



NOVEMBER 2014

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New Oat Export Potential

Saskatchewan farmers have begun tapping the potential of a new export outlet. Ceres Global Ag says the Burlington Northern Railway (BNSF) has hauled the first grain from their truck-to-rail trans-loader at Northgate Saskatchewan, near the U.S. border. Craig Reiners, VP Grain for Ceres says the 40 million dollar high speed grain elevator will handle oats, durum wheat, spring wheat and canola, upon construction completion next fall. (See July 2014 Oat Scoop). In the meantime Ceres will continue to move grain through the trans-load facility.

As of mid-October the first two loop tracks (capable of handling (2) 110 car unit trains) were ready, connected to Burlington Northern rails and the grain system was vetted out by loading some grain cars.

The second "energy track" phase of the Northgate Commodity Logistics Hub will handle petroleum products.

"But most importantly", Reiners says, "farmers were "very positive" about a new grain export market opportunity". And he is proud of the 'Canadian content' factor. "The plant is staffed

by Canadians, from the general manager on down," Reiners noted.

Reiners says the plant has booked rail freight with BNSF and he expects traffic will be brisk into US destinations, including Riverland storage terminals at Duluth and Minneapolis, plus direct to customers.

The entire complex was estimated to be a \$90 million (CDN) investment through Riverland's parent Company Ceres Global Ag. Eventually the logistics hub will also handle crop inputs and mining materials.

Ceres Global Ag is also a shareholder in shortline Stewart Southern Railway which accesses the Bakken oilfield play in south-eastern Saskatchewan.

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The Long and Winding Rail

Grain Millers Canada grain procurement Manager Terry Tyson of Yorkton says there really is no way to know what the winter rail programs will be about. Tyson was one of four on a transportation panel discussion during the Harvest Showdown Event in Yorkton, Saskatchewan November 5.

Tyson agrees that the Canadian system is now back to "near normal" for the time of year but following the federal government orders of last March the railways were hard pressed to move grain east-west to the detriment of south bound movement. He agrees the government was right in the short run to do what they did but the emphasis just to move grain left oat millers reeling (and a few shut their doors for a day or two. But Tyson estimated such a move would have cost the Yorkton plant about \$3500 for every hour of shutdown time.

By "pulling a few rabbits out of the hat", the company was able to maintain its own supply and fed grain "with any and every truck available" into grain Millers U.S. operations.

Consensus among three of the four panelists was that the government should in fact end the mandatory rail program but should keep the doors open to re-instate the "fair rail" provisions on short notice over the winter.

The panel also included farmer and trucking interests, as well as shortline rail.

Earlier, the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) posted a web site article calling for "improvements and minimum movement for southern corridors to keep markets in the US well-served by Canadian grain."

POGA President ART Enns noted the oat growers also are "gearing up (for) the Canada Transportation Act review The government will be consulting with transportation stakeholders from across the country as it determines how best to improve the Canadian transportation system through changes to the Canada Transportation Act. Preliminary briefings have begun and commodity groups will be submitting written positions in December."

The Water Was How High?

The good news, says Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, was that at least some oat and wheat germ plasm from at (AAFC) Brandon research station can be salvaged. The bad news was up to six feet of late June/early July Assiniboine River and rain water wiped out everything before it.

But the "remnant seed" from planting, seed that had been sent to New Zealand for propagation, and returned to Canada in spring 2014, has been saved." So ... we've lost a generation, but we can recover that previous generation by sending it back to New Zealand again." Mitchell Fetch states

"The nursery plots contained oat generations from "f2' to "f6"," she says.

Yield trials were on higher ground south of Brandon. "They got wet, but we were able to pump off most of the water – largely from rain and a high water table. We were able to keep them fairly dry – so we only lost a few plots."

But then in late July and August rain storms and wind left lodged crops, "So I'm not completely confident in the data we'll get from those plots," she said in an interview with The Scoop. Those yield trials are replicated in a few locations, "So if we lose one site it's not as critical as it was with the nursery" (which was a single site). For example at Portage la Prairie advanced yield/Co-op





Oat researcher/plant breeder Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch could only watch in dismay as flood waters covered her 'nursery plots' at Brandon, eventually as much as 6 feet of water! (Above)

trials were later maturing but looked “pretty good”, so there may be some data to help save the over-all data picture from the year.

Naturally, disease was prevalent – especially crown and stem rust. (According to Manitoba Agriculture statistics, during the 2014 growing season Brandon had the highest rainfall totals in the province 510 mm –over 20 inches – calculated to be more than 150% of normal.)

Tracking Healthy Oats – Accentuate the Positive!

In a year when anecdotal reports suggest 2014 might have been the toughest growing season for fusarium in cereal crops since 2004, there likely couldn't have been a better time for the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) to take the lead in trying to find answers about certain fungi - fungi which can produce toxin compounds (aka mycotoxins) in cereal crops – specifically oats.

During Crop Sphere, part of Crop Week in Saskatoon last January, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart announced a three way funding partnership to study an issue that has been bugging the oat industry for years.

Outgoing Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission chairman Dwayne Anderson told oat growers at Crop Week that a “potential food safety issue had cropped up several years previous. That incident resulted in a product recall,” Anderson said.

For that, and other reasons, a four-year million dollar study would be launched to study the

potential occurrence of toxins in the oat growing and marketing chain.

In an interview with The Oat Scoop at that time, Anderson said such a study was a positive approach to a potential problem – namely stringent federal regulations. “I hope we're heading off one of the negative issues that might have taken us right out of the marketplace as a food industry supplier,” he said. “It's not that there's an immediate threat to public health, but there were potential regulations that they were going to throw down our throat that did not make it workable. It's one of those things the food industry faces on a daily basis and we need to develop a scientific basis behind what is actually happening.”

Current SODC President Willie Zuchkan states, “Increasingly stringent testing, especially in Europe, makes it more important now than ever to be proactive.” Zuchkan said that under the proposed Canada/Europe free trade agreement testing of oats (and other crops) for various toxins might be made mandatory – underlining



These oats display symptoms of mildew - a fungal infection that causes downgrading.(courtesy CGC)

the “proactive” pathway for the mycotoxin study, which wants to look into whether certain toxins occur more frequently in certain areas and to ask the question, “can storage be a factor?”

Other aspects of the program may help the primary oat grower prevent mycotoxin presence in their crops.

The program should be complete by 2018. Much of the “heavy lifting” and technical work falls on the shoulders of the Canadian grain Commission

(CGC), which is handling the actual testing. Elevator companies and oat millers also are involved by collecting samples which go to the CGC Grain research Laboratory in Winnipeg.

Oat growers will contribute about \$78,000 dollars over four years (through POGA). The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture commitment is about \$312,000 dollars through the Agriculture Development Fund. CGC’s contribution will total about \$700,000 dollars through to 2018.

Monitoring Prairie Grains

Canadian oats rarely get to see the inside of a ship’s hull. Although we are leading oat exporters, the majority of our oat exports are railed or trucked to the United States. And that is one of the challenges to the Canadian Grain Commission for its role in a four-year study to quantify what toxins may threaten Canada’s long-held reputation for producing high quality grains – specifically oats. For other cereals, pulses and oilseeds which mainly are exported by ship, the CGC gets to see regular samples from its “at-port” operations for the cargo monitoring program. Not so much for oats.

But for Research Scientist and program manager for Microbiology at the Canadian Grain Commission Research Lab, Tom Graefenhan, the study also provides an opportunity for CGC to establish a “baseline” or map, if you will, of the geographic pattern for distribution of both the fungi and the resulting toxins which may occur in oats.

Graefenhan also points to another reality of the Canadian oat industry. There are relatively few Canadian handlers of oats in large volume and/or frequency.

Within the sampling program discussed in the previous article “Tracking Healthy Oats”, the mills and elevators are asked to observe a common sampling regime which includes a “composite” picture of a truck or railcar load.

It’s something the handlers do anyway – probing various areas of the load. But for this study, the “composite sample” includes corresponding “sub-samples” from various trucks arriving over a week’s period of time. That data is complemented by samples submitted to the CGC’s voluntary farmer/harvest sampling program. (In return the farmer gets an unofficial grade, including moisture and protein content).

The test protocols include grinding the grain into small particles. “The problem with mycotoxins

– especially Ochratoxin A (potentially produced during storage) is that it is distributed in a very ‘heterogeneous’ way.” To explain further the CGC scientist points out that most likely there are only small pockets of contamination in a large bin space. For example, a small hole in a bin allowing snow penetration and a subsequent moisture pocket (leading to the formation of moulds) which over time may produce relatively high toxin levels thereby suggesting the possibility that regulatory limits might be exceeded.

“So the challenge for us is to mix that sample really well so we have a homogeneous sample (as homogenous as it gets) and to separate samples with dividers so that we can be sure every sample is representative of the larger sample”, Graefenhan states.

In the case of one contaminated kernel showing up in a sample of ten thousand, the fine grinding highly increases the likelihood that the toxin shows up in the CGC sub-samples at a representative level for the entire load.

For obvious weather related reasons, Graefenhan notes it’s too early to have much specific data on this year’s harvest but he can confirm that fusarium was “a major contaminant” in cereals this year.

“Over the next few months there is probably a good chance we will see some contaminated oats, just as we are likely to see (fusarium contamination) in other crops as well – especially in Saskatchewan.”

During the three-year program CGC will also examine the impact of de-hulling, steaming, kilning and milling of oats on the concentration of mycotoxins.

Editor’s Note: Top Crop Manager (west), October 2014 issue, contains an excellent and extensive discussion of the CGC mycotoxin work

Value in Mycotoxin Testing?

Pest management specialist Brent Flaten confirms the severity of fusarium in Saskatchewan this year – especially in wheat (30 to 40 per cent of damaged kernels have been reported in places). Rain and heavy morning dew combined with the right temperatures at the time of flowering and filling in the wheat attribute to fusarium. Drier south west Saskatchewan areas were the exception. Manitoba and Alberta also had widespread fusarium incidence. "Durum is the most susceptible of the wheats," says Flaten. "That's the crop where we're hearing the real horror stories." Barley and oat fusarium infections are less prevalent, although severe in places.

Flaten also warns that Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) can arrive in several stages, one being spores carried from previously diseased stubble. And the other?

"We're going to have to prepare for root rot and seed germination, vigor or seed quality factors as a result (of FHB infection). Because when you put that fusarium damaged kernel in the ground, it's more of a seed issue. Will it germinate, how much vigor will it have? Will it cause root rot?"

But the possible link to next year is indirect. "(We're hoping) people will use seed treatments (in the spring) to keep seedling blight and root rot down a bit. And then ...we'll have to see during heading time of the wheat whether we have those damp conditions again."

And while fungicide sprays can help, Flaten says growers need to know that the fungicides really are rated only as to "suppression". "And there are so many variables, like late tillers...sometimes the fungicides didn't do so well because it (FHB) was so overwhelming, and usually unpredictable, depending on sudden weather changes."

And marketing? When the fusarium counts reach 30 or 40 per cent the only alternative is to try to clean it to a level acceptable to some market niche, he says. "But it will be tough on some of those higher levels to even get it down to feed levels."

"In any case," Flaten says, "the best safety factor is to secure a toxin test. Not all FHB forms from the 'fusarium graminearum', which produces the poisonous mycotoxin DON. So checking out those mycotoxin levels is important." If those toxin levels are within tolerance levels it may be possible to find a market for certain grains. Flaten says higher FDK (fusarium damaged kernels) but lower mycotoxin levels may be marketable. "It's the mycotoxins that really are the issue, rather than the physical aspects of it."

Brent Flaten was a speaker at Harvest Showdown in Yorkton November 5.



*Fusarium affected oats are seen field-standing.
(Courtesy CGC)*

No Short Cuts from Field to Plate - Oravena Oats

We were taught in elementary geometry that "the shortest distance between two points is a straight line". But in plant breeding and indeed, marketing, there are no straight lines. Take the case of AAC Oravena oat.

Oravena is an oat developed specifically for organic growers – beginning oat breeder Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, now at AAFC's Brandon research facility, made the first "cross" in 2005 and advanced the progeny under strictly "organic" protocols at the former AAFC Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg. Eventually the line selected from that population was given a number - OT 8003.

"The second through fifth generations came from a process known as "bulk breeding" (see August 2014 Oat Scoop) –selecting of course only the 'best-of-the-best' seeds for each succeeding generation, eventually leading to "Co-op" trials for yield measurement and separate trials designed to measure disease resistance," Dr. Mitchell Fetch reported.

Once accepted for registration OT 8003 was given the name 'Oravena' – suggesting its organic influence. Eventually, Grain Millers Canada purchased the marketing rights, and continued a variety of field tests.

To Market or Not to Market?

Terry Tyson, procurement manager with Grain Millers in Yorkton, confirms that the company has put dollars behind the Mitchell Fetch organic oat research (recently that support was extended through American organic food company Clif Bar).

But the company realized further creativity would be required to bring these new cultivars to market.

In part that is because traditionally, oat varieties don't bring adequate financial returns, but Tyson confirms they do often "find a fit" with the marketing portfolio of some seed companies. "It's not that in the seed trade oats necessarily sell at a lower level," he explains – but one of the incessant industry "bugaboos" comes into play. It's called "brown bagging" – selling of seed farm to farm – a long-standing discussion over how far a commercial farmer may go in saving and using his own seed vis a vis selling it unlicensed to others.

Terry Tyson told The Scoop, "Although the organic oat market is robust, it is still very 'niche' in size as compared to conventional, so we knew there just wouldn't be interest in advancing and marketing the organically bred varieties for the organic market by the seed companies. As such, we realized we would have to take a more active role in advancing these

varieties, or the breeding program would just end up taking place in a vacuum. In other words, if we don't advance the deliverables of the program, I don't think anyone would."

That's where Fedoruk Seeds of Kamsack played a key role. Cathy Fedoruk provided this description of how it worked –

"We grew a plot of Breeder seed of AAC Oravena this summer. It was a collaboration of a few of us. We are not organic growers so we needed to source a field that was eligible for organic production as well as a grower who could oversee production and certification. Because it was Breeder Seed a Select Seed Grower had to be in the care and control in order for it to make Pedigreed Seed. That is where we came in. Grain Millers actually own the seed and will be in charge of the marketing of it."

Mrs. Fedoruk explains further, "... (Pro-cert certified) Jack and Bill Chernoff were the organic growers ..., Fedoruk Seeds grew the Seed and, with special exemption from Pro-Cert, (Fedoruk) cleaned the seed."

Tyson says becoming a "registered variety owner" was new territory for Grain Millers. "We purchased seed from Ag Canada."

One More Time - Back to the Field!

Tyson says Oravena had "fair-to-middle" score on lodging when it came out of the co-op trials but in the current growing year on freshly-broken ground it lodged "quite a bit" but "it was not nitrogen stressed."

Given the 2014 conditions and lodging, Tyson expected the oats might not fill well, but he was "pleasantly surprised" to see nice plump kernels and an over-all good-looking sample. (At this writing the final lab test results are not available). Current plans are to re-plant the breeder's seed in spring of 2015.

Tyson says, "the Oravena test weight was 244 grams / ½ Litre, things were nice and low at 1.3%, and Codema groat yield was 70.8%. All of these are pretty decent results for this year, and especially so for the lodging we encountered."

AAC Oravena on the Market?

The latest plan for Oravena? "It will be an openly sold variety, says Terry Tyson "IE: despite our ownership of it, it will not be tied to closed-loop contracts. Our involvement is, as the world's largest organic oat miller, basically to fill a void that we didn't think anyone else would fill. And if the breeding program and development of better-suited varieties for organic production systems bears fruit, our payoff will be in the long run with better organic oat supply – improved production, improved mill yields, improved nutritionals, ability to pursue or fill growing demand (which is somewhat hampered by supply)."

Tapping The Mexican Appetite for OATS

contributed to The Oat Scoop by Robynne Anderson of Emerging AG.

Mexico's population has been rapidly growing for almost 200 years. To meet the food demand of that growth, Mexican food product manufacturers strongly rely on imports. After the United States and Germany, Mexico is the largest importer of oats in the world. Oats account for less than 1% of total grain production in the country, and this low trend production is likely to continue, since the oat area and production have become fairly unstable.

1. Do Mexicans eat oats?

Yes. Although not part of traditional Mexican cuisine, oats are increasingly used as a breakfast food, snacks, and in fortified beverages.

2. Do Mexicans need oats?

Here are the facts – you decide! Mexico has overtaken the United States in the obesity stakes, with 32.8% of the population currently obese. Mexico is now one of the countries with the biggest weight problems in the world, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation. Rates of high blood pressure and diabetes are high and on the rise. As well as paying attention to the importance of a healthy life style and diet, the Mexican Government and food companies have been working since 2012 on social campaigns to fight obesity. As a result, the market for oats has been growing as consumers recognize the dietary benefits of whole grains.

POGA's 'Trade Mission to Mexico' in November 2013 identified key opportunities for Canadian oat growers in the Mexican market. We are using the key reflections from the Mission to make use of the "healthy" momentum by launching a Spanish web site focused on promoting Canadian oats, in the Mexican market: Avenacanada.com.

On-line since last April, the web site provides valuable information about Canadian oats in a friendly and appetizing way. Mexican visitors can find out all the nutritional properties of oats, and how to prepare them in delicious ways. Avenacanada.com is an easy to navigate website, with customized oat recipes, going from Enchiladas to meatloaf and pancakes, to offer Mexican consumers ideas on how to integrate oats in their daily diet.

3. Do Mexicans want oats?

Yes! POGA launched an online advertising campaign to promote the web site and has obtained success among Mexican consumers. In only 6 months, the website has received 75,350 unique visitors, which totalled 90,965 sessions and almost 300,000 page views. More simply put, POGA scored about 400 visitors per day to the web site, each and one of them interested in oats.

Following the current social and viral tendencies, POGA launched a Facebook Fan Page, which in only one month achieved 2,540 likes, 4,460 shares and 675 comments on posts. Using conventional ads and carefully planned weekly posts, POGA managed to engage 45,750 Facebook unique users.

POGA is looking for more ways to promote oats in the Mexican market and is planning to launch new recipes each month. The web site will have new sections soon, including a "press room" with links to the articles that Mexican bloggers have written about POGA's web site on oats.



Did you know?

Farming for Health . . .

During harvest at the Farming for Health project in Yorkton, SK - a fund raiser for a new hospital- combine yield monitors hit up to 210 bushels per acre - but only occasionally. Project logistics manager Allan Mitchell said the overall target was to hit 150 bushels - final tally for oats was 127 bpa.

On the other hand Mitchell said in some flooded low spots up to 70 bushels per acre was lost to water stress. Ross Fisher of the East Health Foundation says 300 acres of oats grossed \$114,007 from three varieties -Summit, Stride and Sea Biscuit.

A half section of canola averaged 45 bushels per acre and provided 102 thousand dollars in gross revenue. Sale of the oats and canola were contracted in advance with Grain Millers in Yorkton and Louis Dreyfus Commodities.

The city of Yorkton donated use of the land (on Yorkton's south side). Local agribusiness provided inputs, machinery and manpower with the goal to support the building of a new hospital.

Among the plans for the 2015 version of Farming for Health is to go "totally variable rate", says Allan Mitchell.



Photo courtesy "Farming for Health"

Welcome to Gluten Free Oats!

A Saskatchewan Company already is at the forefront of proposed new Health Canada regulations which will allow 'gluten free' labeling for certain oat products.

CEO of Avena Foods, in Regina, Rob Stephen, notes the farmer-owned company has been producing very low-gluten consumer oat products for seven years. The brand is "Only Oats" and it is well-known to many celiacs and others with low gluten tolerance. Avena Foods virtually "rose from the ashes" of Farm Pure Foods when the company faced bankruptcy. But before it went away, Farm Pure had begun a "farm-to-plate" protocol - carried through to the present, which can put oats into boxes and on shelves at a standard higher than Health Canada's tolerance for gluten. Health Canada allows 20 parts per million - Avena products are at 10 parts per million or lower.

Farmer contractors must use pedigreed oat seed, on ground not seeded to wheat, barley or other higher gluten crops and must deliver an extremely clean product. Avena Foods maintains tight cleaning and testing processes, including the industry standard test for gluten. Stephen told the Saskatoon media, "We've been doing the rigour necessary to produce a gluten-free oat, but we haven't been able to label it as such." That presents a problem for consumers. "Celiac consumers would often be confused, about which oats are safe and which are not," he says. "With the proposed regulations and the way Avena Foods generates gluten free oats they're going to be assured there is a 'safety profile' when they buy our product."

Health Canada will receive comment on its proposed new regulations until January 29, 2015. The agency says, "Celiac disease is a medical condition caused by an adverse or negative reaction to gluten. Individuals affected by this disease have a reduced ability to absorb nutrients. About 1 in 133 Canadians is affected by Celiac disease."

Outwitting Water (With Oats)!

Oats are “buying” acres on at least one south central Manitoba farm. Jon and Heather Lewis, with their son Brad, their nephew Brent and in partnership with (Jon’s brother) Stewart and Colleen Lewis, crop about 6000 acres at Rapid City, north of Brandon. Jon says “More and more oats are finding their way into our rotations, especially in regards to harvest timing.”

Lewis says they found out this year for sure “oats do well in either dry or wet years”, especially on alfalfa ground where the oats were direct-seeded in, “But mostly they’re a good fit for us, for timing, at harvest time and they will be the first thing we take off.” In 2014 their rotation included wheat, canola, barley and soybeans.



“Almost” done harvest at Rapid City!

But this year was wet from the start, delaying seeding until May 25, “That’s when the (Souris) oats went in – and then we struggled every day until the June 10th crop insurance deadline.” The result was about 1000 acres unseeded, and a goal to seed winter wheat later. But that plan was foiled by continued wet fields. Plan B was to open the ground by inserting anhydrous ammonia and granular phosphate blend with the seeding unit. “That way we’re ready for another wet spring, and if we have to go ahead and seed canola with a Valmar applicator and harrow it in . . . at least we’re ready to do it!”

Job one of the barley; the last crop to be sowed (June 11th) was to suck up moisture from three wet quarters. It worked and (a pleasant surprise the Lewis say) – the barley went malt!

The Lewis have begun moving canola acres to soybeans. “We started with them two years ago and we have been quite happy with the results. Not that canola isn’t a great crop to grow. But there have been issues arising with disease, bugs...and it always seem we are chasing something!”

Soybeans on the other hand says Lewis, “From what we’ve seen, inoculate to recommendation, roll the ground two days after to get ‘max’ germination. Two passes for weed control is a must, as beans are not a great competitor with weeds. Early maturing varieties ‘die down’ in their own time, (making them easy to harvest). They’ve got some plusses on the income side as well.”

So how did the oats come through the wet year? “Depending on the amount they got beat back by the rain, this that and the other thing!” Lewis recalls emphatically. “Ironically there was a July ‘dry-spell’ as well which set back the oats on hay ground but not on continuous crop ground.”

“All this water stunted them but (with a “decent” July) they made a great turn-around, and at the end of the day we were quite pleased by what we took off.”

Virtually all of the cereals were fungicide –treated.

Combining was of course held up by weather but the oats did come off by September 10th – straight-combined despite some lodging. “Souris are shorter - strawed anyway and there wasn’t anything we couldn’t handle.” The first-crop oats on alfalfa land did 90 bushels per acre but on continuous-cropped land the yield was 130 bpa. From the combine the oats went mostly to Delmar commodities (on contract) and some to CanOat Milling (Richardson) – at \$3.05 and \$3.30/bus.

As a post-harvest footnote – the Lewis' invested heavily in re-conditioning the land – filling in ruts, weed spraying and applying fall nutrients.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

TCU Place
(as part of CropSphere)

Saskatoon, SK

Free admission

Agenda

- 2:45 pm Opening remarks from SODC chairman, Willie Zuchkan
- 2:50 pm SODC Annual Business Meeting
- 3:15 pm Chris Willenborg, Assistant Professor, U of S –
Improving Weed Management for Saskatchewan Oat Growers
- 3:45 pm Adjourn

Times and agenda topics subject to change, check poga.ca for updates



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE OAT MARKET?

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Keystone Centre, Upstairs in Curling Club

Brandon, MB

Free admission

Agenda

- 11:30 am Free lunch and registration
- 12:00 pm Welcome from MOGA President, Art Enns
- 12:05 pm MOGA Annual Business Meeting
- 12:25 pm Market Outlook: Mike Jubinville,
Lead Analyst and President, Pro-Farmer Canada

Times and agenda topics subject to change, check poga.ca for updates



SAVE THE DATE!

Alberta Oat Growers AGM will be March 12, 2015 in conjunction with the Peace Country Classic Agriculture Show in Grand Prairie, AB. Please check back with the POGA website www.poga.ca for updated information.



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 **Greetings from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development** – Dave Burdek, Assistant Deputy Minister
- 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, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
- 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;
Moderator: Robynne Anderson, Emerging Ag
- 5:00pm **Wrap-up and Adjourn** – 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**

Daytime 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

Note: For those arriving on Wednesday December 3rd, there will be a meet and greet at 8pm



Oat Champion

Saltcoats area farmer Lloyd Inglis (left) is congratulated by Willie Zuchkan, President Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission at the Harvest Showdown Grain Show Awards night, November 6, in Yorkton.

Lloyd says the 400 acres of Dancer oats was highly variable and lots of it was wet. He thinks he 'lucked out' on bin choice for this sample!



PGR Trials

Field trials conducted by Dr Linda Hall, Professor, Weed Science and Environmental Biosafety of Transgenic Crops, at the University of Alberta will yield data about plant growth regulators (PGR's) - the trials were conducted for The Alberta Oat Growers Association/POGA this past summer and will be outlined at the POGA AGM in Banff Thursday, December 4th, by U of A Research Scientist Sheri Strydhorst.

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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