

Fall 2014



[www.AlbertaAerialApplicators.com](http://www.AlbertaAerialApplicators.com)

Contact Information:  
P.O. Box 21064  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6R 2V4  
Tel: (780) 413-0079  
Fax: (780) 413-0076  
Email:  
[aaaa1@telusplanet.net](mailto:aaaa1@telusplanet.net)

# The Windssock

## ***President's Report***

It has been an interesting season for the growers and applicators this year. With the month of May being cold and wet continued into June, most operations around Alberta started seeding a lot later than preferred. Most of July and August was hot and dry, with little to no rainfall for weeks. Harvest right now is not going well for most growers, due to the foot of snow that fell and the brisk temperatures on ripened crops around the Calgary area which evidently flattened them to the ground. The fair amount of rainfall in lower elevations in southern Alberta over the past couple of weeks is stalling harvest along with degrading the cereal crops to almost feed quality in some areas.

Disease pressure on irrigated cereals was moderate in most fields, to heavy in some with stripe rust and fusarium being the main diseases that needed to be controlled. Dry land cereals were not sprayed due to the hot dry conditions around our area and I believe fewer acres were sprayed this year in Central Alberta compared to previous. The crops in the Peace River region are from good to non-existent depending on which part of the area you are in.

Canola crops are fair to good in Southern Alberta, with a handful of acres being lost due to hailstorms and high winds. Some disease pressure, mostly from sclerotinia and blackleg, were prevented or at least kept in check this season.

Potato crops were kept in good shape this season with the growers stepping up their spray program to prevent late blight after finding a little of it last

year. Over the years, Alberta potato growers did not need to worry much about late blight, however during our hot and dry spell this season, some growers stretched out their spray rotation thinking they were safe. Late blight usually thrives in humid conditions, but it has now adapted into a new strain that thrives in dry conditions. Growers and their agronomists were on alert constantly.

The AAAA's convention will be at Red Deer on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> this year. The speakers we have this year will be Lee Townsend who will dispel some myths on pesticide use versus bee populations and a speaker from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology who has over 30 years of experience working with Alberta Agriculture, specifically with weed research, various pest management programs. He has extensive experience in pesticide mode of action, pesticide performance and environmental impact.

We are stretching the conference longer this year to accommodate a 7 hour course on Quality Assurance for commercial operators presented by DTI.

Looking forward to seeing all members at the conference and if you know of anyone that is not a member of the AAAA's, encourage them to become a member and invite them to join us in Red Deer.

Pat Stinissen

**2014 AAAA CONFERENCE & AGM**  
**ADDITIONAL HALF DAY TRAINING**  
**NOVEMBER 3-5, 2014**

## Celebrating 44 Years!

### 2014 AAAA Conference & Annual General Meeting

**November 3-5, 2014**

**Red Deer Lodge  
Red Deer, Alberta**

The Alberta Aerial Applicators Association is proud to announce the 44th Conference and Annual General Meeting! The Board of Directors has extended this year's conference to expand over two and a half days with a valuable two part Q & A session on Tuesday and Wednesday morning! Our program for 2014 will also consist of four sessions.

Registration, sponsorship and exhibitor registration forms are available online for download at [aaaal@telusplanet.net](mailto:aaaal@telusplanet.net).

Special room rates starting at \$114.00 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!

Make sure you register now for this year's new, longer conference and do not forget to renew your 2015 membership at the same time! If you have any questions please call the AAAA's office at 780-413-0079 and ask for Tamara or Shauna. We will see you there!

**Monday, November 3, 2014**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Registration & Coffee with Exhibitors

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Wild Rose Protective Fund  
Annual General Meeting

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

10:30 - 11:30 a.m..  
"IPM Principles & Techniques"  
*Shaffeek Ali*  
NAIT

11:30 - 12:00 p.m.  
Exhibitor Presentations

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

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
"Pesticides & Water"  
*Shaffeek Ali*  
NAIT

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
Coffee with Exhibitors

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
AAAA Annual General  
Meeting

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Reception with Exhibitors

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Dinner & Auction

10:00 - 1:00 a.m.  
Hospitality Suite

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 a.m..  
"Forecasting for Pests"  
*Scott Meers*  
Agriculture Industry

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.  
Coffee Break

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.  
"Pesticide Use & Bee  
Population"  
*Lee Townsend*  
TPLR Honey Farms Ltd.

11:15 a.m.  
Annual Conference Closing

### **Q & A SESSION**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Part One of Q & A Session

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

8:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
Part Two of Q & A Session

**Do you know any aerial  
applicators who are not  
members of AAAA?**

**Encourage them to come  
out and join us in  
Red Deer for the  
2014 Conference & AGM**

## 2014 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.

#### Session Information

**Forecasting for Pests** – This presentation will describe what methods to use for forecasting insects and what the current insect forecast entails.

### Mr. Lee Townsend

Lee Townsend is a commercial beekeeper from Stony Plain, Alberta. His farm, TPLR Honey Farms Ltd., has been operating in the Stony Plain region since 1979 and currently has 3100 colonies for honey production. Lee was Vice-President of the Alberta Beekeepers Commission and the Canadian Honey Council until 2012.

#### Session Information

**Pesticide Use and Bee Population** – This presentation will cover the methods and efforts put into making a crop, the current population of bees and how the aerial agriculture industry does or does not affect the bee population.

### Mr. Shaffeeq Ali

Shaffeeq Ali graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc.(Ag) in 1975 and a Masters in Agriculture degree in 1982.

Shaffeeq retired from Alberta Agriculture in 2006 after over 30 years of service. During that time he has worked in weed research, weed extension including home study courses and urban and industrial vegetation. Other areas of work include pest management program planning and evaluation with municipal governments, Federal and Provincial Parks, Public Lands and Forestry. Shaffeeq has extensive experience in weed and pest regulations, pesticide mode of action, pesticide performance and environmental impact.

Shaffeeq is a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) and a very active member with the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. Over the years, Shaffeeq has been associated with a number of professional organizations both national and international. These include: the Canadian Society of Weed Science, Alberta Institute of Agrologists, Western Society of Weed Science, North American Weed Management Association and Western Plant Board. He has held executive positions on the Board of these organizations.

#### Session Information

**Principles & Techniques** – This presentation will discuss the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) and how those principles can be applied in developing an effective IPM program. Examples will be used.

**Pesticides and Water** - This presentation will focus on the interaction of soil, organic matter, water and pesticide characteristics and how they can influence pesticide residues in surface or ground water. How to prevent and manage pesticides from getting into water (surface or ground) will also be discussed.

### Running the Cold-Weather Numbers

How much frost can your crop bear?

By: *Alberta Farmer Express*  
September 30, 2014

It's a matter of degrees and every one matters.

Temperatures around St. Paul hit -10 C on Sept. 11, and that's very unusual, said provincial crop specialist Neil Whatley.

"That's a pretty heavy frost, but there's humidity in the air. The dew will protect a lot, especially those

that are -2 or -3," he said. "It depends how many hours it was cold."

Frost in the -1 to -2 C range is not severe, but anything lower can cause significant damage if the crop is not ripe, he said. Yield and quality will be lost when cereals are at the mid- and soft-dough stages, and show signs of shrivelled, shrunken kernels. At -4 C, frost can kill crops.

Canola does better because seeds in the lower parts of the canopy are more protected and producers can hold off harvesting until the bottom seeds mature. However, if severe frost freezes those lower seeds or if the branches between the main branch and the pods may break and "start falling to the ground, then you want to get out there and get swathing," said Whatley.

### Swath or Straight to Combine Frosted Canola?

*Canola Watch Canada*  
September 17, 2014

Growers wonder whether frost-damaged canola should be swathed or left standing for straight combining.

By now, any pod splitting or pod drop due to tissue damage from the heavy frost has probably happened. This usually starts within a day of the frost event. If the crop is still sound, you can probably stick with original plan — whether that was to straight combine or swath. Note that if you plan to swath, an extra few days standing in these good conditions will probably help fill seeds and increase overall plant maturity, as long as those plants are still alive. If the frost

has killed them, then waiting to swath probably won't help.

If you decide to swath frost-stalled fields, now is probably better than later given that plants will be brittle and will just get worse. Getting them down into a swath could protect these brittle plants from wind whipping, which could increase losses in standing canola.

However, swathing means you handle these brittle crops twice. The act of swathing may create just as many losses as leaving the field standing.

Here are a couple thoughts to consider while making this tough decision:

—Would you sleep better if the crop was swathed? If yes, swathing is probably the best decision.

—What is the state of seed in the most frost damaged pods? If frost hit top immature seeds hardest, these will shrivel up and won't contribute much to yield anyway. If frost damage was minimal to those lower pods that will contribute more to yield, you may be able to leave the crop standing — if that was your original plan — without significant losses to these pods.

If you're still torn, swath part of the field, leave the rest, and do a comparison. That experience might help the next time you encounter this situation.

### A Note From the Office

With the work season ending for many of our members, here at the office we are gearing up for this year's Conference and AGM in Red Deer and preparing to send out 2015 membership renewals.

Membership renewals will be going out on December 1, 2014. Can you please ensure all your contact information is up to date for our office records. Have any questions...please call the office at 780-413-0079.