



POLICY UPDATE

KEY AREAS APG IS TARGETING TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY & PROFITABILITY

Policy continues to be an area where the organization invests resources and time to improve the profitability of growing pulses in the province. Following are the issue areas and partnering associations with which Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) continues to work to advance the interests of producers.

Farm Safety – The new industry-led AgSafe Society is up and running. APG provided substantial background work in developing AgSafe, as well as feedback and input on farm safety programs. APG has also sponsored the development of the grain entrapment safety trailer that growers may have seen at various trade shows and conferences.

Business Risk Management – APG continues to work through Team Alberta, with provincial AFSC programming, as well as with the Grain Growers of Canada and the Ag Growth Coalition to ensure improvements are made to BRM programming. APG also works directly with AFSC on the various pulse crops, including different classes of peas, lentils and dry beans to ensure coverage meets our members' needs.

International Trade – APG works with our national partner Pulse Canada to maintain market access and diversify our trading partners. APG has also worked with Team Alberta, Grain Growers of Canada and the Canadian Agri-Food Free Trade Alliance to promote trade agreements and the removal of tariffs at the border of nations importing

Canadian pulses. The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), the CPTPP, NAFTA and, of course, India, have been areas of focus.

Sustainability – APG and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry joined together to become the first jurisdiction in North America to have received an Environmental Product Declaration following completion of the 2017 life cycle assessment. This initiative benchmarks the intensity of producing a kilogram of yellow peas. Many European companies are accounting for the environmental impact of the products within their value chain. This can help with marketing Alberta-sourced yellow peas and has revealed current hotspots of production to our agronomists, researchers and members, allowing us to focus on reducing costs and, in turn, our overall input intensity.

APG, alongside Team Alberta, has developed a self-assessment sustainability tool for Alberta grain farmers at www.farmsustainability.com. This website allows producers to increase their understanding of sustainable sourcing requirements and better positions them to sell their products to large multi-nationals that demand record-keeping, transparency, human and ecological sustainability. This website is an excellent tool to raise awareness of best management practices and assess the readiness of an individual operation to meet sustainability challenges into the future of large international ingredient and distribution companies.



Nevin Rosaasen, APG Policy & Program Specialist

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) – APG Vice-Chair Don Shepert became the new Industry Co-Chair of the partnership this year. Through AEPA, APG engages the provincial government ministries on all areas of environment. Staff from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Alberta Environment and Parks engage with commission staff and directors on environmental issues. AEPA works on watershed and land use planning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and water issues including permitting for drainage and interpretation of shifting policy in this area and what it means for producers.

Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) – A subset of AEPA, this group consists of the four major crop commissions (Alberta Barley, Canola, Wheat and Pulse which make up Team Alberta) as well as the Alberta Seed Growers, Potato Growers

of Alberta, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and, at times, Alfalfa Seed Growers, Beekeepers and other visiting cropping associations. Within this forum, the CSWG engages relevant speakers with a crop specific focus, and communicates with each other to share what is happening in our own organizations. We also partner on crop specific projects such as neonic water monitoring when possible.

Pesticide Management Regulatory

Agency (PMRA) – Alberta Pulse Growers has been leading the efforts to ensure producers maintain the necessary tools to produce and export pulse crops into the future. The PMRA re-evaluations have recently been accelerated and producers across the country continue to lose registration of crop protection products that are of immense benefit when used in an integrative pest management strategy. APG will continue to advocate that the PMRA uses sound, peer-reviewed scientific process in their assessments, and APG will continue to



Among CSWG's responsibilities is making farmers aware of regulations around water and wetlands.

work through the Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium to ensure that the pulse and specialty crop producers have access to modes of action and new technologies from which the other larger acre crops benefit.

Election Preparation – APG is working with Team Alberta to ensure that our members' positions in several areas are well articulated to all political parties prior to the upcoming provincial and federal elections. By preparing our policy

positions, it allows the cropping sector to communicate clearly and consistently on a number of areas that have the potential to impact your operation.

These are a few areas where APG will continue to invest staff time and resources to provide input to policy makers to ensure pulses and other prairie crops can be grown sustainably and profitably into the future.

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