

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE FOR A VIBRANT ALBERTA WHEAT INDUSTRY



From post-secondary scholarships to internships and mentorship opportunities, AWC is paving the way for sustainable wheat industry leadership.

Victoria Russell
Communications Specialist

One of Alberta Wheat Commission's (AWC) strategic priorities is to develop strong leaders for a progressive and vibrant AWC and Alberta wheat industry. We want to see sustainable leadership across our value chain, and AWC is investing in future generations to ensure our industry continues to thrive.

Tomorrow's leaders come up in conversation regularly in farm succession planning—it's a hot topic in our

industry with an aging population of farm owners.

But if you look at the broader scope of agriculture, it's a growing issue in the research world as well. Research is arguably one of the most important drivers sustaining the competitive advantages that the western Canadian wheat industry enjoys on the world stage. The benefits of research start at the farm level and follow through to the quality we deliver to our international customers.

But Canada's research capacity is at risk. According to a recent study

commissioned by the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF),* we can expect to see about 16 senior scientist positions vacant in the next three years. And some entire disciplines, such as weed science, don't have anyone in place to fill these roles and continue building knowledge.

AWC is taking proactive strides to mitigate this industry risk. One of our key deliverables for the strategic priority mentioned above is to invest in future generations of agriculture researchers. We offer scholarships at every post-secondary institution across Alberta that offers an agriculture-related program. Our scholarships are about investing in the people who have the potential to fill these roles and ensure that agriculture research continues to sustain itself.

AWC is proud to be building on our scholarship program—we're in the early phases of developing a scholarship aimed at agribusiness students, recognizing that such programs are also crucial entryways for industry leaders to begin their careers.

In addition to scholarships, AWC also invests in future generations through an in-house internship program, which has been filled by both future farm leaders and city kids who aspire to become part of the agribusiness world. We're excited to be building a mentorship program that will match highly qualified mentees seeking to build their careers with the best in the business.

Our plan is to continue our work delivering programs for tomorrow's leaders. We believe this will be a catalyst that ensures our industry continues to grow and prosper. Throughout the next three pages, you will learn more about how AWC is investing in future generations to pave the way for a progressive and vibrant wheat industry.

* *The WGRF study can be found at westerngrains.com.*

AWC Invests in Future Ag Researchers

Developing strong leaders for a progressive and vibrant
Alberta wheat industry

Alberta Wheat
COMMISSION

AlbertaWheat.com



University of Alberta
*Alberta Wheat Commission Graduate
Research Scholarship in Crop Science*

\$10,000 awarded annually

- Students registered full-time in a graduate degree program in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences conducting research in the area of crop science, specific to wheat production, are eligible
- Students registered in a master's program are eligible to hold this award during the first two years of their program
- Students registered in a doctoral program are eligible to hold this award during years one through four of their program


 **Award Recipients**
2015: Graham Collier | 2014: Breanne Tidemann



University of Alberta
*The Alberta Wheat Commission
Award in Crop Science*

\$1,000 awarded annually

- Students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences pursuing a bachelor of science in agriculture, majoring in crop science, are eligible


 **Award Recipients**
2015: Jorn Peeters | 2014: Katie Wyring



Olds College
*Alberta Wheat Commission Scholarship
in Agriculture*

\$1,000 awarded annually

- Second-year students enrolled in agriculture management with a production major are eligible

 **Award Recipients**
2015: Josiah Schut



University of Lethbridge
*Alberta Wheat Commission Scholarship
in Agronomy*

\$1,000 awarded annually

- Students in any undergraduate degree program interested in pursuing a career in the field of agriculture, agronomy or plant genetics are eligible


 **Award Recipient**
2015: Erika Weisgerber



Lethbridge College
*Alberta Wheat Commission Scholarship in
Agriculture Sciences*

\$1,000 awarded annually

- Undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture sciences with an agriculture technology major are eligible


 **Award Recipient**
2015: Kayla Giles



Lakeland College
*Alberta Wheat Commission Scholarship
in Crop Technology*

\$1,000 awarded annually

- First-year students enrolled full-time in the Crop Technology Program (Vermilion campus) are eligible

 **Award Recipient**
2015: Winner to be announced in March, 2016

* Students interested in pursuing an Alberta Wheat Commission scholarship should contact their student award office for more information.

COLD-TOLERANT, EARLY-SPRING WHEAT VARIETIES IN THE WORKS

Victoria Russell
Communications Specialist

Farmers can look forward to the development of new cold-tolerant spring wheat varieties with the potential to spread out the growing season with earlier seeding and harvest, thanks to a research project from University of Alberta doctoral candidate Graham Collier.

Collier is this year's recipient of the Alberta Wheat Commission Graduate Research Scholarship in Crop Science, valued at \$10,000. Under the supervision of Dr. Dean Spaner and Dr. Brian Beres, Collier is looking at the agronomic suitability of newly developed spring wheat lines that could be planted as early as mid-March in colder soils ranging from 0° to 2° Celsius. It is expected that cold-tolerant varieties developed from this research will also have comparable to increased yields over conventional varieties.

The lines Collier is working with actually started out as winter wheat varieties that were bred to no longer require fall seeding, meaning they can be used as spring wheat. The lines originated from Dr. Robert Graf's winter wheat breeding program at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research and Development Centre.

"Doctors Beres, Graf and Spaner realized that spring wheat that could be seeded earlier and in colder soils, and potentially harvested earlier, would be a good fit in Western Canada's short growing season," Collier said. "My research involves proving this concept and bringing the best



Graham Collier's research is examining the agronomic suitability of newly developed spring wheat lines that could be planted as early as mid-march.

agronomic package for this cold-tolerant spring wheat growing system to reality."

This project is just getting underway, but could result in an agronomic package that would use fall-applied residual herbicides—potentially removing the need for an in-crop herbicide application—followed by spring seeding in cold soils at 0° to 2°C, with specific soil depth and seeding rate recommendations. In addition to spreading out work in the busy spring season, this system could also result in a longer grain-fill period, which would result in increased grain yield. Other benefits would include improved pest

resistance and increased competition with weeds.

Part of Collier's work is included in a project led by Beres that aims to take advantage of early growing degree accumulation, increase yields, and improve preparedness for more variable spring climatic conditions and more severe late-summer growth conditions.

After completing his doctorate, Collier intends to continue pursuing agriculture research. "I intend to farm and work in Western Canada, and want to be able to bring practical research to growers to help them improve our industry."

FUTURE FOCUS

New mentorship program to foster tomorrow's agriculture industry leaders



**Hannah
Konschuh**
**Acting policy
and govern-
ment relations
manager**

What is a mentor? Someone who is perhaps a little older and a little wiser, who has impacted your life or career for the better. Sometimes all it takes is a conversation or a piece of advice to start you down a different path or to open new doors. Mentorship is about having that person to guide you in making key connections, growing professionally, and advancing your career in the direction you want it to go. Whether you're a farmer or an agribusiness professional, mentorship can have a major impact on your success.

Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) is intentionally creating these connections with the development of our new Future Farm Leaders Mentorship Program. This new program will foster the grain industry by providing training and experience to up-and-coming young leaders, creating a strong pool of highly qualified people. Current industry leaders will be paired with young producers and agribusiness professionals to impart their knowledge and experience.

Mentees can look forward to shaping the mentorship experience they want, working one-on-one with a leader in their chosen field to identify key learning opportunities and forums for professional development over the course of the mentorship period. Along the way, mentees will be exposed to numerous valuable industry connections, building their professional network. Graduates will leave the program better able to manage their operations, and will have begun to develop the skills needed to lead the agriculture industry into the future.

Why AWC? As you've seen in other articles in this issue, AWC's strategic priorities guide our commitment to invest in future generations. We are proud of the AWC scholarship program that supports students in their studies as they train and prepare to enter the agriculture industry. Future

This new program will foster the grain industry by providing training and experience to up-and-coming young leaders

Farm Leaders will move one step beyond that, targeting young agriculture professionals and producers as they build their careers and the skill sets needed to shape our industry and ensure that it continues to thrive.

What will make our program successful? AWC has our own ever-growing network of industry leaders and groundbreakers in the various facets of agriculture. We have built our network through collaboration with other industry leaders on projects across the board. Our selection committee will source reputable agriculture leaders—the best in the business—and pair them with passionate young farmers and agribusiness professionals to participate as mentees.

Stay tuned for our launch announcement on albertawheat.com. Applications will open this summer, with the program set to begin in fall 2016. We look forward to receiving applications from tomorrow's leaders.

PDQINFO.CA

MAKING MARKETS WORK BETTER

Timely, Accurate, Transparent Cash Grain Price Information

- ✓ Daily spot and forward bid prices for CWRS, CPSR, CWAD, canola and yellow peas provided by grain companies.
- ✓ Regional price averages across nine zones covering Western Canada.
- ✓ Futures market closing prices, average wheat grade and protein spreads, local weather and foreign ex-change rates.

PDQ aims to be a complete and unbiased resource for cash grain market prices and important crop data. PDQ will improve farmers' ability to make well-informed marketing and planning decisions and maximize the value of their crops.

Watch for more to come in **Phase 2**.

PDQ is owned and operated by the Alberta Wheat Commission and is provided as a service to all market participants.

