



# APG'S NEW CHAIR EXCITED TO WORK WITH NEW BOARD TOWARDS PULSES ON EVERY FARM, ON EVERY PLATE

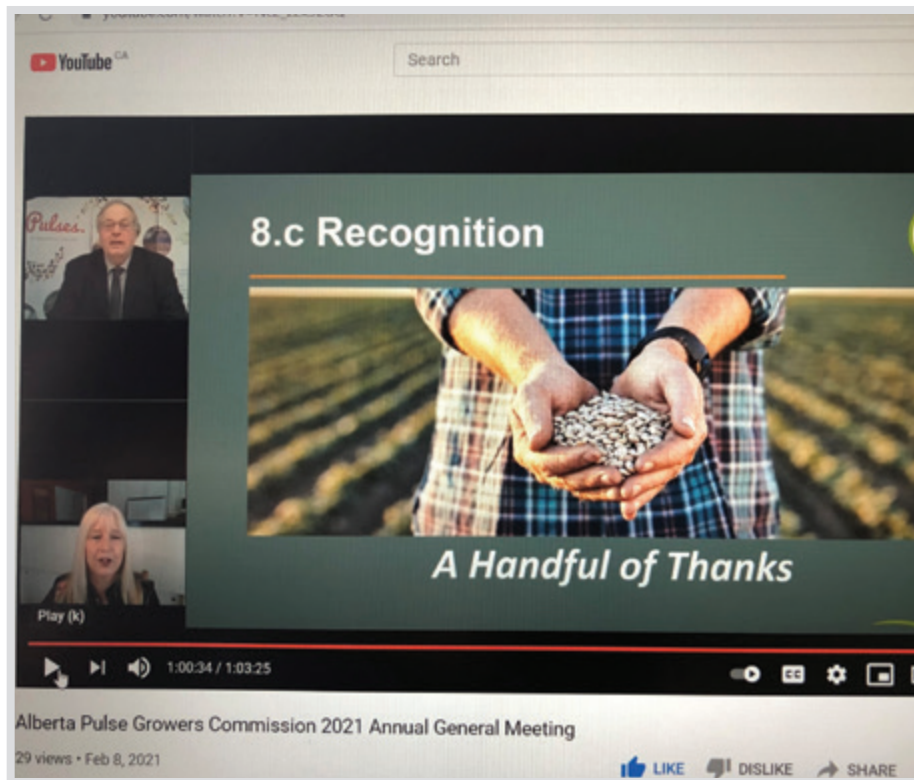
The recently-elected Chair of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission (APG) is keen to work with the new and experienced members of the Board of Directors to achieve the vision of pulses on every farm, on every plate.

Robert Semeniuk of Smoky Lake was elected to the role of Chair following January's virtual annual general meeting. He took over the position from St. Brides' Don Shepert, who became Past Chair.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the great work this Board has started under Don's leadership to maximize opportunities for Alberta's pulse farmers," Semeniuk said. "Beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas and soybeans have a fantastic sustainability, economic and health story to tell. I'm looking forward to sharing news about more successes in the near future."

Semeniuk grows yellow peas and other crops alongside his wife Angela. He served as APG's Vice-Chair for the last two years and as Zone 5 Chair prior to joining the provincial Board. He will lead an Executive Committee that includes new Vice-Chair Chris Allam of Ardrossan (Zone 3) and Shepert (Zone 5).

Kevin Auch of Carmangay (Zone 2) and Shane Strydorst of Neerlandia (Zone 3) joined APG as Directors on the 12-member Board. They join continuing Directors Greg Stamp of Enchant, Rodney Volk of Burdett and Will Muller of Bow Island



*Zone 2 Director Allison Ammeter thanked outgoing APG Chair Don Shepert during the organization's virtual annual general meeting.*

(Director-at-Large, Bean) in Zone 1; Allison Ammeter of Sylvan Lake in Zone 2; as well as Jerome Isaac of Crooked Creek, Caroline Sekulic of Rycroft and Peter Konstapel of Spirit River (Director-at-Large, Non-Bean) in Zone 4.

"There's definitely a uniqueness to the personalities that we have on the Board," Semeniuk noted. "The Board has gelled very well. There's a large range of experiences on commissions and life in general. The heads come together and the ideas flow. We have personalities that complement each other."

Auch joined the Board in January after serving on the Alberta Canola Producers Commission including leading as board chair from 2008 to 2010, and was a founding Alberta Wheat director then chair from 2016 to 2018. He farms about 5,000 acres with his wife Laurel and two employees.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, then taught financial management for Alberta Agriculture and the Continuing Education department at Lethbridge College.



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**-Kevin Auch**



*“Pulse crops are becoming increasingly important in western Canada.”*

**-Shane Strydhorst**

“We grew peas in the ’80s, got droughted out, and then tried them again around 2008,” Auch recalled. “It turned out great and we have been growing pulses ever since on at least 20% of the farm. I was an APG Zone Advisor and I’m pleased to have the opportunity to step up to serve the rest of a retiring Director’s term.”

Similarly, Strydhorst has been familiar with the benefits of growing pulses for a long time.

“I’ve known about the benefits of legumes since I was young, as we grew alfalfa silage for our dairy animals,” he explained. “I learned more about the nitrogen fixation benefits, along with benefits of a wider diversity in our crop rotation by including pulses when my wife

Sheri started working for APG Zone 3 in the summer of 2000. We were using a rusty, tired old box seed drill at that time, and had to wait a couple of years to plant our first pulse crops until we bought an air drill. Our first faba bean for grain crop was in 2006. We grew some forage pea-barley intercrops for silage in 2004.”

He is looking forward to helping to guide the future of pulses by participating on the APG Board.

“It is a very exciting, if challenging, time in agriculture, and I thought it was a good time to get involved to help shape the future,” he said. “Pulse crops are becoming increasingly important in western Canada, sort of an ‘up-and-comer’,

which made me choose APG over the commissions of well-established crops such as Wheat or Canola.”

Strydhorst is a third-generation farmer whose family moved back to the farm when he was three. He has been actively farming since graduating from the University of Alberta in 1999. He and Sheri have a nine-year-old daughter.

Meanwhile, outgoing Directors Kelisha Archer in Zone 2 and Dan Visser in Zone 3 were thanked for their service at the APG’s virtual annual general meeting in January. Shepert and Isaac were also recognized for their service in the roles of Chair and Third Executive Member respectively.