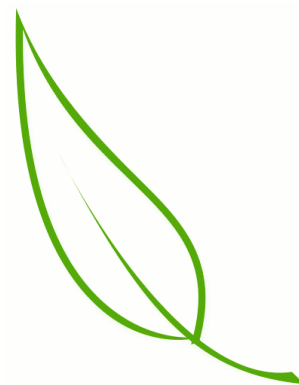




April Report

2018

Brad Alexander



Drones/IR Imaging

- I am almost legally permitted to fly, I just need proof of insurance and then I can send in an applicatin...
- I will write a step by step of what I needed to do before I can fly to help others do the same.
- In Canada it is illegal for to fly a drone for commercial or agricultural purposes without having taken the ground-school course.
- Note: A spotter is required when flying
- The drone we have doesn't take true IR pictures because it is not heat sensitive. It can differentiate colour very well, but it can't pick up heat.
- The true IR mapping cameras/drones are very expensive (\$15,000-\$25,000) and require two people to operate, however, they are improving very quickly and the price is already dropping in relation.
- Starting with this drone was a good idea because of the cost and risk involved
- AgCon has had the same issue as us with Skymatics. They were "supposedly working on something together but were only in it for themselves"
- AgCon is working on a proposal for some true IR work on alfalfa, starting with the water trial that Len Hingley is conducting.

Mutagenesis

- The entire site where the treated seeds were planted has been flooded and frozen. But they survived!
- We were rather worried that they wouldn't and I even got more seeds to treat

Outreach

- April, as always, was a flurry of events. Aggie days Calgary and Lethbridge, Drone training, presenting in Tilley, East Brook, and Uplands schools, and presenting at the Brooks Library.
- Jim Anderson from the Grain Academy & Museum would like us to contribute an Alfalfa Seed exhibit. He hadn't even realized that we are such a big part of Alberta agriculture. It would basically be what I put on my display table.

PGRs

- One site is at Bill Dickenson's, and the other is at Art Folkerts
- The sites are set out and the treatments will be applied early June when Tom comes to help.
- I only needed two sites after all, I mixed "sits" up with "reps"

Summer Tour

- Len is not booked any day in July as of yet. He can talk about his trial
- I will be flying over Len's trial and Art's PGR site frequently and I can demo this at the tour.

Olds - Weevil Trial

- The sites are all staked out and we are watching the weevils closely for the right time to apply the treatments

Renovations

- My office/The lab is getting new floors and a sink
- In other news, sometime after we moved our furniture out of the office the cooler turned oven. The supplier is coming on Monday to fix it.