



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### April 6

Field to Market Canada  
Stonewall, MB

#### April to October

CropTalk  
2023 Growing Season  
Virtual via Zoom platform

#### August 9

Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre  
MCDC Annual Field Day  
Carberry, MB

### MCDC Extends Research Findings at the Spring Production Meeting 2023

The 2023 Spring Production Meeting held on Thursday, March 23 in the Canad Inns Destination Centre, Portage la Prairie. This well attended event is organized and hosted by the Keystone Potato Producers Association (KPPA) every year. The topics addressed by the speakers were selected taking into account the needs of growers, according to the principal organizer of the seminar; MaryAnn Sareault. The issues covered include: production economics, soil health, water management, pests and diseases. The research team from the MCDC shared research-based economics of pest and nutrients management in potatoes and presented outcomes of its potato and crop diversification focused studies. The event attracts growers, researchers, academic institutions, and industry organizations with opportunities of knowledge transfer, networking and collaboration.



Annual reports and individual reports for all experiments are available on the DC's website at [mbdiversificationcentres.ca](http://mbdiversificationcentres.ca).

## KPPA ANNOUNCES HIRING OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Keystone Potato Producers Association (KPPA) Board has announced the hiring of Susan Ainsworth as its next General Manager. Outgoing GM Dan Sawatzky states that Susan's past experience and exposure within the potato industry makes her a perfect choice. Susan has B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba and recently completed the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Cape Breton University. The General Manager for Keystone Potato Producers Association also serves as Board Chair for the MCDC located in Carberry. The Keystone Potato Producers Association, McCain Foods Canada, Simplot Canada II, and four local potato and grain producers constitute the board of MCDC.



## YEAR IN REVIEW FOR MCDC RESEARCH & EXTENSION

During the 2022 growing season, the Crop Diversification program of MCDC conducted 48 research and demonstration projects on cereals, forages, oilseeds, pulses, special crops, and potatoes in collaboration with Manitoba Agriculture, AAFC, academic institutions (University of Manitoba, Assiniboine Community College), producer groups and industry partners. Over 3,000 research and demonstration plots were maintained during this period. MCDC is one of many sites that are part of the Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Trials (MCVET), which facilitates variety evaluations of many different crop types in the province. MCDC conducted winter wheat, fall rye, flax, soybeans, field peas, sunflowers, and annual forages trials for MCVET with the focus on varietal evaluations.

MCDC partnered with AAFC to study the effect of fertilizer management on dry beans' agronomic and economic performance in collaboration with Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers. In collaboration with AAFC Ottawa, MCDC conducted projects with the focus on Climate Change Resilience to develop and release early maturing cold tolerant corn inbreds, corn variety evaluation, and Goss's Wilt disease evaluation. MCDC conducted protein focused research to support the Manitoba's protein strategy. In this category, a number of trials were conducted on field peas, soybeans, dry beans, peas-cereals inter-cropping, hemp-cereals inter-cropping, spring wheat, winter wheat, annual forages, corn silage, and potatoes with a focus on quantification of protein contents and yield benefits of intensive management practices.

Project description and results for all 48 research projects and demonstrations have been published in the MCDC's Annual Research Report and Annual Extension Report. These annual reports and individual reports for all experiments are available on the DC's website ([mbdiversificationcentres.ca](http://mbdiversificationcentres.ca)).

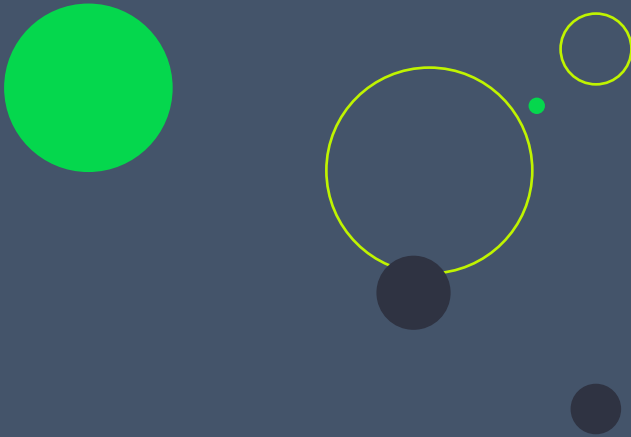




**PESAI ATTENDED BROKENHEAD RIVER AG CONFERENCE**

The Prairies East Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Inc. (PESAI) staff attended the Brokenhead River Agricultural Conference in Beausejour in February. The event yielded over 250 attendees with a large demographic of whom being local producers. PESAI had a trade show booth at the event. The team was pleased with the amount of visitors interested in the work being carried out at the PESAI site. At the booth, PESAI handed out promotional stuff including socks, sunglasses and pens. PESAI also had a raffle draw for a 12v booster pack with over 50 entries. A young farmer from the area was the winner and we know he will be able to put the prize to good use!

The conference hosted a number of guest speakers specialized in the agricultural industry. Talks included soil health, agronomy, weed control and marketing. Overall, it was a very good mixture of topics related to the current farming issues. PESAI was able to meet local producers and few members of our board of directors to discuss land rental options for the 2023 growing season. PESAI is talking to Beausejour producers to secure land for new variety trials like Grain Corn and Sunflowers.



**“Agriculture Conferences are a hotspot for networking with research collaborators and industry partners”, says Nirmal Hari (PESAI).**



## GETTING IT RIGHT

The Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers Association (MPSGA) hosted their flagship event called “Getting it Right” at the Portage la Prairie Canad Inns conference venue held on March 8. The Producers from MPSGA membership were invited to attend a series of rotating round table talks with several speakers.

The Applied Research Specialist, Scott Chalmers from the Westman Agricultural Diversification Organization (WADO) was invited to speak about the “Successes and Lessons of intercropping”. Scott discussed several good options for intercrops including pea-canola, pea-mustard, pea-oat, fababeans-oat and corn-hairy vetch for grazing. Not so good options are just as important to discuss which were flax-soybean, flax-fababeans, corn-hairy vetch for grain or silage, and winter wheat soybean relay. Scott suggested a top thirteen things to consider before intercropping:

1. Do you have the time or labour?
2. Are the crops compatible? (similar maturities, similar pesticides, harvestability, etc.).
3. Are there marketing constraints & buyer concerns (allergens, contaminants, purity, splits, residues)?
4. Consider your crop rotation.
5. Are the pesticides registered and have you considered weed resistance on your farm?
6. Is there available soil moisture, and what’s your soil residual nutrient levels?
7. Harvest & Cleaning & Residue Management Equipment – Function and Capacity.
8. What is your seeding equipment abilities (tanks, hose distribution, openers)
9. Crop Insurance –Novel Crops Insurance or Poly Crop Establishment Insurance available at MASC.
10. Determine your return on investment.
11. Look for BMP funding if available.
12. Start small if you are new or experimenting!
13. Always use a check strip to compare the “what if scenario.”

To find out more information on intercropping, please contact the Diversification Centres or the Applied Research Specialist Scott Chalmers at email address [Scott.Chalmers@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Scott.Chalmers@gov.mb.ca).

Remember, a well thought out plan is the key to success.

