

Progressive Pulse Crops

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New Chairman David Neuharth

In November 2015, South Dakota Pulse Crop Council members elected David Neuharth from Ft. Pierre, SD, as Chairman for a one-year term.

Neuharth hopes to achieve several goals before the end of his term. One is to continue funding the field trials conducted by SDSU Agronomist Chris Graham. Locations for this year's test plots include Blunt, Dakota Lakes, Ft Thompson, Selby, and Wall.

The Council chose to fund Graham's research with five test plots including 27 varieties which will include protein testing. Also included will be three test plots for lentils.

Chairman Neuharth looks forward to the outcome of the 2016 year's crop!

Pulse Processing Plant Progress

Steve Brown, President and CEO of the SD Pulse Processors, was eager to share the progress at the new plant going up near Harold.

"Seventeen containers will be shipped this week from Turkey filled with new equipment for the plant," said Brown, "and should arrive in May." Two modular buildings will also be arriving in three weeks or so to provide offices and employee break area.

The railroad crew should be able to finish the line by the end of May about the time the equipment should arrive. "Everything is timing!" says Brown. If all goes well they hope to be able to take Yellow Peas and Red Lentils sometime in July. They will provide spot prices once the doors open and no contracts will be signed until the plant is up and running.

Beginning in April, Brown hopes to start hiring several employees to include a Plant Manager, Agronomist, Scale Clerk, and Maintenance person. The plant will be able to provide a good salary and/or flex hours to attract suitable employees. Please contact Steve call 1-720-635-8839 cell for more information.

Please see photos of the plant progress on page 3.

Field Pea Meeting Roundup

By Ruth Beck

A field pea production meeting held January 14th in Pierre drew a lot of interest and has generated some post meeting questions. This article will help people interested in growing field peas find information that will help them be successful.

First, I encourage those interested to check out the results of the 2015 SDSU Field Pea Variety Trials. These, along with prior year results, can be found at <http://igrow.org/agronomy/other-crops/field-pea-variety-trial-results/>. It is not always possible to find good quality seed of the variety you want.

I suggest selecting a few varieties with decent yields. NDSU includes more information regarding each variety in their Variety Trial Results. It does not hurt to check that information if you are dealing with variety options. The additional information included in the NDSU guide could prove helpful with variety choices. An internet search for the North Dakota Dry Pea Variety Trial Results for 2015 and Selection Guide should bring up that document. Most yellow pea varieties have some tolerance to powdery mildew and often yield a little better in South Dakota.

SDSU and the SD Pulse Growers have a new publication titled "Production and Utilization of Field Peas in South Dakota." This guide can be

found online at <http://igrow.org/up/resources/03-2004-2015.pdf>. There is a lot of good information in this brochure and I encourage growers to download and use it.

These two organizations have also partnered to produce two videos on field pea production which are available at the iGrow YouTube channel. The best way to find those is to go to iGrow.org and look for the link "Visit Our YouTube Channel." Follow that link and type "growing field peas" in the search bar. This should bring up the videos; one on seeding and one on harvesting field peas.

The SD Pulse Growers Association also has their own website: www.sdpulsegrowers.com. This site has links to many of the above mentioned documents and videos on the "production page." Just look for that link on the right hand side of the home page. Other information that can be found here includes seed producers and buyers, some pictures and other information regarding all aspects of pulse crop production. Contact ruth.beck@sdstate.edu for more information.

Call the SDSU Regional Extension Center at 605-773-8120 to confirm dates and locations of any upcoming meetings.

International Year of Pulses

In December 2013, the United Nations declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). This announcement was made after significant campaigning by the international pulse community led by CICILS IPTIC (Global Pulse Confederation).

The IYP 2016 aims to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and

nutrition. The Year will create a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, better utilize crop rotations and address the challenges in the trade of pulses.



Variety Trials for Peas and Lentils

by Christopher Graham

Over the past few years, SDSU agronomists have held Field Pea and Lentil variety trials across the central and western portions of the state through generous funding by the SD Pulse Council. The 2015 Field Pea Variety Trials consisted of five sites: Bison, Blunt, Dakota Lakes, Selby, and Wall. In total, 26 varieties (22 yellow and four green) were tested. Various seed companies located around the Upper Great Plains enter these varieties, typically those that they sell or are in development.

Across all sites, the trial average was 43 bushels per acre, with a range of 35 – 50 bushels/acre. The highest yielding site was Blunt with a trial average of 60 bushels/acre and a range of 49-74 bushels/acre. This range (25 bushels/acre) highlights the fact that variety selection is incredibly important.

Weather played a significant role in this year's growing season. Planting occurred in extremely dry conditions for most of the sites. Dry conditions led to delayed and uneven ger-

mination in some cases. As the spring progressed, the weather shifted to generally wet conditions. Combined with rising temperatures, powdery mildew was seen in the central part of the state. Hail damage was recorded at the Dakota Lakes site, which may have affected yields somewhat.

In general, however, yields were strong as Field Peas are well adapted to the variable climate of western South Dakota. These trials will continue during the 2016 growing season. Field peas will be grown at Blunt, Dakota Lakes, Ft. Thompson, Selby, and Wall. Lentil variety trials will be planted at Ft. Thompson and Wall.

For full details of the 2015 Variety trials and previous year's results, visit our iGrow website at: <http://igrow.org/agronomy/other-crops/field-pea-variety-trial-results/>.

Any other questions regarding these trials can be directed to Chris Graham, SDSU Agronomist, christopher.graham@sdstate.edu.



Pictures of the Pulse Processing Plant being built at Harrold

SD Pulse Crops Council Members

David Neuharth, Chair, Ft. Pierre
Brad Karlen, Reliance
Terry Ness, Pierre
Kent Kinkler, Onida
Raymond Roghair, Wall
Caren Assman, Executive Director
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Pulse Growers Board of Directors

Raleigh Leesman, Canning
Brad Karlen, Reliance
Terry Ness, Pierre
Marv Schumacher, Pierre
Leo Vojta, Mobridge
Ruth Beck, Executive Secretary
605-773-8120

South Dakota Pulse Crops Council

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Changes for SD Pulse Crop Council

Executive Director Caren Assman was hired in May 2015 and brings 30 years of experience to the position. "I truly look forward to working with the Council members and producers of the pulse industry," said Assman. "The future looks extremely positive!"

One of Assman's first duties was to welcome new Council member Raymond Roghair. He has a family farm near Okaton, SD, and has been actively involved in agriculture for over 40 years. Raymond runs a no-till crop rotation of 11 to 12 different crops. He has included pulse crops in that rotation for 12 to 13 years. His most recent pulse crop is peas and he has grown lentils in the past.

He has served on the Scovil Township Board for over 30 years, on the Okaton Evangelical Church Board for over 20 years, and has taught Sunday school for 40 years. He served on the Farmers Union Coop Board in the past and spent 10 years as a track coach at Jones County Schools. He attended SDSU and received a double major in Agronomy and Animal Science.

Roghair was interested in becoming a Pulse Commissioner because he feels pulse crops are needed for a successful rotation and are very important to good soil health.



Raymond Roghair and Caren Assman

Please mark your calendar...

- The Dakota Lakes Research Farm Field Day is set for June 30th beginning at 3:00 p.m. The research farm is located 17 miles east of Pierre on Highway 34.
- Tours of the SDSU Pea Variety Trials near Harrold and the SDSU Pea and Lentil Variety Trial sites near Fort Thompson are currently being planned. Dates will be announced in early June.