

The Windsock

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Spring 2016

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Presidents Message

Good day! This unusually warm and dry spring has got my aerial applicators biological clock ticking all weird! A couple weeks ago the news was forecasting a record breaking 28 degrees Celsius here in Calgary. I think the temperature only reached 27, but really? In the beginning of April?

Day after day of bluebird skies and calm winds makes me feel like I should be out at the airport waiting for the next customer to drive up to the hangar with a truckload of juice for us to accurately distribute across their land! I can hardly wait!!

But then, with a quick glance at a calendar the reality sets in that we are still quite a few weeks away from any RGA (Revenue Generating Aviation). Too bad! But, the truth is a little more time is required before heading out with our first loads anyways.

The 2016 AAAA's conference dates are set for November 6th and 7th. The conference will have a new format which

will give exhibitors more face time with attendees and also the opportunity to attend the dinner and live auction! The conference will start on Sunday at noon and run into Monday afternoon, so for most people it will only require one over night!

Now that the CAAA has completed their bylaws changes, the AAAA's will now review their bylaws by this fall. Transport Canada is planning to clear up all the grey areas of being a NCO in its upcoming CARS review and rewrite. Please be reminded that it is a very onerous task and might take some time.

Lastly, t-shirts with the 4A's logo are hot off the press and ready to be worn! Call the 4A's office to order yours. Here's to hoping we are all enjoying some RGA!

Fly safe!

Jason Lazenby

2016 AAAA Annual General Meeting & Conference November 6 & 7, 2016 Black Knight Inn - Red Deer, AB

Join us in Red Deer to celebrate the 46th annual general meeting! This year's schedule will be different than in the past as it will run on Sunday and Monday versus the usual Monday and Tuesday. The new schedule will allow for maximum exposure for our valued sponsors and exhibitors.

Day one will begin with lunch with the exhibitors, one credit session, and the AAAA's annual general meeting. This will be followed by a reception with the exhibitors, leading into the dinner and auction.

Day two will be comprised of several credit sessions and time with the exhibitors. It will also include the Wild Rose Protective Fund annual general meeting and exhibitor presentations.

AAAA's t-shirts will also be available for purchase.

Be sure to check our website for more details coming soon!



Alberta farmers safely dispose of more than 72,000 kilograms of obsolete pesticides and livestock medications

Farmers in Alberta returned 70,737 kilograms of obsolete and unwanted pesticides through CleanFARMS' obsolete collection campaign in 2015.

CleanFARMS, which operates the program, is a national, industry-led agricultural waste stewardship organization. Collections took place at 20 participating ag-retail locations throughout the southern half of Alberta.

Alberta farmers have a long history of good stewardship practices and have been participating in the obsolete collections program since 1999 - which is a testament to their environmental commitment. The program last came to southern Alberta in 2012, when more than 66,000 kilograms of product was collected from farmers and safely disposed of.

"2015's collection was a great success thanks to the commitment of Alberta farmers and participating ag-retail collection sites," said Barry Friesen, CleanFARMS' general manager. "CleanFARMS is proud to offer collection programs that ensure unwanted and obsolete pesticides can be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way."

The obsolete collection program is generally delivered in each province or region of the country every three years and comes at no cost to farmers. The program will be delivered in the northern half of Alberta in the fall of 2016. In between collections, farmers are encouraged to safely store their unwanted pesticides until they can properly dispose of them through the program.

The obsolete collection program is part of the plant science industry's commitment to the responsible lifecycle management of their products.

For more information, please visit www.cleanfarms.ca.



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37-15-48546

Update from the Alberta Beekeepers Commission

Another mild winter brings the promise of early seeding and spraying. Along with the now familiar warnings about spraying only during dawn and dusk when bees are flying, I'd like to mention some new tools available that can help both of our industries in the form of smartphone apps. The first is from PMRA and allows for a convenient way to read pesticide labels registered in Canada and could be a useful tool instead of thumbing through the Blue Book or even downloading that large digital version to your phone. I have found in it's early stages that it isn't as user friendly as it could be since it simply downloads large pdf files to your phone instead of text.

From their Press Release:

PMRA launched a new mobile app that allows individuals to access pesticide labels that have been registered for use in Canada. This app will help homeowners, farmers, industry, as well as provincial and federal organizations look up specific details of the pest control product they are using from the convenience of their smartphone or tablet. The most up-to-date health and safety information will be right at their fingertips with this new user friendly tool.

Users will be able to save their searches as well as download product labels to their 'Favourites' for access, even when they are offline which will also auto-update whenever users access them when online. Pesticide labels can be searched based on various factors including product name and active ingredient.

The second app has been in development for a while and I hope that it sees a lot of uptake from farmers, beekeepers and crop sprayers. Developed by CropLife in partnership with the Canadian Honey Council and it is based on an app of the same name already in use from Australia. They are looking for industry groups like the AAAA to help promote and use it:

Bees and pesticides are integral and complementary components of sustainable agriculture. Bees pollinate many important crops while pesticides protect those crops from pest damage and help protect against disease in hives. The plant science industry is committed to ensuring that both bees and agriculture can co-exist and thrive and we know this is of the utmost importance to you as well.

We have heard from a number of farmers and farm groups, aerial applicators, beekeepers, and provincial governments across Canada that better communication between all parties would be helpful and could go a long way to keep Canada's honey bees healthy.

The app was developed by CropLife Australia and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council to allow farmers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to collaborate, anonymously, to facilitate best practices to protect pollinators. The app is now available for iPhone and Android devices as well as a web platform, at no cost.

Users download the free app, and register as a beekeeper, farmer or pesticide applicator. The application allows users to indicate planned agricultural activities or to specify bee hive locations. All registered information is only disseminated to relevant users in their area. The application enables instant messaging between registered users, while maintaining their privacy, to improve overall communication and allow the exchange of important information.

The beekeepers of Alberta look forward to continuing to work with you in supporting the provinces farmers with great yields in a safe manner.

Ryan Olthof
Northeast Regional Director, Alberta Beekeepers Commission

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Wild Rose Protective Fund Update

All WRPF members should have returned their renewal packages for the 2016 year.

We are pleased to advise that we have obtained very attractive rates for higher limits for drift and misapplication insurance. WRPF members will now receive a limit of \$250,000.

REMINDER Drift coverage only applies to products applied according to the label.

As always, we welcome comments to your board members.

May your summer be inversion free!

Darren Tiede

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