

Title of Project: Canola Council Liaison (2000) or Canola Committee Project (1999)

Report Title: Annual Report

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Organization(s): B.C. Grain Producers Association

Contact Person: Ross Ravelli

Address: 103 – 1005 – 102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2B9

Telephone: 250-782-1177

Fax: 250-782-1177

Email: rravelli@neonet.bc.ca
& bcgpa-c@pris.bc.ca

Objectives:

- Participate as a director for Canola Council of Canada
- Ensure that our region is well represented in industry developments
- Ensure that producers are advised of problems and activities affecting our industry
- Travel to 4 meetings of the Canola Growers Association, Canola Production Committee, Canola Council of Canada and 1 other meeting as issues arise

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Brian Haddow and Garnet Berge attended Summer Meetings in Calgary and Kananaskis in July 2000.
- Ross Ravelli and Garnet Berge attended meetings in Saskatoon in Nov., 2000

The following are updates and highlights from those meetings:

1. Canadian Canola Growers Association

- see attached report

2. Crop Production Committee, CCGA

- reviewed CPC trials and results
- reviewed priorities for production sites for next year

Tasks in progress:

1. Canola Council of Canada:

- Keep informed on GMO issue: Dale Adolfe (CCC contact person)
- Organize copies of information on GMO issue in BCGPA

2. Canadian Canola Growers Association

- To date the CCGA has 12 active committees, which are comprised of provincial canola associations representatives, industry and other interested parties.
 - Western Research Canola Recommending committee (3)
 - Integrated Pest Management (5)
 - Seed Vigor (6)
 - Grain Standard committee (2)
 - Grain Handling & Transportation (5)
 - National safety Nets committee (5)
 - Biotech (6)
 - Pesticide Harmonization (6) Ross Ravelli member
 - Trade Committee (5)
 - International Trade (7)
 - Western Grain Research Committee (1 appointed)
 - Grain Growers of Canada (1 appointed)
- Committee Reports as presented at the recent CCGA annual meeting in Washington, are available upon request.

3. Crop Production Committee, CCGA

- Update Canola Growers manual
- Expand the use and availability of the CD version of the Canola Growers Manual
- Review the "tests" that are being done on Production Sites to ensure they are relevant to growers and others needs.
- Further research time of swathing recommendations and straight cutting recommendations in light of improvements made in "Argentine" varieties.
- Review acceptable Co-efficiency of Variations (CVs) for site data, when to publish or release harvest data.

Extension and Communication:

- Committee chair gives reports at directors meetings throughout the year & at AGM

Finances:

Total approved project	\$7,170.25
Total Levy & PRAD funds received as of March 31, 2001	\$6,596.25
The total expenditures for this project for this time period were	\$8,483.19
This leaves a deficit of	(\$1,886.94)
Request for holdback	\$ 574.00

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:

- Two people attending meetings was necessary during this transition year.

Summary comments, conclusions:

With the recent (Feb 2000) hiring of a full time general manger the Canadian Canola Growers Association have a great opportunity to expand its role and the role of producers in the canola industry. Co-ordination of efforts by CCGA and Provincial canola associations may be one of the greatest benefits of having a full time general manager.

We are fortunate as producers to have very strong provincial associations working on our behalf. Through our association with the Canola Council of Canada we have had an impact on what happens to our industry,. It is critical that we contribute, that we ensure the needs of producers are being addressed at all levels of this industry.

Attachments:

- General Managers Report from the Canadian Canola Growers Association March 2001 AGM
- Financial detail available if requested

**General Manager's Report
Canadian Canola Growers Association
Annual General Meeting
March 3 & 4, 2001
Arlington, Virginia**

The Canadian Canola Growers Association Cash Advance office concluded its largest program ever, with \$159,000,000.00 of advances having been issued by March 31, 2000. As the 1999 program was being concluded, the Minister of Agriculture announced the introduction of a Spring Credit Advance Program, under which growers could apply for a maximum \$20,000.00 interest free advance to assist in the purchase of crop inputs. This program was developed apparently on very short notice and little consultation with staff and no consultation with producer groups. With very little lead time, the program was a challenge to implement as many loose ends in program design became apparent and required a disproportionate amount of resources to administer.

Under the 2000 Spring Credit Advance Program, the CCGA cash advance staff issued a total of \$19,382,127.30 under 2,631 applications. The program exceeded our expectations, as producers had initially reacted negatively toward the program due to the low maximum available to each producer. Shortcomings of the spring program became most evident in the fall, as producers attempted to roll over the spring advance into a new fall advance. A great number of inquiries were handled to explain the procedure, as each of the administering organizations had a different procedure in place.

CCGA's application fee of \$50.00 per application, did not cover the additional administrative costs, however, we have been successful in negotiating additional funds from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to cover the shortfall. (\$98,115.00 Feb.13/01).

The fall cash advance program requires repayment of the advances issued by August 15 of the following year. 1999 was the first year that cash repayments were disallowed resulting in a greater number of accounts being potentially placed into default. CCGA made the decision to accept a number of documents as proof that a sale had been made, and also decreased the penalty from charging default rates to charging only prime from the date of issuance where producers repaid without documentation. As a result of these actions a total of \$6,808,060.99 / 416 (6.36%) accounts were placed into default. This statistic is a slight improvement to the previous year's defaults of \$3,824,060.43 / 236 (6.68%) accounts and is close to our historical average for defaulted accounts.

For the 2000 fall program, we had budgeted for advances of \$180 - \$200 million, up from the previous year's record of \$159 million. At December 31, 2000, we had achieved only \$98 million in advances, which was down approximately \$30 million from this time one year ago. As a result of the disappointing fall, we now expect the 2000 fall program to reach only \$110 million upon its' conclusion on March 31,2001.

Revenues for 2000 are down correspondingly, (as per audited statement), however, CCGA can still report a profitable result at year end.

A number of factors have been identified as causes for the decrease in the program:

- a) Reduced canola acreage (canola makes up 85% of the applications)
- b) Reduced advance amount on the major crops (the amount advanced on canola was \$110/MT in 2000 compared to \$125/mt in 1999)
- c) Elimination of the "cash repayment option"

The elimination of the cash repayment option is in our opinion the most significant factor leading to the decrease in the program. Although this option was taken away in 1999, many producers were unaware of this change until August 2000 when they attempted to repay by this method. (We have drafted a resolution for consideration at this meeting that would support allowing this method of repayment)

In order to insure that the CCGA program continues to grow the following strategy will be implemented in time for the 2001 fall program:

- Advertise that CCGA is administering the Cash Advance Program
- Pursue other commodity groups to have CCGA administer the Cash Advance program for their commodity. eg. pulse growers
- Consider changing the program to reduce the cost to growers thereby attracting more applications
- Continue to lobby the government for the cash repayment option
- Consider changes to the fee structure to encourage more applications
- Develop a CCGA website to explain application procedures and allow producers to check their account balances. (The requirement for external documentation would not allow us to proceed to on-line application at this time.)

Operationally, we will be reporting on a January 1, 2001 – July 31, 2001 year end this year as approved at the CCGA board meeting in November.

CCGA became involved in a number of important issues during the year. The first issue was the preparation of a transportation brief and its' presentation to the Standing Committee on Transportation in Ottawa. Although it appeared to be an exercise in futility, it was beneficial for CCGA to be involved and we were subsequently asked to participate in the design of the monitoring system. CCGA was also asked for input in creating a competitive tendering system for board grains.

During the year the CCGA executive met with directors of the Canadian Wheat Board to raise concerns regarding the potential for a reoccurrence of the West Coast shipping disaster of last November. Although neither group changed its' position on this matter, it was important to create an ongoing forum for dialogue with the CWB. Another meeting with the CWB later in the fall, while not producing any tangible results, was evidence

that they also recognized the need to consult with us regarding the shipping of our commodity.

A number of issues also arose with the Canadian Grain Commission. We responded to the issue of 90 day storage and grain storage on the ground. As well CCGA voiced its' concern over the requirement and cost of the CGC's demand that all rail shipments to Mexico required CGC inspection. This issue remains unresolved as the CGC responded only that they are empowered by legislation to require the inspection.

During the year the CCGA office became involved in a number of other issues dealing with farm safety nets, trade, food safety and biotechnology.

This year CCGA made the decision to join the Grain Growers of Canada, thereby creating a more effective national lobby group for the grain industry. Through our representative on their board of directors we will have a more effective voice on national issues and a presence in Ottawa that we did not have before.

Finally, the board of directors made the decision to enter a long term lease of office space in Carman, Manitoba. CCGA has leased office space in an office building built by the Manitoba Corn Growers. The new building was ready for occupancy in January 2001, and the move was accomplished with minimal disruption in service to our customers. This has resulted in a greatly improved work environment for staff, and the achievement of efficiencies as we were operating out of two facilities before the move.

Title of Project: Pulse Project**Report Title:** Annual Report**Report Covering Period:** April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001**Organization(s):** BC Grain Producers Association**Contact Person:** Bruce Baxter**Address:** Box 6004 Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H6**Tel:** 250-827-3372**Fax:** 250-827-3372**Email:** bcgpa-c@pris.bc.ca**Objectives:**

- pursue information pertinent to producers growing pulse crops in BC Peace Region
- attend Alberta Pulse Growers Association meetings/seminars
- receive Pulse Crop Newsletter and provide producers with information from it
- provide producers with videos about pulse growing information

Accomplishments:**Alberta Pulse Growers Association meetings in Red Deer in Jan 2001:**

- discussed motion to support GMO Pulse research and continue to support present merit system of variety registration
- bought 5 copies each of 2 videos from Alberta Pulse Growers to have as lending library for producers in Peace. (Seeding & Handling Peas; Harvesting Peas)

Prairie Registration Recommending Committee for Grain (PRRCG) in Saskatoon in Feb 2001:

- input into discussion about location of Pea Co-op Trials – re: move from Dawson Creek to Fairview. While investigating history of hail at DC site, it was decided to move them to FSJ.
- all varieties put forward for review were passed in Saskatoon
- 50 entries into Co-op program for 2001
- checks stay same as last year for 2001 (moving bar of relevant check varieties)
- participated in discussions of GMO pulse & merit system of registration issues

Tasks in progress:

- keeping informed about variety availability: new pea varieties, coming on stream from Crop Development Center at Saskatoon are available to AB Pulse Growers Assoc. members – royalty free; funded by their checkoff system in AB
- continuing dialog with Sask. Pulse Growers Assoc., CDC, AB Pulse Growers Assoc.
- developing pea markets (swine) within Alberta and from BC into Alberta
- exploring possibilities of Vancouver wharfs re: alternative pea markets
- promoting of peas for the area goes hand in hand with investigating new markets.

Extension and demonstration:

- interviewed by Brenda Birley (PRASP) for newspaper articles about meeting highlights.
- shared information with area producers

Finances:

Total Budget	\$ 724.50
Total Revenue	\$ 666.50
Total Expenses	\$1,399.61
Net Deficit	\$ (733.11)
Holdback request (10%)	\$ 58.00

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:

Bruce Baxter attended pulse industry meetings in both Red Deer & Saskatoon.

Summary comments, conclusions:

- most valuable data to growers derived from the regional trials
- as this committee becomes more active a larger budget may be required

Attachments: detailed financial summaries can be supplied on request.