

*For Immediate Release*



## **Saskatchewan Winter Cereals and ADOPT funding for seeding date trial for winter wheat**

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**November 19, 2018 - (Saskatoon, SK)** The Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission is pleased to announce it has received funding from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's ADOPT (Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies) program for a two year seeding date trial for winter wheat. The objective is to show that winter wheat can be planted into late September/early October and still maintain a significant level of viability.

Changes in seeding practices (e.g. crop rotations), growing longer season crops with later harvest dates and the shift towards direct harvest for canola means it is becoming more challenging for producers to plant winter wheat within the currently recommended window of late August/early September and still be eligible for crop insurance.

A later planting date is more promising than anticipated. Research in Canada and the United States has shown that winter wheat, depending upon the region (MB, SK, AB), can be planted in late September to mid-October and still maintain significant viability. In southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, experienced winter wheat producers have had viable winter wheat stands over winter with seeding dates as late as October 20 with good moisture and good late fall weather.

Demonstration of later seeding dates will provide more information and encourage more producers to consider winter wheat as a profitable cropping option. Winter wheat provides a good option to manage Fusarium head blight, wheat midge and late spring seeding dates. This is achieved by improving competition or natural avoidance, reducing chemical inputs, farming increased acres and enabling the more efficient and longer use of seeding and harvesting equipment.

Wheatland Conservation Area Inc (Swift Current, SK) and the South East Research Farm (Redvers, SK) are the demonstrations sites for this project.

*The project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership bi-lateral agreement.*

## ***About SWCDC***

The Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission is the provincially designated representative organization for producers of winter wheat, fall rye and triticale in the province of Saskatchewan. The organization encourages, promotes and assists in the development of winter cereals in the province. Funds collected from the winter cereal levy are used to fund research into new varieties, agronomic best practices, international marketing and education.

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