



# ZONE UPDATES

Zone Chairs will provide updates in each issue of Pulse Crop News to keep growers apprised of what is happening in their area and around the province. If there is any information that you think would be valuable to producers as part of these reports, please email [rpeterson@albertapulse.com](mailto:rpeterson@albertapulse.com).

**ZONE 1 ADVISORS**

**Tim van der Hoek, Chair**  
**Thomas Lievaart**  
**Will Müller**  
**Cory Nelson**  
**Brad Proud**  
**Greg Stamp**  
**Rodney Volk**  
**Ryan Mercer**

As of the writing of this update in early August, dryland pulses in Zone 1 were starting to be harvested with low yields. Many farmers were talking about the need to access crop insurance to make up for the low yields due to intense heat and dry conditions.

Long periods of smoke from forest fires provided some relief from heat stress but fostered the right conditions for mould growth. It was the most mould dry bean crops in the area have experienced in many years. Some farmers sprayed fungicide three times during the growing season.

Dry bean commodity prices were a bright spot that could help make up for yield losses for some at a time when farmers are fighting to fill their pea contracts to avoid penalties.

The Zone 1 annual general meeting is planned to take place in person on Monday, December 6. RSVPs are encouraged so that the zone can secure a venue to properly accommodate attendees. The 2020 AGM was held via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so zone members are looking forward to discussions that seem to flow more readily at in-person events.

**ZONE 2 ADVISORS**

**Sarah Hoffmann, Chair**  
**Allison Ammeter**  
**Kevin Auch**  
**Gerry Good**  
**Barry Grabo**  
**Noel Flitton**  
**Peter Hoff**  
**Curtis Hoffmann**  
**John Kowalchuk**  
**Doug Sell**

Early August found many producers in our zone firing up the combines to harvest pulse crops. It's not usually a good sign when harvest begins this early. Zone 2, like much of the Prairies, experienced extreme heat and dryness, not to mention smoke, grasshoppers, oh, and what we hope is the tail end of a plague. Despite the weather challenges, Zone 2 has been home to some successful regional variety trials in Olds, Lacombe, Three Hills and the Special Areas. You can find local data on the APG app soon. Our zone plans to meet in Drumheller on Nov. 16 for our AGM. There are some Advisor positions up for election this fall. Please consider joining your zone pulse board. We love to have a diverse group of faces helping to make decisions and guide our organization at both the local and provincial level.

## ZONE 3 ADVISORS

Chris Allam, Chair  
 Lucas Bell  
 Nick Jonk  
 Ryan Kubinec  
 Zach Olthuis  
 Shane Strydhorst  
 Dan Visser  
 Magnus von Rennenkampff

Zone 3 saw the best May and June in recent memory. Seeding was off to an early start, which is great for pulse acres. Several rains in late May and early June got the crops off to a fantastic start. Unfortunately, the luck didn't last and the zone saw a record dry June. Coupled with intense and extended heat of over 30 degrees Celsius for several days. Damage to peas and faba beans was extensive, and yields are expected to be well below average. With the COVID-19 hangover still looming, research has been at a standstill. Zone 3 hopes to get back to research and an average growing season in 2022. Join us at the Zone 3 AGM on Nov. 25 to learn about our future plans.

## ZONE 4 ADVISORS

Martine Piebiak, Chair  
 Brady Bartlett  
 Jerome Isaac  
 Mallory Kaiser  
 Peter Konstapel  
 Ernie Peters  
 Monica Robertson  
 Caroline Sekulic

It's been a dry growing season in the Peace Country, but not as dry as other parts of the province. In late July, Advisors reported that peas were holding on the best of all their crops. Overall pea, lentil and faba stands are even and short with enough crop to harvest. Yield expectations ranged from 25 bu/acre to average to slightly below average. Crops seem better in the western part of the zone and no reports were received by the time PCN went to print from the northern part of the zone.

This year, our zone has started an Aphanomyces tissue testing program to gain a better understanding of the presence of this disease on our farms. Sampling information was forwarded for use by agronomists in the zone. The courier cost is paid by sampler, test cost is covered by Alberta Pulse Growers and SGS. Any growers interested in testing plant tissue in the coming season are welcome to participate.

I hope to see you in person at the Zone 4 meeting on November 23 in Fairview.

## ZONE 5 ADVISORS

Michael Bury, Chair  
 Harold Haugen  
 Tom Jackson  
 Matthew Micklich  
 Robert Semeniuk  
 Don Shepert  
 Gordon Tuck  
 Zolton Yaremie

What a difference a year makes! Zone 5 is quite big and Harvest 20 went well for most producers. There were big swings in yields, from poor due to too much water and disease, to bumper crops in others. The zone finished the final year of the yellow pea phosphorus trial and results are available. We gave out a Lakeland College scholarship again this year and the recipient was Kaj Birkjar of Strome, Alberta. In spring 2021, the zone went ahead with a liming trial for the treatment of Aphanomyces in yellow peas. Results will be available at the annual general meeting on Nov. 30. Farming is all about the weather, and it looks like for most the 2021 harvest will be on the poorer side due to lack of moisture. I hope to see everyone in person in Vermilion on Nov. 30 for the fall meeting!