



# American Oat Workers Conference

July 21-24, 2024  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada



## Sunday, July 21

5:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>Opening Mixer and Registration</b> Saskatoon Club – Library Room
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## Monday, July 22

7:00 – 8:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b> Bessborough Hotel – Battleford Room
8:30 – 9:00 am	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <b>Battleford Room</b> Aaron Beattie (Chair of 2024 AOWC, USask) Elder Roland Duquette (Mistawasis Nêhiyawak First Nation) Penny McCall (Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Saskatchewan) Curtis Pozniak (Crop Development Centre, USask)
9:00 – 10:00 am	<b>Session 1: Sustainability Across the Oat Value Chain</b> <b>Battleford Room</b> Chair: Brian Rossnagel Susie Miller (Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops) Nancy Tout (Global Institute for Food Security) Lorne Boundy (Paterson Grain)
10:00 – 10:20 am	<b>Break</b> Battleford Room Foyer
10:20 – 12:00 pm	<b>Session 1: Continued</b> <b>Battleford Room</b> Tom Rabaey (General Mills) & Michael Ferguson (Collective Impact) Eric DeBlieck & Olivia Kennedy (Grain Millers) Panel Discussion (Lorne Boundy, Brad Boettger, Eric DeBlieck, Olivia Kennedy, Tom Rabaey, Michael Ferguson)
12:00 – 1:15 pm	<b>Lunch</b> Battleford Room



GRAIN MILLERS



**Monday, July 22 (cont.)**

<p><b>1:15 – 3:15 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 2: Genomics and Genetic Resources</b>  <b>Battleford Room</b>  Chair: Wubishet Bekele</p> <p><b>Thirty years of oat genomics: Out of the woods and into the field</b>  (Nick Tinker, AAFC)</p> <p><b>The International Oat Pan-Genome Project (PanOat): Unveiling the genetic diversity and structural variants in hexaploid oat genomes</b>  (Nadia Kamal, Technical University of Munich)</p> <p><b>Challenges and opportunities of oat genetic resources maintained at the Canadian national gene bank, Plant Gene Resources of Canada</b>  (Axel Diederichsen, Plant Gene Resources of Canada)</p> <p><b>Towards CRISPR/Cas9-mediated fine-tuning of flowering time in oats: A novel tool for plant breeders</b> (Mehtab Singh, McGill University)</p>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:45 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 3: Oats in Chile</b>  <b>Battleford Room</b>  Chair: Aaron Beattie</p> <p><b>2026 International Oat Conference</b>  (Claudia Acosta, Agrotop)</p> <p><b>Latin American oat market</b>  (Karina von Baer, Agrotop)</p>
<p><b>3:45 – 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Break and Poster Viewing</b>  <b>Battleford Room Foyer</b></p>
<p><b>5:15 – 9:00 pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Kernen Crop Research Farm Tour and Dinner</b></p> <p><b>5:15 pm: Buses depart Bessborough Hotel</b></p> <p><b>5:45 pm: Oat plot field tour and refreshments</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm: Dinner</b></p> <p><b>9:00 pm: Buses depart Kernen Farm</b></p>

**Tuesday, July 23**

7:00 – 8:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b> Bessborough Hotel – Battleford Room
8:30 – 10:10 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 4: Agronomy and Abiotic Stress</b>  <b>Battleford Room</b>          Chair: Stephen Harrison</p> <p><b>Hyper-resolution phenomics facilitates the genomic characterization of seedling growth in response to drought in the Oat Landrace Diversity (OLD) Panel</b> (Craig Carlson, USDA-ARS)</p> <p><b>Physiological response to early-stage drought stress in commercial oat varieties cultivated in Sweden</b> (Sajeevan Radha Sivarajan, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)</p> <p><b>Understanding the role of root, stem and leaf characteristics on oat lodging</b> (Céline Ferré, University of Saskatchewan)</p> <p><b>Competitive ability of oat as row spacing increases</b> (William May, AAFC)</p> <p><b>Vernalization in winter oats</b> (Catherine Howarth, Aberystwyth University)</p>
10:10 – 10:30 am	<b>Break</b> Battleford Room Foyer
10:30 – 12:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 5: Pathology</b>  <b>Battleford Room</b>          Chair: Paul Richer</p> <p><b>Oat crown rust: Understanding and managing a shifty enemy in the era of genomics</b> (Shahryar Kianian, USDA-ARS)</p> <p><b>Oat bacterial blight caused by <i>Pseudomonas coronafaciens</i> in Idaho</b> (Belayneh Yimer, USDA-ARS)</p> <p><b>Oat leaf blotch remover can be found in aisle 1D</b> (Peter Eckstein, University of Saskatchewan)</p> <p><b>What are the most effective markers for identifying the presence of 19 Pc genes in oat germplasm</b> (Rawnaq Chowdhury, USDA-ARS)</p>



**Tuesday, July 23 (cont.)**

12:00 – 1:15 pm	<b>Lunch</b> Battleford Room
1:15 – 3:45 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 6: Applied Genetics</b>          Battleford Room          Chair: Jean-Luc Jannink</p> <p><b>Oat genomics research and development activities at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</b> (Wubishet Bekele, AAFC)</p> <p><b>The USDA-SoyWheOatBar-3K: A rapid, inexpensive genotyping platform to enable genomics-assisted breeding of small grains</b> (Jason Fiedler, USDA-ARS)</p> <p><b>A six-year head-to-head comparison of genomic versus visual selection in oat breeding for eastern Canada</b> (Weikai Yan, AAFC)</p> <p><b>Can GWAS information from oat breeding programs be used to develop higher-yield oat varieties? A case study in the SDSU Oat Breeding Program</b> (Guilherme Oliveira, South Dakota State University)</p> <p><b>Training set optimization and genomic prediction to improve selection efficiency for oat biomass yield in the southern US</b> (Md. Ali Babar, University of Florida)</p> <p><b>Beyond milling – the other uses of oat</b> (Stephen Harrison, Louisiana State University; Aaron Beattie, University of Saskatchewan)</p>
3:45 – 5:00 pm	<b>Break and Poster Viewing</b> Battleford Room Foyer
6:00 – 11:00 pm	<b>AOWC Banquet and Service Award Ceremony</b> Remai Modern
	<p>6:00 – 7:00 pm: Cocktails</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 pm: Dinner</p> <p>9:00 pm: Service Awards</p>



**Wednesday, July 24**

7:00 – 8:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b> Bessborough Hotel – Battleford Room
8:30 – 10:00 am	<b>Session 7: Quality</b> <b>Battleford Room</b> Chair: Melanie Caffé  <b>Content and profile of immunogenic gluten-like proteins in Canadian oat</b> (Iris Chen, University of Saskatchewan)  <b>Distribution of trigonelline in oat groats and its preventing high-fat-diet induced muscular dysfunction mechanism in mice</b> (Xinzhong Hu, Shaanxi Normal University)  <b>Assessing the impact of genotype x environment on oat protein isolate structure-function characteristics</b> (Maneka Malalgoda, University of Manitoba)  <b>Composition and techno-functional properties of oat bran from Canadian oat varieties</b> (Marta Izydorczyk, Canadian Grain Commission)
10:00 – 10:20 am	<b>Break</b> Battleford Room Foyer
10:20 – 12:00 pm	<b>AOW Business Meeting</b> Battleford Room
12:00 – 1:15 pm	<b>Lunch</b> Battleford Room
1:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>MGM Seed &amp; Grain/Bay State Milling Oat Mill Tour</b>
	1:15 pm: Buses depart Bessborough Hotel  1:45 pm: Tour  3:30 pm: Buses depart oat mill

# **American Oat Workers Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement 2024 Awardees**

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**YAN Weikai**  
**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**  
**Ottawa, ON, Canada**



**Stephen A. Harrison**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Baton Rouge, LA, USA**



# **American Oat Workers Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement 2024 Awardees**

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**Nicholas (Nick) Tinker  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, ON, Canada**



**Eric N. Jellen  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, UT, USA**

# American Oat Workers Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement 2024 Awardees

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**Harold E. Bockelman**  
US Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service  
Aberdeen, ID, USA



**Roger A. Caspers**  
US Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service  
St. Paul, MN, USA