



SEED PLANT NEWS

Association of ALBERTA Co-op Seed Cleaning PLANTS Ltd.

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Seed plant news is now published four times annually to member plants, the executives and the managers of the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd.

President's Message **Wayne Jackson**

Though our numbers were down, we felt we had another successful convention last January. The weather contributed to the reduced numbers but we appreciate everyone making as much effort to come as they did. I would like to comment on two of the business items we discussed.

First is the increase of fees. With the government

no longer providing a general manager for the Seed Industry Partnership, the wages for a manager are an extra cost we have never had to absorb until this July. We could do one of two things: take the salary from our reserves or increase the fees. With having only about two years of operating funds in reserve, the board felt this was not enough to start drawing down from, so we recommended increasing the fees. It worked out to about \$600 per plant to cover projected wages. The delegate body supported this recommendation and approved it in the new budget so that was the increase you noticed on your invoice. As much as we might want to keep the fees as low as possible, sometimes increases must occur.

Secondly, the delegates approved a change in our by-laws to allow for the inclusion of auxiliary members in our organization. The criteria

they must follow to be eligible are a) be a co-operative, b) be in the grain industry, and c) be in agreement with the aims and goals of our organization.

An auxiliary member may not vote at any special, regional or annual meeting and may not hold office on the provincial board. At our last board meeting, we set the fees for auxiliary members at 150% of the regular members. We also STRONGLY urged our insurance company to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and safety through inspections and consultations when insuring these members. They have agreed on this matter and promised to maintain good communication with the board on the situation.

We think a policy is now in place to accept auxiliary members should a request arise. We met with a delegation in March from Westlock Terminals and had a good discussion about them



joining. They wish to discuss it further with their board and promised to get back to us shortly. I believe they could bring some good support to our organization if they decide to pursue their application.

We met with Morneau Sobeco in March to discuss renewal of the benefits program. At the last regional meetings we asked for your input if changes became necessary because of rapidly increasing costs. The good news is that the costs only went up 3.2% for the coming year so we felt this was acceptable so no coverage was cut. We are able to continue providing exactly the same coverage as last year. The other good news was that more plants have inquired about joining the plan, so if they do this will help keep costs down too.

In discussions with many of the managers, it sounds like cleaning was spread out over the winter a little better than in previous years. So hopefully you are not in as much of a panic this year as in the past two seasons. PLEASE make sure you look out for yourselves and your employees during hectic times, SAFETY always pays.

I wish to pass along my sympathies to Bill Witbeck

and his family at the recent passing of Bill's mother. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Thanks to everyone who supported our letter campaign to the M. L. A.'s asking for help for the three initiatives outlined. They agreed to extend Bill's contract to June 30, 2007 and we are now negotiating on the rest. Continue to ask for support if the situation arises as these initiatives are important to all of agriculture.

Good luck with the spring run and I look forward to seeing you at the regional meetings.

General Manager Recruitment

The Seed Industry Partnership is now starting the process to hire a replacement for Bill Witbeck. Bill's position has been extended to June 30, 2007 but that will be the last time. We are starting to advertise in May and hope to set up interviews right after the regional meetings. Hopefully someone will be in place by September 1. We have agreed in principle with Bill to have him train the new candidate when hired. If you know of someone you

think might make a good candidate, please have them contact Don Macyk at (780-464-3662) about the position. Don is handling the recruitment process for us.

Alberta Center of Seed Update

The Seed Industry Partnership has spent a fair number of hours fine tuning a business plan so we can use it as a basis to begin operations. A copy was sent to Premier Stelmach and Minister Groeoneveld. We recently met with the Premier and he seemed pleased with our progress, suggesting we continue to pursue the concept. He suggested possible funding sources that may be available.

We are also meeting with the Minister of Agriculture soon and hope to not only brief him on our progress but to also talk specifics with respect to money. I think the next step will be to draft an agreement between the Seed Industry Partnership and the province with respect to funding. Then we can come to you, our membership, and see if there is now a program you can support financially.



There is still considerable work to do yet but I believe progress is being made.

Regional Meetings

- June 12...Spring Coulee
(Meeting to be held in Magrath)
- June 13... Balzac
- June 14... Strome
- June 15...Camrose
- June 18...Clandonald
- June 19... Barrhead
- June 20... Sexsmith

There will be elections in Regions 3/5/6/7 for Provincial Directors and Region 3/4 for Manager Directors. The managers meetings are slated for 7:30am. The meetings are open to managers and staff but closed to all others. This is an opportunity for the managers to have open discussions on issues of concern. Guests will be invited to attend the meeting by the Manager Director of the respective regions as they see fit.

Again, we encourage everyone to bring issues or concerns that they may have to the meeting. This is your meeting and your opportunity to meet with your Regional Director, the President and the General Manager as well as the other plants in your region. In today's agricultural

environment we all need to work together to pursue our goals.

So make an effort to attend and discuss the issues you feel are important to our industry.

CFIA's Directive on Wood Packaging Amended

According to CFIA's announcement the policy directive has been updated to allow for the certification of wood packaging material and dunnage produced in an area of Canada regulated for a quarantine pest, which is specified in a policy directive, to allow for movement outside the regulated area. The directive also changes the specifications associated with repair of wood packaging, and modifies the Health Treatment certificate to allow certification of wood pallet components for domestic movement.

If this is of interest to you or anyone you work with, then you can update yourself by going to the CFIA website:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/di/r/d-01-05e.shtml>

Bayer CropScience Applicator Program

As the treating season winds down, please do not forget to complete your claim for the Bayer Applicator Support Program. All that is required to complete the program are copies of the proof of seed treatment purchase, and the amount of seed treated.

Monica Klaas & Kent Hall will be in attendance at most of the Regional Meetings and would be **very happy** to receive the documentation to complete the program claims. For any clarification, please call your rep: *Kent 780-235-5624, or Monica 403-625-7027.*

Bayer Value Program

Rebate programs can mean huge savings for many growers in western Canada. For example, growers can save up to \$3/acre by purchasing qualifying amounts of InVigor[®] Puma120[®] Super and Raxil[®] and/or Vitaflo[®] 280. For further information, call 1-888-283-6847.

Many Seed Treating Businesses are now submitting transactional data directly to AgCollect, which



expedites program reconciliation. AgCollect can be contacted directly at 1-888-532-5666. However, growers can submit invoices directly, if necessary.

Off-Season Maintenance

Summer is a great time to replace hoses, and perform maintenance on pumps and other components of your seed treatment system. Many applicators will empty and clean all nurse or holding tanks; then fill lines and pumps with RV antifreeze in preparation for the off-season.

Disposal of Bayer CropScience Seed Treatment Drums

Many chemical container collection sites will now accept triple rinsed seed treatment packaging. Please contact your local authority (usually the agricultural fieldman) for local guidelines on the type of container accepted. For any plant that has a large stock pile of empty BAYER drums, Bayer CropScience will provide a free pick-up service. Please contact your local rep to make

arrangements for drum pick-up.

Summer Field Tours

Field tours are a great way to gain a better understanding of how crop protection products work. Bayer CropScience is currently testing two new seed treatment products, a brand new herbicide, and showcasing foliar Fungicides. Contact your crop protection/seed treatment supplier for information on a tour near you.

Product Agitation

Unlike their solvent-based predecessors, flowable seed treatments may require agitation. Depending upon your seed treatment system configuration, either mechanical or pump (return-line) agitation may be required. Product agitation may be required on both the shipping drum and the treating nurse tank.

Caution needs to be exercised when mixing any "seed amendments" (micro nutrients, etc) with seed treatments. The use of many fertilizer-based (nutritional) seed amendments is a rather

new practice in Canada, and research on compatibility with seed treatment is still in the process of being conducted.

Groaner of the Day

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes," replied the employee. "That's OK then," said the boss. "Because while you were at your grandmother's funeral yesterday, she popped in to see you."

You Might Be a Redneck if.....

Your primary source of income is a pool cue.

Last time you took your wife to the movies, she had to hide in the trunk.

You actually wear shoes your dog brought home.

You keep a roll of toilet paper in your golf bag.

Classifieds

Please contact Stephanie at (403) 410-7664 to post a classified ad for free!



Technology Tidbits

By Lynette Lefsrud, Lefsrud Communications

Make technology work for you.

Do you have a cell phone, but aren't using it to its full potential? Consider, using it to get the weather.

To get weather forecasts or alerts direct to your cell phone, visit <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/inter/weathercentre/mobile/> and just follow the step-by-step instructions. Set up is easy and you'll have the latest weather wherever you are.

Seed.ab.ca

The site has a lot of great weather links for your uses. Check out the page at <http://www.seed.ab.ca/links/weather.asp> for links like:

- [Alberta Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Canada - Regional Climate Maps](#)
- [CBC News Weather](#)
- [Environment Canada - Weather Office](#)
- [Farmers' Almanac Weather](#)
- [Four Day Forecast for the Prairies](#)
- [Western Canada - Precipitation](#)

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the site, please feel free to send them to me at lynette@lefsrud.com. I look forward to hearing from you.