

AUGUST 2014

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He Built It (And They Came)!

Ituna Oat Spike Erected

Metal sculptor Dennis Muzyka says the first thing he did to design an oat stem memorial was "to go shopping". Muzyka says he went looking for the "best oat plant I could find... in a neighbour's field!" Previously (2003) Muzyka had built a giant wheat stem (to mark a family farm Century Award) but took several days, he said, to conceptualize the design for an oat spike.

Muzyka actually teaches welding at the local Parkland College, and, knowing the importance of detail he then did what any good machinist would do - he took a set of callipers to the field and measured the oat plants!

The Ituna oat stem committee had discussed an oat spike about 34 feet high and 14 feet in maximum width, (which was about a 25 to one ratio from the projected monument to the real plant). But, Muzyka told an Ituna "oat stem installation banquet" crowd June 28th – on that scale the width was fine but the height would have exceeded 120 feet!

"Back to the field" –comparing both short and tall plants he found the height ratio varied but the width was consistent. "So we went with it -34 feet high."

A Yorkton company "hummed and hawed" at first, when asked to cut out a prototype, but within a week Canwest Laserworks came up with a mock-up of an oat kernel. "It was bang on," but each

of the 106 kernels took three to four hours to create. About three years passed from conception to completion of the kernels and the oat stem- still on ratio with real oat growth, Muzyka thought!

So – how to build a 34 foot structure under an 18 foot high shop roof? "Build it horizontally!" – Yes, but the spread of the kernels is still 14 feet, he reasoned...so... Build a system of tripods and rollers to support the stem –complete with a gear drive at the base (gears to rotate it for more convenient positioning than climbing a 14 foot ladder multiple times!)

Muzyka is a very humble man but he said proudly it was a "painstaking process" But it moved ahead progressively, with the artist/welder creating each unique step along the way (but again Muzyka only able to work at it part time)

How many hours? "Frankly I don't know," he says. "I gave up counting after about 1000 hours."

To erect the oat stem Muzyka and a volunteer crew of about 6 brought the stem (mounted horizontally on its tripods) from the builder's near-by farm at Goodeve, by semi – flatbed, hoisted it with a boom-mounted heavy duty front end loader, secured one side of its tripod/hinged base (one inch bolts), pivoted the stem with a steady pull from its mid point, and finally secured its third triangular base-point. Voila!

All that and barely disturbing newly planted Avena park grass!

The "rest of the story" later in this Oat Scoop.

"Fast Track" New South Sask Grain Hub Nears Readiness

This fall, 24 and 48 - car unit trains will begin hauling grain out of a new facility in Southern Saskatchewan – providing a whole new face to grain movement on the prairies.

Riverland Ag plans to begin moving oats, wheat, durum and canola through its new Northgate Commodity Logistics Hub at North Gate, Saskatchewan in time for this year's harvest. "It's a whole new delivery opportunity for Saskatchewan and other prairie growers." Says Craig Reiners, Riverland President and CEO.

Reiners says Riverland Ag has selected a contractor to build a 2.2 million bushel "high speed shuttle loader" at Northgate, Saskatchewan. Reiners told "The Scoop", the focus at Northgate is on oats, canola, wheat and durum. The 40 million dollar (CDN) grain-side project will be concrete and steel

Reiners explains that Ceres Global Ag Corp – parent company to Riverland – is a shareholder in the Stewart Southern Railway and is building a C\$90 million logistics hub at Northgate to include grain handling, petroleum products, crop inputs, and mining materials.

Grading and road work is scheduled to complete by the end of July. Three large "circle tracks" are due for completion by mid-September and a temporary "trans-load" system will begin operating this fall before the storage elevator is complete, Reiners, says, adding that those "smaller" 24 and 48-car unit trains will begin shipping out this fall. Eventually, 110-car shuttle trains will be assembled – but all incoming grain will be truck-delivered, but railed out. Destinations include the U.S. and export gateways.

In the view of Riverland Ag, one of the truly bright spots in the run-up to opening the facility has been some of the back ground work with customs, Homeland Security and other security agencies (both sides of the border) and the Saskatchewan government, which Mr. Reiners says has helped to move the project forward quickly.

Reiners says when operations open this fall, buyers and management will be on site – for now farmers or others wishing more information should contact Amy Woodward – 952.746.6811 email: awoodward@riverlandag.com.

Craig Reiners is a 39 year veteran of the grain processing and trade -26 years with Cargill and later with ConAgra and Miller/Coors in "derivatives" management.

Riverland Ag owns a "collection" of 10 grain storage units in Minnesota, Ontario and New York and manages several others for private companies.

Ceres Global Ag trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange as CRP.



Are We Gaining Ground on the Grain Piles?

Ag Canada has dropped its end of the year stocks estimate by close four million metric tonnes across the board, to a level near the five year average – 12.156 MMT – so notes Randy Strychar of OatInformation.com.

As we know, weather in Manitoba and Saskatchewan this year has vanquished many acres and will no doubt reduce yield – and this seems to be what's behind the drop in end stock numbers.

In his July 23 report, Strychar writes that the end stock outlook would suggest "Canadian rail car shortages may not be as acute as the trade was expecting for 2014/15, and likely nowhere near the crisis levels we saw this past spring." And. . .Strychar continues, "in fact, the current stock outlook may drop further if lost acres due to excessive moisture this summer are near or above current estimates,"

From this reading Strychar then speculates that, "All this points to the fact rail car supply for oats to the U.S. oat millers should be adequate in 2014/15. Increasing shipments of crude oil by rail

slow the pace significantly	Canada: Princ	cipal Field C	rops Supp	y and I	Disposition	0		X.	Total	
replenishing		Area	Area				Total		Domestic	Carry-out
oat stocks in	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Production	Imports	Supply	Exports	Use	Stocks
Midwestern							tric tonnes -	- Action and a second		
U.S. terminals."	2012-2013	26 455	25 693	2.76	71 040	1 018	82 460	36 971	36 539	8 951
	2013-2014f	26,796	26.059	3.46	90,083	1,122	100,156	40,103	39,128	20,925
	2014-2015f	26,186	24,529	2.90	71,169	1,061	93,155	41,625	39,245	12,285
Strychar says	Total Pulse And Special Crops									
here is an	2012-2013	3,047	2,990	1.90	5,677	141	7,066	4,955	1,471	640
expectation	2013-2014f 2014-2015f	2,736	2,700	2.40	6,4/6	140	7,256	4,913	1,658	685
hat	All Principal Field	Crope	5,200	2.00	0,002	110	1,000	5,150	1,000	000
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Scandinavian	2013-2014f	29,532	28,759	3.36	96,559	1,262	107,412	45,016	40,786	21,610
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nto the US	Source: Statistics	Canada, f: fore	cast by Agricu	lture and	Agri-Food Cana	ada				
could fall										

significantly," if Canadian rail car supply returns to normal."

He concludes,"Canadian Oat Exports to the U.S. year-to-date have exceeded last year's pace and the average (would) further support the idea that car supply will not be a major issue moving forward."

Oat Researchers Invade Ottawa!

Oat researchers and other professionals from the industry in 18 countries were in Ottawa early this July for the American Oat Workers Conference (AOWC). Organizer/researcher Nick Tinker (with AAFC, Ottawa) told The Scoop "It was the most international AOWC meeting ever. I think this partly reflects Canada's prominent role in 'all things oat'."

Tinker says Ottawa was a great "networking" occasion. "Some important and tangible outcomes of the conference were: A commitment and road map for a global oat database; A renewed "oat newsletter" (oatnews.org) with a new international editorial board; Renewed committees for oat gene nomenclature and germ plasm".

Tinker describes the conference program as "intense" – cramming in 44 speakers over three days – the theme being "Oat Action Together". "Talks were organized in sessions including nutrition and quality, agronomy and physiology, breeding, germ plasm, and molecular tools."

He says one main session, "was devoted to exploring the role and opportunities for collaboration and teamwork: between industry and public, as well as among countries".

Bruce Roskens is "Director of Crop Sciences" with Grain Millers Inc. Roskens is based in Eden Prairie Minnesota but he travels often to Canada and is very much hands on with farmers, research and the oat milling industry here.



AAFC oat research Wei Kai Yan (centre in rubber boots) leads a tour of international research colleagues at the American Oat Workers Conference in Ottawa July 7-9, 2014. Just to his right is Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, now of AAFC Brandon, MB, who has developed a number of popular commercial oat varieties.

Commenting on the Ottawa sessions, he told The Scoop, "With the changes in oats breeding, meaning not only the decline in public breeding, both in the U.S. and Canada, but also the fact that we are starting to deal with genetic mapping and starting to understand the oat genome a little more, it (AOWC) has garnered more attention world-wide."

So, Scoop editor Jack Dawes wanted to know, does it take the "trickle-down" effect to get information from this level to the farm?

"When it comes to the 'genetic mapping'- yes," says Roskens. "What the map does is hopefully allow the plant breeder to take some short cuts and shorten the normal 7 to 12 years it takes from the time the first 'cross' is made until a variety can be released, and then increased to sell out to the farmer. With genetic mapping, if the breeder knows that a certain amount of germ plasm has specific traits, say crown rust resistance or higher protein, if they can use that germ plasm marker (and then) short-cut some of the field work...generations and things it takes to bring (the germ plasm) forward for a new variety...then it shortens down 'the trickle' and ensures the variety can get into the grower's hands earlier."

Roskens is also quick to note this process is NOT "genetic modification" or "GMO breeding". "This simply to identify earlier in the generation cycles, of an oat cross, whether or not specific traits are present in that germ plasm to make better varieties."

While all of this is hopeful and promising for the oat industry oat research is grossly under funded as compared to other leading commodity crops like wheat, soybeans, corn or for that matter, canola. Roskens is one who often refers to oats as the "Rodney Dangerfield" of cereals – it "just can't get no respect"!

"Certainly, the barley industry has been ahead of the oat industry, as far as being able to use some of these markers. The same goes for wheat. Obviously in corn and soybeans this has been going on for over 20 years." But, noting that the oat genome is "complicated" the good news is, says Roskens, that several thousand markers now have been identified on the oat genetic map.

Nick tinker sees more than a little "light in the tunnel! he says, "Although oat is a small crop, that is not funded as heavily as major crops like soybean and wheat, I am very optimistic about the future of oat improvement and the oat industry in general. This conference has reinforced that we still have an excellent and collaborative network of oat experts in all areas of oat research. The Canadian cross-section is especially strong, with funded research in every area of importance to oat. These projects are funded through AAFC, through AAFC partnerships, through CDC, and through a growing consort of private breeding operations. In my field of genomics, AAFC and industry (including POGA) have supported upstream work that has finally 'nailed' the complete oat genetic map, and provided cost-effective marker screening platforms that are now being applied in most oat breeding programs. Now, AAFC is also funding my team in an effort to use molecular markers to extract new genes from oat wild relatives.

Did You Know?

How High's the Water ...?

Oat research "nursery" plots at Brandon were under six feet of Assiniboine River flood waters for several weeks in July, says oat researcher and plant breeder Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch. Still Dr.. Fetch says she is hopeful that some "reasonably good data" may be available from her yield trials at the AAFC Research Station at Brandon. She says her crew actually had to pump water off the trial plots. To begin with, planting was late – finishing up June 7th, probably the latest date in the past 15 years.

In Manitoba's Red River valley, Jarrod Firlotte, General Manager at Emerson Milling, confirms it was "pretty wet in the spring" but as of mid July, "the crops are looking really good." Seeding, he said was "more average but likely late in comparison to recent years." For many, oats were seeded by mid –May and in mid-July plants were heading out – possibly pointing to harvest readiness about mid-August?

Although there are significant numbers of oat fields in the Red River Valley, he noted, the oat acreage has continued its decline.

Little Jack Frost Get Lost ...



A report on "first frost days" was published by the Western Producer and then focussed for oats by Randy Strychar of <OatInformation. com> and featured in his July 21 daily report. After another shaky (and for some - 'delayed') start to spring planting, the good news was confirmation from climatologist/ researcher Elaine Wheaton with the Saskatchewan Research Council that frost – free season has stretched nearly 30 days in Central Saskatchewan. But then, the variability is great too, she said, not just in spring and fall – but even from field to field.

In the future? Well, if we thought this spring to be too wet, Ms. Wheaton comments, "For the future, we see more intense and probably larger areas of drought and probably further north drought."

In Saskatoon . . .

POGA has a long and successful history of working with the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre...and linked to that, Professor Xiao Qiu in the Department of Food and Bio Products Sciences is a biologist. He is working on a three year project funded by the Agriculture Development Fund of Saskatchewan – supported by POGA, General Mills and Pepsico Quaker – on oat oil. Professor Qiu looks at the oil "profiles" in oats – oats as "functional foods", he explains. Oat oils contain high levels of certain healthy oils –polyunsaturated fatty acids which are easily oxidized by humans. But they also contain small amounts of "oxygenated fatty acids" – considered not so good for human health. Too high levels of these fatty acids would render potentially high levels of the oxidation, which could result in "rancid-off" flavours and reduction of the nutrition value, the researcher says. By studying the gene sequence underlying the production of these fatty acids, the molecular mechanisms controlling their "functionality" and their location within the oat genome, can be understood. "Then an oat breeder can develop a marker which can be used for selection and breeding." So, through breeding, the fatty acid profile of the selected oat plants may be modified to make an even healthier oat when it hits our cereal bowls and other oat delicacies.

Sounds simple enough, but in just one aspect, the work has, for example, involved an assay of about 300 "lines" of oat germ plasm. "And", he concludes, "we are well on our way towards this direction."

South of the Border . . .

www.avcenacanada.com – POGA now offers a web site in Spanish "Avena Canadiense" – including recipes for enchiladas, tortillas, pancakes etc with oat flour ingredients can be accessed either directly at www.avenacanada.com or from a link on the POGA home web site www.POGA.ca .The site's purpose is in promoting oats in the Mexican market. Details on a POGA trade mission to Mexico may be found on the web site at:http://www.poga.ca/files/2_OatScoop Nov2013_web.pdf

Manitoba 'OverCap' Check-off Provision Change . . .

Manitoba Oat Growers Association (MOGA) has voted a slight to change to the way in which checkoff refunds are handled. In the past oat growers in Manitoba who submitted more than \$250 in check-off dollars automatically received an "overcap" refund. The procedure was costly and time consuming.

The overcap also hampered Manitoba's ability to contribute their share of funding to research. Removal of this overcap will further enhance the research t already in progress and may be incentive to future research investment.

As a result of a motion passed at the MOGA annual general meeting, producers still may request a refund but there is no longer a provision for the 'over-\$250 overcap' refund. The move brings Manitoba Oat Growers Association to the same check-off status with both the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission, and the Alberta Oat Growers Commission. The oat check-off (or "service fee" as it is referred to in Alberta) remains at 50 cents per metric tonne on oats sold commercially and does not apply to farm to farm sales.

For more information go to www.POGA.ca

Africa born Grad Student Meets Oat Plant

Before coming to Edmonton this past June, 24 year old Joseph Aidoo had never seen an oat plant. Ironically though, Joseph is a POGA-sponsored grad student working on an oat project under the tutelage of Dr. Linda Hall at the University of Alberta. It's a two – pronged project designed to optimize oat yields, quality and standability of oats in Alberta conditions. Culture shock for Joseph? Just a little, says Linda Hall.

Joseph's crop science bachelor degree from the university of Ghana was in mango production, focussed, he says on minimizing post harvest losses of the crop. En route to receiving his bachelor's degree, his summers were spent growing corn on a small back yard farm to help feed his family. Joseph says in Ghana "almost every family cultivates vegetables and cereals and raise livestock"- a form of subsistance farming.

Joseph says, "I had never set eyes on an oat plant until I got to Canada. My thesis focuses on the use of plant growth regulators under high nitrogen fertilization to improve harvestability, reduce lodging and increase quality in cereal crops."



Grad Student Joseph Aidoo of Ghana proudly leans into oat plots at the University of Alberta. Joseph is studying under the tutelage and leadership of Dr. Linda Hall. The project is some of the first work in Canada to find out the effect of Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) on oats.

Racing Towards Better Alberta Oat Profits

A 2003 book and movie about a race horse named Sea Biscuit was a big success. And now, an oat variety of the same name is one of five varieties leading the charge for more profitable oats in Alberta. Sea Biscuit the horse was an "undersized and under rated" racehorse whose celebrated success gave 1930's sports fans something more than The Great Depression to think about!*

A three year study headed up by researcher and university professor Dr. Linda Hall will use some traditional research methods along side of less well-know (in North America) technology – plant growth regulators (PGRs).

"To the best of our knowledge," Dr. Hall says, "PGRs have not been tested in oats in Western Canada." However. she and her team think PGRs may be an additional and profitable tool for oat growers in Alberta and indeed, across the prairies. The team includes long time AAFC oat researcher Bill May of Indian Head, SK and Sheri Strydhorst – highly acclaimed researcher and prolific author of research papers, with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Nine "site years" of data will result – from plots at Edmonton and Barrhead, Alberta, as well as Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

Sea Biscuit is a relatively recent long-straw oat variety with higher beta glucan (the soluble fibre which allows a 'heart healthy' claim at certain levels). Being tested in the same trials, an industry stalwart - AC Morgan – another long- straw oat with low beta-glucan; Stride – a long-straw variety with slightly higher beta glucan; high beta Glucan CDC Morrison and OT3066.

High-yielding AC Morgan is the preferred oat variety for Alberta growers but its relatively low beta glucan level is less desirable to commercial food-product millers.

OT3066 is also a CDC (Crop Development Centre, U of Saskatoon) - as yet un-named - variety. It can claim superior beta glucan content and high "groat percentage", packaged with early maturity and high yield potential.

Those aspects fit nicely into the Alberta oat project. But oat acreage has declined in Alberta and elsewhere.(in Alberta only 600,000 oat acres for 2013) The five year yield average for oats in Alberta is only 79 bushels per acre (about the same as the national oat yield average) but that is far below potential for the crop.**

Dr. Hall says the study will produce significant results for extension work on oats in Alberta, demonstrating best agronomic practises – including increased seeding rates, early seeding and wild oat management. It will update variety performance data and provide insight for Alberta-condition responses to nitrogen fertilizer. As part of the process, a graduate student, Mr. Joseph Aidoo is training in cereal agronomy. (see above Oat Scoop Item)

Little known in Canadian oat research, the PGR work will drive insight into the effect of lodging on yield in high fertility Canadian prairie conditions. More importantly, it will determine if PGRs can increase straw strength, reduce height and lodging, and bring more high quality oat to the bin.

Alberta oat growers will contribute to the program through their check-off dollars. That money is channelled through POGA – the Prairie Oat Growers Association – which directs and co-funds activities for oat commissions in each of the three prairie provinces.

Alberta contributes \$195,800 "in kind" and a further \$190,000 through ACIDF (??) – the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund, while POGA and Syngenta Canada each will contribute \$10 thousand annually for three years.

The project is in its first year.

(editor's notes) –

*Duplicating the success of "SeaBiscuit" the movie would be phenomenal for oats. – the movie grossed well over \$148 million dollars on an \$87 million budget!

** an argument can be made that part of the reason for the low average-yield-for – oats, especially in Alberta, is that often oats are grown for hay and forage – not for grain. And sometimes oats is the late season go-to crop – presenting several barriers to better yields. There is also a distance-from-(most of)-the major mills factor – exceptions being Richardson's at Barrhead and Alberta Oats Milling) just out of Edmonton. Alberta's pony oat industry is well developed and aggressively pursued by several companies.

How'd They Do That?

(ed's note: the following is a background story on the Ituna Oat Spike project submitted by POGA and which ran in Yorkton This Week newspaper on July 7th, 2014 – it is presented here with a few minor edits.)

Roots of the town of Ituna are similar to many prairie communities - connected by the development of Canadian railways - but Ituna now has something unique to Saskatchewan, and quite possibly to anywhere else in the world. Close to 200 showed up (Saturday, June 28) at the town's newly minted "Avena Park" to see the official dedication of a giant oat stem. ("Avena Sativa" is the scientific name for cereal oats.) The 34 foot oat stem replica is a starkly beautiful steel sculpture engineered and fabricated to the scale of an actual oat plant, by local welding instructor Dennis Muzyka. Muzyka also directed the erection of the oat stem (June 23) which he says weighs about 2000 pounds, and includes 106 oat "kernels", each weighing close to six pounds. Fabrication required some specialized metalworking techniques. The completed sculpture required about 1650 feet of weld, said Muzyka.

Avena Park, a near-by 300-tree community orchard was financed in part by grants, \$18,000 from CN Rail and Agrium Crop Production. The oat stem itself was funded by the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) \$4000, The Ituna Centennial \$6,000, Grain Millers Canada \$2000, Foam Lake Marketing Club \$1500 plus public/personal



Easy Does It

donations of \$25,000!. Jointly, the three projects are estimated to be an investment near seventy to seventy five thousand dollars.

"But nothing ever happens if you only get money" said Ituna town councillor Terry Korchinski, who chaired the opening ceremony. "You also need boots on the ground – the people who worked



behind the scenes and doing all the work." A committee of four Ituna area residents, Kris Spilchuk (chair), Allen Ivey, Ted Symchyshyn, and Lorne Fuller first approached Muzyka about two years ago to see if he would fabricate a town marker which would also commemorate the 1988 founding meeting of the Prairie Oat Growers, at Ituna.

Muzyka previously had made a steel wheat stem for his family farm (2003) Centennial year, near Goodeve. He says that experience helped with the oat project but the oat stem required unique design, special "jigs" and painting and fabrication methods. Muzyka says "he quit counting the hours at about 1000."

Mayor Joe Garchinski is the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator manager at Ituna. He recalled how after the commodity was removed from the Canadian Wheat Board jurisdiction, oats moved from being strictly a "feed" grain to becoming a desirable human food product, attractive to millers.

In the nineties, several companies had become bulk buyers of Canadian milling oats. Garchinski said (the former) Robin Hood Oats became the first major bulk buyer of milling oats but by 1996 Quaker oats was buying more oats from Ituna than anywhere else in the world.

Unique Oat Spike Marks History

Oat and barley breeder and University of Saskatchewan Professor Emeritus Dr. Rossnagel, said records show the first oats planted in Saskatchewan was in 1820 at Carlton House, south west of Prince Albert, then a fur trade point, which obviously kept horses and fed them oats. By 1916 3.8 million acres of oats were grown in Saskatchewan (and only 9 million wheat acres) – representing 42 per cent of the seeded acres in the province – and literally providing the feed for the "horse power" to farming. In 1944 oats hit 5.2 million acres but represented a smaller percentage of cropped land.

By 1991 oat acreage had slipped to a half million acres – three percent of Saskatchewan's crop production – and (because of the relatively small oat production) virtually no provincial research funds were available for oats.

With the change in marketing of oats, says Rossnagel, by 1998 we were back up to 2 million acres, "back up to about 21 per cent of acres in the province." In 2013 oats could claim about 18 per cent of cropped acres – just under 2 million acres.

Average oat yield in 1916 was about 25 bushels per acre (bpa), 35 bpa by 1944, and by 1991 -50bpa, by 1998 60bpa and in the exceptional year of 2013 oat yield hit nearly 100 bpa! "Nowadays," said Rossnagel, "if you guys don't get over 100 (bpa) you're crying the blues" and want new varieties.

Removal of the Crow Benefit freight subsidy (in 1995) was also a major driver of change for oat marketing. Without the federal subsidy it now became much more costly to ship oats from the prairies, Alberta being a further distance from the (predominately U.S.) mills, that province drastically dropped off in oat production but it also provided incentive for Alberta oat growers to want to connect with, (and eventually join with) Saskatchewan and Manitoba growers to form an oat advocacy group, which eventually became POGA. Their first joint meeting was at Ituna in 1998 – and for that reason the giant Ituna oat plant has three main stems, representing the three prairie oat-growing provinces. Marketing clubs at Ituna, Kelliher and Foam Lake combined forces to make the first meeting happen and later continued their financial and physical support.

The first meeting resulted in formation of the Prairie Oat Growers Association which is now the umbrella for oat commissions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Farmers contribute 50 cents per tonne check-off from non farm - to - farm sales. POGA co sponsors varietal, agronomic and market development with both federal and provincial governments and the oat industry. It also collaborated with USDA, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and other agencies to support a major study and mapping of the oat genome.

Two foot-notes to the story – (1) local wags (with tongue in cheek) estimate with 106 "oat kernels", their steel oat plant might yield "about 65 bushels per acre."

(2) Dr. Rossnagel says, with just a little salt added, oats are the only crop which on their own could provide adequate nutrition to keep an adult human alive for an extended period of time.



Crowds gather, June 28 for the unveiling of the Prairie Oat Growers/ Ituna Community Oat Spike.



Long-time POGA director Lorne Floys of Arborg,MB joins Dwayne Anderson (centre) and Bill Wilton for a victory "grabngrin" picture, Bill Cooper,right, is known as "The Godfather" - an early POGA supporter and the man who organized the founding meeting of the Prairie Oat Growers. In 1998 he farmed nearby at West Bend and now lives in Saskatoon.



Several local farmers check out the oat spike construction as POGA Past President Bill Wilton of Winnipeg (centre) and Past President Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SODC)Dwayne Anderson of Fosston (right) look on.



2000 pounds of steel and over 1000 hours later, a permanent marker to the founding of the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) in 1998 – the three separate clusters represent collaboration between oat growers from three prairie provinces



POGA President Art Enns, Morris, MB (right), SODC President Willie Zuchkan, Parkerview, SK, Ituna town councillor Terry Korchinski, and Ituna Mayor Joe Garchinski, official ceremony.

Prairie Oat Growers Association

POGA'S 17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE Thursday, December 4, 2014 Banff Springs Hotel (Fairmont) - Banff, Alberta

8:00am	Registration and Breakfast - Meet our sponsors and enter the draw for \$100 worth of FREE OAT GROCERIES								
8:45am	Welcome and Introduction – Art Enns, POGA President								
8:50am	Minister of Agriculture - Greetings from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development								
9:00am	Oat Marketing 101 – How to hedge on the market using a variety of resources – Neil Blue, Market Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development								
10:00am	Oat Market Outlook - Randy Strychar, President, Ag Commodity Research								
10:30am	Coffee Break								
11:00am	Assessing North America Crop Weather Trends for 2015 Drew Learner, President, World Weather Inc.								
12:00 noon	Soup and Sandwich Lunch – tour the sponsor's displays								
12:45pm	POGA Annual General Meeting: Art Enns, POGA President								
1:15pm	University of Alberta research project: "Optimizing Oat Yield, Quality and Standability in Central Alberta"								
	Sheri Strydhorst, Agronomy - Research Scientist, University of Alberta								
1:45pm	Transportation Impediments – Robynne Anderson, President, Emerging Ag								
2:30pm	Coffee Break								
3:00pm	Panel Discussion on Grain Transportation: Issues facing oat farmers and other members of the oat value chain: Mark Hemmes: Grain Monitor, Quorum Corporation; Lorne Boundy: Trader, Paterson Grain; Jim McCarthy: President & CEO, North American Millers Association; Mederator: Behyper Andergen, Emercing Ac								
5:00pm	Wran-un and Adiourn - Art Enns, POGA President								
5:45pm	Social Hour								
6:30pm	Dinner and Speaker : Life is What You Make It: A Personal Story of Adversity and Adventure – Leona Dargis, Motivational Speaker; Young Leader in Agriculture and 2011 Canadian Nuffield Scholar								
8:00pm	Adjourn								
	Davtime seminars and lunch \$20.00 Optional Evening Banquet \$50.00								
	*Times and agenda topics subject to change, for updates, pre-registration and credit card payments visit poga.ca								
Not	e: For those arriving on Wednesday December 3rd, there will be a meet and greet at 8pm								

Call 1-403-762-6866 now to book your room. The number of available rooms is limited. Ask for the Prairie Oat Growers Association group code 1214POGA, which is a special negotiated room rate of \$139 per night (plus fees and taxes).



Helicopters in aerial application are less commonly seen on the prairies than fixed wing. But some oats were part of the crop mix receiving foliar fungicides from Expedition Helicopters of London, Ontario. In July, Expedition was chartered by Parrish and Heimbecker who brought in three choppers to Glossop, MB as we'll as Yorkton and Moosomin, SK. Parrish and Heimbecker booked acres with local farmers.

Articles in farm papers suggest fungicide spraying is becoming more prevalent right across the prairies.

It seemed like on more sign of an unusual crop season marked by way too much moisture in a crucial growing period.

Editor's Note: The Oat Scoop is researched and written by Jack Dawes. While it is reviewed by directors wherever possible, Jack takes responsibility for veracity and accuracy in accordance with the best journalistic practices. If there are omissions or errors, they are Jack's. If there is good stuff you like, thank POGA! JD

A full colour version of this newsletter can be seen at www.POGA.ca.

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