

# The WHEATFIELD

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Newsletter

June 2023

## POLICY/ADVOCACY

# SaskCrops, Sask Wheat submit responses to AAFC consultation

by Dallas Carpenter  
Communications  
Manager

In December 2022, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) announced the launch of consultations to develop a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS) with the goal of “helping to direct collective action to improve environmental performance in the sector over the long-term, support farmers’ livelihoods and strengthen the business vitality of the Canadian agricultural industry.”

SaskCrops, a collaboration of SaskBarley, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskOats, Sask Wheat, and Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, submitted a response to AAFC, while Sask Wheat submitted an independent response. As Saskatchewan accounts for 43 percent of the annually cropped acres in Canada and produces the equivalent or more of the



entire Canadian domestic demand for most of the primary field crops grown in Canada while exporting most of its production, the province and its grain producers will feel the consequences of this strategy and must be heard.

The SAS submissions illustrate that Saskatchewan’s annual crop producers are unique across Canada in their low greenhouse gas emissions and high agricultural intensi-

ty. They have made and continue to make meaningful contributions that will help Canada meet environmental goals and increase Canadian agriculture’s resiliency.

It is imperative that the strategy recognize regional differences and regional successes which in some cases can be further built on. This, however, cannot be done without addressing data gaps and improving measurement capacity regarding environmental performance and benchmarking.

Saskatchewan annual crop producers have invested millions of dollars through our organizations into research. Both submissions emphasize that variety development and agronomic research are primary ways to overcome barriers and increase agricultural sustainability and resiliency.

For the full submissions, please head to our website: [saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca)

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

# Collaboration on policy and advocacy a priority

Heading into the 2023 growing season, it's my hope, as I'm sure every farmer in Saskatchewan hopes, that we have a good year for the weather. Healthy crops with good yields will help us capture opportunities that market analysts have been signalling may be open for Canadian wheat and durum in key export markets.

The Board and staff of Sask Wheat renewed our strategic plan in late March. Before that session, I reached out to the farming community over Twitter to ask if our strategic priorities were correct or if we should consider any changes. While the feedback I received was that we should keep our priorities as they are, additional feedback I received is something that my fellow directors and I have frequently been hearing: we need more collaboration on major issues with other commissions.

We have been increasing our collaboration with other crop commissions, notably on policy and advocacy issues. Recently, SaskCrops, which includes SaskBarley, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskOats, the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, and Sask Wheat, submitted a response on behalf of Saskatchewan's annual crop producers to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) consultations on the proposed Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS). As you read on the front page of this newsletter, SaskCrops is critical of numerous aspects of the proposed SAS. We clearly stated in the submission that if policies, targets, and timeframes impose costs that do not contribute



**We need more collaboration on major issues with other commissions.**

to improved efficiency or increased output at the farm level, producers will have to absorb these costs and risk becoming globally uncompetitive and unprofitable.

This is not the first issue SaskCrops has worked on collaboratively. Together with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), SaskCrops submitted feedback to AAFC on the Government of Canada's Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Target. Our submission pointed out that agricultural environmental policies must be supported by science and verifiable data. We also emphasized that nitrogen is a vital input for Saskatchewan farmers and is necessary to meet the rising demand for food globally.

In addition to the work with SaskCrops, Sask Wheat has been working on important issues through national organizations that we are members of such as the Canada Grains Council (CGC) and Grain

Growers of Canada (GGC). In February, the CGC communicated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency about Health Canada's decision to re-evaluate the use of lambda-cyhalothrin on feed crops. We argued that Canada's grain handling system does not segregate grains and oilseeds based on their anticipated use for food for humans or feed for animals, and therefore the re-evaluation would eliminate the use of lambda since farmers can't know the end use of the crop when they are applying the insecticide. Despite our concerns and the outcry from other groups within the sector, the new restrictions on lambda remain.

The collaborative advocacy efforts that Sask Wheat and our partner organizations are undertaking through SaskCrops and the national groups we are members of have brought greater attention and engagement with government officials, even if it takes some time and effort to get our messages across. We still have a long way to go and a lot of work to do. However, politicians and government officials need to be continually reminded to consult with farmers before making any decisions that impact our businesses and that their decisions can hurt farmers while having major implications for our national economy and trading reputation. A strong, united voice will be crucial as we advocate for our sector well into the future.

**Brett Halstead**  
Chair



## BOARD MEMBERS

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*Policy Manager (on leave)*
- Brianna Zoerb**  
*Research Program Coordinator*

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## Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

340 – 111 Research Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2  
Phone: 306-653-7932  
Fax: 306-653-7935  
Email: info@saskwheat.ca

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# Amalgamation with Winter Cereals Commission among 2023 priorities

As the Chair's message details, this winter has been a very busy time for Sask Wheat's Board and staff with government consultations and meetings as well as a variety of other initiatives by Sask Wheat alone and in collaboration with other provincial commissions and national groups.

Sask Wheat's 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in-person on January 9. Following resolutions passed at the Sask Wheat and Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC) 2022 AGMs to explore amalgamation, resolutions to proceed with amalgamation were passed at both commissions' 2023 AGMs. These resolutions followed two rounds of producer consultations, with the second round focussed on the formal proposal for amalgamation which can be found on the Sask Wheat website. Support for amalgamation in both consultations was overwhelmingly in favour. The process is now with the Agri-Food Council which has indicated its initial support.

Pending the development and implementation of the necessary regulations, Sask



**Support for amalgamation was overwhelmingly in favour.**

Wheat and SWCDC will amalgamate on August 1, 2023, under the name Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, which will represent all levy paying wheat producers in the province as well as fall rye, and winter triticale producers. We believe this will enable new opportunities for the support and development of winter cereals production in the province and more effective and efficient collaboration with the Alberta Wheat Commission and Manitoba Crop Alliance, especially through our joint organization, the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC).

Sask Wheat continues to perform the administrative duties for the CWRC, a collaborative approach to producer funding of regional and national research projects in variety development and agronomy including the Canadian National Wheat Cluster (CNWC) and core wheat breeding agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the three major Prairie universities. The CWRC has led the 2018-2023 CNWC, a group of industry-led joint industry and government funded research activities carried out by universities and AAFC research centres aimed at ensuring profitability for producers and long-term sustainability of wheat in the cropping rotation. Sask Wheat staff have again taken the lead on behalf of the CWRC in coordinating and administering the application for the new CNWC under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) AgriScience program, which will run from 2023-2028. We await word on the success of this application.

As always, grain movement and markets receive steady attention at Sask Wheat. We are more than halfway through the grain year and

the movement of wheat has exceeded past performance even as the quantity of grain to be moved has returned to somewhat normal levels, significantly increased from the 2021-2022 period. We continue to publish, on our website, the weekly Wheat Market Outlook and accompanying audio summary, provided by Mercantile Consulting Venture.

A renewed strategic plan is close to completion pending final Board approval. The proposed strategic plan does not deviate noticeably from the previous plan but is more streamlined and accounts for the increased involvement that Sask Wheat has with provincial and national organizations and the resulting increased scope of the organization's and staff's responsibilities.

Lastly, Sask Wheat wants to hear from you! We have added a feedback form to our website for producers to provide anonymous feedback on anything from research ideas and event locations to what you would like to see from Sask Wheat in any other aspect.

**Blair Goldade**  
Executive Director



AGRONOMY

# Wheat stem sawfly forecast map work underway



Participate in the sawfly map survey!

by Carmen Prang  
Sask Wheat Agronomy  
Extension Specialist

**W**heat stem sawfly is a long-standing pest of wheat, rye, triticale and some barley in Saskatchewan. At times it can cause severe damage to yield and quality, but most notably makes harvest management difficult. Many parts of Saskatchewan have recently seen a resurgence of this pest due to the dry conditions.

The wheat stem sawfly causes damage when the larvae feed on the inside of the stem, weakening the plant and causing it to fall

over. It is a difficult pest to manage as there are no insecticides registered. Currently, the only effective form of management against wheat stem sawfly is planting a solid or semi-solid variety. Currently, three CWRS varieties are registered that are considered semi-solid stem and can offer some protection from wheat stem sawfly (CDC Adamant VB, CDC Hughes VB, and CDC Landmark VB). There are also a few registered durum varieties on the market with a solid stem rating (CDC Fortitude, AAC Grainland and AAC Weyburn). It is important to note that even solid or semi-solid varieties can still

sustain some damage under the right conditions. Producers should consider a management strategy before the crop goes into the ground



if 10 to 15 percent of the stems in a field were cut in the previous year near where you plan to plant wheat this year. This level of damage could produce enough adults to increase cutting levels to 70 percent or greater in the following year if the conditions are right (Government of Saskatchewan – *Wheat Stem Sawfly*). This means scouting your fields in season for the presence of adults with a sweep net but also assessing stem damage post-harvest.

As another tool to help pro-

**ABOVE:** The adult wheat stem sawfly, whose larvae feed on the inside stems of wheat plants. Photo by Shelley Barkley, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

ducers decide if they need to implement a control strategy, Sask Wheat is excited to announce the implementation of a wheat stem sawfly survey in collaboration with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. This survey will result in a forecast map that will allow producers to identify sawfly hotspots in the province and therefore aid in assessing risk on their own farms. As with all of the pest forecast maps, it is important to note that hot spots can still exist in areas not marked on the map. Producers and agronomists should still be vigilant by

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including proper scouting as part of their integrated management strategy.

Scott Meers will conduct the wheat stem sawfly survey. Scott brings a wealth of knowledge as he has been a part of the agriculture industry for nearly 40 years, notably as Alberta's Provincial Entomologist and now as a crop consultant. Scott designed, implemented, and refined the sawfly survey in Alberta as part of his role as provincial entomologist.

**Please scan the QR code (on previous page) to sign up to allow this survey and the many other pest surveys the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture conducts to be undertaken in your field.**

**By providing your information, you are indicating your willingness to participate in Saskatchewan pest monitoring programs by allowing the ministry and survey partners access to your land to conduct pest surveys.**

Producers are eligible to receive the results from the fields that were sampled. The information collected from your field will be made freely available and can be used by growers to make informed seed purchases and manage pests.

This survey will complement the many other maps available as tools for producers, including the grasshopper, wheat midge, and FHB maps available on our website. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for the map to be released in late fall! SW

## AGRONOMY

# Wheat Wise on-farm trial program launched

by **Carmen Prang**  
Sask Wheat Agronomy  
Extension Specialist

During the 2022 growing season, Sask Wheat officially launched our "On Farm Trial" program with the purpose of having on farm research led by producers on wheat related topics. Through this program, Sask Wheat works alongside producers and agronomists to implement field scale trials under the producer's normal farm conditions and management practices with an end goal to maximize wheat yield, quality, and economic return.

Since its inception, our program has now been branded to "Wheat Wise – Plotting the Future." Wheat Wise trials are



## WHEAT WISE

*Plotting the Future*

unique in that they feature treatments replicated several times within a field with the goal of seeing if there is a statistically significant result. Producers work alongside their agronomists and research experts to get results that matter to their farm.

We are excited to build a network of Saskatchewan producers who are interested in doing field scale research. As part of our Wheat Wise network, producers are welcome to participate in field tours and meetings to network and discuss project results not only on their farm but around the province.

So far our protocols have focused on wheat seeding rates and biological nitrogen fixation products. Stay tuned as the program grows and we offer more protocol options. SW

*Are you interested in participating or have an idea for a future protocol? Contact our Agronomy Extension Specialist Carmen Prang for more information: [carmen.prang@saskwheat.ca](mailto:carmen.prang@saskwheat.ca) or 306-653-7966. Follow along on our website and social media for updates throughout the season!*

## WHAT'S NEW

# Sask Wheat directors recognized

Sask Wheat Chair, **Brett Halstead**, along with Director **Lesley Kelly**, were both awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for their contributions to agriculture.

Lesley received her medal from His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M., Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, in December 2022.

Brett received his medal from the Honourable Dana Skoropad, Minister of the Environment and MLA for Arm River, in a ceremony



**Brett Halstead**



**Lesley Kelly**



**Jake Leguee**

in January.

Sask Wheat Vice-Chair, **Jake Leguee**, was awarded a Platinum Jubilee Medal for his contribution to health services, in February. SW

ELECTION

# Director nominations open June 14

Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors of Sask Wheat will open on June 14, 2023. The producer-elected-and-directed Board ensures producers have the resources, leadership and provincial, national and international representation to strengthen Saskatchewan's competitive advantage and makes certain that producers' interests are protected.

To be eligible to sit on the Board, you must be a registered wheat producer. A registered producer means any producer who has had a Sask Wheat check-off deducted since August 1, 2021 and has not requested or received a refund of a check-off in the last fiscal year (August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023).

## Director Responsibilities include:

- Supervising the business of Sask Wheat including oversight of management, providing strategic direction, and ensuring effective governance of the organization.
- Attending meetings approximately 6-8 times per year and attending conference calls as required.
- Representing Sask Wheat at other meetings and events throughout the year.

Nomination forms can be found on the Commission's website: [saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca). You may also request a nomination form be mailed or faxed to you by calling 306-653-7932. Nomi-

nation forms must be signed by two or more registered wheat growers. If the registered grower is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, it can designate a representative to hold office. A proper form of designation (available online or from the Returning Officer) must accompany the nomination form for every director nominee or director nominator of a corporation, partnership or other legal entity.

**All nominations must be received no later than 12:00 pm CST on September 6, 2023.**

Please direct any questions related to elections to Returning Officer **Nicole Yip at 306-975-6850.**

Questions related to the

Commission, the Regulations governing the formation of the same, or the collection of the check-off, should be directed to Blair Goldade, Sask Wheat Executive Director, at (306) 653-7932.

## Voting Process and Results

If a vote is required, ballots will be mailed out to all registered Saskatchewan wheat producers in late October. An electronic voting option will also be available. Election results will be announced in December and officially presented at the Sask Wheat AGM in January 2024. SW

—Sask Wheat Staff

WHAT'S NEW

# Sask Wheat welcomes new staff

Three new staff members have recently joined the team.

**Brianna Zoerb**, Research Program Coordinator, is a recent graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, where she completed her M.Sc. in Plant Sciences. Prior to starting her M.Sc., Brianna developed a keen interest in agronomy and agricultural research while working for an independent research company.



**Montana Getty** joins the staff as the Communications and Events Coordinator.

Montana, a graduate of the Radio and Television program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, comes to us from Global Saskatoon, where she was a digital broadcast journalist, morning show live reporter, and weather anchor.



**Samantha Frank** is the team's new Administrative Assistant. Samantha graduated from Saskatoon Business College in 2013.

Shortly after graduating, she started her administrative career at the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan where she worked as both an administrative assistant and executive secretary. SW



WHAT'S NEW

# Sask Wheat 2023 Semi-Annual Meeting

Join Sask Wheat for our Semi-Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 20 when we will celebrate our 10th anniversary!

We will have an update on Sask Wheat activities and business from Board Chair, Brett Halstead. Lunch will also be provided.

Our guest speaker this year is renowned agronomist Phil Needham, owner of Needham Ag Technologies. Needham's practical experience and research help producers streamline their crop management strategies,

increase crop yields, and boost farm profits. Needham specializes in agronomy consulting and performs these activities for agricultural retailers, manufacturers, and growers around the world. Not only does Needham help identify trends, he also helps start them by networking with numerous agronomists globally. He also conducts 60-70 conferences, grower meetings, field days and no-till clinics around the world each year. SW

**Tuesday,  
June 20, 2023  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Queensbury Event Centre  
1700 Elphinstone (REAL District)  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Register at [saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca)

RESEARCH

# Wheat Cluster innovation to bring major benefits for producers

by Dallas Carpenter  
Communications Manager

The latest Canadian National Wheat Cluster wrapped up on March 31, 2023 after five years. Canadian wheat farmers will see significant benefits from the projects funded through the Wheat Cluster, which was worth nearly \$25 million. The 20 projects funded through the Wheat Cluster address common issues that farmers face and will lead to improved varieties and agronomic practices.

The Wheat Cluster was officially announced on January 15, 2019 by the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, the former Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Funding for the Wheat Cluster came from AAFC through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience program and nine producer and private organizations from across Canada.

The Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC), a coalition of Alberta Wheat Commission, Manitoba Crop Alliance,



and Sask Wheat, undertook the administration of the Wheat Cluster in 2018. The CWRC facilitates a collaborative approach to producer funding of

regional and national research projects in variety development and agronomy, allowing the three wheat commissions to collaborate in hosting initiatives

such as the Wheat Cluster and programming such as the core wheat breeding agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and western Canadian universities.

The projects under the Wheat Cluster fit into one of four theme areas, which guided the research:

- **Theme 1:** Cultivar development to enhance competitiveness and sustainability
- **Theme 2:** Pre-breeding for future resistance to disease and insects
- **Theme 3:** Insect resistance to protect grain yield and quality
- **Theme 4:** Crop management to capture the genetic potential and minimize environmental footprint

The following three pages have profiles of three projects that were undertaken with funding from Sask Wheat and other organizations through the Wheat Cluster. Profiles on all of the projects and more details on the Wheat Cluster are available on the CWRC website: [wheatresearch.ca](http://wheatresearch.ca). SW

WHEAT CLUSTER FUNDERS



MANITOBA  
CROP  
ALLIANCE



## RESEARCH

# Offering strong options for CWRS in the western Prairies

## Four new varieties in line for registration

by **Michelle Boulton**  
Freelance Writer

Looking at the 2022 numbers for insured commercial acres of Canadian Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat, Richard Cuthbert can't help being confident his research program is offering producers excellent varieties. Cuthbert is a wheat breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Swift Current Research Development Centre. He points out that eight of the top 10 CWRS varieties were developed by his group with support from the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition.

Reflecting on the current funding cycle, he says two of the most notable are AAC Wheatland and AAC Starbuck. Registered in 2018, these two were available to farmers last year and have already seen strong uptake.

"AAC Starbuck (at 9 percent) would be the third most popular; AAC Wheatland (at 8 percent) would be the fourth most popular. Together, they feature about 1.1 million insured acres in their first year of commercialization," he says.

Both are semi-dwarf CWRS varieties with excellent grain yield, high protein, good straw strength, and tolerance to orange wheat blossom midge. AAC Starbuck also provides fewer fusarium head blight (FHB) symptoms and lower



**ABOVE:** Wheat plots at the AAFC research station in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Photo courtesy of Richard Cuthbert.

“**A large part of our research breeding is reducing the business risk for farmers and processors.**”

**Richard Cuthbert**  
Wheat breeder

deoxynivalenol accumulation in the grain.

More recently, AAC Hockley

was approved for registration, but is not yet available to farmers. It's not midge-resistant, but has an excellent disease resistance package, including best-in-class FHB resistance. Cuthbert says it performed significantly better than the check (AAC Brandon) in variety trials this year.

"It's finding a following all over the prairies, but specifically in irrigation areas because it is very strong strawed and has such good FHB and stripe rust resistance," he says.

According to Cuthbert,

Canada's registration system promotes the advancement of adaptable varieties. "It takes up to three years in trials to achieve a support package to present to the committee," he explains. "Typically, with at least 12 sites per year, you'll see lines that have very strong adaptation across a range of environments and growing regions." He credits the registration system for the high uptake in his program's varieties.

"We can't predict what the environment will be in any given year, so it's hard to tailor a variety to that," he says. Instead, "we try to build in as much genetic resistance as we can to prevent prevalent diseases without having to use chemical inputs for control. A large part of our research breeding is reducing the business risk for farmers and processors."

He anticipates proposing four CWRS lines for registration this winter: three are bred for drought and heat stress, and one is a solid stem variety that looks promising. Two (BW5089 and BW5090) are non-midge resistant, showing very strong yield and excellent disease resistance to all priority one diseases and loose smut. There's one (BW5095) with midge resistance that's very high yielding and has a very good disease package.

These will be the final outputs from this round of funding, which came from AAFC, Alberta Wheat Commission, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Manitoba Crop Alliance, and Western Grains Research Foundation. SW



## RESEARCH

# This changes everything!

A new variety of durum with resistance to FHB

by Michelle Boulton

Freelance Writer

Canada's southern prairies are well suited to durum wheat production, which makes us one of the world's top producers. Growing demand and higher prices are good news. However, producers are also facing growing challenges, such as increasingly unpredictable weather because of climate change and susceptibility to fungal diseases like Fusarium head blight (FHB).

Durum was introduced in Canada in the 1910s and breeders released the first Canadian variety in 1963. From the very beginning, durum has remained stubbornly susceptible to FHB. That is, until a new variety was developed by breeder Yuefeng Ruan and his team at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Swift Current Research and Development Centre.

"This new variety, called AAC Schrader, is the first durum variety with intermediate resistance to FHB," explains Ruan. "It has really changed a lot of things."

"When I submitted my proposal for funding five years ago, we used Strongfield as a check in registration trials. Now, we will be using AAC Schrader as a check. So, everything — yield, FHB resistance, quality, and drought tolerance — will be compared to AAC Schrader."

FHB is prevalent in wet years, especially when the



ABOVE: Staff harvest plots at an AAFC research station. Photo courtesy of Richard Cuthbert.

moisture comes early in the growing season. "If there's a lot of moisture at flowering, you'll see FHB infections right away," explains Ruan.

While southwestern Saskatchewan is typically semi-arid, making it a good place to do drought tolerance breeding for crops like durum, "climate change is resulting in unpredictable weather conditions during the field season, such as one year being dry and the next being wet." This

has made FHB the biggest threat to durum production.

Because the environment has such an influence on FHB, it adds challenges for breeders. "In the FHB nurseries, depending on the environmental conditions, a variety could look like it has FHB resistance, but in another nursery, the same line could look like it's susceptible," Ruan says.

To compound these challenges, "there may be hundreds of minor genes that

contribute to FHB resistance in durum. Finding the right combination of genes is made more complicated by the environmental issues," he says.

And breeders are not just selecting for FHB resistance. "We have to plan for a lot of different things, such as wet years and dry years, in our breeding. And we're not just selecting for FHB resistance; we're also selecting for yield, drought tolerance, quality . . . lots of different traits." **SW**

## RESEARCH

# Improving seeding rates and fungicide efficacy

Investigating crop management options to lessen the impact of FHB

by **Ellen Cottee**

*Freelance Writer*

**F**usarium Head Blight (FHB) has long been an enemy of wheat producers across Canada.

Previous research on FHB focused on better understanding the pathogen and breeding new wheat varieties for resistance. While important in the ongoing fight against the disease, this approach neglects on-farm management options producers are able to implement themselves.

“It really has been a complex issue,” Dr. Kelly Turkington, researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Lacombe said. “It’s a challenging disease for farmers to manage and in terms of research.”

Long interested in the prevention of FHB in wheat crops, Turkington launched two new projects under the 2018 – 2023 Canadian National Wheat Cluster to examine the impacts of crop management choices on the presence of FHB.

The first of Turkington’s projects focuses on how seeding rates could improve fungicide efficacy with fewer applications. Lower seeding rates lead to a wide window of head emergence, complicating the current fungicide recommendation of application at 75 per cent head emergence.

“That means you still have 25 per cent of the heads still in the boot, not directly protected by fungicide,” Turkington explained. “Once those heads

emerge, they have no protection from the pathogen.”

Increased seeding rates can provide more uniform crop development and therefore more uniform targets in fungicide application. Trials combined different seeding rates with various fungicide practices, allowing Turkington and his team to see the larger picture. In the future, Turkington said research will likely integrate external factors, such as weather and pathogen forecasts, to build out recommendations for seeding rate and fungicide best practices.

Turkington’s second project examines the direct impact of

crop management practices on FHB presence. One trial in the project focused on residue management – removing and treating all crop residue, including the chaff of the wheat, in order to reduce the amount of inoculum returned to the field following harvest.

Extended crop rotation periods, described as more than one year of a non-host crop before planting wheat, also showed success in trials. More time between the planting of susceptible varieties and crops allows for the inactivation of pathogen residue left on the field. While good news, Turkington clarified that the

drought conditions of 2021 may have impacted the team’s assessments and they will need to collect further data.

Turkington said he hopes his projects, along with future research, will give producers more FHB-fighting power.

“There are tools available, and I think we can tweak those tools,” he said.

“With the work we’re doing under the current cluster program ... we have strategies – and perhaps some refinements – that will greatly help producers achieve better management of FHB on an annual basis.” sw



**ABOVE:** *Fusarium damaged wheat in a field near Davidson, Saskatchewan. Sask Wheat file photo.*



ABOVE: AAFRC researcher Dr. Shaun Sharpe discusses weed control with producers at the Rosthern Coffee Shop Talk. Photos by Montana Getty, Sask Wheat Communications and Events Coordinator.

COFFEE SHOP TALKS

Sask Wheat held Coffee Shop Talks in Gravelbourg and Rosthern in March. We partnered with Hawk's Agro in Gravelbourg and Blair's Ag in Rosthern to create interesting and informative events for producers. They included panel and individual discussions with industry experts from universities, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agri-ARM research organizations, and private companies. The response was outstanding! We will have more networking and learning opportunities coming up this fall — watch our website and social media channels for more information.

— Sask Wheat Staff



CHARTS AND TABLES

# Fusarium head blight risk maps back for 2023

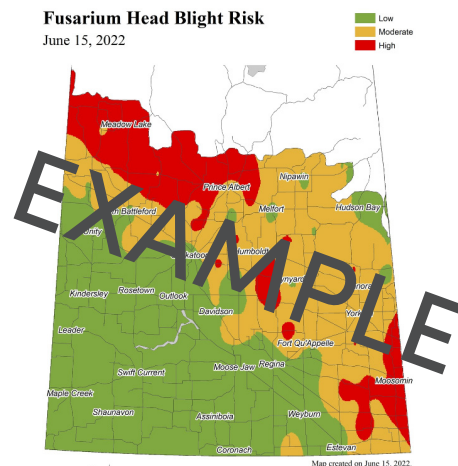
The Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk assessment map is a tool that helps producers identify the level of risk of FHB infection. The maps, in conjunction with field monitoring, helps producers determine if a spray application of a fungicide will be cost-effective for their crops. The FHB risk map is based on the heading date for a specific crop. Producers

should determine their heading date, then follow the map generated for that date. The maps will be updated daily in June and July.

Sask Wheat's FHB risk map and management guide are available on the Sask Wheat website: [saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca).

— Sask Wheat Staff

Fusarium Head Blight Risk  
June 15, 2022



## COMING EVENTS

<b>JUNE 20</b>	<i>Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting – Regina</i>	To register, go to <a href="http://saskwheat.ca">saskwheat.ca</a>
<b>JULY 11</b>	<i>On Farm Research Field Tour – Plenty/Doddsland area</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://saskwheat.ca">saskwheat.ca</a>
<b>JULY 12</b>	<i>Western Applied Research Corporation Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://westernappliedresearch.com">westernappliedresearch.com</a>
<b>JULY 18</b>	<i>Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://iharf.ca">iharf.ca</a>
<b>JULY 18-20</b>	<i>Ag In Motion 2023 – Visit the Sask Wheat/SaskBarley booth (booth 105)</i>	More information at <a href="http://aginmotion.ca">aginmotion.ca</a>
<b>JULY 20</b>	<i>East Central Research Foundation Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://ecrf.ca">ecrf.ca</a>
<b>JULY 20</b>	<i>Wheatland Conservation Area Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://wheatlandconservation.ca">wheatlandconservation.ca</a>
<b>JULY 25 &amp; 26</b>	<i>Crop Diagnostic School – Indian Head</i>	Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at <b>1-866-457-2377</b> for more details
<b>JULY 26</b>	<i>Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://neag.ca">neag.ca</a>
<b>JULY 27 &amp; 28</b>	<i>South East Research Farm field days</i>	Call <b>306-452-3161</b> for more information
<b>JULY 27</b>	<i>Conservation Learning Centre Field Day</i>	More information to come on <a href="http://conservationlearningcentre.com">conservationlearningcentre.com</a>

