

A Message From the Director

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,

As I write this, we are just moving into a busy harvest season at the Crop Development Centre (CDC). It has been an excellent year for our breeding and research programs with excellent expression to allow selection of new CDC varieties.

The seeding season brought its challenges, with untimely rains, but the crops advanced quickly with a hot summer. Despite these hurdles, our team demonstrated remarkable dedication and innovation, ensuring that our projects continued to progress.

We have had a very busy six months at the CDC and I am proud to share some of our significant achievements and milestones. Firstly, we commissioned EY Canada to complete an independent assessment of the economic footprint of the CDC. The report highlights the substantial impact that our work has on the agricultural sector and the broader economy. Over the last few months, our team has presented the report at several meetings and industry events where we had the opportunity to highlight the most significant metrics – over 500 varieties, a 14.9% rate of return on investment, a \$1.2 Billion contribution to GDP, over 500 peer reviewed publications since 2016. I encourage you to review the full report, which is available on our website (cdc.usask.ca).

We celebrated the success of several of our faculty and staff whom received prestigious awards and recognitions over the past few months. These recognitions are significant and are a testament to their hard work, and commitment to excellence. I am continually inspired by the talent and dedication of our team, and these accolades are well-deserved.

Additionally, we were honored to host several stakeholder visits throughout the summer. These provide an opportunity for the CDC to showcase our research and breeding programs and strengthen our partnerships across the value chain. Our collaborations and partnerships are invaluable as we continue to drive forward our growth plan.

announcements over the next few months to share with you. Please stay tuned!
Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Warm regards,

Dr. Curtis Pozniak

Discover Our Impact



The Crop Development Centre engaged Ernst & Young LLP (EY) to conduct an economic footprint assessment of the CDC in Western Canada. In preparing the report, EY relied upon unaudited data and information from the CDC, Statistics Canada, consultations with stakeholders as well as other third-party sources. The economic footprint assessment includes the following three areas of assessment: Economic Contribution Assessment, Return on Investment (ROI) Analysis and a Socioeconomic Benefits Assessment.

[View the full report](#)

Insider events

Awards



Professor Emeritus Dr. Bruce Coulman was officially inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, this spring. His 42 year career will be recognized further in November, when he will be officially inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Dr. Sabine Banniza was recognized for her many contributions to the agriculture industry this year. She was awarded the W.J. White Professorship by her colleagues, named a Distinguished Agrologist by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and named one of the Most Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture for 2024.



Dr. Pierre Hucl was awarded a Distinguished Agrologist award by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists for his outstanding service and worthy contributions to agriculture, food, bioresources, and the environment.



Dr. Curtis Pozniak was awarded an Honorary Life Membership by the Saskatchewan Seed Growers. The award recognizes an individual for their valuable service to the seed industry in Saskatchewan.

In the Community



Our plant breeders spent time at the 2024 Crop Production Show answering questions and doing live interview spots with a local radio show.



Several of our plant breeders were on site at the 2024 Ag in Motion show available to answer questions and talk with producers.



Dr. Curtis Pozniak was an invited speaker at the University of Saskatchewan TEDx organized event held in Saskatoon. [Watch here.](#)



Drs. Sabine Banniza and Randy Kutcher along with their staff provided in depth disease training at the Crop Diagnostic School in Melfort, SK.

2024 American Oat Workers Conference



Saskatoon was the location for the 2024 American Oat Workers Conference which was held July 21-24, 2024. Dr. Aaron Beattie, Chair of the conference, hosted 75 participants from Canada, USA, Australia, China and Chile. The four days were full of presentations during the day, a tour of the Kernen Crop Research Facility, an evening reception at the downtown Remai Modern Art Gallery and ending with a guided tour of an oat milling facility located near Saskatoon.

Site Visits



Pulse Canada and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers.



Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers.



The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.



The Western Grains Research Foundation.



SaskBarley, CMBTC & Malt Academy.



Long term retiring brewer Mr. Keith Armstrong.

Recent Graduate Students Defending



Junsheng Zhou defended his PhD thesis entitled “Identification of QTLs and candidate genes for protein concentration and protein quality in pea (*Pisum sativum* L)” on Thursday, April 11, 2024.



Aabroo Ahmed defended her MSc thesis entitled “Identification of Genomic Regions Associated with Fall Dormancy and Winter Survival in Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) to Improve Persistency and Forage Yield for the Northern Climate ” on Friday, May 3, 2024.



Loveleen Dhillon Kaur defended her PhD thesis entitled “Potential for improving nitrogen acquisition in pea” on Tuesday May 7, 2024.



Elizabeth Berenik defended her MSc thesis entitled “Harnessing Wild Relatives’ Diversity to Identify Resistance to Ascochyta Blight in Chickpea” on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.



Matt Remenda defended his MSc thesis Matt Remenda defended his MSc thesis entitled “The Genetics of Green Lentil (*Lens culinaris* Medik.) Seed coat colour quality and retention” on Wednesday, July 17, 2024.



Noah Jendrasheske defended his MSc thesis entitled “Investigating Interspecific lentil Germplasm: Near-Infrared Spectroscopy for Protein and Amino Acid Contents and Quantitative Trait Loci Analyses” Tuesday June 4, 2024.

Recent Publications

- Identification of QTLs associated with seed protein concentration in tow diverse recombinant inbred line populations of pea.
- First report of *Stemphylium etermiumum* causing Stemphylium blight on *Vicia faba* in Canada.
- PSVIII-A-7 Effects of new forage barley and oat varieties on silage fermentation characteristics, and feed intake, milk production and composition, and N balance in dairy cows.
- A comparative study of fodder Galega (*Galega orientalis* LAM.) and common forage legumes in monoculture and grass-legume binary mixture in Canadian Prairies.
- Coordinated function of paired NLRs confers *Yr84* -mediated stripe rust resistance in wheat.
- CDC Esme oilseed flax.