

CANADIAN SEED

Quality News

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McCullagh Receives Seed Achievement Award

Jim McCullagh is the 2007 recipient of the Canadian Seed Trade Association Seed Achievement Award. This award recognizes and honours significant contributions to the Canadian seed industry, and is presented to an individual engaged in a private seed business or public institution based in Canada.

In the words of his nominator, "Jim's actions and initiative is on par with any entrepreneur within the CSTA. He has shown initiative, vision, ability to negotiate effectively with diverse stakeholders, to be fiscally responsible, and most importantly to be a leader."

As the Canadian Seed Institute's first Executive Director, McCullagh grew the CSI from a concept born by industry to a working model of quality assurance that is not only efficient and successful but is also on the cutting edge of regulatory reform. The CSI model and its successes have been heralded by the Canadian government as a way-of-the-future for industries to address the need for regulatory reform and to establish an industry-monitored quality assurance program.



Jim McCullagh receives the 2007 Seed Achievement Award from CSTA President Dorothy Murrell during the CSTA's Annual Convention in July.

Seed Demotion News

All authorized facilities, such as approved conditioners and bulk storage facilities, should be aware of recent changes to pedigreed seed demotion procedures.

Under the new procedures, if a facility wishes to demote a lot, that lot must be regraded by an accredited grader. If the seed is not at the facility that originally established the grade and sealed the lot, it

must be regraded and a new pedigreed seed declaration completed. For bulk storage facilities this means sending an official sample to a grader who will issue a new grading report. Once the grading report is received, the facility operator must complete a pedigreed seed declaration to record the new grade. As in the past, the third-last digit of the crop certificate number will be changed to the letter of the

new grade (for example, "C" for Certified) to indicate that the seed was demoted from a higher grade.

If the seed being demoted is still at the facility where the grader established the original grade, then a note can be added to the original pedigreed seed declaration stating the lot was later demoted and the crop certificate number changed to reflect the demotion, as explained above.



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Thinking Food Safety?

Programs and services are ready to strengthen your position in the food supply chain.

As demand grows for food safety systems and traceability, Canadian producers and processors have an opportunity to tap into growing value-added markets around the globe. Programs like the soon to be launched CIPRS+ HACCP, with consulting and auditing available from CSI, are there to help make this process easy and effective.

CIPRS+ HACCP

CIPRS+ HACCP is evolving out of a pilot project conducted by the Canada Grains Council, Canadian Grain Commission, and CSI to investigate the integration of food safety into CIPRS – the Canadian Identity Preserved Recognition System. CIPRS+ HACCP will allow companies to incorporate HACCP-based food safety principles into their CIPRS-certified quality management system for identity preservation.

HACCP, which stands for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point, is the internationally accepted approach to manage food safety risks through preventative practices. The Grain Commission has developed generic Good Operating Practices (GOPs) and a number of crop specific generic HACCP plans. During the pilot study, a number of CIPRS-certified registered seed establishments, under the guidance of CSI auditors, used these tools to integrate food safety into their IP programs.

The pilot project also saw a number of CIPRS-certified registered seed establishments evaluate a grower manual that incorporated seed production, food safety, and identity preservation requirements. A number of their growers were asked to use the manual over a growing season. Participants found the manual permitted the use of existing documentation and record keeping, thus streamlining the requirements of multiple programs.

Since completion of the pilot, Laura Anderson at the Grain Commission has been working with the provincial governments in Manitoba and Ontario to ensure that CIPRS+ HACCP is completely compatible with the provincial HACCP Advantages program. This will allow for combined audits that result in both federal and provincial certification in those provinces. “Eleven companies that participated in the pilot project have undergone combined audits,” says Anderson. “This has demonstrated that combined audits are efficient and that the generic tools that we have developed can be easily implemented.”

“By working with the provincial governments, we’re making it easier for industry to meet CIPRS and HACCP requirements and gain government recognition for their IP and food safety systems,” explains Anderson. “We have initiated discussions with the Alberta and Saskatchewan governments as well.”

Anderson notes that another advantage of this program is the technical and scientific expertise that the Grain Commission



brings to maintenance of the generic HACCP plans. “Our role in researching and monitoring the quality and safety of Canadian grain gives us the latest scientific knowledge of potential grain safety hazards,” explains Anderson. “The client doesn’t have to worry about maintaining the scientific knowledge base themselves, but can rely on CGC expertise to incorporate management of any hazards into the HACCP plan to ensure it doesn’t become a big issue.”

Consulting and Auditing

CSI’s trained assessors can help you find the best HACCP-based food safety system to meet the demands of the value chain you are participating in, with the advantage of having a single assessor for your operation to work with.

Dianne Gilhuly and Betty deNys of Kent Agri Services, two of CSI’s competent consultants and auditors, have been trained for CIPRS and CIPRS+ HACCP as have the other corps of CSI CIPRS auditors. This permits CSI CIPRS auditors to audit or consult to the certification standards needed by CSI clients.

Both Gilhuly and deNys have noticed an increasing interest in food safety certification from their clients. “Our proactive and forward-thinking clients, who market products for both human and animal consumption, have been the first to come on board,” says deNys. “They are after the benefits of market access and the efficiency of adding the HACCP-based food safety scope to their existing CIPRS quality management system.”

CIPRS+ HACCP clients have responded positively: the audit process, auditor competence, and the time they personally invested to further their QMS by incorporating food safety was time well spent.

For more information on the Grain Commission CIPRS+ HACCP program and its future implementation call Laura Anderson at (204) 983-2881.

It Could Be a Tagging Issue

Accurate seed labelling is a critical issue when it comes to importing Breeder seed.

The correct label on a lot of pedigreed seed is critical because it provides information on pedigree, grade, and traceability of the seed lot. Most farmers are already familiar with pedigreed seed at the Certified level because of the use and promotion of the blue Certified tag found on bagged seed or the bulk Certified invoice certificate for seed sold in bulk.

There are other types of official pedigreed seed tags supplied by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, under restricted access agreements to CFIA accredited graders, including:

- Purple Registered class tags and white Foundation class tags used to label two higher generation classes of pedigreed seed;
- Yellow Substandard tags used to identify seed lots with substandard germination. They show actual germination test results and test dates;
- White Interagency tags used for pedigreed seed that has been imported for sale in Canada; and
- Green Certified Mixture tags used for forage and cereal crop mixtures of two different species of pedigreed seed.

One tag that is particularly important but gets less attention is the Breeder seed tag. Since Breeder is not a pedigreed seed class under federal seed regulations, tags for Breeder class seed do not come under the direct control of the federal government, which regulates the official tags for Foundation, Registered, and

Certified seed classes. However, Breeder seed tags are important to the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, which verifies the certification eligibility of all parent seed used for pedigreed seed crop production.

CSGA is responsible for Breeder seed crop certification as well as the professional recognition of plant breeders. The Association also supplies the familiar white Breeder seed tags to recognized plant breeders who have produced pedigreed Breeder seed crops.

Breeder seed tags are used to label the parent seed lots that produce Select and Foundation class pedigreed seed. If breeders need to demote Breeder seed to Foundation class, they must apply to the CSGA for issuance of a revised crop certificate with a Foundation class crop certificate number.

While the CSGA Breeder seed tag, with a crop certificate number and recognized plant breeder's signature, is familiar to many in the seed industry, as global seed trade increases we now see more Breeder tagged seed lots imported from other countries. Importers should be aware that the CSGA must be able to recognize the tag on imported Breeder seed. This is a vital step in verifying certification eligibility of the parent seed and its continued use and multiplication in the Canadian pedigreed seed crop certification system.

For imported seed bearing an OECD Pre-Basic class tag, the verification is straightforward since the tag was issued by an official seed certification authority in the country of origin. That authority has confirmed Breeder class pedigreed status of the seed lot and provided pedigree traceability with an official seed lot reference number.

For imported Breeder seed labelled with a tag that is not signed by a CSGA-recognized plant breeder and does not come from an official seed certifying agency, the official seed certification authority in the country of origin must be asked to confirm certification eligibility of the seed lot. Obtaining this confirmation can delay growers and seed companies receiving their pedigreed seed crop certificates.

Importers of Breeder seed should also be aware that, unlike imported Foundation class seed that they re-label with Canadian Interagency tags, imported Breeder seed is not an official pedigreed class and should not be relabelled with official Interagency tags.

More information on Breeder seed tags and seed crop certification is available from the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

BREEDER SEED/SEMENCE DE SÉLECTIONNEUR

Variety and Kind: _____
Variété et espèce : _____

Crop Certificate No.: _____ Lot # _____
Certificat de récolte No. : _____

Name of Institution or Company _____
Nom d'institution ou de Compagnie _____

Signature of Plant Breeder or Agent: _____
Signature du sélectionneur de Plantes ou son représentant : _____

RETAIN THIS LABEL FOR CONFIRMATION OF PEDIGREE
CONSERVER CETTE ÉTIQUETTE COMME CONFIRMATION DU STATUT PÉGRÉ

IMPORTANT NOTICE/AVIS IMPORTANT

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association reserves the right to require the presentation of this tag on request as evidence of the pedigree of the seed stock. The seed meets Canada Foundation No.1 standards for purity and germination unless otherwise stated below.

L'Association canadienne des producteurs de semences se réserve le droit d'exiger la présentation de cette étiquette comme preuve du statut pégré de la semence-souche utilisée. La semence doit rencontrer les standards de Fondation Canada No.1 pour pureté et germination à moins que spécifié ci-dessous.

Technical Manual Quiz

CSI's updated technical manuals for approved conditioners, bulk storage facilities, and authorized importers have become a universal reference tool. Test your knowledge of some key issues related to the manuals that have been clarified by CFIA over the past few years.

Incomplete Processing

1) On occasion, an approved conditioner may receive pedigreed seed which they are unable to process to meet a Canada grade. Failing to maintain records to account for the processing and any material which has been removed as screening which have been deducted from the original amount declared on the grower declaration is a violation of what part of the Seeds Regulations?

- a. Section 14(2) and 93(3)
- b. Section 14(2)
- c. Section 14(3)
- d. Section 13(1)

2) If a facility elects to partially complete processing a lot, a pedigreed seed declaration is completed, a lot number is assigned, and "no grade assigned" should be written in the grading area of the document. The seed may then be moved using which of the following documents?

- a. crop certificate
- b. seed analysis certificate
- c. CFIA_0037 tag
- d. A and C
- e. A or C

Pedigreed Seed Declaration

3) The Pedigreed Seed Declaration must be completed within how many days of conditioning and/or grading of all pedigreed seed lots?

- a. 7 days
- b. 15 days
- c. 30 days
- d. 45 days

Importing Seed for Processing

4) The Seeds Regulations allow the importation of seed that has not been processed if the stated purpose is for processing. The seed lot must be tested to ensure no prohibited noxious weeds are present. How is that done?

- a. take a sample and test it
- b. test all fractions of the sample, seed and dockage
- c. conduct tests at two separate laboratories
- d. take 5 separate samples

Labelling Unregistered Varieties

5) Section 5(4) of the Seeds Regulations defines unregistered varieties and says that while unregistered varieties may be sold in Canada, they must meet which of these requirements:

- a. the seed is pedigreed
- b. the orange unregistered tag is attached to each bag or provided to a customer with each sale from a bulk lot
- c. the sale of unregistered varieties must be for seed multiplication under contract (the production of which must be exported from the country) or for inclusion in registration trials
- d. all of the above
- e. A and E

Labelling Pre-Inoculated Seed

6) If an establishment wishes to pre-inoculate seed, and include the statement: "This product is treated with (species name or genus of the active micro-organism) inoculum" on the label, what additional info must be included on the label?

- a. the directions for use
- b. the guaranteed analysis
- c. A and B
- d. no additional data is required

For clarity on other technical manual procedures, please contact CSI.

Answers

- 1) A
- 2) E – A CFIA_0037 tag is used for the domestic movement of cleaned, ungraded pedigreed status seed.
- 3) C
- 4) B
- 5) D
- 6) D