

Canary Seed News

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



Message from the Chair

David Nobbs



As I write this, our last two loads of 2024 crop are headed out of our farmyard in Southwest Saskatchewan. We had a fairly average crop, but considering the dryness of the last five years, an average crop felt like a lot of work. Now, the planning starts for 2025. If only we could predict the timelines of rainfall as it was apparent, you can make all the right decisions, but mother nature rules the outcome.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance showed acreage of Canary seed increased by approximately 20% in 2024. StatsCan reported an increase of approximately 14%. These numbers are at least headed in a similar direction and provide some indication of a larger supply of product for our customers around the world. 2023 crop year sales were lower than the industry has seen in 20 years so we will hopefully see better demand in the upcoming months. Whenever you think you have this Canary market figured out, it has a tendency to humble us all!

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Saskatoon. The board made a decision to move this meeting out of the noise of Crop Production Week as we felt the meeting was lost in the hustle of the week. The previous two years we held the meeting in Regina. This year is at Saskatoon Inn on December 12, 2024. It would be great to see you there!

Join us for our annual meeting on December 12th.

Details are inside.

Come and experience a variety of alpiste-inspired dishes and delights.

Thank you to our alpiste ingredient partners:



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Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan Annual Meeting & Information Session

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Saskatoon Inn - 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

- 9:00 am Doors open. Coffee and snacks provided.
- 9:30 am Opening Comments
David Nobbs, Chair
- 9:45 am Alpiste Food Development Activities
Adele Buettner, AgriBiz Communications
- 10:15 am Impact of PGRs and Fungicides on Canary Seed
Bill May, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Indian Head
- 11:00 am Annual Business Meeting
- 11:30 am Market Outlook for Canary Seed & Competing Crops
Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research
- 12:30 pm Lunch featuring various alpiste foods

Please visit <https://cropweek.com/event/canary-seed/> and complete the online form no later than Friday, December 6 to register for either in-person or virtual attendance. 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.

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

For those who would like to book a guest room at the Saskatoon Inn the number to call is 306-242-1440. For information on the AGMs of other crop commissions, go to www.cropweek.com and www.saskcrops.com.

For additional information, please email office@canaryseed.ca or call 306-975-6624.

CSDCS Board Nomination Update

The Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan called for nominations for three open positions on the board of directors. Board members Jim Hale, Justin Korte, and Richard Lindsay either fulfilled their maximum term commitment or chose not to seek another term. We will miss their contributions directing the work of the CSDCS. Thank you all for your dedicated service.

No new nominations were received by the September 16th deadline. As a result, we have three open positions. These openings can be filled by Board appointment. Producers who are interested in becoming involved with the direction of the future work of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan should contact Executive Director Darren Yungmann or talk to us at our AGM on December 12th.

The CSDCS board meets about four times a year. Some business is conducted via email. Our summer meeting (July) usually includes a tour of some of our projects at the Agriculture Canada research facilities at Indian Head or the breeding work at the Crop Development Center at the U of S. Get involved. It's worth it.

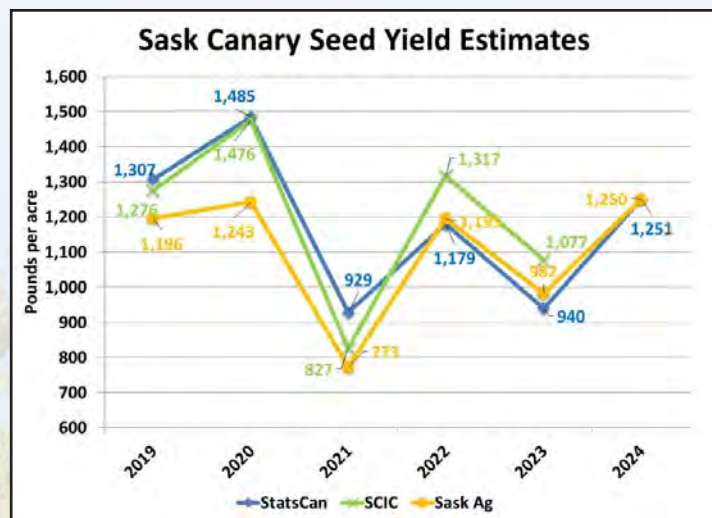
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Canary Seed Market Outlook

Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research

While the final numbers aren't tallied up yet, it looks like 2024 was a decent year for the Canary seed crop. Compared to some crops that didn't perform well this year, Canary seed yields were close to average or even a bit above. As always, there will be question marks about exact yield numbers, but this year's crop will be one of the largest in a while.

The latest 2024 yields from StatsCan and Sask Ag crop reports are almost identical at 1,250 lb/acre. This stacks up well compared to the last few years (depending on the source of information). In the last couple of years, StatsCan and Sask Ag yields have been fairly close but the yield numbers from Saskatchewan crop insurance (SCIC) have been considerably higher. This difference would help explain why StatsCan usually needs to bump up its crop estimates after the fact. It also suggests the actual 2024 yield could be even higher than the 1,250 pound estimate from StatsCan.

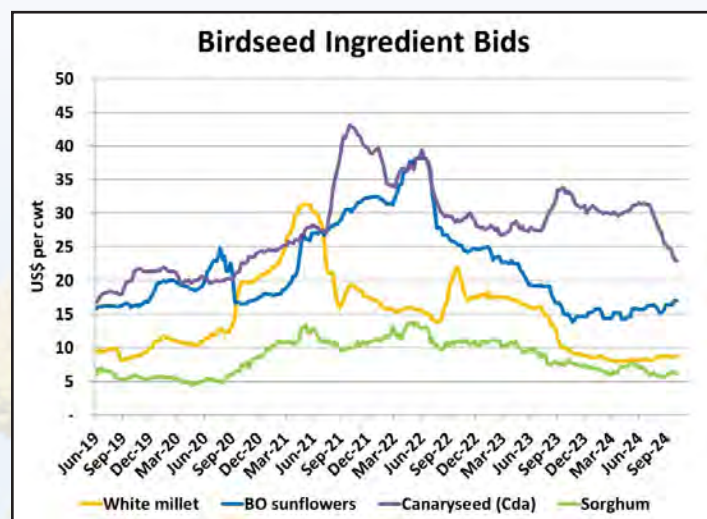


Regardless of the exact yield number, the 2024 Canary seed crop will be up sharply from last year and the largest since 2020. On top of the higher yield, StatsCan also showed a 14% increase in seeded area. The combination of these two factors would mean a 2024 crop of 162,000 tonnes, 50,000 tonnes (44%) larger than last year and will lead to heavier supplies.

The supply side of the equation likely won't be the most critical issue for Canary seed in 2024/25. At the best of times, large supplies aren't good for price prospects, but Canary seed demand was very soft in 2023/24. Exports were only 114,000 tonnes last year, well off the average of 150,000 tonnes. Volumes shipped to key destinations like

Mexico and the EU took a sizable hit last year. If demand doesn't recover in 2024/25, the market will feel very heavy.

One of the main reasons for the poor demand is that prices of other birdseed ingredients were very low. Where possible, birdseed packagers could reduce their costs by swapping out Canary seed and putting in other cheaper seeds into their blends. Prices for these other ingredients haven't shown any meaningful strength yet, but as Canary seed bids drop in western Canada, the price gap is shrinking. This should help bring Canary seed back into birdseed mixes, but as long as other seed prices remain low, Canary seed will have a hard time rallying.



If prices are going to get some support, it will likely need to come from farmers holding Canary seed off the market. That's not an unusual approach but it may require considerable patience this year. With a large 2024 crop now in the bin, the timing of a price recovery will depend on two main factors.

Not surprisingly, the first is the level of demand. Lower Canary seed prices should help encourage more buying but even if demand starts to pick up, it will take time for inventories to get drawn down to the point where bids need to start rising again. The other factor is the price expectations that farmers have. Average bids have now slipped to the low 30s but we expect some farmers will have 35 cents as a starting point. Others will be looking at 40 cents or even higher to unlock their bins. How strongly farmers hold to their "floor prices" will determine the longer-term outlook.

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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)**

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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