



# TheWheatField

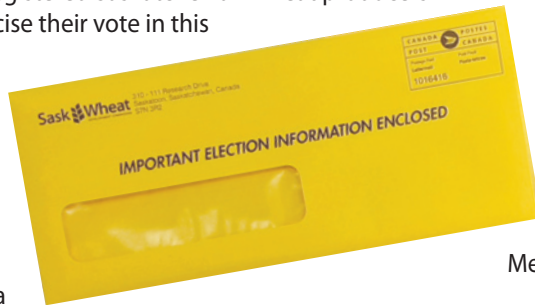
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2021 EDITION

## Sask Wheat Director election opens on October 14

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) will be having elections this fall for four positions on the Board of Directors. All registered Saskatchewan wheat producers are encouraged to exercise their vote in this election!

The election will open on Thursday, October 14 and will close on Monday, November 29 at 4:00 pm. Producers will have the option to vote electronically or via a mail-in, paper ballot.



Sask Wheat received nominations from six Saskatchewan wheat producers for four available positions on the Sask Wheat Board of Directors. The 2021 candidates are:

- Greg Brkich of Bladworth
- Brett Halstead of Nokomis
- Scott Hepworth of Assiniboia
- Allen Kuhlmann of Vanguard
- Jake Leguee of Weyburn
- Robert Stone of Davidson

Candidate biographies and pictures are available on pages four to five of this newsletter and on the Sask Wheat website ([saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca)).

Ballots will be sent to all registered wheat producers in October in a bright yellow envelope. A registered producer means any producer who has had a Sask Wheat check-off deducted since August 1, 2019 and has not requested or received a refund of check-off in the previous crop year (August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021).

Please note that your household may receive more than one election envelope with more than one unique ID number if you or others in your household delivered grain under separate entities (i.e. for grain deliveries by Jane Smith, John Smith, and Smith Farms). Each of these registered producers would be entitled to one vote.

The results of the election will be announced in early December by email, news release and on the Sask Wheat website. The successful candidates will be installed to the Board of Directors at the Sask Wheat Annual General Meeting on January 10, 2022.

## Sask Wheat welcomes new Executive Director



Blair Goldade will be assuming the Executive Director position at Sask Wheat on October 15, 2021. Goldade will replace Harvey Brooks, who is retiring from the position this fall after seven years at the helm of Sask Wheat.

Goldade has been with Sask Wheat since 2014, serving as the Research Program Manager and Science Coordinator of the Canadian National Wheat Cluster for the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition. Prior to joining Sask Wheat, Goldade served as the Executive Director for the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) from June 2012 to October 2014, overseeing Government of Canada funding for Saskatchewan agricultural projects through programs such as the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program.

Goldade has strong roots in Saskatchewan's agriculture community. He grew up in the Eston area, where his family still farms. He attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he majored in Animal Science.

"I would like to thank the Board of Directors for this exciting opportunity," says Goldade. "I have a lot of work ahead of me, but thankfully I have an engaged group of Directors supporting me and a tremendous team in the office."



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# Sask Wheat welcomes two new staff members



*Sushmita Nandy, Research Project Manager*

**Sushmita Nandy** joined Sask Wheat as the Research Project Manager in July.

Sushmita was recently with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture where she was the Research Specialist for Crops since 2008. In this role, she provided the day-to-day management of research projects under the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT), and other directed research calls by the Ministry.

Sushmita has a Ph.D. (2012) from the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Plant Sciences in plant breeding.

**Cheryl Smith** started as the Administrative Assistant with Sask Wheat in early August.

Cheryl, who has a background in project management and estimating, received an office administration certification from a private vocational school and completed a practicum with the Nipawin School Division (now North East School Division), where she would subsequently work.

Cheryl and her husband farmed a mixed-grain farm near near Choiceland, where they raised their two children. After working in Alberta for the last few years, Cheryl is delighted to be back in the “Land of the Living Skies” and closer to family.



*Cheryl Smith, Administrative Assistant*

## AGRONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AFTER HEAT AND DROUGHT

Soil fertility, seed quality and availability, herbicide carryover, and insect populations are all significantly influenced by heat and drought and are important when planning for next season.

Learn more in our latest edition of  
**WHEAT WATCH**

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



### BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Gehl  
Regina

Brett Halstead  
Nokomis

Lesley Kelly  
Watrous

Jake Leguee  
Weyburn

Ken Rosaasen  
Preeceville

Glenn Tait  
Meota

Jocelyn Velestuk  
Broadview

### STAFF:

Harvey Brooks  
General Manager

Dallas Carpenter  
Communications Manager

Blair Goldade  
Research Program Manager

James Lokken  
Policy

Sushmita Nandy  
Research Project Manager

Carmen Prang  
Research Program Assistant

Deb Rousson  
Office Administrator

Cheryl Smith  
Administrative Assistant

Haley Tetreault  
Agronomy Extension Specialist

Kelsey Tollefson  
Policy Manager

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## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

# Improving market transparency remains a priority for Sask Wheat



The 2021 growing season presented farmers with the most challenging growing conditions many have faced in 20 years. While there were localized pockets that received some rainfall, most of the province is still facing an extreme drought situation. The hot and dry conditions following very little moisture in July allowed harvest to progress quickly across the province, with many areas reporting yields significantly below

long-term averages. Hopefully, we receive more precipitation this fall to help replenish soil moisture reserves.

For farmers with grain left to sell, strong market conditions should help to provide closer to average returns even with reduced yields. However, many farmers who were unable to produce enough grain to fill forward contracts, are now facing a very difficult situation. Sask Wheat is concerned about additional fees and penalties that are being charged on grain contract buy outs and, along with other producer groups, we have reached out to the Western Grain Elevator Association members requesting they work with farmers who are unable to fill their contracts by eliminating administration fees and penalties for the 2021-22 growing season.

The 2020-21 marketing year has set new records for both wheat and durum exports. Data from the Canadian Grain Commission shows 6.06 million tonnes of durum were exported, an increase of 15 percent from the previous record set in 2019-20. Exports of wheat excluding durum reached 19.63 million tonnes, up slightly from the previous record of 19.53 million tonnes set in 2018-19. Not surprisingly, Saskatchewan ending on-farm stocks of wheat and durum are well below the five-and-ten-year averages. Globally, wheat demand appears to remain strong, and tightening supplies should continue to provide support to markets.

Improving price and market transparency has been a longstanding focus for Sask Wheat. For the past five years, we have been providing a weekly wheat market outlook report and price information on our website from Mercantile Consulting Venture Inc. In addition, we are now producing a weekly podcast summarizing the market outlook report.

This past marketing year has again illustrated the need for improved market transparency for farmers. Market disruptions, changes in trade patterns, and lagging information on export sales commitments have shown farmers' need for timely marketing information, or they will miss out on higher prices. Sask Wheat continues to work with other producer groups to call for the creation of a weekly export sales reporting program to put farmers on a more equal footing with others in the supply chain and enable farmers to make more informed marketing decisions.

This will be my final General Manager's report in the Wheat Field as I will be retiring at the end of October. I've served as the General Manager for Sask Wheat since 2014 and have seen the development of the organization from a start-up commission to its full operations today. During that time, Sask Wheat has matured into a major research funder on behalf of Saskatchewan wheat producers. Sask Wheat's full research portfolio has now reached \$52 million of funding to facilitate more than \$200 million in 211 research projects. These projects will enhance the Saskatchewan wheat industry and the future for Saskatchewan wheat producers. One of the major research initiatives during my time with Sask Wheat was the formation of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) and having Sask Wheat take on the administration of the Canadian National Wheat Cluster, which facilitates a \$25 million collaborative research effort. The CWRC also assumed joint funding of the Core Wheat Breeding Agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the three Prairie universities, an investment of approximately \$34.6 million. These have been major accomplishments for western Canadian wheat commissions and significant investments on behalf of farmers!

I have enjoyed my time at Sask Wheat and know that I am leaving the organization in good shape and with excellent staff to implement your Board's strategic plan on behalf of Saskatchewan wheat producers.

*Harvey Brooks, General Manager*



The Think Wheat webinars and extension meetings bring the latest information on marketing, research, and agronomy to Saskatchewan wheat producers.

**Join our email list, follow us on Twitter, and watch our website for the next webinar and in-person event!**

[saskwheat.ca](http://saskwheat.ca)  [@saskwheat](https://twitter.com/saskwheat)

# 2021 Director Election – Candidate Profiles



## **GREG BRKICH** **Bladworth**

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I have been a farmer all my life, and I run a mixed farming operation. I currently farm 2,200 acres, including cattle.

I was an MLA for 21 years with the provincial government.

I feel that the opportunities for wheat growers can be much better than they have been. Going forward, we need to push for more international market access. We also should be looking at developing more drought resistant varieties of wheat. I do believe that the Wheat Grower's Association needs to be more vocal when it comes to protecting farmers' rights regarding the Grain Commission. We need to hear more from the Wheat Grower's Association when it comes to governments, both provincially and federally. More work needs to be done to enhance grain farmers' opportunities, both nationally and internationally. The Wheat Grower's Association has to stand up for farmers who may be having contract problems with grain companies.



## **BRETT HALSTEAD** **Nokomis**

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bretthalstead@yourlink.ca  
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Together with my wife Myrna, our son and his wife we operate a mixed farm near Nokomis. We grow Wheat, Barley, Canola, Peas, and raise Beef Cattle.

I have represented producers on the board of directors of Sask Wheat since January of 2018. I'm currently chair of the board as well as one of Sask Wheat's reps on the Cereals Canada board. I was a director from 2009-17 with SaskCanola. While a director there I was chair for 2 years and was one of SaskCanola's reps to Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) for 7 years. I was CCGA president for 3 years where I represented Canadian farmers nationally and internationally. I also represented CCGA for 3 years on the Canola Council of Canada and for 7 years on the Western Standards Committee.

There are many challenges and opportunities in both the Wheat industry as well as agriculture in general. I'd like the opportunity to contribute a second term to this board, continuing the work I've done over the last four years. Some of those work areas include Wheat breeding and research (FHB, midge, nitrogen use efficiency, drought), Wheat market development and promotion (trade challenges, non-tariff trade barriers, understanding end-use customer needs), rail transportation issues, sharing grain marketing information and market transparency, current and emerging consumer trends and concerns! There is no shortage of issues that Sask Wheat staff and

directors deal with on an ongoing basis.

My farm board experience has taught me how to work with a wide variety of people and listen to different points of view to come up with balanced solutions that work for the majority of farmers. I strongly believe in the producer voice and producer involvement through organizations like Sask Wheat. Without Saskatchewan farmers standing up for themselves decisions will be made without producer input.

Please have your say in this election for a continued strong Sask Wheat role in producer lead research, market development, advocacy and producer outreach.



## **SCOTT HEPWORTH** **Assiniboia**

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Twitter: @scottuheps

I farm with my father Glenn, fiancé Christine and daughter Finley. We grow Durum, Lentils, Chick Peas and Canola.

I enjoy being involved in the community and currently sit on a number of local boards.

In 2015 I was elected to Sask Wheat and served for 4 years, the last 2 as vice chair. I had a lot to learn once I was elected. Sask Wheat has a big mandate and is responsible for a lot of decisions that effect the levy payers (farmers) today and far into the future. I enjoy participating in that decision making, while taking the farmers concerns to the table and making sure they are heard.

There have been a lot of recent policy and regulation proposals that could have big impacts on our day-to-day operations and I feel my previous experience could help navigate through these issues and the many others to find the best possible outcomes.

So, I kindly ask for your vote to serve your interests at the Saskatchewan Wheat Commission for another term.



## **ALLEN KUHLMANN** **Vanguard**

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skuhlmann@sasktel.net

I, Allen Kuhlmann, farm with my wife Susan and son Wes near the Village of Vanguard, Saskatchewan, where we grow wheat, durum, barley, flax, lentils and canola.

I currently serve on the board of Great Western Road and Rail and was appointed to the Prairie Grain Recommending Committee and Western Standards Committee of the Canadian Grain

Commission. I previously served as a Director on the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, the Chair of the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan, and the Chair of the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission. I am an alumnus of the University of Saskatchewan, holding a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Bachelor of Commerce.

My strength is my ability to strongly represent farmers on the issues that matter to all of us.



**JAKE LEGUEE**  
**Weyburn**

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I am a farmer from southeast Saskatchewan, where I farm with several family members. I grow a variety of crops including hard red spring wheat, durum, peas, lentils, flax, and canola.

In 2010, I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, specializing in Agronomy. Since then, I have worked both on and off-farm, working as an agronomist, but have been full-time on the farm for several years. I have served as a medical responder for Fillmore Ambulance for over 12 years and contributed to various advisory boards. My wife and I were married 10 years ago and have three sons. Farming is in our blood.

I am just completing my first term as a Director for Sask Wheat, and it has been a tremendous experience and privilege. Over the last four years, I have worked to benefit Saskatchewan farmers by taking on such roles as Director and current Vice-Chair of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition, Chair of the Sask Wheat Research Committee, Director with Cereals Canada, and am currently the Vice-Chair of Sask Wheat. In 2019, I traveled to North Africa and Italy as the farmer participant in new crop missions, a critical aspect of ensuring end-users are satisfied with our products.

I humbly ask for your support in seeking my second term with Sask Wheat, where I hope to continue to contribute to research, market development, and advocacy to ensure a better future for Saskatchewan wheat producers. There are many challenges ahead of us, including better market transparency for farmers, non-tariff trade barriers, consumer fears over crop protection products, and challenging diseases like Fusarium Head Blight. There are so many opportunities as well, as genomic selection and gene editing continue to change the nature of wheat breeding, along with the development of new markets and expansions of current ones.

I am passionate about the agriculture industry, and I believe the future of wheat, and agriculture itself, is very bright. As a third-generation farmer, I understand the value of long-term research and market development. With your support I will continue to bring positivity, enthusiasm and experience to Sask Wheat.



**ROBERT STONE**  
**Davidson**

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**stonefarms@icloud.com**

**Twitter: @rgstone1**

I own and operate Stone Farms with my parents, wife Donna and my two boys Joseph and Benjamin. We grow hard red spring wheat, barley, lentils and canola. We have grown durum in the past, but fusarium has proven to be too much of a risk.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Agronomy in 1999 and worked a few agronomy jobs until I became a full-time farmer and seed retailer in 2003.

Throughout my farming career I have witnessed many changes to the farming landscape. Advancements in science and genetics; regulatory and market modernization; machinery size, capability and technology; real time communication with each other, business partners and our end users over many platforms that did not even exist ten years ago. Farms continue to grow in size and complexity along with productivity per acre and dollars invested. Our relationships with each other, government, industry and our customers must remain a high priority.

I have sat on RM council and was an active member of the Davidson Kinsmen Club for many years. Running for SaskWheat is my first experience with this particular level of board work. I participated in and asked questions at annual meetings. I have spoken with directors on several topics and think it's time for me to be able to answer your questions and provide meaningful direction to our commission on your behalf.

A few issues I see as important to address:

- Contract consistency and farmer/industry engagement in understanding the commitments
- Encouraging better use of all the market risk management tools for farmers and improving processes for price discovery and transparency
- Increased collaboration between all commissions/industry/government on projects of importance to all commodities
- Find ways to invest larger portions of SaskWheat's accumulated surplus for levy payers' (farmers') benefit
- Sustainability demands and ever-increasing government environmental regulatory aspirations

As a potential first-time member of the Board, I look forward to asking lots of questions and learning how things work. At the same time, I don't believe I am shy to share my opinions.

Wheat has gone from a crop you have to grow in between things that make money to a crop you want to grow that makes money. Let's all continue finding more ways for every acre to be a profitable one.

# Researchers find a way to recover marketable wheat from DON contaminated loads

By Janna Moats

Resistant varieties and fungicide technologies help Saskatchewan wheat growers guard their crops against fusarium head blight (FHB) and its harmful toxin known as DON (*Deoxynivalenol*), but the risk is never completely eliminated.

"It only takes a small portion of the seeds to be infected with DON, to downgrade the whole batch," said Dr. Rex Newkirk (Associate Professor and Research Chair in Feed Processing Technology at the University of Saskatchewan).

It begs the question, what can producers do if their crop does become contaminated with DON?

Thanks to support from SaskWheat and other industry partners, Newkirk has identified specialized grain sorting strategies to reduce DON levels in FHB infected wheat and re-open market opportunities for the recovered grain.

First, Newkirk and his team of researchers tried sorting infected wheat based on seed density. "When fusarium infects wheat, it can change some characteristics of the seed," said Newkirk. "One of those changes is a slight decrease in the seed's density."

Using an air fractionator, the researchers augered infected grain through the top of the system where a stream of air blew against the falling seeds. The density of the seed determined how far it would be blown within the system, and which collection chamber it would fall into: the lighter the seed, the farther back they fall.

"The first two chambers had the more dense grains, which also ended up having very low levels of DON," said Newkirk. "The third chamber had higher levels of DON, closer to the original concentration of 10 ppm and the fourth contained mostly chaff and seeds with extremely high levels of DON."

By using this simple system, Newkirk's team was able to recover over 70 per cent of the grain as a marketable product. Nearly 50 per cent of the wheat was recovered with less than 5 ppm DON, and another 20 per cent was recovered with less than 2 ppm. At these levels, the grain has the potential to enter either the feed or the food markets, respectively.

But Newkirk didn't stop there.

"We knew there was still some recoverable grain in that third chamber of the air fractionator," said Newkirk. "That's where we turned to the BoMill."

The BoMill Near Infrared transmittance (NIR-T) system is an advanced seed sorting technology used by some grain elevators and processors. It works by separating individual seeds into separate slots before shining a powerful beam of light through them to measure their individual compositions.

"The BoMill was specifically designed to sort seeds based on protein content," said Newkirk. "Since wheat seeds infected with fusarium have slightly higher protein levels, we found that by using the BoMill to sort for protein, we could also sort for fusarium and DON."

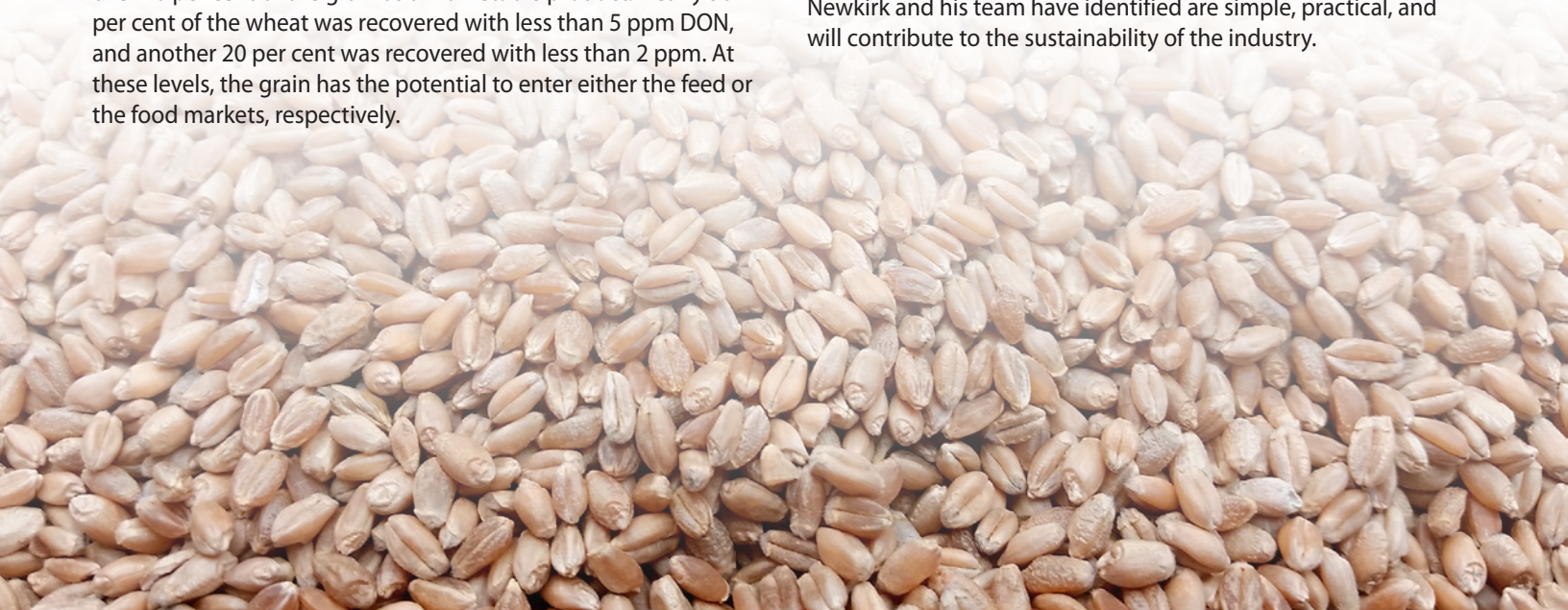
It's an effective system, but using the BoMill in conjunction with the air fractionating system is the best approach.

According to Newkirk, "The grain needs to be pretty clean to work in the BoMill NIR-T system. That's why using it after the air fractionator system works really well, because the grain is already clean."

Overall, Newkirk's team was able to take a load of highly contaminated wheat - that would have otherwise been rejected - and recover over 75 per cent of the seeds to acceptable market levels.

By recovering marketable grain from contaminated loads of wheat, Saskatchewan growers can help minimize waste within the food system and mitigate serious economic losses that are typically associated with FHB.

The post-harvest strategies for reducing DON levels in wheat that Newkirk and his team have identified are simple, practical, and will contribute to the sustainability of the industry.



# Teamwork makes the dream work: A collaborative approach to FHB resistance in wheat

By Janna Moats

Fusarium head blight (FHB) is a destructive fungal disease affecting cereal growers. Infected crops show poor crop yields and down-graded seed quality, costing billions of dollars in economic losses over time. More aggressive strains of FHB are becoming increasingly common across Western Canada, putting producers and their crops at greater risk.

Dr. Nora Foroud (cereal molecular geneticist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge, AB) believes the key to overcoming the disease is through better wheat genetics.

“One of the most important factors in cereal crop disease management strategies is to have resistant cultivars,” said Foroud.

For decades, wheat breeding programs have worked to increase FHB resistance in their varieties with marginal success.

“It’s been difficult to generate cultivars with both stable resistance to the disease and maintain the desired agronomic traits growers need,” said Foroud.

To help the industry move forward, Foroud took a collaborative approach to the issue. With the help of cereal geneticists, pathologists, and breeders from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the University of Alberta, and the University of Saskatchewan, Foroud hopes to generate elite wheat breeding lines with a high degree of FHB resistance and optimum agronomic performance.

“My work is very lab-oriented,” said Foroud, “I may not know what agronomic traits are most important to the growers, so that’s where my relationship with the breeders is very helpful.”

The breeders supply their own unique seeds to Foroud’s lab, where they are put to the ultimate test. From these seeds, thousands of wheat embryo cells are cultured in petri dishes and introduced to FHB for the first time; a process known as *in vitro* selection.

“We add toxins produced by the disease to the cell cultures, putting intensive selection pressure on the plant,” said Foroud.

After exposing the cells to the disease through this *in vitro* technique, Foroud then develops specialized plants—known as *double-haploids*—that can be used in participating Canadian wheat breeding programs.

“The advantage of using a double-haploid plant in a breeding program is that you have fixed genetics right off the bat,” explained Foroud. “What we do differently is that we add selection pressure while developing these doubled-haploids.”

In traditional programs, breeders would try to generate resistant varieties through breeding lines that have never been exposed to any form of disease pressure. It’s up to the breeder to identify plants with resistance to FHB and then work to solidify that trait into a variety through generations of breeding and selection. At the same time, the breeder is still trying to achieve ideal agronomic performance in the plant. It’s a laborious and time-consuming process with limited success.

By introducing FHB selection at the very start, Foroud’s technique for generating double-haploid breeding lines is increasing the chances of reaching high levels of FHB resistance in wheat while also speeding up the entire breeding program.

“Because the genetics for disease resistance are fixed in the breeding lines, you can shave years off of the selection process in the breeding program,” said Foroud.

With the ongoing support of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, and other funding agencies, Foroud hopes to continue her collaborative work with breeders and make a meaningful impact on the Canadian wheat industry.

“By working directly with the breeders, I hope we can provide growers with a better selection of cultivars that have high levels of disease resistance as well as the desired agronomic performance.”



# WHEAT PROFIT

PODCAST



Wheat Profit provides Saskatchewan wheat producers with resources and information to increase profitability and sustainability on their farms. We will be interviewing experts in the field on current production issues and keep producers updated on the latest wheat research.

The latest episodes include:



Fall Nutrient and Fertilizer Considerations After a Drought with Lyle Cowell of Nutrien Ag Solutions



Grain Grading and Quality with Daryl Beswitherick of the Canadian Grain Commission



On-Farm Management of Herbicide Resistant Weeds with Josh Lade

Listen to all the episodes on

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



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