



Canadian Society of Agronomy

La Société Canadienne d'Agronomie

CSA Newsletter

June 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello CSA members,

I hope you are healthy and coping in this new reality of COVID. Our professional and personal lives have changed along with CSA business. The most impactful change is that the International Crop Science Congress 2020 meetings in Saskatoon have been cancelled. As a result, CSA will hold our AGM virtually on June 22nd at 12 noon Saskatchewan time. Please plan to attend our virtual AGM!

This is my final report as your CSA President. The past year has gone quickly. During my tenure, I am proud of the work the executive and executive director have done to:

- clarify the CSA professional awards criteria
- hire a new auditor, Michelle Trudeau, and transition to a new online registration platform - CVENT
- strengthen ties with the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) and Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) by:
 - inviting Dr. Ben Thomas (CJPS agronomy technical editor) to attend regular executive meetings
 - inviting CSP (Josephine Sciortino, Managing editor of CJPS) and CJPS (Brian Beres, Editor-In-Chief of CJPS) to present at our AGM
 - annually recruit associate editors at the November CSA meeting
- plan collaborative future meetings for: 2020 in Saskatoon (which was sadly cancelled); 2021 annual meeting and technical conference in conjunction with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and Canadian Phytopathology Society on June 12-17, 2021 in Ottawa; 2022 meeting will be in conjunction with the Canadian Weed Science Society on November 21-24, 2022 in Halifax. Please plan to attend these future CSA meetings.
- survey the CSA membership to better understand member needs and expectations which made the executive aware of the need to:
 - provide graduate students with professional support to assist them in publishing papers (a workshop is planned for Ottawa in 2021)
 - strengthen connections with industry (an industry representative, Logan Skori, has been added to the CSA executive)
- draft a mass email policy, add a job board and coming events sections to the website, and continue with the CSA photo contest (sponsored by BASF in 2020 with photo contest winners highlighted at our virtual AGM)
- update the CSA rules and guidelines document

I want to thank Nancy Zubriski and my fellow executive for their hard work, volunteer time and commitment to improving the CSA over the past year.



President's Message (Con't.)

Although we cannot honour our award winners in person, CSA is pleased to announce our 2019 award recipients. We received numerous nominations for the Pest Management Award, the Early Career Award and Distinguished Agronomist Award. Our awards committee: Jaswinder Singh, Mumtaz Cheema and Kathleen Glover met multiple times and unanimously agreed on the following recipients:

- **Pest Management Award:** Matthew Wengler, University of Saskatchewan
- **Early Career Agronomist:** Dr. Bill Biligetu, University of Saskatchewan
- **Distinguished Agronomist:** Dr. Bruce E. Coulman, University of Saskatchewan

I would also like to acknowledge our Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) award recipients:

- **CJPS Best Paper:** Edward W. Bork, M.P. Lyseng, D.B. Hewins, C.N. Carlyle, S.X. Chang, W.D. Willms and M.J. Alexander. 2019. Herbage biomass and its relationship to soil carbon under long-term grazing in northern temperate grasslands. Can. J. Plant Sci. 99: 905-916.
- **Outstanding Associate Editor:** Dr. Robert Gulden, University of Manitoba
- **Outstanding Reviewers:** Dr. Breanne Tidemann, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Lacombe, AB; Dr. Robert Nurse, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Harrow ON; Dr. Andrea Cavaliera, University of Copenhagen

These professional awards are an important peer recognition benefit. I sincerely thank all the nominators, nominees, and award committees for all the hard work they have put into these professional awards. Many of our awards include travel support to attend our annual meeting and conference. Since this meeting has been cancelled for 2020, we are hoping our award winners will be able to attend and/or present at a special CSA awards symposium in Ottawa in June 2021. In Ottawa, we also hope to re-schedule our concurrent session on "Traditional plant breeding for field crops, forages and organic systems" with keynote speaker Dr. Harvey Voldeng.

Welcome to the new individuals joining our executive on June 22, 2020: Mumtaz Cheema as president-elect; Logan Skori as industry member; Amy Mangin as student representative; and Ben Thomas as CJPS technical editor. I would also like to thank out-going board members: Jaswinder Singh and Caleb Niemeyer. It has been a pleasure working with you both.

Stay Healthy!

Sheri Strydhorst
CSA President

2019 Best Paper Abstract

Below is the abstract from our 2019 CJPS Best Paper by lead author E.W. Bork from the University of Alberta.

Herbage biomass and its relationship to soil carbon under long-term grazing in northern temperate grasslands

E.W. Bork, M.P. Lyseng, D.B. Hewins, C.N. Carlyle, S.X. Chang, W.D. Willms, M.J. Alexander

ABSTRACT

While northern temperate grasslands are important for supporting beef production, it remains unclear how grassland above- and belowground biomass responds to long-term cattle grazing. Here, we use a comprehensive dataset from 73 grasslands distributed across a broad agro-climatic gradient to quantify grassland shoot, litter, and shallow (top 30 cm) root biomass in areas with and without grazing. Additionally, we relate biomass to soil carbon (C) concentrations. Forb biomass was greater ($p < 0.05$) in grazed areas, particularly those receiving more rainfall. In contrast, grass and total aboveground herbage biomass did not differ with grazing (total: 2320 kg ha^{-1} for grazed vs. 2210 kg ha^{-1} for non-grazed; $p > 0.05$). Forb crude protein concentrations were lower ($p < 0.05$) in grazed communities compared with those that were non-grazed. Grasslands subjected to grazing had 56% less litter mass. Root biomass down to 30 cm remained similar between areas with (9090 kg ha^{-1}) and without (7130 kg ha^{-1}) grazing ($p > 0.05$). Surface mineral soil C concentrations were positively related to peak grassland biomass, particularly total (above + belowground) biomass, and with increasing forb biomass in grazed areas. Finally, total aboveground shoot biomass and soil C concentrations in the top 15 cm of soil were both positively related to the proportion of introduced plant diversity in grazed and non-grazed grasslands. Overall, cattle grazing at moderate stocking rates had minimal impact on peak grassland biomass, including above- and belowground, and a positive contribution exists from introduced plant species to maintaining herbage productivity and soil C.

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 12-17, 2021 in Ottawa.
- 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 Society of Agronomy Awards

2020 Distinguished Agronomist



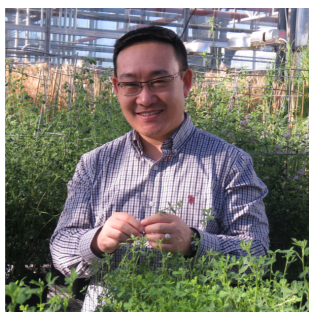
Dr. Bruce Coulman

Dr. Bruce Coulman

Dr. Bruce Coulman, a native of Saskatchewan, Canada, received his B.S.A and M.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan and the Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba. From 1976-1993, he was a faculty member in the Department of Plant Science on the Macdonald Campus of McGill University. He was chair of this department from 1988-1993. In 1993, he became a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Saskatoon Research Centre, where he was responsible for the programs in the breeding and genetics of alfalfa and perennial grasses. He was acting science director of the national program in crop cultivar development and genetic enhancement for

approximately one year. Dr. Coulman moved to the University of Saskatchewan in 2005, where he was head of the Department of Plant Sciences for eight years and then a professor for five years until his retirement in 2018. During his career, Dr. Coulman has published over 250 scientific and technical articles, has supervised the research of 35 graduate students, has developed 22 forage crop cultivars, and has chaired Canadian expert committees on forage crops and plant genetic resources. He has been involved in numerous international agricultural research and development activities and served as chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for seven years. Dr. Coulman has received honors or awards from several scientific societies and industry associations in Canada and the United States.

2020 Early Career Agronomist



Dr. Bill Biligetu

Dr. Bill Biligetu

Bill Biligetu is an Assistant Professor and Research Chair in Forage Breeding at the Crop Development Center of the University of Saskatchewan since 2014. After earning his Ph.D from the University of Saskatchewan in 2009, Bill worked as a forage specialist with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and a post-doctorate at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Swift Current Research Center. Dr. Biligetu's breeding program seeks to develop improved varieties of important forage species including alfalfa, hybrid brome grass, and hybrid wheatgrass. In recent years, Bill and his team have published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles, and presented at many conferences and producer's workshops on topics

of forage agronomy and breeding. He is the recipient of 2018 Saskatchewan Forage Industry Innovation Award by the Saskatchewan Forage Council. Biligetu has been a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy since 2005.

Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't.)

2020 Pest Management Award



Matthew Wengler

Matthew Wengler

I received my B.Sc. in 2017 from the University of Waterloo where I had the opportunity to complete a number of co-operative work terms with AAFC. Through tissue culture of stored germplasm and field work I became aware of the value that landraces/wild lines present to breeding programs. After graduating, I joined an agri-tech startup and led field trials throughout Ontario to test the efficacy of the company's biochemical frost protectant. I started my M.Sc. in 2019 at the University of Saskatchewan under the supervision of Dr.

Sabine Banniza. My research focuses on the exploration of candidate genes in lentil for resistance to anthracnose, which is the most serious foliar disease of lentil in the Prairies. I

have worked as a Teaching Assistant and have become the Faculty Liaison of our department's graduate association. I wish to pursue a Ph.D. with a focus in resistance breeding and pathogen genetics/evolution.

CSP and CSA Best Paper Award



Dr. E.W. Bork

Dr. E.W. Bork

Dr. Bork is currently the Mattheis Chair in Rangeland Ecology & Management, and also serves as the Director of the Rangeland Research Institute within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta. He has been teaching and conducting research for more than 20 years on a wide variety of basic and applied topics, including integrated weed control, legume management in mixed forage swards, grazing systems, fire and grazing ecology, forage production dynamics, climate change, agro-forestry, and more recently, the role of perennial grasslands in supporting a host of environmental goods and services, including carbon storage, greenhouse gas

reduction and biodiversity retention. He has supervised 47 graduate students to completion, including 10 PhD students. His research has been supported by industry, provincial and federal sources, and he maintains close ties with a wide network of collaborators in other faculties, universities and research institutions. Finally, Dr. Bork maintains close ties with the agriculture industry by still being involved in the operation of a family mixed farm NE of Edmonton, and he and his students have given numerous extension talks over the last two decades.

Outstanding Associate Editor, Canadian Journal of Plant Science



Dr. Robert Gulden

•Dr. Robert Gulden, University of Manitoba

Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't.)

Outstanding Reviewers Canadian Journal of Plant Science

- Dr. Breanne Tidemann , Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Dr. Robert Nurse, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Dr. Andrea Cavaliera, University of Copenhagen



Dr. Breanne Tidemann



Dr. Robert Nurse



Dr. Andrea Cavaliera

CSA 10+ Year Membership Award

The CSA recognizes long term members as an acknowledgement of their continued contribution to their profession and their society. Recipients receive a certificate.

- Arthur McElroy, PhytoGene Resources Inc.
- Helen Booker, University of Saskatchewan
- Kathleen Glover, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2020 Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meeting

The CSA Annual General Meeting will be held on June 22, 2020 at 12:00 Noon (Saskatchewan Time). This meeting will be held virtually by ZOOM.

Canadian Society of Agronomy Business Meeting

Agenda

June 22, 2020 (via Zoom)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Introductory Remarks – Sheri Strydhorst, 2019-20 CSA President |
| 12:05 pm | Business Meeting – Sheri Strydhorst, 2019-20 CSA President |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of 2020 Agenda2. Approval of 2019 AGM Meeting Minutes3. Report of Executive Board |
| | 2020 CSA Awards Presentations – Jaswinder Singh, CSA 2019-20 Past President |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Distinguished Agronomist2. Early Career Agronomist3. Pest Management4. CSA 10 Year Membership Awards |
| | 2020 CSA – BASF Photo Contest Awards – Laurel Thompson, CSA Western Director |
| | 2020 CJPS Awards Presentations – Brian Beres, Editor-In-Chief, CJPS |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">5. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Best Paper Award6. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Outstanding Associate Editor Award7. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Outstanding Reviewers Award |
| | CSP and CJPS Update and Outreach with CSA Members – Brian Beres, Editor-In-Chief, CJPS and Josephine Sciortino, Managing Editor CJPS (15 minutes) |
| | Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Auditor for 2020 – Doug Cattani Treasurer |
| | Retiring Executive Members – Sheri Strydhorst, CSA 2019-20 President |
| | Introduction of New Board – Andrew Burt, CSA 2020-21 President |
| | Upcoming Conferences and Next AGM – Andrew Burt, CSA 2020-21 President |
| 1:25 pm | Concluding Remarks – Sheri Strydhorst, CSA 2020-21 Past President |
| 1:30 pm | Adjourn |

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Reviewed Financials for the Year Ended December 31, 2019

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended December 31, 2019

	2019	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 77,548	87,813	90,847
Accounts Receivable	1,000		
Grants Receivable	<u>8,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>87,813</u>	<u>90,847</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 0	1,845	54
SURPLUS			
Surplus	<u>86,548</u>	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>
	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>87,813</u>	<u>90,847</u>

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Reviewed Financials for the Year Ended December 31, 2019 (Con't.)

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS Year Ended December 31/19

	2019	2018	2017
INCOME:			
Award Sponsorships	5,000	1,000	2,000
Conference		0	3,067
Corporate Sponsorships	625	11,000	
Grants	8,000		10,000
Interest	1,754	1,697	1,119
Member Fees & Subscriptions	<u>9,588</u>	<u>7,174</u>	<u>14,938</u>
Total Income	24,967	20,871	31,124
EXPENSES			
Advertising	500	543	
Awards & Grants	6879	5108	8141
Bank Service Charges	0	30	2
Bookkeeping Services		4678	
Business Licenses & Permits	20	20	20
Conference/Event Costs	300	3,868	2,126
Executive Director Fees	9,825	5,857	8,918
Honorarium	1,500		
Insurance	961	918	877
Miscellaneous	21	186	0
Office Supplies	906	441	255
Professional Fees	0	158	158
Subscriptions	1,669	1,571	2,241
Telephone	0		94
Travel	919	1,733	
Website	<u>887</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	24,387	25,696	22,832
NET INCOME	580	(4,825)	8,292
RETAINED EARNINGS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>	<u>82,501</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>

Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2020/2021

CSA Executive to be Appointed at 2020 Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT

Andrew Burt

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
960 Carling Ave., K.W. Neatby Bldg.
Floor 3, Room 3007
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0c6
Phone: 613 715-5211
andrew.burt@canada.ca

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Douglas Cattani

University of Manitoba
66 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Phone: 204 474-6071
Doug.Cattani@umanitoba.ca

EASTERN DIRECTORS

Jamie Larsen

Harrow Research and Development Centre
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
2585 County Road 20
Harrow, Ontario, N0R 1G0
Phone: 519 738-1216
jamie.larsen@canada.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy Zubriski

P.O. Box 637
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0
Phone: 204 299-2327
nzubriski@gmail.com

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Logan Skori

Skorbio Ltd.
PO Box 30
Langdon, Alberta, T0J 1X4
laskori@ucalgary.ca

Kathleen Glover

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
361 Pictou Road
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia, B2N 2T6
Phone: 902 896-0117
kathleen.glover@canada.ca

PAST-PRESIDENT

Sheri Strydhorst

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
6203-49th Street, 2nd Floor
Barrhead, AB T7N 1A4
Phone: 780 674-8248
sheri.strydhorst@gov.ab.ca

WESTERN DIRECTORS

Laurel Thompson

Lakeland College Vermilion
Alberta, T0B 2W0
laurel.thompson@lakelandcollege.ca

CJPS REPRESENTATIVE

Ben Thomas

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
PO Box 1000, 6947 Highway 7, Room 236
Agassiz, British Columbia, V0M 1A0
Phone: 604 796-6086
ben.thomas@canada.ca

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mumtaz Cheema

Grenfell Campus,
Memorial University of Newfoundland
20 University Drive
Corner Brook, NL A2H 5G4
Phone: 709 639-6585
mcheema@grenfell.mun.ca

Gurcharn Singh Brar

University of British Columbia
Vancouver Campus
Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4
Phone: 604 827-5274
gurcharn.brar@ubc.ca

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Amy Mangin

University of Manitoba
Phone: 204 384-1196
ummangia@myumanitoba.ca

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Nancy Zubriski, Executive Director

Tel: 204 299-2327 | Email: nzubriski@gmail.com

AgronomyCanada.com | Twitter: @AgronomyCanada