



# THE POTATO MINUTE

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Terence Hochstein



Every year, there seems to be a new or odd weather event that makes its way into one of my Potato Minute articles. We have either had a winter with little or no snow, a prolonged extreme cold snap or a wet planting or harvest season. This time, I think I have a new one that has not been seen in twenty or more years, or in the words of some growers they have never witnessed this. The planting season went relatively unscathed from weather events and the crop came up in record time. The province started off in good shape, but it became relatively dry quickly. The south was concerned that with the shortage of water in the irrigation network, it was going to be a long dry summer. Some growers had to use a large portion of their water allocation just to get the crop started. Seed growers were concerned that, without some rain, their crops were in for a long summer. The late spring rains never materialized and everything came to a standstill. It looked like it was going to be another disappointing year. Early July rolled around and the skies opened up and the traditional weekly rains came like clockwork for the seed growing areas...this may turn out to be a decent crop after all. For the south, July long weekend normally signifies the end of any possible rain events, except for the fear of a hailstorm and a few downpours and the beginning of the heat. This year, things have been a bit different, a matter of fact extremely odd. The southern Alberta dryland was about to be written off, livestock feed was hard to come by and water was scarce. It started to rain the first week of July and it continued into August. Some locations in the south have received over 300 mm of rain since July 1st, so much so that some crops have been affected by too much moisture. Disease and grade degradation has set in. The blessing of this though, is that irrigators have been able to throttle back their pivots and the countryside has greened up, so much that the it now looks like it normally does in June. It will be interesting to see what happens in the next 6-8 weeks as far as weather is concerned.

2025 signifies the 35th anniversary of the Alberta Potato Industry Association and they wanted to make it a special celebration at their annual APIA Burgers and Beans event. July 9th, over 325 people came out for some great food, a few beverages, face painting for the young folks, a little shaved ice and a few bouncy castles thrown in for fun.

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The weather cooperated and a great evening was experienced by everyone in attendance. The next day, the PGA hosted their annual golf tournament. The event was once again sold out and, even though it was cooler and somewhat wet, everyone had a tremendous time. Plans are already underway for next year's festivities.

July also brings the summer PMANA meeting and tour and the PSA Summer Symposium. This year, Greg Nakamura and I spent three days in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario for the PMANA meeting followed by four days in Charlottetown PEI for PSA. Five other Alberta growers joined Greg and I in PEI, which included JP Claassen, who will be taking over for Greg on the PSA Board in January 2026. The Symposium is an opportunity to see what the PSA has been working on over the past year, as well as listen to a number of panels and speakers on topics of relevance pertaining to the sustainable future of the potato industry at all levels. One of the key messages coming out of the four days was that without consistent financial sustainability for the growers, the rest of the equation is not achievable. Going forward, the current PSA survey will be entering into the audit process. Details are being worked out as a number of customers/retailers are requiring this verification. Unfortunately, without this step the program could potentially fall into the common "greenwashing category" that seems to be prevalent today. Too much work has been put into this program, and everyone involved believes that it will continue to grow.



September is just around the corner, and with that, comes harvest and the details of the upcoming Alberta Potato Conference and Tradeshow November 18-20, 2025, in Red Deer for our 59th annual event. More details will be available in the coming months on our website and newsletters.

Until next month,

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### Alberta Seed Potato Update

Alberta's seed potato growers are enjoying one of the best seasons in recent years, with ideal growing conditions across the province. This year has brought moderate temperatures, with very few days reaching 30°C in the northern region, and consistent rainfall supporting strong crop development.

The Lacombe seed region, in particular, is seeing a welcome rebound after four years of dry conditions that challenged both yield and quality. Growers across Alberta are optimistic as early varieties begin to be topkilled, setting the stage for an on-time harvest.

A little moisture at harvest would make for easier digging, but excessive rainfall could pose quality risks, something growers are keen to avoid. With strong conditions reported in both the seed and commercial zones, the 2025 season is shaping up to be a positive one for Alberta's potato industry.



### Federal Agriculture Minister Visits Alberta During Stampede

On July 10, Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald visited Carstairs, Alberta, to meet with farmers and industry representatives from Team Alberta Crop commissions. Despite a rainy summer morning, the conversation was lively and focused on key priorities for Alberta's crop industry, including trade and market development, research capacity and domestic transportation and infrastructure needs.



PGA, Chair - Alison Davie and Federal AAFC Minister - Heath MacDonald

The visit was part of Minister MacDonald's broader Calgary Stampede itinerary, providing an opportunity to hear directly from producers and industry leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing Alberta's agriculture sector.



### Policymakers Join Farmers in the Field to Talk Challenges, Opportunities in Alberta's Crop and Beekeeping Sectors

Prepared by: Jasen Aussant, Alberta Grains

On July 8th, elected officials and agricultural stakeholders gathered near Airdrie for a farm tour hosted by Team Alberta Crops—a collaboration between seven provincial crop commissions: Alberta Grains, Alberta Canola, Alberta

Pulse Growers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, Potato Growers of Alberta, Alberta Beekeepers Commission, and the Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers. Together, these organizations represent over 20,000 Alberta farmers and work collectively to bring forward a unified voice on shared on-farm issues.



MLA, Jennifer Johnson brings greetings to the group

The event welcomed MLAs from across the province, municipal councillors, Agricultural Service Board members, and industry representatives. MLA Jennifer Johnson (Lacombe-Ponoka) brought greetings on behalf of Premier Danielle Smith, recognizing the immense economic value that Alberta's crop producers bring to the province.

Hosted at Chitwood Farms, the day featured a guided tour and discussion sessions covering key priorities: international trade and market access, regulatory hurdles, environmental sustainability, and competitiveness through innovation. These policy pillars reflect some of the top concerns facing Alberta farmers this year, and each session offered insights directly from producers about how policy decisions impact day-to-day operations.

The Q&A sessions were a highlight, providing an open forum for farmers to speak directly with policymakers about the realities they face—from inconsistent rail service and regulatory bottlenecks to the challenges of water management and the need for investment in research capacity. Farmers also shared forward-looking ideas for how government can support resilience and long-term prosperity in the sector.

The farm tour underscored the strength of collaboration and the benefits of farmer-led discussions on policy issues. By working in unison through Team Alberta Crops, stronger connections between producers and decision-makers are developed while ensuring that policy conversations are grounded in firsthand experience. Events like this help bridge the gap between the field and the legislature and affirm the crop sector's vital role in building.



## Stampede Summer Farm Tour Strengthens Alberta-U.S. Agricultural Ties

On July 11, the Potato Growers of Alberta (PGA) welcomed a distinguished U.S. delegation of Directors of Agriculture from across the Western United States to Perry Farms in Southern Alberta for a Stampede Summer Farm Tour. The visit, part of the delegation's journey from the WASDA meetings in Whitefish, Montana to the Calgary Stampede, showcased Alberta's vibrant potato industry, highlighted shared priorities, and reinforced the deep agricultural ties between Canada and the United States.



*PGA Chair, Alison Davie speaking to Derek Sandison, Washington State Director of Ag*

Hosted by brothers Chris and Harold, Perry Farms provided an ideal setting for open conversation and authentic hospitality. The Perry family, recognized for their commitment to on-farm learning and environmental stewardship, offered guests a first-hand look at their ~5,500-acre irrigated operation. The tour began with warm welcomes and introductions in the Perry Farms shop. Guests were treated to a delicious "Taco Night Feast" prepared by longtime Perry Farms employee, Johann. The evening continued with lively discussion highlighting Alberta's potato production, its strong integration with U.S. markets, and the collaborative supply chain that supports both economies.



*"The Alberta Potato industry was delighted to welcome the U.S. delegation of Directors of Agriculture to Southern Alberta. We have a long history of working alongside growers and industry in these visiting western states, as we share so many commonalities within our production systems and our shared commitment to agricultural innovation." - PGA Government Relations, Policy & Seed Director Stacey Bajema*



*Harold Perry talking to Chanel Tewalt- Idaho Director of Ag, Lisa Charpiloz, Director of Ag Oregon and Lindsay Eng, Deputy Director of Ag Oregon*

The U.S. delegation included senior agricultural leaders from Oregon, California, Washington, Montana, and Idaho, joined by representatives from the Consulate General of Canada and the Government of Alberta's Agriculture and Irrigation department. PGA members from North Paddock Farms, Triple M Farms, and Sandhills Seed Potatoes also joined the evening

and provided valuable insights into Alberta's production systems, market access, and the role of irrigation in maintaining competitive yields.



By the evening's close, one thing was clear: events like the Stampede Summer Farm Tour go beyond building awareness, they strengthen partnerships, encourage collaboration, and lay the groundwork for a resilient and integrated North American agri-food sector. Against the backdrop of Southern Alberta's rich farmland and the warmth of prairie hospitality, the future of Alberta-U.S. potato trade relations felt hopeful and bright.

*L-R - Stacey Bajema - PGA Gov't Relations, Policy and Seed Director, Karen Ross California Secretary of Ag, Trisha Ward - Consulate General of Canada, Harold Perry, Chris Perry*



## PGA Represents Potato Industry at Mexican Consulate Roundtable

On July 29, Michael Groot of Groot Farms Ltd. represented the Alberta potato industry at a special roundtable hosted by the Mexican Consulate during the AgSmart conference at Olds College. The meeting brought together growers and Team Alberta Crops industry leaders from across the province to engage with Luis Ernesto Gonzalez Rojas, Mexico's Trade Commissioner and Canadian Technology Accelerator lead.



The discussion provided valuable market insights and policy context on Mexico's agri-food, agtech, and cleantech sectors, while also highlighting opportunities for strategic partnerships. Michael shared the strengths of Alberta's potato sector, emphasizing its production capabilities, supply chain integration, and potential for resumed trade with Mexico.

The event underscored the importance of building international connections and exploring new markets for Alberta crops.

## Potatoes in the Park: Strengthening Cross-Border Ties in the Heart of the Rockies



On August 7, on a beautiful summer evening in the spectacular setting of Banff National Park, the Potato Growers of Alberta (PGA) welcomed an esteemed U.S. delegation for Potatoes in the Park; an evening designed to celebrate agriculture, hospitality, and the enduring partnership between Canada and the United States.

The event was part of a broader program coordinated by the Government of Alberta to highlight the province's economic strengths and foster cross-border collaboration. For the PGA, potatoes provided the perfect backdrop, not only as one of Alberta's most integrated commodities with the U.S., but also as a symbol of innovation, resilience, and community in agriculture.



L-R Russ Van Boom, MLA - Angela Pitt (Airdrie East), Julia Bareman, Terence Hochstein, Stacey Bajema, James Bareman, Alison Davie

Following a breathtaking visit to Sulphur Mountain, delegates gathered for a family-style feast where conversations flowed freely. PGA's Board Chair, Alison Davie, opened the evening with a warm welcome, joined by Executive Director, Terence Hochstein, Government Relations, Policy & Seed Director

Stacey Bajema and two former chairs, Russ VanBoom and James Bareman. Together, they shared Alberta's potato story, from its deep agricultural heritage to its globally integrated supply chains.

The program highlighted Alberta's role as a leader in potato production, processing, and export, with special emphasis on the sector's strong ties to the United States. Guests heard how collaboration across the border fuels innovation, strengthens food security, and supports rural economies in both countries.

The delegation was a dynamic mix of agricultural leaders, state legislators, and trade representatives, including



PGA reps with Texas Secretary of State - Jane Nelson (second left)

members of the Texas Farm Bureau, the North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and senior officials from several U.S. states. Also in attendance were representatives from the Mexican Consulate in Calgary, Alberta's trade

offices across North America, and the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation.



As the evening unfolded, guests enjoyed the best of Alberta's culinary offerings — potatoes, naturally, taking center stage — while forging new connections that will serve both sides of the border well into the future. Some chose to linger and savor the conversation; others explored the vibrant Banff townscape before departing for the evening's final stop at Lake Minnewanka.



The success of Potatoes in the Park reflects the PGA's ongoing commitment to advancing Alberta's agricultural profile and supporting the province's trade objectives. Against

the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, the event proved that **food has a unique power to bring people together, and that in Alberta, potatoes are more than just a crop; they are a bridge.**



Canadian Potato Council  
Conseil canadien de la pomme de terre

## PGA Attends Canadian Potato Council Summer Meeting in Ottawa

The Potato Growers of Alberta (PGA) traveled to Ottawa on August 12 to take part in the annual Canadian Potato Council (CPC) Summer Meeting. Held at the Lord Elgin Hotel, the meeting brought together potato industry leaders from across the country to discuss shared priorities, provide provincial updates, and hear from key federal departments. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including crop protection, sustainability initiatives, plant breeders' rights, plastics consultations, and market access updates from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Delegates also received briefings on trade advocacy, governance, and ongoing efforts to address plant health issues such as potato wart and bacterial ring rot. The meeting served as an important forum to coordinate national strategy and advance the long-term competitiveness of the potato sector.

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## 20/20 Seed Labs Inc. Earns CFIA Accreditation for Potato Seed Testing

*Advancing Potato Seed Quality for a Stronger Future*

20/20 Seed Labs Inc., an independent, Canadian-owned company founded in 1989, has achieved CFIA accreditation for regulatory potato seed testing — expanding access to timely, accurate diagnostics for growers, processors, and exporters across Western Canada.

With locations in Nisku, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Bulnes, Chile, 20/20 Seed Labs offers seed, soil, and plant testing, disease diagnostics, molecular services, and crop inspection for domestic and international markets. The company holds ISO 17025:2017, ISO 9001:2015, and ISTA accreditations, and has a long-standing commitment to quality, innovation, and service.

The new CFIA accreditation reflects years of work to meet the growing demand for localized testing capacity. Led by Dr. Kim Kenward and Alex Playdon, the Nisku-based Molecular

Diagnostics team now provides:

- **RT-PCR: Potato viruses S, X, Y, A, PLRV**
- **ELISA & IMF: Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR)**
- **ELISA Virus Panels: PVA, PVX, PVS, PVY, PVM, PLRV, PotLV**

This expanded capacity means greater access to CFIA-recognized testing for key potato pathogens and strengthened control to meet both domestic and export regulations.

Potatoes are the world's third most important food crop, and healthy seed is essential to protecting yields, quality, and market access. For over 36 years, 20/20 Seed Labs has supported Canadian agriculture with accredited expertise in disease diagnostics, DNA analysis, and seed and soil quality. By safeguarding seed potatoes from harmful pathogens, the company helps secure a critical part of the global food system — ensuring safe, abundant, and high-quality potatoes for generations to come.

Partner with 20/20 Seed Labs Inc. to protect your potato seed and crops. 1-877-420-2099 | [www.2020seedlabs.ca](http://www.2020seedlabs.ca)

**Apply**  
**Now**

## PGA & ALBERTA POTATO INVESTMENT FUND

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**NOW ACCEPTING  
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FOR BOTH  
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## PROVINCIAL NEWS



### RDAR CELEBRATES 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



**July 2025 sees RDAR mark its 5th Anniversary, a milestone to celebrate the hard work and collaborations we have fostered to transform Alberta's agricultural landscape.**

As RDAR reaches its fifth anniversary, we take pride in reflecting on the remarkable progress made since our founding in 2020. From a bold vision to a thriving reality, RDAR has become a cornerstone of agricultural innovation in Alberta.

#### By the Numbers:

**500+ projects funded**

**More than 2,000 jobs supported**

**3x leverage on research investments**

**\$40.9M distributed directly to farmers and ranchers through OFCAF**

**181 completed projects delivering results to producers through the Final Mile**

RDAR was born out of a commitment to producers, setting a new standard for agricultural research by aligning priorities with the needs of those who grow and produce. Five years on, we're continuing to build on this bold vision, celebrating a half-decade of innovations that are felt across fields, farms, laboratories, and beyond.

From the beginning, RDAR prioritized action. Officially incorporated on July 22, 2020, RDAR quickly began delivering on its mission by transitioning critical research projects and facilities from the government, preserving vital infrastructure and capacity while building a new path forward. RDAR's first call for proposals opened in October of that year, it's first big step toward advancing meaningful and solution-driven research. By April 2021, RDAR was funding projects designed to address challenges and seize opportunities, marking a shift toward a producer-focused approach to research.

Yet RDAR's story is not just about milestones—it's about the tangible impact it brings to Alberta's agricultural community. Over the past five years, RDAR has invested in strategic research and capacity-building initiatives to address critical challenges in crops, livestock, and environmental sustainability.

*Source: [rdar.ca](http://rdar.ca)*

## Cutting red tape, cultivating growth

Alberta's government is reducing red tape for agriculture organizations so producers can spend more time doing what they do best: putting food on tables across Alberta.



To support this, 28.5 per cent of regulations for agricultural marketing boards and commissions are being eliminated, including 20 redundant rules that overlap with existing requirements. This will streamline rules and provide marketing boards and commissions more time to concentrate on growing, stimulating and improving production and marketing the products their members produce.

**“Alberta is the best place to do business, and we are the best province in Canada at reducing red tape to promote economic growth. We want to continue to be a leader in this space, and that's why we're getting out of the way of our producers so they can continue to put food on tables in Alberta and around the world.”**

*- RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation*

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council began its red-tape reduction efforts in 2019 and continues to implement the 2020 Marketing of Agricultural Products Act amendments made by government to provide all marketing boards and commissions with bylaw-making authority.

This change will streamline rules by eliminating unnecessary regulations and allows marketing boards and commissions to concentrate on helping producers compete, innovate and be more productive.

[Read more](#)

*Source: [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca)*

# > POTATO VARIETY TRIALS

Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada's  
Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 4  
& AAFC's National Potato Variety Evaluation Trial Programs



**THURSDAY**  
**AUG 21**

**1:00PM - 3:30PM**  
**LETHBRIDGE POLYTECHNIC**  
**RESEARCH FARM**

LOCATED AT: 49.687084, -112.756393

**LUNCH PROVIDED FROM 12-1PM WITH REGISTRATION**

In this year's trial, we have 18 French Fry, 7 Fresh Market and  
7 Chipping varieties from the AAFC Breeding Program.  
Also, 22 Industry entries will be on display.

## OUR SPONSORS



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada



*This project is generously funded through the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 4, in cooperation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriScience Program, a Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership initiative, the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada, and industry contributors.*

For Immediate Release



## Potato Sustainability Alliance Releases 2024 North American Potato Sustainability Assessment Report

*The Potato Sustainability Alliance's 2024 On-Farm Assessment Report reveals record participation and measurable sustainability gains across nearly half of North America's potato acres, highlighting industry-wide progress and opportunities for continued improvement.*

St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin (August 13, 2025)

The **Potato Sustainability Alliance (PSA)** has released its **2024 On-Farm Assessment Report**, showcasing broad participation and measurable progress in sustainable potato production across the U.S. and Canada. The report shares results and insights from the PSA Program annual on-farm assessment, which supports growers in measuring and improving their management practices through a standardized, outcomes-based approach.

In 2024, a total of 474 growers, representing 640,002 potato acres across the U.S. and Canada, participated in the PSA Program by completing the Sustainable Outcomes in Agriculture (SOA) Standard through the **Cropwise™ Sustainability (CWS) app** and selecting PSA as their sustainability partner. This acreage represents approximately half of all harvested potato acres in North America.

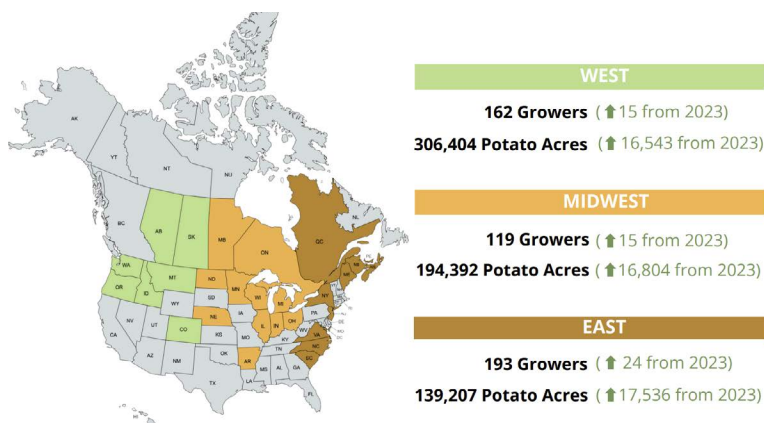


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of where assessments were submitted across the U.S. and Canada, and the year-over-year change (2023-2024) in regional participation and represented acres.

## FROM THE OFFICE

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2025 PGA GOLF SPONSORS.  
WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!**

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### PLATINUM SPONSORS



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RBC Royal Bank®



### IN-KIND SPONSORS



#### Potato Chips



#### Dinner Potatoes



Thanks to all who purchased Mulligans throughout the tournament. A total of \$1565 was raised and will be distributed evenly to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary and the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.

## FROM THE OFFICE

### APIA BURGERS & BEANS - PGA GOLF TOURNAMENT





## PGA GROWER PROFILE

**Farm Name: Groot Farms Ltd. - (Michael Groot)**

**3rd Generation - Don Groot, Wayne Groot**

**4th Generation - Michael Groot, Simon Gelderman,  
Luis Groot**

**Location: Sturgeon County, Alberta**

**Crops Produced: Potatoes, barley, canola, wheat, peas,  
faba beans - cover crop**

### Q1. How did you get into potato farming?

I have been a part of the farm for almost as long as I can remember. Growing up, I would occasionally help during grading season, sorting potatoes, and I spent many summers cleaning equipment and bins, checking fields, and helping where I could. As I got older, and tried out a few different career options, I discovered that farming was where I wanted to be. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Studies in 2019 and have been full time on the farm since.

### Q2. What do you love about potato farming?

I love that there are so many different things that are required to harvest high quality potatoes, and I get to fill a broad variety of roles in my career. It is never boring, as something new needs to be done every couple of weeks. Even if a job is not the greatest, it only lasts for a short while before it is finished and there is something else to do. I also love the variety of potatoes that there are, as it is always exciting to see something new on the farm and learn how to produce it effectively. Potatoes are also constantly evolving and expanding as an industry, and the relationships we make with our peers, customers, and suppliers keep this job enjoyable.

### Q3. How long have you been growing potatoes?

My great grandparents came to Edmonton in 1927 to start farming, and around 1935 they began focusing on growing potatoes. So, potato farming has been in our family for nearly 100 years. My Dad and Uncle took over the practice in the early 1980s, and my two cousins and I are in the process of repeating that process, currently.

### Q4. What other activities are you involved in (outside the farm or association work)?

When I'm not farming, I enjoy spending time with my wife and my dog by going for walks, watching TV, playing video games or reading books. I also really enjoy playing sports, mostly soccer and hockey, and hanging out with my friends and extended family.

### Q5. What types of on-farm sustainability practices do you employ?

Our farm has recently started to put a lot of emphasis on sustainable and regenerative practices. The biggest thing we have started doing is grazing cover crops on our land in front of potatoes. This involves planting a cover crop in the spring, and rotationally grazing cattle on it all summer before termination in the fall. The idea is to gain some much-needed biological activity in the soil, which helps with soil structure, nutrient recovery, and hopefully results in a healthier plant. In addition, we notice that we are less reliant on synthetic fertilizers, and we hope that instead of degrading our soil, like most conventional practices do, we are instead building the soil for the future.

### Q6. What do you contribute to tell your "story" of agriculture to the public?

We are very passionate about our farm, and we are happy to give tours and explain our story to anyone who stops by. In the past, we have given interviews to different organizations such as RDAR, and different media outlets. We also really enjoyed annual field trips from one of the local schools where we would get to bring some elementary school students to our farm and show them some of the joys of the harvest, and life on the farm.

### Q7. What is the best farming advice you've been given?

The best advice I have received is to never stop learning. No matter what situation you're in, or what the outcome may be, there is something to learn from it. When it comes to farming, it means constantly trying to be better, learning how to make your soil and plants healthier, finding efficiencies to reduce input costs, and making sure that you're as well armed with knowledge as possible for the unexpected. A second piece of advice I've found useful is to work hard when needed, but to also rest when you have the chance. This helps me enjoy my work and keep it fun without getting burnt out and turning it into something I am no longer excited about doing.

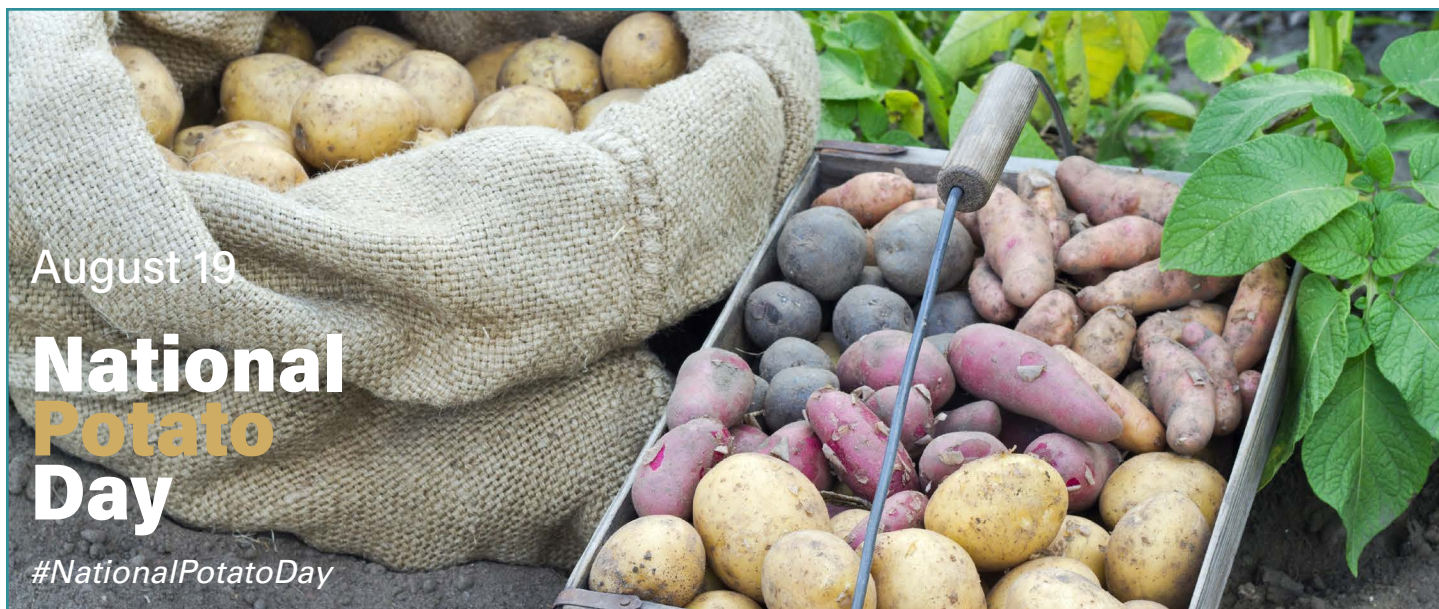
### Q8. What are your concerns for the future of farming?

I always think there will be concerns about the weather, how much moisture we will get each year, or if the frost will come early in fall or stay late in spring. But to me, I think the biggest concern is keeping farming sustainable, and a viable career for the future. On our farm we are trying to improve soil health, to make sure our ground can keep producing. But there are also concerns about encroaching industry and increasing input costs that result in narrower profit margins, both of which may make it more difficult to keep farming in our area. Additionally, as consumers become more knowledgeable about their food, where it comes from, and its health implications, it is important that we continue to produce a product that meets that demand.

### Q9. What excites you about the future of farming?

I think what excites me most about farming is seeing where it will be at the end of my career. My grandfather started with a small family farm, pulling implements with horses, and by the end of his career he was part of a cooperative, had experienced tractors and self-propelled potato harvesters, and was planning to move the farm so his sons could continue in his footsteps. My Dad and my uncle inherited that and built the farm into the business that it is today, with the internet, GPS controlled machinery, comparatively huge equipment, and international customers. My grandfather always said that he barely recognized the place, so I am excited to see where my cousins and I can take this business, and what the future has in store for us with the world of optical sorters, automation, and more global connection than ever before.

## FROM THE OFFICE



August 19

# National Potato Day

#NationalPotatoDay



Do you have your hotel room booked for the conference? Red Deer Resort & Casino call 1.800.662.7197 or 403.346.2091 reservations at [rdrcasino.ca](http://rdrcasino.ca) Mention "Potato Growers of Alberta" to receive group rate.

Alternate Hotel - Sandman Hotel Red Deer 1.800.726.3626 or 403.343.7400 Group Name: Alberta Potato Growers Group code: 2511ABPOTATO Deadline: October 18, 2025

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*Growing Healthy Potatoes Together!*





## MEMBERSHIP

The Alberta Potato Industry Association is composed of individuals from various areas of business, all of whom work with, and alongside, the potato growers in Alberta. Formed in 1990, the APIA facilitates in the networking with growers at events such as the Burgers N Beans, the Alberta Potato Conference Trade Show, and the Annual PGA Golf Tournament. We are very excited to be celebrating 35 years of partnership with the growers this year!

If you are interested in becoming a member, please send an email to [apiamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:apiamemberships@gmail.com). Memberships will be sent out at the end of the year to last years' members, as well as those interested this year.

### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENTS

**The following individuals are recognized for their long-standing contribution to the APIA and have been awarded a Lifetime Membership to our association:**

Corah, Chuck  
Gash, Brian  
Gouw, Arie

Hacker, Bill  
Jensen, Wayne  
Kaiser, Dave

Mitchell, Peter  
Mrak, Tony  
Nelis, Jacques

Oikawa, Tricky  
Stewart, Russ  
Sandberg, Phil

**The following individuals are members in good standing of the APIA for the 2025 calendar year:**

Alcock, Tony  
Aleman, Mike  
Bauman, Gerald  
Blaine, Justin  
Bos, Tim  
Brehaut, Randy  
Cabernel, Courtney  
Coker, Mike  
Day, Carol  
DeHaan, Jeff  
Draper, Derrick  
Duell, Michael  
Dykstra, Ray  
Fletcher, Blake  
Fletcher, Bruce  
Fletcher, Derrick  
Garos, Dirk

Gallant, Dave  
Glas, Cobie  
Goertzen, Nathan  
Gratton, Geraldine  
Gratton, Lawrence  
Haacke, Aaron  
Haan, Hartger  
Hanlon, Brendon  
Iwan, Josh  
Janssen, Tom  
Keys, Scott  
Klassen, Greg  
Konynenbelt, Marlin  
Kwiatkowski, Ryan  
Laaveg, Chris  
Leffers, Joel  
Lyczewski, Laurie

MacDonald, Mike  
Mackinnon, Kevin  
Marshall, Robin  
Meier, Whit  
Menkveld, Andrew  
Michielsen, Frank  
Molenaar, Reegan  
Nelis, Brian  
Nelubowich, Adam  
Nikles, Brendan  
Nyborg, Bruce  
Pickles, Taunya  
Pieters, Kristof  
Pluta, Denine  
Quinn, Dean  
Quinton, Justin  
Quiring, Cassidy

Ritchie, Mike  
Russell, Jessie  
Schuppler, Steve  
Slomp, Harry  
Sorensen, Martin  
Steidley, Cory  
Sternberg, Ronald  
Stewart, Craig  
Sydoryk, Terry  
Van Eedan Petersman, Lloyd  
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