

# WINTER CEREALS

## CANADA

# G R O W E R

Incorporating **SASKATCHEWAN Winter Cereals DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION News**

## CHANGES AND MORE CHANGES - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW ABOUT WINTER WHEAT VARIETIES!

From the CWB, Mike Grenier

The growth in winter wheat acres has been nothing but impressive over the last ten years, with acreage now approaching 1.5 million acres. Most of this growth has been in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which each contain 600,000 acres and account for 80 per cent of the prairie total. The introduction of higher yielding varieties with improved disease resistance for the eastern prairies and improved direct seeding methods have created this acreage increase.

**2007 variety survey results:** The highest turnover in varieties was observed in Saskatchewan, where CDC Buteo has shown a rapid rise to number one ranking and reached 45 per cent of the provincial acreage since its introduction in 2004. CDC Raptor comes in at number two with a steady acreage around 17 per cent for the last three years. Staying in the top three is CDC Clair, but this variety is showing declining in popularity with less than 12 per cent of provincial acreage. Varieties such as AC Bellatrix (10 per cent) along with CDC Falcon and CDC Osprey (each 5 per cent) all show steady but declining popularity with increasing growth of CDC Buteo acres.

For Manitoba, CDC Falcon ranks as the number one variety making up more than 65% of the total winter wheat acreage during the last five years. The remaining acreage shows a trend to new CWRW Select varieties CDC Buteo and McClintock which come in at 15 and 10 per cent respectively and make up the second and third rankings for the province.

Full 2007 information down to the district level is posted at [www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca).

**2008 variety survey:** You can be eligible to win valuable prizes – including a \$2,000 seed voucher, an \$1,800 weather station, or a \$500 seed voucher – just by participating in the CWB's 2008 variety survey.

For winter wheat growers, it is important to complete the survey – the survey gains accuracy as more producers participate.

The early-bird deadline is July 25. You received your survey form in your permit book package. Check out your survey form for full prize information and prize deadlines, or go to [www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca).

There are four ways to enter the 2008 variety survey:

- Complete the online form at [www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca)
- Call 1-800-275-4292 and complete the survey over the phone,
- Mail the completed form to CWB, P.O. Box 816, Stn. Main, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P5
- Fax to 1-204-984-1699

**Fusarium:** For the 2008-09 crop year, the Western Grain Standards' Committee reduced the fusarium

specification on No. 1 CWRW, generic and Select varieties, from two per cent to one per cent. In addition, the CWB will be establishing new initial payments for low fusarium (i.e., up to and including one per cent fusarium) No. 2 CWRW that will better reflect customer preferences for low fusarium/low DON CWRW.

### Freight adjustment factor

The bulk of CWRW production in Western Canada is located in the Eastern Prairies whereas most markets for this product are located off the West Coast. To better reflect the actual rail costs incurred in moving this production to these markets, the CWB will be implementing a Freight Adjustment Factor (FAF) for generic and Select CWRW varieties for the 2009-10 crop year.

### Selling your CWRW as Select

As CWRW Select acreage continues to grow, the CWB is evolving the IPCP segregation program that targets CWRW Select quality against HRW specific demand.

For 2008-09 no spring production sign-up is required.

Starting in the 2008-09 crop year, only CWRW delivered by farmers against a CWRW Select company-specific GDC will receive a CWRW Select premium – all wheat in these GDCs will be 100 per cent accepted. A portion of the GDCs will be accessible for producer car shippers. GDC volume and delivery timing will be driven by market opportunities. The price premium for CWRW Select in 2008-09 will be at least \$10 per tonne above non-select varieties for protein levels of 11 per cent or higher.

Eligible CWRW Select varieties include AC Bellatrix, AC Readymade, AC Tempest, CDC Buteo, CDC Osprey, McClintock, Norstar and Radiant.

### Understanding variety declarations and CWRW deliveries

The federal government has announced the elimination of KVD on all classes of wheat on August 1. Western Canada's grain industry has created protocols to deal with the removal of KVD, including a "Declaration of Eligibility for the Class" form. Grain companies will require farmers to complete the protocol form once a year at each elevator they deliver wheat to, and to verbally declare the class of wheat for each load they deliver. The Canadian Grain Commission has made the form available at its Web site, [www.grainscanada.gc.ca](http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca).

Also coming into effect August 1 is the creation of a new wheat class, Canada Western General Purpose (CWGP). The removal of KVD as a variety

registration criteria and the creation of CWGP are intended to fast track development of high yielding varieties of wheat for feed and ethanol uses. Removal of KVD is expected to also facilitate the introduction of improved agronomic performing CWRW quality winter wheat varieties.

These changes mean that your decisions at seeding relative to variety choice will impact the delivery opportunities you have at harvest.

With 13 varieties registered in the Canada Western Red Winter (CWRW) class there is a wide range in agronomic adaptability as well as end-use quality. The CWB has been running a commercial Identity Preserved Contracting Program for CWRW Select that segregates varieties meeting the quality targets for the CWRW class. Eligible CWRW Select varieties include AC Bellatrix, AC Readymade, AC Tempest, CDC Buteo, CDC Osprey, McClintock, Norstar and Radiant. These varieties were chosen for their superior milling and baking characteristics that meet the quality standards for the CWRW class. Characteristics such as flour yield, flour colour, water absorption, test weight, gluten properties and protein content are all critical in order to compete against U.S. Hard Red Winter (HRW) quality.

For example, choosing to grow CDC Buteo will allow you to deliver as CWRW and, depending on the protein level, as Select. With the Select varieties you will also still have the option to deliver as CWGP. However, choosing to grow new CWGP winter wheat varieties will lock you only into CWGP option with no option for delivery as CWRW. The expectation is that once the true high yielding CWGP varieties are readily available, this class will serve ethanol and feed markets. CWRW varieties meeting the class quality targets will serve milling and baking markets.

Understanding the adaptability, yield potential and marketability of wheat varieties for your region will be critical in choosing the best fit for your crop rotation and farming operation.

### Get the latest information at Field Days in your area

The CWB in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited are planning crop tour sites at various locations and field day tours in Saskatchewan. The CWB is sponsoring the Melfort Agriculture Canada Research Station field day on July 23 and is participating in a field day hosted by Friendly Acres Seed Farm at Saltcoats on July 31. See the latest in winter wheat varieties and learn about changes to CWB Identity Preserved Contract Program for CWRW Select.

Watch the CWB web site for complete field day information on tour locations near you, available at [www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca).

For more information call 1-800-275-4292, or e-mail: [mike\\_grenier@cwb.ca](mailto:mike_grenier@cwb.ca)

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## DUC and Winter Wheat, What is the Connection?

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) supports winter wheat production in order to reduce the disturbance to waterfowl and wildlife on annually cropped landscapes. Growing winter wheat improves the spring nesting conditions for waterfowl. The lack of activity in a winter wheat crop during the spring, allows for a longer and more successful nesting period. In fact, ducks that choose to nest in winter wheat are ten times more productive than those who nest in spring seeded cereals.

The Northern Pintail duck, in particular, benefits from the superior nesting cover provided by winter wheat. Pintails, more than any other duck, prefer to nest in areas with high densities of seasonal wetlands, which tend to coincide with heavily cropped areas.

In the past, summer fallow may have provided pintails with a reasonably safe nesting habitat. However, over 10 million acres of summer fallow have been converted to continuous cropping systems since the 1970s.

This management shift, and pintails tendency to nest relatively early in the spring, causes their nests to be more susceptible to damages arising from cropping activities. If a pintail's nest is destroyed, they are less likely than other ducks to make second and third nesting attempts. Therefore, they are not as able to cope with this habitat loss.

Winter wheat provides other environmental benefits including efficient water use and protection of agricultural resources through reduced wind and water erosion.

In addition, winter wheat offers attractive financial returns to producers. By yielding fifteen to twenty percent more than spring wheat, providing time and equipment efficiencies and with reduced input costs; winter wheat benefits the farm bottom line. Winter wheat is competitive against weeds, and is less susceptible to wheat midge, sawfly and fusarium head blight because of its early maturity.

With all these benefits attributed to the crop, DUC realized there was an opportunity for a habitat win/win for both agriculture and the environment. With every additional acre of winter wheat, DUC gets superior duck habitat in annual cropped

areas, while growers are introduced to a new and profitable crop to add to their rotation. With this in mind, DUC has invested in and promoted the winter wheat industry on the prairies since 1991.

It was understood by DUC that to increase acreage an investment in winter wheat variety improvement would be key. This involved support of variety development through western Canadian breeding programs at the University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) Lethbridge. This

investment has helped to improve genetics, ensuring access to improved varieties for western Canadian producers. Over the years this investment has surpassed one million dollars.

DUC maintains a number of partnerships for research and promotion of winter wheat. Some of our partners include AAFC, the Canadian Wheat Board, Viterra, James Richardson International, the University of Saskatchewan, Winter Cereals Canada, the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission,

Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission and Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc.

DUC also works directly with producers to increase their profitability, and supports winter wheat production by providing agronomic advice and offering incentives to try the crop in select landscapes.

To find out more about Ducks Unlimited Canada and winter wheat please visit [www.wintercereals.ca](http://www.wintercereals.ca) or contact your local DUC office.

Melissa Stanford and Mark Akins  
Ducks Unlimited Canada

New research\* confirms that you could lose up to 30% of your nitrogen from urea and UAN into the air, even in cool spring weather.

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\*2008 Auburn University - Cool Weather Study

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**Contact the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals  
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Winter Cereals Canada invites interested individuals  
and companies to advertise in the *Winter Cereals Grower*.

8 ½ x 11 .....	\$500.00
6 ¼ x 8 ¼.....	\$350.00
4 ¼ x 5 ½.....	\$275.00
2 ½ x 2 ¾.....	\$130.00

Multiple insertion discount 10%  
 GST will not be added to these prices.

All advertising must be camera ready or suitable for  
scanning. Advertorial content is accepted at the  
standard rates. Advertising deadlines are March 1st,  
June 1st and November 1st.

Material should be submitted to:

**Winter Cereals Canada Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 689, Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0  
 (204) 874-2257 • [jake@wintercerealscanada.org](mailto:jake@wintercerealscanada.org)

**SWCDC CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**BECOME A DIRECTOR OF  
THE SASKATCHEWAN WINTER CEREALS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

The SWCDC has openings for 2 positions on the producer elected Board of Directors. Two directors will be elected for a two year term ending at the annual General Meeting in January of 2011. SWCDC Directors will participate in approximately 6 board meetings a year and contribute time to the SWCDC. Directors are called on to represent the SWCDC at meetings and major conferences that impact the winter cereals industry. Expenses are reimbursed to Directors and a daily per diem remuneration is paid.

Registered winter cereals growers interested in joining the Board can contact the SWCDC business office at 1-866-472-4611 for nomination forms or visit the SWCDC web pages at [www.wintercerealscanada.org](http://www.wintercerealscanada.org). Nomination forms must be returned to the Returning Officer no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) October 24, 2008.

**Note: Only registered growers may vote, nominate or hold office.**

A registered grower means any grower who has had a Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission check-off deducted between October 1, 2006 and July 31, 2008 . A registered grower is not eligible to be nominated as a director if he or she has requested or received a refund of the check-off since October 1, 2006.

An election (if required) will be held by mail ballot with election results announced at the Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon, Sk. on January 12, 2008.

**October 24, 2008 Nominations Close at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)**

**November 17, 2008 Ballots mailed if necessary.**

**December 12, 2008 Last day for ballots to be received.**

**January 12, 2009, Results announced at SWCDC Annual General Meeting**

**From the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals  
Development Commission**

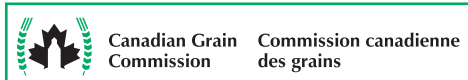
**Chairman's Message  
Rod Fedoruk, Chair, SWCDC**

Spring has been a challenge for prairie farmers in 2008. Cold and inhospitable weather has delayed many spring operations and set this year's winter cereal crops back between 7 to 10 days. Temperatures have been running well below our seasonal normal level affecting both winter cereals and early seeded spring crops. We can hope that summer weather lasts well into fall to make up for our slow start.

The Commission has been busy representing Saskatchewan producers interests. I participated in meetings held in Winnipeg organized by the Canadian Grain Commission studying ways that we can make Canadian winter wheat more competitive with the winter wheat crop grown in the U.S.A. The term used is "Harmonization". It is felt that the Canadian grading system needs to be tweaked so that foreign buyers can easily compare price and quality between the two "similar but different" crops. As the CWB works towards expanding the world markets for CWRW we have to contend with strong competition from U.S. wheat that is graded to different standards. By harmonizing our grade standards with those of our competition our ability to sell Canadian product will increase.

The Saskatchewan government is conducting a review of the operations of the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation. Meyers Norris Penny LLP has been contracted to conduct this review. The SWCDC was invited to attend a meeting to discuss different ways that the crop insurance system could be modernized to better meet the requirements of Saskatchewan producers. The results of this review are expected later this year.

The SWCDC is currently reviewing various potential research projects for suitability for producer funding. Your board realizes that any producer funded research must provide you, our members with useful information that can be applied on farm to increase profitability. We will provide further information on funded projects as decisions are made and contracts signed.



## New class declaration system to preserve Canadian wheat quality

International buyers purchase Canadian grain for its high quality and consistency. They know when they buy a specific class and grade of wheat it will perform the same way, year after year.

In February 2008, one of the tools supporting Canada's grain quality system, kernel visual distinguishability, was removed as a registration requirement for western Canadian wheat because it posed constraints for developing new wheat varieties.

To assist in preserving the quality of Canadian grain shipments and help avoid possible problems for end users, on August 1, 2008, the Canadian grain industry is introducing a declaration system for western Canadian wheat as part of a new grain quality management system.

This means when producers deliver wheat, they will be required to complete a declaration form confirming that their wheat is eligible for a specific western Canadian wheat class.

For a smooth grain delivery, the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) suggests that producers know their seed before planting, carefully store and track their harvest, and be ready to declare the class of their wheat at delivery.

### Know your seed

If producers want their wheat graded as any class other than feed or the lowest grade of amber durum, they must grow a registered variety. A list of registered varieties is available on the CGC web site under "variety designation lists".

Of course, the best way for producers to know the variety of their wheat at delivery is to know their seed before planting. The CGC suggests producers have their old or common seed tested at a private lab if they are not sure of the variety, or purchase certified seed.

### Carefully store and track your harvest

For most producers this simply means continuing good operating practices. For others, it means establishing tighter quality management controls, like making sure bins are empty and clean before storage, storing only one class of wheat per bin, and maintaining careful records to keep track of the wheat in each bin.

### Be ready to declare your wheat at delivery

The new declaration system requires producers to sign a Declaration of Eligibility for the Class form once a year for each company and delivery point to which they deliver wheat, and verbally declare the class of wheat for each load at delivery. Producers are not required to declare the grade they are delivering.

By signing the form and verbally declaring their deliveries, producers are confirming that their wheat contains varieties that are eligible for a specific class of western Canadian wheat.

A sample of the Declaration of Eligibility for the Class form is available on the CGC web site.

The new form was developed by an industry working group comprised of producers and members of the Western Grain Elevator Association, the Inland Terminal Association of Canada, the Canadian Wheat Board, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the CGC. It replaces a previous declaration that producers completed in accordance with the Ineligible Varieties Protocol and will be distributed to producers in the same way as the previous form: by the CGC for producer car deliveries and by grain companies for all other deliveries.

## Removing KVD to encourage new wheat variety development

Developing new wheat varieties for western Canada has become a little easier now that plant breeders are no longer limited by kernel visual distinguishability (KVD). On February 11, 2008, the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) removed KVD as a registration requirement for western Canadian wheat classes.

Under the previous KVD system, each class was visually distinct from the others and had its own quality and processing characteristics. Varieties within each class were visually the same. Grain inspectors used a visual assessment, or KVD, as a variety identification tool to identify wheat classes quickly and at a low cost.

While the KVD system worked, it also posed constraints for wheat breeders to bring new varieties forward that could offer higher yields, improved disease resistance, and be used domestically for ethanol production, livestock feed and other industrial purposes.

Now that KVD has been removed as a registration requirement, western Canadian wheat varieties put forward for registration can look like each other, but must still meet all other registration requirements for quality, disease resistance and agronomics.

Currently, there are eight western Canadian wheat classes: Canada Prairie Spring Red, Canada Prairie Spring White,

Canada Western Amber Durum, Canada Western Extra Strong, Canada Western Hard White Spring, Canada Western Red Spring, Canada Western Red Winter and Canada Western Soft White Spring.

On August 1, 2008, a ninth class will be added: Canada Western General Purpose. The new class is intended for wheat that will be used for ethanol production and feed purposes. Varieties put forward for registration as Canada Western General Purpose will have to meet disease resistance and agronomic criteria, but will have limited quality requirements.

An industry working group comprised of producers and members of the Western Grain Elevator Association, the Inland Terminal Association of Canada, the Canadian Wheat Board, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the CGC have been meeting regularly and working constructively since the summer of 2007 to develop tools to replace KVD.

The CGC will continue to research and evaluate new DNA based technology that will identify wheat varieties quickly, dependably and at a low cost.

Until the new identification technology is available, all partners in the grain sector, including producers, grain handlers, marketers and government, are committed to working together on the new declaration system to preserve the high quality of Canadian grain.

## Phosphate fertility and the effects of JumpStart® on winter wheat production

Soils can be high in total soil phosphate but low in plant-available phosphate because much of it gets tied up in unavailable forms. Crop uptake of phosphate is between 10 and 30% of the phosphate applied in a given year. Some of the remaining phosphate becomes available over time but at least 25% is never utilized by a crop.

Getting the most out of a phosphate fertilizer investment is always important but at current fertilizer prices is even more important. JumpStart increases the efficiency of both soil and fertilizer phosphate. As part of a phosphate fertility plan, JumpStart will help your winter wheat crop receive the phosphate it needs to establish and to maximize yield potential.

### Importance of phosphate (P)

#### An Adequate supply of phosphate:

- Maximizes winter survivability
- Improves early spring re-growth and seedling vigor
- Increases tiller development in cereals
- Moves nutrients within the plant
- Maximized yield potential

#### An inadequate supply of phosphate can<sup>1</sup>:

- Reduce yield and seed quality
- Reduce root mass and leaf surface area
- Delay maturity
- Decrease resistance to disease

### Factors affecting the availability of P include:

- **Soil texture:** Soils with higher clay contents tend to tie up more P
- **Soil pH:** P is most available at neutral soil pH (between 6 and 7). P tends to bind with calcium in soils with a higher pH
- **Soil temperature:** As soils cool off, P becomes less available
- **Soil moisture:** Limited moisture severely restricts P movement to plant roots

### What is JumpStart®/How does it work?

The active ingredient in JumpStart is a naturally occurring soil fungus. It grows on plant roots and secretes organic acids into the soil that reduce the pH within the root zone, releasing the phosphate that normally binds with calcium making less available forms of residual soil and fertilizer phosphate immediately available for crop use (see graph).

JumpStart is active in cool soils and supplies an immediately available source of phosphate to emerging seedlings. This results in more efficient use of phosphate for quick emergence, vigorous growth, and more root growth for better stand establishment. A healthy, well-established stand has better winter survival, and is better able to exhibit rapid re-growth in the spring – to set up yield potential.

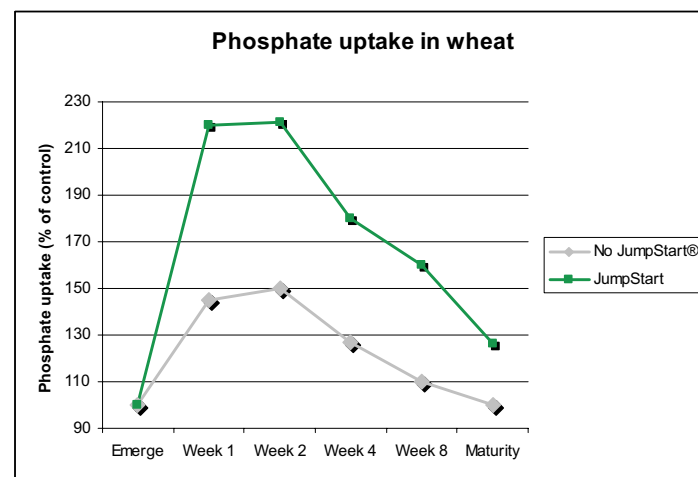
### Why use JumpStart?

Split field trial results show an average yield increase of 7% when using JumpStart on winter wheat based on 33 split-field farmer/retailer-done trials conducted on winter wheat since 2005.

**For more information, please contact Novozymes Biologicals (formerly Philom Bios) at 1-888-744-5662 or visit our corporate website at [www.bioag.novozymes.com](http://www.bioag.novozymes.com).**

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<sup>1</sup> Phosphorus for Agriculture, Potash and Phosphate Institute, 1999.



Phosphate uptake at 20 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/acre applied phosphate. Source: J. Chambers & J. Yeomans, 1990 MB Soc. Of Soil Sci. Mtg.

