



Issue 3. August 2009

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.

Pulse Industry Development Officer

In 2008-09, APG invested in 58 production, marketing, extension, and environmental research projects that are aimed at improving the profitability and competitiveness of Alberta pulse producers. To ensure that APG investments are properly monitored and tracked, we are in the process of hiring a pulse industry development officer.

This newest member of the APG team will: monitor project progress, prepare project briefings, communicate funding decisions to applicants, prepare contracts, manage contribution agreements, and maintain a project database. We plan to interview for this part-time position on September 2nd and have someone in place to assist with the funding consortium applications and the pulse science cluster application.

Growing Forward

In the last Research Newsletter, there was an overview of the Pulse Industry's plan for developing a Pulse Agri-Science Cluster application. Since then we have made progress on the plan and adapted it to fit within the industry's busy schedule. We have also hired a consultant, Ray Bergstra, to develop the Science Cluster application and meet our mid-December 2009 deadline for submission.

What type of \$'s are we talking?

If we submit quality applications, the Canadian pulse industry is anticipating \$16 million of federal funding for our Science Cluster and DIAP applications. Our goal is to get as many pulse projects funded with maximum cost sharing (25% industry: 75% federal government). This means that the Canadian pulse industry has to put up \$5.3 million – certainly an attainable goal when we consider that general contributions to AAFC breeding programs are expected to be counted as matching funding.



PEA, LENTIL and CHICKPEA R&D Priorities

Below is the schedule of events that the pulse industry will follow to determine pea, lentil, and chickpea R&D priorities.

- Sept 4 - Collation of stakeholder input and funders' R&D priorities (Priority Summary)
 - Sept 7 - Team members* receive electronic documents of priority summary
 - Sept 11 - Team members provide input/comments/recommendations electronically to SPG office
 - Sept 15 - Compilation of team input into final priority summary to funders
 - Sept 18 - Team teleconference to discuss final priority summary (if necessary)
 - Sept 25 - Obtain funders' approval of R&D priorities
 - Sept 30 - Initiate a call for full R&D proposals
- A meeting to review research proposals in late autumn will be scheduled.

*The team members will be responsible for soliciting targeted, full proposals that meet the research priorities, reviewing research proposals, and making recommendations for funding to the Boards and other stakeholders. Alberta pea team members include: Mark Olson, Shelley Wetmore, and Sheri Strydhorst. Alberta lentil and chickpea team members include: Manjula Bandara and Sheri Strydhorst.

BEAN R&D Priorities

The bean group met on August 24th to prioritize bean research projects that need to be completed to advance the Canadian Dry Bean industry. The top national bean priorities identified are:

1. Integrated, regionally tailored approaches to Sclerotinia control
2. Completion of insertion of CBB/anthracnose resistance into dry bean classes
3. Root rot control – understanding the biology, strains and means of control
4. Enhancing efficiency of nitrogen fixation in dry beans
5. Yield and quality improvement in dry beans on a regional basis – Including enhancing weed and insect control in dry beans
6. Enhancing demand for dry beans – opportunities in the frozen food market
7. Enhancing dry bean demand – gluten free products
8. Enhancing folate levels in dry beans
9. Enhancing dry bean demand in the diabetes control field (soluble/insoluble fibre/resistant starches)

The bean team members at the last meeting included: Peter Pauls, Bob Conner, Bruce Brolley, Roxanne Roels, Todd Stewart, Tino Breuer, Frank Labelle, Ali Navabi, Mark Goodwin, and Sheri Strydhorst. There was also input from Peter Watts, Gord Kurbis, and Gordon Bacon.

FABA BEAN R&D Priorities

The faba bean group is planning to meet, by conference call, on September 4th to prioritize faba bean research projects that need to be completed to advance the Canadian Faba Bean industry. Early indications are that research work needs to be done in the following areas: develop markets (by understanding fractions), minor use registrations, and improving drought resistance.

The faba bean team members include: Roxanne Roels, Mark Olson, Rick Mueller, Cliff Cyre, Thava Vasanthan, Eduardo Beltranena, Mark Goodwin, and Sheri Strydhorst.



Funding Consortium Timelines

As you are all aware, the deadline for the Open Call to submit LOI applications closes September 2, 2009. While researchers are familiar with the process up to this point, what happens next can be a bit of a mystery.

Once the open call for LOI applications closes, the 15 member organizations of the funding consortium have electronic access to all LOIs. The 15 member organizations include: Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF), Agriculture and Food Council (AgFC), AVAC, Alberta Barley Commission (ABC), Alberta Pulse Growers Commission (APGC), Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC), Alberta Chicken Producers (ACP), Alberta Meat and Livestock Agency (ALMA), Alberta Milk (AM), Alberta Pork (AP), Alberta Egg Producers (AEP), Potato Growers of Alberta (PGA), Alberta Bee Keepers, and Climate Change Central (CCC). The advantage of submitting LOIs to the Agricultural Funding Consortium is that one application is seen by all these potential investors.

Between September 2nd and the next funding consortium meeting on October 14th, the APG Research Committee* will review all applications related to pulse crop research. The APG research committee will then identify which LOIs fit with our priorities. At the October 14th funding consortium meeting, each submitted LOI is reviewed and member organizations indicate their interest in receiving a full application. APG will request full proposals for all projects that meet with our priorities. However, this is also an excellent opportunity to determine which funding organizations are interested in funding a particular project. For example, if APG, ACIDF, and CCC were all interested in a particular LOI, we get a good indication that it will be easier to fund that project than if only APG was interested in the LOI. On October 16th, the results of the meeting will be communicated to researchers and LOIs with interest from funding consortium members will be invited to submit a full proposal by November 23, 2009. Up until this point, no organization commits funding to projects, this will be determined after a review of the full proposals.

If you have any questions about how the funding consortium process works, please do not hesitate to contact Sheri Strydhorst at sstrydhorst@pulse.ab.ca

*Note: The APG Research Committee is comprised of: Koos Wysbeek (Zone 1 commissioner); Jan Bennen (Zone 1 commissioner); Bernie Schoorlemmer (Commissioner at Large); Don Deaville (Zone 5 advisor); Cliff Cyre (Zone 3 advisor); Neil Harker (non-grower rep); Kevin Zaychuk (non-grower rep).

NAPIA/BIC Meetings - 2009

The North American Pulse Improvement Association (NAPIA) / Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) 20th biennial meeting and associated meetings will be held October 25 through October 30, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fort Collins, Colorado. The theme of this year's conference is "New Tools to Tackle Old Problems in Pulse Crops".



The abstract deadline is September 4, 2009 for both oral and poster presentations. Please send them to the program chair, NAPIA Vice President Yantai Gan (Yan.Gan@agr.gc.ca). Volunteered oral presentations will be 15-20 minutes depending on the number of abstracts submitted, with a basic format of a 10 minute talk followed by 5 minutes for questions/discussions. Abstracts and/or two page research reports will be published in the 2009 issue of *Pisum Genetics*. Graduate student presentations (oral and poster) will be eligible for generous cash awards (please note on the submitted abstract whether the presenter is a student.)

Registration:

Early registration for NAPIA is \$150, deadline is **September 24, 2009**. An additional charge of \$50 will be added for late registration. Student rate: \$50, no late surcharge will be added. Registration web site: <http://napia2009.eventbrite.com>. Early registration for BIC is \$125 + \$35 (banquet) (\$75 for students), deadline is September 25, 2009. An additional charge of \$25 will be added for late registration. Registration forms available at http://www.css.msu.edu/bic/PDF/2009_BIC_Meeting_Registration.pdf

Hotel:

Reserve your room on the web: <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/FNLFCGI-BBN-20091025/index.jhtml> Conference room rate is \$85, available until **September 24, 2009**. After that +\$119/night!

The NAPIA preliminary program for the meeting is attached to this email.



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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.