

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

APG HARVESTING RESULTS IN RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND EXTENSION



Leanne Fischbuch, Executive Director

Spring work and seeding will be a memory and farmers will be watching for pests and other issues emerging in the year by the time you get this edition of PCN. APG is also working to ensure the opportunity for a successful harvest for 2022. Part of our good harvest is the work we are doing to ensure that we can access key research to address issues and opportunities for pulses.

Farmers received the latest issue of the APG *Pulse Crop News 2022 Research Report*. This document outlined what we are working on in research with over 32 different projects covering our three strategic priority areas: grow, move and use. If you have not read the magazine, I encourage you to check out what APG has been investing in. It is available online at albertapulse.com/2022/04/pulse-crop-news-2022-research-report/.

The magazine also shared priorities that were developed for national research investment. Currently, APG is reviewing multiple projects that were proposed under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) AgriScience Cluster Program funding. This season, while farmers are minding their crops, APG will be working with provincial pulse organizations and Pulse Canada to confirm investment in a final series of projects and submit them to AAFC to access matching funding through

the Cluster program. Next winter we will learn which projects have been approved and we aim to partner to finance the new research activities starting April 2023. Our investment will be for five years and will constitute a significant expenditure for the organization.

Other important activities that APG is focusing upon during the growing season is coordination of #ABBugChat. APG staff are fully engaged with entomologists and farmers to share what is happening right now in the field through Twitter. If farmers have questions about the pests in their fields or want to learn more about what people are seeing across the province, this is a great tool to monitor and engage with. APG staff monitor and engage on #ABBugChat every Wednesday morning through most of the growing season.

APG is a partner in growth of advocacy through Team Alberta Crops. In winter, Team Alberta Crops expanded from the four original commission members: Barley, Canola, Pulse and Wheat to eight members with Alberta Beekeepers Commission, Alberta Seed Growers Association, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and the Potato Growers of Alberta. To support this expansion, the eight organizations also contributed funding for three years to support a staff member assisting

our organizations to target advocacy efforts within the province. APG is pleased to introduce Reg Warkentin as the Government Relations and Policy Manager for Team Alberta Crops. Warkentin began in March and is looking to help partners develop policy, build relationships, and communicate key positions to government, industry, and the public. To learn more about the latest activities with Team Alberta Crops visit www.teamalbertacrops.com.

APG aims to harvest results in research, advocacy, and extension in the areas important to our organization such as defined in our strategic plan under grow, move and use. We continue to thank farmers for your support as we look to address solutions, bring forward ideas and engage to make changes so that we can see pulses on every farm, on every plate. I encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions by contacting us through our app using 'Ask an Expert,' through our website, email office@albertapulse.com or call our office directly at 780-986-9398. I wish you a successful growing season and a bountiful harvest.