



A Message From the Director



Dear Partners, Stakeholders and Friends,

It is hard to believe 2024 is almost behind us. As we draw near the end of another productive year at the Crop Development Centre, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of you for your continued collaboration and support as we deliver on our mission to develop superior crops to support western Canadian agriculture.

I also want to thank our dedicated team of faculty, scientists and support staff. Our success would not have been possible without their commitment to our work.

This year we completed an extensive study on the Economic Impact of the CDC. This report was completed by EY Canada and quantified the significant impact of our work – with very impressive metrics. Our research and variety development programs have contributed \$1.2 billion in GDP to Western Canada’s economy as of 2022. This represents a growth of more than \$500 million since the last study conducted in 2016. You can find a copy of the report [here](#). We are committed to sustainable growth of the CDC, and the report will inform our growth plan over the next few years.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism. Together, we will continue to innovate and continue to tackle regional priorities but with global impact.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. May this festive period bring you peace, happiness, and well-deserved rest.

Warm regards,

Dr. Curtis Pozniak
Director, Crop Development Centre

Awards



Emeritus Professor Dr. Bruce Coulman was officially inducted to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame on November 2, 2024 at the induction ceremonies held in Toronto ON. The aim of the award is to recognize individuals who have made remarkable contributions to Canadian agriculture. Dr. Coulman is an award-winning forage crop researcher who developed 24 novel forage crop varieties throughout his 40+ year professional career. His forage breeding work shaped the future for the profitable production of forage seed and forage crops for cattle feed as a researcher at McGill University, professor and department head at the University of Saskatchewan, and at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Saskatoon Research Centre. Many of his forage varieties were industry firsts including bloat-reduced alfalfa, hybrid bromegrass and smooth-awned forage barley.



Professor Dr. Curtis Pozniak was awarded the 2025 Canadian Plant Breeding & Genetics Award by Seeds Canada at their semi-annual meeting in November. The award is presented annually to a public or private sector researcher who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of Canadian plant agriculture through research in plant breeding and genetics.

Dr. Pozniak led the 10+ Wheat Genome Project that published the first pan-genome assemblies of multiple wheat varieties. His field research program has released over 20 durum wheat varieties, many of which have had a substantial



Marissa Janssen is the Manager of USask's Crop Development Centre and one of the World United States Top 15 Management Mavericks in North America.

The Seed World Group describes a Management Maverick as an individual who breaks away from conventional expectations, showing creativity and originality. They are usually unafraid to forge new paths or to challenge the status quo, making them pivotal in driving change and progress in their environments. In September 2024 they named Marissa Janssen a management Maverick.



The Crop Development Centre received the Protein Industries Canada 2024 Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.



Seed World Canada has selected 2-row feed barley variety CDC Austenson as Seed of the Year 2025.

In the community and beyond



Drs Tom Warkentin and Kirstin Bett along with research officers Kishore Gali and Larissa Ramsey attended the International Conference on Legume Genetics and Genomics in Brisbane, Australia (October 3, 2024) where Tom delivered the keynote address.



Dr. Amidou N'Diaye, Dr. Adam Carter, Dr. Curtis Pozniak, Marissa Janssen, Dr. Valentyna Klymiuk and Lindsay Prafke attended the 3rd International Wheat Congress in Perth Western Australia (September 22-27, 2024) where both Adam and Curtis were presenters.



Dr. Curtis Pozniak delivered a plenary presentation at the 6th International Symposium on Fusarium Head Blight in Niagara Falls ON (October 21-24, 2024)



Dr. Aaron Beattie delivered a presentation at 14th International Barley Genetics Symposium in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina October 28th - 31st, 2024



Drs Adam Carter and Valentyna Klymiuk were invited speakers at the SaskWheat 'Coffee Shop Talks' in Hepburn SK on November 6, 2024.



Dr. Aaron Beattie was an invited speaker at the SaskBarley 'Barley Bin' live talks in Nipawin SK on December 5, 2024



Dr. Curtis Pozniak was an invited speaker at the National Pasta Association 2024 Annual Meeting and World Pasta Congress in Philadelphia PA (October 23-24, 2024)



SIA Saskatchewan Institute of **Agrologists**
Licensed, Trusted, Professionals.

Maggi Bruce AAg
Research Technician
Crop Development Centre, USask
Saskatoon, SK

Check out the **Featured Agrologist** in this week's issue of **The Western Producer**

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Pulse Pathology Research Technician Maggi Bruce AAg, was featured by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists in the Western Producer.



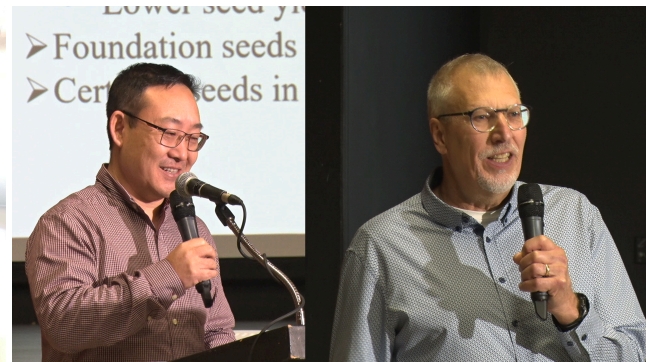
Drs. Randy Kutcher and Curtis Pozniak were part of the panel discussion “What You Need to Know About FHB Going into 2025” and Dr. Sabine Banniza presented on root rot the Saskatchewan Agriculture’s Agronomy Research Update December 10, 2024



Industry liason Jeff Bertholet attended the Grow Canada Conference in Ottawa ON from December 3-5.



Employees from the nutraceutical company ‘Dr. Johanna Budwig GmbH & Co’. in Germany, visited Dr. Bunyamin Tar’an’s flax breeding program on October 28 researching the ability to access the flax market in Canada.



Dr. Bill Biliget and Industry liason Jeff Bertholet presented at the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) AGM on December 10 in Arborfield SK.
(photos courtesy SFSDC)

News Stories



New forage grass named for prize winning horse.



Seed certification protects consumers and research.



New CDC oat variety honours fallen RCMP Constable.

Recent Publications

- Gene co-expression analysis reveals conserved and distinct gene networks between resistant and susceptible *Lens ervoides* challenged by hemibiotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens. Z. Cao & S. Banniza, October 2024.
- Evaluation of pea accessions differing in flower and seed coat pigmentation for resistance to *Fusarium avenaceum* root rot. S. Awodele, K. Gali, N. Sivachandra Kumar, D. de Silva, S. Chatterton. April 2024
- Nitrogen deficiency tolerance conferred by introgression of a QTL derived from wild emmer into bread wheat. N. Govta, A. Fatiukha, L. Govta, C. Pozniak, A. Distelfeld... August 2024.
- Impact of fungicide, IMI-cultivar on ascochyta blight severity and yield of chickpea in Saskatchewan, Canada. M. Hubbard, L. Luan, B. Tar'an & B. Gossen. November 2024.
- Variability in mineral composition of Canadian lentil genotypes. A. Vargas, R. Podder, M. Subedi, K. Bett... October 2024