The Oat Scoop

NOVEMBER 2026

POGA Prairie Oat Growers Association

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Expansion, validation, and optimization of rapid genetic tests for herbicide resistance

Annual Extension Report (Non Confidential Summary)

In the 2025 November Oat Scoop (page 3), we introduced this four-year project, led by Dr. Charles Geddes (Research Scientist at AAFC Lethbridge). In the 2026 March issue (page 15), we published an article on Dr. Geddes' project presentation at the Dec 3/25 POGA AGM in Saskatoon. To access those articles, go to: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/.

Dr. Geddes has submitted his annual research report, and below is the summary extension report. (Note that full reports cannot be posted to POGA's website until the project is completed.)

This project aims to improve how farmers detect and manage herbicide-resistant weeds across western Canada. Herbicide resistance is an increasing challenge that threatens crop productivity and farm profitability. The primary objectives of this research are to (1) develop new rapid genetic tests for detecting resistance in key weed species, (2) validate these tests using real-world samples, (3) better understand how target-site resistance mechanisms affect herbicide performance, and (4) make testing more accessible and useful for producers and agronomists.

To achieve these goals, weed samples were collected from field surveys and directly from farmers. Plants suspected of being resistant were first tested in greenhouse trials to confirm survival after herbicide application. Leaf tissue from these plants was then analyzed in the laboratory using DNA-based methods. Scientists extracted DNA and used specialized molecular tests (such as PCR-based assays) to detect genetic mutations linked to resistance. When new or unknown resistance was suspected, gene regions were sequenced to identify novel mutations.

In the first year, the project made significant progress. Researchers identified several new genetic mutations linked to herbicide resistance in multiple weed species, including corn spurry, wild mustard, and spiny sow-thistle. New genetic tests were developed for detecting resistance in kochia, one of the most problematic weeds on the Prairies. These tests were validated using hundreds of samples from both research surveys and farmer submissions.

Results show that herbicide resistance is widespread and continuing to expand. For example, testing confirmed that Group 14-resistant kochia is now present across all three prairie provinces. In recent surveys, resistance-related mutations were found in approximately 23% of tested kochia samples (28% of tested fields) from Saskatchewan and 18% of plants (26% of fields) submitted by growers across the prairies. These findings indicate that Group 14-resistant kochia is becoming more common and geographically widespread.

The research also showed that certain genetic mutations can cause cross-resistance, meaning a single weed can survive multiple herbicides. This reduces the effectiveness of several herbicide options and highlights the importance of integrated weed management strategies.

An important outcome of this project is the development of practical tools for farmers. Sample submission kits were created and tested, allowing growers to send plant tissue for rapid genetic testing and receive results within 1–2 weeks. The testing technology has been licensed to diagnostic laboratories, which will soon offer these services more broadly under a fee-for-service structure.

Overall, this project is helping to provide faster, more accurate detection of herbicide resistance, giving farmers better information to make management decisions. Continued work over the next three years should expand test availability, improve efficiency, and support adoption of herbicide-resistant weed detection and informed management practices across western Canada.

This project is co-funded by Alberta Canola Producers Commission; Alberta Grains; Alberta Pulse Growers; Manitoba Crop Alliance; Prairie Oat Growers Association; Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission; and Western Grains Research Foundation.

The AGMs Are Just Around the Corner!

Head to the back page for the Dec/26 POGA AGM Agenda. See pages 14-15 for each Commission's AGM agendas and special notice (**AOGC Director Nominations**).

For more information and to register for any AGM, go to the calendar events at: https://poga.ca/.

Your POGA Executive Director at Work

In Sept/26 Shawna Mathieson met with Plantopia—a company from Israel which is considering setting up a location in western Canada to develop new dairy- and gluten-free food options using oat protein.



From left to right: Amir Tiroler (Plantopia Chief Technology Officer (CTO)); Tal Lutzky (Plantopia Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Michelle Beaith (FP Genetics Research Manager); Shawna Mathieson (POGA Executive Director)

New Project Announcement

Impact of germination for reducing oat allergenic potential

POGA will be funding a two-year project led by Maneka Malalgoda, University of Manitoba, which aims to address the potential for oats' allergenic effect on certain people.

Although oats are generally considered safe for most individuals with celiac disease (CD), avenin[1] proteins inherently present in oats contain celiac-reactive peptide sequences, the abundance of which varies among cultivars. Consequently, some individuals with CD may not tolerate certain oat cultivars. This variability has raised concerns for those with celiac disease and highlights the need for effective mitigation strategies to reduce oat celiac antigenicity while maintaining nutritional quality and functionality.

Proposed study: Building on the established methodology, the proposed study aims to investigate the impact of G×E interactions on oat antigenicity, with a focus on mitigating allergenic potential using germination. For this purpose, two older cultivars (Camden and AC Morgan) and two newer cultivars (Endure and Arborg) will be analyzed. These cultivars will be grown in a single year across three provinces (Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan). First, baseline epitope[2] levels in these cultivars will be characterized, providing a reference framework for subsequent comparative analyses. To further assess the effects on antigenicity, controlled germination experiments will be conducted. Germination will be performed under standardized conditions with two incubation periods and two temperatures. Moisture and humidity will be carefully controlled to ensure reproducibility and optimal enzyme activation. These conditions were selected based on previous studies and their industrial feasibility, ensuring both scientific relevance and practical applicability. At the end of each germination period, samples will be rapidly frozen using liquid nitrogen to halt biochemical activity and preserve protein structure. The samples will then be milled to a uniform particle size, followed by avenin extraction and characterization. After that, celiac antigenicity will be quantified (using a previously developed method). It is expected that the results will allow for the quantitative evaluation of the impact of germination of oat celiac allergenicity.

[1]*Avenin is the specific alcohol-soluble protein fraction found in oats (dictai.org)*

[2]*An epitope is the part of an antigen that is recognized by the immune system. (Wikipedia)*

This project will be funded by the Prairie Oat Growers Association, the University of Manitoba, NSERC, Manitoba Agriculture, the Canada Foundation for Innovation - John R. Evans Leaders Fund, and Research Manitoba.

Dissecting the Association of Flowering Time and Yield in Oat

Project Interim Report #3

Dr. Jaswinder Singh, McGill Department of Plant Science, is Principal Investigator for this project. POGA introduced the project in the 2023 June Oat Scoop (page 11), and progress reports were published in the 2024 and 2025 November (both on page 10) issues. POGA recommends that interested readers review those articles to provide the best foundational understanding of the work to date. Go to: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/.

The research team has been working toward completing Objective 4, which involves continued evaluation of the genetic characteristics and phenotypic traits of the mutants. This work will continue for an additional year to allow sufficient time for comprehensive observation and analysis. Readers can expect the final report in late 2027.

One particularly interesting response occurred during this year's work. As part of phenotypic screening, the team also tested one of the *VRN3** mutants under different photoperiod regimes: 16-hour light/8 hour dark (long days); 8 hour light/16 hour dark (short days); and, a blend of both—over one month of long-day conditions followed by a shift to short-day conditions. **VRN3 is a key gene that controls the transition from vegetative growth to flowering in cereals like wheat, oat and barley.*

Dr. Singh explained, "Mutant plants failed to flower under continuous exposure to either consistent photoperiod alone. However, plants that were grown under long-day conditions for an extended period (over one month) and then shifted to short-day conditions did flower. This is an unexpected and interesting observation, suggesting that in the absence of functional *VRN3* gene, floral transition in oat may still be triggered by a shift in day length following a period of prolonged long-day exposure, rather than by either photoperiod (the daily length of time the plant is exposed to light or dark) in isolation. This raises the possibility of a *VRN3*-independent, photoperiod-shift-sensitive pathway contributing to floral induction in oat, which we plan to investigate further."



Photoperiod-dependent flowering response of the VRN3 triple-homoeolog mutant. Wildtype (WT) flowers normally under continuous long-day conditions (left). VRN3 triple-mutant plants failed to flower under continuous long-day or continuous short-day conditions, but flowered when shifted from prolonged long-day growth (>1 month) to short-day conditions.

The main outstanding item for project completion is the recovery and final characterization of stable, transgene-free homozygous** vrn3d lines from the second, independent transformation. ***A transgene-free homozygous organism is a plant or animal that carries two identical copies of a targeted gene mutation while containing no leftover foreign DNA or editing tools in its genome. Scientists use this term in modern biotechnology and gene-editing processes like CRISPR.*

To read the full reports submitted for this project to date, go to: https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/ and use the Principal Investigators filter: Singh.

This project is funded by Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA), Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) and Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR).

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SaskOats Summer Student Enables More Event Participation

SaskOats supported a summer student at Suncrest College, Yorkton (Bella Mykytyshyn). The position enabled Bella to gain experience in agriculture and ensure SaskOats had a presence at as many oat-related tours and events as possible. While she attended most events on her own and reported back to the board, Brayden Presber (SaskOats director) and Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director) attended the NorthEast Agriculture Research Foundation's (NARF) field day on July 15. There, Mathieson gave a presentation on a SaskOats-funded research project.



From left to right around the sign: Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director), Brayden Presber (SaskOats director), and Bella Mykytyshyn (SaskOats-supported Suncrest College summer student) at the NARF field day in Melfort, SK

New AOGC/POGA Director: Dane Voegtlin

Meet Your Director!

Dane and Jennifer Voegtlin farm in the Tofield-Ryley region of Alberta (east of Edmonton). Each region's soil conditions vary, but on average they are both in the black-to-grey soil zones.

They grow oats, wheat and canola. Voegtlin explained, "We primarily grow Morgan oats. We have tried other varieties but Morgan seems to perform the best in our area and soil conditions. We choose to grow oats because they are economical to grow, they perform well in our climate and soil conditions, and the straw adds good biomass back to the soil."

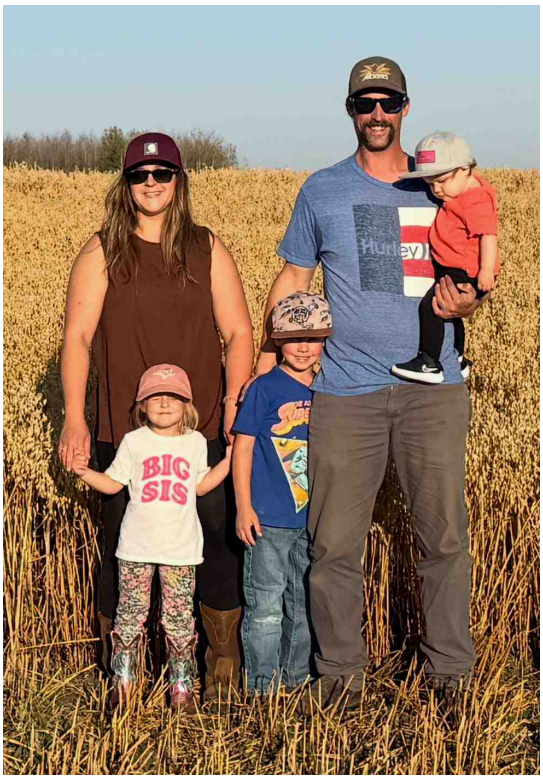
This year, the area received significant rainfall, and was especially high in the spring. "In spite of the very wet conditions, our oats performed the best of all our cereal crops," said Dane.

Dane shared why he decided to run for election on the AOGC board: "I was keen to become involved in representing local producers in an industry I believe is a crucial part of our society." He was motivated and encouraged to do so after attending the AOGC AGMs and chatting with the directors.

His participation on the AOGC/POGA boards has been a positive experience. He is especially inspired by the opportunities to engage with the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Federal Minister of Agriculture (and their offices).

Voegtlin is very concerned with the current price of fuel and views it as a critical issue facing all producers that must be addressed. He stated (in Sept/26), "Fuel costs are currently double what we paid in the fall of 2025."

Another industry-related issue that Dane is interested in continuing to pursue through his board work is expanding international export opportunities for Canadian oats.



Jennifer and Dane Voegtlin with their children (left to right) Brooklyn, Lucas and Ava

Your SaskOats Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director) presented to buyers from Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Panama and Italy at the Aug/26 Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership's (STEP) Food Ingredient Buyers Mission, held in Saskatoon. Many buyers in the room were interested in obtaining Canadian oats and Mathieson was able to put them in contact with Canadian sellers that met their needs.



Your POGA Board at Work



From left to right: Dane Voegtlin (AOGC director); The Honourable Danielle Smith (Alberta Premier) and Elwood White (SaskOats Chair) at Alberta Transportation Minister Devin Dreshen's Calgary Stampede reception on July 5. White and Voegtlin took advantage of the time by talking to the Premier about opportunities in products and exports; she was specifically interested in the Mexican market.

Producer Consent Form:

At times, POGA receives requests from international oat buyers to source oats directly from producers. If you are a conventional, gluten free and/or organic 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 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.

Brandon Research and Development Centre (BDRC) Breeding Program Update

Dr. Kirby Nilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) BRDC in Manitoba, submitted his Progress Report for the 2025-26 season. The following is a summary of progress for the year.

During the 2025–2026 reporting year, we continued to advance climate-smart trait development in oat for Canada. The breeding program remained on schedule, with all major components of the work plan executed across the three targeted mega-environments (ME1–ME3).

Breeding progress remained strong. For ME3, 43 new crosses were completed and ~43,000 early generation hills were evaluated, alongside comprehensive multi-location testing including WCORT (32 entries), BOAT (56 entries), ENCORE (186 entries), and multiple preliminary and early generation yield trials. OT2159 successfully received support for registration in March 2026, representing the third consecutive year that a new ME3 variety advanced to this stage. For ME1 and ME2, over 87 new crosses were made, 20,000 F2–F3 individuals advanced, and hill, observation, home test, and preliminary trials were completed across eastern and western sites. Promising eastern candidates including OA1734-3 (supported to registration for ME1) and OA1750-8 / OA1757-5VS (both showing exceptional yield and resistance profiles), continued progression toward final testing.

Substantial work was completed on rust-resistance objectives. Western disease nurseries evaluated 43,000 early generation hills, >2,200 observation hills, and >700 advanced lines for smut, crown rust, and stem rust. Eastern rust nurseries advanced key resistance gene pyramiding crosses (PcMN × PcTX; OA1750-8 × OA1734-3), with large F4 populations scheduled for 2026 selection. Data continued to show rapid breakdown of older resistance sources, reinforcing the importance of these new gene combinations. Heavy crown rust was observed in New Liskeard (northern Ontario), which is atypical to the region. This is an alert for a change in mega-environment classification and a shift of future breeding objectives.

Genomic selection activities expanded this year. Updated multi-trait GS models were deployed for ME1–3 using large multi-year training sets. Forward-validation GS lines were increased in New Zealand, GS-derived crosses were evaluated at F3 and progressed to F4 testing, and 974 ME1–2 GS cross progeny advanced through greenhouse generations. ME3 GS-cross individuals from the 2023 parental prediction cycle were genotyped to validate recombination and support model refinement.

ENCORE continued to serve as the national phenotyping and data integration platform for Canadian oat breeding. The 2025 cycle was completed at five sites, including expansion to Beaverlodge, AB, generating standardized agronomic, disease, and quality datasets across environments. This data supports variety evaluation, genomic prediction model development, and national breeding coordination.

Overall, 2025–2026 was a year of strong scientific and breeding progress, including successful variety advancement, major GS-pipeline milestones, critical disease resistance work, and continued national integration. The program remains positioned to deliver climate resilient, high value oat varieties to the Canadian sector despite emerging operational challenges, like the closure of AAFC research farms across Canada. Collectively, these activities support the development of higher yielding, disease resistant, climate resilient oat varieties capable of improving producer profitability and maintaining Canada's competitiveness in domestic and export markets.

This project is funded in-part by the Government of Canada under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program, with industry support from Austgrains, Avena Foods, Buffalo Creek Mills, Emerson Milling Inc., FP Genetics, General Mills, Grain Millers Canada, OFoods, PepsiCo Quaker, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Richardson International, and SeCan.

Your SaskOats Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director) participated in conference calls with Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit (in Jun, Aug and Sep). The discussion included challenges in the industry and Mathieson provided information to Minister Marit in preparation for the Next Policy Framework-CUSMA review period (which began July 1/26).

Your POGA Executive Director at Work

Safety and Health in Agriculture and Rural Populations (SHARP) held its International Symposium hosted by the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health in Saskatoon, SK from June 16-18. Shawna Mathieson (POGA Executive Director) attended this event on behalf of the oat growers to ensure that professionals serving rural populations are aware of oat's health benefits. Oat recipes, information on oats, details about the organization and contact information were provided to attendees via the POGA booth. The program included 38 engaging sessions, featuring over 180 research and outreach presentations, posters and panel discussions.

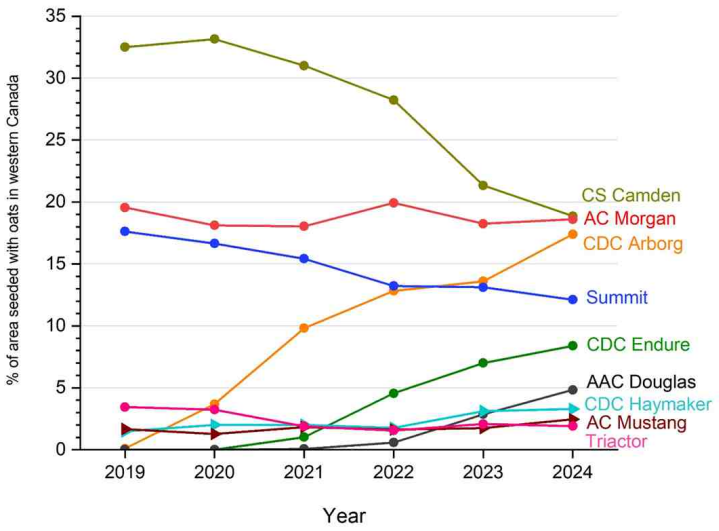


University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre (CDC)
Breeding Program Report

Dr. Aaron Beattie, CDC oat breeder, submitted his 2025-26 annual breeding report, and here are some highlights.

Oat variety OT3132 was supported for registration in February 2026 and provided to FP Genetics for marketing. OT3132 is a high β-glucan, moderate oil and moderate protein oat line that combines very good groat percentage, good test weight and kernel weight, with high plumps and low thins. It shows excellent and consistent yield potential across all soil zones, shorter height, good lodging resistance and moderate maturity. OT3132 also demonstrates resistance to smut and moderate resistance to both BYDV and FHB. **OT3125**, which was supported for registration in February 2025, was officially registered with CFIA in 2026 as CDC Juno.

CDC Anson, marketed by FP Genetics, reached 10% of commercial acres in 2025 (after only its 2nd year being available to producers) while **CDC Arborg**, marketed by **FP Genetics**, and **CDC Endure**, marketed by Alliance Seeds, acreage remained similar to 2024, making them the 2nd and 6th most-seeded varieties, respectively (Fig. 1). **CDC Byer** (released in 2026) and marketed by FP Genetics, continues to yield strongly, being at or near the top of all three provincial Seed Guides and has received good feedback from Seed Growers.



Comparison of area seeded with the top milling and feed/forage oat cultivars each year in western Canada from 2019 to 2025 (courtesy of Grain Research Lab, Canadian Grain Commission).

To read the full reports submitted for this project to date, go to: https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/ and use the Principal Investigators filter: Beattie.

DT publishing by, and titles marked with a ✎ (symbol) indicate article written by,
Pam Yule, POGA Newsletter Manager/Publisher

POGA Wants to Hear from You!

Do you have comments, questions or suggestions for the Oat Scoop? Reach out to:
PYule@poga.ca

Your POGA Board at Work

POGA board representatives attended the Grain Growers of Canada 25th Anniversary reception in Saskatoon on June 25.



Greg Bott (POGA Co-President) spoke with The Honourable Scott Moe (Saskatchewan Premier) on the importance of oats and the CUSMA agreement at the GGC's 25th Anniversary reception

Your SaskOats Board at Work

On August 12, David Katerynych (SaskOats Board member) met with Aaron Beattie (CDC oat breeder) and representatives from Bay State Milling to preview upcoming varieties and see what's 'in the pipeline' for oats from the CDC program. Attendees were pleased with the results and the progress that continues to be made on advancing oat varieties for the entire industry.

SaskOats Supported the 2026 Ag in the Classroom Saskatchewan (AITC-SK) Teacher Expedition

AITC-SK submitted their report for this project:

From August 11th to 13th, twenty-two educators representing elementary, middle, and high school classrooms across Saskatchewan gathered for the 2026 AITC Teacher Agricultural Expedition. This three-day journey throughout Southeast Saskatchewan immersed teachers directly in the local agricultural landscape. By visiting working farms and ag-businesses, teachers engaged in direct dialogue with producers and industry experts. These interactions demonstrated how science, modern research, and innovative technology drive farming and agriculture, ensuring Saskatchewan remains competitive globally while supplying safe and nutritious food. Tour stops included SeedMaster, 4C Farms (Cowessess First Nation), Prairie Diagnostic Seed Lab, Leguee Farms, Creekside Alpacas, Kopec Farms, and Bunge. Every stop equipped these educators with fresh ideas and deep insights to share with their students.

Oats were on display at Kopec Farms, with Jim Kopec leading the tour and sharing his experiences in organic production. Educators traced the journey of his grain from the farm gate to grocery store shelves, gaining insight into supply chain logistics. More broadly, teachers also saw how oats fit into crop rotations, learned why seed testing and quality are important, witnessed the realities of shipping and export, and realized the future opportunities that exist for their students in the agriculture industry. Oats were also featured in snack bars and granola.

Each year, the goal of the Teacher Agricultural Expedition is to give educators from across Saskatchewan a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture through meaningful connections with industry professionals. The following testimonial was shared that indicates the quality and depth of the tour: *"AITC not only provides an abundance of quality teaching materials and presentations but their hidden gem is the teacher expedition. There is no end to the technology and advances in agriculture, and this tour did an incredible job of highlighting this. I look forward to sharing my experience with my students and am hopeful to spark a desire for some to look at the incredible opportunities the agriculture industry has for young people. This expedition was a highlight of my teaching career; one I will be quick to tell all educators to jump at the chance to be part of."*



The Teacher Agricultural Expedition tour group at Kopec Farms

New Project Announcement

Principal Investigator: Dr. Dylan Mackay, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba

A randomized controlled pilot study to evaluate the effects of High Oat Protein product consumption on blood pressure control in hypertensive adults (HOPe-BP pilot)

This two-year project will investigate the impact of oat protein consumption on blood pressure in people with hypertension. The trials will be an open-label randomized 2-period crossover pilot trial that will aim to recruit a total of 20 participants.

To complete the research Dr. Mackay will also be working with Chronic Disease Innovation Centre (CDIC). The CDIC has personnel with expertise in data collection, clinical trials and project management. Additionally, CDIC is providing funding for a PhD student who will be working on the pilot trial.

This project will be funded by Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA), MITACS and Seven Oaks Hospital Chronic Disease Innovation Centre (CDIC).

Your SaskOats Board at Work

On June 24, the SaskOats board toured the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre in Saskatoon. While there, the board discussed the potential to include more oats in product development at the Center.



From left to right: Elwood White (Chair), Shawna Mathieson (Executive Director), SaskOats board members Jessica Slowski, David Katerynych and Brayden Presber); Greg Bott (POGA Co-President), and Dr. Pooba Ganeshan (Principal Scientist, Fermentation and Bioengineering Program at the SK Food Industry Development Centre).



From left to right: Dr. Maria Hounjet (Director of Crop Science, Product Development and Ingredient Innovation), Elwood White (SaskOats Chair), Shawna Mathieson (Executive Director), Brayden Presber and David Katerynych (SaskOats board members), and Greg Bott (POGA Co-President) in front of the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre—Advanced Food Ingredients Centre.

Chicken Strips with Honey-Mustard Dip

Ingredients

Honey-Mustard Dip:
1/2 cup Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
2 tablespoons honey
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
Salt and pepper to taste

Breaded Chicken Strips:
4 chicken breasts
Cayenne pepper to taste (optional)
2 beaten eggs
1 tablespoon milk
3/4 cup Panko or Japanese breadcrumbs
3/4 cup oat bran
Aerosol oil (as necessary)



Chicken Strips with Honey-Mustard Dip. A quick, nourishing main dish to whip up during the busy holiday season. For the recipe video, go to https://oatseveryday.com/recipes/wprm-chicken-strips-with-dip-honey-mustard/

Instructions

Breaded chicken strips:

- Remove the fat from the chicken and cut into strips or tenders. Add pepper, salt and pepper (and optional cayenne pepper, if you want a spicy kick).
- Place the egg with the milk on a plate and season to taste with salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste.
- In another dish mix panko with oat bran and season with salt and pepper.
- Cover the chicken with the egg, remove the excess and put in the plate with the panko and cover completely.
- Preheat the hot air fryer to 200ºC (375-400ºF). (Or fry in a pan - see below.)
- Lightly grease the racks or basket of your air fryer and place the chicken strips (enough to fit in your hot air fryer without placing one on top of the other) and cover with more oil spray.
- Cook at 200ºC (375-400ºF) for 4 to 5 minutes, turn carefully, cover with more oil spray and cook another 4 to 5 minutes or until golden brown and cooked inside. You can also fry them in hot oil about 2 to 3 minutes per side or until they are golden brown and well cooked inside.
- Serve with the dip, honey mustard or sweet mustard.

Honey Mustard Dip:

- Mix Greek yogurt with honey, Dijon mustard, yellow mustard and season to taste. Taste and adjust flavor, if you like it with more mustard flavor add more to the taste.

Optimizing Oat Floral Architecture to Maximize Grain Yield and Quality

Year One Report

In the 2025 November Oat Scoop (page 13), we introduced this three-year project being led by Dr. Jean-Sébastien Parent (Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Ottawa). Go to: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/oat-scoop-newsletter/ to read the project introduction.

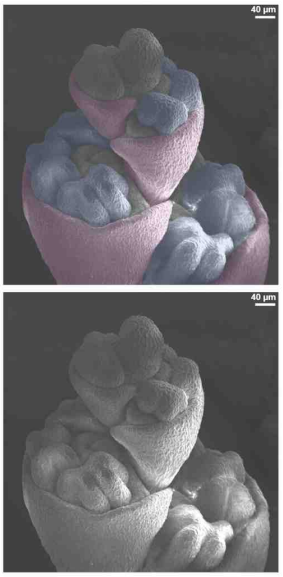
Projects such as these are undertaken to help breeders more quickly develop improved oat varieties that address the needs of producers and consumer demand.

Dr. Parent provided a condensed summary of the progress to date:

Our researcher team is making good progress in understanding the genes that control the development of the oat panicle. By comparing hulled (covered) and hulless (naked) oat varieties and analyzing genetic information from previous studies, the team has identified a key region of the oat genome involved in important traits like hull thickness and number of kernels per spikelet. To further study the new gene candidates, we have developed plant populations with contrasting flower and panicle characteristics, as well as new microscopy methods that allow them to follow panicle development in detail.

Based on these findings, nine promising genes have been selected for further study. Gene editing is now being used to test the role of these genes, and the first edited oat lines have already been produced and are being evaluated in the greenhouse and laboratory. These efforts are bringing researchers closer to identifying the genetic mechanisms underlying key oat traits and could provide valuable tools for future oat breeding programs… (*POGA note: …if producers and industry decide in the future that a gene edited oat variety is the best path forward).

Information dissemination has already begun, with two scientific seminars given by Dr. Parent at Carleton and McGill Universities.



Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) image of the tip of a developing panicle. Four spikelets at different developmental stages are visible. Top image has been pseudo-colored so that the lemmas appear in pink and the anthers in purple. Scale bar represents a size of 40 microns (0.04 millimitres). Image was produced by master student Bonnie Rule from Carleton University.

To read the full report submitted for Year One, go to: https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/ and use the Principal Investigators filter: Parent.

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

Christmas is right around the corner!

Why not try some oat-based recipes for any course at your table? Go to oatseveryday.com for the collection of oat-based recipes developed for our international marketing projects over the years. We also have a cornucopia of recipe ideas on our website at https://poga.ca/cooking-with-oats/oat-recipes/.

From all of us at POGA, we wish YOU ALL a Merry Christmas!

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Search Prairie Oat Growers Association on Facebook, Click Here or Scan the QR Code

Oat Commissions Once Again Supported Provincial School Food Programs

AOGC and Grain Millers supported the Alberta Ag for Life 2026 School Oats Program again this year. The Program was available to both rural and urban schools across Alberta, providing bursaries of $350 to 14 schools.

The selected schools were provided the bursary to purchase oats and oat-based foods. In addition, each selected school received a visually engaging poster to help students better understand the nutritional benefits of oats.

Students took home a fun and easy-to-follow recipe card, encouraging healthy eating habits beyond the classroom. Schools also received 'The Story of Food – Oats' publication, which features a variety of oat-themed activities and educational content designed to make learning about nutrition both fun and meaningful.

For the full 2026 program report, go to POGA's Supported Initiatives page: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/advocacy/supported-initiatives/



Students at Warburg School had a great time getting hands-on with oats this year with the Ag for Life Program. Those future chefs learned about nutritious foods and where oats come from—all while making their own delicious oat energy bites!

MOGA's support of Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba (AITC-MB) continued to make a significant impact in 2025, helping connect students across the province with agricultural education and career awareness opportunities. During the year, 85,376 students participated in AITC-MB programming, resulting in more than 363,000 agriculture education experiences that increased understanding of food production, farming, and the agriculture sector.

AITC-MB reached 473 schools throughout Manitoba, including 270 urban and 203 rural schools, and delivered programming in every Manitoba school division, ensuring broad and equitable access to agriculture education. The organization's work was supported by a strong volunteer network of 404 volunteers since 2023, including 241 farmers who shared their knowledge and firsthand experiences with students.

Several of AITC-MB's resources speak to oats, and for Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month 2025 (CALM 2025), the 'What's in Your Lunch' classroom activity engaged students in matching foods to the source of the main ingredient. This activity features several oat options including oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal, apple crisp, granola bar and breakfast cereal.

Together, these achievements demonstrate the important role AITC-MB plays in educating Manitoba's youth, building agricultural awareness, and inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders. More information on the organization's activities and outcomes can be found in the 2025 AITC-MB Annual Report: https://aitcmbannualreport2025.ca/.


Students at École Margaret-Underhill school in Winnipeg engaged in 'What's in Your Lunch'

SaskOats and Bob's Red Mill supported the 2026 Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan (AITC-SK) Oat Bursary Program.

A total of 8,624 students from 34 schools across Saskatchewan benefited from the Oat Nutrition Bursary. The bursary was given to large and small schools, both rural and urban.

AITC-SK distributed take-home recipe cards for Oatmeal Breakfast Cookies and Oatmeal Energy Bites to promote oats as a healthy food choice for families.

Schools planned various activities and food options for students. Some purchased ingredients for students to bake oatmeal-based goodies for school breakfasts, lunches or snacks; others purchased oat-based products to provide a boost when needed.

Several teachers emphasized the positive effect of combining oat-based recipes with the educational information provided. This combination effectively enhanced students' learning of the role oats play in Saskatchewan agriculture. Students were able to understand the significance of local agricultural practices and their connection to the food they consume.

For the full 2026 program report, go to POGA's Supported Initiatives page: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/advocacy/supported-initiatives/


Students at École Palliser Heights School, Moose Jaw, baking oat-based snacks

Your SaskOats Board at Work



On June 23rd, SaskOats had an all-oats dinner at Little Grouse on the Prairie in Saskatoon. From left to right around the table: Elwood White (SaskOats Chair) and his wife Joy; Kaitlyn Kitzan (SaskOats Marketing Coordinator); Brayden Presber (SaskOats director); Jessica Slowski (SaskOats director); Michelle Pratchler; Ambrely Ralph (SaskOats director), Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director); and, David Katerynych (SaskOats director). Standing: Chef Dale McKay, who spoke at the 2026 January SaskOats AGM. Chef McKay prepared an exclusive meal where every course included oats to showcase the versatile ways oats can be used.

Your POGA Board at Work

Ambrely Ralph (POGA Co-President), attended the September Tri-National Accord in Calgary, where she met with agriculture representative from across the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss challenges and opportunities in exporting more healthy Canadian oats to those countries.



The Honourable David Marit (Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture) with Ambrely Ralph (POGA Co-President and SaskOats director) at the Tri-National Accord In Calgary.

Your POGA Board at Work



From left to right: Dane Voegtlin (AOGC director); The Honorable Tara Sawyer (Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation); and Elwood White (SaskOats Chair) at the Calgary Stampede.

Voegtlin and White congratulated Minister Sawyer on her recent appointment. They also discussed the importance of small crops, such as oats, for rotations.

Your POGA Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson (POGA Executive Director) speaking at Grain Millers Canada's 25th Anniversary gathering in Ituna, SK on July 14.





Shawna Mathieson (POGA Executive Director), Todd Stohlmeyer (Grain Millers Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer), Terry Tyson (Grain Millers Canada Corp President), and Perry Anderson (Grain Millers Inc. Executive Vice President) at Grain Millers' 25th Anniversary gathering in Ituna, SK on July 14.

Your SaskOats Board at Work

In June, SaskOats toured Black Fox Brewery near Saskatoon where they are making some legendary, prize-winning whisky blends (including oats) and gin.



From left to right: Ambrely Ralph (director); Brayden Presber (director); Shawna Mathieson (Executive Director); David Katerynych (director); Kaitlyn Kitzan (Marketing Coordinator); Joy and Elwood White (Chair).

Your POGA Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson made a virtual presentation on Aug 7 (arranged by the Government of Alberta) to a company from India looking to process oats in Canada. The presentation provided important data to build momentum to further the potential for expansion of Canadian oat processing completed here at home.

Your SaskOats Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson met with Saskatchewan Agriculture Deputy Minister Shawn Jaques in Sept/26, as part of the SaskCrops Team. During this meeting, the crop commissions reiterated the importance of agricultural research (including the research stations at Indian Head and Scott, SK), discussed the need for Export Sales reporting, the Next Policy Framework Funding and expressed strong appreciation for all the ag funding and support provided by the Government of Saskatchewan.

SaskOats-Funded Research Chair

SaskOats is providing 2025-2029 support for selected research activities by Professor Stuart Smyth, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan. These activities are related to agrifood innovation and sustainability. Dr. Smyth and his team have published three scientific articles to date in 2026. To read the articles, go to: https://poga.ca/research/research-projects/ and use the Principal Investigators filter: Smyth. Also, Dr. Smyth published an op-ed piece with Macdonald-Laurier Institute Canada on trade agreements—removing port constraints. For a link to the article, go to: https://poga.ca/communication-advocacy/poga-latest-news/.

Oat Scoop CAVEAT: *POGA attempts to capture and represent the information provided by subjects. Their views and opinions many not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the POGA and/or oat commission boards.*

Your SaskOats Executive Director at Work

Shawna Mathieson (SaskOats Executive Director), along with Executive Directors from major Saskatchewan commissions, have been meeting with Saskatchewan Ministry of Ag staff bi-weekly since May to discuss options and future plans for the Indian Head and Scott research locations, especially in light of the MOU signed on July 17 between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada related to these two Saskatchewan-based research farms.

Mathieson continues to participate in meetings with the Minister and other key players within Saskatchewan Crop Commissions to find long-term solutions for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Agri-Arm research site closures.

SaskOats
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Enjoy a Beer or Oat Milk Paralyzer + free entrance to the CPW Show for all producers that come to the AGM!

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday,
January 13, 2027; 2:30–5:00 pm
Western Development Museum
Saskatoon, SK

Free Admission and Free Entrance for Producers to the CPW Show!

Please contact events@poga.ca to register for in-person attendance **OR** for the link and login details to attend virtually!

AGENDA*

2:30 pm	**What is Being Done to Keep Ag Education in the Classroom?** Sara Shymko, Executive Director of SK Ag in the Classroom
3:00 pm	Oat Refreshment Break including Oat Milk Paralyzers and Beer
3:30 pm	**Opening Remarks from SaskOats Chair**—Elwood White, Chair, Pangman, SK
3:35 pm	**Oat Outlook**—Randy Strychar, President of OatInformation.com
4:10 pm	**SaskOats Annual Business Meeting****—Elwood White, Chair
4:30 pm	**Pig Spleen Weather Prediction**—Jeff Woodward, PSP, with Free Saskatchewan Beer and Oat Milk Paralyzers
5:00 pm	**Adjourn Meeting**—Elwood White, Chair

**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 13, 2026**.

Manitoba Oat
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Enjoy a Free Beer, Oat Milk Paralyzer and Snacks!

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday,
January 20, 2027; 2:30pm–5:15pm
Keystone Ag Centre, Brandon, MB Dome MPR (as part of Ag Days)

To register for the MOGA AGM, go to poga.ca and choose either the MOGA AGM calendar event (along the right side of the home page) or the AGM page (under Provincial Commissions tab at the top of the page). There you will find a link to register. Registration is not mandatory, but appreciated.

Now at Ag Days in Brandon!

AGENDA*

2:30 pm	**Welcome from MOGA Chair**—Yves Lapointe, Chair from Ste-Agathe
2:40 pm	**MOGA Annual Business Meeting****—Yves Lapointe, Chair
3:00 pm	**Responding to Challenges Out of Your Control**—Kaitlyn Lawes, 2x Gold Medalist and 3x Olympian for Team Canada Curling (and a MB Farmer)
3:45 pm	**Adjourn Meeting**—Yves Lapointe, Chair
3:45 to 5:15 pm	Networking, Socializing and Autographs/ Photos with Kaitlyn

**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 Manitoba Oat Growers Association (MOGA) Annual General Meeting**. Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than **5 pm, December 20, 2026**.

Alberta Oat
GROWERS COMMISSION

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

Annual General Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2027; 6:00pm

Devonian Room–The Edmonton Westin
10135 100th St, Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7

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

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

There is no charge for this event.
AOGC will offer virtual participation. Please contact events@poga.ca if you would like to participate virtually.

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

AGENDA*

6:00 pm **Complimentary Drink Plus a Light Meal**

6:30 pm **Welcome from Alberta Oat Growers Commission**—Dylan Robinson, Chair from Waskatenau, AB

6:40 pm **AOGC Annual Business Meeting,** including Director Election/Acclamation**—Dylan Robinson, Chair

7:00 pm **Ag for Life, Helping to Keep Agriculture in Alberta Classrooms**—Luree Williamson, CEO

7:30 pm **AB Variety Trials in Westlock and Falher: What have we learned in the last 10 years?**—Kabal Singh Bhullar, Research Agrologist, Gateway Research Organization

8:00 pm **Oat Market Outlook**—Randy Strychar, President of OatInformation.com

8:40 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 Alberta Oat Growers Association (AOGC) Annual General Meeting**. Please send any resolutions to smathieson@poga.ca no later than **5 pm, December 18, 2026**.

Alberta Oat
GROWERS COMMISSION

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 Commission service fee deducted since Aug 1/24.*

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, Wednesday, December 9, 2026**

For nomination forms and further information, contact:
AOGC Administration Office
PO Box 20106
Regina, SK S4P 4J7
Tel (306)530-8545
Fax (866)286-1681
Email smathieson@poga.ca

29th Annual Conference

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Inn at the Forks-75 Forks Market Rd, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4T6

Join us **Tuesday, December 1, 8:00 pm** for a **Meet-and-Greet in the Forks Ballroom**

AGENDA*

8:00 am	**Registration and Free Hot Breakfast (Forks Ballroom)**
8:40 am	**Welcome and Introduction**—POGA Co-President
8:50 am	**Respectfully Disagree. How to have Difficult Conversations in a Divided World.** Justin Jones-Fosu, Philanthropist, Speaker and Author of "Stop Chasing, Start Creating"
9:50 am	**POGA Annual General Meeting**—POGA Co-President
10:15 am	**Coffee and Networking Break**
10:45 am	**PGR effects on different oat varieties: impact on shattering and under moisture deficit conditions**. Dr. Linda Gorim, Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences
11:15 am	**Faster Progress, Better Varieties: How Modern Breeding Systems Are Changing Crop Improvement and What It Means for Oats.** Jason Reinheimer, Chief Executive Officer for Global Institute for Food Security
12:15 pm	**Hot lunch with cash bar and networking**
1:15 pm	**Agri-Food Sector Amid Upheaval: Perspectives and Strategies.** Sylvain Charlebois, Senior Director for Agri-Food Analytics Lab, Dalhousie University
2:15 pm	**Oat Outlook**. Randy Strychar, President of Oatinformation.com
3:15 pm	**Networking/Coffee Break**
3:45 pm	**Growing Deeper Resilience and Joy: How to thrive in an era of uncertainty.** Jessica Janzen Mindset Coach and Author of *Bring the Joy*
4:45 pm	**Wrap-up and Adjourn**—POGA Co-President
4:45 pm	**Social Hour** with cash bar at the Inn at the Forks
6:30 pm	**Banquet and Entertainment—** **Greetings** from the Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Manitoba Agriculture **The Undeniable Power of Creating Meaning**. Justin Jones-Fosu
8:00 pm	**Program Ends. See you Thursday, December 2, 2027 at Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton AB for the 30th POGA AGM!**

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

CEU Credits: Nutrient Mgmt: 0.5; Soil & Water Mgmt: 1.0; Crop Mgmt: 1.0; Professional Development: 3; Total: 5.5

***Times and agenda topics subject to change. For updates visit poga.ca*

Book your room early! *Go to poga.ca/events/poga-agm-2026/ Events calendar (on the right-hand side of the page)and use the link to secure the negotiated rate of $204/night (plus fees). The room block closes* ***Nov 12/26****.*

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