



NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate Release

Finalized Research Update 768 Released

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) has just finalized a Research Update 768 titled, “Emergence and Yield Comparison of Mid-Row and Side Banding Seeding/Fertilizer Systems.” This information comes from an extensive study conducted in 2000, 2001, and 2002. Entire project results are available in a Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) report at the following web address <http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/apps/adf/ADFAdminReport/19990028.pdf>. The PAMI Research Update 768 focuses on the emergence and yield results from the multiple site years.

This Research Update had been published originally in 2007 as a Preliminary Research Update, but finalization was held up due to a legal dispute that Bourgault Industries Ltd. filed against Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (AAFC), PAMI, and individual scientists from each organization. That dispute has been settled allowing Research Update 768 to be finalized.

The project had been conducted in co-operation with AAFC and Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan. It examined crop response under the two systems in wheat, canola, and flax at four Saskatchewan sites. All plots were direct seeded into standing stubble. The three-year, four-location test provided a variety of soil moisture and temperature conditions.

For the overall project where there were 216 pairs of emergence comparisons, there were 174 pairs that were not significantly different and 42 that were significantly different. Of the 42 that were significantly different, mid-row banding (MRB) was significantly higher 33 times and side banding (SB) was significantly higher 9 times.

There was no consistent trend for the significant differences observed in emergence to convert into significant differences in yield. Of the 216 pairs of yield comparisons, 186 were not significantly different and 30 were significantly different. Of those 30 occurrences, MRB was significantly higher 15 times and SB was significantly higher 15 times.

The parties to the legal dispute agreed that the results of the study supported the conclusion that in most growing and soil conditions, both mid-row and side band systems can be expected to provide similar agronomic results. The parties also agreed on two additional observations. One focused on the inherent differences in soil disturbance characteristics and potential effects between the two systems. The other addressed a concern about nitrogen access differences between the two systems. These additional observations were added to the Research Update in a new section entitled General Observations, while existing information was retained in a section entitled Study Observations. Finally, a summary section in the preliminary report was removed in the final report.

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A copy of Research Update 768 can be found at www.pami.ca.

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