# Companion Cropping in SW Manitoba

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## Manitoba Diversification Centres

A. RoblinB. MelitaC. ArborgD. Carberry



### WADO STAFF

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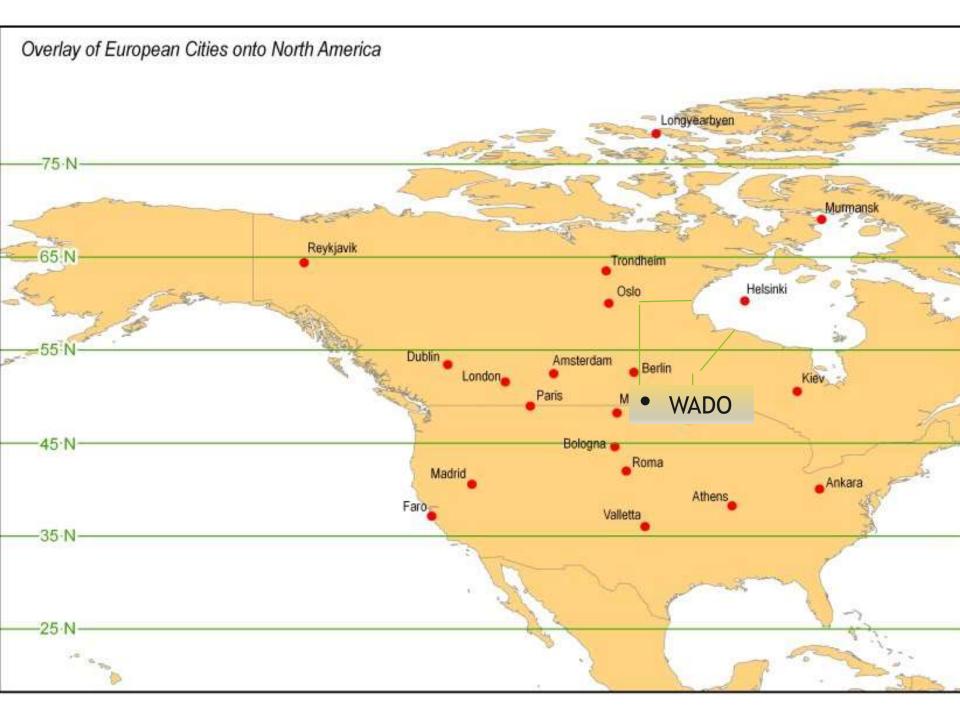
Jessi Mayes Justice Zhanda Scott Boutlon Scott Chalmers Leanne Mayes Chantal Elliott

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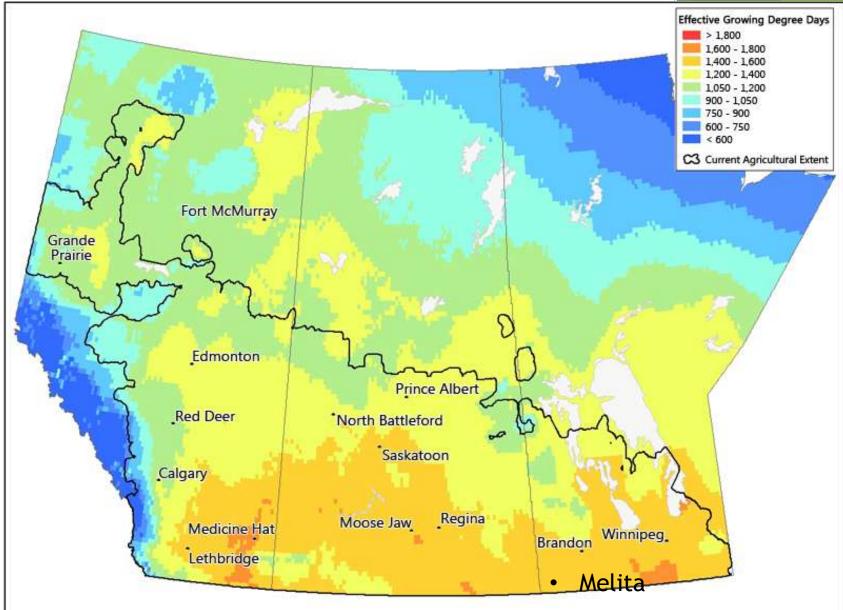


## Extension Field Tours

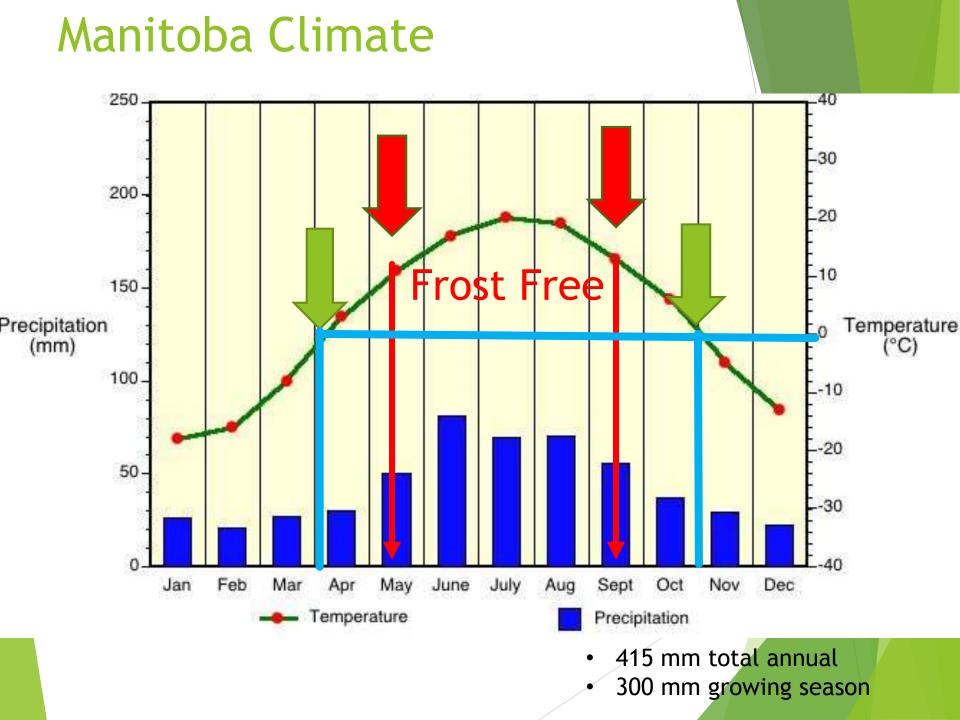




## Growing Degree Days (Temp>5\*C)



#### http://www.agr.gc.ca



## Crop Heat Units Before Spring Frost and After Fall Frost

### **Pierson Weather Station**

Time/Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	Mean
May 15 - Sept 1 (110 days)	2095	2365	2352	2369	2265	2289
Apr 1 - Nov 1 (214 days)	2946	3253	3368	3008	3044	3124
% CHU extra (104 days)	29%	27%	30%	21%	26%	27%

## Modern Prairie Agriculture



## Nature's Way of Life



## No Till vs Tillage Headingley MB, Feb 2018



## **Companion Cropping**

- Growing various species together to benefit or co-exist for various reasons
- Utilizes more water, nutrients, light, time

Intercrops
 Relay Crops
 Cover Crops

## Intercropping

Two or more crops growing at the same time in the same space



Peas (monocrop)

Pea + Canola (intercrop)

## **Relay Cropping**

Planting of two or more crops with staggered outcomes for harvest or growth patterns



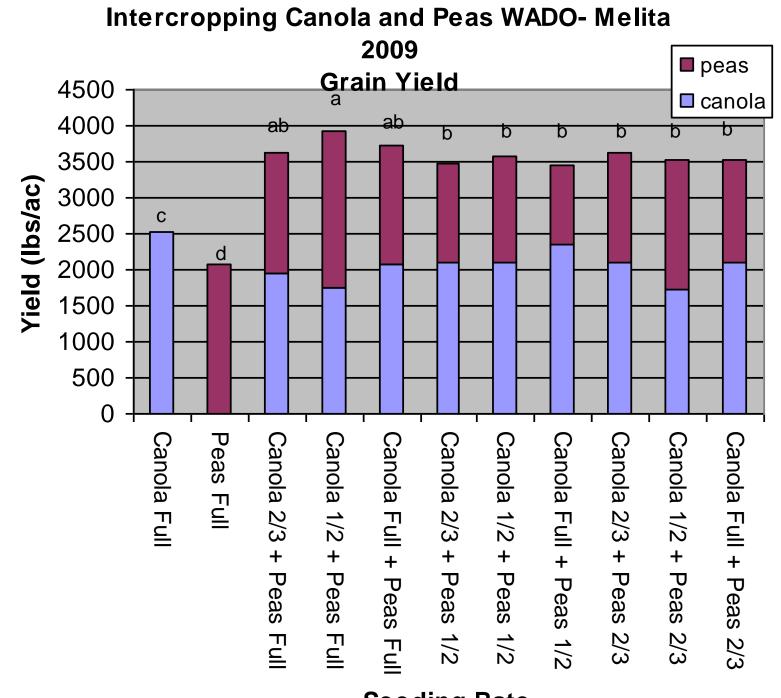
Spring Wheat and Sweet Clover

## **Cover Cropping**

<u>One to Many Crops</u> usually seeded after or before harvest for ground cover or forage, soil building







**Seeding Rate** 

## Why Companion Cropping Now? (mostly natural solutions)

- More Crop to Harvest
- Increase Fertilizer Efficiency
- Increase time of growth
- Soil Health (+organic matter)
- Reduce Climate risk
- High Land Values
- Bee health
- Increase Mycorrhizae

- Better Feed Value
- Pesticide Resistance
- Multi-Crop Seeding Equipment
- Sophisticated Seed Cleaning Systems
- Greater Water Use
- Less Salinity
- Less Compaction

# What's Happening with Intercrops?

- Leaky N in Peas (8-12% N fixed in soil) (Norman Sawatsky 1987, Xiao 2004)
- Light Use Efficiency (Szumigalski 2008)
- Water Use Efficiency (Szumigalski 2008, Chalmers 2014)
- Root Interactions, pH changes, N transfer, (N sharing, J. Fustec. France 2010 suggests 8-12% in Vetch & Faba > Brassica)
- ► Mychorrhizae (Pea-Barley 15%N transfer Johnasen 1996)
- Competition Effect (will for survival) (Chalmers 2009)
- **Nutrient Efficiency** (Szumigalski 2008, Nitrate "Sparing Effect")
- Maturity differences in pea-canola (extra growing days with more crops (Chalmers 2014)
- Less Pea Aphids in pea-canola (Chalmers 2017)

## N-hungty Canola

### Pea roots N-fixing Rhizobia

Nitrogen Sharing

## Intercropping Pea Canola: Why Now

- Overlap seed date
- Overlap Herbicides
- Similar growth stages (flower, maturity)
- Overlap fungicides (Lance)
- Shatter tolerant canola
- Save on Fertilizer and Pesticides
- Grow better peas, harvestability, quality

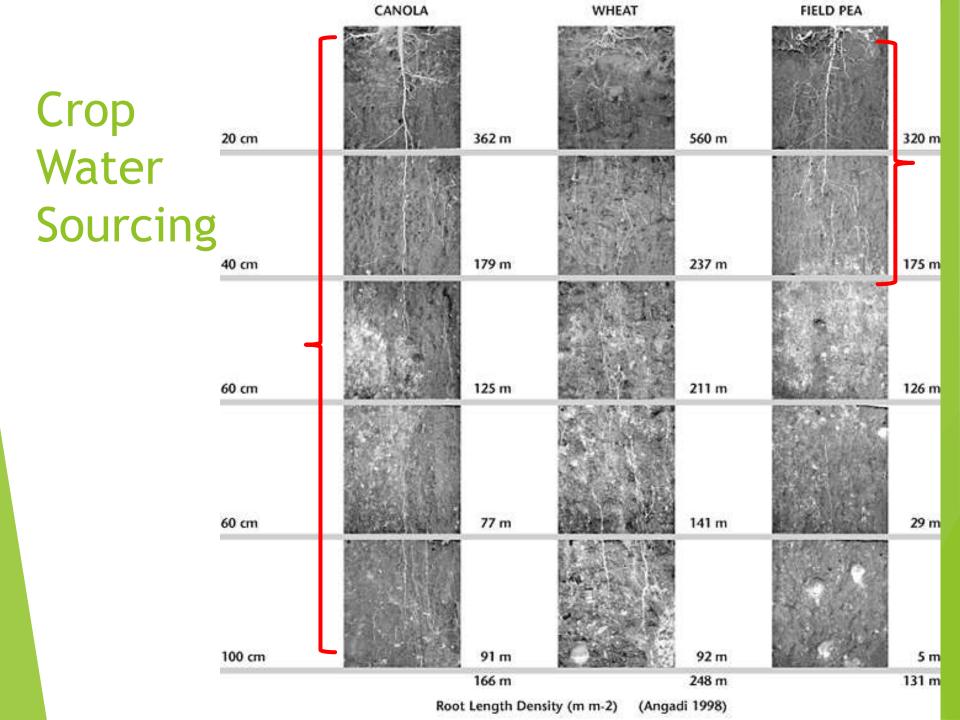


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Production System for Canola



## Why Not Companion Crop? (mostly human issues)

- Market prices may be too high or too low
- Crop Insurance issues
  - Sask. Municipal Hail Insur.
- Too stressful at harvest
- Equipment design issues
- Tighter rotation intercropping
  - Increase in Sclerotinia cycles
- Large Residue Issues
- Management issues (seed, chemical, physical)
- Labour (intercropping takes at least 2 people)
- Seed too expensive?
- Cleaning issues at harvest
- Lack of courage



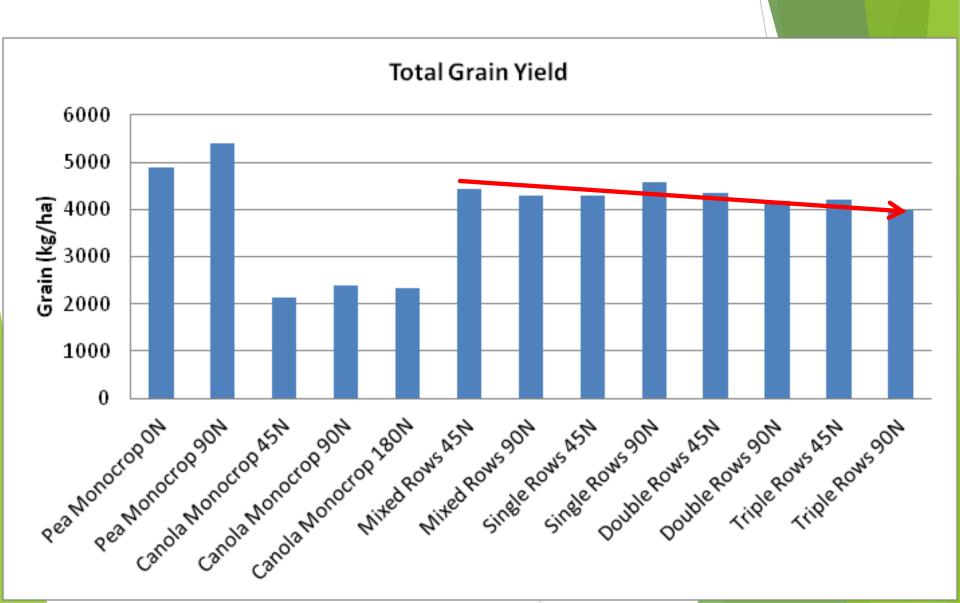
### Mixed Rows @ 45 or 90 N

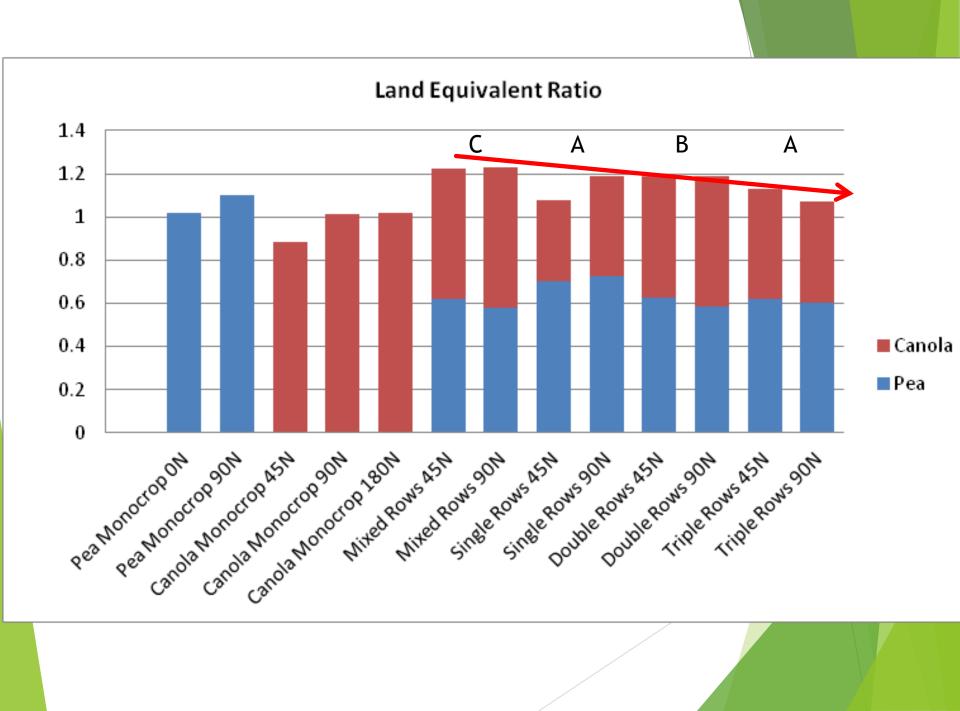


Single Rows @ 45 or 90 N

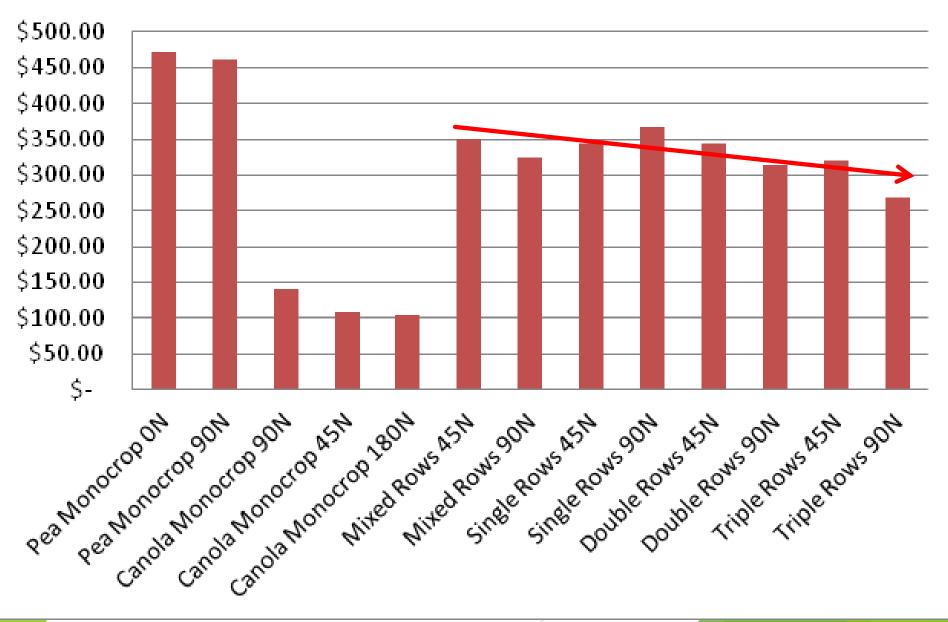


Double or Triple Rows @ 45 ot 90 N

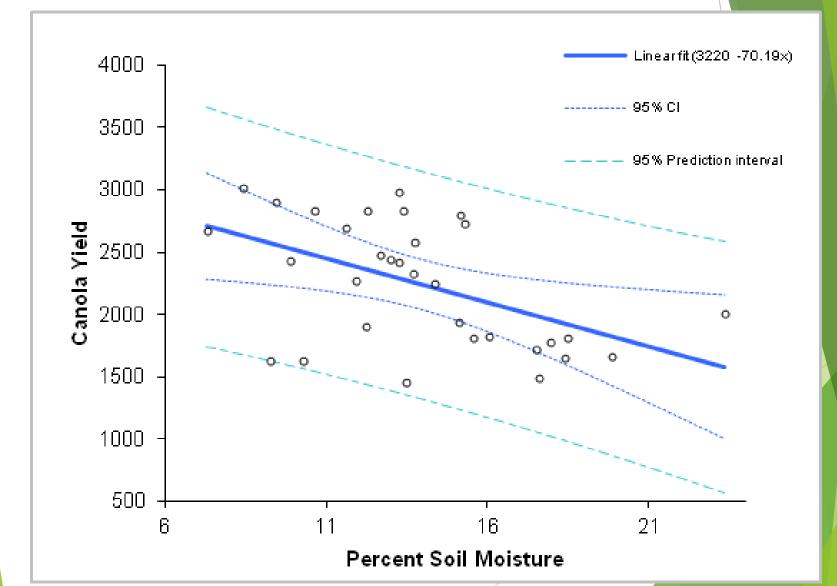




### Net Income



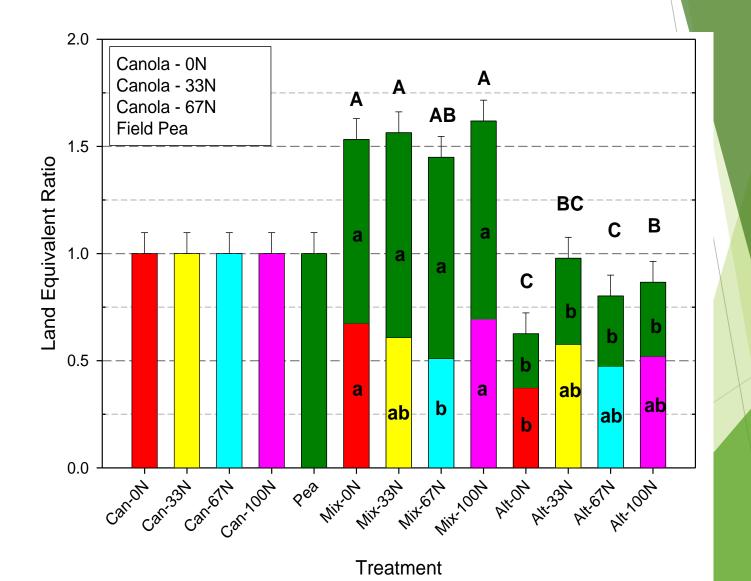
## Soil Moisture is Contributing! (2013 data)



## Soil Moisture is Helping!! 2013 Data Only

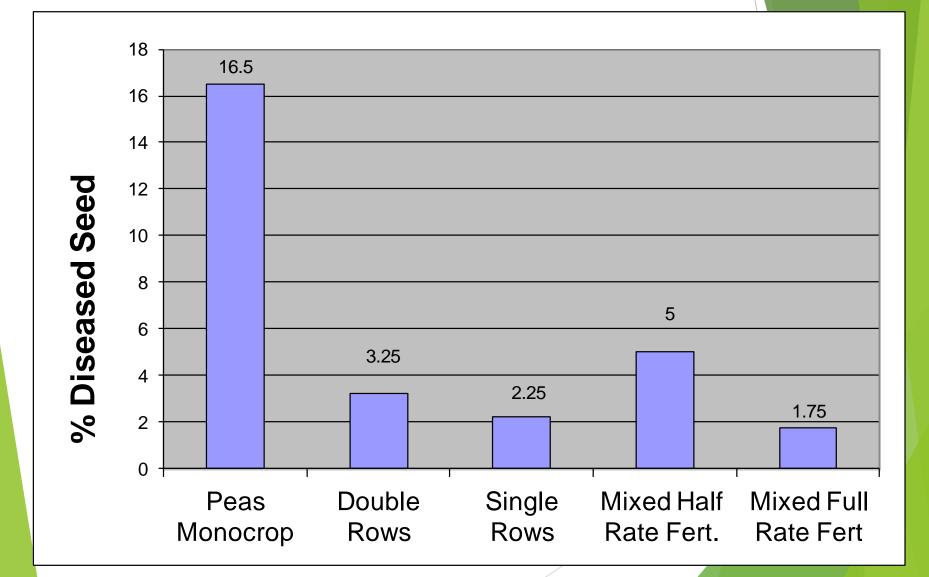
Relationship	Correlation		Regression			
Relationship	r	P value	R-squared	P value	Equation	
Pea Yield x SM	0.02	0.899	0.00	0.899	PeaYD = 4812 + 5.2 (SM)	
Canola Yield x SM	-0.50	0.004	0.25	0.004	CanYD = 3220 - 70 (SM)	
Total Yield x SM	-0.28	0.127	0.08	0.127	TYD = 8032 - 65 (SM)	
Pea LER x SM	0.14	0.437	0.02	0.437	PLER = 0.6 + 0.005 (SM)	
Canola LER x SM	-0.52	0.004	0.28	0.002	CLER = 0.9 - 0.02 (SM)	
Total LER x SM	-0.38	0.033	0.14	0.033	TLER = 1.4 -0.016 (SM)	

## 2011 Peaola in Melita (wet year)





### Intercrop Pea Seed Ascochyta with Canola



# **Time to Maturity**

Photo taken Aug 7, 2012 Maturity: CDC Meadow Peas July 23, 71-40CL Canola Aug 17

## 25 days difference



## Frost tolerance in Pea

Darren Peters Pea Canola photo

After May Long Weekend hard frost in 2015



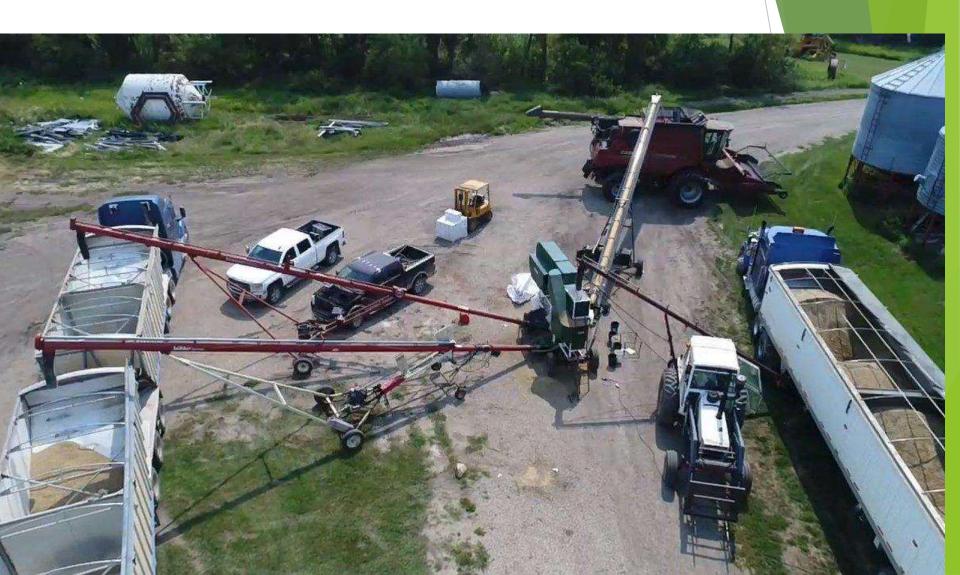
St. Leone, MB 25#N/ac, 25#P/ac 1.5# canola, 3 bu/ac Pea 2012 (photo, 155 acres) 6.5 bu/ac canola (30 local ave.) 41 bu/ac pea (45 local ave.) LER = 1.13

2011 (13 acres, same inputs) 30 bu/ac Peas (49 local ave) 30 bu/ac Canola (34 local ave.) LER= 1.49

8//24//20

13:48

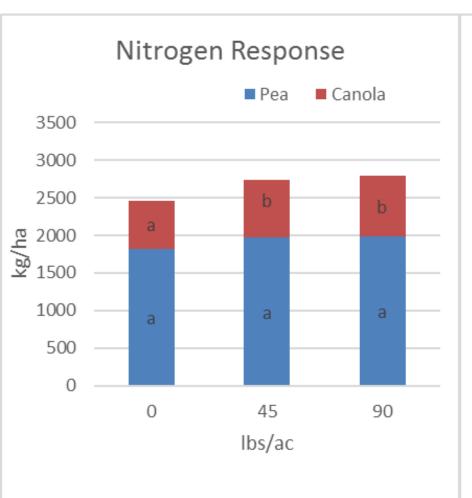


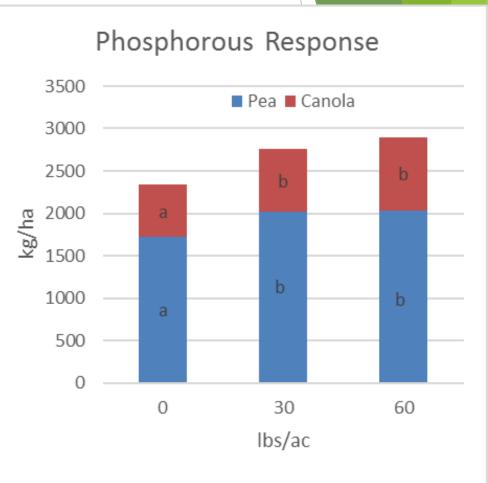


#### Pea and Canola More Yield = More Phosphorous?

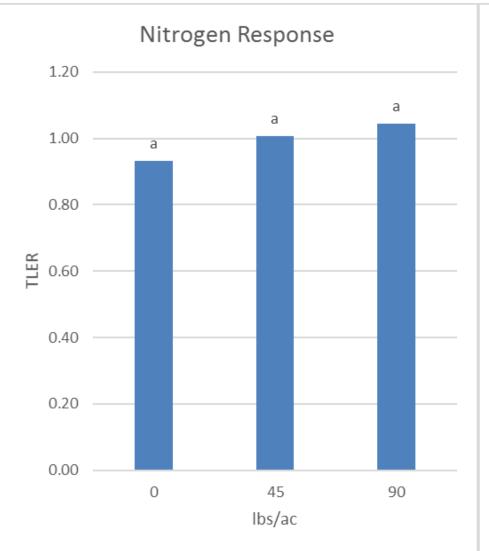


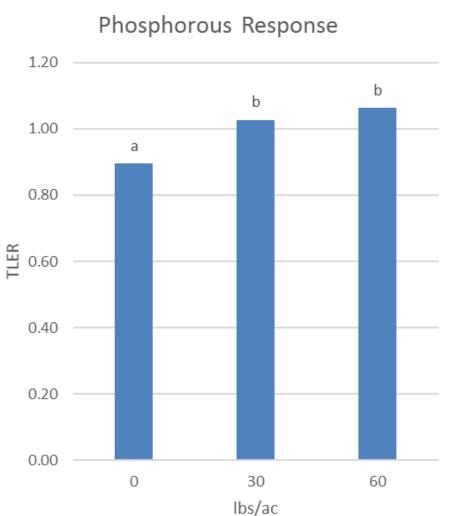
## 2016 & 2017 Pea-canola N vs. P Yield



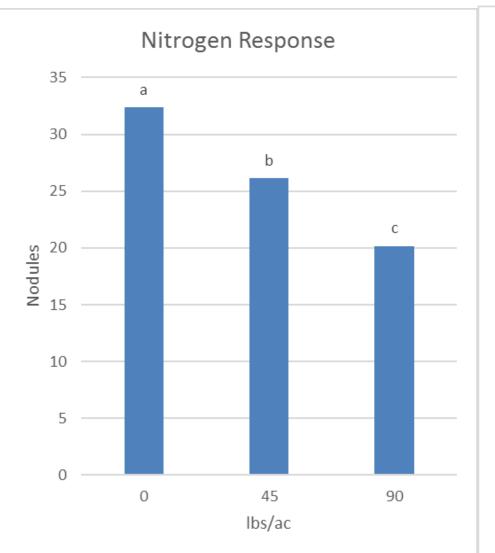


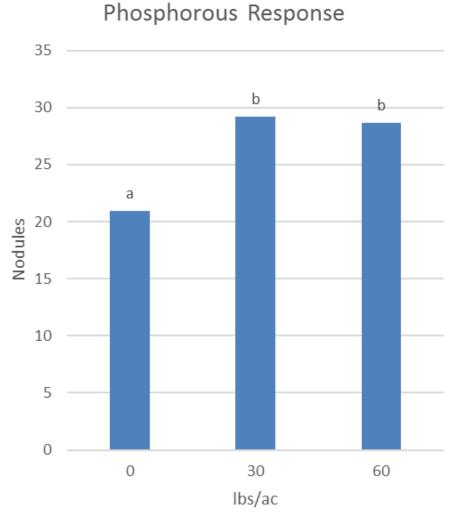
# 2016 & 2017 Pea-Canola N vs. P Total LER



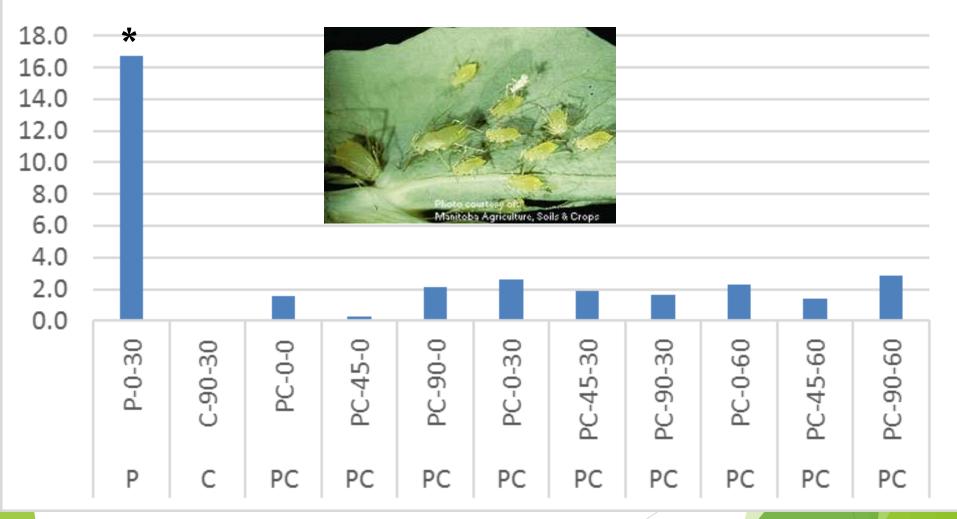


# 2016 & 2017 Pea Nodules N vs. P Response





#### Aphids Per Plant 2017



# 2018 Peaola Alfalfa x Fungicide





Spring Broadcast alfalfa 8 lbs/ac

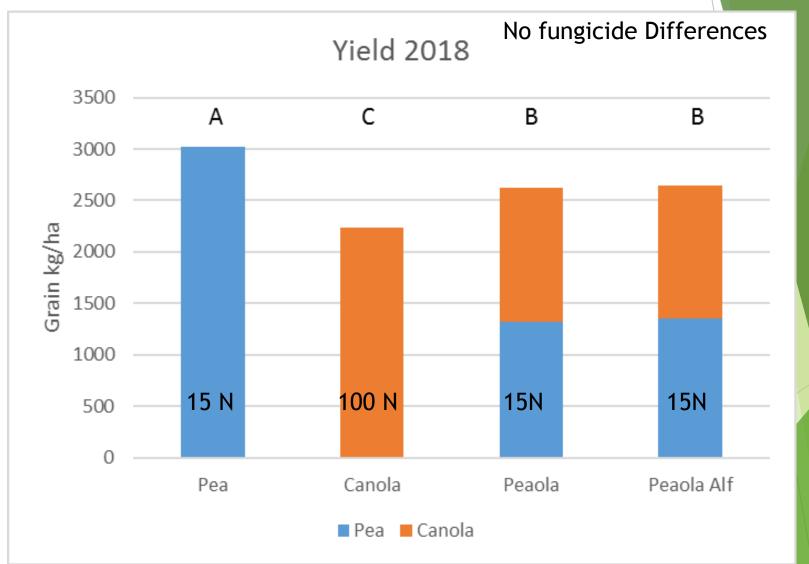
Final Fall Alfalfa Stand: 52 ppm<sup>2</sup>



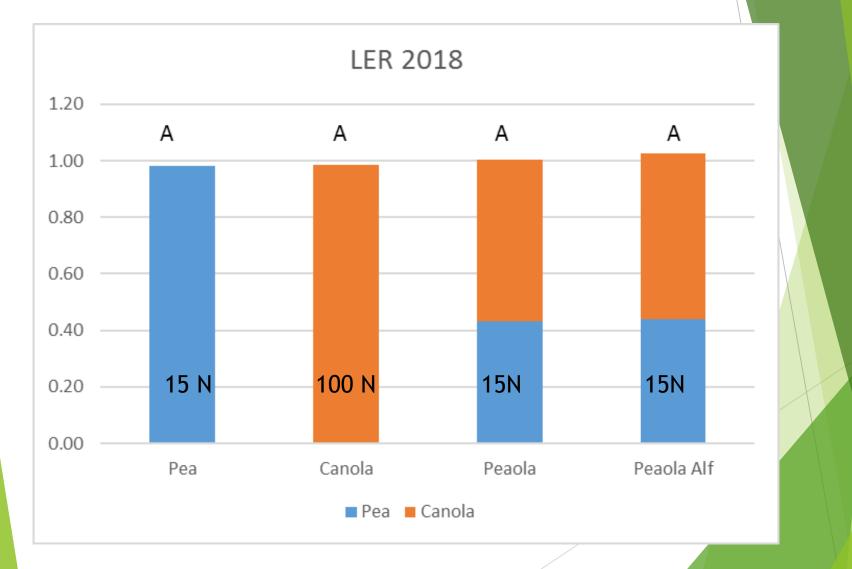
Split Fungicide App : Lance



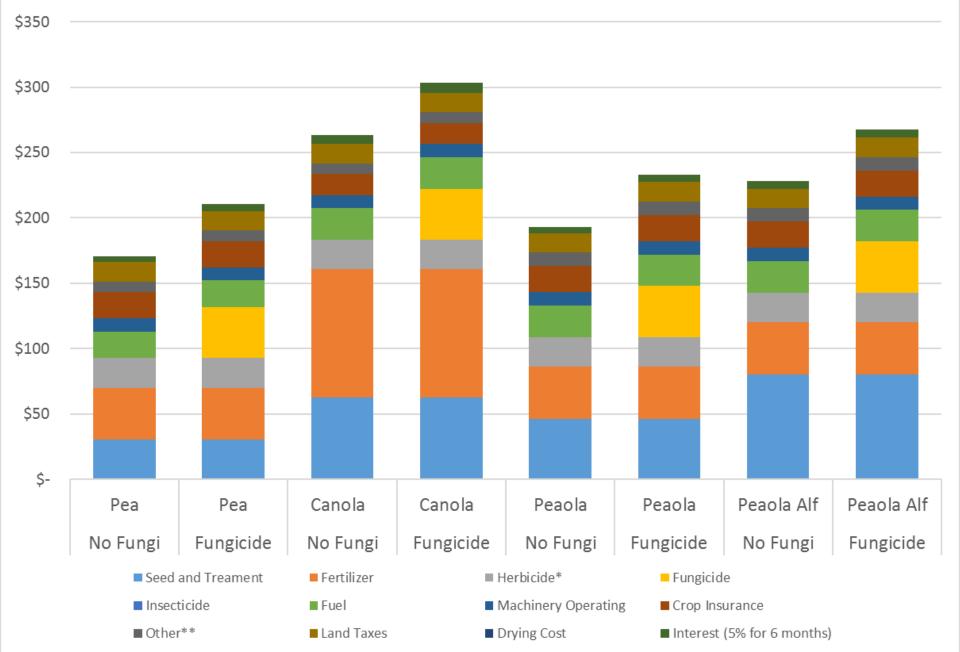
#### Peaola - Alfalfa x Fungicide 2018



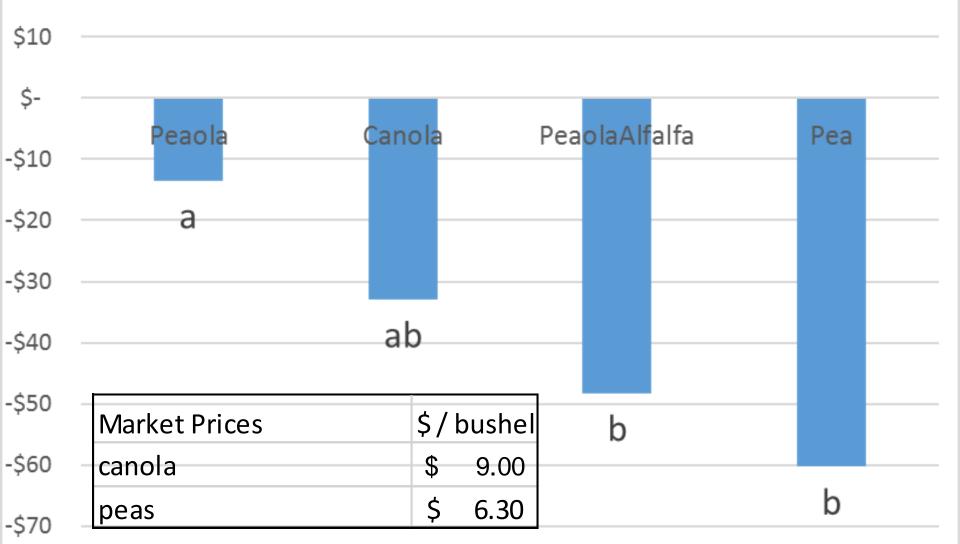
# Peaola - Alfalfa x Fungicide 2018



#### Cost of Production Peaola Alfalfa x Fungicide 2018



#### Net Income by Crop System



#### Pea Canola Conclusions

- More yield per acre by 0-60% LER (20% ave.)
- More Rain the more effect there is
- Mixed row orientation better
- Uses more soil moisture
- Reduces Mycosphaerella disease in pea seed, plants
- Improves canola shatter tolerance
- ✓ Uses more soil nutrients (P)
- Likely improves N-fixation efficiency
- Reduced Pea -Aphids by more than 50%
- Increases Pea standability/harvestability
- Can effectively establish alfalfa stands
- × Nitrogen reduces pea nodules
- Requires swath or desiccation operation

Hairy Vetch Seed Production in Winter Wheat



277 lbs/ac H. Vetch 33 bu/ac W. Wheat Organic

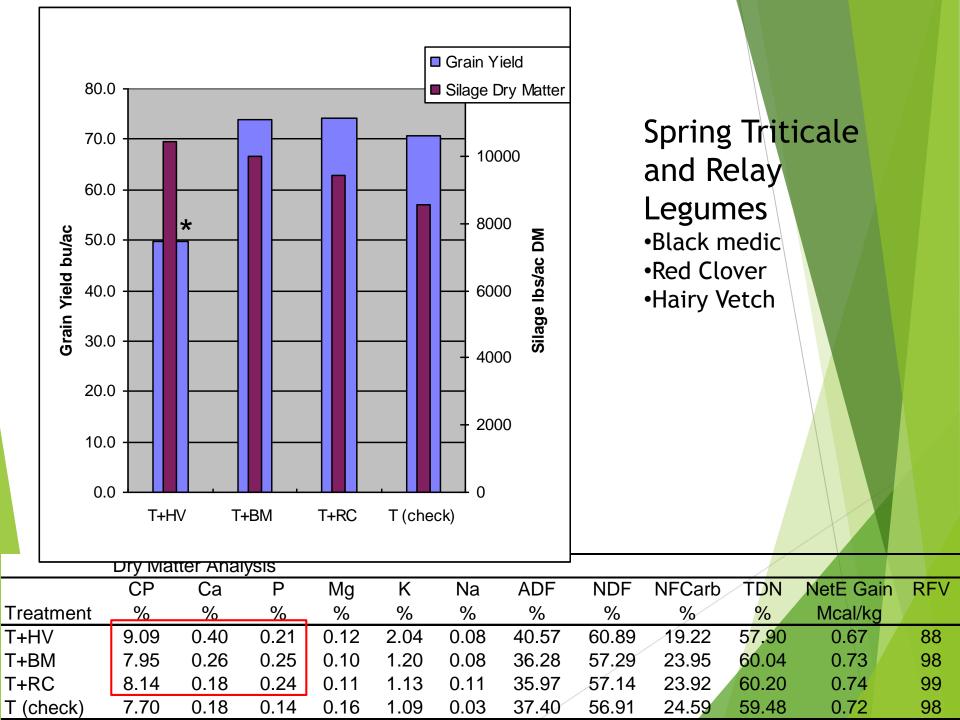
## Winter Wheat/Rye and Hairy Vetch - for seed



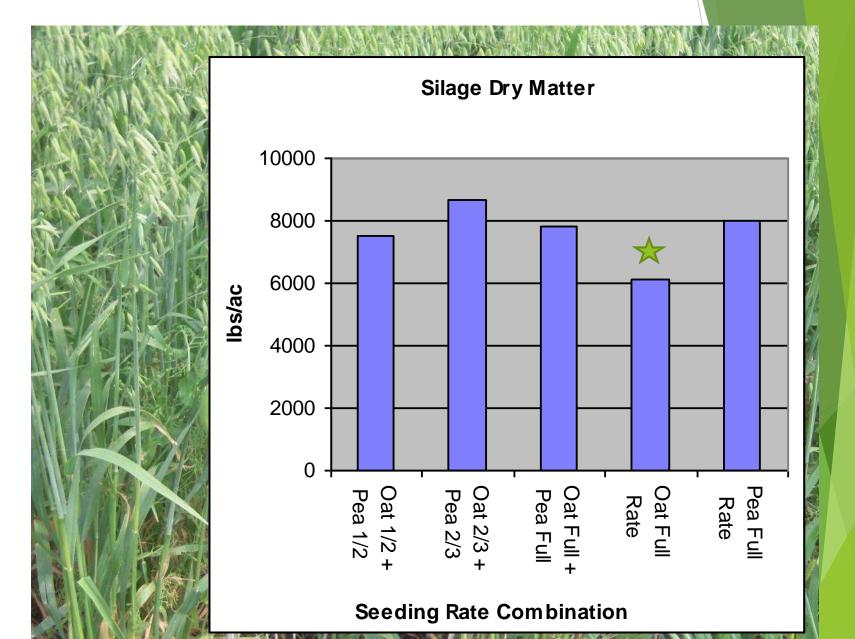


Treatment	Hairy Vetch	Wheat	Hairy Vetch	Wheat	Total	Gross	Net	COP*
Treatment	Spring Emer	gence (p/m <sup>2)</sup>		Yield (kg/ha)		Income	\$/ha	
Hairy Vetch	31	-	758	-	758	\$ 4,167.39	\$ 3,233.34	\$424.57
Wheat	-	56	-	3924	3924	\$ 1,338.14	\$ 565.87	\$351.03
Hairy Vetch & Wheat	14	47	438	2405	2843	\$ 3,229.58	\$ 2,190.55	\$472.96
CV%	14	19	37	25	25	32	46	
LSD (p<0.05; 0.1)	8	NS	NS	1417	1417	\$ 2,101.31	\$ 1,134.70	
Grand Mean	22	51	3164	2508	2508	\$ 2,911.70	\$ 1,996.58	
P value	0.020	0.368	0.220	0.008	0.008	0.047	0.057	
Significant?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	





#### Peas and Oats



# Pea and Oat Feed Quality

										NonFiber			
Seed Rate	CP	Ca	Р	Mg	Κ	Na	NaCl	ADF	NDF	Carb	TDN	NEG	RFV
Treatment	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	Mcal/kg	
Oat 1/2 + Pea 1/2	9.37	0.47	0.21	0.22	1.97	0.28	0.70	41.16	58.57	21.26	57.6	0.66	90
Oat 2/3 + Pea 2/3	7.78	0.37	0.19	0.21	1.93	0.08	0.21	35.76	56.09	25.33	60.3	0.74	101
Oat Full + Pea Full	8.66	0.51	0.16	0.23	2.26	0.20	0.08	38.76	59.10	21.44	58.8	0.70	92
Oat Full Rate	6.34	0.22	0.18	0.16	1.94	0.18	0.07	39.97	59.88	22.98	58.2	0.68	90
Pea Full Rate	11.62	1.00	0.18	0.28	1.41	0.05	0.12	39.39	50.01	27.58	58.5	0.69	108



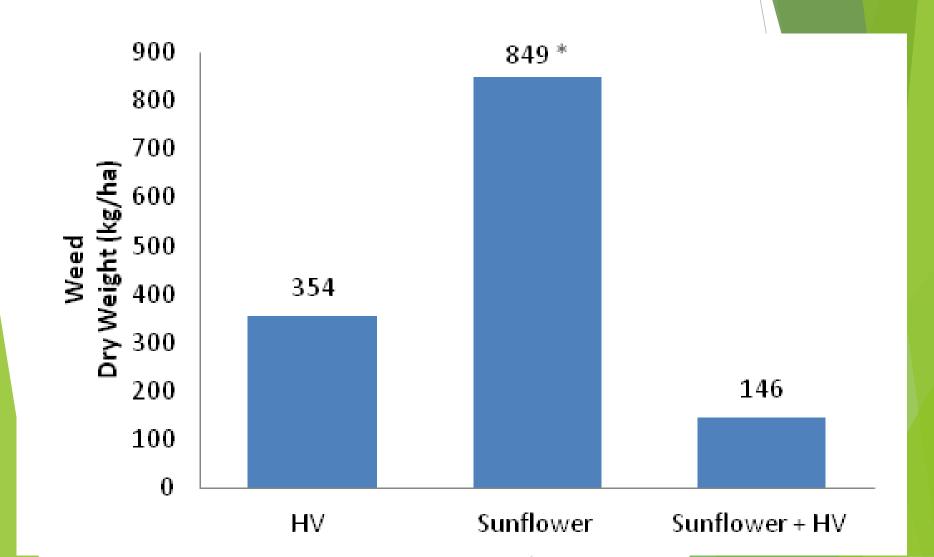
## Sunflower & Hairy Vetch 2014 Results

Treatment	SPAD	HV Biomass		Crude Protein HV		N Biomass Residues		Test Wt		Sunflower Seed Yie		
	Mean	kg/	'ha	%		kg/ha		g/0.5L		kg/ha		
Sunflower	31.2	-		-		-		120.8		2234		
Sunflower + HV	29.7	509	91	18.2		147	115	115.9		1743		
HV	-	760	02	21.7		266	-	-		-		
Grand Mean	30.4	634	47	20.0		206	11	118		1989		
P value (two-tailed)	0.013	0.0	65	0.044	44 0.0		<b>.027</b> 0.354			0.269		
Standard Error	0.4	111	13	1.4		41	5	5		403		
		Niitro	ogen Ibs/a				ć	lac				
						\$ /ac						
Treatment	0-6"	6-24"	0-24"	Biomass + So	oil N	Total S	System N Va	alue	Gros	s Income		
HV	19	17	36	272	С	\$	149.83	С	\$	149.83	а	
Sunflower	11	11	21	21	а	\$	11.55	а	\$	648.28	b	
Sunflower + HV	15	11	26	157	b	\$	86.39	b	\$	583.26	b	
CV%	29	23	24	22			22			27		
LSD (p<0.05)	NS	NS	NS	58		\$	31.71		\$	214.29		
LSD (p<0.1)	6	4	9	-			-			-		
Grand Mean	15	13	28	150		\$	82.59		\$	460.46		
P value	0.079	0.055	0.0503	0.0001		0	.0001		(	0.002		

## **Thick Thatch!**



#### H. Vetch Weed Suppression 2014



#### Sunflower and Hairy Vetch Deloraine 2016















## 2300 lbs/ac Sunflower 500 lbs/ac H. Vetch!



# Sunflower and H. Vetch Conclusions

- No yield difference in sunflower
- ✓ Increases in SOM by 0.25%
- ✓ 2 ton/ac available forage
- ✓ 59 136 lbs/ac N credit from residues
- Similar incomes even with Nitrogen credit
- ✓ Reduces weeds by 80%
- Volunteer vetch seed
- \* Issues combining, on reel and chopping
- Sclerotinia, Puccinia Rust

#### Corn and Hairy Vetch Pierson, MB- 2016

### \$0.40/lbs gain/cow/day SAVINGS



Planted May 15, 136 lbs/ac N, 20 lbs/ac H.Vetch Broadcast Corn Emerged May 29 1.5 L/ac REL Glyphosate + 0.4 L/ac Bromoxynil, June 29 Photo (July 5)



# August 15



#### October 15

Hairy Vetch ~1/2 ton/ac Dry Matter ~ 25 lbs/ac N

> = \$13 N/ac or \$55/ac feed

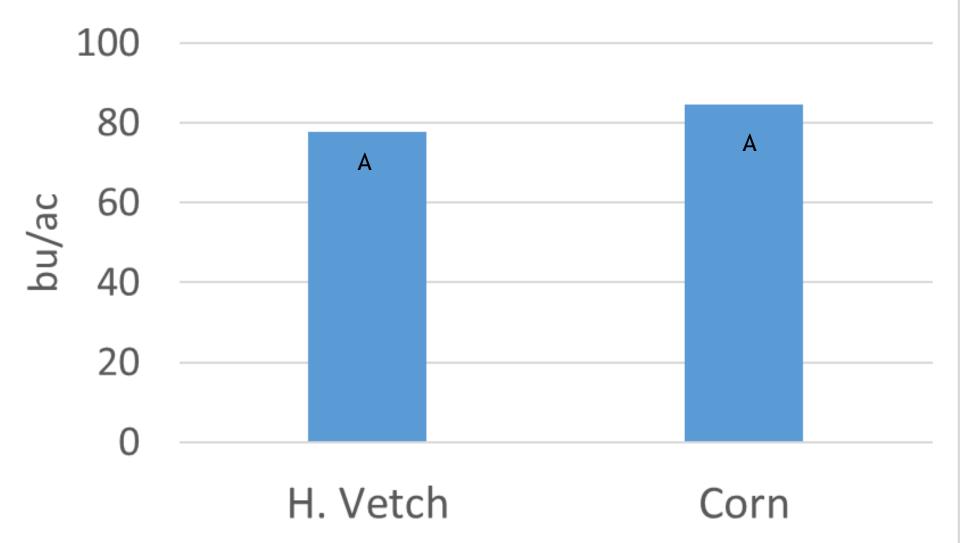




#### Harvest October 21



#### 2017 Corn + H. Vetch Grain Yield CV= 13.8% LSD = 31 bu/ac P value = 0.529



## Corn and H. Vetch

- No grain corn yield loss
- Suppress in-season weeds
- Fix nitrogen
- Provides some forage for livestock
- Provides some soil micro-organism habitat
- May assist in corn residue breakdown (from increased N credit)
- 0.5L/ac REL glyphosate works best
- May cause volunteer vetch seed
- × May shelter cutworms

### Oat and Forage Peas (Napinka 2015

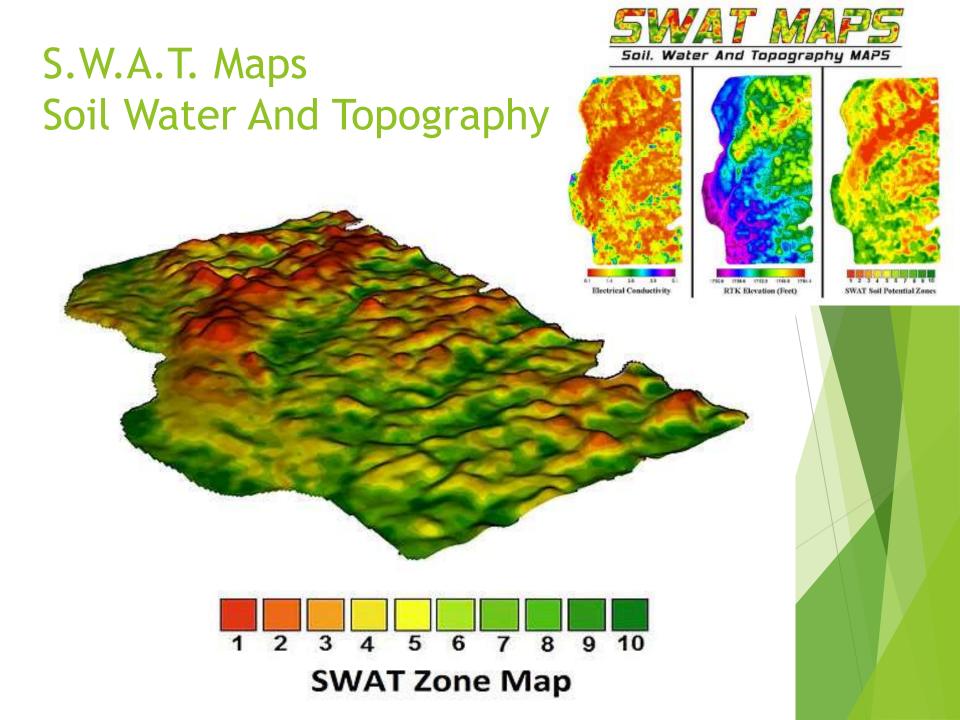






- 2/3 pea yield = \$15/bu
- 1/3 oats = \$5/bu
- @ 75 bu/ac total \* (\$15\*2/3)+(\$5\*1/3) =
  \$850/ac Organic!
- Provide standability for Forage Pea
  Provide some N credit
  Zonal benefits in field

Zonal Intercropping Pea-Oat-Mustard mix Nesbitt, MB (organic)



## Variable Rate - Sectional Control Seeding Systems > Intercropping?



#### Spring Wheat and Sweet Clover (organic)



- Wheat Yield 40 bu/ac, Organic \$18/bushel = \$720/ac
- Sweet Clover 5#/ac, Pottinger Seeder
- Midrow bander broadcast clover



**Zonal Variation Production** 

- ✓ Salinity reclamation
- ✓ Increase Water Use
- ✓ Compaction Mitigation

Napinka, MB August 2016





#### Salinity Reclamation July 5, 2017



## Sweet Clover July 5, 2017



#### 1.2 meters tall



### No Weeds



### Spring Wheat + Sweet Clover Benefits

- Reduced salinity/compaction
- Weed competition
- Greater Water Use
- Choices to keep or terminate (less risk)
- Clover Seed Source
- Nitrogen Credits (green manure w/ silage harvester?)
- Green over fall-winter-spring
- Bee forage, Beef forage (if ensiled or hayed)

RR Canola into Glyphosate Suppressed Alfalfa (2009)



### Glyphosate -Alfalfa Suppression

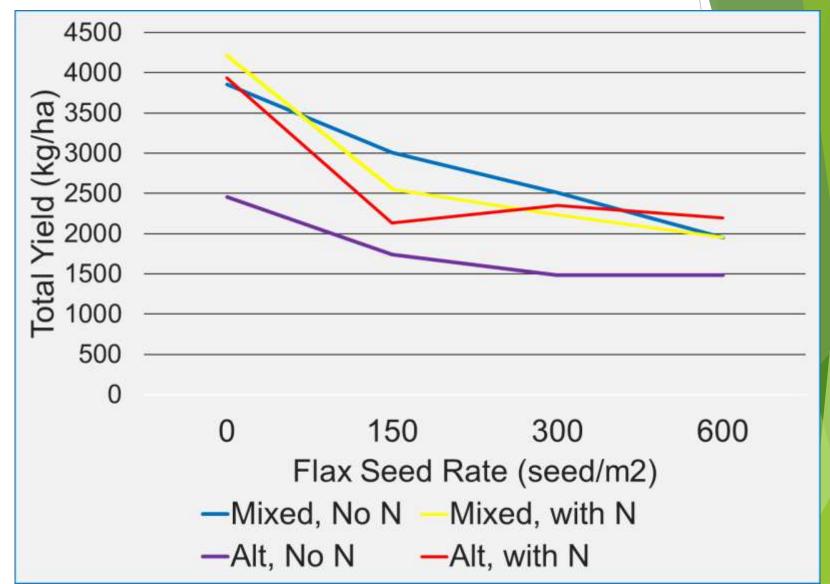
- Fall tillage provides huge nutrient flush
- Fall tillage better than spring tillage for moisture conservation
- Fall application better than spring apps for canola yields
- Fall apps more potent than spring apps
- Preseed Spring apps are too late for moisture conservation and efficacy in alfalfa
- Combinations or split apps may offer optimum results
  - 0.5L/ac REL fall + 1 L/ac preseed

### Chickpea Flax - SERF, Redvers SK



Sept 2, 2017 Monocrop chickpeas still flowering Intercrop ripening well beside

#### Chickpea & Flax Intercrop 2017 Redvers, SK



#### Chickpea & Flax Intercrop

- South East Research Farm, Saskatchewan
- LER of 1.7 to 3.9
  - Less Disease, Competition factor b/w Flax and chickpea
- ► N<sup>15</sup> isotope tracing (U of S)
- Disease Severity of Aschochyta
  - 51% monocrop
  - ▶ 17% in intercrop

#### Advice

- Target monocrop chickpea density
- Flax rate 10-25 lb/ac (preliminary), do strip trials
- Seed chickpeas deeper than flax
- Chickpeas thresh the flax bolls
- Intercrop compensates, lowers risk
- Maturity is generally better in intercrop

Chickpeas & Flax

Derek Axten Minton, SK

Oct 2016 Harvest



#### Chickpea Flax - Deloraine 2018

Aug 10 Above photo July 22, left photo

#### **Mustard-Lentil Intercrop – Redvers**

- Replicated 2016, 2017 at Redvers (ADOPT, SPG funded)
- ► Why?
  - Reduce lodging, improve harvest standability
  - Could reduce disease pressure
  - Possible overyielding, higher value
  - Better weed competition

#### Large Green Lentil - Yellow Mustard



## Green Lentil - Mustard

2017 Redvers Trial

 2200 lb/ac Green Lentils
 (95% of monocrop Green Lentil yield)
 300 lb/ac bonus mustard

- 300 lb/ac bonus mustard
- More crop value
- Easier to harvest, taller



2019/3/1

### Lentil - Mustard Intercrop 2017 Redvers Yields Lentil Mustard Rlentil/Ymust Rlentil/Bmust Rlentil Glentil/Ymust Glentil/Bmust Glentil 1000 2000 0 3000 4000 Yield (kg/ha)

## Winter Wheat and Soybean



## May 19, 2017 - RTK guidance



## Winter Wheat & Soybean WADO - 2017 Yield Results

Winter Wheat	Soybean	WW Intercrop	Soy Intercrop
3087 kg/ha	945 kg/ha	2108 kg/ha LER = 0.68	388 kg/ha LER 0.41
		2496 kg/ha TLER = 1.09	

New Trial in effect for 2019 Season

## Soybean-Flax Pros and Cons

- Similar seed depth
- Authority Herbicide, Group 1 grassy
- Mycorrhizae activity in both
- Similar harvest time
- Maybe a spatial advantage
  - Diseases in flax
  - Shape of flax stand vs soybean spread
- × Harvest Smashing in Soybean
- × Conventional Soybean

## 2018 Concept Soy-Flax

- Double Row intercrop
- 70 lbs/ac flax row equivalent
- 210,000 ppa soybean (row equivalent)
- Fertility:
  - Zero N check
  - 60 lb/ac N Urea (flax row only)
  - 60 lbs/ac Agrotain (flax row only)

## 2018 Flax Soy - Aug 1 Photo



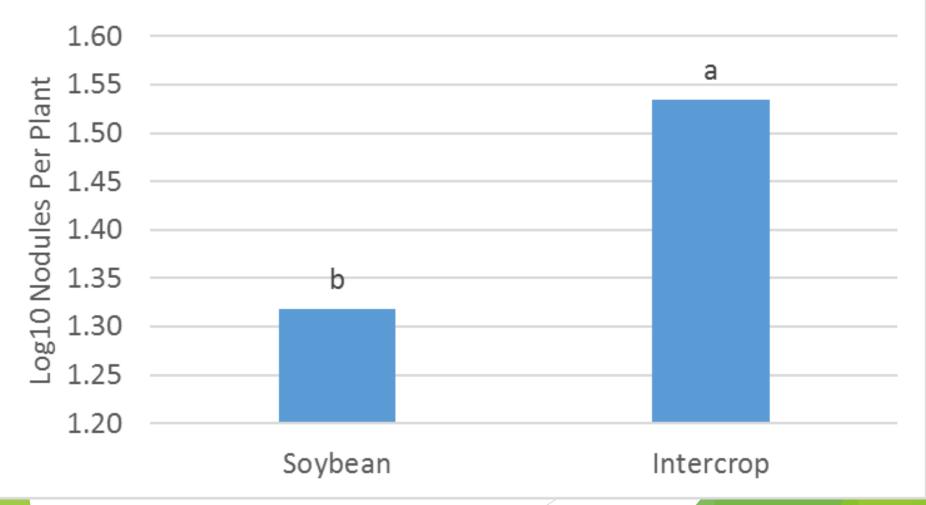
## Soy-Flax Intercrop 2018

Soybean Nodules x Fertilty 1.80 а 1.60 b h 1.40 1.20 1.00 0.80 0.60

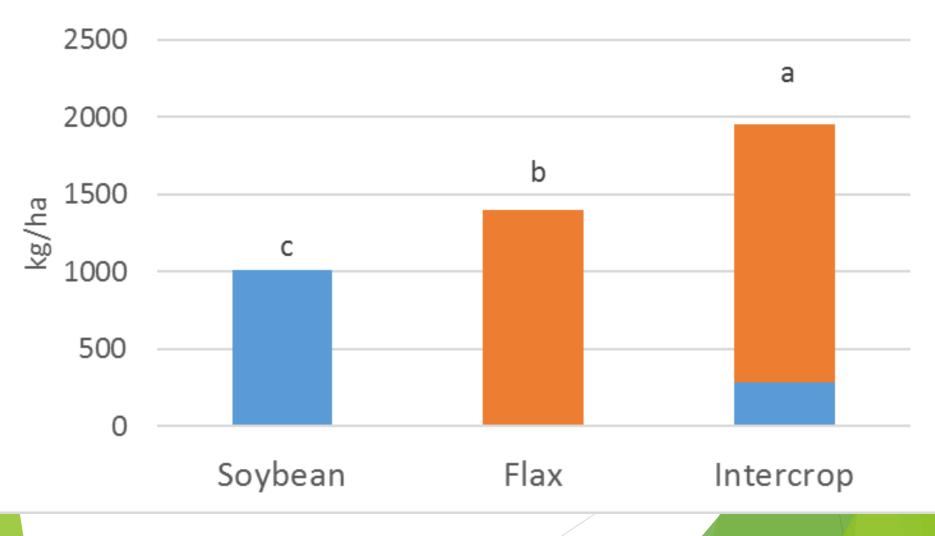
.og10 Nodules per plant 0.40 0.20 0.00 0N Agrotain Urea

## Soy-Flax Intercrop 2018

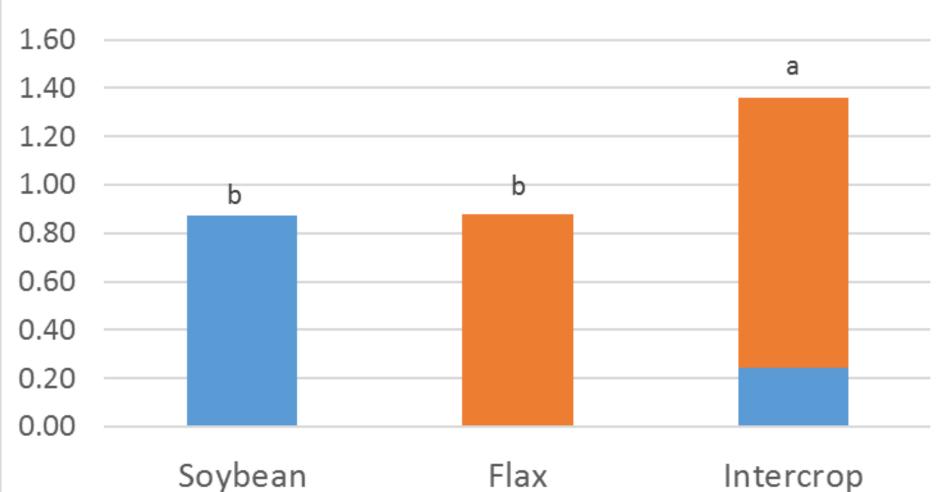
Soybean Nodules x Crop System



### Grain Yield Flax Soybean Intercrop



### LER - Flax Soybean Intercrop



## Soybean Flax Intercrop Conclusions

- Intercropping increases nodulation in soybean
- Nitrogen forms effect nodulation
- Significant yield increase in total yield and LER intercropping
- Greater soil moisture use in intercrop
- X Excessive moisture stress in soybean
- X Shorter soybean crop height in intercrop
- Cost of soybean seed may outweigh economic gains on intercropping benefit
- Hoping for a wet year to compare data

## Hemp Companion Cropping 2017



## Concepts, Questions, Goals

- Relay legumes may counter balance N economy
- Grazing after harvest
- Fall Rye as a controllable but compeditive weed
- Use more water per acre (good or bad?)
- Produce more grain (hemp + peas)
- Provide continual green cover year around
  - Soil building, reduce compaction, fertility boost
- Hemp roots shallow

## Experiment

TRT		Description	Variety	Target (lbs/ac)	
1		Hemp (Check)	Katani	25	
2	*	Sweet Clover + Hemp	Norgold	5	
3	*	Alfalfa + Hemp	Rangelander	8	
4	*	Red Clover + Hemp	Altaswede	5	
5	*	Hairy Vetch + Hemp	WADO	25	
6		Pea (seeded) + Hemp	CDC Meadow	80	
7	*	Fall rye + Hemp	Danko	20	
		* all but peas are broadcast prior to seeding hemp			

Burnoff: Glyphosate0.5L/ac + Liberty at 0.75L/ac MAY 23 RCBD: 3 replications Fertility 126-35-25-10 NPKS lbs/ac







Hairy Vetch



Sweet Clover

Alfalfa

Red Clover

## Aug 17 Hairy Vetch and Hemp



## Harvest - August 21





## Peas and Hemp Grain Sample



## Farmer Tested North of Saskatoon 2017

Seed Rates:

- Peas 90 lbs/ac
- Hemp 25 lbs/ac

Peas seeded 1 week before hemp, then harrowed then hemp seed.

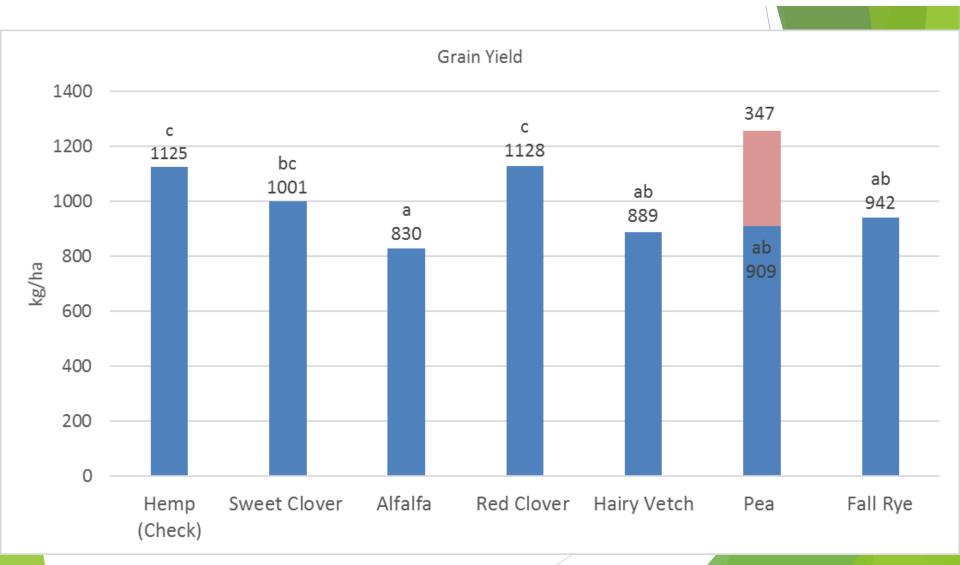
#### Yields:

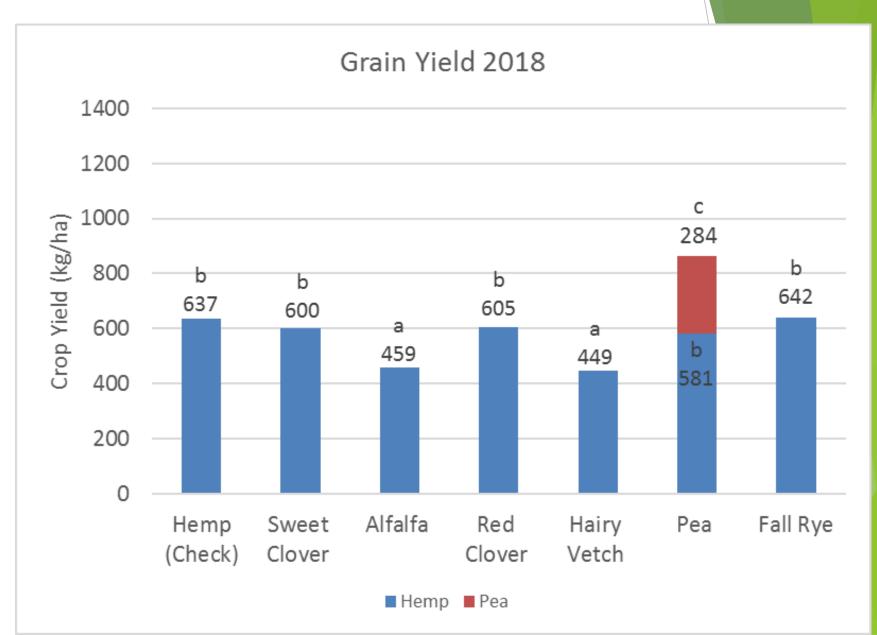
- 10 bu/ac Pea
- 1000 lbs/ac Hemp



#### 2017 P value = 0.005 Significant Diffe

Significant Differences CV=8.6% LSD (hemp only) = 149 kg/ha





# Sept 20, 2017

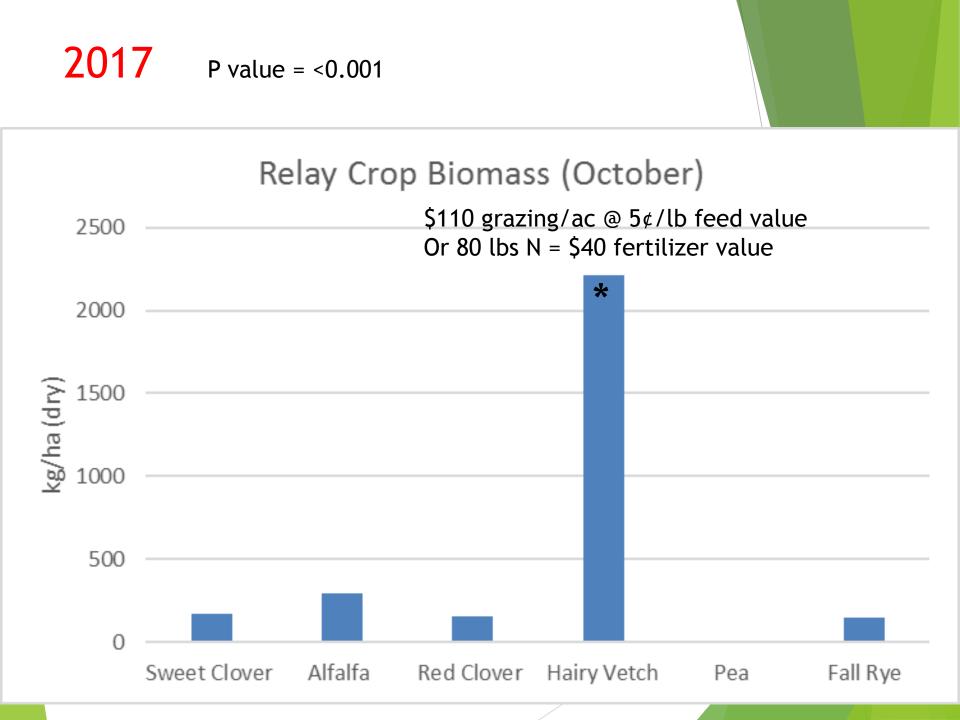


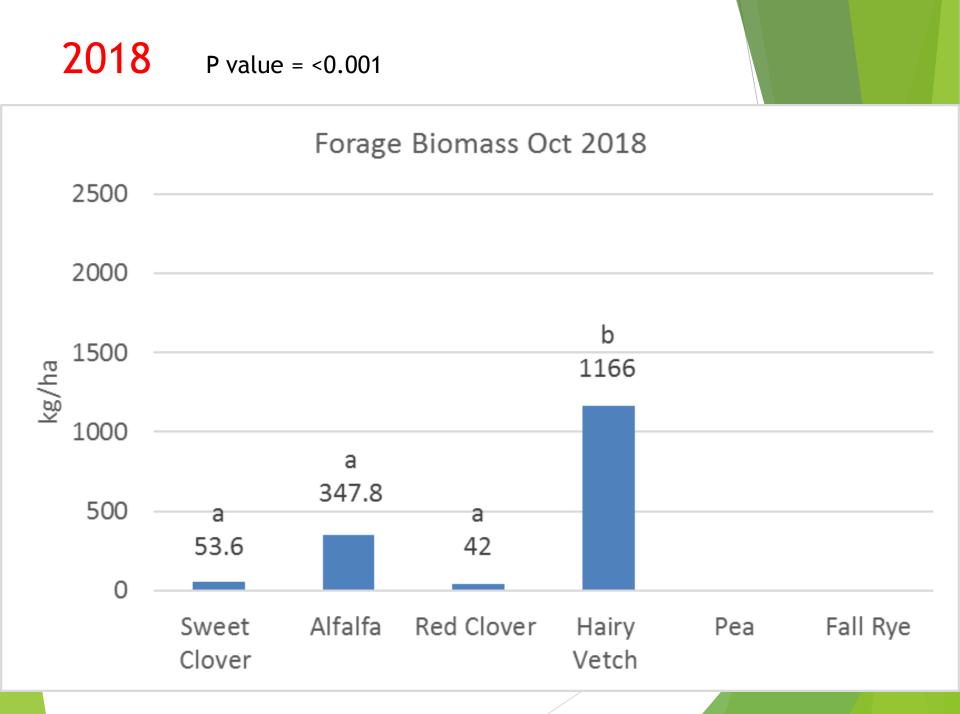
# Sept 25, 2018

Education 1

# Ifalfa Haity Vetch

Red Clover





# Oct 26, 2016 (156 mm rainfall!)





# 2011 Flood in Southwest Manitoba

### Alfalfa in 2010, Annual Crop in 2011

Assessment and

## Near Melita, MB 2011



2011 Stuck in the Muck photo contest winner

ern me



## Every drop of Water Count It's management is everything

### Glyphosate 1 L/ac + 75 ml/ac Clethodim Applied Apr 20

### Fall Rye Volunteers

## Fall Rye Volunteers, No Soil Moisture

## **Glyphosate + Clethodim**

## France 2018 - Near Château de Chambord

## France 2018





Tillage Without Covers

No till Covers and Livestock





## Consider

- End goals
- Insurance issues
- Marketability Issues
- Maturities and Harvest-ability
- Remember the Green Bridge
- Volunteers and Control
- Future Rotation
- Residue Management
- Climate Conditions (too wet, too dry)

## **Slido Questions**

- How many acres do you Intercrop/Relay Crop on your farm annually?
- A. <40 acres
- B. 160 Acres
- C. <640 acres
- D. >640 acres

## **Slido Questions**

- IN the last 5 years how many years have you tried intercrops/relay crops?
- A. One year
- B. Two years
- c. Three years
- D. Four years
- E. Five years in a row

## **Slido Questions**

- Why have you not tried intercrops or returned back to doing it?
- A. I am too chicken
- B. My Neighbors are not doing it
- c. Too much financial risk
- D. I have equipment complications
- E. I do not know enough about it yet

# Thanks for Listening!

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