

# President's Message



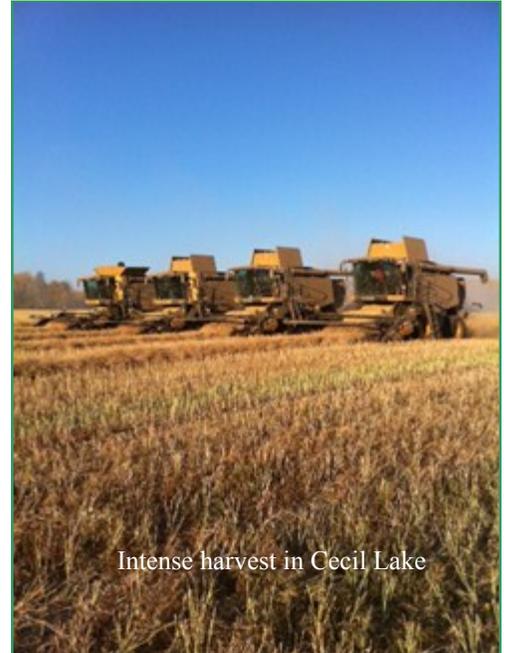
## BC Grain Producers Association

Dear Member:

Submitted by: David Wutrich

Well another season is just about wrapped up and all in all it was a good one. The drier conditions this summer led to an early harvest with dry crops and mostly exceptional quality. Couple this with excellent grain and oilseed prices I think that we can safely say this is a profitable year.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to go through the plots this summer, Clair and his team did an excellent job with the plots this year and I'm sure that the data collected will be interesting and valuable for next seasons planting decisions. As the fall meeting season starts to pick up I encourage the membership to contact your local directors with issues or concerns that you may have and require us to bring forward to the many boards and or organizations that we sit on or represent. With the monopoly of the Canadian Wheat Board finished, we have many issues to deal with, such as check offs, and it would be informative to hear from the membership how the end of the monopoly has effected your operation.



Intense harvest in Cecil Lake

I would also like to remind everyone that all of our rental equipment is ready to go and with the early fall should be in high demand, so book early. Call the office for more information if needed.

Good luck with your fall work!

### Production Insurance Clients

are requested to complete and submit their Declaration of Production as soon as possible after the completion of harvest. This will initiate bin measuring if required, and provide necessary data to ensure the best possible coverage in future years.

### AgriStability Deadlines

The deadline to submit the 2011 *AgriStability/AgriInvest* Harmonized form (without penalty) was September 30th 2012.

Producers can still submit their 2011 *AgriStability/AgriInvest* Harmonized forms (with penalty) until December 31st 2012.

The penalty for late filing is \$500.00 per month; the maximum penalty is \$1500.00.

Producers who miss the December 31st 2012 deadline will not be eligible for the 2011 program year.

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## Producer Interest High – Research Update – Summer 2012

If attendance is any indicator of producer interest in the Peace River region, and it only makes sense that it is, then producer interest about what and how their association is conducting field crop research on their behalf is still very high as evident of the more than 70 in attendance at this year's Field Crop Tour event in Fort St. John on the evening of July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

At that event the new two-year project was announced that is currently underway and special guests were in attendance as well which included local dignitaries such as Hon. Bob Zimmer and Hon. Pat Pimm both of whom gave their support to our efforts verbally. Funding for this new project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In British Columbia the program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

The Yukon Agricultural Association is also providing support through CAAP since they wish to more closely work with us in the future as they see our association and the work we do here of great benefit to the agriculture that takes place in the Yukon, particularly the central Yukon where climatic conditions and the use of the northern latitude benefits (extra sunlight) are utilized similarly to that of the Peace River region.

I as research manager would have found this a hard stretch to swallow that similar field crops are grown successfully in the central Yukon as to that in the Peace River region except I toured the region myself earlier this August in response to their invite to do so. If you keep in mind all produce grown in the Yukon is for local consumption and thus the economy of scale is currently fairly small and that only crops of use to locals are grown such as barley, oats, peas, and even wheat for animal feed mostly, it all makes sense but was very surprising to see it being grown successfully so far north. Unlike the rest of the west, they had a cool wet summer so crops were two weeks behind and in jeopardy of not finishing in time when I was there, but we ourselves were in a similar situation last August, so nothing really different in the long run. In any case, we are only too happy to work with any province or territory that wishes to join in to our efforts with a common goal.



Hon. Pat Pimm



Hon. Bob Zimmer

The new project in a nut-shell deals with familiar issues of searching for early maturing varieties with high yields and quality in traditional field crops for our region but with all new materials now to test and work with via strong relationships now established with many of western Canada's plant breeding community. In addition we will continue to work with making flax a viable option to our region as we are all so close to a positive answer on flax – but as well we will be working with new crops like lentils, dry beans, and winter wheat.

Underlying all this is in this new project are two major objectives, finding such materials that are not just short-season materials, but that respond well to our northern latitude advantages (extra sunlight mainly) as not all "short-season" crops/varieties do or will, and to find tough plants that can handle our variable and extreme environmental swings per season and between seasons that seems to be part of our new reality here in the Peace via climate change.

We are done harvesting our first of two years for this project and we wish you folks all the best at your harvest!

*Submitted by:*

*Clair Langlois –Research Manager*



The Grain Growers of Canada alternate their board meetings between the Provinces as represented on their membership. This year the meeting was held in Prince Edward Island and hosted by the Atlantic Grains Council.

Our host association organized a tour to show case PEI farms and crops grown. We visited a typical island potato farm, a mussel farm and mussel processing plant. We had a chance to look at the Islands AAFC Research Station and the Prince Edward Island's Harrington Research farm. The research on the farm mainly is research into leaf diseases in cereal crops, fusarium and some new crops and varieties with potential to include in potato rotations.

In the meetings that followed we got a good overview of topics and issues the grain sector is dealing with, ranging from up and coming trade deals, to Growing Forward II negotiations, proposed fee hikes from the Canadian Grain Commission, Research Models, to the impacts of Glencore acquisition of Viterra and the potential impacts on competition this could have. A strategic planning session was held to set the course for the next few years. Many Directors felt public perception of farming in areas where there were independent growers needed more representation.

### Grains & Value Chain Roundtables:

A review of the previous work the round table was done to gauge interest in different directions. The feasibility of various models were discussed; a potential Certified seed tax credit, a national levy (would require provincial support) or new concepts in the future. Some funding models may interfere with provincial check-offs and some models may not get approval from government. Dr. Richard Gray is working on research model similar to Australia as an option while others think there should be a move towards UPOV 91 and let these issues work themselves out.

### Wheat and Barley Deduction Regulations (check offs):

The new check-offs replace the Canadian Wheat Board Act with a 5 year transition period. The Alberta Barley Commission is the Prescribed Agency to ensure deduction collection and to allocate funds for research, market development and technical assistance. It is a source deduction at point of delivery but producers can request a refund. The deduction is:

- \$0.48 per tonne for wheat.
- \$0.56 per tonne for barley( except in the case of barley grown in Alberta for which the rate will be \$0.04 per tonne).

This check-off came into force on August 1, 2012. The ABC will direct the funds to WGRF, CIGI and CMBTC who will make their own decisions on the use of the allocated funds.

GGC has committed to monitor overall research issue and update our members on progress.

### Safety Net Committee

There is work being done a whole farm insurance program. It is based on current prices and will have one premium for all crops on the whole farm – similar to group insurance. Its purpose is not to replace Agri-insurance or Agri-stability but to give farmers another option. CCGA has been very active in promoting this concept and are hoping to be able to run a pilot project.

### Marketing Committee, Proposed Fee changes to 100% cost recovery:

1. Modernizing user fees. Note: these are not the final numbers Proposed expected upcoming new fee schedule: (see chart on the right)

**Example:** for a 2500 acre grain farm:

Currently CGC services cost stakeholders:  
Approx \$1.80/tonne for 2500 ac @ 1tonne/ac = cost \$4500

Under 100% cost recovery, services will cost:  
Approx \$3.44/tonne 2500 ac @ 1tonne/ac = cost \$8600

	Old fees	New fees
Inwards	\$36/car	\$137/car
Outwards	\$0.78/t	\$1.59/t
919 moisture	\$13.50	\$31.50
“Subject to”	\$15 - \$24	\$42
License	\$60 - \$1200	\$5983
OTA test	\$195	\$1504.50

These are substantial hikes and there are some changes and amendments to the act proposed. BCGPA & GGC did submissions in order to minimize the impact on producers. The issue of bonding is still being discussed and going forward.

2. Changes to the variety registration system:

There is a need to find what consumers want. Impacts of various changes would be on the producer, miller, and baker.

### Transportation Committee Re: Rail Service Review:

This review has been going on for a couple years. The GGC did a submission along with CCGA and other groups like Pulse Canada and Western Grain Elevator Association. The Coalition of Rail Shippers has been leading the issue and service level agreements. A dispute mechanism is what they have been advocating for with several core elements in all service agreements; one of which is basic service provided, and set consequences for non-performance on both sides. Not much progress has been made within the process. Legislation is expected this fall to determine the process with the railways.

We had presentations from Syngenta, Pioneer Hybrid, Farm Credit Canada and the Canadian Fertilizer Institute. We also had committee updates from directors on continuing files not reflected in this report.

The topics which were discussed and the issues the Grain Growers are working on are very relevant to our farms and I see great value in our affiliation with the Grain Growers of Canada.





Producers across the province would like the AgriStability administration to advise them of their benefit result in a timely manner. There are a few key things producers can do to assist the administration to ensure the applications are processed quickly.

- Firstly they need to ensure the applications are filled out correctly and there is no missing or incomplete information. Incomplete applications cause delays as AgriStability staff would need to spend time to gather the missing or incomplete information. Although files are processed in a “**first in first out basis**”, missing information could result in the application being temporarily set aside while the information to process a benefit correctly is gathered.
- Ensure the income and expense data is correctly coded on the tax portion of the Statement A, and that sections 7 to 12, which provide the AgriStability specific information, are accurately and fully completed. Both the tax and AgriStability sections of the Harmonized form should be completed and submitted at the same time.
- Make sure the method of accounting is exactly the same as reported to CRA, whether it is cash or accrual.

- There have been changes to commodity codes, please reference the 2011 Farm Income and AgriStability and AgriInvest Harmonized Programs Guide to ensure you are using the correct code. The Program Guide can be found on the AgriStability website [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability)

- Submit your fully completed harmonized form before the penalty deadline of September 30, to:

**Winnipeg Tax Centre, Stapon Road  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3M4**

Do not send additional information, or requested adjustments to your Statement A, to the Winnipeg Tax Centre unless you are adjusting your taxable income. Additional information and adjustment requests must be made on form T 1275 and sent directly to:

**AgriStability Administration**

**200-1500 Hardy St**

**Kelowna, BC V1Y 8H2**

**Toll free FAX: 1-877-605-8467**

Additional program information can be found on the AgriStability website [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability). If you have more questions please feel free to contact us toll free at 1-877-343-2767 or email us at [agristability@gov.bc.ca](mailto:agristability@gov.bc.ca).

## Carbon Tax Review

The BCGPA were invited to make a presentation to the BC Finance Committee to contribute our position in the comprehensive review on the effectiveness and future role of BC's carbon tax.

The BC Grain Producer Association's preferred position on the carbon tax is that it **be exempt from any agricultural production** in the province. Barring that, develop a BC Biofuels industry and make provision to enter into carbon trading system that would make grain and oilseed production in the province competitive with our neighboring provinces, and trading partners. The implementation of a Federal Carbon Policy would be a great solution to equality in the national economy as well, realizing that may be a long time in the future.

On Oct 3rd, Irmi Critcher and Janet Banman made a 10 minute presentation to the Legislative Assembly. A written submission was made to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture. Highlighted issues were:

- The direct cost of carbon tax on energy and hidden costs like fuel surcharges, higher grain drying rates, increased freight costs on production items as well as rail freight to port, these are all passed on to the producers.
- The field crop industry, with the right incentives and protocols in place, could help in the reduction of emissions with the use of biofuels and adoption of production practices to generate offsets. Adding additional costs to the production of grains & oilseeds is counteractive to the intent of the carbon tax. Incentives and investment into innovation and projects to “kick start” a carbon strategy would have been a better approach.
- Increased energy costs due to the carbon tax component puts BC Grain & Oilseed producers at a serious disadvantage to those from the eastern provinces and with other trading partners as the Province of BC is the only jurisdiction in Canada to charge this tax. Also, there are no carbon offsets as in other provinces and no clear alternatives for fuels available.





Janice Tranberg, CropLife Canada's vice-president of Western Canada, and I spoke at a Richmond, BC, City Council meeting regarding the Council's motion to "ban Genetically Modified crops". It was a raucous and emotional meeting with several anti-GM groups and individuals appearing to show their support for the Council's resolution.

Specifically, Richmond City Council unanimously passed a resolution stating its opposition to the cultivation of genetically engineered plants and trees in the City of Richmond and stating that no further GM crops, trees or plants should be grown in the City of Richmond. The resolution included an exception for three dairy farms already growing GM corn and further clarified that the resolution is to include "all GM fruit trees, all GM plants and shrubbery, GM vegetables, GM commodity crops and any and all field test for medical and experimental crops."

Although the motion passed, several media articles quoted the Grain Growers and CropLife, presenting in favour of sound science and advocating that farmers need choice, so it was worth the trip.

The City also declared its intention to write letters to a broad range of officials about their resolution and requesting "strengthened management of genetically modified plants, including the introduction of mandatory labeling requirements,

more transparent assessment procedures and enhanced communication with the public."

Upon further research, we have found that the [Canadian Biotechnology Action Network \(CBAN\)](http://www.cban.ca) funded by Tides Foundation Canada, have been at the forefront pushing this issue in British Columbia by actively organizing a series of meetings in cities across BC last fall as well as promoting bans of this nature through an ongoing media relations campaign. The list of cities where these meetings took place is listed in the following internet link:

<http://www.cban.ca/Events/Email-notice-for-BC-Events-on-GM-Food>

As a reminder, CBAN also led the campaign supporting Bill C-474 which was a federal private member's bill that would have introduced non-science based criteria to the federal registration process, interfering with Canada's current regula-

tions and approval process. It would have threatened research and innovation funding.

This bill was fortunately defeated in the minority Conservative Government thanks to the work of the Grain Growers and other farm organisations, educating politicians and the public regarding the facts surrounding this issue.

We will continue to monitor this situation to determine what, if any, further action should be taken. But as farmers you also have an active role to play!

If you see town hall meetings similar to what CBAN organised last fall or know of any upcoming town/city council motions of this nature, make sure to contact the British Columbia Grain Producers Association (250-785-5774) or the Grain Growers of Canada (613-233-9954) to let us know this is taking place in your area.

As a farmer, if meetings like this are taking place in your area, you need to consider attending to explain why this issue matters to you and why local governments should not legislate outside their jurisdiction on crops that are recognised as safe through a rigorous federal regulation process. Canadian crops and food are the safest in the world! City people need to be educated on this fact!

*Submitted by: Richard Phillips  
Executive Director— GGC*

**Grain Growers of Canada policy is driven from the grass-roots so if you have ideas on how to improve agriculture in the grain, oilseed or pulse sectors, please inform the BCGPA who can bring issues to a national stage through the Grain Producers. To see what issues we have spoken on recently, please visit [www.ggc-pgc.ca](http://www.ggc-pgc.ca)**

## Wheat and Barley Research Check-Offs to Continue

The Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) would like to thank the Government of Canada for continuing the voluntary producer wheat and barley check-offs for variety research. Presently the check-offs are collected on behalf of WGRF by the CWB. Effective August 1, 2012 the Marketing Freedom legislation will allow the check-offs to be collected by licensed buyers at the point of sale.

*Submitted by: Western Grains  
Research Foundation*

"The new collection system allows WGRF to continue to use check-off funds to support wheat and barley breeding programs to put new and improved varieties into farmers' fields" says Dave Sefton, Chair of WGRF. "Producer investments into breeding research have and will continue to provide a solid return with new varieties for western Canadian wheat and barley growers. WGRF is committed to working with the established and emerging provincial wheat and barley commissions to synchronize check-off collection and regional research investments," noted Sefton.

"Since 1995 WGRF has been investing almost \$5 million dollars annually into breeding research on behalf of producers and the results speak for themselves," said Garth Patterson, Executive Director WGRF. "WGRF has assisted in the development and release of more than 110 new wheat and barley varieties, many of which are today seeded to large portions of the cropland in Western Canada. The benefits of these check-offs are clearly recognized and valued by producers and the Federal government."



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Janet Banman - General Manager

### **BCGPA Mandate:**

*The purpose of the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA) is to improve the viability of the grains and oilseed industry in the BC Peace River region. The association and its members maintain sustained liaison with other agencies to benefit the field crop industry. The association encourages all farmers to participate within their industry so that their voices may be heard.*

Congratulations!  
to Robert and Leanne Vander Linden on the birth of a son,  
Greyson Lee,  
born April 25.



Best wishes!

## **Peace Region Agricultural Adaptation Strategies *Partnering for Agricultural Resilience***

### **What:**

A workshop focused on assessing potential climate change impacts for agricultural production systems in the Peace Region. A second workshop (in January) will develop an action plan to strengthen agricultural resilience in a changing climate.

### **Why:**

To share your knowledge and experience and provide input into regional agricultural adaptation strategies

To learn more about climate change impacts for agriculture in the Peace Region

### **When:**

Tuesday October 23, 2012—9am to 1pm (lunch provided)

### **Where:**

Peace Community Church—10556-100th St. Taylor, BC (Beside fire hall)

PLEASE RSVP or contact us with any questions: [RSVP@BCAgClimateAction.ca](mailto:RSVP@BCAgClimateAction.ca) or call (250) 356-1666



## **New Bookkeeper Hired—Sharla Pearce**



Sharla Pearce was born and raised in Fort St John, BC and currently makes her home there with her husband Ryan, their 3 boys Marcus, Graham and Avery and two dogs Chester and Meeka. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her family camping and fishing and also volunteers as an executive director with the Fort St John Soccer club and as the treasurer for the PAC at her sons' school. Sharla has worked previously as a travel consultant, a retail merchandiser and an

office manager for an oilfield construction company. Sharla is looking forward to working with everyone involved with the BC Grain Producers Association for many years to come.

## **Special Thanks to all our Funding Partners:**



**Investment  
Agriculture  
Foundation**  
*of British Columbia*

PEACE RIVER  
AGRICULTURE  
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**Agriculture and  
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**Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada**

