

SEED

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd.
PLANT NEWS

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"This year our member plants processed 31.5 million bushels, up 116% from a year ago..."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The provincial board met for the regular quarterly meeting in Edmonton the last week in October. As always, a lot of information was brought forward and discussed, and I would like to take this opportunity to keep our member plants current as to some of the happenings of our association.

This year our member plants processed 31.5 million bushels, up 116% from a year ago – this is good news. Quite a few plants report having their biggest year ever. Seed treating is up 108% over last year with the biggest increase in dockage separations (170%). This increase is due, mostly, to the removal of ergot from last year's wheat crop.

Another positive is the number of plants that did or are planning to do upgrades to their existing facilities. These upgrades include the addition of more bins, larger scales and improved office spaces, just to name a few. Many other plants are in the planning stages to upgrade their facilities as well. Five or six plants have indicated that they plan to install a color sorter in the very near future. Of course, Bashaw's sorter has been running for a couple of months now and this has generated a lot of interest.

The Strome Seed Cleaning Plant applied to have their membership reinstated this past September and was reinstated as a member of the Association at the board's October meeting. We welcome them back and wish them well.

As part of the Strategic Planning process that started a year ago, all of the regional managers were invited to attend the October meeting to provide input into a number of issues. I feel that this process is of great importance and value because of the input and direction that the regional managers provide.

As we discussed at last year's AGM in January, the elections for regional directors will be held on the Friday of this year's AGM. This year the positions of director are up for election in regions three and four. Also we are still looking to fill the director's position for region two. Glen Miller, the current director of region three has informed us that he will not be seeking re-election, and so we thank Glen for all the time and effort that he has put into this important position. If anyone knows of someone that that would be a good fit for the position, I would encourage them to bring a name forward. It is imperative that the provincial board have representation from all seven regions. Without a full board of directors the provincial board will not be able to function in an efficient and effective manner.

I look forward to seeing you all this January in Edmonton. We have put together an agenda that I feel will be both informative and entertaining. See you then, and best wishes to you and your families this holiday season.

COMING EVENTS

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants AGM

Westin Edmonton, AB
January 14-16, 2010

Alberta Seed Growers' AGM

Westin Edmonton, AB
January 25-26, 2010

FarmTech

Mayfield Inn & Suites
Edmonton, AB
January 27-29, 2010

North American Seed Fair

In conjunction with AgExpo
Lethbridge, AB
March 3-5, 2010

Entry Deadline
February 19, 2010

Olds College Seed Fair & Hay Show

In conjunction with Agri Trade
Red Deer, AB
November 10-13, 2010

Entry Deadlines Hay & Silage
September 10, 2010

All other classes
June 1, 2010

2009 REGIONAL SILAGE VARIETY TRIALS



The grain and livestock industries have been well served through the advent of the Regional Variety Testing Program in Alberta and the subsequent publishing of results in the Alberta Seed Guide. However, one key element has always been missing. As cattle producers grow ever increasing amounts of annual crops for feed (silage, greenfeed and swath grazing), measuring those that produce the highest forage yield becomes significantly more important. Silage is an integral forage source in feedlots across the province and has become more prevalent in cow herds. With many producers trying to lower production costs, swath grazing of cow herds has increased dramatically in the last few years. It could also be argued that there is more grain forage than cereal grain fed to take a market animal from conception to plate. With these factors in mind, the Regional Silage Variety Trial concept was born.

Under the umbrella of the Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA), six applied research groups initiated this project. The participating members are Battle River Research Group, Chinook Applied Research Association, Gateway Research Organization, Lakeland Applied Research Association, Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association, and the West Central Forage Association. There are 11 sites

across the province located near Barrhead, Bonnyville, Castor, Dapp, Evansburg, Fahler, Ft. Kent, Oyen, St. Paul, Stettler and Stony Plain. Trials have been conducted on three species (barley, oats and triticale) as well as combinations of cereals and pulses and cereals versus millet. Yield and nutritional results will be reported and the samples will be tested by the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe (Dr. Mary Lou Swift) using near infra-red technology to strengthen the NIR database for forages.

Generous funders of this exciting project are the Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) and the Agricultural Opportunity Fund (Government of Alberta), to whom we are grateful. Many thanks are also due to the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants and Alberta Seed Growers' Association for their contributions and upcoming publication of the results in the Alberta Seed Guide (January 2010), as well as the numerous seed growers and seed cleaning plants that donated time, energy and materials towards the project.

The current format will continue until 2011, however additional industry support and participation is encouraged. For more details please contact Reed Rigney (780) 348-5308 or rigney@clearwave.ca.

WELCOME TO THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 14–16, 2010 – Westin Hotel; Edmonton, Alberta

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please make reservations for the Westin Hotel at 780.426.3636; the room block is listed under the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants. Guestroom rates include Complimentary Parking in the Westin Edmonton underground, outside lot and Library Parkade.

NOTE: Parking at the Library Parkade does not allow for in and out privileges. In other words, guests will be charged for parking each time they leave and return to the Parkade. Delegates and/or guests not registered at the Westin may be required to pay for their parking.

REGISTRATION FEE of \$220.00 per person (includes G.S.T.) includes:

- Convention material
- Informal reception Thursday evening
- Breakfast and luncheon on Friday
- Friday night entertainment
- Breakfast, luncheon and banquet on Saturday
- Women's attendance prizes and corsages
- Access to the entire convention as per agenda

Meal tickets will be collected at the door at each meal. Extra tickets for invited guests to the banquet and entertainment may be available. Space will be limited!

– SPECIAL DRAW –

THE WESTIN HOTEL will present a gift certificate for two in the Premier Wing. To be eligible you must be registered as a hotel guest for the seed plant convention. Draw will take place at the Saturday night dinner. Winner must be in attendance.

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us.

Steven Miller
President



OLDS COLLEGE SEED & HAY FAIR WINNERS

The 2009 Awards Luncheon for the Olds College Seed Fair & Hay Show took place November 11th at the Viterra shops just west of Red Deer. Congratulations to all recipients. For a complete listing of all winners please go to www.seed.ab.ca. 283 samples were submitted – the highest number of entries over the past five years!



Lloyd Lidberg presenting the Tony Lampard Memorial – Co-op Seed Plant Best Machine Cleaned Common Class Exhibit to Joanne Borle, and her daughter, of the Morinville Municipal Seed Cleaning Co-op Ltd. (Sponsored by Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants).



Lloyd Lidberg, Olds College Seed Fair & Hay Show committee (left) presenting the Co-op Seed Plant Grand Exhibit Award to Bryan Plante with Three Hills & District Seed Cleaning Plant Ltd.



Olds College Seed Fair & Hay Show on display at Agri-trade, November 11–14, 2009.

INVIGOR EARLY BOOK PROGRAM

Check out the InVigor Early Book Program!

Growers that book InVigor® canola hybrids before January 30, 2010 can save \$1/acre on Raxil® and Trilex® AL seed treatment. Please see program for further details or visit BayerCropScience.com

InVigor[®]
Raxil[®]
Trilex[®] **AL**

TRILEX AL SEED TREATMENT

Gentlemen, start your pulses!

Growers have a real opportunity to get their pulses racing with new Trilex AL seed treatment from Bayer CropScience. Trilex AL is fully registered on all types of pulse crops for the control of major diseases that can lead to serious stand establishment issues. Trilex AL uses trifloxystrobin and metalazyl to bring superior disease protection along with excellent inoculant compatibility to the marketplace. Find out more by calling your Bayer CropScience representative.

TENTATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

2nd Floor – North Foyer

Provided by: **Foster Park Baskett**

IMPORTANT

Delegates and Managers Credential Cards must be completed and presented at Registration Desk.

8:30 – 11:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

(Saskatchewan Rooms)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST

(BC/Alberta/Yukon Rooms)

Co-sponsored with **Foster Park Baskett**

8:00 a.m.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

2nd Floor - North Foyer

Exhibits (North Foyer)

Provided by: **Foster Park Baskett**

9:00 a.m.

JOINT OPENING

Delegates, Managers, Guests
(Manitoba/Saskatchewan Rooms)

Call to Order – President Steven Miller

O Canada – Julia Walker

Invocation – Lloyd Lidberg

Greetings from the Westin Hotel

9:30 a.m.

Opening Address

Parliamentary Assistant, Broyce Jacobs

Greetings from A.A.M.D.C.

Greetings from Alberta Branch C.S.G.A.

Introduction of Association Directors & Spouses

Approval of Agenda

Draw for Women's Prize:

Sponsored by **BASF**

10:15 a.m.

WOMEN ADJOURN

Women's Program Sponsored by **BASF**

Refreshments – Exhibits (North Foyer)

10:30 a.m.

Presentation and Adoption of Minutes

Business Arising out of Minutes

Appointment of Committees

- Resolutions
- Finance (Budget)

Reports

- Board of Directors, Steven Miller – President
- General Manager, Lorena Pahl
- Auditor, Daryl Andre

Disposition of Resolutions

11:20 a.m.

Insurance Program Update

- Rob Dechant – Foster Park Baskett

11:50 a.m.

LUNCHEON

(BC/Alberta/Yukon Rooms)

Co-Sponsored with **United Agri Products**

1:00 p.m.

If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else.

- Larry Malazdrewicz – Common Ground Consulting

2:00 p.m.

United Agri Products – Brodie Blair

2:30 p.m.

Health Benefits Program

- Doug Sample – Morneau Sobeco

3:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS

Exhibits (North Foyer)

3:30 p.m.

BASF – Scott Chapman, Stan Bell

4:00 p.m.

Presentation of Resolutions

Must be handed in by 3 p.m. on Friday

4:30 p.m.

Regional Elections (Regions 2, 3 & 4)

– **ADJOURNMENT** –

7:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Carnival Games Night

(Manitoba/Saskatchewan Rooms)

Test your skills at Shoot & Score, Ring Toss, Sumo Wrestling, Big Air Boxing and several other exciting games!

Sponsored by: **Your Allied Trade Group**

SATURDAY - JANUARY 16, 2010

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

(BC/Alberta/Yukon Rooms)
Exhibits (North Foyer)

ANNUAL MEETING

(Manitoba/Saskatchewan Rooms)

9:00 a.m.

Midge Wheat Stewardship

9:30 a.m.

Giant Views of the Industry
• Shawn Brook, Issues Ink

Draw for Women's Prize
Sponsored by **BASF**

10:00 a.m.

REFRESHMENTS

Exhibits (North Foyer)
Co-sponsored with Managers' Association

10:30 a.m.

The Long Walk Home
• Paul Franklin

12:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON

(BC/Alberta/Yukon Rooms)
Co-sponsored with **Bayer CropScience**

1:00 p.m.

Bayer CropScience
• Monica Klaas

1:30 p.m.

Managers' Association Report
• Ron Wirsta

1:45 p.m.

Syngenta
Antonio Tajeda, Rob Bishop & Shad Milligan

2:15 p.m.

"If I Can Do It - You Can Do It"
Bashaw Seed Cleaning Co-op Assoc. Ltd.

2:45 p.m.

Budget, Resolutions, Appointment of Auditor,
Unfinished Business and New Business

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Banquet Floor

5:45 p.m.

RECEPTION

Women's corsages compliments
of **Bayer CropScience**

6:30 p.m.

Banquet - (Manitoba/Saskatchewan Rooms)

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Entertainment: **Ain't No Rodeo**
Sponsored by **Syngenta**

DEALING WITH EMPTY SEED TREATMENT BARRELS

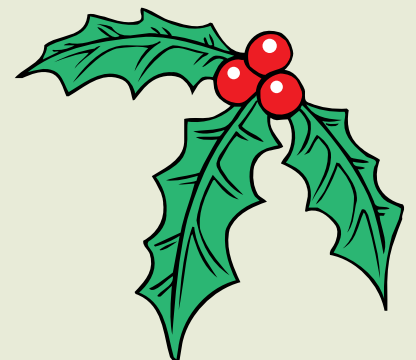
What can I do with my empty seed treatment barrels and containers?

- Ten litre jugs should be triple rinsed and sent to the nearest chemical container collection site.
- Each manufacturing company will have different guidelines for drum disposal and/or return, so be sure to ask.
- If you have eight or more Bayer CropScience 200 L drums and 1000 L tote tanks, call CWS Logistics at our container return number for pick-up: 1 866-748-8613.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season, with good health and prosperity following in the new year.

Season's Greeting from Monica Klaas and everyone at Bayer CropScience!



Ain't No Rodeo

Ain't No Rodeo was formed in the summer of 2008. They are a group that enjoys getting out in front of people and rockin the house with some great country and classic rock tunes. Their set lists are as diverse as their members. Ain't No Rodeo plays everything from Garth Brooks and George Strait, to Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings, to Tragically Hip and Lynyrd Skynyrd. If it's got a pulse and you can drink a beer to it, they will play it.

STRENGTH IN LEADERSHIP – DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE BOARD

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Devonian Room, Westin Edmonton**

Together with The Pacific Institute and Farm Leadership Council, the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd. invite all local plant managers and board members to participate in Part 1 of a four part series on Strength in Leadership – Developing an Effective Board. Participants will learn how to develop their leadership potential both at an individual and organizational level and have a strong, vibrant agricultural organization!



YOUR OPERATION IS ONE OF A KIND!

**So Broaden your Horizons
and Discover
the Power of YOU!**

AGM LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP – LEADERS IN GROWTH

Possibility Thinking is a great way to describe what you will take home from Leaders in Growth education.

In farming, is flax fiber an irritant or a Mercedes Benz?

Mercedes Benz's use of natural fibers, such as flax in the interior of its vehicles, represents just one market opportunity for the diverse crop!

Insight to address controversial issues

Similar to planning for crops next year, you ask yourself, what do I know about the market that might change what I grow? This is referred to as 'INSIGHT'. Leaders in Growth education helps you form insights like this into what you know about yourself that prepares the groundwork for the basis of my farming and/or organizational decisions.

The great debate is always single desk selling or marketing choice!

Why is it that each of us sees this differently? Simply put, it is our belief system that puts us either for or against. The Leaders in Growth education helps us to explore how we think as individuals and how our beliefs have been formed giving sanction to what side of the fence we sit on. What if for a moment we could suspend a belief and look at the contradiction from no point of view and only evaluate on fact?

New Technology – Precision Instruments

Like new technology in farming – for example a GPS designed to eliminate skips and overlaps thus reducing chemical consumption, fuel, and field time – the Leaders in Growth education is designed to give you the tools to be flexible, creative and find solutions in reacting to new challenges.

In today's economic downturn, problems abound from declining income and slumping commodity prices to persistent high costs for inputs builds fear throughout the farming community. So how do we move forward without fear? Fear in our mind is like the cylinder in a combine when you feed too much grain through it – the thrasher literally stops. Come and find out how the fear factor plays out in our own lives, what holds us back, and how we can overcome fear that freezes our ability to act.

Ever heard of self sabotage?

A poll showed 60% of farmers and ranchers are worried financial turmoil will make it harder to obtain credit, buy equipment and cause higher rent.

So what do you think is the likelihood when you go into the bank and ask for credit if you believe that you have no chance? In other words, we act in accordance with the truth as we believe it to be!

Predicting the future

In farming, what holds us back is the common excuse that we can't predict the future!

The future is uncertain; in today's troubled economic times, this is even more reason to have a plan and goals. A goal is the dominate idea of what you are pursuing. In Leaders in Growth education, you discover the importance of having targets and how these targets create the drive, creativity and the energy to seek success in your farm operation or farm organization.

Don Campbell, a rancher, wrote in the Western Producer; "If your business isn't going good, don't just keep going and hope that it gets better. Change it to make it better. Get some education, get some tools, and work with somebody. Start Immediately."

SEED QUALITY UPDATE

KEVIN ZAYCHUK,
20/20 SEED LABS INC.

Environmental conditions during the final stages of seed maturation and prior to harvest are key to producing good quality crops.

This past season we experienced a cold and wet spring, a hot and dry summer, and a cool and wet fall; sadly the wrong combinations for emergence, development and maturity.

So how did we fair? Overall seed quality is good; however there are some samples with chemical injury (from pre-harvest desiccants) and this season it is evident particularly in the pulses.

This season the average germination for wheat is 1% higher than the average germination last year for the same time period. Seed germination results overall are moderate to high with typical abnormalities that are usually encountered through field and conditioning practices.

Approximately 59% of the pea samples tested for ascochyta are positive with an average of 3% infection. We are also observing higher levels of seed-borne disease in cereals which is often indicative of crops that received moisture after swathing or crops that remained in a swath longer than usual.

Maximizing the yield potential of any crop begins with good quality seed. Good quality seed as one would expect is seed that has a high germination and vigour, and is healthy (free from disease).

Seed quality, for the most part, is largely impacted by environmental conditions some of which are out of our control. However, there are many steps that we can take, to preserve the integrity of our seed, that are within our control.

There are two main reasons for poor seed quality in peas. The main culprit is mechanical damage which is caused by handling the seed incorrectly at various stages of the production process. Mechanical damage symptoms observed in an accredited germination test appear as seedlings that either have a root or a shoot that are missing. In severe cases both structures will be absent. This type of

abnormality will not develop into a mature plant. "Speeding" with the combine is often the cause for this impediment. The cylinder should be slowed down to minimize mechanical damage. Taking more time at this stage of harvest can save you thousands of dollars.

Mechanical Damage

Mechanical damage is also caused by using improper handling systems for both cleaning and storing seed. Augers and flight conveyors should be avoided as they break and bruise the seed. Dropping seed from 15 to 20 feet can cause breaks in the seed coat. Keep in mind also that seed with moisture content below 14% damages much more quickly. Unfortunately, these are the issues that we see on an annual basis, particularly with new growers or with seed that is grown under more stressful conditions in Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Pre-Harvest Desiccant Chemical Injury

The second culprit is using a glyphosate based desiccant, which is not recommended for seed. Use only registered products for desiccation purposes. In both cases, the symptoms which lead to extreme losses in germination and vigour can be prevented.

This year both the pulses and cereals are affected and symptoms of chemical injury are being observed in many of our samples. The concern with seedlings exhibiting this type of damage is that the seed rarely remains stable and it is difficult to sustain a good germination. A seed lot that tests at grade shortly after harvest will almost certainly decline over time. In addition, seed which is exhibiting symptoms of chemical damage in a germination test must be re-tested in soil according to the Canadian Methods and Procedures resulting in extra seed testing costs.

Fusarium Update

The 6TH CANADIAN WORKSHOP ON FUSARIUM HEAD BLIGHT took place in downtown Ottawa on November 1-4, 2009. This national event, organized by AAFC researchers and others in the field, provided opportunities for Canadians and international workers to exchange scientific ideas and updates on progress on fusarium head blight research, a timely and important topic for the Canadian grain industry and producers.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

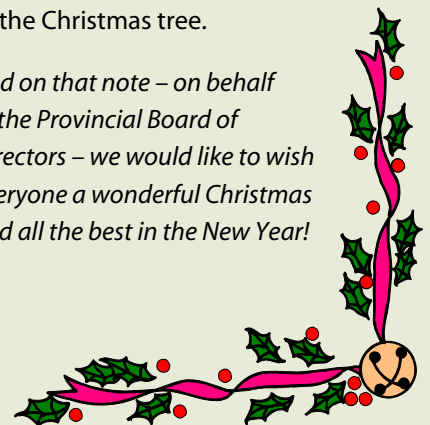
LITTLE KNOWN CHRISTMAS FACT

Not long ago and far, far away, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip... but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves were sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the veterans. Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit! This stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that two had jumped the fence and were nowhere to be found.

He tried to carry on and load the sleigh, but one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys. Frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of coffee and a shot of whiskey. When he went to the cupboard, he found the elves had hidden the liquor and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration he dropped the coffee pot and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor.

Just then the doorbell rang and Santa cursed on his way to the door. He opened it up and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said with a cheery smile, "Where would you like to put this tree, Santa?" And that, my friends, is how the little angel came to be on top of the Christmas tree.

And on that note – on behalf of the Provincial Board of Directors – we would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year!



SEEDLING CHEMICAL DAMAGE



In the above image the healthy seedlings are in the upper right, with mechanical damage on the left and chemically damaged seedlings below. The below image is all chemically damaged seedlings.



The meeting had over 175 participants with significant international participation. Topics included breeding for resistance, vomitoxin levels in feed and food products, and population and distribution changes of fusarium species and chemotypes. The chemotype shift is extremely important to watch closely. The more toxic and aggressive 3ADON chemotype is rapidly replacing the 15ADON chemotype across the country. In most provinces east of Alberta, the aggressive 3ADON chemotype is now the dominant strain. Although breeding for resistance and the introduction of new cultivars appears to be much slower and more difficult than originally thought, one of the positive highlights was the introduction this season of the new fusarium resistant Western Red Spring wheat variety AC Carberry.

Full proceedings are available at:

http://www.cwfhb.org/programs/6_CWFHB_2009_Ottawa.pdf

In Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* detection is up a few percentage points this year over last year across the province and percent infection is on the increase as well. Data from our laboratory shows a doubling in the percentage of positive samples each year from 2006 to 2009 in both Southern and Northern Alberta. As always (but obviously even more so now), producers need to be aware of the quality of the seed that they are bringing in to plant on their farm (especially if they don't have a history of fusarium on their farm) and should be concerned about how the seed was tested for the presence of *Fusarium graminearum*.

SEED QUALITY UPDATE FROM BIOVISION: SEED, THE HISTORIAN!

With most cereal and oilseed crops two to three weeks behind traditional crop development this past growing season, there was tremendous relief when the September heat wave advanced crop maturity and promoted dry-down. Like any other year, the seed quality is impacted by environmental conditions and producer involvement. The overall health of the 2009 seed crop is a result of the below circumstances, of which occurred in various Alberta regions this summer.

1. Multiple crop stages within individual fields.

- Immature seeds have been proven to not perform to the potential of a fully mature kernel. Multiple crop stages were evident in Alberta counties which experienced very low spring moisture conditions followed by July precipitation. The oat crop, and to a lesser extent the wheat crop, from these geographies has both variable seed size and pigmentation. Germination and cool stress testing provide valuable seed performance data under ideal growing conditions and cool growing conditions respectively.

2. Showers during cereal crop flowering.

- Environmental conditions are the most significant factor affecting fusarium infection. This past summer, some crop

districts experienced showers coupled with moderately warm temperatures during flowering which were conducive to pathogen development. Do keep in mind that all three components of the disease cycle must be present to foster disease growth: host, inoculum and environment. *Fusarium graminearum* detection rates continue to rise in traditional regions of infection. Sample submission strategies and client base both impact commercial laboratories detection rates significantly.



3. Delayed crop dry-down.

- Pre-harvest application of a glyphosate base chemistry to promote crop dry-down was utilized in many regions. This practice is not recommended if the harvested crop is to be utilized for seeding purposes. Germination testing in roll towel or blotter is standard procedure, but if chemical damage is suspected, the sample is re-tested in soil media.

4. Hot early harvest conditions.

- The binning of very warm grain not only can result in heating, which ultimately destroys the seed potential, but also creates a haven for insect multiplication. Although heating and insect damage has not been noticed in the laboratory to date, frequent monitoring is crucial to minimize spoilage of the early harvested crops. Germination testing, both in the fall and closer to seeding, is advised to ensure seed quality has remained strong through the winter months.

The seed quality for samples submitted in October and November is on par with the average. Germination appears strong in cereal and pulse crops, with the exception of localized geographic pockets. As the testing season progresses, there is an expectation that the seed quality will decline as crops harvested in November are analyzed. If that is the case, there will be a conscious effort to renew certified seed purchases in the spring of 2010.

Fusarium graminearum Update: A Commercial Laboratory Perspective

Fusarium graminearum detection rates in Southern Alberta districts are on the rise. There are many theories on the causal factor of this trend which include environmental conditions, susceptible crop acreage (durum, corn) and natural pathogen movement. If the 3ADON chemotype, which has a greater spore production and produces higher toxin levels than the 15ADON chemotype, becomes more prevalent in Alberta, then this disease poses an astronomical risk to the grain and feed industries of Alberta. The below summarizes the percentage of samples submitted to BioVision Seed Labs for analysis which detected the presence of *Fusarium graminearum* dating back to 2001. Preliminary 2009 data has also been included. Keep in mind that there is consistently an influx of samples submitted early in the

testing season from areas which suspect disease presence, therefore it is anticipated that the detection rate in Southern Alberta will decline through the course of the testing season. *Fusarium graminearum* infection in Southern Alberta tends to be localized.

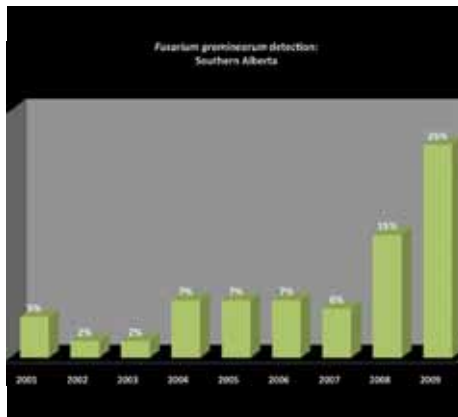


Figure 1. The percent of samples that detected the presence of *Fusarium graminearum* in Southern Alberta (Area code – 403). The 2009 data represents results to November 25, 2009.

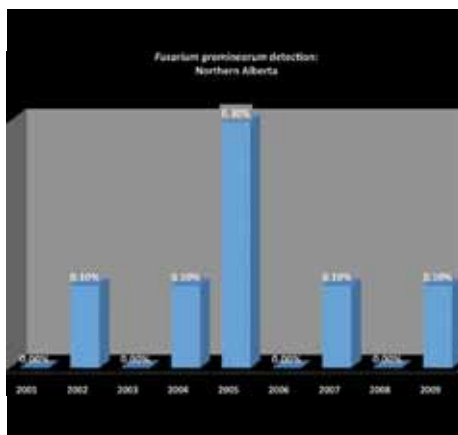


Figure 2. The percent of samples that detected the presence of *Fusarium graminearum* in Northern Alberta (Area code – 780). 2009 data represents to November 25, 2009.

The average infection rate of *Fusarium graminearum* in the 2008 wheat crop was 1.86%. Early indication is that the average percent infection rate is lower in the 2009 crop than last year, currently tracking at 1.4%. The highest infection level observed in the 2009 wheat crop thus far is 9.0%.

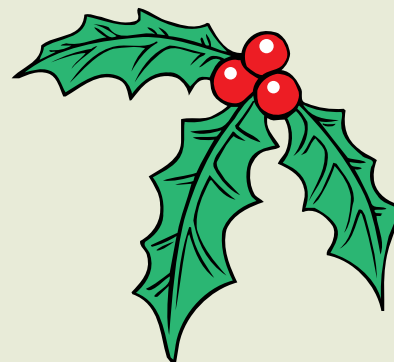
OPTIMIST VS. PESSIMIST

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.

One holiday season, just to see what the reactions would be, their father loaded the pessimist's room with hundreds of toys and games while the boys slept. In the optimist's room he laid out horse manure everywhere.

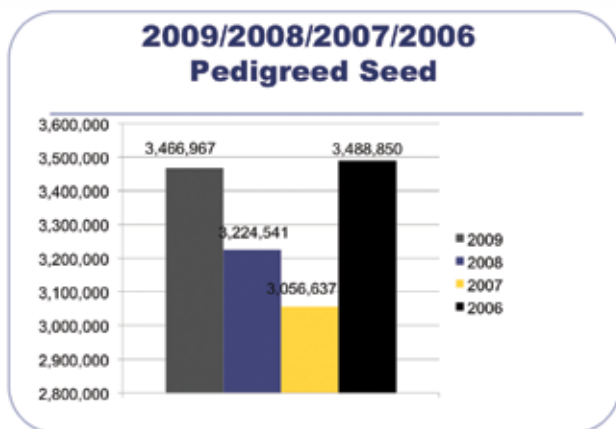
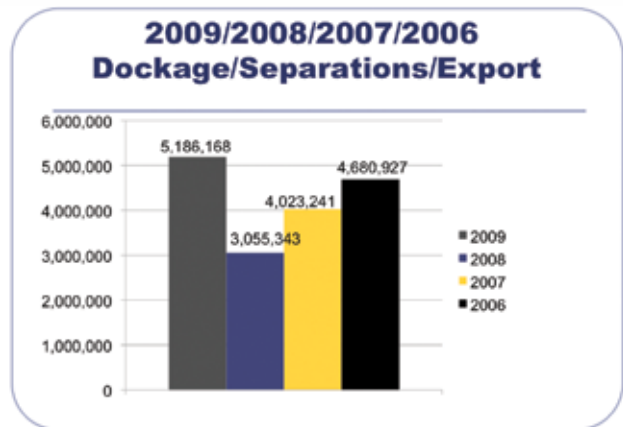
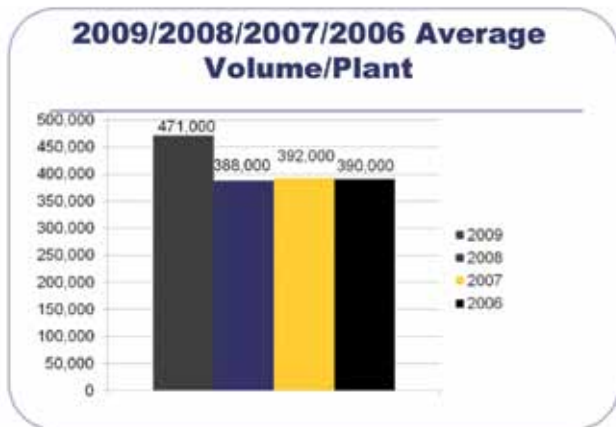
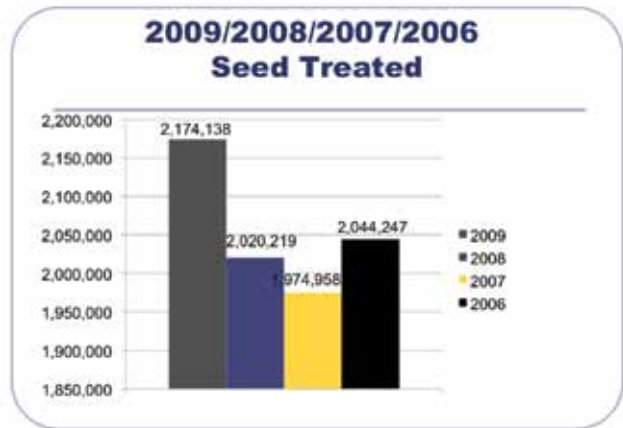
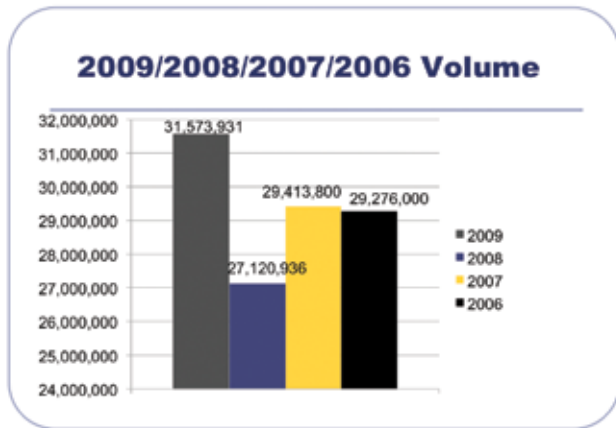
On Christmas morning the father passed by the pessimist's room and saw him sitting amid his newly opened presents crying bitterly. "Why are you crying?" the father asked. "Because I have to clean up all this wrapping paper, I have to read all these instructions, and on top of it all I need a million batteries." answered the pessimist twin.

Venturing into the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked. To this, his optimist son replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"



GRAIN CLEANED VOLUME SUMMARIES

The following graphs compare volume of bushels processed through our member plants for the past four years. Details provided by each member plant have been mailed out and a presentation will also be made at the upcoming annual meeting in January.



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Do you have an idea for a Seed Plant News story?
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