

Title of Project: Variety and Agronomic Trials**Report Title:** Annual Report**Report Covering Period:** April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000**Organization(s):** BC Grain Producers Association**Contact Person:** Maurice Fines/ Raymond Verboven**Address:** BCMAFF office, 1201 103 Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4J2**Telephone:** 250-784-2247**Fax:** 250-784-2299**Email:** farbov@pris.bc.ca

Objectives:

- To encourage the development and adoption of profitable grain, oilseeds, pulse and new field crops suitable to BC Peace River producers.
- Build on the regions agronomic natural strengths (plant diseases and pests, summer daylight), by identifying, encouraging and conducting research applicable to the Peace region.
- Work with the research industry to develop co-operative partnership agreements.
- Provide local 3rd party evaluation of field crop varieties in cooperation with the research industry and the co-op tests.
- Maintain a high quality small plot testing capability in the BC Peace region.
- Support new variety development for the BC Peace region.
- Encourage new crop development for the BC Peace region.
- Encourage agronomic research applicable to the BC Peace region.
- Establish research priorities yearly that reflect the changing industry realities.

Accomplishments:

- Over 80 people toured the research sites over the summer months.
- 96% of seeded plots were harvested, despite below average moisture conditions and very cold dry spring.
- no data discarded because of high coefficient of variation.
- Regional Adaptation Trials: 27 trials of 1504 plots.
- New Variety Development: 22 trials of 1774 plots.
- New Crops and Agronomic: 27 trials of 772 plots.
- Compiled backlog of unpublished data in separate publication entitled: New Crops and Agronomic Trials, BC Peace River Region, 1992-1999 (Kerry Clark).

Tasks in progress:

- Continuing to distribute our two final report books to agriculture research centers (Lacombe, Brooks, Beaverlodge, Agricore Calgary, etc.).
- Adding information from books to BCMAFF website (Ken Awnmack).
- Investigating new equipment and modifications to existing machinery.
- Formulating larger databases to deal with increasing amount of data.
- Designing website.
- Hiring and training of new summer staff (Karl Mattson, Rae Haddow).
- Ordering and weighing seed for 2000 trial work.
- Controlling weeds and preparing research sites for 2000 season.

Extension and demonstration:

- June 15, 1999 site tour with Alberta Agriculture specialists.
- June 18, 1999 site tour with Investment Agriculture directors.
- June, 1999 on site interview with reporter from Mirror newspaper.
- July 22, 1999 site tour in conjunction with PRSCA, Canola Council of Canada, Hemp Project and Lygus Bug Project.
- July 24, 1999 site tour with Agricore Peace Region delegates.
- July, 1999: liasson with Lacombe Research Station & Brooks Diversification Centre to study management techniques and examine new crops (dill, spearmint, dry beans).
- Field Crop Variety Performance, BC Peace River Region, 1999 books compiled/ distributed at meetings, elevators, seed companies, grain cleaning plants, agriculture offices (500 copies printed).
- New Crops and Agronomic Trials, BC Peace River Region, 1992-1999 books compiled/ distributed at same outlets as above (300 copies printed).
- Articles written about the variety trials written in two issues of Canola Digest.
- Articles in Peace Prospects page of Northern Horizon and BCMAFF newsletter.
- Updates provided by Maurice Fines, Raymond Verboven and Kerry Clark at several meetings over the winter months.

Finances: see attached Financial Statement supplied by Cheryl Hill, BCGPA Bookkeeper

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:

- Although total # of plots was similar to 1998, diversity of crops was greater. Previous demo crops such as canary grass, proscio millet, chickpeas and kamut were expanded into full trials for yield comparisons.
- New demo/ survival trials included: lathyrus, Austrian winter peas, coriander, fenugreek, low heat unit corn.
- Flexible hiring of people at key target times (seeding and harvesting) facilitated seeding in record time and thus more time for site management (seeding areas down to fescue and winter wheat) and adding projects such as Lygus bug trials.
- Extra labour for harvest period enabled large number of samples to be processed quickly and data compiled/ distributed to cooperators ahead of schedule.

Summary comments, conclusions:

- Variety Trial team have published and distributed results in a timely manner.
- Professional appearance and management of the research sites has led to increased interest by private corporations and widespread reputation for high quality work.
- More requests for trials have necessitated the need for longer terms for temporary staff in the upcoming year.

Attachments:

Financial Summary from BCGPA Bookkeeper, Cheryl Hill
Field Crop Variety Performance, BC Peace River Region, 1999
New Crops and Agronomic Trials, BC Peace River Region, 1992-1999

**BC GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
 VARIETY & AGRONOMIC TRIALS
 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENTS
 APRIL 01, 1999 TO MARCH 31, 2000**

Income

BC Grain Industry Development Council	19,205.60
Investments Agriculture	35,000.00
Peace River Agriculture Development Fund	76,822.40
Variety Trials - Contract Work	<u>64,844.41</u>

Total Income 195,872.41

Expenses

Equipment Insurance	4,368.00
Equipment Maintenance	9,990.14
Equipment Rent	20,000.00
Fuel & Travel	6,580.48
Lab Analysis	335.00
Labour & Benefits	86,787.01
Materials & Supplies	8,369.96
Plot Costs	4,210.00
Project Management	17,000.00
Tractor Lease	1,000.00
Warehouse	<u>5,713.22</u>

Total Expenses 164,353.81

Excess of Income over Expenditures 31,518.60

Accounts Receivable

BC Grain Industry Development Council (HB-10%)	1,920.56
Peace River Agriculture Development Council (HB-10%)	7,682.00
Investments Agriculture	8,750.00
Contract Work	2,142.90
Miscellaneous	318.88
UFA - Dividends	<u>10.93</u>

Total 20,825.27