

2017 Annual Report
Proceedings of the 89th Annual Meeting
Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Inc.

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Sask.

January 10, 2018

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Fedoruk at 1:15 p.m. Approximately 140 members and guests were in attendance. In her opening remarks, he welcomed the members and several guests, including: CSGA President Kevin Runnalls of New Liskeard, ON; Glyn Chancey, Executive Director from CSGA Ottawa; visiting delegates from Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario Seed Growers Associations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada personnel; University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre personnel; Canadian Seed Institute personnel and representatives from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Barry Reisner/Joe Rennick) That the agenda for the 89th annual meeting be approved. Carried.

2. Disposal of Minutes

Motion (Wanda Jones/Laurie Wakefield) That the minutes of the 88th annual meeting of January 11-12, 2017 be approved. Carried.

3. Appointment of Committees

President Cathy appointed Roy Klym and Kurt Printz to the Nominations Committee and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Donna Edwards/Dennis Gregoire) That nominations for the Nominations Committee cease. Carried.

President Cathy appointed Mike Shewchuk and Anita Palmier to the Resolutions Committee, and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Bob Rugg/Jason Gizen) That nominations for the Resolutions Committee cease. Carried.

4. President's Report

Cathy presented the President's Report. The past year has been a busy one for the Board. In addition to regular board meetings, SSGA hosted a SeedTalk seminar in March where stakeholders from across Canada gathered to discuss the future of the seed industry. It also coincided with a Seed Treeters workshop and although that was cancelled due to speaker issues, an on-line session for registrants was held a few weeks later.

The Board was represented at a Grains Value Chain roundtable workshop where a new value creation model for Canada's seed sector was discussed, and directors attended provincial seed grower meetings in Manitoba and Alberta as well as national meetings in Halifax and Kingston. They also represented Saskatchewan Growers at CSTA meetings in Halifax and Calgary.

She told members that the seed industry is now at a critical point in history where discussions are centered on the modernization of the industry, which could change how growers do business. A panel will present the thinking of industry stakeholders and she urged members to participate and help direct their vision. She expressed her appreciation to the Board of Directors for their service over the past year, as well as to the advisors who serve with the Board and to Executive Director Dave Akister.

Motion (Joe Rennick/Roy Klym) That the President's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

5. Executive Director's Report

Dave Akister presented the Executive Director's report, reviewing the operations of the provincial office and the activities of the Board and the Association. He, too, elaborated on the work of the stakeholders in modernizing the seed industry, comparing it to architects renovating a 100-year old house. Should it be renovated, rebuilt or replaced?

The Board has been active on several issues and in addition to those outlined by President Cathy, has represented Saskatchewan Growers at meetings of other organizations such as Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops; Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, Canadian Seed Institute, Western Grains Research Foundation, Crop Production Week; Canadian Seed Trade Association; the Seed Industry Advisory Committee and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

Dave acknowledged and thanked the Annual Meeting sponsors, including: Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Bank of Montreal, Caliber Seed Services, Can-Seed Equipment, CANTERRA SEEDS, Cornerstone Credit Union, CPS Proven Seed, CropLife Canada, Discovery Seed Lab, E.I. du Pont Canada, FarmChem, Farrell Agencies Ltd., Federated Co-op, FP Genetics, Lewis M. Carter Mfg., Nexeed Inc, SeCan, Seed Depot, Syngenta, T&L Seeds and Western Producer Publications.

He also expressed his thanks to President Cathy, the Board of Directors and the members, for their continued support.

Motion (Anita Palmier/Bob Rugg) That the Executive Director's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

6. Education and Publicity Report

Mike Shewchuk presented the Education and Publicity Report, reviewing the past year's activities. He updated members on the various projects being undertaken by the E&P committee, including ongoing training for the Board of Directors and members

He elaborated on the session held in Saskatoon in March where members were asked to participate in the seminar on what's necessary to modernize Circular 6; what type of Seed Grower training is needed; and what the seed industry will look like moving forward. The "Build your Binder" workshop was a success when subsequent sessions were held on-line, even though the workshop in March was cancelled. The Seed Growers website "SaskSeed Online", has also been updated to make it more responsive for members seeking the latest information.

Motion (Mike Shewchuk/Lyndon Olson) That the Education & Publicity Committee report be approved. Carried.

7. National Directors' Report

Joe Rennick and Bob Rugg gave the National Directors' report, reviewing some of the issues facing the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Membership numbers remain strong and pedigreed acres remain high at over 1.3 million acres. For the first time in history, soybean acreage has surpassed wheat. There were a total of 14,816 fields inspected of 51 crop kinds and 2,240 different varieties.

Declines continue on a downward trend but the number of demotions are increasing. Contributing to that increase are problems with variety descriptions; some varieties coming to market too early; new check inspection model, new rules, new inspectors and new growers. Potential solutions include changes to standards with the modernization of Circular 6; continued improvement of the check inspection model and better support for new growers and inspectors.

On the Education and Publicity side, the E&P Committee is continuing with the development of seed grower education with an Online Learning Hub (2019 completion) and Seed Grower Professional Development Programs (2020). There is enhanced member engagement around Seed Synergy and Circular 6 modernization with more frequent and regular contact through newsletters, surveys, publications and face-to-face meetings. CSGA continues to work with CSTA, CARC, OSCG and others to secure access for the seed sector to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

Work on the modernization of Circular 6 is concentrating on review and revisions to the technical elements such as land use requirements and crop standards for isolation, mechanical and varietal purity. In addition, efforts are under way to separate mandatory requirements from best practices or guidelines and make Circular 6 easier to read and understand.

Motion (Wayne Amos/Barry Reisner) That the National Directors' Report be approved as presented. Carried

8. Financial Report

The Auditor's Report was presented by Executive Director Dave Akister, outlining the Association's financial position for 2017. The report showed total revenues of \$196,624 and expenses \$185,694, for an operating surplus of \$10,930. Income is up about \$13,520 because of registration fees, a provincial government grant and sponsorship related to hosting the Seed Talk seminar. Expenses are up about \$30,300 over the previous year due to the Seed Talk Seminar (\$17,600); Board travel costs (\$10,000); annual meeting costs (\$2,000) and PST which is now applicable to more goods and services (\$700).

Current member equity in the Association is \$346,742 compared to \$335,812 reported last year. Highlights of the report included income of \$20,687 from publication of the Seed Guide; \$32,985 in sponsorship; and \$10,000 from a Growing Forward II grant. SSGA continues to support the Variety Performance Evaluation trials in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion

(Mike Shewchuk/Grant Greenshields) That the Financial Report be approved as presented. Carried.

9. 2018 Budget

SSGA Vice President Shawn Fraser presented the budget for 2018. He outlined the increased activities that the Association is undertaking, and the projected number of acres and membership anticipated. Shawn projected revenues of \$170,700 and expenses of \$170,425 for an operating surplus of \$275. Membership revenue is anticipated to be about \$122,500 based on 325,000 acres and 500 members. In comparison to 2017 actual costs, the 2018 budget was presented as follows:

Receipts	Actual 2017	Budget 2018
Growing Forward 2 Grant	10,00	0
Interest	2,267	1,200
Membership Fees	123,256	122,500
Miscellaneous Income	0	0
Proceeds from Meetings	7,429	2,500
SaskSeed Communications	20,687	20,000
Sponsorship	<u>32,985</u>	<u>24,500</u>
	\$196,624	\$170,700
Disbursements		
Advertising & Promotion	0	550
Agribition	0	200
Annual Meeting	32,071	32,000
Crop Production Week	0	500
Educational Programs	24,431	5,000
Grants	2,500	2,500
Interest & Bank Charges	235	250
Membership/Registration	2,720	2,000
Miscellaneous	0	500
Newsletters/website/promotions	2,138	2,000
Office Contract	33,937	35,000
Office Contract Extension	9,983	19,225
Office Supplies	2,567	2,800
Postage & Mailing	2,743	2,200
Professional Fees	7,678	7,500
Sask Variety Performance Group	10,000	10,000
Telephone & Fax	2,171	2,200
Travel - Board	12,563	15,000
Travel - Out of Province	32,631	25,000
Travel - Staff	<u>7,326</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	\$185,694	\$170,425
Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 10,930	\$ 275

Motion
Motion

(Shawn Fraser/Roy Klym) That the 2018 Budget be approved as presented. Carried.

(Anita Palmier/Donna Edwards) That Virtus Group Chartered Accountants of Saskatoon be retained as the Association's auditors for 2018. Carried.

10. The Pedigreed Seed Picture: Quantity, Quality and Questions

Bruce Carriere of Discovery Seed Labs spoke about the quantity and quality of pedigreed seed supplies that could be expected across the province in 2018. He told members that for the most part, seed quality is expected to be pretty good this year.

Diseases in cereal crops and pulse crops are much lower than the long term averages. He reviewed *F. graminearum*, which causes tombstone or scab in the seed. There is no correlation between vomitoxin (VOM) and the percentage of seed infection and no correlation between visual count (Fuzz count) for grading and percentage of seed infection. He showed growers the *F. graminearum* infection by Crop District to give them a better idea of what was happening in their area. He suggested using seed lots with low levels of infection; use seed treatments; increase seeding rates; use varieties with some level of resistance, and plan on applying a fungicide.

He said it was “pretty boring in the lab” with germination testing results showing good to very good. In wheat, only 2% of the samples showed germ of less than 85%, while last year, 29% of the samples were below that level. For other crop kinds, 3% of durum (70% last year); 6% barley (18% last year); 13% oats (14% last year); 9% field peas (17% last year); 4% lentils (25% last year) and 6% of the flax (20% last year) samples tested showing less than 85% germination.

His expectations for spring planting indicate that Durum, Lentils, Soybeans and Faba Beans acreage will be up, with canola and chickpeas unchanged. He had no predictions for the other crop kinds. He urged growers to take potential Clubroot infection of their fields seriously. Trucks are moving in and out of seed yards continuously and farmers aren’t checking for the disease. He urged growers to test sooner rather than later, because early detection is imperative and makes a big difference in control options.

11. Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee Chair Mike Shewchuk reviewed the rules and announced that written resolutions were now being accepted. He reported on the action taken on the 2017 resolutions.

12. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Roy Klym announced that nominations were being accepted for the positions of President; Vice President, two Directors to serve two-year terms; and one National Director to serve a two-year term.

14. Modernizing the Seed Industry: What do Stakeholders REALLY Need?

President Cathy called on Jonathan Nyborg of New-Denmark, NB, Vice President of the Canadian Seed Growers Association, to moderate the panel discussion: “Modernizing the Seed Industry: What do Stakeholders REALLY Need?” Panellists included: Kevin Runnalls, Seed Grower from, New Liskeard, ON; Stephen Yarrow, Vice President, Plant Biotechnology, of CropLife Canada in Ottawa, ON; Dr. Bryan Harvey, Barley Breeder with the Crop Development Centre at Saskatoon; and Jeff Reid, General Manager of SeCan at Ottawa.

Kevin Runnalls opened the discussion by telling members that he was speaking from a farmer’s point of view. He talked about the value of having a pedigree attached to the seed you plant. It might be two or three years down the road before the seed is sold to another farmer, and having the ability to trace it can be invaluable. That traceability has lasted for the 114 year history of CSGA, and now the industry is looking to a future vision.

Supply-managed agriculture sectors have legislation to help build the costs of traceability into the pricing system. That doesn’t exist for seed, but with Value Creation being considered in the discussions to modernize the seed system, there may be opportunities. With the current system, the farmer is being asked to pay for the cost of development and the traceability, but everyone else benefits. If there is a way move value creation out to the consumer who wants traceability, it should be explored. The block chain concept is wanted by retailers and their customers, and while seed can be traced, only the farmer pays for it. The Internet is about information flow, and he urged members to build an Internet of value, before they are left behind.

Stephen Yarrow said that the position of CropLife focusses on research and development. Farmers are in constant need of new varieties to meet consumer demands and environmental issues. They are advocating to have a tiered risk assessment process, tested by a simple system. CropLife's position is that it's important to have a strong advocacy voice to convince the Government of Canada of the value of technology development. They have to convince CFIA to take risk assessment to those areas where it's needed and prudent, but not to add unnecessary regulations in those areas where there is no risk.

He told members that when biotech regulations were developed, there wasn't a good effort to educate consumers, and it has caused some stakeholders to suffer. He said that his involvement in the Seed Synergy collaboration project has helped identify numerous inefficiencies that could be resolved and it would be beneficial to have all the stakeholders speaking with one voice.

Dr. Bryan Harvey brought the perspective of the public plant breeder and the institutions they work for, indicating that they not only conduct crop-related research and develop improved varieties but distribute seed of these varieties as widely as possible to maximize farmer benefits, relying on agents and Seed Growers. However, it's an incredible drain on resources, because at the Crop Development Centre, they have an inventory of 500 varieties to maintain; grow 50 or more Breeder Seed plots every year; grow large numbers of pre-registration trials and a number of PBR plots.

All that has to be done with limited resources, and while the university has a base budget to deal with faculty, buildings and land on campus, the program funding has to come from other sources such as royalties and grower checkoffs, which are vital. He pointed out that most of the new variety innovations have come from public breeding and most of those advances come in species which are not profitable to the private sector. He said they rely on an efficient, effective seed industry and it has to operate through the full value chain.

The industry needs to lobby for public breeders with the power brokers and he sees the seed synergy concept as a vehicle which facilitates an industry-wide discussion speaking with a unified voice. Areas where he sees value is through variety registration, Plant Breeders Rights, Science funding, access to germplasm, and such politically sensitive areas as gene editing. That is a powerful tool, but if it's treated the same as the GMO process, it will be too expensive for public breeders to utilize.

Jeff Reid told members that he examined the need for modernization through the view of independent seed companies. Until now, it has been a fragmented approach and cost effectiveness is a matter of each company's point of view. He pointed out how complicated it was to put together a plan for new members and when considering the number of audits, and processes that have to be followed, a single window approach and the ability to speak with one voice would be of immense value. He told members that unless the industry gets everyone around the table and working together, little else gets done.

He also alluded to the block chain concept but cautioned about tearing down some of the things the industry has done right. Consumers want accountability of the industry forced by government, and that leads to a lot of discussion about public trust -- how far should seed be regulated or whether some areas even should be regulated.

Jonathan Nyborg then moderated a lively question period that got the audience involved in the discussion. Some pointed out that some regulations imply that a farmer can sell what he produces under farm-saved seed or the Seeds Act but according to Plant Breeders Rights legislation, you can't. The system is fractured. Others are worried about losing tools such as third-party inspection oversight; is the objective to come up with one group at the end or another level of bureaucracy, and is there a danger that seed growers will be led down a path that they don't want.

President Cathy thanked the panel and the members for the excellent, thought-provoking discussion. The meeting recessed at 5:10 pm, to be reconvened the following morning.

Awards Banquet

SSGA Director Mike Shewchuk presided over the Awards banquet, held in Ballroom B. He introduced Dean Mary Buhr of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan, who in turned introduced the recipients of the SSGA Bursaries. Receiving the \$1,000 awards were Emily Faye of Wishart and Davis McCarthy of Stoughton.

Roy Klym and Bob Rugg presided over the awards presentations. Outstanding Service awards were presented to Brent McCarthy of Corning and Laurie Wakefield of Maidstone while Ron Weik of Regina was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Association. Bob and Roy also paid tribute to those growers who have achieved significant long service milestones in their pedigreed production careens.

2017 Annual Report
Proceedings of the 89th Annual Meeting
Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Inc.

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Sask.

January 11, 2018

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Fedoruk at 8:15 a.m.

1. Canadian Seed Growers Association Update

Kevin Runnalls, CSGA President, brought members up to speed on the activities and issues facing the National Seed Growers Association. He talked about the next wave of plant technology, value creation and technology enablers such as block chain which will drive potentially disruptive change. Value Creation mechanisms are being considered for introduction by AAFC/CFIA via potential changes to the PBR Act, and major changes to the Seeds Act could be made as early as 2019.

Six seed sector organizations have banded together to provide guidance to government on a potential “next generation” seed system and CSGA is positioning its members for change through its own Strategic Plan. He said the National Board has represented member interest through meetings with senior parliamentarians in the fall of 2017 and meetings are planned with provincial ministers and departments through 2018. CSGA continues to receive strong support from its Seed Synergy partners and other agriculture industry stakeholders such as the Canada Grains Council, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan and others.

Advocacy has become a priority, he said, and CSGA, which represents 3,500 seed growers, is the largest stakeholder group involved in the discussions. He recounted some of the issues facing such a diverse group that spans the country, but is the foundation on which the seed system is built.

Glyn Chancey, CSGA’s executive director, elaborated on CSGA’s Strategic Plan, which has been built around five Key Results Areas (KRAs), including a trusted, high performing seed system; support for members; sector growth; partnerships; and organizational efficiency and effectiveness. He commended SSGA for the session it held for members last March and the support to help develop the Strategic Plan.

He outlined the progress in the various KRAs, and the technical advances at the national office, where staff can tell within hours whether members have opened the news letter or accessed the Seed Scoop magazine, and growers’ ability to now access much of the information they need on smart phones.

Now the industry is facing change. There was a fundamental shift in government thinking 30 years ago and the seed industry has gone from being a significant player with adequate resources to having a very small budget with few human resources. It’s time to rethink the system before it’s too late as the government opens up the rules for discussion and potential change. He detailed the need for a new risk-based safety assessment model to level the playing field; a single on-line front end for market entry and commercialization; maintaining core principles but adding flexibility to production and processing; strengthening traceability and intellectual property protection and empowering the industry again through governance and a re-balance of roles and responsibilities. He said every member needs to engage for the next few months and every opinion matters.

Mike Scheffel, CSGA’s Director of Policy, outlined the progress on CSGA’s modernization of Circular 6, the rules and regulations for pedigreed seed production. Working groups have been established, comprised of seed growers, seed trade, inspectors and plant breeders -- all with practical knowledge of seed production -- to discuss and identify issues in their various crop kinds.

Meetings are being held across the country to discuss those findings, which range from definitions of “weedy” to mechanical and varietal purity, and isolation standards in each of the various crop kinds. Land use regulations are also being reviewed and revised to deal with potential contaminants that may cross pollinate with the inspected crop.

2. Standardizing a Vigour Test for Cereals: An Update

Morgan Webb of Leduc, AB, President of the Commercial Seed Analysts Association of Canada, updated members on the progress to develop a standardized seed vigour testing protocol for cereal crops which was initiated at a SSGA annual meeting several years ago. He reminded members that a germination test indicates the maximum potential of the seed under optimum conditions while a vigour test indicates what the seed will do under stress.

There have been five different tests validated by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) for various crop types, and methods have been fine-tuned over the past 100 years. He outlined what the tests measure and in which crops they are used, and while current tests work well in other countries, there are no recognized methods for cereals grown in cold climates like Canada. The ISTA Vigour Committee is working on test development for a Radicle emergence test in wheat, which may show promise. However, there are many challenges because the test needs to be inexpensive, rapid, uncomplicated, objective, reproducible and related to field emergence.

He told members that while a vigour test is more critical than a germination test, neither predict field emergence. Values are not absolute and changes in vigour can occur rapidly. Variables can include temperature and moisture during testing, timing of the tests, type of equipment used, control samples for comparison, and analyst training. Interpretation of the results also requires analyst experience and education for the user.

So is the effort to identify a vigour test worth pursuing? A standardized test would help a grower rank lots, determine usefulness, carry-over potential and marketing. It would provide an indication of deterioration of seed lots, can help develop better methods of production, harvest, handling and storage, identify lots that may not perform well, answer customer inquiries and promote better quality seed.

Morgan outlined the next steps in the process with the hope to conduct field studies in 2019. Work continues with five labs and the assistance of Mitchell Japp at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to ultimately identify a standardized test that CSAAC can recommend to labs and possibly submit to ISTA for international recognition.

4. Protecting the Sm1 Gene: What's next

Todd Hyra of SeCan proved an update on the stewardship of the midge tolerance trait and pending changes to the Midge Tolerant Wheat (MTW) Stewardship Assurance System which was established in December. The Midge Tolerant Wheat Stewardship program was first launched in 2009 as a paper-based system and which has been in use for the past eight years. However, the tolerance is now being found in varieties which were never bred for the trait and which are going to require additional management. With a growing list of products, classes and distributors, and stakeholders wanting an on-line/evergreen system, a web-based stewardship platform has been developed.

He introduced Rod Merryweather of the Midge Tolerant Stewardship Committee who then walked members through the on-line system, featuring new databases, new reporting and an electronic, paperless system. It will continue to maintain security and privacy of current grower and retailer information, but provides a more seamless operation with retail and wholesale data entry, linking the grower through the retailer to the farmer.

Rod outlined the training required in becoming an authorized MTW retailer; the Stewardship Agreements that are required by both the retailer and the farmer; how the different agreements relate; and how the data goes back to the distributor. Each step in the process remains confidential, but still provides relevant data to those who need it. For example, distributors can only see data for their own varieties, he said.

5. Nominations/Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Chair Roy Klym presented the committee's slate of officers for 2018 and asked for further nominations from the floor.

a) President - Cathy Fedoruk

(Barry Reisner/Anita Palmier) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Cathy Fedoruk of Kamsack was declared elected as President for the next one year term.

b) Vice President - Shawn Fraser

- Motion (Jason Gizen/Barry Reisner) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Shawn Fraser of Wymark was declared elected to a one-year term as vice-president.
- Motion c) National Director - Laurie Wakefield (Bob Rugg/Donna Edwards) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Laurie Wakefield of Maidstone was declared as elected as Saskatchewan's nominee to the CSGA Board of Directors for the next two years.
- Motion d) Saskatchewan Directors - Two Year Terms - Kurt Printz/Mike Shewchuk (Wayne Amos/Denis Gregoire) That nominations cease. Carried. With no further nominations, Kurt Printz of Gravelbourg and Mike Shewchuk of Blaine Lake were declared elected as directors for two-year terms.

6. Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee Chair Mike Shewchuk presented one resolution to the members for consideration:

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS: The Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association would like to officially recognize the contributions of those individuals and organizations that have assisted in this Association's annual meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED: That Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association extend its sincere appreciation to:

- 1) the Guest Speakers and program participants for their enlightening presentations, including: Mr. Bruce Carriere, Mr. Jonathan Nyborg, Mr. Stephen Yarrow, Dr. Bryan Harvey, Mr. Kevin Runnalls, Mr. Jeff Reid, Mr. Morgan Webb, Mr. Todd Hyra, Dr. Richard Cuthbert and Dr. Pierre Hucl;
- 2) the Sponsors for their generous contributions and support of this annual meeting, including: Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Bank of Montreal, Caliber Seed Services, Can-Seed Equipment, CANTERRA SEEDS, Cornerstone Credit Union, CPS Proven Seed, CropLife Canada, Discovery Seed Lab, E.I. du Pont Canada, FarmChem, Farrell Agencies Ltd., Federated Co-op, FP Genetics, Lewis M. Carter Mfg., Nexeed Inc, SeCan, Seed Depot, Syngenta, T&L Seeds and Western Producer Publications;
- 3) and to any others who have contributed to the success of this meeting.

Moved by Roy Klym

Seconded by Laurie Wakefield

Carried

5. New Varieties Update

Dr. Richard Cuthbert, Wheat Breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre. (SPARC) in Swift Current reported on the new Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada varieties that are in development, including several Wheat, Durum and Barley varieties. Of note were CWRS varieties with "strong moderate resistance" to FHB, low DON accumulation, yielding 6-12% higher than Carberry and in some cases, up to three days earlier. Some Durum varieties showed significant advances to the check variety and a low-phytate Barley variety that was 13% higher yielding than AC Metcalfe with improved malting characteristics.

Dr. Pierre Hucl of the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre outlined a number of promising varieties that are under development, and/or are moving forward for possible registration in 2017. Plant breeders contributing to the development of new varieties were: Aaron Beattie (barley & oat); Bunyamin Tar'an (chickpea); Pierre Hucl (spring wheats and canary seed); Curtis Pozniak (durum, GP and CPS wheat); Tom Warkentin (pea); Helen Booker (flax) and Bill Biliget (forages). Of note were several 2-row Malt Barley lines with a plump seed and high malt quality; milling oat varieties with a lower groat percentage; and flax lines with a 45%+ oil content. While several spring wheat and durum lines will be put forward for registration soon pending quality data, no pea, forages or chickpea lines will be released this year. Dr. Hucl also announced the planned public release of some wheat lines.

In her closing remarks, President Cathy expressed her appreciation to the members for their participation at the annual meeting and for their support of the Association.

- Motion (Wayne Anita Palmier) That the 89th Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association be adjourned. Carried.