PROTECTING THE CANADIAN BRAND

by Brenna Mahoney, Cereals Canada

Canada has a strong reputation for consistently delivering safe, high-quality grain to our customers both here at home and other countries. High-quality, safe food is a key component of the Canadian brand. These brand elements are growing in importance over time. Our brand has been built by farmers through many years of following best management practices and has a reputation of which we should be proud.

The Canadian grain industry, including farmers, depends on this reputation to gain access to international markets. Every part of the value chain must do all that it can to preserve this hard-won recognition. Individual farmers play a critical role in preserving the Canada brand.

A few examples of potential risks and the best management practices to reduce those risks are to consider market acceptance for crop protection products, grow disease-tolerant varieties and use practices that reduce infection.

In some cases, a crop protection product is registered in Canada without a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) established in our major export markets. This means that cereal crops could be treated with a pesticide that may not be accepted in some markets. Best practices are would include consulting your crop input provider and your grain buyer to know your requirements before using products, ensuring that the grain will meet all the requirements at its final destination, and to always follow the label.

Another example is Fusarium head blight (FHB), which has become increasingly prevalent, causing yield and quality losses. Tolerances are set very low because of the presence of harmful mycotoxins (DON or Deoxynivalenol). It is recommended to use multiple agronomic practices to reduce infection, including planting of the most resistant cultivars available.

Building on our strong reputation is the responsibility of every part of the value chain, beginning with crop developers through to exporters and processors. Individual producers cannot control everything that goes into our international reputation but they do have a critical role to play in key grain safety issues. Working together, we grow the Canadian brand, ensure we preserve the high-value markets we have today and open new doors for Canadian production.

For more information, please visit www.keepingitclean.ca or call 204-942-2166.

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

NOV. 19-22, 2018
Fairmont Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

This 2018 joint conference will provide a venue for scientists, industry, and producers to learn and discuss recently discovered technologies that will enable the transformative development of new products that can combat problems caused by Fusarium species in cereal crops (8th Canadian Workshop on Fusarium Head Blight) and advance wheat research (4th Canadian Wheat Symposium). The program, including two symposia with keynote speakers, concurrent breakout sessions for oral talks and poster presentations, will present cutting edge scientific discoveries on FHB and wheat with the goal of developing new collaborative and interdisciplinary research to improve the quality and productivity of cereal crops in Canada.

MWBGA is proud to be a GOLD sponsor!
Lodging is a major crop production issue, especially in high yielding environments. Yield losses can range from 5 to 40%, with the greatest losses when lodging occurs ten days to two weeks following head emergence. Lodging can be managed through variety selection and agronomics. Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are another management tool that may be used to reduce lodging.

PGRs are synthetic compounds that alter hormonal activity to modify plant growth and development. PGRs are used to improve crop standability and harvestability, as they are intended to produce shorter, thicker, and stronger stems. Responses to PGRs depend on the crop type and variety, PGR type, application timing, and weather conditions. Gibberellin inhibitors such as Manipulator (active ingredient gibberellic acid) are used to reduce lodging in spring wheat. Gibberellin inhibitors such as Manipulator (active ingredient chlormequat chloride) are the most common type of PGR in Western Canada. Manipulator is registered on spring, winter, and durum wheat. In spring wheat, Manipulator can be applied as a single application at the one to two node stage, or as a split application at the two leaf stage to the beginning of stem elongation, followed by an application at the one to two node stage.

Trials were conducted at the crop diversification centers in Portage, Melita, and Arborg in 2015, and in Melita and Arborg in 2016 to demonstrate the effects of PGR application on spring wheat height and yield. Three spring wheat varieties were planted at each site, Waskada (CWRs), AAC Brandon (CWRs), and AAC Penhold (CPsR). In 2016 a fourth variety, Prosper (CNRs), was also planted. Treatments included no PGR, single application of Manipulator, split application of Manipulator, and an unregistered PGR (referred to as PGR B).

Plant height - PGRs reduced plant height in all varieties in both years of the trial. On average, the single and split applications of Manipulator reduced plant height by 7 cm in 2015 and 8 cm in 2016. PGR B reduced plant height by an average of 6 cm in 2015 and 7 cm in 2016.

Yield - Averaged across all varieties, PGR application did not increase yield in either year of the study. In 2016, a single application of Manipulator resulted in a 4 bu/acre yield increase in Waskada, the tallest variety studied, but did not increase yield in the other varieties. Yield decreases with PGR application were observed in both years of the study. Averaged across all varieties, in 2015 the split application of Manipulator resulted in a 3 bu/acre yield decrease from the check treatment. In 2016 PGR B resulted in a 3 bu/acre yield decrease from the check treatment.

Conclusions - In both years of the study minimal lodging occurred at the trial locations and in most instances there was no yield benefit to applying PGRs. PGR application reduced plant height of all varieties, which in the event of lodging, would be expected to reduce lodging and increase yield potential. The results of this study are consistent with other research that have showed inconsistent yield benefits with PGR application. PGRs can be used as a risk management tool to reduce lodging in high input systems, but cannot be expected to show a consistent positive yield response.

On April 25, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a regulation that establishes maximum residue limits (MRLs) for chlormequat chloride in various commodities, including wheat. A reminder to producers Manipulator 620 is only registered for use in spring, durum and winter wheat.

Complete project report available at www.mbheatandbarley.ca/research-projects.

Plan for Manitoba's Wheat and Barley Research Towards High-Quality, High-Profit Production. Over the past twenty years, Canadian barley acres have shrunk by more than 50% to just over 5 million acres in 2017. Advances in technology have allowed crops such as soybeans and pulses to be grown in areas they were previously not feasible options for producers. Total barley production has also had a decrease over this time period, primarily due to a decrease in seeded area. At the same time there have been some positive developments in the industry as well. Chief among these is the profound change in the North American barley market from the growth of craft/all-malt brewing. Certain Canadian malt varieties and associated quality specifications are already serving this growing domestic and export market.

Wheat acreage has declined but wheat yields have trended steadily upwards since the mid-1990’s averaging 14% per year. More precise wheat management combined with improved genetics has potential to raise the bar on yield significantly and decrease the susceptibility of wheat to disease threats, such as FHB and rust. Increased productivity can lead to greater profitability and competitiveness as Canadian wheat is still highly regarded as a quality product in global wheat markets. Research is a long-term approach to get meaningful improvements in productivity. New wheat varieties often take 10 years or more to be developed, but their improvements are cumulative and sustainable over the long term.

For Manitoba we think this investment will take concerted effort on a number of fronts. Variety Development including breeding as well as a small investment in Advanced genomics to accelerate future breeding efforts. Fusarium Management includes a spectrum of projects from discovery science about the way fusarium acts during the wheat or barley year of a rotation but also what happens to the disease when other rotational crops are grown through working with the Manitoba Crop Evaluation Team where we fund FDK and DDN analysis of new and up coming varieties. Other work focuses on in season management of the disease. Excess Moisture defence/response. On the defence side we are investing in breeding tools and germplasm screening for preharvest sorbit tolerance and water logging tolerances. Some efforts have been concentrated on an assessment of work already done and now ready for implementation and a strategic search with the help of Manitoba researchers for gaps in knowledge that could benefit from some research here in Manitoba. Fertility starting with nitrogen efficiency for craft and malting - see Manitoba Wheat Barley Research Programs articles in this newsletter. Quality Management. Currently MBWGA have funded an ongoing project assessing the effect of select crop management choices or climate on wheat gluten strength. We are open to hearing about other research opportunities that bring benefit to Manitoba producers

Please refer to our Annual Report to see more details about the $7 Million that has been committed to research taking place now and over the next 5 years. Respectfully submitted, Lorn-Arn Kaminski, Research Manager

T he board and staff of MBWGA met earlier this spring for a check in of our research strategy. This session reaffirmed that our goals are still important and on track toward solutions. General Objective - Lower the costs of production per bushel through yield gains and agronomic efficiencies and increase the value through enhancing desirable market quality characteristics. For Canada - Doing our part with other wheat and barley research invested in Canada being at the table to bring a Manitoba perspective to the development of national strategies for wheat and barley research. In the past twenty years, Canadian barley acres have shrunk by more than 50% to just over 5 million acres in 2017. Advances in technology have allowed crops such as soybeans and pulses to be grown in areas they were previously not feasible options for producers. Total barley production has also had a decrease over this time period, primarily due to a decrease in seeded area. At the same time there have been some positive developments in the industry as well. Chief among these is the profound change in the North American barley market from the growth of craft/all-malt brewing. Certain Canadian malt varieties and associated quality specifications are already serving this growing domestic and export market.

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MWBGA RESEARCH INVESTMENT GOAL REMAINS FIRM!
Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc. (WCMI) is pleased to announce that they have contracted the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association (MWBGA) and the National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC), to lead their day-to-day operations, research activities, and communications with membership and stakeholders.

“The MWBGA’s core functions of research and development, with support functions including administration and communications, are closely aligned with many of the key functions of WCMI,” said Doug Martin, Winter Cereals Manitoba chair.

The management team is comprised of Darcele Graham (NSAC) acting as Executive Director with support from Pam de Rocquigny (MWBGA), Lori-Ann Kaminski (MWBGA) for research activity support, and Tammy Cote for administration support.

The three associations have recognized future demands will require Manitoba commodity organizations working more collaboratively together to provide maximum value back to farmer members.

Winter Cereals Manitoba will be based out of Carman, Manitoba, in the same building as NSAC, to provide maximum value back to farmer members.

WINTER WHEAT MYTHS ARE FALLING FAST

By John Dietz submitted by the Winter Wheat Initiative

Winter wheat is a low-input, low-yield crop. True or False?

There's no market for winter wheat. True or False?

No varieties of winter wheat are suitable here. True or False?

False, to all of them, answers Ken Gross, agronomist at Brandon, Manitoba, for the Western Winter Wheat Initiative (WWWI) and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Those are just three of many myths associated with the fall-seeded, high-potential wheat. Gross runs into myths frequently among growers and at meetings — and likes to bust them with facts.

“The biggest myth is the ‘low input, low yield’ idea. That’s just not the case,” Gross says. “When they treat their winter wheat the same way they treat canola — putting on the fertilizer for a high yield — they tend to get pretty good results.”

The past growing season has been dry to very dry on the southern Prairies. It provided a great test for winter wheat potential. Ninety-day precipitation is mostly 20 to 60 percent of normal, according to WeatherFarm.com.

The biggest myth is the ‘low input, low yield’ idea. That’s just not the case.

ATTENTION WINTER CEREALS MANITOBA PRODUCERS

If you have sold winter wheat under spring wheat to source a better price, great! However, the levy deduction will not be submitted to Winter Cereals Manitoba to benefit your winter cereal acres through research and market development.

Please review your settlement sheet and contact the WCMI office at 204-745-6776 to request that the fees be transferred from Manitoba Wheat & Barley Growers Association (MWBGA) to Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc. (WCMI) to support winter wheat initiatives in Manitoba.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION QUESTIONS?

The Western Winter Wheat Initiative (https://www.growwinterwheat.ca/) has several great production resources on their website. Do you miss the “Spring Wheat without a website?” Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-2suHtLJkb&list=PL4t11s to get the answers to all your winter wheat questions from spring assessment to spring fertility.

WINTER WHEAT MANAGEMENT BY DOUG MARTIN, CHAIR

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WINTER WHEAT MANAGEMENT BY DOUG MARTIN, CHAIR

Doug Martin, Chair East Selkirk, Manitoba Curtis Sims MacGregor, Manitoba Charlene Lewandowski Sandly Lake, Manitoba Jeff Askin Portage la Prairie, Manitoba Allan Olinyk St. Andrews, Manitoba Ken Gross Brandon, Manitoba
The overall purpose of this project was to determine the optimum nitrogen (N) fertilization strategies for high-yielding spring wheat in Manitoba. Researchers at the University of Manitoba, in collaboration with other partners, conducted 8 site-years of field trials during the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons, using AAC Brandon (Canadian Western Red Spring class, CWRS) and Prosper (Canadian Northern Hard Red class, CNHR) spring wheat. High intensity, high level experiments were conducted at Carman and Brandon during both years (4 site-years), and less intensive, site level experiments were conducted at Melita in both years, Carberry in 2016 and Grassy lake in 2017 (4 site-years).

The potential yields for current varieties of spring wheat being grown across Manitoba are much higher than what they have been in the past and as a result, large amounts of N are required to achieve these yields. Pre-plant nitrate-N tests are often used to measure the amount of early season available N in soil and, paired with the target yield for a particular field and year, are used to determine the current N recommendations for applied N.

Yield and protein results for this study showed no biophysical interactions between N rate and variety, indicating that Prosper consistently out-yielded AAC Brandon, while AAC Brandon had constantly higher grain protein content across all N rates. The average total supply of N (spring soil test nitrate-N + fertilizer N) required to obtain economic optimum yields across site-years in this project was 159 lbs N/acre, which is less than our current recommendation of 2.5 lbs N/acre; however, optimum economic rates of total N supply per bushel varied substantially, especially at silver level sites.

One of the reasons for this variability in optimum rates of N was the variability in growing season mineralization of soil N, especially across silver level sites, which resulted in large deviations from expected N supply from the soil.

Conventional recommendations for the total supply of N do not take into account the variation in organic reserves of soil N that are released through mineralization during the growing season. Our study revealed that it is extremely difficult to use a pre-plant soil test to predict the amount of N that will be mineralized during the growing season across locations, probably due to variability in environmental conditions and management histories across sites and years.

Due to this uncertainty in soil N supply during the growing season it could be beneficial to apply enough N at planting to meet a modest yield goal and re-visit the question of N sufficiency for yield and protein potential once the crop is established. In this study, rainfall often occurred shortly after mid-season applications of N, causing split N application at planting and at stem elongation or flag leaf stages to yield at least as much grain as equivalent rates applied entirely at planting. At low soil levels, grain protein content increased with stem elongation split applications, compared to when N was applied entirely at planting. Flag leaf split applications consistently increased grain protein content compared to equivalent rates of N applied at planting and stem elongation split applications (0.3 – 0.7%). Late season post- anthesis N applications consistently increased grain protein content (1.1 – 1.9%), regardless of N source, but did not increase grain yield, compared to treatments with N applied only at planting. However, post-anthesis applications of urea solution increased grain yield (4.5 lbs/bu) and protein content (0.8%) above that for post-anthesis applications of UN.

The effectiveness of in-season N applications at stem elongation and flag leaf timing indicates that there is potential for delaying a portion of N fertilizer in-season without decreasing yield. To help determine whether in-season applications would be warranted, several vegetative indices were evaluated for their ability to predict grain yield. GreenSeeker and SPAD Meter were relatively reliable for predicting grain yield when combined across site-years and varieties, regardless of when these measurements were taken. NDVI measured by the GreenSeeker had the best relationship with final grain yield, in particular when it was measured at flag leaf timing, which coincided well with the responses to midseason applications of N fertilizer at this timing. Grain protein content was much more difficult to predict across site-years and varieties, probably due to the uncertainty of late season N supply from soil N mineralization.

Post-harvest soil residual NO3-N measurements indicated that residual N typically did not begin to climb until N fertilization rates exceeded the economic optimum. When comparing economic optimum N rates to the amount of post-harvest NO3-N in the top 2 ft (60 cm) of soil, we determined that if residual levels were greater than 55 lbs N/acre, the N supply was likely more than adequate for reaching the optimum economic yield of spring wheat at that field site in that year.

Complete project report available at www.mbwheatandbarley.ca/research-projects.

FARMERS LEARN FIRSTHAND ABOUT GRADING AND CUSTOMER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Revised from the January 2016 Clip Review Quarterly Roundup newsletter

M anitoba farmers participated in the first Grade Roundup seminar held in Brandon, Manitoba in December 2017. MWBBSA hosted the event with the Manitoba Canola Growers Association where farmers learned firsthand how the grain they grow is graded the expert and about customer and market requirements worldwide. The sessions featured hands on demonstrations and presentations that included participation from CGC, Canadian Grain Commission, and grain operators representing wheat, barley, and canola.

Pam de Rocquigny, general manager of Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association, said the MWBBSA was proud to collaborate with the Manitoba Canola Growers Association, CGC and CGC to host Grade School in Brandon. “We wanted to provide farmers with the opportunity to learn about what our customers of spring wheat and barley are looking for and how wheat degrading factors affect end-use production quality through hands-on grading demonstrations. We hope the attendance trends value in the sessions are well-becoming for feedback in planning future Grade Schools.”

Watch for information on 2018 Grade Schools in upcoming newsletters and on the MWBBSA’s website.

GETTING TO GROWTH – A VISION FOR CANADIAN BARLEY

by Shannon Saredis, Market Development and Policy Manager, Alberta Barley

T hroughout the course of 2017 Alberta Barley worked together with the input from association partners and a wide range of industry stakeholders to conduct a number of activities with the aim of arriving at a long-term vision for the western Canadian barley sector. These activities resulted in a roadmap which details how, as a sector we can collectively regain growth for western Canadian barley. The result was a strategic plan entitled, Getting to Growth A Western Canadian Action Plan.

The activities included the collection of baseline data, domestic and international buyer interviews, and the formation of a strategic network – which was derived from central representatives along barley’s unique value chain. These key stakeholders served to inform the project throughout and verify the final outcomes. In the most simple terms the project sought to answer three core questions for the western Canadian barley sector: where are we? Where are we going? How will we get there?

The long term aim of the project is to work collaboratively as a sector to recapture and maintain supply and demand for Canadian barley. This is in recognition of the fact that for decades Canadian barley has held its status for high quality but has increasingly come under intense price competition in the brewing and feeding sectors as well as at the farm gate. Nonetheless, it continues to lose domestic access to other crop alternatives Canadian grown barley maintains value for its unique attributes in a climate of growing global demand.

The Action Plan lays out key objectives, strategies and measures, to guide market development growth. It articulates the path that the barley sector must take to relate to securing the supply of high quality barley, maintaining high value markets and developing new opportunities, and the development of an integrated value acceptance strategy to address the lag in uptake of new varieties by end users.

The 10-year critical goals that are sought to be achieved by the corresponding strategies developed must be realized by 2027 to ensure that Canadian barley maintains market advantage, which has seen a significant increase in demand to 13 MT and a 5-year cycling and acceptance of new varieties commercially.

On April 3, 2018 at the Barley Industry Roundtable held in Calgary, AB, attended by Raula Quality and Pam de Rocquigny of Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association, the project received further verification by a widely representative group of stakeholders that the Action Plan approaches were on point and could be extrapolated across the whole of Canada. As such, Alberta barley in conjunction with partner associations and industry stakeholders will move forward with the implementation of the strategy. Collaboration will be key to ensure that as a sector we are adopting a shared vision and a collective approach to maximize limited resources and achieve effectiveness in “Gitting to Growth.” We look forward to continue building collaborative relationships with groups such as MWBBSA.

More information will be available in the coming months.

Welcome to the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association’s May 2018 newsletter. I hope by the time this newsletter reaches mailboxes, seeding operations are well underway for all growers across Manitoba.

MWBGA’s bi-annual newsletter is one way we inform and educate our membership on the associations’ activities and events. Our website www.mbhwheatandbarley.ca is also a source of information so we encourage our members to visit it to get the latest information on research initiatives and results, as well as upcoming events during 2018.

Strategic Plan Review. In March 2018 MWBGA held a two-day board meeting and strategic planning session. Kelly Dobson of LeaderShift led the board and staff in a review and updating of our strategic plan. We looked at organizational processes, research objectives and membership communication to ensure we continue to achieve our vision and mission statements.

A special session was also dedicated to value creation. The MWBGA continues to be engaged (see our Annual Report to learn more) and wants to proactively respond to potential changes in variety development investment, public research capacity and value creation to ensure producers are influential. Although many questions remain unanswered concerning value creation and which model(s) best serve Manitoba farmers and the industry, the MWBGA will continue to be at the table and engaged in discussions.

Exploring further collaboration. The five associations involved with the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have signed another MOU covering the period May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019. The five groups engaged and listened to membership feedback during the January 2017 consultation period and the AGMs on the proposal developed exploring the potential for amalgamation. The steering committee, comprised of two directors from each association, met in early April 2018 to review what they heard and have recommitted through the current MOU to explore a range options to explore further collaboration and find solutions to the concerns voiced by members.

MWBGA continues to be engaged with fellow commodity associations to develop future working relationships that are efficient, effective and advantageous to the farmers we represent. MWBGA also commits that our membership will be kept up-to-date throughout this process and that the input of members will be sought at various stages in this process.

Activities since the Annual General Meeting. Board members and staff continue to work on several key files since membership was last updated at the AGM on February 15. Directors and staff have engaged in several meetings such as the Grains Roundtable, Seed Synergy consultation, Western Grains Research Foundation board and annual general meeting, Prairie Grain Development Committee meetings, Cereal Canada’s Market Advisory Committee meeting, board meeting and annual general meeting, the Barley Industry Roundtable, and various Keystone Agricultural Producer’s committee meetings.

MWBGA also continues work as a founding member of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC). In addition, we have been securing and exploring research funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Cluster Program (National Wheat Cluster, Barley Cluster, Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster) and the recently announced Ag Action Manitoba Program for Industry Organizations.

For communication, we have also been busy planning Crops-a-Palooza, CropConnect 2019 and continuing sponsorship of a wheat and barley session at Ag Days 2019. MWBGA is also working with the Canadian Grain Commission, as well as SaskWheat and Alberta Wheat, to communicate to farmers the transition plan of the twenty-five Canada Western Red spring (CWRs) and four Canada Prairie spring (CPs) varieties to the Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR) class on August 1, 2018, and in subsequent years as additional CWRs and CPS varieties transition to the CNHR class.

As you read through this newsletter, it is my hope you gain an appreciation that the board of directors and staff continue to work hard putting levy dollars to work for Manitoba spring wheat and barley farmers on many important initiatives.

On behalf of the MWBGA board of directors and staff, I wish our membership a safe and prosperous 2018 growing season.

Pam de Rocquigny