

CSGA Seed! Scoop

CSGA National Convention July 8 – 11, 2009 – Winnipeg, Manitoba “Key to the Continent”

The CSGA 2009 Planning Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to Winnipeg this summer. Plan to join us as we investigate the issues surrounding our industry and beyond.

Unlocking Research

By incorporating vital research facilities in one central location, Winnipeg and Manitoba hold the keys to develop long term research cooperatives to benefit the Seed Industry. In Winnipeg this summer we will hear about the proposed Grain Centre of Excellence that will incorporate Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, University of Manitoba, Canadian Wheat Board, Canada Grains Council and several industry vital research facilities under one roof with the goal to maximize the research community to its full potential.

Unlocking the Future

The future of our industry and agriculture as a whole is hard to predict. We as an industry rely a great deal on world markets and global supply issues. Not to mention the threat to our climate from global warming. We plan to dive head first into what the future of agriculture may look like in the 21st Century and shed some light on the future of farm families and seed producers in this country.

Unlocking Potential

We are proud to be able to highlight businesses in Manitoba that have arisen in the last few years to meet ever increasing demands for energy sources and industrial uses of by-products from the Agriculture sector. Several successful niche businesses are also erupting all over the province with tremendous success and

we look forward to showing you how these entrepreneurs have unlocked potential from the most unlikely of sources.



Unlocking the Continent

Manitoba's position at the heart of North America makes it a key part of the Mid-Continent Trade Corridor, connecting Canada to a central North American market of 100 million people. Through a system of connecting highways and rail routes, the Corridor provides seamless and efficient transportation linking major commercial centers in the Canadian and American Midwest, through the Southwest and deep into Mexico. We will be hearing about the latest developments in this expanding network of trade alliances.

Unlocking Innovation

Finally we plan to highlight the work being done to unlock the secrets of plants in the pharmaceutical world at our Richardson Centre for Nutraceuticals in Winnipeg. We will hear about current research in Nutraceuticals that deal with healthy eating and facts on common diseases such as diabetes and cancer. We will be touring the centre and seeing some of the specific equipment such as a machine that mimics the functions of the human tongue and nose and x-ray machines for the human skeleton.

Manitoba looks forward to hosting the Industry at the Fairmont Hotel located in the heart of the Exchange District in historic downtown Winnipeg at Canada's most famous corner – Portage and Main. The Exchange district name derives from the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, the centre of the grain industry in Canada which developed in Winnipeg during the period from 1881 to 1918. Modern office towers now rise up over grand, turn of the century bank buildings, and historic facades are integrated into airy new buildings.

It is our honor and privilege to welcome you to Manitoba this summer. As hosts we have planned an agenda that will inspire you in your individual operations while you enjoy the talent and multi-culture of our Prairie roots. Value added is not just a government catch phrase, it is the basis of the Canadian Seed Industry. 2009 has been called the “Year of Science” as it sees the landmark anniversaries of 200 years since Darwin's birth and 400 years since Galileo discovered Jupiter, Venus and Mercury. Science and Innovation have been and will be tremendous partners in our industry. This summer we will see the possibilities. Join us to get your personal “Key to the Continent”.

Plan to travel to Manitoba this summer and watch for more information on the CSGA website and the enclosed brochure.

See you in Winnipeg!

Co-Chairs
Bob Wiens & Dr. Patti Cuthbert

Seed Growers: What Are Your Crop Inspection Responsibilities?

Accurate and complete applications are key to obtaining your crop certificate from CSGA as soon as possible after crop inspection. You are the customer of the CSGA seed crop certification service and YOU can improve that service.

Seed crop certification is all about verifying compliance with CSGA requirements such as pedigree of parent seed planted, previous land use, isolation, weed condition and presence of off-types, other crop kinds and especially other varieties of the same crop kind.

As a seed grower, you provide CSGA much of this information on your Application for Crop Inspection. So be sure your Application contains your CSGA grower number, current contact information and signature as well as the variety, kind, acreage, parent seed pedigree, seeding date, certificate assignment (if applicable) and previous land use for each crop to be inspected.

Your Application should also include clear and accurate directions to, and maps for, the fields to be inspected. Your application should be received by CSGA with payment, prior to the deadline dates. Late applications and incomplete maps decrease crop inspection efficiency.

CFIA inspectors try to contact growers prior to inspection. Your cell phone number or preferred contact number should be clearly indicated on your Application for Crop Inspection. **Note:** *Late or incomplete Applications for Crop Inspection can be considered lower inspection priority than complete Applications which were received on time.*

It is also a seed grower's responsibility to ensure that, before harvest, the crop has been inspected and met CSGA requirements, and re-inspected if necessary.

Let's continue working together to improve the CSGA seed crop certification service.

Deadlines for Crop Inspection Applications

April 25 - Winter canola/rapeseed

May 25 - Fall seeded cereals

June 10 - Forages, flax, canola, mustard, corn and peas

June 20 - All other crops

July 10 - Field beans, buckwheat and soybeans

Seed Grower Crop Inspection Responsibilities Checklist

1. Complete ALL sections of the Application for Crop Inspection
2. Include clear and accurate directions to, and maps for, the fields to be inspected
3. Include payment with Application
4. Submit Application to CSGA before deadline dates above
5. Ensure that crops are successfully inspected before harvest
6. Take corrective actions where necessary before harvest
7. If required, contact CFIA for re-inspection before harvest

Improved Communications with CSGA Office



It's no secret that farmers and seed growers are busiest during the cropping season. It is at this time that growers need quick responses from the CSGA office. The challenge is the same time frame is also the busiest time for CSGA operations staff who are busy processing 3,000 to 4000 applications and appraising 18,000 to 20,000 crop inspection reports.

Fortunately, the new Members' Area Website is user friendly and up and running. Armed with your grower number and password, at any time, day or night, you can access the live database for the most current information on your seed crop production records – just like you were in the CSGA office. By using the website,

the most common questions can be quickly and easily answered. You can determine the status of your seed crop, including whether or not CSGA has received a crop report and what might still be required on any given field before a crop certificate can be issued. You can also view your crop certificate numbers for current seed crops as well as those from previous years. If you do not have a password, or have forgotten yours, any member of the CSGA staff can quickly set you up with a password that works immediately.

The public portion of the website also contains a lot of relevant information as well as access to documents and forms necessary for seed crop certification. The website address is www.seedgrowers.ca.

If you have a question that requires an interpretation of Circular 6 regulations and procedures, we suggest that you communicate in writing, either by email or fax, for several reasons. If you are not able to reach a staff member because of the time difference or be-

cause they are already on the other line, you are still able to ask your question. Questions, especially those that require specific details to be communicated, like previous land use, can be communicated more quickly in writing than over the phone.

When CSGA replies in writing then both the grower and staff have a record of the interpretation and CSGA is able to provide the answer even when you are in the field. Land Use Verification and Isolation Verification Forms are available from the website or the office which make these questions easier to deal with for both parties. Communicating in writing also allows us to direct your question to the appropriate staff member. Many inquiries can be handled by others in the office when senior operations staff are buried in applications and crop reports.

We realize that in many cases, you need the answer right now because you are on your way to the field. Advance planning is the preferred approach. However, in special circumstances when calling the CSGA office, if you are not able to reach a particular staff member and you need an immediate answer, press 0 at any time to speak to the receptionist. She will be able to direct your question to the appropriate staff member and she is also aware of who is in the office and if they are available to take your call.

By working together and using the tools available to us, life is better for all of us during what can be a stressful time of year.



National Office Directory

Dale Adolphe

Executive Director
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 224
E-mail: adolphed@seedgrowers.ca

Randy Preater

Program Manager
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 223
E-mail: preaterr@seedgrowers.ca

Pam Coles

Finance and Accounting Manager
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 222
E-mail: pcoles@seedgrowers.ca

Gaye O'Bertos

Executive Assistant
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 221
E-mail: obertosg@seedgrowers.ca

Roy van Wyk

Operations and Communications Manager
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 228
E-mail: vanwykr@seedgrowers.ca

Gail Harris

Operations Co-ordinator
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 227
E-mail: harrisg@seedgrowers.ca

René Daoust

Operations Co-ordinator
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 226
E-mail: daoustr@seedgrowers.ca

Caroline Lafontaine (On maternity leave)

Administrative Coordinator, Operations
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 225
E-mail: lafontaine@seedgrowers.ca

Latona Nicholson

Administrative Coordinator, Operations
Tel: (613) 236-0497 Ext. 225
E-mail: nicholsonl@seedgrowers.ca

Online Applications for Crop Inspections — Plans for 2010

Help Locate Organic Pedigreed Seed, Recognized Plant Breeders and Plot Growers

New CSGA online applications for crop inspection in 2009 will be upgraded by 2010 to provide web-based access to growers of organic pedigreed seed. From the CSGA website at:

www.seedgrowers.ca, contact information will also be available for recognized Plant Breeders and accredited Plot Growers who authorize CSGA to release their information.

Seed variety and grower contact information, provided on CSGA applications for crop inspection, has traditionally been updated annually in CSGA grower directories and in several provincial Seed Guides. Most CSGA access to seed grower information has been limited to those two traditional sources since CSGA revised its privacy policy in 2004 to comply with tighter federal privacy regulations on the unauthorized release of personal information.

Two recent developments, however, have increased demands to use the CSGA website and application forms to improve access to contact information for those producers of organic pedigreed seed, recognized Plant Breeders and accredited Plot Growers who want to be contacted.

First, new Canadian standards and regulations for organic production are being implemented in 2009 and the “commercial availability” exemption for the organic seed requirement has been an international controversy for many years. Changes in CSGA online application forms, planned for 2010, would

let pedigreed seed growers in Canada, who are also organic producers, authorize access to their contact information on the CSGA website. This improved access to organic seed supplies could reduce the number of organic producers who use this exemption and claim organic seed is not commercially available. This improved access to grower information could also lead to more sales of organic pedigreed seed.

Another recent development is the growing trend for variety developers, distributors, and even variety-specific end users, to contract pedigreed seed production, and even variety development, with experienced Plant Breeders and Plot Growers who have been officially recognized or accredited by the CSGA. Seed production contractors have been asking CSGA for improved access to the contact information for these qualified producers. At the same time, a growing number of these CSGA-recognized Plant Breeders and accredited Plot Growers have been seeking more recognition of their qualifications and experience.

In Canada, only Plant Breeders who are professionally recognized for meeting the CSGA education and experience qualifications and maintaining a third party audited Quality Management System, are issued Breeder seed crop certificates and tags by the CSGA. For most crop kinds, only Plot Growers who are accredited for meeting the CSGA experience requirements and having completed

three years of Probation Plot production, produce the first generation or multiplication plots from Breeder seed and are issued Select status crop certificates and tags by the CSGA.

Recent upgrades in CSGA computer software have improved online applications for crop inspection in 2009. More upgrades planned for 2010 will allow CSGA to introduce these improvements in web-based access to growers of organic pedigreed seed and to experienced Plant Breeders and Plot Growers.

Technical Updates

Notice of Changes in *Circular 6* Effective in 2009

This annual *Notice of Changes* is sent to recognized plant breeders and pedigreed seed crop growers, assignees and inspectors who were active in 2007 and 2008. Early in 2009, CSGA sent in CD format this *Notice of Changes in Circular 6*, revised replacement pages and a complete, revised version of the *CSGA Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)*. As in the past, hard copy versions are available upon request from the CSGA office and this *Notice of Changes*, revised replacement pages and a complete, revised edition of the official version of *Circular 6* are also available on the CSGA website at: www.seedgrowers.ca.

The following changes, effective in 2009, have been made in the *CSGA Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)*. Most changes are to clarify crop inspection requirements.

Select Seed Section 1.12.3 is revised to clarify that Select seed, that is being sold or transferred, must meet all the requirements of Foundation seed including grading by an Accredited Grader and conditioning by a Registered Seed Establishment.

Wheat To increase crop rotation options, the land requirements for production of Certified crops of Wheat in Table 2.2.5 are revised to permit production on land that produced Durum crops two years prior.

For production of pedigreed pest tolerant wheat varietal blends, the previous land use and isolation requirements in Tables 2.2.5; 2.4.2; 12.4.3; and 12.6.2 are clarified. For land use and isolation requirements, varieties making up the varietal blend are considered as the "same" variety as the blend. However, the blend is considered a "different" variety from either of its individual components.

Canola and Mustard Tables 4.4.2, 5.5.2 and 13.6.1 are revised to clarify that the isolation distance required to adjacent crops of Camelina is 3 m (10 ft.).

Select and Foundation Plots Sections 12.6.4 and 13.6.4 are revised to clarify that compliance with the maximum impurity standard (of 1 per 20,000 plants) involves the average of the number of impurities reported from six (6) inspection counts, not the number reported from any one of those counts.

Other Crops Section 14 is revised to include crop certification standards for pedigreed crops of Peanut (14.8), Fenugreek (14.9) and Camelina (14.10).

Varietal Blend Declaration: To provide additional certification requirements requested for pest tolerant varietal blends, the list of documents available from CSGA is revised to include a new *Varietal Blend Declaration Form* (Form 181). The new declaration of varietal blend is to be submitted for each field or CSGA Sequence number.

Changes Effective in 2010

The following changes, effective in 2010, will be made in the *CSGA Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)* in 2010. This will recognize land use inspections from 2008, reduce land use inspections required in 2009 and ensure that all seed growers have been notified of these changes.

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Certified Cereal Crops Land requirements in Section 2.2.5 for production of Certified crops of Barley, Oat, Rye, Triticale and Wheat, will be revised to permit Certified crop production on land that in the previous year produced non-pedigreed crops of any of the crop kinds in Section 3 of *Circular 6* (Bean, Fababean, Lentil, Lupin, Pea and Soybean) regardless of the land use two years prior.

Pulse and Soybean Crops To clarify that the pedigreed status of subsequent pulse and soybean crop kinds in Section 3, like crop kinds in Section 2, is limited by previous year land use, Section 3.2.2 a) will be revised to: *Land requirements prevent production of a higher pedigreed status crop (of the same variety) than the pedigreed status of the crop produced on that land the previous year.* Soybean Select plot land requirements in Section 12.4.3 will also be revised with these previous year land use limits on pedigreed status.

CSI Offers JAS Certification

The Centre for Systems Integration is the first Canadian-owned and operated organic certification body to be recognized as a Registered Overseas Certifying Body under the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS). CSI was granted JAS accreditation in September following an extensive on-site audit and review by Japanese officials.

“We’re very pleased to be officially recognized as a Registered Overseas Certifying Body to offer our clients JAS certification,” says Jim McCullagh, Executive Director of CSI. “Now we can inspect and certify organic farms and processing facilities directly under the JAS law.”

The certification process involves a CSI-recognized organic inspector visiting a business to inspect their operations against the submitted organic system plan and check it against the JAS organic agricultural product standards. The inspector’s report is re-

viewed by CSI, and if the operation is in compliance with JAS, CSI will grant organic certification.

For more information on organic certification or implementing other quality management systems through CSI, please call (613) 236-6451 or visit www.csi-ics.com.



Rules for Resealing

Keep these guidelines top of mind when opening and resealing bags of pedigreed seed.

Every registered facility receiving sealed bags of seed should be aware that opening these bags to conduct some additional processing activity (blending, treating, coating etc.) is permitted. However, it is not permitted to reseal those same bags with the original tags attached. The lot must be re-graded and a new pedigreed seed declaration completed to record the activity.

There are several other issues surrounding opening and resealing bags that may arise. Keep these considerations in mind if you are faced with the following situations:

1. Sealed packages in proprietary branded bags - If such bags are opened by an RSE to conduct conditioning activities, CSI advises RSE's to consult with the variety rights holder to ensure they have permission to conduct the activity. There may be issues around the marketing of proprietary varieties only in branded bags, or concerns with what additional procedures are being conducted and if they are a part of the marketing.

2. Sealed packages in pre-labeled packaging – This scenario is possible with the packaging of pedigreed seed and allows marketers to have the official label pre-printed on bags. These bags then will take on the same responsibility for conveying the grade of the product at sale and the lot number indicating the last RSE to have sealed the lot.

When such containers are opened by an RSE, the seal is broken and that bag takes on the same restrictions on reuse as a tag removed from a sealed package. To reseal the package, new tags have to be printed and attached to new packaging. This removes any confusion as to the grade and lot number traceability to show the last RSE to have handled the seed.

For more information, please contact Ken Stoner at (877) 439-9674 or visit www.csi-ics.com.

National Forum on Seed

All NFS Forum meetings and working group meetings are open to interested parties that wish to attend and participate in the discussions. A schedule of upcoming meetings, agendas and topics being addressed can be obtained by going on-line at

www.nationalforumonseed.com

We encourage participation of all interested parties and individuals as that is the best means to ensure that recommendations going forward to regulatory offices have the backing of a broad representation of the industry. This gives the consensus positions put forward a lot more credence in the eyes of the regulators. Although Seed Scoop will provide updates on NFS activities in future issues, you're first hand access to the NFS is



Certified Seed Logo and Stickers

CSGA members are reminded to use the new Certified Seed logo that has been recently been developed as part of the Sharing the Message program. More information on the new logo as well as EPS, GIF and JPEG files of the new logo in color, black and white and both official languages can be found on the CSGA website or by contacting the CSGA office.

Recently PDF files with the Certified seed logo have been developed for printing on Avery labels (template 5162, 14 labels per sheet). Members can print as many as they need from the PDF. These "stickers" can be added to invoices to promote Certified seed.

This could be particularly useful when the seed is sold in bulk. The PDF files are available on the CSGA website along with the other new logo material.



Seedlings

Passages

Nick Huminicki of Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba passed away. Nick started growing seed in 1966 and received his 40-year Long Service Award in 2005.

Dr. Walter Saidak, former Research Coordinator at Agriculture Canada has passed away.



Mark your Calendar for July 8 - 11!

Notice is hereby given that the 2009 annual general meeting of the CSGA will be at the Fairmont Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Get to Know Your National & Branch Directors

The winter months are always a time for CSGA Branch Annual Meetings and appointments to your National and Branch Boards of Directors. You are always encouraged to contact either your Branch Directors, your National Directors or the CSGA office directly if you have any questions or concerns over our respective activities. Therefore, it is important you know who your Directors are. The following is a link to the CSGA web site where you will find the names of all Branch secretaries, National Directors and the national CSGA staff located in the Ottawa office.

<http://www.seedgrowers.ca/contactus/index.asp?lang=e>

The Ontario Branch Annual Meeting was held in London the first week of December 2008. Several changes were made to the Branch Board as well as Ontario's Directors to the National Board. Kathy Hardy was elected to the National Board to replace the vacancy that will be created when Neil Shanks of Ontario moves into the CSGA President's position in July 2009. Brent Kennedy who had served on the National Board as the Province of Ontario appointment has changed jobs. We are still waiting word from the Ontario Minister of Ag as to Brent's replacement on the National CSGA Board. At the Branch level, Quentin Martin has moved off the Ontario Branch Board as Dan Brown moves into the position of past President. Willy Hilgendag was elected President

of the Ontario Branch. Ontario also elected one new Director to their Branch Board: Barb Cowan, seed production manager with Pioneer Hybrid was elected as a Director-at-large.

The Maritime Branch also met the first week of December. Their meeting was in Moncton. No changes were made to the Maritime Branch Board nor the representatives to the CSGA National Board.

The Manitoba Branch also met prior to the Christmas break. Their meeting was held in Brandon. CSGA National Director Robert Stevenson decided not to let his name stand again for Director. Don Zeghers was elected to the National Board to replace the vacancy created by Robert.

The Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association held their Annual Meeting in Saskatoon during Crop Production week - the week of January 12th. As Joe Rennick's term as Saskatchewan President had ended, he moved into the past President's position and Tim Charabin stepped off the Board. Lyndon Olson was elected Saskatchewan's President and Terry Froese was elected vice President. Laurie Wakefield was elected as a new Director to the Saskatchewan Board to fill the vacancy with Tim's retirement from the Board. No changes were made in Saskatchewan to the Directors to the CSGA National Board.

The B.C. Branch held their Annual Meeting in Fort St. John in late January. Gord Hill, National Director from B.C. stepped down and Ed Hadland was elected to the CSGA National Board. Harvey Glasier, who had represented the

Province of B.C. on the National Board has retired. We are waiting to hear from the B.C. Minister who will replace Harvey on the CSGA Board. At the Branch level, Gene Vipond stepped down as President and Robert VanderLinden was elected President of the B.C. Branch. Two new Directors were also elected to the Branch Board: Don Peterson and Bruno Osterwalder.

Alberta Branch's Annual Meeting was held the last week of January in Edmonton. Larry Kitz did not let his name stand again for National Director and Tim Ferguson, a plant breeder and Select seed grower from Viterra, was elected to fill the vacancy. At the Branch level, Ron Markert's term as President ended and Richard Stamp was elected Alberta's President. Two new Directors were also elected to the Alberta Branch Board: Don Sendziak and Harold Warkentin.

The Quebec Branch Annual Meeting was held near Ste. Hyacinthe in mid-February. There were no changes to the make-up of the Quebec Branch or to the representatives to the CSGA National Board.

So – there are a lot of new faces at both the National and Branch levels. We want to thank, very much and very sincerely, those Directors retiring from Branch Boards and the National Board. You have all served your Associations well. At the same time, we would like to welcome the new Directors to the Branches and to the National board. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

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