



MANITOBA
Pulse Soybean
GROWERS

2023

Annual REPORT



VISION

Manitoba farms sustainably producing profitable, quality pulse and soybean crops.

Reflecting the values and aspirations of our growers, MPSG conducts its business in a collaborative, positive and honest manner. We take the lead in developing production strategies based on creative yet practical research projects. We invest in the future of farming by advocating, developing markets and mentoring leaders.

MISSION

To provide research, production knowledge and market development support to Manitoba pulse and soybean farmers.

MPSG is supported by a mandatory, refundable check-off on sales of commercial pulses and soybeans in Manitoba. A Board of Directors, elected at the organization's annual general meeting, provides oversight and governance. Reporting to the Board, the Executive Director is responsible for executing the association's strategic plan.



Table of Contents

3	MPSG Board of Directors
4	2023 MPSG Board Committees and Representatives
5	MPSG Staff
6	Message from the Chair - Melvin Rattai
7	Message from the Executive Director - Daryl Domitruk
9	2024 Special Meeting Agenda
10	2024 Annual General Meeting Agenda
11	2023 AGM Minutes
13	Research Highlights
14	Highlights from the On-Farm Network
15	Production & Extension Highlights
16	Market Development & Advocacy Highlights



MPSG Board of Directors



Melvin Rattai
Chair
Beausejour, MB



Brendan Phillips
Vice-Chair
Hartney, MB



Alex Burgess
Minnedosa, MB



Ben Martens
Boissevain, MB



Robbie Misko
Roblin, MB



Bryce Pallister
Portage la Prairie, MB



John Preun
St. Andrews, MB



Frank Prince
Waskada, MB



Garrett Sawatzky
Altona, MB



Ernie Sirski
Dauphin, MB



2023 MPSG Board Committees

Committee	Chair	Members
Executive	Melvin Rattai	Melvin, Rattai, Brendan Phillips, Ernie Sirski
Governance/ Human Resources	Frank Prince	Frank Prince, Garrett Sawatzky
Ag Policy & Market Development	Brendan Phillips	Brendan Phillips, Alex Burgess, Bryce Pallister, Ernie Sirski, John Preun, Melvin Rattai, Robbie Misko
Finance/ Audit	John Preun	John Preun, Brendan Phillips, Melvin Rattai
Resolutions	Alex Burgess	Alex Burgess, Robbie Misko
Nominating	Alex Burgess	Alex Burgess, Robbie Misko
Research & Communications	Garrett Sawatzky	Garrett Sawatzky, Frank Prince, Ben Martens, Bryce Pallister, Melvin Rattai, Robbie Misko

2023 MPSG Representatives

**First listed is Chair*

 **Canadian Grain Commission Pulse Advisory Committee**
Garret Sawatzky

 **Grain Growers of Canada**
Business Risk Management: Brendan Phillips
Trade & Marketing: Ernie Sirski

 **Keystone Agricultural Producers**
Grains, Oilseeds, Pulses Industry Rep to KAP Board: Alex Burgess
Commodity Group: Daryl Domitruk

 **MCVET**
Daryl Domitruk

 **PGDC/PRCPSC**
Daryl Domitruk

 **Pulse Canada**
Ben Martens, John Preun

 **Soy Canada**
Melvin Rattai, Ernie Sirski



MPSG Staff



Daryl Domitruk
Executive Director



Melissa Denys
*Director of Finance
& Administration*



Robyn Swark
*Finance & Member
Relations Coordinator*



Ian Kirby
*On-Farm Network
Technical Specialist*



Chris Forsythe
*On-Farm Network
Agronomist*



Laura Schmidt
*Production
Specialist - West*



**Jennifer
McCombe-Theroux**
*Production Specialist -
East*



Mikayla Melnick
*On-Farm Research
Assistant*



Wendy Voogt
*Research Contracts
Administrator*



Kate Menold
*Communications
Coordinator
(contract)*



**Cassandra
Tkachuk**
*Research Project
Manager (on maternity
leave)*

Message from the Chair

Melvin Rattai



As we mark another year of progress at MPSG, I am again struck by the breadth of promise and the reality of peril that comes with being a pulse and soybean farmer. It has again been my good fortune to serve as MPSG chair in these remarkable times.

Like most farmers, I watched the 2023 growing season with a combined sense of anticipation and concern. It was dry. My neighborhood was not as dry as others in the province but, we were still concerned. Our experiment with food-type soybeans and the tantalizing premium they offered was the focus of my attention. Ultimately, that crop received a few timely showers that made all the difference. We were satisfied with the result both in terms of yield and profit.

Nothing like the experience of growing a new (or new-ish) crop to make you reflect on farmers' risk-taking habits.

With the crop in the bin my mind did a swift U-turn from relax mode back to thinking. You see, my experiences on the MPSG board stick with me – in a good way. They stimulate my farmer brain to ponder the role of knowledge in helping me accept risk. At my most tired I become re-energized. I think of the debates around the MPSG table that led to the search for drought tolerance genes. I think of farmers' desire to grow field peas and the risk they face from root rot, recalling our decision to support research on this disease - it feels solid. Even our agonizing effort to retain federal dry bean research in Manitoba feels like it will pay off for this most risky of crops.

Having a ringside seat on research is one reward of serving on a grower board. However, in my opinion it is eclipsed by the sense of gratification I get from seeing the board coalesce around an idea. Even though we're all as different from one another as can be, every MPSG director knows the experience of risk. That moment a project hits us as making perfect sense is a time when I'm most proud of our organization. Collectively igniting science that will benefit all farmers in their periods of heightened risk is what it's all about.

As we make our way through times of breathtaking change, I'm grateful groups like MPSG have my back. I'm confident in and immensely respectful of my fellow directors. Mostly, I am buoyed by the spirit of our members whose appetite for taking risks and willing support provide the motivation for our organization. To those members I say thank-you and best wishes in 2024.

Melvin

Message from the Executive Director Daryl Domitruk, PhD, PAg



Each year I reflect on the past twelve months from a different perspective. This year I want to convey that your farmer-owned organization is thriving amidst an ever-expanding array of moving parts.

By “moving parts” I mean the groups with whom we are linked in the process of doing business on members’ behalf. In addition to our sister commodity organizations across Canada there are numerous formal and informal groups and agencies working in one way or another toward the betterment of agriculture. A common thread is the use of partnerships to achieve goals. To be sure, there’s some bureaucracy created in partnerships, but it’s the kind that provides transparency and accountability among the partners.

Among the most active moving parts are the national industry groups. Soy Canada, Pulse Canada and Grain Growers of Canada are very active in advocating for farmers on the national and international stages. They are the primary promoters of trade and the farmer’s voice on federal policy and regulation. Keystone Agricultural Producers fill this role at the provincial level. Groups such as Ag in the Classroom complement KAP’s efforts with very focused programs in specific areas. Of course, our research and teaching institutions are large and complex moving parts who are always thinking of things to do to advance agriculture.

Both federal and provincial departments of Ag keep us hopping with consultations and application processes. As a partner government consists of multiple moving parts connected loosely to the pursuit of multiple goals.

With partnerships come committees and meetings. Ag partner meetings are events where classic Aggie passion and energy infuses the conversation. MPSG staff strive to have a meaningful presence at meetings so our members’ interests are understood and valued across a wide swath of the agri-food industry.

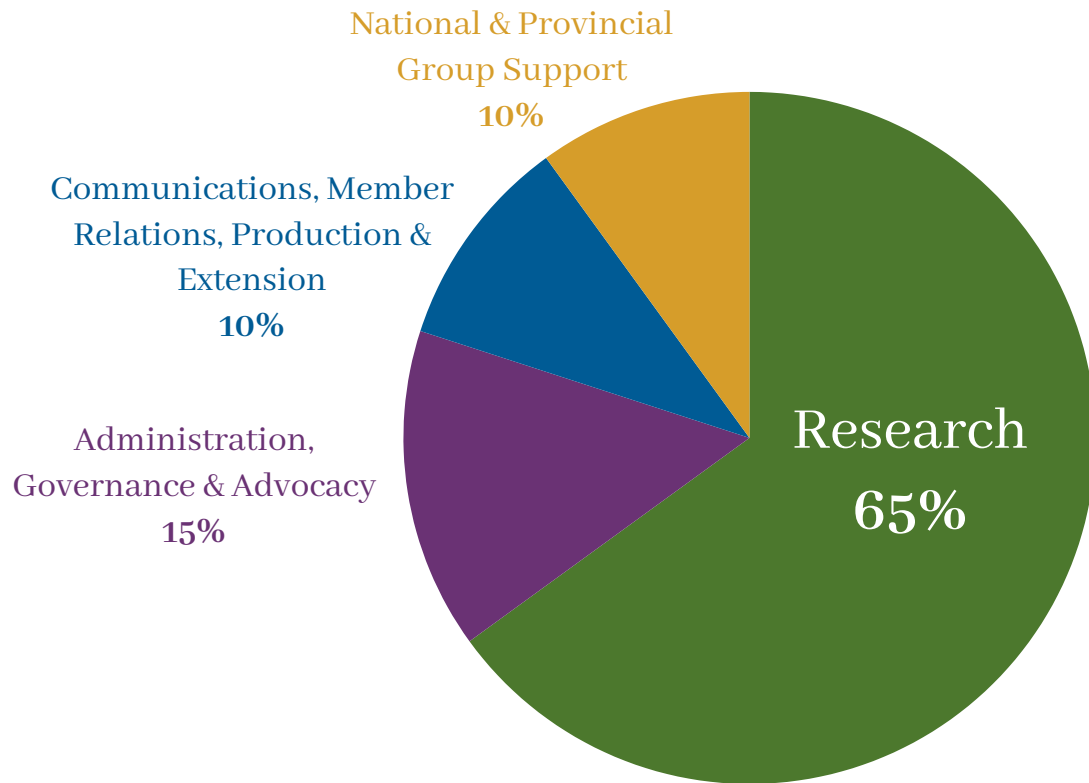
I want to acknowledge and thank our partners for their work in 2023. They and their meetings help our industry navigate its way to growth and prosperity.

MPSG possesses its own set of internal moving parts. In 2023 they were spinning at record RPM. Being short staffed due to maternity leaves those remaining exceeded targets in pest surveillance, extension, financial management, On-Farm Network trials and regional variety testing. A big thanks to Dennis Lange of Manitoba Agriculture who stepped in pilot the variety testing program. Once again, MPSG staff and directors showed extraordinary dedication and put up some impressive numbers.

Other numbers we’ll be watching in 2024 are a) precipitation, b) grain yields and c) CO2 levels. That’s because (a) leads to (b) which is the lifeblood of our work. With respect to (c), I’m not exactly sure, but there’s evidence to suggest some of the unexpectedly high yields of recent crops may have been helped by additional carbon in the atmosphere. This is both interesting and alarming. It’s likely to spawn another moving part and another meeting. Bring it on.

Daryl

MPSG 2023 EXPENDITURES ALLOCATION



For **2023**
19.2%
of the MPSG
check-off qualifies
for the tax credit

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (SR&ED) TAX CREDIT

Farmer-members who contributed check-off dollars to MPSG are eligible to claim the federal Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit.

For more information on the process of filing this tax credit, please consult an accountant or visit the Canada Revenue Agency website.

2024 Special Meeting Agenda

Victoria Inn Hotel and Conference Centre, Winnipeg, MB

February 14, 2024 | 8:00 am

Time	Item	Presenter	Action
8:00 AM	Call to Order Special Meeting	Melvin Rattai	
8:02 AM	Approval of Agenda - Special Meeting	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Approve
8:04 AM	Meeting Procedures	Melvin Rattai	
8:05 AM	Proposed Amendments to By-Laws	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Adopt
8:10 AM	Adjourn Special Meeting	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Adjourn



2024 Annual General Meeting Agenda

Victoria Inn Hotel and Conference Centre, Winnipeg, MB

February 14, 2024 | 8:10 am

Time	Item	Presenter	Action
8:10 AM	Call to Order Annual General Meeting	Melvin Rattai	
	Approval of Agenda	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Approve
	Meeting Procedures	Melvin Rattai	
	Minutes of the 2023 AGM	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Adopt
	Chair's Report	Melvin Rattai	
8:15 AM	Nominating Committee Report	Alex Burgess	
8:18 AM	Auditors 2023 Report	Alex George	MOTION to Adopt
	Appointment of Auditors for 2024	Melvin Rattai	MOTION to Appoint
8:23 AM	Executive Directors Report	Daryl Domitruk	
	Research & Production Report	Daryl Domitruk	
8:30 AM	Resolutions Committee Report	Alex Burgess	MOTION to Approve
8:35 AM	Open Discussion & Questions	Melvin Rattai	
8:38 AM	Other Business	Melvin Rattai	
8:50 AM	Adjourn	Melvin Rattai	



2023 AGM Minutes

Item	Agenda Item	Presenter
1	CALL TO ORDER M. Rattai 8:01 am Annual General Meeting called to order	M. Rattai
2	AGENDA MOTION: TO approve the agenda for the Annual General Meeting as presented. Moved: C. Penner / Seconded: B. Phillips – CARRIED –	M. Rattai
3	MEETING PROCEDURES	M Rattai
4	MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM MOTION: That the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. Moved: B. Pallister/ Seconded: B. MacMillan –CARRIED–	M. Rattai
5	CHAIR'S REPORT M. Rattai presented the Chair's report.	M. Rattai
6	NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT On behalf of the Nominating Committee, B. Phillips, presented the committee report. The committee reported that the terms of the following four directors expire in 2023: M. Rattai, E. Sirski, F. Prince and B. MacMillan. B. MacMillan is not seeking another term : M. Rattai, E. Sirski, and F. Prince submitted their nomination papers, Since no other members filed nomination papers prior to the January 27, 2023 deadline the three incumbents are elected by acclamation to three, three-year terms (2023-2026). There is one vacant Director position that is available for appointment by the Board.	B. Pallister
7	AUDITOR'S REPORT MOTION: That the 2022 audited financial statements be adopted as presented by Alex George of George & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. Moved: B. Phillips / Seconded: C. Penner –CARRIED–	A. George
8	APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS MOTION: That George & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. be appointed auditors for the Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers for 2023. Moved: B. Martens /Seconded: B. MacMillan –CARRIED–	M. Rattai
9	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT D. Domitruk presented the Executive Director's report.	D. Domitruk
10	RESEARCH & PRODUCTION REPORT Cassandra Tkachuk presented the 2022 Research & Production report.	C. Tkachuk

Item	Agenda Item	Presenter
11	<p>RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT – On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, B. Phillips, presented the committee report. No resolutions, from the membership, were submitted prior to the December 1, 2022 deadline. The board brought forward the following two resolutions to its members.</p> <p>1. Be it resolved, that in 2023, MPSC will act as an agent on behalf of its producer members in all matters relating to Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED). Moved: B. MacMillan / Seconded: C. Penner -CARRIED –</p> <p>2. Be it resolved that all acts, contracts, and payments, made, done, and taken by the directors and officers of the Association, be and are hereby approved, ratified, sanctioned and confirmed. Moved: B. Phillips / Seconded: B. MacMillan –CARRIED–</p>	B. Phillips
12	<p>OUTGOING DIRECTOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</p> <p>Exiting director, B. MacMillan was recognized for his contribution to the pulse and soybean industry.</p>	B. Phillips
13	OTHER BUSINESS – There was no other business to report.	M. Rattai
14	ADJOURN: 8:54 am by B. MacMillan	M. Rattai



2023 Research Highlights

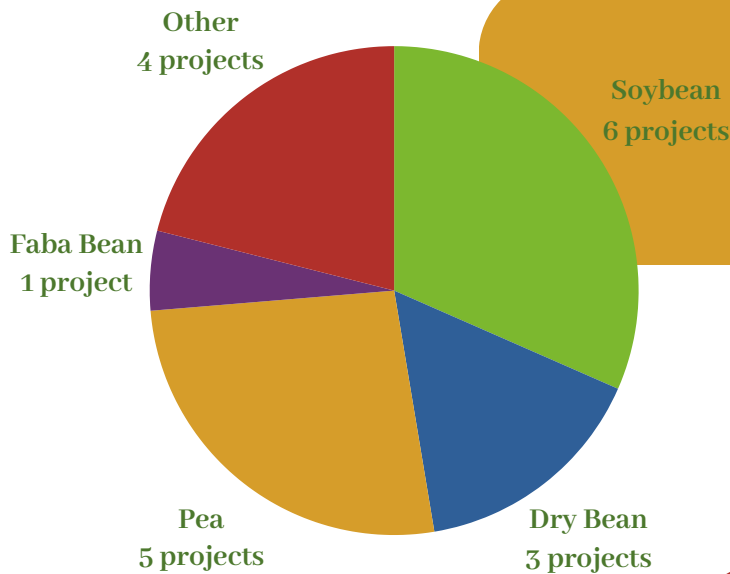
RESEARCH GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- IMPROVE YIELD & QUALITY OF PULSE & SOYBEAN CROPS
- REDUCE PEST CONTROL COSTS
- IMPROVE SOIL QUALITY
- GROW MARKET DEMAND



2023 RESEARCH TOPICS INCLUDED

- Protecting soybeans from cyst nematode
- Stay on top of root diseases
- Promote the quality of northern soybeans
- Figure out the benefits of cover crops
- Manage water in undulating landscapes
- Compare seed treatments for pea leaf weevil
- Test bean tolerance to Zidua herbicide
- Dramatically improve N-fixation in dry beans



MPSG committed

\$1.6 MILLION

to **19** new research projects in 2023

NATIONAL COLLABORATION

MPSG is collaborating with pulse and soybean growers from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes on three federally funded Science Clusters.

Manitoba growers have contributed over \$500,000 to investigate:

- Genetic improvement of soybean, dry bean and faba bean.
- Controlling the spread of herbicide resistant weeds.
- Conquering root rot and soybean cyst nematode.



AGRONOMIST-IN- RESIDENCE PROGRAM

2023 marked the seventh year of the Agronomist-in-Residence (AIR) program, led by Kristen MacMillan.

In 2023, the AIR program began investigations in three areas:

- Reducing fertilizer expense & carbon footprint of dry bean production.
- Determining the optimum rotation period for peas.
- Fine-tuning soybean production practices.

You can learn more about the AIR program & read the latest report at mantiobapulse.ca

Highlights from the On-Farm Network

MPSG's On-Farm Network (OFN) had another busy and successful year.

Two new trials and four additional data collection initiatives in existing trials were added to the OFN portfolio.

OFN results were compiled into a booklet of single-page reports from each 2023 trial and presented to participants at the OFN Appreciation Event in December. The booklet can be found at manitobapulse.ca.

56

Established trials

38

Soybean trials

20

Pulse trials

2

NEW
Trials added in 2023

21.4%

Increase in total trials from 2022

DID YOU KNOW

520

OFN trials have been established throughout Manitoba since it began in 2012?

TRIAL BREAKDOWN



SOYBEAN

- 13 SEEDING RATE
- 2 ROW SPACING
- 7 DOUBLE INOCULANT
- 4 SINGLE INOCULANT
- 4 FUNGICIDE
- 8 BIOLOGICALS



PEA

- 2 SEEDING RATE
- 9 FUNGICIDE
- 2 SEED TREATMENT



DRY BEAN

- 1 NITROGEN
- 4 INOCULANT
- 2 FUNGICIDE



Learn more about the On-Farm Network, past trials/results, 2024 trial options & more!

on-farm network
PARTICIPATORY • PRECISE • PROACTIVE

2023

Production & Extension Highlights

- MPSG was involved in several farmer-focused events/ workshops in partnership with other organizations.
- Development of a social media strategy to improve engagement with our farmer-members, which improved MPSG content distribution and increased engagement on all fronts.
- Additional tools were added to the Bean App: Pea Fungicide Decision Worksheet and Growth Staging Guides for dry beans, peas & faba beans.



Increased on all MPSG accounts from 2022-2023



View the latest edition of the Pulse Beat here!

2023 Regional Variety Trials (R.V.T.)

Crop Type	# of Varieties	# of Trials
Soybean (herbicide tolerant)	64 Eastern / 56 Western	12
Soybean (conventional/non GM/1P)	33 Eastern/ 10 Western	9
Dry Bean	66	4 wide-row / 4 narrow-row
Field Pea	18	10
Faba Bean	12	3
Lupin	8	1
Total in 2023	267	43

In 2023, MPSG continued it's long-standing and extensive variety evaluation program. For each crop, the varieties tested represented all market classes available to Manitoba growers.

Testing was conducted in close association with Manitoba Agriculture, MCVET and the seed industry.

Results from the 2023 field season are available in the *MPSG Pulse & Soybean Variety Guide* at manitobapulse.ca.

2023

Market Development & Advocacy Highlights



GREAT Tastes OF MANITOBA

Local Farms Local Foods

Proudly representing #MBFarms
#MBFoods since 1991

Watch Saturdays at 6:30pm on



or Monday's at 7:30pm on



You can also find full episodes,
recipes, and features on
Manitoba farm families at:

GreatTastesMB.ca

LOVE LOCAL

MPSG continued its partnership with the show, Great Tastes of Manitoba in 2023. MPSG sponsored two episodes, each featuring recipes using ingredients our farmer-members grow.

Visit greattastesmb.ca for recipes and episodes.

BEFORE THE PLATE

Each week, Great Taste of Manitoba profiles a Manitoba farmer in Before the Plate, a video series introducing the farm families and agricultural communities that work tirelessly to produce the local ingredients featured in the Great Taste of Manitoba cooking show.

Follow the Farmers

VIRTUAL FARM TOURS

Agriculture in the Classroom

MANITOBA

INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

MPSG made a commitment of \$20,000 to Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba's Follow the Soybean Farmer initiative. This initiative includes a live event with a farmer and the development of a soybean-focused learning kit for participating classrooms.

To learn more about this initiative, visit aitc.mb.ca

BEANS ARE
BORING?

WE "LOVE CANADIAN BEANS"!

The successful, award-winning Love Canadian Beans campaign flourished this year. MPSG is a joint funder of this campaign aimed at increasing consumption of Canadian grown dry beans. Visit lovecanadianbeans.ca to learn more!



KEYSTONE
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCERS
1984 - 2024

SHAPING THE FUTURE

MPSG collaborates with these industry partners to advocate for and promote the agriculture industry on the provincial, national and global stages.

In 2023, the following issues were addressed:

- CROP PROTECTION REGULATIONS
- CARBON TAX LEGISLATION
- RAIL INTER-SWITCHING
- AAFC SUSTAINABLE AG STRATEGY
- SEED REGULATIONS
- THE GRAIN ACT
- BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY



www.manitobapulse.ca

