

Partner Profile: Alberta Canola Producers Commission

Submitted by ACPC

Founded in 1989, Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC) was the province's first refundable checkoff producer organization. Today, ACPC is celebrating 25 years of increasing the long term profitability of the over 15,000 Alberta farmers who grow canola. One canola producer is elected from each of the 12 regions to be a director on the board. The directors govern the activities of the Commission that supports research, grower extension, market development, promotion, education, advocacy and policy development for the benefit of all Alberta canola producers.

Alberta set new provincial production records in 2013 at 6.0 million tonnes and an average yield of 43.7 bushels per acre, even though seeded acres declined. A third of all Canadian canola production is grown here, which represents a total economic impact of \$6.1 billion in Alberta. The Canadian canola industry is thriving, driven by an insatiable global demand for healthy oils. In less than a decade, canola has more than doubled its annual contribution to Canada's economy at \$19.3 billion; and generates nearly 249,000 Canadian jobs.

Canola's amazing success story is achieved through partnership, investment and innovation throughout all parts of this high-functioning value chain. Building on its success, the Canola Council of Canada has set aggressive new targets of 52 bushels per acre by 2025 (or 26 million tonnes) and ACPC will be working hard to ensure Alberta producers profit from these goals.

ACPC in conjunction with our national canola organizations, are moving forward on a number of sustainability initiatives advocating:

- Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) increase to 5%, require 50% GHG reduction, require sustainability production measures
- GHGenius (a lifecycle analysis model) to assess environmental footprint
- Predictable science-based regulatory environment
- Bees are good for canola ~ Canola is good for bees
- Best management practices to produce canola in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner

As a member of the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) and the Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG), ACPC is actively engaged in addressing agri-environmental policy discussions affecting the agriculture industry and the crop sector. ACPC is able to accomplish more as a member of AEPA and CSWG than it could on its own in the areas of: Ecosystem Services, Land-use Framework, environmental footprinting, agriculture plastics, Growing Forward 2, farm safety, offsets, etc., which offers tremendous value to the Commission. It is significant that the Government of Alberta highly regards the consensus-based voice of the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta on agri-environmental policy development issues.

Karla Bergstrom
Policy Analyst
Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Email: karla@canola.ab.ca
Main: 780-454-0844
Web: canola.ab.ca