Recent Trends In Canada's Grains Industry & Grains Innovation Roundtable

Dennis Stephens Canada Grains Council Australian Grains Industry Conference 2009 Melbourne, Australia 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009



#### **Canada's Agriculture Industry**

#### Influenced by:

- Geography
- Climate
- Population
- Government
- Innovation

#### **Canada's Geography**

- 10 million km<sup>2</sup>
- 25% forested
- 7% farmland
- Common border with USA

80% of Canada's Farmland

Prairie Region

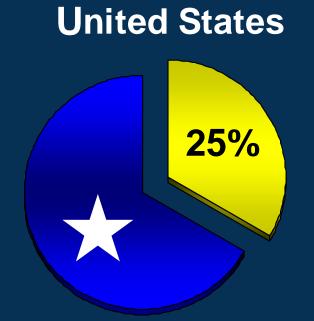
#### Vast Distances to Market Costs vary by commodity e.g. 2007-08 export basis: - \$54/tonne canola - \$85 /tonne yellow peas

1700 km

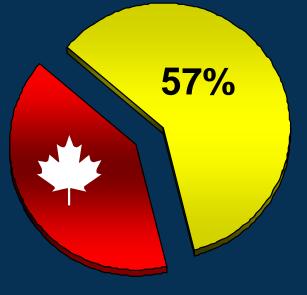
3500 km

## Canada's Cold Climate = Short Growing Season On Farm Storage

## Small Population = Exports Grain Exports as % of Production







#### **304 Million**

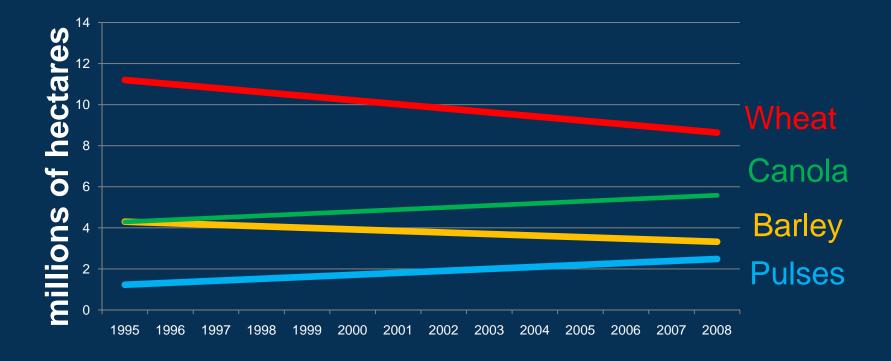
**33 Million** 

- POPULATION -

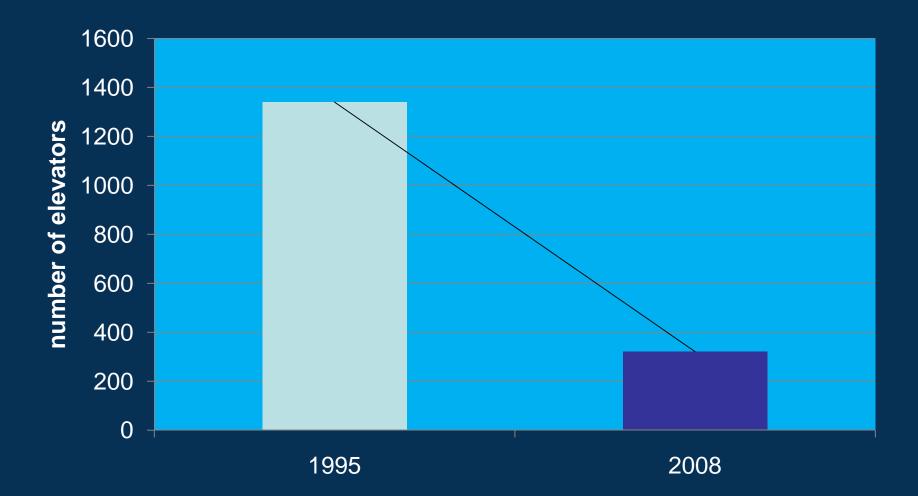
#### Recent Trends: 1995 - 2009

- 1995: Government Policy Removal of Crow Rate Rail Subsidy Fundamentally Changed Economics Within Western Grain Industry
- 1995: Innovation GMO canola commercialized; in some years canola now most valuable Canadian crop

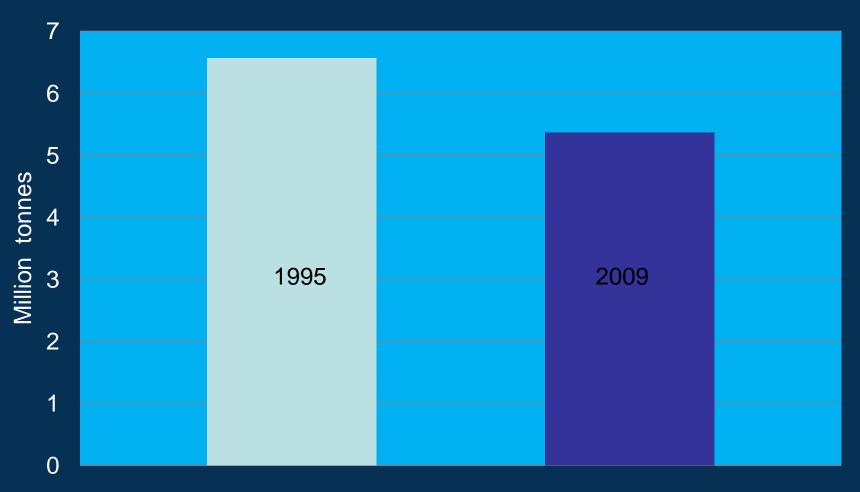
#### **Crop Choices**



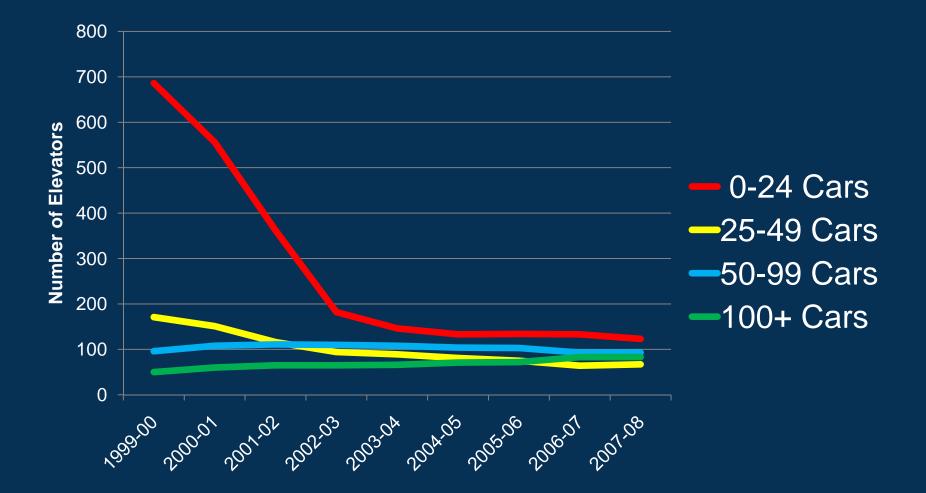
### **Decline In Primary Elevators**



## Primary Elevator Storage Capacity



#### **Primary Elevator Loading Capacity**



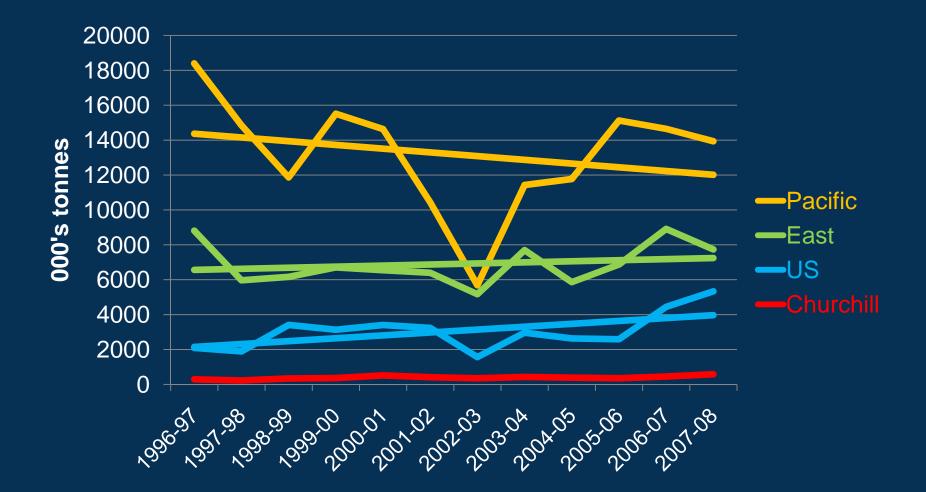


#### Primary elevator:

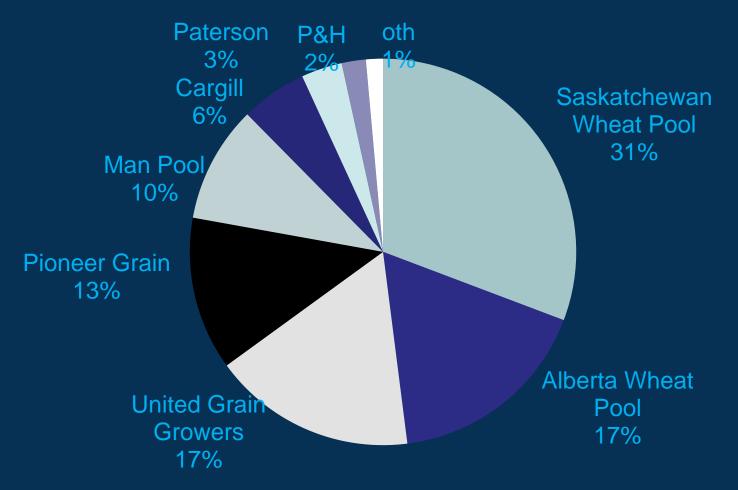
#### High Throughput

#### Average 6 x storage

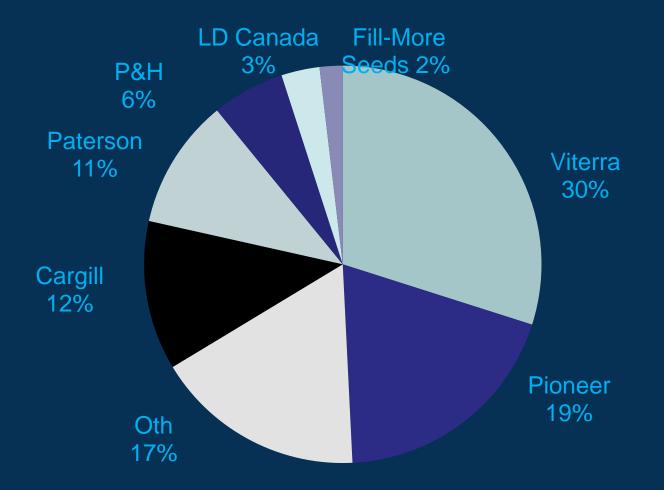
#### **Grain Movement**



## Structural Change : 1995 4 Major Farmer Companies



## Structural Change: 2009 0 Major Farmer Companies



## Domestic Use of Grains and Oilseeds Increasing

- Feed on farms 8 million tonnes
- Feed mills 8 million tonnes
- Oil processing plants 4 million tonnes
- Domestic flour mills 2.5 million tonnes
- Maltsters 0.7 million tonnes
- Brewers and distillers 0.3 million tonnes

## **Canola Council Projections**

Element Production Yield Oil content Classic to designer Export seed Crush Biodiesel (domestic) Biodiesel (export oil) Food

2006 9.1 mt 30.5 bu/a 42.5% 90/10 5.2 mt 3.7 mt 0.05 mt 0.25 mt 3.4 mt

2015 15 mt 40.5 bu/a 45% 75/25 7.5 mt 7.5 mt 2 mt0.50 mt 5 mt

## Why Emphasis on Grains Innovation?

- Canada's geography and climate place restrictions on country's grains and oilseeds industry
- Canada not likely to become lowest cost producer: one crop/short growing season/high transportation costs
- Commercialization of innovation critical to industry's growth: GMO canola in1995 – in some years now exceeds wheat value

## **Grains Innovation Report**

- Developed by Canada Grains Council
  - 40+ member value chain Management Committee
  - Committee achieved consensus on 26 recommendations designed to improve Canada's capacity to commercialize innovation
  - Published June 2008
  - Posted on Canada Grains Council's web page: www.canadagrainscouncil.ca

## **Grains Innovation Roundtable**

- Special partnership between Canada Grains Council and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
  - AAFC provides logistic support
  - CGC directs policy evolution
- Purpose: To facilitate implementation of 26 recommendations in Innovation Report
- Specific time frame: February 2009 June 2010

## **Composition/operations**

- Roundtable: 60 members from grains, oilseeds, pulses value chain and federal / provincial governments - meets 4 times
- Steering Committee: 30 members cross section of Roundtable: conference call every two months
- Working Groups: 5 Working Groups -12-30+ members: conference call/meet as required

## Working Groups

- Crop Regulations
- Primary & Further Processing Regulations
- Trade Policy
- Crop Research
- Communications

### **Roundtable Summary**

- Grains Innovation Roundtable exciting new industry/government partnership:
  - Key Canada Grains Council representing value chain responsible for substance
  - All Working Groups have met twice: Each Working Group has created sub groups to examine specific issues
  - Excellent participation; high energy
  - Long way to go, but initial signs encouraging

### Conclusions

- Canada's grain industry has undergone significant change in recent years
- Industry poised for significant domestic growth: e.g. 2.5 million tonnes of canola crush capacity to be added this year
- Future emphasis will focus on quality
- Emphasizes importance of rapid commercialization of new innovation and work of the Grains Innovation Roundtable

# Thank you

J