



# Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

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## From the Office

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. As I reflect on all that happened in 2015, there was much to be thankful for and we hope that 2016 will be filled with much more!

In December the Board and staff spent some time working on a Strategic Plan, trying to look out longer term at the future for this organization and for corn producers. It was an excellent opportunity for reflection on what has been done in the past and to spend some time discussing what the road ahead looks like. As the plans get worked out in more detail we hope to share them with you.

However, if you have any thoughts on direction for the Association or things that you feel we are missing or we have not accomplished to your satisfaction please contact the office or your local director. The Directors are all listed on our website along with their contact information.

One of the areas that we know we will need to be involved with in the coming year is the discussion beginning with the federal and provincial governments on what the next suite of farm programs might look like. Again, if you have thoughts or ideas about what you feel should be included or what needs to be changed from the current programs please let us know.

## CropConnect Conference:

One more reminder you should pre-register for the CropConnect Conference. Feb. 10 & 11. You can do so by going on the website at: [www.cropconnectconference.ca](http://www.cropconnectconference.ca)

I believe the program committee has put together a really great agenda and the full committee has been working very hard to make the whole event a great experience.

## Annual General Meeting:

Please find elsewhere in this Newsletter more information about our AGM. Join us for first hand updates on the things that your Association is doing for you.

As part of our AGM we will also have an opportunity to elect new members to the Board of Directors. Though the three Directors whose terms have come to an end have agreed to allow their names to stand for re-election for another three year term; and due to the untimely passing of Lorne Loeppky we will need to have a two-year term filled as well. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved please give the office a call.

We would love to see a crowded room at our Annual General Meeting—please plan to be there!!

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## The Manitoba Corn Growers Association

### Annual General Meeting

will be held in conjunction with the CropConnect Conference

**February 10, 2016 @ 3:05 p.m. in the AGM Room (Wellington A)  
at the Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg**

Agenda items will include the Presidents remarks, research updates and financials, as well as the usual housekeeping items that require the approval of those in attendance annually.

## From the Field

As many now know, we did find some Northern Corn Rootworm in Manitoba this past season. While we have always been at risk to have corn rootworm, it hasn't been identified in a corn field until 2015. Corn rootworm infestations are completely avoidable and manageable, however it isn't possible to eradicate the insect in a corn-on-corn rotation.

To get a better idea of where corn rootworm may actually be present, the MCGA wants to survey some corn-on-corn fields in 2016 across the province. Since the insect was found in a less-conventional corn-growing area last year, it tells us that it can be almost anywhere, as long as there has consistently been a corn crop host for it to survive. As a result, we are looking for fields throughout Manitoba that have been in corn for a few years, or more, that we can visit in spring, and throughout the season to monitor. This includes grain corn fields, but will most likely consist of silage fields that have been in corn for a number of years. Even if a given field has only been in corn for 2 or 3 years, I would be interested in looking for insect presence because it will tell us how efficient CRW is at finding a food source.

This survey is solely for the purpose of education, since we are still learning about corn rootworm and its survivability in Manitoba, and how it affects a corn crop. CRW has the ability to really rob yield if unmanaged, so the more we know about it and where it can be found, the better our future looks in Manitoba and even Western Canada.

If you, or someone you know, is a corn-on-corn grower, I would be very interested in hearing from you and having you participate in this survey. No names will ever be used, but if corn rootworm is found in an area, we will publish the Municipality or general area that the insect is discovered, so that other growers can be aware of the risk.

Please contact me for details or questions. This project is just in the preliminary stages, so we do have many details to work through, and would be interested in hearing your input.

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## Request from Andria Jones-Bitton, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, University of Guelph

Professor Jones-Bitton has reached out to us to request help in sharing our Producer Stress and Resilience survey with producers across our country.

Responses continue to come in (they are at about 700 producers!), and are still working towards our goal of 1000 (any commodity - agriculture, horticulture, growers, food animal, etc.). Please help them meet (or exceed) their goal of 1000 producers so we can obtain good baseline data.

As a reminder, this study is to gain important baseline information on **producer mental wellbeing** in Canada, and will be used to help direct future research efforts and resources for producers. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete, is completely anonymous, and participants can be entered into 1 of 3 draws for \$200. The University of Guelph Research Ethics Board has approved the study.

The survey link is: [www.producerwellness.ca](http://www.producerwellness.ca)

The University of Guelph also did a short video on the study: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK4wxhW8mvg>

They have extended the survey deadline to **January 18th**.



# CropConnect Conference

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

TIME	MANAGEMENT	TECHNOLOGY	AGRONOMY	AGM
7:30 - 9:00				<b>Manitoba Pulse &amp; Soybean Growers AGM</b>
8:00 - 9:00	WELCOME AND REGISTRATION			
9:00 - 10:00	<b>Managing in an Economic Downturn</b> – Michael Boehlje, Purdue University			
10:05 - 10:55	<b>Creating a Top Performing Team</b> Donald Cooper, former owner, Cooper Canada	<b>Trends in Farm Management &amp; Costs of Grain Farms in Western Canada</b> David Sullivan, Global Ag Risk Solutions	<b>Agriculture Phosphorus in Manitoba ... Shortage or Glut?</b> Don Flaten, University of Manitoba	
10:55 - 11:35		NUTRITION BREAK		<b>National Sunflower Association of Canada</b>
11:40 - 12:20	<b>Baby Steps to Bigger Profits: The 5% Rule</b> Kristjan Hebert, Hebert Grain Ventures	<b>Unmanned Aerial Systems in Agriculture, the Time is Now</b> Chad Colby, Colby Ag Tech	<b>Enhancing Management of Canola Harvest</b> Angela Brackenreed, Canola Council of Canada	
12:20 - 1:20	LUNCH			
1:25 - 2:15	<b>Retirement Dreams vs. Successor Aspirations: Bridging the Gap</b> Jacquie Gerrard, Backswath Management	<b>Moving Towards Prairie Agriculture 2050 - Climate Change</b> Brian Amiro & Karin Wittenberg, University of Manitoba	<b>On-Farm Research</b> Kristen Podolsky, MPSG, & Greg Bartley, University of Manitoba	
2:20 - 3:00	<b>Using Agronomics &amp; PGR's to Solve the Lodging Problem</b> Pam de Rocquigny, MAFRD	<b>Monitoring Agriculture From Space: What Can We See?</b> Leander Campbell, AAFC	<b>Making the Grade for Sunflowers: Tools for Success</b> Anastasia Kubinec & Troy Turner, National Sunflower Association of Canada	
3:05 - 3:45		NUTRITION BREAK		<b>Manitoba Corn Growers Association AGM</b>
3:50 - 4:40	<b>Getting the Most Out of Your Grain - The Fine Art of Grading</b> Judy Elias, Canadian Grain Commission	TBA	<b>Corn: From Seed to Trash and What Comes After</b> Greg Bartley, Magda Rogalsky & Patrick Walther, University of Manitoba	
4:45 - 6:00	FARMER'S SALOON (TRADESHOW FLOOR)			
6:30 - 9:30	<b>Banquet Evening "When Lightning Strikes"</b> – Comedy with Dave Hemstad			

TRADESHOW OPEN



# CropConnect Conference

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

TIME	MANAGEMENT	TECHNOLOGY	AGRONOMY	AGM
7:30 - 9:00				<b>Manitoba Canola Growers AGM</b>
9:00 - 10:00	WELCOME AND REGISTRATION			
10:05 - 10:55	<b>Keeping Your Social License to Operate</b> – Charlie Arnot, The Center for Food Integrity			
10:55 - 11:35	<b>Getting the Most from Your Talent</b> Barbara Dartt, The Family Business Group	<b>Food &amp; Farm Conversations: How to Change the Hearts &amp; Minds of a Concerned Public</b> Dr. Kevin Folta, University of Florida	<b>Seed Treatments, Neonicotinoids &amp; Bee Health</b> Cynthia Scott-Duprée, University of Guelph	
11:00 - 11:40		NUTRITION BREAK		<b>Manitoba Flax Grower Association AGM</b>
11:40-12:20	<b>Canadian Production Matters, but Who &amp; When</b> Lawrence Yakielashek, Farmlink Marketing Solutions	<b>Getting the Most Out of Your Grain - The Fine Art of Grading</b> Judy Elias, Canadian Grain Commission	<b>The Flax Industry's Agronomic Strategy</b> Dr. Paul Dribnenki, Dribnenki Consulting	
12:20 – 1:10		LUNCH		<b>Manitoba Wheat &amp; Barley Growers Association AGM</b>
1:15 – 2:05	<b>Exploring the Real Cost of Farm Safety</b> Dave Kramer, SAFE Work Manitoba	<b>Design of Controlled Drainage Systems: Theory &amp; Practice</b> Gary Sands, University of Minnesota	<b>4R Fertilizer Roulette</b> Don Flaten, University of Manitoba, & John Heard & Marla Riekman, MAFRD	
2:10 – 2:50	<b>Employer of Choice/ Working with Generation Y</b> Barbara Dartt, The Family Business Group	<b>The Producer Role in Variety Development: a Western Canadian Project Report</b> John Groenewegen, Ph.D., CMC, JRG Consulting Group	<b>Examining Pre-Harvest Glyphosate &amp; Other Herbicide Use from the Two Largest Oat Millers in Canada</b> Pat VanOsch, Richardson International & Terry Tyson, Grain Millers Canada	
2:55 - 3:35		NUTRITION BREAK		<b>Manitoba Oat Growers Association AGM</b>
3:40 - 4:40	<b>Business Side of Ag...A Bottom Line Look at Strategy, Efficiency &amp; Profitability</b> Donald Cooper, former owner, Cooper Canada			

TRADESHOW OPEN