



2022-2023 | Annual Report

Sask  Wheat
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION





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Our Vision

Wheat is a highly profitable and sustainable crop for Saskatchewan farmers.

Our Mission

Sask Wheat will provide leadership in identifying and supporting research, market development, and advocacy to maximize profitable and sustainable wheat production for Saskatchewan farmers.

Overview

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) was established in June 2013. The Commission, under the direction of its elected board of wheat producers, ensures Saskatchewan's wheat farmers have the resources, leadership, and representation to strengthen Saskatchewan's competitive advantage and ensure the interests of Saskatchewan's farmers are protected. Check-off dollars administered by the Commission go toward research, advocacy, market development and producer communications and extension initiatives that improve wheat varieties, grow the marketability of wheat, and provide higher value to producers.

The organization has *four* primary areas of focus: Research, Market Development, Advocacy and Producer Communications and Extension.

Strategic Focus #1: Research

GOAL: Maximize direct financial benefit to Saskatchewan wheat producers through yield gains, improved quality characteristics and agronomic efficiencies.

Objectives

1. Expand public and farmer funded wheat breeding and variety development.
2. Expand research capacity through infrastructure and people development.
3. Enhance research programs that add to the profitability and sustainability of Saskatchewan wheat producers including agronomic and cropping system research.
4. Establish collaborative research agreements with other commissions, government, association and private organizations.

Strategic Focus #2: Market Development

GOAL: Increase the value, marketability and net return to producers by promoting the benefits of Canadian wheat in domestic and export markets.

Objectives

1. Maintain current markets and develop new markets in collaboration with Cereals Canada.
2. Advocate for appropriate quality standards and market development tools that serve Saskatchewan producers.
3. Build alliances with organizations that

align with Sask Wheat's mandate and purpose.

- Requirements for collaboration: producer focused and supports farm profitability.
4. Support the development of value-add products made with Saskatchewan wheat.

Strategic Focus #3: Advocacy

GOAL: Advance the interests of Saskatchewan wheat producers to governments and industry stakeholders.

Objectives

1. Advocate for policy, legislation and regulations that advance the interests of Saskatchewan wheat producers.
 - Advocate for science-based decision making;
 - Advocate for reliable and cost-effective grain handling and transportation services;
 - Advocate for environmental sustainability policy that supports the profitability of Saskatchewan wheat producers;
 - Advocate for efficient and clear business processes within the sector.
2. Build relationships with federal and provincial politicians and bureaucrats.
3. Provide independent information and analysis on key advocacy topics.
4. Participate in consumer education and engagement activities that build trust and promote the sustainability of wheat production and usage.

Strategic Focus #4: Producer Communications and Extension

GOAL: Enhance productivity and profitability of Saskatchewan wheat producers through effective communications and extension activities.

Objectives

1. Increase producer awareness and understanding of the value of the organization.
 - Develop "Sask Wheat" awareness campaign;
 - Incorporate these messages in all activities of the organization.
2. Increase producer engagement with effective communication and outreach.
 - Develop and support a variety of ways for producers to get involved with Sask Wheat.
3. Increase awareness of research results and encourage uptake by producers through effective knowledge and technology transfer.
4. Develop agronomic and grain marketing focused materials and communication tools for Saskatchewan producers and agronomists.
5. Collaborate with provincial government and other organizations on extension activities.
6. Develop young farmers to take on leadership roles in agriculture.
7. Enhance the director on-boarding process.

The Chair's Report



Brett Halstead,
Chair

The 2022-2023 crop year was significantly better for most than in 2021-2022. However, some areas still faced lingering drought challenges that negatively impacted yields, notably in the west-central and southwest. In many areas, this crop year could be summed up in one word: variable!

Both major rail companies reported moving a significant amount of grain throughout the crop year, including several record weeks of movement in the fall of 2022.

While positive rail performance helped Canadian exports of wheat and durum return to more normal levels, last seen in 2020-2021, rail service across Saskatchewan

remained inconsistent, especially throughout the summer months. Wheat exports (excluding durum) reached 19.7 million metric tonnes (MMT), up 71 per cent from the previous year and slightly above the previous record set in 2020-2021. Durum exports reached 5.1 MMT, up 96 per cent from the previous year and ahead of the five-year average. Even though global wheat production in 2022-2023 was forecast to be a new record high, domestic prices for wheat and durum remained relatively strong throughout the winter. Prices began to sag markedly in the spring and remain volatile due to ongoing conflicts and inconsistent weather in various regions.

Collaboration was a key pillar of our new strategic plan, updated in the spring of 2023. It continues to play an important role in the advocacy, research, extension, and communication work undertaken by Sask Wheat. The ever-increasing opportunities to benefit Sask Wheat by collaboration through external board and committee memberships, government engagements, invited presentations and panel discussions, and joint submissions was a major impetus in expanding the Sask Wheat Board to eight Directors.



SaskCrops, a collaborative effort of the major Saskatchewan crop commissions including SaskBarley, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskOats, the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Sask Wheat, submitted a response on behalf of Saskatchewan annual crop producers to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) consultations on the proposed Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS). The submission clearly stated if policies, targets and timeframes impose costs that do not contribute to improved efficiency or increased output at the farm level, producers will have to absorb these costs and risk becoming globally uncompetitive and unprofitable. Simply put, for Saskatchewan annual crop producers to be sustainable they have to be profitable, and to be profitable, they have to be globally competitive. Sask Wheat also provided its own largely parallel submission but emphasized the importance of variety development for both Saskatchewan wheat producers' profitability and environmental sustainability. SaskCrops also collaborated with the Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), submitting a response to AAFC's consultation on the proposed Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Target in the fall of 2022, in which the same concerns were raised.

At the national level, Sask Wheat has participated in broadly collaborative opposition to Health Canada's decision to restrict the use of Lambda-Cyhalothrin on crops used for animal feed. In early 2023, the Canada Grains Council, of which Sask Wheat is a member, communicated widespread concerns to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding Health Canada's decision to re-evaluate the use of Lambda-Cyhalothrin on feed crops, leading to a restriction on its use beginning with the 2023 crop. 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 essentially eliminated the use of Lambda-Cyhalothrin in most cases since farmers can not know the end use of their crop when applying crop protection products. Despite the unified concerns and opposition from farm organizations across the sector, the restrictions on Lambda-Cyhalothrin remain in place and will be an ongoing concern for the marketing of the 2023 crop.

A recent example of successful collaboration included opposition initiated by Sask Wheat along with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) and amplified by the National Farmers Union (NFU), the Wheat Growers Association (WGA), and other farm organizations, calling on the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to reverse its decision to harmonize the separate primary and export standards for test weights and total foreign material at the tighter export standards for most western Canadian wheat classes. In response, the CGC reversed its decision, which was to be implemented on Aug. 1, 2023. The CGC failed to properly consult with producer groups and the individual producers who will bear the costs of the tighter standards. A motion was carried at the Western Standards Committee meeting in April 2023 asking for a delayed decision on the harmonization of test weights until an economic analysis is completed and the results are considered. For the last several years, Sask Wheat has urged the CGC to conduct an economic analysis before making any decisions on harmonization, especially regarding the potential economic impact on producers. This continues to be a unified ask by producer groups.

Consistent and reliable rail movement throughout the entire grain year will ensure Saskatchewan producers can deliver grain to the elevator in a timely manner and maximize revenue from their grain sales.

Sask Wheat continues to participate in the Crop Logistics Working Group and Transport Canada's Commodity Supply Chain Table. Sask Wheat also continues to monitor rail car-order fulfilment performance throughout the grain year, as reported by the Ag Transport Coalition (ATC), of which we are a member. In the spring of 2023, Sask Wheat provided its logo in support of the Flip the Switch campaign, advocating alongside several other national and provincial commodity, producer and value chain groups for a more comprehensive and longer-lasting extended interswitching pilot program than the government has recently initiated, although we support that limited program. We have long advocated for extended interswitching and view it as a vital tool to encourage competition, efficiency, and performance in rail transportation.

In 2022-2023, Sask Wheat committed over \$10.8 million to 55 projects. With many challenges, including environmental stressors like drought, Fusarium head blight and wheat stem sawfly, our investments in variety development, agronomic practices, post-production information and emerging technologies will lead to financial benefits for wheat producers.

The 2022-2023 crop year brought forward many opportunities for collaboration with provincial, Prairie-wide, and national farm organizations to address important issues impacting producers. Sask Wheat will continue to be a strong advocate for Saskatchewan wheat producers, including collaboratively when beneficial, and will continue to invest wheat check-off dollars sensibly to bring results that will benefit producers now and into the future.

Thank you to Saskatchewan farmers who place trust in us to invest their levy dollars in many worthy areas. We appreciate and welcome their communication and feedback. ◆

Saskatchewan wheat farmers have faced several challenges in the past few growing seasons, from variable weather conditions to rising input costs to uncertain transportation and market conditions. These challenges have been amplified by government policies, which have a major impact on the way grain farmers operate and will operate in the future.

The Executive Director's Report



Blair Goldade,
Executive Director

The realities facing wheat farmers have driven Sask Wheat to seek to achieve greater beneficial outcomes from our efforts on behalf of our levy-paying producers. The strategic research investments and targeted and timely advocacy and market development activities we undertook in the past year will assist in keeping the industry on a balanced path, even in trying times. We will ensure wheat remains a productive, competitive, and, thus, integral part of crop rotations, both from an economic and a sustainability lens.

Over the past year, Sask Wheat renewed our strategic plan, analyzing the current needs of our levy-paying producers and ensuring our strategies are focused on meeting those needs. Our top priority remains research, and our goal is that Saskatchewan wheat producers will experience financial benefits through yield gains, enhanced resistance to biotic and abiotic stressors, improved quality characteristics, and agronomic efficiencies through our extensive research investments.

Sask Wheat invested in 55 projects for \$10.8 million in 2022-2023. We participated in the major research calls in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, allowing us to invest producer funding strategically in projects that have the greatest potential to benefit Saskatchewan wheat producers. Collaboration is an important part of our approach to research funding. The Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC), a partnership including Sask Wheat, Manitoba Crop Alliance, and Alberta Grains, allows us to leverage multiple funding sources for important

research initiatives such as the core wheat breeding agreements with the Universities of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba and AAFC, as well as the five-year Canadian National Wheat Cluster.

The Wheat Cluster, which was funded by industry and government under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) ended on March 31, 2023. An agreement in principle between the federal and provincial governments on a new five-year investment in strategic agricultural initiatives, named the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP), took effect in the spring of 2023, focusing on the priority areas of tackling climate change; furthering investments in science, research, and innovation; building sector capacity to ensure global competitiveness; and enhancing resiliency through improved business risk management (BRM) programs.

The next round of AgriScience Cluster programming will be delivered through SCAP. Sask Wheat, through the CWRC, has been actively participating in the submission of a high-quality application of research activities to ensure the ongoing funding of wheat research efforts through this programming. For the first time since the program's creation, research activities under the Cluster program must meet the minimum thematic requirements set by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This is a significant concern going forward as there has been no increase in program funding to account for increased demands on the program or inflationary impacts on research activities and directly



dilutes producer funding targeted toward addressing specific producer priorities.

In addition to our major focus on research, Sask Wheat has expanded market development, advocacy, and producer communications and extension efforts as key areas of focus in our latest strategic plan. Our weekly Wheat Market Outlook report and podcast continue to bring unique and in-depth market information to producers about the global forces shaping the demand and prices for their wheat. Our policy team spends significant time on an increasing range of advocacy issues that impact Saskatchewan farmers, preparing supporting information for Board consideration and formal submissions to consultations, including in areas related to the Canada Grain Act, grain transportation, environmental policy, the Federal Government budgetary process and seed regulation.

Collaboration with other commissions and organizations is key to achieving our strategic goals. Through the SaskCrops organization, which we are a member of, along with SaskBarley, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskOats, and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, we made submissions on behalf of Saskatchewan producers to the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Consultation, and, jointly with the

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), to AAFC's Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Target Consultation.

Our producer communications and extension teams are always busy hosting events across the province such as Coffee Shop Talks and Think Wheat. In addition, our Wheat Watch documents provide producers with valuable and timely agronomic information. 2022-2023 was also the second year of our Wheat Wise on-farm trial program. The program grew from four to eleven sites, focusing small-plot research on nitrogen-fixing biological products.

On Aug. 1, 2023, Sask Wheat and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC) amalgamated under the name Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, now representing all levy-paying spring and winter wheat, durum, fall rye, and winter triticale producers in the province. Producers strongly supported the amalgamation, which will further the development of winter cereal production in the province. A significant amount of work went into the amalgamation, including two producer surveys, resolutions and reports at the AGMs and Semi-Annual Meetings, and

work behind the scenes on regulatory changes, financial reporting and changing information on the websites. I want to thank the Sask Wheat team for their effort to bring this to fruition.

You will find our audited financial statements at the end of this report. We will present these at our January 2024 AGM, where the Board of Directors and I will answer any questions our guests may have. As I note every year, I am proud of our transparency and performance.

When it comes to research, advocacy, agronomy, and communications, I'm pleased to say that Sask Wheat is a leader within Saskatchewan's agriculture community. We have made great strides as an organization in 2022-2023, and thanks to the team of talented individuals we have in place, we are ready to continue to serve the interests of wheat producers and take further steps to strengthen wheat production, and its profitability, in Saskatchewan. ◆



Board of Directors

Sask Wheat Staff



Brett Halstead
Chair, Nokomis



Jake Legee
Vice-Chair, Weyburn



Blair Goldade
Executive Director



Dallas Carpenter
Communications Manager



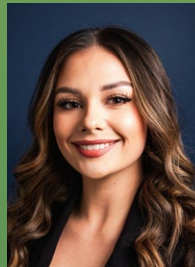
Constance Chiremba
Research Program Manager



Scott Hepworth
Assiniboia



Lesley Kelly
Watrous



Montana Getty
Communications and
Events Coordinator



James Lokken
Interim Policy Manager



Sushmita Nandy
Research Project Manager



Rob Stone
Davidson



Glenn Tait
Meota



Carmen Prang
Agronomy Extension
Specialist



Deborah Rousson
Operations and Finance
Manager



Aiden Sanden
Policy Analyst



Jocelyn Velestuk
Broadview



Cheryl Smith
Administrative
Assistant



Kelsey Tollefson
Policy Manager
(On Leave)



Tatiana Vera
Research Program
Coordinator

Research

Research is the central focus of Sask Wheat. Improving the relative net profitability of producing wheat for Saskatchewan farmers is the key priority of the organization.

For the 2022-2023 crop year, Sask Wheat committed funding to **55 projects for over \$10.8 million**. This includes projects funded through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Development Fund research call, Alberta's Agriculture Funding Consortium and the Canadian National Wheat Cluster (Wheat Cluster), funded through the AAFC Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP). Since 2014, Sask Wheat has funded **305 projects for over \$67.3 million**.

Wheat uses is thorough and ensures the commission is completing its due diligence towards investigating the details of each project to ensure the research fits within the organization's research priorities, that it has scientific merit, and that it will benefit producers and bring a return on Sask Wheat's investment of producer funding.

The Sask Wheat research program invests in research and development initiatives in four priority areas: varietal development, production, post-production and technology development.

Priority One: Variety Development

Canadian Western Red Spring

Project: Marker-Assisted Pyramiding of Pleiotropic and Novel Resistance Loci to Stripe and Other Rust Diseases in Adapted CWRS Wheat

Lead Researcher: Dr. Richard Cuthbert (AAFC – Swift Current)

Sask Wheat funding: \$422,400 (2019-2022)

Co-Funder: AAFC

The objective of this project was to develop wheat lines carrying pyramided rust resistance loci by applying marker-assisted selection (MAS). Leaf rust has been an annual problem since the early days of wheat cultivation in Canada. Stem rust is a disease with several historical epidemics in Canada. Effective control of the rust pathogens is mainly a result of resistance breeding and growing resistant wheat cultivars.

The researchers developed several wheat lines with various combinations of rust resistance genes and improved resistance. One significant example is a line with a higher grain yield than AAC Brandon and other common varieties, resistance to moderate resistance to the three rust species and intermediate bunt resistance.



Above: Sask Wheat Executive Director Blair Goldade (left) and Research Program Manager, Constance Chiremba (right), discuss the research of Dr. Raju Datla during a tour of his greenhouses at the University of Saskatchewan.

Sask Wheat funds projects based on their merit and their potential benefit to Saskatchewan wheat production, with the Board of Directors accepting recommendations from research staff, the Research Committee, and external technical reviewers who carefully review each research project. The process Sask

Project: 4DWheat: Diversity, Domestication, Discovery, and Delivery

Lead Researcher: Dr. Curtis Pozniak
(Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$999,997 (2020-2024)

Co-Funders: Alberta Grains, Manitoba Crop Alliance, Genome Canada, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture – Agriculture Development Fund, Western Grains Research Foundation, AAFC (through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership), Illumina (Canada), Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Viterra

4DWheat will apply next-generation sequencing, gene editing technologies, and digital imaging that, together with biological data and information, will result in strategies to capture diversity in wheat breeding fully. The results of this project will lead to the development and adoption of varieties of both CWRS and Canadian Western Amber Durum that are higher-yielding and resistant to common pests and environmental stressors.

Canadian Western Amber Durum

Project: The Integration of Cold-Tolerant Genetics and Agronomy to Support the Adoption of an Ultra-Early Durum Wheat Seeding System

Lead Researcher: Dr. Brian Beres
(AAFC – Lethbridge)

Sask Wheat funding: \$639,049 (2021-2025)

Co-Funder: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture – Agriculture Development Fund

This project will assess the feasibility of, and risks associated with, ultra-early plantings of durum wheat into cold soils. Mitigating risk associated with an ultra-early seeding system will be achieved through a systems approach of genetics, environment, and management.



Studies have reported that planting dates into dormant conditions as early as the previous fall produced similar grain yields in some spring wheat varieties. Preliminary results indicate that concerning ultra-early plantings, superior and more stable grain yield was generally observed when durum was seeded at soil temperature between 0°C and 3°C.

Project: Unraveling the Genetic Mechanisms Underlying Ergot Resistance in Durum Wheat

Lead Researcher: Dr. Yuefeng Ruan
(AAFC – Swift Current)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$98,400 (2021-2024)

Co-Funders: Alberta Grains, Western Grains Research Foundation

This project aims to identify genetic markers associated with ergot resistance in durum and introgression of ergot resistance genes in adapted durum germplasm. The project will use synchrotron-based techniques to understand the mechanisms of ergot resistance.

Currently, the researchers are processing the imaging data to visualize the reaction of each line to ergot inoculation and honeydew production. Large imaging data sets are pending analysis due to the storage capacity limitations to handle the image data at AAFC.

Priority Two: Production Pests/ Weeds

Project: Identifying Weed Competitive Varieties in Wheat and Barley



In the 2022-2023 crop year, Sask Wheat committed \$1.6 million in capital funding to Saskatchewan's Agri-ARM research stations. These stations deliver essential research on agronomy across the province. Pictured above is the team from the Wheatland Conservation Area station near Swift Current and the John Deere 5075E Utility Tractor they were able to purchase due to this funding. Pictured, from the left, are Bryan Nybo, Manager, Amber Wall, Assistant Manager, Ken Deobald, Field and Equipment Technician, Don Sluth, Research Technician .

Lead Researcher: Dr. Breanne Tidemann
(AAFC – Lacombe)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$202,750 (2022-2026)

Co-Funder: Manitoba Crop Alliance

This project will determine if certain varieties of wheat and barley are more competitive than others against weeds and will rank them. This ranking may be used in provincial seed guides.

Unlike ratings for disease resistance or pest tolerance, there is no information available for Western Canadian producers on which wheat and barley varieties are the most competitive with weeds. This project aims to begin rating commercialized Canadian varieties for competitiveness.

In addition, it will allow the development of a methodology to take competitiveness testing forward into a framework such as

the regional variety trials to continue rating registered varieties or varieties that will be newly registered.

Finally, it will allow a preliminary look at what characteristics may be associated with competitiveness in wheat and barley to feed back into germplasm selections by breeders moving forward. With herbicide resistance continuing to increase, farmers need to be able to implement integrated weed management strategies as easily and effectively as possible. This is one integrated weed management strategy that producers could easily implement through a simple choice of varieties if competitive data were available to them.

Climate Resilience

Project: Identifying Spring Wheat Varieties that Improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)

Lead Researcher: Dr. Kate Congreves
(University of Saskatchewan)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$252,552 (2020-2024)

Co-Funder: Alberta Grains

Nitrogen (N) is among the costliest of all inputs for spring wheat due to increased fertilizer prices. The research aims to identify the traits associated with spring wheat varieties that show the best crop NUE, thereby providing breeders with critical information for designing new crosses and breeding approaches to increase NUE.

To date, the varieties that have stood out with consistently top NUEs were Faller, Muchmore, Cardale, AAC Alida, AAC Elie and CDC Go. These varieties might be worth pursuing as genetic sources for future breeding efforts to improve nitrogen use efficiency. However, we must wait until we have all three years of data.



Priority Three: Post-Production

Project: Variation in Asparagine Content in Diverse Wheat Cultivars

Lead Researcher: Dr. Maneka Malagoda (University of Manitoba)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$125,925 (2022-2025)

Co-Funder: Western Grains Research Foundation

The research team will evaluate the asparagine concentration of 40 Canadian wheat cultivars released between 1860 and 2018 to identify cultivars that are inherently low in asparagine concentration and develop germplasm for low asparagine wheat.

By investigating historical and modern

wheat cultivars, the researchers aim to understand parental relationships in relation to genes associated with asparagine synthetase and asparaginase enzymes.

Along with asparagine content, they will also assess the quality characteristics of the diverse wheat cultivars to determine the association between asparagine content and wheat quality, including the physico-chemical properties of wheat proteins.

The objective is to develop and optimize a rapid method for the measurement of asparagine in wheat, including a rapid screening method that is feasible for the efficient measurement of asparagine in wheat breeding lines, with the goal of developing the technical infrastructure required for the development of low asparagine Canadian wheat cultivars.

Priority Four - Technology Development

Project: Next Generation Fungicides - Translating dsRNA Technology, From the Lab to the Field

Lead Researcher: Dr. Steve Robinson (AAFC Saskatoon)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$308,000 (2021-2024)

Co-Funders: Alberta Grains, Manitoba Crop Alliance

This project will evaluate the efficacy of promising RNA-based fungicides for Fusarium head blight (FHB).

Protecting wheat against FHB heavily relies on using chemical sprays to control the disease. Developing dsRNA-based fungicidal strategies targeted to prevent



pathogen growth and development can limit disease outbreaks and offer an additional method for producers in integrated pest management strategies.

This research builds on the projects funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Sask Wheat that led to discovering new targets to limit Fusarium pathogen growth through dsRNA spray application. In this project, the primary goals are to evaluate the existing technology in the field, demonstrate the efficacy of the previously identified targets against FHB, translate the technology from the lab into the field and continue the discovery and evaluation of new gene targets, enabling further optimization of FHB spray formulations.

Project: USask-AAFC Prairie Field Phenotyping Network Phase 2

Lead Researcher: Dr. Scott Nobel
(University of Saskatchewan)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$192,165 (2022-2025)

Co-Funder: Western Grains Research Foundation

High-throughput plant phenotyping is a tool for agricultural research that has become increasingly used to aid in decision-making in plant breeding, understanding plant genetics, and quantifying differences in plant responses to environment and management. Compared to conventional, observational data collection methods, high-throughput plant phenotyping can gather more objective and precise information with a higher revisit rate.

AAFC is investing in six ground-based phenotyping systems. These phenotyping platforms will be deployed at research stations in four provinces: Alberta (Lethbridge and Lacombe), Ontario (Ottawa), Manitoba (Brandon) and Saskatchewan (Saskatoon and Swift Current).

By placing identical sensors on the platforms across Canada’s major grain-growing regions, AAFC and University of Saskatchewan researchers will be uniquely positioned to research growing environments and climatic regions. Having directly comparable, objective data representing diverse environments will accelerate research on plant response to the environment, yield stability and potential impacts of climate change on crops to draw more robust conclusions and recommendations.

Project: Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy for Efficient Germplasm Selection of Wheat Grain Attributes

Lead Researcher: Dr. Amina Hussein
(University of Alberta)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$102,180 (2022-2025)

Co-Funder: Western Grains Research Foundation

Several factors negatively influence wheat grain quality and end-use functionality, posing a serious threat to wheat production and marketing. Identifying and detecting these factors is important in reducing their impact on wheat production and marketing. In this project, the researchers focus on the FHB-related toxin deoxynivalenol (DON), pre-harvest sprouting (alpha-amylase), and heavy metal contamination (cadmium), applying a novel approach incorporating intense laser pulses to evaluate these attributes spectroscopically.

The detection and quantification of DON, alpha-amylase, and cadmium in wheat grains will be done using laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS). It is hoped this project will help provide a low-cost, high-throughput platform technology to assess new wheat germplasm with better FHB resistance, lower-grain cadmium and pre-harvest sprouting. This technology has the potential to be commercialized and deployed in the field by farmers across Canada and internationally.

Project: Performance and Cost-Benefit of Optical Spot Spraying Technologies in Conventional, Dryland Farming In Western Canada

Lead Researcher: Dr Joy Agnew
(Olds College)

Sask Wheat Funding: \$36,000
(2020 – 2023)

Co-Funder: Alberta Innovates, Western Grains Research Foundation

This project investigated the performance



and effectiveness of a precision sprayer technology, WEED-IT, used for pre-seed burnoff weed management in Western Canada. WEED-IT has three spray modes - a full spray (blanket) mode, a spot spray (precision spray) mode and a bias spray mode (i.e., a combination of full spray at a reduced application rate, boosted by spot spray on detected weeds).

In both trial years, all pre-seed burnoff

spray applications did not result in a greater harvest than the non-application of pre-seed burnoff herbicides. Hence, pre-seed burnoff spray application does not seem essential, i.e., in cases where post-emergence herbicide applications are planned to aid with weed control. However, if it is deemed an essential weed management practice, then the use of the WEED-IT precision sprayer spot spray mode for pre-seed burnoff weed management will



more than likely reduce the amount of herbicide used in most, if not all pre-seed burnoff applications, of course, depending on sizes and number of weeds present.

Canadian National Wheat Cluster

The latest Canadian National Wheat Cluster wrapped up on Mar. 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.

Funding for the Wheat Cluster came from

AAFC through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Cluster program and 10 producer and private organizations from across Canada.

The CWRC 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 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

Profiles on all of the projects and more details on the Wheat Cluster are available on the CWRC website: wheatresearch.ca.

Core Wheat Breeding Agreements

The CWRC is funding and administering the five-year core wheat breeding agreements with AAFC (\$22.6 million), the University of Alberta (\$2 million), the University of Manitoba (\$3.5 million), and the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre (\$9.6 million). The previous core breeding agreements were funded by the Western Grains Research Foundation. ◆

Environmental Policy

Environmental policy continues to grow in importance for Sask Wheat. Sask Wheat works primarily in this area through the cooperative efforts of SaskCrops on

Market Development and Advocacy

environmental policy issues that impact Saskatchewan farmers. SaskCrops continues to engage Earncliffe Strategy Group to strengthen our government relations efforts on key files, including environmental policy, to ensure the views of Saskatchewan farmers are represented and heard.

Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

In Dec. 2022, 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”. Sask Wheat participated in developing the SaskCrops submission to the consultation, which can be found on the Sask Wheat website. The SaskCrops SAS submission emphasized that Saskatchewan’s annual crop producers are unique across Canada in their low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and high agricultural intensity. They have made and continue to make meaningful contributions that will help Canada meet environmental goals and increase Canadian agriculture’s resiliency.



Sask Wheat also provided its own feedback to AAFC’s SAS consultation, which can be found on the Sask Wheat website. The Sask Wheat submission underscored that, through innovations, Saskatchewan farmers have been making meaningful emissions reductions on-farm for decades while consistently growing more food, largely through per-acre yield increases. It is vital for Canada that Saskatchewan agricultural producers remain competitive and profitable, producing food for a growing world population and, at the same time, ensuring a healthy, sustainable environment for future generations. Sask Wheat continues to view research and variety development as the primary way to increase agricultural sustainability and resiliency. Breeding activities that develop trait technology and innovation “ingrained” in the seed will help the government meet its sustainability goals by providing farmers with higher-yielding varieties with improved nutrient use efficiency and better ability to withstand abiotic and biotic stressors.

CRSC: Foundations of Sustainable Crop Production

In early 2023, the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) presented key messaging on its sustainability tool, *Foundations of Sustainable Crop Production* (formerly the *Code of Practice 2.0*). The four key focus areas within the Foundations of Sustainable Crops tool include Soil and Nutrient Management, Seed Selection and Crop Health, Water and Biodiversity, and Health and Wellness. Key messaging and practices relevant to the focus areas will be used to communicate the sustainability of Canadian grain farmers to our customers. While Sask Wheat Directors and staff have participated and continue to participate directly in developing the Foundations of Sustainable Crop Production through Sask Wheat’s membership in the CRSC, Sask Wheat has not formally endorsed this initiative.

Grain Growers of Canada

In Nov. 2022, Sask Wheat joined the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) as a member. GGC advocates for grain producers across Canada through direct engagement with federal government politicians, civil servants, and industry stakeholders and through committee work on issues related to Trade and Marketing, Transportation, Sustainability and Sound Science, and Business Risk Management programs. In Mar. 2023, Sask Wheat Directors had the opportunity to attend National Grain Week in Ottawa, hosted by the GGC. Participants in Grain Week had the chance to meet with several members of government and key industry stakeholders. Before joining GGC, Sask Wheat had partnered with the GGC on its Road to 2050 climate solutions initiative with Director involvement through the Sustainability and Sound Science committee. The Road to 2050 initiative will provide a proposed pathway



The Honourable Laurence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture, visited the farm of Sask Wheat Director Rob Stone on Aug. 15, 2023. Joined by fellow Director Lesley Kelly and Executive Director Blair Goldade, several issues of importance to Saskatchewan farmers were discussed with the Minister and his staff. From left to right are Kelly, Minister MacAulay, Stone, and Goldade.



for the Canadian grain production sector to contribute to meeting Canada’s ambitious goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. The Road to 2050 report and public campaign are still being finalized with ongoing input from Sask Wheat.

Canada Grains Council

Sask Wheat continues to be a member of the Canada Grains Council and works closely with the Council on various market access and trade issues. The Canada Grains Council leads work on areas of concern such as Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), Low-Level Presence (LLP), and Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI) on behalf of the grain industry.

In December 2022, the Canada Grains Council sent a letter on behalf of its members to the Minister of Health, requesting a delay in the implementation of the re-evaluation *Decision RVD2021-04* regarding Lambda-Cyhalothrin and its associated end uses, set to take effect in 2023. Throughout the winter, the Canada Grains Council continued to provide key messaging and support to its members, including Sask Wheat, urging the PMRA to delay the implementation of the decision to prohibit the use of Lambda-Cyhalothrin on

crops for animal feed uses beyond the 2023 crop year. This decision was seen as not practical or workable within the grain value chain, given the difficulty of distinguishing between food and feed use of crops, especially before harvest and in the use of screenings from food crops for animal feed. While this revaluation decision has not been overturned, Sask Wheat continues to work with the Canada Grains Council and its members on this file.

In early 2023, Canada Grains Council members signed a letter sent to the Prime Minister urging the government to publish the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s (CFIA) guidance for Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI). This letter followed the publishing of Health Canada’s guidance for PBI in the spring of 2022. It highlighted the Government of Canada’s stated objectives of helping the agricultural sector innovate, grow, and compete by reducing uncertainty about Canada’s regulations for PBI. In May 2023, the CFIA published the first part of its updated guidance on PBI, aligning with Health Canada’s. Sask Wheat continues to work with the Canada Grains Council and its members, monitoring this file as the CFIA’s final assessment on feed for livestock nears completion.

Transportation

Crop production for most of western Canada returned to normal in 2022. Both major rail companies (CN and CP) announced multiple monthly grain movement records in late 2022 and early 2023. However, even with record movement, rail car order fulfillment data provided through the Ag Transport Coalition (ATC), of which Sask Wheat is a member, indicated rail service across Saskatchewan was inconsistent throughout the grain year beyond just winter months. Given Saskatchewan’s long distance from port, consistent and reliable rail movement throughout the entire grain year is critical for Saskatchewan producers to ensure that they can deliver grain to the elevator in a timely manner and maximize revenue from their grain sales.

Ag Transport Coalition

Sask Wheat continues to support the ATC to ensure detailed information on the Canadian rail movement of grain is available to farmers. For farmers, increased transparency in rail performance is one of the few ways to hold others in the supply chain accountable, draw wider attention to service issues and understand when problems are developing that may influence



their ability to deliver grain and the prices they receive for their products.

Government funding contributions under the previous federal policy framework, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), ended in the spring of 2023. ATC is currently working to secure additional funding to expand performance reporting to better capture agricultural product transportation throughout the supply chain.

Extended Interswitching

In the spring of 2023, Sask Wheat provided its logo alongside several other national and provincial commodity, producer, and value chain groups supporting the *Flip the Switch* campaign advocating for extended interswitching. Sask Wheat has long supported extended interswitching, including in our 2017 submission to the *Transportation Modernization Act Consultation*. The purpose of the *Flip the Switch* campaign was to urge the government to extend its proposed interswitching pilot project for the Prairie region from 160 km to 500 km and from 18 months to a minimum of five years. The current regulations guarantee shippers access to interswitching up to a radius of 30 km from an interchange. In June, the 160 km, 18-month pilot was passed by

Parliament. We continue to view extended interswitching as a vital tool to encourage competition in rail transportation, improve efficiency and service, and reduce costs for shippers and grain producers. Future efforts with our partners will continue to seek permanency and expansion of the pilot program.

Crop Logistics Working Group and Commodity Supply Chain Table

Sask Wheat also participates in the Crop Logistics Working Group (CLWG) and Transport Canada's Commodity Supply Chain Table (CSCT). These forums provide opportunities for the government and industry to engage in constructive dialogue on transportation challenges and to work towards strategic solutions.

A key area of focus for the CLWG is developing a long-term performance measurement strategy and improving data to as near real-time as possible to support further policy development. Over the past year, the CLWG has been engaged with Transport Canada and the Port of Vancouver regarding the *Active Vessel Traffic Management* program to optimize traffic flow in and out of the port, specifically on the potential impact on the movement and export of grain.

The CSCT brings together government, railroads, and industries that use the Canadian commodity transportation system to exchange perspectives. CSCT meetings in 2022-2023 focused on the National Supply Chain Task Force's final report, released in the fall of 2022. The report included over 20 recommendations to address port congestion, labour shortages, and the need for a national supply chain strategy. Sask Wheat continues to be engaged in this area.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership: Next Agricultural Policy Framework

To ensure farmers have access to new varieties and technologies that support their profitability and sustainability, Sask Wheat has consistently emphasized our priorities of funding for Science, Research, and Innovation in the provincial and federal consultations that led up to the new five-year Agricultural Policy Framework - the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP). SCAP replaced the previous Canadian Agriculture Policy (CAP) in April 2023.

Ensuring Business Risk Management (BRM) programs are simple, predictable,



effective, and timely will be crucial to the overall success of SCAP in supporting farmers. Sask Wheat continues to raise concerns regarding adding environmental linkages to BRM programs rather than developing and expanding directly targeted programs to incentivize adopting environmental best management practices.

Sask Wheat will continue to participate actively in all SCAP discussions going forward to represent the priorities of Saskatchewan wheat producers.

Canadian Grain Commission

Sask Wheat actively participates in CGC consultations and meetings, representing the interests of Saskatchewan wheat producers from the perspective of the CGC's sole mandate to work in the interests of grain producers. Sask Wheat's nominations of Glenn Tait, Sask Wheat Director, to both the Western Standards Committee and the newly constituted Wheat Advisory Committee that has replaced the Wheat Sub-Committee were successful, providing

continuity with Sask Wheat's previous director membership on these committees.

Final Quality Determination

On Aug. 1, 2022, new regulations were enacted regarding the grain grading dispute resolution process at primary elevators, including a name change from Subject to Inspector's Grade and Dockage (STIGD) to Final Quality Determination (FQD). In the preceding consultation, Sask Wheat and other producer and commodity groups had requested several changes to the process. One factor that significantly limited the usefulness of STIGD was that it was only available at the time of grain delivery. The revised process now allows producers seven calendar days after delivery to request FQD on the overall grade or any individual grading factor, even if the producer is not present at the time of delivery. Sask Wheat's longstanding requests to include DON and falling number as grading factors with eligibility for FQD and to expand access to the dispute resolution process to all licensed grain handling facilities were not addressed.

While the extended period to request FQD is welcome, there remains a lack of clarity around sample storage conditions in the new regulations. Producers and grain buyers can now agree on where the sample will be retained, but maintenance of sample quality pending a request for FQD is not addressed. Sask Wheat also hoped the CGC would set clearly defined regulatory boundaries around sampling and sample retention for purposes other than FQD so farmers can better understand and manage the potential for ongoing liability on grain that they no longer own. At a minimum, consideration of developing standardized tamper-proof sample containers is required.

Given producers' right to invoke FQD when not present at unloading, the extended period, and the related sample concerns, an information asymmetry problem is created for producers, which regulation cannot eliminate completely. Ensuring adequate oversight in the system through increasing the CGC's presence in-country to ensure the accuracy and reliability of sampling and grading practices and equipment will help improve farmers' confidence in sampling



and grading practices. This will protect producers' interests and maintain their trust in the system, supporting the FQD process and creating a suitable framework for sampling for other purposes. Through the CGA review consultation, Sask Wheat recommended the CGC use a portion of its surplus to increase its capacity to conduct onsite inspections and audit grading and sampling practices and equipment at primary elevators and other licensed delivery locations through a random auditing program. Sask Wheat believes this would be the correct accompanying action for the CGC to address the limitations and increase the efficacy of the FQD regulations for producers.

CGC Science Strategy

The CGC released its Science Strategy in January 2023 to help guide the agency's planning decisions and future investments. Sask Wheat supports the centrality of the CGC's Grain Research Laboratory (GRL) work in ensuring that science continues to underpin Canada's grain quality assurance system. However, Sask Wheat had strongly recommended in its consultation submission that GRL research always must be

informed by economic and market research when considered for implementation in Canada's quality assurance system, especially concerning "the interests of the grain producers," and was disappointed that there was no commitment in the strategy to the development of needed capacity in economic analysis.

Grain contracts and export sales reporting

Sask Wheat, together with other Saskatchewan crop commissions, continues to explore both improvements to grain contract terms and conditions and the creation of an export sales reporting program, in response to resolutions at past Sask Wheat and other commissions' Annual General Meetings. Efforts focused this year on understanding the potential for the CGC to play a role in both these initiatives.

Plant Breeding Innovation

In May 2023, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) published the first part of its updated guidance on Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI), one year after

Health Canada updated guidance for PBI. The updated guidance covers the environmental safety of plants developed using gene editing and follows the same science that informed Health Canada's guidance published last year. CFIA's updated guidance confirms that products with foreign DNA require a mandatory pre-market safety assessment. Products with herbicide tolerance traits will also require an assessment (this may be in the form of an expedited review focussing on stewardship), and other types of products developed using gene editing for which the CFIA "does not foresee" a breeding outcome that would require an environmental safety assessment will be regulated the same as conventional products. The seed sector has also committed to consulting the value chain well before launching a new product so that market risks can be reviewed and discussed. The CFIA's final consultation regarding feed for livestock and the need for a feed pre-market assessment is nearing completion and is scheduled to close at the end of November. Sask Wheat continues to monitor this file with support from the Canada Grains Council.



PMRA

In April 2021, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) released its final decision on Lambda-Cyhalothrin, cancelling use on all crops used for animal feed. Following a 24-month period for the decision to come into force, in April 2023 Lambda-Cyhalothrin was prohibited for use on grain that will be used for animal feed in Canada, beginning in the 2023 growing season. Over the past year, Sask Wheat, together with other value chain members, especially through the efforts of the Canada Grain Council, had urged the PMRA to extend this implementation beyond the 2023 crop year. The implementation in 2023 has created significant uncertainty regarding the distinction between food and feed crops and the use of screenings from food crops for animal feed for Saskatchewan producers. Providing growers with suggestions of alternative pest control products has been an area of extension work for Sask Wheat alongside the other Saskatchewan Crop Commissions, as grasshoppers became a major pest for several areas of the province in 2023. While this reevaluation decision has

not been overturned, Sask Wheat continues to work with the Canada Grains Council and its members on this file.

In March 2022, the PMRA launched a review of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA). Sask Wheat responded, supporting the position that the Act was fit for purpose and any proposed changes should not change the intent of the Act itself. Upon completing that consultation, Health Canada determined that opening the PCPA was unnecessary. Instead, in June 2023, Health Canada proposed four areas of regulatory amendments to the Pest Control Products Regulations, including increased public access to confidential test data, and increased transparency for maximum residue limit (MRL) applications for imported food products. The regulatory amendments also gave the Minister of Health explicit authority to require the submission of available information on cumulative environmental effects and the requirement of the Minister to consider cumulative effects on the environment during risk assessments where information and methodology are available, and the strengthened consideration of species at risk in risk assessments by giving the

Minister the explicit authority to require the submission of available information on species at risk. Sask Wheat responded to the consultation, emphasizing that Canada's science-based regulatory framework for pesticides is among the best in the world and already addresses several of the transformation objectives laid out by Health Canada through its operation. Additionally, while Sask Wheat remains supportive of a fully transparent process, we noted that it is important that any transformative processes do not draw scarce PMRA resources away from core PMRA work, making crop protection tools available to farmers.

Cereals Canada

Sask Wheat is a member of Cereals Canada, a national, not-for-profit industry association representing the Canadian cereals value chain. Together, the cereals value chain supports the work of over 52,000 Canadian farms and returns \$9.9 billion of export revenue to the Canadian economy.

Cereals Canada works with governments, exporters and growers to ensure that crops



are market-ready and meet maximum residue limits (MRLs) so markets remain open. Cereals Canada has an MRL Assessment Committee which evaluates the MRL-related trade risk of chemistry/crop use patterns with new or amended registrations.

Through targeted programming, Cereals Canada connects the Canadian cereals value chain to global customers of Canadian wheat. They engage with customers to discuss cereal quality and functionality, address market concerns and provide updates on research and sustainability.

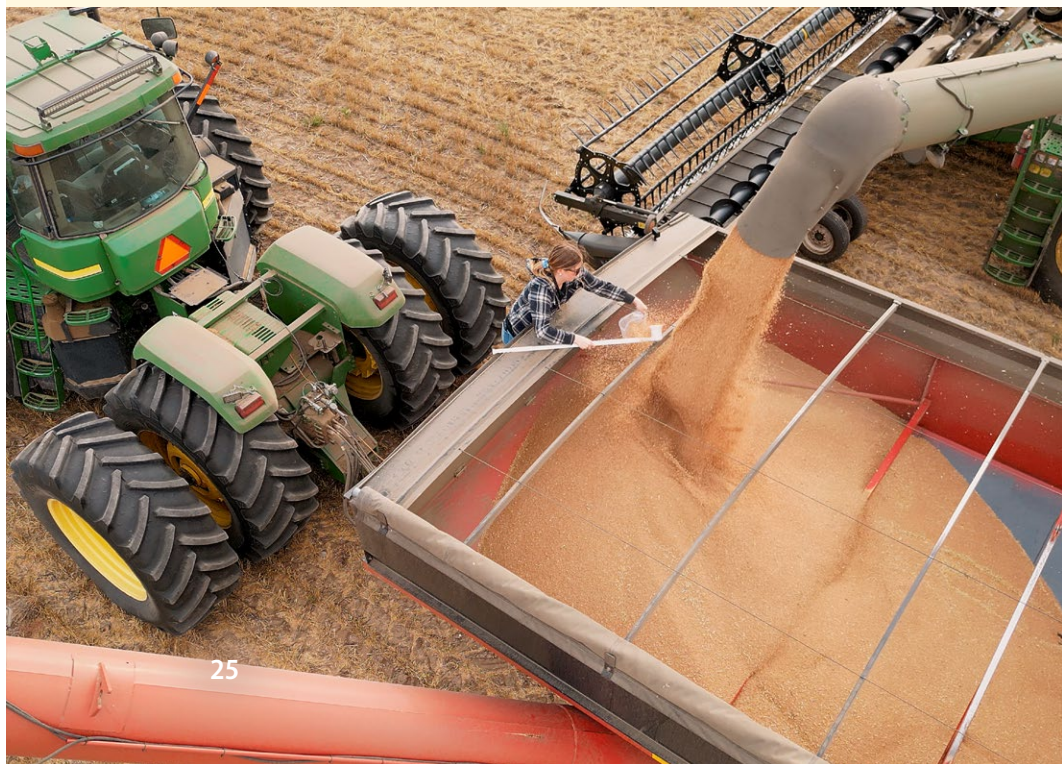
Cereals Canada resumed its annual New Wheat Crop Trade and Technical Missions in 2022-2023. In December and January, four delegations made up of Cereals Canada trade and technical experts, representatives from the CGC, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), Canadian grain farmers, including Sask Wheat Directors Rob Stone and Jocelyn Velestuk, and exporters travelled to key export nations to present the 2022 New Wheat Crop Report to global customers of Canadian wheat. ◆

Harmonization of test weight and total foreign material tolerances

Following opposition initiated by Sask Wheat in cooperation with the APAS and amplified by the NFU, the WGA, and other farm organizations, the CGC reversed its decision to harmonize separate primary and export standards at export tolerances for test weight and total foreign material for most western Canadian wheat classes. The decision was to be implemented on Aug. 1, 2023.

With primary standards tightened to export standards, producers would have potentially faced significant negative financial implications from quality downgrades and lower prices at primary elevators. For example, CWRS wheat weighing between 60.1 and 60.9 lbs/bushel that meets the longstanding current primary minimum test weight tolerance for #1 would no longer have met even the new #3 CWRS minimum of 61 lbs/bushel, relegating it to feed wheat if test weight was the determining grade factor.

Sask Wheat had urged the CGC for the last several years to conduct economic analysis, especially on the impact on producers, before any decisions on harmonization. Sask Wheat also commissioned its own preliminary study focused on test weight harmonization which can be accessed on the Sask Wheat website. The final motion carried on this issue at the Apr. 4, 2023, CGC Western Standards meeting recommended that the CGC Commissioners delay any changes until an economic impact assessment is completed. Despite this opposition, the CGC moved ahead on harmonization plans for Aug. 1 while referencing the meeting as its major consultation with the grain sector. The decision was only reversed following the Sask Wheat-led opposition. Sask Wheat continues to urge the CGC to complete an economic analysis for consideration by the Western Standards Committee before any future consideration of primary and export standards harmonization.



Producer Communications and Extension

Wheat Wise: Sask Wheat's On-Farm Trial Program

Sask Wheat's On-Farm Trial Program – Wheat Wise – was back for its second year in 2023. The program grew from four trial sites in 2022 to eleven thanks to collaboration with producers and agronomists.

The program's overall goal is to build an on-farm research network led and used by producers. This will allow producers to fine-tune recommendations for their specific farm conditions and assist with future management decisions.

Wheat Wise trials are unique in that they feature treatments replicated several times within a field to see if there is a statistically significant result. Through this program, producers can work alongside Sask Wheat's extension agronomist Carmen Prang, their own agronomist and research experts while implementing field-scale trials under the producers' farm conditions and management practices, allowing them to be within their comfort zone.

The work is collective and the end goal is to maximize wheat yield, quality and



Sask Wheat Director Rob Stone stands in front of the Wheat Wise plots on his farm east of Davidson

economic return for the future benefit of Saskatchewan wheat producers.

While the program's first year tested spring wheat seeding rates, this year tested nitrogen-fixing of biological products.

Crops like wheat and canola generally require a large supply of nitrogen (N) to support high yields and quality. N is provided naturally from the soil as well as with applied fertilizer. New, commercially available biological products may have the ability to facilitate biological N fixation in non-legume crops, potentially reducing the N fertility requirements of these crops. However, there is little publicly available data regarding the performance of N-fixing biological products on wheat.

This field-scale trial aimed to determine if there were agronomic and economic bene-

fits of applying a commercially available, foliar-applied N-fixing bacteria product in wheat. Producer-cooperators determined the value of utilizing this product under the operation's typical management practices and environmental conditions.

The two main treatments compared crop growth and productivity with and without an application of Envita® (Gluconacetobacter diazotrophicus, Syngenta) under a normal operational rate of applied N fertilizer. Two optional treatments further compared the product's performance with a reduced rate of applied N fertilizer.

Cooperators implemented a replicated field-scale trial in a wheat field of their choice, using their equipment and otherwise normal practices. An agronomist or trial manager provided support throughout the season, including setting up the trial and collecting data. Data collection throughout the season included a spring soil sample, spring plant density, general in-season observations, weather data, quality and yield. Statistical analysis of the data was conducted following harvest, and a report with their results was provided to each participant. Data from all field-scale trials will also be pooled to examine the results across different environments and fertility levels. Results from all trials will be publicly available on the Sask Wheat website after they are presented to producers at the wrap-up meeting in January.



Wheat Wise plots being harvested



Samples from the Wheat Wise plots

Wheat Watch Documents

Through the Wheat Watch documents, Sask Wheat provides producers with the latest information on agronomic issues. Many of these documents are produced with other crop commissions or industry organizations.

This past year, Wheat Watch documents covered the following topics:

- 2022 Provincial Seed Survey

- Insecticide Options in 2023
- Wheat Plant Stand Counts
- Bacterial Leaf Streak and Chaff of Cereal Crops in the Prairies
- Grasshoppers: Forecast, Monitoring and Management
- Sooty Mould Identification and Management
- Fall Considerations

Fusarium Head Blight Risk Maps and Resources

Sask Wheat provides Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) risk maps for producers annually in June and July. The risk maps, hosted and updated daily on the Sask Wheat website, are compiled by Weather Innovations, which has hundreds of weather stations throughout the province. The risk maps and additional information on the website help producers determine if fungicide applications are warranted.

Sask Wheat has built a library of resources on the website, including an FHB management guide and links to agronomy videos, risk assessment guides, and the annual Guide to Crop Protection. Sask Wheat works closely with cereals and crop disease specialists from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA) and the University of Saskatchewan to provide producers with the latest FHB management information.

Wheat Midge and Midge Tolerant Wheat

Sask Wheat collaborates with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC), SMA and AAFC to produce the annual wheat midge forecast maps. The survey for the 2023 midge forecast map, which was released in late February, took place across the province in September and October 2022. Soil from over 450 sites across the province was sampled, processed, and analyzed to create the 2023 forecast map.



A wheat stem sawfly



The Sask Wheat team at Ag in Motion

Sask Wheat continues to participate in the communications activities of the Midge Tolerant Wheat Stewardship program, which is funded through the CWRC. The communications activities include contacting producers through commission newsletters, social media, and email newsletters, maintaining a website and conducting direct communications with producers and seed retailers through the Stewardship program communications vehicles.

Wheat Stem Sawfly Map

Due to dry conditions, many parts of Saskatchewan have recently seen a resurgence of wheat stem sawfly pressure. 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.

To help producers decide if they need to implement a control strategy such as a semi-solid variety, Sask Wheat announced the implementation of a wheat stem sawfly survey in collaboration with SCIC and SMA. This survey will result in a forecast map, allowing producers to identify sawfly hotspots in the province and aid in assessing risk on their farms. As with all 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 including proper scouting in their integrated management strategy.

Ag In Motion

Sask Wheat and the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley) were back at Ag in Motion in July 2023. This year's theme was "A Walk-Through Time," which showcased different wheat and barley varieties through several eras of farmer investment.

The plot showed how far breeding has come and highlighted the 2021 return on investment report by Dr. Katarzyna Bolek-Callbeck and Dr. Richard Gray of the University of Saskatchewan. The report found western Canadian farmers have received nearly \$33 in return through varietal improvements for every dollar they have invested in wheat breeding.

Producers could join the commissions to walk down variety memory lane as our plots showcased Katepwa, Lillian and Wheatland. Inside the booth, directors and staff were on hand to speak to producers about Sask Wheat activities. Producers could grab a snack and a cold drink while they chatted and checked out the interactive game of Plinko!

The highlight of the booth was a collaboration between Sask Wheat and Cereals Canada to create packages of pasta to hand out as a thank-you to producers. There were many comments on how great the pasta was, and we loved seeing people



Dr. Shaun Sharpe, weed researcher with AAFC, talks with producers at the Coffee Shop Talk in Rosthern



Agronomist Phil Needham speaks about maximizing wheat yields at the June Semi-Annual Meeting in Regina

share recipes using it on social media. Despite the rain on the first day, the booth was well attended, and many great conversations were had with producers.

Think Wheat

The Think Wheat extension meetings bring the latest marketing, research, and agronomy information to Saskatchewan wheat producers. In January, Sask Wheat held Think Wheat events in Estevan, Lumsden and Kindersley. Topics included:

- Soil fertility and Nutrient Stewardship - Dr. Mario Tenuta, Dr. Jeff Schoenau or Dr. Sheri Stydhorst spoke on this at the different locations
- Managing disease in wheat, including fusarium head blight (FHB) and bacterial leaf streak (BLS) - Dr. Kelly Turkington or Dr. Randy Kutcher/Dr. Constanza Fleitas
- Pest Management, including sawflies, grasshoppers and midge – Dr. Tyler Wist
- Wheat Market Outlook and Grain Contracts – Marlene Boersch

- Sask Wheat On-Farm Trial Results and Agronomy Activities – Carmen Prang

Coffee Shop Talks

Sask Wheat is constantly looking for different ways to bring more valuable and timely information to producers to benefit their farming operations. The Coffee Shop Talks brought producers together with extension, researchers, agronomists and industry to encourage discussion through direct access to their peers and experts. The purpose of the Coffee Shop Talks is to allow producers to have one-on-one conversations with experts, allowing them to ask any questions about their farm production, including questions about insects, weeds, diseases and soils.

Sask Wheat hosted two Coffee Shop Talks events in March 2023 in Rosthern and Gravelbourg. These events, which were held in partnership with retailers in the respective areas, successfully attracted

over 100 people. Great discussions led to increased knowledge transfer, increased sense of community and higher adoption rates of research on farms.

Semi-Annual Meeting

The Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting was hosted in Regina at Canada’s Farm Show on June 20, 2023. The 2023 Meeting marked the 10-year celebration of the formation of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.

Sask Wheat Chair Brett Halstead updated producers and industry representatives on the business and activities of the commission since the 2023 AGM. The keynote speaker was renowned agronomist Phil Needham, owner of Needham Ag Technologies. Needham works directly with producers and dealers across the Ohio Valley and the Central and Northern Plains of the United States, helping them increase yields and profits using intensive crop management systems.



Left: Wheat Agronomy Extension Specialist Carmen Prang speaks to producers who took part in the **Sask Crop Commissions** field tour near Plenty, SK on July 11, 2023. The tour, which was a partnership of SaskBarley, SaskCanola, the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Sask Wheat, featured biological trials for wheat and canola and seeding rate trials for barley, lentils and canola.



Podcasts

Sask Wheat launched the Morning Wheaties podcast in July 2023. Morning Wheaties is a weekly podcast hosted by Carmen Prang, Agronomy Extension Specialist, and Montana Getty, Communications and Events Coordinator. Prang brings her knowledge in agriculture, specifically agronomy, while Getty adds her previous experience with media and audio expertise. Discussions include day-to-day topics in the office, agriculture news, upcoming plans for the commission, and in-depth issues the policy team is working on.

The Wheat Profit podcasts allow experts to address current topics of interest for

wheat producers. This year, Sask Wheat had the opportunity to interview various professionals for producers to listen to and learn from.

Episodes:

- Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers with Richard Farrell of the University of Saskatchewan
- Navigating Grain Contracts with Janelle Whitley of the Canadian Canola Growers Association
- Hydrology and Snow Science with Phillip Harder of the University of Saskatchewan
- Seed Treating with Derek Flad of Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Fall Considerations with Nancy Johns of Hope Floats Agronomy Services

Webinars

There were two webinars held during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The first was with Josh Linville, Vice President of Fertilizer for StoneX Financial Inc. - FCM

Division. Linville provided insight into the volatile fertilizer markets from the past few years and where markets appeared to be heading, including an NPK fertilizer outlook from national and international perspectives.

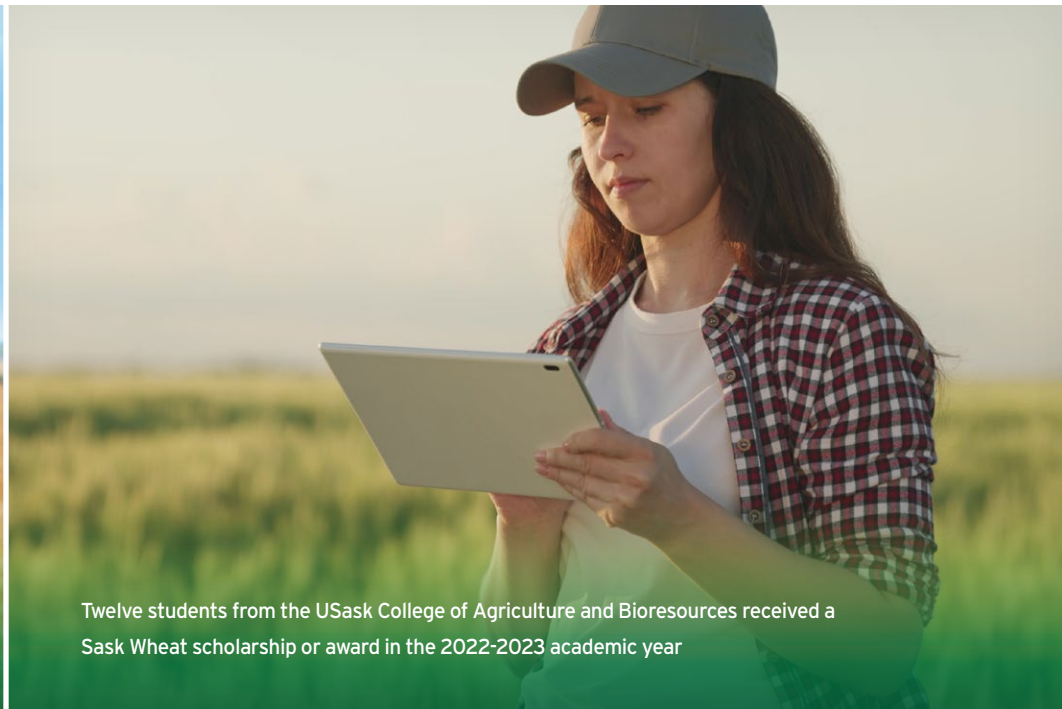
The second webinar was an outlook on weather trends for the 2023 growing season by agricultural meteorologist Drew Lerner.

Wheat Market Outlook

The weekly wheat market outlook reports and podcasts remain popular with producers and others within the industry. The reports, which are compiled and contain analysis by Mercentile Consulting Venture Inc. of Winnipeg, have an overview of the previous week's global wheat market news and activities with a focus on Canadian-produced spring wheat and durum. Promoted by email and on social media channels, the Market Outlook is the most popular page on Sask Wheat's website.



Social media was expanded in 2023 to reach a broader audience.



Twelve students from the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources received a Sask Wheat scholarship or award in the 2022-2023 academic year

Social Media and Website

To increase awareness of Sask Wheat among producers, social media was expanded in 2022-2023. In addition to increasing the number of posts on Twitter and LinkedIn, a Sask Wheat Facebook page was created to reach a broader audience.

To increase interactions with producers on social media, posts were made more visual. This included short videos of events, photos and captions for news releases, and artwork for holidays and days of recognition, such as Canada’s Farm Day.

Communications has been an area of focus over the last year. Sask Wheat added an additional employee, Communications and Events Coordinator Montana Getty, to assist in this area of importance. Since then, the commission has streamlined social media use and video and visual appeal to the website. In addition, the commission continues to expand its service and knowledge of channels and platforms to further assist producers with agronomic resources, industry knowledge, policy conversations and market outlooks.

Scholarships

Enhancing the University of Saskatchewan’s (USask) wheat breeding and research capacity is a focus of Sask Wheat. Since 2014, Sask Wheat has committed \$1.16 million toward USask scholarships and awards. From 2015 to 2019, Sask Wheat provided \$10,000 annually in undergraduate awards and scholarships and \$100,000 annually in graduate awards. In 2020, the Board of Directors increased those amounts to \$15,000 in undergraduate awards and scholarships and \$150,000 in graduate scholarships.

Six undergraduate and six graduate students from the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources received a Sask Wheat scholarship or award in the 2022-2023 academic year.

The following students received a \$1,500 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Essay Award:

- Levi Lundell, 4th Year
- Claire Ledingham, 4th Year

- Dylan Watt, 4th Year
- Julia Finlayson, 3rd Year

The following students received a \$2,500 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Scholarship:

- Kira Mudrey, 4th Year
- Riley Rude, 4th Year

The following students received a Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Graduate Scholarship:

Berenice Romero (Ph.D. candidate)
\$30,000 scholarship (renewed)

Amanda Mitchell (M.Sc. candidate)
\$20,000 scholarship (renewed)

Blake Weiseth (Ph.D. candidate)
\$30,000 (renewed)

Paige Kennedy (M.Sc. candidate)
\$20,000 scholarship

Georgiana Antochi-Crihan (M.Sc. candidate) \$20,000 scholarship

Lampros-Nikolaos Maros (Ph.D. candidate) \$30,000 scholarship ◆

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances. These statements include certain amounts based on management's estimates and judgments. Management has determined such amounts based on a reasonable basis in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

The integrity and reliability of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's reporting systems are achieved through the use of formal policies and procedures, the careful selection of employees and an appropriate division of responsibilities. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is reliable and accurate.

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibility for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. The Board carries out this responsibility principally through its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board and meets periodically with management and the directors' auditors to review significant accounting, reporting and internal control matters. Following its review of the financial statements and discussions with the auditors, the Audit Committee reports to the Board of Directors prior to its approval of the financial statements. The Committee also considers, for review by the Board and approval by the directors, the engagement or re-appointment of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited on behalf of the directors by Lingard + Dreger LLP, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.



Management

Saskatoon, SK

November 10, 2023



Management

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (the Commission), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at July 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Commission collects a levy from Saskatchewan producers through buyers of wheat, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. It was not practical for us to verify whether all buyers of wheat produced in Saskatchewan have collected and remitted the required levy to the Commission. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Commission. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenues over expenses and cash flows from operations for year ended July 31, 2023, current assets as at July 31, 2023 and July 31, 2022, and net assets at both the beginning and end of the July 31, 2023 and July 31, 2022 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended July 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Commission in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Chartered Professional Accountants

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

November 10, 2023

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Statement of Financial Position as at July 31, 2023

ASSETS

	2023	2022
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,854,650	\$ 7,521,143
Short-term investments (Note 3)	11,519,828	11,902,411
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	947,689	678,182
Prepaid expenses	91,280	66,352
	16,413,447	20,168,088
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	19,031,687	12,953,747
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	52,679	32,532
	\$ 35,497,813	\$ 33,154,367

LIABILITIES


CURRENT

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	\$ 3,252,201	\$ 2,379,843
Deferred contributions	46,400	-
	3,298,601	2,379,843

NET ASSETS

INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (Note 2)	19,528,038	19,528,038
UNRESTRICTED	12,671,174	11,246,486
	32,199,212	30,774,524
	\$ 35,497,813	\$ 33,154,367

COMMITMENTS (Notes 8)

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:  Director

 Director

See notes to the financial statements

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Statement of Operations for the year ended July 31, 2023

	Budget (Note 10) 2023	2023	2022
REVENUE			
Producer check-off fees (Note 7)			
Fees	\$ 14,500,000	\$ 14,238,100	\$ 7,834,780
Refunds	(1,305,000)	(998,700)	(694,079)
Net	13,195,000	13,239,400	7,140,701
Interest and investment income	790,000	826,451	658,957
Expense recoveries (Note 12)	132,369	148,062	214,352
Other	-	25,356	1,991
	14,117,369	14,239,269	8,016,001
EXPENSES			
Research			
Research projects	10,029,364	7,865,661	8,213,532
Research management and consulting	2,540,000	976,353	1,117,178
Market development	1,590,000	1,250,935	1,320,144
Communications and advocacy			
Producer engagement	905,100	666,135	587,891
Policy, advisory, and advocacy	451,250	131,826	154,748
Governance			
Directors	158,400	132,714	99,431
Election	10,000	2,180	82,340
Meetings	70,000	48,269	15,742
Other governance	30,000	25,335	7,923
Operations and administration			
Service contracts	118,000	110,020	126,319
Wages and benefits	1,368,989	1,312,224	1,087,604
General and administrative	115,250	110,069	93,321
Rent	138,000	115,109	84,415
Staff travel	30,000	49,310	17,841
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	18,441	13,527
	17,554,353	12,814,581	13,021,956
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ (3,436,984)	\$ 1,424,688	\$ (5,005,955)

See notes to the financial statements

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended July 31, 2023

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	2023	2022
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 11,246,486	\$ 19,528,038	\$ 30,774,524	\$ 35,780,479
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	1,424,688	-	1,424,688	(5,005,955)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 12,671,174	\$ 19,528,038	\$ 32,199,212	\$ 30,774,524

See notes to the financial statements



	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 1,424,688	\$ (5,005,955)
Changes to income not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	18,441	13,527
	1,443,129	(4,992,428)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(269,507)	426,499
Prepaid expenses	(24,928)	(6,037)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	872,358	(1,654,196)
Deferred contributions	46,400	-
	624,323	(1,233,734)
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	2,067,452	(6,226,162)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(38,586)	(17,152)
Net disposal (purchases) of investments	(5,695,359)	10,262,129
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	(5,733,945)	10,244,977
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR	(3,666,493)	4,018,815
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,521,143	3,502,328
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,854,650	\$ 7,521,143
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,854,650	\$ 7,521,143

See notes to the financial statements

1. AUTHORITY

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (the “Commission” or “SWDC”) was established by provincial legislation on June 7, 2013. The activities of the Commission are funded primarily by a levy on Saskatchewan produced spring wheat, which is collected by buyers at the time of sale.

The mandate of the Commission is to provide leadership in identifying and supporting research, market development and advocacy that contributes to profitable and sustainable wheat production for Saskatchewan farmers.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the *CPA Canada Handbook* and include the following significant accounting policies:

Revenue recognition

Producer check-off fees are recognized upon receipt of the Buyer’s report. Refunds are recognized when refund applications are received from producers and the requested refund has been agreed to check-off records.

The Commission follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include government funding and grants. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred or restrictions met. Unspent amounts are included in deferred contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest and investment income consists of interest earned on fixed income securities and bank balances recognized on a time proportion basis.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of balances with banks and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their expected useful lives. Computer equipment is amortized using the declining balance method at a rate of 33%. Furniture and equipment is amortized using the declining balance method at a rate of 20%.

Income taxes

The Commission qualifies as a tax exempt organization under section 149 of the *Income Tax Act*.

Internally restricted net assets

The Commission has internally restricted net assets totalling \$19,528,038 comprised of the following:

1. Restricted Research Reserve Fund to support expected research expenditures committed to for the next three years, which will be updated annually. This reserve has been set at \$17,228,038 and is supported by short-term and long-term investments.
2. Organizational Closure Reserve Fund to be utilized in the event of an organizational shutdown. This reserve has been set at \$2,300,000 and is supported by short-term and long-term investments.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

continued from previous page

at the date of the financial statements and reported amount of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Significant estimates include, but are not limited to, the valuation of accounts payable and accrued liabilities and accruals for certain revenues and expenses.

Contributions in-kind

Contributions in-kind are recorded at fair value for goods or services only when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the goods or services are used in the normal course of operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Administration contract expense

Administration contract expense is a fee charged by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (“ACS”) to the Commission for administering the check-off fee program. The fee includes a charge for time spent by ACS staff and a share of ACS’s overhead costs. The expense is recognized as the service is received.

Financial instruments

The Commission initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. It subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in debt and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statements of operations in the period incurred.

Financial assets subsequently measured at amortized cost include cash, and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities subsequently measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The fair value of the cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their carrying value due to their short-term nature.



3. INVESTMENTS

	Maturity	2023 Market value	Yield	2022 Market value
Short-term:				
Term deposits (cost 2023 - \$11,417,920; 2022 - \$11,827,956)	1 year	\$ 11,519,828	1.11% - 4.45%	\$ 11,902,411
Long-term:				
Term deposits (cost 2023- \$18,833,057; 2022 - \$12,883,858)	2-5 years	\$ 19,031,687	1.25% - 5.50%	\$ 12,953,747
		\$ 30,551,515		\$ 24,856,158

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

The accounts receivable balance consists of the following:

	2023	2022
Trade receivables	\$ 3,676	\$ -
Levies receivables	944,013	678,182
	\$ 947,689	\$ 678,182

5. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

The tangible capital assets balance consists of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 91,189	\$ 69,453	\$ 21,736	\$ 22,241
Furniture and equipment	55,773	24,830	30,943	10,291
	\$ 146,962	\$ 94,283	\$ 52,679	\$ 32,532

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

The accounts payable and accrued liabilities balance consists of the following:

	2023	2022
Levy refunds payable	\$ 996,330	\$ 688,015
Trade payables	1,500,144	984,566
Vacation payable	53,691	43,101
Accrued payables	702,036	664,161
	\$ 3,252,201	\$ 2,379,843

7. PRODUCER CHECK-OFF FEES

Under the Regulations, each buyer of wheat is required to remit to the Commission a check-off fee of \$1.00/tonne (2022 - \$1.00/tonne) of wheat marketed upon final settlement to producers. Producers can request a refund of check-off fees paid from August 1 to July 31 by submitting a refund application by August 31 of the following fiscal year.

8. COMMITMENTS

(a) Building lease:

The Commission is committed under a lease agreement for its premises at 340 - 111 Research Drive. The agreement expires on January 31, 2027. The required minimum annual lease payments are as follows:

Year ending July 31:		
2024	\$	138,607
2025		140,628
2026		142,143
2027		71,072
	\$	492,450

b) Research:

The Commission is committed to funding research and development projects over several years to benefit the wheat industry. Annual payments due in each of the next five years are as follows:

Year ending July 31:		
2024	\$	10,550,032
2025		3,248,867
2026		696,451
2027		101,373
2028		22,813
	\$	14,619,536

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year ended July 31, 2023 members of the Commission's elected Board of Directors received payments for per diems and expenses of \$117,786 (2022 - \$92,192). All related party transactions are measured at carrying amounts.

10. BUDGET

Budgeted figures are unaudited and have been provided for comparison purposes and have been derived from the estimates approved by the Commission's Board of Directors.

11. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Commission has agreed to amalgamate with Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission effective August 1, 2023. This amalgamation was approved by the registered producers at the Commission's annual general meeting held on January 9, 2023.

12. EXPENSE RECOVERIES

Expense recoveries consists of expenses that the Commission incurred on behalf of other organizations as follows:

Organizations	Description	Recovery amount	Expense category
Canadian Wheat Research Coalition	Canadian National Wheat Cluster Service Agreement	\$ 132,695	Wages and benefits
University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge	Residual funds from completed research projects	10,592	Research
Sask Pulse, Sask Barley, Sask Canola	On Farm Crop Tour	3,675	Extension
Group Health, Sask Egg Producers	Other miscellaneous recoveries	1,100	Various
		\$ 148,062	

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Commission as part of its operations carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Commission is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Credit risk

The Commission is exposed to credit risk from potential non-payment of accounts receivable. Most of the accounts receivable were collected shortly after year-end. As at July 31, 2023 the largest four customers accounted for 72.1% (2022 - five customers, 79.2%) of accounts receivable, and were each received shortly after year end. The balance of accounts receivable is widely distributed among the remainder of the Commission's large customer base.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. Changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as cash flow risk, and on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as price risk. The Commission is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed income investments. This risk is mitigated through investing in a diverse portfolio of fixed income investments with varying maturity dates.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Commission will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Commission manages liquidity risk resulting from accounts payable and accrued liabilities by investing in liquid assets such as cash and short-term investments which can be readily available to repay accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

14. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Independent Practitioner's Reasonable Assurance Report On Compliance



To the Board of Directors of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission:

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's compliance during the period of August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023, with the provisions of the following legislative and related authorities ("the Agreements") pertaining to its financial reporting, safeguarding agency resources, spending, revenue raising, borrowing and activities.

- The Agri-Food Act, 2004
- The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Plan Regulations
- Commission Orders No. 08/17 to 14/23

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's compliance with the specified requirements of the Agreements. Management is also responsible for such internal control as management determines necessary to enable Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's compliance with the specified requirements.

Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a reasonable assurance opinion on Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's compliance based on the evidence we have obtained. We conducted our reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with the Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements 3531, *Direct Engagements to Report on Compliance*. This standard requires that we plan and perform this engagement to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the entity complied with the specified requirements, in all significant respects.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an engagement conducted in accordance with this standard will always detect a significant instance of non-compliance with specified requirements when it exists. Instances of non-compliance can arise from fraud or error and are considered significant if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users of our report. A reasonable assurance compliance reporting

engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the entity's compliance with the specified requirements.

The nature, timing and extent of procedures selected depends on our professional judgment, including an assessment of the risks of significant non-compliance, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have compiled with the relevant rules of professional conduct/code of ethics applicable to the practice of public accounting and related to assurance engagements, issued by various professional accounting bodies, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentially and professional behaviour.

The firm applies the Canadian Standard on Quality Control 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance Engagements* and, accordingly, maintains a comprehensive system of quality control, including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission has complied with the specified requirements established in the Agreements during the period of August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023, in all significant respects. We do not provide a legal opinion on the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's compliance with the specified requirements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lingard + Dreger'.

**Chartered Professional Accountants
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
November 21, 2023**

To the Board of Directors of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission:

We have audited Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's control as of July 31, 2023 to express an opinion as to the effectiveness of its control related to the following objectives:

- (1) To safeguard agency resources. That is, to ensure its assets are not lost or used inappropriately; to ensure it does not inappropriately incur obligations; to establish a financial plan for the purposes of achieving its financial goals; and to monitor and react to its progress towards the objectives established in its financial plan.
- (2) To prepare reliable financial statements.
- (3) To conduct its activities following laws, regulations and policies related to financial reporting, safeguarding agency resources, revenue raising, spending, borrowing and investing.

Management's Responsibility

The Organization's management is responsible for maintaining effective control over the objectives stated above.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our audit as to the effectiveness of its control related to the following objectives:

- (1) To safeguard agency resources. That is, to ensure its assets are not lost or used inappropriately; to ensure it does not inappropriately incur obligations; to establish a financial plan for the purposes of achieving its financial goals; and to monitor and react to its progress towards the objectives established in its financial plan.
- (2) To prepare reliable financial statements.

- (3) To conduct its activities following laws, regulations and policies related to financial reporting, safeguarding agency resources, revenue raising, spending, borrowing and investing.

We used the control framework developed by The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("CPA Canada") to make our judgments about the effectiveness of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's control. We did not audit certain aspects of control concerning the effectiveness, economy and efficiency of certain management decision-making processes.

The CPA Canada defines controls as comprising those elements of an organization that, taken together, support people in the achievement of the organization's objectives. Control is effective to the extent that it provides reasonable assurance that the organization will achieve its objectives.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standard for audits of internal control over financial reporting set out in the CPA Canada Handbook-Assurance. This standard requires that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to effectiveness of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's control related to the objectives stated above. An audit includes obtaining an understanding of the significant risks related to these objectives, the key control elements and control activities to manage these risks and examining, on a test basis, evidence relating to control.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance of achieving objectives reliably for the following reasons. There are inherent limitations in control including judgement in decision-making, human error, collusion to circumvent control activities and management overriding control. Cost/benefit decisions are made when designing control in organizations. Because control

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Independent Auditors' Report

can be expected to provide only reasonable assurance, and not absolute assurance, the objectives referred to above may become ineffective because of changes in internal and external conditions, or that the degree of compliance with control activities may deteriorate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on the limitations noted above, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's control was effective, in all material respects, to meet the objectives stated above as of July 31, 2023 based on the CPA Canada criteria of control framework.

We have also audited, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, the financial statements of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's, which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, change in net assets, cash flows, and a summary of significant accounting policies and

other explanatory information. We have issued our report dated November 21, 2023, which is the same date as the date of the report on the effectiveness of internal controls.

Lingard + Dreger

**Chartered Professional Accountants
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
November 21, 2023**



Sask Wheat Development Commission 2022-2023 Payee List

Personal Services (threshold \$2,500 except Board of Directors)

Board of Directors (all amounts included)

	Honorariums	Expenses	Communication Allowance	Total
Brett Halstead	18,750.00	12,388.08	700.00	31,838.08
Jake Leguee	10,250.00	4,328.71	700.00	15,278.71
Glenn Tait	7,250.00	5,829.36	700.00	13,779.36
Jocelyn Velestuk	8,750.00	10,567.24	700.00	20,017.24
Lesley Kelly	4,850.00	2,414.20	700.00	7,964.20
Rob Stone	16,900.00	12,085.21	700.00	29,685.21
Scott Hepworth	6,300.00	7,151.63	700.00	14,151.63
	73,050.00	54,764.43	4,900.00	132,714.43



Sask Wheat Development Commission 2022-2023 Payee List *continued*

Extension (threshold \$5,000)

Mercantile Consulting Venture Inc.	12,539.02
Handy Special Rentals	6,665.26
Express It More Promotional Products	5,190.36
SaskBarley Development Commission	12,753.95
U of S College of Agriculture	165,000.00

Policy/Advisory/Advocacy (threshold \$5,000)

Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan	21,000.00
Agriculture in the Classroom	50,000.00
AG Transport Coalition - Pulse Canada	53,292.33
Canada Grains Council	6,421.75
SaskCanola	30,000.00
Weisensel Consulting	9,450.00
Grain Growers of Canada	56,875.00



Sask Wheat Development Commission 2022-2023 Payee List *continued*

Research & Development (threshold \$5,000)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	2,022,178.84
Breicon Genomics Ltd	23,881.00
Canadian Weed Science Society	11,125.00
Canadian Wheat Research Coalition	3,573,869.15
Carleton University	5,623.00
Conservation Learning Centre	147,835.00
East Central Research Foundation	115,451.57
Glacier FarmMedia Limited Partnership	30,763.00
Fertilizer Canada	8,500.00
IHARF	157,806.00
Irrigation Crop Diversification Corp	110,215.00
McGill University	23,000.00
National Research Council of Canada	35,628.50
Olds College Business Service	6,000.00
Prairie Organic Development Fund	14,375.00
Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group	42,708.00
Sharon Nowlan	19,020.00
South East Research Farm Inc.	44,300.00
The Governors of University of Alberta	205,613.72
The Governors of University of Calgary	18,314.00
U of S College of Agriculture	30,000.00
University of Saskatchewan	1,275,540.00
University of Alberta	216,134.00
University of British Columbia	244,044.61
University of Manitoba	236,180.00
University of Regina	21,312.00
Western Grains Research Foundation	78,674.72
Wheatland Conservation Area Inc.	68,250.00

Sask Wheat Development Commission 2022-2023 Payee List *continued*

Media & Communications (threshold \$5,000)

Canada Post	29,537.05
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association	10,000.00
Saskatoon Fastprint	11,812.50
Cole's Ag Communication	9,187.50
Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan	12,500.00
Haywire Creative Inc.	5,250.00
Houghton Boston	13,083.55
Jeff's Crestwear	10,655.62
Needham Ag Technologies LLC	7,383.13
Prairie Certified Crop Advisor Board	10,000.00
Regina Exhibition Association Limited	8,284.15
Sask. Outstanding Young Farmers	5,500.00
SaskCanola	6,000.00
SeCan	6,300.00
Sprayers101.com	5,000.00
The Western Producer	6,539.40
Top Crop Manager	6,300.00
Twitter Online Ads	5,636.90
U of S	16,500.00
Women In Ag	5,000.00
Canadian Wheat Research Coalition	38,322.80

Market Development (threshold \$20,000)

Mercantile Consulting Venture Inc.	100,800.00
Cereals Canada	1,128,479.23

Supplier Payments (threshold \$20,000)

Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc.	93,976.91
Innovation Place	115,108.57

Other Payments (threshold \$20,000)

Weather Innovations	22,200.00
Action Office Interiors	23,365.50







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