

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

APG CONTINUES TO WORK ON MARKET ACCESS CHALLENGES



Leanne Fischbuch, Executive Director

Market access; two words that have been on farmers' minds this winter. For pulse growers, this has been a constant issue since fall of 2017, but now to have another key crop embroiled with challenges, it has made decisions even more complex and reminded growers that we are all part of a global network.

For pulse crops, by the time you get this issue, India will have had its election and growers will have more information on whether the current pulse situation will be alleviated for our former largest market. There has been no updated discussion regarding changes to the fumigation derogation even with the federal government putting a December 31, 2018 timeline on the work. A scientifically-backed plan has been provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to India Plant Protection and Quarantine as a solution to the discussion of Canadian fumigation derogation, but this seems to be worked on quietly in the background and no updates have been forthcoming.

What has changed is that the quantitative restrictions placed on the import of pulses has increased from 100,000 MT to 150,000 MT and will continue until March 31, 2020. Quantitative restrictions are limitations that countries can place on import of goods that are not tariffs, taxes or other charges that can be made effective under quotas, import or export licences

or others. Under the World Trade Organization rules, quantitative restrictions must be administered in a non-discriminatory manner. Pulse crops from across the globe fall under India's quantitative restriction.

What this experience has reinforced is that the pulse industry requires specific strategies to make sure that our industry can process a portion of what we grow domestically. Additional markets need to be developed and many factors go into that development. APG is continuing to work with Pulse Canada and our other pulse grower friends across Canada to see 2 million MT of pulses go to new or diversified markets.

Regarding a different aspect of market access, growers are encouraged to check out the 2019 Pulse Grower Advisory on page 12. The advisory includes some critical changes that growers need to know. APG and other grower organizations want to underline that the use of glyphosate is just for pre-harvest weed control, and application must only happen when seed moisture content is below 30% for the least mature plants in the field. Consult the charts on the website and call your exporter to discuss what crop protection products are acceptable in the international market to which you are selling. The advisory is posted at keepingitclean.ca/pulses with other important information

about crop protection products for pulses, including the spray to swath calculator. Watch for *Keep it Clean!* information in your mailbox and at CanolaPALOOZA in June.

APG will have some new experiences for growers this summer/fall. The RVT app will feature podcasts and other tools for growers during the growing season. Visit the APG RVT app for seed information and to monitor the RVT sites as they progress through the year as well as receiving notices to learn through our podcast activities. Visit us in person at CanolaPALOOZA and at WheatStalk this year. APG will be at both events ready to address grower questions. If you cannot make it out to either of those, send us an email at office@albertapulse.com with your questions. I hope that you have a safe and successful growing season.

