



OCTOBER 2018

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## Big Opportunities in Canadian Oats

### POGA Writes To The Western Producer

*In response to two articles published in The Western Producer on July 19, 2018, and reprinted here in their entirety (see pages 3 and 4), POGA sent the following Letter to the Editor. The version published in The Western Producer does not include the charts you see here, but directs readers to [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) to see those charts.*

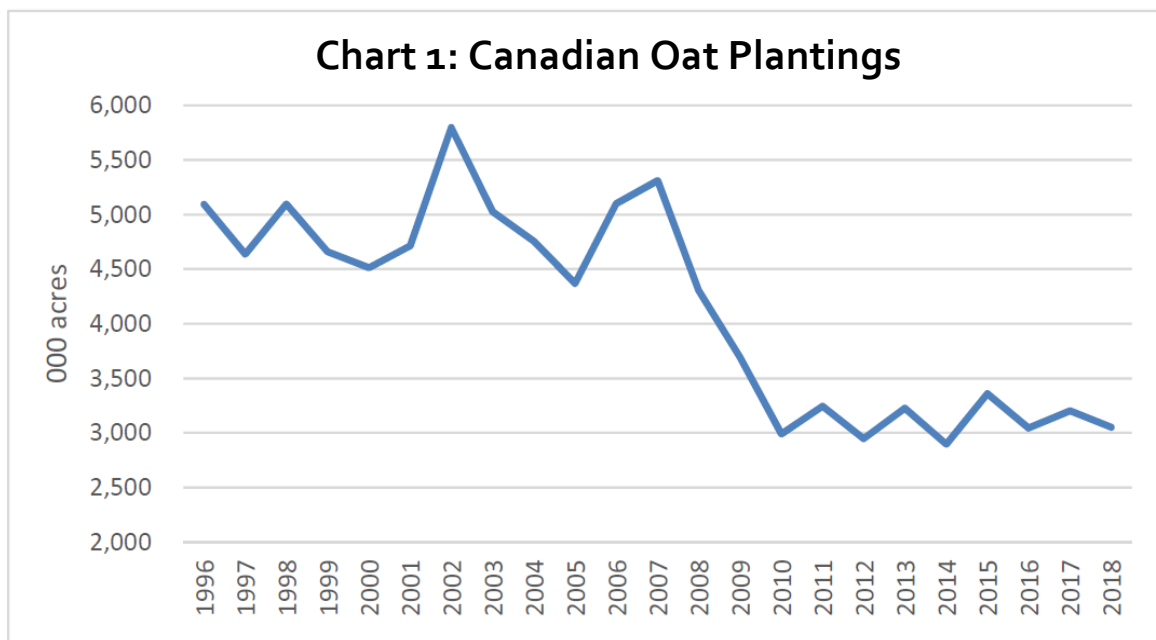
**To: Robin Booker, Agriculture Reporter,  
The Western Producer**

The Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) Board is always pleased to read oat-related news articles published by The Western Producer and to know that the media is keeping an eye on this important Canadian crop. This letter is in response to your articles of July 19 (“Funding loss a blow to oat research” and “Ag economist questions future of oats”).

Farming, along with all other industries, does not occur without its share of challenges. However, in spite of what appears to be concerning events, we (as growers of oats) are feeling positive about the current and future outlook for Canadian oats. We are obliged to

correct a statement made by Richard Gray where he is quoted as saying, “You’re finding less acres of oats as there was in the past.” In fact, the number of seeded oat acres in Canada, specifically Western Canada has been holding steady for more than eight years (see Chart 1 below). In addition, in spite of receiving less total funding dollars when compared to Canada’s larger acre crops, oat-yield increases per acre are outperforming many major crops, such as wheat, barley and many others as shown in Chart 2. Oat quality also continues to increase with higher beta glucan varieties continuing to be developed. We are confident that this proves that the research, production and marketing efforts we, and others in our industry, make every day have been successful.

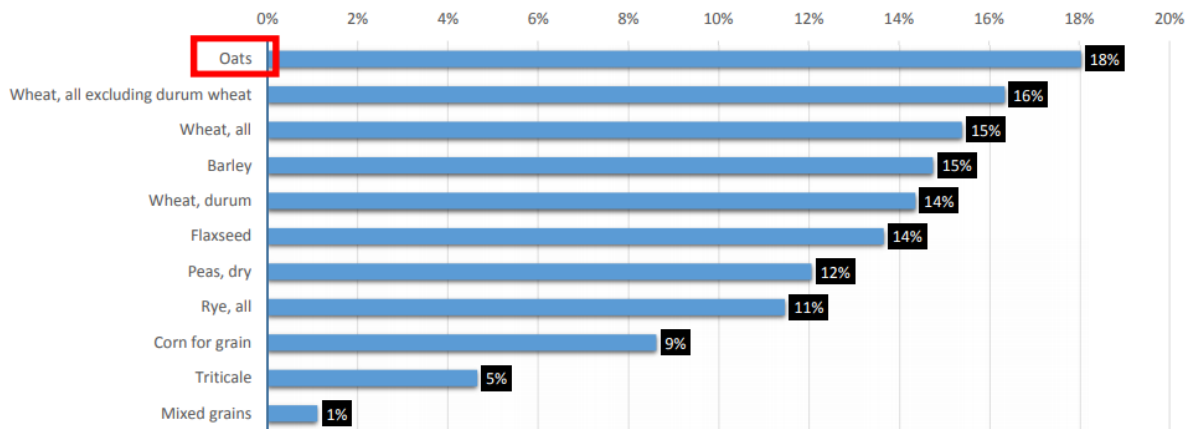
**Chart 1: Canadian Oat Plantings**



(Source: Oatinformation.com)

## Chart 2: Canadian Crop Yield Gains

Current 5-Year Average change from Prior 5 Years



Oatinformation.com

Art Enns, POGA President, shares, "Canadian Oat Growers have a number of private companies we work with now who use and source varieties or germplasm from all around the world. Due to this combined effort, the oat market enjoys much-needed variety development to combat disease and continue to increasing yield and therefore producer profitability. POGA is leveraging this advantage and increasing its market share - most recently in Mexico where oat imports have been the highest in history in the past three years. POGA has also received interest from other countries inquiring as to how to source oats from Canada. Quaker's elimination of all oat breeding funding for Western Canada, especially when they are one of the largest oat miller's in the world, is definitely a blow to our growers and the entire oat industry. But, Canadian oat growers are resilient and the other industry members have already stepped up to make sure Canadian growers can continue to be successful growing oats."

There are many reasons that other countries display increasing interest in Canadian oats. Oat product continues to gain a reputation for health-related benefits; qualities such as gluten-free and heart-healthy are reasons oats are called a 'superfood' in some circles. We enjoy good market response, which is increasing 2-3% per year for human food, which is a consistent and dependable growth pattern. Asian countries are consuming more oats every day. For example, China has increased their oat imports nearly 55 times since 2006. It's clear, marketing opportunities for oats are expanding, not shrinking.

Brad Boettger, Alberta Oat Growers Commission Chairman, is aware of the benefits when all players partner within the oat industry. Boettger states, "By combining the funding from the industry and Canadian and provincial governments, the entire oat industry, including growers, benefit from huge returns on

investment. For example, POGA members currently pay less than 20% of the total cost of oat research projects due to combined and leveraged funding. There is a ripple effect on the entire industry when a company chooses to 'go it alone' and this reduces overall funding to oats since it degrades the matching opportunities for Government research funding. However, Canada remains the largest exporter of oats in the world and our growers will speak to the value of oats through their sales decisions. Our organizations will continue to foster cooperation between all industry players and work with growers so oats continue to be a profitable crop in their rotation."

While oat growers are disappointed that PepsiCo (Quaker) has withdrawn Canadian oat breeding funding and have chosen to refocus their breeding investments in the USA, and that federal governmental funding agencies have decreased their percentage of breeding funding for all crops (despite their increased focus on Agriculture by requesting Canada's agrifood exports reach \$75 billion by 2025), we do not foresee a dismal future for oats. Actually quite the opposite as international market opportunities for this healthy "super food" continue to grow. Western Canadian Oat Growers still receive breeding program support from every other major oat miller and many other industry players to alleviate the shortfall this reduced funding has created. The entire oat industry is a vibrant community that dedicates itself to all aspects of oat research, production, processing, marketing and sales. When we experience a challenge, we do not throw in the towel, but continue to build on what is working well. As you have read, much is working extremely well in our industry and our oat growers, with the majority of the industry, will continue to ensure that it continues to.

Sincerely,  
Shawna Mathieson, Executive Director on behalf of the  
Prairie Oat Growers Association Board of Directors

## Western Producer Article Reprint

### Funding loss a blow to research (by Robin Booker, published in The Western Producer July 19, 2018)

Public oat breeding has taken a major blow with PepsiCo pulling funding support from all oat breeding research in Canada.

"In total it's nearly \$600,000 per year that they've eliminated, so now PepsiCo/Quaker is not helping to fund any oat breeding programs in Canada as far as we know," said Shawna Mathieson, executive director of the Prairie Oat Growers Association.

Quaker, which was acquired by PepsiCo in 2000, had been a longtime oat research supporter in Canada, but is now the only major miller in Western Canada that isn't helping to fund POGA research initiatives, Mathieson said.

PepsiCo began cutting funding to breeding programs in Canada in the middle of last year, including Agriculture Canada's breeding program at Brandon, which helps support programs across Western Canada. Funding was also pulled from Agriculture Canada's oat-breeding program in Ottawa.

PepsiCo withdrew approximately \$80,000 from public oat breeding programs run through Agriculture Canada research centres.

However, the loss of funding is amplified because the Agriculture Canada funding scheme through Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which took effect April 2018, sees federal research money match industry funding.

As a result, the \$80,000 hit from PepsiCo's withdrawal is exaggerated by a further reduction of \$80,000 in federal funding.

Before last April, Growing Forward and then Growing Forward 2 provided 75 percent of plant breeding funds.

As well, PepsiCo pulled \$500,000 in funding from the oat breeding program at the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre in Saskatoon at the beginning of this year.

CAP had not been matching PepsiCo funding to the CDC, so the total loss of funding for oat breeding in Canada since last summer is \$660,000, including the shortfall from PepsiCo's withdrawal as well as the reduced federal funding.

Alan Butuk, an oat grower from Insinger, Sask., who sits on the POGA board, said funding responsibility for breeding research is being increasingly off-loaded onto farmers through checkoffs, even though the entire industry benefits from the research.

"We're certainly seeing that with the asks we're getting at the Prairie Oat Growers Association. We're getting more requests for funding because of the fact that a lot of the sectors are reducing the funding they're putting in," Butuk said.

"When we see an industry pull out of funding like PepsiCo has done, do we slow down the research and we don't

advance as fast as other countries are? Or how do we find that middle ground, where we keep advancing and keeping pace with what other parts of the world are doing?"

He said public breeding programs are needed to help crop varieties adapt to upcoming changes in agriculture.

"Public oat breeding will address concerns of many parts of the sector," Butuk said.

"Some of the private ones tend to be more focused on the actual needs of their own markets. (Public breeding addresses) yield gains to bushel weights to disease control. The disease issues across Western Canada vary quite a bit, so if they only focus on one region you might not get the breeding research needed to cover all of the areas."

Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, an oat breeder at Agriculture Canada's Brandon research centre, said breeding will be challenging without PepsiCo's support.

"I believe we are going to have to drop some of the activities that we were doing, just because we don't have the funding available," she said.

"We won't be able to do as much as we were, but the other industry partners are still there, so the program will continue."

Her focus is to develop milling quality oat cultivars for Western Canada that have high beta glucan with a healthy amount of oil, high test weight and plump uniform seed so that millers can get the most efficient yield in their product.

"We also want good agronomically superior cultivars that the producers can plant on their land and know that they'll get a good yield back, and it will be disease resistant and it will be an end product that the millers will want to buy," Mitchell Fetch said.

Mathieson said POGA and the rest of the industry partners are trying to adjust to the loss of PepsiCo funding.

"POGA encourages the Canadian oat growers to sell their oats to companies that are supporting their farms and families and those companies that appreciate the dedication required for long-term farming success," Mathieson said.

She said PepsiCo sources nearly all of its oats for Quaker from Canadian growers.

PepsiCo was asked to comment but didn't make a representative available before press time July 16.

This great  
Oat Stuffing  
recipe and  
many  
more at  
[poga.ca](http://poga.ca)





## Western Producer Article Reprint Ag economist questions future of oats (by Robin Booker, published in The Western Producer July 19, 2018)

Oats is at risk of becoming an orphan crop, said Richard Gray, agricultural economist at the University of Saskatchewan.

An orphan crop is a crop with too small an acreage footprint to garner a lot investment from either the private or public sector.

"Part of it is they (oats) are a cereal grain, and the terms of trade have been shifting against cereal over the last few years. You're finding less acres of oats as there was in the past," Gray said.

He said he sees resemblance of declining oat acreage to how cereal rye "went the way of the dodo bird" even though it used to be a significant crop for prairie growers.

"If the funding (for oat research) now drops off that means it will be more difficult for the crop to compete in the future because you will have continued investment in canola, wheat, and certainly in the pulse crops and soybeans," Gray said.

He said smaller crops with weak intellectual property rights face a significant challenge gathering investment from the private sector in Canada because it is difficult to raise royalties from their development.

"Canada introduced the plant breeders rights legislation in 2015, but regulations around it to create a royalty-collection system (have) yet to be implemented," Gray said.


"Last time I checked, all the wheat royalties (in Canada) put together are about \$5 million a year. That's not enough to begin to create a private industry around it."

He said much more money is generated for plant breeders in countries such as Australia, which has end-point royalties, and France, which uses a uniform end-point royalty system.

He said relying on public dollars for crops with relatively low acreage can also be problematic.

"If you like public dollars supporting small crops, then you have to decide which ones you're going to support. Are you going to support fababeans or are you going to support oats? Which one has the most growth potential? It became a challenge," Gray said.

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## China Sources Canadian Oats®

### Chinese Company Films Saskatchewan Oat Farm

As you likely know, for the past few years, POGA has been hard at work trying to secure market access for Canadian oats in China. Therefore, when Helen Ma, Purchasing Manager for Qingdao Seasoned Health Product Co., Ltd., contacted POGA Executive Director Shawna Mathieson, and asked for a tour of the Mathieson farm to learn about how Canadian oats are grown, there was no question that POGA would do it!

The company sources and distributes health products and imported foods in China. Ma states, "The Chinese public is looking for natural products grown in areas that are known to be relatively free of pollution and contamination.

Canada has a good reputation in China for growing healthy, clean product, and demand for Canadian oat products is increasing."



*Canada Oats makes good porridge in China!*

The first Canadian oat product the company bought and packaged was the oak flakes. They then introduced oat flours mixed with other flours, such as red bean or black bean. The company also has plans to expand the oat flake product. Ma explains, "We believe oat flakes mixed with dried fruits, such as blueberry or raspberry, or other grains, such as quinoa flakes, will also be popular because Chinese people are beginning to pay more attention to natural, healthy food products."

During two visits to the Mathieson farm, Ma and her team took videos - first of oat seeding and again during oat harvest. The video will be used for television advertisements in China. Mathieson states, "It's great to get further exposure in China for our healthy and safe Canadian oats. POGA continues to work diligently on gaining market access for raw food and feed oats into China and I hope efforts like this help all Canadian oat growers by increasing our export markets!"



*Jeff Mathieson talking with Helen Ma about seeding Canadian oats.*

POGA is sending three representatives to China in November for another Ministerial mission to promote Canadian oats and to continue to work towards gaining this valuable market access. Hopefully, this interest in Canadian oats is a good indication that POGA's efforts will pay off!

## POGA'S Front Line<sup>®</sup>

### Meet the Executive Director

In one way or another, all of you know Shawna Mathieson, Executive Director of POGA and its member Commissions. What you already know about her is that she is the dynamic and passionate 'face' of POGA. However, maybe it's time to dig a little deeper and find out a bit more about the woman behind the desk.

Mathieson has worked full-time for POGA since September, 2011. Her education includes: a dual Undergraduate degree in Finance and Marketing from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS and a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at Dallas (TX). Mathieson's work experience includes: Financial Analyst, Business Analyst and Marketing Manager for U.S. firms, large and small, and Marketing Program Leader for SaskPower in Regina, SK. She also shares, "I have been farming with my husband in Watson, SK since 2008, and was recently 'promoted' from grain cart operator to combine driver a few days a year when there's a need for an extra body."

Before farming in Saskatchewan, Shawna grew up on a family farm in Kansas. Mathieson explains what attracted her to POGA: "While working for SaskPower in Regina, I saw the POGA job posting, which offered the opportunity to work in the agricultural sector as well as from a home office. I wanted the flexibility to be at our farm more often while still using my education and work experience. It is a very good fit for both me and my family. Since I travel 40+ days/year with POGA, mostly October through April, it's great that my husband's farming career allows him some flexibility to be at home with our son over the winter. And, when he's working full-out during seeding, spraying and harvest, my job allows me to be closer to home – for the most part anyway."

Her childhood could also have something to do with Shawna's continuing connection to agriculture: "My father likes to brag that he 'got me into this field' by 'allowing' (I would say 'forcing') me to drive a wheat truck and tractor." She also shares an interesting tidbit: "In Kansas, you can get a farm permit at age 14 that allows a farm kid to drive on any farm-related job and to/from school. So, I was driving a loaded wheat truck to the elevator at age 14 because my parents don't store grain on their farm – they haul it all directly from the field to the elevator. Kansas still allows farm permits today and, in my opinion, it's a great way to allow farm children to legally (and with insurance) help more on the farm."

Shawna, husband Jeff, and 4-year-old son Andrew, farm about 2,450 acres. Shawna states, "Jeff's parents still farm their home quarter and help out a lot at seeding and harvest. We have been fortunate to add about 1,000 acres to the farm in the last 10 years; if the opportunity arises, we would like to add about 400 more acres. We are the 4th generation of farmers on this land and, though he's still young, we're very pleased that Andrew, too, loves the farm. To date, his only real disappointment is that we don't have livestock – or a cheetah and an elephant!"

Working for POGA (and its member Commissions) means juggling a lot of high-level tasks. Mathieson reveals, "I get over 100 e-mails a day and spend an average of 15-20 hours a week on the phone, with everyone from the Prime Minister's office to producers, millers, buyers, seed companies, researchers, government officials, funders and media. I apply for funding on behalf of the 4 oat commissions through 7 different federal and provincial organizations; that's how we keep the research costs to farmers down to under \$0.20 for each project dollar spent. POGA has over 30 projects on the go at any given time and each project requires significant tracking and reporting." Mathieson's dedication to the job is evident in POGA's achievements – she loves what she does. "I always try to bring a 'farmer's perspective' to meetings and events I attend. It's easy for the farmer voice to get lost even though they are the sole reason we are all in this sector! Often I am the only farmer in a meeting and that provides me the opportunity to make sure the farmer's voice is heard." However, because any job comes with challenges: "My least favourite part of the job is commission refund request time because that's when I encounter the small percentage of disgruntled producers. I, and the Board, welcome producers' thoughts, concerns and suggestions and we are more than willing to answer questions, even if it ends in an agreement to disagree. However, at the end of the day, it's great when everyone is simply respectful and pleasant."



*Shawna, Andrew and Jeff - knee-deep in oats on their farm*

What does Shawna do on her personal time and what are her interests? Shawna declares, "Action! Water skiing, wake boarding, wake skating, paddle boarding – I love all water sports. I play on a women's basketball team in the winter and an ultimate Frisbee team in the summer, and work out 5-6 times a week. My husband claims I have two speeds: 'full out' and 'sleeping'. However, I also enjoy gardening and, on occasion, will do something crafty like crocheting, bake or can something, just to keep everyone guessing!"

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*The oat commissions also employ a part-time assistant from Manitoba. So stay tuned - the next Oat Scoop edition will be profiling the commissions' other staff member!*

## Research: Mycotoxins in Canada®

### Project Wrap-Up

University of Guelph's Art Schaafsma and Victor Limay-Rios (principal investigators), have concluded a three-year research project: *Mitigating Mycotoxins in the Canadian Food Value Chain*. Food and Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) coordinated the project. An introductory article was published in the March, 2017 Oat Scoop and there, Susan Abel, FCPC Vice President of Safety and Compliance, provides explanation of the effects of deoxynivalenol (DON) and ochratoxin A (OTA) mycotoxins on Canada's grain industry, and the project's objectives. Currently, of the two toxins, OTA in stored grain is of more concern to oat growers.

Health Canada has not, at this time, set mycotoxin maximum limits (MLs) for foods, except for DON MLs in soft wheat. However, this regulation has been 'under review' in Canada for many years. Sheryl Tittlemier, Research Scientist with Canadian Grain Commission, explains, "Currently, if high levels of mycotoxins (or any other contaminant) are found in food, Health Canada may do a risk assessment and take action to protect the public, even if no ML is in place." This means that the industry, at all levels, must be prepared to mitigate and control mycotoxins. Recommendations and information resulting from this research project will provide producers with additional means to do that.

The research done in this project is amongst the first of its kind in Canada and significant, valuable data on these mycotoxins has been collected and archived in the country's historical data banks and will be available to researchers for future projects. While the majority of work was done using Ontario wheat, meaningful steps forward have been made that will benefit Canada's entire grain industry.

Planned objectives for the project included:

- mycotoxin surveillance in field and on-farm storage;
- development of reliable methods for sampling aspirated dust particles and testing for mycotoxins; and
- creation of best practices for post-farm storage and processing to minimize the development of OTA.

Some of the project's achievements include:

- a new, high-performance, mass spectrometer system housed at the University of Guelph;
- new detection processes for DON and OTA detection;
- a multi-mycotoxin protocol for 32 compounds was validated in grain and dust;
- sampling analysis time has been reduced from 90 to 25 minutes;

- a method for sampling and testing DON and OTA at farm field and on-farm storage bins using aspirated dust particles has been evaluated;
- a method for inducing OTA hotspots in small scale experimental bins has been optimized (researchers' note: knowing how to make them happen allows us to advise the industry how to avoid them);
- OTA in grain and aspirated dust was positively correlated (researchers' note: to our knowledge, this is the first report on levels of OTA found in grain and the corresponding aspirated dust samples); and
- additional information obtained: based on preliminary results in field plot research (wheat), genetic resistance and FHB fungicide individually each contributed approximately 50% to DON reduction compared with non-treated controls, and combined, they resulted in 75% reduction.

The most immediate benefit of this project is the production of a bulletin that provides producers with information regarding identification and prevention of OTA development through improved storage practices. In order to make them immediately and conveniently available to producers, POGA has included the bulletin as a 'tear-out sheet' in this newsletter (see center pages). The bulletin is also available at [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) and at POGA's and the provincial commissions' Annual General Meetings.

FCPC wishes to thank its generous supporters: the University of Guelph, Kellogg, POGA, Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Canadian National Millers Association, the Western Grains Research Foundation, and the Government of Canada's Agri-Innovation Program.

## Crown Rust Marker Research®

### First You Find Them, Then You Use Them!

According to the Government of Saskatchewan's Agribusiness website: *Crown rust, also known as leaf rust, is caused by a fungus, Puccinia coronata f.sp. avenae. The crown rust fungus is specific to cultivated oat, wild oat, and a few other wild grasses, but will not infect wheat, barley or rye. Crown rust reduces oat yield and causes thin kernels with low test weight - factors which greatly reduce milling quality. Loss due to disease can reach 100 per cent if infection is early, if it is a susceptible cultivar, and if weather conditions are favourable for the development of fungal spores and their spread.*

With this oat menace in mind, POGA entered into an agreement with the North American Millers' Association (NAMA) to support the *Crown Rust Marker Project*, led by Dr. Kathy Esvelt Klos, Research Geneticist with Agriculture Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS). The USDA-ARS also provided Dr. Klos with assistance from other molecular genetic marker experts - Drs. Shiaoman Chao and Gina Brown.

At the 2015 Oat Rust Forum in St. Paul, Minnesota, the project was identified as a valuable first step to help oat breeders more quickly develop resistant varieties. The purpose stated in the agreement reads: “The project will identify molecular markers for oat crown rust resistance. These markers will allow breeders to know whether they have a resistant variety without having to expose the variety to crown rust. It will also allow breeders to more effectively combine multiple resistance genes into a single variety. The USDA ARS lab will take in samples from breeding programs from around the world, develop markers, validate them, and then characterize germplasm.”

In an update report, Dr. Klos states, “In most cases (*Crown Rust*) resistance genes present in specific oat lines are unknown. This project seeks to develop assays for molecular markers linked to the Crown Rust resistance genes most probably deployed in elite oat germplasm, and to evaluate markers for suitability of marker-assisted breeding and for identifying the specific forms of resistance within cultivars.”

Crown Rust is a wily adversary - it quickly mutates and adapts to newly developed, disease-resistant cultivars, and is able to do so in as little as five years. The trick to keeping ahead of the pathogen, according to Dr. Klos: “Knowing which of the lines available possess genes different from those already incorporated into a breeding program can help when it comes time to select parents for the next generation of oat cultivars.” The research team is working to develop molecular markers tightly linked to known Crown Rust resistance (Pc) genes, to evaluate their ability to correctly identify oat lines carrying the linked Pc genes, and to identify oat germplasm carrying specific Pc genes.

To date, Dr. Klos and her team have developed assays for markers linked to 6 resistance genes whose genomic location was already known, and also mapped the genomic location of two additional resistance genes. To read the specifics of the team’s findings to date, go to [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) - 2018 Research to access both the Executive Summary and Progress Report.

The project’s lifespan is 2015 to 2019 and a final report will be available in 2019/20.

## **Field Day at Lacombe® Oats, Oats and More Oats**

On August 9, 2018, Jennifer Mitchell Fetch hosted the Prairie Oat Breeding Consortium’s (POBC) Annual Summer Field Tour at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada’s (AAFC) Lacombe Research and Development Centre (LaRDC). The POBC, which began in 1996, is AAFC’s cooperative oat breeding program led by Mitchell Fetch and is currently supported by eight industry funding partners (including POGA) and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, AgriScience Program: Projects Component.

The Brandon Research and Development Center (BRDC), located in Manitoba, is the home base site which hosts the early generation disease nurseries and is one of the AAFC site/locations where various yield trials are conducted. A second site at LaRDC includes all yield trials and is also the location where all advanced lines are increased for purification and to provide seed for the next generation of multi-location testing. Twenty-two participants attended the tour, including POBC delegates from POGA (Board members and oat producer guests); representatives from the seed marketers, oat processors and millers; and LaRDC and BRDC staff.

In recent years, the annual tour has been hosted at AAFC’s Brandon, Manitoba location, and before that, at the Glenlea site south of Winnipeg. LaRDC has not hosted a tour since the death of Dr. Solomon Kibite, LaRDC oat breeder, in 2003; Mitchell Fetch felt it was time to tour the Lacombe test plot location.

Dr. T. Kelly Turkington, LaRDC Pathologist and Acting Associate Director of Research, Development and Technology, was on hand to share expertise. Mitchell Fetch explains, “Dr. Turkington provided a tour of the Plant Sciences support facilities and responded to questions about diseases (especially diseases on the oat leaves) found in the plots (which were likely bacterial or *Pyrenophora* leaf blotching/spotting).”

Wes Dyck, LaRDC Research Technician, guided the group through the Plant and Soil Research Building, which contains the facilities and equipment used for the test plots. Mitchell Fetch states, “The building houses technical staff associated with research programs involved with plants, pathology and agronomy. It also houses labs, growth cabinets, and facilities for seed and sample drying, cleaning and processing.”

“Currently, Wes is the only staff member with the oat breeding program at Lacombe, with 2 summer students this year. The POBC, including POGA, has agreed to provide funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Project to hire a GL-MAN labourer to assist Wes, but we have not identified a candidate for that 5-year term position as yet. This new position is vital for the success of this oat breeding program and the safety of the Lacombe workers.”

Mitchell Fetch continues, “Wes takes care of both oat and wheat plots at Lacombe and is essentially a ‘one man show’ for Lacombe once the oats get to the planting stage. He gets the packages ready to plant, prepares a planting map, makes sure the land is properly cultivated and fertilized, plants the plots in the proper arrangement, sprays herbicides as required, collects data during the growing season, harvests at the appropriate time, ensures the harvested grain is properly dried, weighs the samples, cleans a subsample from each entry to measure post-harvest traits, sends the data back to me and other



collaborators and sends subsamples to the appropriate recipients for further trait analyses.”



2017 - Jenna Sahulka (General Labourer), Richard Staples (FSWEP student), Wes Dyck - New LRDC Plot Seeder, Plots, and Combine (note fall cereal planted between each plot and each range of plots)

For harvest, Mitchell Fetch explains, “We use a small Wintersteiger plot combine to straight cut the yield plots when most of the entries in a specific trial are mature and below 20% moisture. The grain is augered from each yield plot into a harvest bag with a computer-printed label attached to the outside and a duplicate tag is dropped inside the bag. The bags are transported to the drying carts in the Plant Sciences building, where they will have warm, dry air forced through them until they reach an appropriate moisture for storage. Every attempt is made to harvest a yield trial within one day to reduce any variability that might result. We also try to plant each trial in one day for the same reason.”

“Once all of the yield trials and increases have been harvested and dried, Wes weighs each bag of grain and electronically records the values. Then Wes and his assistant, when available, will clean a subsample from each of the replicated entries to make a composited sample, using a piece of equipment called a KornService Cleaner, which removes the awns and breaks up clumps in the grains, then sorts the grains into plump and thin kernels while blowing out chaff and other debris. This composited sample from each entry is used for further post-harvest data collection, including measurement of test weight, thousand kernel weight, and other quality-related traits.”

Mitchell Fetch’s program trials include 14 growing sites across western Canada and 3 in eastern Canada as well as a few from northern U.S. states.

Here’s what the directors had to say about the day:

- Wade Hainstock, SK: “There was ample opportunity to talk to all levels of AAFC staff and students. This allows POGA to provide producer input, which is key for oat growers to be able to drive success in oat breeding.”
- Jenneth Johanson, MB: “There were a couple of good looking varieties out of each of the programs. I will be able to apply information I collected at the POBC field day when we receive yield and quality data prior to the Prairie Grain Development Committee meeting - where important decisions are made to review, and accept or decline new varieties. The field day tour provides networking opportunities, as well as additional information that will serve me well as a member of the agronomy committee.”
- Brad Boettger, AB: “It was interesting to tour the facility, and appears like staff and facility time are fairly allotted between all trial crops. I was impressed with the quality and growth of the plots, especially considering the dry year. It was good to meet and talk to some of the oat players in the breeding program.”
- Darwin Trenholm, AB: “It was good to be back at Lacombe and to see there is some hope for a new greenhouse there. I was interested to see all of the testing that goes into the plot samples. Enhanced disease packages will be welcomed by all producers. Many oat growers do not realize the extent of the work that goes into a breeding program and the time it takes to develop a valuable variety (typically 7-10 years). Producers who attend these tours gain valuable knowledge and better understanding of what it takes to produce a good oat variety.”



August 2011 - Technician Wes Dyck and oat trials

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# SaskOats

## Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, January 15, 2019; 1:30pm**  
**TCU Place (as part of CropSphere)**  
**Saskatoon, SK**  
**Free admission to the AGM**

### Agenda\*

- 1:30 pm Opening remarks from SaskOats Chairman, Alan Butuk
- 1:35 pm **SaskOats Annual Business Meeting\*\***, Alan Butuk of Insinger, Chair
- 1:50 pm **Diversifying Markets: Update on China Market Access and Mexico Campaign**, Robynne Anderson, President, Emerging Ag
- 2:15 pm Adjourn

*\*Times and agenda topics subject to change; check [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) for updates*

**\*\*Please note:** Per the announcement at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats) Annual General Meeting. Please send any resolutions to [smathieson@poga.ca](mailto:smathieson@poga.ca) no later than **5pm December 15, 2018**



## Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 2:40pm**  
**Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre,**  
**Winnipeg, MB**  
**(as part of The CropConnect Conference)**  
**Free admission to the AGM**

***Come Enjoy a Free Oat Beer from a Local Manitoba Brewery and hear what the Oat Growers Commission is doing for you!***

### Agenda\*:

- 2:40 pm **Welcome** from MOGA President, Ray Mazinke
- 2:45pm **MOGA Annual Business Meeting\*\***, Ray Mazinke
- 2:55pm **Oat Market Outlook**, David Drozd, Senior Marketing Analyst, AgChieve
- 3:20pm Adjourn

*\*Times and agenda topics subject to change; check [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) for updates*

**\*\*Please note:** a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the Manitoba Oat Growers Association's Annual General Meeting. Please send any resolutions to [smathieson@poga.ca](mailto:smathieson@poga.ca) no later than **5pm January 13, 2019**



**CropConnect**  
**Conference**



## Alberta Oat Growers Commission

### **Director Nominations Open**

Are you interested in becoming a director  
or do you know someone who is?

Here are just a few of the benefits:

- Identify and direct research for the benefit of the entire industry.
- Increased industry knowledge.
- The opportunity to meet a large number of influential millers, buyers, and government officials across the province, nation and globally.
- Increased information sharing with other growers.
- Professional development.
- Reimbursement for all travel, honorariums for time spent on the commissions' projects and committees.

**A registered producer means any producer  
who has had an Alberta Oat Growers  
Commission service fee deducted since  
August 1, 2016**

**Deadline for nominations is Thursday,  
December 13, 2018**

**For nomination forms  
and further information contact:**

AOGC Administration Office  
PO Box 20106  
Regina, SK S4P 4J7  
Telephone (306) 530-8545;  
Fax (306) 546-2999  
Email [info@poga.ca](mailto:info@poga.ca)



## Annual General Meeting

**Monday, January 28, 2019  
(Monday before FarmTech 2019)**

**The Edmonton Westin  
10135 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7  
Turner Valley room**

### **Agenda\*:**

- 6:30pm **Complementary Drink plus a Light Meal**
- 7:00pm **Welcome** from the Alberta Oat Growers Commission
- 7:05pm **AOGC Business Meeting\*\***; Brad Boettger, Chairman from Tofield, AB
- 7:15pm **Director Elections/Director Acclamation**
- 7:30pm **Sandeep Nain, General Manager, Gateway Research Organization** – Results from Three years of Oat Variety Trials in Westlock and Falher . . . will New Varieties beat Morgan 3 years in a Row???
- 7:50pm **Mark Hemmes, President, Quorum Corporation** – Rail Transportation, What Changes with the Implementation of Bill C-49 and How Might it Impact Producers?
- 8:25pm **John Loogman, Rycroft Elevator Manager/Grain Buyer AB/BC, Grain Millers Canada** – Alberta Oat Markets: What can Alberta Farmers Expect in Terms of Price for 2019?
- 8:45pm **Adjourn**

*\*Times and agenda topics subject to change;  
check [poga.ca](http://poga.ca) for updates*

*\*\*Please note: a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the Alberta Oat Growers Association's Annual General Meeting. Please send any resolutions to [smathieson@poga.ca](mailto:smathieson@poga.ca) no later than 5pm December 28, 2018.*

For those who stay through the end of the meeting AOGC will provide another complementary drink ticket.

Please RSVP to [info@poga.ca](mailto:info@poga.ca) to ensure enough food is ordered. There is no charge for this event.



**POGA'S 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2018**  
**Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon, SK**  
**Centre Room**

**Agenda\***

8:00am	<b>Registration and Free Hot Breakfast</b>
8:40am	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> – Art Enns, POGA President
8:45am	<b>Oat Market Outlook</b> , Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research
9:45am	<b>What the Dickens has Oat Genomics Done for You Lately? The Groats of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet-to-Come</b> , Nick Tinker, AAFC Research Scientist in Cereal Genomics
10:15am	<b>POGA Annual General Meeting</b> – Art Enns, POGA President
10:30am	Coffee Break
11:00am	<b>Diversifying Markets: Update on China &amp; Mexico</b> , Robynne Anderson, President, Emerging Ag
11:45am	<b>Soup and Sandwich Lunch</b> – Tour the Sponsor's Displays
12:45pm	<b>Disruptors in Agriculture</b> , Marty Seymour, Director, Industry and Stakeholder Relations, Farm Credit Canada
1:45pm	<b>The Ever-Changing Climate: The Weather to Expect Beyond 2018</b> , Dave Sauchyn, Ph.D., Professor, Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
2:15pm	<b>The Oat Superstars, a Few Activities the POGA Directors and Staff have been Involved in.</b>
2:30pm	<b>Plant Protein and the Potential in the Three New “NAFTAs,”</b> Carlo Dade, Director, Centre for Trade and Investment Policy, The Canada West Foundation
3:15pm	Coffee Break
3:45pm	<b>Hey Agriculture: Did You See What They Did to the Canadian Energy Sector? Don't Let it Happen to You</b> , Brad Wall, Senior Advisor, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt LLP and previous Saskatchewan Premier
5:00pm	<b>Wrap-up and Adjourn</b> – Art Enns, POGA President
5:45pm	<b>Social Hour</b> at the Sheraton Cavalier
6:30pm	<b>Dinner and Speakers:</b> <b>Greetings from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, Honourable David Marit</b> <b>How Making Oat Vodka and Whiskey is Highly Unique and Specialized (including a free, award-winning oat whiskey sample)</b> , John Cote, Black Fox Farm and Distillery (additional fee applies)
8:00pm	Adjourn

Daytime seminars, breakfast and lunch \$20.00 (\$25 at door). Optional Evening Banquet \$50.00 (\$60 at door)

*\*Times and agenda topics subject to change. For updates, pre-registration and credit card payments - visit [poga.ca](http://poga.ca)*

**Note: For those arriving on December 5, there will be a meet and greet beginning at 8pm in the South room of the Sheraton Cavalier**



## Crops-A-Palooza in Manitoba®

### Oats Go to the Party

The first Crops-A-Palooza field day was held on July 25, 2018 at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Previously, Manitoba Canola Growers Association held Canola-A-Palooza annual field days, but, because folks don't have a lot of time to attend individual events throughout the summer, several agricultural organizations combined their efforts to see if a joint event would work better. The organizing groups were: Manitoba Canola Growers Association, Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Manitoba Flax Growers Association, Manitoba Oat Growers Association, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers, and National Sunflower Association.

Jenneth Johanson, POGA and MOGA Board member, and Cyndee Holdnick, POGA staff member, attended the event, and were impressed with what the various presenters had to offer. Holdnick states, "When speaking with some of the organizers, they said they were pleased with the level of speakers, the interaction between the speakers and the attendees, and the general dialogue and conversations held throughout the day." The Canola Growers report that attendance numbers were up this year (close to 400).

In all, there were 16 presentation stations from various sectors. "Speakers, each in their own way, were able to present technical and research-related information in a way that made it interesting, comprehensible and memorable for those in the audience. Some also provided visual demonstrations. For example, the tillage demonstration revealed how far seeds get moved when using different types of tillage equipment," explains Johanson.

The BeGrainSafe trailer was also on hand to provide education and demonstrations (see the March, 2018 Oat Scoop for more about BeGrainSafe). Holdnick reports, "We had a good conversation with the BeGrainSafe representatives, and it appears that they are in need of Manitoba participants to become trainers and deliver this farm safety message." POGA supports the BeGrainSafe program through an annual sponsorship, and encourages producers to become involved to learn about safety procedures for grain entrapment on the farm.

Jennifer Mitchell Fetch, oat breeder at AAFC Brandon, was on duty at the oat station, and provided a plot

demonstration. Johanson shares, "This year, there weren't a lot of diseases out there, so the three plot sections looked fairly similar. However, Jennifer brought along samples of plants with different diseases for people to see. She also explained the importance of breeding resistance into oat varieties."

Jason Voogt, Agronomist and owner of Field 2 Field Agronomy Inc., was another presenter at the oat station. In addition to speaking about various diseases and pests that affect oats, he also included some family fun in his presentation. Pictures of crown and stem rust were clipped to plot plants for a scavenger hunt. Holdnick explains, "Jason did a fantastic job! I did the hunt with my kids; he was great at explaining to the children what was going in the plants, and how and why some plants were able to combat disease and some were not. In all, it was a really good event for all ages."



*Jason Voogt, Field 2 Field Agronomy Inc., talking about Oats!*

Roberta Galbraith (Manitoba Canola Growers and Crops-A-Palooza committee member) states, "The event was a good use of members' dollars. Each commodity funded their plots and industry supported us through sponsorships and in-kind donations to make the event successful. It was a great collaborative event that showcased many of Manitoba's crops and was free to attend. Next year's

event has been set for July 24<sup>th</sup> at Carberry, MB."

Holdnick sums up the day, "Overall, I thought the plots were well laid out and organized, and that the speakers I heard presented well-thought-out information. The games were an interesting way to include the kids and made for a fun learning experience, so it was a good event for all ages."

### The Oat Scoop

PO Box 20106

Regina, SK

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