Celebrating International Year of Pulses 2016

Spring 2016

Pulse Crop News

In this issue...

- Sweet Finish for Team Alberta at National Mission: ImPULSEible
- IYP Kicks Off with Pulse Feast
- APG Board Members Welcome New Directors

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Highlights

APG Board Members Welcome New Directors

IYP Kicks Off with Pulse Feast

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permission of APC.
As you hold this spring issue in your hands, your thoughts as farmers are turning to the new cycle of planting, and I believe there are more growers than ever in Alberta either beginning to grow pulses or growing more acres than before. Part of this is related to the record prices that we have been enjoying, as India has experienced a devastating drought. But a large reason for the increase is that the good messages about how beneficial pulses are for your crop rotation, your soil, and your health are really being heard. Hopefully, we are all becoming more aware that we are not simply growing crops, we are growing food.

We can credit International Year of Pulses 2016 for being a huge communication boost for the industry. The fact that pulses are nutritious, environmentally sustainable, and economical has been received loud and clear by consumers and farmers, and we are only three months into the year! I am very confident that provincially, nationally, and globally, IYP2016 will result in consumers eating more pulses, and producers growing more pulses. As an Alberta pulse farmer, I’m thrilled.

One link in the Alberta pulse chain that I truly believe can increase a lot more is our value-added processing. As Canadian farmers, we’ve always been very good at growing crops, then shipping them somewhere else. In recent years, more and more emphasis has been placed on adding value to our product by processing it here in Alberta. That may be as simple as splitting and bagging, or a more complex procedure such as fractionating our product into protein, starch and fibre, or creating a new food product for the store shelves. Whatever the process, value-added creates jobs and wealth here in Alberta, and allows us to put a “local” stamp on our food. We do have some great examples of such innovation – how many of you have enjoyed the Mountain Meadows No-Nuts Peabutter (I love the cinnamon one), or the CSL’s Cripeas, or made a Souptacular Mulligatawny?

In November, I was able to join a “Food Innovators” tour that was organized by ACIDF (the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund), with a goal of identifying why some countries are so successful at food innovation, and what is holding Alberta back. It was eye-opening, and has only fueled the fire in me to see more value-added processing within Alberta. Read my report on page 15.

One of the Alberta Pulse Growers’ five year goals is to see at least three more secondary value-added processing enterprises, with another being to see more pulse products on Alberta store shelves, with Alberta pulses in them. We are very excited that in honour of IYP, the Food Processing Development Centre (Leduc) and Food Science Technology Centre (Brooks) are partnering with Alberta Pulse Growers to develop innovative product prototypes using pulses and/or pulse ingredients. Look for more information on that initiative in coming issues of PCN. The Alberta Mission: ImPULSEible team took its amazing Maple Walnut Gelato (made with white beans) to the Canadian competition in Vancouver in February. See the story on page 32. They are investigating scaling this student-developed creation up to a commercial product, which is innovation at its finest. Again, stay tuned!

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you have a great idea for a new process or new product, and you need some resource people to bounce it off? Whether you need manufacturing, political, or financial contacts, ask us – we will put you in touch with the right people, and help you in any way we can! Alberta Pulse Growers is here to help Alberta farmers GROW MORE PULSES and SELL MORE PULSES.
The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines connect as “to have or establish a rapport” and collaborate as “to work jointly with others especially in an intellectual endeavour.” Connecting and collaborating are two key intentions for the Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) as we start into 2016.

It all started in January with the launch of International Year of Pulses and connecting to the influencers in the media who helped spread the message of pulses to the masses. From one event in Canada, to across the globe, Pulse Feast was celebrated in countries around the world and social media was a buzz with photos, recipes and great messages about the crops that our farmers grow.

From Pulse Feast we moved into FarmTech: a sell-out success with strong messaging encouraging farmers to tell their story and experts sharing their knowledge with our growers. As one of the five host organizations, APG, like the other hosts, is proud to put on a conference where learning, networking and sharing are priorities for the industry.

APG also connected to our producer community through our well-attended Annual General Meeting on Jan. 27, during which we celebrated and honoured the contributions of Ken Lopetinsky over his career with the pulse industry. We also shared with our membership our accomplishments this past year and discussed our activities for the 2015-16 year.

Connecting continues as we move into spring. APG is partnering with both Pulse Canada, in March, and Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), Alberta Barley Commission (ABC) and Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC), in April, to link directly with Members of Parliament and the senior bureaucracy in Ottawa. A key objective from APG’s perspective is to put the voice of farmers in front of the decision makers and share our story on critical issues in our industry. Our farmer presence on the ‘Hill’ will help us elevate agriculture into the minds of the new federal leadership and bring to light the needs of our industry.

Collaboration is also key for APG as we progress into 2016. In an unprecedented fashion, the agriculture industry has come together to form the AgCoalition. The AgCoalition, otherwise known as Alberta Agriculture Farm and Ranch Safety Coalition, was brought together in January to form a unified voice for the agriculture industry in Alberta to inform and engage primarily on farm safety and is a primary producer-led group. APG is pleased to support our industry and participate in this multi-sectoral farm and ranch effort.

APG also worked together with ABC, AWC and ACPC on offering Farm Safety Workshops in three locations across Alberta in early March. In Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Lethbridge, the workshops were very successful and, for our commission, this reaffirms our support to educate and extend information to our membership about safety.

Carrying on working with Wheat, Barley and Canola, APG is also picking-up discussions about climate change and preparing for how that will impact the cropping sector. By collaborating together, our organizations will build a strong case for our industry and the effects that government climate change policies will have on our future.

Collaboration continues with pulse grower organizations across Canada as APG is working toward more informed linkages with research activities. This may include pesticide minor use research gaps, streamlining research on cross border faba bean opportunities or even supporting additional health research activities to enhance national knowledge gaps. Our working relationships with these organizations continues to be strong, cooperative and progressive.

I am looking forward to the challenges and the opportunities of connecting and collaborating to ensure that our industry is positioned as a leader that is working for our membership. Enjoy this edition of Pulse Crop News!
The Alberta Pulse Growers emerged from its AGM in January with three new provincial board members who will bring fresh perspectives in a year when the world is celebrating International Year of Pulses.

Burdett’s Rodney Volk has been training for his role as a Director from Zone 1 by attending provincial board meetings as an observer over the past year with outgoing Zone 1 Director Jack Van Tryp, who completed his term as of the Jan. 27 annual general meeting.

Van Tryp served the maximum of six consecutive years on the APG Board, with the first three as Director-at-Large (Bean) and the last three as a Zone 1 Director. He found serving on the provincial board to be rewarding and educational.

“Meeting people throughout the province, there is a wealth of grower knowledge out there that I really enjoyed being able to experience over the past six years,” he said. “After serving my six-year term, I have realized how much the organization does for the growers and how they spend our levy.”

Nick Sekulic completed two three-year terms as well as two additional years because of his involvement with Pulse Canada, where he served as Chair. The new Zone 4 Director is Caroline Sekulic, a beef and grain producer from Rycroft.

The almost 100 members attending the AGM at Edmonton’s EXPO Centre during the FarmTech Conference cast ballots to determine who would serve a one-year term as the Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) to replace Sarah (Weigum) Hoffmann of Three Hills, who had served two consecutive one-year terms.

Hoffmann said that the time she spent as a provincial director provided the opportunity to learn more about the complexities of the international pulse industry, and left her with a better understanding of her role as a farmer and seed grower in the pulse value chain.

“As a Director I have enjoyed meeting other farmers from Alberta and other members of the pulse industry,” she said. “It has been a pleasure to work with such forward-looking individuals. I didn’t do as much international travel as...
some board members do, but one of my favourite experiences was working with the board and staff to put on a crop tour for international buyers who were visiting Canada from Asia and South America. If you can’t go to the world, the world will still come to you!”

John Kowalchuk of Trochu received the most votes to serve in the seat vacated by Hoffmann, and welcomed the experience.

“I am looking forward to meeting and working with other pulse producers to promote our products, as well as help to make the industry stronger through research and getting the word out on how great pulses are in a crop rotation,” Kowalchuk said. “I am also excited to learn as much as I can and share any knowledge I can.”

See Kowalchuk’s profile on page 8. Watch for profiles of the other new directors in coming issues.

Tim VanderHoek of Vauxhall was acclaimed for a second one-year term as Director-at-Large (Bean).

In the re-organizational meeting that took place after the AGM, the new board opted to keep the current Executive Committee of Chair Allison Ammeter, Vice-Chair D’Arcy Hilgartner, and Third Executive Member Doug Sell and allow them to keep building the momentum from the previous year.

“It is ideal to have continuity on the board as we continue the work started with a new five-year strategic plan implemented last year,” Ammeter said. “But it is also essential to continue to grow the board with the fresh ideas and new perspectives that new members provide. While we will miss the insights that Jack, Nick and Sarah have brought to the board table, we thank them for the time they have devoted to the board and wish them well in their new endeavours.”

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John Kowalchuk lives in the Trochu area. He was elected to a one-year term as APG’s Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) in January.

**Pulse Crop News:** Please tell us about your family and your farm.

**John Kowalchuk:** I have a grain farm at Rumsey which is about 40 miles north of Drumheller. My father started farming at this site in the early 1950’s. My wife Paula is an insurance broker in Trochu and we have three children, Jayden, 19, Kassidy, 17, and Kaley, 13.

**PCN:** What has been your experience with growing pulse crops?

**JK:** I started growing yellow peas about 10 or so years ago. I found them to be a good fit on my farm as they can go in the ground early as well as be harvested early most years. I farm mostly by myself so this has been a great help at spreading out my workload. The agronomic benefits have been great as well. I’ve seen better wheat yields and protein, as well as increased yields in canola with a more rounded rotation. This past year, I planted 30 acres of soybeans to test the viability in my area and had good results and plan on increasing my acres this year. I am in a non-traditional area to grow them but feel potential is there.

**PCN:** What is the biggest issue facing your farm last year?

**JK:** Weather! We went until the middle of July without any major rainfall. My crops held on surprisingly well though and I was still happy with yields.

**PCN:** What percentage of your crop was made up of pulses last year, and what did you grow?

**JK:** About 15 per cent of my seeded acres were pulses last year consisting of yellow peas and soybeans.

**PCN:** What are you planning to grow this year?

**JK:** I will be growing soybeans and yellow peas again this year as well as seeding some yellows for my father-in-law who will be growing pulses for the first time.

**PCN:** What tips or tricks have you learned growing pulses that you could share with new growers?

**JK:** I guess my tip would be do not under inoculate. I’ve always made sure I place more than enough with the seed to promote good nodulation. Nitrogen fixing is one of the greatest benefits of pulses and without proper handling and delivery of inoculant you will not have very good results.

**PCN:** What sparked your interest in APG?

**JK:** I wanted to get more involved in the pulse industry. Being on the APG board will give me an opportunity to promote pulses as well as learn a lot more myself. The timing is right; I looked at it a few years back but with a young family it would have been tough.

**PCN:** Is there an issue that is particularly important to you?

**JK:** Disease research and ways to increase production are two things I feel are important to me on a producer level and promoting the benefits of pulses in our diets on the consumer side.

**PCN:** What percentage of your crop was made up of pulses last year, and what did you grow?

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**PCN:** What was the biggest issue facing your farm last year?

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**PCN:** Why would you recommend that pulse producers get involved with APG?

**JK:** Getting involved in APG either at a zone level or on the board is a great way to contribute back to the pulse industry and also a great learning opportunity. I have only been on for about a month and already had some great opportunities to learn and also contribute back. I look forward to this year and all the challenges and learning that it has in store.

Thank you, John. We are looking forward to benefiting from your contributions to the Board.
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The Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) selected esteemed pulse researcher Ken Lopetinsky as the winner of the second annual Alberta Pulse Industry Innovator Award.

"Each year APG recognizes a person whose progressive thinking and tireless efforts helped build Alberta's pulse industry into the flourishing industry that it is today," said Rick Mueller, Zone 3 Chair. "I cannot think of a more deserving recipient for the award to be bestowed upon during the International Year of Pulses than Ken Lopetinsky. He is considered one of the fathers of Western Canada's modern day field pea industry, and influenced many of the researchers who continue to develop improved pulse genetics."

Lopetinsky was raised on a mixed livestock and grain farm near Star, AB. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with distinction in 1973 at the University of Alberta, he joined Alberta Agriculture as a District Agriculturist, and later as Forage and Special Crops Specialist, Pulse and Special Crops Specialist, and Pulse Research Agronomist until his retirement in 2008. In 1976, Lopetinsky received education leave and completed his Master of Agriculture (soil science) in 1977. In 1983, Lopetinsky became involved with the Alberta Pulse Growers Association, which later became the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. Throughout his career, Lopetinsky worked closely with producers, industry representatives and other researchers on applied research projects including field pea and faba bean variety development, fertilization, herbicides, seeding depth, land rolling, crop rotations, direct seeding, and the value of pulse crops in rotation. He co-authored and co-edited the publication "Pulse Crops in Alberta," which was awarded a certificate of excellence by the American Society of Agronomy. Lopetinsky mentored numerous agrologists over the course of his career, and many still work in the industry today.

Lopetinsky said that he was honoured to learn that he was chosen as the recipient of the second annual Industry Innovator Award sponsored by ATB Financial.

"I am surprised and humbled to receive this award," Lopetinsky said. "I have to give a lot of credit to the team over the years because it has been said that 'you're only as good as your team'. The pulse industry came through with full support, and that was very, very rewarding."

Sheri Strydhorst, an Agronomy Research Scientist with Alberta Agriculture and For-
Canadian Pulses: Ken Lopetinsky Honoured as Alberta Pulse Growers’ Innovator Award Recipient

Ken Lopetinsky, who passed away on April 7, 2016, was an important figure in the Alberta pulse industry. His contributions have laid the foundation for the successful industry we have today.

Lopetinsky, considers herself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Lopetinsky. “Ken was one of the founding members of Alberta’s pulse industry,” she said. “He screened pea, faba bean and lupin genetics from around the world to find the best cultivars for Alberta farmers. He knew what struggles farmers faced and conducted meticulous research to find solutions to their pulse production challenges.”

Lopetinsky recalled the early days of pulse production in Alberta when he accepted the Innovator Award at the Alberta Pulse Growers’ AGM on Jan. 27.

“The Pulse Growers Commission is a very integral part of any success,” he noted. “As I reminisce about my career, I always think of the directors of the commission and all the time volunteered to discuss issues was fantastic.”

Lopetinsky also credited his wife Vivian with being essential to his success. “Thank you to my wife,” he said, noting that he put in long days at the research plots. “Now we have a cell phone, but back in those days we didn’t even have a computer. A lot of calls came to the house and my wife, Vivian, kept track.”

In retirement, the couple still enjoy growing over 1,000 orchids together, some of which are sold at the Orchid Society of Alberta annual show and sale at the Enjoy Centre in St. Albert on April 1-3, 2016. The hobby started over 30 years ago with Blue Heron Orchids.

“I always loved to grow things and still do, hence the orchids,” Lopetinsky said.

He expressed his delight at having the United Nations designate 2016 as International Year of Pulses. “I was very happy to hear that and I hope it’s not just a once-in-a-lifetime thing,” he said. “I hope that there are more opportunities for people to talk about pulse crops. Please take full advantage of International Year of Pulses. It’s a great opportunity.”
PULSE FEAST SETS THE STAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES

For the Canadian pulse industry, the wait is finally over. A Pulse Feast event in downtown Toronto kicked off the International Year of Pulses (IYP) in Canada on Jan. 6.

The event was hosted by Chef Michael Smith, and attracted over 180 Canadian journalists, bloggers, dietitians and members of the food industry who connected with Canadian farmers and pulse industry members. It was one of over 140 Pulse Feast events held in 36 countries around the world that day.

While guests enjoyed pulse hors d’oeuvres and dishes from the bean, pea, lentil and chickpea food stations, Allison Ammeter, Chair of Alberta Pulse Growers, took the stage to speak about the role pulses can play in addressing global health, nutrition and environmental challenges, and the role that consumer choices play in food production. Ammeter grows pulses on her farm in Sylvan Lake and has been appointed as the Chair of the IYP Canada Committee, which is responsible for planning IYP activities in Canada.

Echoing her enthusiasm, Smith encouraged guests to start thinking of pulses as a food staple. He emphasized that pulses are an affordable, sustainable and versatile source of protein and fibre for billions of people around the world.

Throughout the night social media was buzzing about pulses. The hashtags #PulseFeast and #LovePulses both trended on Twitter. Pulse Feast also received national media attention from CBC’s The National, the Globe and Mail as well as in various Sun Media publications. Prior to the event, Smith also appeared on Breakfast Television Toronto and was interviewed by several regional CBC radio shows. Media articles continued to be published in the days and weeks following the event.

A number of IYP Canada initiatives also made their debut on Jan. 6. Pulses: The Ideal Partner, an interactive exhibit developed by the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum was featured at the Toronto event and will travel to various venues and events around the country throughout 2016 to teach Canadians why pulses are the ideal partner for our health, environment and economy. After Pulse Feast, the exhibit travelled west to appear at the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon and FarmTech in Edmonton. Other cities confirmed for 2016 include Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal and Calgary. Stay tuned to www.iypcanada.ca to see when the museum exhibit will be coming to your area.

Also launched in January was an educational program developed by Agriculture in the Classroom Canada, a link to which is available on the APG website at http://pulse.ab.ca/consumers/iyp2016/. The program includes a series of lesson plans that link pulses to a variety of subjects, including science, geography, health and home economics. Pulses will also be highlighted in schools across the country during Canadian Ag Literacy Week in March.

The IYP Canada Committee also broke ground on its domestic food security initiative with a new partnership with Community Food Centres Canada, a national organi-
zation dedicated to addressing the root causes of food and nutritional insecurity in Canada. Community Food Centres go beyond providing food handouts to individuals in need, and also include educational programs that enable people to build up their knowledge and skills with respect to healthy food. The organization’s umbrella includes six Community Food Centres and nearly 100 partner organizations across Canada, including the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society and Food Matters Manitoba.

The IYP Canada Committee will be developing a series of pulse-based recipes and educational resources that Community Food Centres of Canada can use and share with its partners.

Other upcoming IYP events include a two-part Pulse Ingredient Workshop Series. Part 1 of the series, Practical Use of Pulses in Healthy Foods is a three-day short course on pulse processing for food industry which runs from April 26 – 28 at the Canadian International Grains Institute in Winnipeg. Part 2, Processing Ingredients for Food Applications, will take place from Sept. 21 – 23 at POS Biosciences in Saskatoon.

Following a successful start to 2016, Pulse Canada’s goal is to sustain this momentum throughout the year as more IYP events and activities unfold. For more information, visit www.iypcanada.ca and www.iyp2016.org.
The Alberta Pulse Growers Commission has confirmed that pulse growers who paid service fees (check-off) are again eligible for the Scientific Research and Experimental Design (SR&ED) Tax Credit.

The SR&ED Tax Credit can be earned on the portion of the producers' service fees which were paid to an approved research entity as determined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Each year, a percentage of the Alberta Pulse Growers investment into research is calculated for the per cent eligible for that tax year. Producers who have paid check-off this past year and have not asked for refunds are eligible claimants for this year's credit.

For the 2014-15 fiscal year, 18.5 per cent of pulse check-off fees that were deducted from a producer's cash ticket are eligible for the tax credit. The SR&ED Tax Credit application form can be downloaded directly from the CRA website at http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/txcrdt/sred-rsde/menu-eng.html. Individual producers need to apply using the form T2038 (IND) and Canadian controlled private corporations should utilize the form T2SCH31. Individuals have 17.5 months from the end of their fiscal year to apply retroactively.


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The opportunity arose for me to take part in an “Exploring European Food Ingredient Clusters Tour” last November. As a strong proponent of value-added processing, I was thrilled when APG approved my participation. I believe that the knowledge and understanding I gained, along with the other members of the tour, will benefit Alberta agriculture in the future.

The tour began in London with a focus on consumer markets. While the main focus of the tour was on food ingredients, we realized it was important to look at the entire food chain, starting with consumers and those who sell or market food to them. UK retailers and food service companies are recognized globally as being trend-setting, and London is one of the world’s most upscale markets when it comes to fresh and local foods, so it made sense for us to start there in observing food trends and innovation.

Our tour started by meeting with Emma Finn, Trade Commissioner for the Canadian High Commission in the UK. She spoke to us about the importance of Canadian crops to UK products, and some of the many ways in which they are being used. We then heard from Miguel Flavian, a London-based retail food industry specialist, about key trends in the UK and how large food retailers such as Tesco, Marks and Spencer, and Waitrose are responding. Following that, we toured several upscale grocery stores to see the theories in practice. It was quite amazing to me to see multiple aisles of beautiful fresh meal packages, ready to take home and eat, with aisle labels such as “Thai”, “Moroccan”, or “Greek” where in Canada we might see an aisle of more standard frozen dinners.

We then toured the New Covent Gardens Market, the largest fruit, vegetable, and flower wholesale market in the UK, located on 57 acres of prime London real estate. Farmers deliver here fresh, and upscale restaurants and food service companies choose their ingredients here. Freshness was king.

We then spoke with Patrick Mewton, Managing Director of Houlihan Lokey, an investment banker active in global mergers and acquisitions in the food ingredient industry. He confirmed the value of food ingredient companies in recent years - outperforming wider capital markets.
Our London tour ended with a presentation by Niels Ladefroged, Chairman of the Danish Club of London. He gave us an amusing, entertaining, and informative history lesson into the Danish mindset of cooperation, innovation, and trust, which prepared us well for the next leg of our tour.

The group moved on to Copenhagen, Denmark, as many key players in the global food ingredients business are located in that region. Despite a relatively small geographic area and a high cost of wages and benefits, Denmark has developed a tremendous value-added food industry. The cornerstones of this industry seemed to be innovation, research, development, collaboration, and trust. Over and over, we saw examples of failing being a stepping stone to the next invention, skilled employees moving from one company to another for “cross-training”, and cooperation between educational institutions and private companies. It was thought-provoking, to say the least.

The first company we met with was Chr. Hansen, a global bioscience company, developing cultures, enzymes, and colours for the dairy, meat, wine, human health, and animal health industries. One of their stated focuses was to meet the world demand for natural “clean” ingredients, which I found interesting as many of their products are genetically engineered (such as rennet). They are Number 1 or 2 in all of the sectors in which they operate, yet view partnering with smaller firms and universities as a key to their competitive advantage.

The next company we visited was Danisco, which was purchased by DuPont in 2011. DuPont is aggressively acquiring other companies, as evidenced by their merger with Dow 10 days later. Their plan is to create a specialty nutrition component from the Danisco portion, but we may have to stay tuned for that.

Our best meeting was with our next company, Novozymes. We met with Frank Hatzack and his Innovation Development team, a group of brilliant, creative, curious minds who build on each other's thoughts and ideas. Their focus is on human and animal nutrition and the world demand for protein, and plant protein in particular. They talked about how they attract innovative ideas and thinkers using various social media and educational platforms, yet avoid acquisitions as they did not want to “dilute” their own profitability.

Our next series of meetings was held at the Agro Food Park in Aarhus, which seemed to be the place for which all of our previous learning had prepared us. The park is comprised of over 60 companies and has more than 900 employees. It is a unique mix of large established companies, knowledge institutions, start-ups, specialized service providers, and risk capital providers, with a management structure designed to encourage collaboration. Companies that choose to locate in the agricultural park do so knowing that they will be en-
couraged to cooperate, collaborate, and innovate with others. Events are regularly held to encourage personal networking - even the central cafeteria was designed with that in mind.

One of the main companies we met with at the park was DC Ingredients, a division of Danish Crown. DC was created to innovate and find value in the offal that they previously paid to have removed. Today, the high-end ingredient business generates more value than the meat from the animals! Innovation at its finest!

We finished our tour with a visit to Tetra-Pak World Headquarters in Malmö, Sweden. Tetra-Pak has a unique business model, in that they sell not only the packaging, but the machines to do the packaging, which sets customers up as life-long partners. In addition to presentations about the company, they allowed us to visit their display room with multiple walls showcasing many of the products they have packaged around the world, which was truly amazing. They also treated us royally, even flying the Canadian flag outside their headquarters to greet us!

So, our takeaways and reflections from the tour? Can anything Denmark is doing be duplicated in Alberta? Can we focus more on adding value to the many crops we grow, rather than simply loading them into ships and shipping them afar? I say yes.

The keys seem to lie in truly encouraging research, development, and innovation. One thing that stood out to us was the close relationship between research in educational institutions in Denmark and resulting product development in companies. In Canada, it seems that most academics are rewarded by this may be a place for government incentives to better operate.

More than anything, we need to encourage a culture of innovation to develop. A statement on the Agro Food Park’s website read: “Denmark can-

The keys seem to lie in truly encouraging research, development. I believe the crop commissions can play a valuable part in this.

I wish to thank the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF), Dennis McKnight - The Innovators, Dr. David Hughes Emeritus Pro-

Novozymes announces to all visitors that it is all about innovation.
One of the most useful indicators of potential direction in a market is the seasonal price tendency. In a typical year, crop prices (including pulses) tend to follow similar patterns. Even though these movements aren't always a sure thing, the charts can provide clues about when a price change could occur. Some seasonal patterns, such as “the harvest lows”, are predictable enough to influence marketers’ decisions.

While those lows caused by heavy farmer selling at harvest are well-established, other seasonal patterns are also useful if they point to possible timing of market highs. That’s particularly the case in the 2015/16 market where most pulse prices are extremely high and farmers are trying to maximize prices but avoid holding the crop too long.

The difficulty is that price patterns tend to be most reliable in a “normal” year when supply and demand are relatively well-balanced. Does that mean they’re irrelevant in 2015/16, when many pulse prices are already sky-high? We’ll look at some price tendencies in light of the current hot market environment to see what lessons are possible.

For peas, prices tend to rise steadily once the harvest rush is over and then go sideways in the November to December timeframe. Once the new calendar year starts, bids tend to start climbing again. Those patterns have generally held so far in 2015/16, although the changes have been much more extreme, especially for yellow peas. The chart also shows that these seasonal highs tend to remain in place until early to mid-May, when buyers start to look ahead to the next year’s crop. It’s possible this year’s tight pea supplies could mean more upside than usual and a delayed decline, but it’s also likely that when the drop occurs, it will be much sharper than usual.

Lentils have the same seasonal lows as peas at harvest time but lentil prices follow different tendencies than peas and the two main lentil classes have distinct differences. Green lentil prices tend to recover quickly from the harvest lows and reach their highs in the late fall. Bids then tend to turn slightly lower with a small bump in late spring or early summer. This year, that hasn’t been the case as exceptionally tight supplies have forced buyers to continue raising bids to encourage farmer selling.

The tendency for red lentil bids is to remain relatively flat through the fall...
months and then rise fairly steadily through the winter and spring. In 2015/16, the strength in red lentil bids began earlier than usual. More recently, market jitters at the extreme highs are causing bids to look a little more vulnerable. That doesn't necessarily signal the end of strong old-crop prices, but there is certainly more volatility. And when the midsummer decline begins, it will very likely be a sharp drop.

So what are the takeaways? The first is that pricing the 2016 crop should either be done now when new-crop bids are strong, or well after harvest. The problem this year is that those bids for fall delivery have been so attractive, a lot of contracting has been done already and some bids are already declining. Even so, most new-crop bids for peas and lentils are well above other years and are still profitable.

These seasonal tendencies also clearly demonstrate that prices will eventually fall, even in an unusually tight supply situation like the one in 2015/16. Prices won't keep going higher forever, and the normal patterns suggest when that shift might occur. It's not a sure thing, but it's certainly better than strictly guessing.

For the time being, the seasonal charts don't show any immediate danger of lower prices for either peas or lentils, but this is an unusual year. And when prices are at extreme highs, they tend to come down very quickly. Those who wait too long to market their pulses will likely end up feeling some pain.
2016 Changes
This year, a number of changes were discussed between the Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) and the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) to increase the accuracy and relevance of insurance coverage available for pulse growers. High priority items worked on this year included a final shift in field pea pricing toward the edible end of the spectrum, a fall price source change for field peas, and a separate, distinct category for yellow dry beans. The working group including APG and AFSC staff has guided the following changes through the provincial and federal process to gain final approval of the comprehensive premium cost sharing level.

1. Field pea pricing will change from a 70/30 edible/feed end use split to reflect 100 per cent edible end use in 2016. Information from APG and other sources indicated that a vast majority of growers are planting with the goal of growing edible end use peas. To reflect the new pricing, the grade guarantee for field peas will move from a 3CAN to a 2CAN.

2. The AFSC Fall Insurance Price source for #2 yellows will change in 2016 from www.statpub.com to the Price and Data Quotes (www.pdqinfo.ca) system. The new price source should better represent the Alberta cash price to which growers in the province are exposed.

3. Yellow dry beans will have their own distinct category this year to accurately reflect yields and coverage for the
crop. Due to the lack of a good price source for yellow beans for insurance purposes, the black bean pricing will be used until a stable, reliable price source is created or becomes available.

**NCII Acres in 2015**
New Crops Insurance Initiative (NCII) – In 2015, the NCII product was released to cover new and small acre crops that aren’t large enough or have enough background information for inclusion in the Annual Crop Insurance Program. Coverage is based on some cost of production numbers for the individual crop and indemnities are based on other crops insured on the farm.

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### Yellow Dry Bean Insured Acres

![Graph showing Yellow Dry Bean Insured Acres from 2009 to 2015](image)

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### Crop Insured

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Insured</th>
<th>Dry</th>
<th>Irr</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Alfalfa</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Bromegrass</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicer Milk Vetch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coriander</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemp Seed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creamer Potatoes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Ryegrass</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Timothy Seed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crested Wheatgrass</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th></th>
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* Removed for FOIP Compliance
As damage to field crops is poised to escalate, consider proactively finding a wireworm control solution for your area by submitting samples to Canada’s wireworm research team.

Lindane (e.g. Vitavax Dual, etc.) insecticide kept wireworm numbers low for several decades on the Prairies. Since the ban of this organochlorine pesticide in 2004, wireworm damage in field crops is rebounding. Some researchers say we’re just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

Varying from region to region, some 30 different wireworm species exhibit diverse behaviours and lifecycles, making a single control measure improbable. An individual region may contain more than one wireworm species. Depending on the species, the worm-like larvae can feed on plant roots and germinating seeds for up to three to five years before developing into the adult click beetle stage. While current seed treatments may repel wireworms for a growing season, their populations continue to increase so that these treatment measures begin to fail.

Due to their preference to eat annual or perennial grasses, wireworm populations can build up in fields that have extended periods of cereal crops or pasture. Pulses, oilseeds, potatoes and sugar beets are susceptible to wireworm damage when grown in rotation with cereals. Crops grown in recently broken sod are especially vulnerable.

The research team needs to know which specific wireworm species dominates in your farming region so the correct control option(s) can be applied as the problem worsens.

Due to a greater amount of soil moisture, wireworms migrate near to the soil surface in early spring when soil temperatures rise above 5°C, making spring the best time to bait and capture wireworms. Baiting can be as simple as burying a cup of a cereal-based product like flour, bran or wheat seeds to a depth of four to six inches into the soil at marked locations. Dig up the baits 10 to 14 days later, collecting wireworms and some field soil (not too wet), and then insert them into a hard plastic container for shipping. There may be more than one species present, so collect as many wireworms as possible.

Mail your wireworm sample to:
Dr. Robert Vernon
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
6947 #7 Hwy, P.O. Box 1000
Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1AO

Include a brief description of where the sample was collected, information about your crop rotation in this field over the past four years, your name and telephone number. Once the species is identified, you will be contacted with the results.

WIREWORMS – WE’RE JUST SEEING the tip of the iceberg

Neil Whatley, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry
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CLASSROOM AGRICULTURE PROGRAM CALLING FOR volunteers to show kids how food gets to their plates

Don George, CAP General Manager

When asked “where does food come from?”, too many kids say the grocery store. The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is trying to change that.

CAP has been around since 1985, and during that 30 years, more than 600,000 grade four students have participated in the program. These students have learned where their food really comes from and why agriculture is important to Alberta.

CAP’s vision is: “To provide students with quality, comprehensive agriculture learning experiences that lead to a greater understanding of and support for the agriculture industry in Alberta”. This is accomplished through a volunteer base of about 300 people who work in the agriculture industry. Volunteers are the real strength of CAP. A class may have presentations from a veterinarian, someone who works on a chicken farm, someone who owns a grain farm, works in a soil lab, or runs a country grain elevator.

As you can see, the variety of professions in agriculture is large and varied. In addition to the volunteer presentation, each student also receives an activity booklet. The booklet is full of puzzles and games. Each CAP commodity member has a page in the booklet.


CAP is endorsed by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. This year, CAP was honoured to be chosen as the winner for the 2015 Friends of Education Award, given out by the Alberta School Boards Association.

If you would like to become a part of CAP, either as a volunteer, member, or partner, or if you would like more information, please contact Don George, General Manager of CAP by phone at 587-877-2544 or email don.george@classroomagriculture.com

FARM SAFETY – INVESTING IN THE CONTINUED EDUCATION AND protection of our loved ones

The Alberta Pulse Growers’ board of directors has spent a considerable amount of time discussing the implications of Bill 6 legislation and the amendments that passed in late 2015. Although controversy over the bill and the rallying of the farm community around labour and insurance aspects of the legislation overshadowed its purpose, everyone can agree that safety of all employees, family and children is paramount.

Every farm business owner can agree that the safety of their loved ones is the number one priority on their operation.

The agriculture industry has been continuously engaged in education and extension of safe farming practices. For the past several years, the FarmSafe Alberta program has been helping farmers and farm managers implement health and safety management plans, safety plans, as well as hazard identification for workers and children on farms. The APG board recognizes that the culture of safety is well worth the investment, and allocated funds to be used for continuing education and extension of best safety practices and the bolstering of safety culture on farming operations.

APG and the three other major crop commissions partnered to fund three FarmSafe workshops in March, in Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge. The workshops were well-attended and well worth the investment. Farm safety is everyone’s business and the protection of all managers, employees, unpaid labour and volunteers, family and friends is vitally important. APG will continue to promote safety in your workplace. If we can collectively prevent injuries and avoid even one fatality, it is well worth the investment.

If you have any questions regarding APG’s investment in farm safety culture or upcoming workshops and general safety information, contact Nevin Rosaasen, Policy and Program Specialist at 780-986-9398 ext. 5 or visit the FarmSafe website at http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/aet623.
Over the past few decades, significant improvements have been made to fertilizer application management in Canada. Several practices have improved the efficiency of fertilizer use, including banding fertilizers, timing fertilizer application to maximize plant uptake, or using enhanced-efficiency fertilizers. The adoption of these practices not only benefits farmers in terms of productivity and profitability, but also the environment by reducing the potential for nutrient losses from the land. Fertility management has a major impact on environmental outcomes such as greenhouse gas emissions and water quality – both issues which are top of mind for consumers, industry and governments.

However, there are currently no national surveys to collect information on fertilizer management practices for crop production. There is a real need to understand the current state of fertilizer management in Canadian crop production, both to frame the current landscape, and to track future changes in management.

To fill this information gap, a survey has been developed to collect fertilizer management information from Canadian producers of major grain, oilseed and pulse crops, focusing on 4R Nutrient Stewardship (Right Source, Right
Rate, Right Time, Right Place) (www.nutrientstewardship.com). This survey is one part of an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward 2 project with industry support from the Canadian Canola Growers Association, CropLife Canada, Fertilizer Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, and Pulse Canada.

An online survey was delivered to farmers during the winter of 2014-15. A random sample was taken of 400 farmers within Western Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba). Producers were asked to provide information on canola, spring wheat and pea production. The survey focused on collecting information on fertilizer management practices for individual crops including: source of fertilizers (e.g. urea, anhydrous ammonia, etc.).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Nitrogen Placement in Spring Wheat (% of Volume) – by Province

% of Pea Growers Using Each Nutrient by Sub-Group in 2014

Note: Nutrients were defined based on the primary component of each fertilizer type. ▲▲▲ Significantly higher than Total Market (90% confidence) ▲▲■ Significantly lower than Total Market (90% confidence)
Timing of fertilization (e.g. fall application, at seeding, etc.), placement of fertilizer (e.g. broadcast and incorporated, banding, etc.), and rate of application of different nutrients. Information related to general fertility management practices was also collected, including information on: soil sampling, approaches used to determine nutrient application rates, and use of variable rate fertility programs.

The information developed from the survey provides a clear picture of the current state of fertility management. The survey provides solid evidence that the majority of crop producers are banding fertilizer, which is the recommended practice compared to broadcast and incorporation of fertilizer. The survey also provides evidence that the majority of nitrogen-based fertilizers in Alberta and Saskatchewan are side-banded or mid-row banded at planting (71 per cent and 58 per cent of nitrogen-based fertilizers in Alberta and Saskatchewan, respectively). By contrast, in Manitoba, 44 per cent of nitrogen-based fertilizers are applied in the fall (majority banded as anhydrous ammonia).

The survey also provides an overview of methods to manage soil fertility, demonstrating that farmers utilize many different approaches, some of which may be improved. For example, in Western Canada, annual soil sampling for nitrogen is only utilized by 24 per cent of farmers. In Saskatchewan, only 17 per cent of farmers conduct annual soil sampling for nitrogen. The majority of farmers also utilize the same fertility program for all of their canola fields (67 per cent), as well as for their wheat fields (61 per cent).

Regarding pea production, the survey also provides important insights regarding phosphorus management. For example, only 44 per cent of growers fertilized their pea crops with phosphorus. Fertilizing peas with phosphorus is more popular in Alberta than Saskatchewan, with 58 per cent of growers compared to 36 per cent, respectively. When peas were fertilized with phosphorus, Alberta producers also applied higher rates, with an average of 32 lbs of P2O5 compared to 24 lbs of P2O5 in Saskatchewan. There are many soil fertility researchers in Western Canada who are concerned that soils are being mined of phosphorus. This survey data provides more evidence that more soil phosphorus is being removed by crop harvest than what is being replaced. The long term implications of low phosphorus fertility may have an impact on crop health, seedling vigour, and crop yields over an entire crop rotation.

The 2014 survey is the first of four surveys to be conducted during this project. Subsequent surveys will be conducted during the winters of 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. The goal is to capture baseline information for all major grain, oilseed and pulse crop in Canada. During the winter of 2015-16, the western Canadian survey will focus on barley and soybean production. In addition, information on canola production will be tracked throughout the survey in order to see if there are changes from year to year. The full results of the surveys will be available for download at www.fieldprint.ca.

### Average Phosphorus (P$_2$O$_5$) Rates in Peas - Total Crop vs. Where Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total Market (lbs)</th>
<th>Alberta (lbs)</th>
<th>Saskatchewan (lbs)</th>
<th>Manitoba (lbs)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Market (365)</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta (14)</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan (296)</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba (14)</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For farm size and 4R program familiarity, the survey results are not significantly different from the total market (90% confidence). However, the survey results are significantly different for farm size and 4R program familiarity, where the significance levels are 90%.
So what is all this climate change mumbo jumbo about, and why should I believe some computer models that say it’s getting hotter? Carbon dioxide levels ebb and flow like the ocean tides and the political parties that occupy the Legislature and Parliament. Why do anything? And why all the articles in Pulse Crop News about climate change anyway?

The debate over human impact on the changing climate will continue, however, the efficient utilization of non-renewable resources is in everyone’s best interest. Not only can ways be found to minimize the impact of the ag sector on the environment by reducing overlap, measuring, mapping and utilizing fertilizer and crop inputs efficiently, producers also save money. After all, a penny saved is a penny earned.

In support of the 2016 International Year of Pulses, Alberta Pulse Growers, in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, is conducting an Environmental Footprint for the Alberta field pea using a life cycle assessment (LCA) approach. LCA is a formalized methodology that provides a quantitative approach to understanding the distribution of resource demands and environmental impacts along the food product supply chains, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement. APG also recognizes that a benchmark of where it stands in regard to emission intensity will be beneficial moving forward. Identifying ways to more efficiently deploy resources, reduce costs, and decrease the industry’s environmental footprint and emission intensity is the goal behind this initiative. Knowing what is driving environmental impacts can help in making production and management decisions that provide the greatest financial and environmental benefits.

APG continues to work with provincial cropping sector counterparts on issues relating to climate change, sustainability and extension of new technologies, improved cropping practices and other technologies that save money and make climate sense. This cropping sector collective follows recent climate change commitments from both the federal and provincial governments in order to understand the potential implications on its members.

The Alberta cropping sector has been vocal on climate change issues and active in communicating concerns to elected officials about potential future environmental policies that may increase costs at the farm gate. Carbon taxes - whether they are applied on fuels, fertilizers or inputs we use - directly or indirectly, are eventually borne entirely by producers. Manufacturers of farm inputs simply pass the costs on. Farmers are unable to pass their costs onto their customers or line companies and, as such, are ultimately price takers. This is not acceptable.

Any policies related to increasing the price of emissions to incite practice change may work for consumers and have them reassess their choice in setting the heat at 23 degrees, buying the larger model vehicle that is a gas guzzler or perhaps having some insulation blown into their attic and potentially saving a buck in the long term. Agriculture relies on fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources to produce food, and any policy that increases costs of doing business in Alberta places us at a competitive disadvantage to other exporting regions of the world. APG is making sure that these concerns are heard by elected officials, again, in partnership and unison with the other crop commissions.

While the cropping sector cannot accept any absolute emission reductions (ie. a farm using less diesel or fertilizer or commit to using aging equipment in perpetuity while at the same time increasing yields), the pulse industry can look at ways to more efficiently deploy non-renewable resources. This is the cornerstone of an LCA; benchmarking current practice in order to isolate production ‘hot spots’ or areas of improvement, so that practices can be adopted to reduce environmental impact while saving money. The saving money part is key while the environmental benefit is an added plus.

If you haven’t already participated in the Life Cycle Assessment, go to APG’s website and take 30 minutes to fill out the survey. APG would greatly appreciate it, and your pocket book may someday also benefit from the collective exercise.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nevin Røsaasen, APG Policy and Program Specialist, nrosaasen@pulse.ab.ca with any questions or concerns regarding climate change policies or the Life Cycle Assessment of the Alberta Field Pea.
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*The Roundup Transorb® HC and HEAT offer off-invoice discount acres will be calculated using the following label rates: One case of Heat® LQ = 80 acres (jug of Heat® LQ = 80 acres), Roundup Transorb® HC 0.67L = 1 acre (10L = 15 acres, 115L = 172 acres, 450L = 675 acres, 800L = 1,200 acres). ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Tank mixes: The applicable labelling for each product must be in the possession of the user at the time of application. Follow applicable use instructions, including application rates, precautions and restrictions of each product used in the tank mixture. Monsanto has not tested all tank mix product formulations for compatibility or performance other than specifically listed by brand name. Always predetermine the compatibility of tank mixes by mixing small proportional quantities in advance. Roundup Transorb® is a registered trade-mark of Monsanto Technology LLC, Monsanto Canada, Inc. licensee. AgSolutions® and are registered trade-marks of BASF Corporation; and HEAT and KIXOR® are registered trade-marks of BASF SE, all used with permission by BASF Canada Inc. © 2015 Monsanto Canada, Inc. and BASF Canada Inc.
There has been remarkable improvement in lentil genetics in recent years, contributing to an increase in grower satisfaction. Several of the newer red lentil varieties possess improved characteristics compared with the older green varieties, i.e.: Laird and Eston, which producers historically grew or experimented with in Alberta. Given lentil’s current high price and its improved agronomic traits, it appears to be another good crop option in 2016.

Lentil varietal research on the Canadian Prairies has developed red lentil varieties with improved resistance to selected herbicides, disease resistance, lodging prevention, earlier maturity, a more determinant growth habit and improved seed yield.

CDC Maxim CL and CDC Dazil CL, for example, are CLEARFIELD varieties, so are tolerant to IMI herbicides (Group 2) such as Odyssey. These varieties have ‘good’ resistance to the once devastating ascochyta blight disease, and Maxim, for example, has ‘good’ resistance to both ascochyta and anthracnose, traditionally the most common foliar lentil diseases. Dazil has ‘fair’ resistance to anthracnose. Plant breeding has created a thicker, stronger stem base, minimizing lodging issues. Along with earlier maturity, a more determinant growth habit has also been bred into these varieties. So, varieties like Maxim and Dazil are more ensured to set seed instead of growing vegetatively if precipitation is present during the latter part of the growing season. The new red lentil varieties are also higher yielding than traditional varieties.

Red lentils are highly adapted to Alberta growing conditions, especially the Brown, Dark Brown and Thin Black soil zones. The 10-year average red lentil yield in Western Canada is 1,400 lbs/acre. Experienced growers harvest 1,800 to over 2,000 lbs/ac on a good year. With current red lentil prices soaring above 45 cents/lb, this is a very good economic return on investment.

Experienced pulse growers readily admit that market opportunity isn’t the only reason to include a grain legume in their crop rotation. Positive rotational effects from growing pulses also include disease and insect breaks for other crop types, soil water use efficiency in rotation with cereals and oilseeds, lower overall nitrogen fertilization cost, improved soil tilth and promotion of beneficial soil biological activity.
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FMCcrop.ca

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The Alberta creators of BiotaGelata had a sweet experience at the national Mission: ImPULSEible competition in February as their pulse-based gelato was awarded second place.

As a result of their creativity and successful showing at the national competition, Pulse Canada has invited Team Alberta to the IFT conference in Chicago to participate in the innovative pulse product showcase and APG is going to provide the funding to support the team. Pulse Canada will have a booth at the IFT exhibition with a spot to showcase innovative Canadian pulse products.

“We are beyond excited,” said Team Leader Austen Neil. “We had fun participating in Mission: ImPULSEible, met a lot of key industry leaders and enjoyed the camaraderie of the other student teams. We are extremely grateful to Alberta Pulse for the opportunity.”

Neil and her fellow University of Alberta Food and Nutrition students Chandre Van de Merwe and Nicolle Mah created a non-dairy, gluten-free gelato made with fermented white beans as well as a chickpea flour and pea protein crumble which won the Alberta competition. The provincial win earned the team a spot at the International Year of Pulses Mission: ImPULSEible national competition in Burnaby, B.C. during the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology (CIFST) conference.

“It’s great after all these years of work to finally feel like you’re making a difference,” Neil said. “Pulses are so versatile and so nutritious that you just need to think outside the box.”

Since winning the Alberta competition to include pulses in traditional foods in the most innovative way in November, the team worked with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry’s Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc to scale up their product for the national competition. As a result, the team served national judges two new flavours - Passion Fruit and Dark Chocolate Cassis - in addition to the original Maple Walnut.

“Congratulations to Austen, Chandre and Nicolle for creating a unique and innovative product showcasing Alberta pulses,” said Debra McLennan, APG’s Food and Nutrition Coordinator. “They wowed everyone at MI and CIFST with all three flavours of their BiotaGelata. Great job!”

McLennan was pleased to note that the team has gained interest at the retail level in the BiotaGelata product.

BiotaGelata’s product information states: “This product is high in probiotics and low in fat and sugar. The addition of pulses have provided a higher protein content that cannot be found in conventional ge-
lato or ice cream. BiotaGelata was made to highlight the versatility of pulses and showcase their nutritional value.”

More information about BiotaGelata can be found on social media by searching for BiotaGelata.

The Alberta team won a $350 monetary prize for second place.

The winner of the national competition was the University of Guelph team that created Fiberger, a high fibre meat extender containing red lentils, green peas and chickpeas. The Ontario team won the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the international competition that is being held in July at IFT in honour of International Year of Pulses 2016.

The other innovative pulse products created by post-secondary students from across Canada that competed in the national competition included Vital Impulse Bars from Nova Scotia, Pulse & Pomace Crisps from Quebec, Cocopea2 from B.C., Sensible Sauces from Manitoba.

The national competition was judged by author and tv personality Chef Vikram Vij; Daiya Foods Vice-President Paul Wong; Burnaby City Councillor Paul McDonell; and the University of Saskatchewan’s Dr. Michael Nickerson.
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TELL ‘EM DELARO’S COMING
VITERRA AND CROP PROTECTION SERVICES BRING OUT THE BEANS

for annual pancake breakfast

Danielle McIntyre, Executive Director, Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge

The Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge was thrilled to add Viterra and Crop Protection Services (CPS) to their list of community supporters in 2014 and 2015 – word is, they’re full of beans!

The food bank hosts an annual pancake breakfast during the local Whoop Up Days Festival, and each year before the parade that kicks off the festivities for the week, the food bank invites community members down to their parking lot to get into the Whoop Up spirit. Using The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen (that normally provides cooking classes to teach families to cook healthy foods on a limited budget), volunteers from Viterra and CPS joined up with the food bank to cook and serve one of the best breakfasts in town.

Along with the traditional whole wheat pancakes and sausages, the breakfast also includes real eggs, fruit, juice, and milk. Since 2014, the breakfast has also included homemade protein-packed baked beans thanks to the sponsorship provided by Viterra and Crop Protection Services. More than 900 community members took in the fun in 2015, and Interfaith Food Bank expects to serve well over 1,000 patrons at the 10th Annual Pancake Breakfast in August 2016.

The food bank is grateful for donations of pulses at any time through the year, as they are included with the food hampers provided to families in need. Beans, lentils and other pulses are also used in cooking classes, and included in Diabetic Bundles for those with special dietary needs. The food bank also offers a learning garden, which teaches families to increase their food security by growing their own food, and peas and beans are grown to educate families about where their food comes from. Including the baked beans with the pancake breakfast exposes community members to delicious and healthy ingredients, and is a great way to promote the International Year of Pulses 2016.

For more information about Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge, visit www.interfaithfoodbank.ca or find us on Facebook and Twitter.
TAKE THE PULSE PLEDGE FOR
International Year of Pulses & Your Health

Join the Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) and people around the world by taking the Pulse Pledge to start eating more pulses during International Year of Pulses 2016 (IYP).

Many Albertans, including Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier, took the Pulse Pledge at APG’s booth during the FarmTech Conference. Anyone can take the pledge from anywhere at www.pulsepledge.com.

As this issue of Pulse Crop News went to press, more than 22,000 North Americans had made the commitment to eating pulses once a week for 10 weeks and join a global food movement. Signing up through the Pulse Pledge website offers opportunities for recipes, inspiration and the chance to win great prizes along the way.

Allison Ammeter, Chair of APG and the IYP Canada Committee, took the pledge along with many other guests in January at Canada’s Pulse Feast hosted by Chef Michael Smith of Food Network Canada.

“Pulses are so great for health and the environment that encouraging more people around the world to take the Pulse Pledge is something we can all feel good about,” said Ammeter, who already enjoyed eating and cooking with the pulses grown on her family’s farm. “If you are new to pulses, pledge to incorporate them into your diet once a week for 10 weeks to start. If you are already eating pulses, pledge to eat pulses three times a week. How about including half a cup of pulses into your diet every day? It quickly adds up to improved nutrition!”

As people eat more pulses, Ammeter explained. This will contribute to APG’s mission and new five-year strategic plan to increase pulse consumption by 100 grams per capita per week. Another focused action for APG is to influence the development of pulse products to increase pulse consumption in domestic and key international markets, as well as to develop a vibrant value-added processing industry in Alberta.

This will, in turn, contribute to the realization of another target of the APG strategic plan, which is to increase the arable land planted to pulse crops in Alberta from eight per cent to 15 per cent over five years. This past growing season, Alberta farmers grew pulses on 1.8 million acres.

“IYP is an opportunity to capture the attention of consumers and the food industry, to demonstrate how incorporating more pulses into their diets and food products can improve nutrition and also support the environment,” Ammeter said. “It will leverage the international focus on pulses to build more demand for the pulses that Canadian growers are producing.”

The IYP Canada Committee consists of representatives from APG and its counterparts in other provinces, Pulse Canada, and industry representatives. Ultimately, the goal of IYP Canada is to contribute to the sustainable and profitable growth of the Canadian pulse industry. To learn more about the wide range of activities that support that goal and to learn how you can join the effort, visit www.iypcanada.ca.
Have you taken the Pulse Pledge (www.pulsepledge.com) to eat ½ cup (125 mL) pulses per week for 10 weeks? Make it easy to include pulses by following us on Twitter @AlbertaPulse where we will be featuring a different pulse each month. Here’s a sneak peek for the rest of the year!

It’s easy to include pulses in your diet on a regular basis. With the versatility of pulses, they can be used almost interchangeably in many recipes. Wondering what to use when a recipe calls for “white beans”? Try Great Northern beans or navy beans, which are also known as white pea beans; in a pinch you could also use pinto beans or chickpeas. Other white beans that can be used interchangeably are cannellini beans and white kidney beans; cranberry beans could work here too.

Red beans, dark or light red kidney beans and pinto beans can be substituted for each other in many recipes. You often find these pulses in Cajun, Mexican and South-west cuisines. These beans are common in a number of chilis, but are also tasty additions to soups and salads.

Red, green and brown lentils are all interchangeable in recipes. Split lentils will cook faster and can get mushy and break down if cooked too long, so if you want to keep the integrity of the lentil, watch the cooking time or use whole lentils.

Let’s not forget the peas! Yellow split peas, with their mild flavour and smooth texture can be used in place of white beans, lentils and chickpeas. The next time you make hummus, try using yellow split peas; no one will taste the difference!

Simply adding whole, cooked pulses to salads and soups makes them more filling and adds plant-based protein and fibre. Other whole pulse substitutions to try: replace half the meat with lentils in lasagna, tacos, casseroles, chili, meatloaf, meatballs or burgers; mix ½ cup (125 mL) to 1 cup (250 mL) cooked and mashed white beans into chicken salad, tuna salad or egg salad sandwich fillings. Roast whole cooked chickpeas, beans or lentils and add to trail mix, granola or granola bars or have as a snack on their own.

Pureed pulses can also be the secret ingredient in your baking. Adding pureed pulses to baked goods adds moisture and fibre as well as increases the protein content. You can replace half the amount of oil in a muffin recipe with an equal amount of pureed lentils. Replace half the butter with a white bean puree; use chickpea flour to replace up to half of the wheat-based flour in any baked product. Pulses improve the texture and extend the shelf life of baked items as well!

Did you know that it takes the same amount of time to prepare lentils and split peas as it does to prepare pasta, quinoa or rice (15-30 minutes)? If you’re running short on time to prepare dry pulses, use canned pulses; they’re just as nutritious, but need to be thoroughly drained and rinsed to remove up to 40 per cent of the sodium or better yet, look for no salt added canned pulses.

Looking for pulse recipe inspiration? Check out the Alberta Pulse website www.pulse.ab.ca or the International Year of Pulses recipe website www.pulses.org for more great ways to use pulses everyday!

Have you got a question about pulse nutrition? I would love to hear from you! You can contact me at debramc@pulse.ab.ca or (780) 986-9398 ext. 6.
GUEST RECIPE FROM CHEF BIREN PANDEY, MATRIX HOTEL, EDMONTON.

faba bean pound cake

This delicious pound cake featuring faba beans delighted guests at the fourth annual Chops & Crops Alberta Grown Reception in November at the Matrix Hotel in Edmonton. Chef Biren Pandey shares his recipe for this decadent treat below.

Ingredients
Cake:
- 2.2 lbs (1 kg) Unsalted Butter
- 28 oz (800 g) Sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Salt
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Lemon Zest
- 10 Eggs
- 28 oz (800 g) Flour
- 10.5 oz (300 g) Canned Faba Beans
- 2 tsp (10 mL) Baking Powder

Frosting:
- 14 oz (400 g) Cream Cheese
- 7 oz (200 g) Soft Butter
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) Lemon Juice
- 10.5 oz (300 g) Icing Sugar

Directions
In a bowl, cream butter, sugar and salt until light and fluffy, adding eggs and lemon zest gradually. Sieve flour with baking powder and fold into butter mixture using cut and fold method. Boil faba beans for five minutes, strain and remove skin, then add into cake batter. Grease cake tin dusting flour inside the cake tin and pour the cake batter in it. Bake at 350°F about 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on wire rack. For the frosting, beat butter, icing sugar, cream cheese and lemon juice in mixing bowl until very light and fluffy, cut cake into two layers and apply frosting making a sandwich. Makes 30 servings.

Nutrition Information
Per 1 piece (1/30 of recipe)

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