

Report prepared for Peace River Agricultural Development Fund

Title of Project: Crop Variety and Agronomic Research Presentation 2007
Report Title: Annual Report
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OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this project are to continue to produce a meaningful crop variety and agronomic research in the Peace Region and to be involved in the decision making process and discussions regarding suitable projects for this region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We have wrapped up the last five years worth of projects and are starting a new set of projects in 2007 as alluded to in our last update. To quickly recap; we are studying wheat and triticale choices for the best fit for an ethanol feedstock. Selecting for new lines of field peas that best suite our geo-climatic region with Dr. Dengjin Bing, Ag-Canada's pea breeder stationed out of Lacombe, Alberta. Re-visit the selection of short-seasoned flax for our region in a joint venture with our Alberta counterparts. Study the Hard White Spring Wheat class and run the Western Co-op barley trials. As well we will continue to try and support efforts to make performance testing of new cereal, flax, and pulse crops a prairie-wide initiative. We will be working very closely with both breeders Dr. Bing (peas) and Dr. Dribnenki (flax), and we will be helping to select lines of both flax and peas right here in our own backyards. For the first time we can recall, we will be working with single-row plots termed "head rows" with the flax project, which is about as early in the breeding chain one can get involved without working under glass (greenhouses). This is all quite unique and exciting as the potential for success is simply that much greater with our local voices and opinions being heard all the way through the process.

Biofuels has added great enthusiasm to the agricultural community of late, and we will be investigating new materials for ethanol over the next five years as just one of our projects mentioned above and previously. Our long daylight period and normally significant moisture shows great promise, but our short growing season length will more than likely create a great challenge to our region and thus to our team as so much emphasis is being placed on long-seasoned feedstock choices like that of soft white spring wheat. It will be another challenge, but then that is what the research department is all about or it wouldn't be called research

Prairie Recommending on Pulse and Special Crops (PRCPSC):

Two directors attended these meetings in Saskatchewan in February. The role of the pulse will be more important as we move towards a bio economy. Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to push forward with seed program modernization. It was noted at these meetings that the BC Peace Region is a key player in the research industry and is currently one of the leaders in the prairies.

Other:

- a) Personnel & Orientation Protocol Establishment Project: Funding in the amount of \$10,950.00 was approved for a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The purpose of the Manual is to orientate new employees, and to be prepared for new Quality Assurance programs that may impact new and future research.
- b) A Wildlife Exclusion Fence will be installed at the Fort St. John research site. The cost of the fence will be \$24,800.00 funded in full by the Western Grain Transportation Adjustment Fund (WGTAJF). A portable geese deterrent system (wounded geese and natural predator sound system) was also approved. This system will cost approximately \$3,500.00.
- c) Regional Trial update—Clair provided Regional Trial update. Clair and Maurice attended at meeting at Banff (about going to a Prairie-Wide concept). He stated that the Government of Alberta will no longer fund performance testing work with Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA), a group that represents many of the grower associations within the province

Research Committee:

The committee includes BCGPA directors, local producers and government representation. This allows for a broad spectrum of input and experience in the crops and research conducted through the research farms.

Research committee members:

- Martin Moore, chair & budget subcommittee
- Maurice Fines, PRRCG wheat representative
- Bruce Baxter, PRRCG pulse representative, personnel subcommittee
- Garnet Berge, equipment and warehouse issues contact, budget subcommittee
- Garry Smolik, producer advisor & WGRF director
- Sylvan Raaen, producer advisor
- Wade Cusack, producer advisor
- Barry Critcher, producer advisor
- Clair Langlois, research manager
- Kerry Clark, BCMAL
- Harvey Glasier, BCMAL

Extension and demonstration:

- Field Crop Variety Performance 2006 books compiled and distributed.
- Web posting of Research & Variety Trials data
- Advertising through signage on plots and invite to self guided tours

Web Resources

www.bcgrain.com - BCGPA page with links to the variety trials book

www.westerngrains.com - WGRF homepage has information on projects and links to PRRCG report

Summary:

Members of the Research Committee continue to have an active presence at the table where decisions are made that affect the future of our industry. We have received positive feedback from other provinces for taking the lead and for our proactive role in this industry. We are the industry leader in our field and recognize that your support has made this possible. Our presence at these industry meetings has been and continues to be critical for the success and reputation of our research program.

Attachments:

Finances - detailed financial research project and
“In kind” summary attached
BCGPA 2006 Field Crop Variety performance
PRCPSA -- Agenda AGM, February 2007