ZONE MEETING SPEAKER SHARED HOW PRODUCERS CAN HELP MITIGATE PESTICIDE SHORTAGE

The Nozzle Guy, Tom Wolf, told farmers at Alberta Pulse Growers' annual zone meetings that while the fates have conspired to create a shortage of pesticides for the upcoming crop year, farmers can employ several strategies to help.

A surplus of chemical resulted in companies deciding on a general draw-down of inventories in 2019, Wolf explained. This was compounded by an unusually high demand in 2021, U.S. implementation of tariffs against China where a lot of generic products originate, as well as COVID-related shipping issues, Hurricane Ida's impact on Bayer's Louisiana facility, and China's shut-down of its yellow phosphorus production in anticipation for the winter Olympics so that visitors can see the sky.

"This is an unprecedented perfect storm for a loss of supply of these products for this industry," Wolf said. "So, what can we do as producers and agronomist/advisors? There are five or six possible things we can do."

Wolf said that the ways that producers can save on the amount of chemical they use include: In the sprayer itself, a priming is a major loss of product, sectional control is a major issue, cleaning the sprayer is obviously a major issue, spray drift is not a major issue but it does add up, maximizing efficacy, and the price of broadcast spraying.

For more information on how to mitigate the pesticide shortage and other spraying tips, visit www.sprayers101.com/dealing-with-pesticide-shortages-in-2022/.

Wolf gave farmers strategies to reduce the amount of pesticide they require when operating a sprayer. Photo credit: Joel Menaut

Alberta Pulse Growers held annual fall meetings in all five zones in November and December. While all were scheduled to be in person and available virtually, weather forced the rescheduling of the Zone 3 meeting to take place virtually.

There were many agronomy and market speakers on the agenda for the meetings, which were held in conjunction with Alberta Wheat and Barley as Next Level Farming in Zones 2-5.

All zones had advisors with expiring terms leading up to the zone meetings, and most of those positions have been filled. Check out who your new zone representatives are in this issue. APG was also seeking nominations for two Director-at-Large positions, one for Bean and one Non-Bean leading up to the January 26 AGM.

APG will also be seeking an indication from the membership at the provincial AGM about whether they are fine with moving some of the current APG regulations into a new set of organization bylaws.

As part of the provincial government's red tape reduction strategy, the Marketing of Agriculture Products Board has requested that all boards and commissions discuss the development and adoption of bylaws. APG is included in the second group of organizations to look at development and adoption of bylaws. This would not dissolve the APG regulations but significantly reduce the operational content in the documents. For example, content that could move easily into bylaws includes: Governance of the organization including management and conduct to carry out powers and duties and functions; Board quorum; Auditor appointment; Chair responsibilities; Terms of office; and Meeting requirements.

Check the Events section at albertapulse.com to register for the APG annual general meeting on January 26, 2022.