

Fall 2013



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The Windssock

President's Report

Well the season is nearing the end and most crops are in the bin. Alberta had its share of issues this year with the weather. Too much rain in some areas and not enough in others but all in all it turned out to be a fairly decent year for most. Yields are good and looks like most farmers are happy with what they got.

If you are not aware of the new Alberta Aerial Applicators Association website you really need to check it out. The new site blows the old one away. It looks great and has a lot of information for both the members and the public. The new layout and information is great. The office is able to maintain it thus keeping cost down and making it much more user friendly for the members. So please check it out and let us know what you think.

As for the 4A's we have a few things on our plate for the winter months to take care of. Due to the fact that the Directors we have are eager and the 4A's office staff is on top of things it will be an easy task. The AGM is already planned and ready to go for November 4 and 5 at the Red Deer Lodge. So please attend to get your credits and support our association that has done many great things for this industry.

I have noticed over the last few seasons as our industry grows we are receiving many more complaints from people who are unaware of what we are spraying and how we do our job. With the increase of acreages and city people moving to the country for peace and quiet the complaints are changing from drift concerns and pesticide use to simply "I don't like you flying near my property"

One thing many of these people don't know about is the Province of Alberta's "Agricultural Operation Practices Act". Which is basically the right to farm. It explains that if we are doing our job in a safe

manner and not breaking any laws, we have a right to do our job and protect the crop for the grower. I would recommend everyone to get a copy of this for their office, the document can be found on the AAAA's website, and study it. I believe as the general public keeps moving out to the acreages that this is only going to become a daily occurrence if it is not already.

If an operator understands these guidelines then you can address the complaint with confidence that you know that you did nothing wrong. That being said you must ensure you do not break any air regulations or environmental laws if so you have broken the Act itself. So please take a very close look if you haven't done so already.

Hope to see you all in Red Deer.

Cheers,
Shaun Kinniburgh

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!
AAAA ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
&
CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2013
RED DEER LODGE,
RED DEER, AB
MORE INFORMATION INSIDE!**

Celebrating 43 Years!

2013 AAAA Conference & Annual General Meeting

November 4-5, 2013
Red Deer Lodge
4311 - 49 Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta

The **Alberta Aerial Applicators Association** is proud to announce the 43rd Conference and Annual General Meeting! Our program for 2013 will consist of three recertification credit sessions.

Registration, sponsorship and exhibitor registration forms are available online for download at aaaa1@telusplanet.net.

Special room rates of \$114.00-\$119.00 have been negotiated with the Red Deer Lodge. Call 1 (800) 661-1657 or (403) 346-8841 by October 18, 2013 to receive the guaranteed room rate; be sure to mention you are an Alberta Aerial Applicators Association delegate!



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Monday, November 4, 2013

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
 Registration & Coffee with
 Exhibitors
 Foyer & Gull Lake Room

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
 Wild Rose Protective Fund
 Annual General Meeting
 Gull Lake Room

10:00 -10:30 a.m.
 Coffee with Exhibitors

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
“Regulatory Update”
Laura Hammer (1 credit)
Alberta Environment
Gull Lake Room

11:30 – 12:00 p.m.
 Exhibitor Presentations
 Gull Lake Room

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
 Lunch with Exhibitors

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
 “Aviation Fuel Handling and
 Quality Control”
James Maxwell
 Executive Flight Centre Fuel
 Services Ltd.
 Gull Lake Room

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.
 Coffee with Exhibitors
 Pine Lake Room

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
**“Pesticides and Bees: Can We
 Live Together in Harmony?”**
Medhat Nasr (1 credit)
**Pesticide Use and Protection Of
 Honey Bees**
Gull Lake Room

4:30– 6:00 p.m.
 Reception with Exhibitors
 Pine Lake Room

6:00 -10:00 p.m.
 Dinner, & Auction
 Red Deer Room

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.
 Breakfast
 Gull Lake Room

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
 AAAA Annual General Meeting
 Gull Lake Room

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
 Coffee Break
 Gull Lake Room

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
“Pest Management”
Scott Meers (1 Credit)
**Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring
 Network**
Gull Lake Room

11:15 a.m.
 Closing
 Gull Lake Room

2013 AAAA Conference & AGM Speaker Profiles

Mr. Scott Meers

Scott Meers has been an active part of the agriculture industry in Alberta since 1982. He served the Claresholm, Three Hills and Strathmore areas as a District Agriculturist. Scott has also worked with private industry as an agrologist and as South Central Alberta Regional Conservation Coordinator. He has served in Vulcan and Strathmore as a Crop Specialist. In 2004, Scott completed his Master of Entomology degree at Montana State University with research concentrating on biological control of wheat stem sawfly. He is currently working as the Insect Management Specialist at Brooks and is responsible for coordinating insect surveys throughout Alberta. When Scott is not out chasing crop pests, his passions are sailing, cycling and cross country skiing.

Hospitality Suite

This year's hospitality suite, sponsored by Syngenta Canada Inc. and AgriSmart Information Systems, will be located in the "Pine Lakes" room at the Red Deer Lodge. The room is a larger accessible space for you to relax and catch up with all of your aerial applicator colleagues and friends.

The suite will be open on Sunday, November 3rd and Monday, November 4th from 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM with a bartender to keep you well hydrated throughout the evening.

Ms. Laura Hammer

Laura's initial experience with pesticides was as a block monitor for various forestry aerial herbicide programs in the Whitecourt and Swan Hills areas. From here, she has progressed in industry and government positions relating to forestry, utility forestry, agriculture, industrial and municipal vegetation management. Laura lives in Ardrossan with her husband Mike and 2 kids Salix and Wolfgang and is looking forward to working with the AAAA.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Shauna or Tamara at (780) 413-0079 or email us at aaaa1@telusplanet.net.

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A Note From the Office

With harvest season underway and the work season is ending for many of our members, here at the office we are gearing up for this year's AGM and Conference in Red Deer, launching the new AAAA's website and membership renewals.

Have you been to the new website? If not you can find information about the upcoming conference and the latest information about the ag industry too! Check it out!

Membership renewals will be going out on December 1, 2013. At that time can you please ensure to update all you personal and business information for the office to ensure our records are up to date

If you have any questions please contact AAAA office at (780) 413-0079.

Prairie Canola, Wheat Ripen in 'Ideal' Weather

By Rod Nickel

Alberta Farmer, September 3, 2013

While Albertans basked in summertime heat, it was too much of a good thing for farmers who saw a potential bumper crop turned into a so-so harvest.

"It looks like it's going to be average or maybe slightly better than average," said James Wright, risk analyst with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

There were early expectations that Alberta's crop yields could be 10 to 15 per cent higher than normal this year, giving producers strong back-Western Canada's canola and wheat crops look to ripen this week in greenhouse-like conditions, weather forecasts show, increasing the chances of bumper crops.

Despite delayed spring planting and cool weather earlier in summer that slowed crop development, Canada is set to reap its biggest wheat crop in 22 years and the largest canola harvest ever, thanks to favourable summer growing conditions boosting yields.

Farmers are likely to enjoy warmer than usual daytime weather this week, boosting the development of immature plants and leaving little chance of frost until around the middle of next week, said Andrew Owen, agricultural meteorologist at Kansas City-based World Weather Inc. on Tuesday.

"Through Friday, it's going to be pretty close to ideal," Owen said. "It's going to be warmer than normal, hardly any rain and winds will be fairly light too."

By contrast, parts of the U.S. Midwest corn and soybean-growing areas are parched for rain.

The biggest Western Canada threat of frost, which can halt plant growth if freezing temperatures last long enough, is shaping up for northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba next Tuesday or Wednesday, right around the usual time for the first serious frost, Owen said.

In the meantime, some isolated parts of the Prairies, including Manitoba's Interlake region, could see minor frosts as early as Wednesday morning, he said.

Environment Canada forecasts overnight low temperatures to remain

well above freezing this week for the three Prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where the bulk of Canada's canola and wheat crops grow.

Daytime highs look to be much warmer than usual, the government department predicted.

In their most recent crop reports last week, the Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan provincial governments said crop yields were generally well above average.

Canada is the world's biggest canola grower and exporter, and the sixth-largest wheat producer.

Only about five per cent of Saskatchewan crops were harvested as of last week, well behind the normal pace.

Canola has passed its vulnerable flowering stage in Saskatchewan, the biggest canola-growing province, but plants in the pod-development stage could still be damaged by frost, Cruise said. Last year, average crop yields were 20 per cent higher than normal.

"The yields have been a little disappointing from what people had originally thought the crop was going to be," Wright said.



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