

Canary Seed News

News from the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS)
& the Canary Seed Association of Canada (CSAC)



Message from the Chair

Darren Yungmann



Another crop is in the bin. Across the province, there were varying results, and hopefully, Mother Nature will be kinder to those areas that experienced drought conditions. We now turn our focus to managing our harvest results and planning for another year.

Congratulations to Marvin Kress and Brett Sinclair. They were acclaimed to our board this fall. We are looking forward to working with them, as they join our team of passionate growers, directing the future of Canary seed.

For the second year now, we will be holding the CSDCS AGM in Regina this December. There is a great mix of presentations including an update from our new seed breeder, Adam Carter. Bill May will talk about his work on fungicides, and as usual, Chuck Penner will provide a marketing update. Join us December 14 at the Atlas Hotel in Regina and stay for lunch to enjoy alpiste-infused food items. There will also be a sampling of a new alpiste beer from 9 Mile Legacy Brewing!

Wishing you all the best in preparing for 2024, and hoping to see you In December.

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Two CSDCS Directors Acclaimed

In December of 2022, Marvin Kress of Odessa and Brett Sinclair of Rosetown were appointed for one-year terms to fill vacancies on the CSDCS board of directors. Both were nominated this fall and were acclaimed for three-year terms.

Marvin Kress, co-owner of Kress Livestock, is a grain and cattle farmer and has run a heavy-duty mechanic business for the last decade. He grew up on a mixed farm operation just outside Odessa. He is the oldest of five boys and farms alongside his father and one of his brothers. He is married and has two sons. Marvin grows a diverse crop portfolio including Canary seed, barley, canola, mustard, durum, lentils, corn and a mixture of cover crops for silage. He is actively engaged in the community of Odessa serving on various boards and volunteering.

Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan Annual Meeting and Information Session

Thursday, December 14, 2023
Atlas Hotel – 4177 Albert Street, Regina

- 9:00 am Doors open. Coffee and snacks provided.
- 9:30 am Opening comments from Chair Darren Yungmann
- 9:45 am Canary seed breeding priorities – Adam Carter, Incoming Canary seed breeder, Crop Development Centre
- 10:30 am Annual Business Meeting
- 11:00 am Fungicides and Canary seed – Bill May, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Indian Head
- 11:30 am Market outlook for Canary seed and competing crops (virtual) – Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research
- 12:30 pm Lunch featuring various alpiste (Canary seed) foods and sampling of alpiste beer from 9 Mile Legacy Brewing

Everyone is welcome and lunch will be provided at no cost. However, we ask that attendees pre-register so we know how much food to prepare. Those attending virtually need to pre-register so we can provide them with the Zoom link.

To pre-register, either for in-person or virtual attendance, please email office@agribiz.ca or call 306-975-6624 no later than Friday, December 8. We request:

- First and last name of each attendee
- State if you are a grower, researcher, industry, government or other
- Intention to attend in person or via Zoom
- Advise if you are eligible to vote which means you have grown Canary seed in the last three years and have not requested a levy refund in the past year

For those who would like to book a guest room at the Atlas Hotel, the number to call is 306-586-3443.

For information on the AGMs of other crop commissions, go to www.cropweek.com and www.saskcrops.com.

Sample Alpiste Beer

Craft brewers are able to produce unique products for special occasions and for clients wanting something different for their customers. Garrett Pederson, co-founder and COO of 9 Mile Legacy Brewing of Saskatoon is producing a small batch of alpiste beer for sampling at the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan AGM in Regina on December 14th.

9 Mile has developed numerous brews for clients and events. For instance, they partnered with South West Terminal to produce a durum wheat ale.

The trajectory for alpiste beer is yet to be determined, but it will all start with sampling on December 14th. Please remember to call or email to register for the AGM.

Two CSDCS Directors Acclaimed cont.

Very few farmers in the area grow Canary seed and Marvin enjoys the challenge of participating in the various trials that come from growing a crop that wasn't popular in his area. He can see there is opportunity to help promote alpiste as a product that could be more widely used with public education and knowledge and he is excited to be involved in helping to shape the future of the Canary seed industry.

Brett Sinclair grew up on a farm around the Rosetown area, where he farms with his parents, growing pulses, oilseeds and cereals alongside Canary seed for many years. He attended the University of Saskatchewan obtaining his degree in agronomy and minor in AgriBusiness in 2015. Since then, he has obtained his PAg and CCA designations and is 4R certified. When not at the farm, Brett works as a Fieldsmart agronomist for Western Sales providing agronomic services and advice. He also volunteers and serves as President for his local Lions Club in Sovereign. He enjoys working with Canary seed and is excited to see where we can take the crop both in and out of the field.

The Canary Seed News

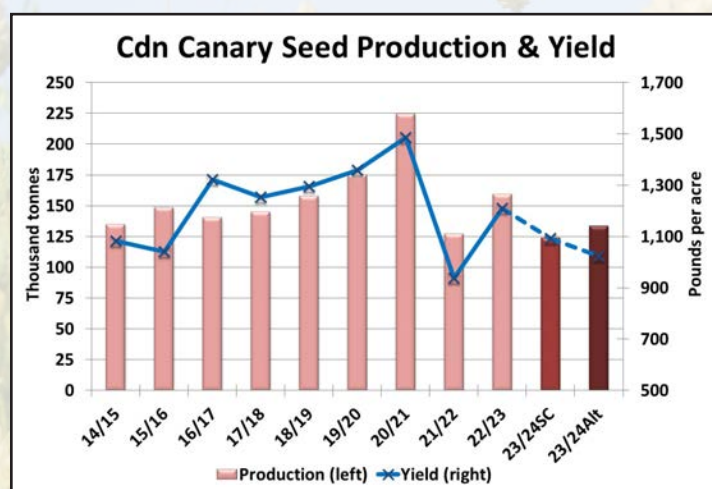
Canary Seed Market Outlook

Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research

At this time of year, there's usually still some debate about Canary seed yields and how reliable StatsCan estimates are. This year, on top of the yield question, there's also disagreement about the number of Canary seed acres farmers planted in 2023.

In its September production estimate, StatsCan pegged the Saskatchewan Canary seed yield at 1,049 lb/acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1,240 lb/acre. That's above the yield number in Sask Ag's final crop report of the season at 982 lb/acre. That's not a huge difference but suggests StatsCan's final yield, based on a farmer survey, could be trimmed.

Back in June, StatsCan estimated Canary seed area at 256,000 acres, 12% less than last year. Meanwhile insured acres from SCIC showed a small 2% increase in area. That may not seem like a big difference but on its own, would add roughly 20,000 tonnes to 2023 production. If we combine the larger SCIC-based acreage with the smaller Sask Ag yield, the 2023 crop would be 134,000 tonnes, 10,000 tonnes more than StatsCan's estimate. For a crop like Canary seed, a 10,000 tonne difference is large enough to be meaningful. No matter what, the 2023/24 crop is on the small side, historically. Please note that in the chart, the big production number for 2020/21 is related to a one-time adjustment made by StatsCan that should have been spread out over several prior years.

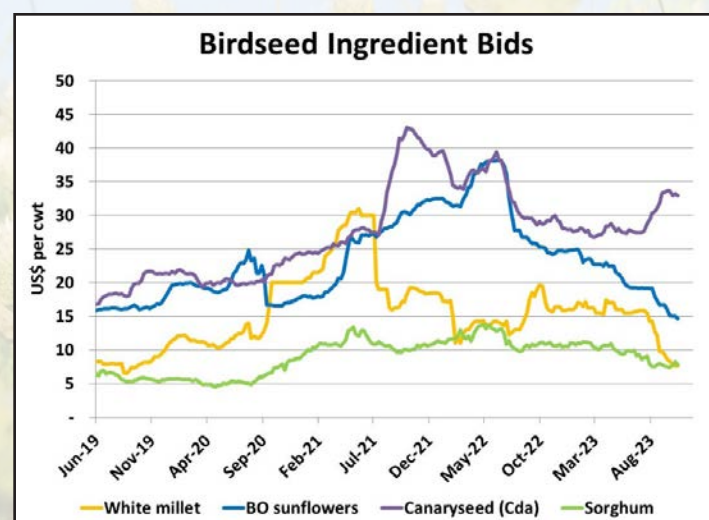


The other important StatsCan number is its estimate of Canary seed stocks for the end of 2022/23, at a fairly comfortable 55,000 tonnes. This, together with the 2023 crop would put supplies right around 200,000 tonnes. Over the past few years, exports and domestic use have averaged just over 160,000 tonnes, which means inventories should be able to meet demand without too much trouble.

Over the past few months, export demand for Canary seed has been on the softish side. In August 2023, exports were only 4,200 tonnes, less than half the average for the month. This follows below-average exports in the second half of 2022/23. It's still too early to get really concerned but is certainly something to watch. If demand doesn't bounce back to normal levels, prices would come under more pressure.

This is the time of year when Canary seed bids normally start to come off the harvest lows but so far, that hasn't been happening. Partly, that's because prices had already started their move higher in mid July in response to the developing drought in parts of the prairies. Since early September though, bids have moved sideways to slightly lower. Current bids around 45 cents (Cdn\$) per pound are still historically high but aren't at levels seen back in the 2021/22 drought year. Besides the normal seasonal influences, one factor that could be providing some support is that many Canary seed growers have high prices in mind and are reluctant to sell below the 45 cent level.

On the downside though, prices for other birdseed ingredients in the US have been dropping sharply in recent months, which leaves Canary seed as a more expensive part of the mix. Not all birdseed packagers will adjust their blends but for those who do, this would mean less Canary seed is needed and this loss of demand would be negative for prices.



Even if Canary seed demand faces some headwinds and prices are unable to follow the seasonal trend higher, we still expect a mostly steady market for the rest of 2023/24 as farmers will keep their crop binned. And if demand does pick up, there should be some opportunities to take advantage of small bumps in bids.

The Canary Seed News



THE CANARY SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MISSION:

To coordinate research and market use expansion for the advancement of the Canary seed industry for the benefit of growers and other stakeholders.

The Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan was established in 2006 under the Agri-Food Act, 2004.

**CANARY SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN (CSDCS)
& THE CANARY SEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (CSAC)**

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