

Participatory Plant Breeding

Greetings! We hope that this newsletter finds you well and that you had a good growing season. A big thank you goes out to all of the farmer breeders for your hard work this season. This project wouldn't be a success without your participation and enthusiasm.

This summer we had the opportunity to meet many of the farmer breeders and we really enjoyed learning more about your farming operations and about how you have been growing your PPB populations. Every farm is different, so it is useful for us to know more about your crop rotation, environmental conditions, and what plant characteristics you select for. There were a few farms that we were not able to make it out to this year or last, but we hope to have the chance to visit next summer.

Upcoming events

Organic Connections Conference, Regina, SK - Martin Entz and Gary Martens will be speaking in the agronomy room on Saturday, November 8 on building functional organic farms

ECOSGN Seed Connections Conference, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC - Anne Kirk will be speaking about the PPB program in a session on participatory plant breeding for ecological grains on Sunday, November 9



F3 wheat population near Glentworth, SK



Second year of selection in a potato population in southern MB.

Sending in wheat and oat samples

If you haven't done so already, please make arrangements with Anne to send your samples to the University of Manitoba for threshing and cleaning.

When your samples are boxed up and ready to be sent in, send me an email with the following information and I will arrange to have a courier pick them up at your farm.

- Location (address, emergency number, or legal land location)
- Directions to your farm, if needed
- Where the box will be left (you are not required to be home, the courier can pick it up on your front steps)
- Your phone number

Please address the box to:

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Potato update

The second year of potato selections went well, and for the most part the farmers participating in this program are happy with their selections. We have heard from a few farmers that their potato populations stored better than their typical potato varieties and that they performed really well in the field.

The six farmers participating in this program selected anywhere from 4 to 40 tuber units to move forward to the third year of selections. All tubers from each selected tuber unit are currently in storage on-farm. Next year a portion of the selected tuber units will be planted on-farm and a portion will be planted on a research farm to further evaluate these populations for disease resistance as well as boiling and baking quality.

Would you like to be involved in the potato program?

For farmers that would like to be involved in the potato program there may be tubers available for planting in 2015. This will be confirmed in December of this year.

We are also happy to announce that Duane Falk, retired cereal breeder from the University of Guelph, is going to be providing potato populations to interested farmer-breeders in the spring of 2016. As well as being a cereal breeder, Duane has considerable experience in potato breeding so we are very happy to have him involved in this program.

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We are looking for your feedback on parents for the wheat, oat and potato programs!

Do you have a favourite variety that you would like to see used as a parent in a cross? If so, we would like to hear about it! When deciding on new crosses for the PPB program input from farmers is really valuable to ensure that we are developing populations that are suited to your needs. New wheat and oat crosses are currently underway in the greenhouse, and planting for the next round of crosses will take place in January 2015. Please send your suggestions for new crosses as soon as possible so that there is time to source seed.



Oat population planted near Lac La Biche, AB.



Oat populations planted within an oat field near Freetown, PEI.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments about the participatory plant breeding program.

Thank you for your participation!

Anne Kirk and Martin Entz

Contact Anne at 204-474-6236 or Anne.Kirk@umanitoba.ca

Contact Martin at 204-474-6077 or M.Entz@umanitoba.ca