

CSGA

Seed Scoop

This is your last printed issue of Seed Scoop! We are going electronic next spring.



Many of you have asked for more timely information from your Association. We've listened and are happy to announce that Seed Scoop is going electronic starting next spring! Commencing in spring of 2011, Seed Scoop will be delivered straight to your email inbox and posted to the CSGA website. You will continue to receive Seed to Succeed, CSGA's full-color magazine, by mail.

In order to receive Seed Scoop and the important technical updates it contains, CSGA must have your email address on file. Please contact the office, visit the Members Only website or complete the form below to submit your email address today.

Email Submission Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Grower Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Send in your email submission form:

By mail: P.O. Box 8455, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3T1

By fax: 613-563-7855

By email: communications@seedgrowers.ca

Would you prefer to enter or update your email address online? Visit CSGA's Members Only website today to update your account at www.seedgrowers.ca/CSGAMembers/Login.aspx. New to the Members Only website? Send an email to communications@seedgrowers.ca or call the office at 613-236-0497 to request your user name and password.

Your President's Message



I appreciate this opportunity to communicate to all seed growers through this edition of *Seed Scoop*. I was elected your new President in July at the 106th Annual Meeting held at Kelowna B.C. With that election, we say a heart felt thank you to both Ed Lefsrud, who stepped off the CSGA Board of Directors after serving his two years as past president, and Neil Shanks, who is now past president. We also welcomed Norm Lyster of Stettler, Alberta as 2nd vice president and Peter Boswall of PEI as the Provincial government representative on to the Executive Committee. We also have some new Directors on the national Board: Joe Rennick of Milestone, Saskatchewan; Doug Heaman of Virden, Manitoba; Kevin Runnalls of New Liskeard, Ontario and Djiby Sall of the Quebec government.

Although I look forward to the next two years as your President, as I mentioned when I accepted the President's gavel, I am humbled by those presidents who came before me, but prepared to accept the challenges this position brings. I would like to thank the membership for their support and look forward to working for you over the next two years.

2010 has certainly brought forth some challenges both on the home front on our farm in Southwest Saskatchewan with record rain fall and coolness, and challenges to CSGA as a result of reduced pedigreed seed acreages particularly in Saskatchewan. Looking at the Saskatchewan crop situation,

all we can say now is look at the crop we are going to grow in 2011 with all this reserve moisture. In addition, maybe the rain will have knocked out the grasshoppers and even a few gophers!

As for CSGA, we do carry some reserves and had membership support for a 2011 fee increase to maintain our financial standing. CSGA has good and experienced staff working in the best interest of membership in carrying out our seed certification mandate. So I am confident things will turn around for both growers and our Association.

Someone asked me in Kelowna what I was going to do in my term as president. A good and legitimate question and I'd like to say I was going to see the use of Certified seed increase by 20%. Good for growers and good for CSGA and its Branches that operate based on revenue from fees on inspected acres. However, this is not likely to happen in two years. What I am going to do is see that initiatives like end-user advocacy continue to grow and that demand pull will help see the increased use of Certified seed. CSGA has already begun to work with seed distributors and end-users with this objective in mind.

Under my term of office the CSGA Board will continue to examine our governance structure for the purpose of streamlining your Association. Not just for cost savings, but for more efficient use of Directors and Directors' time. We will be looking at the feasibility of such things as bringing in more Branch Directors on committees, more use of conference calls, more co-ordination of programs such as Education and Publicity between the Branches and the National office. As well, we will continue to look at the organization, structure, and timing of the Annual Meeting.

To make my term of office a success, I am counting on the co-operation and support from growers, the CSGA Board, Provincial Branches, the seed industry, staff, and the general farm public. In particular, I would like to hear more from growers through your attendance at the CSGA Annual Meeting and the Branch winter meetings. In my years as a seed grower, I have always found attendance at these meetings a valuable source of information and the networking has helped my business. It is my feeling that if you are a serious seed grower, attendance at an Association Annual Meeting is a must.

The schedule of Annual Meetings is contained in the Calendar of Events section of our November 2010 *Seed to Succeed* magazine. I hope to see you in Hamilton July 6th to 8th, 2011 for the 107th CSGA Annual Meeting and when I am at your Branch Annual Meeting over the winter of 2010-11.

Gerald Girodat
President, Canadian Seed Growers' Association

CSGA 2010 Annual Meeting Resolutions

This year's annual meeting was held in Kelowna, British Columbia. We would like to thank everyone who made the trip out to B.C. and contributed to the success of the meeting. Pictures of the annual meeting are available on the photographer's website for viewing and purchase. The link to the gallery is: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/meetingsandevents/annual_meeting.asp. Many were delighted to reconnect with old friends while others made new friends and shared personal farming experiences. But it wasn't all fun and games. When it came down to business, members definitely had a lot to say. Most of the discussion revolved around two topics: 1) CFIA's announcement to find alternatives to the current CFIA field crop inspection services within 5 years, and 2) CSGA's deficit budget. As a result, several resolutions were put forward and passed by the membership present at the meeting.

Germination Certificate Expiry

The first resolution passed dealt with the validity of germination analysis on pedigreed seed and the need to place an expiry date on the germination test results. Since there has been some performance issues with some lots of pedigreed seed carried over from the previous year and since there is no expiry date on the validity of lab test results that will ensure the performance of pedigreed seed prior to planting by the commercial producer, the membership requested the CSGA lobby the CFIA to adopt regulations stating that no germination certificate issued for pedigreed seed be valid for a period exceeding 12 months. Currently, the regulations stipulate the test must reflect the germination level at the time of sale.

Field Inspections by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

A couple of resolutions surrounded CFIA's news delivered to the membership at the Annual Meeting that they intended to phase out their involvement in seed field crop inspections over the next five years. Members were not pleased with this announcement and did not take the news quietly. The resolutions passed asked CSGA to lobby the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to reconsider the proposed CFIA service reductions in order to maintain independent 3rd party verification by CFIA and Canada's crop industry competitiveness. Following that announcement, the CSGA issued a press release which resulted in the CFIA quickly issuing a revised statement. In a nut shell, the revised statement from CFIA promised there would be no changes to programs or services until there are solutions mutually agreed to by all parties involved. The CFIA is however, still planning on exploring alternative service delivery options with industry regarding the delivery of the seed certification system. But most importantly, they will continue to work cooperatively with industry and all alternative service delivery mechanisms for seed crop inspections will proceed through an industry-government working group, which includes the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. In light of this new statement from CFIA, the CSGA no longer feels necessary at this time to lobby the Minister and we look forward to working cooperatively with the CFIA to find mutually agreeable solutions.

Budget

Seeing as the CSGA had seen deficit audited financial statements for the past two years and was forecasting a deficit budget for 2010-2011, the membership passed multiple resolutions to help streamline CSGA's budget in 2011.

R&D Cuts: The membership passed a resolution to no longer fund the Research and Development Program. Budget allowances would be made to respect our current commitments but no new research projects would be approved beyond that. With this resolution passed by the membership, the R&D Committee is currently looking at restructuring the program and will present a recommendation to the Board at the next Board meeting in November.

Accounts Receivable: The CSGA has numerous accounts receivable that exceed 12 months which impacts the Association's cash flow. The majority of accounts receivable involve seed growers who apply for seed crop inspection and services but do not pay for their membership and inspection at the time of application. In this regard, the membership passed a resolution that the CSGA not initiate any seed field crop inspection unless the application is accompanied by the fees at the time of application. Logistically, however, this is not easy to implement. Since most members do pay prior to inspection but following the time of application, the CSGA prefers not to withhold inspection on fields because payment was not made upfront but does withhold crop certificates if the grower's account is in arrears. CSGA strongly encourages all growers and assignee companies to submit all fees for crop inspection and membership at the time of application.

Fee Increase in 2011: The National CSGA has made numerous efforts over the last two years to streamline the budget and reduce costs. The CSGA Board of Directors has also completed the review of the White Paper which looked at ways to restructure the Board, the Committee's and the way CSGA does business in order to reduce costs. Even with the prescribed changes, a fee increase was deemed necessary in 2011. The membership approved an increase of \$25 to the CSGA membership fee and 12 cents to the acreage fee effective in 2011.

The Next Generation of Seed Industry Members

The membership wants to assure that young Canadians think of farming, or other seed industry related careers such as Plant Breeding, when it comes time to choose their post-secondary education. To ensure a continuing supply of Canadian plant breeders, seed growers and industry members, a resolution was passed asking the CSGA to continue its efforts to assist universities in the recruitment of students, especially in crop related programs.

Plant Breeding Programs

The membership passed a resolution to actively lobby the provincial and federal governments to maintain current plant breeding programs and increase future funding in Canada's public plant breeding programs.

Streamlining

During the Annual Meeting, your Board of Directors was hard at work and completed the review of the "White Paper". The "White Paper" was developed over the summer and fall of 2009 to examine ways that the CSGA could streamline its structure and costs and was reviewed by the Board at the 2009 November Board Meeting. At the July Annual Meeting, 21 of those recommendations were approved. Some of the approved recommendations are:

Telephone Conference Calls: Committees will hold meetings by conference calls to reduce Director time requirements and costs related with travel and accommodations. Awards, Research and Development, Plant Breeders, By-laws, Education and Publicity and the Executive Committee have all met by conference call in 2009 and 2010.

CSGA Calendar: The CSGA wall calendar will no longer be printed. With an average annual cost of \$5,000, eliminating the wall calendar was a relatively easy decision to reduce expenditures.

Advertising on the CSGA Website: The CSGA is now offering advertising space on its website to selected seed companies and organizations. The website advertising revenue generated will help off-set some Education & Publicity expenditures and allow for Education and Publicity programs to continue.

Modification to the Past President Position: The position of the past President has been slightly modified. The past-president position will continue to exist and be involved in conference calls, but will no longer be expected to attend any of the meetings. This again reduces travel costs to CSGA.

Increased Cooperation with Seed Industry Players: One of CSGA's main priorities is to expand the use of Certified seed. In order to achieve this goal, the CSGA will increase its cooperation and coordination with other industry players to implement new programs. To this effect, CSGA organized a meeting in mid-October 2010 with the heads of several leading seed distributors to discuss ways to work cooperatively to promote Certified seed to end-users and food processors.

2011 AGM

Next years Annual Meeting is being held July 6 to 9th, 2011 in Hamilton, Ontario. We strongly encourage all members to attend. The Annual Meeting is your meeting. There is no better place, or time, to voice your opinion and share experiences with other seed growers from across the country.

2010 CSGA Award Recipients

CSGA's annual awards ceremony, held during the Annual Meeting, is the one time we have the opportunity to honour and thank our exceptional members for their service and dedication to our Association and industry. We would like to congratulate this year's award recipients:

Doug Brown (MB), Bruce Coulman (SK), Ken Nickel (BC) and Bill Witbeck (AB) 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 Associates Award** was awarded to Gordon Hill (BC), Mark Kaun (AB), Robert Stevenson (MB) and Gene Vipond (BC). This award is presented to members who have fulfilled with utmost fidelity and success their obligation to the Association.

A full description of each award recipient will be available in CSGA's 2009-2010 Annual Report, posted to the CSGA website in late October: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/annualreports.asp?lang=e.

Your CSGA Executive Committee and Board of Directors

The CSGA is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors. Together they work to guide the Association, protect the interests of Canadian seed growers and strengthen the seed industry. We are delighted to have such a strong group of people working with us and would like to thank our Directors for their hard work and dedication.

Your Executive Committee

Appointment changes were made in both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors this past July. In the Executive Committee, Neil Shanks of Wheatley, Ontario stepped down as President of the Association and we welcomed Gerald Girodat of Shaunavon, Saskatchewan as the new elected President. We welcomed Peter Boswall of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island as the new Provincial government representative to the Executive Committee and Norm Lyster of Stettler, Alberta as 2nd Vice-President. Jim Baillie remains on the Executive and has moved to the position of 1st Vice-President, along with Dale Adolphe as the Association's Executive Director.



Left to Right: Norm Lyster (2nd Vice-President), Jim Baillie (1st Vice-President), Peter Boswall (Provincial Government Representative), Dale Adolphe (Executive Director) and Gerald Girodat (President).

Your Board of Directors

There were also a few changes made to the Board of Directors. We welcome Djiby Sall as the new Quebec provincial representative. We also welcomed three new national Directors: Joe Rennick from the Saskatchewan Branch, Doug Heaman from the Manitoba Branch and Kevin Runnalls from the Ontario Branch.

A complete listing of the 2010-2011 CSGA Board of Directors can be seen on the CSGA website at <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/contactus/directors.asp>.



Left to Right Front Row: Jim Baillie, Daniel Lanoie, Tim Ferguson, Kevin Runnalls, Ken Nickel, Joe Rennick, Dawn Pate, Ed Hadland, Gerald Girodat. **Left to Right Middle Row:** Bryan Harvey, Donna Edwards, Kathy Hardy, Don Zeghers, John Brown, Dale Adolphe, Doug Heaman. **Left to Right Back Row:** Ed Lefsrud, Claude Caldwell, Peter Scott, Peter Boswall, Djiby Sall, Norm Lyster, Blaine Recksiedler. **Absent:** Patti Cuthbert, Len McCardle, Neil Shanks.

New Online Seed Locator

CSGA is modernizing and enhancing its web based pedigreed seed crops directories at www.seedgrowers.ca. **Starting in late November**, these pedigreed seed crop directories will be available on the CSGA website in a more user friendly, searchable database.

Every fall, the CSGA prepares lists of pedigreed seed crops produced in the current year for varieties that are eligible for sale in Canada. Historically, these lists were available from the CSGA office upon request for a small fee in the fall and then posted to the CSGA website the following spring. In an effort to improve our member services and increase the value of your CSGA membership, pedigreed seed crop directories will now be available on the CSGA website in a user friendly searchable database. With multiple search capabilities and richer search results, anyone seeking pedigreed seed will find exactly what they need.



As a CSGA member, it will list the seed crops and classes you produced and allow seed buyers to find you. This will increase our members' marketability and make it easier to source Certified seed. But more importantly, as CSGA continues its effort to promote Certified seed to end-users, food processors and the larger farming community, we can use the online seed directory in our campaign as the one go-to source to find Certified seed for sale. The goal is to make it easier for large companies, millers, farmers and seed growers to find and buy Certified seed.

Naylor (Canada) will build CSGA's online seed crop directory. Every CSGA member that produced pedigreed seed of a variety that is eligible for sale will be included free of charge in the directory. Members will be able to further enhance their listing by submitting their company logo and website address to Naylor, also free of charge. To fund the project, online advertising will be added to the webpage. For more information on advertising opportunities, please email us at communications@seedgrowers.ca.

We hope that you will enjoy this new online tool and will use the seed locator to your full advantage. As we continue to promote Certified seed and this new online tool to end-users, food processors and the farming community, we hope to drive business to you and, in turn, increase demand for Certified seed.

PMRA Inspections of Commercial Seed Treatment Operations this Fall and Winter of 2010-2011

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) administers the *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)* under which importation, manufacture, sale, and use of pesticides (e.g. herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides) are regulated. The PMRA monitors the use of pesticides through a series of education, compliance and enforcement programs. One area where PMRA conducts inspections is with user groups to verify compliance with product use and safety. This year planned inspections include commercial seed treatment operations, to be conducted across Canada in fall of 2010 and winter of 2011, to meet the following objectives:

- To inspect commercial seed treatment facilities to assess the awareness of and compliance with label directions and compliance with conditions specified in the Pest Control Products Regulations (PCPR).
Inspections will specifically focus on:
 - a) the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during treating, bagging and handling of seed, and
 - b) the labelling requirements for treated seed.
- To inspect storage facilities to verify registration status of pest control products
- To promote compliance by providing seed treatment facility operators with information on Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), the *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)* and PPE requirements.

As part of the onsite inspections, an inspection report will be completed to collect information on the seed treatment industry including: type and quantity of seed treated; pesticide products used; equipment used; timing of seed treatment; use of PPE; and storage of pest control products. Information will be provided to commercial seed treaters on their responsibility to comply with the *PCPA* and Regulations.

Plant Breeder and Plot Producer Listing on CSGA Website

CSGA has received many seed sector requests on how to contact, for various Canadian locations and crop kinds, experienced plant breeders and pedigreed parent seed producers. In response, a new page on the CSGA website provides CSGA-recognized Plant Breeders and accredited Plot Producers with the option of posting their contact information and crop kind experience.

To be included in this voluntary listing, recognized Plant Breeders and accredited Plot Producers are asked to send a completed authorization (Form 111), by mail, fax or email to the CSGA office.

For this new listing of experienced plant breeders and pedigreed parent seed producers, or to download the enrollment authorization form, visit the CSGA website at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/links>.

Notice to Midge Tolerant Wheat Seed Growers

In order to receive a 2010 crop certificate for an inspected field of midge tolerant wheat, it is important that for EACH inspected field (each CSGA crop inspection report Sequence Number) a representative seed sample is submitted to GenServe Lab for refuge testing. GenServe Labs will be accepting seed samples from the 2010 crop season as of October 1st, 2010. Please refer to the GenServe Lab Sample Submission Procedures document for the correct procedures to follow, available on their website at: http://www.src.sk.ca/html/research_technology/ag_bio/genserve_lab/wheat_testing/midge_testing/index.cfm.

Once you receive your test results, forward a copy of the results along with a completed *Refuge Declaration* (CSGA Form 182) to the CSGA office to complete the certification process of your crop. The 2010 version of the *Refuge Declaration* (CSGA Form 182) can be downloaded from the CSGA website at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/downloads.asp>. Also available for download on that webpage is the Update sent to all midge tolerant wheat seed growers in July 2010.

More information on midge tolerant wheat is available on the Midge Tolerant Wheat Stewardship website at: www.midgetolerantwheat.ca.

CSGA Website Helps Producers Find Organic Seed

To help connect organic crop producers with organic seed vendors, the CSGA invites Canadian pedigreed seed growers, who are also organic producers, to self-identify to the CSGA for inclusion on a CSGA webpage listing sources of pedigreed organic seed available for sale in Canada.

Growers wishing to self-identify must submit a Form 150 to the CSGA office to authorize the release of their contact information. The organic pedigreed seed listing and Form 150 can be found at: www.seedgrowers.ca/links/organics.asp.

Certified Seed Video

The Ontario Seed Growers' Association is proud to bring to you a video on Certified seed: **Does Seed Really Matter?**

The video is posted on YouTube. Use the video to show your customers why Certified seed really does matter. Available now at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYcre2v65fE>.

Passages

Dr. Don Salmon, Research Scientist and Plant Breeder at ARD's Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe, Alberta passed away in August 2010. Don was a scientist and plant breeder, releasing numerous varieties of winter and spring triticale, for the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Government.

Steve Merkl of Brooks, Alberta passed away in 2010. Steve had 41 years of service as a seed grower with the CSGA.

Ernest Lindholm of Camrose, Alberta passed away in September 2010. Ernest had 29 years of seed grower service.

Guelph professor and soybean researcher, **Dr. Gary Ablett**, passed away over the summer of 2010. During his time at the university, Gary set up the public soybean breeding program that delivered over 50 new soybean varieties. Gary received an Honorary Life Membership award from the CSGA in 2001 and had 26 years of service. He was also an important member of CSGA's Plant Breeders Committee.

Advertising Opportunities

CSGA has partnered with the Matrix Group Publishing Inc. to publish its full-color bilingual magazine Seed to Succeed. The next issues are scheduled for release in November 2010 and May 2011.

We have also partnered with Naylor (Canada) for CSGA's website advertising, including CSGA's new online seed locator coming this November.

To advertise in CSGA's magazine or website, please contact us at: communications@seedgrowers.ca.

Survey

The CSGA is conducting a short survey to improve its member services. Here is your chance to tell us how we did in 2010!

To participate in this survey, visit the CSGA website for a link to the survey at: www.seedgrowers.ca.

Job Opportunity

Jim McCullagh, Executive Director of the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI), submitted his resignation in September. Jim will be leaving CSI at the end of December.

The CSI Board of Directors is now searching for Jim's replacement. An executive search firm has been hired. Any individuals wishing more information on the CSI Executive Director's position should contact:

Scott Wolfe Management
Attention: Laurel Hyde
Tel: 204-987-7700
Email: laurel.hyde@scottwolfe.ca

Rain Gauges

A number of promotional items are available upon request from the CSGA office. For the complete list of items available, visit: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/promotionalitems.asp.



CSGA is Certified
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