



Alberta Grains

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

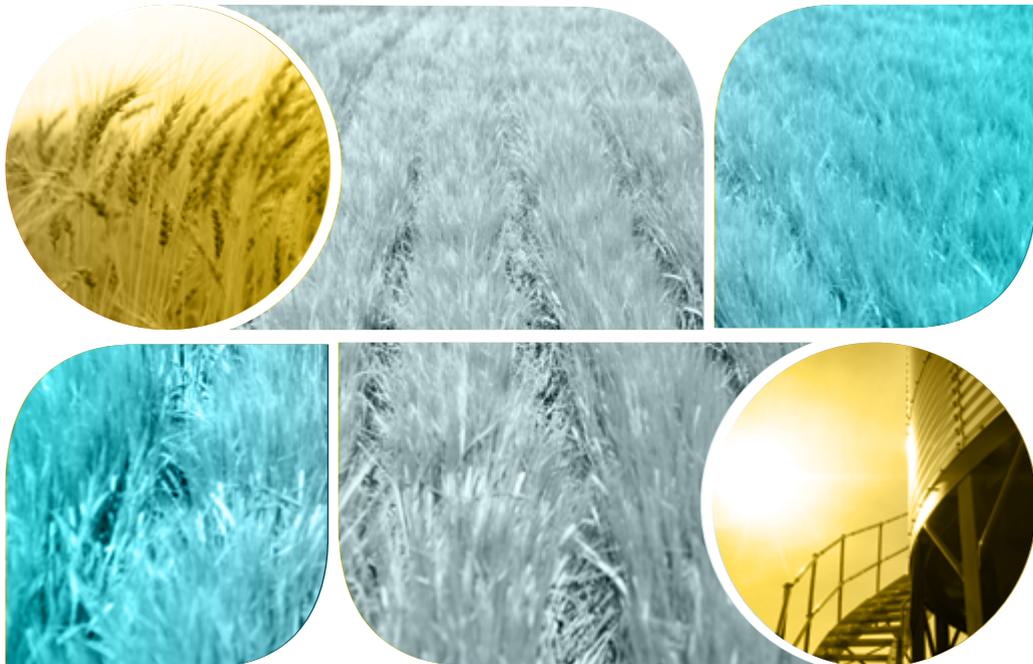


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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

## TARA SAWYER

Alberta Grains Chair



The 2023-24 crop year has been a period of growth, resilience, and renewed vision for Alberta Grains. We faced various challenges, yet our community's spirit has never been stronger, showcasing the strength and dedication of Alberta's wheat and barley farmers. The strategic initiatives we put into place over the past year reflect a deep commitment to our mission of advancing innovation, sustainability, and economic stability for Alberta's 18,000 grain producers.

We continued to forge connections with government and industry leaders, including through pivotal events like Combine to Craft and the Prairie Cereals Summit. These connections strengthen our voice in policy discussions and enable meaningful investments in research and agronomy. Our goal is clear: to ensure Alberta's farmers not only meet today's challenges but thrive amidst them by maximizing yields, reducing costs, and leading in sustainable practices.

Farmer engagement remains at the heart of our mission, and in the past year, we've connected with even more members at events, field days, and regional meetings. Together, we are building a vibrant and informed community, ready to drive the future of agriculture in Alberta. My gratitude goes out to every farmer, director, delegate, and team member who has made this year's achievements possible. With your continued support, Alberta Grains is well-positioned to create sustainable, long-term prosperity for Alberta's agriculture sector.

A handwritten signature of Tara Sawyer in black ink.

Tara Sawyer, Chair

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## MICHAEL FLYNN

Executive Director



This year has been marked by incredible momentum and purpose for Alberta Grains. Our first full year as a united organization has reinforced our commitment to driving positive change for Alberta's grain farmers. Through our strategic plan, launched in April 2024, we've set clear goals to position Alberta Grains as the go-to voice on grain and trade issues, elevate farmer engagement, and solidify our leadership in research and extension.

The past year brought invaluable opportunities to connect with farmers across Alberta, including our inaugural round of regional meetings as Alberta Grains. It's inspiring to see firsthand the passion and dedication of our community, which fuels our mission to support every Alberta grain farmer's success. We're not only advocating for policy that reflects the true needs of our producers but also investing in practical resources—research, agronomy, market insights—that help farmers thrive in an increasingly complex landscape.

Moving forward, we're excited to implement ambitious initiatives rooted in sustainable growth, economic resilience, and farmer-driven advocacy. I am grateful for the trust our farmers place in us and the dedication of our staff, who work tirelessly to serve Alberta's wheat and barley producers. Together, we are building a future where Alberta Grains stands as an unmatched leader in the agriculture sector, representing the shared interests and vision of our province's grain farmers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Flynn".

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Michael Flynn, Executive Director



Alberta Grains acknowledges that, along with our 18,000+ grain farmers, we are on traditional territories of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Alberta and express gratitude and respect for the land we use.

# ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

## Diversity and Inclusion

One of the strategic priorities for Alberta Grains is our dedication to diversity and inclusion, which is evident through our diverse workforce. Our hiring practices are merit-based and provide an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued, heard, involved, developed and empowered.

At Alberta Grains, our diverse and skilled employees share a common passion for agriculture and continue to provide a profound return for farmers through our departments of government relations and policy, markets, research, agronomy, finance and communications and events.



of our total workforce are women



of our total workforce come from diverse backgrounds



100% of our total workforce are passionate about agriculture

Alberta Grains is proud of these building blocks and will continue to emphasize these initiatives as a model commission.

## Your check-off value proposition

Alberta Grains operates with due diligence and full transparency in all investments for farmers. Risk management protocols are in place to mitigate any unforeseen challenges that could otherwise jeopardize farmer investments and return. It is a top priority for commission investments to closely align with the current five-year operating plan.

The Alberta Grains governance team, including farmer members that engage and advise in commissions activities through our board of directors, ensure that each dollar invested is cost justified and results in the highest possible efficiency and return on investment.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**TARA SAWYER**  
Chair (Acme | Region 2)



**SCOTT JESPERSEN**  
Vice-Chair (Spruce Grove | Region 5)



**DEVIN HARTZLER**  
Second Vice-Chair (Carstairs | Region 2)



**DAVE BISHOP**  
Director (Barons | Region 1)



**DEAN HUBBARD**  
Director (Claresholm | Region 1)



**STEWART OKE**  
Director (Delburne | Region 3)



**DICK WYMENGA**  
Director (Leslieville | Region 3)



**SHAWN JACULA**  
Director (Vermilion | Region 4)



**BRENT CHRISTENSEN**  
Director (Holden | Region 4)



**HARVEY HAGMAN**  
Director (Mayerthorpe | Region 5)



**GREG SEARS**  
Director (Sexsmith | Region 6)



**TASHA ALEXANDER**  
Director (Brownvale | Region 6)



# BOARD GOVERNANCE

**Our Mission:** To increase the long-term economic sustainability of Alberta wheat and barley farmers through innovative research, market development, policy advocacy, farm business management, and agronomy and extension.

**Our Vision:** To stand as the unparalleled leader and advocate for Alberta's wheat and barley farmers, Alberta Grains envisions becoming the foremost organization dedicated to advancing our members' interests, prosperity, and sustainable growth.



## Board Governance

Alberta Grains is a commission run for farmers, by farmers. At regional meetings each fall, eligible producers have the opportunity to accept nominations to represent the commission through the election of regional directors and delegates.

Each of the six regions in the province has two regional director positions and four delegate positions within their constituency.

These roles allow the opportunity for farmers from across the province to put their names forward and make their voices heard as to what is needed to drive both the commission and agriculture forward in Alberta.

Our directors govern, make decisions on behalf of and implement the Alberta Grains strategic direction.

This governance structure allows Alberta Grains to harness the expertise of its board members while also infusing the board with diverse insights and ideas, setting the stage for a dynamic and forward-thinking future focused on profitability and sustainability for Albertan farmers.

# THE BLUE BOOK

**Alberta's Crop Protection Guide**, otherwise known as the **Blue Book**, is a joint project of the three major Alberta crop organizations: Alberta Canola, Alberta Grains and Alberta Pulse Growers. As of 2024, the group has published four editions of the guide since the provincial government handed over the project.

The three project partners made in-kind contributions to the project again this year. Sales of the print edition were used to cover costs related to editing, production, design and distribution.

We are pleased to announce we sold more than 9,200 copies of the print version at a break-even price, with a free PDF version available online for download. We strive to make the pre-order and sales process as easy as possible for farmers and other agriculture industry purchasers. The advance order feature was well used again this last year, with this purchase method comprising more than 50 per cent of total sales.

Blue Book coordinator Craig Lester traveled throughout the province this past year to attend regional meetings, events and trade shows. He talked to farmers, made sales to industry partners and took feedback from users on possible improvements to the product.

A new section on beneficial insects was added to the Blue Book this year. With a helping hand from Emma Stephens and Haley Catton of Agriculture and Agri-

Food Canada, this important information was curated for use by Alberta farmers. Go to page 35 in the 2024 Blue Book to learn more about these important creatures and the benefits they provide.

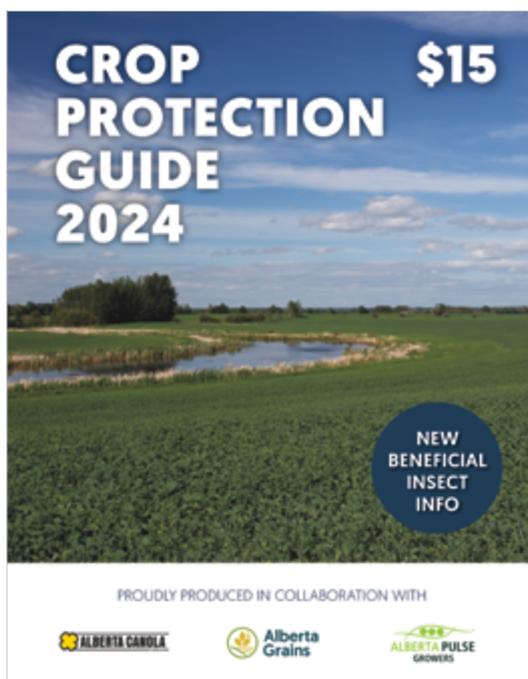
With more than 725 pages of content in the latest edition, the Blue Book continues to be a trusted information resource for farmers and agronomists.

To select the right chemical treatment requires specific scientific knowledge of a farmer's cropping system and intended market. The Blue Book complements the product label to give farmers the information they need to choose the right chemistry to provide protection from pests without risking profit.

The Alberta Blue Book App, which was created and updated by a third party and has been removed from the App Store, is no longer supported. It should not be used, however, this does not affect the ability of the crop commissions to deliver important product updates to you. Consult the print and digital PDF versions of the

Blue Book for the most up-to-date crop protection information. For questions about the guide, contact [bluebookcoordinator@albertagrains.com](mailto:bluebookcoordinator@albertagrains.com).

Follow our X handle [@AlbertaBlueBook](https://twitter.com/AlbertaBlueBook) for the latest crop protection information. Tag us on X when you receive your book and show us how you implement crop protection information on your farm.





## RESEARCH

Research funding continues to be a top priority for Alberta Grains. High-quality research that addresses the challenges and priorities of Alberta wheat and barley producers can have a significant impact on their operations.

### Alberta Grains funds research through four major areas:

- Ag Funding Consortium (AFC)
- Ag Development Fund (ADF)
- Core Breeding Agreements
- Cluster Funding

Within each of these funding streams, Alberta Grains focuses on investing in variety development, crop production and agronomy, post-production, and future challenges & technology. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Alberta Grains contributed funding to over 100 projects totaling nearly \$5.3 million within these areas. Research project investments are decided based on value to farmers and alignment with Alberta Grains Research Priorities.

## Variety Development

**Project:** Molecular breeding approaches to develop elite drought-tolerant Canadian wheat cultivars with high water efficiency (2022-2026)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Marcus Samuels, University of Calgary
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, Manitoba Crop Alliance, RDAR
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$23,000

Currently, heat and drought are the most damaging factors to wheat production (7-10% in annual loss) and it has been studied and proven that every 0.5% reduction in yield amounts to \$55-60 million in revenue loss.

This fact alone underscores the immense importance of creating and screening for superior drought tolerance to provide producers with options to combat the extended periods of drought as climate change continues to change growing conditions

This project aims to observe previously created wheat lines in both field and greenhouse settings to select the best performing lines which will then be genetically characterized and screened for traits conferring superior drought tolerance. Germplasm will be created from superior lines identified in the greenhouse and field and eventually introgressed to create elite drought tolerant cultivars.

**Project:** Developing multiple disease resistances in barley (2024 – 2027)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Sajid Rehman, Western Crop Innovations
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, Western Grains Research Foundation
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$74,520

Both *Fusarium graminearum* and scald of barley have recently been on the rise throughout the Canadian Prairies likely due to weather and temperature changes, and the shifts in scald pathogen virulence. Both diseases pose a major threat to barley yield, meaning more management options are necessary

for producers to combat and stay ahead of these evolving pathogens.

This study aims to screen a large collection of barley lines in the field to identify lines that have superior *F. graminearum* and scald resistance at adult plant stages. Germplasm will then be created from the superior lines identified and will be available for breeders to use when creating elite multiple disease resistant barley cultivars.

The second objective of this project is to expand the currently limited barley scald screening capacity at the CDCN nursery to include AAFC Brandon and Limagrain breeding lines. Overall, this project will benefit both the barley and livestock industry by contributing to the creation of cultivars with superior multiple pest resistance into the future.

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## Crop Production and Agronomy

**Project:** Assessing seed-to-seedling transmission of *Xanthomonas translucens* causing BLS of cereals to establish inoculum thresholds (2024-2026)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Randy Kutcher, University of Saskatchewan
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskBarley, SaskWheat, Manitoba Crop Alliance, Western Grains Development Fund
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$20,638

The increased incidence of Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS) on the Canadian Prairies has heightened concern as BLS can cause yield reductions up to 50%. BLS is primarily a seed borne pathogen, and so far, seed treatments have not yet been studied for BLS control at early stages, and an assessment of infected seed on resulting crop infections is also not well understood.

This project aims to determine the transmission of BLS from infected seed to the subsequent seedling to establish risk thresholds for producers and

determine whether any seed treatments are effective at controlling BLS at early crop growth stages. The researchers also plan to assess the effects of temperature and different seed treatments on BLS symptom expression for seed with varying infection levels which will lead to a better understanding of the BLS risk when buying infected seed.

Overall, this project will fill a lot of knowledge, spread, and management information gaps to better inform producers on how to manage and prevent BLS spread.

**Project:** Field evaluation of next -generation solid-stemmed CWRS Wheat (2023-2025)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Pierre Hucl, University of Saskatchewan
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, Western Grains Research Foundation
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$11,500

Wheat stem sawfly (WSS) is a significant pest in southern Alberta, leading to yield and quality losses to Alberta farmers. In recent years, the population and pressure of WSS has increased while the number of solid stem varieties in the CWRS wheat class has been limited.

This leaves producers with minimal options to manage the pest. Considering the importance that solid stem varieties play in mitigating impacts of WSS, there is a need for more solid stemmed varieties.

This project looks to utilize new solid stem genetics developed in a previous research project that sourced solid stem genetics from perennial wheat grass. These genetics will be crossed with current elite varieties to develop new CWRS varieties with increased pith expression (solid stem).

The newly developed lines emerging from these crosses will be assessed for resistance to WSS, quality, disease resistance, and agronomic characteristics. The results of this research will support the development of new solid stem varieties for farmer use.



**Heat and drought** are the most damaging factors to wheat production, causing 7-10% in yield losses each year.

**Project:** Understanding auxinic herbicide resistance in Kochia and staying ahead of what's next

- **Investigator:** Dr. Charles Geddes, AAFC Lethbridge
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskBarley, SaskWheat, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Sask Pulse Growers
- **Alberta Grains investment:** \$40,000

Kochia is among the worst agricultural weed problems in Southern Alberta and many parts of the Prairies. This is due to the increased number of herbicide-resistant biotypes as well as other traits. These traits include the ability to thrive in stressful growing conditions and tumbleweed seed dispersal that accelerates the spread of resistance. The overall goal of this research project is to improve the understanding of synthetic auxin resistance in kochia, determine how quickly this type of resistance will spread, and develop effective tools for the management of these biotypes. An additional goal is to stay ahead of potential new types of herbicide resistance through intensive population screening efforts.

### Future Challenges and Technology

**Project:** Nanocarrier technology for the next generation of cereal seed treatments (2021-2024)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Charles Geddes, AAFC Lethbridge
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, Alberta Innovates
- **Alberta Grains investment:** \$120,000

Soil and seed-borne diseases can have a significant impact on crop establishment and, subsequently, yield. To combat this, farmers utilize seed treatments that provide broad spectrum protection. However, these broad-spectrum seed treatments can cause negative impacts to the soil biome and subsequent negative effects on the production system. This research looks to understand and develop a new form of seed treatment using RNAi, a tool to interfere with pathogens at the DNA level. Through this technology, seed treatments and coatings could provide a more targeted approach and lead to reduced impact on other microbes within the soil biome.

**Project:** Next Generation Fungicides-translating dsRNA technology from lab to the field (2021-2024)

- **Investigator:** Dr. Steve Robinson, AAFC
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, Manitoba Crop Alliance
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$82,500

Currently, genetic resistance of FHB does not provide complete protection of the disease and thus, there is a heavily reliance on fungicides. Recent research has indicated that dsRNA-based fungicides may be used to help limit pathogen development. This project aims to evaluate existing dsRNA technology in the field for efficacy. It will also continue to search for and evaluate new genetic targets that could optimize spray formulations.

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### Post Production

**Project:** Developing on-farm grain drying strategies for optimum quality and energy efficiency

- **Investigator:** Dr. Chandra Singh, Lethbridge College
- **Funders:** Alberta Grains, SaskWheat, RDAR, Alberta Innovates
- **Alberta Grains funding:** \$150,113

Every year, farmers in Alberta suffer economic losses due to adverse weather conditions during harvest. In 2019, losses in Alberta were estimated at \$778 million. Harvesting the crop earlier and drying the grain can help mitigate some of these losses. However, ineffective drying can lead to grain spoilage, quality loss, and excessive energy consumption leading to economic losses.

This project aims to develop improved on-farm in-bin natural air drying, low temperature air drying, and high temperature drying tools and strategies for farmers. The project will also investigate potential combination drying tactics that involve multiple drying tactics in Alberta climactic conditions for energy efficiency and quality maintenance.

## Projects approved for new funding in 2023-2024

Through the ADF and AFC funding calls, the following projects were approved by the Alberta Grains Research Committee and Board.

PROJECT	INVESTIGATOR	INSTITUTION	ALBERTA GRAINS FUNDING
Assessing seed-to-seedling transmission of <i>Xanthomonas translucens</i> causing BLS of cereals to establish inoculum thresholds	Dr. Randy Kutcher	University of Saskatchewan	<b>\$20,638</b>
Developing multiple disease resistances in barley	Dr. Sajid Rehman	Olds College/ Western Crop Innovations	<b>\$74,520</b>
Digital phenotyping to accelerate wheat breeding	Dr. Steven Shirliffe	University of Saskatchewan	<b>\$36,265</b>
Fungicide sensitivity and identification of novel tan spot resistance in durum wheat landraces for Canadian variety improvement	Dr. Stephen Strelkov	University of Alberta	<b>\$39,675</b>
Genetic enhancement of soft white spring wheat for sustainability and competitiveness	Dr. Harpinder Randhawa	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	<b>\$41,458</b>
Targeted improvement of winter hardiness in winter wheat	Dr. Andriy Bilichak	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	<b>\$43,442</b>
TILL-D: A sequence-configured <i>Aegilops tauschii</i> TILLING resource for wheat improvement	Dr. Gurcharn Brar	University of Alberta	<b>\$51,750</b>

In 2023-2024, Alberta Grains contributed funding to over **100 projects totalling nearly \$5.3 million** in variety development, crop production and agronomy, post-production, and future challenges & technology.



### Canadian National Wheat Cluster (CNWC)

After the conclusion of the previous Canadian National Wheat Cluster (2018-2023), the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) has launched a second CNWC, which it will lead.

Funding for the CNWC comes from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience program and ten producer and private organizations from across Canada including Alberta Grains.

Within the new CNWC, 18 research activities were approved for funding with total of \$9.32 Million dollars coming from industry funders. Worth over \$20.5 Million over its five-year time span, this new wheat cluster focuses on three priorities:

- **Climate Change & the Environment:** Projects under this theme study the genetic control, the management of fertilizer and soil and the interaction between plant and soil affecting nitrogen (N) uptake and GHG emissions.
- **Economic Growth:** Projects under this theme target development of high-quality germplasm that is tolerant to the relevant major biotic and abiotic stresses affected by climate and will support ongoing economic growth to Canada.

- **Sector Resilience:** Projects under this theme predict, reduce, and respond to risks while building public trust. This involves research to strengthen the sector's ability to handle market and societal challenges. Biovigilance and breeding are crucial for controlling wheat diseases, insects, and weeds, and serve as the first defense to increase resilience against climate change pressures.

A detailed list of funded projects will be shared on the CWRC website in the coming year: [wheatresearch.ca](http://wheatresearch.ca).

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### Canadian National Barley Cluster

The Canadian National Barley Cluster (CNBC) is a component of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriScience program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. In June of 2024, the new CNBC, valued at \$9.6 Million, was announced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Administered by the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC), the new Barley Cluster funds 17 different research activities that advance feed barley, barley genetics, agronomy, disease resistance and sustainability to make it a more resilient and profitable crop for Canadian farmers and end users.





Alberta Grains is proud to announce \$375,000 of inaugural funding to support **Western Crop Innovations** in advancing agricultural research and innovation tailored for the Western Prairies.

As founding member of the CBRC, along with the other founding members, SaskBarley and Manitoba Crop Alliance, Alberta Grains provides funding investments into the CNBC into those research activities that align with Alberta barley farmers.

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### Core Wheat and Barley Breeding Agreements

Alberta Grains actively invests in both wheat and barley core breeding agreements with the goal of continued development and availability of high-quality wheat and barley varieties that increase value for farmers in Alberta.

Current core breeding agreements, administered by both the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition and the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC), include agreements with AAFC [\$22.6 million for wheat variety development and \$1.5 million for barley variety development], University of Alberta \$2 million for wheat variety development), University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre [\$9.6 million in wheat variety development and \$2.7 million for barley variety development], and the University of Manitoba [\$3.5 million in wheat variety development].

### Western Crop Innovations

In 2024, FCDC was transitioned from Olds College to be a stand-alone non-profit research organization, Western Crop Innovations (WCI). With FDCD/WCI's rich history in barley variety development and farmer-focused research, Alberta Grains sees great potential in the future of the organization. Operating on a core land base of 400 acres in Lacombe, AB, WCI's team of researchers conducts rigorous evaluations across 40,000 plots annually. Their breeding program integrates cutting-edge technologies such as molecular markers and NIR spectroscopy to identify superior varieties with enhanced disease resistance, high yields, and superior end-use quality characteristics.

Alberta Grains, in collaboration with the provincial government and industry partners, is proud to announce substantial inaugural funding to support Western Crop Innovations (WCI) in advancing agricultural research and innovation tailored for the Western Prairies.

Alberta Grains' contributions of \$375,000 will support WCI through the balance of the current fiscal year (through March 31, 2025). As the organization moves forward and a business plan is developed, Alberta Grains will continue to engage with WCI to ensure the future of this Alberta-based research institution.



## AGRONOMY & EXTENSION

### **Demonstration Plots**

Alberta Grains collaborated with applied research associations to implement 14 demonstration plots across Alberta. These plots aim to extend specific agronomic information to producers, covering locations from Lethbridge to Fort Vermilion. Topics included seeding rates, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, varietal mixtures, advanced management, integrated weed management, and fusarium head blight management.

These demonstration plots were shared at field days of the collaborating institutions, which included Farming Smarter, Gateway Research Organization, Mackenzie Applied Research Association, Chinook Applied Research Association, North Peace Applied Research Association, Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, and SARDA.

Collaboration between Alberta Grains and these partners has proven invaluable in extending agronomic information across the province. By combining resources, expertise, and local knowledge, these partnerships have helped extend innovative research to more farmers.

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### **Agronomic Resource Development**

Over the past year, Alberta Grains extension staff continued to develop and extend agronomic resources to producers through *The Growing Point*, publishing a newsletter at least once a month. See it at [AlbertaGrains.com/the-growing-point](https://AlbertaGrains.com/the-growing-point).

The Alberta Grains agronomy team continues to develop practical resources for on-farm decision-making. These include the bacterial leaf streak information sheet, a new seeding rate calculator, and a nitrogen return calculator tool, available on our website at [AlbertaGrains.com](https://AlbertaGrains.com).

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### **Regional Variety Trials**

Supported by funding from Results Driven Agriculture Research, Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Oat Growers Commission, Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers, and Alberta Seed Processors, Alberta Grains continues to coordinate Alberta's Regional Variety Trials for wheat and barley. Collaborative efforts with partners across the province have enabled us to develop variety tables featured in the Alberta Seed Guide.

This initiative provides an accurate variety information, including agronomic traits, yield, and disease resistance. This helps farmers make better decisions about varieties that will create value on their farms.

Results of the Regional Variety Trials can be found at [seed.ab.ca](https://seed.ab.ca).

### **On-Farm Research with Plot2Farm In 2024**

Alberta Grains completed the fifth year of on-farm research through the Plot2Farm program, initiating 12 trials with producers across the province. These trials investigated plant growth regulators, seeding rates, fungicide application timing, humic acid applications, and different nitrogen sources to evaluate their effects on yield and quality. You can find the results of these and previous years trials on the [Plot2Farm.com](https://Plot2Farm.com) website. Current years trials will be uploaded by the end of the year.

Alberta Grains also collaborated with Quattro Seeds out of Bow Island and Farming Smarter out of Lethbridge to host a local field day at one of the on-farm trial sites, where producers and agronomists had the opportunity to view the trial firsthand and hear from experts about on-farm research techniques and agronomic management.

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### **On-Farm Precision Experimentation (On-Farm Research)**

Olds College Centre for Innovation (OCCI) and Alberta Grains are collaborating with producer partners to introduce a new on-farm research method in Alberta. The project uses the On-Farm Precision Experimentation methodology defined by Data-Intensive Farm Management (DIFM), focusing on different wheat seed and nitrogen rates over two years.

The Data-Intensive Farm Management platform uses machine learning to plan and analyze field-scale Latin square or checkerboard plot trials, providing insights into crop yield responses. The Data-Intensive Farm Management project is led by Dr. David Bullock from the University of Illinois, who has been conducting field trials using this method since 2016.

The collaboration between Olds College and Alberta Grains aims to evaluate the potential value of the DIFM program for farmers and field-scale research in Alberta.

Alberta Grains' Plot2Farm program has committed \$40,000 over two years to support the research and advance the techniques of on-farm research with the producer in mind. Find it at [oldscollege.ca/smart-farm-research/research-projects/smart-ag/current/on-farm-precision-experimentation.html](https://oldscollege.ca/smart-farm-research/research-projects/smart-ag/current/on-farm-precision-experimentation.html)

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### Agronomy Update

In partnership with Alberta Canola Producers and Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Grains facilitates and organizes Agronomy Update. The highly anticipated annual event attracts over 500 attendees each year, including farmers, agronomists, researchers, and industry professionals, showcasing the latest developments in agronomic research and crop management.

The value of this collaboration lies in the extensive knowledge sharing and networking opportunities it provides. Attendees gain access to presentations and discussions led by industry experts, covering a range of relevant agronomic issues. The event serves as a critical platform for extension, allowing for the sharing of cutting-edge research that directly benefits producers across Alberta. Sign up for the 2025 Agronomy update at [agronomyupdate.ca/AU2025](https://agronomyupdate.ca/AU2025)

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### Alberta Crop Diagnostics Days

Alberta Grains, Alberta Pulse Growers, and Alberta Canola Producers Commission partnered with SARDA,

Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, and Lakeland College to host three Alberta Crop Diagnostic Days in July 2024. These events, held at Vermilion (Lakeland College), Donnelly (SARDA), and Olds (Olds College of Agriculture & Technology), provided an opportunity to showcase the latest agronomic and crop management research for farmers, agronomists, and industry stakeholders across Alberta.

The events featured an agenda designed to address the most pressing topics in crop management and agronomy. Attendees were able to participate in hands-on diagnostic sessions covering issues such as weed identification and management, disease diagnostics, fertility management, and integrated pest management. Experts from various institutions and industry provided insights and answered questions from attendees.

The Crop Diagnostic Days also included live demonstrations of equipment and technologies, such as advanced spraying techniques and the use of drones for crop monitoring. These demonstrations aimed to provide practical tools that producers could apply on their farms.

This partnership among crop commissions, research associations, and educational institutions emphasized the importance of collaboration and supported extension of information that producers could directly benefit from.

Stay updated with Alberta Grains communications for the upcoming dates of the 2025 Alberta Crop Diagnostic Days.

Every year, **Agronomy Update** attracts more than

# 500 ATTENDEES.



## MARKET DEVELOPMENT & ACCESS

Over the past year the markets department of Alberta Grains has continued to work on issues related to: end-use demand, open trade, efficient value chains and access to key markets. We continue to evaluate risk and ensure farmers have the best conditions to market their grain.

### **Collaborations and In-Market Initiatives**

Alberta Grains works with a wide-range of stakeholders to deliver value to farmers with respect to ensuring domestic and global market opportunities and growths. We work on a wide-range of projects and are major funding partners to pivotal technical and trade organizations that act on behalf of our farmers, like the Canadian Malt Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) and Cereal's Canada.

Some of the work that Alberta Grains' farmers and staff have collaborated with these groups on this year include:

- **Cereal's Canada's New Crop Missions:** supporting farmers travel to participate in new crop missions and technical seminars in key markets, to build relationships to support market access and enhance value and demand for Alberta's cereal grains.
- **CMBTC's China Mission & Barley Seminar:** Alberta Grains was a sponsor to support CMBTC in connecting Canadian barley experts with Chinese brewers and malsters, in-market, eager to learn about the new crop quality, best management practices, barley varieties and sustainability from the Canadian value chain.



## Price Discovery

Alberta Grains continues to operate and maintain the Price & Data Quotes (PDQ) platform which provides timely, accurate and transparent cash grain price information. PDQ is a free service to all market participants and Alberta Grains remains dedicated to continuing to operate, maintain and improve the PDQ platform to provide benefit to farmers and across the industry.

## Bunge -Viterra Merger

Another key area of focus for the markets department has been the study of the impact of the Bunge-Viterra merger announced early in 2023. Alberta Grains worked with counterparts in western Canada to commission a study by the University of Saskatchewan to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed merger on: overall competitiveness, market consolidation price impacts, and farmer's marketing options.

Alberta Grains provided input to both the Competition Bureau inquiry as well as the Transport Canada public good assessment. We are expecting a ruling on the merger at the end of 2024. Alberta Grains will continue to relay concerns of increasing market concentration in the grain sector to the Competition Bureau and other stakeholders.

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## Industry Awareness and Relationship Building

Alberta Grains' meets with a wide range of stakeholders that are interested in understanding the: grain marketing system, value and logistic chain, production factors, and crop systems and practices. These relationships help us deliver on our mandate to farmers related to market access, development and promotion.

Notably, Alberta Grains' chair and markets director engaged with officials from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and met with the Japanese consul general in Calgary, strengthening crucial international ties.

Further, we are a key contact for international companies and groups that are looking for market information from Alberta Irrigation and Agriculture, Calgary Economic Development and other investment and trade organizations.

The **Price & Data Quotes** platform is a free service to all market participants and provides timely, accurate and transparent cash grain price information.

### Grain Delivery Contracts and Declarations

The Alberta Grains market department led the completion of a legal review on the liability associated with statutory and commercial declarations under one signature, when delivering to grain companies. The inclusion of the statutory declaration came into effect by the Canada Grain Commission with the renegotiation of NAFTA, now the Canada-United States- Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). We worked with partners in Saskatchewan to analyze potential impacts. While no major liability was found, commissions and will be communicating the results and further insights to farmers soon.

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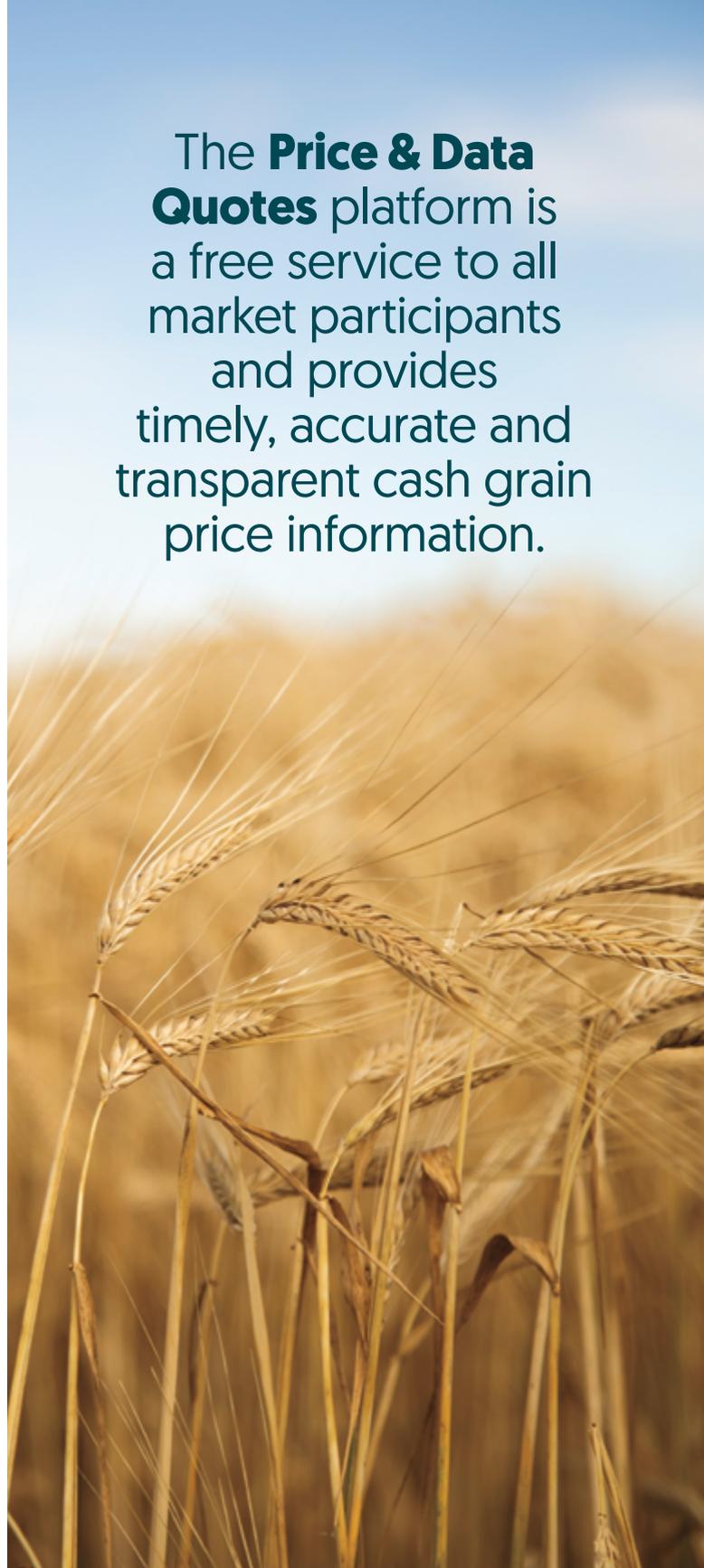
### Rail Services and Labour Disruptions

Alberta Grains maintained a strong advocacy role in promoting reliable rail service for grain movement. The department supported the expansion of the interswitching pilot project as part of the industry-led “Flip the Switch” campaign, voiced concerns about potential rail strikes during harvest, and retained an executive role within the Alberta-based Community Rail Advocacy Alliance, which advocates for improved rail service across industries in northern Alberta. Alberta Grains also continued to fund the Ag Transport Coalition which seeks to strengthen agricultural transport logistics.

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### Education and Outreach

Lastly, the department hosted its annual “Understanding Hedging Grains” seminar, which received positive feedback from participants across Alberta, Canada, and North America. The event provided valuable insights into hedging strategies and techniques to manage price fluctuations in the grain market.



# A MESSAGE FROM



# CEREALS CANADA

Alberta Grains members and staff are actively involved in the Cereals Canada board, along with various committees, initiatives, and programs, including the development of the Wheat Research Priorities. Alberta Grains board members Greg Sears and Dean Hubbard currently serve on the Cereals Canada Board of Directors.

Committee member Devin Hartzler participates on the Cereals Canada Wheat Class Review Working Group and Director of Communications, Marketing & Events Jonathan Anderson participates in the Canadian Wheat Nutrition Initiative. Director of Research, Agronomy & Extension Jeremy Boychyn represents Alberta Grains on the MRL Assessment Committee, and on the National Wheat Research Task Group with Research Project Manager Keisha Hollman. Director of Government Relations, Policy & Markets Shannon Sereda sits on the Market Support and Development Committee, and on the Habitat Friendly Ecolabel Governance Committee with delegate Gary Stanford.

## Programs and Technical Exchanges

An integral part of Market Development and Support technical training at Cereals Canada is tailored to key markets for Canadian wheat and durum. In 2024, Cereals Canada delivered nine specialized, in-person programs and five webinars to representatives from 23 wheat-importing countries, which have a combined average in annual wheat purchases of 14.7 million tonnes and account for 64% of Canada's total wheat exports over the past five years.

## Market Access

In late September, plant health and food safety regulators from Indonesia, the second largest export market for Canadian non-durum wheat, met with the

CFIA, the CGC, and staff and members of Cereals Canada to learn how Canadian quality assurance systems keep grains free of pests and contaminants, allowing Canada to deliver safe, high-quality grain. The weeklong session with Cereals Canada staff followed the path of grain from farm to port.

## Combine to Customer

Combine to Customer provides grain producers with a broad overview of the grain industry and a forum for learning and discussing grain industry issues. In 2024, thirty-five participants from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and PEI attended the three sessions. To learn more and put your name forward for nomination to attend, visit [combinetocustomer.ca](https://combinetocustomer.ca).

## 2024 New Wheat Crop Trade and Technical Missions

Following the release of the 2024 New Wheat Crop Report in November, Cereals Canada led four Trade and Technical Missions to 18 markets that purchased \$8.6 billion worth of Canadian wheat in 2023. This year, Alberta Grains directors Stewart Oke and Dave Bishop participated in the Asia and Durum missions, respectively, along with CGC commissioners, exporters, and grower representatives from three other provincial organizations.

November also marked the debut of a new Cereals Canada video featuring Rimbey-area farmer and Alberta Grains delegate Melissa Damiani and her family. The video was played during the 2024 New Wheat Crop webinars, shown in 18 countries during the Trade and Technical Missions, and is featured on [cerealscanada.ca](https://cerealscanada.ca).



## A MESSAGE FROM



# CMBTC™

CANADIAN MALTING BARLEY  
TECHNICAL CENTRE

In 2024, the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) boosted Canadian barley's global presence through targeted market development, outreach, and industry training, enhancing its competitiveness in high-priority markets.

### Canada-China Barley Seminar and New Crop Tour

CMBTC strengthened relationships in China, a key market for Canadian barley, through the Canada-China Barley Seminar held in Qingdao in June. Partnering with Tsingtao Brewery and supported by Canada's barley value chain, the seminar brought together over 100 representatives from China's malting, brewing, and export sectors—covering 90% of key decision-makers. Attendees praised Canadian barley's quality and flavour and expressed strong interest in further trade relations. Alberta Grains delegate Roy Newman highlighted Canada's production practices, reinforcing Canada's reputation as a reliable premium supplier.

In August, CMBTC's 2024 New Crop Tour in Saskatchewan offered stakeholders from China, Japan, Brazil, and North America a firsthand look at Canada's 2024 barley crop as harvest approached. The tour included visits to three farms in central Saskatchewan, highlighting Canada's world-class farming operations and new barley varieties, as well as tours of Prairie Malt in Biggar and the Crop Development Centre in Saskatoon. A delegation of seven representatives from Japan's brewing industry, including leaders from Sapporo, Asahi, Kirin, and Japan's Brewing Association, travelled to Canada for the tour—demonstrating the importance of Canadian barley and malt to their sector and potentially opening new opportunities for collaboration.

### New Crop Seminar and Malt Academy

In October, CMBTC hosted its inaugural New Crop Seminar, gathering over 40 stakeholders from

Canada, China, and Mexico. The event fostered connections with major brewing companies, including Constellation Brands, which showed interest in Canadian barley for Mexico's beer market. Representatives from Alberta Grains and other key industry stakeholders attended, gaining insights into the 2024 barley harvest, crop quality, and sustainability practices, further strengthening CMBTC's engagement with Mexico's brewing sector.

CMBTC's Malt Academy advanced industry expertise through three specialized courses, attracting participants from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Europe. Programs included two one-week intensive sessions, an internationally focused course, and a three-day overview program, all offering hands-on training and building relationships with key end-users. By fostering skills across the global barley sector, the Malt Academy reinforced CMBTC's role in advancing industry expertise.

### Paving the Way in Brazil

CMBTC took a significant step toward establishing Brazil as a new market for raw Canadian barley. In January, CMBTC formally requested Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to extend the current export agreement with Brazil—which currently applies only to processed barley malt—to include raw barley. After priority discussions with AAFC in September, supported by AB InBev, this initiative aims to increase Canadian barley exports to Brazil, creating new revenue channels for producers.

In summary, through focused efforts in market access, outreach, and training, CMBTC has elevated Canadian barley's global reputation, strengthened key partnerships, and laid a solid foundation for growth in priority international markets.



## Provincial Engagement Activities

Throughout 2023-24 Alberta Grains continued to build on relationships across various levels of the provincial government. We had the opportunity to discuss various key provincial priorities with key government officials as well as seeking support to amplify federal concerns on policy and programs that impact farmers. Specifically, our team engagement in the following critical provincial policy activities:

- Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Inquiry: Provided written and oral input on the renewable energy moratorium in Alberta, addressing farmers' and landowners' concerns about renewable energy development on agricultural land.
- Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT): Participated in consultations related to changes allowing farm-restricted Class 1 licensing.
- Well-site Reclamation Pilot Project: Raised awareness of landowner concerns related to oil and gas well-site reclamation programs.
- Sustainable Farming Consultations: Provided input to the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation department related to demonstrating successful sustainable farming practices and on-farm barriers to growth in Alberta
- Farm Implements Act: Provided input on regulatory changes to enhance agricultural operations.
- Agri-Trade Policy Panel: Led a panel discussion at the Team Alberta Crops breakfast, focusing on land-use and renewable energy development with

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## Team Alberta Crops Collaboration

This year, Team Alberta Crops continued to work collaboratively on common concerns of our farmers.

Team Alberta Crops represents a collaboration between: Alberta Canola, Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers, Alberta Grains, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and the Potato Growers of Alberta.

We work together with the aim: to provide input to policy makers, ensure long-term access to promote the sustainability of the crop sector, and enable grass-roots advocacy by our farmer members. Through Team Alberta Crops we tackled a number of issues and initiatives in 2023-24:

- The expanded Team Alberta Crops held its' inaugural Alberta Grains provincial lobby days trip in March of this year which Alberta Grains played a leadership role in organizing;
- We coordinate meetings with Deputy Ministers from Transportation and Economic Corridors and Environment and Protected Areas to discuss key policy issues;
- Provided input to consultations related to the changes to the Mandatory Entry Level Training [MELT] which allowed for farm-restricted Class 1 licencing;
- Team Alberta Crops cooperated to amplify concern related to rail labour disputes and real and potential work stoppages with provincial and federal levels of government;
- Submitted feedback to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation related to challenges faced by Alberta's primary agriculture sector, as well as highlighted the sustainability efforts put forth by the sector;
- Hosted the Team Alberta Crops breakfast during Agri-Trade; Alberta Grains led a panel related to land-use and renewable energy development.



### Wetland Stewardship and Water Monitoring

Alberta Grains' policy and markets department took a lead role in completing the final year of the Team Alberta Wetland Stewardship and Water Monitoring Project, which has been recognized by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for its robust real-world data on crop protection practices and environmental stewardship. This project not only validated the safe use of crop protection products but also contributed input to the PMRA's National Water Monitoring Guidance framework.

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### Federal Engagement and Partnership Activities

Throughout this year Alberta Grains continued to play an active role in federal policy consultations and engagement activities. Further, we participate on behalf of Alberta wheat and barley farmers on various committees, and within a number of collaborations with Alberta Grains facilitated a farm visit with the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, along with Deputy Minister Lawrence Hanson, where they engaged directly with Alberta farmers, provincial colleagues and national member organizations.

We are actively engaged at the board level, through our directors, and at the committee level, through

staff, on various committees with the Grain Grower of Canada (GGC) and the Canada Grains Council (CGC).

Throughout 2023-24 our team was active in the following federal issues:

- Facilitated a farm visit with the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, along with Deputy Minister Lawrence Hanson, where they engaged directly with Alberta farmers.
- Together with GGC engaged on the implications of the Budget 2024 changes to the capital gains inclusion rate changes and their implications on intergenerational farm transfers.
- Alberta Grains continued to be a long-standing advocate in promoting right to repair Bill C-244 and associated Bill C- 294 on interoperability, and participated in the industry consultations.
- Alberta Grains took a team leadership role during Grain Growers of Canada's national grains week outreach, advocating for Alberta's agricultural priorities.

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### Policy Leadership and Thought Roundtables

This year, Alberta Grains participated a number of thought leadership roundtables, participating in high-level policy discussions across the value-chain and contributing to discussions on: sector potential and challenges industry sustainability, and water resource management.

These roundtables included engagements with The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI), Alberta's Water and Industry Roundtable, hosted by Calgary Economic Development and the Business Council of Alberta and the University of Alberta's Water Summit, addressing long-term water sustainability challenges.



## combine TO CRAFT

Alberta born and brewed.



Another highlight of the year was the joint Alberta Grains and Alberta Small Brewers Association's third annual **Combine to Craft** Stampede advocacy happy hour. We were so pleased to have an incredible turn-out from federal MPs, Ministers, as well as many provincial MLA's and Ministers and a number of political and industry leaders. The event allows us to tell the good news story that is represented by the Alberta barley to craft beer value chain and the need for continued support of all of our industries from combine to craft.

From combine to craft to the consumer, this collaborative event represents the best of Alberta while giving back to our economy and communities.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Alberta Grains Director Dave Bishop, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Jason Hale, Grande Prairie MLA Nolan Dyck, RDAR Vice President Clint Dobson and Alberta Grains Director Harvey Hagman.



Alberta Grains Chair, Tara Sawyer speaking at the Combine to Craft event.

# A MESSAGE FROM



## KYLE LARKIN

Executive Director,  
Grain Growers of Canada

2024 has been a pivotal year for Grain Growers of Canada (GGC), as we advocated on critical issues to protect the future of Canadian grain farmers.

This year's successful #GrainsWeek in April set the stage for proactive dialogue with parliamentarians and policy influencers in Ottawa. During the week, we brought attention to core issues facing grain farmers and reiterated our commitment to strengthening Canada's grain sector.

By engaging directly with over 20 policymakers, we underscored the importance of policies that support Canada's grain industry and its crucial role in our economy. These discussions laid a strong foundation for our work in the months that followed, as we tackled significant policy and supply chain issues affecting the sector.

A primary focus this year has been addressing the impact of the capital gains tax increase on family-owned grain farms. In June, the government increased the capital gains inclusion rate from one-half to two-thirds, which we estimated represented generally a 30% tax hike on family farms. This increase has

added substantial financial pressures, complicating succession planning and creating barriers for young farmers eager to continue their family's legacy. In response to the government's tax hike, we launched [ProtectFamilyFarms.ca](https://www.protectfamilyfarms.ca) to rally public support and press for the return to the original one-half inclusion rate for intergenerational transfers. This platform underscores the vital role family farms play in rural communities and in maintaining Canada's food security. Through [ProtectFamilyFarms.ca](https://www.protectfamilyfarms.ca), we've amplified farmers' voices and personal stories to make clear to Parliament that family-run grain farms must be supported for future generations.

As grain producers know, 2024 has been a year of widespread labour disruptions. However, we have engaged at every turn to ensure that the government and the public understand the impacts of disruptions on growers and on Canada's international trade reputation. When both national railways were shut down in August, we participated in over 30 media interviews to raise awareness of the \$43 million/day impact on grain farmers.

In September, when the Port of Vancouver grain terminals went on strike, we participated in dozens more of interviews to again raise the awareness of the impacts on Canada's economy. More recently, we have also engaged on disruptions at the Port of Montreal and Port of Vancouver, all to ensure that the government take action if needed.

We are pressing the government to amend its recent **capital gains tax increase**, which creates barriers for succession for many family farms.

Our policy work on extended interswitching has been another critical priority this year. Working with partners and stakeholders, we revitalized the Flip the Switch campaign at [Interswitching.ca](https://interswitching.ca) to keep this vital issue top of mind for parliamentarians. Through this campaign, we emphasized the need to extend the pilot and expand interswitching distances to 500 km. This push aims to give grain farmers greater flexibility in transporting their products, fostering essential competition, reducing bottlenecks, and ensuring the reliability of Canada's grain transport network.

After years of advocacy, appearances before House of Commons' and Senate committees, and close work with Members of Parliament and Senators, we celebrated the passing of right to repair Bills C-244 and C-294. The passing of these bills will enable farmers to access the tools needed to repair their own equipment, significantly reducing costly downtime and helping them maintain productivity. They will also support producers by allowing them to interoperate parts and equipment by different manufacturers.

These bills represent a meaningful victory for the agriculture sector, strengthening farmers' operational resilience and control over their own equipment.

To stop the unfair taxation of farmers for essential fuels such as propane and natural gas, we have continuously advocated for the immediate passing

of Bill C-234. Despite our advocacy push, including appearing before the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee in the spring, Senators unfortunately voted in favour of amending the bill, sending it back to the House of Commons. Despite this setback, we continue to work through the Agriculture Carbon Alliance to get the bill passed in earnest to provide tax fairness for producers.

For Canada's export-driven grain sector, our focus on Bill C-282 has been paramount. Partnering with the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA), we launched [KeepCanadaTrading.ca](https://keepcanadatrading.ca), a letter-writing campaign empowering farmers to have their voices heard and oppose this bill, which would restrict Canada's ability to negotiate new trade agreements.

We've also met with dozens of Senators and appeared before the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee, asking Senators to reject the harmful provisions including in this bill.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Alberta Grains and the dedicated growers across the province for their support and active involvement. As we prepare for 2025, GGC remains committed to advocating for policies that secure a sustainable and prosperous future for Canada's grain producers.

We look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

The passing of **right to repair** Bills C-244 and C-294 will enable farmers to repair their own equipment, reduce downtime and help maintain productivity.



## COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING & EVENTS

### **Inaugural Year as Alberta Grains**

This past year, the marketing, communications and events department focused on year one under the Alberta Grains moniker and ensuring that the name and brand were recognized across the province and country as a leader in the ag industry.

This was done through our high-quality communications pieces like the *Grain Exchange* quarterly newsletter, *Spotlight on Research* publication, *Policy & Markets Minute* and *The Growing Point Newsletter*. All of which provide insight into the work being done across our various departments on behalf of Alberta farmers.

We've also become a premier voice in the agriculture industry and a go-to for many media outlets when they are looking for information in the ag sector – our staff and directors have proven to be invaluable resources for ensuring we continue to voice the concerns and outlooks of our farmers across the province.



## From the Fields to the Mountains

Alberta Grains continues to deliver top-tier events. This year, we launched our first Alberta Crop Diagnostics Days. These three field days, in collaboration with Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Canola Producers, Lakeland College, Olds College and SARDA Ag Research, showcased the industry's most innovative and cutting-edge research with three separate field days throughout Alberta.

We also held our sixth annual Prairie Cereals Summit in Banff, hosting nearly 300 guests over two days. The Summit featured key industry speakers, a policy power hour, spotlights on industry research, an evening beer reception and a lively banquet with entertainment. The Prairie Cereals Summit remains one of the must-attend agriculture events year after year.

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## Early Childhood Education

Alberta Grains participated in both Aggie Days and the Stampede's Agtivity in the City, bringing Wally and Betty's Grain Gallery to give kids an interactive glimpse into the journey of food production and sustainable farming in Alberta.

Using tablets and augmented reality in a classroom setting, Wally Wheat and Betty Barley guide young learners through an engaging game about the process of growing and using wheat and barley. Kids can choose to explore either crop and follow its path from field to finished product, discovering how wheat becomes pizza dough or barley is turned into cattle feed.

The Wally and Betty Grain Gallery mobile application is also available to download for free on Apple and Android devices through the App Store and Google Play.





### **CrossRoads Crop Conference 2024**

The annual CrossRoads Crop Conference was held in Calgary this past year. Farmers, commission staff and additional industry representatives were treated to 2.5 days of networking with forward-thinking farmers. The conference featured special events that included an opening night reception. As well, a beer reception offered samples of a variety Valley Brewing beverages and our very own CrossRoads branded beer.

With a mix of 60 per cent farmers and 40 per cent industry professionals, CrossRoads presented a unique opportunity to network, share experiences and explore the latest ag trends. Participants broadened their industry knowledge with three keynote addresses, panel discussions and interactive Q&A sessions. These covered topics from weather outlook and trade infrastructure to the impact of AI on agriculture.

The event was a great success, and the CrossRoads organizing committee was proud to see attendees engage with the year's theme "big picture innovation in agriculture."

The CrossRoads committee is comprised of staff and board members from Alberta Grains, Alberta Canola and Alberta Pulse Growers. The committee would like to thank participants, speakers and sponsors for their support of the Conference.

# GRAINSWEST

*GrainsWest* celebrated its tenth anniversary as the quarterly magazine of Alberta Grains and continues to deliver in-depth examination of topics that matter to the province's wheat and barley farmers.

A testament to its informative, high-quality content, *GrainsWest* was recognized with multiple honours by its ag journalism peers at the 2024 Canadian Farm Writers

Federation Awards. Among them, contributor Melanie Epp won feature story of the year and writer of the year for "Get on board: Ag groups need wider variety of leaders." The cover story of the fall 2023 issue, the piece focused on ag board recruitment and the value of new voices and fresh perspectives. Among those interviewed, Alberta Grains board members Tara Sawyer and Connie Matson emphasized the need for variety in gender, age, farm size and skillset.



In our winter issue, we kicked off 2024 with the subject of farmer peer groups and the opportunities they provide for professional development and better business performance. The spring issue followed with a deep dive into farm succession planning. Our annual farm technology issue focused heavily on machinery. Its cover story on tractor innovation was paired with a look at the value of short line implement manufacturers to the farm economy.

In fall, we presented the magazine's first two feature stories on Indigenous agriculture. These examined farming barriers and opportunities being addressed on the Siksika Nation and the agricultural studies available at Red Crow Community College on the Kainai Nation.

The short line and succession stories were paired with supporting episodes of The GrainsWest Podcast. Two additional episodes looked at the malting industry and water use in beer production, respectively.

Additionally, the *GrainsWest* custom publishing division continues to design, edit and produce *Alberta's Crop Protection Guide*, better known as the *Blue Book*. Also ongoing, we design three issues per year of *Pulse Crop News* for the Alberta Pulse Growers.



# FARMCASH

## Cash Advance Program



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Advance Payments  
Program

Programme de  
paiements anticipés



# FARMCASH: Supporting Your

Over the past year, FarmCash has remained committed in its mission to support farmers by bridging cash flow gaps until agricultural products are sold. With a focus on flexibility, FarmCash allows producers to make sales based on market conditions, without the pressure of immediate cash needs. As rising costs and less-than-ideal interest rates continue to strain farms financially, the demand for accessible, alternative financing has never been greater. FarmCash is committed to putting the needs of producers first — Always!

In response, we have worked tirelessly to simplify and streamline our processes. We have also focused on increasing producer education to ensure you can easily access and fully benefit from our program. Our farmers have shared how FarmCash has become a dynamic tool in their financial toolkit. Unlike traditional financial institutions, FarmCash offers significant interest savings, directly contributing to your farm's bottom line.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to making the application process as seamless and transparent as possible — removing unnecessary barriers so you can focus on what matters most: growing your business.



Receive a FarmCash advance  
of up to \$1,000,000  
to grow your farm



Grow more, worry less  
using our online  
application process



Available for 50+  
commodities, including all  
major crops, livestock & honey



# Growth, Every Step of the Way

Now in its sixth year, FarmCash continues to expand, providing necessary financial relief to farmers across Western Canada through the Advance Payments Program. Our mission remains unchanged: to support you in growing your operations and securing long-term success and profitability.

Our dedicated FarmCash team members are eager to assist you! Call us at **1.825.509.3538** or visit **FarmCashAdvance.com** today.

## Key Program Features:

- Repay the advance as you sell your agricultural products, with up to 18 months to fully repay for most commodities (up to 24 months for cattle and bison).
- Access funding of up to \$1,000,000 per program year.
- The federal government covers the interest on the first \$250,000 for 2024 (amounts may vary each program year).
- Benefit from preferential interest rates on the remaining balance.
- Quick processing once a complete application is submitted.

 [farmcashadvance.com](https://farmcashadvance.com)  [1.855.376.2274](tel:18553762274)  [info@farmcashadvance.com](mailto:info@farmcashadvance.com)  [@farmcashadvance](https://twitter.com/farmcashadvance)



# Alberta Grains

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



# MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

## To the Members of Alberta Grains:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and ensuring that all information in the annual report is consistent with the statements. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded, and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Board of Directors is composed entirely of Directors who are neither management nor employees of Alberta Grains. The Board is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Board fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Board is also responsible for recommending the appointment of Alberta Grains' external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the members to audit the financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Board and management to discuss their audit findings.

November 13, 2024



Michael Flynn, Executive Director

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## To the Members of Alberta Grains:

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Grains (the "Commission"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, cash flows and the related schedules for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at July 31, 2024, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many similar organizations, the Commission derives revenue through "check-off" fees received from producers, the completeness of which could not be satisfactorily verified during our audit. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues and related accounts receivable was limited to the amounts recorded in the Commission's records and we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to check-off fee revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, assets and net assets.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary



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to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Calgary, Alberta

November 13, 2024

The logo for MNP LLP is written in a stylized, handwritten-style font. The letters 'MNP' are larger and more prominent, with 'LLP' in a smaller font size to the right.

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Chartered Professional Accountants

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at July 31, 2024

	Operating 2024	FarmCash Advance Payment Program 2024	Total 2024
<b>ASSETS - CURRENT</b>			
Cash	1,504,580	-	1,504,580
Restricted cash (note 10)	1,071,893	-	1,071,893
Accounts receivable (note 4)	317,113	831,759	1,148,872
Short term investments (note 5)	4,397,680	-	4,397,680
Prepaid expenses and deposits	226,431	-	226,431
Current portion of advances receivable under FarmCash Advance Payment Program (note 9)	-	31,190,354	31,190,354
	<b>7,517,697</b>	<b>32,022,113</b>	<b>39,539,810</b>
Capital assets (note 7)	199,842	-	199,842
Long term investments (note 5)	4,036,327	-	4,036,327
Restricted investments (note 6)	5,500,000	-	5,500,000
Advances receivable under FarmCash Advance Payment Program (note 9)	-	41,254,629	41,254,629
	<b>17,253,866</b>	<b>73,276,742</b>	<b>90,530,608</b>
<b>LIABILITIES - CURRENT</b>			
Accounts payable and accruals	1,849,095	303,426	2,152,521
Deferred revenue (note 10)	1,071,893	-	1,071,893
FarmCash Advance Payments Program bank indebtedness	-	71,228,895	71,228,895
	<b>2,920,988</b>	<b>71,532,321</b>	<b>74,453,309</b>
Interfund transfers payable (receivable) (note 13)	[3,710,075]	3,710,075	-
	<b>(789,087)</b>	<b>75,242,396</b>	<b>74,453,309</b>
<b>COMMITMENTS (note 14)</b>			
<b>CONTINGENCIES (note 15)</b>			
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Internally restricted (note 6)	5,500,000	-	5,500,000
Unrestricted (note 13)	12,542,953	(1,965,654)	10,577,299
	<b>18,042,953</b>	<b>(1,965,654)</b>	<b>16,077,299</b>
	<b>17,253,866</b>	<b>73,276,742</b>	<b>90,530,608</b>

Approval on behalf of the Board

  
Director

  
Director

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended July 31, 2024

	Operating 2024	FarmCash Advance Payment Program 2024	Total 2024
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Check-off fee revenue	12,601,973	-	12,601,973
Check-off fee refunds	[548,308]	-	[548,308]
Revenue - database license	28,068	-	28,068
Project revenue <i>[note 10]</i>	876,011	-	876,011
Other revenue	447,678	-	447,678
FarmCash Advance Payment Program	-	5,935,805	5,935,805
	<b>13,405,422</b>	<b>5,935,805</b>	<b>19,341,227</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Research <i>[schedule 1]</i>	6,234,244	-	6,234,244
Finance & administration <i>[schedule 2]</i>	2,741,640	-	2,741,640
Market <i>[schedule 3]</i>	1,378,839	-	1,378,839
Marketing, communications & events <i>[schedule 4]</i>	1,308,881	-	1,308,881
Agronomy & extension <i>[schedule 5]</i>	817,378	-	817,378
Policy <i>[schedule 6]</i>	723,721	-	723,721
Publications <i>[schedule 7]</i>	664,080	-	664,080
Amortization	73,851	36,779	110,630
FarmCash Advance Payment Program	-	6,335,215	6,335,215
	<b>13,942,634</b>	<b>6,371,994</b>	<b>20,314,628</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b> before other items	<b>(537,212)</b>	<b>(436,189)</b>	<b>(973,401)</b>
<b>OTHER ITEMS</b>			
Interest income	566,391	-	566,391
Unrealized gain on investments	385,641	-	385,641
	952,032	-	952,032
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>414,820</b>	<b>(436,189)</b>	<b>(21,369)</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES OF NET ASSETS

For the year ended July 31, 2024

	Operating	FarmCash Advance Payment Program 2024	Restricted	2024
<b>NET ASSETS, AS REPORTED BY PREDECESSOR</b>				
Commissions <i>(note 2)</i>	10,558,736	(1,529,465)	5,500,000	14,529,271
Retroactive adjustment for alignment of revenue recognition policies <i>(note 2)</i>	1,569,397	-	-	1,569,397
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	414,820	(436,189)	-	(21,369)
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), END OF YEAR</b>	<b>12,542,953</b>	<b>(1,965,654)</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>16,077,299</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

2024

For the year ended July 31, 2024

Cash provided by (used for) the following activities

### OPERATING

Excess of revenue over expenses (21,369)

Amortization 110,630

Unrealized gain on investments (385,641)

**(296,380)**

Changes in working capital accounts:

Accounts receivable 1,393,378

Prepaid expenses and deposits (113,577)

Accounts payable and accruals (1,667,499)

Deferred revenue (299,108)

**(983,186)**

### FINANCING

FarmCash Advance Payments Program bank indebtedness, net **(6,268,481)**

### INVESTING

Purchase of capital assets (79,350)

Purchase of investments, net of maturities (420,573)

FarmCash Advance Payments Program receivable, net 6,472,638

**5,972,715**

### INCREASE IN CASH

(1,278,952)

Cash, transferred upon amalgamation *[note 2]* 3,855,425

Cash, end of year **2,576,473**

### CASH IS COMPRISED OF:

Unrestricted cash 1,504,580

Restricted cash 1,071,893

**2,576,473**

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended July 31, 2024

### 1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Alberta Grains (the “Commission”) is a farmer-directed organization that represents the interests and serves Alberta’s wheat and barley farmers. The Commission was established as a statutory corporation under section 17(2) of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (Alberta) as of August 1, 2023. It is registered as a not-for-profit organization and, thus, is exempt from income taxes under 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act (“the Act”). To maintain its status as a registered not-for-profit organization under the Act, the Commission must meet certain requirements within the Act. In the opinion of the management these requirements have been met.

The Commission derives its operating funds by assessing a regulated check-off fee on the sale of wheat and barley by Alberta producers. Producer members will not have defined ownership interests in the Commission that can be redeemed, sold, or transferred. Producer members also will not receive direct financial or monetary benefits such as share dividends or share issues.

### 2. Amalgamation

On August 1, 2023, the Alberta Barley Commission and Alberta Wheat Commission amalgamated to form a combined commission referred to as Alberta Grains. The combination has been accounted for as a merger in accordance with Section 4449, Combinations by Not-For-Profit Organizations of Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations.

The Commission’s mandate is to give Alberta wheat and barley producers an organization for developing new markets and products for wheat and barley and for influencing the direction of research dedicated to wheat and barley production. The combination was to achieve economies of scale on operations and to save on expenses.

The amalgamation was voted for by eligible voting producers with a plebiscite held from October 3, 2022, to November 1, 2022, Alberta Grains received 88% approval for in the plebiscite held through Alberta Wheat Commission and 89% for the plebiscite conducted by Alberta Barley Commission. The Amalgamation and was approved by the Province of Alberta in July 2023.

The principal components of the combined statement of financial position as at July 31, 2023 were as follows:

#### Statement of Financial Position

As at July 31, 2023

	Alberta Wheat Commission	Alberta Barley Commission
Assets	92,547,418	6,239,647
Liabilities	81,397,361	2,860,433
Net Assets	11,150,057	3,379,214

The principal components of the combined statement of operations for the year ended July 31, 2023 were as follows:

#### Statement of Operations

Year ended July 31, 2023

	Alberta Wheat Commission	Alberta Barley Commission
Revenue	14,172,355	3,184,751
Expenses	12,965,921	3,029,422

As a result of the merger, a retroactive adjustment was made to the net assets as at August 1, 2023 to align the revenue recognition policies formally followed by Alberta Barley Commission with those of Alberta Grains with respect to accounting for deferred revenue. In previous periods, the Alberta Barley Commission recognized check-off fees as deferred revenue until the charge is no longer eligible to be refunded. However, as a result of the requirement to align the accounting policies of all the entities subject to amalgamation, the Barley check-off fee is now recognized upon cash receipt of the levy. The impact of this adjustment was the recognition of 2023 check-off fee revenue of \$1,569,397 in opening net assets.

## 2. Amalgamation *(Continued from previous page)*

Section 4449, Combinations by Not-For-Profit Organizations of Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations requires the presentation of comparative figures for the pre-merger period. After the merger, the Commission underwent a re-engineering of its internal financial reporting and accounting processes. As such, it is not practical to present combined comparative information for the predecessor commissions on a combined basis as comparative figures in this set of financial statements.

## 3. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

### Basis of presentation

The Commission reports its financial statements using two funds: the Operating Fund and the FarmCash Advance Payments Program Fund. The Operating Fund contains all assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the regular operations of the Commission. The FarmCash Advance Payments Program Fund contains all assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the FarmCash Advance Payments Program as defined in Note 9.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

### Revenue recognition

The Commission follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned. Externally restricted capital contributions are recognized as revenue as the related asset is amortized. Donations and contributions in kind are recorded at fair value when such value can reasonably be determined.

The Commission has an in-house developed software called the "Levy Plus Check-off Database". The Commission licenses the software to other agricultural entities in Western Canada. Revenue related to these licenses is recognized over the life of the relevant agreements.

The Commission recognizes check-off revenue at a rate of \$1.09 and \$1.20 per tonne for wheat and barley, respectively.

### Portfolio investments

Investments with prices quoted in an active market are measured at fair value while those that are not quoted in an active market are measured at cost less impairment. Marketable securities with prices quoted in an active market include guaranteed investment certificates ["GICs"], mutual funds and corporate bonds.

### Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined.

Amortization is provided using the following methods at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives.

	Method	Rate
Computer equipment	declining balance	20%
Computer software	straight-line	5 years
Furniture and fixtures	declining balance	20%
Booth	straight-line	5 years
Promotional equipment	declining balance	33%
FarmCash Advance Payments Program website development	straight-line	5 years



### **3. Significant accounting policies** *(Continued from previous page)*

#### **Financial instruments**

The Commission recognizes financial instruments when the Commission becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

#### **Arm's length financial instruments**

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Commission may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Commission has not made such an election during the year.

The Commission subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

#### **Related party financial instruments**

The Commission initially measures financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, dividend, variable and contingent payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received.

Financial instruments that were initially measured at cost are subsequently measured using the cost method less any reduction for impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

#### **Financial asset impairment**

The Commission assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Commission groups assets for impairment testing when no asset is individually significant. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty or whether there has been a breach of contract in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Commission determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

The Commission reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the balance sheet date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets. Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in the current year excess of revenue over expenses.

The Commission reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the excess of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

#### **Advances receivable under the FarmCash Advances Payments Program**

Advances receivable under the FarmCash Advance Payments Program are initially recorded at fair value and subsequently measured at their amortized cost less impairment. Amortized cost is calculated as the principal amount advanced, less any allowance for anticipated losses, plus accrued interest. Interest revenue is recorded on the accrual basis using the straight-line method.

Any allowance for impairment is established as a result of reviews of individual advances made.

### 3. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

#### Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable and FarmCash Advance Payment Program receivables are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty, and the effect on the financial statements from changes in such estimates in future years could be material. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in excess of revenue over expenses in the years in which they become known.

#### 4. Accounts receivable

	<b>2024</b>
Check-off fees receivable	275,564
Other receivables	41,549
	<b>317,113</b>

#### 5. Investments

Investments, which include GICs, mutual funds and corporate bonds, have maturity dates between August 1, 2024 and July 9, 2029 and bear interest at annual rates between 1.10% and 5.423%. Investments are stated at their market value. It is the intention of the Board to hold all investments until maturity. Management's intentions are to hold these investment amounts for future operations; therefore, investments with a maturity date subsequent to July 31, 2025 have been classified as long-term.

#### 6. Internally restricted investments

Restricted investments include GICs, mutual funds and corporate bonds with yields to maturity between 1.10% and 5.423% with maturity dates between August 1, 2024, and July 9, 2029. Restricted investments are stated at their market value. It is the intention of the Board to hold all restricted investments until maturity; therefore, investments with a maturity date subsequent to July 31, 2025 have been classified as long-term. The Board of Directors has internally restricted, from the operating fund, \$3,000,000 of investments and cash as a reserve for future research, \$1,500,000 as a reserve for operating contingencies and \$1,000,000 as a reserve for shutdown. These funds cannot be accessed without the approval of the Board of Directors. Management's intentions are to hold these restricted investment amounts for future research and contingencies reserves therefore this amount has been classified as longterm. Interest and gains on these investments are unrestricted and included in the unrestricted investment balance.

#### 7. Capital assets

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated amortization</b>	<b>2024 Net book value</b>
Computer equipment	477,864	332,754	145,110
Computer software	32,886	2,741	30,145
Furniture and fixtures	251,135	226,885	24,250
Booth	56,585	56,585	-
Promotional equipment	33,685	33,348	337
FarmCash Advance Payments Program website development	246,040	246,040	-
	<b>1,098,195</b>	<b>898,353</b>	<b>199,842</b>

## 8. Grant commitments

The Commission has entered into various research grants. When funding for a research grant is approved by the Commission amounts are disbursed depending on the terms of the funding grant, the amount disbursed is then expensed in the period in which they occur if the recipient has met the terms of the agreement. The funds to cover these commitments are in the Commission's cash, short-term investments and long-term investments accounts.

As of July 31, 2024, the Commission has entered into agreements with payments terms requiring disbursement of \$4,819,590. The estimated annual grant commitments included in the amounts disclosed in Note 14.

## 9. FarmCash Advance Payments Program

The Commission has entered into a Tripartite Agreement (the "Agreement") with His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and a Canadian Chartered Bank (the "Lender") to become an administrator in the Advance Payments Program (the "Program") under the Agriculture Marketing Programs Act (the "Act"). Under the terms of the Program, the Commission is authorized to issue advances to producers who meet eligibility criteria. In order to facilitate the Program, the Commission has entered into Loan Agreements with the Lender. The Commission may only use funds advanced by the Lender for the purposes outlined in the Agreement and is responsible for any costs, including interest and penalties, related to failing to comply with this stipulation.

Amounts lent by the Commission are not to exceed \$110,000,000 for the 2023 program year, and \$105,000,000 for the 2024 program year. Pursuant to the Act, the Minister guarantees to the Lender all principal lent by the Administrator as well as interest calculated at a specified interest rate. The Minister is also responsible, at the request of the Commission, for the costs incurred by the Commission to recover principal and interest owed by a producer in default, so long as the Commission is in compliance with the terms of the Agreement. In the opinion of management, the Commission is compliant with the terms of the Agreement.

FarmCash Advances charge interest at rates based on prime with maturities ranging from one to twenty-four months. The receivables are guaranteed by the Federal Government. No allowance for loan impairment has been provided at July 31, 2024.

To finance the arrangement, the Commission has a series of operating lines of credit which bear interest at market based interest rates. At year-end, the maximum credit limit of the lines of credit available was \$220,365,000 of which \$71,228,895 was drawn.

## 10. Deferred revenue

	<b>2024</b>
Balance, upon amalgamation	1,371,001
Amount received during the year	576,903
Less: Amounts recognized as revenue during the year [876,011]	
	<b>1,071,893</b>

The ending balance of \$1,071,893, is also reflected as restricted cash and is specifically used for projects.

During the year, several project terms expired with balances outstanding. The Commission anticipates that these projects will be renewed. If any of the projects are rejected, a portion or all of deferred revenue may be payable to their respective contributors.

Revenue recognized consists of the following:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Project</b>	
Policy	Wetlands Stewardship	351,233
Agronomy and extension	Regional Variety Trials	298,002
Publications	Blue Book	192,264
Agronomy and extension	Plot2Farm	34,512
		<b>876,011</b>

## 11. Cereals Canada Inc. funding contribution

In an ongoing effort to strengthen market opportunities for Canadian wheat, the provincial wheat commissions mutually agreed and committed to continue to provide core funding to Cereals Canada Inc. which provides market support, training and technical services to the Canadian wheat value chain.

For the year ended July 31, 2024, the Commission's contribution to the commitment was \$812,951.

## 12. CMBTC funding commitment

The Barley Commissions in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba assumed the responsibilities and financial obligations of the Western Canadian Deduction ("WCD"). A portion of the WCD provided funding to the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre ("CMBTC"), which provides market technical support services to the Canadian Malting Barley value chain in an ongoing effort to strengthen market opportunities for Alberta and Canadian grown malting barley to domestic and international markets. Effective August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2026, the Commission committed to continue to provide funding to CMBTC at \$0.05/tonne of barley for which the commission collects a levy.

## 13. Interfund transfers

The FarmCash Advance Payments Program has historically run at a loss, the current year loss is \$436,189. Over the lifetime of the program, losses have totaled \$1,965,654. During the year, the Operating Fund paid certain FarmCash Advance Payments Program expenses on its behalf, totaling \$831,420.

The Board of Directors has passed a resolution to require the FarmCash Advance Payments Program to repay the funds transferred. As at July 31, 2024, the balance of \$3,710,075 reflects the cumulative transfers that have been incurred since the inception of the program which are payable to the operating fund. These transfers are un-secured, non-interest bearing with no fixed repayment terms, and are not likely to be collected within the year and, accordingly, have been classified as long-term liabilities.

## 14. Commitments

The Commission occupies leased premises subject to minimum monthly rent until the termination of the contract as at August 31, 2025. The Commission's rent for the premises to expiry is approximately \$141,217.

As described in Note 8, The Commission has also entered into several grant agreements.

The estimated minimum annual payments on leases and grant agreements are as follows.

2025	3,031,880
2026	1,117,415
2027	765,688
2028	41,762
2029	4,062
	<hr/>
	<b>4,960,807</b>

## 15. Contingencies

The Commission has been named as defendant in lawsuits. These lawsuits remain at an early stage, and as litigation is subject to many uncertainties, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits or to estimate the loss, if any, which may result.

## 16. Financial instruments

The Commission, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that The Commission is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed. Risks associated with FarmCash Advance Payments Program are disclosed in Note 9.

The Commission is indirectly exposed to market risk due to fluctuations in the investments' prices. These fluctuations could have an impact on cash flows of the Commission.

### Credit risk

The Commission acts as the administrator in the Advance Payments Program. Credit risk associated with this program is disclosed in Note 9.

## SCHEDULE 1: RESEARCH

<i>For the year ended July 31, 2024</i>	<b>2024</b>
Research wheat breeding	4,308,927
Research barley breeding	386,102
Western Crop Innovations	375,000
Research wheat agronomy	320,739
Research non-crop specific agronomy	287,640
Research barley agronomy	201,302
Salaries, benefits and contractors	138,506
Research non-crop specific breeding	62,284
Research and development	44,000
Membership fees	25,881
Meeting expense	25,511
Professional fees	24,086
Other	34,266
	<b>6,234,244</b>

## SCHEDULE 2: FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

<i>For the year ended July 31, 2024</i>	<b>2024</b>
Salaries, benefits and contractors	1,406,579
Office lease	324,800
Directors per diems and allowances	284,479
Professional fees	232,857
IT expense	153,338
Meeting expenses	99,339
Travel expenses	85,237
Telephone and communication expense	41,997
Office supplies	38,496
Insurance	21,724
Other	52,794
	<b>2,741,640</b>

### SCHEDULE 3: MARKET

*For the year ended July 31, 2024*

**2024**

Membership fees	949,288
Salaries, benefits and contractors	128,365
Partnership contribution	100,000
Professional fees	53,550
Program expenses	41,478
Meeting expense	34,827
Website development and maintenance	30,786
Sponsorship expenses	20,000
Other	20,545
	<b>1,378,839</b>

### SCHEDULE 4: MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

*For the year ended July 31, 2024*

**2024**

Salaries, benefits and contractors	537,236
Prairie Cereals Summit and other events	249,784
Sponsorship expenses	197,903
Meeting expenses	135,489
Program promotional materials	40,585
Conference fees	36,750
Promotion, Advertising, Media and Marketing	35,322
Production design	24,432
Other	51,380
	<b>1,308,881</b>

## SCHEDULE 5: AGRONOMY & EXTENSION

*For the year ended July 31, 2024*

	<b>2024</b>
Regional Variety Trials	278,080
Salaries, benefits and contractors	186,438
Professional fees	113,693
Knowledge technology transfer	86,200
Sponsorship expenses	78,275
Program expenses	45,183
Other	29,509
	<b>817,378</b>

## SCHEDULE 6: POLICY

*For the year ended July 31, 2024*

	<b>2024</b>
Wetlands Stewardship	347,786
Membership fees	166,590
Salaries, benefits and contractors	128,365
Meeting expense	19,533
Conference fees	15,030
Sponsorship expenses	13,551
Other	32,866
	<b>723,721</b>

## SCHEDULE 7: PUBLICATIONS

*For the year ended July 31, 2024*

	<b>2024</b>
Contributions to GrainsWest Publications Society	205,497
Print production expense	167,986
Salaries, benefits and contractors	100,720
Professional fees	77,582
Postage	53,092
Writing and design expense	26,000
Other	33,203
	<b>664,080</b>

