



**MANITOBA  
CROP  
ALLIANCE**

# The FENCE POST

**November  
2020**

**Bi-Annual Newsletter**



## REPORT FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Welcome to the Fence Post! This is the first Manitoba Crop Alliance newsletter, and we are excited to share with our members highlights of our current and upcoming initiatives.

Manitoba Crop Alliance officially launched August 1, 2020. It was an exciting day, a result of many years of planning, consultation, and engagement with farmer members. The board of directors and staff are eager to continue serving our membership of over 9000 farmers.

In preparation for August 1, the board of directors approved Manitoba Crop Alliance's first budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year. It is a budget reinforcing and strengthening the key strategic areas of the organization – research and production, market development and access, communications, general administration, and delivery of the Advance Payments Program, a federally-guaranteed loan program. It is a bold budget with 75% of revenue budgeted to research and market development, while keeping administration costs low.

The next ambitious goal is the development of a strategic plan. Manitoba Crop Alliance board of directors and senior management are working with a consultant to build the strategic plan, a plan to guide the organization over the next several years. The goals and mandates of the founding organizations have laid solid groundwork to the plan. The four crop committees – Corn, Sunflower, Wheat and Barley, and Flax – are also reassessing the crop-specific research and agronomy priorities to ensure work is being funded to benefit farmers. In addition, objectives for the whole-farm, cross-commodity

approach to research, such as soil health, pest management, pest resistance, and crop rotations, are being crafted. It is the board of director's goal to release Manitoba Crop Alliance's vision, mission, and strategic objectives to members at the first annual general meeting in February 2021.

I want to take this opportunity to give a sincere Thank You to MCA's staff. The senior management team of myself and Darcelle Graham, chief operating officer, are proud of the smooth transition from the five founding organizations to MCA. All staff played an integral role in this. We are looking to the future with enthusiasm to serve the board of directors, crop committees, and farmer members.

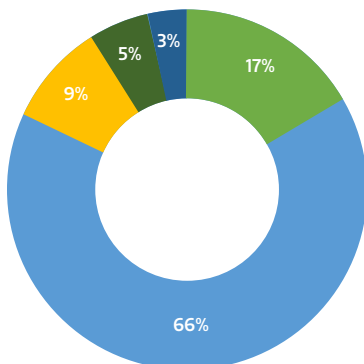
I hope you enjoy reading the Fence Post. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter and follow us on social media to keep engaged. Also visit our new website – [www.mbcropalliance.ca](http://www.mbcropalliance.ca) as it is a great source of information for our members to keep informed of MCA activities.

**Until next time, stay safe and stay healthy!**  
**Pam de Rocquigny**



### MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE 2020/21 Fiscal Year Budget

**Project Revenue: \$6.56 million**  
**Breakdown of Expenditures by  
Function & Priority Area**



- General Administration
- Research & Production
- Market Development & Access
- Communications
- Advance Payments Program (APP)



**Branden Leslie**  
**Manager, Policy and**  
**Government Relations**  
**Grain Growers of Canada**



# **GROWING BACK BETTER**

## **DRIVING HOME THE MESSAGE IN OTTAWA**

In just a few days, our farmer directors from the Grain Growers of Canada will be (virtually) descending upon Parliament Hill November 17 to 19 to advocate on behalf of our members to Parliamentarians.

The theme of this year's Grain Week is "Growing Back Better." Our focus will be on how the grain, pulse and oilseed sectors are well positioned to drive our nation's economic recovery.

Under this theme, we will focus on three major points.

First, we will drive home the importance of trade to our export-orientated sector and ensuring that we continue to expand our market access opportunities. We will also stress the equal importance of ensuring proper implementation of existing agreements such as the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), both of which have failed to remove barriers and expand growth opportunities as promised.

Secondly, we will focus on the importance of innovation to our sector. Whether it be public research into new varieties, or an agile regulatory system for plant breeding

innovation and crop protection product approvals, we need a government that follows the science over public opinion and ensures our farmers have the best tools available to them to maintain our competitive advantage.

Thirdly, we will seek to ensure the government follows through on its commitment to recognize the important sustainability measures farmers and ranchers have undertaken, and that we are a key partner in the fight against climate change. Of late, interactions with Environment and Climate Change Canada have certainly not made us feel that way, so we will be highlighting the progress we have made and continue to make.

Closely following Grain Week will be the Federal-Provincial-Territorial meeting of Ag Ministers. After our consistent lobbying over the last year to improve the Agri-Stability program, we hope the meeting will deliver some positive results on this front, and announcements of changes to the program that will deliver real value for farmers.

While Grain Week will look a lot different this year, our fight for farmer's voices to be heard in Ottawa carries on.

# **2020 MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Fred Greig, Chair, Reston, MB  
Robert Misko, Vice-Chair, Roblin, MB  
Doug Martin, Secretary, East Selkirk, MB  
Drew Baker, Beausejour, MB  
Leonard Wiebe, Carman, MB  
Reginald Johnson, Arborg, MB

Jonothan Hodson, Lenore, MB  
Gregg Fotheringham, Reston, MB  
Mark McDonald, Virden, MB  
Eric Fridfinnson, Arborg, MB  
Nick Matheson, Stonewall, MB

## KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE NEWEST GROUP MEMBER

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, member funded, and member directed. We speak up on the issues that matter to crop and livestock producers and we effect the changes needed for farmers to remain successful and profitable. We work with governments, industry and stakeholders on overarching issues that affect all farmers. We act as spokespersons for Manitoba's farmers, engaging media and other stakeholders in understanding the issues facing primary producers.

KAP's membership is comprised of 12 districts across the province, as well as individual commodity groups. KAP holds 4 policy setting sessions each year, three Advisory Council meetings and one AGM. KAP districts and commodity associations

bring forward issues in the form of resolutions that guide our advocacy work. KAP also has nine policy committees chaired by KAP board members focused on specific industry issues, bringing together farmers and policymakers. Manitoba Crop Alliance members can be involved in both our Advisory Council meetings and our Annual Meeting, as well as participating at the policy committee level. That allows MCA members to have input into our provincial advocacy work on issues like water and nutrient management, property taxes, and infrastructure and roads.

KAP manages four programs that support the important work of Manitoba farmers. The Manitoba Farm Safety Program, established in 2016 as a partnership with the provincial government, provides farm-specific resources and guidance to

help farmers understand legislation to create healthy and safe farm workplaces. Manitoba Young Farmers provides learning opportunities that are aimed at supporting the growth and success of farmers under the age of 40 who are directly involved in a farm business in Manitoba. Our Human Resources program supports our members with consulting services, training opportunities and other resources. Finally, the Environmental Farm Plan helps farmers identify the agri-environmental assets and risks of his/her operation and outline beneficial management practices that would reduce these risks.

The Manitoba Crop Alliance is a valuable member of ours, and we look forward to our further strengthening our working relationship. Our office can be reached at 204-697-1140.



Administered by Manitoba Crop Alliance



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Advance Payments Program

Programme de paiements anticipés

## NEW ORGANIZATION – SAME GREAT SERVICE

**Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA) is here to help farmers with their cash flow needs by administering Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advance Payments Program (APP).**

Farmers are eligible to receive a **cash advance of up to \$1,000,000** which includes **\$100,000 interest-free**. MCA advances dollars on over 30 crop kinds.

MCA makes applying for an APP cash advance stress-free and straightforward. We pride ourselves in providing quick,

friendly, small town service that our clients deserve! Staff will work directly with you to ensure your application is complete and funds are issued in a timely fashion. Funds can be advanced in as little as **3 to 5 business days** once the application process is completed.

### For more information:

Visit: [mbcropalliance.ca/advance-payments-program](http://mbcropalliance.ca/advance-payments-program)  
Call: 204-745-6661

### Contact our APP administrators:

Tammy – [tammy@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:tammy@mbcropalliance.ca)  
Rae – [rae@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:rae@mbcropalliance.ca)

The Advance Payments Program is a federal loan program administered by Manitoba Crop Alliance. It offers Canadian farmers marketing flexibility through interest-free and low interest cash advances.



MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE

## REDUCE MYCOTOXINS TO KEEP IT CLEAN

Help maintain Canada's reputation for quality cereals and protect your investments by keeping Ochratoxin A (OTA) out of your stored grain.

OTA is a potent mycotoxin produced by *Penicillium verrucosum*, a naturally occurring soil fungus, that can form on stored grain. Unlike deoxynivalenol (also known as DON or vomitoxin) which is formed in the field, OTA forms exclusively in storage in wet grain or when water comes in contact with grain.

Prevention of even small pockets of OTA-contaminated grain during storage is the only way that it can be managed to protect health and prevent product recalls. Follow these Keep it Clean safe storage protocols to mitigate the risk:

- Keep bins and grain handling equipment clean, thoroughly cleaning dust and debris between grain lots.
- Ensure crops are harvested or dried to a safe level for storage.
- Cool the grain quickly to well below 10°C and keep it cool for as long as possible to minimize condensation in the bin. Even fine droplets of condensate can allow the fungus to grow.

Visit [keepingitclean.ca/cereals/storage](http://keepingitclean.ca/cereals/storage) for further information on OTA and how it forms, along with visual examples of OTA formation at critical points of handling and storage.

By taking steps to prevent the formation of OTA in stored grain, you can protect your investments and help keep markets open for all.



# WHEAT MIDGE: PROTECTING AGAINST ANOTHER OUTBREAK

With the many challenges 2020 has brought the world, it's no surprise that orange blossom wheat midge picked this year to show up in full force in fields across the Prairies.

"We actually had the biggest outbreak of wheat midge that I've seen in my short career," says Dr. Tyler Wist, research scientist of field crop entomology with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "Results of the annual wheat midge survey that comes out in early January will include the data that we need to show a population increase, but the spring rains were perfect for midge development."

Wist says the overall midge population had been decreasing over the past decade in Western Canada, in part, due to dry growing conditions. He explains that larvae overwinter in the soil in larval cocoons and require adequate moisture in May and June to bring them to the soil surface. Above-average rainfall this spring in some parts of the Prairies made conditions ideal for the pest to thrive.

The Prairie Pest Monitoring Network (PrairiePest.ca) ran models in mid-August to determine potential numbers of overwintering wheat midge larvae. Results predicted higher densities of wheat midge compared to 2019. Alberta was also forecast to have greater populations than Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Though the actual impact will be confirmed once survey data is compiled and analyzed this winter, it's certain some growers will see the effects of wheat midge this harvest.

## Impacts on yield and quality

Orange wheat blossom midge can seriously damage yield and quality of susceptible wheat varieties.

In late September, Canadian Grain Commission Grains Canada confirmed that midge was present in the 2020 durum and wheat crops. In order to determine damage, growers are encouraged to look for rupture of the bran on the back or side of kernels, a white line or mark on the back or side, or a distorted kernel.

As Wist explains, wheat midge larvae damage the wheat kernels by feeding directly upon them as they are developing. "Typically, four or more larvae per kernel, which is often the number of eggs laid by a female on one floret, will cause a complete shrivelling of the kernel and it will blow out the back of the combine and be lost as 'phantom-yield loss,' he says. "Less larvae inside a floret, can cause distortion of the kernel, splitting of the bran or simply a white line. Too many of these kernels in your sample can cause downgrading because midge-damaged kernels negatively affect the milling performance."

## Midge Tolerant Wheat varieties

Growers who are less inclined to worry about downgrading by the elevator are those who planted Midge Tolerant Wheat in the spring.

For more than a decade, these varieties have been the first line of defence against the pest. Midge Tolerant Wheat growers report significant yield and grade benefits — approximately \$36 per acre. There are now more than 35 varieties available in seven different wheat classes.

Midge tolerance in all varieties originates from a single gene called Sm1, which increases the level of phenolic acids in the wheat kernel and discourages feeding by the pest. As a result, the midge starve and die.

All varieties are sold as a blend of midge tolerant and midge susceptible wheat, providing an "interspersed refuge system" that disrupts the midge's ability to produce resistant offspring, preventing a build-up of a resistant midge population. As Sm1 is the one and only midge tolerant gene, growers must do their part to protect the technology. All growers sign a stewardship agreement and commit to maintaining the refuge by limiting the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past certified.

## Planning for 2021

Given the right conditions, such as consecutive wet springs, midge populations can build quickly.

"This year could be a building year for the midge population...with trouble coming next year," says Wist. "We'll know better once the midge survey is complete."

In the meantime, as growers plan for 2021, ensuring stewardship protocols are being followed or purchasing certified Midge Tolerant Wheat are solid steps to prevent midge outbreaks and to protect future yield and quality.

**\$1 BILLION**  
IN YIELD AND QUALITY  
BENEFITS TO PRODUCERS



Contact your retailer or visit [midgetolerantwheat.ca](http://midgetolerantwheat.ca)

# CODE OF PRACTICE: WHY IT MATTERS

**Brenna Mahoney, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Cereals Canada**

Many farmers don't want to hear the word sustainability ever again. Farmers hear "sustainability" and see people who want to shut down modern agriculture, more forms, paperwork, and bureaucracy. So why are farmer-led organizations putting time and effort into the subject?

Consumers, here and in international markets, are looking for answers about how their food is produced. We, as an industry, have an opportunity to develop responses to these questions that make our production more competitive. If the value chain does not seize this chance today, customers are going to impose their version of sustainability upon us, likely to the detriment of Canadian agriculture.

Canadian farmers have a good sustainability story to tell. Farmers turn their land over to the next generation in better shape and more productive than when they started farming. Preserving the air, land, and water for the next generation is the very definition of "sustainability." But we don't tell our story in a coherent way.

This is where the development of a Code of Practice for grain production in Canada will help. A draft of the Code has been developed by farmers, governments, exporters, customers, scientists, and environmental organizations. The Development Committee is led by the Hon. Ted Menzies, who has served as a farm leader, Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister.

"Responsible Grain", the title and brand of the Code, will help us concretely demonstrate the sustainability of modern agriculture. What does Responsible Grain look like? The Code's recommendations use best available most recent scientific studies from accepted sources. Recommended practices have been developed to be practical, manageable and consider economic implications. If they are not, farmers will not follow them. The Code will be voluntary. That means that it will not require farmers to fill out additional forms and paperwork. A voluntary Code can also serve as the foundation of something more robust, such as verified production contracts upon the mutual agreement of willing buyers and sellers. The development of a defined code of practice and assist in efforts in gaining and maintaining public trust in Canadian agriculture, both domestically and internationally. There are existing market access issues in the grains sector that will be eased because of the development of Responsible Grain. Responsible Grain will also alleviate issues that could cause market access and public trust concerns going forward.

Because of Responsible Grain, Canadian farmers, exporters, and processors will have a concrete tool to demonstrate sustainability to our customers. We will be able to show, with the backing of science,

what we are already doing to preserve our land, air, and water. This is a tool to help increase the competitiveness of Canadian agriculture.

Farmers have been directly involved in the drafting of Responsible Grain, through participation in the Code Development Committee. And now it is time to broaden the tent. Now it is your turn to be engaged. A formal consultation process is taking place over the next several months. Farmers and other stakeholders are being asked to review the Code and provide comments. The feedback will be used to review the draft Code and ensure it is practical at the farm level. To have your say please contact [info@responsiblegrain.ca](mailto:info@responsiblegrain.ca) or get in touch with Manitoba Crop Alliance to learn of opportunities for input. Without input from the farm the work on the Code of Practice will not be complete. Now is the time to be engaged.



## CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The deadline for resolutions to be considered at Manitoba Crop Alliance 2021 annual general meeting is 4:30 pm CST, November 30, 2020. Please submit resolutions to Pam de Rocquigny, chief executive officer, at [pam@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:pam@mbcropalliance.ca). For guidelines on submitting a resolution, visit MCA's website at <https://mbcropalliance.ca/about/governance/resolution-procedures> or call MCA's office at 204-745-6661.

*Note: Resolutions will not be accepted after the deadline or from the floor at the annual general meeting.*





Cereals Canada



# A NEW NORMAL FOR NEW CROP MISSIONS

**Brenna Mahoney, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Cereals Canada**

Normally this time of year Cereals Canada, Cigi and the Canadian Grain Commission are in the middle of planning our annual new crop missions. During normal times, the new crop missions visit about twenty of our leading customers around the world to talk about the quality of the recently harvested wheat crop and to support them in their decision to buy Canadian wheat. But these are not normal times. We of course cannot travel to visit our customers because of the COVID-19 global pandemic. What to do? How do we provide support to our customers in 2020?

The pandemic and the recent merger between the heritage Cereals Canada and the heritage Cigi actually provide and opportunity to look at things differently and to reach out to customers in a fresh

new way. We are undertaking a pivot to a digital platform.

The newly created Cereals Canada has engaged with a world class digital marketing company based in Calgary called Critical Mass. They are helping us find ways in presenting our data in a new digital way. In many ways we are undertaking a re-branding of the way in which Canadian wheat is being presented to the world.

We will be presenting virtual seminars to customers in five key regions of the world: Asia, Latin America, Europe, Mid-East and North Africa, and to our key customers in Canada and the U.S. We will be presenting Canadian quality, our sustainable production practices, and our ability to provide consistent supply, even in the

face of the pandemic. In addition to these seminars we will be providing individual customers with the opportunity to dive deeply into key areas that are of interest to them and speak directly to experts from the Canadian value chain.

Our digital pivot also provides us with the opportunity to engage more directly with Canadian farmers. You will have the opportunity to see the seminars. You will have the opportunity to hear directly from the value chain about the changing demands of consumers around the world. You will have the opportunity to see directly how the decisions you make on your farm impact global markets. Watch for updates in the coming weeks on how you can become more directly engaged in the 2020 digital new crop missions.



**Mallorie Lewarne, Agronomy Extension Specialist-Cereal Crops with the Manitoba Crop Alliance,**  
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**Anne Kirk, Cereal Specialist with Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development,**  
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# “AVERAGE” CEREAL HARVEST WELCOMED AFTER 2019’S CHALLENGES

Seeding progression in 2020 was slightly behind the 3-year average. By the last week of May, just 88% of the crop had been seeded, compared to the 3-year average of 94%. Dry spring soils resulted in difficult emergence for some crops. In central Manitoba, soil conditions were not ideal for emergence due to excess moisture during seedbed preparation. Strong winds in mid-June delayed herbicide applications in most areas of the province. Spraying for Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) was widespread this year, as risk maps indicated high risk for much of the province during anthesis. Central MB also dealt with lodging of cereal crops as a result of strong storms in mid-July. Cereal grain quality was generally rated as good to excellent this year, a welcomed result after many dealt with pre-harvest sprouting in 2019. Very little FHB damage has been reported. Wheat protein levels ranged from 11-15% and have been reaching the top two grades. Overall, a wide variety of yields were reported, and were in the average to slightly below average range.

- Winter wheat: 60-80 bu/ac
- Spring wheat: 45-100 bu/ac
- Barley: 60-120 bu/ac

Many areas of the province experienced a period of high humidity at the start of July, and some farmers had to deal with high leaf disease pressure in their cereal crops.

A disease of concern was bacterial blight in spring wheat. Unfortunately, no varietal resistance ratings for bacterial blight are available in Western Canada. If you suspect bacterial blight pressure is increasing in your area, get your seed tested, and avoid planting seed with high levels of seed-borne pathogens. It’s also a good idea to consider extending your rotation. Stay tuned for more information regarding bacterial blight from MCA.

This year we had 37 farmers participate in our cereal on-farm network program, our biggest year yet! Trials included testing efficacy of plant growth regulators (PGRs), biological products, and seed treatments. We also had farmers test seeding rates, and fungicide timing for management of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). Another welcomed addition to the on-farm program this year was malt barley variety trials, which were done in collaboration with the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC). The results from this year’s trials are currently being analyzed, and we are looking forward to sharing them with our members. If you have management practices you’d like to test on your farm, or are interested in participating in on-going trials, we’d love to hear from you. Contact the Manitoba Crop Alliance at 204-745-6661 or email [hello@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:hello@mbcropalliance.ca).

**“In 2020, 37 farmer members participated in our cereal on farm research program, our biggest year yet.”**



# SPECIAL CROPS

## YEAR IN REVIEW

A late start in spring is not typically what we want to see in Manitoba, especially with long-season crops. Spring 2020 kept soils cold and germination was delayed. When the soils did warm up a little, they got cold again which led to chilling injury in corn and inconsistent plant stands.

Corn, flax and sunflower all benefit in yield when planted by the second or third week in May, at the latest. Soil is warm by this point and there is usually good soil moisture, so pair these two factors and you get quick, even emergence with good vigour. Every week that planting is delayed, a decrease in yield will likely be observed. See the 10 year average relationship between seeding date and average yields in Manitoba crops, below.

Conditions in July were quite good during pollination of all crops, which is a great improvement from 2019. Even though Manitoba saw more precipitation during the summer months this year, disease pressure remained low and fungicide applications were minimal in sunflower and flax, improving economic returns.

Frost became a serious concern by the second week of September. Flax was mature and harvest was already underway, but in late flax fields, frost can be an issue in some years. A killing frost for corn is when temperatures remain below 0°C for over 4 hours or -2°C for short periods. When frost occurs in immature grain corn, quality and yield will be affected and severity depends on the exact staging and moisture content of the grain. Sunflowers are more tolerant of fall frosts and require a dip in temperature below -4°C for extended periods to affect seed quality and, therefore, yield. Some areas did see these more extreme temperatures in September, so field assessment has been required.

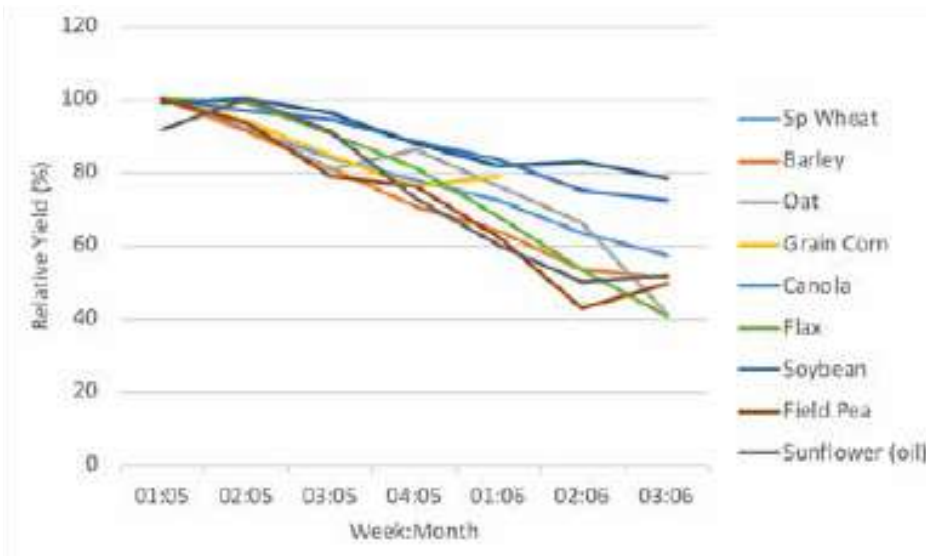
Harvest for all crops has been very quick with dry grain and great harvest conditions. Yields were improved over 2019, with exceptional yields being reported in sunflowers. Fall field work looks like it will be completed, leading to a (fingers crossed) smooth 2021 spring seeding season!



**Morgan Cott, Agronomy Extension Specialist-Special Crops with the Manitoba Crop Alliance,**  
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### MASC Seeding Dates and Yield Information

**Figure 1:** Average relative yield reported to MASC during each sowing week for the selected crops grown in Manitoba for the period of 2010 – 2019. The vertical axis represents the percentage of average yield, and the horizontal axis represents the week each crop is sown.





**Lori-Ann Kaminski,**  
**Research Manager with the**  
**Manitoba Crop Alliance,**  
**loriann@mbcropalliance.ca**



# MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE RESEARCH CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

Although Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA) is a new organization, farmer members have shared in a legacy of historic investment in crop research and innovation. MCA will maintain and strengthen the mandate of the five founding organizations, including the research objectives and goals laid out by the respective boards. Investment into research will be a significant focus of Manitoba Crop Alliance with 66% of revenue targeted to be spent on the priority areas of research and production.

Efficiencies are ever more important as farmers work to make every dollar spent on the farm return income, as well as give their farmland the longevity for the next generation. Over the years yield expectations are ever increasing, while ensuring the grain produced meets the expectations and needs of end users and customers. With access to new varieties and continuous improvement in agronomic practices, farmers are now achieving per acre yields that were not achievable in the recent past. Newer varieties come packed with the genetic ability to respond better to weeds, insect or disease attack, and to drought or other soil and water issues.

To unlock these advances in genetics, it can also take adaptation of agronomic practices. At the same time new pests can arise or become resistant to current treatments. Manitoba Crop Alliance farmer members are placed in the key situations to ask the tough questions about these new issues. By investing in research, farmers can drive research to find the answers to these issues.

Manitoba Crop Alliance is approaching the **CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY** through various projects already in progress.

## Variety Development Key Strategic Research Objective

**Wheat & Barley.** Over the last 2 years, Manitoba Crop Alliance has joined with other wheat and barley commissions

in Western Canada to provide funding support to public breeding programs. MCA is a founding member of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition with Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and Alberta Wheat Commission and the Canadian Barley Research Coalition with Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission and Alberta Barley Commission. Throughout the terms of the various current agreements with our industry partners, MCA will co-fund breeding activities and serve on advisory steering committees. Manitoba Crop Alliance is also providing significant funding to the Canadian National Wheat Cluster (<https://www.wheatresearch.ca/wheat-cluster>) which includes spring and winter wheat, and the National Barley Research Cluster (<http://growbarley.com/overview/research>). Both clusters are components of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriScience program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The research areas within the wheat and barley clusters include variety development, along with research focused on agronomic productivity, disease resistance, quality and performance, and sustainability.

**Corn.** Expanding corn acreage in Manitoba is being served by many newer hybrids which are better adapted to Manitoba growing conditions. Through the Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance, MCA has joined other corn grower organizations from across Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to fund a 5-year project "Development of short season, cold tolerant, disease resistant corn in-breds". MCA is represented by Morgan Cott on the Canadian Corn Pest Coalition (CCPC), a collaborative group of corn experts promoting the proper stewardship of corn pest management technologies. To take on an emerging European Corn Borer resistance issue, MCA and other CCPC members are funding a project, "Mitigation

and management of Cry1F resistance in European corn borer in Canada" a Canada wide study led out of the University of Guelph. Although majority of hybrid development is done by the private sector, Manitoba Crop Alliance plays an important role in ensuring crop production practices are keeping pace with the advancements in genetics to get the most of the seed investment.

**Sunflower & Flax.** MCA, along with six other special crop organizations formed the Diverse Field Crops Cluster, a cluster that supports the research and development of high-potential special crops including sunflowers. DFCC aligns industry and research stakeholders to seize market opportunities and accelerate the acreage and market returns of these crops. Research investments in special crops will offer producers a cropping mix that will help extend rotations, break disease and pest cycles, and insulate producers from the volatility of commodity price cycles.

Funding allocated towards the "Development of Long Type Confection Sunflower Hybrids" project, has an overall goal to develop adaptable confection hybrids, with the desirable seed type including herbicide tolerance and disease tolerance for our Canadian sunflower market. The program will offer seed types that have the length and seed width that will allow producers and processors to market their product both international and domestically, expanding current and new markets.

### Support for Variety Performance Testing

Manitoba Crop Alliance supports its research in genetics and variety development by funding variety evaluation trials. This includes work coordinated by the Manitoba Corn Committee, Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Team, and the Sunflower Variety Performance Trials. Funding of these trials provide Manitoba producers with regional third-party performance data on varieties that are registered or are being tested as experimental hybrids in Canada.

Manitoba Crop Alliance in conjunction with the Prairie Recommending Committee on oilseeds and the Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group fund flax variety testing with a combined outcome of assessment of newly registered cultivars, and

experimental lines from the University of Saskatchewan and the Crop Development Centre (CDC) Flax Breeding Program with comparisons to relevant reference cultivars.

Data is made available to growers via publication in SEED MANITOBA and MCA communications including our website and e-newsletter.

### Whole Farm Research

MCA will be leading and developing a research program that focuses on a whole-farm, cross-commodity approach to research, tackling issues such as soil health, pest management and crop rotations. To date, there have been small steps made towards funding research that is not crop-specific and collaborating with other grower organizations to fund such projects.

A good example is the Extremes of Moisture Initiative, which is a collaboration between MCA, Manitoba Canola Growers Association, and Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers and co-funded by the Government of Manitoba CAP program. There is currently significant national and international research focused on drought issues. While very important, in Manitoba crops can experience the extremes of dry conditions to excess moisture, sometimes in the same year. Crops are more often at risk of yield loss due to excess moisture than drought and research is needed on the various methods to manage excess moisture in our cropping systems.

MCA has also committed to funding various projects within the Canadian Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster. This 5-year group of projects asks, "What lessons can be learned about the management practices of one crop that improves the prospects for the rotation". Manitoba Crop Alliance will build upon the foundation of funding cross-commodity research and will share the goals of our whole-farm research program in the coming months.

With concerns of a significant decrease of federal funding for research post-pandemic, MCA is actively engaged in discussions regarding potential changes to how crop research is funded in Canada. Manitoba Crop Alliance will continue to build research relationships, engage funding partners, and commit to funding, managing, and monitoring research projects that will advance the interests and profitability of farmer members.



## Malting Barley Overview: Growing, Selection, Processing & Markets

Thursday  
Nov. 26th, 2020  
1:30pm – 4:40pm

To register, email  
Mallorie Lewarne  
at [mallorie@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:mallorie@mbcropalliance.ca)

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CMBTC  
CANADIAN MALTING BARLEY TECHNICAL CENTRE

# SAVE THE DATE FOR MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

February 11th, 2021 – 1:00 PM C.S.T.  
More details will be provided leading up to the AGM



L to R: Darcelle Graham, Tammy Cote, Mallorie Lewarne, Pam de Rocquigny, Daryl Rex, Lori-Ann Kaminski,  
Kate Menold, Morgan Cott, Rae Jackson

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**MANITOBA  
CROP  
ALLIANCE**

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