

# The Annual Cycle of Work on a Pedigree Seed Farm

## May

- prepare the land and plant the crops
- grow a variety of crops, including canola, spring wheat, corn, oats, barley, soup peas and beans

"Hopefully we get everything planted in May. You can sneak the peas in quite early because they don't mind having cold feet. But planting can sneak over into June depending on the weather."

## June, July

- cultivate, spray and fertilize the crops
- start to 'walk the fields' to make sure a seed crop is pure
- harvest winter wheat towards the end of July

"In summer we have seed inspectors in here all the time. They inspect for purity, making sure the variety is pure. We make sure a field is true to variety by 'walking the field' and roguing, or pulling the barley out of the oats and the oats out of the barley, for example."

"Harvesting winter wheat can be as early as the Beachburg Fair weekend, from July 24th to the 26th, or as late as the second weekend in August."

"We sell our wheat either to the Wheat Board or to local farmers. One of the local Mennonites has been milling the Absolvent wheat variety for flour."



## August

- harvest the oats, barley and spring wheat
- "Most of the oats and barley are sold as seed the next year. But the oat and barley cleanings are sold to local farmers as live-stock feed."

## September

- plant the winter wheat
- harvest the peas, beans and canola

"When the peas are sold on the export market they are sold through a broker. They are primarily used for soups. They are also sold locally to be used in pig feed to reduce the amount of supplement needed. And the beef and dairy boys like peas because they give their livestock shiny coats."



"The beans are used in pork and beans and a variety of other recipes. The white Centralian beans are marketed through a broker and the Childers brown beans are sold locally."

"A local trucker takes the canola to a company in Hamilton where it is crushed for cooking oil."

## October, November

- harvest the corn
- fall field work

"Corn has a multitude of uses. It can be sold directly to the consumer in a multitude of products, including cereals, corn syrup, starch and cornmeal. Farmers also buy corn to feed to their livestock, and then it is sold indirectly to the consumer when they purchase pork and beef."

## December, January, February, March

- clean, treat and bag seed

## April

- finish cleaning, treating and bagging seed
- sell certified seed to farmers

"April is the main selling month when farmers are picking up their seed. But there are still sales into May."

## ANZAC Biscuits

It is known that variations of Scottish oatmeal biscuits were made and sent to soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) in World War I.

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| 1 cup rolled oats | 1/4 lb butter        |
| 1 cup plain flour | 1 Tbsp golden syrup  |
| 1 cup sugar       | 1 tsp soda           |
| 3/4 cup coconut   | 2 Tbsp boiling water |

Combine oats, sifted flour, sugar and coconut in large bowl. Combine butter and golden syrup in pan, stir over low heat until butter is melted. Combine soda and water, add to butter mixture, stir into dry ingredients while mixture is warm.

Place 3 level teaspoons of mixture together about 4 cm apart on greased oven trays, press down lightly. Bake in slow oven (325°) about 20 minutes or until golden brown. Loosen biscuits while warm, cool on trays. Makes about 30.

