Enjoy a Free SK Oat Beer!

Free admission and free entrance for producers to the CPW show!

SaskOats DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

# Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026; 8:45 am**

**Hall E, Prairieland Park; Saskatoon, SK**

## AGENDA*

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| 8:45 am | **Meet and Greet** with coffee, tea and a light breakfast |
| 9:10 am | **Greetings from Chris Beaudry, Saskatchewan MLA for Kelvington/Wadena** |
| 9:20 am | **Opening Remarks from SaskOats Chair —**Elwood White, Chair, Pangman, SK |
| 9:25 am | **Unpacking the Way Consumers and Businesses Think About Agriculture and Food and How we Can Communicate It,** Dorothy Long, Canadian Food Focus and Clinton Monchuk, Farm and Foodcare SK |
| 9:55 am | **SaskOats Annual Business Meeting **—**Elwood White, Chair |
| 10:15 am | **Making Sense of Oat Prices.** Lyndon Kifferling, Ceres Global Ag Oats Product Line Leader |
| 10:45 am | **Now We are Cooking with Oats —** Chef Dale Mackay |
| 11:15 am | **Adjourn Meeting—**Elwood White, 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 Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats) Annual General Meeting.
Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than 5 pm, December 14, 2025.

*SaskOats plans to offer virtual participation. Please contact events@poga.ca if you would like the link and login details to attend virtually.)*

***Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA)***
***2024-2025 Projects, (FY Aug 1/24 - Jul 31/25)***

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Oat Breeding**

***Oat Breeding Research:*** by Aaron Beattie at the Crop Development Centre (CDC) in Saskatoon, SK. The objectives are to develop molecular markers for field performance, disease resistance, and end use quality. Further, CDC looks to develop varieties of oat with improved agronomic performance and disease resistance under western Canadian environmental conditions and with superior consumer quality.
*Project Dates: April 2024 – March 2029*

***A 55 lb bushel high protein oat, with top grain yield, is in your future*** by Jim Dyck, Oat Advantage**.** This private breeding facility has supplied five new oat varieties for the prairie provinces which has contributed to over 200,000 oat acres in some years. This research project is targeting a 10% higher bushel weight, low hull content, high protein, harvest durability, and ultimately high yielding and valued oat varieties. Heavy oats are a focus for Oat Advantage, as the improvement on weight is expected to yield benefits in transportation and storage.
*Project Dates: August 2021 – July 2026*

***Climate-Smart Trait Development in Oat Germplasm for Canada*** by Kirby Nilsen AAFC. This project replaces the POBC. This project aims to develop new high-yielding oat varieties for Canadian farmers through applied breeding techniques that enhance agronomic performance, milling quality, disease resistance, and sustainability. By utilizing genomics-assisted breeding strategies, the project seeks to efficiently incorporate desirable traits such as yield, reduced plant height, improved standability, and early maturity. The goal is to create oat varieties that adapt to a wide range of environmental conditions while meeting quality standards of the milling industry. These improvements are projected to increase farm profitability and ensure market competitiveness across the approximately 3 million acres sown to oat annually in Canada.
*Project Dates: April 2023 - May 2028*

***Dissecting the association of flowering time and yield in oat*** by Dr. Jaswinder Singh, McGill University. Objectives are: 1) Identification of regulatory sequences in the identified gene/chromosome region, and refining of gene editing in oat. 2) Development of specific CRISPR constructs. 3) Transformation of the said constructs into oat for developing mutant lines. 4) Genotypic and phenotypic screening of oat mutant lines.
*Project Dates: June 2024 - Jan 2026 (final report due May 2026)*

**Variety/Trials**

***Alberta Variety Trials*** led by Gateway Research Organization, AB will test 11 approved milling varieties to investigate the impact of the variety and growing conditions on the yield and beta-glucan in both Westlock, AB and Fahler, AB. The goal of the trials is to determine if a variety with higher beta-glucan can consistently outperform Morgan oats in Alberta to meet oat miller demands for higher beta-glucan. It will also compare older oat varieties that still perform well and are grown on many acres, with the new varieties. The comparison of commonly grown varieties, both old and new, has been found to be beneficial in all three prairie provinces.
*Project Dates: April 2025 - December 2027*

***Saskatchewan Variety Performance Trials*** led by Saskatchewan Agriculture looks to assess various oat varieties and their suitability to various Saskatchewan regions. Trials are conducted in various areas throughout the province, and the varieties are chosen based on top yearly performers. The information is important for producers to grow the variety best suited for their region to ensure a quality, profitable crop. Enhanced work in these trials now includes lodging and height data collection.
*Project Dates: Yearly*

**Alberta Regional Variety Trials** led by Alberta Grains. In 2025, oat RVTs (Regional Variety Trials) were grown at 10 locations across Alberta. The trial tested the yield and agronomic performance of 9 new oat varieties relative to the check cultivar CS Camden and the benchmark check, AC Morgan. CDC Anson was included in the trial as the variety was added in oat coop trials as one of the checks. RVT keeps at least 1 check variety in common with the coop trials in order to utilize registration data.
*Project Dates: Yearly*

***Oat Lodging: Identifying key root and shoots traits for improved standability*** led by Dr. Aaron Beattie and by Dr. Allan Feurtado**.** This project will evaluate root system architecture in oat cultivars which vary in lodging resistance. It will evaluate stem and root lodging in field trials; assess impact of seeding rate on key stem and root lodging-related traits; assess the correlation between various root phenotyping methods; and compare root system architecture between Canadian oat germplasm and a diverse set of oat germplasm. Lodging and mechanical failure of the stem or root system is a significant issue for oats, leading to yield reductions for producers. Identifying root and stem traits important for lodging resistance will lead to enhancements in breeding cultivars with high standability.
*Project Dates: April 2022 – March 2025*

**Insect/Disease/Weeds**

***Development of markers linked to oat crown rust resistance to help breed improved oat varieties for Canadian oat producers*** led by Dr. Aaron Beattie, CDC. To build on Western Canada's position as a supplier of premium quality oats to the current US markets, and developing markets like Mexico, Japan and Latin America, requires developing varieties with a strong disease resistance package (of which crown rust resistance is a critical component). This will provide value to growers, through improved yield and reduced input costs (i.e. reduced fungicide use) which will help oat remain a viable crop within a grower's rotation, and to millers/food processors, through higher selectability (i.e. good plumpness and test weight).
*Project Dates: December 2018 – October 2024 (amended, with final financial report due Jan/25)*

***Insect Response to Climate Change and Ag-Inputs across the Prairies*** led by Dr. Meghan Vankosky, AAFC (Saskatoon Research and Development Centre). Objectives are: 1) *Understand insect pest population dynamics and forecast pest populations*. The project will evaluate the response of insect pests to climate variables to understand their population dynamics, outbreak frequency, and recent changes to insect distribution and relative abundance, using experiments and by continuing annual insect monitoring by the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network. 2) *Assess the current status of insecticide resistance in western Canada*. This portion will evaluate the current susceptibility of insect pests of cereal, pulse, and oilseed crops to registered insecticides commonly used in western Canada. 3) *Develop new insect information resources*. Lastly, the project will create information resources to augment insect outreach activities in western Canada.
*Project Dates: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2028*

***The Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network (PCDMN)*** led by Dr. Kelly Turkington, AAFC. Objectives are: 1) Further development and formalization of the PCDMN network including annual in-person and/or online meetings. 2) Further development and refinement of survey protocols as well as continue work on disease information and awareness initiatives. 3) Quick Disease Reporter Tool refinement, and develop disease assessment/risk tools and blackleg pathogen mapping. 4) Technology transfer (field days, crop tours, fall/winter meetings, PCDMN webinars, etc.).
*Project Dates: April 2023 - March 2028*

***The Prairie Weed Monitoring Network (PWMN): Building a Strong Biovigilance Foundation,*** led by Charles Geddes, AAFC (Lethbridge RDC). This project aims to develop the Prairie Weed Monitoring Network (PWMN) and to implement a comprehensive weed bio-vigilance strategy, including: weed monitoring, risk assessment, and forecasting for the prairie region of Canada. This data, and that of past surveys, will be leveraged along with other open data resources to conduct spatial risk analyses for the evolution of herbicide-resistant weed biotypes of greatest concern and where they are most likely to occur, in addition to the development of a tool to forecast weed community shifts in response to management factors and climate change.
*Project Dates: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2028*

***Understanding, Mitigating, and Managing PPO Inhibitor (Group 14)-Resistant Kochia*** led by Dr. Charles Geddes AAFC. Objectives (note: wherever PPO-inhibitor-resistant kochia is mentioned, this refers to Group 14 resistance)**:** 1) Determine cross-resistance to PPO-inhibiting herbicides in PPO-inhibitor-resistant kochia confirmed in SK. 2) Determine cross- or multiple-resistance to other herbicide modes of action in PPO-inhibitor-resistant kochia. 3) Determine the mechanism conferring resistance to PPO-inhibiting herbicides in kochia. 4) Continue monitoring kochia survey samples for PPO-inhibitor resistance across the Canadian Prairies. 5) Assess efficacy of alternative herbicides to manage multiple herbicide-resistant kochia prior to crop seeding. 6) Determine the mid/long-term utility and sustainability of strategic tillage for kochia management. 7) Assess the impact of timing and implement/depth of soil disturbance on kochia emergence, density, and the soil seedbank. 8) Determine the mid/long-term impact of winter cereals and perennials in crop rotations on multiple herbicide-resistant kochia.
*Project Dates: Jan 2024 - November 2029 (signed Aug 1/24)*

***On-Farm Fall Applied Granular Herbicide Products for the Control of Wild Oats and Kochia after Oats*** led by Brianne McInnes at Northeast Ag Research Farm (NARF). This project aims to answer the question of "How to best manage straw after an oat crop, prior to granular herbicide application." This research will evaluate light harrow (45-degree angle) vs. a heavy harrow (70 to 90-degree) with treatments of either Edge, Fortress or no treatment.
*Project dates: September 2024 – December 2026*

***Expansion, validation, and optimization of rapid genetic tests for herbicide resistance*** led by Dr. Charles Geddes, AAFC. Objectives are: 1) Develop new genetic tests targeting more herbicide-resistant (HR) weed biotypes of relevance to farmers in western Canada. 2) Validate current and new genetic tests using a range of weed samples from western Canada. 3) Determine cross-resistance patterns associated with specific target-site resistance mechanisms. 4) Optimize sample submission kits, processes, and testing procedures to enhance the efficiency and reduce the cost of HR diagnostics. 5) Inform and educate farmers, agronomists, and the agricultural industry on the use and utility of genetic testing for HR weed diagnostics.
*Project Dates: April 2025 - March 2029*

**Fertility/Climate/Environment**
***Collecting the Carbon Data Needed for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Saskatchewan*** led by Dr. Kate Congreves at the University of Saskatchewan. There is no direct annual data on net carbon footprints of Saskatchewan cropping systems. This project will address this gap by providing spatially and temporally integrated data on greenhouse gas (GHG; N2O and CO2) emissions at the field scale level. This information will be used to determine net ecosystem exchange and the net carbon footprint of the cropping system.
*Project Dates: January 2021 – December 2024*

***Long-term C and N2O monitoring, and climate-smart management of organic grain productions systems*** led by Dr. Martin Entz, University of Manitoba. Objectives: 1) Compare organic and conventional production in terms of N20 emissions over a growing season. 2) Compare organic and conventional production in terms of soil C storage over the long-term (32 years). 3) Determine the GHG footprints of organic wheat, oats and flax compared with conventional production. 4) Evaluate how mixing legume green manure cover crops with non-legume plant species affects N20 emissions during and after the green manure phase. 5) Evaluate how reducing tillage in the legume green manure cover crop termination phase affects N20 and ammonia emissions after legume termination. 6) Determine if fall cereals reduce the post-termination N20 emissions from alfalfa hay crops.
*Project Dates: April 2024 - March 2026*

***Evaluating the fertility package of newly available Oat Milling varieties in SK*** led by Brianne McInnes NARF and conducted at four locations across Saskatchewan. The objective is to demonstrate the yield and quality response of new milling oat varieties to enhanced fertility as compared to a commonly grown and accept variety.
*Project Dates: April 2024 - March 2025 (Expanded and extended project - see below)*

***Evaluating the fertility package of newly available Oat Milling varieties in SK*** led by Brianne McInnes NARF and conducted at four locations across Saskatchewan (Melfort, Scott, Indian Head and Yorkton). The objectives are 1) To demonstrate suitable nitrogen rates for new oat varieties with higher yield potential in different soil and climatic zones within the province; and, 2) To demonstrate to local oat growers, new varieties that are available to increase adoption of new oat genetics.
*Project Dates: April 2025 - March 2027 (Expanded and extended project - see above)*

***N management in oats to increase grain protein, reduce lodging and maintain test weight*** *led by Mike Hall, ECRF.* Objectives are: 1) To determine if a split application of N or side banding ESN (Environmentally Smart Nitrogen) at seeding can decrease lodging, increase protein, and maintain test weight and yield of milling oat relative to putting all the N down at seeding. 2) To compare the efficacy of 30 lb N/ac of dribble-banded UAN versus side-banded ESN to base rates of 80 and 110 lb N/ac of soil- + side-banded urea. 3) To determine if the efficacy of dribble-banded UAN differs between applications made at the 4-leaf versus boot stages.
*Project Dates: April 2025 - March 2026*

**Nutrition/Product Creation**
***Development of healthy food products by combining proteins and dietary fibers from oats and pulse*** conducted by Dr. Lingyun Chen at the University of Alberta. A dietary pattern that provides plant protein, dietary fiber and low fat has been shown to decrease the risks of chronic diseases (obesity, cardiovascular disease). The high-quality milling oats in Canada are good sources of both dietary fiber and plant protein. The long-term goal of this research is to develop high quality protein and fiber ingredients from oats for healthy food development.
This research will provide opportunities to add value to oats and pulses as two major crops in western Canada. The food products high in both plant protein and dietary fiber will provide consumers with healthy choices, and help control the prevalence of obesity in the society and lower the risks of chronic disease.
*Project Dates: March 2022 - March 2025 (extended from Feb 2024)*

***Dried Oat Oil Emulsion Powders Stabilized by Oat Hull Derived Nanocellulose*** led by Dr. Emily Cranston. The objective for the specific POGA-supported portion of the larger project was: To explore the isolation of cellulose-based nanomaterials from oat hulls and to use these as stabilizers in dried oat oil powders and oat milk powders. This research begins to show the potential for oat-hull (normally considered a 'low-value' product) valorization, and several companies have already indicated interest in this particular application.
*Project Dates: October 2023 - September 2024*

**Intercropping/Other**
***Improving Productivity/Resilience of Canadian Prairie Cropping Systems*** led by Dr. Kui Liu AAFC. Objectives are: 1) Develop a future, resilient cropping system in each of the major ecozones on the Canadian prairies and develop a "sustainability index" which integrates cropping system indicators such as crop productivity, resource use efficiency, weeds, diseases, soil health, whole-farm economics, and environmental footprint. 2) Assess and improve soil health through integrated crop management practices. 3) Evaluate the benefit/cost and economic returns of major cropping systems on the Canadian Prairies. 4) Enhance soil carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved agronomic management practices.
*Project Dates: April 2023 - March 2028*

***Continuing studies on intercropping for increasing yield and quality of grain and forage crops, and improving soil quality*** led by Dr. Myriam Fernandez, AAFC. This project will look at the relationship between various intercrop dynamics to see where benefits can occur. Intercrop species use soil available nutrients and soil moisture, and at given times inter- and intra-competition are expected. Specifically, the project will look to determine if intercrops with crops or a living mulch can reduce weeds compared to sole crops and will look at various seeding ratios to evaluate impact on each crop. It will aim to identify if there is a nitrogen benefit from legumes in the intercrop to its companion crop, as well as look to determine the biomass and grain yield/quality due to the intercrop dynamics. It will also look at the disease pressures, and evaluate if intercrops have less disease than monocrops, as well as develop crop growth and nutrient models for intercrop verses monocrop scenarios.
*Project Dates: April 2020 – (Amended and extended to August 2027)*

***Develop New Strategies to Efficiently Utilize Oat Grains in High Production Dairy Cows to Maximize Economic Return and Benefit to Prairie Oat Growers*** led by Dr. Peiqiang Yu from the University of Saskatchewan, is a five-year project that aims to increase and enhance basic knowledge of the optimal nutrient supply to dairy cattle through variety selection, feed processing, and optimal feed ingredient blending. Objectives within this project include: finding the best oat variety or type of oat grain with the highest Feed Milk Value (FMV) for dairy cattle; improving the FMV of oats through processing applications; and finding the maximum or optimum level of oats to replace barley in high production lactation dairy cow diets. Among other things, this project will carry out a detailed metabolic study in dairy cattle to understand the effects of feed processing on rumen fermentation, degradation kinetics, intestinal digestion, and truly absorbed nutrient supply from Prairie oat grains to dairy cattle using various techniques. Note, this project was extended due to challenges during COVID.
*Project Dates: April 2016 – March 2023 (extended to 2025)*

***Different Oat Varieties, PGRs, Seeding Rates and their Interaction of Lodging and Shattering*** by Dr. Linda Gorim, U of Alberta. Objectives are: 1) Identify the PGR-oat variety pairs that lead to significant plant height reduction and subsequent lodging under different environments. 2) Assess the effects of two PGRs (Moddus® and Manipulator®) on other agronomic parameters in different oat varieties. 3) Assess the effects of increased seeding rate on agronomic parameters in different oat varieties. 4) Evaluate the interaction of PGRs with seeding rates on agronomic parameters and shattering in different oat varieties. 5) Evaluate the effects of PGRs on oat agronomic parameters under drought conditions. 6) Carry out a morphological *(form and structure)* assessment of palea and lemma *(parts of the oat hull anatomy)* in different oat varieties and relate these structures to shattering under normal and drought conditions.
*Project Dates: April 2024 - March 2027*

***Optimizing oat floral architecture to maximize grain yield and quality*** by Dr. Jean-Sebastien Parent, AAFC. Objectives are: 1) Optimize floret/spikelet number and groat percentage, maximizing milling oat yield and quality. 2) Identify new genetic factors contributing to oat floral development. 3) Develop and study a range of multi-floral architecture by evaluating the specific floral characteristics and grain quality in field and testing the different genetic factors identified in Objective 2 . This knowledge will then be transferred to oat breeding programs and the gene editing platform.
*Project Dates: April 2025 - June 2028*

***Ag Transport Coalition (ATC) Subscription Agreement*** led by Pulse Canada. The ATC collects data on the performance of the two major railroads in Canada with respect to various performance metrics, and compiles that data into reports available to subscribers and members. These reports will enable POGA to stay up-to-date on transportation logistics and better represent oat growers when issues arise. Daily/weekly reports posted to the ATC website are also available to producers.
*Project Dates: July 2024 - March 2029*

**MARKETING:**
***Expand the Canadian Oat Market: Mexico*** funded in part by AAFC and directed by POGA through Emerging Ag. This project focuses on diversification of Canadian oat exports to Mexico. The activities aim to increase per capita consumption of oats, increase Canadian oat exports to Mexico, increase consumer awareness of the health benefits of oats, and develop partnerships with the Mexican nutrition and health communities. Since this project began in 2015, Canada has been able to more than triple its oat exports to Mexico (Note: 2021 and 2022 were not included in this export number as widespread Western Canadian drought did not allow the supply of oats to maintain the 2020 levels). For 2023 and 2024, Canada returned to being the preeminent source of oats for Mexico and the overall market has been exceeding 200,000 tonnes – the goal originally set as the target driven by increased demand.
*Project Dates: April 2023 - March 2026. (POGA has applied for an extension through March 2028)*

***Expand the Canadian Oat Market: Peru*** **and Ecuador** are funded in part by AAFC and directed by POGA through Emerging Ag. Using the Mexico project materials as a base, several other Latin American countries who import oats could offer additional opportunities for Canadian exports. A long-term strategy for POGA is to make use of the proximity to these markets, and build on the strong Canadian reputation for products in Peru and Ecuador which would support the efforts to differentiate Canadian oats. The activities aim to increase per capita consumption of oats, increase Canadian oat exports to both countries, and increase consumer awareness of the health benefits of oats. Canadian oat imports to Peru are performing strongly and are nearly on track for their best year ever, coinciding with the two years since POGA began its program there, while Ecuador, where POGA launched its program in 2024, is already experiencing record-high imports from Canada.
*Project Dates: April 2023 - March 2026. (POGA has applied for an extension through March 2028)*

***Expand the Canadian Oat Market: Japan–*** funded in part by AAFC and directed by POGA through Emerging Ag. The intent is to increase demand for Canadian oats by conducting outreach with stakeholders to address trading issues, coordinating with stakeholders to update market development strategies, updating social media campaigns and media outreach, and developing promotional material to promote the health benefits and diversified use of oats to the Japanese market. Japan is the fourth largest importer of oats globally, and Canada has been the leading exporter of oats in recent years. Canada is the largest supplier of raw oats in Japan (excluding late 2021 and 2022 due to low availability of Canadian oats); however, the goal is to gain market share in the human-consumption arena. We have seen substantial growth in the processed oats category since the start of the program, with Canada exceeding the 15% growth target and achieving 77% growth since 2021 and is consistently positioned as the 2nd supplier after Australia.
*Project Dates: April 2023 - March 2026. (POGA has applied for an extension through March 2028)*

***Keep It Clean Cereals (KIC)*** is a program that shows Canada's commitment to delivering high quality grains to markets around the world. KIC is an established program started by the Canola Council of Canada and expanded with Cereals Canada, POGA and Pulse Canada. KIC provides timely updates on potential market risks and resources for on-farm practices to help ensure crops meet the standards of domestic and export customers. KIC targets growers, agronomists and agri-retailers of on-farm practices to ensure crops meet the standards of domestic and export customers.

KIC is important as it reminds oat growers of the possible issues of not meeting export standards around residue limits and contaminants, and it informs international and domestic buyers that Canada is taking measures to meet customer expectations.

***Market Access to China***. Funded in part by AAFC and directed by POGA through Emerging Ag. POGA, in 2017 contracted Emerging Ag to work towards removing a phytosanitary barrier that will not allow raw Canadian oats into China. Work continued on this until early 2019 but as political challenges grew between Canada and China. POGA confirmed through the Government of Canada that no progress would be made on this issue until Government relations between the two countries improved. POGA continues to remain committed to work to address the market access issues in China once politically feasible.

**Most of these projects are partially funded by one of the following: Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, AgriScience Program: Projects Component and the AgriMarketing Program-National Industry Association Component ; the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward 2- Bi-lateral agreement, and the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative; Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR); Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF); Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); and industry partners.*

POGA
Prairie Oat Growers Association

Alberta Oat
GROWERS COMMISSION

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DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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GROWERS ASSOCIATION