

Dear Customer:

Well I don't suppose anyone could have predicted how this year would have gone! From a global pandemic to an unbelievable shift this fall in the canola and soybean market, it has been quite the ride!

This also marks the first full crop year without my Dad here. As you can imagine we missed his help and being able to ask for advice but I am thankful that he had been letting us "run with it" for a few years already. It meant our hard lessons were minimized. Thank you to all of you for continuing to trust us with your seed needs and for your support this past year especially.

Dad always wrote an annual newsletter so I thought with nothing to do these days but sit at home and read the mail I would resurrect the idea. So here goes. We will start with the crop the business was built on.

### **Wheat**

We are carrying a deep wheat portfolio again this year. It includes the usual suspects like AAC Brandon (the old faithful), Redberry (for something early), Bolles (for the protein bump), AAC Alida VB (the fusarium fighter) and Faller (for the high yielding Canadian Northern category) We also have 2 new kids on the block, AAC Starbuck VB and AAC Wheatland VB. These two varieties are very similar to each other and physically very similar to Brandon but the claim to fame would be improved yield over Brandon in addition to both being Midge Tolerant. Both varieties use AAC Brandon as their refuge variety which lets you know they will both be similar in height and maturity as those are criteria for blended varieties. AAC Starbuck VB has a better fusarium package and is well adapted to all growing areas. AAC Wheatland responds best to higher inputs and though it has a lower fusarium resistance rating than Starbuck it would seem to be able to give a bit more yield in the right environment. Both varieties are in high demand and supply is getting low. We are experimenting with a super early new HRSW called AAC Redstar this spring. We are hoping it will fit the bill for those who want an early start to harvest but don't want to grow barley. Stay tuned on this one.

### **Barley and Oats**

We have not done a lot of shifting around in these varieties because of the finicky nature of maltsters and millers. I do feel like we are due to change things up a bit in here but sometimes it is hard to fix what isn't broken... For feed we are carrying CDC Austenson. It still looks to be the best 2 row feed barley going. I am keeping my eye on a new barley that would suit both the feed and forage market with a forage yield over Cowboy and a grain yield similar to Austenson. On the malting front we are still carrying Newdale because of its duality if you shouldn't make malt. At least with Newdale you still have a good, heavy, high yielding barley to take to the feed market. We are also carrying the ancient old variety CDC Copeland because it is still what the maltsters want lol.. I have my eye on a new malt variety that looks well suited to our area and has the high enzyme levels the maltsters want. We will see if China's largest Malting company, Supertime, gives it the green light or not.

For oats we are carrying CS Camden. Their yield has not disappointed but we like to carry two varieties. We are therefore on the hunt for an addition to the stable and are bringing in CDC Arborg and ORe3542M for customers. CDC Arborg has a lot of straw which may be a fit for our cattlemen who want to bale. The Ore3542M are a short semi dwarf white milling oat. Jury is still out. If you have an oat variety you see that you are interested in I would love to discuss it with you and it may be something we can look into as well. I am hopeful that a new milling oat developed right here in Brandon gains milling acceptance and could be a new addition to our stable.

### **Pulses**

Normally this line would just say peas but we are embarking on a new crop adventure here this spring.

With all of the plant protein buzz in the world we are going to try a new crop called Lupins. The white food variety is suited to Manitoba, resistant to Aphanomyces and is highly sought after because of the higher protein content as compared to peas. It is currently a very small niche market which will involve

lots of “learning.” Wish us luck and we will keep you posted as the story of this new crop unfolds. You can follow us on twitter @js\_seeds or on our website [www.jshenry.ca](http://www.jshenry.ca)

For peas we are carrying CDC Meadow and AAC Chrome yellow peas and CDC Forest for a green pea. CDC Meadow is our tried and true early maturing pea. AAC Chrome is our new addition variety we picked up for its high yield potential and market acceptance. With the new Food Processing plants of Merritt Functional Foods and the Roquette plant in portage we have seen pea acres come back to life in the area, which is great! We also offer custom seed treating and inoculant for all of our pulse products. Growers need to keep in mind that peas need a 1 in 6 year (or more) rotation before growing peas on a same field to prevent buildup of Aphanomyces which can devastate an entire pea crop.

### **Soybeans**

In keeping with the food concept, we are also trying our hand in the IP conventional soybean arena. We are working with ProGrain who have varieties that are excellently adapted to our area. We have grown Siberia and new to the portfolio is Liska. We are the designated collection point for the region which gives convenience and easy access for our customer’s contract delivery.

We are still heavily involved in soybean seed production contracts and commercial retail of Roundup Ready and Xtend soybeans from Dekalb, Syngenta, Northstar Genetics, Prograin, Brett Young, and Thunder Seed. There are many varieties available so your best bet is to contact us so we can determine the best variety fit for your intended field, and for your operation.

### **Canola, Corn, Inoculant, Forage and Seed Treatment**

The lists of varieties become VERY long in these areas so like with soybeans it is best to call and discuss your needs so we can find the variety that fits the best for you. We carry Nexera, Brevant, Invigor, Dekalb, Brett Young and Canterra canolas, Brett Young Forage Blends as well as Dekalb, Pride, Thunder Brett Young and Northstar Genetics Corn seed. We offer seed treatments from Syngenta, Bayer and BASF and a variety of different seed primers.

For Inoculant we have found a game changer in granular inoculant. A relatively new company to us named Lallemand has a LAL fix brand of inoculants that would seem to have solved the inoculant metering and dust and clumping equation. It literally meters like canola seed and comes in nice light bags to boot! Of course we still are carrying the Verdesian N-row peat based inoculants and the Tag Team line up for peas as well as a full line up of liquids. I just felt this new granular product deserved an extra mention.

There are early book and early buy discounts to be had and we off FCC Financing along with Scotiabank and John Deere Financial.

Thank you again for trusting us with your seed needs and for the opportunity to serve you year after year. We appreciate your business. We hope you and your families stay healthy and that this very trying time is put behind us and into the history books very soon. I look forward to face to face interaction and customer events, meetings, and tours again soon.

Thank You,

Marnie, Eric and Brendan