

# Canary Seed News

News from the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS)  
& the Canary Seed Association of Canada (CSAC)



## Message from the Chair

*Darren Yungmann*



Harvest is upon us. There are a range of crop conditions out there, and I hope for the best for those who have endured the drought and the plague of

grasshoppers. The acres of Canary seed are down, and with the poor conditions in parts of the province, the prices seem to be creeping up as Chuck Penner suggests in his report in this newsletter.

The CSDCS wishes to thank Pierre Hucl for his excellent work in developing improved varieties of Canary seed. After 33 years of breeding research, Pierre is handing over the reins to Adam Carter. We are looking forward to working with Adam to further advance the varieties we use in our fields.

Our board of directors recently held our summer meeting. We began the day touring the work of our Agriculture and Agri-Food Council researcher, Bill May, at the Indian Head research farm. Bill has been working on trials that show the benefit of using chloride on Canary seed and has a very interesting plot analyzing the effect of chloride in relation to the slope position of the field. He has also been doing some preliminary work on plant growth regulators, and we are looking at doing further research on the benefits of fungicide applications.

We are, once again, going to host our AGM this December in Regina. Last year's meeting was well attended, and we invite all producers to join us at the Atlas Hotel on December 14th. This is an excellent opportunity to see how your levy dollars are targeted for the benefit of producers.

Best of luck this harvest, and stay safe.

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# The Canary Seed News

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## CSDCS Board of Directors & Staff



*Left to Right: Adele Buettner, Kevin Hursh, Richard Lindsay, David Nobbs, Brett Sinclair, Darren Yungmann, Jim Hale. Missing from photo: Justin Korte & Marvin Kress.*

## Annual Meeting to be Held in Regina on Thursday, December 14th

Mark your calendar for the morning of Thursday, December 14, 2023. That's the timing for the annual meeting and information session of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan.

For the second year, the meeting will be held in Regina; although, this year, the Atlas Hotel on Albert Street South will be the venue.

Those unable to attend in person can join the meeting via Zoom. Registered producers joining virtually will be able to ask questions and vote on resolutions.

Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter closer to the event as well as at [www.canaryseed.ca](http://www.canaryseed.ca).

# Nominations Open for Two CSDCS Directors

## Nomination deadline – September 15, 2023 at 12:00 noon

Nominations are being accepted for two director positions on the board of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS).

Directors serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for an additional two consecutive terms. The CSDCS board consists of up to seven elected directors who represent all Saskatchewan Canary seed producers and direct the operations and programs of the CSDCS.

Directors are not paid a salary; however, they do receive a per diem for the actual days spent on CSDCS business. Expenses are also reimbursed. CSDCS directors attend approximately five regular board meetings per year and are sometimes called upon to represent the CSDCS at meetings and major conferences that help shape the Canary seed industry. Some meetings are held by Zoom.

To stand for office, nominate or vote, a person must be a registered producer with the CSDCS. A registered Canary seed producer is any producer who has had a Saskatchewan Canary seed levy deducted in the last three years, and who has not requested a refund in the last year of levy payment. All producers selling Saskatchewan-grown Canary seed to registered buyers are automatically registered with the CSDCS.

A registered producer that is a corporation, association, society, farming partnership, producer who has sold jointly with another individual or individuals, or any designation other than an individual, is entitled to nominate, vote and hold office through a designated representative who has been appointed in writing. Completion of a Designated Voting Representative Form is required.

Nomination forms as well as Designated Voting Representative forms can be downloaded from [www.canaryseed.ca](http://www.canaryseed.ca). Forms are also available from the CSDCS office. Telephone: 306.975.6624.

**Completed forms must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, September 15, 2023.** Forms need to be signed by three registered Canary seed producers and they must provide Designated Voting Rep forms if Canary seed was not sold in the individual's name. You may want four or five signatures in case someone who signs isn't actually registered. It's also important to send forms in well before the deadline so any issues can be addressed before the deadline.

A bio of up to 300 words must accompany each nomination. The bio can include information on the candidate's background, farming operation and ideas for advancing Canary seed. In the event of an election, candidate bios will be provided to voters.

The Returning Officer's contact information including email, fax and phone number are included on the nomination form and completed nominations may be submitted by mail, email or fax.

An election (if required) will be held electronically with a mail-in ballot option. New directors officially assume their position after the Annual General Meeting, which will be held in Regina, SK on December 14, 2023.

Nomination check-list:

- Nomination form signed by at least three registered Canary seed producers
- Designated Voting Rep forms for the nominee as well as signers unless Canary seed sold under personal name
- A bio of up to 300 words
- Submission to Returning Officer before September 15 deadline



## USask Research Chair Successor to Lead Spring Wheat & Canary Seed Breeding Program

Dr. Adam Carter (PhD) has been appointed as the new Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chair in Spring Wheat and Canaryseed Breeding and Genetics at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). As the research chair, Carter will lead the spring wheat and canaryseed breeding program at the USask Crop Development Centre (CDC) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, continuing to develop and release improved spring wheat and canaryseed varieties to serve the needs of western Canadian agriculture.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Carter to the college,” said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. “Dr. Carter will be integrating conventional and modern breeding techniques into innovative approaches for developing the resilient crop varieties that are essential for global food security.”

Starting July 1, 2023, Carter will assume lead responsibilities from Dr. Pierre Hucl (PhD), who held the chair for the past 33 years. During his time at the CDC, Hucl released more than 40 new crop varieties, several of which are still popular with growers.

“The CDC has a proud and successful history of wheat and canaryseed breeding. We are thrilled to have such a talented and enthusiastic early-career researcher take on this very important role,” said Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), director of the USask CDC. “We are delighted that Dr. Carter will continue the strong momentum in wheat and canaryseed breeding at the CDC as he tackles new challenges and opportunities to advance western Canadian agriculture.”

Carter will also hold an assistant professor appointment in the Department of Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

“I am tremendously excited to join the University of Saskatchewan as an SRP chair and look forward to working with the talented team in the Crop Development Centre to develop the best spring wheat and canaryseed varieties we can,” said Carter. “USask and the Crop Development Centre have a rich history of variety development and innovative research in agriculture, and I hope to build upon this history through my own contributions.

This is an amazing opportunity to have a positive impact on farmers and the entire agriculture sector of Western Canada, and I aim to take full advantage of it.”

Carter’s interest in plant breeding started as a summer student with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada where he worked with a barley breeding program during his undergraduate program.

“That was when I saw a clear path forward to connect my interest in genetics with agriculture,” said Carter.

Carter received an undergraduate degree in genetics from the University of Manitoba, a master’s degree in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Guelph, and a PhD in plant sciences from USask.

Carter began his PhD at USask in 2019. His thesis research focused on the application of novel technologies to evaluate wheat breeding field trials with the aim to improve the rate of genetic gain in new wheat varieties. Prior to beginning his PhD studies, Carter worked for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Brandon, Manitoba, as a molecular research assistant and was later promoted to biologist.



*Dr. Adam Carter (PhD) will also hold an assistant professor appointment in the Department of Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture.*

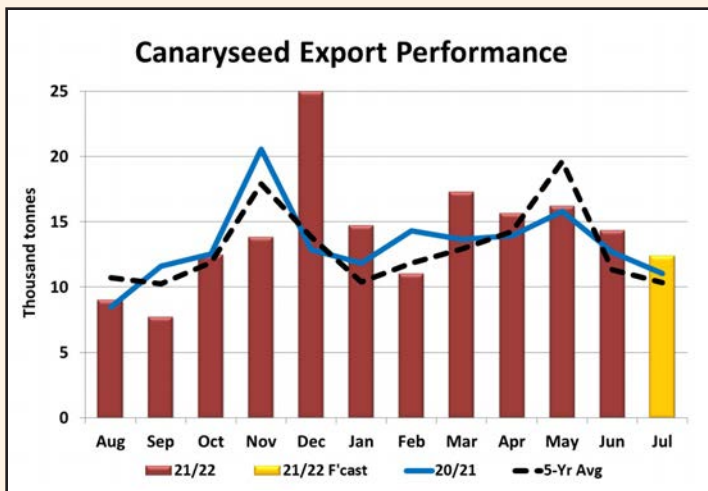


# Canary Seed Market Outlook

*Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research*

Compared to the fireworks in 2021/22, the Canary seed market in 2022/23 has been a pretty quiet affair. After dropping from the record highs caused by the 2021 drought, prices generally drifted lower throughout 2022/23 but remained within a narrow 4-5 cent range all year. Even though these bids were still historically high, they weren't strong enough to encourage farmers to plant Canary seed in 2023. According to StatsCan's June estimate, Canary seed area in 2023 dropped to 256,000 acres, 12% less than last year, and was the lowest since 2017.

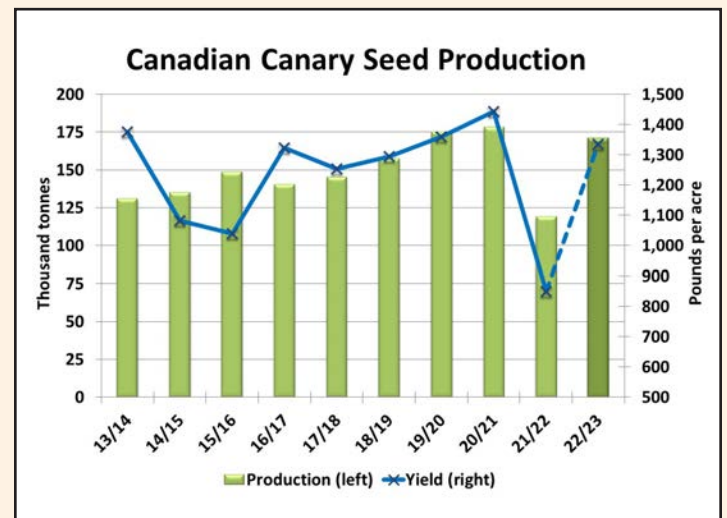
This reduced acreage is the first piece of the 2023 production outlook but wasn't able to trigger any noticeable response in prices. In part, prices have stayed flat due to quieter export demand. Canadian exports of Canary seed have been mediocre the last few months and in June, even dropped below 2021/22. June and July export data should show a bit of a rebound, but these disappointing volumes will mean comfortable ending stocks for 2022/23.



Because buyers have been able to keep up with the quiet export demand and haven't been too concerned about supplies, bids didn't show any real improvement. That situation looks like it's about to change though.

For one thing, it's the time of year when prices start to come off the preharvest lows. As mentioned, bids have been flat since last August and have largely ignored the

seasonal price tendencies. Even so, the long-term patterns tell us that bids normally start to move higher in early August. Now we're getting glimpses that prices could start following that tendency again in 2023/24.



Of course, it doesn't hurt that hot, dry conditions, along with grasshoppers and hail, have taken a toll on the 2023 Canary seed yields. With seeded area already down 12% from last year, a drop in yields will cause supplies to shrink even more.

The Sask Ag crop ratings have shown a steady decline in the condition of the 2023 Canary seed crop. At the time of writing, 48% was rated good or excellent dropping below the average of 54% good/excellent. That's still better than the 2021 disaster when only 18% of the crop was good or excellent but 2023 yields will almost certainly be below average.

Our best guess (in late July) is that the 2023 Canary seed crop will end up around 135,000 tonnes, 25,000 tonnes (15%) smaller than last year and only a bit larger than the 2021 crop of 127,000 tonnes. The smaller crop will be partly cushioned by comfortable inventories carried over from 2022/23, but the overall supply situation will be tighter. As long as export demand is steady to higher, prices should see some decent upside potential.

## Levy Increase Approved for Canary Seed

The levy paid by producers when they sell Canary seed increased from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per tonne as of August 1, 2023. The levy remains mandatory, but refundable.

Producers were asked to consider a levy increase at the AGM last December in Regina and unanimously voted to ask the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Council to grant the increase. A submission was made to the Agri-Food Council detailing the need for the funding increase in order to cover investments in Canary seed breeding and research and the request was granted. At \$2.50 per tonne, the levy is 0.113 cents per pound.

The board of directors and the management team of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan appreciates the support of producers and pledges to put the additional funding to good use.

## USask Research Chair Successor to Lead Spring Wheat & Canary Seed Breeding Program

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Funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), the position is one of seven crop genetic improvement research chairs in the Strategic Research Program.

Sustainable CAP is a new \$3.5-billion, five-year (2023-2028) agreement between federal, provincial and territorial governments. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs and initiatives that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

“Investments in research lead us towards field crops that are more productive, high quality and sustainable, something international buyers know us for,” said federal Minister

of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau. “We congratulate Dr. Carter on his new role and look forward to his contributions to the growth of Canada’s wheat and canaryseed industry.”

“Through the ongoing work of the CDC, producers have access to high yielding, disease resistant spring wheat varieties suited to our soil zones and climatic conditions, enabling Saskatchewan to lead the way in sustainable agricultural production and ensuring our competitiveness on a global scale,” said Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit. “Spring wheat is Saskatchewan’s second largest acreage crop and is a vital part of crop rotations, and we are a world leading exporter of canaryseed. We look forward to the future of spring wheat and canaryseed breeding through the leadership of the new chair.”



*Bill May and the CSDCS board members touring the AAFC fields in late July.*



# Registered Canary Seed Buyers

*This list includes companies registered to collect and submit the Canary seed levy. The Canary Seed Development Commission of Canada does not endorse one buyer over another. Producers should note that the licensing and bonding provisions of the Canadian Grain Commission have extended to Canary seed as of August 1, 2021. This provides producers with the same payment protection afforded most other crops. Most of the companies on this list are licensed and bonded, but a couple are still being contacted. If in doubt, check buyer status with the Canadian Grain Commission.*

*Active buyers list as of August 1, 2023.*

## **Agritel Grain Ltd**

PO Box 808  
Beausejour MB ROE 0C0  
T: 204-268-1415  
F: 204-268-3805  
E: info@agritelgrain.com

## **All Commodities (AC) Trading Ltd**

1600 2 Mile Road  
Winnipeg MB R2N 4K1  
T: 204-339-8001  
F: 204-339-8002  
E: jen@allcommodities.ca

## **Alliance Pulse Processors Inc DBA A G T Foods Canada**

6200 East Primrose Green Dr  
Regina SK S4V 3L7  
T: 844-248-4AGT  
E: buying@agtfoods.com

## **Bornhorst Seeds Ltd**

PO Box 71  
St Gregor SK S0K 3X0  
T: 306-366-2158  
F: 306-366-2220  
E: cindy@harvestgrain.ca

## **Commodious Trading Inc**

1205 Maple Rd  
North Saanich BC V8L 5P7  
T: 250-652-7807  
F: 250-483-6499  
E: info@commodious.ca

## **D G Global West**

250-4299 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1H3  
T: 604-597-5060  
F: 604-597-4933  
E: mike@dgglobal.ca

## **E T G Commodities Inc**

6601 Goreway Dr Unit B  
Mississauga ON L4V 1V6  
T: 416-900-4148 ext 709  
F: 416-900-4149  
E: ana.mendoza@etgworld.com

## **Etter Seed & Processing Ltd**

PO Box 5  
Richardson SK SOG 4G0  
T: 306-522-1668  
E: jim@etterseed.com

## **Export Packers Co Ltd**

107 Walker Dr  
Brampton ON L6T 5K5  
T: 905-792-9700 ext 4240  
F: 905-792-7421  
E: marcos\_mosnaim@exportpackers.com

## **Global Food & Ingredients Inc**

43 Colborne St, Suite 400  
Toronto ON M5E 1E3  
T: 416-732-6763  
E: trading@gfglobalfood.com

## **Lyft Commodity Trading Ltd**

4-771 Gibsons Way  
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V9  
T: 604-800-6750  
F: 604-886-0041  
E: iain@lyftcommodity.com

## **Maviga N A Inc**

209-845 Broad St  
Regina SK S4R 8G9  
T: 306-721-8900  
F: 306-721-8988  
E: tasha@mavigana.com

## **Natural Specialty Crops Co U L C**

RR 2 PO Box 4 LCD Main  
Regina SK S4P 2Z2  
T: 306-522-2293  
F: 204-480-4533  
E: jason.nsc@gmail.com

## **Paterson Grain**

22nd Floor 333 Main St  
Winnipeg MB R3C 4E2  
T: 204-956-2090  
F: 204-947-2386  
E: info@patersongrain.com

## **Prime Seeds International Inc**

Suite 309 - 151 W Hastings St  
Vancouver BC V6B 1H4  
T: 604-990-2500  
F: 604-990-2520  
E: sales@primeseeds.com

## **Purely Canada Foods**

PO Box 56  
Lajord SK SOG 2V0  
T: 306-721-7771

## **Scoular Canada Inc.**

#140, 1500 Quebec Ave  
Saskatoon SK S7K 1V6  
T: 306-986-2200

## **SNTAJ Inc**

1503-49 Thorncliffe P D R  
Toronto ON M4H 1J6  
T: 647-894-8261  
F: 207-447-1173  
E: sntaj@yahoo.ca

## **Victoria Pulse Trading Corp**

601-850 West Hastings St  
Vancouver BC V6C 1E1  
T: 604-733-1094  
F: 604-733-1097  
E: dina@victoriapulse.ca  
E: tala@victoriapulse.ca

## **Viterra Inc.**

2625 Victoria Ave  
Regina SK S4T 7T9  
Contact local facility

# The Canary Seed News



## **THE CANARY SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MISSION:**

*To coordinate research and market use expansion for the advancement of the Canary seed industry for the benefit of growers and other stakeholders.*

The Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan was established in 2006 under the Agri-Food Act, 2004.

**CANARY SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN (CSDCS)  
& THE CANARY SEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (CSAC)**

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