

GARY PASTUSHOK

Physical Address:

**1043E - 1st Avenue North
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY – Ag Scientist and Plant Industry Director

Accomplished agricultural and biological research scientist, employed by several of the world's premiere Agricultural Chemical companies, State and Provincial Agencies. Developed excellent working relationships and agronomic expertise in cross-functional domestic and international work groups (Cropping Sectors; Cereals, Seeds and Seed Treatment, Sunflowers, Pulse Crops, Oilseed Crops, Corn, Sugar beets, and Potatoes; and Natural Resource sectors) .

Key strengths include:

- **Highly Skilled Agricultural and Natural Resource Specialist.** Technical expert in the conduct of herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, entomology, seed treatment, growth regulators, soil studies and GLP Regulatory Trials (APHIS and EPA/PMRA), including Pesticide Applications and Field/Greenhouse Inoculation Techniques. Responsible for report writing, label management for State/University Extension recommendations. Organized and capable in managing large and very diverse field trials programs and training interns. Managed grants (up to \$600K/yr) to support testing programs by Federal, University and Private Contractors across Montana, Dakotas and Minnesota. Received accolades for scientific excellence in GMO, Regulatory, and Efficacy trials.
- **Results Driven and Innovative.** Developed a deep base of agronomic experiences in; project management, generating efficacy data, product label writing management, Regulatory and Environmental studies, and Product Sales-Support experiences. Very familiar with the crops grown across the Northern USA and Western Canada. Developed hundreds of field protocols and detailed project summaries. Generated summaries and presentations on up to 26 National Research projects annually. Work well under tight timelines, long hours over a wide geography.
- **Responsible and Self Motivated**, Routinely work without any direct supervision, but also enjoy collaborating in teams, interacting with growers, the general public and research communities. Safety conscious in all aspects of field work.
- **Technical Liaison** to State and Federal Agricultural Specialists and to Sales and Marketing staff regarding product recommendations and label updates. Experienced in making technical presentations to the general Public..
- **Leadership as a State Ag Division Director and Field Inspector**, Lead and assisted a team of 6 State Biological Specialists involved in nursery inspections, noxious weed

management, soil pathogens, weed-free forages, apiary, commodity export certifications, and pilot programs on the agronomy and marketing of industrial hemp and other State regulatory concerns. Worked closely with USDA-ARS to manage invasive species [i.e. emerald ash borer imported on quarantined firewood, and Japanese beetles harbored in infested nursery stock imported through supplier stock]. Conducted State field and nursery inspections. Granted nursery business and export crop certifications, installed monitoring traps for exotic insects in natural forest environments, and surveyed for Japanese beetle in nursery stock.

- **Other Natural Resources Experience.** Formal Plant Ecology Training and Practical Experience

Conservation Instructor, Manitoba Forestry Association, instructed school groups/teachers/general public on forest fire detection and prevention, reforestation efforts, tree species and forest ecology. University Herbarium assistant. Ag Weeds lab instructor.

Bog (Peat) Surveyor, Manitoba Government Dept of Mines, Resources and Environmental Mgmt; worked in a small team sampling and delineating the peat moss (*Sphagnum*) resources of Southern Manitoba. Surveyed, soil cored and identified bog vegetation, and conducted a separate scientific study on the spatial distribution of bog plant species.

SKILLS and CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator (ND)
CPR and 1st Aide Certified
GLP Trained
USDA APHIS Field Trials Regulatory Trained
IT Security Trained
Time Management Training
Presentation Skills Training
Detailed and organized

Safe Driver Training
Ag Research Manager Training
Hazard and Safety Trained
Team Player, Collaborative.
Apache Open Office Suite
MS Office Suite
Technical Writing Skillset

DETAILED WORK EXPERIENCES

Plant Industries Division Director – North Dakota Dept Agriculture 2016-17

- Supervised 6 plant specialists on State regulatory efforts including: horticultural nurseries inspections, pest surveys, certifying and licensing facilities exporting highly-refined commodities; directing and generating the reports and presentations for the on-farm industrial hemp pilot program, noxious-weed programs, apiary licensing, certifying weed-free forages, and monitoring for invasives. Collaborated with USDA-ARS APHIS and State Scientists to curb invasive species spread including ash borers, sugar beet nematodes, invasive species (Palmer amaranth) contaminated seedlots, Japanese beetles infesting imported nursery stock, developed strategies to destroy infested firewood, and worked with NDSU Extension to develop a strategy to contain infested soil spread with Club root disease.
- Investigated and developed reports on several public complaints regarding commercial

apiary conduct leading to litigation proceedings; investigated illegal cross border transport of ash borer infested firewood, assisted in exotic pest surveys and nursery inspections, trapping Japanese beetles in nurseries, collaborated with Minnesota Ag on noxious weed (Palmer amaranth) seed contaminants in NRCS conservation seed mixtures. Conducted facility inspections and generated reports on findings. Authored the technical report and slide set for the 2016 regulated industrial hemp pilot Program NDAA.

[www.nd.gov/ndda/sites/default/files/resource/2016%20NDAA IndustrialHempPilotResearchSummary_Final %20\(RSS\).pdf](http://www.nd.gov/ndda/sites/default/files/resource/2016%20NDAA%20IndustrialHempPilotResearchSummary_Final%20(RSS).pdf)

Senior Scientist -- SYNGENTA Crop Protection [MN, ND, MT] 2001-15

- Designed and implemented Field and Greenhouse R&D and Marketing Support Trials on proprietary agricultural products. Field trials developed to determining the efficacy of pesticides including herbicides, seed treatments, fungicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators. Innovative aptitude in developing inoculated/infestation/survey techniques against a range of agronomic pests.
- GLP APHIS Regulatory field trial coordinator (FPC) – worked with counterparts on the development of GMO crops, including wheat, soybeans, canola, and corn. Experienced in applications and sampling soils and plant materials under Federal Regulatory oversight to assess the dissipation of pesticides in the environment.
- Hired and trained many temporary staff, established R&D protocols and administered Sales Support funds to Federal and State Scientists collaborated in North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Minnesota. Ran a large and diverse annual workload of over 120 individual trials/yr supported by an external funding budget of up to \$600K. Responsible for reviewing and updating the Product recommendations for State Extension Publications.
- Lead scientist for product development in spring cereals and pulse crops. Special emphasis on foliar disease management with fungicides, and combinations (insecticide/fungicide), and control of seed /soil borne pathogens and insects.. Field project coordinator for up to 26 projects per year on pulse crops, canola, sugar beet, potatoes and spring cereals.
- Coordinated trials and common protocols with Canadian Scientists and Discovery Teams in the EU.

Senior Field Biologist/Scientist - ZENECA Agro (Canada) 1988-2001

- Ran a large efficacy and GLP regulatory field program in Canada. Lead several business critical projects on developing new herbicides and fungicides in consort with EU Scientists. Directly managed 2-4 field interns/year.
- Promoted to Senior Scientist and transferred to USA in 1999. Territory included all or parts of MT, ND, SD and MN. Technical launches of new graminicides and foliar/seed treatments across a wide range of crops including beets, potatoes cereals, pulses and canola. Other responsibilities included developing the field promotion activities venues/training for Sales, Growers and University Extension. Investigated several large product complaints and aerial drift issues.
- USA rep to the Canada Regulatory Group - GLP Delegate, and rep to the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (HRAC-FOP/DIM Sub-Group).

Western Canada Technical Rep -- Stauffer Chemicals (Canada) 1985-87

- Technical Specialist covering all of Western Canada. Key responsibilities were to develop the entire Field R&D and Sales Support program for Western Canada, including all internal and external trials; train summer interns, and compile project data summaries for product registrations and make technical presentations.
- Technical expert for grower Performance Inquiries/Complaints. Involved in confrontational situations with growers involving product failures and negotiations on behalf of our National Distributor.
- Developed new expertise working on row crops (potatoes, forages, corn, veggies, vines, and fruit trees).

Technical Representative -- BAYER Crop Science (SK, Canada) 1980-85

- Product Development, Field R&D and GLP Regulatory Trial specialist conducting Residue and Environmental Fate field trials over a wide range of pesticide products
- Established Sales Support Training Demos, Handled Complaints, made cold calls (Sales) to Growers, manned Trade Show booths, and made many technical presentations to Growers and Dealers; made professional society presentations at the including Weed Science Society (WSSA) and Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW); University Extension and to Government Influencers
- Developed strong technical expertise in the conduct of pest management trials in specialty (Pulse) crops, canola and cereals on seed treatments, entomology, fungicides, and weed control. Gained additional experiences on pest control in vegetables, grapes and tree fruits in British Columbia.
- Assigned to special projects to screen new compounds in the field, and conducted several environmental fate trials to collect samples to support pesticide registrations.

EDUCATION

- **Master of Science in Agriculture- Soil Science** -- University of Saskatchewan 1982
Thesis Title; "Incorporation of Triallate Granules"
- Wild Oat management project between the Soil and Crop Science Departments
- **Bachelor of Science - Botany** -- University of Manitoba. Plant Ecology 1977
Original research on the spatial distribution of *Sphagnum* species in peat bogs

PUBLICATIONS

- Incorporation of triallate granules for wild oat control under dry conditions. Soil and Tillage Research. 11/1985; 6(2):139-147.
- Triallate granules for wild oat control in dry soil. J Env Science and Health A01/1985;20(4):419-426.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCES

- Weed-ID Lab Assistant -- Ag College Taxonomy - University of Saskatchewan

- Herbarium Assistant – Mounted plant collections – Dept Botany, University of Manitoba
- Peat Bog Resources - Plant Survey - Manitoba Government, Geology Branch
 - vegetation classification, mapping, soil core sampling, analysis of soil cores
- Conservation Program Ecology Instructor – Manitoba Forestry Association
 - Instructed Teachers and Secondary Students on plant ecology, conservation, forest fire detection and suppression techniques
 - captured and mounted small mammal and insect specimens for the Forestry Museum
- Letter Carrier – Canada Post
- Hockey Rink Supervisor – City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation

OTHER INTERESTS / ACTIVITIES

- Enjoy outdoor pursuits including Horticulture, Camping, Hiking, Travel, Fly-fishing and Exploring
- National and Regional Table Tennis Competitions,
 - Volunteer Certified Level 1 Coach
 - 2019 - 5 medals at Montana Big Sky State Games (1 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze)
 - Defending MT State Champion Sr. Games 3 years and SD-1 Year
 - Titles Senior Games Tournaments Mens Singles Champion Manitoba, Montana
 - 2017 – USA National Top 8 Ranked Sr. Olympic Games, Birmingham AL
 - 2019 – USA National Sr Games Qualifier, Albuquerque, NM
- Secretary, Saskatchewan Table Tennis Association (STTA)
- Secretary, Executive Board - Hamlet Iroquois Lake, Rural Municipality of Leask, Saskatchewan

REFERENCES – PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS

- **Dr. Rebecca Larson** current VP, Chief Scientist and Gov Affairs (Western Sugar Cooperative) Former Supervisor, Head Diverse Field Crops (DFC) Syngenta) 7555 East Hampden Avenue, Ste 600, Denver, CO 80231 303-830-3939 rlarson@westernsugar.com
- **Mr. Peter Forster** - Senior Scientist- Peer- Syngenta Crop Protection, 35492 County Road 43, Eaton, CO 80615 (w) 970-396-7623 pete.forster@syngenta.com
- **Mr. Bruce Thomas** – Regional Sales Manager, Dupont Pioneer Central North Dakota Region bruce.thomas@pioneer.com (w) 701-269-1958
- **Mr. David Hirsch** - USDA-ARS APHIS 2110 Miriam Circle Bismarck, ND 58503 (w) 701-250-4469 david.c.hirsch@usda.gov

