

TheWheatField

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JUNE 2018 EDITION

29 wheat varieties reclassified on August 1

As of August 1, 2018, 29 varieties of wheat that are currently classified as Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) or Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) will be reclassified into the new Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR) class.

Many producers have been preparing for this over the last two years by transitioning to varieties not designated for reclassification. However, 255,760 acres of wheat varieties including Harvest, Lillian and Unity, which are designated for the CNHR class on August 1, were still grown in Saskatchewan in 2017.

For producers with these varieties still in their bins, it means that decisions need to be made soon on how they want to market their wheat, as the reclassification deadline from the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC), is firm.

"After August 1, if the delivery is taken, it is treated as Canada Northern Hard Red," says Rémi Gosselin, Manager of Corporate Information Services for the CGC.

Wheat classified as CNHR is expected to sell at a discount to the CWRS and CPSR varieties. While there will still be a market for CNHR varieties, they are not expected to attract the same quality premiums as varieties in the prime milling classes have in the past.

THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING

After hearing complaints from customers in key markets about inconsistent gluten strength, the CGC undertook the process of reviewing the classes and where wheat varieties fit within them.

"The main purpose of the review was to address customer concerns about inconsistent gluten strength, which affected end-use functionality in the milling process, for Canada's premium CWRS and CPSR wheat classes," says Gosselin. "So, we took steps to protect the reputation of Canada's premium milling classes of wheat."

The review process included public consultations in early 2015. In August 2015, the CGC identified transitioning varieties. In December 2015, it announced creation of the CNHR class and the Canada Western Special Purpose class.

Varieties moving to the CNHR class on August 1, 2018

From CWRS			
AC Abbey	Alikat	Leader	Unity
AC Cora	CDC Makwa	Lillian	5603HR
AC Eatonia	CDC Osler	McKenzie	
AC Majestic	Columbus	Neepawa	From CPSR
AC Michael	Conway	Park	AC Foremost
AC Minto	Harvest	Pasqua	AC Taber
Alvena	Kane	Pembina	Conquer
	Katepwa	Thatcher	Oslo

TRANSITION PERIOD FOR BUYERS

Grain buyers have been given extra time to sell transitioning varieties under their previous class.

"In order to clear the handling system of these deliveries, and

to ensure that producers and grain companies realize the same valuation on that grain, the Canadian Grain Commission is providing grain companies that have those varieties in store a transition period from August 1 to December 31, 2018," explains Gosselin.

This should benefit producers, as buyers will want to sell the grain during the transition period to capture the quality premiums that the CWRS and CPSR classes command.

IMPACT ON CROP INSURANCE

For producers who will be growing a variety in 2018 that is transitioning to a new class, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) will be insuring it under the class it was planted in.

"For 2018, SCIC did not make any changes to the insurable wheat classes," said SCIC Research Analyst Janelle Oshowy. "All the varieties that are currently insured as CWRS or CPS will remain unchanged."

As for any changes to insurance coverage for the next crop year, Oshowy indicates that SCIC will be evaluating that when there is more information available.

"We are continuing to monitor the acreages that are seeded to those varieties, as well as the market conditions, to evaluate if there are changes that will need to be made to our insured classes," she said. "It's important for producers to report their yields each year as their coverage is based on this information. Producers should contact their SCIC office if they have further questions."

For more information on the wheat reclassification, please see the Sask Wheat Website at saskwheatcommission.com.

in this
issue

Chair's Report	2
General Manager's Report	3
The surprising success of midge-tolerant wheat ...	4
Project to the study the health outcomes of consuming grain-based foods	5
Sask Wheat confident transportation amendments will benefit farmers	5
Be ready to manage the FHB risk in 2018	6
Sask Wheat supporting industry efforts to enhance durum wheat exports	7
Sourdough bread research aims to improve prospects for wheat sensitive individuals	7

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Agronomy, research and market access remain top priorities



With seeding wrapped up across most of the province, farmers will now turn our attention to nurturing and protecting our crops.

Many of you attended the Think Wheat extension meetings in Weyburn and Tisdale in March and have heard about the advances made in wheat breeding as well as important agronomic developments that allow us to maximize nutrient uptake and manage the risk posed by pests and diseases.

If you weren't able to attend the meetings, the presentations, including video of two of the presentations, are available on the Sask Wheat website. Sask Wheat is also bringing in Barb

Ziesman and James Tansey from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to talk about the management of wheat diseases and pests at our Semi-Annual Meeting in Regina on June 20. Register for the Semi-Annual Meeting at saskwheatcommission.com.

I would also like to encourage all farmers to attend one of the Agri-ARM field days held at the eight Agri-ARM research sites across Saskatchewan in July. The field days give grain farmers excellent, practical information they can apply to their own operations. Go to agriarm.ca to register for a field day event.

Farmers are telling us that the agronomic advice our speakers offer at our extension meetings is valuable and appreciated. Many of us bring in agronomists to assess our practices, helping us maximize the efficiency of our inputs and allowing us to achieve greater yields and higher quality grain.

We have received feedback that farmers want more investment in agronomy. We are actively pursuing research projects that have the potential to bring agronomic benefits to Saskatchewan wheat farmers. We are also supporting the renewed focus of the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF), who will now be focussing their efforts on agronomic research and leading the integrated crop agronomy research cluster.

Sask Wheat has held agronomy as a high priority, which is why we are once again hosting the FHB risk maps on our website. The risk maps are designed to be used as part of an FHB management strategy, allowing farmers to determine if the application of fungicide is warranted.

Research is our top priority at Sask Wheat. Currently, we devote a majority of our budget to research activities, addressing issues that range from FHB resistance and weed control to sequencing the wheat genome and finding photosynthetic efficiency. Sask Wheat has invested over \$10.66 million in projects that will benefit grain farmers for the foreseeable future.

We are also focussed on increasing market access and providing new marketing opportunities for producers. We have been working with our transportation coalition partners, the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, to pressure the federal government to pass Bill C-49, which amended the Canada Transportation Act. The Act now includes provisions to keep railways accountable so we can avoid performance issues like we saw this winter.

We continue to work with other crop commissions and the federal government to convince Italy to drop their country of origin labelling (COOL) non-tariff barrier that will hurt Saskatchewan's durum producers. An update on this issue is on page seven of this newsletter.

We appreciate hearing from you! I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting.

Laura Reiter, Chair



BOARD MEMBERS:

Laura Reiter, Chair
Radisson

Scott Hepworth, Vice-Chair
Assiniboia

Dan Danielson
Saskatoon

Bill Gehl
Regina

Brett Halstead
Nokomis

Jake Leguee
Weyburn

Ken Rosaasen
Preeceville

STAFF:

Harvey Brooks
General Manager

Dallas Carpenter
Communications Manager

Blair Goldade
Research Program Manager

Valar Gurusamy
Research Project Manager

Deb Rousson
Office Administrator

Kelsey Tollefson
Policy Manager

The Wheat Field is a publication of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat). Articles are not to be reproduced without written permission from Sask Wheat. Articles represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Sask Wheat.

CONTACT US:

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

310 - 111 Research Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 3R2

Phone: 306-653-7932

Fax: 306-653-7935

saskwheatcommission.com

info@saskwheatcommission.com

Want to receive this newsletter by email? Send your request to:
info@saskwheatcommission.com

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Prairie wheat commissions collaborate on Canadian Wheat Research Coalition



Well, another season's promise is in the ground and now we need Mother Nature to provide the sun and the rain. The crop for 2018 will be extremely dependent on growing season conditions as most of the province entered seeding with adequate water for germination but limited subsoil moisture to sustain a crop.

It is years like 2017 and 2018 where the improved water-use-efficiency (WUE) of recently developed varieties can make a huge difference for the crop outcome.

Efforts to improve WUE and drought tolerance of wheat varieties continues to be a focus of breeding programs along with many additional important objectives such as nutrient-use-efficiency, disease and pest resistance, standability, yield improvements, and end-use quality. Wheat breeders have a complex task to perform but also have a solid track record on delivering significant improvements over time.

The research agenda for Sask Wheat is expanding in 2018 with the formation of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC), which has been recently incorporated by Sask Wheat, the Alberta Wheat Commission and Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association. The CWRC will be used by the three commissions to collaborate on large national and regional research efforts.

The first action of the CWRC is to coordinate the submission of the Canadian National Wheat Cluster under the federal government's Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) to combine producer and public dollars in a major effort to advance solutions for issues critical to producers. This will be a five-year agreement with many co-funders that will direct a large wheat research effort covering many important aspects from variety development to wheat specific agronomics.

Sask Wheat will be the initial host commission for the CWRC and we will be working hard over the next few months to implement the Wheat Cluster funding agreements. The new Wheat Cluster will operate from 2018 to 2023. Details on the new cluster will be

released after finalization with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and signing of contracts with specific researchers.

Sask Wheat will also be participating in the Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster submitted to AAFC and we are very hopeful it will provide for enhanced research from an integrated crop and whole farm perspective to enhance competitiveness and profitability. This Agronomy Cluster is being led by the Western Grains Research Foundation. This is a new research area and one that we hope can provide insights into improved agronomic practices across cropping rotations.

The initial discussions and negotiations between the CWRC and AAFC on a renewed Core Wheat Breeding Agreement are also expected to begin soon. The last AAFC Core Breeding Agreement was \$20.2 million over five years, so this is of significant importance to our national research efforts.

These "big" research efforts will complement other important collaboration in Western Canada that currently takes place through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Alberta Funding Consortium. Sask Wheat has contributed \$2.7 million toward 12 new projects through the ADF that will leverage a total of \$11.1 million of research activity.

Producer investment in research through levy contributions is critically important to provide the on-farm solutions that producers will need in the future. I want to again note that in this crop year (2017/18), Sask Wheat combined the Western Canadian Deduction (\$0.48/t) with the Sask Wheat levy (\$0.52/t). These two levies are now represented in a \$1.00/tonne Sask Wheat levy. So, there have been no net increase in producer levies and we have committed to continuing the efforts supported previously by the WCD.

We have again coordinated this with the Alberta Wheat Commission and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association to ensure a seamless transition for producers, researchers and the market development efforts of the Canadian International Grain Institute (Cigi). We continue to work hard to make these happen on your behalf.

Harvey Brooks, General Manager

Farmer perspectives towards funding research models in the wheat industry: *Your input is needed!*

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina are interested in better understanding what wheat producers think of different ways of funding additional wheat breeding in Canada.

The researchers will be conducting focus groups at the Farm Progress Show in Regina on June 20-22, 2018. They will present and discuss a number of alternative funding models that have been used in Canada and elsewhere, including levy-based funding and end point royalties.

The two-hour focus group sessions will be an opportunity for you to learn about these funding options and make your opinions count. Compensation in the amount of \$300 will be given to each participant.

If you would like to volunteer for this study, please contact: Viktoriya Galushko at viktoriya.galushko@uregina.ca or 306-585-4191.

The surprising success of midge-tolerant wheat

How these varieties took over 1/3 of Saskatchewan's wheat acres

by Dallas Carpenter

Thanks to the keen eye of a Winnipeg entomologist in the mid 1980's, Prairie wheat farmers are now saved from an estimated \$40-60 million annually in damages from the orange blossom wheat midge.

The orange blossom wheat midge was introduced to Canada in the early 1800s, being brought to Canada from Europe. It was not considered a major pest in Saskatchewan until an outbreak occurred in the northeast part of the province in 1983.

Since then, the wheat midge has moved steadily westward, covering the majority of the grain-producing area in Western Canada. That migration of this pest brought with it significant damage to wheat in terms of reduced yields and downgrading.

Through the late 1980s and into the 2000s, farmers were encouraged to manage their risk through practices such as insecticide application and having a rotation that had a resistant non-wheat crop grown between wheat crops. However, a breakthrough came when midge resistance was discovered by breeders and entomologists at the Cereal Research Centre (CRC) in Winnipeg.

As Dr. Ron DePauw, a former wheat breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and current Science Advisor with SeCan, explains, it was the unique shape of some of the winter wheat kernels the CRC was testing for Hessian fly damage that provided the first clue to midge resistance.

"In the wintertime, when they were dissecting and analyzing the spikes, Phil Barker (an entomologist with the CRC) noticed that some of the kernels had an atypical shape. He called them 'tubby' – they were distorted, with one end being more flat or blunt.

"From there, this is where the eureka moment comes, they thought, 'This is a response to something,' and they could see that something had been eating on the kernel. So, they thought perhaps they should challenge it with the midge. And lo and behold, the wheat that had a tubby kernels were resistant to the orange blossom wheat midge."

While the CRC knew they had a midge-tolerant variety, they didn't know why it was tolerant. "They had to find out what the chemical compound was in the wheat that resulted in this antibiotic effect where midge isn't able to survive," says DePauw. "In time, they were able to determine genetically that there was one gene that was dominant and responsible, and they named it the Sm1 gene."

The first varieties of midge-tolerant wheat, which were funded by farmers through the Western Grains Research Foundation, were bred at AAFC's Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg, the Swift Current Research and Development Centre and the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre. Along the way to commercializing the new varieties, the entomologists and wheat breeders realized two things: The first was that the Sm1 gene was the only form of midge tolerance in wheat. The second was that midge would eventually mutate to overcome the Sm1 gene, rendering the gene ineffective within 10 years.

"Entomologists and others got thinking 'How can we put together a stewardship plan, whereby we have a refuge to retain a sufficient



number of susceptible midge?" recalls DePauw. "So when there is a mutant midge, the mutant would be more likely to mate with a susceptible midge than another mutant. That became the basis for the midge stewardship plan, that we need to have an interspersed refuge within the field."

In 2010, with the seed companies and regulatory agencies supporting the plans for marketing midge-tolerant varietal blends, which contained ten per-cent of a midge-susceptible "refuge" variety, the first varieties were released and the midge stewardship agreement was established. The midge stewardship agreement limits the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past certified seed in order to preserve the Sm1 gene and the susceptibility of the wheat midge.

The adoption of midge-tolerant wheat has been an outstanding success. In less than ten years since it was introduced, an estimated 35 per-cent of all wheat grown in Saskatchewan is a midge-tolerant variety.

"From a Saskatchewan-specific perspective, I'm quite pleased with the uptake," says Todd Hyra, SeCan Business Manager, Western Canada. "The technology was embraced immediately. Because the pest had been such a major issue for such a long time, Saskatchewan jumped on it right away."

Recent issues such as fusarium head blight and lodging have caused midge-tolerant adoption to stall as farmers look to address these concerns. However, Hyra feels new varieties currently in the development or registration stage that address yield, midge tolerance, fusarium resistance and straw strength, will cause another surge in adoption rates for midge-tolerant wheat in the near future.

"I think it will take these new products that offer a broader protection to fusarium plus midge protection, to take the next step," he says. "(With these new varieties) you have all the pieces of the package. There's no disincentive to growing that product; you're not giving up anything to have all that protection."

For more information on midge-tolerant wheat, go to midgetolerantwheat.ca.



Project to study the health outcomes of consuming grains-based foods

A new research project at the University of Saskatchewan aims to enhance the information available on the Canadian consumption of foods made from both whole and enriched non-whole grains.

Both whole grain and enriched non-whole grain foods are important parts of a balanced diet for Canadians. While whole grain foods have been studied significantly, and the nutritional benefits of including them in one's diet are well known, there is less information on the consumption of enriched non-whole grain foods like white bread, bagels and hamburger/hot dog buns, and the nutrition and health benefits of consuming these foods.

"This is an opportunity for us to investigate Canadians' consumption of grain products, the key nutrients these grains contribute to the diet, and the potential association of grain products consumption to health outcomes," says Hassan Vatanparast of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and School of Public Health, who will be leading the project.

The project utilizes the recently released 2015 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data to provide better guidance to Canadians

and policy makers on the contribution of both whole and enriched non-whole grains to the diet. The project is being funded jointly by the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat), the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), the Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), and Mitacs, a Canadian not-for-profit funding agency supporting industry-academia collaborations.

"We want to ensure that consumers and policy makers have the best information available to them," said Sask Wheat Chair Laura Reiter, who farms near Radisson, Saskatchewan. "Evidence from other countries has shown that foods made from both whole grain and enriched non-whole grains provide nutritional and health benefits to those who included these foods in their diets. We need this research done here to help Canadians make informed decisions that will benefit their health and well-being."

The results of Vatanparast's project are expected to benefit Canadian consumers and policy makers with better health and nutrition information on the consumption of all grains-based foods while also providing benefits to the Canadian farmers who produce the grain.

Sask Wheat confident transportation amendments will benefit farmers

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) is pleased to see the passage of Bill C-49, which amended the Canada Transportation Act, and hopes it will lead to consistent and predictable movement of Canadian grains to port and market.

"The passage of Bill C-49 is the culmination of a lot of hard work by producers, farm organizations, shippers and federal government officials," says Laura Reiter, Sask Wheat Chair. "The provisions that modernize the movement of grain will improve the relationship between farmers and those in the handling and transportation system and will provide the buyers of Canadian grain greater confidence in our ability to deliver the crops they need."

The Saskatchewan producer transportation coalition, which includes Sask Wheat, the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley) and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), was in frequent contact with the federal government over the past four years, advocating on behalf of farmers for a fair, effective and transparent transportation and handling system.

The new legislation includes requirements for railways to disclose data and increase transparency on performance metrics, service and rates. It is hoped that these transparency initiatives, along with the potential for reciprocal penalties in railway service agreements, will improve accountability and system performance.

Bill C-49 also provides for the maintenance of the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE), which ensures railway profitability while protecting farmers from excessive rail freight rates. This was a key demand from farm groups. The new bill also introduces long-haul railway interswitching to 1,200 km, or half of the Canadian haul, which has some potential to increase competition between railways.

Farmers have been impacted by rail planning and performance issues since 2013/14, and this has severely impacted farmer deliveries and export returns. The poor performance of the railways in the spring of 2018 has again resulted in higher on-farm inventories, lost sales, and increased demurrage costs. Sask Wheat and its producer coalition partners had been calling for the quick passage of the legislation to prevent any further damage to Canada's reputation and costs to Canadian farmers.

"While the passage of this legislation took longer than we hoped, it was clear the government heard the voices of farmers and others in the value chain," says Reiter. "Now we will be able to work together to make sure we avoid situations like we saw this spring and move our industry forward."



Be ready to manage the FHB risk in 2018

by Mitchell Japp, PAg, *Provincial Specialist, Cereal Crops* and Barb Ziesman, PAg, *Provincial Specialist, Plant Disease*

Fusarium head blight (FHB) continues to be on the minds of producers and many others in the industry. Due to the dry conditions in 2017, FHB did not pose the problems it did in 2016, which was a rough year for FHB in Saskatchewan. FHB management was still on the agenda at many producer meetings this winter and should still be included in field planning for wheat producers.

FHB is where *Fusarium* infection really hurts – it reduces yield by causing florets to abort, increases dockage and reduces grades due to the presence of fusarium damaged kernels (FDK, also called “tombstone”). Mycotoxins such as deoxynivalenol (DON, also called vomitoxin) produced by the fungus may result in reduced priced or reduced ability to sell the infected grain. Even though FHB hits hard, *Fusarium* species can also affect the growth and development of new seedlings.

FHB is problematic to manage because there is no individual solution that provides satisfactory results. The environmental conditions seem to be the most important factor in whether or not FHB is a minor or major problem. Once the environmental conditions are favourable for FHB development, there are no tools to resolve early mismanagement for FHB.

While there are many cultural practices to consider for FHB management, the big three appear to be using resistant varieties, using tools to monitor for the potential of FHB and the effective and timely application of fungicide.

Monitoring for FHB is different than monitoring for other diseases like leaf spotting. FHB is a mono-cyclic disease, which means that once the disease is discovered, it is too late to apply any treatment.

FHB monitoring is not about watching for the symptoms of FHB – it needs to be focussed on monitoring for the conditions that may lead to FHB infection. The conditions for FHB relate most specifically to weather conditions and the time window when the crop is most susceptible to FHB.

Wheat heads are most susceptible to infection during flowering (anthesis), but infection can occur up to the soft dough stage. Later infection may not result in fusarium damaged kernels or visible symptoms but the infected kernels may still harbour the fungus and contribute to DON levels. The period while the wheat is flowering should be watched closely.

Fusarium graminearum is the most aggressive species causing FHB, and also produces DON. The preferred conditions for *F. graminearum* are temperatures in the range of 25°C and high humidity, but it will cause infections outside of its preferred range.

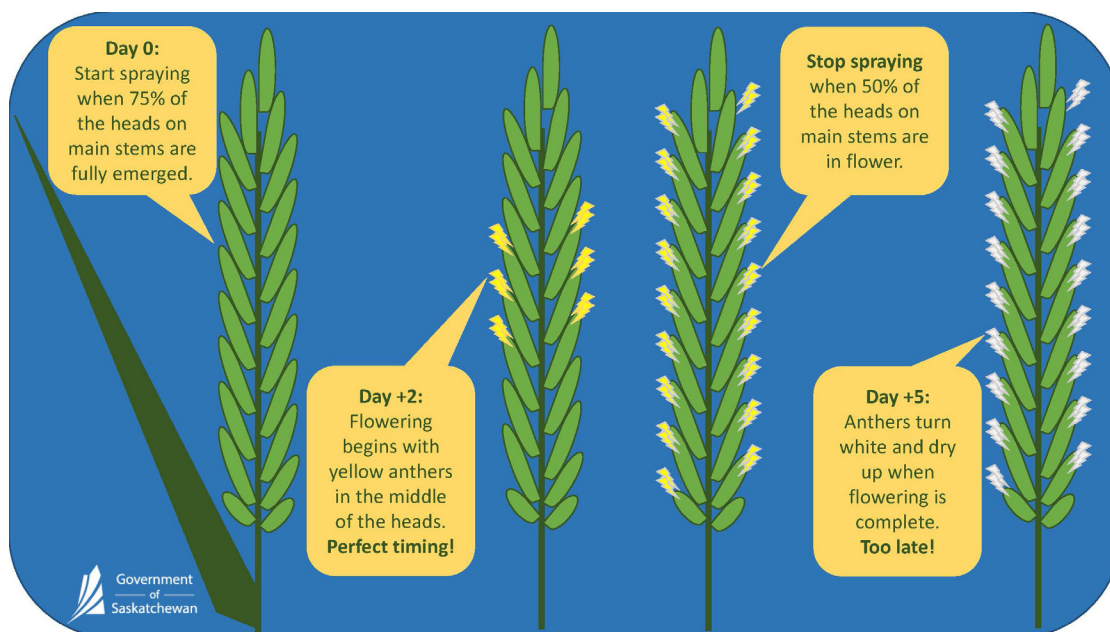
Wet conditions prior to heading favours spore production. Spores can be effectively moved from the residue on the soil surface to wheat heads by rain splash or wind. Infection of the wheat heads can occur within 24 hours.

Flowering in wheat can range from 4-7 days but is affected by many factors including moisture, humidity, fertility and stress.

FHB infection can be rapid and the window for fungicide control is narrow. Producers can access FHB risk maps from Sask Wheat to aid in the decision-making process. The maps are based on weather related factors that contribute to FHB, but the maps must be used with the correct timing for head emergence on every crop to be effective.

When the conditions for FHB are present, a decision must be made whether or not to spray. The maps are a helpful tool, but local conditions should be taken into consideration as well. Producers must also assess the risk from the pathogen and the expected financial return from the use of a fungicide.

Consult Sask Wheat’s Fusarium Management Guide and the FHB Risk Maps for more information. Both are available at saskwheatcommission.com.



Sask Wheat supporting industry efforts to enhance durum wheat exports

by Kelsey Tollefson

Sask Wheat is supporting the efforts of the Government of Canada in pressing for the removal of mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) requirements for pasta products manufactured and sold in Italy.

Italy's COOL law came into effect on February 17, 2018 and will remain in effect until December 2020 or until such time as the EU adopts COOL labelling laws for primary ingredients. The Italian legislation requires pasta packaging labels to indicate both where the durum wheat was grown and where it was milled into semolina for pasta-making.

These COOL requirements are expected to increase overall costs for Italian processors and end users. It is reasonable to assume that it will encourage Italian pasta processors to favour durum from Italy, and/or other European member states.

"The new labelling requirements will have a major impact on Saskatchewan durum growers," said Sask Wheat Chair, Laura Reiter. "Italy's requirements will give an advantage to Italian durum wheat producers by pressuring Italian manufacturers to source domestic inputs to label products as a 'product of Italy', to address consumer preference for local products. The labelling requirements will also intensify misconceptions with consumers in Italy that Canadian (and other imported) durum may be less safe or of a lower quality than Italian durum, which is incorrect."

Consumer concerns about Canadian durum production methods (e.g.: the use of glyphosate) and mycotoxin levels (e.g.: fusarium/DON levels) have significantly impacted Italian

buyer preferences against Canadian durum. There have been no exports of Canadian durum to Italy since October, 2017 according to the Canadian Grain Commission statistics.

Italy has historically been a very important market for Canadian producers, importing on average 21 percent of Canada's durum production over the last five years. However, Canadian durum exports are finding other markets, as exports to countries such as the U.S., Algeria and Morocco have increased for the first six months of the 2017/18 crop year compared to the same time period last crop year.

Losing sales in a market as significant as Italy due to a non-tariff barrier is a major concern for producers, particularly in Saskatchewan, where an average of 84 percent of Canada's durum has been grown over the past five years. Sask Wheat understands the importance and severity of the situation and recognizes that producers need this issue to be resolved as quickly as possible.

The federal government has been raising concerns with the Italian government and the European Commission over the past year on this issue and is working with the Canadian industry to evaluate next steps. Sask Wheat will continue to provide support to the federal government's efforts and be available for consultation as needed.

Sask Wheat will continue to stress the severity of this issue to the federal government, and will ensure that it remains a priority for them going forward. There has been a strong, unified effort on this file from across the entire industry, and this cooperation will continue as we move forward.

Sourdough bread research aims to improve prospects for wheat sensitive individuals

The Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) and Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotional Council (MWRPC) are collaborating in the funding of a research project aimed at determining whether the process used to produce sourdough bread could lead to a more easily digested food option for individuals who are sensitive to wheat consumption.

Funding for this project includes \$70,000 from AWC, \$57,250 from Sask Wheat and \$20,000 from MWRPC for a total of \$147,250 over a three-year period.

Led by Dr. Michael Gänzle, a food microbiologist at the University of Alberta, the project looks at the sourdough bread fermentation process that breaks down proteins and carbohydrates in wheat flour that are known to cause wheat sensitivity. Gänzle's project aims to better understand whether this fermentation process is sufficient in reducing adverse effects. In-turn, Gänzle will define best practices so the resulting bread can be more easily digested by these individuals.

"There is a lot of anecdotal evidence that sourdough bread is tolerated by consumers with non-celiac wheat or gluten

intolerance but the science is not available to back up these claims," says Gänzle. "We aim to determine whether fermentation reduces or eliminates individual wheat components that are known or suspected to cause adverse effects."

While Gänzle's project aims to create a more easily digestible product for gluten sensitive individuals, it is recognized that this research won't create a product that is acceptable for the estimated one per cent of the population who suffer from celiac disease.

The commissions look forward to working with Gänzle to report the results of this project upon completion in 2021.



Register now for the 2018 Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting

All registered wheat producers are encouraged to attend the Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, June 20, 2018** at the Farm Progress Show in Regina. This meeting is a chance for wheat producers to meet with Sask Wheat staff and Board members, to share their input on the industry and their check-off investments, and to learn more about the work Sask Wheat is doing on behalf of producers.

Registration is free and includes breakfast and admission to the Farm Progress Show for the day.

SPEAKERS

Producers will hear from **Barb Ziesman, Provincial Specialist, Plant Diseases** and **James Tansey, Provincial Specialist, Insect/Vertebrate Pest Management**, from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. They will be addressing agronomic practices to minimize or eliminate crop damage due to common wheat diseases and pests.

MEETING DETAILS

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Meeting & presentations

Ballroom A, Queensbury Convention Centre

Evraz Place, Regina

(during Farm Progress Show 2018)

To register, please go to the Sask Wheat website at saskwheatcommission.com or phone 306-653-7932.



310 - 111 Research Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 3R2
Phone: (306) 653-7932 | Web: saskwheatcommission.com

