

POGA Board At Work

Directors Greg Bott and Chris Rundel, and Shawna Mathieson, Executive Director, participated in the Oct. 29—Nov. 2, 2023 Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan along with industry partners. In addition to the plenary sessions, attendees had the opportunity to attend networking events and meet with Minister Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade of Canada. They also met with the Japan Canada Chamber Council (co-chaired by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry).



Chris Rundel, Shawna Mathieson, Minister Ng, and Greg Bott, at the Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan, where removing non-tariff barriers was discussed.



Shawna Mathieson, Executive Director, met with the Honourable Minister MacAulay, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Mathieson emphasized the importance of oat breeding and the serious, negative ramifications to the Government's sustainability goals if oat breeding funding is cut as proposed.

POGA and AOGC, SaskOats and MOGA Producers

The Boards encourage you to attend the organizations' Annual General Meetings. In addition to the regular business items, each Commission has included speakers that you don't want to miss! All agendas are published in this issue. For:

- AOGC Agenda and Director Nomination notice, please see page 14.
- SaskOats and MOGA Agendas, please see page 15.
- POGA Agenda, please see page 16.

Update: POGA-Supported Breeding Programs and Projects

Oat-varietal development to meet producer, miller and processor needs is a never-ending endeavour. Oat quality often needs to be adjusted, largely due to increasing demands from existing markets or for newly developed markets, with each requiring specific traits for millers and processors. However, in order to meet that demand, producers must have varieties with the best agronomic Oat-varietal development to meet producer, miller and processor needs is a never-ending endeavour. Oat quality often needs to be adjusted, largely due to increasing demands from existing markets or for newly developed markets, with each requiring specific traits for millers and processors. However, in order to meet that demand, producers must have varieties with the best agronomic qualities to successfully grow and harvest those oats. Breeders must target their efforts to juggle the needs of the entire value chain, being sure to consider current management practices and keep up with disease cycles and resistance.

Here is a summary of current breeding activities. This article lists only selected results from each project/program, but we also provide links and interested readers can access the full reports on the POGA website.

Prairie Oat Breeding Consortium (POBC). Dr. Kirby Nilsen, POBC Lead and Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Brandon Research and Development Centre (BRDC) in Manitoba.

Dr. Nilsen submitted the POBC Final Performance Report for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Major

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1: *Breeding Programs/Projects Update* results from the period include: *The project team has released and licensed three new varieties of oat for Western Canada: AAC Douglas, AAC Wesley, and AAC Neville. AAC Douglas is starting to gain commercial acres in production. It will be exciting to see the impact that AAC Wesley and AAC Neville will have on the western Canadian oat industry in the years ahead.*

To read Nilsen's full report, go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for *Project Topic: Oat Breeding; Project Status: Completed;* and *Principal Investigator: POBC.* Other highlights include reports on Crossing; Agronomic Testing; Collaborative Tests; Pathology; Grain Quality Analysis; Genomics, etc.

The POBC was funded by Austgrains, Emerson Milling Inc., FP Genetics, General Mills, Grain Millers Canada, Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA), Richardson International, SeCan, and the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program.

Organic Science Cluster III: Connecting Environmental Sustainability with the Science of Organic Production. Organic Oat Breeding / Oat cultivars specifically developed for organic production systems in Canada. Dr. Kirby Nilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Brandon Research and Development Centre (BRDC) in Manitoba.

Dr. Nilsen submitted the project's Final Performance Report for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Key achievements for the project include: *Over the past five years, the breeding program has developed a substantial germplasm base, and several strong candidate lines adapted to organic production. A total of seven lines (OT8007 – OT8013) showed excellent performance and were selected for advancement to the registration test level. The team will continue to evaluate remaining candidate lines for performance and commercial viability. One of the candidate lines currently being evaluated is OT8013, which showed promising results during the first year of testing in 2022 (not only under organic production but also for conventional). The team will closely monitor the progress of OT8013 in its second year of registration testing, and other candidate lines to ensure they meet the standards for agronomic performance, disease resistance and end-use quality.*

To read Nilsen's full report, go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for *Project Topic: Oat Breeding; Project Status: Completed;* and *Principal Investigator: Nilsen.* Some of the other details presented include: Knowledge and Technology Transfer; the Activity Summary; and, Impact of the Research (page 7 of the report).

This Cluster activity was funded by Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA), Grain Millers Inc., Nature's Path and the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program.

For earlier Oat Scoop articles on Dr. Nilsen's BRDC, POBC and Organic Oat Breeding work, go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> (November 2022 issue, page 6).

Breeding milling oat varieties with improved agronomic, quality and disease traits for Saskatchewan oat producers. Dr. Aaron Beattie, Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Beattie submitted his report for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. One highlight from his report: *OT3115, was supported for registration in February 2023, provided to FP Genetics for marketing and registered as CDC Byer. CDC Byer is a high-beta-glucan, low-oil and moderate-protein oat line that combines good groat percentage, good kernel weight, high plumps and very low thins. It shows very good yield potential, short height, very good lodging resistance and moderate maturity, and also demonstrates moderate resistance to crown rust and resistance to smut and BYDV.*

To read Beattie's full report, go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for *Project Topic: Oat Breeding; Project Status: In Progress;* and *Principal Investigator: Beattie.* There, you will find the project Objectives and Targets, and Progress, and learn more about the Germplasm Exchange with other Canadian/global oat breeding programs; Molecular Marker-Assisted Selection; Nutritional Quality Evaluation; and much more.

For earlier Oat Scoop articles on this and more of Dr. Beattie's work, go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> (November 2022 issue, pages 2-5).

A 55 lb bushel high protein oat, with top grain yield, is in your future. Jim Dyck, Oat Advantage.

Jim Dyck submitted the Year Three report for this five-year project (ends 2026). Some main points from the report: *High yield and a high bushel weight remain the goal. High bushel weight must come from heavy, uniform, oat kernels. Oat Kernel Uniformity (OKU) must be partnered with low-hull content; bushel weight and yield will then increase in a meaningful way. Fixing kernel-size requirements and 'forcing' oat plants to produce denser kernels will also result in lower hull percentage. To achieve high yield and valued oat varieties, Dyck is working to select better plant types and panicle architecture. There are six plot locations spread across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (two per province—trials are subjected to a wide range of growing conditions).*

To access the full report (and read project details and data charts), go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for *Project Topic: Oat Breeding; Project Status: In Progress;* and *Principal Investigator: Dyck.*

For earlier Oat Scoop articles on this project, go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> (June 2022 issue, page 7; and June 2023 issue, page 9).

This project is funded by The Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA).

Jim Dyck also makes a correction to the article he submitted for the June 2023 Oat Scoop (page 9, paragraph 6): One measure of what progress looks like is a 17% gain in 'off-the-combine' 1000 TKW.... This should read:a 4% gain.... Dyck states, "We apologize for the error. The overall gain was 4% (not 17%) as we averaged our whole work on 1000 kernel weight. In the chart that accompanied the statement however, specific pairs of superior oat groups in our work showed between 2% and 10% gain. Small gains are important as we climb toward a heavier bushel weight. Seeing our early gravity table selection achieve up to a 10% difference is encouraging!"

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Breeding, genomics, and agronomy research to improve oat yield and quality. Dr. Weikai Yan, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Scientist.

Dr. Yan submitted the final report for this project (which is part of a larger, Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance (CFCRA)—AAFC Oat Project). Key Achievements from the report:

NOTE: ME #s refer to oat mega-environments: 1—southern and eastern Ontario; 2—other regions in eastern Canada; and 3—Canadian Prairies.

1. *OA1655-1 was released for ME1 and tendered by SeCan. Across 18 trials conducted in 2021 and 2022, it yielded 8% higher than AAC Reid, which is currently the best cultivar in ME1. This line was selected through visual selection. It was also among the 60 lines selected through genomic prediction in 2017, a proof of usefulness of genomic selection.*
2. *OA1658-1 was selected through visual selection and released for ME2 and tendered by SeCan. Across 71 trials, it yielded 9% higher and showed significantly better test weight, groat content, kernel weight, and plumpness than AAC Nicolas, which is one of the most popular cultivars in ME2.*
3. *OA1655-2 was selected through visual selection and released for ME3 and tendered by SeCan. It yielded the same as AC Morgan, one of the highest yielding*

cultivars in ME3, but showed significantly higher beta-glucan content, kernel weight, plumpness, and groat content. It was approved by Quaker as a preferred milling oat.

4. *OA1675-1GS was released for ME2; it yielded the same as AAC Nicolas but had much better beta-glucan, kernel weight, and test weight. This line was discarded by visual selection for its relatively tall plant height in 2017 but was picked up by genomic prediction of yield and beta-glucan.*
5. *The N-fertilizer studies led to the determination of optimum N rates.*
6. *The planting density study revealed an optimum seeding rate that is higher than previously recommended.*

To read the full, detailed report, go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for Project Topic: Oat Breeding; Project Status: Completed; and Principal Investigator: Yan. For earlier Oat Scoop articles on this project, go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> (November 2021 issue, page 4; and November 2022 issue, page 12).

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program. Funding was also provided by POGA and many industry partners.

Your POGA Board at Work

Jenneth Johanson, past POGA president, represented POGA and oat producers' interests at the 43rd Session Conference of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy in July 2023.

Johanson states, "The FAO meeting provided an opportunity to gain an understanding of the FAO's extensive work. One component that plays a vital role is the Private Sector Engagement focus; this greatly supports the FAO's Sustainable Development goals. When policy, industry and farmer representatives are all in one room, and listening and learning from each other, some of the challenges we face do not appear nearly as daunting. The Canadian agricultural industry has pulled together to compile and emphasize the great story that has always been at our disposal to share. We are proud to contribute our experience and expertise as the agricultural world continues to engage in global food security discussions and projects."

To access a copy of the official report from the Conference, go to: <https://www.fao.org/3/nm800en/nm800en.pdf>.



From left to right: Mitchell Zoratti, Canadian Cattlemen's Association; Rick White, Canada Canola Growers Association; Jenneth Johanson, Past POGA President; The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, then Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (and elected Chairperson of the FAO Conference); Randy Duckworth, Global Pulse Confederation; Ambassador Elissa Golberg; Caroline Emond, International Dairy Federation; Robert Hunter, CropLife International, Robynne Anderson, Emerging Ag.

Carbon Footprint Data Collection in Saskatchewan Project Update

The project *Collecting the carbon data needed for Climate-Smart agriculture in Saskatchewan*, was introduced to producers in the March 2021 Oat Scoop and a project update was published in the November 2022 issue. Dr. Kate Congreves, project lead, is an Associate Professor and Environmental Agronomy and Horticulture Researcher with the University of Saskatchewan's Plant Sciences department. Please go to: <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> to access those articles.

Dr. Congreves has submitted the progress report for the period Jan. 2021 – Apr. 2023 period. The summarized results to date read: *2021 was a drought year (133 mm, or about 5.24 inches, from May-August), limiting yields to below 100 kg ha⁻¹ and leaving large amounts of residual nitrogen (N) in the soil. In 2022, average wheat yields were 2692 kg ha⁻¹ and 3023 kg ha⁻¹, for the conventional and better N management scenarios, respectively. Based on our observations so far for the 2018-present study period, the field-scale greenhouse gas emissions are promising to be lower than is commonly assumed for representative cropping systems in this semi-arid region—largely due to the multi-year drought conditions and low soil moisture. It was only when the soil nitrate levels exceeded a certain threshold and when soil moisture conditions were sufficiently high at snowmelt in spring that significant emissions were observed, otherwise fluxes remained limited. This project is currently ongoing, following up with canola production in 2023, and then wheat production in 2024.*



Photos of the micromet equipment (loggers, anemometer, and sampling towers) during canola production in 2021 (Photo credit: Kate Congreves)

To read the full progress report, which includes photos of the plots and monitoring equipment, as well as graphs presenting some of the data collected, please go to: <https://poga.ca/research/research-in-progress/> and filter for *Principal Investigator: Congreves*.

Project information dissemination includes conference presentations, a magazine interview/article, etc.

Dr. Congreves states, "It is crucial that we continue this research because it provides the carbon data and metrics needed to support the field crop production industry in Saskatchewan and demonstrate the good work farmers are already doing for the soil."

This project is funded by the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) of Saskatchewan under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative, and co-funded by Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats), Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission (SaskCanola) and Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat).

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Producers: Stay Aware and Safe Out There!

POGA introduced the history and launch of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association's (CASA) BeGrainSafe program in the March 2018 Oat Scoop, and updated producers in the June 2021 issue. Please go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> to read those articles.

Here is another update for this important program:

The Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) was a sponsor of the CASA's BeGrainSafe program again in 2023. CASA's BeGrainSafe program, which was launched in 2017 in response to increased grain entrapment fatalities, heightens awareness and provides training regarding the hazards associated with grain. Sponsorship of the program included supporting the third annual BeGrainSafe Week and the BeGrainSafe Trailer which travels the country providing training for Fire Rescue personnel and BeGrainSafe awareness.

In 2023, The BeGrainSafe Trailer traveled 7055 km, which is farther than the distance from Victoria, BC to St. John's, Newfoundland (6717 km). Over 500 firefighters were trained on specific safety and rescue procedures to increase their chances of a successful grain entrapment rescue while keeping members of their department safe. Training took place in 21 different locations from Quebec to Alberta this year.

BeGrainSafe Week was held August 13-20, 2023 and raised awareness about the dangers associated with grain, grain handling, grain storage, and more. The BeGrainSafe webpage includes resources for both the general public and the media. For more information visit casa-acsa.ca/BeGrainSafe.



(CSIDC) Irrigation Field Day and Trade Show (July 13, 2023) in Outlook, SK. SaskOats is a proud sponsor of the local AgriArm sites and appreciates all the research they conduct to benefit producers. To illustrate its support, SaskOats sponsored a coffee and donut break during the 2023 Field Day and Tradeshow. An ICDC agronomy tour, including oats of course, was held in the morning and concurrent field crop and horticulture tours were conducted in the afternoon. The Field Day and Tradeshow was a success, with over 200 attendees learning about the latest in irrigation agronomy and technologies.

Current operating partners at CSIDC include: The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC); the University of Saskatchewan; and, the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association (SIPA).

For more information on:

- CSIDC, go to: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/contact/canada-saskatchewan-irrigation-diversification-centre> (for hard-copy Oat Scoop readers, go to: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/contact> and choose Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre under the 'Offices and locations' heading).
- ICDC, go to: <https://irrigationsaskatchewan.com/icdc/>.
- SIPA, go to: <https://www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com/SIPA/>.

Your Executive Director At Work

Shawna Mathieson, POGA Executive Director, attended a consultation session with Transport Canada on October 18 in Saskatoon as part of the federal government's "Rail Policy Review." The review is looking at rail policies and regulations that are of interest to grain producers and shippers, including interswitching, Canadian Transportation Agency powers, and the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE). SaskOats and POGA are working with provincial and national partners to align our recommendations.

SaskOats-Funded Oat N Response Project ✍

In response to the federal government's national fertilizer emission reduction target (to 30% below 2020 levels by 2030), SaskOats funded field trials to determine how this approach will affect (specifically) oats. Mike Hall (Research Coordinator for Parkland College and the East Central Research Foundation (ECRF) in Yorkton, SK) leads the project. Other participating research sites included the Irrigation Crop Diversification Centre (ICDC) in Outlook; Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF) in Melfort; and Conservation Learning Centre (CLC) in Prince Albert.

The objectives are: To determine the yield and test weight response of oats to 15% and 30% reductions in optimum rates of nitrogen (N). The specific rates of soil-plus-fertilizer N tested will be: 125 lb/ac; 106 lb/ac; 88 lb/ac; and, no applied N.

Producers toured the sites and discussed the interim findings with researchers during field days throughout the summer.

At the July 20, 2023 NARF Field Day, Jessica Slowski, SaskOats director and past NARF Researcher/Operations Manager, presented project information to attendees. She also explained the 'take-away' information SaskOats hope to obtain from the trials:

1. How does reduced N fertilizer affect yield if treatments receive consistent rates of phosphorus, potassium and sulphur (i.e., these rates are to be non-limiting to yield)?
2. Will the test weight be affected?
3. Was there a difference in response amongst varieties?
4. Did the oats pull additional N from the soil (this will be tested post-harvest)? If so, this will eventually deplete N soil stores, and this targeted approach will not be feasible.



Slowski states: "The SaskOats board believes it is important to provide quality data regarding the effects Net-Zero targets will have on producing quality crops to meet global food demand. What better way to initiate these conversations than to illustrate how Net-Zero targets will affect crop production at the AgriARM sites, where producers, industry, and political leaders can all meet and discuss the findings?"

When the final reports are received, POGA will publish the full results in an up-coming Oat Scoop issue. This work will provide a better understanding of how this reduction target will affect producers and world food production.

This project was funded by Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats). SaskOats also provided support for the NARF Field Day by funding a coffee break.

Intercropping Research

Interim reports have been received for Years One and Two for the project: *Continuing studies on intercropping for increasing yield and quality of grain and forage crops, and improving soil quality*. Dr. Myriam R. Fernandez, Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Swift Current Research and Development Centre (SCRDC), leads this project.

Phase 1 of the trial was conducted in 2021: establishing the intercrop (and living mulch) treatments on organically managed land. In 2022 (Phase 2), Durum wheat was planted on the Phase 1 plots. In addition, a 'new Phase 1' for each trial was initiated on a different field at SCRDC. In 2023, a third iteration of each trial is being conducted on a different field at SCRDC.

To read the full reports (which contain annual data collected and technology transfer/information dissemination activities) go to <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter for *Project Topic: Intercropping/Other; Project Status: In Progress; and Principal Investigator: Fernandez*. For earlier Oat Scoop articles on this project, go to <https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/> (June 2021, pages 10/11).

In addition to other technology transfer activities, SCRDC hosted the July 27, 2023 Organic and Low Input Field Day.

Dr. Fernandez shares, "Due to a severe hail storm a few days earlier which caused significant damage to the research plots, this all-day event was held indoors. Presentations on various topics were held throughout the day; two of them were on these Intercropping and Living Mulch trials. This event was well attended by producers and others from the three Prairie Provinces. Latest results from these trials were also presented at the SaskOrganics' Advancing Organics Conference on March 23rd, 2023."

For more information on the Organic and Low-Input Field Day, the presentation at the SaskOrganics conference, and other miscellaneous articles on the research on organic intercropping, go to: <http://saskorganics.org/event/organic-low-input-field-day/> and <http://saskorganics.org/production-resources/> under the section: Swift Current Research and Development Centre-AAFC Research.

Further information on this project, and copies of the handouts with results from these trials distributed to participants of the 2023 Organic and Low-Input Field Day, can be obtained by contacting the Organic Research Program at SCRDC: myriam.fernandez@agr.gc.ca

This project is co-funded by Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) and Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF).



Board at Work

Brad Boettger, POGA President and AOGC director, attended the Alberta Regional Variety Advisory Committee (ARVAC) summer meeting held at Olds College Field Crop Development Center (OCFCDC) on August 3, 2023. Participants toured the trial plots and OCFCDC technical staff gave a presentation on practices used to produce high-quality data. Among the agenda items: trial site status reports; municipal bylaws affecting *Fusarium graminearum*; and, funding plans for the next three upcoming seasons.



Board at Work

On July 26, 2023, Ray Mazinke, MOGA Vice Chair, participated in an oat tour at Richardson's Kelburn farm. Two western Canadian oat breeders were in attendance to provide updates on their breeding programs (Aaron Beattie, University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre; and, Jim Dyck, Oat Advantage).

Producer Consent Form

POGA has received requests from international oat buyers to source oats directly from producers. If you are an oat producer in Alberta, Manitoba or Saskatchewan and are interested in being contacted by these companies for potential direct oat sales, head over to the main page at <https://poga.ca/>, click on and fill out the Producer Consent Form. Your contact info will be included in a list provided to companies inquiring about direct-from-producer sales.



In addition to providing a free lunch (featuring Saskatchewan-grown foods) to six schools, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan coordinates a series of interactive online tours and activities for students to learn about the food industry—from farm, to miller, to processor.

SaskOats, in partnership with Grain Millers Canada, provided oat seeds and planting instructions for all students in the program.

Check out FFCS at:

<https://farmfoodcaresk.org/events-and-programs/meals-from-the-farm/>

For video tours, go to:

<https://www.farmfood360.ca/> and check out the *oat farm and processing section*. You'll see a familiar face in the *Story of Oats: Growing and Harvesting* videos: Chris Rundel, SaskOats director!




Board at Work

Brad Boettger, POGA President and AOGC director, participated in a Calgary Stampede reception with The Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Alberta Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors on July 9, 2023. The theme was *Building Bridges and Opportunities*.



Each year, MOGA provides sponsorship to Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba (AITC-M). In 2022, this sponsorship supported record growth for AITC-M, as they reached more students and educators than ever before in Manitoba. Activities increased again in 2023 and AITC-M's curriculum-linked programs and resources reached 1,244 educators; the organization is now active in one in every three schools across the province.

In addition to AITC-M classroom programs, the organization's website is packed full of resources for teachers and students (<https://aitc.mb.ca/>). To locate a recipe using oats, go to <https://aitc.mb.ca/teachers/resources-activities> and choose *Farm to Plate: Recipes and Stories*. The *Canola to Cookies* sheet includes a full cup of oats in the recipe to make many people's favourite—Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Another crucial program initiated by AITC Canada is **Agriculture in the Classroom** *Think Ag: Inspiring careers that feed our world*.  Connecting Kids and Agriculture. The series makes students aware of the myriad career opportunities available to them in the ag-industry and provides resources to help them determine the educational path to get them there. For more information, go to: <https://thinkag.ca/en-ca/>.

Project to Keep Oats Standing Tall and Avoid Lodging

The project: *Oat Lodging: Identifying key root and shoot traits for improved standability* is a joint collaborative effort between Dr. Allan Feurtado, team lead of Integrated Omics and Climate Resilience at the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) Aquatic and Crop Resource Development Research Centre; and, Dr. Aaron Beattie, oat breeder at University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre.

For an introduction to and details about the project, please go to the November 2022 Oat Scoop, page 5 (<https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/>).

The researchers have submitted an interim report for the 2022/23 period, and producers can access the detailed report at <https://poga.ca/research/research-in-progress/> and filter for *Principal Investigators: Feurtado*.

Some interim conclusions from the report include:

- Significant associations of stem and root traits to field lodging rating were found.
- Plants that were taller, had a wider angle between the flag leaf and stem, or had a smaller inner stem diameter which were associated with greater lodging.
- Fewer roots, and less root branching, was associated with greater lodging.
- Seminal root development (i.e., the first roots that emerge from the seed) appears more complex in oat than other cereals. The angles of seminal roots emerging after germination are not correlated with those that emerge at germination.
- The wider root angle of CDC Arborg suggests why it has very good lodging resistance even though it is a taller cultivar.
- That median root number was associated to lodging rating is interesting and will be followed up on.
- As seeding rate increases, stem strength and stem diameter decrease.



Rhizobox oat root system images captured 11 weeks following germination of cultivar CDC Arborg and breeding line OT6033. Note the wider root angles of especially the crown roots (arrows) in lodging-resistant CDC Arborg compared to lodging-susceptible OT6033. Scale bar (lower left) represents 6 cm.

Oats are a significant domestic and export crop. Demand from consumers, millers and the international market continues to increase. More lodging-resistant oat varieties will help producers meet this demand and continue to grow Canada's trending, competitive advantage. In addition, other problems that occur as a result of lodging will be reduced or eliminated (e.g., mycotoxin contamination, increased producer time and costs when harvesting lodged crops, and, poor physical and nutritional quality of lodged oats).

This project is co-funded by the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) of Saskatchewan under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative; and by the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) and Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF).

SaskOats Board at Work

Ambrely Ralph, SaskOats Chair, attended the 32nd TriNational Accord in Saskatoon (August 14-16, 2023), participated in roundtables with several delegates from each of the three countries, and also provided opening remarks on behalf of SaskCrops at the Tuesday evening reception.

The Tri-National Accord gathers Ministers, Secretaries, Commissioners, and Directors of agriculture from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to work together collaboratively on agricultural trade and development issues. The program featured topics such as sustainable production, innovation, food security, rural development, predictability and transparency in trade, and a resilient North American agriculture sector. More information on the event can be found on the official website: <https://www.2023trinalational-ag-sk.ca/>.

Ralph states, "The TriNational Accord provided SaskOats (on behalf of all Saskatchewan oat producers) the opportunity to work with government and industry partners on actions that can be taken to:

- keep the collaborative lines of communication open across all three nations regarding all levels of production and the supply chain;
- ensure food security and food safety, based on economic vitality for producers; and,
- demonstrate leadership, as producers of sustainable and high-quality food, while we work to feed our families, communities and the growing world population; we accomplish this in conjunction with transparent, predictable and timely execution of regulations and policy, commitment to innovation, and trade access.



Ambrely Ralph, SaskOats Chair, with The Honourable David Marit, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture at the TriNational Accord in Saskatoon.

I believe that this tri-national collaboration provides an example to the globe of cooperative, consistent, innovative, and sustainable food production and supply."



Alberta Oat Growers Commission (AOGC) provided funding for the August 11-20, 2023 Alberta on the Plate Dine Around Festival. The following information about the festival was submitted by Food Tourism Strategies (FTS): *Celebrating its 5th year, Alberta on the Plate's 2023 Dine Around Festival saw around 100 establishments across the province sharing local food stories with their customers for ten delicious days. From Cold Lake to Lethbridge and Medicine Hat to Jasper, visitors had the opportunity to enjoy and immerse themselves in distinctly Albertan dishes in 27 different cities. Establishments featured oats in a variety of uses, including desserts, risottos, beers and more.*

From strategic development to signature events and beyond, Food Tourism Strategies (FTS), the festival organizer, works with destinations, farms, restaurants, producers, and more to enhance the visitor experience through taste of place experiences. National award-winning partners Tannis Baker and Rheannon Green bring over 30 years combined experience in the culinary and tourism industries to each and every FTS program.

Prior to the festival start, AOGC Chair Dylan Robinson, along with a representative from Canadian Oats Milling, attended a virtual networking session to share their stories with participating establishments. In addition to having live attendees, these sessions were recorded and shared with all participating establishments.

Thanks to the support of commodity partners like the Alberta Oat Growers Commission, Alberta on the Plate saw its most successful year to date, with over 5000 festival menus sold across Alberta. Direct festival menu sales totalling an estimated quarter of a million dollars, with additional \$700,000+ in extra spending (non-festival menu covers). This means that almost a million dollars in revenues poured back into our local food economy - a great way to celebrate Alberta Local Food Week!

Jason Wiese, AOGC Vice-Chair, shares, "Events such as this one are an excellent way to promote the agriculture and food industry, and provide new ideas for people to use local Alberta ingredients like oats. AOGC, on behalf of oat producers, and millers were well-represented at the festival, and unique oat recipes were brought forward by restaurants across Alberta."

To see examples of how oats were included in the festival's menus, go to: <https://www.albertaontheplate.com/restaurants/2023-2/>.

For more information on Alberta on the Plate, go to: <https://www.albertaontheplate.com/>. For more information on Food Tourism Strategies, go to: <https://foodtourismstrategies.com/index.html>. While on the website, check out the page: <https://www.albertaontheplate.com/partners/alberta-oat-growers-commission/>, which highlights AOGC and if you scroll down that page, you will find a link to an 'interview' with AOGC Chair Dylan Robinson!



Photo Credit: Rain Dog Bar (Calgary, AB)
Dish: Koji rubbed Alberta oat finished sirloin with smoked beef fat chili crisp



Photo Credit: High Seas Coffee Co (Linden, AB)
Dish: Foothills Creamery soft serve custard ice cream with homemade sea salt caramel sauce and butter pecan crisp oat crumbs

The Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC) Field Day in Scott, Saskatchewan, held July 12, 2023.

WARC provided the following report about the day.

- Attendees were able to register for either the morning or the afternoon session. The morning attendees stayed for lunch and the afternoon attendees came early for lunch and then went out to the plots.
- The morning session had 80 attendees and the afternoon session had 52 attendees; 34 additional people were on-hand to provide services for the event, including staff, speakers and booth attendees.
- There were six different presentations: Foliar-Applied Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria for Wheat; Lentil K & S Fertility Response; Effect of Land Rolling Timing on Barley Grain & Silage Yield; Improving Productivity & Resilience of Cropping Systems on the Canadian Prairies; Drone vs Conventional Sprayer Pesticide Residue; and, Expanding Crop Oil Distillation for Pesticide Residual Trials.

Your POGA Board At Work:

Bob Lepischak, MOGA and POGA director, represented POGA at the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) Summer Board of Directors Meeting on August 3-4 in Winnipeg, MB. Some items discussed included: *The Road to 2050 for Canada's Grain Sector* (a report that encourages a focus on government responsibility, not farmers); transportation (Flip the Switch campaign, extended interswitching and Port of Vancouver - Delivery and Loading in the Rain); and, trade relations. The GGC is a national voice representing 65,000 Canadian grain farmers and is the leading 'farmer voice' in Ottawa, advocating for federal policies that support producers.

AITC SK provided the following report on the most recent AITC-SK Oat Nutrition Support Bursary, co-funded by SaskOats and Bob's Red Mill. The objective of the program was to provide assistance to nutrition programs in schools identified as having a need, while also promoting oats as an affordable and nutritious food option. Bursaries were granted to schools to purchase oats and oat-based food to support universal snacks and meals at school. Alongside the bursary funds, schools received a nutrition information package, access to classroom resources, and recipe cards for students to take home.

A total of 5,546 students from 20 schools across Saskatchewan benefitted from the Oat Bursary.

In addition to the bursary funds and recipe cards, schools were equipped with valuable educational resources to enhance the overall impact of the program. All recipients reported a

noticeable increase in students' appreciation for agriculture because of these resources. One teacher specifically mentioned that delving into the origins of oats and connecting it to their local surroundings helped students develop a deeper understanding of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

Several teachers highlighted the positive impact of combining the oat-based recipes with the information provided in the educational resources. Students were able to grasp the significance of local agricultural practices and their connection to the food they consume.

To read the full report received from AITC-SK, go to: <https://poga.ca/>, choose the *Communication and Advocacy* tab at the top and the drop-down sub-page *Supported Initiatives*. To learn more about the AITC-SK programs, resources and other activities, go to: <https://aitc.sk.ca/>.



Breakfast (including oat-based foods), Balfour Collegiate, Regina

Your MOGA Board At Work:

On August 8, 2023, Jenneth Johanson, MOGA director, attended Harvest on the Crescent in Winnipeg, MB. MOGA provided participants with oat ice cream from Dug and Betty's Ice Creamery in Winnipeg.



Beyond Beta Glucan

How Oat Protein Also Contributes to Good Health

Dr. Sijo Joseph (Thandapilly) is a Research Scientist at Agriculture and AgriFood Canada's Morden Research and Development Centre in Winnipeg and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences at the University of Manitoba. He led the now-completed, POGA-supported project: *Beyond Beta (β)-glucan: Demonstrating health benefits of oat protein.*

Much research has been done on the health benefits of β-glucan. However, little to no studies have looked into the possible effects of oat-based protein on health—by itself or in conjunction with β-glucan.

The Oat Scoop published two previous articles on this project in: March 2021 (Introduction to the project, page 8) and November 2022 (Interim report, page 9). For those interested, the articles provide detailed reasons for and methods used in this project.

The study results show that:

- Incorporation of oat protein in the diet was effective in preserving systolic heart function in HF/HS*-fed rats (*High Fat/High Sucrose).
- Oat protein lowered serum cholesterol levels.
- Oat protein significantly lowered the activity of a protein that is directly involved in how the body produces cholesterol.
- Oat protein provides benefits in a high-sugar, high-fat diet which induces a model of metabolic syndrome. *Dr. Joseph explains: "Metabolic syndrome is a group of health problems that may include too much fat around the waist, elevated blood pressure, blood glucose and blood lipids. Accordingly, this is one of the best models to study the human metabolic syndrome and its complications."*
- Well-designed randomized human feeding studies are warranted to further validate the efficacy of oat proteins on metabolic health and disease.

Potential benefits of the project's findings for producers, processors, exporters and the public are as follows:

- Establishing the health benefits of oat constituents other than β-glucan will enhance consumer perception of oat as a whole, healthy food.
- The cholesterol- and glycemic-lowering properties of oat protein will make it a protein of choice for the food ingredient buyers, especially those targeting diabetic or high cholesterol patients.
- Public awareness of the benefits of oat protein and β-glucan from oats in metabolic diseases will position it as a strong competitor in emerging international markets, where rates of lifestyle diseases including cardiovascular diseases are skyrocketing.
- The above-stated benefits could raise the demand for oats in the local and international markets. This should increase long-term demand and therefore, the ability to secure higher pricing for the crop.

Dr. Joseph states, "The results from the current project will help to establish the unique properties of oat protein in managing blood glucose and cholesterol levels and thereby generate preliminary data for an oat protein health claim petition. This is particularly important as it will enable the Canadian oat industry to answer expectations of the

customers who are in search of value-added oats products worldwide."

A peer-reviewed manuscript was developed on the metabolic effects of oat protein (it has not yet been published) and information is also being disseminated at multiple international scientific meetings, to the general public and other stakeholders. A graduate student, Jenny Bouchard, has been working on this project as her thesis study for her master's degree in Food Science at the University of Manitoba.

To read all reports submitted by Dr. Joseph, go to: <https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/> and filter by *Project Status: Completed*, and *Principal Investigator: Joseph*.

This project was funded by POGA; PepsiCo Quaker, USA; and the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative.



The Oats for Breakfast Program, which was supported by the Alberta Oat Growers Commission, has received an overwhelming response in the short time that it was promoted. Ten schools from all over Alberta have taken a proactive step towards ensuring that their students have access to a balanced meal that fuels their minds and bodies for the day ahead.



With each registered school, Ag for Life expanded the reach of the mission to provide nutritious and delicious oat-based breakfast options.

In addition to the bursary funds, each school was provided with student take-home recipe and information cards and a classroom poster, designed to build awareness of oat nutrition, common oat-based food items and oat production in Alberta.

Check out the Oats for Breakfast page at: <https://www.agricultureforlife.ca/oats-for-breakfast>.

The recipe for this issue is a special one. POGA partnered with Grain Millers, Save-On-Foods and 30 municipalities in Northern Alberta to distribute free oats for residents in those municipalities in September and October. A special thanks is extended to the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 for organizing all the distribution! For more, from an article by Emily Plihal, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, South Peace News, found on yahoo Canada news, go to: <https://poga.ca/over-15000-pounds-of-oats-set-to-be-given-to-peace-country-residents/>.

Recipe cards for two oat-based dishes were included with the packages. The meatloaf recipe card is included here (thanks to Shawna Mathieson, POGA Executive Director, for both her own recipe and photo)! Next issue, we'll publish the second recipe provided, so stay tuned to discover the other taste-bud-tempter we have to share with you!



Ingredients

- 1.5lbs pounds hamburger
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/3 cup oatmeal
- ½ tsp garlic powder

Directions

1. Combine all ingredients except half of taco seasoning and put into pan.
2. Top meatloaf with remaining taco seasoning.
3. Cook at 350° for 55-60 minutes for a large pan or for 35- 40 minutes for a mini loaf pan (divided equally). Cover with tin foil for the first half of cooking.



GRAIN MILLERS



western family®



Board At Work

POGA provided support for the SaskWheat/APAS/Wheat Growers of Canada position to: request that the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) reverse the decision to harmonize primary and test weight standards for wheat classes, starting August 1, 2023. If this harmonization plan had gone ahead, it would have had severe implications for producers. Canada Western Red Spring wheat that previously would have been graded #1 could have been downgraded to as low as feed-grade if the determining factor was based on test weight. Thankfully, the CGC reversed this decision on July 28, 2023 (just ahead of the August 1, 2023 implementation date) due to the strong pushback from many farm organizations. To read news items from the various organizations involved in the appeals, go to: <https://poga.ca/poga-is-pleased-to-see-the-reversal-of-the-cgc-grain-grading-changes/>.

The following report was received from Gerry Friesen, Chief Administrative Officer of the Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program (MFWP): *On March 1, 2022, we successfully launched our confidential, no-cost counselling services to support the mental health and wellness of our Manitoba farm families. With grassroots financial support we have been able to launch and grow the program. It has passed the litmus test: the program is of value to those it is intended to serve: Manitoba farm families.*

What we learned in our first year is that the program works, is valued by the participants, and it should be continued. We also learned we needed to spend more time and effort on promotion of the program. So we have been steadily working to raise awareness with industry, farmers and health care professionals. We attended various ag shows and conferences last winter. As a result, the uptake of the program has been growing. Our efforts have been recognized and we are grateful for the growing community of supporters, like MOGA, that see value in the program from both a personal and professional perspective.

The counselling program was built on:

- flexibility (where and when counselling sessions could be obtained);
- short wait times to see a professional;
- farm focused professionals;
- quick response times from initial contact to an appointment booked; and,
- confidentiality

The results of those availing themselves of the program can be summed up in an unsolicited testimonial we received. "A true highlight of the 2022 growing season for me was finding out about and using the counselling services provided by the MFWP. Not only was it encouraging to hear that such a program exists, my sessions with Kim provided me with valuable perspective and insight towards how my own mental health is connected to the health of my farm. I better understand now that tending to my own self and my own mental health is equally as important as tending to the fields. These lessons are benefiting me immensely."

Through the financial support of organizations such as MOGA, we are able to continue to meet our goal of building mental wellness in our agricultural communities. Thank you, we couldn't do it without your unwavering support.

If you want more information on our program, go to our website at www.manitobafarmerwellness.ca. Booking an appointment is easy. Check out the bios of our four counsellors on our 'Book an Appointment' page, choose the one that would best serve you, and book your appointment: just three easy clicks to get connected.



Your POGA Executive Director At Work

Shawna Mathieson, POGA Executive Director, participated in a field crops strategic planning industry session hosted by AAFC on October 11, 2023.

Receive

THE Oat Scoop

electronically!

Simply go to <https://poga.ca>, scroll down the homepage and click on **Subscribe to the Oat Scoop**. We will then remove your name from the print mail-out list.



Attend in-person and enjoy a free drink, including oat options!

Attend virtually and receive a \$10 Tim Horton's Gift Card!

Annual General Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024; 6:00 pm
The Edmonton Westin
10135 100th St; Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7
Devonian Room

For those that stay through the end of the meeting, AOGC will provide another complimentary drink ticket.

Please RSVP to info@poga.ca to ensure enough food is ordered.

There is no charge for this event.

AOGC will offer virtual participation.

Please contact info@poga.ca if you would like to participate virtually.

AGENDA*

- 6:00 pm Complimentary Drink Plus a Light Meal
- 6:40 pm Welcome from Alberta Oat Growers Commission—Dylan Robinson, Chair from Waskatenau, AB
- 6:45 pm AOGC Annual Business Meeting,** Including Director Elections/Aclamations and a Discussion and Vote on Director Per Diems—Dylan Robinson, Chair
- 7:00 pm Liming for Crop Production and Soil Health—Dr. Linda Gorim, Assistant Professor, WGRF Chair in Cropping Systems; University of Alberta
- 7:30 pm Breeding Oats for Alberta Producers—Jim Dyck, Breeder and Owner of Oat Advantage
- 8:00 pm Oat Market Outlook—Tracy Bush, Sales Manager, MGM Seed and Grain/Bay State Milling
- 8:30 pm Adjourn—Dylan Robinson, Chair

**Times and agenda topics subject to change. Check poga.ca for updates.*

****Please note: a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the AOGC's AGM.** Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than 5 pm, December 23, 2024.



Director Nominations OPEN!

Are you, as a registered producer, interested in becoming a director or do you know someone who is?*

**A registered producer means any producer who has had an Alberta Oat Growers Association service fee deducted since August 1, 2021*

Here are just a few of the benefits:

- Identify and direct research for the benefit of the entire industry.
- Increase industry knowledge.
- Opportunity to meet influential millers, buyers and government officials provincially, nationally and internationally.
- Information sharing with other growers.
 - Professional development.
 - Reimbursement for all travel and honorarium for time spent on Commission projects and committees.

Deadline for nominations is **noon MT, Tuesday, December 12, 2023.**

For nomination forms and further information contact:

AOGC Administration Office,
PO Box 20106, Regina, SK S4P 4J7
Telephone (306) 530-8545
Fax (866)286-1681
Email info@poga.ca



Enjoy free admission, a Free SK Beer + free entrance to the CPW Show for all producers who come to the AGM!

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday,
January 10, 2024, 8:45-noon
Hall E, Prairieland Park,
Saskatoon, SK

SaskOats plans to offer virtual participation.

Please contact info@poga.ca if you would like the link and login details to attend virtually.

AGENDA*

- 8:45 am **Meet and Greet** with coffee, tea, fruit and muffins
- 9:15 am **Opening Remarks from SaskOats Chair**—Ambrely Ralph from Arborfield, SK
- 9:20 am **New Opportunities for Saskatchewan Growers in Oat Food and Beverages**—Brett Casavant, CEO, C-Merak Industries
- 9:45 am **SaskOats Annual Business Meeting, Including a Discussion and Vote on Director Per Diems****—Ambrely Ralph, Chair
- 10:05 am **Oat Market Outlook**—Randy Strychar, Oatinformation.com
- 10:40 am **Oat Processing Expansion: The Changing of Agriculture, Meeting the Demands of the Socially Conscious Consumer**—Murad Al-Katib, AGT Foods President and CEO
- 11:15 am **Adjourn meeting**—Ambrely Ralph, Chair
- 11:15 am **Social Hour** with Free Saskatchewan Oat Beer

**Times and agenda topics subject to change. Check poga.ca for updates.*

****Please note: As per prior years, a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the SaskOats AGM.** Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than 5 pm, December 10, 2023.

Enjoy a
Free Manitoba Oat Beer



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday,
February 14, 2024, 12:10 pm
Victoria Inn Hotel and
Convention Centre,
Winnipeg, MB

(as part of The CropConnect Conference - Free Admission to AGM)

For more information on CropConnect, go to:

<https://cropconnectconference.ca/>

AGENDA*

- 12:10 pm **Lunch is Served**
- 12:20 pm **Welcome from MOGA Chair**—Yves Lapointe from Ste-Agathe, MB
- 12:25 pm **MOGA Annual Business Meeting, Including a Discussion and Vote on Director Per Diems,****—Yves Lapointe, Chair
- 12:40 pm **Great Tastes of Manitoba Featuring Oats**—Donalee Jones, Senior Producer, Great Tastes of Manitoba
- 1:10 pm **Adjourn**—Yves Lapointe, Chair

**Times and agenda topics subject to change. Check poga.ca for updates.*

****Please note: a 30-day notice for resolutions is required at the MOGA AGM.** Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than 5 pm, January 14, 2024.



26th Annual Conference

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Delta Hotel, 350 St Mary Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 pm** for a **Meet-and-Greet**
In Charleswood B in the Delta Hotel

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am | Registration and Free Hot Breakfast |
| 8:45 am | Welcome and Introduction —Brad Boettger, POGA President |
| 8:50 am | Attitude is Everything —Matt Booth, Author and Attitude Adjuster
Extraordinaire |
| 9:50 am | POGA Annual General Meeting —Brad Boettger, POGA President |
| 10:15 am | Coffee and Networking Break |
| 10:45 am | Agronomic Considerations for Growing Oats Including What's Better in Oats, Side Banding vs. Midrow banding —Brienne McInnes, NARF |
| 11:15 am | Weather, Need We Say More? —Drew Lerner, Weather Know-It-All, World Weather Inc. |
| 12:15 pm | Hot Lunch and Networking |
| 1:30 pm | Agriculture: Because Starvation Sucks! We Are Already Sustainable, How Do We Define That? —Damian Mason, Podcaster and Ag Promoter |
| 2:30 pm | New Health Claims for Oats: Looking Beyond Beta Glucan —Sijo Joseph, Ph.D. AAFC Research Scientist and Thomas Netticadan, PhD, AAFC Team Leader |
| 3:00 pm | Networking/Coffee Break |
| 3:45 pm | Oat Market Outlook —Randy Strychar, President, Oatinformation.com |
| 4:45 pm | Wrap-up and Adjourn —Brad Boettger, POGA President |
| 5:45 pm | Social Hour at the Winnipeg Delta Hotel |
| 6:30 pm | Dinner and Presentation —Laughs in Agriculture, If You Ate it, Drank It or Smoked It Agriculture Produced it! Damion Mason, Podcaster and Ag Promoter |
| 8:00 pm | Program Ends. See you on December 4, 2024 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, AB |

Daytime seminars, breakfast and lunch: \$40.00 (\$50 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*

Use the 'Book Your Room' link on poga.ca to secure the negotiated rate of \$159 (plus fees) per night or you can call the Delta Reservation Line at 1 (800) 268-1133

The room block closes on November 19, 2023!

The Oat Scoop
P.O. Box 20106
Regina, SK
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