



# Ontario Seed Growers' Association Newsletter December 2023 *President's Message*

It is hard to believe another cropping season has passed.

Throughout 2023 your OSGA board had the opportunity to work with other seed organizations and business partners to continue to build a vibrant seed industry in Ontario.

We held a successful Grower Field Day this past June. Thanks to Phil Nadalin and the Bayer CropScience team for preparing plots and showcasing their ongoing research work. It was another great day of learning and discussions between seed growers.

OSGA board members were fortunate to participate in the CSGA annual general meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland in July with many informative speakers touching on future technology in seed and the importance of collaborations with other American and International seed certification agencies. CSGA has opted for in-person AGMs alternating every second year and will be planning a virtual event in 2024.


The OSGA board invites you to join together on **March 18th** in London for the OSGA annual general meeting. A later date for the AGM this year will provide a link to join with the Grain Farmers at their March Classic meeting. We hope you will take the opportunity to attend the OSGA AGM as we discuss important initiatives underway within the seed sector and honour the work of the OSGA's Long Service Award recipients (whose names are listed in this newsletter). The GFO March Classic opening reception will follow the OSGA AGM on Monday evening. See <https://gfo.ca/about/2024-march-classic/> for more information and registration for their event. The pre-registration for OSGA will follow soon at [www.seedontario.ca](http://www.seedontario.ca)

As your Association President, I appreciate the support of the volunteer board of directors and General Manager Colleen Acres, as we work to represent you and bring your concerns and issues to the national forum. CFIA's Seed Regulatory Modernization, CSGA's #ChooseCertifiedSeed promotion campaign and CSGA memberships are just some of the topics for which we provide input and support.

The seed guide "SeedOntario" will be out in mailboxes across Ontario in January and will once again provide a hands-on resource of performance trial data, grower/company and seed supply listings. Thank you for advertising and continuing to find value in this seed promotion publication. Reach out to [info@seedontario.ca](mailto:info@seedontario.ca) to request extra copies.

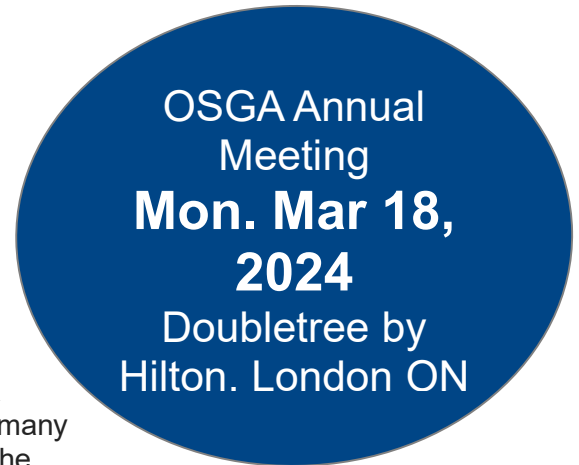
We are eager to hear your feedback on the pedigreed seed crop insurance program that has now had two full years of participation. Have you looked into this risk management opportunity and does it work for you and offer the coverage that you need? Coverage for pedigreed spring and winter wheat and soybeans is available by contacting Agricorp.

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual meeting on **March 18th, 2024** in London ON.

  
**Andrew Dawson**  
President

  
**Colleen Acres**  
Manager

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## 2023 OSGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Andrew Dawson  
 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Tim Montague  
 MANAGER: Colleen Acres  
 PAST PRESIDENT: Shannon Bieman  
 National Directors: Shannon Bieman, Carl Bolton

Joe Hickson  
 Ian Sponagle  
 Reuben Stone  
 Sarah Fretz  
 Phil Nadalin  
 Craig Rickard  
 Peter Szentimrey

### Upcoming events / meetings

January 4 & 5, 2024 – South West Ag Conference [www.ontarioagconference.ca](http://www.ontarioagconference.ca)  
 January 16, 2024 – Eastern Ontario Ag Conference [www.ontarioagconference.ca](http://www.ontarioagconference.ca)  
 January 19, 2024 – MidWest Ag Conference [www.ontarioagconference.ca](http://www.ontarioagconference.ca)  
 January 9, 2024 – Crops Day Grey Bruce Farmers Week [www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca](http://www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca)  
 March 18, 2024 – Ontario Seed Growers' AGM [www.seedontario.ca](http://www.seedontario.ca)  
 March 19, 2024 – GFO March Classic [www.gfo.ca/about/2024-march-classic/](http://www.gfo.ca/about/2024-march-classic/)  
 July 2024 – Canadian Seed Growers' Assoc. virtual Annual Meeting [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)

## 2023 PEDIGREED SEED ACREAGE \*

Year	Acreage	Growers	Major Crops	Ontario 2023	Ontario 2022	Ontario 2021	Ontario 2020	Ontario 2019	Ontario 2018
2023	169,773	660							
2022	168,385	661							
2021	163,686	671							
2020	170,481	694							
2019	171,503	715							
2018	173,826	747	<i>Barley</i>	2,383	3,278	3,820	4,012	3,554	3,918
2017	178,398	777	<i>Field Beans</i>	2,024	2,485	2,770	3,152	3,107	2,500
2016	181,200	826	<i>Corn</i>	13,296	18,835	16,258	16,224	17,743	15,247
2015	193,732	853	<i>Oats</i>	2,956	3,455	3,484	4,611	4,571	3,107
2014	184,924	878	<i>Soybeans</i>	127,783	121,830	115,227	120,495	124,433	128,345
2013	205,373	925	<i>Wheat</i>	20,245	17,748	21,770	21,324	16,935	20,548
* as reported by CSGA November 2023									



CSGA recently launched CSGA Health, an affordable, customizable health and dental insurance program for those in the Canadian seed sector, including:

- Seed growers and their families
- CSGA Provincial and Regional Branch employees and their families
- Crop inspectors and Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services (ASCIS)
- Seed analysts, laboratories, businesses and their employees

This program will not only allow you to take care of your well-being but also assist in employee attraction and retention, no matter the shape and size of your seed business. Request a quote or get more details here:

<https://seedgrowers.ca/csga-health/>

All long standing service award recipients will receive a certificate of service presented at the OSGA AGM in London on March 18, 2024.

Congratulations and thank you for your many years of service!

## 2023 Long Standing Service Awards Listing

15 Year			
MONTAGUE, TIM JARVIS ON	MUNRO, MATT CARP ON	DEPREZ, JOE KENT BRIDGE ON	GRONDIN, HARRY J. AMHERSTBURG ON
COLLINS, GREG W. KINCARDINE ON	KOSTER, ADRIAN THAMESVILLE ON	BROWN, JOANNE FINGAL ON	MOUSSEAU, JOHN
TETREAULT, PIERRE-ANDRE TILBURY ON	KONECNY, TODD WALKERTON ON	COCHRANE, JOHN PARIS ON	COCHRANE, BRIAN PARIS ON
BYLSMA, AUKE AUBURN ON			
20 Year			
BROCK, MARK D. STAFFA ON	MC DONNELL, JOHN MONKTON ON	VERBEEK, RONALD MUIRKIRK ON	WEBER, MATTHEW NEWBURY ON
MITCHELL, NEIL WALTON ON	YEOMAN, KENNETH WOODSTOCK ON	FEVERY, JIM GRAND BEND ON	RHODES, DAVID CHATHAM ON
CANN, RAY PORT HOPE ON	BROWN, DENNIS L. LONDON ON	PINSONNEAULT, PAUL N. PAINCOURT ON	FERKET, JOE MOUNT BRYDGES ON
FERKET, JOHANNA MOUNT BRYDGES ON			
25 Year			
HAYTER, GERALD VARNA ON	AITKEN, ROBERT DRESDEN ON	DANGI, OM PRAKASH OTTAWA ON	LETOURNEAU, MARK DOVER CENTRE ON
COWAN, LARRY MOUNT BRYDGES ON	CRACKEL, GARY CHARING CROSS ON	ROY, BILL LONDESBOROUGH ON	ANDREW, WARREN LUCKNOW ON
SKINNER, DUNCAN STRATHROY ON			
30 Year			
VAN DAMME, WAYNE WALLACEBURG ON	JOHNSTON, WATSON KENT BRIDGE ON	COULTHARD, STEPHEN ST. MARY'S ON	BEATTY, TIMOTHY BLOOMFIELD ON
JACKSON, BRIAN TUPPERVILLE ON	CAMPBELL, WAYNE HENSALL ON	GIBSON, ALEX ST. MARY'S ON	SMALE, DONALD MOSSLEY ON
DODOK, MIKE CHATHAM ON	SKINNER, ANDY STRATHROY ON	MARTIN, JASON K. WEST MONTROSE ON	
35 Year			
VAN MOERKERKE, ERIC TILLSONBURG ON	CONSITT, SCOTT VARNA ON	TURNBULL, KIM CANFIELD ON	DEVLAEMINCK, ERIC LUCAN ON
CONNELL, MARY ANNE PALMERSTON ON	MARTIN, CRAIG WEST MONTROSE ON	LESY, PAUL BLENHEIM ON	
40 Year			
ELGIE, EARL KENNETH DRESDEN ON	BAKER, DONALD C. LONDON ON	LEGAULT, DIANE ST. ALBERT ON	FERGUSON, JIM C. ST. THOMAS ON
45 Year			
REABURN, LARRY J. WESTMEATH ON	HILGENDAG, WILLI BRANTFORD ON	ELLIOTT, RUSSELL STRATHROY ON	
50 Year		55 Year	
COLEMAN, JOHN KIPPEN ON	TAYLOR, DOUGLAS R. BELMONT ON	FERGUSON, STANLEY ST. THOMAS ON	BRODIE, JAMES CHATHAM ON

## #ChooseCertifiedSeed



The newly unveiled #ChooseCertifiedSeed campaign highlights the importance and benefits of Canadian Certified seed to compel farmers, food processors, and consumers to choose Certified seed for quality results.

The centre of this digital campaign is a beautifully designed microsite showcasing the many benefits of Certified seed found at [www.choosecertifiedseed.ca](http://www.choosecertifiedseed.ca). On the site you will find feature videos using the people and voices who know Certified seed better than anyone – the growers, analysts and seed sector partners.

While we've been promoting the campaign across social media, your support in spreading the word is greatly appreciated. Like, comment, share our social posts or **download shareable materials** online. Don't forget to use #ChooseCertifiedSeed!

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The **Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative** supports the resiliency of the agriculture and food sector by addressing biosecurity risks and enhancing emergency preparedness. It provides funding opportunities to key agriculture industry businesses, including Primary Producers, Processors, and Service Providers. The Initiative has 7 Project Categories to support related activities across the full agri-food value chain (two for animal health and five for plant health).



### Plant Health Project Categories

Schedule 3: assessment, planning, education and training

Schedule 4: sprayer upgrades for integrated pest management

Schedule 5: preventing introduction and spread of pests through isolation, sanitation and controlling of workflow

Schedule 6: innovative pest monitoring and management tools and equipment

Schedule 7: technologies and processes to reduce plant pest contamination and risk

**Applications will be accepted as of September 19, 2023** on an ongoing basis until no later than **January 6, 2025**, subject to the availability of funding allocated to the Initiative.

Funding for the Initiative comes from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Up to \$7,500,000 has been allocated for the Initiative.

Guidelines for the initiative and applications can be found here: [www.ontario.ca/document/biosecurity-enhancement-initiative-guidelines](http://www.ontario.ca/document/biosecurity-enhancement-initiative-guidelines)



## CSGA Online Seed Learning Platform

### You Play a Vital Role in the Canadian Seed Sector!

Through *CSGA Learn*, you can benefit from enhanced personal confidence, additional seed business prospects, showcasing your commitment to Canada's seed quality, and ensuring your employees are current on best production practices. Learn more and enroll today! <https://csgalearn.ca/>



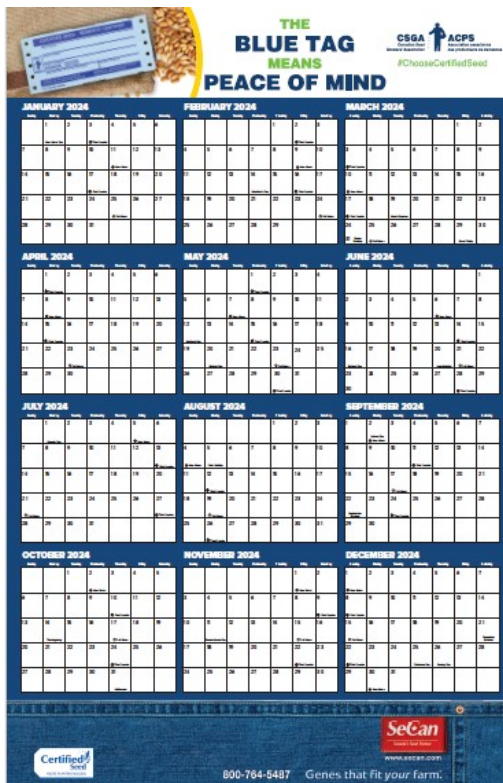
## CSGA's Four Key Seed Regulatory Modernization Recommendations

At CSGA, our vision for the future is based on trust—that Canadian producers have trust and confidence in the seed they're planting. We need a modern seed system that adapts quickly to change, creates a level playing field for all stakeholders, can deliver new technology, and is transparent and science-based.

CSGA's four key SRM policy recommendations are:

- 1. Main Administrator:** The future of our seed sector is a sector-led, government-enabled seed certification system with CSGA as the main administrator through a digital single window managing all seed certification functions on behalf of government.
- 2. Digital Single Window** access to seed certification services is the most efficient and effective tool to positively impact the seed value chain. It would eliminate duplicate and fragmented workflows, allowing users to access information in one place.
- 3. Variety Certification Eligibility – Form 300:** We propose a new tier in Schedule III of the *Seeds Regulations*. We must eliminate redundancies in our parallel process to ensure the formal recognition of the identity of a variety by one authority.
- 4. Standards, Governance and Partnerships:** We have developed a plan to further expand stakeholder consultation and engagement by creating a Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee and increasing external representatives on CSGA committees.

Most of these recommendations have been supported in the recent CFIA Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) pre-consultation survey. There were 315 respondents from across the agricultural value chain whose feedback was summarized in a "**What We Heard**" report found here: <https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/transparency/consultations-and-engagement/completed/seed-regulatory-modernization/what-we-heard-winter-seed-rm-consultation/eng/1697038000571/1697038001711>



Thank you to SeCan Association for their sponsorship support of the printing for our OSGA year-at-a-glance calendar. Additional copies are available by request to: [info@seedontario.ca](mailto:info@seedontario.ca)

SeedOntario 2024 seed guide will be out in January. Keep an eye out for this handy resource guide containing all the Variety Performance Trial Data and Seed Grower/ Retailer source listing.

