

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

APG CONTINUES MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ON BEHALF OF FARMERS

Recently Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) members received the Pulse Crop News 2021 Research Report, *Science to Grow*. This magazine summarizes the research areas of focus that we have been working on this past year and provides information on scouting tools, wetland diagnostics and an overview of current projects, funding and partnerships. APG encourages members to check out the research magazine and learn more about where funding is being invested.

In 2021, APG has already supported funding commitments of over \$1.06 million to new research projects. We look forward to sharing how those projects support our efforts to have pulses on every farm and on every plate. Please check out the story on page 22 that highlights the research investment.

Since winter, APG learned of the provincial government's plans for shifting the research staff who led pulse agronomic research for the ministry. Like other research programs previously held within Agriculture and Forestry, all have found new homes with organizations that will hopefully support and partner to continue programs. APG is excited to work with Lakeland College, the recipient of the Government of Alberta's pulse agronomic research program, and we have been holding meetings with College officials to discuss how best to move forward together to benefit

Alberta's pulse farmers. It is an exciting new partnership that we are enthusiastic to explore.

While the state of public health restrictions continues in Alberta, APG will persevere. Since APG has not participated in or led any in-person activities for over a year, staff and Directors are developing excellent video conferencing skills and have managed to keep the business of the organization moving forward. Like our farmer members, APG is waiting for the day that we can resume a more 'normal' series of events and welcome back in-person meetings and learning opportunities. We encourage producers to continue to check out the APG app for new and regularly updated information as well as watch for notifications on webinars and other extension and knowledge sharing opportunities. This summer watch for APG Tailgate Talks – short webinars about important topics that will be promoted through the APG app and on our website. Visit the APG YouTube channel to see the first Tailgate Talk focusing upon *Aphanomyces* and other root rots.

APG was pleased to learn of the recent announcement from the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Special Review decision for Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam on aquatic invertebrates. The collective response to the neonicotinoid chemistries in question was



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significant with over 47,000 individual submissions to the PMRA. Various groups across the crop sector, including APG through a Pulse Canada submission, came together to coordinate responses and provide a voice and important data to help clarify the use and support positions. This decision has brought the crop sector together reinforcing the importance for technically strong data collection on water monitoring with additional information on uses surrounding water bodies as well as reinforcing efforts to reach out to PMRA to share how crop protection products are used across Canada. Work needs to continue as there is a cyclical process with PMRA and regular reviews of crop protection products are on the docket. To address this and be better prepared for addressing crop protection tool risk and sustainability, APG is working with Alberta crop industry partners in creating a coordinated, scientifically-sound water monitoring program linked with best management practices to inform an Alberta story.

I want to wish everyone a safe and productive growing season and assure you that APG is available through various tools if farmers have questions.