

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

COVID RESTRICTIONS EASE AS FARMERS TACKLE OTHER CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Of all the things Alberta Pulse Growers was anticipating this summer, a HEAT DOME was not on the radar. A heat dome is when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air thanks to high pressure circulation creating a lid of excess heat ¹. Most of Western Canada experienced this event, and for pulse farmers the impact has been significant.

Farmers know that typically pulses flower at the end of June through July and this was the exact period where the weather proved to be most destructive. Flower blasting (or aborting) began early and took

a significant toll on yield potential of pulse crops across much of the province. The combination of drought and heat caused pulse crops to speed up maturity resulting in advancing harvest by up to two or three weeks.

The impact of the heat dome has cascaded through the value chain and will certainly have an influence on next year's production. We are not out of the woods, and APG has been communicating with AFSC and working with our Team Alberta counterparts looking at how the crop sector can identify "extraordinary costs" which are being applied to discussions on AgriRecovery for the sector, and work will continue into the fall to assess the overall impact of the weather.

Even with the challenges that the current year has provided, APG is focused on preparing for future research working with our pulse association counterparts across Canada in the development of a National Pulse Research Strategy. Work will be continuing into the fall with goals of seeking alignment on research priorities and preparation for collaborative research investments and national funding opportunities like future anticipated AgriScience Cluster programs in 2023.

APG is proud to be part of a collaboration addressing water stewardship and monitoring for Alberta farmers. Results Driven



Leanne Fischbuch, Executive Director

Agriculture Research organization awarded a grant of \$750,000 over three years to the project focused upon stewardship methodologies and water monitoring for important crop protection chemistries. Learn more about this project on page 18. This work will help the industry develop data and share knowledge with producers and regulators aiming to protect both the environment and the responsible use of crop protection products for farmers.

Preparation for regional meetings is already underway, and this year and we are pleased to report that the objective is to hold in-person meetings this fall. We look forward to connecting again with producers from across the province during our regional meeting tour. We also encourage pulse farmers to consider joining our organization as new Advisors in our zones. There are always openings if you have interest in the organization.

Resuming typical operations is the plan for the organization this fall, and we look forward to seeing and connecting with you soon. Have a safe harvest.

¹ <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/heat-dome.html>.

