

Alberta Pulse Growers... It's in the BAN

BAN ALERT #2 June 10, 2004

The following trial is underway - see the weekly schedule below. If poor weather is forecast, please call ahead of scheduled time

Earl

Incorporation of soil moisture monitoring for irrigation scheduling in dry beans

Alberta Agriculture Irrigation Branch Bow Island

Dry beans obtain 85% of their soil moisture requirements from the top 40 cm of the soil profile. Additionally, literature suggests that soil moisture remain above 60% of available for optimum yields. Light, frequent irrigations are recommended but in order to manage an irrigation system for a 40 cm root zone, timely and accurate information regarding soil moisture status has to be available. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the utility of using the information from soil moisture sensors to assist with irrigation scheduling.

4 fields have been instrumented with soil moisture probes. Weekly meetings have been planned according the schedule and locations listed below.

Area	Day	Time	Cooperator	Legal Land Description
Vauxhall	Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Bennen Farms	NE 34-13-16-4
Taber	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Greg Sekura	W1/2 NE 20-9-15-4
Burdett	Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Andy Dykstra	N ½ SE 3-9-12-4
Bow Island	Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Clifford Keeler	NE 22-10-11-4

Weekly meetings will include determining soil moisture with the soil moisture probe, irrigation management using the Irrigation Handbook, demonstration of soil tracking with the Alberta Irrigation Management model and agronomic evaluation.

For more information contact the following Agricore agrologists:

Jim Rex – Vauxhall area – 654-0425

Owen Cleland – Taber area – 382-1521

Lief Anderson – Burdett area – 528-7717

Larry Doherty – Bow Island area – 502-5969

Or contact

Dave Hyland – Alberta Agriculture Irrigation Branch Bow Island – 545-2231

Site info... I am compiling a list of plots, demo sites, or neat things to look at. Please forward me GPS coordinates and / or legal land location. Primary focus is pulses, but not limited to that... other crops rotated on pulse stubble, crop circles, etc. Thanks -Earl

Request - PHOTOS... we are always looking for photos. If you have photos you are willing to share with the Alberta Pulse Growers... we'd love to have them.

If you are intrigued... so are we.... thank you for the information....

Earl

Earl Greenhough
Extension Director
APG
Leduc, AB
780-980-4360
www.pulse.ab.ca

Helping Farmers Farm