

FIELD NOTES

NOVEMBER 2016 EDITION

Meeting the challenges ahead



This crop year has been challenging, and for many of our producers it's still not done. As I write this in mid-October, the harvest is still over 20% in the field by provincial accounts, and I am optimistic that warmer, dryer days are ahead of us.

But while we are facing immediate and significant issues regarding this year's crop, we need to not lose sight of the bigger picture and strive to keep investing in our future for tomorrow. This year represents a watershed year for SaskBarley. We are actively engaged in working towards goals that will empower barley producers with tools to meet our future challenges.

In terms of breeding, SaskBarley partnered with the Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Barley and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association

to provide long-term funding for the barley variety development program at the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre. Together we committed more than \$2.4 million over five years to the program. This investment will yield new varieties that are more disease resistant, have greater yield, and provide greater profitability in the years to come. For more information, flip to Pg. 7.

Closer to home, we are investigating agronomic challenges in Saskatchewan, such as Japanese Brome, which poses a major threat to barley crops in our province. Earlier this year we announced funding for research led by the Western Applied Research Corporation, which will aim to determine the best herbicide options for controlling the weed in barley. It will also look at barley tolerance levels to different herbicides and herbicide combinations, and pursue the registration of herbicide control options in Saskatchewan. For more information about this, flip to Pg. 5.

We are also working hard to find solutions to fusarium head blight,



the biggest issue facing producers today. Working with other organizations and researchers, we are trying to leverage our funds, provide strategic funding and tools, and find innovative solutions to this problem.

SaskBarley is also looking to expand our markets and solve problems that impede our market access. We were instrumental in working with the Barley Council of Canada on a mission to China for feed

barley this fall. For an update on this, flip to Pg. 6.

I wish you all a safe harvest and we hope to see you in the new year.

**Jason Skotheim,
Board Chair**

We Need Your Input

Please help SaskBarley by taking this quick survey

At SaskBarley we are currently developing our communications program and we want to make sure we are giving producers the information they need, when they need it. We also want to make sure we are using the most effective channels possible to reach you.

In order to do this, we need your input!

The survey can be either filled out and returned to the SaskBarley office by mail or fax (see mailing instructions below) or filled out online at www.saskbarleycommission.com.

1. Currently we send out two newsletters a year, one in March and one in November. Are you satisfied with receiving two newsletters a year from us? Please choose a response from the options below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I am satisfied with receiving two newsletters a year from SaskBarley | <input type="checkbox"/> No - I would like to receive less newsletters from SaskBarley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No - I would like to receive more newsletters from SaskBarley | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |

2. Currently we mail out printed copies of the newsletter only. Is this the best format for you? Please choose a response from the options below.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - I prefer to get a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No - I would prefer to receive a digital copy of the newsletter by email | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No - I would prefer to receive the newsletter in another format (please specify:) | |

If you would prefer to receive a digital copy of the newsletter, please supply us with your email address:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Yes I consent to receiving emails from SaskBarley.

3. Is there any type of information you are not currently receiving from SaskBarley that you would like to be?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please specify:) |
|-----------------------------|--|

4. Do you have any other comments/suggestions for SaskBarley's communications program?

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Thank you!
Your input is greatly appreciated!

Mailing instructions:

Please fill out the form above, tear it out, and mail/email/fax it back to the SaskBarley office:

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Upcoming Events

CropSphere

Ideas, Innovation, and Knowledge

CropSphere 2017
January 10-11, 2017
Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

The fourth annual CropSphere agricultural conference will be held in Saskatoon January 10-11, 2017, with host group AGMs taking place Monday January 9.

New this year, the event will take place at Prairieland Park, in conjunction with the Western Canadian Crop Production Show.

Hosted by SaskBarley, Sask Wheat, SaskOats, SaskFlax, SaskPulse and SaskCanola, CropSphere features sessions on grain marketing, research and agronomy, as well as more general topics related to agriculture. Various breakout sessions ensure attendees can pick and choose a program that best supports their business operations. Networking opportunities throughout the day make it possible for attendees to connect.

Watch for more information about speakers and registration this fall at www.cropsphere.com



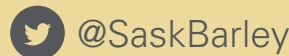
SaskBarley AGM 2017
January 9, 2017
Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

SaskBarley's 2017 annual general meeting (AGM) will take place Monday, January 9, 2017 from 1:15-2:30PM at Breakout room #1, Hall A, Prairieland Place.

Please note, if you are attending the AGM and are NOT registered for CropSphere, please stop at the Conference Registration Desk on your way in to pick up your "AGM ONLY" attendance pass.

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SaskBarley AGM

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review and Approve Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Report from Organization
6. Auditor's Report
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2016/2017
8. Call for Resolutions
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Motions to be presented

1. That the Agenda for the 2017 AGM be approved as presented.
2. That the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.
3. That the Chair's Report/State of the Industry be approved as presented.
4. That the Executive Director's report be approved as presented.
5. That the audited statements for the year ended July 31, 2016 be approved as presented.
6. That SaskBarley appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditor for the year ending July 31, 2017.
7. To adjourn the 2017 AGM.

Resolutions to be brought forward from SaskBarley:

Resolution: To maintain the current level of check-off collected on Saskatchewan barley, of \$1.06/tonne, and that SaskBarley be solely responsible for the collection and administration of this check-off.

- Whereas the Western Canadian Deduction (WCD) check-off of 56¢/tonne will expire August 1, 2017.
- Whereas the WCD was established by the federal government in 2012 as a temporary check-off on wheat and barley, to provide an operational bridge until each newly established provincial farmer commission had the capacity to assume check-off responsibilities internally.
- Whereas SaskBarley is now full operational and now has the capacity to collect and administer this additional check off.
- Whereas SaskBarley has been working over the past year with the other cereal organizations across Western Canada to assume the responsibilities of the WCD.
- Whereas having one organization collect all the Saskatchewan barley check-off funding will: increase the efficiency and effectiveness of check-off administration; allow for stronger and more direct representation for Saskatchewan barley farmers; and help create long-term stability for market development and public research programs that have and continue to serve farmers well.

Be it resolved that: the current level of check-off collected on Saskatchewan barley, of \$1.06/tonne, be maintained and that SaskBarley be solely responsible for the collection and administration of this check-off.

Proposed check-off breakdown

SaskBarley is proposing to not make any changes to the amount of check-off Saskatchewan barley producers pay

Current model:

August 2013 – present

- SaskBarley check-off: 50¢/tonne
- Western Canadian Deduction check-off: 56¢/tonne

Total: \$1.06/tonne

Proposed change:

August 2017 – forward

- SaskBarley check-off: \$1.06/tonne

Total: \$1.06/tonne

Weed control

New research aims to find control methods for Japanese Brome



In 2005, Troy LaForge, an agronomist with Ultimate Yield Management, began noticing a new weed sprouting up in southern Saskatchewan.

It turned out to be Japanese Brome, a cool season, annual grass that can reach one metre in height and is thought to have moved north from the United States.

Although it has since spread further north into Saskatchewan, and poses a major threat to barley crops, many people still don't know what it is.

"I've been on field tours in the Biggar/Rosetown area, where I observed considerable levels of Japanese brome in the ditch adjacent to crop land and people didn't realize it was there," says LaForge, who has worked in the Swift

Current area for nearly 15 years.

"The problem is that often producers don't realize they've got it until they've got a big problem. That's when we tend to get the phone calls."

Further complicating the problem is that, while there are control options for Japanese Brome in other crops such as wheat, oilseeds and pulses, there are currently none for barley.

"If you have one year where you have zero control it flourishes," LaForge says.

"In barley fields you can easily lose 10-20% of your yield if you've got a Japanese Brome patch and it's not controlled. It's like any weed – if you've got a light amount, the crop can compete, but if it's an infestation, you expect to

get close to zero."

Because of the lack of control options available to his clients, LaForge decided to take matters into his own hands and a couple years ago he contacted Allen Kuhlmann, a Director at the then newly-formed Saskatchewan Barley Development Commissions (SaskBarley) to voice his concerns.

Kuhlmann responded by taking LaForge and the concern to the annual general meeting of Sask Barley. From there the Board began exploring options for research into controlling the weed in barley crops and earlier this year, funding was approved for a project aiming to find suitable herbicide control options for Japanese Brome in barley crops. The research, which is set to begin late this year,

"The problem is that often producers don't realize they've got it until they've got a big problem."

will aim to determine the best herbicide options for controlling the weed in barley and barley tolerance levels to different herbicides and herbicide combinations. It will also pursue the registration of herbicide control options in Saskatchewan.

Research will run over a three-year period.

For now however, LaForge advises farmers to be mindful of Japanese Brome and act accordingly if they find it in their fields, by following the proper crop rotations and using fall post-harvest applications and spring pre-seed burnoff applications when needed.

"Those are the two main options in barley crops because Japanese Brome has a winter and spring annual nature to it," he says. "If you can work with both of those it does help the problem quite a bit."

For more information on SaskBarley's research program visit saskbarleycommission.com

Learn more about Ultimate Yield Management at therackonline.com

Building Bonds

How the Canadian barley industry is nurturing strategic, international relationships



In early September, the Barley Council of Canada (BCC) travelled to China to promote the benefits of Canadian feed barley to members of the country's feed industry.

This trip was just one small part of a longer-term undertaking to begin creating relationships with Chinese feed ingredient manufacturers and suppliers, to increase awareness and demand for Canadian barley in the country, says BCC Executive Director Phil de Kemp.

"In China, it's not just about price or what's written on the contract, it's about establishing long term relationships," he says.

"Establishing a relationship in China is worth a lot but that takes time."

De Kemp was invited to China to speak at an international feed ingredient conference in Beijing after meeting

with representatives from several of China's major feed companies and their feed additive ingredient supplier last fall while they toured Western Canada. He quickly learned, through this meeting, that the companies were interested in learning more about Canadian barley as a feed ingredient, as it has a higher protein content than most other importing feed barley suppliers.

"Traditionally Canadian feed barley will run close to 12% and higher in protein levels, while barley from competitors such as Australia is closer to 9.5 or 10%," de Kemp says.

As part of the trip, de Kemp made a presentation at the conference in Beijing, co-hosted by the same feed additive ingredient company and the China Agricultural University. Travelling with de Kemp was Dr. Rex Newkirk, Research Chair at the Canadian Feed Research Centre, who also gave a

presentation to an audience of approximately 250 feed industry members and nutritionists on the benefits of using higher protein Canadian feed barley in hogs and poultry rations.

The attendees were very receptive, especially to the idea of higher protein contents, de Kemp says.

"What better way to introduce a product into a market where we have to compete with Ukraine and Australia, where we're all selling barley but ours might be a little different because we have higher protein," he says. "That is worth something to them."

Now is also an optimal time to be marketing Canadian barley into China, de Kemp says. Since China began refusing corn from the United States in 2013, out of fear of accidentally importing genetically modified crops, the country is looking for alternative sources of protein and energy for feed ingredients – one of which is barley.

During the same trip, de Kemp travelled to Qingdao to meet with the Tsingtao Brewery Co. This meeting was a follow-up from earlier this year, when representatives from the company came to Canada as part of a Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre-sponsored customer trade

mission. The Tsingtao Brewery Co. is an important client for Canada, buying approximately 400,000 tonnes of Canada malting barley a year, 70% of which comes from Saskatchewan.

"The message that came out loud and clear from that meeting was that they want more Canadian, high-protein barley," de Kemp says. "Their two principal suppliers are us and Australia, and Australian malting barley has lower protein levels."

De Kemp had several other promising meetings during the seven-day trip, and he believes these developing relationships will one day lead to increased demand for Canadian barley. As a result of one of those meetings, a major importing trading company from Qingdao is planning a trip to Canada in late October to begin developing a trade relationship with local grain exporters for feed barley.

"If, over a number of years, we can grow a market from zero tonnes to half a million or 750,000 tonnes of feed barley to China for specific usage, that's going to add value," he says. "Currently we're not going to be able to compete on price always with other countries, but where we do have an advantage is with higher protein."

Funding the Future of Barley Variety Development

Western Canadian barley industry comes together to fund the barley development program at the CDC



Earlier this year, the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley) began working to bring together several Western Canadian farm organizations to commit long-term funding for the barley variety development program at the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre (CDC).

In September we made an announcement that we had achieved our goal. SaskBarley, in partnership with the Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Barley and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association, jointly committed more than \$2.4 million over five years to the program.

This was a priority for SaskBarley for several reasons, says Board Chair Jason Skotheim.

“The best long-term payback for producer checkoff dollars is plant breeding – for every dollar invested in barley plant breeding there is a return of \$7.56,” he says.

“This investment in crop development will provide producers with new varieties that are more disease resistant, have greater yield, and provide greater profitability in the years to come. It’s also an investment in a public research institution that will ensure we continue to meet future challenges and that the new varieties developed will be readily

available to producers at a reasonable cost.”

The CDC breeding program has released more than 70 malt, feed and food barley varieties since 1971, including Harrington, CDC Copeland and CDC Austenson. In the past five years alone, the program has released five new malting varieties, including CDC Clear (2011), CDC Bow (2014), CDC Platinum Star (2014) and TR12135 (to be named CDC Fraser), in 2015.

Since 1995 producers have invested almost \$15 million into barley variety development.

This newly committed funding will help further the progress that has already

been made, and continue the important work that is currently being done, says CDC Managing Director Kofi Agblor.

“This funding provides stability to the program for maintaining long-term, highly qualified technical staff, as well as resources for marker development and use in the breeding program,” he says.

“We are extremely pleased to have the three provincial commissions joining WGRF in supporting barley breeding at the CDC, demonstrating continued producer support for research targeting improved yield, disease resistance, and malt quality.”

**THE SASKATCHEWAN BARLEY
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:**

The Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission was established in 2013 under the Agri-Food Act, 2004

**SASKATCHEWAN BARLEY DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION (SASKBARLEY)**

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