



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - July 4, 2003

New Generation of Sawfly Resistant Spring Wheat

A team of prairie researchers is working to develop new spring wheat varieties with better resistance to wheat stem sawfly. Several new lines should be available in the years ahead.

AC Abbey is the first variety in this wave and it is available to producers. However, AC Abbey produces up to 0.8 percent lower protein than some of the most recent spring wheat varieties.

A new line labelled BW776 features improved quality and it was recently recommended for registration. Dr. Ron DePauw with the federal agriculture research facility in Swift Current says further advances are also on the way, with the introduction of a new source of sawfly resistance that was recently transferred from durum wheat into spring wheat.

Sawfly resistance is created with varieties that have greater stem solidness. A recent three year study showed AC Abbey experienced 6.5 percent annual cutting under sawfly pressure, compared to around 70 percent for susceptible varieties.

At the Lethbridge Research Centre, new research has been launched to develop sawfly resistance within winter wheat. Unlike spring wheat, winter wheat has largely escaped sawfly damage in recent years, but changes in the sawfly population point to an increasing threat. Sawfly has become a major threat in winter wheat just across the border in Montana.

Organic Accreditation Assistance Extended

The National Organic Accreditation Assistance Program (NOAAP) has been extended until the end of 2004.

Under the NOAAP, Canadian organic certifiers who receive accreditation from the Standards Council of Canada can be reimbursed for their application fee, the assessment cost and the initial annual accreditation fee, up to \$25,000.

Applications to the Standards Council of Canada must be received by September 30, 2003.

NOAAP has also been expanded to provide assistance to provincial accreditation agencies which enter into a collaboration agreement with the Standards Council.

Grain Grading Gets Tougher

Beginning with the new crop year on August 1, the Canadian Grain Commission will implement a number of regulatory changes, tightening up a number of grading factors.

On wheat and durum, there will be changes to the tolerances for total foreign material and wheats of contrasting classes. For instance, a No. 1 CWRS wheat currently has a foreign matter content tolerance of 0.75 percent. In the new crop year, the tolerance will be 0.6 percent.

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The CGC is also implementing a new tolerance category for severely sprouted kernels in No. 1 and No. 2 CWAD (durum) as well as No. 1 and No. 2 CPS red wheat. The current tolerance for total sprouted kernels remains unchanged.

Also August 1, the standard for Beans, No. 2 Canada, will change from "reasonable good colour" to "fairly good colour". There is also a new moisture conversion table for light weight oats.

The CGC had previously announced that primary licenced elevators will no longer be able to charge producers for shrinkage as of August 1.

90 Day Payment Regulation Repealed

Starting August 1, licenced primary and process elevators and grain dealers will no longer have to pay producers within 90 days of purchasing grain. Under the existing rules, a producer had to be paid in full for all grain within 90 days of delivery, whether or not the producer requested payment.

Buyers will, of course, have to pay in full for grain purchased, but only when the producer requests payment. The 90 day payment regulations were initially introduced in 1989 at the request of the Western Grain Elevator Association to reduce the amount of unpriced, stored grain.

Since 1989, there have been a number of changes. For instance, the Canadian Grain Commission no longer sets elevator tariff maximums. Elevator facilities can increase storage tariffs to discourage extended storage.

Licensees and producers want to be able to defer payment beyond 90 days from delivery, primarily for tax deferral purposes and now this will be possible.

It's important to note that the 90 day security provisions under the Canada Grain Act remain unchanged. Producers are protected for a maximum of 90 days from the date of delivery or 30 days from when payment is either given or refused. If producers defer payment for grain beyond 90 days from delivery, they are not protected by security for that delivery.

Growers Advised to Check Canaryseed for Aphids

During the early heading stage of canaryseed, growers are urged to monitor the crop for aphids. The aphids come north on winds from the southern United States.

Special Crops Specialist Ray McVicar of Saskatchewan Agriculture says the aphids are often not abundant enough to cause economic losses, but if airflow conditions allow for early infestations, significant crop injury can occur. To determine infestation levels, the heads should be bent and closely examined. McVicar says the approximate economic threshold this year is about 20 aphids on about 50 percent of the stems, prior to the soft dough stage.

A number of products are registered for the control of aphids in canary seed.