



Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

2016 Semi-Annual Meeting Update

Bill Gehl

Chair, Board of Directors



About Sask Wheat

- The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) is a producer-led organization established to build a platform for growth in the province's wheat industry.
- Check-off dollars administered by Sask Wheat are used for research, market development and promotion initiatives leading to improved wheat varieties, improved marketing opportunities and higher value to producers.

Sask Wheat

- Chair: Bill Gehl
- Vice-Chair: Dan Danielson
 - Audit Committee Chair: Dan Danielson
 - Research Committee Chair: Laura Reiter
 - Organics Committee Chair: Dan Danielson
 - Levy Refunds and Appeals Committee: Bill Gehl, Dan Danielson, Scott Hepworth



Strategic Priorities

- Research
- Market development
- Advocacy
- Communications

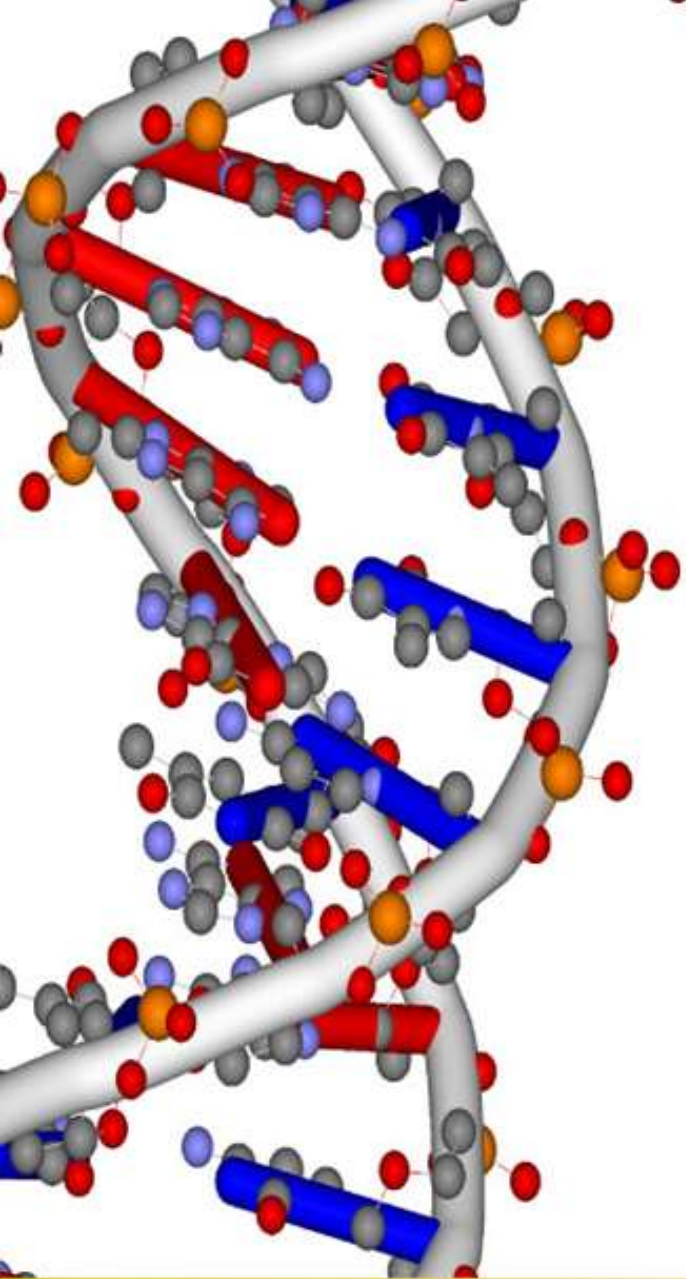


Research

- The objective of the Sask Wheat research program is to build research relationships and identify and invest in research and development initiatives in three main priority areas:
 - Variety development – genetics, breeding methods, pre-breeding, breeding, quality
 - Production – agronomy, disease, weeds, insects, and harvest management
 - Post-production – storage, end-use quality, new uses, economic and regulatory analysis, processing and value-added initiatives

Research Expenditures

Project (s)	Funding Year	Number of Projects	Total Funds Committed
ADF	2014/2015	8	\$727,672
	2015/2016	10	\$1,178,740
CWA	2015/2016	4	\$754,430
Ag Funding Consortium	2015/2016	3	\$423,471
Genome Canada	2014/2015	1	\$1,275,096
Genome Prairie	2014/2015	1	\$50,000
CDC	2015/2016	1	\$1,000,000
Sask College of Ag - Gray	2014/2015	1	\$20,000
SK Variety Perf. Trials	2013/2014	1	\$28,500
	2014/2015	1	\$28,500
	2015/2016	1	\$28,500
Saperstein/Gluten	2013/2014	1	\$177,340
TOTAL		33	\$5,692,249



Research Highlights

- Filling gaps in wheat cultivar development with translational research - a sub-project of Canadian Triticum Applied Genomics (CTAG2) project
- Enhancing wheat midge resistance in spring and durum wheat
- Development of fully cleistogamous wheat and associated markers



Wheat Sequencing Released

- The International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium publicly released the complete wheat genome on June 13
- This will facilitate the identification of genes associated with yield increase, stress response, and disease resistance
- Canadian involvement at the forefront of genome assisted plant breeding

Partnerships

- Sask Wheat collaborates closely with the Alberta and Manitoba wheat commissions along with WGRF to plan and fund research priorities
- Sask Wheat also participates in several initiatives and collaborates with public and private partners to increase market opportunities for Canadian wheat, including:
 - Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi)
 - Genome Canada
 - National Research Council
 - Healthy Grains Institute
 - SeCan
 - University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre
 - The Grains Roundtable

Wheat and Barley Variety Development Working Group

- Goal: to have world class, sustainable wheat and barley variety development programs contributing to increased net profitability per acre for Canadian producers.
- Group met in December 2015 to hear consultant's report on structure and funding options
- John Groenewegen of JRG Consulting presented his report at CropSphere in January

Transportation and Handling

- Formed a coalition with Sask Pulse, SaskBarley and APAS
- Submitted a report and met with the Canadian Transportation Act (CTA) review committee
- Hosted *Farmers' Forum on Grain Transportation* in Saskatoon last July
- Sent a news release in March with SaskBarley and APAS expressing disappointment in CTA review
- Have been in contact with transportation minister to urge him to keep the MRE in place



Resolutions from AGM

Resolution 1

- When either the present Federal or Provincial Government implements any new carbon tax or carbon credit program, all carbon sequestered in the past, as well as in the future, be considered, and that compensation be given to the active farmer and/or landowners, as both an offset for carbon taxes or in cash, and be it further resolved;
- That grower groups explore a common strategy to ensure that growers are recognized and rewarded for removal and storage of carbon in the soil.

Resolutions from AGM

Resolution 2

- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Directors elected to represent the interests of all wheat producers in Saskatchewan take immediate action to join Cereals Canada and provide financial and member support for the various critical activities being undertaken at the national and international level.



WCD Transition

- The transitional Western Canadian Deduction (WCD) sunsets July 31, 2017
- The WCD rate for wheat is \$0.48 per tonne -- \$0.30 goes to WGRF, \$0.15 to Cigi, and \$0.03 is used for admin.
- The Sask Wheat check off is \$0.52 per tonne – the net check off amount is \$1 per tonne



WCD Transition

- The future of the WCD requires producer discussion
- Sask Wheat is coordinating with the other wheat commissions in Alberta, Manitoba
- Need to make sure the transition from the WCD is seamless
- The transition to one levy will lead to efficiencies and fewer administrative expenses
- No net increase in deductions!



Sask Wheat Scholarships

- Sask Wheat has committed \$10,000 annually to undergraduate scholarships and \$100,000 to graduate scholarships for students in the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- The first four undergraduate scholarships were presented to undergraduate students last November
- The graduate scholarship recipients were announced in May. Three of the four thesis topics were concentrated on agronomic research while one project is focussed on wheat breeding



Contact

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