



AFA in Action

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Prairie General Farm Organizations to hold Joint Value Creation Model Meeting

AFA will join counterparts from Saskatchewan (APAS) and Manitoba (KAP) at a joint meeting on June 17 in Regina, Saskatchewan to further discuss details and strategies around a third value creation model option for a royalty on farm-saved seed.

"The development of a third model has been in the works since our AGM in January," noted AFA president Lynn Jacobson. "We are now coming together with our colleagues at APAS and KAP to really dig into the details and strategy around it."

In late 2018, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) brought forward two models for consultation and committed to further online consultation throughout the spring. While online consultations have still not moved forward, AFA is advocating for AAFC to include this third model for consideration by Canadian producers.

"We found producers had a lot of concerns with the two models proposed by AAFC and we think ours may help address the need for research dollars and compensation for plant breeders while allowing greater producer involvement in funding decisions," said Jacobson.

AFA feels any successful value creation model must have the following components:

- * Maintain and enhance public research, development and finishing of new varieties
 - * Preserve and/or enhance current public funding
 - * Involve producers in funding decisions
- * Be transparent and report back to producers
- * Maintain the privilege of farm saved seed
- * Provide fair administration at a minimal cost
- * Ensure competitiveness of producers

AFA Welcomes New Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

"We are really looking forward to meeting with Minister Devin Dreesen in the coming weeks to discuss a number of issues that have been at the forefront of AFA's work recently," said AFA president Lynn Jacobson. "The Minister's experience in the agriculture industry, coupled with a strong background in communications and policy promotion in grain transportation and international trade, will ensure a great starting point for the formation of a really strong working relationship."

The following are key priorities that AFA will look to address with the Minister:

- * The approach to farm labour and how it will change or remain the same
- * Work regarding the handling of interprovincial trade issues
- * The affects of new carbon policy on Alberta's current carbon trade system
- * Further federal consultation on proposed value creation models for cereals

"There is no shortage of issues when it comes to agriculture," noted Jacobson. "As always, AFA will provide a way for Alberta farmers to make their voices heard on the issues that matter most to them."

Join us for an important AFA Focus Group on June 25 in Lethbridge, Alberta

AFA is coordinating a small focus group of producers to discuss a new remote sensing data toolbox and platform that we are currently working on developing with Aquanty Inc. This platform would give producers a low-cost option for accessing remote sensing data for their farms including:

- * Leaf Area Index
- * Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
- * Soil moisture
- * Soil temperature
- * Snow pack
- * Amalgamated 14-day forecasts

If you are interested in learning more about the project while providing some valuable feedback regarding features and usability, we would love for you to join us on June 25th from 10am to 3pm in Lethbridge. Lunch will be provided.

Please contact our office at 403-789-9151 for further information.

Cleanfarms Named Recycling Pilot Program Operator

We are pleased to share with you that the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) through Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) have selected Cleanfarms as the program operator for a three-year pilot program to collect agricultural grain bags and twine for recycling.

Cleanfarms was successful in meeting the qualifications set out in an expression of interest for the provincial program. Cleanfarms will handle program logistics including collection and transportation to recycle the materials. Other responsibilities include market research for all types of agricultural plastics, a waste characterization study to determine plastic volumes and materials, surveys to producers and education about the program.

Cleanfarms is a Canadian non-profit organization that delivers recycling and disposal solutions that help farmers and their communities safely manage farm waste. The success of Cleanfarms' programs highlights the commitment to agricultural environmental responsibility and sustainability by farmers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, municipalities and provinces. Cleanfarms draws on over 30 years of experience implementing programs to collect and divert agricultural waste from landfills, waterways and on-farm burning.

The response from Alberta municipalities looking to participate in this program has been extremely

positive. The project budget will support up to 20 collection sites in Alberta for the first year of the pilot program.

AFA 2019 Scholarship Application Now Open

Do you know a person studying agriculture who would be a good candidate for our AFA scholarship? If so, encourage them to apply by the August 1, 2019 deadline.

Each year, the AFA Scholarship awards \$500 for one student to use towards studies in a post-secondary agriculture or related program. Students don't have to be an AFA member to apply for the scholarship, but an AFA membership helps since preference is given to applications submitted by AFA producer members, their children and their grandchildren. This is just one of the benefits of being an AFA producer member.

To be eligible for the AFA scholarship, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent resident of Canada, and an Alberta resident,
- attending a designated post-secondary institution in Alberta, and
- enrolled full-time in the second or subsequent year of post-secondary study in a program related to the field of agriculture.

Applications are available online at <https://studentaid.alberta.ca/media/54486/scholarship-albertafederation-agriculture.pdf>

Please join us in welcoming Lacey Wynnyk to the AFA staff



We're pleased to introduce AFA's new Executive Assistant to our AFA members.

Lacey Wynnyk's agriculture education began at a young age, as one of three daughters who grew up helping on her family's 1200-acre grain farm east of Smoky Lake, Alberta. After graduating from the University of Alberta with an Agriculture Degree and an Animal Science Major, Lacey worked for Feedlot Health Management Services in Okotoks as a field production and nutrition specialist, then later worked for the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as a beef research assistant.

"I was really passionate about the research position," says Lacey. "It was exciting to be able to share the knowledge we gained with producers and ranchers. That is so important."

Lacey remains involved with her family's grain farm and has just finished helping with spring seeding. She's still involved on the beef side, too, as Lacey and her fiancé often help his family with their cow-calf operation in central Alberta.

Although Lacey already has a lot of experience at the producer level, one of the things that appeals to her about working with AFA is learning more about the policy side of agriculture and being exposed to the many different aspects of the industry where AFA is busy advocating.

When not at work or on the farm, Lacey heads to the mountains on her horse. She also loves to hike and enjoys anything outdoors, but when she returns home, it's into the kitchen to do some cooking and baking.

As we welcome this newest AFA employee, we'd also like to acknowledge the years of service that Sylvie Cahill, AFA's previous Executive Assistant, contributed to our organization and wish her all the best.



AFA in the News

The latest coverage on AFA in the news media.

We discuss the issues of importance to Alberta's farmers, ranchers and agribusiness.

Crops get poor start as prairie farmers fear another dry summer

June 4, 2019 via CBC News

Alberta crop producers look for increased moisture for this year's crop, including AFA Director Humphrey Banack who farms near Camrose. Banack said a dry summer could also hurt cattle operations as well. More [here](#).

Canola trade fight with China has Alberta farmers facing big decisions

May 1, 2019 via CBC News

As farmers face tough seeding decisions in a few weeks, AG organizations are encouraging the government to resolve the canola issue. AFA Director & farmer Humphrey Banack says producers are making adjustments on their farms. More [here](#).

China canola issue and federal funding announcement

May 1, 2019 via 630CHED Radio

Ryan Jespersen of 630CHED speaks with AFA President Lynn Jacobson about the China canola issue & the Federal Government funding announcement. "This funding is short-term relief, but not a solution to the problem," Jacobson said. Listen [here](#).

AFA Questions UCP plan to repeal farm labour legislation

April 18, 2019 via High River Online

AFA President, Lynn Jacobson says AFA has been lobbying for 20 years to get decent coverage for producers and farm workers, and thinks the focus should be on improving existing legislation. More [here](#).

AFA Discusses Canola Market Access with Minister of International Trade Diversification

April 12, 2019 via AFA News Release

AFA was pleased to join with Alberta Canola, and other members of Canada's canola value chain, to meet with the Honourable Jim Carr, Minister of International Trade Diversification, to discuss the issue of market access for canola seed into China. More in our [News Release](#).

How will the proposal to move oil by rail affect grain movement?

April 11, 2019 via Western Producer

AFA President Lynn Jacobson agrees a solution is needed to solve the oil and gas backlog, but says farmers want assurances that agriculture won't be negatively affected. More [here](#).

Rise in WCB claims in 2018; Lynn Jacobson comments

April 8, 2019 via Edmonton Journal

A 2018 on-farm rise in WCB claims is likely due to increased knowledge and enrollment says Jody



CFA Happenings

Items of interest from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) newsletters are included in our AFA in Action to keep you informed on the national discussions on agricultural policy.

CFA calls for immediate reforms to Business Risk Management programs

CFA is calling for immediate reforms to Canada's Business Risk Management Program suite in response to ongoing trade disruptions. Canadian farmers have seen significant trade uncertainty negatively affect their incomes in 2019, following a difficult 2018 season where realized net farm income declined a staggering 45.1%. Ongoing trade challenges further threaten farm incomes and are often out of the farmer's control. These disruptions are having real impacts right now on their livelihoods and will only cause further damage the longer they persist. Erratic weather patterns are compounding these issues during the 2019 planting season. Whether it be excess moisture in many parts of the East or drought-like conditions in the West, farmers are seeking support to see them through these difficult times. More [here](#).

Farm participants called to improve internet quality across the country

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has started the *Measuring Broadband Canada* project, aimed at better understanding internet quality across the country. Canadians are encouraged to sign up to participate. If you sign up, you will receive a whitebox that attaches to a home router to measure internet performance. These readings will be critical to determine where rural broadband infrastructure needs to be put into place. Internet in rural areas is a significant challenge, and producers and ranchers are encouraged to participate by signing up here <https://www.measuringbroadbandcanada.com/>

CFA leads the *Producing Prosperity in Canada* advocacy campaign

Producing Prosperity in Canada is an advocacy campaign lead by CFA that focuses on three key benefits that Canadian agriculture brings to Canada, specifically: economic growth, food security and environmental stewardship. The overall goal of the campaign is to identify Canadian agriculture as a sector that can benefit all of Canada. Strategic investments in the economic engine that is Canadian agriculture can reverberate through other industries to help Canada prosper as a whole.

Use the resources on our website to help build awareness and spread the word about *Producing Prosperity in Canada*: <https://producingprosperitycanada.ca/>

CFA makes a submission to the Product of Canada Labelling guidelines

On April 26, the CFA made a [submission](#) to request further engagement with consumers before amending the current labelling guidelines. This response was informed by discussions at the last CFA Board of Directors meeting, where the board identified consumer engagement as critical to the development of an effective voluntary labelling regime.

Industry-Government Roundtable discussion slated for CFA's Summer Board Meeting July 15-17

The CFA and its members, including AFA, will host an Industry-Government Roundtable session in conjunction with the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers' meetings. This year's Roundtable agenda will focus on how we can collectively work together to harness the potential of the Canadian agricultural sector and provide economic, social and environmental benefits for all Canadians. This face-to-face dialogue between government and Canadian farm leaders on industry issues provides valuable input for all players and, in the past, this forum has proven to be very successful in promoting industry-government cooperation and ensuring all stakeholders in Canadian agriculture build consensus on key issues.

Follow AFA on social for latest updates!

Wondering what we're up to in between newsletters? A great place to get information and updates on our current and ongoing activities is on AFA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels, or the [AFA blog](#). Join in the conversation there!

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