



APG'S CHAIR IS PLEASED TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH NEW BOARD TOWARDS PULSES ON EVERY FARM, ON EVERY PLATE



APG Chair Shane Strydhorst checked out pea trials during a Zone 3 tour in July 2023.

The Chair of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission (APG) is pleased to continue working with the new and experienced members of the Board of Directors to achieve the vision of pulses on every farm, on every plate.

Shane Strydhorst of Neerlandia was re-elected to the role of Chair following January's annual general meeting during the CrossRoads Crop Conference in Calgary.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the great work this board has initiated to maximize opportunities for Alberta's pulse farmers," Strydhorst said. "The addition of a new director will bring fresh perspectives as we continue promoting and building upon the

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— Shane Strydhorst*

economic benefits of growing peas, beans, faba beans, lentils, chickpeas and soybeans, as well as the sustainability of our industry. We are also working hard to address root rot and other challenges for our growers."

Strydhorst grows peas, faba beans and other crops alongside his wife Sheri. He will lead an Executive Committee that includes returning Vice-Chair Peter Konstapel of Spirit River (Zone 4) and Past-Chair Robert Semeniuk (Zone 5).

Michael Bury of Mannville joined the board following the AGM as Director-at-Large (Non-Bean), replacing Bev Wieben of Fairview who became a Zone 4 Director.

Bury was born and raised in Mannville on a mixed farm. He started farming in 1983 and has been farming full-time since. He and his wife, Melanie, built a new yard in 1990 and raised their three children there. The family began farming a few hundred acres and expanded to currently zero tilling 3,300 acres of spring wheat, canola, field peas and malt barley. They have been using variable rate fertility on their farm since 2008.

Bury has served his community in many roles over the years, including as president of the Mannville Ag Society and chair of the Vermilion Seed Cleaning Coop. He is a long-time APG advisor and chair for Zone 5.

"I am passionate about advancing farming practices and learning



Mannville's Michael Bury was acclaimed to the position of APG Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) after serving as Zone 5 chair for many years.



Fairview's Bev Wieben became a Zone 4 Director after two years as Director-at-Large (Non-Bean).

about new technologies, with a little politics mixed in," Bury explained.

Meanwhile, Wieben and her family farm 2,300 acres near Fairview. She served as a councillor for the MD of Fairview No. 136 for nine years, as well on the local ag service board for 10 years, and two terms on the Land Agent Advisory Committee as a landowner representative.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to continue on with the APG board moving from director-at-large to a Zone 4 director position," Wieben said. "The knowledge I have gained to see what happens to pulses beyond the farm gate, beyond the elevator affects our bottom line. We must advocate for transportation logistics, trading partner alliances, and be in communication with federal government. What happens on the worldwide political table has long-lasting effects to all Canadians and, more specifically, individual producers."

APG's 12-member board also includes Directors Greg Stamp of Enchant and Will Muller of

Bow Island in Zone 1, Kevin Auch of Carmangay and Peter Hoff of Gleichen in Zone 2, Chris Allam of Ardrossan in Zone 3, Scott Keller of New Norway in Zone 5, and Director-at-Large (Bean) John Kolk of Picture Butte, who was re-elected to the position at the AGM.

Kolk has been farming for more than 40 years. He and his family operate 3,000 irrigated acres and 1,000 dry land acres. They grow 750 acres of dry beans and a few quarters of marrowfat peas most years. He has served on numerous agricultural and community boards and councils. He currently chairs the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and sits on the bean advisory committee for Viterra.

"Pulses have a great future," Kolk said. "I see pulses and dry beans as a sustainable growth opportunity for Alberta."

Outgoing Zone 4 Director Jerome Isaac was thanked for his contributions and years of service at the annual general meeting.



APG Executive Director Leanne Fischbuch thanked outgoing Zone 4 Director Jerome Isaac for his years of service on the APG board at a reception in January.