



**2015 Oat Tour at the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre (ECORC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa.**

The annual ECORC oat tour was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The event was hosted by oat breeder Weikai Yan and his team. Industry representatives included Eric Ouellette and Thomas Hamill from PepsiCo (Quaker); Bruce Roskens from Grain Millers; Kelly Pickett, Brenda Cochran, and Willie Vanderpol from SeCan; Art McElroy from PhytoGene Resources; and Sebastien Kowalczyk from Romer Labs. Also in attendance were Brian Gray (ADM, Science and Technology Branch), Michèle Marcotte (Director, RDT), and Louise Bissonnette (representing the AgriInnovation Program).

The morning was spent in the fields of the Central Experimental Farm, taking notes on lines in the various trials on show. The group was also introduced to Weikai's latest varieties, including 'AAC Nicolas'. AAC Nicolas, being marketed by SeCan, has high yield, good groat percentage, resistance to crown rust and septoria, and good lodging resistance.

Back inside, pizza from the Prescott Hotel was served for lunch. The significance of this? The variety 'Prescott', bred by Art McElroy when he was the oat breeder at ECORC, was named after this hotel!

In the afternoon, presentations were made and we were joined via teleconference by Josh Cowan from the Grain Farmers of Ontario and by Elin Viberg from the AgriInnovation Program office in Regina. Weikai presented the first talk, providing more details of his breeding program. This was followed by presentations from other ECORC oat researchers: Wubi Bekele (discussing genomic selection and mapping in cultivated and wild oats on behalf of Nick Tinker's genomics group), Judith Frégeau-Reid (presenting her oat chemistry work as well as some of the agronomy work done by Bao-Luo Ma), Allen Xue (speaking about his work on surveying crown rust races), and Shea Miller (describing her work on morphological characters of wild oat species).

It was wonderful for all of us in the oat group at ECORC to have this opportunity to interact with our guests, and we look forward to seeing everyone again for next year's tour!

-Charlene Wight.

(see photos below)



ECORC, AAFC oat tour 2015



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