FLAX COUNCIL OF CANADA

12 March 2010
(revised 10 December 2010)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flax Council of Canada Announces Industry Stewardship Program for Farm Saved Planting Seed

Winnipeg, Manitoba --- The Flax Council of Canada (FCC) today announced a revised domestic stewardship program which includes an option for producers to use farm saved seed under rigorous sampling and testing procedures.

The best option for producers remains the planting of certified seed that has been tested for Triffid and shown to be negative. However, because some certified seed has shown positive with a low level presence of Triffid, a second option is now available.

The new stewardship option allows producers to use their own non-pedigreed seed for planting provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures as those used for certified seed being tested for Triffid. A representative 2 kg sample must be submitted to an approved laboratory for seed testing purposes. Each sample must represent a lot not exceeding 20 metric tonnes. The submitted sample must be clean of all weed seeds, chaff and straw.

Once received, the approved lab will follow the testing protocol requiring 4x60 gram grinds to be tested with positive results being defined as the detection of the presence of Triffid and negative being defined as no detection of any level of Triffid. There will be no threshold level of Triffid acceptable for planting seed. Only planting seed that has been tested negative is to be used for seeding purposes for 2010.

Canada's single largest importer of flax is Europe and to meet its stringent requirements it is critical that only seed tested as negative for Triffid is planted. Markets for seed testing positive for Triffid are extremely limited and as a result some companies may not be able to accept positive tested flax.

The list of approved labs for Triffid testing for "Farm Saved Planting Seed" is the same as for the Certified Seed Testing Program. Laboratory submission forms for this program will be linked to the Flax Council website. Producers are strongly requested to sign the part of the form authorizing release of the testing results to the Flax Council for statistical monitoring.

The negative lab report must be retained by producers and will be a requirement for delivery into the EU market.

Producers must also have this year's crop tested after harvest and prior to delivery.

This program is a continuation of our strategy of removing Triffid completely from Canada's flax crop.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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2010 Farmer Stewardship Procedures for Farm Saved Planting Seed

The best option for producers to minimize risk of growing flax contaminated with Triffid remains the planting of certified seed that has been tested for Triffid and shown to be negative. However, because some certified seed has shown positive with a low level presence of Triffid, a second option is now available.

This option allows producers to use their own non-pedigreed seed for planting provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures used for certified seed being tested for Triffid.

To minimize grower's potential risks and costs associated with using farm saved seed, growers are encouraged to obtain and test a representative sample of the seed they intend to use for planting the 2010 flax crop. If growers have not already done so, it is strongly recommended that growers submit a 2 kg hand screened sample to an FCC recognized laboratory for a 1x60 g seed test. Completing this test prior to cleaning may save the grower the cost of unnecessarily cleaning contaminated seed. This test is at the grower's option. It is not a replacement for the 4x60 g test outlined below in the procedures.

ANY seed testing positive for Triffid must not be cleaned or planted. Growers with a positive result will be required to purchase certified flax seed.

To limit cross contamination, commercial cleaners may require an initial test prior to cleaning a flax seed lot.

Procedures for testing Farm Saved Seed:

- To ensure the highest confidence in the testing procedures, a sample of seed must be drawn across the entire lot of seed. This may be done a number of ways; however the best and most preferred method is to sample directly from a clean seed stream. This includes but is not limited to sampling as the clean seed is:
    - *coming off the cleaners,*
    - *being loaded into a truck,*
    - *being transferred from the truck into a seed bin on farm.*

- A minimum 4 subsamples per 1 metric tonne (1 sample per 10 bu) must be drawn and mixed thoroughly.
    - *e.g. a 5 mt lot will require 20 subsamples*

- A lot may not be any larger than 20 mt.

- A representative 2 kg sample is to be submitted to a lab on the FCC's list of approved testing labs for Triffid testing (4x60 g).

- **ONLY SEED TESTING NEGATIVE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR PLANTING.**

- At harvest or delivery of the 2010 crop, the grower will be asked to provide a certificate of laboratory analysis that verifies the planting seed tested negative.

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LIST OF APPROVED LABS (revised 10 December 2010)

20/20 Seed Labs Inc. Suite 201, 509 - 11th Ave Nisku, Alberta, Canada T9E 7N5 Phone: 780-955-3435 or 877-420-2099 Facsimile: 780-955-3428 www.2020seedlabs.ca Email: barry@2020seedlabs.ca Test Submission Form	**BioVision Seed Labs** 7225 B Roper Road Edmonton AB T6B 3J4 Telephone: 800-952-5407 Facsimile: 780-437-6875 www.biovision.ca Email: trevorm@biovision.ca Test Submission Form
Eurofins GeneScan, Inc. 2315 N Causeway Blvd, Suite 200 Metairie, Los Angeles, USA 70001 Phone : 504-297-4330 or 504-297-4355 Facsimile : 504-297-4335 www.gmotesting.com Email: frankspiegelhalter@eurofinsus.com Test Submission Form	**Genserve Laboratories** 125 – 15 Innovation Boulevard Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 2X8 Phone: 306-933-7747 Facsimile: 306-933-5505 www.src.sk.ca Email: jako@src.sk.ca Test Submission Form
OMIC USA Inc. 3344 N.W. Industrial Street Portland, Oregon, USA 97210 Phone: 503-223-1497 ext. 20 Facsimile: 503-223-9436 www.omicusa.com Email: c.singsit@omicusa.com Test Submission Form	**Quantum Biosciences Inc.** 8 – 410 Downey Road Saskatoon Saskatchewan Canada S7N 4N1 Phone: 306-956-2082 Facsimile: 306-956-2066 Email: l.marquess@quantumgenetics.ca Test Submission Form
SGS - Mid-West Seed Services, Inc. 236 - 32 Avenue Brookings, South Dakota, USA 57006 Phone: 605-692-7611 www.mwseed.com Email: Kalyn.brixdavis@sgs.com Test Submission Form	