

## Soybean Report

May 2007

### NEW RELATIONSHIPS INITIATED DURING CSC OUTGOING PROGRAM

The Canadian Soybean Council (CSC) held its first annual outgoing program to Japan and Vietnam February 23 to March 8, 2007. The program was designed to explore and develop new market opportunities for the export of Canadian soybeans and featured stops in Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. A five-member delegation represented Canada's soybean industry.

**Participants this year were:** Jim Gowland, CSC Chair; Michelle McMullen, Ontario Soybean Growers; Dr. Lorna Woodrow, Research Scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; P. Marc Ham, Canadian Soybean Exporters Association Representative; and Dr. Linda Malcolmson, Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI).

Participants met with Embassy officials at each stop along the mission to learn more about the international soy market. Mission delegates met with soyfood companies to exchange information, learn and understand individual company needs, and discuss future opportunities. Company meetings in Japan also included facility tours.

"Meeting with individual companies provided an excellent opportunity for Canada's soybean industry to initiate relationships with new potential customers," said Gowland. "It is anticipated that these new relationships will lead to new business opportunities for Canadian exporters."

Information seminars were held in Sapporo and Ho Chi Minh City. Topics covered in the seminars included: IP soybean production in Canada; soybean handling and processing; advantages of Canadian soybeans; soybean quality research; and new soybean products. Both seminars were well attended, with over 50 people attending in Sapporo and 20 individuals present in Ho Chi Minh City.



Delegates of the CSC mission to Japan and Vietnam met with potential buyers of Canadian soybeans for food processing. Left to right: Michelle McMullen, Sakata-san of Sakata Foods, Linda Malcolmson, P. Marc Ham, and Jim Gowland

### GRAIN FARMER COALITION ELECTS NEW LEADERS

The Coalition representing 41,000 grain farmers in Ontario and Quebec is under new leadership.

William Van Tassel, 1st Vice President of Federation des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Quebec (FPCCQ), and Walt Charbonneau, Past Chair of the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario will lead the Ontario-Quebec Grain Farmers' Coalition as President and Vice President respectively.

"The Coalition will continue to actively lobby the federal government to provide regional flexibility in federal program funding that is earmarked for grain and oilseed farmers," says Van Tassel. "We're asking that money targeted to provide income support for grain and oilseed farmers should be delivered through companion programs so as to eliminate waste and ad-hoc delivery of funds."

The Coalition sees recent budget announcements as steps in the right direction, especially the \$1 billion toward reforming the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program.

"CAIS benefits price cyclical agricultural sectors, but penalizes grain and oilseed farmers who face persistently declining margins due to unfair international subsidies," says Charbonneau. "We want to work with government to strengthen Canada's farming industry and develop innovative farm programs to replace CAIS."

The Coalition seeks a national income support program with regional flexibility so that Provinces can design programs to meet specific local needs. For grain and oilseed farmers this will mean long-term income stability and predictability. Companion programming would provide long term, bankable solutions to farmers.

Farmers would share the costs and risks with government, and farmers would be paid only when the average world price falls below target price.

Other Committee members include Leo Guilbeault, Chair of Ontario Grains & Oilseeds, Benoit Legault, directeur-général, FPCCQ, Dale Mountjoy, President of Ontario Corn Producers' Association, and Peter Tuinema, Manager of Programs and Policy at Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board.



### PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2007

By Horst Bohner, OMAFRA Soybean Specialist



#### Soybean Seed Quality:

A wet fall last year resulted in more seed borne diseases than usual, especially phomopsis seed decay. Severely infected seeds are small, discoloured with a shriveled seed coat (see picture).

However, seed lots with low levels of infection may show no symptoms but still are affected. Phomopsis reduces both germination and vigour. Each year there is a considerable amount of bin-run seed that is not tested for germination or vigour. There have been reports of seed lots with 90% germination but vigour as low as 50% due to these diseases. With the use of a fungicide seed treatment like Vitaflow, Max/Apron, or Anchor these seed lots can be significantly improved. A fungicide seed treatment may be well worth the investment this year!

#### When to plant?

The ideal time to plant soybeans in southwestern Ontario is the middle of May. This allows for significant vegetative growth before flowering but reduces exposure to some of the harsher weather of early spring. Considerable yield potential is lost when planting is delayed past the 25th of May. However, regardless of the date growers must remember that the ground must also be fit. Make the decision to plant based on field conditions and the forecast. A cold heavy rain immediately following planting will cause emergence problems.

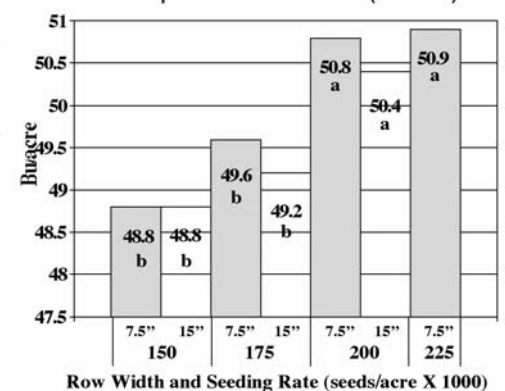
#### Planting Depth:

In Ontario soybeans are frequently planted too deep while corn is sometimes not planted deep enough. Aim for a depth of 1 inch for early planting and 1.5 inches for later planting. Only in dry conditions should you set the planter deeper. The seed should be planted about 0.5 inches into moisture. The goal is to have good seed-to-soil contact and a closed seed slot. For no-till fields Ontario research has shown that operating no-till coulters at 3 inches provides a 1 bu/ac advantage over no coulters or operating coulters at planting depth. The actual seed was still planted at 1.5 inches.

#### What's the Right Seeding Rate?

With increasing seed costs there is interest in lowering seeding rates. But, recent OSG sponsored seeding rate trials have shown that significantly lowering seeding rates reduces yields. For both 15" and 7.5" rows seeded with a drill highest yields were achieved with a seeding rate of 200 000 seeds/acre – please refer to graph 1. When using a planter in 15" rows highest economic returns were found at 150 000 seeds/acre.

Yield Response of 28 Trials (05 -06)



### PREPARING FOR SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

By Alberta Tenuta, OMAFRA Field Crop Plant Pathologist

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is an ever-present threat to soybeans and as the planting season arrives it is important for growers to be aware and diligent in the prevention of this disease. OMAFRA, CFIA and AAFC will continue to collect soil samples in 2007 from Ontario counties where SCN has not previously been detected. Initial results from the 2006 survey indicate that SCN continues to spread to new areas of the province. The CFIA and OMAFRA are presently examining these results and this information will help in 2007. Early detection of SCN into these new areas is critical while SCN populations are low. This allows OMAFRA and the OSG to target activities and implement management strategies thereby preventing the dramatic losses in yield and quality that occurred in southwestern Ontario when the disease was first detected.

Preventative measures can be taken to combat SCN. Growers should remember to rotate soybeans with non-legume crops (corn, wheat, etc), use SCN resistant varieties (rotating SCN varieties and different sources of resistance such as Peking), soil test and scout fields to determine your own SCN populations.

Need the latest information on diseases and insects? Check these websites out!

The Ontario Soybean Growers website has updates and maps throughout the summer on soybean rust and aphids. Just click on the rust or aphid icon on the OSG homepage ([www.soybean.on.ca](http://www.soybean.on.ca)). The OSG website is linked into the USDA PIPE (Pest Information Platform for Extension & Education) website at [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) which tracks these pests throughout North America.

The North Central Soybean Research Program has a very comprehensive website with both research and extension materials for the most common disease, insect and other agronomic problems for soybeans. Besides the 12 states in the North Central Region you will also find links to Ontario information at [www.planthealth.info](http://www.planthealth.info).