Saskatchewan flax Grower

Allen Kuhlmann
Chair,
Saskatchewan
Flax Development
Commission

Our Mission

"To lead, promote, and enhance the production, value-added processing and utilization of Saskatchewan flax."

April 2006
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SaskFlax

Chair's Report

My first duties as your newly elected chairman are some thanks you's. Thanks to Edmond Aime for his hard work and energy. We will miss you Edmond. Thanks also to Gordon Cresswell for his three years as Chairman. In addition I would like to welcome Gregor Beck to his first term as director.

The price of flax and the huge differences in price offered by the various buyers isn't very exciting stuff. The other things about flax are however quite exciting! Flax is increasingly being recognized for human health and fiber possibilities as well as linseed oil.

A recent conference on the bioeconomy in Montreal had a large display and talked about flax dozens of times. Flax 2015 looks to achieve it's goals through whole plant utilization resulting from research and the model is viewed very positively by other crops. Our challenge is to try to direct some of the increased value to farmers.

Governments at all levels seem anxious to totally avoid basic agricultural research. This may not seem sexy to government but for flax as well as the rest of the sector it is critical. Our competitors will surge past us if we keep going down this road. Other countries spend far more than we do!

Agricultural policies and regulations impact our bottom lines as producers. We're working with industry and government to create solutions that will positively impact farmers. We have been involved in the National Seed Forum, PRRCG (Prairie Registration Recommending Committee for Grain), the provincial WTO working group and FLAG (Farm Leaders Advisory Group).

Communication within the industry is vital to sustainability and growth. We continue to develop, with our Canadian and American flax counterparts, programs designed to increase consumption and enhance production. These range from joint promotions and shared resource materials to policy documents related to production techniques.

Of course, all of this takes money and we do work hard to secure additional dollars from granting agencies and/or partner with allied industries to collectively grow the flax industry.

I will conclude my report by hoping we all soon see some light at the end of the tunnel and that everyone has a safe and prosperous season.

Allen Kuhlmann
Chair

Farmer Tax Credits

Saskatchewan flax producers who have invested dollars during 2005 for scientific research and experimental development through the check-off have earned an eligible tax credit.

This is the fifth year, the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit has been available to producers. For 2005, eligibility for the flax tax credit is 16.63%

Again many of these efforts use check off dollars to lever other funds from industry sponsors and funding agencies (CAFI, CARDS etc).

Crop	Percent	Commodity Organization
Barley	88%	Western Grains Research Foundation
Canola	23.62%	Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
Flax	16.63%	Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
Mustard	5.31%	Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission
Pulse	34%	Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
Wheat	90%	Western Grains Research Foundation

This investment may be used to offset federal tax carried back up to three years or, if no taxes are owing, may be refunded. For more information on this tax credit, consult your accountant or go to the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency website at www.cra.gc/taxcredits/sred/publications/checkoff-e.html.

N. Lee Pengilly
Researcher and Author

The Language and Literature of Flax

Konstantin Ushinsky (1824 – 1870) was a popular Russian educator and writer. His stories are still popular with Russian children and *How a Shirt Grew in the Field*, his best known work, is now considered a classic. Marguerita Rudolph translated and adapted the story in 1967 and Erika Weihs illustrated the 1992 version.

In wonderful detail, the story chronicles the questions posed by Vasya, a young boy who is told by this father while broadcasting flax seeds, "I am sowing flax seeds so that shirts will grow for you…" The puzzled Vasya checks on the field in a few days and finds his mother and sisters "bending low and stepping carefully" as they weed the field, but no shirts are growing. When next he looks upon the field he finds "small, light blossoms," then "little green heads" followed by "dried up brownish heads," but still no shirts. In the fall he is surprised and disappointed to find his mother and sisters pulling the flax out by the roots and tying it into sheaves. A few days later his sisters are "knocking the heads off the flax with paddles" and subsequently pulling it into the river. The young Vasya decides they must be drowning the flax because "it is no good" and when they cover it with large stones, he is sure. There is now "no shirt and no flax!" In a few weeks the flax is dragged out of the water and allowed to dry. Vasya is relieved to see the flax might still be put to some use, but is surprised all over again as he watches the flax beaten, first with boards and then with a swingle. "The flax was beaten so hard that sparks flew in all directions." Once again the young boy is sure the flax will be destroyed. It is late fall when Vasya's mother brings what is left of the flax into the house, where she begins to comb it. His mother tells him the flax will make a new shirt for him, but by now, Vasya is not so sure. Through the winter "with its long evenings for working indoors" Vasya's sisters tie the flax to spinning boards and the little boy listens to their singing as they spin the flax into thread. From there, the loom is set up and the cloth begins to take shape. Vasya's excitement is tempered by how coarse, stiff and scratchy the fabric feels. Towards the end of winter, the fabric is carried outside and spread upon the snow. With spring's arrival, the material is dipped in the river and spread out once again, this time on the green grass while the bright sun shines down upon it. Each day Vasya's mother dampens the cloth and each day it becomes whiter and softer. Late in the summer the cloth is again soaked in the river, but this time it's hung on the fence to both dry it and to further whiten it. As summer becomes fall, Vasya's mother brings the cloth indoors, and begins cutting it into pieces. She tells the child she is making him a shirt, but after so much time has passed, he remains unsure if he will ever receive it. Late at night while Vasya sleeps, his sisters sew and embroider and finally, he awakens one morning to find his beautiful new shirt with its embroidered collar and cuffs. He is, of course, the happiest boy in the village!

With its detailed seasonal illustrations, *How a Shirt Grew in the Field* reminds us of how lengthy a process it was for the people of yesteryear to transform flax from seed to garment. The division of labour between, father, mother and sisters is clearly documented and one can't help but marvel at what families were able to accomplish. *How a Shirt Grew in the Field* is available through the Regional Library Systems in Saskatchewan with copies available by both Ushinsky and Rudolf. Although it is currently out of print, it can be found available for purchase at various online bookstores in used form.

Note: A swingle is a wooden instrument like a knife or paddle used to beat hemp or flax and scrape woody portions out of the material.

How a Shirt Grew in the Field
Adapted from the Russian by Marguerita Rudolph
Illustrated by Erika Weihs
Clarion Books
A Houghton Mifflin Company imprint
New York, N.Y.

Meet the Board

One new director has joined the Board of the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission for a three-year term. SaskFlax welcomes Gregor Beck from Rouleau in Saskatchewan's south central area.

Gregor and his wife, Ilona operate a straight grain farm employing a no-till continuous cropping management approach. They have grown flax for many years and find it fits well into their rotation that sees cereals, grains, oilseeds and pulses (lentils, peas and chickpeas) grown. Although they used to consider flax the last crop to be seeded, the frost of August 2004 had them rethink that choice. After that infamous event, an investigation of their fields indicated the earlier seeded flax crop showed significantly less damage than the later seeded. With that proof and the continuing vagaries of Saskatchewan's weather, they now try to seed flax earlier in the growing season. Like most producers, the Becks appreciate the harvest time flexibility of their flax crop. The knowledge that it will not deteriorate brings Gregor welcome relief from harvest's pressure although there are few things that beat the feeling of having the entire crop safely in storage.

Recognizing his want to be involved in agriculture beyond the farmgate, Gregor allowed his name to stand for election to the Board. Bringing not only his farming knowledge to SaskFlax, Gregor also provides experience gained on the Indian Head Agriculture Research Foundation (IHARF). With its reputation for information transfer, it was a good fit for Gregor's long time interest in science and technology. And those interests will bode well for the dynamics of the SaskFlax Board. Although interested in traditional uses for flax, Gregor sees the industry ripe for innovative utilization of the entire flax plant. Like most Saskatchewan flax growers, he is particularly interested in new developments on the fiber front, specifically seeing it as a biofiber. According to Gregor, "We need to explore the vast potential of biomaterials and that requires innovation. Research has to be supported in this province and it is essential that producers be active participants in the benefits that come from that research."

With such an outlook and broad industry perspective, Gregor's skills will serve Saskatchewan's flax producers very well. Welcome to the Board!

Gregor Beck
Director

Good-Bye Bill

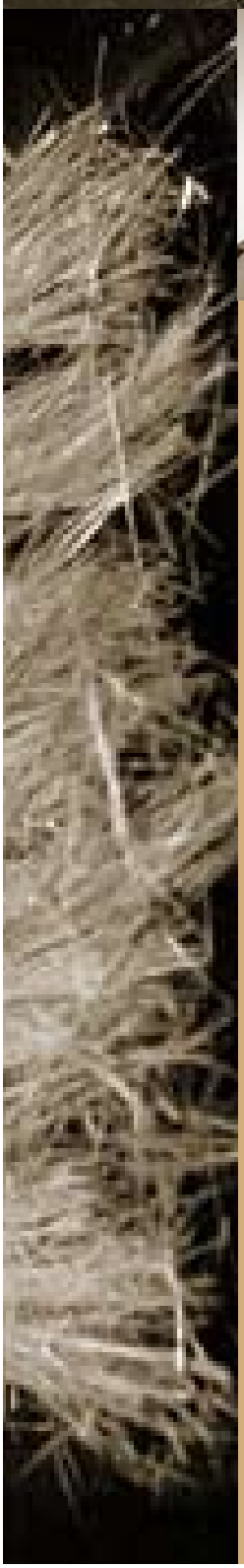
Six and half years ago, Bill Greuel began his affiliation with the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission in an advisory capacity as Oilseeds and Transgenic Crops Specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. In that role, he has attended Board meetings and planning sessions, accompanied the Executive Director and Board members to numerous conferences and on fact-finding tours, has given presentations and authored numerous articles for *The Saskatchewan Flax Grower.* For the last several years, he has provided much appreciated technical expertise at the annual general meeting of SaskFlax.

Early this year he was seconded to manage the Research and Development arm of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food; a position that leaves him excited to be working with flax in a new capacity. The Agriculture Research Branch administers various agricultural funding programs including the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Agri-Value Program in addition to attending to the implementation of long standing agreements and contracts with various agencies.

While Bill sees huge potential for flax, he recognizes many of the new opportunities will require additional funds for research and development prior to coming to fruition. He admits that through his affiliation with SaskFlax he has become somewhat of an advocate for our crop and sees the flax industry "on the cusp of something big." He credits the leadership and innovation of the SaskFlax Executive Director and the Board as having taken the Commission to a diversity of places that have it well positioned for further development in a variety of areas.

The Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission will miss Bill's direct involvement with the Board, but look forward to working with him in this new capacity. "Thanks Bill, your contribution to the success of SaskFlax is truly appreciated and your expertise will certainly be missed. We wish you much success in your new position and hope you'll be able to make time in your busy schedule to attend a flax meeting – at least once in awhile! We'll see you there!"

Bill Gruel
Manager
Research and
Development
Saskatchewan
Agriculture and Food



The Fiberfile

N. Lee Pengilly
Researcher and Author

On October 11th and 12th SaskFlax, in conjunction with Flax 2015 hosted the BioFiber Industry Advancement Workshop 2005 in Saskatoon. With an international slate of presenters the conference brought together all sectors of the fiber industry. The two days provided a unique opportunity to learn, connect, network and build upon the groundwork of one of the distinct pillars of the Flax 2015 Initiative: To enhance producer returns through straw utilizations. Funders for the workshop included Flax Canada 2015, National Research Council and SaskFlax.

Included is a brief synopsis of the presenters and their presentations.

1. Application of Fibrous Plants with a Special Reference to Composite and Paper, Ryszard Kozlowski et al,Institute of Natural Fibers,The European Co-operative Research Network on Flax and Other Bast Plants, Pozan, Poland: A European perspective of plant and cellulose fibers, the features of natural fibers, the uses of lignocellulosic fibers, the chemical compositions of various fibers, the current direction of the European Flax Breeding Program, the retting process, the utilizations of flax and an overview of future possibilities for natural fibers.

2. Heating with Alternate Fuels, Norbert Braymo, Braymo Energy Corporation: An overview of bio-energy, the natural advantages of biomass, the composition of various biomass fuel sources, a look at total provincial biomass feedstocks, harvesting methods, fuel mill and broiler installation, the future of bio-energy.

3. Bast Fiber Pulping, Wade Chute, Team Leader of the Pulp and Paper Forest Products Business Unit, Alberta Research Council, Incorporated, Edmonton, Alberta: Pulp markets and global production, agricultural production and strategic opportunities, pulping methods for agricultural fibers, case studies on refined bast fiber chemical pulps and flax mechanical pulp.

4. Second Harvest Paper Project, Valerie Langer: Details of The Second Harvest Paper Project whose goal is to decrease the amount of forest cut for paper production by helping develop a viable alternative fiber for paper (they envision papers will be blends of recycled, non-wood and FCS certified fibers) and details of the eco-energy footprint for pulp produced from a variety of fibers.

5. "Pulling the Chain," Randall Goodfellow, Goodfellow Agricola Consultants, Inc.: A look at "green" design and construction practices that significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment and its occupants highlighting five broad areas that include sustainable site planning, safeguarding water and water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewable energy, conservation of materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

6. ISONAT® Hemp Insulation, Gary Newman, Plant Fiber Technology Ltd.: An assessment of the market potential of natural fiber insulation, specifically Isonat®, a French manufactured thermal and acoustic insulation batt or roll for walls, floors and roofs made from hemp and recycled cotton.

7. BioMaterials and the Future Car – Challenges, Opportunities and the Path Ahead, Peter R. Friese, Auto 21 NCE & Scientific Director & CEO: An environmental scan of auto and agri-products sector and the steps to integrate these two businesses including the issues and barriers to new technology and the Auto 21 research program goals.

8. Commercial Application of Shives Beyond Kitty Litter, Steffen Preusser, Canadian Trade Commission Service, Canadian Embassy, Germany: Outlines several options for "going up the value chain" for shives including fuel pellets, compost helper, growing medium, equine bedding, poultry bedding, construction and land barrier.

9. Flax Fiber Properties, Caroline Baille, Department of Chemical Engineering, Queen's University: A study of European flax including technical flax fiber analysis, histochemical test results, the factors affecting tensile strength and the current work being undertaken including technical fiber properties and interfacial properties of flax with variables (oilseed versus fiber flax, flax varieties, amount of retting and location on stem).

10. Use of Bast Fibers in Industrial Non-Wovens, Patricia Annis, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA: A definition of a non-woven (a sheet or web bonded together by entangling or bonding fibers through mechanical, thermal or chemical means), including a comparison of non-woven and traditional fabrics, numerous examples of uses for non-wovens and an explanation of the manufacture of non-wovens including fiber selection, fiber preparation, web formation, web bonding and conversion.

11. Bio-Composites, Mercedes Alcock, Bio-Composite Project Leader, Composites Innovation Centre, Industrial Technology Centre,

Winnipeg, Manitoba: A look at current global trends impacting the use of bio-composites, industries with the potential to support the use of bio-composites, the Canadian Bio-Fiber Industry, and the Bio-Fibers Initiative and the end market opportunities for biofibres (composite parts in ground transportation and fiberglass reinforcement forms).

12. Taking Fiber Utilization to the Next Level, J. Hogue, Schweitzer-Mauduit Canada, Inc.: An overview of Schweitzer-Mauduit, Inc.,(an international, diversified producer of premium specialty papers and the world's largest supplier of fine papers to the tobacco industry, conducting business in over 90 countries, employing 3800 people with operations in the U.S., France, Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines and Canada), their Canadian operation, their flax straw purchasing requirements, understanding fiber basics, straw processing and opportunities for shives.

13. Straw Management and The Future of Flax Fiber Collection (A Work in Progress),Mark Strumborg, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current, Saskatchewan: A description of the problem of getting agricultural biomass with the potential for bio-energy or bio-based products to end users, the economics behind it, the challenge of straw harvest systems (including a comprehensive look at stripper technology), Prairie Harvest Systems Research and future plans (large scale demonstrations of straight cut versus stripper technology, the continued evaluation of biomass for thermal, physical and biological processes and the development of an optimized harvester.)

14. Enzyme Development and Retting Hemp, Peter C.K. Lau, Group Head, Bioconversion and Sustainable Development, National Research Council, Canada: An examination of the balancing act between economic progress, environmental care and social responsibility in reference to bio-fibers, the need for enzyme retting versus chemical retting, the green advantages of enzymes, a look at the prectinase family of enzymes and "green" chemistry and advanced technologies.

15. Chemistry and Structure of Flax Stems – Relationship to Retting, Standards and Co-Products, Danny Atkins and Herbert Morrison 111, Quality Assessment Research Unit, Russel Research Center, ARS-USDA, Athens, Georgia, USA, John Foulk, Cotton Quality Research Station, ARS-USDA, Clemson, South Carolina, USA, Roy Dodd, Department of Agriculture and Biological Engineering, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, USA: A synopsis of flax supplied natural fibers for the bio-based economy, industrial uses of flax fiber (including textiles, specialty papers, insulation, non-woven fabrics and composites), the opportunity (to support a flax fiber industry using diverse sources to supply total fiber for a high and consistent quality material for various industrial uses), the structural and chemical characteristics of flax, enzyme retting formulations, the development of standard test methods and the potential for value added co-products.

16. Crop Fibers Canada – A Catalyst, Alvin Ulrich, Crop Fibers Canada, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: An overview of Crop Fibers Canada (a work in progress, a pilot plant with Phase 1 almost complete, an education center), the industry challenge (How can we break down naturally formed stems and stalks with a wide range of properties into consistent components (fiber, shive, hurd) that will have sustainable competitive advantages in the market place?), how Crop Fibers Canada can be a catalyst in attaining that objective.

The two day workshop was extremely well received with participants and presenters kept busy with a constant exchange of ideas and opportunities. Indeed it may well have been Peter Lau who best summed up the enthusiasm and optimism with which flax is seen in the emerging bio-economy when he said that he saw flax as "A Field of Blue Dreams." Each presentation is available on the SaskFlax website at http:www.saskflax.com/producer/fiber.html along with full contact information for each presenter.

The following companies are registered to collect the Flax Checkoff and have agreed to have their company names listed in the newsletter.

Bioriginal Food & Science Corp.
102 Melville Street
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7J 0R1
306.975.1166/306.242.3829 F

Bunge Canada
Box 750
Altona, Manitoba
R0G 0B0
204.324.2209/204.324.5995 F

Bunge Canada
Box 2230
Humboldt, Saskatchewan
S0K 2A0
306.682.5060/306.682.5789 F

Bunge Canada
Box 546
Russell, Manitoba
R0J 1W0
204.773.3422/204.773.3077 F

C.B. Constantini Ltd.
730 – 1508 W. Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V3C 4L7
604.669.1212/604.689.4145 F

CanMar Grain Products Ltd.
2480 Sandra Schmirler Way
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4W 1B7
306.721.1375/306.721.1378 F

Cargill Limited
P.O. Box 5900
300 – 240 Graham Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4C5
204.947.6369/204.947.6495

Delmar Commodities Ltd.
Box 1055
Winkler, Manitoba
R6W 4B1
204.331.3696/204.331.3704 F

Diefenbaker Seed Processors Ltd.
Box 69
Elbow, Saskatchewan
S0H 1J0
306.644.4704/306.644.4706 F

Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd.
1450 Park Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 2G2
306.352.2444/306.352.2443 F

Fill-More Seeds Inc.
P.O. Box 70
Fillmore, Saskatchewan
S0G 1N0
306.722.3353/306.722.3328 F

G.H. Schweitzer Enterprises Ltd.
Box 222
Eston, Saskatchewan
S0L 1A0
306.962.4751/306.962.3251 F

Horizon Agro Inc.
Box 59 R.R. #1
Morris, Manitoba
R0G 1K0
204.746.2026/204.746.2343 F

Keystone Grain Ltd.
P.O. Box 1236
Winkler, Manitoba
R6W 4B3
204.325.9555/204.325.2240 F

Lakeside Pulse & Special Crops Ltd.
312 – 131 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 0G2
204.255.5550/204.255.5054 F

Larsen Seeds
Box 39
Aylsham, Saskatchewan
S0E 0C0
306.862.7333/306.862.9552 F

Linear Grain Inc.
P.O. Box 219
Carman, Manitoba
R0G 0J0
204.745.6747/204.745.6573 F

Maviga N.A. Inc.
209 – 845 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4R 8G9
306.721.8900/306.721.8988 F

Mid.Sask Terminal Ltd.
Box 1208
Watrous, Saskatchewan
S0K 4T0
306.946.2225/306.946.3954 F

North West Terminal Ltd.
Box 1090
Unity, Saskatchewan
S0K 4L0
306.228.3735/306.228.3877 F

Parent Seed Farms Ltd.
Box 36
St. Joseph, Manitoba
R0G 2C0
204.737.2625/204.737.2248 F

Parkland Pulses Grain Co. Ltd.
Box 848
North Battleford, Saskatchewan
S9A 2Z3
306.445.4199/306.445.1650 F

Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd.
1400 – 201 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3K6
204.956.2030/204.943.8233 F

Paterson Grain
22nd Floor
333 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4E2
204.956.2090/204.926.9586 F

Pioneer Grain Company Ltd.
2800 One Lombard Place
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0X8
204.934.5961/204.957.5614 F

Pizzey's Milling & Baking Co.
Box 132
Angusville, Manitoba
R0J 0A0
204.773.2575/204.773.2720 F

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
2625 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 7T9
306.569.4200/306.569.5133 F

Sedley Seeds Ltd.
Box 70
Sedley, Saskatchewan
S0G 4K0
306.885.4444/306.885.2035 F

Terminal 22 (1998) Inc.
Box 430
Balcarres, Saskatchewan
S0G 0C0
306.334.2222/306.334.2262 F

Van Burck Seeds Ltd.
Box 7
Star City, Saskatchewan
S0E 1P0
306.863.4377/306.863.2252 F

Western Commodities Trading
Box 69
Spalding, Saskatchewan
S0K 4C0
306.872.2280/306.872.2283 F

Western Grain Trade Ltd.
#9 – 2155 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 6M5
306.657.3455/306.652.3450 F

Weyburn Inland Terminal
Box 698
Weyburn, Saskatchewan
S4H 2K8
306.842.7436/306.842.5307 F

Western Commodities Trading
Box 69
Spalding, Saskatchewan
S0K 4C0
306.872.2280/306.872.2283 F

Weyburn Inland Terminal
Box 698
Weyburn, Saskatchewan
S4H 2K8
306.842.7436/306.842.5307 F

Flax Grower Survey

Flax Canada 2015 (FC2015) Steering Committee, under the guidance of the Plant Breeding and Production Working Group (BPWG) commissioned a flax grower survey to be carried out by Insightrix Research Services®. The results of the project are meant to provide information on the production practices that will contribute to the FC2015 Plant Breeding and Production Strategic Plan, implementation of which is contingent on strong flax production capabilities in Canada. The data which was collected between November 30, 2005 and December 29, 2005, showcases best case and worst case production practices.

Survey questions focused on:

- Type of flax and pest management system
- Yield and grade
- Flax varieties
- Tillage regime
- Weeds
- Disease
- Straw management
- Comparisons to canola
- Crop rotation
- Fertility regime
- Seeding
- Insects
- Harvest
- Acreage
- Demographics.

Following is a summary of the most significant factors that separate top flax growers from the rest:

- Top flax growers tend to have larger farms and have been growing flax for a longer period of time on more acres.
- 14.7% of top growers used Vimy seeds, compared to 3.6% of bottom growers.
- 45.7% of top growers use farm saved seed, compared to only 33.3% of those in the bottom group.
- 28.1 of top growers conducted soil testing, compared to only 17.1% of bottom growers.
- 95.6% of top growers applied fertilizers.
- Top growers are more likely to use deep or side banded fertilizer application.
- The majority of top growers use a zero till regime.
- Most top growers use an air-drill for seeding.
- 71.1% of top growers inspected their fields for insects, compared to 60.2% of growers in the bottom group.
- 60.4% of top growers inspected their fields for disease, compared to 50.7% of those in the middle or bottom groups.
- 32.6% of top growers used a desiccant, compared to 21.1% of those in the bottom group.
- 53.3% of top growers straight combine and they tend to do so at the end of September or beginning of October.

Specific goals of the project included:

- Classifying respondents into top, middle and bottom growers;
- To gain an understanding of production practices that both limit and enhance flaxseed production;
- To create a profile of top producers;
- To compare opinions about flax production to canola production; and
- To determine producers' overall opinions about flax production (straw management, agronomics, etc.).

The survey has provided a significant amount of valuable information that is currently be analyzed. Saskatchewan flax growers will be kept informed of further results as they become available.

Leadership is Vital to Industry Development

The Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission initiated in 1996 represents provincial flax growers and works to advance the industry through research and development programs. Six registered flax producers elected from the membership define the vision and direction for the commission; establish policy, approve budgets and work to increase productivity and profitability.

Two Director positions become available each year. Directors serve for a three year term and may be re-elected for a further three years. Elections are held each autumn as required and Directors elected begin their duties at the close of the Commission's annual business meeting January 8, 2007 - contact office for nomination forms.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2007
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Annual General Meeting Flax Day 2006: "Growing Opportunities"

The Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Flax Commission (SFDC) was held in conjunction with Crop Production Week on Monday, January 9th, 2006 in the Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn.

Gordon Cresswell acting in his capacity as Chair of SaskFlax called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. After adoption of the agenda, the minutes of the 2005 AGM were read and approved. The Chairman and Committee Chairs reported on the year to date actions carried out by the SFDC. The budget was approved as presented. The following two resolutions were discussed and approved:

1. Director Remuneration:
Each year the Commission brings to you, the membership, the resolution regarding director per diems. This resolution is for 2006/07. "That Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission rates of remuneration for Directors for 2006/07 remain at $235.00 per day for Chair and $155.00 per day for Directors."

2. Carbon Sequestration

- Whereas Canada is creating a carbon credit program which does not fully recognize the ownership of carbon sinks created by producers and
- Whereas this program does not recognize early adopters of reduced or no till farming practices as the owners of current carbon credits and
- Whereas Canada is proposing a $15 / tonne cap of Canadian carbon sinks which does not represent the true market value
- Therefore be it resolved that the value of carbon sequestration accrue to those producers who were responsible for the sequestered carbon and
- Be it further resolved that carbon credits apply to both past and future carbon and
- Be it further resolved that no artificial cap on carbon value be placed on Canadian carbon sinks.

Immediately following the AGM, attendees heard updates on the activities and plans of Flax Canada 2015 (Kelley Fitzpatrick), Flax Council of Canada (Eric Fridfinnson) and AmeriFlax (Kay Effertz).

The balance of the day's agenda focused on the theme, "Flax – Growing Opportunities:"

- "Formula for Success," Rob Park, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- "Tools of the Trade," Bryan Cresswell, Bourgault Industries and Brent Flaten, Agricore United
- "Harvesting for Seed and Straw," Mark Stumborg, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- "The Fiber File," Alvin Ulrich, Crop Fibers Canada
- "Flax – Value Chains," Bryan Kosteroski, Value Chains Specialist, Saskatchewan Council for Community Development
- "The Feed File," John McKinnon, University of Saskatchewan
- "The Market," Ernie Hoffert, Reimers Seeds

These presentations are available on the SaskFlax website at www.saskflax.com/producer/flaxday.html

As is always the case, Flax Day participants were treated to a variety of flax dishes at both the refreshment breaks and the luncheon. You will want to calendar January 8th, 2007 for the next annual general meeting at the Saskatoon Inn. The SaskFlax day has a growing reputation for its ample opportunities to update, learn, network and participate in the future of Saskatchewan's flax industry.

Flax Checkoff Deadlines

Period 2 August 31, 2006
Period 1 February 28, 2007

Application forms are available by contacting SaskFlax at:
306. 664.1901
306. 664.4404 Fax
saskflax@saskflax.com
Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
A5A – 116 – 103rd Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 1Y7

Our Logo Tells A Story

The bright and lively crown of the sheaf of flax represents the coming together of many members into a solid organization.

The stalks of the flax plant positioned in a woven manner represent fiber-based products as well as the close interaction between members of the organization.

SaskFlax

The boll of the plant, made up of three oil droplet shapes, represents oil-based products as well as the overlapping areas of production, research and marketing.

Saskatchewan Flax Grower is published bi-annually by the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission, for registered flax producers, registered buyers and allied organizations.

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