



COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF BLUE LUPIN TO BEGIN IN ALBERTA



Boregine variety of lupin growing during trials in Alberta.

Koralta Agri-Business Inc. is looking for up to 20 farmers in Alberta's parkland area to start growing lupin in 2022 with an eye to producing 40,000 tonnes in 2024 to export as feed to Korea.

Koralta Agri-Business Inc. has selected three Alberta seed growers - Galloway Seeds, Lindholm Seed Farm and Brian Ellis Seed - to multiply blue lupin seed for the Boregine variety in 2021. In 2022, Koralta plans to work with up to 20 farmers to grow 1,000 acres of lupin in the vicinity of Olds, New Norway and Fort Saskatchewan. These contracts will start to be awarded in August 2021. In 2023,



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the company expects to contract 150-200 area farmers to grow 30,000 tonnes of blue lupin on 27,000 acres.

While Koralta Agri-Business Inc. is leading the development of the new pulse crop for Canada, AgCall is assisting with the commercialization and research of lupin.

“We are certainly excited about this new pulse crop and how it can be beneficial to Alberta farmers,” said AgCall CEO Gordon Butcher. “We are very confident of this variety in Alberta because there’s been a lot of research and we know it will grow here. We want to create a noise about blue lupin because we need about 20 farmers to put out 50 acres each in 2022, and we will buy the grain back. Our goal is to have Canada become the supplier of choice for the highest quality lupin in global markets.” Boregine underwent testing by Alberta Agriculture for several years and Butcher said it is well adapted to the parkland areas of Alberta. The primary market for Boregine will be the Korean feed market, where Koralta has already secured a substantial market for the blue lupin crop.

Alberta Pulse Growers’ Chair Robert Semeniuk was pleased to learn of another crop option becoming available for Alberta pulse farmers.

“Lupin will become another pulse crop we can grow,” he said. “As the market develops, it plays into the APG vision of pulses on every farm, on every plate.”

Koralta acquired Canadian licenses to market the best performing varieties of white lupin, under the variety name Dieta, along with blue lupin, with the variety name Boregine. Production of Dieta will initially focus on food uses with some feed uses in Middle East markets. Dieta production will take



AgCall Associate Ian McNeil stands among the lupin plots. Photo credit: Mark Olson, AgCall.

place in Manitoba due to its longer growing season and proximity to initial customers in the Canadian/ US food industry.

Butcher noted that lupin is an attractive crop because it produces comparable yields to peas, and lupin protein is 35% to 40% compared to an average of 24% for peas. Recent testing at the A&L Biologicals Agroecology Research Centre in London, Ontario showed that these lupin varieties are also resistant to *Aphanomyces* root rot, which dramatically reduces yield in some other pulse crops. Lupin, like other pulses, fixes nitrogen when properly inoculated which will lower a farm’s carbon footprint and reduce input costs. Koralta also

has inoculant available to farmers participating in the closed loop production system.

“There’s still a bit of a challenge as far as registered post-emergent broadleaf herbicides, so we’ve got a big research program going at the University of Saskatchewan,” Butcher explained. “Lupin is a little different than peas, so we’re testing nine different herbicides. Some broadleaf pea herbicides are not good for lupins, but there are some other products that look very promising. We just have to get those registered and on the market.”

For more information, please visit www.koraltaagri.com.