

agriculture news

Sundre Barley going to Russia

BY DAN SINGLETON

Round Up staff

The newly developed Sundre Barley is heading to Russia after a local company signed a long-term agreement with AHT Systems Canada last week.

Bob Mastin, of Mastin Seeds, says under the new deal, 160 kilograms of select seed will be flown to central Russia, along the Volga River, where it will be tested over the next three years.

"It's a great development," said Mastin. "It actually has the potential to double the sales of Sundre Barley because they see there are potential sales in Russia equal to what we have in Canada.

"I'm going to be shipping them some seed this fall and they are going to be putting it in regional testing for three years, which is the same as it has to be tested here in co-op test, until it can be registered as a registered variety.

"During that time they are going to be mul-

tiplying seed stock because they are 99.9 per cent sure that it will go through the test and finally get its registration."

Developed at the AAF Research Centre in Lacombe, Sundre Barley is high performance barley that has recently entered the market.

AHT wants to produce and market Sundre Barley in eastern Europe and Russia.

The intent of the new contract is to provide Russian farms with a quality seed that will be the base for improving yields, he said.

In the time leading up to the new agreement signed last week, AHT and Russian researchers tested several Canadian grain

varieties. One of the varieties that showed promise for Russian use was Sundre Barley.

"Sundre Barley has all the characteristics to be successful in Russia," he said. "This flexibility will make Sundre Barley a very popular variety in Russia. And it will be registered in Russia under the name Sundre in the state seed registry."

Mastin says he may be heading over to Russia next year to see how things are coming along.

"Hopefully I will get a chance to stand in a field of Sundre Barley and take some pictures and maybe take a Sundre flag over and plant it in the field."



Carla Victor/Sundre Round Up

THE RIGHT SEED – Gerardus van Wissen, president of the supervisory board of AHT Group AG Management and Engineering with Bob Mastin, as he signs an agreement that will import the Sundre Barley seed to Russia, and Steve Rairdan, managing director for AHT Systems Canada. The business partners all agree Sundre Barley is the right seed for Russia, stating it is expected to fit with Russia's climate, as Canada and Russia climates are so much alike.