

GROW – COMMUNITY OF INDEPENDENTS

GARTH MACDONALD



Garth MacDONALD

G-Mac's AgTeam Inc is proud to announce our involvement in a fresh business advancement for Western Canadian Agriculture. We are one of seven founding partners of "GROW Community of Independents" – a company focused on 'growing millions more bushels across western Canada.'

The GROW Community of Independents Vision: "Our vision is to have the greatest productivity, prosperity and profit possible on every commercial farm in Western Canada, with each one proudly served by GROW Community of Independents."

Statement of Purpose: "GROW Community of Independents is a group of Independent dealers that support the highest level of agriculture production with premium products, superior advice, integrated approaches and innovative economic solutions for farmers in Western Canada. GROW understands that growers want consistency, competency and honesty from their suppliers. We also understand that crop suppliers are often a grower's greatest annual expense with the expectation of excellent results always a part of the purchase. We accept the challenge of working alongside of each producer to ensure the greatest chance of success and the best possible result. We make it our business to be experts in local conditions such as soil types, weather patterns, and the latest technology for each area. That is our commitment this year, next year, and every year from generation to generation.

GROW Community of Independents now has eleven partners serving farmers' needs from the Peace River region all the

way to southern Manitoba. G-Mac's is very excited to be a part of this initiative. This association is going to put us in a better position to add value to farms in our trade area.

One of our main initiatives is to develop the 'Grow Academy'. This is a training and education program to increase agronomic knowledge of all of G-Mac's and the other business partner team members. There are many more new initiatives under development, so you can look forward to hearing more in the future.

This undertaking has been a great experience and commitment, and we feel this association illustrates that we will continue to be a force in crop production. We look forward to continued long-term commitment to our customers and our communities.

Our website, www.grow.ca is now live and is being updated regularly, so please take a minute to have a look. ■



www.grow.ca

what do you see?

we see...

...the future of Western Canadian crop production,
from left: Dave Wendland, Dale McKay, Aaron Senhor, Kevin Bak,
Corie Cowthorp, Greg Andrukow, Garth MacDONALD

THE BURT'S EYE VIEW

JUDY BURT



Judy BURT

Hello All!!!
Isn't this weird weather! First no rain, seeding decisions on hold, then the rain came! Not just a few inches, but an extreme amount! Each of us has been through this before on the prairies and we will survive!!

Market trends are up and down, prices are going up as line companies want to fill the ships at port and nothing is in the bins! The demerge costs per day to the line companies while waiting for the commodities to get to



Photo – SE of Kindersley

Spreading the green

Thanks to your incredible support of JumpStart®, TagTeam®, and N-Prove®, we have been able to give back to the ag community – just as our biosolutions give back to the environment, and your bottom line. We lend assistance to grower associations as well as the U of S Grains Innovation lab to further crop research, to Ag in the Classroom to help connect kids to agriculture, to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing projects, and several other ag initiatives. Over the last two years, Novozymes has contributed approximately \$140,000 to many ag community projects, and we could not have done it without your help.

Thank you!

port are unreal, which means your open market prices will go up, if they have enough for a shipment that price of the commodity will either level off or go down.

Forward priced contracts looked really good at the time of sign up, now we are trying desperately to cancel these, never sign a contract without the "ACT of God" Clause, as in a year like this it is the only contract you will be able to get out of!

Grades on your bushels that YOU WILL GET harvested, are going to Vary! Hold tight to them, do a grading package with your grain Buyer, you will have more leverage. Grades after the frost we had and all the moisture will vary until all is in the bins, I have seen where the lentils have first graded a X3 are now a 2... so hold tight to this and work your package out after harvest!

*With this note
Hope you had a Safe
& Bountiful Harvest!
Take Care!*

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Rethink Tomorrow

THE SCLEROTINIA DISASTER

BENNIE DUNHIN



Bennie DUNHIN

Anthraxnose again made its appearance early in the season, but was dealt with very successfully with fungicides. The rain caused a lot of top growth, especially on lentils, and it looked like very promising yields. The top growth was so heavy that the lentils lodged and then got pushed to the soil with subsequent rains.

Unheard of levels of Sclerotinia were observed all through Saskatchewan on these crops that were lying on the ground. Sclerotinia (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*) is a very aggressive disease with about 136 different hosts. Sclerotinia on lentils, canola, peas, soybeans and sunflowers are all caused by the same fungus. Fields where crop rotations were pushed revealed this fungus first.



Lentil crops that were sprayed with fungicides earlier (as a preventative control measure) had better stand ability and the control of Sclerotinia in these crops was more effective. Continued rain in August eventually caused the sclerotinia to just "explode" and even the crops with good stand ability got disease. The Sclerotinia infections led to Botrytis as well and also caused a lot of rotting. Sprouting of the disease-infected pods is a serious issue farmers are facing now.

What about next season? We will have to be very careful with all the Sclerotinia inoculum that has polluted our soils. These spores can live up to 8 years in the soil. So, as soon as we have the right climate conditions, Sclerotinia will be a problem again. We are now forced into a spray program with fungicides on lentils. ■



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An illustration of a compaction roller symbolizing the soil compaction caused by every day farming activities.



RECTIFYING SOIL COMPACTION

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Step 2: Re-establish plants with strong, deep root systems to rebuild and hold the soil structure, bulk and porosity in a healthier state - preferably using direct drilling or minimum tillage techniques.

Step 3: Use farming practices which minimize soil cultivation, soil inversion and traffic in wet soils.

AGROWPLOW

PRE-HARVEST VARIABLES

JANELLE MACDONALD



Janelle MacDonald

PRE-HARVEST VARIABLES

There are many factors that sway the decision on how you're going to dry down your crop; Are you going to use it as seed? Is the field weedy? Is frost in the forecast? What equipment do you have? Is there any disease pressure?

The last question has been a huge difference in the way we pre-harvest this year, it throws a whole new curve into how we're used to dealing with dry-down.

In pulses, lentils especially, dry down is pretty well necessary if you're going to get the crop off. Lentil plants have an indeterminate growth habit, which means that they will continue to flower until they are stopped by a stress, such as increased heat, drought, or cooler temperatures. Typically, if the field has heavy perennial pressure, using glyphosate is the way to go. When a perennial plant gets hit with glyphosate in the late summer or fall, the glyphosate will move down to the root system and give a complete kill, versus a top kill that we see often in a spring burn-off. Another time to use glyphosate is when the crop canopy is very thick and you don't have the equipment to put down the water level required for Reglone (min -15 Gal/ac). Glyphosate will have some translocation in the plant and will move through the plant, not just kill what it hits. Timing for glyphosate application on lentils is typically when the seeds on the bottom 1/3 of the plant are starting to turn color, and those on the top 2/3 are starting to firm up and will split between your fingers. Applying glyphosate as a pre-harvest on your pulses typically aborts the seed, so because that seed won't germinate, the crop won't sprout. If a wet fall is forecasted, glyphosate is a great option for both pulses and cereals because the grain it is applied on won't sprout.

A Reglone application is the only registered desiccant

and the only herbicide you can use to ensure germination the following year. If any field is going to be used for seed, applying Reglone pre-harvest is your best bet. It will also bring the crop in about a week to 10 days earlier than a glyphosate application, so if there is a threat of frost, Reglone will be a better bet than glyphosate. The downfall of the product is that it won't abort any weed seeds, so they will be able to germinate the following spring; don't apply it on weedy fields and expect to see any difference the following year. Reglone can be applied when the bottom 1/3 of the plant rattles when shaken and appears to be ready for the bin, and the seeds at the top of the plant have begun to show color change.

If you have heavy disease pressure or are trying to get the crop to dry down fast, hit the crop with a full application of glyphosate and 3-5 days later go in with a Reglone application. This will give good weed control, and will dry down the crop faster than glyphosate alone.

Pulse crops can also be swathed when 1/3 of the lower pods turn yellow and the seeds rattle somewhat. Swathing is difficult in pulse production, particularly lentils, because the bottom pods are so close to the soil surface and can't be cut. There is also very little stubble left which causes issues in wind following swathing, as well as stopping snow for the following year. In a year like the one we're experiencing, swathing is probably the worst option to dry down lentils. Swaths are more prone to result in sprouting than standing plants, and if there is any disease pressure, particularly botritis, any plant matter that is not well-aerated or is touching the ground is much more prone to disease than if it is standing and has access to wind. This is an issue with all crops including canola and cereals. When the crop is in a swath, it will typically take longer to dry out than if it is left standing. ■

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GRAIN STORAGE

GREG KIRBYSON



Greg KIRBYSON

With the delays in harvest, grain storage does not seem to be a big priority amidst all the issues producers are facing. However, on a year like this, grain storage becomes an important consideration when the combines hit the fields again. Without question, tough grain requires extra attention to keep it in the bin. Aeration, heaters, dryers, bug control products, and alternative storage are all options that may help to maximize your present grain storage situation.

Aeration is a great tool to keep the grain; however, with cooler and shorter days the chances of drying it are slim. Adding a heater on the fan will help the process, but will be a time consuming effort. Being able to measure heat in a bin is also key to keeping this grain in good condition. Constant monitoring will pay great dividends.

A dryer is another great way to deal with tough grain. Unfortunately, in this area, grain dryers are few and far between. The grain dryer will ensure that the grain goes in the bin at or near dry which reduces the time spent

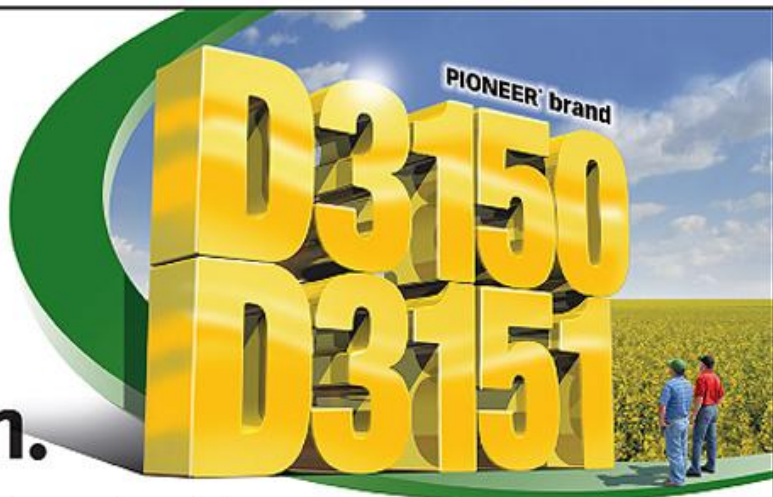


monitoring the bins. This method is not a guarantee that you will not have trouble. Again, I stress the importance of monitoring your bins—this is where you are storing your livelihood. My first boss told me if a farmer had \$100,000 in cash in a bag attached to the roof of the bin he would climb to the top to check it daily. That being said, there are a lot of bins of grain worth four and five times that, that go unmonitored yearly. Does that make any sense?

With tough grain comes the risk of bugs, but there are options to control them when filling a bin. Either Malathion or Protect It can be used, both of which are granular products. The other option is Phostoxin which is dangerous and only can be applied by a licensed applicator. Producers can get certified to do their own if they take the appropriate course.

Bin or bag? I may be a little biased, but grain bags have proven to be good, low cost storage for some producers. Wildlife damage is the biggest concern I've heard—from deer on top of the bags to mice underneath. If the bag is going to be used as short term storage, it is way better than a pile. ■

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RUSTY GRAIN BEETLES

TANNER McCULLOUGH



Tanner McCULLOUGH

Rusty grain beetles are known as the most troublesome pest that attacks stored grain throughout Canada. Grain damage occurs from both the adults and larvae, they together will feed on the germ and endosperm. In 3 weeks time Rusty grain beetles can lay eggs, hatch larvae and be feeding as an adult. If not controlled this will cause grain to heat and to spoil in a very short period of time. So it is important to keep an eye on these pests and prevent them from spreading throughout your stored grain.

The best way to assure yourself that you won't have this problem is to make sure your bin floors are clean and all old moldy grain is taken out and destroyed. This will help prevent the beetles from being able to survive while the bin is empty. Also, storing your grain with a moisture content of less than 12% is ideal. Having too high of moisture content or humidity in your bin will induce eggs to hatch and give larvae an ideal living condition. A control option to use if your grain has too high of moisture content, is putting it through the grain dryer. If Rusty grain beetles are exposed to heat 50°C or higher for 15 minutes then the chance of these beetles surviving is very slim. If you find these pests in your grain and it is already in the bin then using a "cold shock" method



will work for control too. This is when you cool the grain to at least -5 °C for 7 to 8 weeks. Weather permitting of course. Also, keep your grain no warmer than 15°C by turning on your aeration at nights and when temperatures are lower than 10°C. This will prevent movement of Rusty grain beetles throughout your granary.

For insecticide control a product known as Protect-it can be used. This product is a type of dust that is 90% diatomaceous earth (DE). What DE is, is a type of crushed sea shells that have been taken from the bottom of the ocean, but ground down to a tiny light powder that under a microscope looks very jagged and sharp. This powder acts as a cutting agent to wound the beetles and larvae so they dry up and die. Malathion Grain Protectant Dust is also approved to be used in Wheat, Rye, Barley and Oats. This product can be applied to grain as it is being loaded into a bin or being turned by adding gradually into the grain auger. Malathion controls insects by ingestion and contact, insects must be active for it to be effective.

If there are any questions or concerns that I have not covered in this article feel free to contact your nearest G-Mac's location and there will be an Agronomist that will be happy to assist you! Good luck through the home stretch of harvest and be safe!

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NEW TO THE G-MAC'S STAFF

SARAH ANDERSON • MATHEW STIMSON • LOUISE SORENSEN • NADINE CAMPBELL • LLOYD COBEN



Sarah ANDERSON

Having been raised on a mixed farming operation near Sceptre, SK, I am extremely excited to return to the area and work with local producers as a new agronomist with G-Mac's AgTeam in Leader. I recently returned from an academic exchange with the Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences which led to the completion of my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture through the University of Saskatchewan. My degree includes a major in Environmental Sciences with minors in Rangeland Ecology and Professional Communications. Last summer, I completed an internship with the Nature Conservancy of Canada where I gained valuable experience working with producers to assess and better manage their grazing resources. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with and learn from G-Mac's crop producers to find agronomic solutions and achieve higher crop yields. ■



Mathew STIMSON

I grew up in Leader, Saskatchewan where I graduated high school in 2006. For the next two years I worked on a farm in the Eatonia area as I was a little unsure where my next journey was going to begin. In 2008 I attended Lakeland College in Vermilion, Alberta, where I obtained my diploma this spring in the Crop Technology program.

This past summer I moved to Camrose, Alberta where I was employed with BASF as a Summer Sales Associate. I realized that was not exactly what I wanted to do with my career and when I had a chance to come back to Saskatchewan and take on a role as an Agronomist with G-Mac's AgTeam I was very excited.

G-Mac's AgTeam not only provides myself with an opportunity to work with many farmers in the Eatonia area but has many goals to ensure that farmers are successful and have a positive experience with our company. I look forward to helping out everyone I can and help to fulfill the new desire to provide the lowest cost per bushel.

Hope to see you all around! ■



Louise SORENSEN

I grew up on a small grain farm near Mayfair, Sask (NE of N. Battleford). I graduated High School in Spiritwood, SK in 2008. I continued my education at Lakeland College in Vermilion, AB and completed the 2 year Crop Technology course. After my first year, I worked for E.I. DuPont out of Wetaskiwin, AB as a Research and Development summer student. After completing my diploma, I worked as a summer scout for Cargill in Rosetown, SK. I am very excited to be a part of the G-Mac's Ag Team and GROW Community of Independents and am very eager to learn more as I move forward. ■



Nadine CAMPBELL

I was born and raised in Elrose, Saskatchewan and graduated high school here in 2006. After high school I took off to Saskatoon where I was enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the U of S. I graduated this past spring with a BSc. in Agribusiness.

This past summer I was employed with Cargill as an agronomy assistant in the Rosetown and Kindersley area. I enjoyed this position very much as there was always a new challenge ahead and something new to learn every day. I look forward to working with G-Mac's AgTeam alongside farmers in the Elrose area to help meet production goals, and provide a positive experience for everyone!

Hope to see you soon! ■



Lloyd COBEN

I was raised on the family farm in the Tessier, Saskatchewan area. In 1981, I took over the operation of the family farm. During this time, I also worked for Sask Crop Insurance as an adjuster until the late 1980's. I started working in late 80's as a custom applicator first for Lake Air Services & later for Orchard Transport. Always looking for a new challenge, in 2002 I began working as a grain grader for SGS Canada grading pulse & oil seeds for export. The year 2006 brought about the difficult decision to retire from farming. I moved my family to Elrose in 2007 and became the location manager for Midwest Agro Ltd. where I have been for the last 3 1/2 years. I am looking forward to working with G-Mac's AgTeam in the future. ■

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