



# Wheat's Up



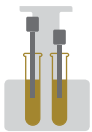
## Chair's Message Grading overhaul needed

Kevin Auch, Chair | Alberta Wheat Commission Board of Directors

*“On November 17 the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) issued a press release calling on the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to modernize the Canadian wheat grading system in line with international market demands to improve long-term profitability for wheat farmers.”*

A market-based system aligned with universally measured grain specifications would better position farmers to maintain competitiveness and receive fair market value for the grain they produce.

International buyers are not just looking purely at CGC grades anymore – they are looking at universal quality specs. Since Canadian farmers do not sell directly to international buyers, we rely on the systems in place to ensure quality in Canada aligns with the needs of our customers.



A revised system should move toward more accurate testing methods for potential downgrading factors, such as **Falling Number (FN) tests** for sprout damage, and **Deoxynivalenol (DON) tests** to assess the impact of Fusarium Graminearum or fusarium head blight on wheat quality.



## General Manager's Message Carbon tax impact clear as mud

Tom Steve, General Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

The hottest of all hot button issues in 2016 – with the possible exception of Donald J. Trump – was carbon pricing. And by the time you read this column in early 2017, Alberta will be living under a carbon tax regime.

Much has been said, written, and speculated about the impact of the Alberta carbon tax on agriculture, but the facts have been hard to come by.

What we do know is a carbon levy of \$20/tonne was added to the price of transportation and heating fuels on January 1, 2017 and will move to \$30/tonne in 2018. We also know that marked

farm fuels in Alberta (dyed diesel or gasoline) are exempt from the tax.

But fuel is just one component of the cost of operating a farm business. What about the cost of fertilizer, manufacturing of crop protection products, running grain dryers and seed cleaning plants, irrigation systems and hauling grain by commercial carriers? How will the tax be factored into the cost of rail transportation? For that matter, how will processors and grain handlers be affected by higher utility costs and will those costs show up in the form of lower bids for your grain?

This would limit the instances where wheat is being downgraded to feed after visual testing, but acceptable quality for the milling market. While some grain companies now test for FN at local facilities, AWC encouraged the CGC to support the adoption of technology to enable more accurate testing methods for wheat quality assessment.

This crop year has resulted in variable quality for farmers in Alberta and across the Prairies. We want to ensure that our grading system is not severely downgrading wheat that is considered good quality milling wheat to our international customers. In the Fall issue of *Wheat's Up*, we had an article encouraging growers to know their quality to maximize earnings, and this is still important, as buyers will evaluate and grade your grain on a visual basis. It is important to know what your grade actually is so you can best align your grade with what the buyers actually need.

Modernizing our grading system is a necessary move to ensure Alberta's farmers receive the maximum value for the quality of wheat they produce. Thank you to all the various media outlets that have shared this information and the support we have received from our growers on this important issue.



Alberta's four major crop commissions that make up Team Alberta – Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Barley and Alberta Pulse Growers) have been working hard to mitigate the impact of the carbon tax. We have told the government that Alberta's cropping sector relies on trade and cannot be put at a disadvantage to our international competitors, most of whom will not have a carbon tax.

*Continued on page 2.*

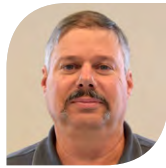
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We have also told the government that farmers have been part of the carbon reduction solution for many years through reduced tillage practices that have sequestered carbon in the soil and improved soil organic matter. Farmers must be compensated for the investments they have made in the past and continue to make toward the government's climate change objectives.

Options may include improved carbon offset programs for reduced tillage practices and allocation of carbon tax revenue to research new energy and nutrient efficiency technologies.

We have also cautioned the government not to put our domestic fertilizer production and processing industries at risk of losing competitiveness and moving elsewhere – not to mention the domino affect it will have on farmers' bottom lines.

With the federal government now requiring all provinces to put a price on carbon by 2018 and promising a national price of \$50/tonne by 2022, AWC and Team Alberta will be working to ensure there is a farmer voice at the table when decisions are made in the months and years to come.



## Meet Alberta's new cereal specialist

Clair Langlois, Cereal Extension Specialist | *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

*Alberta Wheat Commission is pleased to announce that a Cereal Extension Specialist has been hired at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This was a role that AWC pushed hard for and we are pleased to have Clair working for cereal farmers in Alberta.*

My name is Clair Langlois, and I am the new Cereal Extension Specialist for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and will be stationed in Lacombe, Alberta. I have been involved in agricultural field research for over thirty years.



**For the past fifteen years I have been working extensively with many in the province's agricultural field research community, both at the provincial and federal levels, but as well as with private industry while stationed in the BC Peace River region conducting field research.**

It all started when I was an undergraduate student spending my summers working with various multinational corporations and the University of Guelph itself, where I graduated with a B.Sc. in Agriculture and a major in Entomology in 1985. During this early time period I became hooked on agricultural field research and its benefits to the industry. I love to work in the realm of applied science, which I think lends itself seamlessly to agriculture and I have been fortunate to have done so my entire career to date.

The lion's share of my experience has involved working directly with cereals, from varietal selection work to more elaborate agronomic studies. I have had the pleasure to work directly with producers my entire professional career and I feel I have a fair understanding of grower's concerns, as well as that of researchers who are trying to make a difference. Therefore, to have my career now focus specifically on cereal extension seems a natural progression for me, and I aim to benefit both the cereal producers and the cereal industry as a whole in Alberta. I look forward to interacting and working directly with all those involved in this vast industry.

→ Clair can be reached at [Clair.Langlois@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Clair.Langlois@gov.ab.ca).



## Marketing Matters

### Trump, BREXIT and Canadian trade

Caalen Covey, Business Development and Markets Manager | *Alberta Wheat Commission*



In 2016, we witnessed two major events that will have an impact on Canadian trade agreements and agricultural exports. The most interesting and probably highly recognized event was when Donald J. Trump, the Republican presidential nominee won the United States (U.S.) election. Alongside Trump's win, the Republicans gained control of the House and Senate. Trump is of the opinion that trade agreements are bad for the U.S. economy and job creation, and therefore will most likely do away with both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), both of which Canada is involved in and supports.

Canada has signaled to the U.S. that we are willing to renegotiate the NAFTA agreement, but Mexico has indicated they will not renegotiate. At this time, it seems that if NAFTA is not renegotiated it will be abolished. Obviously trade will not stop between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, but we will be subject to the whims of the U.S. government if the current agreement does not remain in place.

In order to ratify the TPP agreement, 85 per cent of the 12 member nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) needs to be involved. In other words, if either the U.S. or Japan back out, the agreement will fall through. Japan recently ratified the TPP agreement, but the U.S. once again has signaled that they will not be supporting it. The result from the U.S. election means that in just a few months Canada went from potentially having three solid trade agreements with key trading partners to one, which has its own problems.

Just prior to the U.S. election, Great Britain voted to leave the European Union (EU), also known as BREXIT. This is important for Canadian exports as once Britain leaves the EU, they will no longer be part of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), which is between Canada and EU member nations. The agreement is very promising and will give Canada a leg up on one of its largest agriculture competitors - the U.S. The agreement will still benefit Canadian farmers, but would be a stronger agreement if Britain had remained with the EU. If Trump keeps his anti-trade agreement position, the U.S. will be a long way from finalizing their own agreement with the EU, meaning Canada will have a competitive marketing advantage in these nations for many years.

Needless to say, with soon to be U.S. President Trump and BREXIT in motion, there is a lot of uncertainty with Canada's trade agreements. It is difficult to say at this point how this will impact agricultural trade in Canada, but at first glance, the negatives seem to outweigh the positives.





## The Research Plot

Lauren Comin, Research Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

Part of your yearly crop planning process may be to open up the *Alberta Seed Guide* or visit [www.seed.ab.ca](http://www.seed.ab.ca) to compare some of the newest varieties available, as well as look up data on varieties that you have previously grown. But who is behind regional variety trial (RVT) information and how does it end up in convenient tables?

For cereals (wheat, barley, oat, rye and triticale) and flax, the Alberta Regional Variety Evaluation Committee (ARVEC, formally Alberta British Columbia Grain Advisory Committee or ABCGAC) is tasked with developing the information contained in the guide.

Each spring, seed companies send lines they would like included in the RVT's to Alex Fedko, an Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff member

tasked with coordinating the trials. Fedko sends new lines, as well as check varieties, commonly grown varieties, to each contract research organization that has been selected and has agreed to grow the trials. Throughout the growing season, these trials are monitored by many, including Fedko, who decides if a trial can be included in the data set. Obviously, research plots are subject to the same variable weather as any other field. For instance, if a plot has been hailed out it will not be included in the data set. Once the growing season is complete, data, such as yield, thousand kernel weight, and test weight are collected and submitted to Fedko for analysis.

ARVEC, composed of industry advisors, breeders, seed companies and research contractors meets in late fall to go over the compiled, analyzed data

to ensure that it is accurate. ARVEC members with entries in the trials also ensure that the varieties included are relevant to Alberta's producers. Once a data set has been approved, it is published in the *Alberta Seed Guide*, which is distributed in January each year.

RVTs in Alberta are funded by a variety of mechanisms. Seed companies that enter lines pay an entry fee each year for each of their lines. The Alberta Seed Industry Partnership composed of the Alberta Seed Processors and the Alberta Seed Growers' Association contribute funding as well, and organize publishing the annual *Alberta Seed Guide*.

Commodity groups also contribute to the RVTs to support their crops. Recognizing the importance of RVT data to growers, beginning in 2016, the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) is pleased to be providing **\$33,000 per year** to support wheat regional variety trials. In 2017, AWC will also take on financial administration, which will support all cereals and flax crops.



## Why sustainability?

Jolene Noble, Extension Coordinator | Alberta Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group

Sustainability is a word that has taken the world by storm and has become an adjective used by many to describe a product that was produced the 'right way,' but is also linked with a number of other adjectives such as green, natural, environmentally friendly, wholesome, etc.

Sustainable sourcing starts at the farm level and continues on through the entire value chain. Several companies have developed sustainable sourcing protocols comprised of specific metrics and indicators covering the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic.

Alberta Barley, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and the Alberta Wheat Commission recognize the current and future implications that this consumer trend has on their grower members and formed the Alberta Farm Sustainability Extension (AFSE) Working Group. The AFSE is dedicated to further exploring the implications of sustainable sourcing on the Alberta cropping sector and increasing producer readiness and familiarity with sustainability.

The AFSE began this work in 2016 when they hired Ipsos Reid to conduct grower surveys based on the indicators of three prominent international sustainability protocols. The resulting report provided supporting data for many of the sustainable production practices that have already been adopted by the majority of Alberta growers, but also identified opportunities for improvement.

And yet why does sustainability matter at the farm level for Alberta's crop sector? Sustainability means more than simply certification and a stamp on food products. The metrics in sustainability standards reflect many best management practices that improve land stewardship, provide a safe work environment and maintain a healthy bottom line. Alberta farmers continue to look for ways to improve their operation and leave their land in better condition than when they started farming. In order to do so, they rely on new and innovative best management practices in areas such as nutrient management, soil health and chemical handling and application, all of which are included in sustainability standards. Many of the practices employed on farm for increased production efficiency, improved land stewardship, increased yield, improved worker safety and increased net profit are also practices required in a sustainability protocol. It is these areas that bring the most value to producers that AFSE will prioritize when developing grower extension and education resources.

In recent years, there has been a call from consumers, and therefore retailers, to quantify and communicate sustainable farming practices. While there is still work to be done to increase grower awareness and readiness in terms of sustainability and social license, the Alberta cropping sector is well on the road to continued improvement in the area of sustainability.



For more information about the AFSE working group, please contact Jolene at [Jolene@albertacanola.com](mailto:Jolene@albertacanola.com).

FarmLead publishes a weekly marketing report on the AWC website known as the Market Insider. Visit [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) to check it out, or follow @albertawheat on Twitter and find all articles at #MarketInsider.

The Bank of Canada is currently expecting the Canadian economy to grow the market by **two per cent in 2017**.



Assuming all other things stay equal, this would suggest a Canadian dollar wavering in the levels we have seen the past six months (73-76 cents). The only problem is that not everything will stay constant, especially with a much different United States (U.S.) leadership group taking control of the largest economy in the world on January 20th, 2017.

Many economists looking at Canadian prospects are suggesting that if the Canadian economy grows less than 1.5 per cent, it is very possible that we could see the Bank of Canada cut interest rates yet again (they left their main benchmark rate unchanged at 0.5 per cent in December). The rationale behind their slightly bearish call is that the demand for Canadian exports, as measured by the Bank of Canada's foreign activity indicator, has been declining as we head into 2017. In fact, the average economist believes that the Bank of Canada will not raise interest rates again until 2018.

With this theme from the private banking world in mind, the Bank of Canada has indicated a "steady is the course" approach, which is relatively divergent from the U.S. Federal Reserve, who raised interest rates in December 2016 for the first time since they did so at the beginning of the 2016 calendar year. With President-Elect Donald Trump's "spend-to-grow" rhetoric (also known as expanding fiscal policy), more interest rate increases are expected to help control inflation (also known as tightening monetary policy).



With the expanding fiscal policy, the market is pegging American gross domestic product (GPD) growth at **three per cent in 2017**, suggesting that the U.S. Federal Reserve could make as many as four interest rate increases this coming calendar year.

More simply put, the era of easy money and loose monetary policy in America that has been around since the financial crises of 2008 is likely over.

Among the major factors affecting Canadian exports are its free trade agreements now under the gun with the Trump presidency, namely the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) now in limbo without the U.S. (the Donald has indicated he will not sign the TPP) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which is likely going to be re-negotiated.

Considering that **23 per cent of Canada's GDP is made up of trade with America**, negative developments on NAFTA would be negative for the Canadian dollar.



Ahead of these trade changes, the Canadian trade deficit (AKA more imports than exports) hit an all-time high of \$4.4 billion in September 2016. With the commodity down-turn in 2016 not likely seeing any significant rebound in 2017, the Canadian trade deficit is likely to continue, keeping bearish pressure on the Canadian dollar.

The bullish news for the Canadian dollar has been oil prices, which are likely to enter 2017 above \$50 USD/barrel versus the sub-\$40 handles that we saw in January and February of 2016. This dip in oil values helped push the Canadian Loonie down below 70 cents USD, but we did see it climb back up and nearly touch 80 cents just five months later in the beginning of May 2016 when oil was near the levels we are seeing traded today. Despite the Canadian dollar

finding some ecstasy in December from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC's) decision to cut production in the first six months of 2017 by 1.2 million barrels, there are a barrage of bearish oil factors out there that could offset the bloc's output reduction. This includes increased U.S. shale output, more exports from African players like Libya and Nigeria, and increased Russian production (even if they are participating in the OPEC cut, their production has been at record highs).



From a grain market perspective, as of the beginning of December, total Canadian grain exports for the 2016/17 crop year were tracking **almost four per cent behind** where they were a year ago.

The most notable changes compared to last year have been wheat shipments down 19 per cent year-over-year (5.02 million tonnes versus 6.19 million by this time in 2015), canola down 7.6 per cent (3.2 million tonnes compared to 3.47 million), peas up 33 per cent (1.7 million tonnes versus 1.28 million), and soybeans tracking 24 per cent higher (2.33 million tonnes compared to 1.88 million by early December 2015). While domestic demand has increased for the likes of canola and cereals like barley, oats, and rye, total use of Canadian grain within our borders is only about three per cent higher than a year ago (5.73 million tonnes versus 5.56 million tonnes).



Ultimately, at FarmLead we continue to expect the Canadian dollar to trade between **70 - 80 cents USD in 2017**.

While it is a wide range, we can tie the Canadian dollar's direction to three main factors. First and foremost, the U.S. dollar is an indication of the U.S. economy's health and with it trending higher over the past few months, things are looking pretty fit. The U.S. dollar dictates most commodity prices, and therefore the import and/or export potential of many American trade partners and competitors. Second, the price of oil has always been strongly correlated with how the Canadian dollar performs and if the price per barrel heads towards \$60 USD again, we might see an 80 cent handle for the Canadian dollar. Finally, but likely third in the order of importance, is the Canadian economy. With a loose monetary policy from the Bank of Canada likely for the next 12 months, but business investment in the Great White North remaining sluggish, the Canadian economy may not hit the two per cent forecast made by policymakers.

To growth,  
Brennan Turner  
FarmLead

➔ For more information visit [farmlead.com](http://farmlead.com) or contact [Brennan - b.turner@farmlead.com](mailto:Brennan - b.turner@farmlead.com).

# Join us at our Annual General Meeting

February 1, 2017 | 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
Northlands Park (part of the FarmTech conference)  
Edmonton Expo Centre – Hall F | Edmonton, AB

\*please note, you do not have to be registered for FarmTech to attend our AGM.



## The importance of the grain safety program Alexis Kienlen | Freelancer



**Nine people died from grain entrapment last year** in Canada - far too many. To reduce deaths from grain entrapment, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association recently launched their **Grain Safety Program**.

This program will increase awareness about grain safety for producers, and emergency response personnel in grain entrapment situations.

The majority of grain entrapment events revolve around out-of-condition grain being stored. Thousands of bushels are stored in enormous bins on farm and bigger equipment is moving thousands of bushels per hour instead of hundreds, creating more risk.



“What has to be kept in perspective is that an average male’s body occupies the same amount of space as three bushels of grain. If you have a grain auger that moves **10,000 bushels of grain an hour, those three bushels can get moved in a couple of seconds.**”

The potential for someone to be engulfed if they are anywhere near that moving grain grows quickly,” said Glen Blahey, agricultural health and safety specialist with the Winnipeg-based Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

Here is an example of a risk involving out-of-condition grain.

“You start drawing the grain off and it starts to come out the bottom of the hopper/bin. It creates a void into the bin, but there is the crust on top. People have a tendency to want to go inside the bin to break the crust down,” said Blahey.

Anyone who ventures onto the crust risks becoming entrapped in the grain. As part of the Grain Safety Program, producers should develop an emergency response plan and emergency procedures for handling grain on their farm.

“No one should ever go into a bin, truck, or trailer or any place where grain is moving. If people have to go into a bin and there is reason to believe that there may be a void or the grain may collapse, they should be wearing a harness and recovery system, and they shouldn’t be working alone,” said Blahey.

To minimize risk, grain bins need to be filled in a certain way to avoid the potential for collapsible columns or collapsible masses of grain.

As part of the Grain Safety Program, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is creating a mobile grain entrapment demonstration unit, a trade show display and an interactive grain safety website.

The mobile demonstration unit will be ready to go on the road in March 2017. A unit from the United States will be on display at the FarmTech Conference in Edmonton from January 31 to

February 2. The unit will demonstrate how easily grain entrapment can occur, using a mannequin to show how a producer can become engulfed and suffocated by grain.

“When you are buried up to your neck in grain, you exhale and then it is difficult to take a breath again and fill your lungs, because as you exhale, the grain moves in because your chest wall collapses,” said Blahey.



The Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), along with a number of crop commissions and industry organizations have committed to sponsoring the **Grain Safety Program**.

“AWC is excited to be part of this grain safety initiative and it supports our belief that education is the most effective way to promote farm safety,” said Kevin Auch, AWC Chair. “This is a great program and our commitment ensures growers have access to tools that can help shape a safe farming operation.”







## 4P: Public, Private and Producer Partnership: CPS Agreement Update

Lauren Comin, Research Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

In 2015, the 4P Canada Prairie Spring (CPS) agreement was announced. This agreement sees the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), CANTERRA SEEDS, a seed-company with significant farmer ownership, and Agriculture and Agri- Canada, a public breeding institution, pooling resources to strengthen the



**Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR)** wheat breeding program at the Lethbridge Research Centre.

Since inception, the 4P CPS partnership has produced two registered CPSR cultivars, bred by Dr. Harpinder Randhawa.



These varieties, **AAC Crossfield** and **AAC Entice** should be available to farmers after 2019.

There are also several lines in registration trials with promising agronomic traits.

Overall, the 4P CPS partnership has helped in developing a lead CPS breeding program at Lethbridge Research Centre with enhanced capacity for agronomic, disease and quality testing. This will result in improved delivery of enhanced genetics to Alberta's wheat farmers.

In addition to new varieties, AWC will also get a share of royalties received for lines developed under the program. These royalties will then be reinvested directly back into public breeding programs.

“Overall, the 4P CPS partnership has helped in developing a lead CPS breeding program at Lethbridge Research Centre.”

## Verbs vs. Nouns Merle Good, Consultant | GRS Consulting

Remember your grade six English class where a noun was defined as a “state,” whereas a verb is “to convey an action.” Retirement is a noun. Retiring is a verb. In our agricultural industry, many farmers equate retirement as a state and no longer being involved or valuable. So here's my question. Why retire into retirement?

This article is based around the concept of value in a business. In a business, value is primarily comprised of four factors:

1. Labor...salary for work performed.
2. Management...fees for providing services.
3. Return on capital...a rate of return on equity owned.
4. Redemption of capital...receiving your capital personally from the business.

The point is this: reducing your involvement in labor does not mean you are not extremely valuable as an owner of the business; it is that you are just changing your role! In agriculture, it has been our culture to equate value with hours of physical work. Without a clear understanding of what comprises value, each generation cannot recognize contributions from the other party,

let alone appreciate that contribution. In my work, return on assets (R/A) is not nearly as important as recognition and appreciation(R/A).



To release these tenets of business value, I urge each family to **evaluate their business structure** to see if it is really meeting the objectives of each generation.

The main objective of most parents is to have assurance of value, and financial security. The transference of ownership and control to the next generation should not be the main issue, or otherwise why bother with an intergenerational transfer?

**NOTE: The word is value, not income nor wealth.**

In fact, very few parents involved in family farms are concerned about receiving full market value for their assets. It is not the wealth transfer that is their main concern, but rather the congruency of the continuation of the family business.

Great discussion... now what do we do? In my view a proper business structure is the launch pad to initiate this conversation. We all need an

event to focus our attention. This task, if done properly will not focus on only income tax reduction strategies, but rather provides a framework to release the understanding of value! This process will “kick start the family into action.”

For example, do you realize that if parents charged even four per cent on their equity, that the vast majority of producers would never have to even leave the house to receive sufficient income for their personal retirement needs. Understanding this reality will enable the second generation to understand the significance of their parent’s equity as providing a base for their business and career aspirations. I term this base “Heritage Equity.”

For example, under this scenario, if a risk market rate of return was charged, parent’s labor, management, and possibly even rent on their personally owned land could, and in many cases are being provided to the jointly owned business, for no financial consideration.

On the other side, the farming child needs to illustrate, and parents need to appreciate their increasing role and responsibility in the managerial area. Management with responsibility and accountability is of course critical to generating income from the “heritage capital base.” It is vital that agriculture

businesses’ recognize that value is not based on hours of labor, but rather increasingly more on hours of management. The point is both generations need to recognize and appreciate the significance of these tenets of value.

If an academic did an income analysis based on labor versus management, I would argue that management would return three to four times that of labor. A concrete example of this is very simple. How many full-time custom operators are there in your area? The returns on equipment and labor are not sufficient in primary production agriculture to create many viable businesses. Then WHY do we place such value and emphasis on these tasks?

The parents need to recognize the value of management and the next generation needs to recognize the value of capital in these very complex family farms. The business structures required and the action plan of course vary with each individual family, but every family needs to initiate this discussion. Even if you already have a complex business structure, reorganization of that structure can release new energy and clarity.

➔ For more information on succession planning, please contact Merle at [merle.good@grs@gmail.com](mailto:merle.good@grs@gmail.com).



## Policy Points

Erin Gowriluk, Government Relations and Policy Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

It was an honour and a privilege to Chair the National Environmental Farm Plan (NEFP) Summit, which not only served to showcase the many unique features of Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) across Canada, it provided an effective forum to gauge cross-commodity, full-value chain support for the move toward a national program standard.

This was reinforced by the very positive remarks offered at the November 1 Summit Reception by Mr. Pat Finnigan MP, (Miramichi-Grand Lake, New Brunswick) and Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, along with Mr. Jean-Claude Poissant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Their remarks relayed the federal government’s commitment to provide continued support for EFPs, as it harmonizes nationally to enable farmers and ranchers to better meet sustainable sourcing requirements here in Canada, and around the world.

The closing discussion led by our host and spokesperson, Mr. Ron Bonnett, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), explored a variety of opportunities for the National EFP, including an on-farm verification service, the inclusion of social and economic indicators, as well as a host of other issues that will be explored by the NEFP Steering Committee when it is established in 2017.



The creation of a national program that will ensure a consistent baseline standard to be reflected in-turn in every provincial and territorial EFP across Canada received clear, unanimous support (at 97 per cent of participants polled).

This will make sourcing and assurance programs like the Dairy Farmers of Canada’s ProAction consistent for all of its farmers across Canada and will provide assurance to companies like

McCain Foods that potatoes, whether sourced in Prince Edward Island or Alberta, have all met a core set of outcomes-based indicators. The EFP would do all of this, while allowing each jurisdiction to continue to deliver the extension and education required to promote the BMPs that make sense in their region.

That is a win-win for farmers and industry.



What was also clear at the Summit was the tremendous recognition and trust that Canada’s farming community has for the EFP. This is a program that was built by producers for producers and as a result, we saw support for the continued evolution of a program that has always provided producers with access to valuable resources including extension and education, as well as the financial support to assist in the implementation of environmental BMPs.

On a personal note, the highlight of Chairing the Summit was getting to know many of the people involved in the delivery and design of this unique program, as well as how well it stacks up against other international schemes – what an eye opening experience!



I am so proud of Canada’s EFP and look forward to being a part of this evolutionary process as we work to position this world-class program as Canada’s sustainable sourcing solution.

### Contact Us

The Alberta Wheat Commission newsletter is published four times per year.

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## Upcoming Events

### Event

Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2017	FarmTech Conference	Edmonton, Alberta
February 1, 2017	AWC Annual General Meeting	Edmonton, Alberta
March 1 - 3, 2017	Ag Expo	Lethbridge, Alberta
March 9 - 11, 2017	Peace Country Classic	Grande Prairie, Alberta
March 16 - 18, 2017	SARDA Ag Research Agricultural Tradeshow	Fahler, Alberta

\*Please visit [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) for more up-to-date information on AWC's regional meetings and how to get registered.



Visit [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) for more information on upcoming events, and to learn about the great work our team is doing.

### Cleaning House

AWC recently cleaned up our mailing list to cut back on members receiving duplicate copies of Wheat's up. Please contact us at [info@albertawheat.com](mailto:info@albertawheat.com) or 403-219-7902 if you are still receiving multiple copies, or if you or someone you know did not receive a copy.

