

CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy November 2000



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CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy November 2000



President's Message

As you can see in Steve's letter from the CSA office, changes are underway that will make the Canadian Society of Agronomy a more vibrant society, better serving the needs of our members. The move to broaden our membership by encouraging Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) to join CSA was supported overwhelmingly in the recent vote. Now our challenge is to follow through and give our members, old and new, the value that they want from their society.

Science is an information business and a major role of CSA is fostering the development and transfer of accurate information for agronomists to use. So one of the first steps we are taking toward improving the value of CSA is to improve the way we provide information to our members. Enhancement of the web pages, provision of current information through regular email to each member and improvements in our quarterly newsletters are designed to give you useful information in a timely fashion. Linkages with the CCA program and the Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW) will also allow us work through the full stream of agronomic initiatives, from the research that develops information to the technology transfer activity that takes it to the field. These activities will complement our ongoing role in organising scientific meetings and supporting the Canadian Journal of Plant Science.

As agronomists, we are facing new and continuing challenges. Questions are being raised as to the value of agriculture to society and the impact that agriculture has on food quality and the environment. The Canadian Society of Agronomy is made up of the most knowledgeable individuals working in the field of agronomy in Canada. Therefore, the CSA needs to take a leadership role in addressing agronomic concerns across the nation. We need to be able to provide valid, science-based information to guide agronomic practices, so that they are economically and environmentally sustainable. We need to be able to speak on behalf of our members, so that information reaching the general public reflects scientific realities in a way that people can understand. For the Canadian Society of Agronomy to be recognized as the voice of Canadian agronomists, we must make it widely known that we are a primary source of credible agronomic information and are willing to pass that information on to the public in an unbiased way.

A society is only as strong as its membership, so we need each of you to take a more active role in the CSA. Our membership representatives



across Canada and into bordering regions of the United States will provide a local contact for questions and input from current and potential members. It is important that you recognise that the CSA is a vehicle for your voice to be heard. What do you want the CSA to provide to you? What do you have to say that you want to pass on to your fellow agronomists? What activities can CSA undertake that would help you in your role as an agronomist? We need to hear from you. The website is available for input and the email addresses of your representatives on the CSA executive are listed for your comments and suggestions. Take a few minutes to pass on your opinions and suggestions.

*-Cindy Grant
President*

Agronomists at NSAC Receive a Major Research Grant

Agronomists and animal scientists at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) received one of four Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) research grants awarded to the College. This grant was matched by the Canada/Nova Scotia COOPERATION Agreement on Economic Diversification. The title of the project is “Development of a Pasture Research Centre at the NSAC to Investigate Sustainable Forage-Ruminant Production Systems in Atlantic Canada”. This project invests in equipment and facilities that will support diverse research on pasture-based ruminant production systems. (This project is approved for over \$340,000 over the next 4 years).

Research will focus on design of management systems and supplementation regimes for dairy cows, beef cattle and sheep to ensure we have economically viable and sustainable production systems. The NS Milk Producers and Electro Braid Fencing have supported the development of this centre. Dr. Alan H. Fredeen (the project leader) and his cooperating colleagues (Ralph C. Martin, Yousef A. Papadopoulos, Tarjei Tennessen, Alex Georgallas, Tapani Kunelius and Ed Charmley) believe that pasture-based production capability is a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth in the Atlantic region. Dr. Garth Coffin, NSAC principal, stated that “This

funding helps strengthen the College’s capability for world-class research and technology development”.

CSA Pest Management Scholarship

The CSA Pest Management Scholarship is open to students at Canadian universities with research programs relevant to pest management. The first Scholarship was awarded in 2000 at the CSA Annual Conference in Winnipeg. The next Scholarship will be awarded in 2001 at the CSA Annual Conference in Guelph, July 8 - 12, 2001.

The CSA Pest Management Scholarship consists of an award of \$500 to the student and up to \$1000 in travel funds to attend the annual CSA conference. Funds for the student scholarship will come from interest earned from the funds that Canadian Pest Management Society brought to the CSA and travel funds will be provided by Monsanto Canada Inc. Submit applications to Dr. Jerry A. Ivany at the address. Applications must be received no later than April 30, 2001. CSA members are asked to inform students they know about this new Scholarship.

Contact:

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Crops and Livestock Research Centre
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History of the CSA

B.E. Coulman (president of the CSA for 1993-1995) has prepared the "History of the Canadian Society of Agronomy." Dr. Coulman's sources include the document entitled "The Canadian Society of Agronomy: A history of its first 20 years" prepared in the mid-1970's by the late Dr. W.J. White, minutes of CSA meetings and CSA newsletters. It is interesting reading. As space allows, we will put parts of the article in the newsletter.

This article has been reproduced on the CSA Webpage at : www.agronomycanada.com

Canadian Society of Agronomy and Certified Crop Advisors One Step Closer (October 21, 2000)

The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and the Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) represent two cornerstones of agronomic science in Canada. The CSA encompasses many of the leading agronomic scientists in Canada, and attracts members from the US and overseas. It provides the editorial power for the very successful Canadian Journal of Plant Science. It annually awards the best long-term scientists and the brightest upcoming scientists at the annual meeting, held along with the Agricultural Institute of Canada. The membership criteria is a University degree in agronomy and professional activities in agronomy.

The CCAs encompass many of the people who translate the science into on-the-farm practice. The CCAs are certified through a testing and continuous training program, and bring tremendous commitment to their extension and advisory services.

Clearly, the science is of no value if it is not used, and without the science, there would be little solid basis for agronomic advising. The need to link CSA and CCA is obvious, and now the way is open for the linkage to develop.

In a recent vote, a strong majority of CSA members

elect to dissolve one of the potential barriers between CSA and CCA memberships. In recognition of the thorough and continuous training undertaken by CCAs, all other admission requirements were to join CSA were removed. The vision of both the CSA and the organizers of the CCA program is that this will lead to more dual memberships, which will enhance both organizations.

The vision is that some CCAs will opt to join CSA as well, leading to more direct communication between the researchers and the CCAs. CSA plans to develop Continued Education Units (CEUs) that bring the best of the science to the CCAs. The CCAs are now very well connected to information on new technologies. Probably the first CEUs developed with CSA input will draw on the scientific depth of CSA members. Ideas are welcome.

Given this important development, CCAs will receive information about the CSA in the next few months. There are regional CSA membership representatives across Canada and in some of the US border states. For direct information or to find the name of the regional rep, contact the CSA Executive Director, Steve Sheppard at sheppards@ecomatters.com; PO Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0; Fax (204) 753-2170.

Interviews with Retirees and Students

The CSA newsletter features interviews with retired CSA members and with student members. The interviews highlight aspirations and accomplishments of those who have spent much time in their pursuits in agronomy as well as those who are just embarking on a career in agronomy. This newsletter features...

Dr. Bob Hamilton

After talking with Dr. Bob Hamilton two characteristics come to the fore: a positive attitude and lots of energy. First, he is so confident in the future, based on his experience with, as he refers to them, "the dynamic next generation". Second, while allegedly retired, he was working long hours for a

client in Manitoba at the time of the interview and sounded like he wouldn't have it any other way.

Dr. Hamilton grew up in Quebec at MacDonald College, where his father taught. He worked in agriculture during the summers and realised that he wanted to study agronomy, eventually doing his undergrad at MacDonald College, his masters at the Ontario Agriculture College and his Ph.D. at Wisconsin. His specialty was plant adaptation.

Early in his career Dr. Hamilton worked at an experimental farm at Ungava Bay just south of the Arctic Circle where they were adapting plants and animals. They were able to grow cool season vegetables, successfully used plastic greenhouses, showed that sheep would graze on the natural flora and that day old goslings grew and survived. However, the local people didn't adjust to the change in lifestyle from nomadic to herdsman and didn't adopt these new practices.

"There have been tremendous changes in agronomy," he says. Modern agriculture has really evolved through key things such as hybrid vigour, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizer. "At one time," he states, "world starvation and famine were common. The green revolution has allowed places to achieve food self-sufficiency." One senses that he feels great pride in the key role that agronomy has played in the ability of people to produce food, rendering food security less and less of an issue.

Dr. Hamilton points out that Canadians have had a huge impact on food development in the third world. In particular he cites the role of Glen Anderson, who was second in command to Norman Borlaug, the first person in agriculture to have won a Nobel prize. He also says that Canada has a duty to help and that we have the talented people to do this. "We are truly lucky to have such a beautiful and bountiful country," he enthuses.

While he has great praise for the country, Dr. Hamilton also has high regard for our farmers. "They're innovative and intelligent," he says. "Probably our greatest Canadians."

When he isn't working he is enjoying his family including the first grandchild, travelling and

gardening. He says he's thinking of slowing down but he doesn't say it with a lot of conviction.

*-Ingrid Ostick
Interviewer*

CSA 2001 in Guelph Meeting Plans

The program for the 2001 CSA meetings at the University of Guelph are coming together. There are 3 symposia planned. One is joint with Can Soc. Ag. Met. and is on "Cropping Systems and Environmental Quality". One is joint with Can. Soc. of Animal Science and is on Genomics. The third will be on Nitrogen Fixation.

In addition, we have organized and booked a Sunday tour that will include First Line Seeds operation near Guelph, lunch at St. Jacobs in the heart of Mennonite Country, a visit to the organic dairy farm of Martin de Groot, where they also make and sell organic ice cream, and as a contrast, the modern farm operation of Bruce and Debbie Whale, near Alma. This operation includes a new, state of the art broiler operation, a family dairy operation, and lots of discussion with very involved people. Debbie is the President of the Poultry Industry Council in Ontario. Bruce is the immediate past Chair of the Ontario Forage Council and a Director of the DFO (Dairy Farmers of Ontario).

The scientific program will include concurrent sessions in forages and grains. I am asking my committee to include CCA credits. That should be relatively easy for the symposia on Cropping Systems and Environmental Quality and perhaps for the one on Nitrogen Fixation. What we can do with the other parts of the program will depend on the titles and abstracts we get in. The initial call for papers will go out in January.

I involved three new, relatively young faculty on my committee. They are Bill Deen, who is a systems agronomist; Liz Lee, who is our new corn breeder (replacing Lyn Kannenberg) and Istvan Rajcan, who is our new soybean breeder. CSA needs new people like these to become involved. Mark your calendars. The meetings are July 8-11, 2001. Lots more later!

- Dave Hume

Canadian Journal of Plant Science – Papers in the January 2001 Issue

AGRONOMY SECTION

Grain

- Relationship of physiological characters to yield parameters in oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) by G. Chongo and P. B. E. McVetty
- Spring wheat and canola response to nitrogen placement with no-till side band openers by A. M. Johnston, G. P. Lafond, G. E. Hultgreen, and G. L. Hnatowich
- The adaptation of seven broadleaf crops to the dry semiarid prairie by P. R. Miller, C. L. MacDonald, D. A. Derksen, and J. Waddington
- Genotype-environment interaction of no-till winter wheat in western Canada by D. R. Domitruk, B. L. Duggan, and D. B. Fowler
- Introgression of long pod genotype from spring rape (*Brassica napus* L.) into summer turnip rape (*Brassica rapa* L.) by L. J. Lewis, D. L. Woods, and B. F. Cheng
- Influence of source, timing and placement of nitrogen on grain yield and nitrogen removal of durum wheat under reduced- and conventional-tillage management by C. A. Grant, K. R. Brown, G. J. Racz, and L. D. Bailey

Forage

- Partitioning of ³⁵S in ryegrass grown in sulfur-deficient soils by M. R. Banerjee and L. Yesmin
- Merits of native and introduced triticeae grasses on semiarid rangelands by K. H. Asay, W. H. Horton, K. B. Jensen, and A. J. Palazzo
- Forages under seeded in barley for residue management for potatoes by D. A. Holmstrom, H. T. Kunelius, and J. A. Ivany

Cultivar Descriptions

- AC Rebel oat by S. D. Duguid, P. D. Brown, J. Chong, D. E. Harder, S. Haber, J. Menzies, and J. S. Noll

AC Medallion oat by S. D. Duguid, P. D. Brown, J. Chong, D. E. Harder, S. Haber, J. Menzies, and J. S. Noll

AC Assiniboia oat by P. D. Brown, S. D. Duguid, S. Haber, J. Chong, D. E. Harder, J. Menzies, J. S. Noll, and R. I. H. McKenzie

AC Polaris great northern dry bean by H.-H. Mündel, G. Saindon, H. C. Huang, and F. A. Kiehn

AC Sampson winter wheat by H. G. Nass, G. N. Atlin, and D. W. Walker

CO427 and CO428 corn inbred lines by L. M. Reid, G. McDiarmid, A. J. Parker, and R. I. Hamilton

CO429 corn inbred line by L. M. Reid, G. McDiarmid, A. J. Parker, and R. I. Hamilton

CDC Milestone lentil by A. Vandenberg, F. A. Kiehn, C. Vera, R. Gaudiél, L. Buchwaldt, K. J. Kirkland, R. A. A. Morrall, J. Wahab, and A. E. Slinkard

AC Morgan oat by S. Kibite and J. G. Menzies

295 BX summer oilseed rape by P. B. E. McVetty, S. R. Rimmer, and R. Scarth

Armor BX summer oilseed rape by P. B. E. McVetty, S. R. Rimmer, and R. Scarth

Conquest summer rape by G. R. Stringam, D. F. Degenhardt, M. R. Thiagarajah, and V. K. Bansal

Cartier BX summer oilseed rape by P. B. E. McVetty, S. R. Rimmer, and R. Scarth

Zodiac BX summer oilseed rape by P. B. E. McVetty, R. Scarth, and S. R. Rimmer

CDC Maria annual canarygrass by P. Hucl, M. Matus, A. Vandenberg, F. W. Sosulski, E. S. M. Abdel-Aal, G. R. Hughes, and A. E. Slinkard

HORTICULTURE SECTION

Ornamental

Canada's plant hardiness zones revisited using modern climate interpolation techniques by D. W. McKenney, M. F. Hutchinson, J. L. Kesteven, and L. A. Venier

Impact of one year crozier removal on long-term frond production in *Matteuccia struthiopteris* by M. E. Bergeron and L. Lapointe

Dommages hivernaux observés sur de jeunes plants d'Acer saccharinum L. sous différentes conditions agroclimatiques canadiennes
C. Richer, J. A. Rioux, M. P. Lamy, et G. Daigle

Vegetable

Selected physiological responses of kudzu to different chromium concentrations by S. L. Connell and S. H. Al-Hamdani

Brassica vegetables as edible greens in Newfoundland by D. Spaner and D. R. Lee

Leaves of North American ginseng, *Panax quinquefolius* L.; a renewable source of certain ginsenosides by A. N. Starratt, J. G. Hendel, and R. D. Reeleder

PEST MANAGEMENT SECTION

Entomology

Alfalfa leafcutting bee (Hymenoptera: Megachilidae) pollination of oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) under isolation tents for hybrid seed production by J. J. Soroka, D. W. Goerzen, K. C. Falk, and K. E. Bett

Insecticidal effects of *Thuja occidentalis* (Cupressaceae) essential oil on *Callosobruchus* [Coleoptera: Bruchidae] by S. M. Kéïta, C. Vincent, J.-P. Schmidt, and J. T. Arnason

Plant Pathology

Host range of a powdery mildew (*Erysiphe orontii*) on tomato by R. S. Utkhede, C. A. Koch, J. G. Menzies, and D. L. Ehret

Weed Science

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) management in canola (*Brassica rapa*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) rotations under zero tillage by J. T. O'Donovan, R. E. Blackshaw, K. N. Harker, D. W. McAndrew, and G. W. Clayton

Seeking Proposals

CSA is seeking proposals from members who have ideas and can help provide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs). We have not done these before, so we have a clean slate to create some interesting options. There is a very clear and well-defined customer: the CCAs need to acquire a certain number of CEUs each year, and they can come from a variety of activities such as attending a CCA-approved meeting or taking a CCA-approved course. We have had some discussion on the content one might offer. The CCAs are well connected to agronomic technology information, but this is a key area for them. For many, passing along the latest ideas to farmers is their source of income. As a group that specializes in the science of agronomy, CSA might be well positioned to offer great material. The venue, financial arrangements and rewards are all open for development. If offering a course or special-topic meeting is of interest to you, let's talk.

Steve Sheppard (sheppards@ecomatters.com)

CSA Publicity

The CSA was front and centre at the recent Atlantic Agricultural Sciences and Technology Workshop, “Technologies and Opportunities”, held in at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, NS, October 26 and 27, 2000. CSA Eastern Directors, Jerry Ivany and Yousef Papadopoulos, presented a poster about the CSA and made it available to those attending information and membership application forms. Particular attention was paid to graduate students, promoting to them the free membership for students and the availability of the CSA Pest Management Scholarship. Many thanks to Lianne Dwyer at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and her helpers for preparing the attractive photo poster for us to present at

Quote:

“Even if you are on the right track,
you’ll get run over if you just sit
there.”

-Author Unknown

Truro.

From the CSA Office

Changes are underway. The expression used in business is ‘if you are not changing, you are losing’.

CSA is moving ahead, with caution, to make changes that should improve its long-term prospects and its ability to benefit members. Here are some of the things completed so far, or underway.

- New web page at agronomycanada.com. This will be updated at least monthly, and we are always looking for new material. We have worked hard to establish links between the CSA home page and others, and if you know of a good agronomy-related page, let us know.
- Emails more-or-less monthly to members with updates and recent job listings. If you have not been getting them, be sure to check your membership renewal invoice that we have your correct email address. If you don’t want to get them, email sheppards@ecomatters.com to let me know.

- Linkage to the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) program, beginning with a motion passed that allows CSA to waive some of the membership requirements for CCAs in good standing. We hope to move forward with other linkages, including provision of Continued Educational Units.
- Linkage to the Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW), in discussion, and beginning with CSA poster and brochure materials at the Banff ECW meeting this fall.
- Membership representatives in all regions of the country, to put a ‘face’ on CSA. These reps will be available to answer questions about CSA, and may help recruit new members. They are listed in this newsletter.
- A CSA poster. This is a first, and we would like to explore how best to use posters. The vision at present is an attractive poster that CSA members would be proud to hang, and that could even be used as a small reward. Hope you get a chance to see one. Let us know if you want one to hang in your office or department.
- Corporate sponsorship. This is a new venture for CSA, and it will take some time for the various key corporations to learn about CSA and recognize the benefits of sponsorship. Right now, some key Canadian companies sponsor the American Society of Agronomy, we need to let them know there are options in Canada too.

As always, please send emails to Steve Sheppard or Cindy Grant if you have ideas, suggestions, or want to offer your services.

Comments:

If you have any comments or items for the next newsletter, please send them to:

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New Membership Reps

These CSA members were asked and have agreed to serve as regional membership representatives. They can help you answer questions about CSA, they will have membership forms and brochures, and can provide a good pipeline for information back to the CSA Executive.

Gary Ablett	Ridgetown College	Ridgetown	ON	519-674-1505	gablett@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca
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Stan Blade	Alberta Agriculture, Food	Edmonton	AB	780-422-1789	blade@agric.gov.ab.ca
Anita Brule-Babel	University of Manitoba	Winnipeg	MB	204-474-6062	ababel@ms.umanitoba.ca
Tom Bruulsema	Potash and Phosphate	Guelph	ON	519-821-5519	tbruulsema@ppi-far.org
Patrick Carr	North Dakota State Univ.	Dickinson	ND	701-483-2581	pcarr@ndsuxt.nodak.edu
Martin Entz	University of Manitoba	Winnipeg	MB	204-474-6077	entz@bldgagric.lan1.umanitoba.ca
Nigel Fairey		Beaverlodge	AB	403-354-5116	faireyn@em.agr.ca
Paul Jefferson	Ag & Agri-Food Canada	Swift Current	SK	306-778-7252	jeffersonp@em.agr.ca
Adrian Johnston	Potash & Phosphate Inst. of Canada	Saskatoon	SK	306-6523535	ajohnston@ppi-ppic.org
Jane King	University of Alberta	Edmonton	AB	780-492-4750	jking@afns.ualberta.ca
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Dave McAndrew	Ag & Agri-Food Canada	Morden	MB	204-822-7231	dmcandrew@em.agr.ca
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Clarence Swanton	University of Guelph	Guelph	ON	519-824-4120	cswanton@plant.uoguelph.ca
<u>Regional Membership Representatives who are also on the CSA Executive</u>					
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Patrick Juskiw	AAFRD	Lacombe	AB	403-782-4641	patricia.juskiw@agric.gov.ab.ca
Dave Major	Alpha AgResearch	Lethbridge	AB	403-327-9970	dmajor@resource21.com
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