

## Saskatchewan transitions to single wheat check-off on August 1

will now come

commissions.

Sask Wheat has

communicated

Saskatchewan

about the switch

with wheat buyers across

from the provincial

wheat and barley

Saskatchewan wheat producers will be paying a single wheat check-off on August 1, 2017 as the transitional Western Canadian Deduction (WCD) will end.

The WCD, which currently funds wheat variety development research and the market development activities of the Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi), will be ending on July 31, 2017. The WCD check-off is \$0.48/tonne while the Sask Wheat check-off is \$0.52/tonne, for a total of \$1.00/tonne.

Producers will not be paying more for the wheat check-off – the total check-off amount remains the same. Stemming from a motion passed unanimously at the 2017 Sask Wheat AGM, the Sask Wheat check-off will be expanded to \$1.00/tonne on August 1 to assume the WCD funding. Funding for Cigi and wheat research currently funded through the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF)

From two check-offs to one **CURRENT** 

Sask Wheat **Sask** Wheat

\$0.52/tonne + \$1.00/tonne

WCD under WGRF) \$0.48/tonne

(\$0.15/t for Ciai, \$0.30/t for research through WGRF. \$0.03 for admin)

\$1.00/tonne

AUG. 1, 2017

(\$0.15/t for Cigi, \$0.30/t for research commitments

NO INCREASE OR PRODUCERS!

\$1.00/tonne

to the single check-off. Should there be an issue on your grain ticket with the check-off, please contact our office so we can look into it. Email info@saskwheatcommission.com or phone (306) 653-7932.

For more information on the Sask Wheat check-off, please go to the Sask Wheat website: saskwheatcommission.com.

### **Attend the Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting** at Farm Progress Show

All registered wheat producers are encouraged to attend the third Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting, June 21, 2017, during Farm Progress Show in Regina. This meeting is a chance for wheat producers to meet with Sask Wheat staff and Board members, to share their input on the industry and their checkoff investments, and to learn more about the work Sask Wheat is doing on behalf of producers.

Our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Mario Tenuta** of the University of Manitoba. He will be talking about nitrogen loss when applied at shallow depths and the future of nitrogen management. The need to reduce nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural soils will become as important as yield when considering the use of N fertilizers. This presentation will also cover the practices you can use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining or improving crop yield and the efficient use of added nitrogen.

Registration is free and includes breakfast and a complimentary admission to the Farm Progress Show.

### **Meeting details**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Meeting and presentations Ballroom A, Queensbury Convention Centre Evraz Place, Regina (during Farm Progress Show 2017)

- Visit: www.saskwheatcommission.com
- Phone: 306-653-7932
- Email: info@saskwheatcommission.com

Chair's message
General Manager's report 3
Sask Wheat welcomes new Policy Manager
and Research Program Assistant 3
Sask Wheat accepting director nominations 4
Designated representative appointment form . 4
Director nomination form 5
Grain movement positive despite rail and
port challenges 6
Indonesian workshop part of full summer of
market support activity at Cigi 7
Fusariaum head blight risk maps 8

### **CHAIR'S MESSAGE:**

## Keeping our grain system working for Saskatchewan farmers



There have been several issues of major importance on the radar of Sask Wheat over the past few months.

Primary amongst those is the transportation of grain. Sask Wheat, along with our producer coalition partners the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (Sask Barley) and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) made a trip to Ottawa in early April to meet with MPs and representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Transport Canada. Our message was simple: Western Canadian farmers are reliant on a dependable and affordable grain

transportation system and any changes must be made to benefit farmers. The report from Sask Wheat General Manager Harvey Brooks on the next page outlines the changes to the transportation legislation recently introduced in the House of Commons and the possible impact it could have on grain transporation.

While the government sorts out the details of the transportation legislation, farmers have the 2017 crop to grow, harvest and market. Sask Wheat is here to help producers, especially when it comes to managing fusarium head blight (FHB) damage, which took a huge toll in 2016. Once again, we are providing FHB risk maps to assist producers. The maps will give you an idea of when conditions are right for fusarium risk, but you also need to monitor your fields closely, checking the weather conditions and determining the stage of your crop. If your wheat is flowering and it is humid and moist in your area, it's probably time to apply a fungicide to your fields.

As with any chemical, it is vitally important to apply fungicide according to the label. Earlier this year, a government study testing for glyphosate residue in food was leaked to the media. While it did not test wheat, it brought to light the need to only apply chemicals according to the label. More and more of our customers in both domestic and export markets are testing for residues, especially glyphosate residue, and even a few bad samples due to a few improperly applied chemicals can impact trade relations and the excellent reputation for quality Canadian grain has in the world.

It is very important to Saskatchewan farmers that we defend Canada's grain system and the integrity of Canadian crops in the global marketplace. There have been renewed calls over the past few months to accommodate American-grown wheat into the Canadian primary elevator system. Allowing American wheat into our system could have consequences on our ability to export our grain and could be very costly to Saskatchewan farmers.

Prior to any changes to the *Canada Grains Act*, Sask Wheat is asking that the federal government hold consultations with key stakeholders to understand the impact American grain could have on Canada's primary elevator system and Canadian wheat producers. Sask Wheat strongly supports the important function that Canada's grain registration and grading system provides. The Canadian Grain Commission grading system ensures Canadian wheat meets high quality standards and specific criteria demanded by both domestic and international buyers. This system requires that all varieties be thoroughly studied and registered so all parties within the value-chain understand the characteristics and optimal uses of each variety.

While there may be opportunities for modernization within the *Canada Grains Act* that could allow for greater opportunities for farmers and improved trade relations between the Canada and U.S., the foundation of the system must remain in place so end users of Canadian wheat continue to receive the high-quality grain they have come to expect and so the best interests of Canadian farmers are secured.

I'm looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible at the upcoming Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting and Producer Breakfast, which will be in Ballroom A of the Queensbury Convention Centre at Evraz Place in Regina on Wednesday, June 21. Registration is free and it gets you into the Farm Progress Show for the day. Please register now on the Sask Wheat website (saskwheatcommission.com).

Bill Gehl, Chair



### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Bill Gehl, Chair Regina

Dan Danielson, Vice-Chair Saskatoon

Rod Flaman Edenwold

Scott Hepworth Assiniboia

Laura Reiter Radisson

Ken Rosaasen Preeceville

Glenn Tait Meota

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

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:**

## Impact of grain transportation legislation being reviewed



Spring seeding is progressing rapidly but spring harvest is still a difficult reality for some parts of Saskatchewan. While producers hurry to put "another season's promise in the ground," big changes are in store for the Canada Transportation

As expected, federal Transport Minister Garneau tabled Bill C-49, the *Transportation Modernization Act*, which

will have significant implications for prairie grain shipments for the foreseeable future. The bill stresses key themes that should reflect improvements for shippers and producers such as: the efficiency of rail transportation; long-term investment in the railway infrastructure; transparency on rates and service; and fair access to remedies for service and rate disputes.

Of prime importance to producers is that the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE) will be maintained in the reformed Canada Transportation Act. This is the mechanism that provides protection for producers against excessive railway rates, while providing a fair profit to the railways. This winter, there was a resolution passed unanimously at the Sask Wheat AGM in support of the maintaining the MRE, so there is general recognition of the importance it plays in managing the producers freight bill. Under the new legislation, however, there will be substantive changes to how the MRE calculation operates and what traffic is managed/protected by the MRE. In addition, these changes are being done without the benefit of a railway costing review, which would inform policy makers as to whether MRE rates require any adjustment, particularly given the cost saving efficiencies that have been achieved by consolidation of primary elevator locations with predominantly large rail car spots and dedicated train service provisions.

Bill C-49 proposes to remove all rail movement that takes place in containers and under interswitching agreements, from the MRE. The interswitching provisions have also been altered and have a

greatly expanded range—this may result in a large expansion in the volumes of grain that move under interswitching agreements. This interswitched rail traffic will no longer move at "cost-based rail rates" as under the MRE—it will move at "rates based on comparable traffic". How significant this will be to the producer's freight bill is uncertain. Depending on how these interswitching provisions are implemented, they could create competition between railways for grain movement, particularly in years with excess rail capacity. It is not clear, however, whether there will be good competition in years of tight rail capacity. If the rail transport and handling system continues to be constrained for grain movement through the West Coast, producers may find that the expanded interswitching provisions do not regularly enhance the competitive dynamic between CN and CP railways..

Bill C-49 was introduced fairly late in the spring legislative session, so it is unlikely to be passed and implemented until well into the next crop year. In the meantime, the Fair Rail For Grain Farmer's Act, Bill C-30, will lapse, leaving a gap in some important protections provided to shippers and producers, such as minimum grain movement volumes. Sask Wheat, along with APAS and Sask Barley, have recently asked Minister Garneau to consider extending Bill C-30 if the proposed legislation is going to be delayed in implementation.

This is all occurring in the midst of spring seeding, so the ability of producers to participate in the consultations is limited. While we are encouraged that the MRE has not been removed, we still need further clarification on how the price protection currently provided by the MRE will be impacted by the removal of interswitching and by other proposed methodology reforms. A railway costing review would greatly inform this process. This is of critical importance to the future of an export based grain industry and Sask Wheat will continue to be a vocal advocate on behalf of producers in the rail transportation reform process.

Harvey Brooks, General Manager

# Sask Wheat welcomes new Policy Manager and Research Program Assistant

Sask Wheat would like to welcome the latest additions to our team!



Kelsey Richardson (left) joined Sask Wheat in April as our Policy Manager.

Kelsey is completing her M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, after completing a B.Sc. in Agribusiness with a minor in Field Crop Production.

Kelsey's involvement with the family grain farm at Delisle along with summer employment assisting in small-plot research, coordinating field trials,

and providing agronomic support for growers and retailers, has provided her with a broad understanding of crop-based production.

Valar Gurusamy joined the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission in June as the Research Program Assistant.

She brings over 13 years of experience in the agricultural research and management sector in areas such as breeding, seed science and Quality Systems Management. Valar previously worked at the Canadian Wheat Board, the Saskatchewan Research Council, and the University of Saskatchewan.



Valar holds a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding & Genetics, an M.Sc. & B.Sc. in Agriculture from India and completed two years of post-doctoral training at the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Sask Wheat Accepting Director Nominations**

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) is currently seeking nominations to fill **four (4) positions** for the Board of Directors. The producer-elected-and-directed Board ensures producers have the resources, leadership and provincial, national and international representation to strengthen Saskatchewan's competitive advantage and makes certain that producers' interests are protected.

To be eligible to sit on the Board, you must be a registered wheat producer. A registered producer is any levy paying wheat producer who has not requested a refund for 2016/17 (August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017).

Director responsibilities include:

- Supervising the business of Sask Wheat including oversight of management, providing strategic direction, and ensuring effective governance of the organization.
- Attending meetings approximately 8-10 times per year and attending conference calls as required.
- Representing Sask Wheat at other meetings and events throughout the year.

Nomination forms can be found on the Commission's website: www.saskwheatcommission.com, or you can request one by calling 306-653-7932. Nomination forms must be signed by two (2) or more registered wheat growers. If the registered grower is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, it can designate a representative to sign nomination papers or hold office. A proper form of designation (available online or from the Returning Officer) must accompany the nomination form for every director

nominee or director nominator of a corporation, partnership or other legal entity.

Completed forms including candidate bios and photos should be mailed, faxed, emailed or delivered to:

Returning Officer – Levy Central PO Box 21038

Fax: 306-975-6850 Email: smitha@levycentral.ca

Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9 (by mail)

2335 Schuyler Street

Saskatoon, SK S7M 5V1 (by courier or in person)

## All nominations must be <u>received no later than 4:00pm CST on September 15, 2017</u>.

Please direct any questions related to elections to Returning Officer **Ann Smith at 306-975-6853**.

Questions related to the Commission, the Regulations governing formation of the same, or the collection of the check-off, should be directed to Harvey Brooks, Sask Wheat General Manager at (306) 653-7932.

### **Voting Process and Results**

If a vote is required, ballots will be mailed out to all Saskatchewan wheat producers in late October. An electronic voting option will also be available. Election results will be announced in December and officially presented at the Sask Wheat AGM in January 2018.



## Designated Representative Appointment Form

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Wheat Development Plan Regulations: (2) If a registered producer is a corporation, partnership or other organization, it must appoint an individual who is a director, partner, shareholder, member, officer or employee as its representative. (3) Appointment of a representative pursuant to subsection (2) must be filed with the commission in a form and manner acceptable to the commission. (4) A corporation, partnership or other organization is entitled to hold office only through a representative appointed pursuant to subsections (2) and (3).

### This form is required to be submitted for both director nominees or director nominators.

As							
Title, e.g. President, Secretary, etc.)							
of							
(Name of corporation, partnership or other organization)							
(Address of Corporation, Partnership or other organization)							
I hereby appoint to be the designated					to be the designated		
	(Print name of Designated Representative						_
representative for the above corporation, Commission.	partnership, or other	organization	as registered	with the	Saskatchewan	Wheat	Development
(Print Your Name)	(Signature)				(Date)		



### **Director Nomination Form**

Please print, except where signature indicated:					
will allow my name to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the askatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat). I am a producer registered with Sask Wheat. A registered producer is any levy					
paying wheat producer who has not requested a refund for 2016/17.	. (Aug 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017).				
Nominated Candidate's Signature:					
Printed Candidate's Name:					
Name Wheat was sold under:					
Address:					
	E-mail:				
	ed wheat producers (please print, except where signature indicated):				
Registered Wheat Producer #1	Registered Wheat Producer #2				
Signature	Signature				
Personal Name/Farm Name	Personal Name/Farm Name				
Address (PO Box or Street)					
City, Postal Code	City, Postal Code				
Phone:					
Registered Wheat Producer #3	Registered Wheat Producer #4				
Signature	Signature				
Personal Name/Farm Name	Personal Name/Farm Name				
Address (PO Box or Street)	Address (PO Box or Street)				
City, Postal Code	City, Postal Code				
Phone:	Phone:				

It is advisable to get more than two producers to fill out the form supporting your nomination in case one of them is not currently a registered producer.

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Wheat Development Plan Regulations: (2) If a registered producer is a corporation, partnership or other organization, it must appoint an individual who is a director, partner, shareholder, member, officer or employee as its representative. (3) Appointment of a representative pursuant to subsection (2) must be filed with the commission in a form and manner acceptable to the commission. (4) A corporation, partnership or other organization is entitled to hold office only through a representative appointed pursuant to subsections (2) and (3).

A proper form of designation (available online or from the Returning Officer) must accompany the nomination form for every <u>director nominee or director nominator</u> affected by this regulation.

### A Candidate Biography MUST accompany this nomination form.

Candidate biographies must:

- be a MAXIMUM of 350 words in length
- include a colour head & shoulders photo (.jpg format, at least 100Kb) submitted along with the candidate bio.
- follow the format shown below:
  - First name, Last name
  - Farm operation information
  - Related experience
  - Outline opportunities and challenges for wheat growers
  - Other comments

Nomination form & accompanying material must be received at the address below no later than 4:00pm, September 15, 2017.

Earlier submission is recommended to allow time for verification and, if required, additional information to complete the nomination form.

Ann M. Smith, Returning Officer Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan, Inc. PO Box 21038, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9 (by mail)

2335 Schuyler Street Saskatoon, SK S7M 5V1 (by courier or in person)

smitha@levycentral.ca (by e-mail)

(306) 975-6850 (fax)

## Grain movement positive despite rail and port challenges

by Dallas Carpenter

Over the last few months, the Canadian grain handling and transportation system has received a lot of attention, and not only because of the recently announced amendments to the Canada Transportation Act.

From late-season rain and snow in Vancouver to the struggle of a railway to meet demand over winter, some are once again questioning the reliability of the transportation system. The reports of vessels lined up at the Port of Vancouver this winter led to some producers speculating how transportation issues would impact them financially.

Mark Hemmes, President of Quorum Corporation, which monitors performance of the Canadian grain transportation system on behalf of the federal government, feels that the system has weathered the challenges faced this winter and that 2016-2017 has been a positive year overall for the movement of grain.

"It has been a good year, but it hasn't been as good as 2015-2016," says Hemmes. "15-16 was pretty remarkable in a lot of respects. Both railways were just humming. All the port terminals were performing optimally. We had pretty good performance at the ports. Our vessel lineups weren't a big concern and time in port wasn't a big concern."

Part of what has kept this crop year from attaining the same service levels of 2015-2016 is inconsistent railway performance.

"On one hand, CN has performed exceptionally," says Hemmes. "They have just been constant, all the way through the fall and through the winter, they have kept their numbers right up. CN's volumes are higher than what CP's are.

"CP has been challenged by a number of things. They had some staff issues through the fall and winter. They just couldn't keep ahead. When January came, they took the brunt of what happened (with weather) through the mountains and that compounded things for them. In the last few weeks, they have started to pick things up, partly due to better management and partly due to good luck with the weather."

Vancouver grabbed headlines in the winter, compounding the

numbers were around 18 days plus, in Vancouver," says Hemmes.

"This was concerning, as it means demurrage was being paid on vessels.

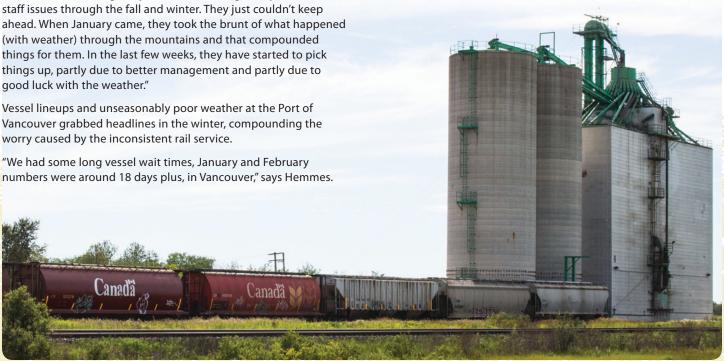
"When we got to March and April, it seems as though Vancouver went for a number of weeks straight with snow and rain, which made it difficult for ship loading at a few of the terminals. But, we're past that."

Having pushed through the problems of the winter, the system is now running well, says Hemmes, who expects this year could see a near record amount of grain shipped. As of week 42 (May 23) of the crop year, over 28.2 million tonnes of grain has been shipped through Canadian port terminals. While this is still almost one million tonnes behind 2015-2016, it is almost two million tonnes ahead of the five-year average.

Larger yields and increased supply have put a greater demand on the transportation and handling system, which will require changes to meet the transportation needs of producers and shippers. While the system adapts to meet new expectations, like adding more port capacity and making amendments to transportation regulations, there are bound to be a few hurdles. As Hemmes explains, this increased demand and the response of those within the system should be looked at in the right context.

"You have to put this all in perspective," says Hemmes. "We're at a new normal now. The first 10 years we were monitoring, the total supply was in the 60 to 65 million tonne range. Now we're looking at supply anywhere from 70 to 80 million tonnes. So, there's also the factor where the system is adapting to a new plateau."

For weekly reports on grain system performance from Quorum, please go to grainmonitor.ca.



Indonesian workshop part of full summer of market

support activity at Cigi

Indonesia may be a long way from
Saskatchewan's grain fields but during a recent
workshop held in Jakarta by the Canadian
International Grains Institute, the wheat
grown by western Canadian farmers was the
focus of attention.

In mid-May technical experts from Cigi travelled to Indonesia, Canada's second largest export market for wheat in 2015-16 (1.5 million tonnes), to deliver a workshop focused on the applicability of Canadian wheat in Asian foods. The Cigi team provided handson demonstrations and presentations to 40 millers, quality control and processing staff, furthering their understanding of the suitability of Canadian wheat classes in the production of Asian noodles, steamed bread and baked goods.

Three days were spent working with staff from Bogasari, the largest milling company in Indonesia, and two days with members of APTINDO, the Indonesian Wheat Flour Producers Association. There has been a sharp increase in the number of flour mills in Indonesia, up from 12 mills in 2009 to 31 mills in 2016, signifying the importance of this market to Canadian wheat growers. In recent years Indonesian wheat consumption has changed to include more western-style foods, including bread.

The workshop was targeted to junior staff to ensure they understand the qualities of Canadian wheat and how to optimize it for their needs. "It's important to transfer this knowledge and

build the relationships with the new generation of millers and technical staff making the products," says Esey Assefaw, Head of Asian Products and Pasta Technology at Cigi.

Indonesia also purchases wheat from other origins including the U.S. and Australia. The emphasis of Cigi's efforts is both to maintain and grow the market. "We can show them the advantages of using 100 percent CWRS wheat in a noodle versus using it in a blend with other wheats," says Assefaw. "When they see how it performs that can influence their

"When they see how it performs that can influence their purchasing decisions in the future."

The Indonesia workshop is one of 21 market support programs and activities Cigi will deliver between May and October involving wheat customers from Latin America, Asia, the Gulf Region, Europe, Africa and North Africa at its Winnipeg facilities and onsite in overseas markets. Millers, bakers, pasta and noodle makers, quality control personnel and grain buyers will learn about Canada's wheat value chain and how high-quality Canadian wheat can meet their end-product requirements.

On August 1 Sask Wheat along with the Alberta Wheat Commission and Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association will begin funding Cigi under their respective check-offs.

"We look forward to working with Sask Wheat and the other provincial commissions to ensure Cigi delivers value back to growers through our work with customers and the value chain," says Cigi CEO JoAnne Buth.



## Do you grow soft white spring wheat? Midge tolerance needs your help!

The *Sm1* gene for wheat midge tolerance was recently identified as naturally occurring in these SWS wheat varieties:

AC® Sadash AAC Chiffon AAC Indus

Growers of Midge Tolerant Wheat count on *Sm1* – the one and only gene tolerant to midge – and follow specific stewardship practices to preserve its effectiveness. If tolerance is lost, it could cost growers \$60 million annually and up to \$36 per acre.

How can you prevent creating resistance?

- If you grow one of these SWS varieties, add a refuge – 1 bushel of AC Andrew to every 9 bushels of tolerant SWS variety.
- If you're unable to add the refuge, spray insecticide to eliminate the possibility of resistant midge.

By following these stewardship practices you help preserve the effectiveness of the Sm1 gene and support your fellow wheat growers who rely on this technology. You never know when you'll need Sm1 or the next revolutionary trait so we all have to show leadership through stewardship.

For more information, visit: midgetolerantwheat.ca



Manage the quality of your wheat by using Sask Wheat's

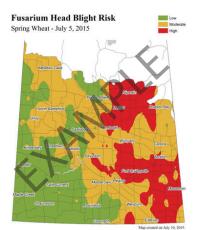
## **Fusarium Head Blight Risk Maps**

The FHB risk map is a tool that helps producers identify the level of risk of FHB infection. The maps, in conjunction with daily monitoring and a cost/benefit analysis tool, help producers determine if a spray application of a fungicide is necessary.

The FHB risk maps are based on the heading date for a specific crop. Producers should determine their heading date then follow the maps generated for that date.

The FHB risk maps will be updated daily in June and July.

Please check the Sask Wheat website for resources you can use to help manage FHB in your wheat crop!





saskwheatcommission.com



@Sk\_Wheat



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

