



Shane Strydhorst, APG Chair

CHAIR'S REPORT

FALL ZONE MEETINGS ARE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES WITH APG

Harvest should be well underway by the time this issue reaches mailboxes. An extremely cold, slow start to the growing season saw most regions of Alberta receive very welcome rains. Then, things turned hot and dry once again, leading to an early, and for some, disappointing start to harvest.

Field and plot tours were held around the province through July and August. Many were hosted jointly with local applied research associations (ARAs), Alberta Canola, or Alberta Grains, and I hope many of you were able to attend and benefit from these experiences. There is always something to learn about new pulse varieties and local trials aimed at increasing productivity on our farms.

In July, APG directors and staff travelled to Grande Prairie to hold our summer board meeting. We visited the Ag Canada Beaverlodge research site and Peace Country Beef & Forage Association plots to see some wonderful pea and lentil crops in Zone 4. We connected with several farmers from the region who have been growing lentils very successfully, and APG is looking forward to sharing more information with interested growers at the upcoming fall meetings. There is great potential to grow more lentils in northern Alberta!

This engagement with Zone 4 farmers gave us the opportunity to share information about work APG is doing. We also learned first-hand about some of the challenges faced by our farmer members in this huge growing region of Alberta, most notably transportation and the impacts of a potential rail strike.

APG continues to advocate for reliable and efficient transportation of our crops – provincially, through Team Alberta Crops, and federally through Grain Growers of Canada and Pulse Canada. Advocacy continues to gain importance, and APG's voice is being amplified through these collaborations on numerous issues affecting our farms. See the Executive Director's report for details on some of the other issues APG is engaged in.

Several APG directors and staff members met with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) in August. APG has a great working relationship with AFSC, meeting each summer to discuss pulse crop insurance. We received very positive news related to improving faba bean coverage as a result of our efforts. More details coming soon!

Details for fall zone meetings are being finalized and can be found in this issue of *Pulse Crop News*.

Most meetings will be held along with Alberta Grains, which will help to reduce the number of events vying for farmers' time. I strongly encourage all producers to attend these meetings, as there are always excellent speakers and relevant presentations given that provide information that will directly benefit your farms.

Participating in these meetings is an opportunity for farmers to be involved in your commissions. Being informed about what APG does is important, but even more important is for APG to hear from farmers about what we should be doing more (or less) of on your behalf. Is there a gap in research that APG needs to consider? Is there a government/policy issue that hasn't been adequately addressed? Please attend a fall zone meeting and let us know!

Also consider being nominated to be an advisor in your zone ahead of the fall meetings – it is a meaningful learning experience and an opportunity to develop leadership skills as well as contribute to making the entire agriculture sector better. I wish everyone a safe and productive harvest, and I look forward to chatting with farmers at fall zone meetings and the upcoming Crossroads Crop Conference in Edmonton in January 2025!