



# A RELIABLE SOURCE OF AG INFORMATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The respective websites and newsletters of the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are a resource hub where farmers can find current information on farmgate issues. From agronomic advice and government policy updates to market development information and local industry events, we provide the timely and relevant information farmers need.

Below are highlights from the commissions' many communication channels that kept farmers informed during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as additional updates.

It has not been business as usual for the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions during the pandemic. Despite the challenges faced in the first 13 weeks of the pandemic, our organization remained a valuable source of agricultural information. From March 20 to June 8, our team worked diligently to provide weekly updates to our members that kept them apprised of the impacts COVID-19 had upon the agriculture sector.

These updates informed farmers about market developments, the availability of financial resources and personal protective equipment requirements. We also reported on major industry milestones and the progress made on various industry files and projects.

*If you missed these updates, make sure you sign up for our eNewsletters at [albertabarley.com](http://albertabarley.com) and [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) to have the latest information sent to your inbox.*



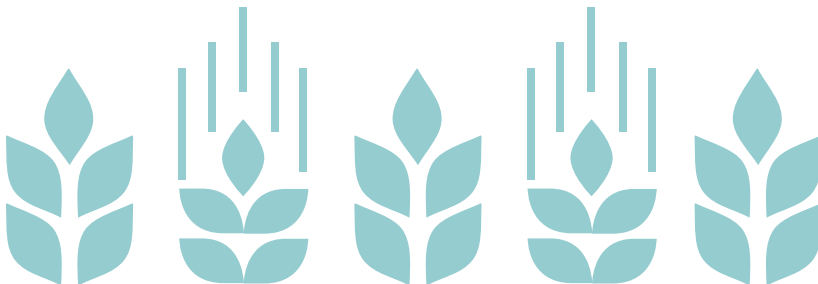
Alberta  
Barley

Alberta Wheat  
COMMISSION

better together.

UPDATE  
NO.10

COVID-19 IMPACT  
ANALYSIS FOR FARMERS





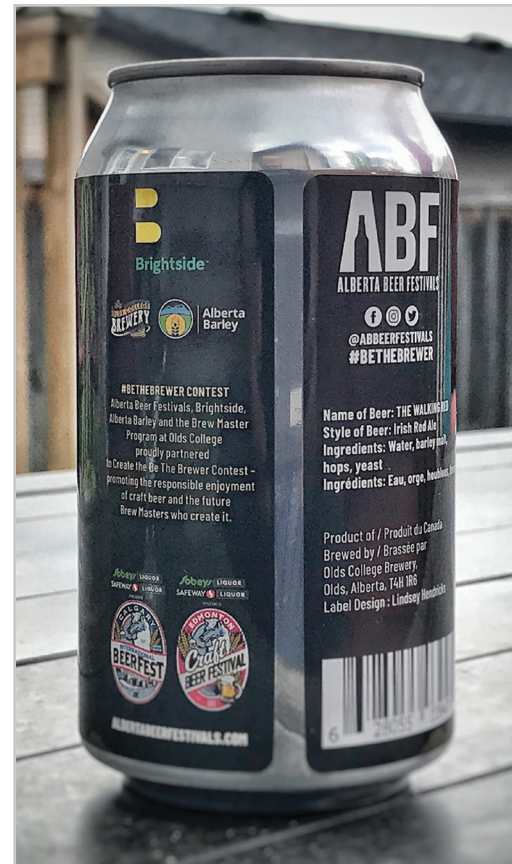
## NEW SPONSORSHIP PROMOTES ALBERTA BARLEY ON BEER CANS

This year, Alberta Barley launched a new sponsorship in support of the Alberta Beer Festivals' Brightside #BetheBrewer contest. The initiative saw the commission's logo applied to beer cans sold in several locations across the province. All sales proceeds went directly to support the Olds College Brewmaster and Brewery Operations Management program.

The contest annually creates a community of craft beer enthusiasts who go through a series of stages to determine the type of beer they will produce. The group then names it and designs an attractive label. The final product is produced by the Olds College Brewery. The contest's 2020 brew, The Walking Red Irish Red Ale, is now available at Sobeys Liquor as well as on-tap at a number of bars and restaurants.

By putting the Alberta Barley logo on the can, we give consumers a quick reminder of the farm-to-glass story while supporting the next generation of brewers.

*To learn more about this program and catch a glimpse of our logo on The Walking Red cans, visit [albertabeerfestivals.com](http://albertabeerfestivals.com).*



## FIRST VIRTUAL MALT ACADEMY A SUCCESS



**Alberta  
Barley**

This past spring, Alberta Barley and the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre hosted the first-ever Virtual Malt Academy. Presented as an online webinar, the farmer-focused, digital event covered topics such as the selection of malt barley varieties, the malting process, how to grow malt barley and a domestic and international malt market overview. More than 45 participants tuned into the Virtual Malt Academy.

*If you missed the event, visit [albertabarley.com](http://albertabarley.com) to watch the full video.*

# "IN THE FIELD" WEBINARS PRESENTED IN LIEU OF CROP WALKS AND TOURS



Presented by Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions, the In the Field webinar series allowed wheat and barley farmers to interact with industry experts on various agronomic topics. More than 220 people attended the live digital presentations in May and June and the archived recordings have received hundreds of Youtube views.



Attendees joined Jeremy Boychyn, the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commission's research extension specialist, as he hosted the series on Wednesday mornings throughout the spring. The series presented farmers with a weekly dose of agronomic information.

"Our In the Field webinars allowed farmers to access industry experts while retaining a sense of community during a pandemic," said Boychyn.

## In The FIELD WEBINARS

- > **May 13 @ 11AM**  
Early season weed control considerations  
- Dr. Breanne Tidemann (AAFC)
- > **May 20 @ 11AM**  
2020 season insect watch-outs  
- Dr. Boyd Mori (U of A)
- > **May 27 @ 11AM**  
In-crop nitrogen applications, are they worth it?  
- Dr. Ross McKenzie (AF retired)

- > **June 3 @ 11AM**  
GRO trials for the 2020 season  
- Sandeep Nain (GRO)
- > **June 10 @ 11AM**  
PGRs on wheat and barley, what you should know  
- Dr. Sheri Strydom (AF)
- > **June 24 @ 11AM**  
Post herbicide scouting for weed control and resistance  
- Dr. Charles Geddes (AAFC)



*To watch the entire series,  
visit our Youtube channel at  
**@AlbertaWheatCommission***

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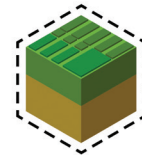
## PLOT2FARM SHOWS RESULTS

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions have created Plot2Farm, an on-farm research initiative. On-farm research is not a new concept. Organizations such as the Alberta Pulse Growers and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association have implemented similar initiatives, but this new-to-the-commissions program presents a promising opportunity to engage Alberta farmers in commission-funded research.

Plot2Farm is an easy to use program that enables Alberta farmers to implement on-farm research trials based on research and crop management strategies that suit their interest. Through Plot2Farm, farmers can test agronomic management strategies and concepts. They can experiment with new varieties, seeding rates, fertilizer placement and new tools such as PGRs. This can be done on their land, with their equipment while utilizing their own management style. The end goal is simply to analyze how specific protocols impact the farm and its bottom line.

Alberta farmers can expect to see more on Plot2Farm in the future.

*To learn more or participate in this program, please contact Jeremy Boychyn at [jboychyn@albertawheatbarley.com](mailto:jboychyn@albertawheatbarley.com).*



**Plot2  
Farm**



Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' agronomy research extension specialist, Jeremy Boychyn, walks farmer and Alberta Wheat Commission regional representative, Devin Hartzler, through the Plot2Farm program box featuring a flag, protocol instructions and various tools to complete on-farm research.

## CHANGES MADE TO ALBERTA FHB MANAGEMENT

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions, along with stakeholders from across the value chain, support the provincial government's shift away from a singular regulatory control of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg) in favour of a provincewide system that promotes a total management approach with emphasis on extension and education on best management practices.

Eliminating this regulatory hurdle gives farmers improved access to competitive genetics and better reflects the reality that farmers in many regions face in trying to source Fg-free seed. Moving away from a strict regulatory approach allows farmers to make operational decisions based on their individual circumstances and tolerance for low-level Fg risk. Through deregulation, Alberta farmers and industry can work together to build a long-term, integrated management plan that encourages transparency, research, investment and innovation.



# LET'S MANAGE IT!

Visit our Let's Manage It! website to plan your on-farm FHB management strategy today.

[manageFHB.ca](http://manageFHB.ca)



## Coming Soon...

Our full website will be launched in the coming weeks. Check back soon to learn more about the industry-wide roadmap aimed at modernized mitigation and management in Alberta.

*'Let's Manage It!' is brought to you by the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions in collaboration with the industry-led FHB working group which consists of value-chain partners from primary producers to global bioscience companies and other stakeholders.*

## INDUSTRY COLLABORATES ON LAUNCH OF LET'S MANAGE IT! WEBSITE

A resolution was put forward at the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) 2017 AGM that called for the removal of Fg from the province's Agricultural Pests Act. Acting upon this farmer-led resolution, AWC and Alberta Barley launched a multi-faceted industry working group with the goal of advocating for modernization of the act.

As part of the campaign to mitigate the occurrence of Fusarium head blight (FHB) through extension and education, the commissions and FHB working group have collaborated on the development of the Let's Manage It! website. The site will serve as a primary resource aimed at FHB mitigation and provide a roadmap for industry-wide FHB management. It will detail best management practices farmers can implement in their own operations.

*To learn more about FHB mitigation, visit [managefhb.ca](http://managefhb.ca).*





# LACOMBE FIELD DAY GOES ONLINE



Alberta Barley and Alberta Beef Producers Present:

## Lacombe Field Day

Join us to hear from leading industry experts

**July 29, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Field Crop Development Centre 40227 Range Road 27-0, Lacombe, AB

- **New malt barley varieties**  
Dr. Pat Juskiw, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry [AAF]
- **New feed and forage barley varieties**  
Dr. Joseph Nyachiro, AAF & Dr. Yadeta Kabeta, AAF
- **Cereal pathology**  
Dr. Kequan Xi, AAF
- **New triticale varieties**  
Mazen Aljarrah, AAF

**Register today!**

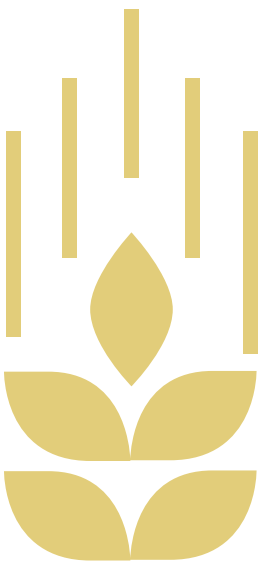
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Alberta Barley and Alberta Beef Producers co-hosted the annual Lacombe Field Day on July 29 at the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Field Crop Development Centre. The event sees leading industry experts gather to share and discuss developments and demonstrate the results of government- and farmer-funded research.

The morning interactive sessions drew more than 75 farmers and industry representatives. These sessions focused on successful research collaborations that produce new varieties of malt, feed and forage barley as well as triticale. Advances in cereal pathology were also discussed.

*To ensure you don't miss future events, visit [albertabarley.com](http://albertabarley.com) and [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) for dates and times.*





## REGIONAL MEETINGS WILL OFFER DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

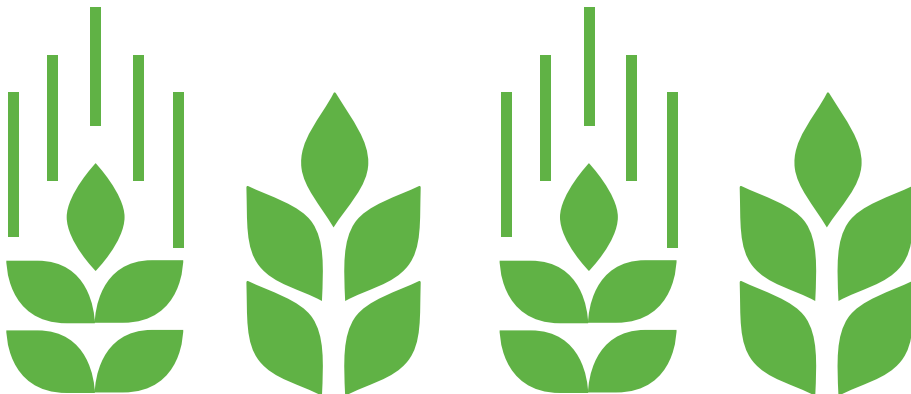
Regional meetings are quickly approaching and Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are happy to announce farmers may attend either in person or through an online streaming option complete with a secure login. Just like in-person attendees, they will be privy to regional updates and vote on commission leadership and resolutions.

The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions 2020 regional meeting schedule is as follows:

- **Region 1**, Lethbridge, Nov. 17
- **Region 2**, Indus, Nov. 18
- **Region 3**, Bowden, Nov. 19
- **Region 4**, Bonnyville, Nov. 23
- **Region 5**, Westlock, Nov. 24
- **Region AWC 5 / ABC 6**, Rycroft, Nov. 26

The digital component of the meetings is now being developed. Read the upcoming fall edition of GrainsWest to find out more.

*To attend the 2020 regional meetings in person, pre-register at [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) or [albertabarley.com](http://albertabarley.com).*







## WHEATSTALK A GROOVY SUCCESS



Having access to industry experts and learning about new varieties and farm management practices are what field days are all about including Alberta Wheat Commissions' WheatStalk held on August 6 & 7.

On Aug. 6-7, AWC and Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) co-hosted WheatStalk, a wheat-centric day in the Peace Region at PCBFA's Fairview research farm. More than 100 farmers connected with agronomy experts and had fun in the sun.

Event presentations included the following:

- Buthaina Al-Maqtari, PCBFA Pulses for Forage
- Monica Klaas, Winter Wheat Varieties
- Alan Lee, Economic and Agronomic Benefits of Intercropping
- Kaitlin McLachlan, PCBFA Producer Cocktail Mixes
- Akim Omokanye, Regional Silage Variety Trials, Alternative Annual Forage Trials and Cover Crop Seeding Rates
- Nevin Rosaasen, Everything Pulses and the Future of Food
- Sheri Strydorst, Is There a Bad Moon Rising?: Revisiting Early Fungicide Applications

*For more expert commentary on research plots, visit [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) to listen to The Growing Point WheatStalk podcast.*