



## Message from Board Chair

Melvin Rattai, Chair, MPSG

I BELIEVE THE 2023 growing season and the entire year is going to be great.

As I write this, I'm staring out of my window at a yard covered in snow. You know what I am taking about. Your farms were also likely battered by storm after storm after storm. Every weekend seemed to bring in a new weather system.

Last spring was quite late. Everything seemed to be a month behind schedule. Naturally, we think of spring 2022 as an anomaly, and that the likelihood of this year being similar is too slim to take seriously. I cannot speak to how much snow you have left on your yard, but there is a lot on our yard and very little, if any, has melted. I'm starting to brace myself.

On my farm, which I run with my family, we have issued a challenge to ourselves. In 2023, we are pushing ourselves to achieve a farm-wide soybean average of 50 bu/ac. While we know that the weather could make

or break this for us, we will put in the legwork to make sure our soybeans have the best chance possible.

- We will give extra attention to our seed beds, ensuring our fields are as smooth as possible
- We will give extra attention to seeding depth
- We will give extra attention to the available phosphate levels on our fields and plant accordingly
- We will also be attentive to spray timing, realizing that this element, too, can impact yield

In mid-March of this year, a small delegation from Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers (MPSG) met with the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) to discuss insurance coverage of the crops we represent.

We discussed with them addition of a new coverage category specifically related to growing soybean varieties

grown for human consumption markets, which usually command a premium. We will keep you up to date on our progress on this file.

We are continually encouraged by the amount of our farmer members who utilize our On-Farm Network research and programs. It is apparent that Manitoba farmers have an interest in learning how to conduct their own research on their own farms, and that is very encouraging.

As always, the MPSG Board of Directors is impressed with the excellent work staff is doing on behalf of Manitoba's farmers, focusing on research and ensuring that research gets put to work on farms in all of Manitoba's growing regions.

Have a great planting season and stay safe! Take care of yourselves, physically and mentally, and stay focused on the things that matter in this life. ■

— Melvin



## SOYBEAN SCOUT

What's impacting these soybean leaves as the crop starts to mature?

Find the answers on page 51

