



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - Terence Hochstein

With May just around the corner, the time has come to dive deep into planting the 2022-23 potato crop. Many of the growers were waiting until after the Easter break with hopes of a late spring snowstorm, but it appears the snow opportunities have mostly passed, and Easter is now almost two weeks behind us. The central and northern part of our growing area has received the late season snows and the occasional rain. These areas are sitting in good shape for the up coming season. Planting in those areas will begin about the middle of May.

Here in the south, we are the total opposite from the rest of the province. For the most part, we have received very little snow this winter and the fall was open and dry. Whatever little soil moisture that may have been present, has been removed by the horrendous winds that plagued the south this winter and spring. There's been more than one day that the province of Saskatchewan was on the receiving end of Alberta topsoil. In some of the dryland areas, here in Southern Alberta, the ground that has been no-till planted for many years, shows evidence of soil erosion for the first time since the 30's.

On top of the extremely dry conditions, the drastic increase of input costs and the uncertainty in global markets, leaves some producers talking about going back to 50/50 cropping acres for some of the dryland areas this year. Those with irrigation, the concern is how much of the irrigation water will be required to get the crop to germinate and come up, let alone survive the rest of the season. It is the hope of everyone that we are blessed with a rainfall event sooner rather than later. Nothing beats a good old fashioned soaking from above to get the crop up and going.

In talking to other growing areas across the country, it appears that the east coast is just getting started with their planting. New Brunswick is reporting that their first seed is going in the ground this week. The south-eastern area of PEI has also started to plant this week. The same cannot be said for Manitoba growers. After experiencing a long, cold, heavy snowfall winter, they are inundated with rain and extreme overland flooding in some areas of the province. Some growers there are indicating that it may be the May long weekend before they're able to get into fields.

On a positive note, most of our seed growers will be wrapping up their seed shipments in the next week to ten days. Indications are that almost all varieties are sold out and that everyone has had a good season with very few

issues. Some of that seed makes its way into Washington every year, and I'm hearing that the first seeded fields in the Basin are well on their way, with some fields fully emerged already.

Last week marked the end of an era with the PGA. The building that the PGA called home for the last 23 years has been demolished and work will soon begin on the foundation work for the new building. Stay tuned to the Potato Minute over the next 12-15 months on the progression of our new building. It will be exciting to see how the project unfolds and what the next part of the PGA's journey will look like.



A pile of rubble remained after the last portion of the PGA building standing went down April 21st. More photos on page 8.

As in all aspects of the potato business, the safety of everyone is paramount. As we enter into the planting of the 2022 crop, please take the extra time to do everything in a safe manner.

Until next month,

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SEED COORDINATOR UPDATE - Stacey Bajema

April has proven to, once again, be a month of unpredictability. Intermittent rain and snow in the northern seed regions has made planning for shipments to Southern Alberta a little capricious. We are now getting close to the end of shipping season and growers will be happy to shift gears and get into the fields.

We wish all our Seed growers a safe and productive planting season!

CFIA Update

CFIA continues to be engaged with the Potato Wart situation in Prince Edward Island. Though the US opened the border to fresh market potatoes, the new Federal Order includes a complete ban on the export of seed potatoes. CFIA is now focused on completing the current investigation and has committed, with increased funding in the federal budget, to hiring 25 additional positions in PEI to help expedite the potato wart investigation.

As of April 1st, CFIA has begun reaccepting applications for the Post Entry Quarantine program. Applicants looking to bring in new varieties into Canada can now apply to bring in up to five submissions for consideration. This is good news, as the program was previously unable to take new submissions due to the backlog. CFIA has made changes to the program and facilities to create greater efficiencies and will continue to look for ways to improve the program, so it becomes more responsive to the demands of industry.

Seed Potato Regulation Modernization has taken a little bit of a hiatus to accommodate growers who are busy shipping and planting. The Certification Task Team has completed their first major session and will return post planting to discuss recommendations. Variety Registration will be the next Task Team to commence and will probably move forward closer to the end of this month.

There are no new changes at your local CFIA offices this year. Always remember to submit your paperwork in a timely manner, as this will allow for efficient and effective planning and services.

Biosecurity On Your Potato Farm

Spring is a great time to revisit your On-Farm Potato Bio Security Plan! Developing management practices on your farm that minimize the introduction of pests and diseases is one of the most important risk-mitigation measures you can do on your farm. As the busy planting season begins, take some time to ensure that you and your staff are up to date on the day-to-day tasks and documentation required for a more bio secure operation.

Remember, that a good Biosecurity Plan should include the following principles:

1. Farm Property Management
2. Farm Operational Management
3. Plant Health Management



Please refer to the National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for Potato Growers to find out more on how to develop or update your Biosecurity Plan. There are also a few rare hard copies of the biosecurity plan in the PGA North Seed Office.

Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Employment and Social Development Canada

Please be advised that, effective April 25, 2022, at 00:01:00 EDT, all fully vaccinated travellers will no longer be required to provide a quarantine plan upon entry.

Furthermore, fully vaccinated travellers arriving to Canada on or after April 25, 2022, will no longer be federally required to do the following for 14 days after arriving:

- mask while in public spaces;
- monitor and report if they develop signs or symptoms;
- quarantine if another traveller in the same travel group exhibits signs or symptoms or tests positive; and
- maintain a list of close contacts and locations visited.

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L-R: Plantlets planted in Haenni Farms greenhouse on March 30, second photo is what they look like after 20 days. Photo submitted by Stefan Haenni

AG EDUCATION



CDC NORTH PLANT HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS LAB - Grade 8 class from Northeast Edmonton Christian School visits the facility as part of the school's agriculture tour. Staff share information on what they are working on in the potato lab.

Left: Heting Fu, Lab Tech, Middle: Dr. Junye Jiang (blue mask) and Dr. Jie Feng (background) Left: Dr. Junye Jiang again



NORTHBANK POTATO FARM - Keith Goutbeck from Northbank Potato Farm teaching same group about life on a potato farm.



AGGIE DAYS- CALGARY - PGA staff participated in Aggie Days in Calgary from April 6-10. The first 3 days was dedicated to students from all around the Calgary area and the weekend was open to the public. L-R: Juanita Stange, Stacey Bajema, Cindy Fletcher and Deb Brewin showing support on green shirt day and Harry the Horse, stampede mascot wanting in on the fun.



HOME & GARDEN SHOW - LETHBRIDGE - PGA staff and growers came out to help host this first time event March 30-April 1st. We spoke to consumers on a wide array of potato questions. Left: James (PGA Chairman) and his wife, Andrea Bareman, Middle: Terence Hochstein (PGA ED), Right: Deb Brewin. Also thanks to John Bareman for volunteering his time at the show.



TEAMALBERTA

ADVANCING ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR TO 2025 AND BEYOND

Team Alberta Crops adds voices of four new partners to advocacy efforts

April 7, 2022 – Team Alberta Crops is pleased to announce the addition of four new farmer organizations to the collaboration that engages in policy analysis, development and advocacy to benefit Alberta's farmers and crop sector. Team Alberta Crops continues to maximize farmers' dollars by collaborating and sharing resources.

The partnership began with Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission. After several years of successfully advocating for farmers provincially and federally, the collaboration has recently expanded to further amplify the voice of Alberta farmers by including Alberta Beekeepers Commission, Alberta Seed Growers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and Potato Growers of Alberta.

"Team Alberta Crops is effective in representing a wide variety of agricultural products, farmers, beekeepers, and a diversity of perspectives providing robust advocacy delivered on behalf of the sector," said Greg Sears, Chair of the Alberta Wheat Commission. "Over the years, Team Alberta Crops has become widely recognized as an impactful collaboration that advocates and influences policy on behalf of farmers."

The group provides input to policymakers, as well as developing and maintaining stakeholder relationships to ensure access to promote the sector's sustainability. Team Alberta Crops has achieved results in many areas, including Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Class 1 drivers, business risk management programs and farm sustainability.

"We welcome the opportunity to add the voices of crop producers that may be more specialized in nature like potatoes, sugar beets, bees, and seed growers to Team Alberta Crops," said Tracy Niemela, President of Alberta Seed Growers. "Uniting the advocacy efforts of eight agricultural organizations will increase the effectiveness for all farmers."

Team Alberta Crops is also pleased to announce the addition of a dedicated employee for the group. Reg Warkentin recently began in the role of Government Relations and Policy Manager.

"It is a brilliant initiative to combine the resources and influence of the commissions to address joint interests," Warkentin said. "I plan to apply my skills and experience with multiple stakeholders to work effectively with the Team Alberta Crops partners to develop policy, build relationships, and communicate our key positions to government, industry and the public."

Check out the news release on Global <https://globalnews.ca/news/8755862/team-alberta-crops-new-members/>

Speak up for agriculture!

Compete
to win up to
\$1,000

Ages 11 to 24

Enter the Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture competition at the 2022 Calgary Stampede

Saturday, July 16, 2022

We're looking for young Albertans who have the passion to speak up for agriculture. The Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture competition will give you the opportunity to share your passion while developing skills in communications and leadership, and expanding your knowledge of the agriculture industry. And you'll do it in an exciting and dynamic venue: The Calgary Stampede!

The competition

Competitors will speak for 5-7 minutes on one of the following topics:

- The implications of supply chain issues in Canada's food chain.
- Rising global water and temperature levels: What does it mean for agriculture?
- Unexpected careers: Here are three jobs you didn't know were linked to agriculture.
- Is local food sustainable?
- Why the world is eating more fish and what it means for Canadian aquaculture.
- I realized I wanted a career in agriculture when_____.

Get started

The deadline for applications is June 30, 2022 To get more details about the competition and how to enter, contact us directly by email or visit our website.

Email: albertayoungspeakers@gmail.com
Website: www.albertayoungspeakers.com



Cash prizes – and more

Senior Competition (16-24)

- Champion \$1,000
- 1st Runner-up \$500
- 2nd Runner-up \$350

Junior Competition (11-15)

- Champion \$500
- 1st Runner-up \$300
- 2nd Runner-up \$150

There will be a \$20 refundable deposit required.

The Junior and Senior Alberta winners will be eligible to compete in Toronto at the national finals. Learn more at www.cysa-joca.ca

Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture is an organization dedicating to providing Alberta youth with an opportunity to discuss current topics impacting the Canadian agriculture industry.

NATIONAL NEWS

NEW CAP FUNDING



ON-FARM VALUE-ADDED PROGRAM

The On-Farm Value-added Program supports economic recovery through investment in projects, company sales growth, market expansion and the creation of jobs in Alberta. This program is designed exclusively for primary producers who are adding value past primary production.

Overview

The On-Farm Value-added Program is focused on the growth of Alberta's producers adding value to their commodity products. The program supports projects that:

- Create jobs in Alberta;
- Support growth of the farm business by increasing sales of value-added products;
- Support investment (project investment relative to grant request);
- Pursue new markets or expand market opportunities (including removal of barriers to growth and market entry); and
- Develop new products and/or processes and introduce new products to market.

All projects must be completed by March 1, 2023 as this is the final year of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (2018-2023). If approved, eligible expenses must be invoiced, paid and on-site on or before March 1, 2023. Eligible capital expenses will be cost shared at 25% grant and 75% applicant.

To see if you're eligible visit https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/PRGM_NAME_2#Overview

Source: alberta.ca





UNITED POTATO GROWERS OF CANADA HIRES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

News Release - April 13, 2022

United Potato Growers of Canada has hired a new General Manager, Victoria Stamper, of Mascouche, Quebec, a community just north of Montreal. Victoria will join United in this senior role, effective Monday, April 25th. She replaces outgoing General Manager, Kevin MacIsaac, who announced his retirement from the organization earlier in the year.

Victoria brings a commodities distribution background to the organization, with the principles of supply, demand, and profitability being very familiar to members of the potato industry. She grew up in London, Ontario, and attended the University of Guelph, obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce with a Major in Marketing. She moved to Montreal and studied at McGill University in the Bachelor of Arts, Psychology Program. She is fluent in English and French. Her professional development also includes training in the Six Sigma Program at the yellow belt level. An active volunteer, she has given her time to organizations including, Pinewood Elementary, Scouts Canada, and the MS and Cancer Society.

Victoria's work experience over the years has created a strong background in sales, purchasing, marketing, administration, and human resources. Her decision to change careers and focus her talents on the potato industry can best be described by Victoria's statement "It is product that has to be marketed, no matter if the commodity is steel or potatoes. World events are factors of influence, and they have a large affect on the membership needs of an organization like the United Potato Growers of Canada. I'm looking forward to working with potato growers all across the country by first of all learning about their needs and then by bringing value to their businesses."

United Potato Growers of Canada Chairman, Ray Keenan said "our executive has conducted an extensive search for a candidate to fulfill the needs of our organization and to strengthen it going forward. Victoria's commodity distribution background brings a new dynamic to our organization, and when coupled with her fluent presentation skill sets, make her an excellent fit to promote the principles of Supply and Demand for UPGC. We look forward to working with her."

Chairman Keenan also said, "We would like to thank our former General Manager, Kevin MacIsaac, for his years of service in a leadership role with the organization since 2011. We wish him well in his future endeavors and appreciate his efforts during this transition period."



The United Potato Growers of Canada was formed in 2006, with membership from the east coast of Prince Edward Island to the west coast of British Columbia. Its mission is to create a more balanced supply of potatoes by providing accurate production and marketing information for Canadian Potato Growers.

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MISSOULA
MONTANA

2022
Potato Association of America
106TH ANNUAL MEETING
July 17-21, 2022
Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula, Montana

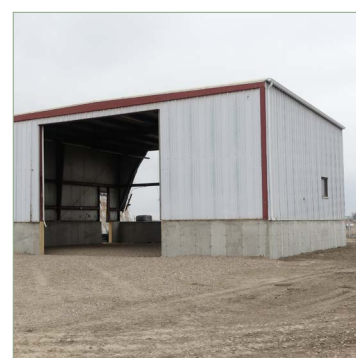
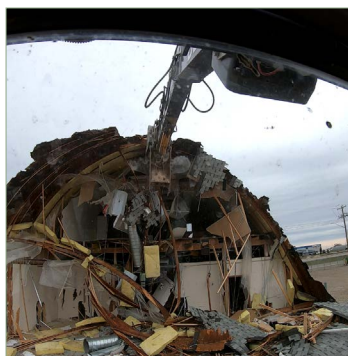


PAA
THE POTATO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

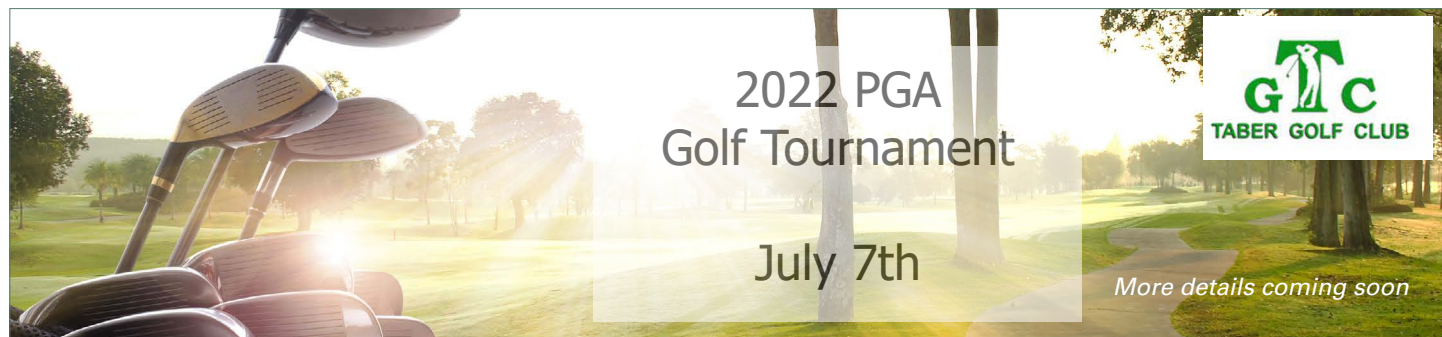
For more info

FROM THE OFFICE

PGA Building Demo...



The PGA building demo began April 20th and was completely down the next day. Clean up is finished on the lot and ground work will begin soon. The attached shop was still in great condition and our neighbors next door, Integra Tire, have bought and repurposed the building for tire storage. It now sits on it's new foundation, being utilized once again.



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