



ALBERTA BRANCH
CANADIAN
SEED GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION

FarmTech 2009 Annual Special Presentation Friday, January 30 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Good & Bad of Eliminating KVD

Speaker:

Brian Fowler—Brian Fowler—Professor and Eco-Agriculture Research Chair, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Brian Fowler is a Professor and Eco-Agriculture Research Chair in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan where his primary responsibilities have been in the areas of plant breeding and agronomy with special emphasis on cold hardiness. His pioneering research and development efforts have been instrumental in allowing a major northern expansion of the North American Great Plains winter wheat production area. Dr.

Fowler is a Fellow of both the Canadian and American Societies of Agronomy and he is currently Program Leader of a large scale Genome Canada project on Crop Adaptation Genomics.

Session Summary:

Canada is the only country with a single desk wheat market and it has a registration system that forcefully restricts the cultivars which can be grown for the food market. At the beginning of 2008, Canadian had two hurdles between cultivar release and the marketplace that were also found nowhere else in the world. These were kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) requirements and the Prairie Grain Development Committee (PGDC). Although the debate still rages, KVD requirements were removed in February of 2008 and replaced by variety eligibility declarations (VED), which now allow for a more innovative, flexible responsive approach to wheat market development and cultivar release. The opportunities that have arisen from these changes and the role of the PGDC will be discussed in this presentation.