



Canadian Society of Agronomy

La Société Canadienne d'Agronomie

CSA Newsletter

February 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello CSA members,

I am very excited to tell you about our 2021 conference: We have been working hard to in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the Canadian Society for Horticultural Sciences to bring you an online conference. This will be a full conference with invited and submitted talks, poster sessions, and society awards. We will be meeting June 14 – 18, managing our six time zones by meeting for only five hours a day. The feedback we got from our membership underlined an expectation of low fees for a virtual conference. We have done our best to accommodate, but the least expensive options did not deliver much more than a zoom meeting. What we have landed on is a web portal that will enable a lot of interaction between attendees, both planned and ad-hoc which is really what most of us find to be the best part of attending conferences, but still at a modest price. On behalf of your CSA executive, we really hope that you can attend. The registration portal will open this month, and we will update you with that information as soon as it is available.

The CSA annual award nominations will be opening. Please consider nominating your colleagues for our professional awards and reminding your students to apply for awards at the conference.

Since October, the CSA has been holding monthly CSA Green bagger sessions. This initiative was created by Sheri Strydhorst, Amy Mangin, and Laurel Thompson to increase our graduate student engagement. In each session a short research presentation is given by a CSA graduate student member. All CSA graduate student members are eligible and encouraged to present and attend sessions. All CSA members and interested non-members are welcome to attend and ask questions. These have been a big success and as a frequent attendee I have found them to be a great way to keep in touch with new research.

As every year, there will be some openings in the CSA executive. Please consider seeking nomination or nominating one of your enthusiastic colleagues. We have a lot of work to get done for our society!

As I write this we are past the halfway point of this winter. With spring coming, if not yet in sight, many of our thoughts turn to planting and field experiments. Perhaps we were hoping that the end of 2020 would bring a substantial change, but of course we are still looking at a long road to deal with this virus. We may be missing our old routines at the office and lab, missing our travel and especially our winter nurseries, missing in-person coffee and spontaneous comradery with our co-workers. Maybe we have figured out the small benefits of less commute time, maybe a more flexible workday. This pandemic has hit us all in many ways, and pressures have



President's Message (Con't.)

been applied to us and our colleagues heterogeneously: some regions closing up tighter and shutting schools as others begin to open or then shut again; our colleagues with young children may have had a much harder time dealing with working at home; those with aging parents or facing their own health challenges now have a whole other set of stresses to deal with. It is clear that maintaining good mental health has become an extra challenge for many. It is great to see that we can increasingly discuss this without stigma and without shame. Be mindful of your extra stress. Don't forget do what you can to take care of yourself, your staff, and your colleagues. I'm almost old enough to remember Hill Street Blues, so I'll quote Sgt Esterhaus: Let's be careful out there.

Andrew Burt
CSA President

Save the Date!

Upcoming Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meetings and Conferences:

- The 2021 CSA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and Canadian Phytopathology Society on June 14-18, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting.
- The 2022 CSA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Weed Science Society on November 21-24, 2022 in Halifax.

Please plan to attend these future CSA meetings.

Canadian Journal of Plant Science

We are striving to increase Canadian content in our society journal, The Canadian Journal of Plant Science. If each CSA member would submit at least one manuscript in 2021, we would achieve this goal and strengthen our journal. The CJPS is an important part of the CSA and is one way that we raise funds for society awards. For information on submitting a manuscript visit <https://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/pdf/10.4141/cjps74-034>

The Canadian Journal of Plant Science periodically has openings in its editorial board. If you are interested in volunteering to be an Associate Editor, please contact Dr. Brian Beres at

CSA Graduate Student's 'Green' Bagger Sessions

What:

- Virtual 13 min graduate student presentations on their research proposals, early project findings or completed research

This is a new CSA initiative to:

- Connect graduate students studying agronomy
- Build the CSA graduate student community
- Provide a positive and supportive platform for young scientists to share their research
- Help prepare graduate students for live oral presentations at future CSA meetings.

When:

- Third Wednesday of each month from October 2020 to April 2021, 12:15 – 12:35 **CST**
- The next virtual presentation will feature Seth Lundell, on February 17, 2021 at 12:15 CST
- Register online using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-ihqjgiEtGaDyN2g1DRXGaQp7zgvT8b>

Who:

- All CSA graduate student members are eligible and encouraged to present and attend sessions. CSA graduate student memberships are available for \$25 (<https://agronomycanada.com/membership/sign-up-and-renewal/>)
- All CSA members are welcome to login and learn about the diverse CSA graduate student research projects
- Please share this information with all graduate students, supervisors, and institutions with agronomy graduate student programs

'Green' Bagger Session outline:

12:15 – 12:17	Moderator introduces the CSA Graduate Student 'Green' Bagger initiative (live)
12:17 – 12:19	Graduate student introduces themselves, their school, degree, future career plans and interesting fact about themselves (live)
12:19 – 12:32	3-minute graduate student presentation (pre-recorded zoom MP4).
12:32 – 12:34	2 minutes for questions. As these presentations are aimed at the graduate student community, preference will be given to graduate students asking fellow graduate students questions (live)
12:34 – 12:35	Moderator concludes the session and encourages all attendees to complete the survey and promote future 'green' baggers to the graduate student community (live)

Calling all Graduate Students.....

Do you want to share your work with other Canadian scientists and agronomists?

The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is looking to print short (250 word) summaries of graduate student research projects in the CSA newsletter. This will highlight up and coming graduate students and their work, and bring their energy and enthusiasm to the CSA!

We encourage all graduate students who presented at a CSA Green Bagger session to submit a written summary of their presentation. We also welcome research summaries from students who have not presented at a CSA Green Bagger event.

CSA newsletters are circulated 2 to 4 times per year. One month before the newsletter is circulated, a notice will be sent to the CSA membership requesting submissions of graduate student articles. Articles must be submitted at least 1 week prior to newsletter circulation. Graduate students should have their supervisor and fellow graduate student review their article and make editorial suggestions prior to submission. Articles will be printed as submitted. We also encourage graduate students to submit a photo with their article to be printed in the newsletter.

Please submit graduate student research summaries to Nancy Zubriski at nzubriski@gmail.com.

All CSA graduate student members are eligible to submit a summary of their research project. CSA graduate student memberships are available for \$25 (<https://agronomycanada.com/membership/sign-up-and-renewal/>)

Nominations for 2021-2022 CSA Executive

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is now accepting nominations for the 2021-2022 CSA Executive. The deadline for nominations is **April 15, 2021**.

The open positions are below:

1. President-Elect
2. Secretary Treasurer

Nominations for the CSA Executive can be made by any active member of CSA. Please email your nominations to nzubriski@gmail.com by **April 15, 2021**.

CSA 2021 Award Nominations

Professional Awards

The CSA professional awards are an important peer recognition benefit. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague for one of the following professional awards by the April 15, 2021 deadline. Nomination requires submission of a nomination package and 2 supporting letters. For further information including nomination guidelines visit our website at agronomycanada.com.

- **Early Career Agronomist** is intended for individuals actively engaged in research, teaching, extension or administration within 10 years of starting their career or earning their last degree.
- **CSA Fellow** is intended for individuals actively engaged in research, teaching, extension or administration for at least 10 but less than 20 years of their career.
- **Distinguished Agronomist** is intended for individuals actively engaged in research, teaching, extension or administration for more than 20 years of their career.

Nominations for the above awards can be made by any active member of CSA who has had continuous active membership in CSA for at least five years. A member may nominate only one person for each award in a given year.

Graduate student Awards

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is now accepting applications for the 2021 CSA graduate student awards. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2021.

The available awards include:

1. Ali Navabi Grad Student Travel Award

The 2021 award covers registration fees for up to five graduate students to attend the CSA Virtual Annual General Meeting, June 14-18, 2021.

2. Pest Management Award

An award of \$500 available to a graduate student enrolled at a Canadian University with research programs relevant to pest management. The award is accompanied by a grant to cover registration at the CSA Virtual Annual General Meeting and present on his/her research project.

3. Student Presentation and Poster Awards

A number of awards are awarded at the CSA Annual General Meeting for the best oral and poster presentations given by graduate student members. The awards are presented after an assessment conducted by a panel of judges. Up to \$2,000.00 is awarded for graduate student oral and poster presentations.

Graduate students must be a member of CSA to apply for the above awards. For further information including nomination guidelines visit our website at agronomycanada.com.

The 2021 CSA awards committee will be chaired by Sheri Strydhorst, CSA past-president. Kathleen Glover and Doug Cattani have kindly volunteered to serve on the 2021 CSA awards committee.

Positions - Opportunities

Director, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence

The University of Saskatchewan is seeking a Director for the LFCE to provide administration of LFCE research, teaching and outreach programs and oversight of financial and physical resources and non-academic human resources. Director, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

Full posting – Director, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence

Lecturer, Agriculture and Bioresources, USask

Applications are invited from qualified individuals for a full-time without term Lecturer position in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The primary departmental academic home for the position will be determined during the interview process, and will be based on the applicant's areas of expertise. The position will have a primary responsibility for developing and delivering a new 100-level scientific and professional communications course for delivery in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA), and to provide support for scientific communications-based learning and activities in the College, including capstone and thesis-based courses. The successful candidate also will be expected to revise and teach additional courses (classroom, field-based and web) that support College academic programs including the Kanawayihetaytan Askiy program.

Full posting – Lecturer, Agriculture and Bioresources, USask

Conferences/Events	
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Canadian Society of Agronomy Events

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) Green Bagger Sessions

These sessions will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from October 2020 to April 2020 | 12:15 – 12:35 pm **CST (Manitoba time)**.

The next Green Bagger Session is scheduled for February 17, 2021 | 12:15 – 12:35 CST (Manitoba time)

More information – <http://agronomycanada.com/introducing-the-canadian-society-of-agronomy-csa-graduate-students-green-bagger-sessions/>

Register for the **February 17, 2021** session online using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=986456&pwd=986456>

Other Events

13th Annual Nutrient Management Conference

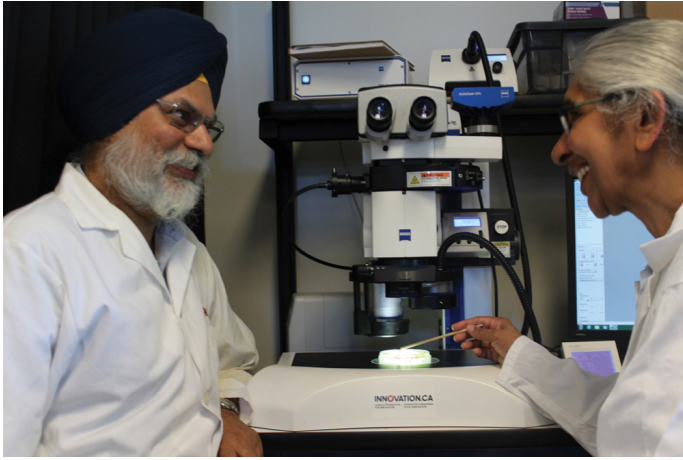
February 16, 2021

Nitrogen: Minnesota's grand challenge and compelling opportunity conference

February 9, 2021

The Genetics of Germination

BY DAVID SIMBO • PHOTO COURTESY OF JASWINDER SINGH



Harvest conditions in the fall during two of past five harvests have been poor. Early snow last September was compounded by moist, wet conditions and a high percentage of crops remained in the field all winter. According to the Alberta.

Crop Report, in 2016 and 2019, less than 90 per cent of crops were harvested in Alberta on average. This figure was worse in certain areas such as the Peace Region of Alberta, which saw about 15 per cent and 32 per cent of all crops unharvested in those years, respectively. Farmers in the region were able to harvest only 65.3 per cent of wheat and 56.1 per cent

of barley seeded in 2019. The story was similar in northeastern Alberta, where about 19 per cent and 13 per cent of crops were unharvested in those growing seasons.

Read the full article in Grains West here <https://grainswest.com/2020/11/the-genetics-of-germination/>

What makes certain groups more vulnerable to COVID-19

Researchers look to animals to find clues in proteins involved in infection

What makes the elderly and people with underlying conditions more vulnerable to COVID-19? According to a new study led by McGill University researchers, clues can be found in the proteins involved in initiating infection, as the virus binds to host cells of different animals. Greater cellular oxidation with aging and sickness may explain why seniors and people with chronic illness get infected more often and more severely.

Over 60 million people have been infected and around 1.5 million have died from COVID-19. The virus is disrupting economies and food supply chains all over the world. Understanding why some animals get infected and others do not could be the key to unlocking new treatments and therapies. In a study published in Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal, researchers analyzed available protein sequences of the virus and host cell receptors across different species to find out why.

Read the full article here <https://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/channels/news/what-makes-certain-groups-more-vulnerable-covid-19-326681>

Time to Renew Your Membership

It's time to renew your 2021 membership in the Canadian Society of Agronomy!

Online registration is available on our website. You can also download a pdf copy of the membership form, complete the form and mail-in your payment. To access go to agronomycanada.com and follow the membership pull down menu.

Thank you for your membership!

Canadian Society of Agronomy Photo Contest

Start collecting photos for our Photo Contest! The objective is to encourage CSA members to capture excellent agronomy-related images and to share these images with fellow CSA members.

The three best photos submitted in each of three categories will be recognized. Category 1: Agronomy in action; Category 2: Crops and Biological Interactions; Category 3: Landscapes and Fieldsapes. The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of judges selected by the Photo Contest Coordinators at the CSA 2021 annual meeting (June 12-17, 2021). 1st place: \$100, 2nd place: \$50, 3rd place: \$25 in each of three categories.

Photos can be submitted by email (csagronomy@gmail.com) or Twitter, by tweeting a high-resolution image to [@AgronomyCanada](https://twitter.com/AgronomyCanada) using the hashtag [#CSA2021photocontest](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CSA2021photocontest). Please provide a short and descriptive caption or title for your photo and the category when submitting.

Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2020/2021

CSA Executive - Appointed at 2020 Annual General Meeting

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