



# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN CANADA**

**Ernie Sirski**

**Canadian Soybean Producer**

**Director, Soy Canada**



# ABOUT ME

- Manitoba grain producer
- Farm with wife and three daughters
- Board of Directors for Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers and Soy Canada
- Growing soybeans, canola, wheat, peas, grass seed on 2,400 hectares
- 2022 Farm Family of the Year



# CANADIAN SOYBEAN GROWING REGIONS

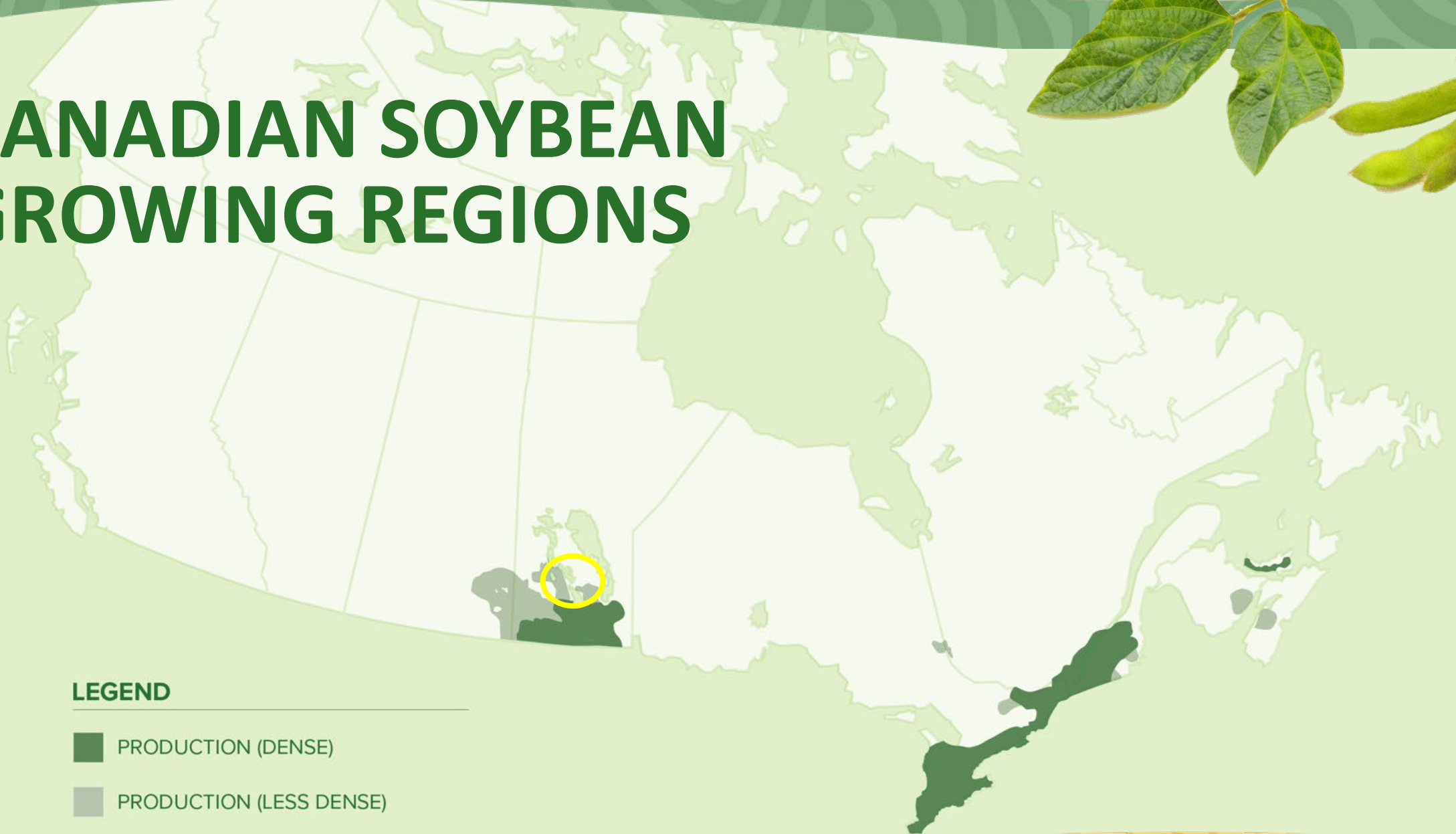
## LEGEND



PRODUCTION (DENSE)



PRODUCTION (LESS DENSE)





# My Farm

**Sirski Farms**  
**Dauphin, Manitoba**





# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## How we approach sustainability

- We have a vested interest in preserving our farms for future generations and supporting the environment in our local communities.
- Canada also has rigorous environmental and labour standards in place for agricultural production, which make our crops amongst the most sustainable in the world.



# GROWING OUR SOYBEANS

## Our approach to agronomy

- Focus on end user needs and continuous improvement with technology and innovation
- Follow best management practices
- Committed to protecting air, water, soil for generations to come





# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## Land Use Efficiency

- Today we are producing more food, more efficiently, using less land.
- Between 1970 and 2021, soybean yields have increased by 59 percent, while the total area of Canadian farmland increased by only 9 percent.
- A strong research, innovation and technology ecosystem supports us in achieving these yields while maintaining the high quality that Canada is known for.





# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## Climate Smart Farming

### Variable Rate Technologies

- Allows more precision and increases efficiencies by applying fertilizer based on plant needs while taking into account the variability within a field





# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## Soil Health

### Crop Rotation

- We grow an annual rotation of crops including soybeans, canola, wheat, peas and grass seed
- We implement a 3 – 4 year rotation
- This helps to reduce soil erosion, disrupts pest cycles, increases soil fertility and increases nutrients available for crops



# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## Soil Health

### Soil Management

- We tile our farm to help drain excess moisture
- We implement minimum tillage that leaves the soil unturned
- We test our soil to ensure we are maintaining organic matter





# OUR FARMING PRACTICES

## Water Stewardship

### 4R Nutrient Stewardship

- Canadian crops are naturally rainfed and the vast majority do not require irrigation.
- Incorporating livestock manure on our farm adds organic matter and reduces our carbon footprint
- Nutrient stewardship is also achieved by the 4Rs – utilizing nutrients from the right source, at the right time, in the right place, at the right rate
- Nutrients are kept in the field where crops can use them.



# Thank you

Ernie Sirski

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