greg Stamp

beets, red top turnips and forage rapeseed. Not only do these crops help prevent erosion and renew the soil, they also provide an excellent source of grazing for sheep and cattle, he says.

Stamp says he's received several reports from farmers in the Taber area about the success they've experienced planting late-summer cover crops for grazing after harvesting early silage crops. He noted a number of growers have also told him how planting radishes helped water to better penetrate the soil where the radishes had been planted earlier.

Careful Consideration

While cover crops can provide numerous benefits, there are several factors that growers should consider before choosing them. Fabian says those factors include soil conditions, the type of farm you have and what your overall goals for it are.

"Every farm is unique and every farm is different," he says. "We still have a lot to learn about the cover crop industry here in Alberta. Some things work well, some of them don't work well."

One of the most common errors growers make with cover crops, Fabian says, is planting them too early, which can prompt the plant to go into reproductive mode rather than winter survival mode. In the case of tillage radishes, growers were initially advised to plant them around June 21. Now Fabian's company advises growers to start planting radishes no sooner than Aug. 1. The problem was most of the preliminary data that was available was based on results from early trials in parts of the U.S. where the growing season and conditions were decidedly different than in Alberta.

Stamp cautions that cover crops might not be right for every farm operation. That's especially true for some smaller farms that may not have a sufficient pool of labour.

Helping Hands Essential

"If you are short on labour and don't have enough manpower to get the job done when you need to get it done, then that would be an issue," he says.

Another consideration when it comes to cover crops, according to Stamp, is herbicide residue from whatever you planted earlier in the season which can have a residual effect on many types of cover crops.

Fabian says one of the most effective options for many growers is a cover crop mixture. One of the most popular mixes his company sells features crimson clover, hairy vetch, forage rapeseed, red top turnip, tillage radish and sugar beets.

"What [growers] are finding is it gives a diversity for covering the soil, loosening up the compacted layer [of soil] and yet having a forage value their animals could benefit from after," he says. "It is kind of a win-win-win."

Intercropping

An increasingly popular alternative to cover crops is intercropping – the seeding of two different crops in the same field. In Alberta, it often involves corn being planted in the same plot as a crop such as radishes or peas. Some intercrops, such as legumes and cereals, can be plowed into the soil to provide nitrogen and organic matter respectively, while peas and oats can provide a nutritious greenfeed mix for livestock.

Fabian says growers need to be careful about what they decide to intercrop. In some cases, two different plants might recognize

each other as hostile competitors, or weeds, and end up destroying each other.

The upside is that intercropping, when done correctly, can provide a grower with more products that can be potentially sold, he says. In cases where one larger plant is grown with a smaller one, both can be easily cleaned out from the other.

Fabian says intercropping is often an effective strategy on organic farms where growers don't have a lot of options in terms of weed control.

His advice to growers is to start slow.

"If the client can get their feet wet with a small amount [that's great]," he says. "If it doesn't work in your area then it's not the end of the world. You didn't gamble the whole farm on it. If it does work then we can tweak it a little bit for that particular client and expand it a little bit to their comfort level." **Jim Timlick**

Basics of Intercropping

Intercropping involves growing more than one crop in the same field at the same time.

The crops may be seeded at the same time (mixed intercropping) or they may be seeded at different times (relay intercropping). Strip intercropping is a production system where different crops are grown in wide strips (usually the width of a seeder) in the same field.

Why intercrop?

1. **Stability:** Intercropping adds diversity to the cropping system and diversity tends to lead to stability, according to research done at the University of Manitoba.
2. **Reduced chemical use:** Intercropping may allow for lower input levels in a cropping system by reducing fertilizer and pesticide requirements.
3. **Overyielding:** This occurs when the yield produced by an intercrop is larger than the yield produced by the component crops grown in monoculture on the same total land area.

Recommendations

Intercropping with common annual crops is feasible and results in overyielding about 75 per cent of the time in conventional production.

The best crop combination tested in an experiment at the University of Manitoba was canola-pea, which overyielded 100 per cent of the time under conventional management.

The poorest combination was wheat-pea, which had problems with weeds and lodging.

In general, increasing the number of crops grown together resulted in better weed suppression.

Including peas in the combination increased grain protein content, resulting in price premiums for wheat.

Source: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/naturalagriculture/articles/intercrop.html>

Speak up about sustainable agriculture

According to a recent study conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, **95 per cent of Canadian producers** are taking action to protect the environment.

Contrast that statistic with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's recent survey that found the public perceives the ag industry as unsustainable and environmentally harmful and it's clear that we have a serious gap to address.

"Sustainability and the environment are not only top-of-mind issues for those that work in the industry, they are also top-of-mind topics for the consumer," says Dr. Cami Ryan, Social Sciences Lead at Monsanto Canada. "The problem is that approximately two per cent of the population in North America is responsible for farming and food production, which leads to a broader society that is largely disengaged from

(and often misinformed about) food production processes."

Dr. Ryan believes that it's more important than ever for those of us in the industry to reach out to the consumer to talk about what we're doing to produce food in a responsible and sustainable way.

"If we don't engage and actively listen, then the risk is that farmers won't have the freedom to choose the tools they want and need to grow food for you, me and the rest of the world," says Dr. Ryan. "Yes, we need to be equipped with facts and evidence, but more importantly we need to reach out to others and share our passion for food and agriculture through

personal anecdotes and stories. This is an extremely powerful, proven approach and will go a long way to bridge the current divide."

The good news is that the idea of sharing the sustainable side of agriculture is starting to catch on. Alberta producer and social media advocate Jay Schultz (@WheatlanderJay) isn't afraid to wade into discussions on sustainable ag and he encourages others to do the same.

"Agriculture is a dynamic industry and is continuously evolving. What works in one region or sector doesn't always work in another. But, one thing that we have in common is that we all want to be good stewards of the

land," says Schultz, whose wife operates the popular blog Nurse Loves Farmer. "We need to communicate that passion for what we do, coupled with a continued openness to learn and adapt. If we do this, we'll ensure increased market access and overall long-term health of the environment and our businesses."

Start talking about sustainability today. For more information and tools, check out our resources at AgMoreThanEver.ca.



Modern agriculture is all about sustainability



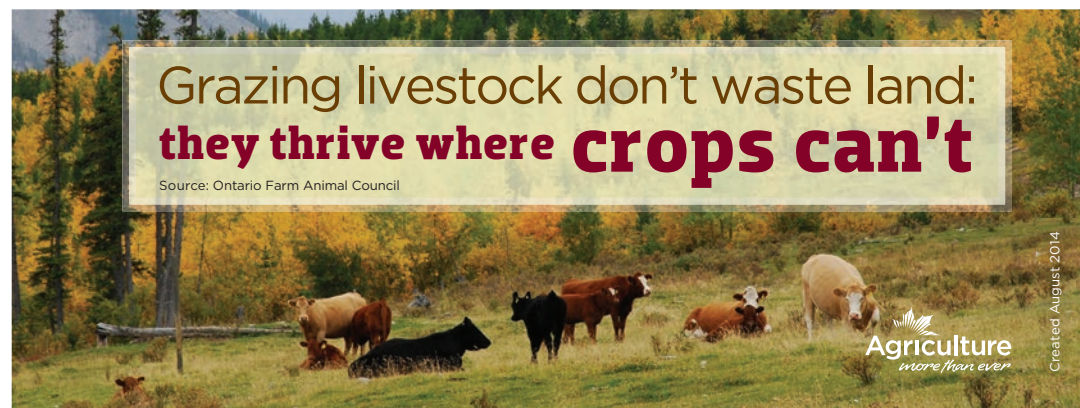
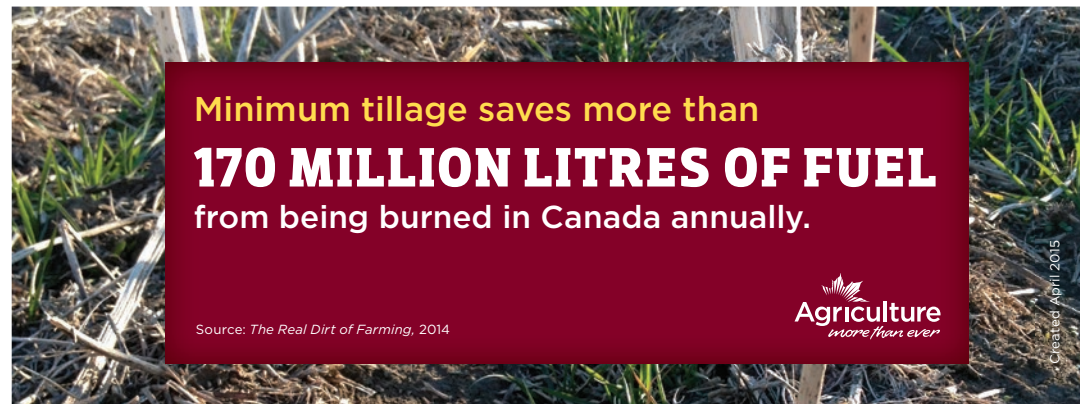
The late U.S. congressman Ike Skelton captured the link between agriculture and the environment best when he said, “Because of their connection to the land, farmers do more to protect and preserve our environment than almost anyone else. They are some of the best environmentalists around.”

While Ike’s quote has plenty of facts to back it up, most Canadians would never think about ag and environmental sustainability working together. In fact, many think the opposite. It’s our job to change that perception and show how Canadian agriculture is actually a world leader in on-farm environmental practices. Here are some numbers to use in your discussions:

As we mark the United Nations International Year of the Soils in 2015, it's a great moment to celebrate the role Canadian ag has played in decreasing soil erosion. According to Statistics Canada, more than half of all farmland in Canada is now cultivated using minimum tillage practices – drastically improving the quality of our soil in various areas of production.

Less tillage and more direct seeding on Canadian farmland has also meant we've been burning far less fuel. Add that to the rapid adoption of new technology like GPS and unmanned aerial vehicles, and we're drastically reducing our fuel emissions. Not only is this helping the environment, but it's also making our industry more efficient.

Our sustainable actions aren't just restricted to crops. Grazing livestock ensures we're using the available land in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. While crops can't grow everywhere, our animals can feed and thrive in areas where not much else can.



Canadian agriculture plays a big role in creating a more sustainable world for all of us. Let's spread the word and change people's perception about ag. Get more facts like the ones above at AgMoreThanEver.ca.



Get involved today

Ag More Than Ever is an industry cause to create positive perceptions and dialogue about the Canadian agricultural industry. It's a big job that's built on partnerships and the collective energy of everyone in the industry. Getting involved is easier than you think and we're here to help.

Visit AgMoreThanEver.ca for advocate resources and tips, and join a community of like-minded people looking to tell the real, positive story of Canadian ag.



Helpful resources on sustainability

Knowing the facts is the best way to prepare for any ag conversation that comes your way. These resources can help:

The Real Dirt on Farming

Both the website (realdirtionfarming.ca) and the publication (available for download on the site) offer excellent examples of producers as active environmentalists. Specifically, Chapter 6 in the booklet provides the facts, background and real-life stories of how agriculture is a shining example of land and animal stewardship.

Nourish – PotashCorp's website on healthy soils

To help educate the public as part of the International Year of Soils, PotashCorp has created a section on their website focused on healthy soils. Visit potashcorp.com/nourish and discover some amazing stories of producers and businesses around the world protecting their land and their soil. With the sustainable practices being implemented today in industries like agriculture, the U.N. is optimistic that the Earth's soils will provide the food we need to feed another two billion people by 2050.

We all share the same table. Pull up a chair.



“We take pride in knowing we would feel safe consuming any of the crops we sell. If we would not use it ourselves, it does not go to market.”

– Katelyn Duncan, Saskatchewan

“The natural environment is critical to farmers – we depend on soil and water for the production of food. But we also live on our farms, so it’s essential that we act as responsible stewards.”

– Doug Chorney, Manitoba



“The welfare of my animals is one of my highest priorities. If I don’t give my cows a high quality of life they won’t grow up to be great cows.”

– Andrew Campbell, Ontario



Safe food; animal welfare; sustainability; people care deeply about these things when they make food choices. And all of us in the agriculture industry care deeply about them too. But sometimes the general public doesn’t see it that way. Why? Because, for the most part, we’re not telling them our story and, too often, someone outside the industry is.

The journey from farm to table is a conversation we need to make sure we’re a part of. So let’s talk about it, together.

Visit AgMoreThanEver.ca to discover how you can help improve and create realistic perceptions of Canadian ag.



**Agriculture**
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Alberta and British Columbia Pedigreed Seed Growers Directory of Varieties Produced in 2015

Grower listings were prepared by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association for varieties eligible for sale in Canada and crops issued certificates at the time of publication. Breeding institution and distributor listings were prepared by the publisher. CSGA assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in any listings. Pedigreed class code is listed after the grower's phone number.

S=Select; F=Foundation; R=Registered; C=Certified; BI=Breeding Institution; Dist=Canadian Distributor(s)

NOTE: Varieties denoted with a * are carryover pedigreed seed.

BARLEY

AAC SYNERGY

BI: AAFC (Brandon), Dist: Syngenta, Richardson, Cargill

Ellis, Brian / Olds / AB / (403) 556-2890

Harbin, Clifford T. & Bruce C. / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2268

AC METCALFE

BI: AAFC (Brandon), Dist: SeCan Members

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Cornish, Bob / Airdrie / AB / (403) 948-3070

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Dueck, Ralph E. & Brent / Olds / AB / (403) 556-2602

Eliason, Bruce W. / Wrentham / AB / (403) 222-2258

Foster's Seed & Feed Limited / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-2107

Jacula, Dean S. & Shawn D. / Vermilion / AB / (780) 581-9011

Kapitski, Lawrence / Andrew / AB / (780) 365-2134

King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330

Kopjar, Gerald M. / Rowley / AB / (403) 368-2409

Limoges, Richard / McLennan / AB / (780) 324-2335

Lindholm, Craig & Stevan & Dane & Luke / New Norway / AB / (780) 352-3240

Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & Douglas / Lomond / AB / (403) 792-3696

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Murray, Bruce & Wesley / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9389

Nemetz, Charlie & Jerritt & Lewis & B. / Stettler / AB / (403) 742-0436

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Strain, Arthur George / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2227

Svanes, Ronald J. / Picture Butte / AB / (403) 317-0981

Svean, Alan Carl & Scott / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2578

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Wood, Robert & Patricia & Marshall / Bowden / AB / (403) 224-3928

AC ROSSER

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AMISK

BI: FCDC (Lacombe), Dist: SeCan Members

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Kittle, James W. & Andrew / Viking / AB / (780) 336-2583

Mans, John / Nobleford / AB / (403) 824-3585

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Witdouck, Dale / Iron Springs / AB / (403) 738-4395

BENTLEY

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 Dyck, Heinz W. & Colin & Alan & Kelton / Rosemary / AB / (403) 378-3321 R
 Haney Farms / Picture Butte / AB / (403) 738-4517 C
 Jonk, Nicholas / Westlock / AB / (780) 349-5458 R C
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 Lopushinsky, Julian / Bruderheim / AB / (780) 796-2048 C
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 Nanninga, Justin / Neerlandia / AB / (780) 674-3822 C
 Schmermund, Donnie / Sturgeon County / AB / (780) 967-2850 C
 Strain, Arthur George / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2227 S F
 Witdouck, Dale / Iron Springs / AB / (403) 738-4395 C

CARDALE

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: Seed Depot
 Crooymans, John & Joseph & Andrew / Bow Island / AB / (403) 580-7264 C
 Fabian, Patrick V. / Tilley / AB / (403) 377-2000 C
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 Van Roessel, William & Jean / Bow Island / AB / (403) 545-6018 C

CDC BRADWELL

BI: CDC, Dist: SeCan Members
 Mercer Seeds Ltd. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9736 S

CDC GO

BI: CDC, Dist: Mastin Seeds
 Brummelhuis, Tara / Vauxhall / AB / (403) 654-2734 R
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 Huvenaars, Carl / Hays / AB / (403) 725-2213 C
 Kemp, Richard L. / Red Deer County / AB / (403) 227-4836 C
 King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330 C
 Limoges, Richard / McLennan / AB / (780) 324-2335 C
 Markert Seeds Ltd. / Vulcan / AB / (403) 485-6708 R
 Metzger, Don / Three Hills / AB / (403) 572-3284 C
 Murray, Bruce & Wesley / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9389 F
 Penwest Seed / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2577 R*
 Pepneck, David / Vauxhall / AB / (403) 424-0096 C
 Schmermund, Donnie / Sturgeon County / AB / (780) 967-2850 F R
 Sich, Louis John & Ivan & Martin / Trochu / AB / (403) 442-2112 C
 Templeton, Doran & Brant / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 345-4144 C
 Weigum, Garry & Sarah / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2476 C

CDC OSLER

BI: CDC, Dist: N/A
 Hill, Gordon P. & Blair / Taylor / BC / (250) 789-3469 R C

CDC PLENTIFUL

BI: CDC, Dist: FP Genetics
 Dalton, Dennis / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2361 R
 Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036 S R C
 Hoff, Peter Edward / Gleichen / AB / (403) 734-2140 C
 Kapitski, Lawrence / Andrew / AB / (780) 365-2134 R C
 King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330 F R*
 Lindholm, Craig & Stevan & Dane & L. / New Norway / AB / (780) 352-3240 C
 Markert Seeds Ltd. / Vulcan / AB / (403) 485-6708 R
 Massey, Derwin / Stettler / AB / (403) 883-2503 C
 Sand, Ron W. & David R. / McLaughlin / AB / (780) 745-2251 F R
 Sim, Darwin & Derek / Ponoka / AB / (780) 372-2111 C
 Sleepy Hollow Seeds Ltd. / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2228 S F
 Solick, Leonard & Kelsey & Corwin / Halkirk / AB / (403) 884-2358 S F
 Victoor, Rene & Jamie / Sturgeon County / AB / (780) 459-3253 C

CDC STANLEY

BI: CDC, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc.
 Harbin, Clifford T. & Bruce C. / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2268 C

COLEMAN

BI: U of Alberta, Dist: N/A
 Hill, Gordon P. & Blair / Taylor / BC / (250) 789-3469 R
 Macyk, Don / Waskatenau / AB / (780) 358-2411 C

GO EARLY

BI: U of Alberta, Dist: Mastin Seeds
 Mastin, Robert B. / Sundre / AB / (403) 556-2609 S F
 Templeton, Doran & Brant / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 345-4144 R

HARVEST

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: FP Genetics
 Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036 R C
 Lindholm, Craig & Stevan & Dane & L. / New Norway / AB / (780) 352-3240 C
 Victoor, Rene & Jamie / Sturgeon County / AB / (780) 459-3253 R C
 Wood, Robert & Patricia & Marshall / Bowden / AB / (403) 224-3928 F R

LILLIAN

BI: AAFC (Swift Current), Dist: SeCan Members
 Hierath, Michael Wayne & Philip / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2347 C
 Sleepy Hollow Seeds Ltd. / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2228 C
 Willms, Kevin J. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2450 F

MUCHMORE

BI: AAFC (Swift Current), Dist: FP Genetics
 Chin Ridge Seeds Ltd. / Taber / AB / (403) 223-3900 R C
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 Harbin, Clifford T. & Bruce C. / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2268 C
 Kapitski, Lawrence / Andrew / AB / (780) 365-2134 C
 King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330 C
 Lindholm, Craig & Stevan & Dane & Luke / New Norway / AB / (780) 352-3240 R C
 Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & Douglas / Lomond / AB / (403) 792-3696 F
 Markert Seeds Ltd. / Vulcan / AB / (403) 485-6708 C
 Massey, Derwin / Stettler / AB / (403) 883-2503 R C
 Nanninga, Justin / Neerlandia / AB / (780) 674-3822 R
 Sand, Ron W. & David R. / McLaughlin / AB / (780) 745-2251 C
 Sim, Darwin & Derek / Ponoka / AB / (780) 372-2111 R
 Solick, Leonard & Kelsey & Corwin / Halkirk / AB / (403) 884-2358 R
 Thompson, M. Ellwood & K. / Red Deer County / AB / (403) 728-3535 C
 True Seeds Ltd. / Redwater / AB / (780) 777-5885 R C
 Victoor, Rene & Jamie / Sturgeon County / AB / (780) 459-3253 S F C

PASTEUR

BI: Wiersum Plant Breeding, Dist: SeCan Members
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 Mueller, Darcy / Three Hills / AB / (403) 820-4115 S
 Templeton, Doran & Brant / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 345-4144 C

SADASH

BI: AAFC (Lethbridge), Dist: SeCan Members
 Feenstra, Lloyd / Barons / AB / (403) 757-3737 C
 Haney Farms / Picture Butte / AB / (403) 738-4517 C
 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233 C*
 Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434 R C
 Witdouck, Dale / Iron Springs / AB / (403) 738-4395 R C
 Zwack Seed Farms / Daysland / AB / (780) 374-2450 C

SNOWBIRD

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: FP Genetics
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 Clark, Todd / Edmonton / AB / (780) 499-5060 C
 Davidson, E. Daryl & Dean / Kitscoty / AB / (780) 846-2456 C
 Foster, Norman R. / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-2107 C
 Harris, William & Linda & Thomas & Alex / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-2823 F R
 Kalinsky, Dwayne / Iron River / AB / (780) 826-4452 C
 Kapitski, Lawrence / Andrew / AB / (780) 365-2134 C
 Kittle, James W. & Andrew / Viking / AB / (780) 336-2583 C
 Limoges, Richard / McLennan / AB / (780) 324-2335 C
 Massey, Derwin / Stettler / AB / (403) 883-2503 C
 McDonald, Gerald / Co. Of Grande Prairie #1 / AB / (780) 538-3868 C
 Mracek, Stan John / Dawson Creek / BC / (250) 843-7359 R
 Nemetz, Charlie & Jerritt & Lewis & Brandon / Stettler / AB / (403) 742-0436 C
 Pare, Raymond A. / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2073 R
 Penwest Seed / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2577 R*
 Wagner, Terry & Loree / Lacombe / AB / (403) 782-2107 C
 Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617 C*

SUPERB

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: SeCan Members
 Airth, Jock & Linda / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-4372 R
 Jones, Danny / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-8089 C

SY985

BI: Syngenta Canada Inc., Dist: Cargill Ltd., CPS (Canada) inc. and Andrukow Seed
 Harbin, Clifford T. & Bruce C. / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2268 C

THORSBY

BI: U of Alberta, Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Richards, Cliff & Dan / Sexsmith / AB / (780) 766-2266 R

WHEAT - MIDGE TOLERANT

ACR: Eligible pedigreed class for crops subject to developer's post-harvest Additional Certification Requirements, such as seed testing required for varieties of midge tolerant wheat.

BW971 - BW965

BI: N/A, Dist: N/A
 Chin Ridge Seeds Ltd. / Taber / AB / (403) 223-3900 S
 Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036 S
 Sand, Ron W. & David R. / McLaughlin / AB / (780) 745-2251 S
 Sim, Darwin & Derek / Ponoka / AB / (780) 372-2111 S

CDC UTMOST - HARVEST

BI: N/A, Dist: FP Genetics
 Dalton, Dennis / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2361 R C
 Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036 R
 Markert Seeds Ltd. / Vulcan / AB / (403) 485-6708 C
 Sand, Ron W. & David R. / McLaughlin / AB / (780) 745-2251 R
 True Seeds Ltd. / Redwater / AB / (780) 777-5885 C

CONQUER - 5701PR

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Parkland Fertilizers / Wetaskiwin / AB / (780) 352-3359 C
 AgLand Seed and Chemical / La Crete / AB / (780) 928-0096 C*
 Rasmussen, Brian & Joel / Standard / AB / (403) 644-3800 F* C*

AAC TENATIOUS VB

BI: N/A, Dist: Alliance Seed
 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233 F*

SHAW - AC DOMAIN

BI: AAFC (Winnipeg), Dist: SeCan Members
 Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617 R
AAC MARCHWELL - AAC RAYMORE
BI: AAFC (Swift Current), Dist: SeCan Members
 Hierath, Michael Wayne & Philip / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2347 R

WHEAT - WINTER

AAC GATEWAY

BI: AAFC, Dist: Seed Depot
 Mercer Seeds Ltd. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9736 R
 Sleepy Hollow Seeds Ltd. / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2228 R
 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233 F
 Van Roessel, William & Jean / Bow Island / AB / (403) 545-6018 R
 Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434 R C

AC TEMPEST

BI: AAFC (Lethbridge), Dist: SeCan Members
 Murray, Bruce & Wesley / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9389 R

CDC CHASE

BI: CDC, Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Benci, Dennis / Carmangay / AB / (403) 643-2294 S F

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BI: AAFC, Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Airth, Jock & Linda / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-4372 F
 Corns, Bryan & Gary / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2464 R C
 Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & Douglas / Lomond / AB / (403) 792-3696 R

FLOURISH

BI: AAFC (Lethbridge), Dist: SeCan Members
 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233 C*

MOATS

BI: CDC, Dist: SeCan Members
 Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036 C
 Macy, Tim / Radway / AB / (780) 699-4073 C
 Mercer Seeds Ltd. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9736 C
 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233 C*
 Strain, Arthur George / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2227 C

RADIANT

BI: AAFC (Lethbridge), Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Airth, Jock & Linda / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-4372 C
 Corns, Bryan & Gary / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2464 C
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- Bayer CropScience / 1-888-283-6847 / www.bayercropscience.ca
- BrettYoung / 1-800-665-5015 / www.brettyoung.ca
- Canterra Seeds Ltd. / (204) 988-9750 / www.canterra.com
- Cargill Specialty Seeds & Oils / 1-800-323-6232 / www.victorycanola.com
- DEKALB Canada/Monsanto Canada Inc. / 1-800-667-4944 / www.DEKALB.ca
- DL Seeds / (204) 331-2361 / www.dlseeds.ca
- Dow AgroSciences / 1-800-667-3852 / www.dowagro.ca
- DuPont Pioneer / (306) 385-3001 / www.pioneer.com/canada
- Mastin Seeds / (403) 556-2609 / www.mastinseeds.com
- Proven Seed/CPS (Canada) Inc. / (306) 480-8520 / provenseed.ca
- SeCan / 800-665-7333 / www.secan.com
- Syngenta Canada Inc. / 1-877-964-3682 / www.syngentafarm.ca

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Canola Council of Canada / 1-866-834-4378 / www.canolacouncil.org
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development / 310-FARM (3276) / www.agriculture.alberta.ca
- Alberta Canola Producers Commission / 1-800-551-6652 / www.canola.ab.ca

CANOLA - NAPUS

S F R C

- 45CS40, 45CS41, 45H33, 45H76 & 46H75**
BI: N/A, Dist: DuPont Pioneer
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-6135 C
- 5525CL**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.
 BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069 C
- 5535 CL**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.
 BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069 C
- 6056CR**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.
 BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069 C
- 6074 RR**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.
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- DEKALB Brand Varieties 73-15 RR, 73-45 RR, 73-75 RR, 74-44 BL, 74-54 RR, 75-45 RR & 75-65 RR**
BI: N/A, Dist: Monsanto Canada Inc.
 Monsanto Canada Inc. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 360-8043 C
- CAFE**
BI: SW Seed, Dist: SeCan Members
 Degenhardt, Keith & Terry Lee & Kerry / Hughenden / AB / (780) 856-2383 C
 Hadland, Edward / Baldonnel / BC / (250) 789-3646 C
- CS2000**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Canterra Seeds Ltd. / Winnipeg / MB / (204) 988-9750 C
- CS2100**
BI: N/A, Dist: Canterra Seeds
 Canterra Seeds Ltd. / Winnipeg / MB / (204) 988-9750 C
- CS2200CL**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: Canterra Seeds
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Fusion

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 McDonald, Gerald / Co. Of Grande Prairie #1 / AB / (780) 538-3868 C
 Selte, Donald / Vermilion / AB / (780) 853-2484 C
 Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617 C
- InVigor Canola Varieties: InVigor 5440, InVigor L120, InVigor L130, InVigor L135C, InVigor L140P, InVigor L150, InVigor L156H, InVigor L157H, InVigor L159, InVigor L241C, InVigor L252, InVigor L261**
BI: N/A, Dist: Bayer CropScience
 Bayer CropScience Inc. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 329-0706 C
- Proven Seed Varieties: PV 530 G, PV 531 G, PV 533 G, PV 580 GC, VT 500 G, PV 200 CL, VR 9560 CL, XCEED X121 CL, XCEED X122 CL**
BI: N/A, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc
 CPS (Canada) Inc. / High River / (306) 480-8520 C
- Rugby**
BI: DL Seeds, Dist: SeCan Members
 Hadland, Edward / Baldonnel / BC / (250) 789-3646 C
 McDonald, Gerald / Co. Of Grande Prairie #1 / AB / (780) 538-3868 C
 Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617 C
- SY4105, SY4157 & SY4166**
BI: N/A, Dist: N/A
 Syngenta Canada Inc. / 1-877-964-3682 C
- VR9562GC**
BI: N/A, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-6135 C

CANOLA - RAPA

S F R C

- EARLY ONE**
BI: AAFC, Dist: Mastin Seeds
 Mastin, Robert B. / Sundre / AB / (403) 556-2609 C
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BI: AAFC, Dist: SeCan Members
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AAC BRAVO BI: AAFC (Lacombe), Dist: FP Genetics Chin Ridge Seeds Ltd. / Taber / AB / (403) 223-3900 Dalton, Dennis / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2361 King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330 Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & Douglas / Lomond / AB / (403) 792-3696 Sim, Darwin & Derek / Ponoka / AB / (780) 372-2111			R	C
PRAIRIE SAPPHIRE BI: AAFC (Morden), Dist: SeCan Members Feenstra, Lloyd / Barons / AB / (403) 757-3737 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233	S	F	R	C
TAURUS BI: N/A, Dist: FP Genetics Logan, Glenn C. & Marie & Douglas / Lomond / AB / (403) 792-3696			R	
WESTLIN 70 BI: N/A, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc. Mercer Seeds Ltd. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9736			R	C

FLAX - RECONSTITUTED	S	F	R	C
ACR: Eligible pedigreed class for crops subject to developer's post-harvest Additional Certification Requirements, such as seed testing required for varieties of reconstituted flax.				
CDC GLAS BI: CDC, Dist: SeCan Members Cailliau, John / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-3785 Corns, Bryan & Gary / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2464 Dovichak, Michael / Brooks / AB / (403) 501-5420 Dyck, Heinz W. & Colin & Alan & Kelton / Rosemary / AB / (403) 378-3321 Fabian, Patrick V. / Tilley / AB / (403) 377-2000 Hoff, Peter Edward / Gleichen / AB / (403) 734-2140 Hoffmann, Curtis / Oyen / AB / (403) 664-9617 Huvenaars, Carl / Hays / AB / (403) 725-2213 Huvenaars, John & Lisa / Hays / AB / (403) 725-2126 Jackson, Thomas / Killam / AB / (780) 385-2332 Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233				C C C C C C C C C R C

Weigum, Garry & Sarah / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2476 Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434				R C
CDC SANCTUARY BI: CDC, Dist: SeCan Members Benci, Dennis / Carmangay / AB / (403) 643-2294 Huvenaars, Carl / Hays / AB / (403) 725-2213				R C
CDC SORREL BI: CDC, Dist: SeCan Members Bright, David / New Norway / AB / (780) 855-2240 Degenhardt, Keith & Terry & Kerry / Hughenden / AB / (780) 856-2383 King, Harold & Webb, David G. / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-7330 Sendziak, Don P. & Stephen / Edmonton / AB / (780) 434-1322 Zwack Seed Farms / Daysland / AB / (780) 374-2450				R R R* C C R

ALFALFA	S	F	R	C
2010 BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069				C
3010 BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. Anderson, Stephen F. / Scandia / AB / (403) 362-5886 BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069				C C
4010BR BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069 Douglass, Leslie / Gem / AB / (403) 641-2227				C C
4020MF BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd. BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069				C
54Q14 BI: N/A, Dist: DuPont Pioneer Vanderstoel, Jeroen & Maureen / Enchant / AB / (403) 654-2653				C
55Q27 BI: N/A, Dist: DuPont Pioneer Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-6135 Witdouck, Dale / Iron Springs / AB / (403) 738-4395				C C

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BI: N/A, Dist: DLF Pickseed	
Gold Medal Seeds Limited / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-3444	C
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BI: Novaris, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc.	
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BI: N/A, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc.	
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BI: N/A, Dist: DLF Pickseed	
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BI: N/A, Dist: Gold Medal Seeds	
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BI: N/A, Dist: Quality Seeds Ltd.	
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BI: AAFC, Dist: AAFC	
Claassen, Louis & Maryden / Vauxhall / AB / (403) 654-4441	C
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BI: N/A, Dist: DLF Pickseed	
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VALID

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BI: N/A, Dist: Gold Medal Seeds

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VISION

BI: N/A, Dist: DLF Pickseed

Dyck, Daryl / Rosemary / AB / (403) 378-3804

VR TOTAL

BI: N/A, Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc.

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WL 319HQ

BI: N/A, Dist: Gold Medal Seeds

Gold Medal Seeds Limited / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-3444

WL353LH

BI: N/A, Dist: Gold Medal Seeds

Gold Medal Seeds Limited / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-3444

WL354HQ

BI: N/A, Dist: Gold Medal Seeds

Gold Medal Seeds Limited / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-3444

YELLOWHEAD

BI: AAFC, Dist: AAFC

Kerschbaumer, John A. / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-4508

BROMEGRASS

S F R C

AC KNOWLES

BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: CPS (Canada) Inc.

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 Hanson, A. Serle / Valhalla Centre / AB / (780) 358-2286

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BI: N/A, Dist: AAFC

Card, Gordon B. / Magrath / AB / (403) 758-3444

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 Noble, Robert / Manning / AB / (780) 836-2337
 Sallis, Gary / Manning / AB / (780) 836-2381

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BI: AAFC (Saskatoon), Dist: SeCan Members

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 Dynamic Seeds Ltd. / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-5435

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 Hanson, Troy / Valhalla Centre / AB / (587) 343-2286
 Kerschbaumer, John A. / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-4508
 Van Garderen, Case / Picture Butte / AB / (403) 738-4203
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BI: N/A, Dist: No Rep

Dynamic Seeds Ltd. / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-5435
 Obrigewitch, Trevor / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-4763

CICER MILKVETCH

S F R C

ARC ASPEN

BI: N/A, Dist: N/A

Andersen, Terry / Bon Accord / AB / (780) 916-5712

CLOVER

S F R C

AURORA

BI: AAFC (Beaverlodge), Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.

BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069
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BI: N/A, Dist: N/A

BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069

NORGOLD

BI: N/A, Dist: BrettYoung Seeds Ltd.

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 Hill, Gordon P. & Blair / Taylor / BC / (250) 789-3469
 Jones, Danny / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-8089
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SWIFT BI: N/A, Dist: SeCan Members Whitney, David / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-4897				C
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ALMA BI: N/A, Dist: Moore Seed Processors Inc. Moore Seed Processors Inc. / Debolt / AB / (780) 957-3964		F		C
BARPENTA BI: N/A, Dist: Union Forage Dynamic Seeds Ltd. / Fairview / AB / (780) 835-5435				C
CLIMAX BI: N/A, Dist: DLF Pickseed BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069				C
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WINNETOU BI: N/A, Dist: Parsons Seeds Ltd. BrettYoung Seeds Limited / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-3069				C
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AC SALTFLANDER BI: AAFC (Swift Current), Dist: N/A Miller, Kenneth F. / Milk River / AB / (403) 647-2127		F		C
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S	F	R	C
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CDC MARMOT

BI: CDC, Dist: N/A
Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434

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CHICKPEAS

S	F	R	C
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CDC ORION

BI: CDC, Dist: N/A
Kiffiak, Nathan John / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2338

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FABA BEANS

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CDC SNOWDROP

BI: CDC, Dist: University of Saskatchewan
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Jackson, Thomas / Killam / AB / (780) 385-2332
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Kopjar, Gerald M. / Rowley / AB / (403) 368-2409
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Pare, Raymond A. / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2073
Sim, Darwin & Derek / Ponoka / AB / (780) 372-2111
Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233
Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617

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CDC SSNS-1

BI: CDC, Dist: N/A
Plett, Donald H. / Gem / AB / (403) 641-2494

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Foster, Norman R. / Beaverlodge / AB / (780) 354-2107
Galloway Farms / Fort Saskatchewan / AB / (780) 998-3036
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Hegland, David Olaf / Wembley / AB / (780) 766-2450				C
Jackson, Thomas / Killam / AB / (780) 385-2332				C
Lindholm, Craig & Stevan & Dane & L. / New Norway / AB / (780) 352-3240	S	F	R	C
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Solick, Leonard & Kelsey & Corwin / Halkirk / AB / (403) 884-2358				C
Stamp Seeds / Enchant / AB / (403) 739-2233				C*
True Seeds Ltd. / Redwater / AB / (780) 777-5885				C
Weigum, Garry & Sarah / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2476				C
Zwack Seed Farms / Daysland / AB / (780) 374-2450				C

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BI: Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht, Dist: DL Seeds
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HEMP

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HEMPNUT

BI: N/A, Dist: N/A
Wiens, David Paul / Lomond / AB / (403) 739-3762

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LENTILS

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Kiffiak, Nathan John / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2338

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CDC IMPULSE

BI: CDC, Dist: University of Saskatchewan
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MUSTARD

S F R C

ANDANTE

BI: N/A, Dist: AAFC (Saskatoon)

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F C

CENTENNIAL

BI: N/A, Dist: AAFC (Saskatoon)

Mercer Seeds Ltd. / Lethbridge / AB / (403) 327-9736

F C

PEAS

S F R C

AAC BARRHEAD

BI: N/A, Dist: AAFC

Mueller, Richard J. & R. R. & Rosemary / Barrhead / AB / (780) 674-2595

S

AAC CARVER

BI: N/A, Dist: AAFC

Wutrich, David / Cecil Lake / BC / (250) 781-3527

S

AAC LACOMBE

BI: AAFC, Dist: SeedNet

Benci, Dennis / Carmangay / AB / (403) 643-2294
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Kiffiak, Nathan John / Foremost / AB / (403) 867-2338
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Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434
Witdouch, Dale / Iron Springs / AB / (403) 738-4395

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AAC PEACE RIVER

BI: AAFC, Dist: FP Genetics

Hadland, Edward / Baldonnel / BC / (250) 789-3646

S F R C

ABARTH

BI: Limagrain, Dist: FP Genetics

Airth, Jock & Linda / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-4372
Dalton, Dennis / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2361
Harbin, Clifford T. & Bruce C. / Rivercourse / AB / (780) 745-2268
Massey, Derwin / Stettler / AB / (403) 883-2503
Nanninga, Justin / Neerlandia / AB / (780) 674-3822
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CDC AMARILLO

BI: CDC, Dist: University of Saskatchewan

Airth, Jock & Linda / Brooks / AB / (403) 362-4372
Brummelhuis, Tara / Vauxhall / AB / (403) 654-2734
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Hill, Gordon P. & Blair / Taylor / BC / (250) 789-3469
Hoff, Peter Edward / Gleichen / AB / (403) 734-2140
Hoffmann, Curtis / Oyen / AB / (403) 664-9617
Jacula, Dean S. & Shawn D. / Vermilion / AB / (780) 581-9011
Kapitski, Lawrence / Andrew / AB / (780) 365-2134

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Pare, Raymond A. / Wainwright / AB / (780) 842-2073
Penwest Seed / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2577
Sekulic, Warren F. / Rycroft / AB / (780) 765-2234
Sendziak, Don P. & Stephen / Edmonton / AB / (780) 434-1322
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True Seeds Ltd. / Redwater / AB / (780) 777-5885
Van Roessel, William & Jean / Bow Island / AB / (403) 545-6018
Warkentin, Harold K. & Errol / Tofield / AB / (780) 662-2617
Weigum, Garry & Sarah / Three Hills / AB / (403) 443-2476
Willms, Henry & Timothy H. / Grassy Lake / AB / (403) 655-2434

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CDC DAKOTA

BI: CDC, Dist: University of Saskatchewan

Chin Ridge Seeds Ltd. / Taber / AB / (403) 223-3900

R

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ALBERTA'S agriculture industry is always on the cutting edge of technology, and the *Alberta Seed Guide* is no exception. In addition to a refreshed look, seed.ab.ca has upgraded the site to be responsive for easier viewing when you're on the go. That means you can access the *Alberta Seed Guide's* articles and search tools from your tablet or smartphone for mobile-friendly viewing.

Digital Access to ASG Evolves

The *Alberta Seed Guide* website – seed.ab.ca – has been revamped to bring you improved search tools and more convenient access than ever before.



The *Alberta Seed Guide* website has been revamped to be more user-friendly.





When you visit the new site you will see that our menu has changed – directing you to helpful tools and information for your farm. Use the Find Seed section to locate seed growers in your area and access the Seed For Sale database that can help you locate specific pedigreed seed varieties and the seed growers offering them. The Clean Seed section of the site can help you find members of the Alberta Seed Processors who offer seed cleaning, seed treating and many other useful services for your farm. Additionally we improved our digital access to Regional Variety Trial results and you can now view these online or download the results.

Produced in partnership by the Alberta Seed Growers Association (ASGA) and the Alberta Seed Processors (ASP), the *Alberta Seed Guide* strives to go beyond variety information offering in-depth articles on the issues driving change in the industry, seed and whole-farm best management practices, and new seed related products.

Via the new seed.ab.ca, get the latest content featured in our print publications, as well as online-exclusive content on your desktop computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can also continue to access digital flipbooks of our print versions as well.

You can also sign up to receive a digital version of the *Alberta Seed Guide* for free, delivered straight to your inbox.

Start surfing — visit the new seed.ab.ca and let us know what you think by using the handy contact form. We'd love to hear from you!

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New Alberta Barley GM Working to Advance Canada's Third-Largest Crop

Rob Davies sees growing opportunities for Alberta barley in international markets.

IN August, Rob Davies assumed the role of general manager of Alberta Barley.

Davies comes to Alberta Barley with a long history of experience in the agriculture business sector, including 15 years as the CEO of Weyburn Inland Terminal. His career path has provided him with a wide range of experience in both the crop inputs and grain handling industries, and also includes several terms of service with various agricultural industry boards and Government of Canada working groups.

The *Alberta Seed Guide* recently caught up with Davies for an interview on what's in store for Alberta Barley and the province's barley growers.

Alberta Seed Guide: As general manager for Alberta Barley, what are your major goals, and how do you plan to accomplish them?

Rob Davies: For over 24 years, Alberta Barley has worked on behalf of Alberta's barley farmers. As the general manager, my main goal is to ensure that Alberta Barley continues to provide value to the farmers we represent.

Research is our No. 1 way of maximizing barley's potential and varietal development is a key piece of our research strategy. We need to continue developing varieties that show yield improvements, better resistance to lodging and improved genetic disease resistance. But above and beyond this, we need to ensure these new varieties meet the needs of the industry while maintaining a good net return to our farmers.

ASG: Alberta Barley keeps farmers updated on its activities and industry developments through its blog, website and regional meetings, while keeping Canadians informed of barley's value and potential through special publications, projects and media releases. What's new and exciting from Alberta Barley that stakeholders should watch for?



Rob Davies is the new general manager for Alberta Barley.

RD: We regularly update our website, www.albertabarley.com, with interesting information including our upcoming events, commission news and projects — in fact, our website even features pages dedicated to our top priorities. On the research page you can find a comprehensive breakdown of our projects including total cost, project partners and final results.

As for upcoming events, our farmer members should be on the lookout for information about Alberta Barley's regional meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to learn new and valuable information about the industry and to see how we work for our members.

As well, we encourage farmers to attend the Alberta Barley annual general meeting this December. This unique event features an exciting lineup of speakers, more information about our work and the opportunity to network with members of the industry.

ASG: What do you feel is the biggest success the Alberta barley industry has had in the past year, and how was it achieved? What lessons can the industry learn from that going forward?

RD: At our 2014 annual general meeting a resolution, proposed by an Alberta barley farmer, was approved to explore the possibility of a malt barley insurance program under AFSC. Over the past year we have worked with AFSC and malting companies to design such a program and it is currently in the next stage of review. The success of this resolution goes to show the value of collaborating with all levels of the value chain.

ASG: What do you feel are the biggest challenges the Alberta barley industry faces at the moment in regard to market development, and what role do you see Alberta Barley playing in overcoming them?

RD: There is a strong demand for barley, we know that, but we need to ensure we are growing varieties that strike a balance between the demand of end users, such as brewers and feedlots, and the needs of farmers. By collaborating with the entire value chain we can help develop varieties that fit the characteristics demanded by the end user and the agronomic qualities that fit the needs of the farmers. This will ensure profitability for both the end users and our farmer members.

ASG: What are your biggest policy concerns with regard to barley, and how do you plan to work with government and industry to ensure barley producers benefit from good policy?

RD: We see growing opportunities for Alberta barley in international markets, but to meet this demand we need to ensure our transportation system can move our grain in a cost-effective and

timely manner. We need a sustainable transportation system to meet the growing North American and international demand for barley and our increasing crop yields.

Alberta Barley was instrumental in shaping the legislation for Bill C-30, the Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act. We met with the Government of Alberta's rail transportation task team and with representatives of the Canada Transportation Act review panel. Alberta Barley is committed to ensuring that this issue remains a priority for industry and government.

ASG: In regard to research and development, where do your interests lie, and why? What excites you most about current research projects being conducted? How can the Alberta research pipeline be strengthened to ensure Alberta remains a leader in the field?

“Research is our No. 1 way of maximizing barley’s potential and varietal development is a key piece of our research strategy.”

—Rob Davies

RD: Alberta Barley's ongoing research projects are focused in the areas of feed, malt, food, agronomy and bio-products. By investing in these project areas, we can improve the production of barley and barley products, while increasing the net return to our farmers. That being said, we want to increase our collaboration with end users in the livestock and malt industries to develop varieties that not only provide improved returns to farmers, but also meet the needs of the end user.

Currently we are involved in a variety of feed focused projects. These projects are an exciting opportunity to show how feed barley improves the end use carcass characteristics in livestock such as beef and swine.

Increased research funding will help promote long-term sustainable growth, which is why we need further investments from the industry and the provincial and federal governments.

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Liberals Promise to Defend Supply Management, Invest \$100 Million in Ag Research

A Liberal majority government was elected in the Oct. 19 federal election. At press time, the Canadian agriculture industry was waiting to see what a Grit government will have planned in terms of its agriculture policy and who the country's next agriculture minister would be.



Here are a few snapshots of what was included in the Liberal campaign platform in regard to Canadian ag, courtesy of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture:

—To attract investment and create good jobs in food processing, the Liberals commit to investing \$160 million, over four years, in an Agri-Food Value Added Investment Fund. This will provide technical and marketing assistance to help food processors develop new value-added products that reflect changing tastes and market opportunities.

—To support innovation in the agricultural sector, the Liberals pledge an additional \$100 million, over four years, in agricultural research. To better allocate research funding, they say they will establish a transparent process that involves food producers.

—Commit to putting up \$200 million a year for three years to help research facilities, small business incubators and exporters and invest another \$100 million a year for an industrial research assistance program.

—They noted support for the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Workforce Action Plan (developed by CFA/CAHRC)

—They pledge to continue to defend Canadian interests during trade negotiations, including supply management.



Alberta Wheat Commission Welcomes Conclusion of Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Alberta Wheat Commission issues a statement in support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which holds the potential for expanded market opportunities in key wheat export markets. AWC looks forward to reviewing the details of the agreement.

Among the 12 signatories to the TPP, three countries are major customers of Canadian wheat, three others buy

significant quantities on an annual basis and two countries are major competitors. The deal also includes countries with emerging markets that could further enhance international wheat trade.

“Japan, the United States and Mexico purchase an approximate three million tonnes combined of Canadian wheat per year, while the U.S. and Australia are major competitors in export markets such as Japan,” said Kent Erickson, chairman, Alberta Wheat Commission. “Canada could not afford to remain on the sidelines and risk losing ground in key markets.”

Japan is a premium market for Canadian wheat with average sales in excess of one million tonnes per year and as high as 1.5 million tonnes. In Japan, the TPP agreement will provide improved markets access for feed and food wheat through elimination of duties and increased quotas, Erickson said. Tariffs on wheat exports to Vietnam will be eliminated.

TPP will also provide significant benefits for other export-oriented agriculture sectors including barley, canola, beef and pork and give Canadian producers an advantage over competitors outside of the agreement, Erickson added.

The 12 signatories to the TPP are Canada, the U.S., Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. TPP countries represent over 40 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

Cargill Officially Opens Doors at Canola Processing Facility

Cargill celebrated the opening of its newest investment in Alberta this past summer — a state-of-the-art canola processing facility in Camrose, alongside Alberta farmers, industry stakeholders and dignitaries.



“This plant has the capacity to process over one million metric tonnes of canola per year and will provide Alberta canola growers with a competitive point of delivery in this region,” says Ken Stone, assistant vice president for Cargill's Canadian canola processing business.

The new Cargill canola processing facility is the first major investment in Alberta's grains and oilseed sector in 30 years, and further diversifies Alberta's agriculture sector and competitiveness in the global marketplace.

“The global demand for canola is on the rise, and we're targeting an increase to 26 million metric tonnes by the year 2025,” says Patti Miller, president of the Canola Council of Canada. “More than half of this will be processed in Canada for markets around the world. Cargill's new plant takes us a step closer to achieving this goal.”

This crush facility will also place Alberta's canola sector at a competitive advantage in the global marketplace as markets become available through the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership, according to Cargill.



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