

REPORT TO THE 1989 SOILS AND CROPS WORKSHOP
from the
SASKATCHEWAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SOILS AND AGRONOMY
by Roy Button, Chairman

The objectives of the Soils and Agronomy Council are to identify and coordinate research, education and extension needs and requirements, and advise SASCC on agriculture programs and policies, in the subject matter area of soil and weed management.

The Council has four functional subcouncils: Weeds, Soil Fertility, Special Soils Problems and Tillage. The subcouncils met separately twice during 1988. A representative of the subcouncils met with the Soils and Agronomy council on April 14 & November 15, 1988.

1. Activities in 1988

1.2 Publications

A function of council has been to encourage the development, revision and publication of bulletins and fact sheets for farmers.

The Weeds subcouncil revised the bulletin "Chemical Weed Control in Cereal, Oilseed, Pulse and Forage crops for 1989". This bulletin will be printed in early 1989. A fact sheet "Control of Canada Thistle" was printed in April 1988.

The Soil Fertility subcouncil published a fact sheet in March 1988 on "Applying Nitrogen with the Seed." The tillage and special soils subcouncils supported the publication of fact sheets entitled: "Tillage Practises that Reduce Erosion", "Seeding Equipment for Conservation Tillage" and revision of "Deep Tillage of Solonetzic Soils".

Council and subcouncils evaluated the format for publication of the Guide to Farm Practise. Council recommended that the Guide be published in its present form and be revised every 3 years. The Guide could be sold for \$5/copy, only if required.

1.2 SASCC Terms of Reference

The development of the terms of reference are beneficial in providing guidelines for the operation and organization of councils. Council and subcouncils reviewed the guidelines and made recommendations for changes to SASCC.

The Soils and Agronomy Council evaluated its membership and recommended changes to include representation from government agencies, industry and producers. Upon approval by SASCC, the organizations will be contacted and the new council formed in 1989.

1.3 Research Priorities

A list of research priorities has been developed and revised by the subcouncils and approved by council.

1.4 New Technologies

Subcouncils recommended new technologies that would be suitable for demonstration in Saskatchewan. Council and subcouncils had difficulty in recommending only technologies from outside the province. The development of a priority list of new technologies that are adaptable to Saskatchewan soil and climatic conditions, have adequate data to show potential benefit to producers, and are suitable for demonstration on a field scale basis may be more appropriate.

1.5 Soils & Crops Workshop 1988

The annual Soils and Crops Workshop is sponsored by the Soils and Agronomy Council and University of Sask, Extension Department. The workshop chaired by Dr. Al Slinkard, was held at the University of Sask on February 16 and 17, 1988. The theme and plenary session was "Maximum Economic Yield." Over 215 people attended the workshop and 70 papers were presented in concurrent sessions during the two day seminar. Proceedings of the meeting were printed in May, 1988 in two volumes totalling 790 pages.

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Publications

Subcouncils plan to develop or revise the following list of fact sheets and bulletins:

Weeds - develop a fact sheet on green foxtail and revise the chemical weed control bulletin.

Soil Fertility - revise the General Fertilizer Recommendations bulletin, Applying Nitrogen with the Seed factsheet, and Gardeners Guide to Soil Fertility bulletin.

Tillage and Special Soil Problems - develop fact sheets on emergency tillage for wind erosion control, strip cropping techniques, barrier strip seeding, moisture management techniques and importance of organic matter in soil conservation. The soil salinity manual is presently being edited.

2.2 Soils and Crops Workshop 1989

The Soils and Agronomy Council would like to thank the committee, chaired by Eric Johnson and the University of Saskatchewan Extension Department for the organization of the 1989 Soils and Crops Workshop.

2.3 Soils and Agronomy Tour

A soils and agronomy tour is being planned for the south east region of Saskatchewan in July, 1989. The University of Sask, Extension Department will assist in organization of the tour.

3. RESOLUTIONS

A function of council is to submit resolutions to the Saskatchewan Agriculture Service Co-ordinating Committee (SASCC). The resolutions are classified into two general areas; either research and development or non-research and development.

SASCC requested recommendations from council on the resolution presented in December, 1987 - "That all harvesting units entering Canada be inspected and cleaned to prevent the incidence and spread of noxious weeds."

Council recommends that the provincial and federal governments determine responsibility for inspecting harvesting equipment and establish a system to inspect the equipment. To provide uniformity of inspection between provinces since equipment moves across the Canada-U.S. border then into neighbouring provinces, the federal government should assume the responsibility. In addition, checking of harvesting equipment could be incorporated with custom inspections.

3.1 Research and Development Resolutions submitted in 1989

3.11 Monitoring wind erosion of saline sloughs and lake beds.

That a need exists for monitoring the erosion and deposition of salts from dry sloughs and lakes to determine their long-term effect on soils, crops and livestock.

3.12 Maintenance of weed control for specialty crops

That the Crop Development Centre continue to support crop diversification in Saskatchewan by maintaining it's weed research program for specialty crops.

3.2 Non research and development Resolution submitted in 1989

3.21 Technology transfer material for farmers

That a coordinated system be established by government agencies to provide funding and encourage the development and production of extension material for technology transfer to ensure farmers in Saskatchewan have up-to-date information.