



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

ROD FEDORUK
INTERIM CHAIRMAN
SASKATCHEWAN WINTER CEREALS
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



WHY WE EXIST

- The purpose of a development commission is obviously to develop the potential for a given crop or product in order to increase the well being and profitability of the Saskatchewan agriculture community.



INITIAL PRIORITY

- Early on your board passed a motion placing the continuation of a winter cereals breeding program at the Crop Development Center as out #1 priority.



HOW WOULD WE DO IT?

- We formed a working committee with like minded organizations in order to identify the best way to proceed and to lobby government with a unified voice.



WHO IS INVOLVED

- This group consists of:
 - SWCDC
 - Western Grains Research Foundation
 - Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission
 - Winter Cereals Canada Inc.
 - Ducks Unlimited Canada



STEP ONE

- A plan was developed and presented to our previous government, Minister of Agriculture Mr. Mark Wartman. Before the government responded to our submission an election was called and the rest is history.



STEP 2

- We realized we needed to take a different approach.
- Since that time we have held discussions with the Crop Development Center, Agriculture Canada, Universities and the winter cereals breeders to clarify the needs of the industry.



STEP THREE

- Before meeting with the academic and research community it was important that the commission assess where winter cereals, with specific attention to winter wheat, were headed.
- The commission brought together a group of concerned individuals to set a target for the future



For reference the approximate current production figures for Saskatchewan are

- Total 38.5 Million Acres
- Spring Wheat 7.5
- WW 0.5 (Stats Canada estimates 0.60 in fall 2007)
- Durum, 4.0
- Barley 4.5
- Canola 7.0
- Summer Fallow 5.0



OUR VISION FOR 2017

- Spring Wheat 4.0,
- **WW 4.0,**
- Durum 4.0,
- Barley 4.0.
- Canola 10.0,
- Summer Fallow 3.0.



Justification for WW increase

- Winter wheat addresses 5 of the challenges related to spring wheat crops.
 - A) Control risk management.
 - B) Comparative net return.
 - C) Better use of capital and labour investment.
 - D) Agronomic challenges and environmental advantages (fusarium, sawfly, midge).
 - E) Climatic advantages.



How Do We Get to 4 Million Acres by 2017?

- Marketing:

More market development including domestic, export, feed, milling etc.

Create a demand for Winter Wheat as an environmentally friendly crop.

Develop contract system that works for farmers and buyers.



How Do We Get to 4 Million Acres by 2017?

- **Agronomy:**
 - All forms of agronomic research.
 - Improving canola harvest to increase stubble availability and seeding into barley stubble.
 - Diversification of crop rotations.



How Do We Get to 4 Million Acres by 2017?

- **Education:**

- A) Show farmers how to make money by growing winter wheat.
- B) Better information for variety and agronomy decisions by farmers



How Do We Get to 4 Million Acres by 2017?

- Plant Science:
- Breed and screen for cold, yield and disease resistance drought etc.
- Breakthrough in winter hardiness.
- Eliminate Variety registration KVD
- **Develop a Saskatchewan based system to screen varieties for our conditions.**



IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- We have come to the realization that the “Golden Era” of Winter Cereals Breeding at the CDC is over. The CDC will in all probability not reopen their winter wheat breeding program which has essentially been inoperative since 2000.



IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- New varieties that will meet the needs of Saskatchewan Producers are integral to the future of the winter cereals industry.
- We have discussed the future of breeding with the major players in the industry and believe that they have the ability to make new and productive varieties for Saskatchewan producers.



IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- What is missing is a comprehensive ability to test varieties from all the various breeders in one central location where the typical environment will place the necessary challenges on all varieties equally.
- Therefore the SWCDC will consider the creation of a Saskatchewan based testing program which will give all breeders in Western Canada the ability to work together and identify genetic traits and varieties that will benefit Saskatchewan producers



CONCLUSION

- The SWCDC is preparing for a bright and prosperous future for Saskatchewan farmers. We welcome your comments, and ideas concerning the implementation of our plans and the achievement of our goals.



THANK YOU

- CONTACT US:
- 1-866-GRAIN-11
- 1-866-472-4611
- FAX 1-204-874-2257