



**SaskFlax**

# **European Union GM Situation**

*December 2009*



***Canadian flax is primarily grown  
in Saskatchewan***



# Value of Saskatchewan Flax Industry

**\$380 million Direct**

**\$323 million Indirect**

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**\$703 million Total Value**

# European Flax Market Situation

- CDC Triffid (FP967) developed at the University of Saskatchewan: resistant to triasulfuron and metsulfuron-methyl
- 1996: environmental approval by CFIA
- 1998: approved for food use by Health Canada
- 2001: deregistered due to trade concerns

# European Flax Market Situation,

*continued*

- July 2009: European laboratories found GM materials in Canadian flax and suggested it was CDC Triffid
- September 2009: CGC confirmed trace amount of GM material in some Canadian flaxseed shipments
- Canada and the EU have agreed to a Flax Protocol for the system of sampling, testing and documentation for flax shipments



# European Flax Protocol

- Samples to be taken from each producer delivery and retained for 6 months
- Each railcar to be sampled; composite samples from up to 5 railcars prepared
- Railcar samples to be tested for FP967; positive samples diverted from the EU and traced back to source
- CGC will maintain a list of approved labs



# European Flax Situation

## NEXT STEPS

- Continue to communicate with growers
- Work to mitigate impacts of testing
- [www.grainscanada.gc.ca](http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca)
- Quantum Biosciences  
Saskatoon, SK  
Tel: 306-956-2082  
[dna@quantumbiosciences.ca](mailto:dna@quantumbiosciences.ca)

A background image of a field with yellow flowers in the distance and purple flowers in the foreground under a blue sky.

# **Flax prices in the marketplace**

- **Saskatchewan deliveries are now within 65¢ of the price before discovery of GM**
- **US prices are within 20¢ of September 2 announcement**
- **Thunder Bay prices are still lower**

# Impact on Producers

A photograph of a combine harvester with a red roof and blue accents, harvesting a field of golden-brown flax. The harvester is positioned in the middle ground, moving from left to right. The field is vast and flat, extending to a clear blue horizon. The sky is a uniform, clear blue. The overall scene depicts agricultural production in a rural setting.

- **Decreased cash flow**
- **Increased costs**  
*(testing, moving flax)*
- **Decreased incentive to seed  
2010 crop**



***Industry Sustainability:***

***The Path Ahead?***