



Seed SCOOP

SPRING
2012

President's Message



My message to you, fellow seed growers, is about change and how we deal with it—both within our industry and our own farms. I believe it was Winston Churchill who said you can take change by the hand and go with it or resist and it will reach out and snap your head off. What are some of the changes we see occurring within the business of growing seed?

We see fewer growers growing more acres of seed. CSGA statistics show membership steadily dropping but inspected acres remaining fairly constant; larger numbers of contract

growers and more acres assigned; growers seeding more varieties and the number of plots increasing. The number of registered establishments is also dropping each year. It looks like the seed business, like the general trend in farming and many sectors, is concentrating more into fewer hands. Into the future, we hear more talk of large multi-national companies like Bayer CropScience, Syngenta, Monsanto, BASF and Dow Agroscience getting into the breeding of cereal crops. At our 2011 annual meeting in Hamilton representatives from Bayer and Syngenta spoke of the investments they are making in wheat breeding and they are definitely coming forth with varieties.

Western Canada grain producers will also be seeing major changes in the way spring wheat, durum, and barley are marketed as the Canadian Wheat Board loses its monopoly on these crops. Just what impact, positive or negative, this will have on seed growers of these crops will be felt in the future.

The Board of CSGA is fully aware of the changes occurring within our industry and due diligence requires us to look at how our association and the branches might change to deal with new realities. With this end in mind, we had our first facilitated session of CSGA directors and branch executives last fall. You as members will be kept informed of possible changes through branch annual meetings and the CSGA annual meeting. We also welcome your comments and opinions on what you feel the future holds and your ideas for change. Please direct those comments to National and Branch directors and to me as your current president. Your comments are also welcome at the CSGA office, by phone, fax, email or the [feedback form](#) on our website.

Change should not be feared but looked upon as bringing new opportunities both to the seed industry in general and to you in your individual farm operations.

Gerald Girodat
President, Canadian Seed
Growers' Association

CSGA 2011 Annual General Meeting

The CSGA 2011 annual general meeting was held in Hamilton, Ontario. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the meeting. The theme of the meeting was “Speak Up” and the guest speaker presentations are available for download at http://www.seedgrowers.ca/news/current_news/news_AGMpresentations2011.asp

One resolution, the courtesy resolution thanked the sponsors, guest speakers, Ontario Branch and everyone who contributed financially and otherwise to the success of the meeting.

Honorary President

Congratulations to Gabriel Beauregard of St-Damase, Quebec, who was elected as Honorary President for a three year term. Mr. Beauregard has a solid background in agriculture and a long work experience in farm business management, specializing in field crops and greenhouse growing of fruits and vegetables. He has been involved, both socially and professionally, in various Quebec organizations, and was a member of CSGA’s Board of Directors from 1991 to 2000.

2011 CSGA Award Recipients

CSGA’s annual awards presentation was held in the Sheraton Hamilton hotel ballroom. This is an opportunity to honour and thank those members who have dedicated their lives to the Association and industry. Congratulations to the award recipients:

- Colleen Acres of Ontario, André Comeau of Québec, and Graham Scoles of Saskatchewan were the recipients of the Honorary Life Membership Award. This award is presented to persons who by distinguished services to the Association have contributed to the betterment of Canadian agriculture.
- The Robertson Associate Award was awarded to Vern Alderdice of Ontario, Jacques Beauchesne of Québec, Dan Brown of Ontario and Robert Wiens of Manitoba. This award is presented to members who have fulfilled with utmost fidelity and success their obligation to the Association.
- Award recipient pictures and biographies are available in CSGA’s 2010–2011 Annual Report posted on the website at http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/annualreports.asp



Annual General Meeting Notice

CSGA 2012 Annual General Meeting and Interprovincial
Deerfoot Inn & Casino,
Calgary, Alberta
July 10–14, 2012

“Seedology—A Wild Ride”

Please join us for some western hospitality as we get down to business at CSGA’s 2012 Annual General Meeting. 2012 also marks the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede—so hang on to your hats, it’s going to be a wild ride!! Hotel accommodations are available at \$179.00 per night + tax which includes a Stampede breakfast each morning! Please book early as space is at a premium! Phone 1-877-236-5225 with Group Code #GMSCSG12 to access our block of rooms. Further information on the hotel venue can be found at [Deerfoot Inn & Casino](#). Watch for further details!!

Getting to Know the People behind the Blue Tag

CSGA Operations & Staff

The CSGA is one of the largest national seed crop certification agencies in the world. CSGA is recognized by the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations* as the official Canadian pedigreering agency responsible for prescribing varietal purity standards and certifying seed crops for all agricultural crops, with the exception of potatoes. In 2011, CSGA issued seed crop certificates for 2,081 varieties, of 50 different crop kinds that were produced from 18,000 seed fields on over 1.1 million acres.

Overseeing the certification of over 18,000 fields per year is no small task for the CSGA Operations staff. A new season begins early each spring when applications for membership and crop inspection are pre-printed and mailed to over 4,000 seed growers across Canada.

In mid-May, completed applications for inspections of Fall seeded crops and forages begin to arrive at the office. The majority of applications are received by the end of June and early July when all applications are due. During the last two weeks of June, the Operations staff often process applications for more than 1,000 fields per day.

Processing applications for crop inspection includes the opening, sorting of applications received by mail, appraisal of each seed field on both online and hard copy applications; updating membership information; entering (keying) each field into the CSGA computer database and then pre-printing,

auditing and mailing crop inspection reports to corresponding CFIA district inspection offices. Two or three university students are hired each summer to help with data entry. Most applications are processed on the same day that they are received at the CSGA office.

By the time applications slow down towards the end of July, completed crop inspection reports are already starting to arrive. Most crop inspection reports are returned by the end of September, except soybean reports that arrive until late October. During the peak season, normally the late August until early September, the CSGA Operations staff may receive up to 800 crop inspection reports per day.

Each crop inspection report is date stamped and sorted by crop kind and then appraised by one of CSGA's three appraisers, Rene Daoust, Gail Harris and Doug Miller. If all requirements have been met, then crop report



information is keyed into the CSGA database by summer students and crop certificates can be issued. All crop certificates are audited for accuracy prior to mailing. If appraisal of the crop inspection report identifies missing information, such as previous land use, or if corrective action such as isolation is necessary, then an email or letter is sent to the grower and assignee for each field. Latona Nicholson, the Operations Administrative Coordinator, sends several thousand of these letters each year. She is also responsible for sending the letters for about three hundred fields each year that have not met CSGA certification standards and are declined pedigreed status.

You might wonder what the Operations team does during the winter. Many are surprised to learn that CSGA issues seed crop certificates every week of the year. As missing information and corrective actions are reported, crop certificates are issued.

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René Daoust has worked at CSGA for 33 years. Winter activities for René include printing and auditing crop certificates; updating age of stand calculations for perennial forage crops; preparing long service awards; managing probationary plot production; processing “Reports on Plot Production” and seed samples for Select plots; processing Foundation samples

for variety verification audit testing; updating variety description information; preparing information inserts for application packages; and issuing final notice letters for fields not yet certified at fiscal year-end.



Gail Harris joined CSGA Operations 7 1/2 years ago.

Winter work for Gail includes coordinating activities related to appeals of declined fields, processing “Refuge Declarations” for midge tolerant wheat crops; processing “Hybridity Declarations” and erucic acid test results for hybrid canola seed crops; processing “Applications for Breeder Seed Crop Certificates” including Breeder seed plots produced outside Canada; processing replies from growers; processing “Land Use Verifications” and pre-printing applications for crop inspection for the next season.



Latona Nicholson has worked with CSGA Operations for 3 1/2 years. She provides overall administrative support to the Operations team. Winter activities for Latona include mailing crop certificates; preparing letters to growers requesting outstanding information; replying to requests for additional information, applications and Breeder and

Select seed tags; archiving crop reports from previous years and updating regulations and production manuals.



Doug Miller has been the CSGA Operations Manager for the past year. As Manager of the team, Doug directs all activities related to Operations, summer or winter, and is the liaison between the Executive Director, Dale Adolphe, and the Operations team. Doug is responsible for software upgrades to the custom “Crop Certification System” software.

He is also managing upgrades to the Member’s Area of the CSGA website and the online application process. Doug prepares custom reports from the CSGA database and is also responsible for managing ISO certification of CSGA Operations.



Randy Preater, Program Manager, provides support to the Operations team by assisting with interpretations of Circular 6 regulations, developing standards for new crop kinds, managing revisions to the regulations and appraising inspection reports for specialty crops.

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CSGA's Member Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the CSGA's Member Satisfaction Survey. As a grower, your feedback is greatly appreciated. The survey can be found at the following website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2H9LYW>

Online Application Survey & Next Steps

In 2011, CSGA added a new feature to the CSGA website which allowed growers to apply online for crop inspection. To improve this online application service, the CSGA is asking growers who completed an online application in 2011 to complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R83DP77>. All growers who complete this survey will be entered into a draw for a \$25.00 Tim Horton's Tim Card. The CSGA will be using the results from this survey, along with feedback from focus groups to make improvements to our online application process.



ON THE WEB

CSGA Website: www.seedgrowers.ca

CSGA Website Members' Section (for online seed crop applications, to update your personal contact information, to view your account or crop production history): www.seedgrowers.ca/CSGAMembers

Annual Meeting Information: www.seedgrowers.ca/meetingsandevents/annual_meeting.asp

National Online Pedigreed Seed Locator: www.seedlocator.net

Listing of Organic Pedigreed Seed, Recognized Plant Breeders and Accredited Plot Producers: www.seedgrowers.ca/links

Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6) and the Notice of Changes Effective in 2012: www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification

VARIOUS UPDATES

Soybean Seed Crop Inspection Pilot Project—Southern Ontario

In 2011, a seed Industry-Government Working Group (IGWG) which included the CFIA, CSGA, CSI and CSTA developed a soybean seed crop inspection pilot project for southwestern Ontario. Private inspectors, who were employees of either Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. (in the Second party inspection model) or 20/20 Seed Labs Inc. (in the Third party inspection model), inspected, with CFIA oversight, soybean crops that were eligible to produce Certified status seed. The purpose was to evaluate second and third party inspection models. The IGWG is currently analysing results of this pilot.

Notice from AAFC



1. VARIETIES

Available for Licensing

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is pleased to announce the 2012 Variety Request for Proposal (RFP) for the sole licensing rights to market and produce pedigreed seed for each of the varieties developed through its national breeding programs and that have received support for registration.

RFP will open March 1, 2012 and close March 22, 2012

Please note: the RFP Guidelines have been revised and introduce a Proposal Submission Form. All proposals must be submitted on the Proposal Submission Form provided in Appendix B of the 2012 Guidelines for Submitting Proposals.

2. FOOD-TYPE SOYBEAN LINES

Available for Food Quality Evaluation

AAFC will also make available food-type soybean lines for testing.

3. FIELD BEAN LINES

Available for Seed Quality Evaluation

AAFC introduces a process for the evaluation of dry and processed seed traits of dry bean lines prior to a call for marketing proposals.

Dry seed traits important to end users. AAFC will give interested proponents time to evaluate dry and processed seed quality characteristics of specified lines and will

provide small quantities of seed (1 kg) for quality testing following receipt of a completed Material Transfer Agreement.

A call for marketing proposals on the lines made available for pretesting in 2012 will be made the following year (2013).

For complete details:

Visit: www.agr.gc.ca/varieties

E-mail: stephen.capelle@agr.gc.ca

Call: 1-204-984-8047

Fax: 1-204-984-4897

Write to:

Stephen Capelle,
Commercialization Officer

AAFC Cereal Research Centre
195 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2M9

PASSAGES

We would like to pay tribute to the following members who have recently passed away:

- William (Bill) Farley of Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan. Bill had over 50 years of service and received the Outstanding Service award in 1976 and Robertson Associate award in 1987. Bill held the CSGA Honorary President position from 2002–2005;
- Margaret Ruth McLaughlin, wife of the late Ed McLaughlin, Executive Director of CSGA from 1964–1981, passed away October 2;
- Gord Nesdoly, veteran Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) crop inspector from Laird, Saskatchewan;
- Donald Tait of Elrose, Saskatchewan. Donald was awarded an Honorary Life member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and the Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association. Donald had 20 years of service with CSGA;
- Ronald Tebbutt of Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Ronald was a CSGA member since 1962 and received the Robertson Associate award in 2001;
- Mario Therrien, barley breeder at the Brandon Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Station. Mario had been coordinator of the 6 row and forage barley co-op trials in Western Canada and was a regular speaker and attendee at Manitoba Branch meetings;
- Norm Travland of Coronach, Saskatchewan. Norm was a member since 1954 and received an Outstanding Service award in 1974 and a Robertson Associate award in 1994.
- John Zacharias of Victoria, British Columbia. John received a CSGA Honorary Life Membership award in 1985.
- Ernest Talbot of Bayfield, Ontario. Ernest was a member since 1965 and received an Outstanding Service award in 1984.
- Dr. Alvin Hannah of Ottawa, Ontario. Dr. Hannah received a CSGA Honorary Life Membership award in 1970.

Seed Scoop is published by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in the interest of pedigreed seed production in Canada. Material may be reprinted, however, credit to *Seed Scoop* is appreciated. To join our distribution list, please email communications@seedgrowers.ca.

Questions or Comments? Contact Us.

CSGA staff is here to help and guide you. Don't hesitate to contact us. Remember the CSGA national office operates in the Eastern Standard Time (EST) zone.

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Visit www.seedgrowers.ca/contactus/staff.asp for complete contact information for our staff members.

