



Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

From the Office

“Time flies when you are having fun”

That old saying must mean that I am having an awful lot of fun because time is sure flying. Summer is almost over and harvest is probably about half over for a lot of farms by the time you get this Newsletter. It has been a difficult harvest for many of you and for those still at it I pray you reach the end of it safely.

Many of you have already heard that I have given notice to the Board that I would like to retire from my full time position as General Manager of the Association by next June 2017. The Board has begun the work of finding my replacement. As part of this discussion and as part of the discussion about more collaboration between organizations, the MCGA Board, at the request of the MB Wheat and Barley Board has decided to make this new position a shared position with the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association.

Provincial Policy: Policy work continues in the province as the Business Risk Management Committee for KAP, (of which I am the

chair) met with provincial and federal policy folks to do a thorough review of the Agri-Stability. Agenda items included all the issues that we here about from producers—timeliness, complexity, predictability, reference margins etc. They seemed quite interested in having the discussion and hopefully all the discussions lead to a better program in the next suite of safety net programs.

Bin Inspector: We are looking for someone to do bin inspections for us for verification of product under the cash advance program. This would be a part-time, casual position that involves travel and climbing up bins. If you or someone you know would like to do this type of thing please have them contact the office for more details. If the person is willing we would also look to have them help pick the corn for our corn competition entries.

Please enjoy the rest of the harvest season and stay safe!!

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Annual Corn Competition

Just a reminder that we will again be running our Annual Corn Yield Competition. The entry fee is \$25.00. All entrants must be members of our Association. If you do not sell corn through a registered buyer who has taken the membership levy you must pay your membership directly to this office at \$1.25/acre of corn grown. A full entry form will be included with the next Newsletter, but feel free to contact the office to get a form earlier.

The Prizes will be awarded as usual—first to third place will receive cash prizes and the top ten will receive wall plaques.

Well you are out scouting your fields, keep your eye open for that really good spot to enter for the competition. If you know your plot location call the office to get the form to fill out, or fax or email in a map of the land location of the plot along with the farm name, contact name, phone number into the office or mail it in along with the entry fee and we will get your name into the queue.

From the Field

August and early September are a great time to be scouting for corn rootworm in continuous corn fields. I know I have gone over this before, but it is extremely important to know if corn rootworm is present in your corn. The yield penalty you can get from infestations is greater than any producer wants to deal with, and it is such an easy pest to scout for, it's just not worth overlooking.



First, you don't need to check your non-continuous corn fields, unless you are next to a field that is continuous corn. The adults are able to move a small distance, like across the road, so be mindful of neighbouring corn fields. Secondly, if you are in the situation above, with neighbours who practice continuous corn farming, your best bet is to enter the field near the neighbouring corn. If you are scouting your own continuous corn field(s), you will need to scout your whole field. A good note to take will be if you have noticed any goosenecking in the plants in years passed. This is an excellent indication that the area has a high population and it would be a great place to start scouting.



Adult CRW beetles will be jumping all over the place once they sense your movement, and they will be found on the silks, ears and leaves. You will have a hard time taking counts because of their rapid movement and we don't have any economic thresholds in Manitoba, since this is such a new pest to us. What is most important to you, at this stage, is to know whether or not there is corn rootworm present, and do you want to risk this field having an even greater population next year, should you continue to plant corn here.

Now that you know that you do/don't have a corn rootworm population, you need to know what to do. The best way to eradicate CRW from your farm is rotation. Just one year out of corn on an infected field will bring populations down to a number that you don't have to worry about. I know this doesn't feel like an option with livestock producers, but it is hands down, the very best option. The second best option would be to choose hybrids that have resistance to corn rootworm. Talk with your seed dealer and look for the best range of hybrids for your area, but please note that this will not fix the problem permanently. This will be an ongoing problem that you need to deal with year after year and you could (and probably will) create a resistance issue, which is becoming a serious issue in eastern Canada.

Check your corn fields today for corn rootworm. If you aren't sure where to begin, please feel free to call John Gavloski, entomologist with MAFRD, or myself and we can either talk you through it, or visit the field with you. We are currently doing a survey on corn rootworm across the province and there have been new fields identified that are positive for CRW, so please keep in contact with us on this issue.

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