



MANITOBA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2:40 p.m.
Wellington Room, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg**

AGENDA

- 2:40 p.m.** **Call to Order**
 Approval of Agenda
 President's Remarks ~ Myron Krahn
- 2:55 p.m.** **Minutes from last Annual Meeting**
 Motion to Accept Minutes as Circulated
- 3:00 p.m.** **Auditor's Report ~ Motion to Approve Audited Statements**
- 3:05 p.m.** **Reports –**
 Nomination Committee
 *First call for nominations from the floor
 Review of previously circulated documents
 Questions & Answers
 *2nd call for nominations from the floor
 Motion to Accept Committee Reports
- 3:10 p.m.** **Final Call for Nominations from the Floor**
 Election of Directors & Motion to Destroy the Ballots
- Other Motions:**
 Motions to Appoint Auditors—D. F. George
 Motion to Approve the Actions of the Board in 2016
 Motion to Re-organize for 2017
- 3:15 p.m.** **Question Period**
- 3:20 p.m.** **Adjournment**

President's Report February 2017

Once again, I have the privilege of delivering the good news about the 2016 Manitoba corn crop. Most areas of the province started with very good conditions at planting, if not a little on the dry side. It didn't take long though for the rains to begin and then the big weather topic of the growing season seemed to be the wind. Large areas were hit with repeated strong wind storms in early July that caused "green snap" and thinned out plant populations that many have never seen before. Through it all, Manitoba corn producers grew a record crop of nearly 147 bushels per acre on 305,000 acres of harvested grain corn. It left many to wonder how good the crop could have been had the green snap not occurred. For me, producing a record crop with the adverse conditions seen this past year is a testament to the effective research, plant breeding and second to none production practices from Manitoba producers.

2017 will bring a change to the MCGA that will literally change the face of the organization. Theresa Bergsma will be retiring after dedicating the past 29 years to this organization. Her commitment, drive, foresight, and her amazing passion for corn producers in Manitoba has been greatly appreciated during her tenure with the association. With her efforts, Theresa has helped move and shape the Association as well as the entire Ag industry, and for all that we would like to thank her.

The research program continues to move along very well. We have many projects on the go and are looking forward to beginning new ones as well. These projects take considerable time and effort to coordinate and we are very pleased to have this work overseen by Lori-Ann Kaminski. Lori-Ann comes to us as an example of collaboration amongst commodity groups. She is currently employed by MWBGA and works for us on a contract basis.

Looking ahead, we have entered into a collaboration effort with MWBGA and have hired a joint GM that will serve to benefit both organizations. We intend to continue to run our organization with the focus being on research that will benefit producers in Manitoba. As we move our research program along we will continue to communicate closely with other organizations to determine if there are areas that we can do together to bring added value back to you, the producers.

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work over this past year from our staff, Theresa, Morgan, Jackie, Tammy and Lori-Ann.

And on a personal note, I also want to acknowledge the efforts from my fellow directors, it is a pleasure to sit at the board table with you all as we take on the important work of navigating the Association through the rapidly changing times in agriculture.

2016 Board of Directors

Patrick Friesen, Niverville	Reginald Johnson, Arborg	Dustin Krahn, Winkler
Myron Krahn, Carman	Emile Morin, Otterburne	Dennis Thiessen, Steinbach
Dean Toews, MacGregor	Roland Unger, Arden	Garett Veldman, Carman
Leonard Wiebe, Carman	Trevor Wytinck, Cypress River	

Manitoba Agriculture Contact: Pam de Rocquigny, Provincial Cereal Crops Specialist

Staff: Theresa Bergsma, General Manager Morgan Cott, Field Agronomist
Advance Payments Contacts: Jackie Martin, Tammy Cote

**Manitoba Corn Growers Association Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Chairman's Remarks: Vice-President Leonard Wiebe called the meeting to order, indicated that President Myron Krahn sent his regrets and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then reviewed some of the highlights the past year and then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last Annual Meeting as circulated.

MOTION: D. Krahn – D. Thiessen: That the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting be approved as circulated. CARRIED

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Dale George, accountant for MCGA, reviewed the Auditor's Report. Assets continue to increase because of the equipment purchased with the WD program. He noted that with a few adjustments the books were found to be in good order.

MOTION: R. Unger – D. Toews: That the Audited Financial Statements be accepted as presented. CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Theresa reviewed the nominating committee information, indicating that the terms of Reg Johnson, Emile Morin and Roland Unger had come to an end and all will let their names stand for re-election. As well due to the untimely passing of director Lorne Loeppky we will need to fill a one year term to complete Lorne's term. Leonard extended the first call for nominations from the floor. Emile Morin nominated Patrick Friesen from Niverville, who agreed to let his name stand for election.

Leonard introduced guests Pam de Rocquigny, MAFRD, Dr. Yvonne Lawley, U of M and Dr. Lana Reid, AAFC, Ottawa.

The Committee reports were reviewed briefly and it was indicated that they were in the package and an opportunity was given for questions.

A second call for nominations from the floor was extended.

MOTION: D. Thiessen – R. Unger: That the Committee Reports be accepted as presented. CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: There was a final call for nomination from the floor with no further nominations coming forward.

MOTION: D. Krahn – G. Veldman: That nominations cease and that the slate of officers presented be accepted. CARRIED

Therefore the elected directors, Reg Johnson (Arborg), and Emile Morin (Otterburne), Roland Unger (Arden) and Patrick Friesen, (Niverville); along with Dustin Krahn (Morden), Myron Krahn (Carman), Dennis Thiessen (Steinbach), Dean Toews (MacGregor) Garrett Veldman (Carman), Leonard Wiebe (Carman) and Trevor Wytinck (Cypress River) will form the Board for 2016.

MOTION: R. Froese – R. Johnson: That D.F. George be appointed as Auditors. CARRIED

MOTION: D. Thiessen – D. Krahn: That the Actions of the Board in 2015 be approved. CARRIED

MOTION: R. Froese – D. Toews: That the Board be re-organized for 2016 CARRIED

Question Period: During the meeting there were questions about the administration fees for the Advance Payments Program and Theresa indicated that the fee is set to cover expenses but not to raise additional funds. Users of the program pay for the program. There was also a question about what other organizations we are members of the response was that we belong to KAP on the Provincial level and GGC at a national level.

L. Wiebe declared the meeting adjourned.

From the General Manager

As I am putting together the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Package I am very aware that this is the last time I will be working on this as the General Manager of this organization. This is an exciting but sad time for me as over the next few months we hope to transition to a new General Manager. It is exciting because new people always brings renewal to an organization and as final arrangements are being made I believe that the two Boards have chosen a very capable person who will bring a whole new level of excitement and ideas to our organization.

It is also sad for me because I have now committed over half of my life to this organization and seen it grow from a very small organization with only myself as part-time staff to a very established organization with four employees that continues to tackle big issues on behalf of its members. There were times along the way that I thought we were tackling issues that were way to big for us but the Boards were always very strong and dedicated and each time the results were positive for our membership. One of these times is the first time that we decided to tackle the trade issue of cheap, subsidized corn being dumped into Canada. Though we took on a very large entity, and did not win the actual trade case, we did succeed in drawing attention to the issue and in increasing the price of corn for our membership during the two year that it took to resolve the issue.

There were also times that I felt the Board worked very hard at an issue and lost and these are the times that are toughest for me to remember. The example of that is the 2009 crop year and all the issues with crop insurance. This was not a win for producers and that loss was felt very deeply by the Directors on the Board at the time and was certainly not because of lack of action on their part.

All in all it has been a wonderful experience working for this organization!



Activity Report 2016

Membership: Our 2016 membership income from Check-off Levy was higher despite lower corn prices. Thanks to a good yield unaudited income was \$520,524.00 of which \$33,986.00 was returned to producers who requested check-off dollars be refunded.

Our active membership totals 1380 at year end, which is again a slight increase over the 1308 that we had at the close of 2015.

We also like to acknowledge the continued support of our Associate members.

Finance: In 2016 we continued to receive good support financially, not only from the Levy but also from matching fund from both levels of government. Our unaudited income was \$1,364,969.00 and expenses were \$1,365,382.00. You will find the details of our expenditures in the Audited Financial Statements which will be available at the Annual General Meeting. Our biggest investment continues to be into the research projects with over \$700,000 going to either external or in-house research projects.

We also continue to be active in policy areas that affect our members and also expended close to \$30,000 on our Newsletter and other communications efforts with our membership.

Nomination: The terms of Dustin Krahn, Myron Krahn, Leonard Wiebe and Trevor Wytinck have come to an end. Myron and Leonard have indicated they will let their names stand for another term and, at time of writing, Trevor is still considering. At this time the Board is working on some leads for directors but has

not found anyone willing to let their name stand. They will continue to work on this but would encourage members to think about someone in your neighbourhood whom you think would make a good addition to this board and with their permission nominate them during the Annual Meeting.

Safety Nets: MCGA has been working with Grain Growers of Canada, and other provincial and national associations to develop alternative programming for producers. It is clear that most grain farmers have lost confidence in the Agri-Stability program with less than 40% still enrolled. It is critical that producers have a reliable and bankable safety net program that is easy and transparent to use in place.

Policy Activities: Besides quite a number of meetings to discuss safety nets MCGA has been involved in a number of other policy meetings/events. We have met with Minister Eichler both as a group and as part of his Manitoba Agriculture Industry Consultations, reminding him of the needs of our industry and particularly of the need for a smooth transition from Growing Forward 2 to the new Agriculture Policy Framework so that research projects don't lose a year. We also discussed the need for good support under safety net programming and the problems with AgriStability.

We have also spent quite a number of hours on things like the Cosmetic Use of Pesticide Regulations and Bee Health. Two issues that are related and the outcomes of which could have big impacts on producers.

We are also members of KAP and Grain Growers of Canada and therefore are busy with policy on a provincial and national level through and with these organizations.

CropConnect: MCGA also participated actively in the organization of the 2016 CropConnect event in Winnipeg. This conference continues to grow each year, in both attendance and in the caliber of speakers that present.

Cash Advance: The 2016 Advance Payments Program has advanced almost \$60 million to 442 producers to date. This is the first full year that we have advanced on all crops in Manitoba. We have also added a number of vegetable crops to our list of crops for those farmers who provide product to Prairie Puree in Portage la Prairie.

The 2015 APP came to a close at the end of September 2016 and we still have a little over \$1 million to collect from producers who are currently in default.

From the Field

By early February, when you're reading this at your kitchen table (or elsewhere, I don't want to get too detailed...), I'll be starting my maternity leave for the next 12 months. We have been working hard at putting a delegating plan in place for my duties as Field Agronomist, and I think we have come up with a good strategy.

First of all, we will most likely be hiring someone via contract to take care of the general agronomy and producer/industry inquiries. This will cover field visits, agronomic inquiries and public relations. Our members will know who the new contact is as soon as we are able to announce it and you will get their information at that time. Please utilize this individual to their full potential because they are there for your benefit, and the more experience they get, the better their future in the industry.

Secondly, I am looking into getting a contractor to do some field trials across the province, which would enable us to deliver research data to our members consistently. This is information that will also be relayed to our membership as it happens, but we feel it would be a good use of funds in my absence, and possibly going forward. On this front, we are more than happy to hear your comments or concerns, including the types of projects you have been wanting to see in corn.

Finally, the Manitoba Corn Committee trials will still remain in my care over the year, and I am happy to be continuing with it. We would like our contracting agronomist to be completely capable and confident in doing the field checks for our 10 sites in 2017, and making sure everything is looking as it should. I will carry out the administration and contact with contractors and involved seed companies to ensure the trials run smoothly for everyone.

I will keep my phone number and email over the duration of the year, however, I will NOT be available for any inquiries unless they are directly related to the Manitoba Corn Committee trials. Theresa and Pam will be available through the office for anything that I have missed and they will also be kind enough to help me with some of the MCC responsibilities. They will be sure to keep membership informed of any changes or additions to the MCGA team in the coming months, as I'm sure it will be a time that you want to be kept up to date on the organization.

All the best in the coming months and the 2017 growing season.

MCGA's In-House Research

Emergence & Wireworms:

With the changes that Ontario is having regarding neonicotinoid use, it is best for Manitoba to be proactive in learning the wireworm and/or seedcorn maggot pressure that we are dealing with. During emergence in the spring, some growers were noticing poor emergence/plant stands, so this created a great time and opportunity to check the efficacy of wireworm bait balls. I tested two kinds of bait balls, which are used in Manitoba and Ontario:

1. All purpose flour & water
2. Rolled oats, water & honey

I "planted" these at four different sites, with about 6-8 locations in each field. I put both versions of the bait ball side by side, about 12-24" apart. Generally, the oats, water & honey worked better and attracted more wireworms, so I would stick to that in the future, but it's an interesting test. I didn't "catch" that many wireworms overall, and I did do comparisons in heavy and very light soils, all close to Carman. Common threshold for wireworm bait ball traps is one to two wireworms per bait ball. If you were planting a crop with the seed treatment option, that would be your trigger to treat with an insecticide good for wireworm suppression.

In order to meet the thresholds necessary to unlock access to neonic-treated corn and soybean seed, you must have an average of one wireworm per scouting location across a total of no more than 100 acres. (GFO/Ontario Farmer March 2016.)

Corn Rootworm Survey:

Continuous corn fields, mostly in Western Manitoba were surveyed in the early spring for corn rootworm presence. In some cases, the producer's agronomist came with me to check what I was looking for and how we did this scouting. The first portion of the survey was done end of May through end of June, when corn plants were relatively small, and the rootworm were attracted to the growing corn roots. Most fields were visited twice in this time period, because I was trying to determine what stage was best to scout at. No larvae were found at this time, even in fields that were confirmed to have CRW in 2015.

A third visit was made to these fields in August to check for adult corn rootworm, who may be feeding on the silks. "Unfortunately", I wasn't able to find any adults at this time either, though this is the best stage to be scouting successfully for CRW.

John Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture, and Mike Wier, DuPont Pioneer, were called to two fields in the Morden and Winkler areas and confirmed corn rootworm in those two fields. Otherwise, I'm not aware of any other fields that have been confirmed for presence.

Hail Damage:

I have had this subject raised more than once, and it would be a great project to have funded and done in a professional manner. I wanted to test out what might have to be considered for a project like this, since it will be relatively intense to complete.

Starting at V10 (but a project would be started at VE), I went out at each growth stage and mimicked hail damage. In increments of 10% damage, I represented 0-100% foliar damage and finally complete damage by cutting the plant down at about 6" off the ground.

Goss's Wilt Survey

2015 was the second year that this survey was performed with MAFRD pathologist. Each municipality was surveyed according to how many corn acres were planted there, as per MASC planted acreage reports. Permission was granted by landowners and they were notified if there was a positive test for Goss's Wilt. Samples were taken from fields where presence of disease was in question, and they are being tested in University of Manitoba pathology lab, run by Dr. Fouad Daayf.

My focus, as the agronomist, is to work directly with growers to implement field scale trials that have a direct interest to their farming practices, and also to broaden my contact with our members. The MCGA would like our members to consider using our services when they have questions regarding their grain or silage corn, if they are looking for a new perspective. We do not discourage the use of your local agronomists, but we are an additional source of information and our focus is solely on corn in Manitoba.

Please contact the MCGA with suggestions for projects, or if you are willing to host a project on your farm. We can discuss what you are interested in and make it work for your operation without being too invasive in your own corn fields. The greatest struggle is getting participants who are able/willing to accommodate a trial and also finding someone with the time to implement it.

Respectively Submitted by:
Morgan Cott
Field Agronomist, MCGA
204.750.2489

Update on External Research Projects

A. Photosynthetic cold stress tolerance for sustainable corn production in Canada

Lead Researcher: Leonid Savitch, Ottawa Research & Development Centre, AAFC

Co Investigator: Lana Reid, Ottawa Research & Development Centre, AAFC

Start Date: 2016

Project Length: 2 Years (2016 – 2017)

Objectives: (For Corn funding)

Identification and characterization of the mechanisms responsible for enhanced photosynthetic cold stress tolerance in corn.

Design fast and efficient screening tests for photosynthetic corn cold stress tolerance.

Identify germplasm with enhanced photosynthetic cold stress tolerance suitable for northern expansion and incorporation into the corn breeding program.

Total Project Cost: \$147,050

MCGA funding approved: \$31,000

Funding Partners: Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Association, GF2 Agriculture Innovation Project

Benefits to MB Producers: Long term variety development tools.

B. Corn Malt

Lead Researcher: Paul Holloway, Dept. of Biology, University of Winnipeg

Co Investigator: Jamie Galka, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Manitoba

Start Date: 2016

Project Length: 1 Year

Objectives: to produce a malted alcoholic beverage, which does not contain gluten.

MCGA funding approved: \$11,096

Funding Partners: University of Winnipeg through under graduate student work awards.

Benefits to MB Producers: Exploration of alternate end-uses, understand the possibilities and challenges for Manitoba grown corn in malt/beer production.

C. Monitoring an invasive bacterial pathogen (*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *nebraskensis* CMN) of corn using next generation- sequencing

Lead Researcher: James Tambong, Research Scientist, Ottawa Research & Development Centre, AAFC

Collaborator: Lana Reid, Research Scientist, Ottawa Research & Development Centre, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Start Date: 2015

Project Length: 4 Years (2014-2018)

Objectives:

1. Collect and preserve Canadian strains of CMN.
2. Investigate population structure and diversity of CMN strains isolated between 1969 and 2009.
3. Develop a molecular assay for specific detection of CMN.

Total project cost: \$255,000

MCGA funding approved: \$45,000

AAFC funding: \$210,000

Funding Partners: AAFC

Benefits to MB Producers: The long-term goal is to increase our capacity to monitor and forecast the

spread of Goss's wilt in Canada and to develop strategic IPM recommendations that include an early warning detection system.

D. Corn Agronomy Project

Lead Researcher: Yvonne Lawley, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Manitoba

Co Investigators: Mario Tenuta, Paul Bullock & Don Flaten, Dept. of Soil Science, Dr. Derek Brewin, Dept. of Agribusiness, U of Manitoba

Collaborator: Lana Reid, Research Scientist, Ottawa Research Centre, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Start Date: 2014

Project Length: 4 Years (2014-2018)

Objectives:

Crop Rotation

- 1. Identify the best crops to grow prior to corn in a rotation** (Dr. Yvonne Lawley)
- 2. Crop rotation and P fertilization** (Dr. Don Flaten). Measure corn response to phosphorus and zinc when corn is grown after canola or soybeans.
- 3. Economic Analysis of optimal crop rotations involving corn** (Dr. Derek Brewin) MSc. student Hazel Sakulanda

Residue Management

- 4. Identify optimum corn residue management strategies.** (Dr. Yvonne Lawley) MSc student, Patrick Walther, monitor soybean emergence and development along with soil moisture and temperature in four tillage treatments. Treatments include Vertical Till- low disturbance, Vertical Till-high disturbance, Disc, Strip Till- in row & between row measurements
- 5. Evaluate fertilization strategies for alternative tillage systems for corn production** (Yvonne Lawley, Don Flaten) MSc. student Magda Rogolsky

Corn test crops planted into tillage experiments (fall tandem disc tillage vs. fall strip tillage) established in the fall of 2014 near Carman (U of M Research Station) and Portage La Prairie (Canada Manitoba Crop Diversification Center). Five fertilizer treatments; a control and two rates of P fertilization applied either in fall as a deep band with the strip till unit or in spring, side-banded at planting.

Corn Heat Unit Evaluation

- 6. Evaluation of corn heat unit system for Manitoba** (Dr. Paul Bullock) MSc. student Justice Zhanda

Corn Row Spacing

- 7. Evaluate corn row spacing to optimize corn yield and fall dry down** (Yvonne Lawley)

Total project cost: \$648,300

MCGA funding approved: \$280,500

Partner funding: \$439,745

Funding Partners: Western Grains Research Foundation, Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI) part of Canada Manitoba GF2 programs.

Benefits to MB Producers: Development a core capacity for agronomic researchers, training potential agronomists working within Manitoba, and addressing MB producers' production challenges.

E. Manitoba Corn Initiative - Corn Development Project

Lead Researcher: Lana Reid, Research Scientist, Corn Breeder, Ottawa Research Centre, AAFC

Co Investigators: Derek Brewin, Dept. of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics; Fuoad Daayf & Claudio Stasolla, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Manitoba

Start Date: 2014

Project Length: 4 Years (2014-2018)

Objectives:

Corn Breeding Project

1. Developing corn hybrids with early maturity and rapid dry-down for the Prairies – Screening nurseries have been established in MB to test early season selections of inbred and early hybrid lines from Dr. Lana Reid’s corn breeding program AAFC Ottawa

2. Corn Moisture Meter Calibration – a hand held moisture meter has been developed by Lana Reid’s team in Ottawa. The agronomy team in Manitoba has adopted this non-destructive testing, 6 units are in use across the experiments.

3. Pollination (Selfing) of inbred lines

4. Goss’s Wilt nursery – The technology to screen for this disease is being developed. (Fuoad Daayf)

Identification and characterization of the bacterial populations causing Goss’s wilt on Corn in Manitoba.

Corn physiology for flooding survival (Claudio Stassola)

Corn End Uses Project - Forecasting corn use in Manitoba and breeding focuses.(Dr. Derick Brewin) MSc student Hazel Sakulanda

Total project cost: \$1,706,309

MCGA funding approved: \$372,900

Partner funding: \$1,333,409

Funding Partners: Grain Innovation Hub part of Manitoba’s GF2 programs, AAFC, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (for an expansion of Claudio Stassola’s corn physiology work)

Benefits to MB Producers: Developing corn hybrids with early maturity and rapid dry-down for the Prairies will expand traditional corn growing areas and reduce production risk for all corn growers. Knowing the composition of the local populations of Goss’s wilt and how it performs on commercial lines of corn will allow corn growers to make knowledge-based management decisions to reduce the negative impact of Goss’s wilt. Plant hemoglobin expression has been proven to influence flooding response in other plant species. If this is found to be true in corn, measurement of hemoglobin expression could be used as a screening method for flooding tolerant hybrids.

F. Expand Research Capacity for Innovative Row Crop Research and Development in Western Canada

Start Date: 2014

Project Length: 4 Years (2014 – 2018)

Objectives: Purchase and strategically position equipment for row crop field research in different regions of Manitoba and allow for nutrient management research in the 2016 & 2017 growing seasons. Allows for utilization of the equipment in the several collaborative research projects with the U of M and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) funded by either the MCGA and MPGA.

Total project cost: \$1.24 M

MCGA funding: In-Kind project management

Funding Partners: Western Economic Diversification Canada, Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers Association

G. Canadian Field Crops Genetic Improvement Cluster

The “Canadian Field Crop Genetics Improvement Cluster” is a collaboration between the Canadian Field Crops Research Alliance (CFCRA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Industry-Led Research and Development Stream of the Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Agri-Innovation Program (Science Clusters)

CFCRA includes Grain Farmers of Ontario, Producteurs des grains du Quebec, Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers Association, Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Atlantic Grain Council, Secan & PepsiCo Foods Canada.

Start Date: 2013

Project Length: 5 Years (2013-2018)

Overall Objectives: The Canadian Field Crops Genetic Improvement Cluster is a \$10.3 million research investment

1. Breeding program for soybeans and grain corn nationally
2. Breeding program for barley and oat in eastern Canada

Objectives for Corn:

1. Development of corn inbreds
 - A. For short season growing regions
 - B. With improved Disease resistance
 - C. With rapid kernel drydown for harvest
2. Development of corn for new markets
3. Development of advanced selection tools to improve breeding efficiency and effectiveness

MCGA funding approved: \$267,000

Funding Partners: \$10,000,000 CFCRA partner organizations and AAFC through the GF2 Science Clusters

Benefits to MB Producers: This GF2 cluster is a national research program that focuses on providing Canada's soybean, corn, oat, and barley producers with continued access to enhanced genetics for high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties while also addressing the needs of the market for value-added traits that deliver higher levels of nutrition and improved processing attributes

MANITOBA CORN COMMITTEE REPORT

For the 2016 season, the MCC had planned for seven grain hybrid evaluation trial locations: Beausejour, Carman, MacGregor, Melita, Morden, St. Pierre and Warren but due to environmental conditions, Beausejour and Carman were eliminated early on. There were also three silage evaluation trials: Arborg, Elm Creek and St. Pierre, which were planted successfully, however due to saturated soils, we decided to omit Elm Creek. This left the grain evaluation sites to MacGregor, Melita, Morden, St. Pierre and Warren, and the silage evaluation sites to Arborg and St. Pierre. The MCC would like to thank our contractors – AgQuest Inc., DuPont Pioneer, Murphy et al., WADO and PESAI – for all of their hard work in 2016. Also, a big thank you to all producers who provided land for the 2016 trials!

Generally, the weather was good all spring and summer, with slightly higher than normal corn heat units accumulated across the province. That isn't to overlook the heavy rains that took place in certain areas, which were nearly impossible to recover from. Fortunately, we had another relatively open fall, which allowed for corn harvest to continue through late November.

Grain corn acres are back in a good range for Manitoba, at about 319,000 acres in 2016. This isn't the highest they've been, but I do think we are on the upswing with good yields and decent prices, and Manitoba can expect increased grain corn acres again in 2017. Silage corn remained strong this year at approximately 91,000 acres.

The MCC published the yearly results, along with long term averages, in its "2016 Manitoba Corn Hybrid Performance Trials" brochure as well as *Seed Manitoba 2017*. The MCC results are available from the MCGA office, their website at www.manitobacorn.ca and Manitoba Agriculture GO Offices. *Seed Manitoba 2017* is also available online at www.seedmb.ca

The 2017 MCC trials are in the works already, and we plan to continue with seven grain and three silage trials again this year. If there are any questions about the MCC, please don't hesitate to contact me.

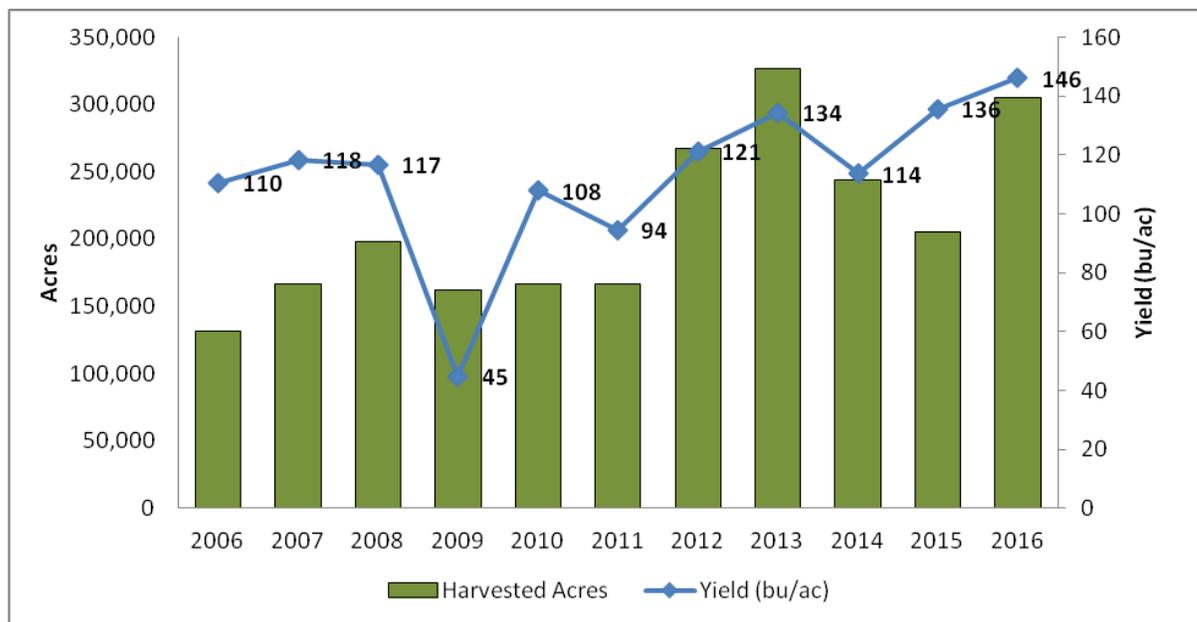
Respectively Submitted by:
Morgan Cott
Chair – MB Corn Committee
Field Agronomist, MCGA
204.750.2489

Record Average Yield for Grain Corn in Manitoba!

Submitted by: Pam de Rocquigny, Manitoba Agriculture

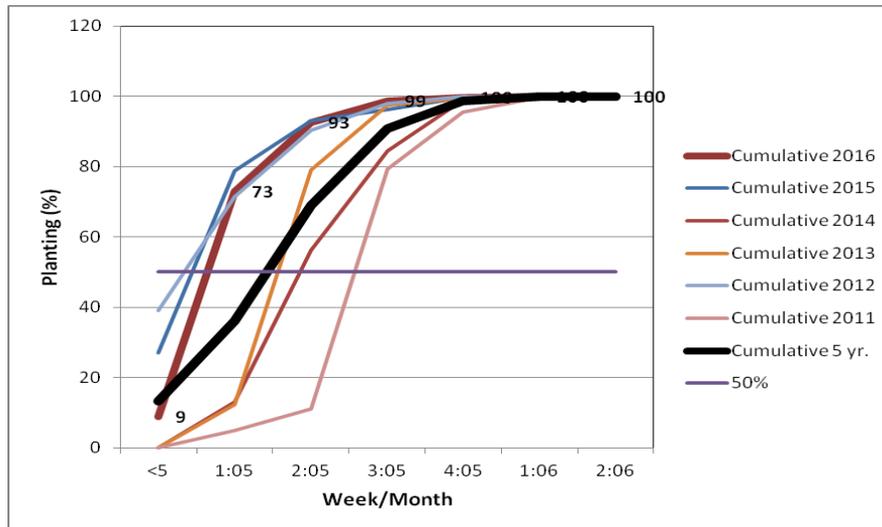
Provincial Grain Corn Yield a Record in 2016! Manitoba grain corn producers set a record provincial average yield in 2016 of 146 bushels per acre, based on almost 305,000 harvested acres with 99.9% of Harvest Production Reports keyed in (Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation – MASC). The 10-year average yield for grain corn is 113 bushels per acre (2006-2015), with the second highest average yield of 136 bushels per acre reported in 2015 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Manitoba Average Grain Corn Yields by Year, with 10-Year Average Yield (2006 to 2015) of 113 bushels per acre. Data Source: MASC



Normal Start to Corn Planting in 2016. The start of the 2016 growing season was right on schedule for many Manitoba corn growers. Typically, majority of grain corn is planted the first two weeks of May and 2016 was no exception. Of the total acres reported planted to MASC, 9% of grain corn acres were planted prior to May 1, 64% of acres planted the first week of May and 20% of acres planted the second week of May (see Figure 2). Compare that to 2015 where 28% of acres were planted prior to May 1st with close to 94% of acres planted by the end of the 2nd week of May.

Figure 2: Grain Corn Cumulative Planting Progress in 2016 compared to previous years and the Five-Year Average. Data Source: MASC



According to submitted seeded acreage reports (SARs) to MASC, total acreage of grain corn planted in Manitoba was 328,100 acres, up significantly from 2015 acres of 225,200 (record planting occurred in 2013 of 334,620 acres). The top five hybrids grown in Manitoba based on market share were: P7632AM (20.9%), P7958AM (18.6%), P7332R (6.6%), P7211HR (5.9%) and 39V09AM (4.5%). Interestingly, there were 93 different hybrids reported as grown in Manitoba. There was also 96,230 acres of corn silage planted in 2016, up from 90,600 acres in 2015.

2016 Growing Season Summary. Dry conditions were prevalent across many areas of Manitoba in the first few weeks of May where precipitation would have been welcomed for planting and fertilizer applications and to assist with crop emergence and growth. However, middle of the month saw cooler temperatures combined with precipitation in the form of snow and rain. Temperatures also fell below 0°C during the weekend of May 14 to 15th where frost injury symptoms were evident on emerged corn; minimal impact to final stands were experienced however. The cooler air and soil temperatures, combined with drier soil conditions in some areas, slowed emergence and early season growth. The last week of May also saw significant amounts of precipitation in areas of the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions.

Rainy weather conditions continued throughout the month of June, causing crop injury and crop death in lower areas of the field due to excessive moisture conditions. Herbicide applications also were hampered by wet weather and field conditions, impacting timely herbicide applications and/or second pass herbicide applications in corn.

Severe weather systems containing strong winds, heavy rains and hail passed through several areas of Manitoba towards the end of June and into July. Crop damage in the form of stalk breakage (green snap) impacted many corn fields, reducing plant stands and therefore reducing yield potential. Wet weather,

combined with plants damaged by wind, led to higher levels of the disease Goss's Wilt in Manitoba in 2016.

Generally more favourable growing conditions including warm temperatures and reduced precipitation throughout August helped advance Manitoba's corn crop. Additionally, the warmer night time temperatures were of great benefit, a repeat of what occurred in 2015. The earliest planted fields started to tassel the first week of July.

The first killing frost in 2016 didn't occur until October so majority of grain corn acres had reached physiological maturity. Good weather in September allowed for good grain fill and dry down conditions. Grain corn harvest did start for some producers towards the end of September in the Central Region, but the majority of harvest operations got underway early to mid October and continued into November due to wet field conditions in many areas of the province.

Provincially, from May 1 to October 2, average corn heat unit (CHU) accumulation was 111% of normal, with the regions of Central, Eastern, Interlake and Southwest seeing average CHU accumulations of 109 to 112% of normal. In regards to rainfall, provincially the average accumulation of precipitation was 120% of normal. An average percent of normal precipitation accumulation for each region was determined from the crop reporting stations in each region; Central Region reported 133% of normal, Southwest Region 126% of normal, Eastern Region 119% of normal, and Interlake Region 102% of normal. The average accumulation of precipitation in millimetres by region for May to September 2016 is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Average Accumulation of Precipitation Provincially & by Crop Reporting Region from May to October 2016. Data Source: 2016 Manitoba Crop Weather Reports, Manitoba Agriculture

