



Barley in Newfoundland and Labrador – High Hopes in High Moisture

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Newfoundland and Labrador



- 405,212 km²
- ~527,000 people
- 90%+ population lives on Insular NL
 - 50%+ live on the Avalon
- All parts of Island less than 100 kms from ocean
- July max/min temp on western coast is 22/13 C and January -3/-10 C



Island Feed Production

- **West coast self sufficient for forages**
- **No oilseed production, grain cultivation begun**
- **Island imports ~68,000 T of grains & oilseeds each year**
- **One of the highest on-farm costs**
 - Shipping (truck, gulf, truck)
 - Price volatility
 - Quality
- **Opportunity for high quality annual feed crops**
- **Purpose of our research is to expand high quality feeding options in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), specifically cereals and oilseeds in association with forage researcher counterpart (Richard Tingskou)**



Local Cereal Production



- **Renewed on-farm cereal research program initiated in 2012 with planting of winter wheat**
- **Currently researching wheat, barley, oats, triticale and rye**
- **Winter wheat is the most reliable, even when survivability has been poor**
 - **Seed in the fall (no waiting to get on the field in spring)**
 - **Harvest earlier or more time to mature**
 - **Yield bump can buffer survivability issues**
- **Well suited to west coast, more challenging on the east coast due to wetter climate, north showing promise**
- **High Moisture grain is the system of choice**

Equipment and techniques

- **No-till Drill Seeder – you will never go back. Outside of grain, overseeding forages is incredibly valuable to our farmers and ploughing isn't most feasible due to our rocky soils**
- **Combine – what do you really need?**
 - Will a mower and thresher work, it is small scale
 - Tow behind (refurbished) most economical and easiest to maintain
 - Versatility – combine grain, rapeseed/canola, peas etc.
- **Processor or dryer? Depends on end use**



Summary

- **Response from farmers has been very positive with most reporting increase in milk production and fat content when HM grain is fed and more consistent feeding**
- **Barley grows reliably well however grain requires more attention than traditional forages**
- **Problems with late tillering must be overcome**

Acknowledgments

- All farm participants who generously provided land and time
- AAFC St. John's for assistance combining
- Memorial University of Newfoundland - Beri Lab:
 - Dr. Adrian Unc
 - Dr. Lakshman Galagedara
 - Dr. Mumtaz Cheema
 - Dr. Raymond Thomas
- NORA and NPP colleagues
 - MATIS Iceland
 - Agricultural University of Iceland Iceland
 - University of Highlands and Islands Orkney, Scotland
 - NIBIO Norway
 - Agricultural Agency of the Faroe Islands Faroe Islands



Agriculture

