

# CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

January 2014



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all. It being 2014, we are now in the International Year of Family Farming, which the United Nations has launched to highlight the key role the estimated 500 million family farms around the world play in responding to the challenges of eradicating hunger, preserving natural resources and promoting sustainable development.

Planning for our upcoming joint Annual Meetings with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science (CSHS) is well underway. The meetings will be held at the University of Lethbridge from July 10-12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the work over the past months of colleagues on the organizing committee from AAFC, Alberta Agriculture, and universities in east and western Canada among others, we have put together a very interesting line-up of technical sessions, confirmed speakers and planned tours to local research and industry facilities. The setting in Lethbridge, close to many outstanding national parks also provides wonderful opportunities for recreational tours for accompanying persons and conference attendees. Further details on the program and registration and abstract deadlines are provided in this issue of the newsletter, and will be forthcoming on our website ([agronomycanada.com](http://agronomycanada.com)) and that of the Univ. of Lethbridge ([www.uleth.ca](http://www.uleth.ca)). I am really looking forward to the event and hope to see you there. As we finalize the program the organizing committee will be looking for judges to assist with judging of graduate student presentations (oral and poster). Acting as a judge is another great way to assist your scientific society, and our next generation of new and upcoming researchers. If you are interested please contact me at ([Derek.lynch@dal.ca](mailto:Derek.lynch@dal.ca)).

Next year, 2015, we will be participating once again in the Plant Canada meetings (the last such event was held in Halifax in 2011). Planning for that event, to be held in Edmonton, has also already begun. Myself and CSA past-president Dr. Gavin Humphreys of AAFC, are currently on the Plant Canada board. Plant Canada ([www.plantcanada.ca](http://www.plantcanada.ca)) is an umbrella organization for all Canadian societies engaged in plant related sciences and comprised of, in addition to CSA and CSHS, the Canadian Botanical Association, the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists, the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the Canadian Weed Science Society.

To encourage as many graduate students as possible to present their research at our annual conferences, this year for the first time, as noted before, we will be providing three travel awards to help reduce conference travel costs. Please check our website in the coming month for details on application and selection criteria.

Of course attending and presenting at national conferences, and the networking opportunities it provides, is only one important reason for graduate students to be members of our society. As we launch our annual membership drive, I am hoping this year we can encourage more graduate students to join or renew their membership in CSA, especially given annual membership rates are only \$10 for graduate students (and \$45 for post-doctoral fellows). Graduate student members are key to renewal not only of CSA but, of course, the future direction of the science of agronomy in Canada. Graduate students can also directly influence the routine management of their society, through the dedicated graduate student position on the executive, which is renewed annually.

*Derek Lynch, President.*





## Nominations for CSA Executive 2014



### Your Canadian Society of Agronomy Elections!!

It is that time of the year, when the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is looking for individuals to stand for positions on the CSA executive. The CSA is a volunteer organisation which depends on participation of its membership to ensure its ongoing activities, including its annual meeting. Many of us attended the CSA meetings as graduate students and can now contribute to the CSA so our graduate students can attend these meetings.

The executive positions that need to be filled for 2014-15 are:

- **President-Elect:** This position is for one year and leads to the position of President in 2015 and Past President in 2016. The position of president-elect assists the CSA President and learns about the operations and running of the society.
- **Eastern Director:** This position has a two year term (2014-2016). This position is often filled by someone who is new to the CSA executive. The Eastern Director represents CSA members from Ontario to Atlantic Canada. This position is critical to ensure the needs and views of the eastern membership are brought to CSA executive meetings.
- **Western Director:** This position has a two year term (2014-2016). This position is often filled by someone who is new to the CSA executive. The Western Director represents CSA members from Manitoba to British Columbia. As with their eastern counterpart, the Western Director ensures the requirements and opinions of the western membership are represented at CSA executive meetings and activities.
- **CSA Student Representative:** This position on the CSA executive was established in 2012. The position has a one year term (2014-2015). The student representative attends executive meetings and participates in society activities to ensure the student perspective is represented and give input on initiatives that are designed to increase support for agronomy students.

Please submit your nominations to Gavin Humphreys (2014-15 CSA Past President, [gavin.humphreys@agr.gc.ca](mailto:gavin.humphreys@agr.gc.ca)) or Steve Sheppard (CSA Executive Director, [sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto:sheppards@ecomatters.com)) by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.



### Awards—Nominate a Colleague!

It is that time of the year to reflect on the performance of your students and colleagues. The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) awards are listed below with links to more information and applications procedures on the CSA web site (<http://agronomycanada.com/>). We are fortunate to have outstanding researchers in the society and in Canada. Please consider nominating one of them for a CSA award. The deadline for nominations is May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

- **Pest Management Research Award** The award is made available annually to qualified graduate students enrolled in any aspect of pest management at Canadian universities.
- **Early-Career Agronomist Award** is presented each year to a scientist demonstrating exceptional service within 10 years of the start of their career, or within 10 years of earning their last degree .
- **Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy** A maximum of three *Fellows* are conferred each year on those members who have made a significant contribution to agronomy in Canada and to the Society over a period of at least ten years.
- **Distinguished Agronomist Award** is presented to members who have made a significant lifetime contribution to agronomy in Canada and to the Society.

For more information, contact Gavin Humphreys (2014-15 CSA Past President, [gavin.humphreys@agr.gc.ca](mailto:gavin.humphreys@agr.gc.ca)) or Steve Sheppard (CSA Executive Director, [sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto:sheppards@ecomatters.com))

## Report of the 2013 CSA Meeting:

For the 2013 CSA annual meeting, the society decided to meet with the American Society of Agronomy. The 2013 Tri-societies meeting was held in Tampa, Florida Nov. 3-6 and the CSA met on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The CSA day had a packed agenda beginning with a Symposium entitled: Challenges in Crop Production for Northern Agriculture.

The CSA dedicated to symposium to our colleague, Guy Lafond who passed away suddenly in the spring of 2013. Guy was a member of the CSA 2013 organising committee at the time of his passing. The symposium consisted of six speakers including topics from: Breeding soybeans for Northern areas, Abiotic Stress Adaptation: Agronomy and Physiology in Northern Areas to Energy Economics and Organic production and cropping systems. Invited speakers travelled from across Canada including Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta to be in Tampa for the symposium. The morning session was followed by a “working luncheon” which included award presentation including the CSA Fellow Award presented to former CSA President Rigas Karamanos; CSA reports and the symbolic passing of the gavel from Gavin Humphreys (2012-13 CSA President) to Derek Lynch (2013-14 CSA President). Derek had in fact assumed the role of CSA President in July 2013.

The afternoon session included a CSA general session with presentations on breeding, physiology and agronomy in pulses, cereals and canola. The final presentation was made by Ms. Holly Byker the 2013 Pest Management Research Award winner entitled: Glyphosate Resistant Canada Fleabane (*Conyia canadensis*): Survey and Control. Holly is presently pursuing her PhD with Peter Sikkema

and Darren Robinson in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. The general session was followed by the CSA poster session which included about 12 posters so was more personal than the expansive tri-societies poster session affording good discussions. Afterwards, about a dozen CSA members finished the day together with dinner at a Channelside Bay Plaza restaurant.

The idea of having the CSA meeting with the ASA was new for the CSA. It presented some challenges but the venue and the organisation provided by the ASA were very well received. The CSA meeting was generously sponsored by Agrium and SeCan which helped us cover the luncheon costs. Limitations to travel by AAFC and the cost of sending graduate students to the meeting likely reduced our numbers but the ability to attend both the tri-societies and the CSA meetings in one trip was a bonus for some. I want to personally thank: Malcolm Morrison (AAFC-ECORC), Yvonne Lawley (Dept. of Plant Science, UofMB) and Perry Miller (Dept. of Land Res. & Env. Sciences, Montana State University) for all their help and support in organising the CSA 2013 meeting as well as actively participating in the meeting to ensure it was a success.

I enjoyed my time as CSA President and I look forward to the remainder of this year working Derek Lynch as we move towards the 2014 CSA meeting at Lethbridge in July.

*Gavin Humphreys*  
2013 CSA meeting organizer & 2013-14 CSA Past President



*Rigas Karamanos (left) receives Fellow of CSA Award from Malcolm Morrison (right) at the CSA Annual Meeting in Tampa.*



*Holly Byker (right) receives Pest Management Research Award from Malcolm Morrison (left) at the CSA Annual Meeting in Tampa.*

## Atlantic Agronomy Workshop Concluding Remarks

The first CSA Atlantic Agronomy Workshop was held in Charlottetown, PEI, January 15-16, 2003 in order of filling the void left by the Atlantic Provinces Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee. The purpose of this workshop was to continue providing regional forum for agronomy people (cereals, soybeans, corn, forages, pulse crops, etc) to get together to exchange ideas and research results. Since then this event was attended by over 100 professional agrologists/CCAs and graduate students from the Atlantic Region. The Organizing Committee was co-chaired by Yousef Papadopoulos and Jerry Ivany, AAFC researchers. In addition to networking and getting updates on regional research results, for agrologists/CCA participants every 2 years since 2003 this workshop provided them with local source of attaining 8 to 15 CEUs continuing education for requirements to sustain CAA training in our region. Registration fee was based on cost recovery and having 100 participants is a must to insure the fee is reasonable. The co-chairs of this event reviewed the forecasted attendance in 2012 and 2013 Atlantic and concluded that the low number of potential participants will result in significant financial deficit. The low numbers were the result of federal and provincial budget and travel restrictions. The co-chairs consulted with members of the planning committees and decided to cancel the coordination of The CSA Atlantic Agronomy Workshop and we hope other events in the future will provide the above forum to Agrologists and students in our region.

*Yousef Papadopoulos*  
*Jerry Ivany*

*Note from Steve Sheppard:*

The CSA was enriched by the Atlantic Agronomy Workshop, by all the attendees and especially by the devoted organizers who turned out excellent programs time after time. Yousef Papadopoulos was the inspiration for these workshops and it was largely his devotion to the concept that led to their consistent success. The CSA gratefully acknowledges that the Atlantic Agronomy organizers, especially Yousef and Jerry Ivany, who decided to forward \$10,000 from the residuals to further support the trust fund for the CSA Pest Management Award. Perhaps in future there will be other regional Agronomy workshops.

The CSA Pest Management Scholarship was established when the Canadian Pest Management Society (CPMS) was disbanded in the mid-1980's. The CPMS had funding in place and also had an agreement with Monsanto Canada to provide travel support for the successful student to attend the annual meeting. Rick Holm and Jerry Ivany spearheaded the transfer of the funds from the CPMS to the CSA and also obtained continued Monsanto Canada participation to establish the CSA Pest Management Scholarship. Rick and Jerry served as the selection committee with help from volunteer CSA members for several years until the CSA assumed responsibility in 2010. During its life, the Atlantic Canada Agronomy Workshop provided a total \$17,000 to support the trust fund for the CSA Pest Management Award.

## The Role of Agronomy for Sustainable Crop Production in developing countries

My name is Teketel Haile, a graduate student in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. The following is my thought regarding the role of Agronomy for sustainable crop production in developing countries.

Human population is expected to reach 8.1 billion in 2025, and to further increase to 9.6 billion in 2050 and 10.9 billion by 2100. Feeding the increasing population will be a challenge as the suitable land for crop production may be reduced further due to expanding urban settlement. According to the United Nations Population Fund, almost all of the additional 3.7 billion people from now to 2100 will enlarge the population of developing countries, which is projected to rise from 5.9 billion in 2013 to 8.2 billion in 2050 and to 9.6 billion in 2100. On the other hand, agricultural productivity in these regions is relatively lower. The average yields of most crops in developing countries are less than the average yields of crops reported in the developed countries. Much work has to be done to improve the efficiency of agricultural practices in these regions. In most developing countries crop production is constrained by land degradation, moisture stress, and pest and disease incidences. Farmers cannot afford to improve or control these conditions or simply costs may be greater than the farm returns they get. Breeding new varieties suited to the conditions in developing countries could be part of the solution but new high yielding varieties must be grown in appropriate production systems. Agronomy plays an important role not only to improve crop yields but also to protect and preserve the soil, water, and the environment. Good agronomy improves the practice of sustainable agriculture by implementing plans to manage pests, improve soil fertility, and reduce the damage to the environment from the long term effects of farming.

## CSA Annual Meeting and Conference

### *Balancing the Trade-Off between Productivity and Environmental Health*

#### Joint Annual Conference

**Canadian Society of Agronomy and Canadian Society for Horticultural Science ,  
July 10-12th, 2014, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta**

Plenary talk by keynote speaker Dr. Shabtai Bittman (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) will explore the challenge of balancing productivity and environmental health within horticultural and agricultural crop production.

Special symposia/ technical sessions, and featured invited speakers:

Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems	Tim McAllister	AAFC
Nutrient and Water Management	Perry Miller	Montana State Univ.
Organic Production	Martine Dorais	AAFC
Breeding, Productivity and Environment	Alireza Navabi	AAFC
Cold Hardiness and Stress Tolerance	Karen Tanino	Univ. of Saskatchewan
Water and Irrigation Management	TBD	

Tours (day 1, Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup>), will include innovative local research, greenhouse, and processing facilities. The nearby spectacular national parks offer great recreational opportunities for accompanying persons.

Abstract submission deadline: **April 2nd, 2014**

Early registration deadline: **April 25th, 2014.**

	Early Bird Rate	After April 25, 2014
Full Registrants	\$300	\$350
Student Registrants	\$200	\$250
1 day Registration (Friday) not including banquet	\$150	\$200
Accompanying person	\$50	\$75
Thursday Tour	\$75	\$100
Banquet	\$50	\$50

Rates Include GST

Graduate Student Travel awards. Valued at \$500 each, CSA will be offering three awards for CSA member graduate students presenting at the conference.

More information on abstract submission, registration, CSA student travel awards, tours and speakers etc. will be provided on the CSA website ([www.agronomycanada.com](http://www.agronomycanada.com)).

**\$3000 in prize money**

**available to CSA student members!**

**Split among the 3 top oral and 3 top poster agronomy presentations  
at the conference in Lethbridge.**

**Co-sponsored by SeCan and CSA**

## CSA STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

### Student Travel Awards

#### Student Travel to CSA Annual Meeting

This Award was established in 2013 to encourage student attendance at the CSA Annual Meetings and is available to any graduate student CSA member. The Student Travel Award is \$500 with a maximum of 3 awarded annually. Our current 2014 Annual Meetings will be held jointly with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science, July 10-12th, 2014 in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Awards are based on the following criteria:

1. Is the student a member of CSA? (Students must be CSA members to apply)
2. Will the student be presenting an oral paper or poster? (Applicants must be planning to give either an oral or a poster presentation).
3. Is the research summary reasonable (rationale, hypothesis, objective) and clearly written?
4. Distance travelling to attend the annual conference.
5. Has the student received a previous travel award from CSA? (Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a travel award).
6. Has the student informed his/her supervisor or department chair and had their application form signed?

Please send a completed **application form (MS Word Document)** by March 24th, 2014 to:

**Alison Nelson**

**Chair, Student travel awards sub-committee**

**Western Director, Canadian Society of Agronomy**

**E-Mail: Alison.nelson(at)AGR.GC.CA [please replace (at) with @ - this is to prevent spam].**



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