



Science and Innovation



Cereal Research Centre

Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Cereal Research Centre (CRC), located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is part of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's national network of 19 research centres. The Centre focuses on wheat and oat breeding, and improving cereal quality and resistance to diseases and insect pests.

Research projects cover all aspects of cereal development from the initial stages of identifying genes that control traits of economic importance to the registration of new varieties. The Centre's objectives are to supply producers and end-users with high quality, high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties that are well-adapted to Canadian Prairie growing conditions. In addition, research is conducted to predict and mitigate pest problems during cereal storage in bulk or as processed food.

The Morden Research Station at Morden, Manitoba, is linked to the CRC. This station develops new varieties and production technology, focusing on flax and pulse crops and landscape plants. Additional field plots are at Glenlea, Manitoba, south of Winnipeg.

Areas of Research

At the CRC researchers use applied science and new technologies to help make Canada a world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally responsible cereal production and storage. The CRC's research

activities and investments aim to supply producers with high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties of high quality that are adapted to prairie growing conditions, and to provide processors with high quality raw materials.

Enhancing the quality of food and safety of the food system, security and protection of the food supply, economic benefits for all stakeholders and environmental performance of the Canadian agricultural system.

- Developing guidelines for storing grain safely and identifying environmentally sound options to more effectively control insects and microflora in stored grain and grain products
- Exploring the development of new varieties of cereals that will have higher yields, resistance to disease, improved quality and greater tolerance to environmental stresses
- Providing end-use quality testing for cereal breeders and research centres in western Canada
- Identifying new sources of disease and insect resistance in cereals
- Conducting research on the various factors that affect the health of plants, the genetics and physiology of plant diseases and the cause and control of diseases such as Fusarium head blight, leaf, stem and crown rusts, smuts, viruses and leaf spot diseases

- Evaluating wheat, barley and oat lines for milling and baking quality, and barley malting quality
- Identifying and cloning genes responsible for quality traits and disease resistance
- Studying the protein and starch contained in cereals and the physical factors that affect baking, pasta and noodle making, and oat quality

Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 30 research scientists and a total staff of 230 (Winnipeg and Morden)
- Main laboratories are on the campus of the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
- Field research carried out at Glenlea, Manitoba, a 103 hectare site 12 km south of Winnipeg
- Oversees operations of the Morden Research Station, Morden, Manitoba

Contact us

195 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2M9
Tel.: 204-983-0191
Fax: 204-983-4604

Morden Research Station
101 Route 100, Unit 100
Morden, Manitoba
R6M 1Y5



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