

## 2017 Oat Tour at the Ottawa Research and Development Centre (ORDC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa.

The 2017 ORDC (formerly ECORC) oat tour was held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, and, as usual, hosted by oat breeder Weikai Yan and the oat workers at ORDC. This year there were almost 60 attendees, including people from various branches of AAFC, as well as representatives from Grain Millers, PepsiCo, SeCan, Grain Farmers of Ontario, PhytoGene Resources, Castor River Farm, Grandview PRC, Oat & Mill, and rND Bakery.

We started the day in the field, looking at the breeder seed plots, as well as the Home Test and other 4- and 6-row trial plots:

1. Quaker Oat Area Test
2. Ontario Oat Performance Test
3. Quebec Oat Registration and Recommendation Test
4. Western Cooperative Oat Registration Test
5. USDA Midseason Uniform Oat Nursery
6. ENCORE (Joint Test of four North American Spring Oat Breeding programs)
7. ORDC Centre Oat Registration Trial
8. ORDC Home Test (genomic selection incorporated)
9. ORDC Oat Breeder Seed plots





For lunch, three local companies were invited to serve their oat-based food products. Grandview PRC brought sandwiches made with their oat and chickpea flour rolls. They also brought pork dumplings in casings made with oat flour. rND Bakery supplied oat bagels, and Oat & Mill brought oat “ice cream”. All of the oat-based items were also gluten- and dairy-free.





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

- Weikai Yan: “The oat research team and new oat cultivars”
- Nick Tinker and Wubishet Bekele: “Genomics-assisted oat breeding: The state of the art, and tools for the future”
- Judith Frégeau-Reid: “Nitrogen fertilizer, yield, and milling quality”
- Baoluo Ma: “Agronomic Studies on Oat: Nutrient Uptake, Density, and Cover Crop”
- Allen Xue: “Oat rust update”
- Jeff Reid (SeCan): “Status of oat variety commercialization and uptake across Canada”





The oat group at ORDC was very pleased to have so many guests from different backgrounds, and is looking forward to next year's tour!

-Charlene Wight.