

2014 Annual Report  
**Proceedings of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Inc.**

Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Sask.

January 14, 2015

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Wakefield at 1:15 p.m. Approximately 160 members and guests were in attendance. In his opening remarks, he welcomed the members and several guests, including: CSGA President Norm Lyster of Stettler, AB; Dale Adolphe, Executive Director and Gail Harris, Operations Coordinator from CSGA Ottawa; visiting delegates from Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario Seed Growers Associations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada personnel; University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre personnel; Canadian Seed Institute personnel and representatives from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Motion (Joe Rennick/Bob Rugg) That the agenda of the 86<sup>th</sup> annual meeting be approved as presented. Carried.

**2. Disposal of Minutes**

Motion (Brennan Wiens/Jason Gizen) That the minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of January 15-16, 2014 be approved. Carried.

**3. Appointment of Committees**

President Laurie appointed Lyndon Olson and Brennan Wiens to the Nominations Committee and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Les Trowell/Baine Fitzler) That nominations for the Nominations Committee cease. Carried.

President Laurie appointed Cathy Fedoruk and Shawn Fraser to the Resolutions Committee, and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Roy Klym/Jason Gizen) That nominations for the Resolutions Committee cease. Carried.

**4. President's Report**

Laurie presented the President's Report, highlighting some of the activities and issues that have faced the Association over the past year. Representation on the Prairie Grain Recommending Committee's Wheat, Rye and Triticale group, and the Canadian Seed Trade Association have been added to the workload over the past year, and while there always seems to be more that could be done, balancing the time and resources is sometimes a challenge.

Canada's Pedigreed Seed system is recognized internationally and has been moulded over the past century. However, there were wide scale changes in 2014, and more are on the horizon. CSGA president Norm Lyster had challenged the provincial associations to come forth with visions of where the system needs to go, and it would be much more desirable to build the system from within than have someone else impose it on members. The focus of the Board has been on communication over the past year, but it is a two-way street. Member input is necessary to make it work, and the annual meeting is the ideal forum.

He expressed his appreciation to the Board of Directors for their service over the past year, as well as to the advisors who serve with the Board, and the members for their support.

Motion (R. Klym/J. Rennick) That the President's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Dave Akister presented the Executive Director's report, reviewing the operations of the provincial office and the activities of the Board and the Association over the past year. He said that this time last year discussion was centred on Alternative Service Delivery and field inspections and the hurdles that had to be overcome in just months to build a privatized inspection system. While it's amazing as to how much has been accomplished, one theme that kept resurfacing: too many growers don't know Circular 6, the

## Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Crop Production.

At one time, a select grower had to qualify in every crop kind. Once a grower qualified for select production in wheat, he had to start over to qualify in oilseeds. If he didn't produce a successful plot at least once every five years, the grower's status was reviewed. CSGA's permission and the approval of a committee of the grower's peers was needed to start the process. About 20 years ago a resolution was passed and adopted by CSGA that Select Growers should have that status for life. However, that may no longer be an acceptable practice.

Dave reviewed what has happened to Circular 6 over the years, from a 16 page pamphlet in 1938 to an Internet version today that spans hundreds of pages and multiple sections and crop kinds, and there's a new set of changes published every year. By February 1, 2015, there will be another, completely revised version of Circular 6. About 10 years ago, the Alberta Seed Growers Association came up with a concept called Seed Grower Designate. It basically advocated that growers need recognized training at different levels for the different status crops they're producing, and it may be time to revisit the idea.

He said seed production is polarizing. Some growers are downsizing their land base and dealing only with high generation seed. Others are going in the opposite direction, pushing for thousand acre fields and 50,000 bushel seeds lots – produce as much as they can as fast as they can. Seed is becoming a commodity. Who's right? Will there be a need for a Circular 6 for Certified and a different one for higher generation seed?

There was a time when the integrity of the seed was the most important. That doesn't always seem to be the case any more. And when it comes to seed performance issues, that's when phones start ringing at SSGA, and at CSGA, and seed labs and CFIA and seed retailers. Can the industry afford not to qualify its growers? Does "Once a Grower, Always a Grower" still apply? It's a conversation that Seed Growers need to have ... and soon, he concluded.

Over the past year the Board has held regular meetings in January, March, June and November; attended the annual meetings of Seed Growers in Alberta and Manitoba, and at national meetings in Regina and Winnipeg; have held joint sessions with the Seed Grower Boards from other provinces and continue to promote member interests to organizations such as Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops; Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, Saskatchewan Forage Industry, Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group, Agribition, CSI, WGRF, Crop Production Week; Seed Industry Advisory Committee and several others.

Dave acknowledged and thanked the Annual Meeting sponsors, including: 20/20 Seed Labs, Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Bank of Montreal, Brett Young Seeds, CANTERRA SEEDS, Churchbridge Credit Union, Cornerstone Credit Union, CPS Proven Seed, CropInspect, Discovery Seed Lab, EMW Industrial, Farm Business Consultants, Farmers' Edge, Farrell Agencies Ltd., Federated Co-op, FP Genetics, Grain Millers Inc., Innovation Credit Union, Monsanto BioAg, Northstar Genetics, Richardson International, SeCan, Seed Depot, Syngenta Crop Protection, T&L Seeds, Western Producer Publications, XiteBio and Yorkton Co-op.

He expressed his thanks to President Laurie, the Board of Directors and the members, for their continued support.

Motion

(Cathy Fedoruk/Roy Klym) That the Executive Director's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

## 6. Education and Publicity Report

Cathy Fedoruk presented the Education and Publicity Report, reviewing the past year's activities. She updated the various projects being undertaken by the E&P committee, including the Impact of the Pedigreed Seed Industry on the Economy of Saskatchewan. The Seed Industry generates over \$700 Million to the province, and a more complete report will be presented later in the meeting. Other activities have included development of a pilot project for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance on select seed crops; and publication of the annual Seed Guide which has generated more than \$20,000 for the Association.

Motion (Cathy Fedoruk/Bob Rugg) That the Education & Publicity Committee report be approved. Carried.

#### 7. National Directors' Report

Joe Rennick and Bob Rugg gave the National Directors' report, reviewing some of the issues facing the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Two meetings of the CSGA Board have been held over the past year. They reviewed the work of the various committees they are involved with, including Awards, Circular 6, Appeals and Education & Publicity.

Joe reported on changes to Circular 6, including Field Definitions. Fields must have separate applications and crop inspection reports if they are managed separately; are separated by large physical barriers; or are clearly not contiguous or adjacent. Land use inspections can now be used for previous land use verification for Select Plot production. Faba bean isolations have been increased to 100 metres for plots and 10 metres for other generations. All changes are communicated in a Notice of Changes to seed growers (active in either of the past two years), plant breeders, assignees and authorized seed crop inspection services.

Bob reported on activities of the national E&P Committee. Seed Scoop has been revamped and now uses MailChimp to create, send and track email. The newsletter is now mobile friendly. Prior to 2014, education material on seed was available to universities, colleges and high school instructors. Following requests from the Nova Scotia government, CSGA developed an elementary school education module in 2014. CSGA continues to partner with Ag in the Classroom to make the material available and accessible to elementary and high school teachers. The national committee has also developed editorials for trade magazines; videos for the Internet and a Seed Certification Flowchart was converted to a PowerPoint and is available upon request from CSGA.

Bob also sits on the Appeals Committee. The Committee met in November and of the 18 appeals considered, 12 of the appeals (66.7%) were declined; two of the appeals (11.1%) were approved; three of the appeals (16.7%) were approved with conditions imposed and one appeal (5.5%) was approved at a lower class

Motion (Joe Rennick/Roy Klym) That the National Directors' Report be approved as presented. Carried

#### 8. Financial Report

The Auditor's Report was presented by Executive Director Dave Akister, outlining the Association's financial position for 2014. The report showed total revenues of \$166,553 and expenses of \$158,641, for an operating surplus of \$7,912. The surplus is due primarily to increases in sponsorship and Seed Guide revenues.

Current member equity in the Association is \$273,273 compared to \$265,361 reported last year. Highlights of the report included income of \$22,678 from publication of the Seed Guide and \$22,125 in sponsorship. SSGA continues to support the Variety Performance Evaluation trials in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion (Shawn Fraser/Barry Reisner) That the Financial Report be approved as presented. Carried.

#### 9. 2015 Budget

SSGA Vice President Roy Klym reviewed the financial affairs of the Association and presented the budget for 2014. He outlined the increased activities that the Association is undertaking, and with the projected number of acres and membership anticipated, the Board is recommending a fee increase of one cent per acre to offset those costs.

Motion (Lynelle Olson/Baine Fritzler) That the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association increase membership fees by one cent per acre to a total of 30 cents per acre. Carried.

Roy then presented the Budget for 2015, which reflected income from the adjusted fees. He projected revenues of \$179,000 and expenses of \$177,525 for an operating surplus of \$1,475. Membership revenue is anticipated to be about \$106,250, based on 275,000 acres and 475 members. In comparison to 2014 actual costs, the 2015 budget was presented as follows:

	<b>Actual 2014</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Growing Forward 2 Grant	5,957	7,500
Interest	1,818	750
Membership Fees	106,546	106,250
Miscellaneous Income	0	22,000
SaskSeed Communications	22,678	20,000
Proceeds from Meetings	7,429	2,500
Sponsorship	<u>22,125</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<b>\$166,553</b>	<b>\$179,000</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Advertising & Promotion	0	5,000
Agribition	0	500
Annual Meeting	27,705	30,000
Crop Production Week	400	500
Educational Programs	15,406	12,000
Grants	2,500	2,000
Interest & Bank Charges	216	250
Membership/Registration	1,556	3,000
Miscellaneous	292	500
Newsletters/website/promotions	2,776	2,800
Office Contract	30,000	31,200
Office Contract Extension	7,823	8,575
Office Supplies	2,384	2,500
Postage & Mailing	1,393	2,000
Professional Fees	6,778	7,000
Sask Variety Performance Group	10,000	10,000
Telephone & Fax	1,898	2,200
Travel - Board	15,191	18,500
Travel - Out of Province	25,039	31,000
Travel - Staff	<u>7,284</u>	<u>8,000</u>
	<b>\$158,641</b>	<b>\$177,525</b>
Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 7,912	\$ 1,475

Roy reported that the Miscellaneous Income was SSGA's anticipated share of the surplus from the CSGA 14 Annual Meeting; the Growing Forward 2 grant was to offset costs of the Economic Impact Study currently under way; and the increases in Board and Out of province travel costs were for the additional workload. The amount for the Educational Programs is earmarked for Growers Workshops or education sessions if required. Membership and registration became its own category last year, as SSGA is a member of a number of organizations and costs are now becoming significant.

Motion (Les Trowell/Lyndon Olson) That the 2016 Budget be approved as presented. Carried.

Motion (Roy Klym/Brent McCarthy) That Virtus Group Chartered Accountants of Saskatoon be retained as the Association's auditors for 2015. Carried.

#### 10. The Pedigreed Seed Picture: Quantity, Quality and Questions

**Bruce Carriere** of Discovery Seed Labs spoke about the quantity and quality of pedigreed seed supplies that could be expected across the province in 2016. He told members that in general, germination rates and vigour are below the long term averages, and some crops such as durum have been hit especially hard. Diseases of cereal crops are well above the long term averages while pulse crops are a little above average.

He analysed *F graminearum* infection by Crop District to give growers a better idea of what's happening in their areas. The range of the disease is more important than the actual number, so Discovery Seed Labs is going to be moving all its fusarium testing to DNA. He recommended that growers use seed lots with low levels; use seed treatments; increase seeding rates to reduce tillers; apply a fungicide and use varieties that have some level of resistance.

He explained the various testing methods to determine germination, and why there are times when germination results are lower than vigour.

#### 11. Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee Chair Cathy Fedoruk reviewed the rules and announced that written resolutions were now being accepted. She reported on the action taken on the 2014 resolutions.

#### 12. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Lyndon Olson announced that nominations were being accepted for the positions of President; Vice President, two Directors to serve two-year terms; one Director for a one-year term; and one National Director to serve a two-year term.

#### 14. Bill C-18: What does it mean to the Seed Industry?

President Laurie called on Shawn Brook, President of Issues Ink, to moderate the panel discussion: “Bill C-18: What does it mean to the Seed Industry?” Panellists included: Anthony Parker, Commissioner Plant Breeders Rights Office, CFIA Ottawa; Dr. Ron DePauw, Wheat Breeder, AAFC-SPARC, Swift Current; Peter Entz, Director Seed and Traits, Richardson International, Winnipeg; and Brent Collins, Director Cereals Marketing, Bayer CropScience, Calgary.

**Anthony Parker** opened the discussion by explaining Bill C-18 and the proposed UPOV’91 amendments to Canada’s Plant Breeders’ Rights (PBR) Act. He said the changes are in anticipation of what the future will look like, with more than 9 Billion people to feed worldwide by 2050. Many countries are increasingly dependent on global agricultural trade to meet their food security needs and agriculture production will need to increase by 60-70% to meet that demand. Most of that will come from intensification (higher yields) from existing agricultural land.

Plant breeding is a crucial activity to meet that goal and it is time consuming, expensive and resource intensive. However, plant varieties can quickly and easily be reproduced, and without protection from “plagiarism”, that research may not be forthcoming. The patent holder has the right to protect their variety in the marketplace and receive fair remuneration for their innovation. While PBR protection is voluntary, it affords the breeder an avenue to take legal action against unauthorized propagation and sales; allows them to license growers and define the terms and conditions of agreements; collect royalties and fees for use of the material, and exercise control to prevent material from being stolen or illegally propagated.

Benefits for farmers include a competitive marketplace; an environment where innovation is encouraged to promote more choice through an increased number and diversity of crops and varieties; international harmonization; and a better balance of the interests between public and private institutions, farmers and breeders.

Canada’s PBR Act was passed in August, 1990 and based on the 1978 Convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV ’78), The intent of the legislation was to stimulate investment in plant breeding in Canada and provide Canadian producers better access to foreign plant varieties. Amendments proposed under the 1991 UPOV agreement are intended to strengthen breeder protection; improve access to the PBR framework and balance the interest and benefit sharing of all stakeholders. One of the clauses included in UPOV ’91 is the explicit recognition of “farmer’s privilege” which allows the farmer to continue saving, conditioning, storing and replanting seed of a protected variety on their own farm (provided the seed was acquired legally).

The legislation is currently in the Canadian Senate for examination and is expected to come into force in early spring of 2015. All varieties granted protection under the old PBR Act (UPOV ’78) will continue under the old regime, but once the new Act comes into force, all new applications will be subject to UPOV ’91 protection. There will be no impact on farmers who have obtained seed legitimately, he told members.

**Dr. Ron DePauw** presented his view as a plant breeder. He said that the legislation had no impact on him as an individual plant breeder. The rights are granted to the employer – in his case, the Government of Canada. He agreed that the new legislation provides opportunity for the breeding institution to seek compensation, and ensures fairness and curtails illegal sales. Harvested material has status, and

recognizing that also provides an opportunity for a new royalty collection system that potentially can take the onus off requiring all the collection of a return on investment off the seed.

A new variety must be “clearly distinguishable” and cannot be “essentially derived” (having only a few minor changes). There are also exemptions to the legislation, such as “Private Use” which allows anyone to use a protected variety for non-commercial purposes; “Research” which ensures that scientific investigations can continue on new varieties; and “Breeder” so that protected varieties can be used to develop new varieties. The duration of protection for grains, oilseeds and pulses changed from 18 years to 20 years, and PBR protection begins with the acceptance of PBR filing.

He expanded on the opportunity for a new royalty collection system where it could be applied to harvested material (grain) but regulations would first need to be developed. The farmer would pay for on-going use of a protected variety but the system would provide sustainable funding to plant breeding.

**Brent Collins** said that the legislation will help provide a return for companies who have taken on the challenge of becoming global competitors in wheat. Private seed companies require a Return on Investment (ROI) to do so, and the only way to do so is through royalties on Certified Seed, propagation material or the harvested crop. The legal framework to do so is through Plant Breeder’s Rights. PBR only applies to registered varieties which fulfill the required criteria of Novelty, Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability. Growers have the right to use any unprotected varieties without paying royalties, and developers may choose not to charge a royalty

The advantage to End Point Royalties (EPR) or charging on harvested material, is that the risk is shared between the grower and breeder. The royalty would be charged on the first sale of harvested crop grown, and the amount charged would depend on the yield, thereby sharing risk between the farmer and breeder. A breeder could collect on either the seed or the harvested material, but not both.

He said that the legislation addresses future challenges of agriculture and a combination of public and private investment will be required to deliver innovation in a timely manner.

**Peter Entz** presented the point of view of a seed retailer, not a variety developer, and said that the legislation will encourage investment because it will assure protection for companies to develop stronger, bigger, faster products for farmers. It’s about healthy competition, he said. Not all varieties will be good at everything, but there will be some that will solve problems that farmers are experiencing.

Developers who are moving germplasm internationally to Canada will have the assurance that their innovation will be protected, and Canadian farmers will have access to the benefits and characteristics of those varieties that have been developed in other countries. Ultimately, it’s about the consumer. Some customers don’t want high quality. Others do. Some want high yield, and will trade other characteristics to achieve that. It’s about providing the marketplace with what it needs, and UPOV ‘91 will help do that.

“We have a healthy, wheat breeding industry in Western Canada, and this provides an opportunity for others to get involved, not to limit what they can or will do,” he concluded.

**Shawn Brook** moderated a lively question period as the audience also got involved in the discussion. Some questioned why, as yields increase, the return to the farmer does not; how do farmers exercise control and what will happen to public breeding institutions. Consensus from the panel was that the legislation provides increased opportunity and options for all stakeholders. There is also a shift of responsibility with the buyer also liable for infringement of PBR as well as the seller. The take-home message is that the onus is on buyers and sellers to know what variety they are dealing with.

The restriction on “own use” applies to the limit of a grower’s own holdings, and will ultimately be tested in the courts. The panel did not foresee the legislation having a negative impact on public plant breeding. The public institutions are only one provider and there is no guarantee that profits will go back into variety development. Government research institutions are subject to the wishes of the party in power. Spreading innovation across more stakeholders and creating a competitive environment was seen as a good thing.

Plants who condition seed also have to be aware of the regulations and protect themselves from liability. If a customer doesn't want to sign a declaration that the seed was obtained legally and for own use, the plant can refuse to condition it. As with all legislation, the devil is in the details, and mechanisms have yet to be finalised on such details as whether royalties have been charged on seed or harvested material. The rights holder will be responsible for enforcement.

President Laurie thanked the panel and the members for the excellent, thought-provoking discussion. The meeting recessed at 5:10 pm, to be reconvened the following morning.

#### **Awards Banquet**

SSGA Director Shawn Fraser presided over the Awards banquet, held in Ballroom B. He introduced Dr. Mary Buhr, Dean of the University of Saskatchewan, who announced the recipients of the SSGA Bursaries. Receiving the \$1,000 awards were Amber Landels of Yorkton and Brandon Smith of Rose Valley.

Outstanding Service awards were presented Dale Charabin of North Battleford and Roy Novak of Wadena, while Lonnie Kelly of Yorkton was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Association.

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January 15, 2015

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Wakefield at 8:05 a.m.

**1. CSGA President's Report**

CSGA President Norm Lyster of Stettler, AB brought greetings from the Canadian Seed Growers Association. There have been a number of changes to the CSGA Board of Directors and senior staff over the past year. Norm was named president in July, succeeding Jim Baillie of Nova Scotia. Kevin Runnalls of Ontario and Johathan Nyborg of New Brunswick were elected 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents respectively, while Ron Markert of Alberta was elected to the Board.

After 35 years with CSGA, Rene Daoust retired at the end of 2013 and after almost 20 years at CSGA, Randy Preater retired last month. The Board is conducting an executive search find a replacement for Executive Director Dale Adolphe who will be retiring in 2015.

The alternative service delivery for seed crop inspection launched in 2014 and has changed the way CSGA and seed growers conduct business. Processing of crop inspection reports is now done in a matter of hours instead of weeks. AAFC unveiled their revised proposal for Canada's variety registration framework in October reducing options to Basic and Enhanced registration.

He expressed appreciation to the members for the quality directors they send to CSGA, and thanked SSGA's national directors, Joe Rennick and Bob Rugg, for their efforts on behalf of seed growers.

**2. Report from Canadian Seed Growers Association**

CSGA Executive Director Dale Adolphe expanded on the consultation by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) on the proposed Variety Registration system. The proposal calls for removal of Part 2 and creation of Basic and Enhanced registration by 2016. Crop listings in Enhanced and Basic would not be in regulation but use "incorporation by reference" and not require regulatory amendment to change. Future changes would be made by the Minister or CFIA President after a consultation process.

Forages and oilseed soybeans, which were recently moved to Part 3, would be in Basic Registration. Pulses were also moved to Basic Registration, although there is support to keep some of the pulses in Enhanced Registration, so this is a point for further discussion. All other crop kinds currently subject to variety registration would remain in Enhanced. If new crop kinds enter the registration system, they would enter Basic Registration until such time as a rationale for Enhanced Registration is made by the value chain.

Model operating procedures for recommending committees were to be finalized and distributed to the committees in October, providing guidelines and suggestions, not as directives. If implemented as proposed, the current number of recommending committees would be reduced from 17 to 12.

Dale reported on the membership and acreage picture across the country in 2014. Pedigreed acreage totalled 1.17 Million acres, down a bit from the 1.3 Million acres reported last year. Most provinces showed a decline with Saskatchewan having the largest drop of 53,730 acres, mostly in wheat. Soybean acres have almost surpassed wheat as the largest pedigreed crop kind grown in Canada. He said it was uncertain whether the drop was due to the move to Alternative Service Delivery or the large carryover of seed from the 2013 bumper crop.

**3. Privatization of Field Inspection: Evaluating the First Year**

President Laurie called on Dale Adolphe of CSGA and Tanya Staffen of CFIA to review the first year of the alternative service delivery of seed crop inspection in Canada. Dale told members that typically, there are 2,100 varieties of more than 50 difference crop kinds certified in Canada each year. That involves over 3,500 growers across nine provinces, producing some 17,000 field on about 1.2 million acres. It is the



largest seed crop certification program in the world. Section 2 and Section 3 crops were targeted in the first year because they represent about 82% of inspections across the country (84.6% in Saskatchewan).

While only 27% of applications were received online in 2013, that number grew to over 90% last season. He said 24 service providers were authorized in 2014 (10 in Saskatchewan), with six, including CFIA, conducting over 70% of the inspections. There was a two-day average processing time by CSGA for online applications, compared to eight days for hard copy.

He suggested that next steps will probably include training for plot inspections; training for non - Section 2 and 3 crop kinds such as canola, forages, legumes and corn; and authorizing new ASCIS and training new inspectors. The transition will continue in 2015 with concentration on Section 2 and Section 3 crops to improve areas that were identified for improvement.

While over 50% of the crop certificate were assigned across the country, there is less than half of that in Saskatchewan, indicating the majority of growers here retail their own seed, an indication that Second Party inspection isn't wanted as strongly here as in other parts of the country.

Tanya reported that CFIA trained 200 new seed crop inspections in the past two years and licensed 88 former inspectors. CFIA continued to provide direct delivery of seed crop inspection for plots and forages, about 11% of the total. There were 17,338 field accepted for inspection, including 2,500 plots.

CFIA also conducted 1,847 check inspections and have completed 20 of 24 audits. Of those inspectors who have been monitored, 40 (16%) will have their check inspections increased to 20%; 134 (51.9%) will remain at normal levels with 10% checks required; and 67 (26%) will be reduced to 5% checks.

She said that surveys have been sent to stakeholders, including seed growers, inspectors, services providers and CFIA inspectors, looking for areas where improvements could be made. Two industry working groups have also been established to advise on policy and technical improvements and ways to improve the information management system. The survey results indicated that more than 80% had a positive experience and were satisfied with their service provider.

Concerns raised by seed growers included the cost of inspections; lack of experience of some inspectors; time required to receive the inspection report and some fine tuning is needed to the information management system. For service providers, there was also a high degree (over 80%) of satisfaction with the system but also targeted the information management system as needing improvement.

Other issues raised included the wish for more training and challenges with the CFIA requirement to schedule inspections two days in advance of a CFIA check inspection. During discussion, members raised the need for more transparency when performing check inspections. If the grower needs to do something differently, they don't hear about it until it's too late to change it. Improved communication was also identified by stakeholders as being a priority.

#### **4. Midge Tolerance Stewardship more Critical than Ever**

Todd Hyra of SeCan updated members on the stewardship program to maintain the efficacy of midge tolerant wheat blends. Resistant varieties are blended with a compatible susceptible variety to ensure that the single gene that provides the resistance maintains its effectiveness for a longer period of time. The process allows farmers to save seed, but those buying midge tolerant wheat are required to sign a Stewardship Agreement that limits the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past certified seed.

He told growers that this marks the five-year anniversary of the program, and reviewed the background of the process and its success to date. It has prevented an estimated \$36 per acre loss from midge damage and has reduced reliance on insecticides, the traditional method of midge control.

He reviewed the education program that is being used to inform producers about the stewardship of the gene, which include marketing support tools, advertising, newsletters, videos social media and website materials. There is also training and support for retailers.

## 5. The Economic Impact of the Seed Industry in Saskatchewan

Stuart Smyth of the University of Saskatchewan shared the preliminary results of a survey he is conducting on the impact of the Pedigreed Seed Industry on the economy of Saskatchewan. Stuart is the Industrial Research Chair in Agri-Food Innovation with the Department of Agricultural Economics.

He said that the GDP value of the industry is now over \$710 Million, up from \$389 Million reported in 2001. The direct economic impact has risen to \$506 Million from \$216 Million in 2001, and more than 16,000 people are employed, up from 9,000 previously.

In comparison, a 2013 George Morris Centre study found that the total economic impact (GDP effect) of the seed industry in Canada was \$5.6 Billion. The seed industry employs more than 57,000 people nationally and pays more than \$1.6 Billion in wages. It generates more than \$80 Million in tax revenue.

He told members that the intent of the project, commissioned by SSGA, is to update the previous study done in 2001-02; determine trends in the seed industry; estimate the economic impact of pedigree seed and compare the Saskatchewan industry to other provinces.

Overall, registered acres have dropped by 110,000 in Saskatchewan between 2001 and 2013, but wheat is still by far the dominant crop, accounting for 52% of the pedigreed acres in the province. However, although the pedigreed acres are down by 25%, the value of that production is up 134% and the economic value per pedigreed acre has increased from \$500 to \$1,530.

## 6. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. The Year in Review

Mitchell Japp, Cereal Crop Specialist with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, and an advisor to the CSGA and SSGA Boards of Directors, provided an overview of the activities at the Ministry.

The Ministry strategies are to foster a vibrant and prosperous crops sector through Innovation and Science; leadership and investment; and building on strengths. Irrigation, Value-added and livestock strategies are also in place. The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is to increase exports of agricultural and food products from \$10 Billion in 2011 to \$15 Billion by 2020; increase crop production by 10 million tonnes to 36 Million tonnes by 2020 and to establish the province as a leader in biosciences.

He outlined the province's support for research and industry through Industry Organization Development Fund (IODF), ADF funding (\$11 Million in 2013); and the Strategic Research Program with 15 chairs and technicians funded. SSGA has had two projects funded under IODF. The province supports the Regional Variety Trials through the Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group and the results are published in the Varieties of Grain Crops pamphlet in the SaskSeed Guide.

Other initiatives include a grain cleaning workshop; ergot mycotoxin project; durum fertilizer project and facts on Bill C-18 relating to UPOV '91 and Plant Breeders Rights are communicated through the Ministry's website.

## 7. Nominations/Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Chair Lyndon Olson presented the committee's slate of officers for 2015 and asked for further nominations from the floor.

a) President - Roy Klym

Motion (Larry Littman/Les Trowell) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Roy Klym of Regina was declared elected as President for the next one year term.

b) Vice President - Cathy Fedoruk

Motion (Dennis Gregoire/Bob Rugg) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Cathy Fedoruk of Kamsack was declared elected to a one-year term as vice-president.

c) Saskatchewan Directors - Two Year Terms - Shawn Fraser/Anita Palmier

Motion (Barry Reisner/Roy Klym) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Shawn Fraser of Wymark and Anita Palmier of Lafleche were declared elected as directors for two-year terms.

d) Saskatchewan Director - One Year Term - Mike Shewchuk

Motion (Cathy Fedoruk/Kim Berscheid) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Mike Shewchuk of Blaine Lake was declared elected as director for a one-year terms.

Motion

e) National Director - Joe Rennick

(Roy Klym/Jason Gizen) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Joe Rennick of Milestone was declared as elected as Saskatchewan's nominee to the CSGA Board of Directors for the next two years.

#### 5. New Varieties Update

**Hamid Naeem**, Acting Head of the Seed Increase Unit at the Indian Head Research Station, reported on the new Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada varieties that are in development, including six wheat varieties; three Durum varieties; a two-row malting barley varieties that yields 11% higher than AC Metcalfe; and two high-yielding Field Pea varieties. Some of the wheat varieties are showing substantial yield increase potential and good rust resistance.

**Dr. Pierre Hucl** of the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre outlined a number of promising varieties that are under development, and/or are moving forward for possible registration in 2014. Plant breeders contributing to the development of new varieties were: Aaron Beattie (barley & oat); Kirstin Bett (dry bean), Helen Booker (flax), Pierre Hucl (spring wheat and canary seed), Curtis Pozniak (durum, GP and CPS wheat), Bert Vandenberg (lentil and faba bean) and Tom Warkentin (pea). Of note was a very solid stemmed durum variety, CDC Fortitude; a wheat midge tolerant line in CWAD with increased yield; and a high yielding yellow pea.

#### 9. Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee Chair Shawn Fraser presented one resolution to the members for consideration:

##### **RESOLUTION #1**

**WHEREAS:** The Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association would like to officially recognize the contributions of those individuals and organizations that have assisted in this Association's annual meeting;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association extend its sincere appreciation to:

- 1) the Guest Speakers and program participants for their enlightening presentations, including: Mr. Bruce Carriere, Mr. Peter Entz, Mr. Norm Lyster, Mr Todd Hyra, Dr. Hamid Naeem, Mr. Anthony Parker, Mr. Brent Collins, Mr. Dale Adolphe, Mr. Stuart Smyth, Dr. Pierre Hucl, Mr. Ron DePauw, Mr. Shawn Brook, Ms. Tanya Staffen and Mr. Mitchell Japp;
- 2) the Sponsors for their generous support of this annual meeting, including: 20/20 Seed Labs, Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Bank of Montreal, Brett Young Seeds, CANTERRA SEEDS, Churchbridge Credit Union, Cornerstone Credit Union, CPS Proven Seed, CropInspect, Discovery Seed Lab, EMW Industrial, Farm Business Consultants, Farmers' Edge, Farrell Agencies Ltd., Federated Co-op, FP Genetics, Grain Millers Inc., Innovation Credit Union, Monsanto BioAg, Northstar Genetics, Richardson International, SeCan, Seed Depot, Syngenta Crop Protection, T&L Seeds, Western Producer Publications, XiteBio and Yorkton Co-op;
- 3) and to any others who have contributed to the success of this meeting.

Moved by Joe Rennick

Seconded by Cathy Fedoruk

**Carried Unanimously**

In his closing remarks, President Laurie expressed his appreciation to the members for their participation at the annual meeting and for their support of the Association. He said his term has been "quite a ride" and very humbling. He said the issues build like a roller coaster and ranged from governance to ASD, but it has all been worthwhile. He attributed his success to the Board he has worked with and it has been truly a team effort.

He called Past President Les Trowell forward and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his contributions and service to the SSGA Board of Directors from 2005-2015. As his final act in office, Laurie presented newly-elected president Roy Klym with the official President's Gavel.

With no other business, President Roy expressed his appreciation to the speakers, guests and the members for their participation at the annual meeting and for their support of the Association.

Motion

(Shawn Fraser/Lyndon Olson) That the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association be adjourned. Carried.