



The Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) as well as the oat commissions in the prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba want to assure oat growers that the board has been, and will remain, active in any developments of cancelled oat contracts by Purely Canada Foods/Above Foods. In March of 2023 our Executive Director reached out to other gluten free buyers within Saskatchewan, and a company believed to be working with Purely Canada foods, to determine if any other companies could 1. Take on additional gluten free oats at a premium price if requested and 2. Had any possible contract concerns within their own companies. The answer to both of these questions was no. Our Executive Director also requested from the Western Producer to do a follow-up to the March 6, 2023 Western Producer article and Brad Boettger, now POGA President, completed an interview which was published on April 4, 2023 (link to article).

In addition, in 2022 SaskOats, as part of SaskCrops released a study done by Mercantile Consulting Venture, Inc (which can be found here) where it was stated that “Reviewing the current apportioning of risk between producers and buyers, a larger burden falls on the side of producers, while leaving buyers with enhanced coverage. It is no surprise that a legal opinion based on the earlier 14 sample contracts concluded that the ‘sample contracts all appear to be drafted by buyers and are heavily tilted in their favour.’” This report was presented to the Canadian Grain Commission and provided to The Government of Saskatchewan and made available on the Saskatchewan crop commissions’ websites.

POGA will continue following this story and add any new articles and/or information below. If you have any additional information you wish to provide please send it to smathieson@poga.ca.

Articles related to the Purely Canada Foods/Above Foods Gluten Free Contract Concerns

March 6, 2023

<https://www.producer.com/news/gluten-free-oat-contracts-fall-apart/>

March 10, 2023

<https://www.sasktoday.ca/north/agriculture/gluten-free-oat-contracts-fall-apart-6679554>

March 28, 2023

<https://www.celiac.com/ceeliac-disease/farmers-left-holding-the-bag-as-company-cancels-gluten-free-oat-contracts-r6169/>

April 4, 2023

<https://www.producer.com/news/farmers-pursue-legal-action-over-cancelled-oat-contracts/>

April 13, 2023

<https://www.producer.com/news/firm-hopes-to-honour-gluten-free-oat-contracts/>