

ALBERTA BRANCH Canadian Seed Growers' Association

Spring Issue May 2007



President's Message

As I write this newsletter Spring is just around the corner. There is more optimism in the agricultural sector than I can remember. Everyone is asking about new varieties that will optimize their production. This is good for everyone in the industry, especially those in the seed industry. One thing that I have learned in the years I have been in the seed business is if producers make money, they will spend money. With the demand for grain being so strong we should be in for a few good years.

The Seed Industry Partnership between Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers Association and the Association of Alberta Coop Seed Cleaning Plants and Alberta Agriculture and Food ended March 31, 2007. The Partnership has played a vital role for the Alberta seed industry and has allowed us to operate our associations in a prudent manner. The Alberta Branch CSGA and the Association of Alberta Coop Seed Cleaning Plants have signed a new Seed Industry Partnership agreement as of April 1, 2007. As you all know, both our associations are not for profit. The two associations will continue to share a joint General Manager. As a result, there will be an increase in acreage fees on our crop inspections.

On a Provincial level we have provided input to variety testing, the Fusarium Action Committee, Universities and Colleges, as well as National Forum on Seed, Plant Breeder's Rights, Canada Seed Act, Variety Registration and other seed related functions on a national front. In a land of plenty it seems as though the Alberta Government has funds for value added infrastructure in the cities and even advertising for sexually transmitted diseases, but has forgotten about primary agriculture. Our understanding is that the Alberta Government will cut funding to the Variety Testing Program. The data from these trials is the material that is published in seed.ab.ca. This information is unbiased, third party testing that compares varieties in random plots so farmers can get a true comparison of varieties. This material goes to farmers in Alberta free of charge through seed.ab.ca. Other Western provinces fund this type of testing, but not Alberta. Your Board will continue to pressure the Alberta Government but we also need you to talk to your MLA and tell them

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how important the seed industry and the variety testing program is to all producers in Alberta

Your Board has been discussing many other issues since the annual meeting in January. One of the resolutions was to explore the ACES concept. The idea is to increase investment in germ plasm development, applied seed research and the commercialization of crop genetics so that the Alberta producer will have a competitive edge in the globalized economy that the world is evolving into. Because of this new world economy, we as producers must have access to new technology and we must also be more informed and educated on how to use this new source of information. Your Board of Directors are planning on organizing a seed seminar at our next annual meeting to help keep Alberta seed growers up to date on issues in the seed industry.

Some of our members have suggested we join forces with Farm Tech. We have talked to the Farm Tech Committee and are trying to see if we can make it work. We will let you know how our discussions go.

We are trying to spice up our trade show booth to make it more appealing. We are going to make a video about seed production in Alberta. We'd like all our members to get their video cameras out and show us unique things you do or have incorporated into your seed business. Send your videos to me before November 1, 2007. My address is Box 1150, Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0.

I hope seed sales are good, the rain falls when you want it to and we all have a smile on our face after harvest. Good luck in 2007!



*Ron Markert, President
Alberta Branch CSGA*

National CSGA Annual Meeting

“Bridging the Gap” will be the theme when the Canadian Seed Growers Association members and guests gather for the 103rd Annual Meeting, July 11 – 14, 2007, in Saskatoon – the City of Bridges.

Located in the heart of the Great Plains, Saskatoon has established itself as a world renowned center of agriculture research, home to the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre; the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron, and Innovation Place, western Canada’s first operating research park.

Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss issues facing agriculture, such as the Generation Gap, Cultural Gap, Education Gap, Technology Gap and the Economic Gap.

Babysitting Service

Parents are responsible for youngsters under two years of age. However, if babysitting services are required, check with your Hotel for details.

Saskatoon, SK

July 11–14, 2007

Registration Fee:

By June 1

Adult: \$225

Young Grower (7-17): \$100

Seedling (2-6): \$50

After June 1

Adult: \$275

Young Grower (7-17): \$150

Seedling (2-6): \$75

**Registration Form is
inserted with this
Newsletter.**

Accommodations

The CSGA 2007 Convention hotel will be the **4 ½ star Sheraton Cavalier**, located in downtown Saskatoon, across the street from the South Saskatchewan River. Its 249 non-smoking guest rooms and suites include refreshment centers, voice mail, in-room movies, complimentary coffee, hair dryers, irons and boards, daily newspaper, high-speed Internet, data ports and video guest services.

Rate for the Convention is \$159 for single or double standard rooms and rates are subject to a 2% DMF, 6% GST and 6% PST taxes. Mention you are attending CSGA 2007 Convention when booking to get the preferred rate. Contact the Sheraton Cavalier at: Phone: (307) 652-6770 or Fax: (306) 244-1739.

Delta Bessborough

Across the street and backing on river is the Delta Bessborough. Classic, historic, nostalgic, romantic...traditions of excellence await you at the "Castle on the River".

Contact the Bessborough at Ph: (306) 244-5521 or Fax: (306) 653-2458.

Radisson Hotel

The Radisson Hotel is about a block from the Convention Site, and also overlooks the river.

Contact the Radisson Hotel at: Ph: (306) 665-3322 or Fax: (306) 665-5531 for rates.

Park Town Hotel

Just a few block away, featuring 173 rooms, free parking and pet welcome.

Contact the Park Town at: Ph (306) 244-5564 or Fax: (306) 665-8698 for rates.

All hotels are within walking distance of Midtown Plaza, the province's largest shopping mall and Boardway Avenue, Saskatoon's unique shopping and entertainment district.

Camping

For Camping options, contact Saskatoon RV Park at Ph: (306) 931-8905; Fax: (306) 249-2521 or visit www.saskatoonrvpark.com

Children's Program

2 - 6 Years Old

The week kicks off Wednesday with games, crafts and a movie.

On Thursday morning, they're off to the Forestry Farm Zoo for a day of activities. Arrangements will be made to have the kids join their parents at Louis' on University campus, for the Family Fun Night.

On Friday, a "Monster Walk" is planned as they get to see Gargoyles in the downtown area. The afternoon will be spent at Kinsmen Park Playground, with a picnic supper planned before returning to the hotel, enjoying games, crafts and movies, while the parents take in the awards banquet.

7- 12 Year Olds

Wednesday night will start with a pool party mixer in the hotel for 7-12 year olds, complete with an ice cream sundae bar.

Thursday's destination is the University of Saskatchewan Ag Camp.

AgAdventures, hosted by the College of Agriculture, offers a fun hands-on introduction to modern agriculture.

Energetic and educational activities explore various steps along the food production chain "from lab, to field, to market, to plate" and promote a positive view of science, of agriculture and of learning. The day will be led by a friendly, knowledgeable AgAdventures staff, who are all college of Agriculture undergraduate students. Kids will wrap up the day by joining their parents at Louis' for the Family Fun Night.

Friday features a trip to the Beaver Creek conservation area, for a day of canoeing, exploring and learning about nature. This sheltered creek, river valley and prairie habitat offer a diversity of flora and fauna for visitors.

After the serenity of nature, it's off to the bright lights for an afternoon of fun and games and supper at Ruckers before heading back to the hotel and finishing the day in the pool.

13 – 17 Year Olds

The 13 – 17 year olds get to join in on the Wednesday evening pool party before heading out to the Beaver Creek Conservation area Thursday morning for their own session of canoe trips, tours and exploration of this unique area where a prairie creek meets a prairie river. It contains one of the few uncultivated spots left in the area and is home to an amazing diversity of plants, animals and birds.

After joining the parents for lunch at the hotel they'll head to the U of S Campus for tours of the Diefenbaker Centre, natural history museum, and maybe even the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. They will join Fun evening at Louis' Pub on Campus. This is where the "College Kids" kick up their heels between studies.

The evening includes a steak barbecue with all the trimmings, complemented by the folk music of Eileen Laverty, and the country / bluegrass stylings of The Williesons. Whether it's soaking up the atmosphere indoors or out on the deck, the setting will take delegates back to their college days, and give the younger set a glimpse of what may be in store.

Friday Morning

Friday morning's activities will start up with a tour of the Kernen Crop Research Farm. While at the main yard site, you

can visit with CDC's plant breeders, tour the state-of-the-art Breeder Seed cleaning facility and view the plot and farm equipment on display.

Friday Afternoon

Buses will return delegates to the Sheraton in time for lunch and the last half of the Business meeting which concludes Friday afternoon. Again, three keynote speakers will highlight the program.

Alternate Program

An Alternate Program has been planned for those who won't be taking in the business sessions. After a family breakfast at the Top of the Inn Thursday morning, delegates will get to choose either a scenic boat tour of the Saskatchewan River on board the Saskatoon Princess, or a trip to 1910 Boomtown, a reproduction of a prairie town near the turn of the last century. Lunch will be served on both tours. Space is limited, so delegates are urged to book early to ensure they get their choice of destinations.

Annual Report

The Annual Report will not be distributed and mailed to members of the Alberta Branch CSGA. If you require a copy please call the Association Office at
(403) 782-8022

And a copy will be mailed to you. It is also available on the seed.ab.ca website in PDF format.

CHECK THESE WEBSITES

Classified Section on Seed.ab.ca

www.seed.ab.ca/classifieds

National CSGA National Convention in Saskatoon

www.seed.ab.ca
www.seedgrowers.ca

Circular 6 and Form Downloads from CSGA

www.seedgrowers.ca/regulationsandforms/

MEMBER ADS

Price when booked and paid BEFORE August 31, 2007

1/8 page – one issue:
Black & White
\$175.00 + GST
Colour
\$500.00 = GST

1/8 page – two issues:
Black & White
\$250.00 + GST
Colour
\$500.00 + GST

Buy a larger AD and get valuable discounts ALL year!

¼ page: \$658.75
½ page: \$1,275.00
Full page: \$2,295.00
+ GST

Save an additional 10% when you book both issues. (These prices are for black and white ads. If you are interested in buying colour for your ad, please call for details.)

Technology Tidbits

Make technology work for you.

Do you have a cell phone, but aren't using it to its full potential? Consider, using it to get the weather.

To get weather forecasts or alerts direct to your cell phone, visit [http://www.theweathernetwork.com/inter/ weathercentre/mobile/](http://www.theweathernetwork.com/inter/weathercentre/mobile/) and just follow the step-by-step instructions.

Set up is easy and you'll have the latest weather wherever you are.

Seed.ab.ca

The site has a lot of great weather links for your uses. Check out the page at <http://www.seed.ab.ca/links/weather.asp> for links like:

- Alberta Weather Forecasts
- Canada - Regional Climate Maps
- CBC News Weather
- Environment Canada - Weather Office
- Farmers' Almanac Weather
- Four Day Forecast for the Prairies
- Western Canada – Precipitation

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the site, please feel free to send them to me at lynette@lefsrud.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sowing Opportunity

Opportunity is defined as a possibility due to a favourable combination of circumstances.

As you can see from this definition creating opportunity is based on a combination of circumstances. While some are happy to leave their circumstances to chance most successful businesses develop a plan to help ensure their circumstances line up to create opportunity.

By booking a specially priced member ad, you will be creating an opportunity to cost-effectively enhance your marketing reach. Member ads are available in several sizes and eye catching colour options. Volume discounts are available to members who book in both issues of **seed.ab.ca**, and our early bird booking date of August 31st ensures you have nothing to worry about come harvest time.

With two issues annually, **seed.ab.ca** is a powerful information vehicle for Alberta's farmers. Readers have told us that **seed.ab.ca** an important tool when making their seed decisions, and when compared to other industry publications **seed.ab.ca** is ranked as one of farmers' most valuable publications.

With content that is timely and informative, farmers turn to **seed.ab.ca** when they want to make reliable and cost-effective decisions. To learn more about placing a member ad see the insert included with your newsletter, or contact Issues Ink at (877) 710-3222 or e-mail marketing@issuesink.com. It's an opportunity not to be missed.



Sample Pails

The Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association has followed Manitoba's initiative of making available to their members plastic pails for storing seed samples. The pails are available for the CSGA membership and Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd. members.

We can supply 11-liter pails, which will hold about 10 kg of clean wheat and about 8 kg of clean barley; the adequate, retained sample sizes suggested by CSI. These pails come with a handle and lid.

These pails will be available at a cost of \$4.00 each including GST. You can arrange to pick up your order by contacting one of the Alberta Branch CSGA directors on the following list.

This is a good opportunity to get to know some of your directors and perhaps discuss issues or concerns.

John Huvenaars
(403) 725-2126
huvjohn@telusplanet.net

Norman Lyster
(403) 742-4456
nlyster@lysterfarms.com

Ryan Mercer
(403) 320-6620
ramercer@shockware.com

Larry Kitz
(780) 592-2200
larry.kitz@lonespruce.com

Ron Markert
(403) 485-6708
info@markertseeds.com

Richard Stamp
(403) 739-2233
richard@stampseeds.com

Ed Lefsrud
(780) 336-2500
lefsrud@telusplanet.net

Proposed List of Variety Registration Cancellations

Proposed Cancellations for July 1, 2007

Barley, six-row, spring: Bonanza

Wheat, Spring: Casavant

Wheat, durum: Pelissier

Hybrid Sunflower, oilseed: RANGER

Hybrid Sunflower, non-oilseed: Caribou

Hybrid Sunflower, non-oilseed: Kodiak

Objections to any of the above proposed cancellations must be submitted in writing before the proposed cancellation date to the:

Variety Registration Office
CFIA
#2 Constellation Cres
Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9

Or
by Fax to: (613) 228-4552

Source: CFIA Website

CFIA Seed Program & Seed Importation Contacts

Mike Scheffel
Ottawa
Phone: (613) 221-7518
Fax: (613) 228-4552

Jerry Roddy, Seeds Specialist
Vernon, B.C.
Phone: (250) 260-5014

Tom Spiller, Alberta North
Edmonton
Phone: (780) 495-5578

Anwar Haq
Grande Prairie
Phone: (780) 831-0335

Art Gouda
Edmonton -Vermilion
Phone: (780) 495-5579

Susan Sieffert
Red Deer
Phone: (403) 340-4202

Paul Newton
Wayne Shuttleworth
Sherry Bishop
Al Kohlman
202, 110 Country Hills
Landing NW
Calgary, AB T3K 5P3
Phone: (403) 292-4650
(main #)
(403) 221-3296

Keith Merrifield
Tracy Allen
3605-14 Avenue NW
Lethbridge, AB T1H 6P7
Phone: (403) 382-3122
(Main #)
Fax: (403) 382-3148

All import inquiries can be directed to Vadim Gouda in Edmonton (780) 495-4473

Source: CFIA

Membership Committee

The membership committee of the Alberta Branch would like to invite the membership to submit nominations for the following:

Provincial Awards:
Outstanding Service and
Honorary Life

National Awards:
Robertson Associate,
Honorary Life and
Clark Neuman

Nominations may be forwarded to the membership committee c/o:
Ryan Mercer
Phone: (403) 320-6620
Fax: (403) 320-6659

OR

Andrew Kittle
Phone: (780) 336-2583
Fax: (780) 336-4702

Nominations can also be forwarded to the Association's office.

Director Vacancies

The term of office of the provincial directors shall be two years with one half of the directors retiring each year and the retiring directors shall be eligible for re-election. We have two directors completing two-year terms, and 1 director completing a one-year term. There will be three positions to fill.

The Alberta National Directors should be nominated at each annual meeting. We require two directors serving on the National Board from our membership.

2007 Nominations Chairman

John Huvenaars
Box 144
Hays, AB
Phone/Fax: (780) 725-2126

2007 Resolutions Chairman

Wayne Longson
Box 12
Beaverlodge, AB
Phone: (780) 354-2898
Fax: (780) 354-3331

2007 Board of Directors

Past President:

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Hays AB T0K 1B0
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Email:
huvjohn@telusplanet.net

President:

Ron Markert
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Phone/Fax: (403) 485-6708
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info@markertseeds.com

Vice President:

Wayne Longson:
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Beaverlodge AB T0H 0C0
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National Directors:

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cornelia.kreplin@gov.ab.ca

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Bill Witbeck
5030 – 50 Street
Lacombe AB T4L 1W8
Phone: (403) 782-8022
Fax: (403) 782-5514
Email:
billy.witbeck@gov.ab.ca

Dates to Remember

Seed Cleaning Plant Regional Meetings

Region 1

June 12, 2007
Spring Coulee
Magrath United Church

Region 2

June 13, 2007
Balzac
Community Hall

Region 3

June 14, 2007
Strome
Senior Center (Main Street)

Region 4

June 15, 2007
Camrose
Regional Exhibition Grounds

Region 5

June 18, 2007
Clandonald
Community Hall

Region 6

June 19, 2007
Barrhead
Barrhead Inn

Region 7

June 20, 2007
Sexsmith
Curling Rink

In Remembrance

*Our deepest sympathy to the
families of*

Ruth Jensen, Spring Coulee

George Payne, Botha