



# Seed SCOOP

SPRING  
2011

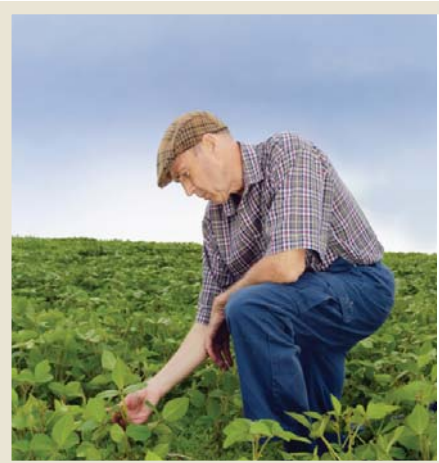
## Your First CSGA E-Newsletter

Welcome to your first CSGA e-newsletter. We hope you enjoy the new electronic distribution method. Traditionally, CSGA published Seed Scoop twice a year (each fall and spring). Using this new distribution method allows us to send information out to members when most relevant. In this regard, you can expect to receive three to four issues per year.

Feel free to forward to your friends and colleagues. Anyone wishing to be added to the distribution list should email [communications@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:communications@seedgrowers.ca).

## Soybean Seed Crop Inspection Pilot Project

As part of an Industry-Government Working Group (IGWG), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA), Canadian Seed Institute



(CSI) and Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) are exploring options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the seed certification system in Canada. In 2011, the IGWG will be conducting a research pilot project for Certified status soybean crop inspections in southern Ontario. This research pilot project will develop operating procedures and compare a second party authorized crop inspection model (where crops are inspected by the crop certificate assignee) to a third party authorized crop inspection model.

For this research pilot project, individuals who have been trained, evaluated and licensed by the CFIA will conduct seed crop inspections on a limited number of Certified soybean seed crops in the Chatham and London areas. The project builds on the current system in place for hybrid corn and hybrid canola. There

## You're Invited!

CSGA will hold its 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hamilton in Hamilton, Ontario, July 6-8, 2011. Members, company representatives and their families are all invited. More information on the Annual Meeting will be posted to our website shortly. Full program details and registration information will come to you in the spring edition of our magazine Seed to Succeed hitting mail boxes on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

are two previously authorized seed crop inspection services involved in this 2011 pilot project.

There will be no additional costs to seed growers who are selected to participate in this project. Growers will receive their crop inspection reports from the authorized inspection service once they are released by the CFIA. The CFIA will audit inspections conducted by authorized seed crop inspectors through a monitoring inspection

- *continued on page 2*

## Triffid Flax Update

The Flax Council of Canada encourages growers to ensure all planting seed has been tested for the presence of Triffid prior to seeding. Continued testing at all levels of the value chain is essential to reduce the frequency and severity of Triffid events found in the Canadian flax crop to the point where the risk to exporters and processors no longer warrants testing at the farm level.

Considerable progress has been made since the implementation of the Farm Stewardship Program to reduce both the frequency of samples testing positive for Triffid and the levels of Triffid present in those samples. This success can be attributed to the high level of cooperation achieved from all participants in the flax value chain. Flax growers have played a major role in this success by being diligent in ensuring that their planting seed has tested negative prior to seeding and that their production has been tested prior to delivery. Testing of seed reduces the risk of contaminated seed being planted. Testing of production prior to delivery allows flax containing Triffid to be diverted to markets where a low level presence of Triffid is acceptable. The best option for producers remains the planting of Certified seed tested for Triffid and shown to be negative. However, the Farm Stewardship Program allows producers to use their own farm-saved (non-pedigreed) seed for planting, provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures as those used for Certified seed.

There is no threshold level of Triffid acceptable for planting



### *Continued from page 1: Soybean Seed Crop Inspection Pilot Project*

program. As a result, the CFIA may require access to your field(s) prior to or following the authorized crop inspectors. Growers are reminded not to harvest their soybean crop until they are sure that it has met all the requirements for a CSGA crop certificate. As part of this project, the CSGA may also request, for variety verification testing, a representative seed sample from the field(s) inspected by authorized crop inspectors.

Other than this research pilot project, there will be no changes related to seed crop inspection delivery in 2011. The CFIA will continue to retain the overall responsibility for seed certification in Canada, including monitoring and audits of all seed crop inspection activities. The CFIA, CSGA, CSI and CSTA will review the results of this project and work together to determine next steps.

Thank you for your co-operation if your Certified soybean crop is selected for this research pilot project.

seed. Only planting seed that has been tested negative is to be used for seeding purposes for 2011.

The list of approved labs for Triffid testing for “Farm Saved Planting Seed” is the same as for the Certified Seed Testing Program. Laboratory submission forms for this program are available on the Flax Council website [flax@flaxcouncil.ca](mailto:flax@flaxcouncil.ca). As of January 1, 2011, approved labs are providing producers with a discount of 50% of the regular cost of testing pedigreed and farm-saved seed, up to a maximum of \$100 per sample.

The labs are reimbursed by the Flax Council, using funds provided by the Federal Government under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). At the time of delivery, in order for flax to enter the EU export pipeline, growers will be required to provide two certificates of laboratory analysis from an approved laboratory, one that verifies the planting seed tested negative and another that verifies that the production being delivered tested negative.

# Putting a Face to a Name

## National Office Staff

Nothing beats meeting a person face to face. Seeing as some of our staff, and even some of our members, don't get out to Branch and National annual meetings, here are the faces that make up the staff of this Association. Visit [www.seedgrowers.com/contactus](http://www.seedgrowers.com/contactus) for contact information.

**Dale Adolphe** is CSGA's Executive Director and reports directly to the Board of Directors. Dale represents the CSGA, Canadian seed growers, and the Canadian seed certification system on a number of external Committees in Canada, the United States, and internationally.



**Pam Coles** is CSGA's Finance and Accounting Manager. Pam manages CSGA's accounting and finances, manages the office lease, and assists members with questions relating to the payment of fees.



**René Daoust** is CSGA's Operations Coordinator. In addition to providing technical support to members, he oversees the accreditation of probation and plot growers and maintains CSGA's seed variety files. René is fully bilingual and provides technical support to our French members.



**Gail Harris** is CSGA's Operations Coordinator. In addition to providing technical support to members, Gail is responsible for processing Breeder seed crop certification applications, requests for land use



verifications and the certification of midge tolerant wheat crops.

**Caroline Lafontaine** is CSGA's Member Services Coordinator. Caroline manages CSGA's education and publicity activities, communications between the national office and our members, in addition to our newsletter *Seed Scoop*, our magazine *Seed to Succeed*, our online *Pedigreed Seed Locator*, and the CSGA website. She is fully bilingual and provides services to our French speaking members.



**Doug Miller** is CSGA's Operations Manager. Doug oversees CSGA's daily operations and works closely with members to provide technical support. He also manages the development of member section of the CSGA website and oversees CSGA's ISO certification.



**Latona Nicholson** is CSGA's Operations Administrative Coordinator. She provides support to our Operations team and is responsible for sending out crop certificates, letters, and fulfills requests for additional information, application packages and seed tags. Latona maintains our membership records and can help members update



their contact information. Latona is fully bilingual and provides French services to our members.

**Gaye O'Bertos** is CSGA's Executive Assistant. She is often the first person that greets members contacting the CSGA by phone. In addition to assisting our Executive Director, Gaye plans CSGA's annual meeting and coordinates the recognition of Plant Breeders.



**Randy Preater** is CSGA's Program Manager and manages special projects to improve seed certification in Canada. Along with our Executive Director, Randy represents, promotes and defends the rights of Canadian seed growers and the Canadian seed certification system domestically and on the international scene.



### Recent Staff Changes

Roy van Wyk, CSGA's Operations Manager, has left CSGA to become the Executive Director of the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI). We wish Roy the very best and look forward to working with him as an industry colleague. Doug Miller joins the CSGA as Operations Manager. Doug was with the CFIA where he worked as an Issues Coordinator, Seed Standards Officer, Variety Verification Technician and Plant Pathology Technician. Doug is from the Ottawa Valley and grew up around agriculture.

## Notice of Proposed CSGA By-Law Amendment

Currently, Section 7:03 b) of the CSGA by-laws reads, in regard to grower Directors on the CSGA Board of Directors:

Twelve directors, each of whom shall be Regular Members, shall be elected at Branch Annual Meetings and shall take effect immediately. One such director shall be elected from each region except that to the extent that the number of regions is less than twelve, there shall be two directors from the Maritime region providing that both are not from the same province. There shall be two directors from each of the four Branches with the greatest number of regular members in the immediately preceding fiscal year of the Association. If a Branch fails to elect the entitled number of national Association directors, an election shall occur at the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

The current wording of the by-laws can result in changes from year to year in regard to the four Branches with the greatest number of regular members. This is the case now with a spread of only 66 members between the third greatest and the fifth greatest Branch membership numbers. As a means to make the by-laws less prescriptive but to continue to have the ability to elect two Directors from the larger membership Branches, the Board of Directors is proposing a by-law change. The change would use the word "may" rather than "shall" in many instances so discretion is allowed whether, or not, one, or two, Directors are elected from



## ON THE WEB

CSGA Website: [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://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](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/CSGAMembers)

Annual Meeting Information: [www.seedgrowers.ca/meetingandevents](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/meetingandevents)

National Online Pedigreed Seed Locator: [www.seedlocator.net](http://www.seedlocator.net)

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

Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6) and the Notice of Changes Effective in 2011: [www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification)

a Branch. Clarification would also be added to the by-laws to indicate the trigger for when a Branch could elect two Directors.

The new Section 7:03 b) would read:

A minimum of seven directors, each of whom shall be Regular Members, shall be elected at Branch Annual Meetings and shall take effect immediately. One such director shall be elected from each region except that there may be two directors from the Maritime region, providing that both are not from the same province, and there may be two directors from each Branch with over 400 regular members in the immediately preceding fiscal year

of the Association. If a Branch fails to elect the entitled number of national Association directors, an election may occur at the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

The impact of this amendment would be:

Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan would be entitled to each elect two Directors to the national CSGA Board of Directors by virtue that each of those five Branches has over 400 members. Currently, Quebec only elects one Director to the national Board of Directors. The Maritime Branch would continue to be entitled to elect two Directors provided they are not from the same Province.

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## PASSAGES

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

- Earl Moon of Lang, SK had over 40 years of service to the CSGA;
- Laverne Bramhill of Palmerston, ON. Laverne was awarded the CSGA Robertson Associate award for his many years of service and dedication to the Association;
- Art Peters of Boissevain, MB had over 40 years of service;
- Tony Crooymans of Bow Island, AB. In addition to his 40 years of service to this Association, Tony was awarded the CSGA Robertson Associate and Outstanding Service award for his many years of service and dedication; and
- Allan Arnott of Darlingford, MB. Allan was also awarded the CSGA Robertson Associate and Outstanding Service award for his many years of service and dedication. He was a proud member for 38 years.

## Bill Leask Retires

Dr. William (Bill) Leask will retire from the position of Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), effective May 31, 2011.

Bill was appointed to the position of Executive Vice-President with the CSTA in 1983. He has expertly guided CSTA for more than 27 years. His contribution was recognized with the CSTA Seed Achievement Award in 1996. Bill guided the CSTA through the establishment of the Canadian Seed Institute and represented CSTA as a founding member on the CSI Board for 12 years.

Bill's contribution to the seed industry and to the CSTA will be formally recognized at the Gala Banquet during CSTA's 88th Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, followed by a grand celebration of his career, with his friends and family in attendance, at the CSTA semi-annual meeting in Toronto this November. Operating as an independent consultant, Bill has signed a contract to provide advice and guidance to the CSTA on specific domestic and international issues over the next two years.

Patty Townsend, CSTA's Vice-President since 2006, will become CSTA's Executive Vice President effective June 1st.

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## Before seeding

Before seeding, if you are unsure of the eligibility of your land for pedigreed seed crop production, you may submit a completed Form 101: *Land Use Verification* to the CSGA office.

CSGA staff will review your land use plan and will respond in writing to confirm whether or not your plan meet the regulations for pedigreed seed crop production.

Forms are available by contacting the office or visiting our website at:

[www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/downloads.asp](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/downloads.asp)



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## 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](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/contactus/staff.asp) for complete contact information for our staff members.