



# Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

September 2018

### From the Office

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**Welcome to Rae Jackson:** The MCGA would like to introduce the newest member of our team -Rae Jackson. Rae lives in Miami, MB and brings over 18 years of clerical and administrative experience in a diverse range of business, including farming, medical, construction and insurance. She is excited to start working with the MCGA, and both her and Tammy Cote will continue to provide high quality service to our Advance Payments Program clients and our membership.

**Crop Update.** I hope Manitoba farmers have enjoyed a safe [#Harvest18](#) to date. Spring cereal and canola yields have been a pleasant surprise to many, considering the below normal precipitation in many areas of Manitoba. By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, corn harvest will be right around the corner as dry conditions have sped up crop maturity. Heat and moisture stress during the 2018 growing season likely put downward pressure on yield potential in 2018. However, we won't know for sure the impact on yield or bushel weights until harvest starts. The MCGA wishes membership a safe corn harvest.

**Grain Growers of Canada (GGC).** The MCGA remains engaged and active in policy on a national level as a member of the GGC. Read more on page three of this newsletter.

**Exploration of Amalgamation Continues.** MCGA remains committed to exploring a potential amalgamation with the Manitoba Wheat & Barley Growers Association, the Manitoba Flax Growers Association and the National Sunflower Association of Canada. It has been the intent of the Board to consult with membership and allow members to vote on whether to amalgamate, and not have the decision rest at the board level. The steering committee comprised of directors and staff from the four groups continue to revise the proposal, addressing concerns heard during the initial consultation period. We will keep membership up to date on progress and timelines. The MCGA welcomes feedback and input from our membership. Therefore, please don't hesitate to contact any of the MCGA directors or myself if there are any questions or concerns.

Until next time,  
**Pam de Rocquigny**

### **ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM (APP) UPDATE**

#### **IMPORTANT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 IS THE LAST DAY TO REPAY YOUR 2017 CASH ADVANCE**

Now is also a great time to complete and submit your Post-Production paperwork for your 2018 advance.

**Application forms will also be ready soon for the 2019 program – fall seeded crops**

**For courteous and personalized service related to your Cash Advance, please don't hesitate to contact the MCGA office at 204.745.6661 and speak with Tammy or Rae.**



## News Release

### Four Manitoba Commodity Groups Moving Forward Together to Explore Potential Amalgamation

**CARMAN, MB – August 14, 2018** – Four like-minded grower organizations will continue to explore a potential amalgamation with the commitment to consultation and allowing membership to make the decision.

At the end of July, the steering committee consisting of directors and staff from five grower organizations met in Carman, Manitoba to review details on an updated proposal examining amalgamation and a model that did not include legal amalgamation. After reviewing both options, and following additional discussions after the July meeting, the Manitoba Corn Growers Association (MCGA), Manitoba Flax Growers Association (MFGA), National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC) and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Association (MWBGA) will move forward together by allowing their memberships to decide on a potential amalgamation.

“I believe it is the time to look more closely at how Manitoba commodity organizations operate, with the end goal of how we can better serve our members - Manitoba farmers,” said Myron Krahn, past president of the MCGA. “Many farmers belong to multiple commodity organizations. Imagine what we could accomplish together if an administratively efficient organization was formed that allowed focus on crop-specific issues, increased research and agronomic capacity, included a mechanism to allow farmers of any age or gender to serve on the new organization, and enhanced grassroots involvement.”

The steering committee now comprised of farmer-director representatives from the four groups and staff will continue to incorporate feedback that was heard at the regional meetings held in January and the annual general meetings in February 2018. An amended proposal exploring amalgamation is being developed for membership to consider.

“NSAC is willing and happy to proceed with like-minded organizations to ensure the best investments into research and market development,” said NSAC President Mark McDonald. “From the initial Memorandum of Understanding signed in May 2017, we committed to consultation with membership to make sure farmers from each commodity organization have a voice. We also committed to allowing membership to make the decision.”

The farmer-led steering committee will also determine the next steps to ensure an adequate consultation period for members to review the revised proposal, including when a membership vote would occur and how. “We have said from the beginning that farmer members need to drive this and we as directors need to make sure that happens,” said MWBGA chair Fred Greig. However, as stated during the consultation period and the 2018 annual general meetings, the steering committee will take the time needed to do things right.

The four grower organizations remain committed to seek out and engage in collaborative opportunities with fellow Manitoba grower organizations, with the objective to better serve Manitoba farmers who grow multiple crops on their farm.

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**For more information, please contact:** Pam de Rocquigny, General Manager, Manitoba Corn Growers Association  
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## News Release

### Grain Growers of Canada welcomes new Vice President and members

*Expanded membership means Canada's grain farmers will have a stronger voice in Ottawa*

**OTTAWA (August 8, 2018)** – Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) is pleased to announce that four new members have joined the organization, bringing total membership to 16 national, regional and provincial grower groups. The announcement was made at the organization's semi-annual Board meeting on Aug. 1, 2018 in Guelph, ON.

New members include:

- ⇒ Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
- ⇒ Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ)
- ⇒ Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SaskPulse)
- ⇒ Manitoba Oat Growers Association (MOGA)

"An expanded GGC means a stronger voice for grain farmers in Ottawa," said GGC President, Jeff Nielsen. "Grain farmers are driving economic growth across Canada and by working together we can help deliver the conditions that Canada's hard-working middle class grain farmers need to continue that growth."

At the same meeting, the GGC Board elected Markus Haerle, Chair of Grain Farmers of Ontario, as the organization's new Vice President. Mr. Haerle is replacing Art Enns of the Prairie Oat Growers Association who stepped down from the position at the meeting.

"I am delighted to take on this role and help lead GGC into the future," said Mr. Haerle. "The need for meaningful market access, reliable risk management programs and regulations that encourage growth is shared by farmers across Canada and we can help meet those needs with a united voice in Ottawa."

At a time when grain farmers are increasingly challenged by trade volatility, policy priorities for GGC include expanded international trade including the quick ratification of CPTPP, the successful implementation of the *Transportation Modernization Act*, and a comprehensive review of business risk management programming that delivers programs that work for farmers.

*Grain Growers of Canada provides a strong national voice for over 65,000 active and successful grain, oilseed and pulse producers through its 16 provincial, regional and national grower groups. Our mission and mandate are to pursue a policy environment that maximizes global competitiveness and to influence federal policy on behalf of independent Canadian grain farmers and their associations.*

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**The MCGA is a member of the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC), whose mandate is "to influence federal policy on behalf of independent grain farmers and their associations." The GGC held their Summer 2018 Board of Directors Meeting from August 2 to 4, 2018 in Guelph, ON. Dennis Thiessen attended on behalf of the MCGA. The GGC have been active on several key files, including the recently announced proposed decision by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to phase out all outdoor uses of thiamethoxam and clothianidin, two classes of neonicotinoids (neonics) registered in Canada. GGC will be providing comments to PMRA on this proposed decision by November 13, 2018, and the MCGA will provide information on the impact to Manitoba corn growers. For more information, please contact Pam de Rocquigny, General Manager.**

## Report from MCGA's Field Agronomist

### Water Use in Corn

Corn is known to be one of the highest water and nutrient users, as far as grain crops are concerned. As soil water is being brought upwards into the corn plant, it also carries dissolved nutrients from the soil. As soil moisture becomes limited, the ability of a plant to take in nutrients also becomes limited. In relation to nutrient uptake, ample soil moisture is vital during the vegetative growth stages of a corn crop. In terms of corn's reproductive growth stages, soil moisture actually becomes less important as the plant approaches physiological maturity and nutrients in the water become more concentrated.



Corn water requirements are highest as vegetative growth comes to an end and reproductive growth begins, around tassel emergence (VT), through to silking (R1), which includes pollination timing. In 2018, that was mid-July, earlier than "normal" and at peak temperatures for the season. This means corn water requirements were greatest during high heat (high evaporation rates) in drought-like conditions, so requirements were probably even greater than normal during these stages this year.

### Drought Stress During Reproductive Stages

*"A drought is a period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric, surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few as 15 days." -- Wikipedia*

When water becomes a limiting factor in any plant, the stomata (required for CO<sub>2</sub> intake and O<sub>2</sub> release) close, increasing plant tissue temperatures, decreasing photosynthesis, and slowing plant growth yet speeding up crop development. This is what we notice in corn now - curling of the upper leaves and lower leaves dying prematurely. If rains occur while there is still green matter, that tissue can recover its productivity. However, tissue that is already yellowing or worse cannot recover.

There is currently very little water being stored in the soil, so corn is using its reserves within the plant. This is the reason for the drought symptoms, because the water and carbohydrates within the plant are being used to fulfill reproductive growth. Plant tissue death prevents any further remobilization of stored water or carbohydrates to the developing ear. In the event that whole plant death should occur before natural black layer formation, grain fill has likely not been completed, resulting in light grain, high grain moisture and therefore longer field drydown.

It is still too early to predict what may or may not occur in the coming weeks. Much of the corn in Manitoba is in the late dough (R4) to dent (R5) stages, with physiological maturity (R6), or black layer to follow. This rapid progression of the reproductive stages is not ideal and may likely lead to some light grain. However at this stage, if the plants can naturally run their course before any premature drydown, that is best. The late August rains may have prolonged the remaining reproductive stages, but to what degree depends on each field.

View more detailed information in our August 17, 2018 Field Production Report: <http://manitobacorn.ca/2018-field-production-report/>

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