



## MPGA Board Meetings

### Summary of Minutes

#### Board Meeting – February 7th, 2005

**Saskatchewan Pulse Days** – Directors D. Sissons and N. Friesen, along with Policy Director, T. Jones attended Pulse Days 2005 in Saskatoon. Over 1000 producers, industry reps and researchers attended the two-day meeting with the theme of “Creating a Climate for Growth.” Presentations addressed agronomic issues, weather cycles, a spotlight on the Spanish market as an opportunity for Canadian pulses and the major growth potential for pulses through functional foods. SPG and MPGA met to discuss opportunities for collaboration and options on variety registration.

**Ontario Coloured Bean Growers Association AGM** – J. Froese and R. Dudgeon attended the OCBGA meeting in Stratford, ON. MPGA was acknowledged for our proactive work on NAFTA and the 2004 Mexico Bean Congress, which OCBGA participated in. Further discussions were held on how OCBGA could be involved in future Mexico initiatives.

**Ontario Soybean Growers Association AGM** – M. Froebe represented MPGA at the meeting and discussed opportunities for future collaboration on soybean research. The Canadian Soybean Export Association has been closely tied with the OSG and MPGA will consider how best to interact with both organizations in order to develop opportunities for Manitoba growers.

**Alberta Farm Tech Conference** – The Manitoba delegation, including L. Wolfe, S. McCutcheon, R. Dudgeon and J. Froese, met with APG directors to discuss opportunities for research collaboration as well as potential for participation in the 2005 Mexico Bean Congress. A highlight of the event was listening to Olympic rower Pauline Van Roessel sharing her experience in Athens and her relationship with Pulse growers of Canada.

**KAP Annual Meeting** – N. Friesen reported that President David Rolfe was re-elected, along with Vice-Presidents Ian Wishart and Glenn Young. Resolutions at the AGM dealt with everything from the need for flexible and affordable child care for rural and farm families, to requesting that the province study the economic impacts of new regulations on farms before implementation, to working with MPI to update the definition of a farmer. Resolutions also dealt with farm incomes and ways producers can increase their profit or decrease input costs, KAP’s position on

the removal of education tax from production buildings and farmland and concerns with the lack of funding and direction for public agricultural research. Bruce Dalgarno was re-elected as the representative for our commodity section at the KAP Executive Table.

**Pulse Canada Update** – Pulse Canada has conducted extensive lobbying to discourage the involvement of bean seed in the Byrd Amendment retaliation that could see a 100% surtax charged on certain goods imported from the U.S. Algerian officials are preventing approximately 10,000 tonnes of Canadian lentils from entering the country due to differences in Canadian grades and Algerian grade specifications. Pulse Canada will be working with Algerian officials to resolve the issue. Pulse Canada has been accepted as a member in the Beans for Health Alliance and the \$10,000 donation for promotion of the new FDA food pyramid and health statement made by Pulse Canada on behalf of the Manitoba Pulse Growers has been received.

**Lifetime Memberships** – Directors noted that many individuals have made significant contributions to the development of the pulse industry in Manitoba and should be recognized for that contribution at our Annual General Meeting. In a motion, MPGA has committed to investigating an annual award for contributors to the pulse industry to acknowledge builders of the industry.

#### Board Meeting – March 3rd, 2005

**Industry Meeting** – MPGA facilitated a meeting of the pulse industry to address issues of common interest. Topics included Anthracnose, seed treatments options, an update on the national Common Bacterial Blight project, soybean rust, the Byrd Amendment and Crop Insurance issues. MPGA committed to updating the current Anthracnose brochure and posting it on our website.

**Seed Sector Review** – CFIA has made a commitment to have a new registration system in place by June 2006, with changes to take effect in 2007. B. Brolley noted that if crop performance data is removed from registration criteria, then AAFC may stop doing trials to provide performance data. MPGA will lobby to ensure that the co-op testing system continues to provide basic agronomic information to producers.

**Manitoba Biodiesel Seminar** – M. Froebe has participated as a member of Manitoba’s Biodiesel Advisory Committee and provided a presentation at their recent symposium. Soybeans may not be the most affordable feedstock for the production of biodiesel but is one of the many options discussed in a report provided to the provincial government.