

2024 Oat Day at the Ottawa Research and Development Centre (ORDC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa.

Oat Day 2024 at ORDC, AAFC, was hosted once again by oat breeder Weikai Yan and his team. This year, close to 100 people attended, with attendees including people from various branches of AAFC, as well as representatives from CFIA, OMAFRA, Grain Farmers of Ontario, SeCan, C&M Seeds, Sollio, AgriNova, PhytoGene Resources, and several independent agronomists. We were also very pleased to welcome Catherine Howarth from IBERS, Aberystwyth University, UK, and Allan Rattey from InterGrain in Australia, who stopped by on their way out to Saskatoon for the American Oat Workers' Conference!



After opening remarks from Jay Parsons, Director RDT of ORDC, Weikai and his senior technician Matt Hayes showed everyone around the field plots. Earlier this year, Matt moved into the position vacated by Brad DeHaan, who has now retired. The following trials were part of the plot tour:

1. Hill plots (early generation visual selection)
2. Observation nursery
3. Yield trials and Breeder Seed plots



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This year for lunch, we had [Easy Vegetarian Oat Chili](#) (made with rolled oats), [Oat Groats Salad with Carrots, Scallions and Raisins](#), [Potato Salad with Oats](#), [Oat & Mill](#) oat “ice cream”, and various types of oat “milk”, amongst other things.



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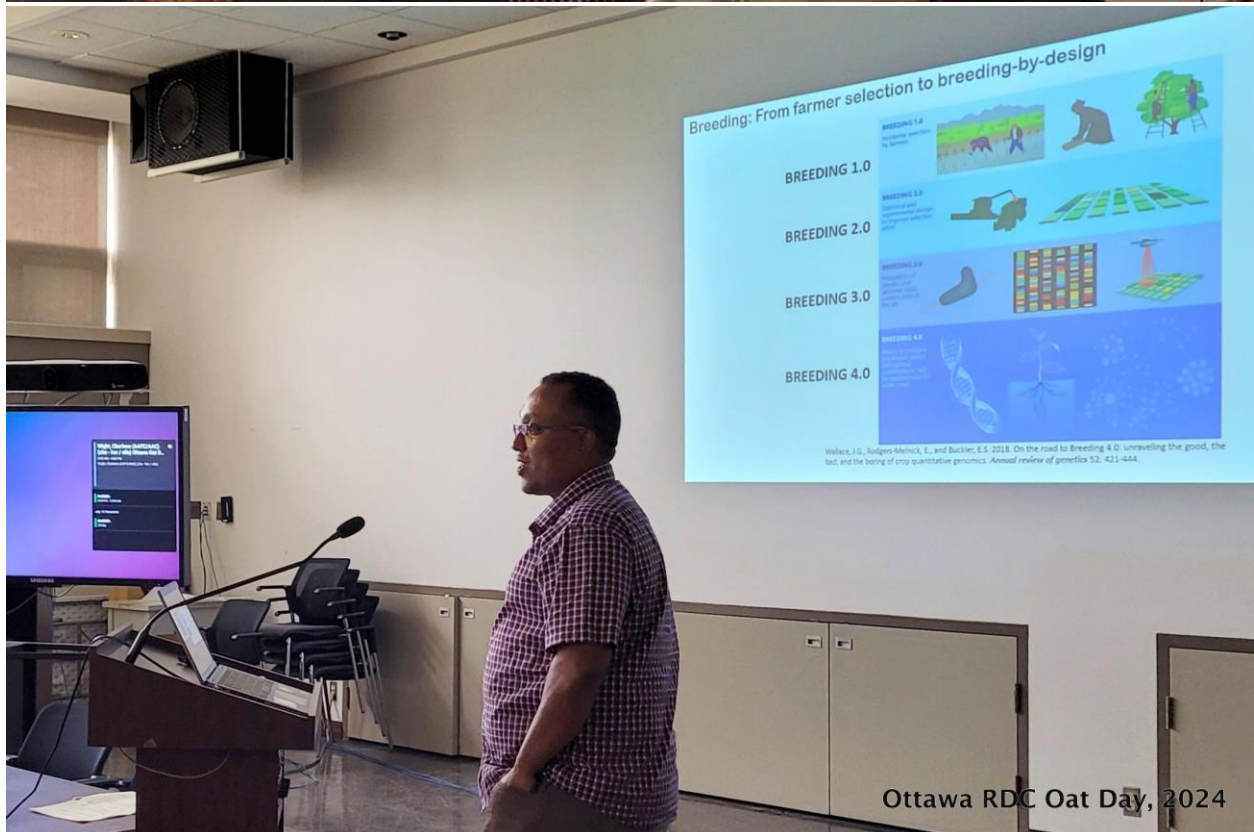
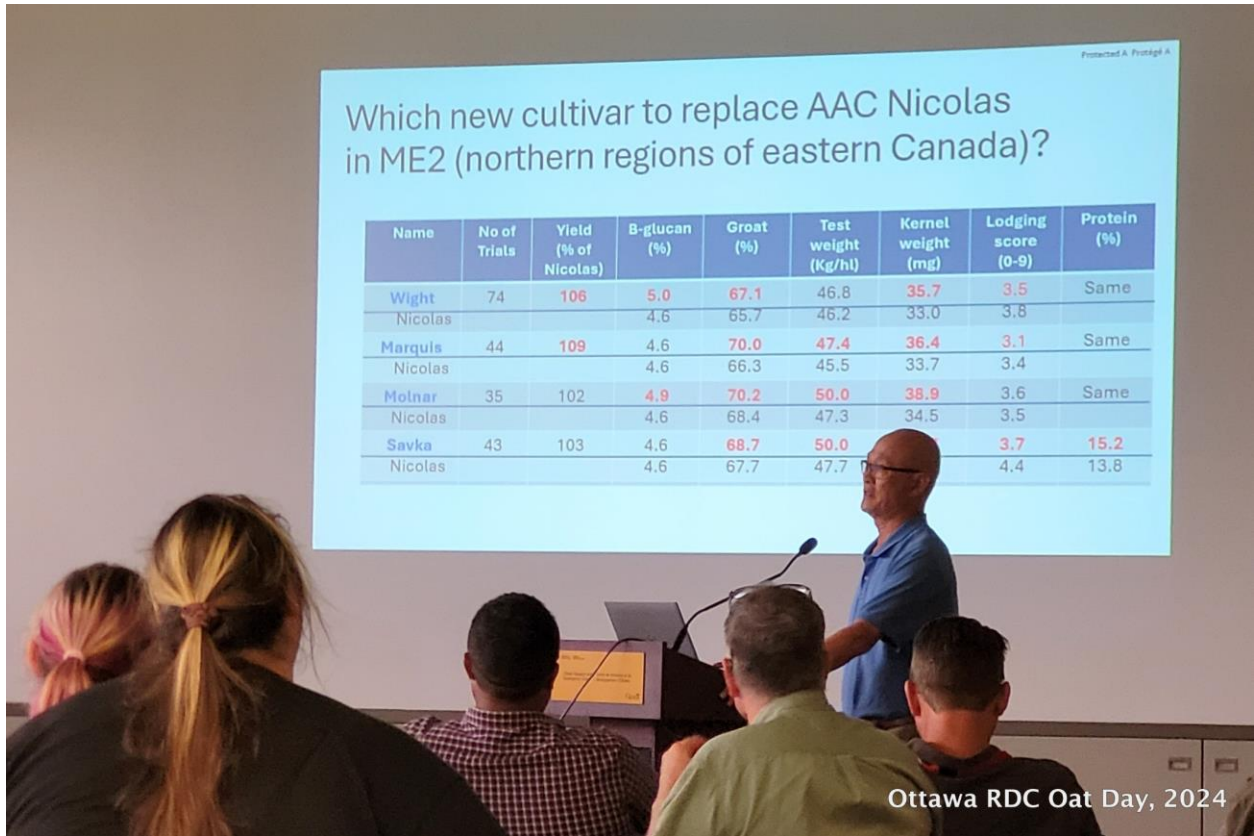


The rest of the afternoon featured talks and discussions about various aspects of oat research:

- [Weikai Yan](#), ORDC: “ORDC Oat Cultivars from 2008 to 2024”
- [Wubishet Bekele](#), ORDC: “Oat Genomics R&D activities”
- [Mehri Hadinezhad](#), ORDC: “Trait-Yield Association Patterns for Canadian Oats in Different Mega-Environments”
- [Cecily Costain](#), ORDC (PhD student with [Wen Chen](#)): “Drought-induced Oat Rhizosphere Microbiome Evolution”

Austin Bruch, an independent agronomist from southwestern Ontario, also spoke about his experiments growing fall-sown oats in his region, which has always been thought to be too cold for that type of production. That’s him holding some ‘Cosaque’ oats (a black-hulled hexaploid variety from France) from his fall-sown plots in the photo above.

There was a lot of engagement with the speakers, and time was short, so I did not present my scheduled talk, but referred people to two posters: one concerning the recently-published [QTL inventory](#) and one concerning [the Oat Newsletter](#).







Time is always an issue, especially when people have travelled a long way to an event, but, this time, we also needed to make sure that we could celebrate Brad's retirement properly, which we did - with speeches and cake and presents!





The ORDC group (including Brad) wishes to thank everyone for joining us. Please write to the speakers (email links are there) if you would like to know more about the presentations. If you would like to attend Oat Day next year, please get in touch with me or Weikai Yan. Everyone is always welcome!



(Austin (right) introduces Allan to the wonder that is [poutine](#)!)

-[Charlene Wight](#), 2024.