

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - Terence Hochstein

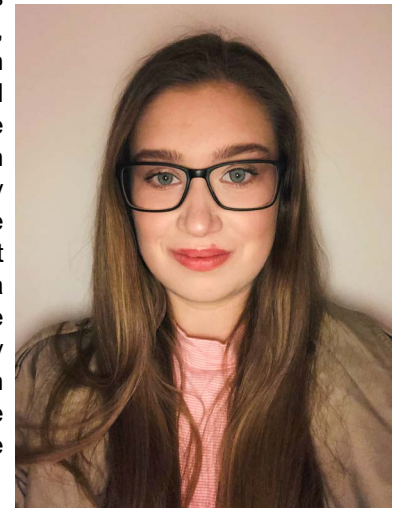
Here we are, once again, about to enter the month of September. Last week, one of the team jokingly mentioned that we are less than four months to Christmas. I had to stop and think because I swear it was only Valentine's Day a couple of months ago. The older a person gets, the quicker the days roll by. You often hear people mention that they seen or did something 40 years ago. Your mind automatically thinks they are talking about the 60's. It doesn't take much of a mathematician to quickly figure out that 40 years ago was the 1980's.....time waits for no one.

Over the next two weeks, everyone should be up and running with potato harvest. Those growers that have chip stock or early season field run fry varieties, for the most part, have indicated that the crop is doing respectfully well. Quality is excellent and yield is reasonable, considering that we had a cold, dry spring and emergence was variable and slow. As long as we have a warm open fall the storage crop will continue to bulk up over the next three to four weeks. The seed industry will also start harvest in the next week. Indications are that the crop is in much better shape than last year, both in quality and quantity. The traditional summer rains have made a huge difference to this sector of our industry. In about six weeks, we will know how this year's crop stacks up to our long term average.

Reports from the other growing areas across North America are variable to say the least. Too much heat, too much rain, not enough rain or heat will once again have an influence on what this year's crop will look like. It will take another couple of months to see how the overall 2022 crop unfolds.

The office building project continues to move along with the hopes of having the building closed in within the next two weeks. Like with all projects now-a-days, the availability of basic supplies has caused some hiccups with the timelines. If all goes well, we should be able to move back next spring.

The PGA is pleased to announce that Ms. Rebecca Wieler will be joining us September 6th as our new Ag Relations Coordinator. Rebecca will be in charge of our government and regulatory programs (EFP, Canada Gap, grants etc.), as well as continuing to build the relationships between the growers, industry and the research community. The continued focus of bringing these three pillars together, with one common goal, will only prove to enhance the future of our industry. Over the next several months Rebecca will be travelling around the province to meet as many growers as possible. Given the opportunity, please welcome Rebecca to the industry.



As we enter one of the busiest times of the year, please remember that the most important part of our industry is the people that are working hard to harvest the bounty of produce to feed the community and across the nation. **Take time to stay safe everyone.**

Until next month,

terence@albertapotatoes.ca
403.382.8382



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SEED COORDINATOR UPDATE - Stacey Bajema



Russ Van Boom from North Bank Potato Farms Ltd. checking seed field in the Edmonton area

Seed potato growers in Alberta are about ready to head into the fields for harvest, and most have been desiccated, with a few early bird seed potatoes already in storage. This first week of September will be GO time for most growers, though the hot weather forecast may be a determining factor. We have had a great early season in most seed growing regions, but the moisture levels have been sporadic over this past month. Moisture has mainly come in the form of rain storms rather than nice general gentle rains. This

means we have areas that may have had too much water and some who had very little, because they were never in the path of the storm. If I had to predict, I would say we are headed for an average crop overall, but we will wait and see what the future holds.

SEED REGULATION MODERNIZATION

Work continues on the Seed Regulation Modernization process. The federal government has added an additional year onto this to ensure that all the necessary consultation has time to complete. The potato certification task team has completed its round of consultation and I would like to thank Jeff Ekkel for taking the time to complete this venture. Variety registration is currently being launched and we expect Kirby Sawatzky and Jake Hoogland to represent Alberta for this task team. The seed committee is actively supporting these representatives through discussion and debate on proposed recommendations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please

talk to me or any member of the PGA seed committee.

I wish everyone a safe and productive harvest season.

At the PGA, we will be happily welcoming a new AG Relations Coordinator, Rebecca Wieler, and I hope to be hosting her in the northern regions for a week, in the middle of September. We will be dropping by farms to say hi and learn a little more about the thriving seed potato industry in Alberta.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime at the PGA North Office.



L-R: Seed boxes cleaned and ready for another harvest season, Heather Meberg from ES Crop Consultation speaking on BC Variety Demonstrations

stacey@albertapotatoes.ca
780.916.1766

BLAST FROM THE PAST...



Groot Farms harvest in the 1960's; in the days of bagging potatoes by hand from the field.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

End-Use Focused Variety Development – Alberta



The Alberta potato variety field day was held August 24, 2022 in Brooks at the Crop Diversification Centre South. Varieties from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Potato Breeding program were on display, as well as several industry entries. AAFC included 13 French Fry, 9 chipping and 12 fresh market clones from Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the National Potato Variety Trial. There were also two graduates from the breeding program that were moved forward into agronomic trials. Industry evaluations included 6

chipping varieties, 8 French Fry varieties, and 13 fresh market varieties. 27 entries were evaluated in alternate plots to generate some agronomic information to support production of new varieties.

The purpose of the end-use potato variety project is to pool resources from a range of sources and evaluate potential potato varieties for industry adoption, using a cooperative approach. Local production data supports adoption of new potato varieties that will enhance the competitiveness of our potato industry. Dr. Chandra Singh of Lethbridge College leads the project at the Brooks research location to provide regional data in an impartial setting. Dr. Michele Konschuh provides agronomic expertise and coaches staff at the Brooks site.

Three-hill samples of each variety will be held in storage in Brooks if anyone missed the field day and would like to see the potatoes in person. Contact Michele Konschuh (403-634-4940) to arrange viewing.

*Submitted by
Dr. Michele Konschuh*



Dr. Michele Konschuh preparing samples for viewing



Dr. Michele Konschuh and Dr. Chandra Singh from Lethbridge College



Cultiv8

Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit

October 20 - 23, 2022 | Olds College

[CHECK OUT THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE HERE](#)

Cultivate is a unique opportunity to:

- Increase students' understanding of agriculture in Alberta through the exploration of sustainability, accessibility, technology, and innovations in the sector!
- Make real-life relevant connections with agriculture producers, ranchers, farmers, and researchers!
- Get your boots on the ground with tours featuring livestock, cool crops!
- Be inspired to complete one of our options for a school or community-based Agriculture Education Project to educate your school and community about what you've learnt at the summit!



Source: insideeducation.ca

PROVINCIAL NEWS



ALBERTA OPEN FARM DAYS

CP Farms Ltd.



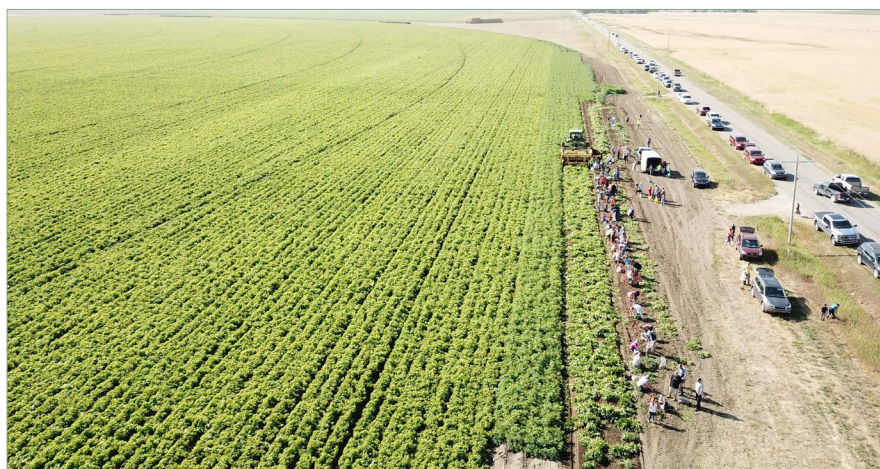
CP Farms Ltd. hosted an Alberta Open Farm Days event on their farm in Barnwell, August 13th. They showcased potatoes, sugarbeets, wheat, barley and corn crops. Around 350 people came out to learn all about how these crops are grown, harvested and processed, along with the equipment that is used. It included several games and other fun events. People were able to make French Fries from the potatoes that came straight from the field as well. Michel and Hanneke Camps would like to thank all the volunteers and businesses who took part in this informative, fun-filled family day.



PERRY FAMILY FARM

SPUD DAY

August 20th, the Perry farm at Chin opened up their farm and field to the public to come and pick free 20 lb bags of Mozart red potatoes. Seed for this field was produced by Hoogland Farms Ltd. and distributed by Edmonton Potato Growers. Spud Day has been running for eight years now, and each year people around the community look forward to this annual event.



FROM THE OFFICE



2022 ALBERTA POTATO CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE APIA TRADESHOW AT THE UPCOMING 2022 ALBERTA POTATO CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15-17 AT THE CAMBRIDGE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE IN RED DEER.

FIRST COME...FIRST SERVED. CALL ERIN FOR MORE INFO @ 403.622.0374

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS NOW...
403.346.2091 OR 1.800.662.7197

Register for
Tradeshow here

General conference registration and sponsorship opportunities will be posted soon. Watch on our News & Events page and in our newsletters!



SOUTH AREA FALL MEETING

BREAKFAST

OCTOBER 25, 2022
HERITAGE INN - TABER

8AM

NORTH AREA FALL MEETING

SUPPER

OCTOBER 26, 2022
HOLIDAY INN & SUITES - LEDUC

6PM

Cheers to all the hard
working people out
there...

Happy Labour Day

September 5th

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Staff Editor: Deb Brewin PGA Office: 6008-46 Ave. Taber, AB T1G 2B1 403.223.2262

Temporary Office 5810 - 62 ST. Taber

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