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Farm – Processor – Transport Partnership The ILTA Advantage

In the area of Davidson, SK, they were among the first farmers to start growing pulses – a term encompassing products like lentils, peas and edible beans. In recent years, pulse crops have boomed.

Between 1981 and 2011, the number of farms reporting pulse growth doubled to over 12,000. In 2015, the value of Canadian pulse exports hit \$4.2 billion CAD. Production of pulses in 2016 is expected to set new records as world demand increases.

This year was designated the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations, an effort to encourage more sustainable food alternatives. As a crop, pulses have one of the lowest carbon footprints. When compared to beef, pulses consume a third of the water needed to produce an equivalent amount of protein.

Canada produces a third of the worlds lentils, shipped mainly to markets in Asia and the Middle East where vegetarian diets are more common.

“Where they traditionally grow pulses,” Hodgins’ said, referring to places like India, “their crops haven’t been as good. Saskatchewan has become a big producer; especially when you think back to 20 years ago when we weren’t growing a lot of pulses.”

The benefits of pulses don’t stop at their environmental footprint. Lentils infuse the soil they grow in with nitrogen, enriching it and saving farmers money on nitrogen-based fertilizer.

Hodgins has been farming for 30 years. Along with his brother and their team, they are seeding 3,500 acres of lentils this year. They begin planting in the late spring and they’ll be ready to harvest in mid-August.

Hodgins Family Farms works with ILTA Grain to export pulses to the global market and is looking forward to delivering to the newest, most efficient plant in western Canada located on the CN mainline rail at Saskatoon. Their lentils move on CN trains in hopper cars or containers; carried to Canadian ports and shipped overseas for consumers to enjoy.

CN’s specialty crop advantage saves pulse customers time and money. We’ve partnered with steamship lines to bring their empty containers across our network to our customers’ plants. Customers fill the containers with pulses and we move them to ports for export. Using containers reduces transit time to Asia by up to five days.

To see the entire article, click this link: <https://www.cn.ca/en/Stories/20160617-pulses?redirect>