



Issue 6. February 2010

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission

Researcher Newsletter

“Research - Excelling the Industry's Competitiveness”

The Researcher Newsletter is a bi-monthly communication, being published 6 times a year, for the Alberta research and extension community that provides information about funding opportunities, events, and pulse research priorities that have been identified by the industry.

8th Canadian Pulse Research Workshop

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 8th Canadian Pulse Research Workshop in Calgary, Alberta on November 3 - 5, 2010. Building on the success of previous bi-annual workshops, pulse crop researchers will present their latest results within the areas of: Nutrition and Health; Plant Breeding Initiatives; Novel Uses of Pulse Crops; Pulse Agronomy, Diseases and Insects; Pulses and the Environment. **October 1st, 2010 is the deadline for submission of titles and abstracts.** Please see the APG website home page for more information and registration forms.

2nd Alberta Pulse Research Workshop

In conjunction with the 8th Canadian Pulse Research Workshop, we are holding the 2nd Alberta Pulse Research Workshop in Calgary, Alberta on November 2, 2010. Building on the success of the previous workshop in 2008, producers will have the opportunity to discuss production research needs with leading Alberta researchers in the areas of: pathology, genetics, agronomy/ sustainability, fertility, weeds, and insects. The workshop highlights include:

- ❖ Presentations from pulse researchers highlighting their work
- ❖ Round table discussions where producers can talk to researchers in small groups
- ❖ Reception and Banquet
- ❖ Q&A discussion of current, (potentially) controversial pulse research topics

CAAP Applications

APG is excited to announce that all 4 of the CAAP applications that were submitted have been successful in moving through the submission process. CAAP will make final decisions on March 30, 2010. Researchers will be informed in the first week of April whether or not funding has been approved.



WGRF Endowment Fund Update

In recent weeks the WGRF Board has updated its Endowment Fund Policy. Monies charged by the railways for grain movement that exceed the federal rail revenue cap are paid into the WGRF Endowment Fund. About \$60 million was received by WGRF for the 2007-08 crop year. This one-time boost in resources will increase the Endowment funds available for research by 4 to 5 times in the coming years. Two major decisions have been made in relation to: general spending policy and a new directed research initiative.

Spending Policy: The WGRF Board wants to ensure there exists strong ongoing support to crop research well into the future. As a result, general WGRF policy will be to invest hopper car maintenance monies, along with the rest of the Endowment Fund, and spend only the earnings on the Fund investments to support research. However, if beneficial projects are identified, WGRF will consider spending a limited portion of the Endowment Fund principal to support these projects. In the event principal is spent, the intent will be to replace that principal over time.

Directed-Research Initiative: A key change to Endowment Fund Policy will be the adoption of a new method for allocating a portion of the Endowment Fund. The current Letter of Intent (LOI) process has been in place for some time and will continue. However, a new process will be added alongside the LOI process and will see WGRF becoming more directive with respect to the research it funds. After receiving input from stakeholders, WGRF will identify specific areas of research that are required from a producer perspective. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will then be issued inviting researchers to submit proposals to conduct the research. The details of this 'directed research' initiative will be developed in the next few months and made available to stakeholders.

Summer Tours

To better familiarize ourselves with pulse research programs, as well as see firsthand the projects we support, APG staff members and various committee members have made it a priority to attend plot tours, etc. in the upcoming growing season.

We would appreciate if you would inform us of any tours being planned, or when the best time would be to visit and discuss your research. We are excited to become better acquainted with your programs and projects!

Jenn Walker, Pulse Industry Development Officer for APG, will be the contact person and co-ordinate visits. Please contact her at jwalker@pulse.ab.ca.



#220, 5906 - 50 Street, Leduc, Alberta T9E 0R6
Telephone: (780) 986-9398
Fax: (780) 980-2570
email: office@pulse.ab.ca website: www.pulse.ab.ca

If you know of anyone who would like to be added/deleted from the Research Newsletter mailing list, please contact us at sstrydhorst@pulse.ab.ca. If you have suggestions for topics you would like covered in future issues, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Noteables

Compendium of Chickpea and Lentil Diseases

Research committee has decided to contribute \$500 to the Compendium of Chickpea and Lentil Diseases.

The members of the **Alberta Funding Consortium** met the last week of February for the final review of submitted proposals. Decisions will be released by March 1, 2010. **REMINDER:** Letters of Intent for 2011 are due by August 15, 2010.

The next APG Research Committee meeting is planned for early April. Please ensure that all interim/final reports that are due have been submitted at their appropriate deadlines.

Getting to Know Pulse Researchers

Profile: Dr. Ron Howard, Plant Pathology Research Scientist, ARD, Brooks

Dr. Ron Howard was raised on a 1440 acre mixed farm near Harris, Saskatchewan, and started his agriculture career early by farming with his father. He started his formal education in agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.) degree with honors in Crop Science in 1969 and a M.Sc. degree in Plant Pathology in 1971 at the same university under the direction of Professor Robin Morrall. Dr. Howard then left Saskatchewan for the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he completed a Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology in 1975 under the direction of Dr. Paul Williams.

Dr. Howard's first research project as a new staff member at the AHRC was on fungicidal control of white mold on dry beans. From 1975 to the present, he has continued to evaluate white mold management strategies, including a variety of biological, chemical and cultural practices. His research findings have supported the registration and/or development of recommendations for the use of mainstay fungicides such as Benlate, Ronilan and Lance, as well as the new biofungicide, Contans WG. His disease management research on dry beans has also included bacterial blight, bacterial wilt, seedling blight and root rot. He secured a minor use registration for copper sulphate pentahydrate as a seed treatment on beans in 2002.

Disease surveys on pulse crops have also been a major part of Dr. Howard's research program. Extensive general disease surveys of bean, pea, lentil and fababean crops were carried out in the late 70s and early 80s, and white mold surveys were continued on beans into the 90s. In the past decade, his research has focused on evaluating new chemical and biological fungicides for white mold on beans and new seed treatment bactericides for common blight and halo blight on beans. Through collaborative research projects, he has also been involved in trials on the efficacy of seed treatment and foliar fungicides for various diseases on lentils, peas and chickpeas; evaluating irrigation management strategies for managing white mold on beans; and assessing the potential for the transmission of clubroot spores on pea seed. Most of these projects have received financial support from the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission.