

Partner Profile – the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions

Prepared by Evan Lintick, Policy and Markets Intern



About the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are non-profit organizations that share a common goal of increasing the long-term profitability of Alberta wheat and barley farmers. The commissions are committed to achieving this goal through innovative research, agronomic support, extension initiatives, market development, government relations and policy development. Through these activities the commissions represent and advocate for Alberta wheat and barley farmers.

Although the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are separate entities with different governance structures, the two commissions leverage one shared management team to increase cost savings for Alberta farmers. A board of directors governs and drives the activities of each commission. Currently, the two separate board of directors are examining the possibility of amalgamating governance structures to further increase efficiencies.

Below is an overview of the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' priorities.

Research

Research funding is a significant activity as it is the largest investment for the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions. Research projects are centrally focused on the development of improved wheat and barley genetics and the development of innovative best management practices. This research is motivated mainly by assisting farmers in adapting to changing environments and advancements in technology, all the while maximizing profits at the farm gate. You can view the numerous ongoing research projects supported by the commissions but visiting their websites, albertawheat.com and albertabarley.com.

Extension

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions recognize the need to extend information to farmers. Whether it's ongoing research or agronomic crop management practices, the commissions make it a priority to extend knowledge and resources to Alberta wheat and barley farmers. In 2019, the commissions launched [The Growing Point](#) – an agronomic newsletter featuring articles, podcasts and videos that provide timely agronomic information for Alberta farmers and agronomists.

Markets

The commissions' markets program is predicated on the goal of creating greater access to international markets while continuing to foster relationships domestically. Some of the critical areas of involvement for the markets program include transportation, maximum residue limits, wheat reclassification and trade agreements. Further, the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) created [PDQ](#), an online tool that presents timely, accurate and transparent cash grain pricing in Alberta.

Policy and Government Relations

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' policy and government relations team works hard to ensure farmers are aware of the priority issues that arise with provincial and federal governments. The policy and government relations program works diligently to develop and advocate for policy changes

that continue to aid producers to be profitable in the agriculture sector. The commissions value a collaborative approach not only within our organization but externally as well. Currently, some of the central partnerships that the commissions are a part of, include:

- [Team Alberta](#) – A collaboration between the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions, Alberta Canola, and Alberta Pulse Growers to advance policy positions that are vital to the crop sector.
- [Crop Sector Working Group \(CSWG\)](#) – An inclusive partnership of commissions and associations who produce cereals, oilseeds, pulses, specialty crops, seed, and honey, who collaboratively discuss environmental issues relating to the crop sector.
- [Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops](#) – The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are assisting in the development of sustainability indicators for grains and oilseeds, as well as the creation of the grain Code of Practice currently under development.

FarmCash

AWC is an administrator of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advance Payments Program. Under this program, AWC offers [FarmCash](#), a cash flow management tool for Alberta producers. FarmCash offers interest-free loans and low-interest rates to Alberta producers on all major crops, livestock and honey. Alberta producers can apply for up to \$1 million on over 50 agricultural commodities.

For more information on the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' priorities, visit our websites at albertawheat.com and albertabarley.com.

AEPA Representative:

Alberta Wheat Commission Representative – John Wozniak, Director - jwozniak@albertawheat.com
Alberta Barley Representative – Neil Gorda, Director – ngorda@barleydirector.com
Staff Representative – Shannon Sereda, Government Relations and Policy Manager – ssereda@albertawheatbarley.com

PHONE: 403.717.3711

TOLL-FREE: 1.855.917.3711

ADDRESS: #200, 6815-8th Street NE Calgary, Alberta