



ZONE UPDATES

The zone updates below were supplied by the chair for each zone. If there is any information that you think would be valuable to producers as part of these reports, please email rpeterston@albertapulse.com.

ZONE 1

ADVISORS:

- David Pepneck, Chair
- Will Muller, Vice-Chair
- Thomas Lievaart
- Cory Nelson
- Brad Proud
- Greg Stamp
- Shane Keijzer
- John Kolk
- Ryan Mercer

As spring peeks around the corner in Zone 1 all producers are faced with the question: What to plant this spring? With wheat markets moving with unpredictable volatility, planning rotations and cash flows has been difficult. Last year’s heat and lack of rain left many dryland and irrigated crops with underwhelming yields in Zone 1. Fortunately, pulses managed to remain competitively priced considering the increase in other commodities. On irrigation, crop type had a large effect on end yield; dry beans managed to have an overall successful year.

2022 has started with high prices for both commodity prices and input costs. Even after paying higher prices there is no guarantee of timely delivery of materials because of supply chain disruptions. One thing remains constant in Zone 1; pulses have a great place in rotation. We wish to showcase some of these pulses in the summer with crop tours so stay tuned for more information.

–David Pepneck

ZONE 2

ADVISORS:

- Peter Hoff, Chair
- Curtis Hoffmann, Vice-Chair
- Allison Ammeter
- Kevin Auch
- Gerry Good
- Barry Grabo
- John Kowalchuk
- Landon Sell

As I write this in April, dry conditions dominate the south and east of Zone 2. Although seeding has begun near Carmangay, cold temperatures this week will slow widespread seeding until after the Easter long weekend. Wet and cold will limit field work until the end of the month in the north and west, especially in the Lacombe area.

Zone 2 is presently supporting a soil health study at CARA near Oyen. We are also supporting Dr. Syama Chatterton’s work on *Aphanomyces* in the Three Hills area.

We are looking forward to a zone field day at APG Director Kevin Auch’s farm near Carmangay in July. We will see pulse crops grown under no-till irrigation and some nitrogen fixing biological trials.

If you or someone you know wish to join a great group of progressive farmers, there are a few advisor vacancies in Zone 2. We would love to hear from you.

–Peter Hoff

ZONE 3

ADVISORS:

Shane Strydhorst, Chair

Brendin Serna, Vice-Chair

Chris Allam

Lucas Bell

Dawna Nanninga

Zach Olthuis

Dan Visser

Magnus von Rennenkampff

With Drought 21 and COVID-19 both (hopefully) in the rear-view mirror, Zone 3 enters growing season 2022 with cautious optimism. Moisture is generally adequate for crop establishment, but conditions vary widely within the zone. Persistent cool April weather will likely lead to planting delays.

2022 sees many changes to the Zone 3 advisory board. In November 2021, we said farewell and thank you to long-time advisors Nick Jonk and Ryan Kubinec, and welcomed newcomers Dawna Nanninga and Brendin Serna to our board. I accepted the Zone 3 Chair position, taking over for Chris Allam, and Brendin Serna is our new Vice-Chair. Most of our advisors attended the March Director-Advisor joint meeting, allowing many of us to meet face to face for the first time. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the important work done by APG, and engage in great conversations about the many issues and opportunities currently facing agriculture.

Zone 3 is excited to see more research and demonstration plots, conducted by GRO and Lakeland College. The sites will feature RVTs and (among other things) lupins, a new-to-us crop that shows potential to be a good pulse crop option in Zone 3. Stay tuned for updates on summer plot tours and extension events!

—Shane Strydhorst

ZONE 4

ADVISORS:

Martine Piebiak, Chair

Peter Konstapel, Vice-Chair

Jerome Isaac

Ernie Peters

Caroline Sekulic

Beverley Wieben

As I write this, we are waiting to get started on seeding but early reports indicate that a significant number of pea acres are planned in the zone. Zone 4 continues our *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 this season are welcome to participate.

No crop walks are planned for the zone yet this summer, but there is a lot of activity taking place that will be of interest to pulse farmers. For example, the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) continues its small plot replicated trials for pulse (pea and faba bean) and cereal (oat, barley, triticale) mixtures for improved forage productions, and forage-type pulse crop variety (pea and faba bean) for forage and seed production. These are in addition to testing seed treatment, inoculant response and phosphorus fertilizer application on pea production and residual soil nitrogen. Trial sites for some of these PCBFA projects include various plots in Fairview, Teepee Creek and Debolt.

Zone 4 has a great advisory committee, but we have room for a couple more if you would like to join us. Becoming a zone advisor is a good way to get leadership experience and help shape Alberta's pulse industry.

—Martine Piebiak



ZONE 5

ADVISORS:

Michael Bury, Chair

Zolton Yaremie, Vice-Chair

Harold Haugen

Tom Jackson

Matthew Micklich

Robert Semeniuk

Don Shepert

Spring seeding 2022 will be soon upon us and everyone is hoping for timely moisture this growing season. Zone 5 has had some areas that have pea seed shortages and high residual nitrogen problems in the drought affected areas. Hopefully, producers that want to grow pulses can source seed.

Zone 5 received the 2021 liming project final report from Lakeland College and will be measuring the 2022 barley yields on the liming plot this fall with the cooperation and thanks to land owner Shawn Jacula. Zone 5 has a budget for sponsorship of zone pulse plot tours this spring or summer. Businesses are encouraged to contact their local zone advisor for sponsorship information.

Zone 5 congratulates the 2021 \$1,000 Lakeland College bursary winner Jenna Bowman of Dewberry, a second-year ag student at Lakeland.

Hopefully all goes well for everyone and we will see you in November at the Fall Zone meeting!

—Michael Bury



Zone 5 Advisor Harold Haugen presented a \$1,000 bursary to Jenna Bowman of Dewberry, a second year ag student at Lakeland College.