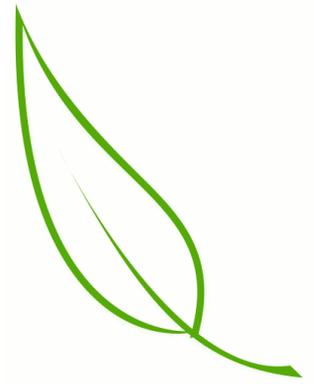




January Report

2018

Brad Alexander



Drones/Satellites/IR Imaging

- Jon has made the purchase of a Phantom 4 Pro Drone. He got a far better deal than I could have.
- There are several companies that offer commercial and agricultural drone certification training. I should attend one of these courses in order to cover our butts. Agconair.com is the most Ag focused program locally. Courses average **\$600-\$800**.
- At the WASGA meeting **Dr. Elvira Simone** gave a very interesting talk on the use of drones for targeted release of beneficial insects. Her big advice is that we should be prepared for the drone/camera to become obsolete "**faster than an iPhone**". The data will be useful for longer, but the equipment is just progressing at an incredible speed. **(We should have her talk)**
- Skymatics is offering training as well. This would include the use of their crop damage application.

AFIN Presentation

- AFIN has asked for someone from ASCA to present at their AGM in Leduc on March 6th.
- They are looking for a 10-15min presentation on the alfalfa seed industry and what we are doing.
- If nobody else wants to do it I don't mind presenting

Peace River AGM

- I have been asked to give a couple of talks at the Peace Region Forage Seed Association AGM on March 15-16. They will cover travel and lodging

Vapona Monitoring

- The unit costs **\$5808.6**
- It will **not** detect any pesticides or Paraformaldehyde.
- See the link for specifications.
http://www.raesystems.com/sites/default/files/content/resources/Technical-Note-106_A-Guideline-for-Pid-Instrument-Response_0.pdf
- This is the only way to accurately compare the effects of Vapona on incubating bees, to other forms of control.

Peace Forage Seeds Project

- In talking with Boyd Mori about this project I feel more positive about it.
- Hector Carcamo (AAFC-Lethbridge) is on board to help monitor alfalfa sites in southern Alberta and to carry out some preliminary research on insecticide resistance.

- Boyd specializes in insect pest genetics and is hoping to use this trial as a springboard to further government research into the alfalfa weevil resistance. He plans to capture and genetically classify the “new weevils” versus the old ones and identify new chemical control options.
- The original trial was asking for **\$3000/year X 5Years = \$15,000**, however that cost will increase with the new additions to the trial layout.
- The Budget would need to increase to include the salary for a summer student (\$11,000/year) and some additional materials and supplies for the genetics work (\$3,000/year).

PGRs

- The results of last year’s greenhouse trial suggest that the PGR products, **A-Rest, Cycocel, and B-Nine** could be used for a reduction in overall internodal space in alfalfa. This could result in a shorter plant and less lodging without affecting the traits of the resulting seeds.
- The trial also showed positive results with the use of GA3 to significantly increase **flower set, seed set, and seed size**, when used in the later stages of growth.
- We would like to start field trials this year. The ideal fields would be brand new (1st Year) but we can make due if need with what we have (I don’t expect many acres are going in this year).



PGRProposal.docx

- See attached preliminary trial plan →

Weevils

- Paul still needs fields in rosemary for pesticide trials.
- A good way to make some cash while seed is in a slump
- Pesticide will **not** be applied while bees are out.

Spring Meeting

- Steve Evert can come talk on the IR imaging projects that his team is working on, including the center pivot imaging system. If you want him to present we have already started the balls rolling.
- Dr. Elvira Simone Is working with drones delivering beneficial insects to hotspots.
- Jim Cane from the Logan Bee Lab is a good presenter.

Matador

- The proposed re-evaluation decision for Lambda-cyhalothrin is to CANCEL the following uses by commercial applicators and growers:
 - All uses on food and feed commodities
 - Indoor residential uses
- Risk of concern were identified from dietary and certain residential exposures



Lamda_Cyhalothrin
_Review.pdf

- See this document for more →