



Member Proposal Brief 2025 Annual General Meeting

Proposal Title Regional Stewardship of Breeder and Foundation Seed for Public Forage Varieties

Motion That the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) formally request that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), in collaboration with Seeds Canada and CSGA, take the following action:

1. Acknowledge and document where timely and sufficient production of quality breeder seed for public forage varieties has not been achieved under the Canadian Forage Seed Project (CFSP) or its successors.
2. Where such gaps exist, that AAFC as breeder of the public varieties, assign formal custodial responsibility for the production and revitalization of Breeder or Foundation seed (as defined under the Seeds Act) to regional seed producer organizations and qualified seed growers located in areas where the crop kind is commercially successful and already supported by the technical expertise of forage seed growers.
3. That this process include clear agreements and custodianship models for:
 - Maintenance of Breeder and/or Foundation classes;
 - Access to pre-basic classes for renewal;
 - Transparent communication of stewardship status to seed sector stakeholders.
4. That the CSGA, as the national certifying body, support this regional stewardship model through:
 - Coordination with Forage and Turf Working Group (FTWG) and breeder institutions;
 - Facilitating access to class standards under Circular 6; and
 - Encouraging transparency in variety status and renewal across certification classes.

Brief Background on the Issue

CSGA Inspected Acreage Reports show Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have accounted for 100% of Canada's total 922,000 acres forages, 2018-2024. Meanwhile, average annual value of Canadian world exports of seed for sowing is \$115.4 M, not including alfalfa seed (2018 -2023 as reported by the International Trade Centre, UN COMTRADE statistics). Yet, public forage varieties continue to face stewardship gaps, particularly in the timely renewal and propagation of Breeder and Foundation seed classes. The CFSP, while foundational in promoting public variety distribution, has not consistently ensured long-term custodianship mechanisms for these crops, which are well adapted for production in Canada.

Additional Notes and Considerations

In the absence of active renewal by breeding institutions or AAFC, regional seed producer organizations—operating in the areas where these crops are successfully grown—offer a practical, transparent, and accountable pathway for maintaining varietal integrity and availability. Assigning responsibility to third party seed growers in these expert organizations strengthens Canada's seed system, aligns with established CSGA standards, and ensures that public investment in forage genetics made by these organizations continues to serve producers and seed markets alike.

Moved by: Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Seconded by: Danny Limoges

Date: June 11, 2025