



Advancing Agriculture through Research

WGRF Members Update: For Distribution

2024 Annual General Meeting

The WGRF Annual Members' Meeting was held in Saskatoon on April 9, 2024. The 2023 financial statements were audited by Lingard + Dreger LLP. The auditor reported that the audit was clean and had no concerns with WGRF's processes. The 2023 WGRF Annual Report is available on the [WGRF website](#) and will be mailed out to all member organizations.

As noted in the Chair's Report, in 2023, WGRF invested over \$12.9 million into breeding, crop research, and building research capacity on behalf of western Canadian producers. Reiter also noted that WGRF has already committed nearly \$49 million to research and capacity from 2024-2030.

Since 1981, WGRF has funded more than \$240 million of research in field crops of interest to western Canadian farmers. The Board consists of 14 Directors, all farmers from across western Canada who grow a variety of crops across various soil zones throughout Western Canada. The diversity of their farming experiences, regional locations, soil textures and crops provide great perspective for the Board to direct investments into research projects that show the most potential to benefit western Canadian grain farmers.

Members elected the following individuals to the WGRF Board for 2024/25:

2024 WGRF Board of Directors

Adam Littman, Saltcoats, SK
Alan Hampton, Rowley, AB
Chris Procyk, Fillmore SK
Dave Bishop, Barons, AB
Doug Martin, East Selkirk, MB
Jack Froese, Winkler, MB
Keith Degenhardt, Hughenden, AB

Kenton Possberg, Humboldt, SK
Kevin Auch, Carmangay, AB
Laura Reiter, Radisson, SK
Malcolm Odermatt, Fort St. John, BC
Maurice Berry, Carievale, SK
Terry Boehm, Allan, SK
Wade Hainstock, Moose Jaw, SK

WGRF would like to thank outgoing directors Greg Sundquist, Jeff Neilsen, Jill Verwey, and Robert (Bob) Kennedy for their commitment and contribution to WGRF.

WGRF Re-Elects Board Chair and Vice Chair

At the first meeting of the new Board following the 2024 AGM, Laura Reiter of Radisson, Saskatchewan was re-elected as the Chair of WGRF. Kevin Auch of Carmangay, Alberta was re-elected as the Vice-Chair.

The following Directors were elected to positions on WGRF Committees:

Chair: Laura Reiter

Vice-Chair: Kevin Auch

Executive Committee: Laura Reiter, Kevin Auch, Dave Bishop, Adam Littman, Jack Froese

Research Committee: Malcolm Odermatt (Chair), Alan Hampton, Chris Procyk, Wade Hainstock, Keith Degenhardt, Doug Martin

Governance Committee: David Bishop (Chair), Maurice Berry, Kenton Possberg, Alan Hampton, Kevin Auch

Investment Committee: Wade Hainstock (Chair), Adam Littman, Kenton Possberg, Jack Froese,

Audit Committee: Adam Littman (Chair), Kevin Auch, Terry Boehm

WGRF Membership Changes

The Western Barley Growers Association (WGBA) is currently in the process of winding down its operations. Consequently, WGBA will no longer maintain its membership with the WGRF.

During the 2024 Annual General Meetings of SaskCanola and SaskFlax, both entities voted in favor of pursuing amalgamation. The amalgamation process is currently underway, which triggered the requirement that SaskFlax membership with WGRF end.

WGRF acknowledges and appreciates the dedication of the farmers from WBGA and SaskFlax who have served on the WGRF Board throughout the years.

Currently, WGRF has 14 Class A members: Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Alberta Federation of Agriculture, Alberta Grains, BC Grain Producers Association, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canadian Seed Growers Association, Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Crop Alliance, National Farmers Union, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Wheat Growers Association, Western Pulse Growers.

WGRF Invests \$2.4 Million in Wheat Cluster Research

On March 6, 2024 WGRF was pleased to announce a commitment of more than \$2.4 million in funding for the Canadian National Wheat Cluster in collaboration with the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) AgriScience program. This investment underscores WGRF's dedication to advancing wheat breeding and agronomy. The Wheat Cluster is being administered by the CWRC. The total value of wheat research funded under the five-year Cluster exceeds \$20 million, making it a significant investment in advancing wheat innovation.





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Prairie Weed Monitoring Network

Through the new Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster, WGRF has been helping with the development of the Prairie Weed Monitoring Network (PWMN). The project is being led by Dr. Charles Geddes. The goal will be to implement a comprehensive weed biovigilance strategy, including weed monitoring, risk assessment, and forecasting. This is a great opportunity to help provide farmers, agronomists and the agricultural industry with information required to manage weeds effectively, anticipate new weed threats to farming systems, and mitigate selection pressure for herbicide-resistant weeds. The website **Prairieweeds.com** will be live in the spring of 2024.

New Season of the Pest and Predators Podcast



Season 5 of the Beneficial Insect's podcast Pest and Predators launched on March 18, 2024 you can listen to all episodes here: <https://www.youtube.com/@fieldheroes9621>

Your support and membership in WGRF are greatly appreciated. To learn more about what is happening at WGRF or if you have any questions about the information in this update, please contact:

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