

THE GROAT

Manitoba Buckwheat Growers Association Inc.
February 2021

MANITOBA BUCKWHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday March 10, 2021

Virtual meeting program starts at 9:00 am
To join the assembly, please contact 204 825-8054
so a weblink can be emailed to you

Program agenda includes the following:

- Reports
- Website
- Director elections

2020 production highlights

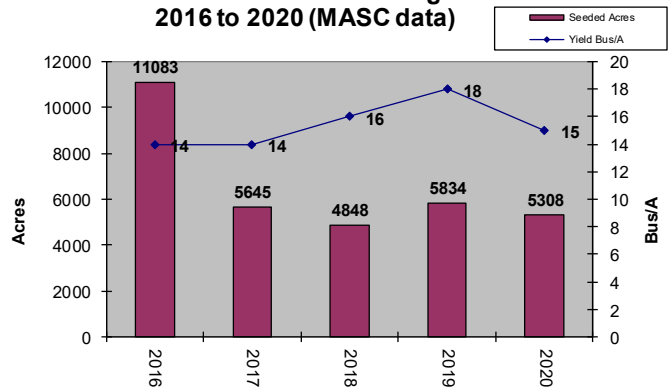
In 2020, Manitoba buckwheat harvested acreage reported to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) was to around 5308 acres. This number typically captures 85 to 90 % of the acres seeded to crops in Manitoba so actual acreage should therefore be higher than the reported acres. This compares to reported harvested acres of 5,834 in 2019 or a decrease of almost 9%. The number of growers reporting increased from 34 to 40 in those years. As a result the number of acres harvested per producer dropped from 172 to 133 acres.

As seen in the graph below, the number of reported acres harvested in Manitoba has been relatively steady over the last four years.

Main risks involved in growing buckwheat remain production related, lower profitability compared to other crops and the lack of pricing for export contracts. In 2020 growing conditions were generally dryer than normal across most of the province. This follows two years of below normal precipitation during the growing season except that in the fall of 2019 higher than normal precipitation helped to recharge sub soil moisture for the 2020 growing season.

In the North West region where much of the buckwheat acres are now concentrated in Manitoba, seasonal precipitation was near normal to above normal. Harvest conditions were dry for much of the province. Average

Manitoba Buckwheat Acreage and Yield
2016 to 2020 (MASC data)



reported yield of 15 bus/a for 2020 is below the long term average yield of 17 bus/a.

Sources of information for variety performance include the Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Team (MCVET) small plot replicated and randomized trials published in **Seed Manitoba** annually. As well, the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (**MASC**) database uses growers' actual yield results reported annually by variety and acres. The limitation for the **MASC** database is the small amount of acres for buckwheat to provide good comparable variety performance.

https://www.masc.mb.ca/masc.nsf/mpp_browser_variety.html

Remembering Lorne Kyle



Tragically the morning of December 24, 2020, Lorne along with his spouse Midge passed away in the fire of their residence in Morden. We wish to extend sincere condolences to the family and friends.

Lorne became involved with the buckwheat growers at a buckwheat growers gathering back around 1994. Further meetings of the group formed what became the Manitoba Buckwheat Growers Association Inc. Lorne was a founding member and continued to serve diligently as director all along.

Lorne recognized the value in the people he worked with and was surrounded by. On many occasions Lorne would say that the best decision he ever made was to marry his beloved wife Midge.

Lorne was a doer and he often supported plans and motions at meetings by saying "Let's do it" or "I'm in". During a recent telephone conversation with Lorne, he said he wished he was 20 years younger so he could do more of what he believed would benefit growers and the industry.

While thinking of Lorne during this difficult time reminds me of this quote: In this world of give and take, there are too few people willing to give what it takes. Lorne was one of those few people who were willing to give what it takes to make things work.

Lorne and Midge, you are greatly missed.

Missed seeing you at Ag Days

2021 was to be the 44th edition of the largest Western Canadian indoor farm show at the Keystone Center in Brandon. Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 pandemic, it was not to be.

The Association has been a regular exhibitor at Ag Days for many years in an effort to promote buckwheat production and consumption by offering cookies or small groat samples with recipes included on how to use buckwheat.

Association directors were present at the booth during the 3 days of the show so anyone interested could find out more about this crop.

In the interim, a website has been launched in January 2021 putting the Association within reach to anyone looking for information on growing and consuming buckwheat.

You can now visit us at mbbuckwheat.ca

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MANITOBA BUCKWHEAT GROWERS INC. 2020 EXECUTIVE

Marc Durand, President	Notre-Dame	248-2268	Cam Stockford, Vice-Pres.	Altamont	744-2207
Lorne Kyle, Director	Morden	822-4396	David Huyber, Director	Langruth	445-2285
Syd Puchailo, Director	Grandview	546-2074	Albert Dohan, Director	Ethelbert	742-3746
Les McEwan, Director	Altamont	744-2344	Ben Fyk, Director	Garland	742-3533
Lee Anne Murphy	Winnipeg		Dan DeRuyck	Treherne	526-2066