



SaskFlax Communiqué

March 2010



Allen Kuhlmann
Chair,
Saskatchewan
Flax Development
Commission

Our Mission

"To lead, promote,
and enhance the
production,
value-added
processing and
utilization of
Saskatchewan flax."

Chair's Message

Since our September 2009 message where I highlighted the market deterioration due to GM flax found in the Canadian supply, much has happened to resolve the issue. The process has been painful and costly to individuals and business all along the value chain. But, progress is being made and cooperative efforts continue on many fronts to resolve the issue and re-establish our major marketplace.

Communication is vital and the industry led by the Flax Council of Canada has been working with government departments and agencies both at home and in Europe to address the zero tolerance policy while implementing testing programs at all levels to identify problem flax and flax clear of GM materials for planting (The Stewardship Program).

This Communiqué showcases the Stewardship Program. It does include application forms for Saskatchewan based testing facilities. Please note we have listed all the labs capable of this work. The choice is yours to use any of the labs listed.

We all know it's late and spring planting is just around the corner and we ask once more for your cooperation. Please take those steps necessary to ensure the flax you plant is free and clear of Triffid. Testing is vital to re-establish our reputation. Without your cooperation, the flax industry will not be sustainable.

Allen Kuhlmann

Value of Flax

Flax producers in the province seed an average of 1.3 million acres of flax each year (about 3.8% of the acres of all crops sown in Saskatchewan).

Saskatchewan is the single largest producer of flax in Canada and for the past three years, averaged 78 per cent of the total national crop.

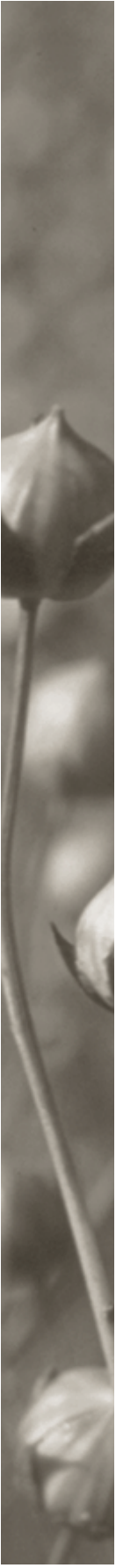
The contribution of the flax industry to the Canadian economy is predominantly derived through bulk exports of flax seed to the EU and the United States. In 2008, flax exports were worth almost \$702 million (when total farm flax cash receipts are added to handling and transportation costs, machinery investment, labour and management, fertilizer, chemical and seed.)

Top 10 Export Destinations for Canadian Flax

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
EU 27	110.2	109.4	114.6	141.8	257.2
Belgium	104.1	106.2	112.0	137.4	246.5
United States	34.3	53.0	40.8	66.6	90.2
China	1.4	0.4	8.4	18.3	14.4
Japan	10.5	10.7	4.6	6.1	5.5
France	<0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	5.4
Australia	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	0.9	2.5
Mexico	3.2	1.0	1.7	1.7	2.0
UK	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.2	1.4
Brazil	0.0	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	1.1
TOTAL VALUE	162.1	179.9	175.6	239.8	379.2



SaskFlax



About CDC Triffid (FP967) and the European Market

CDC Triffid (FP967) was developed at the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre. It was intended as a crop that could be cultivated the year after a triasulfuron or metsulfuron-methyl herbicide was used, as an alternative to continuous cropping of wheat and barley and to summer-fallowing.

- It was approved for environmental release in 1996 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and for food use by Health Canada in 1998.
- CDC Triffid (FP967) was deregistered in 2001 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency due to trade concerns by the Canadian flax industry. Certified seed of CDC Triffid (FP967) in production at the time was collected and crushed domestically.
- In July 2009, European laboratories found GM materials in Canadian flax and indicated it was CDC Triffid (FP967). In September, the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) confirmed a trace amount of GM material in some Canadian flaxseed shipments.
- In October 2009, the Canadian flax industry, Canadian Grain Commission, federal departments and agencies developed a protocol for sampling and testing of Canadian flax to the European Union. The process includes sampling from each producer; at time of loading into rail cars (each rail car) by a CGC approved lab for testing flaxseed shipments to the European Union.

The Crop Development Centre Flax Quality Assurance Protocol

Dorothy Murrell, Managing Director, Crop Development Centre

The Crop Development Centre (CDC) encompasses a group of plant breeders and pathologists within the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. The CDC was formed in 1971 through initial funding from National Research Council and Saskatchewan Agriculture with the mandate to develop new crops, agronomic information, and genetic improvement for Saskatchewan farmers. Saskatchewan Agriculture, grower organizations, and seed and grain companies have worked in partnership with the CDC since its inception to help to ensure our mandate is met. Pea, lentil, flax, wheat, barley and oat have been a part of the breeding activities of the CDC since the 1970s, with chickpea, dry bean, canaryseed and durum added thereafter.

The CDC's flax breeding program has been a major provider of flax varieties to farmers and agri-industry in western Canada since the release of Vimy, Flanders and Somme in the mid- to-late 1980s, followed by CDC Normandy, CDC Valour, CDC Bethune, CDC Arras, CDC Mons and CDC Sorrel. Today CDC flax varieties are grown on more than 80 per cent of flax acres in western Canada.

CDC Triffid, a transgenic flax variety, was developed during the late 1980s. The transgene inserted in this variety conferred resistance to soil residues of certain herbicides. The variety was registered in 1996, after approvals for unconfined release by Agriculture Canada as safe for environment and feed purposes were granted; in 1998 Health Canada approved CDC Triffid for food purposes. The United States Department

The Canadian Grain Commission will sample all vessels in accordance with the EU Commission Recommendation 2004/787/EC. The CGC research laboratory will process 4 x 60 g sub-samples using the construct specific method verified by European Union Community Reference Laboratory. The official documentation (Letter of Analysis) will be provided to the exporter for delivery to appropriate European Authorities.

- In November 2009, genetically modified flax was detected in Canadian flax shipments to Japan. The Canadian Grain Commission and flax industry developed protocol with Japan (January 2010).
- In December 2009, the Government of Brazil ordered mandatory testing of all flax shipments from Canada to Brazil.
- In January 2010, the Crop Development Centre announced GM material was detected in CDC Normandy and CDC Mons (deregistration process is underway).
- January 2010 Flax Council of Canada announced Industry Stewardship Program whereby flax producers must document and use flaxseed that was pedigreed, tested and proven free of any GM event.
- In March 2010, Crop Development Centre announced traces of GM materials in CDC Bethune, CDC Sanctuary and CDC Sorrel.
- In mid March 2010, the Canadian flax industry revised Farmer Stewardship Program and allows the use of farm saved seed provided it has been subjected to the same rigorous test as that for certified seed and results are negative.
- In late March Europe agrees flax inward bound into grain terminals may be tested and sealed. When test is negative, no further testing is needed when loading that flax onto vessels.

of Agriculture also approved this transgenic variety during this time. However, CDC Triffid was never sold to farmers for grain production. In the late 1990s Europe began to express concerns about genetic modification of all crops, including flax. Since Europe is the major importer of Canadian flax, as a result of these concerns the Flax Council of Canada requested that all seed of CDC Triffid be sequestered and destroyed by domestic crushing. CDC Triffid was deregistered in 2001.

Traces of the transgene found in CDC Triffid have recently been identified in grain and seed of other flax varieties, and in some breeder seed lots of some CDC varieties. As a result, the CDC is in the process of developing a new quality assurance protocol specifically directed at removing traces of the transgene from existing and new CDC flax varieties. This protocol, using current and new testing methods as they evolve, will involve testing individual plants at critical control points in the breeding scheme to ensure that new varieties coming through the CDC flax breeding program, and new breeder seed lots of existing market varieties, are free of the transgene. For example, new breeder seed lots of CDC Bethune, CDC Sorrel, and CDC Sanctuary will be re-constituted from single plants of the pre-breeder seed. Plants will be grown in growth chambers, tested before flowering, and only those found to be free of the transgene will be allowed to come to flower and produce new "elite" seed, to then be multiplied as new breeder seed. This process will be applied to production of all new breeder seed lots of all flax varieties.

The CDC is committed to eliminating all traces of the Triffid transgene from its flax breeding program in an efficient and timely manner in order to do its part in ensuring the quality and reputation of the western Canadian flax industry.

Taking a Representative Sample of Grain

Canadian Grain Commission

Sampling your bin

You will need four identical pails. They should each hold at least 20 litres (four gallons). Label two of them A and B. You will also need a tin cup or scoop.

Step 1

As each truck load is emptied into the bin, take cupfuls every 30 to 60 seconds from the sides and the center of the grain stream. Empty the cupfuls into pail A. Sample enough grain so that when the truck is empty, the pail is about three-quarters full.

Step 2

When the truck is empty, mix the contents of pail A thoroughly by hand. Place two empty pails of similar size side by side on the floor with the sides touching. Pour the contents of pail A down the center where the pails touch so that each pail will receive about half the sample.

The contents of one of the pails can be poured into the bin. Repeat the process with the contents of the remaining pail until about four pounds (two kilograms) remain. Pour the four pounds into pail B.

Step 3

Repeat the procedure for each truckload that is emptied into the bin.

Step 4

When the bin is full, thoroughly mix the contents of pail B by hand. How much of the sample in the pail you keep will depend on your needs. Keep in mind that for most purposes you will need a one-kilogram (two pound) sample. (refer to "Sampling your whole crop").

Step 5

Place the sample in a bag or sealed container. Label it to identify the bin it represents. You may want to make up some one kilogram samples at this point so they are ready when you need them. You now have a good representative sample of the grain in the bin.

Sampling your whole crop

When you reach step 4, you can make a composite sample of your whole crop. All you have to do is take one kilogram out of pail B for each 1,000 bushels in the bin and put it in a separate pail labelled C. Do this as you reach step 4 with every bin you fill. Then mix pail C thoroughly by hand. This should give you a good composite sample of your entire crop.

Already in the bin (SFDC suggestion)

The process described above can also work as you unload your bins. Should you not be moving your flax and require a representative sample, it is recommended that you utilize a grain probe, preferably a multipoint grain probe. Ask your grain buyer or elevator agent as they may be able to assist you with this task. Whatever method selected, it is very important to collect a representative sample.

Approved Labs for CDC Triffid Testing

(as of February 4, 2010)

The Canadian Grain Commission has confirmed that the laboratories listed here currently operate and have satisfied the Canadian Grain Commission proficiency test which indicates that they can carry out the qualitative PCR assay as per the construct-specific method approved within the Sampling and testing protocol for Canadian flaxseed exported to the European Union.

20/20 Seed Labs Inc.

Suite 201, 509 - 11th Avenue
Nisku AB T9E 7N5
780.955.3435 or
877.420.2099
780.955.3428 Fax
www.2020seedlabs.ca
barry@2020seedlabs.ca

DNA LandMarks Inc.

84 Richelieu Street
St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu QC J3B 6X3
450.358.2621
514.827.7870 Fax
www.dnalandmarks.ca
PickC@dnalandmarks.ca

Eurofins GeneScan, Inc.

2315 N Causeway Boulevard,
Suite 200
Metairie LA 70001
504.297.4330 or
504.297.4355
504.297.4335 Fax
www.gmotesting.com
frankspiegelhalter@
eurofinsus.com

GenServe Laboratories

125 - 15 Innovation Blvd
Saskatoon SK S7N 2X8
306.933.7700 or
866.420.2293
306.933.5505 Fax
www.src.sk.ca
genserve@src.sk.ca

USA Inc.

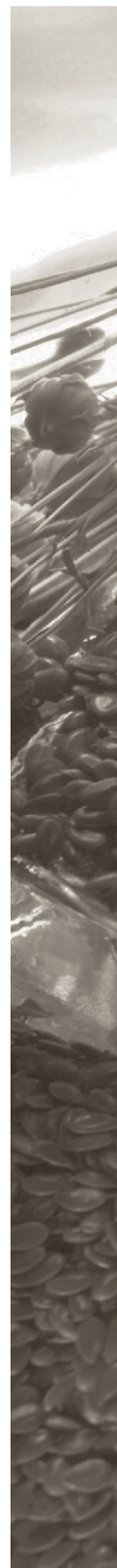
3344 NW Industrial Street
Portland OR
97210-1619
503.223.1497
503.223.9436
www.omicusa.com
csingsit@omicnet.com

Quantum Biosciences Inc.

8 - 410 Downey Road
Saskatoon SK S7N 4N1
306.956.2082
306.956.2066
l.marquess@quantumgenetics.ca

SGS - Mid-West Seed Services, Inc.

236 - 32nd Avenue
Brookings SD 57006
605.692.7611
605.692.7617 Fax
www.mwseed.com
Kalyn.brixdavis@sgs.com





2010 Farmer Stewardship Procedures for Farm Saved Planting Seed

(as of March 18, 2010)

Two options:

Option 1:

Plant certified seed that has tested negative for Triffid. Retain the documents for certified seed demonstrating it has no Triffid present.

Option 2:

Use your own non-pedigreed seed for planting provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures used for certified seed being tested for Triffid. Retain documents showing it's free of Triffid.

To minimize your potential risks and costs associated with using farm saved seed, obtain and test a representative sample of the seed you intend to use for planting the 2010 flax crop. If you have not already done so, it is strongly recommended to submit a 1 kg hand screened sample in a recognized laboratory for 1 x 60 g seed test. Completing this test prior to cleaning may save you the cost of unnecessarily cleaning contaminated seed. This test is at your option. It is not a replacement for the 4 x 60 g test outlined below in the procedures.

ANY seed testing positive for Triffid must not be planted. Growers with a positive result will be required to purchase certified flaxseed, that has tested negative for Triffid.

To limit cross contamination, commercial cleaners may require an initial test prior to cleaning a flaxseed lot.

Procedures for testing Farm Saved Seed:

- To ensure the highest confidence in the testing procedures, a sample of seed must be drawn across the entire lot of seed. This may be done a number of ways; however the best and most preferred method is to sample directly from a clean seed stream. This includes but is not limited to sampling as the clean seed is:
 - coming off the cleaners,
 - being loaded into a truck,
 - being transferred from the truck into a seed bin on farm.
- A minimum four (4) sub-samples per one metric tonne (1 sample per 10 bushel) must be drawn and mixed thoroughly (e.g. a 5 MT lot will require 20 sub-samples)
- A seed lot may not be any larger than 20 MT.
- A representative 2 kg sample is to be submitted to one of the approved testing labs for Triffid Testing (4 x 60 g). The sample must be clean of all weed seeds and chaff.
- Once received, the approved lab will follow the testing protocol requiring 4 x 60 g grinds.
- ONLY SEED TESTING NEGATIVE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR PLANTING. (There is no threshold level of Triffid acceptable for planting seed).
- Retain the negative lab report as you will be asked to provide a certificate of laboratory analysis that verifies the planting seed tested negative.
- In addition, you will need to have the 2010 crop tested after harvest, prior to delivery. Here it is important to utilize the lab preferred by your grain buyer.
- Two lab results will be required for sale of flax destined for the European marketplace (planting seed certificate and 2010 production test certificate).



GMO in Flax Testing

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM

Farm Saved Planting Seed Testing

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY CASE NUMBER (s)

GROWER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Test results will be reported to the Email Address noted above unless stated otherwise by the client.

SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION

List samples that are being submitted for testing on Page 2.

Payment of the testing fees must be submitted with the sample(s). Results will not be released until payment of the fees has been made in full.

FEES per sample:

Four (4) replicates - \$204.75 (\$195.00 plus 5% GST)

Fees are payable to SRC by cheque, Visa or MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name as shown on credit card: _____

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions detailed in the "Term and Conditions" document on GenServe Laboratories™ website (http://www.src.sk.ca/html/research_technology/ag_bio/genserve_lab/flax_testing/index.cfm)

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____



CONSENT

By signing below, the "Producer" hereby acknowledges and consents to GenServe laboratories™ sharing the results of this flaxseed event FP967 detection testing with the Flax Council of Canada and all other members of the agricultural industry in the commercial purchase and sale of flax, in support of their efforts to create a concerted effort to clear the Canadian market of flaxseed event FP967.

Signature

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Complete one row for each sample being submitted for testing

<p align="center">Unique Sample Identification Including variety</p>	<p align="center">CASE NUMBER (for Office Use Only)</p>

Quantum Biosciences Inc.

Flaxseed event FP967 (CDC Triffid) Detection—Farm Saved Planting Seed

1. Contact Information

Producer Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **Phone** _____
Prov./State _____ **Fax** _____
Postal/Zip Code _____ **Email** _____

2. Sample Information

Please submit a 2kg flaxseed sample in individually labeled, resealable plastic bags. Please refer to the Flax Council webpage (www.flaxcouncil.ca) for sampling procedures. Each sample bag should be labeled with your name and a sample name for your reference. If you need additional space, use the back of the form or include another form.

	Sample Name	Variety	Total Bushels	Lab ID (lab use only)
1.				4 x 60g Grind Test
2.				4 x 60g Grind Test
3.				4 x 60g Grind Test
4.				4 x 60g Grind Test
5.				4 x 60g Grind Test

3. Payment

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Number of Samples</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">4 Grind Test</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x Cost per Sample</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$195.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GST @ 5%</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Cost</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	Number of Samples	4 Grind Test	x Cost per Sample	\$195.00	Sub Total	_____	GST @ 5%	_____	Total Cost	_____	<p style="text-align: center;">Method of Payment</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard </p> <p>Card Number _____</p> <p>Expiry Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>
Number of Samples	4 Grind Test										
x Cost per Sample	\$195.00										
Sub Total	_____										
GST @ 5%	_____										
Total Cost	_____										

4. Consent

By submitting the attached samples and by filling in and signing this form, the "Producer" hereby acknowledges and consents to Quantum Biosciences Inc. sharing the results of this flaxseed event FP967 detection testing with the Flax Council of Canada and all other members of the agricultural industry in the commercial purchase and sale of flax, in support of their efforts to create a concerted effort to clear the Canadian market of flaxseed event FP967.

Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____
dd / mm / yyyy

5. Submission

Please send samples to the following address:

Quantum Biosciences Inc.
Lab 8—410 Downey Rd
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4N1
Canada

Phone: (306) 956-2082

Quantum Biosciences Inc., Lab 8-410 Downey Rd, Saskatoon, SK S7N 4N1
 Phone: 306-956-2082 • Fax :306-956-2066 • Email: dna@quantumbiosciences.ca • Website: www.quantumbiosciences.ca

“ Attention Producers ”

Please help us to communicate more effectively and efficiently by providing us with your email address to add to your member account. Call or email today at 306 664 1901 or saskflax@saskflax.com. Thank you.

SaskFlax Communiqué

This communiqué is intended to provide you, the registered flax producer, with the latest information about the GM/Europe flax situation.

For additional information see:

www.saskflax.com or www.flaxcouncil.ca

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

SaskFlax

2009/2010
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Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

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Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
A5A 116 103rd St. Saskatoon, Sk S7N 1Y7
306.664.1901
306.664.4404 F
saskflax@saskflax.com
www.saskflax.com

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