

# CONNECTIONS

## FEBRUARY 2024



### Alberta Seed Processors' 71st Annual General Meeting Recap:

It's a wrap! Over 200 delegates, guests, and sponsors attended the AGM held from January 17-19, 2024. The unofficial kick-off to the AGM started with the Managers Association meeting on the morning on Wednesday, January 17 followed by 2 workshops open to all AGM attendees. A safety workshop designed to help build skills necessary to understand the health hazards of dust, and emergency response scenarios and a board development workshop focusing on the legal landscape of Alberta co-operatives, with a lawyer that specializes in co-op law presenting on share stewardship, as well as other legal risk management topics that should be on every board's radar.



The business meeting kicked off with greetings from the various agriculture industry and government officials, followed by various presentations and reports.

The guest speaker, Ralph Wright, manager of the Agro-meteorology Applications and Modelling Unit spoke on Alberta Climate Information System (ACIS). Hundreds of weather stations gather data that is collected on the ACIS website which can be searched to provide information for a variety of uses. Further, tracking the weather can help predict possible disease infestations such as fusarium.

A panel discussion focusing on business resilience was led by Shawn Brook of Seed World Group. Anton Bellott from ATB, Arvel Lawson of Bayer, Andre Charrois from NFP and Syngenta's Shad Milligan provided input that small to medium sized business can consider to thrive in turbulent times.

Friday morning started with the ***IF I CAN DO IT YOU CAN DO IT TOO*** presentation from two managers: Murray Van Petten manager of the Camrose County Seed Plant, and Mike Safranka, manager of the Pincher Seed Cleaning Co-op shared their experiences. Camrose County commissioned a new state of the art seed & grain cleaning facility in 2023. Van Petten spoke on the multi-year process of building the new plant, as well as optimizing new opportunities cleaning grain once the plant was up & running. Mike Safranka spoke on working with his customers and board of directors to expand the services offered by the Pincher Seed Cleaning co-op to include seed treating.

A trade show featuring a few new exhibitors including CSS Pension plan and working alone solutions was well received by conference attendees. Networking and business to business success sharing is a major function of any organization, and we are very fortunate that we are able to facilitate information exchange both formally and informally.

The event was capped off with the keynote speaker, Laval St Germain. St Germain who is a pilot and world explorer and adventurer entertained and inspired us to reach our goals and with outstanding preparation, planning to reach new heights. Laval has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, scaled Mt. Everest, explored war-torn countries, and cycled the arctic. St. Germain has travelled extensively but always with a culture of being a guest in each destination, respecting local culture and surroundings. St Germain's presentation which included surreal photos of his journeys also included physical and mental challenges, which he is constantly training for the next big adventure.

Long Service Recognition, Bayer Golden Kernel Awards and the Outstanding Service Award were high lights of the luncheons on Thursday and Friday. Details to follow in the next *Connections*.

**TRADE SHOW:** at this year's AGM, there was the opportunity to connect with suppliers at the trade show with over 25 exhibitors present. It is through industry connections and support that this organization has been able to grow and thrive. Many of our industry partners bring way more to the table than just a price list and a product or service: they bring expertise, business knowledge, and new ideas. This is IN ADDITION to their sponsorship and participation in our events. If you are seeking a product or service, it is our hope that you at least give the folks that support our provincial association a chance to be the successful supplier for your project.



## Industry Partners that Supported the 2024 AGM

Company	2024 level	Ice Breaker Support
BASF	Partner	
Bayer CropScience	Partner	
NFP	Partner	
Syngenta	Partner	
CS Welding	Platinum	Big Thaw
Lewis M Carter Manufacturing (Canada) Ltd.	Platinum	Slow Melt
Meridian	Gold	
Seed Check Technologies Inc.	Gold	
Seed World Group	Gold	
20/20 Seed Labs Inc.	Silver	
ATB Financial	Silver	
Behst Machinery Corp.	Silver	
Hanks Feed Mills	Silver	Slow Melt
Nexeed Inc.	Silver	Slow Melt
SGS Canada	Silver	Still Icy
Carter Day	Bronze	Still icy
Farm Credit Canada	Bronze	
RCDM Services	Bronze	
SeCan	Bronze	Slow Melt
Strategic Management Services Ltd.	Bronze	
Accurate Scale Industries Ltd.	Exhibitor	Big Thaw
Aware 360	Exhibitor	
Can-Seed Equipment Ltd.	Exhibitor	
Corteva	Exhibitor	
CSS Pension Plan	Exhibitor	
Grain Discovery	Exhibitor	
Impel Systems Inc	Exhibitor	
Kenobie Inc.	Exhibitor	Slow Melt
KPIC Maintenance Services Inc.	Exhibitor	
Omex Agriculture Inc.	Exhibitor	
One Step Automation	Exhibitor	
Safety Line	Exhibitor	
TNS Solutions	Exhibitor	
Verigrain	Exhibitor	
Westlock Seed Cleaning Assoc		Slow Melt

**THANK YOU!**

# Missed the 2024 AGM?

Materials from the 71st AGM have been posted under EVENTS in the Member's Only Section of the Website.

## **Alberta Seed Processors' Board of Directors Announce Election Results, and Establish Executive For 2024**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 (Lacombe, AB)** - The Alberta Seed Processors' (ASP) provincial board of directors is pleased to announce the results of the regional elections for region 1 (southern Alberta) and region 2 (south-central Alberta) that were held in conjunction with the AGM in January 2024.



All incumbents were re-elected for 3-year terms: Todd McCann of Coaldale continues as director for region 1. Doug Sell of Rockford was re-elected as director for region 2.

Further, the Alberta Seed Processors' Manager's Association has appointed Tom Luethi (Warburg) and Greg Andrews (Three Hills) as representatives on the provincial board. The board bids farewell to Hugh Baier, who sat on the provincial board as Manager's Association President from 2019-2024.

In other organizational news, Todd McCann has been elected President and Mike Head has been elected Vice-President of ASP.

The Association's new president, Todd McCann, lives near Coaldale, with his wife Janie, and operates an irrigated farm. Todd is an avid curler who farms near Coaldale. Todd's farm is 100 percent irrigated and grows canola, pulses, and cereals in rotation with a potato farmer. He is a member of the County of Lethbridge Seed Cleaning Co-op, located north of Coaldale.

Todd McCann is excited to step up into the President's role and is eager to lead the organization through the upcoming year. "I remain committed to ensuring our Association represents our members," said McCann, "working towards a bright, profitable future for the entire value chain."

McCann was elected to the board in January 2018 to represent region 1, located in southern Alberta. He is serving his first year as president.

Mike Head has been elected as Vice-President of the Association. Mike is serving his first year as vice-president and regional director from region 7 (Peace region).

Tom Coppock, past president of the Association remains on the board to provide guidance to the new executive. "I am grateful that my fellow board members have trusted me as their President over the past few years," said Coppock. "However, I feel healthy organizations have good succession plans and will support the new executive in any way necessary."

A year ago, the board of directors developed an advisor role congruent with the organization's bylaws. The advisor role is a non-voting position appointed by the provincial board at intervals that meet the current needs of the board and organization. Factors that contributed to the creation of the position

include but are not limited to, board continuity, special project focus, committee work, and inspection assistance.

Dan Brachmann, who farms near Ponoka and former director for region 4, has been appointed by the board to serve as an advisor to the board.

## **Alberta Seed Processors' Managers' Association Announce Election Results and Executive For 2024**

The Alberta Seed Processors' Managers' Association are pleased to announce results of the regional elections for region 1 (southern Alberta) and region 2 (south central Alberta) that were held at the Managers' meeting held on January 17, in conjunction with AGM.

The incumbent regional representative from region 1, Joe Hanson from Taber was elected, along with Greg Andrews from Three Hills returning to his position as representative for region 2

Further, Tom Luethi (Warburg) was elected as President and Greg Andrews (Three Hills) continues his service as secretary-treasurer of the organization.

### Managers' Association Regional Representatives:

Region 1	Joe Hanson	Taber Seed Cleaning Co-op
Region 2	Greg Andrews	Three Hills & District Seed Cleaning Assoc.
Region 3	Hugh Baier	Provost Seed Cleaning Co-op
Region 4	Murray Van Petten	Camrose Seed Cleaning Plant
Region 5	Ron Wirsta	St Paul Seed Cleaning Co-op
Region 6	Tom Luethi	Warburg Seed Cleaning co-op
Region 7	Roger Remillard	Falher Seed Cleaning Co-op

## **MANAGERS' ASSOC SUMMER TRAINING**



**JUNE 18 - 20, 2024** *(tentatively)*  
**Lethbridge, AB**

Please contact your regional manager's assoc. representative should you have a training request or idea for event content.

## **MEMBERSHIP INVOICING**

Invoices were sent the week of January 23.

If you have not received your invoice, please contact Monica (403 489 9999),  
[info@seedprocessors.ca](mailto:info@seedprocessors.ca) ASAP

**Payments are due no later than March 28, 2024.**

If there is an extenuating circumstance that a payment extension is required, please contact the association office. Otherwise, late penalties will be issued for payments not received prior to end of business day, March 28.

The Provincial Association collects funds on behalf of the Manager's Association, and funds are not released to the Managers' Association until all members have paid in full. Late payments adversely affect the planning of the summer training session.



## CAREERS WORKS WITH SCHOOLS TO CONNECT YOUTH TO EMPLOYERS FOR PAID INTERNSHIPS.

### Benefits

- Students are covered under provincial WCB.
- Program Coordinators are located province-wide to assist in finding the right intern for your operation.
- YiiP (Youth Internship Incentive Program) available to help cover the cost of an intern

Agriculture is the second-largest program within CAREERS recognizing the huge labour force shortage within the industry. Supporting a student in an internship is a great way to plan for the future of your company and industry. Internships develop the skills of emerging young talent that have a high-level of interest and initiative.

**CONTACT CAREERS AND GET READY TO TAKE ON THE FUTURE TODAY. [careersnextgen.ca](http://careersnextgen.ca)**

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



# IMPORTANT



Renewals for the April 1 AD&D Policies have been sent out to plan participants. Please respond to the email at your earliest convenience.



## Group Benefits Plan Participation

We are pleased to provide the staff and their eligible dependents of the Seed plants with a comprehensive group benefits package. It is at the discretion of each individual co-op plant if the plant participates in the plan or not.

Once a plant decides to join the plan: the following rules apply to ALL full-time staff:

1. Eligible staff are those full-time staff and are defined as working in excess of 15 hours/week. The plan is not designed for part time staff.
2. Once a site/plant has joined the group plan, all full-time employees MUST join the plan, and participate in the Employee Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D), Dependent Life, Long Term Disability (LTD), Extended Health Care and Dental Care benefits
3. An employee may opt out of the Extended Health Care and/or Dental Care benefits offered under our group plan only if they have coverage for those benefits under their spouses/family plan. They can also choose to opt in, and have more coverage- especially for dental.
4. Should an employee opt out of the Extended Health Care and/or Dental Care benefits because they have spousal coverage, they won't be able to add this coverage at a later date unless their spousal/family coverage is lost. If they lose their spousal/family coverage, they will need to add the coverage for these benefits under the plan within 31 days of the loss of other coverage.
5. New hires must join the group plan after **3 months** of continuous employment. **Please note if a plant has adopted a 6-month probation period for new hires, you should have this changed. AB Blue Cross will back date the start date of the group benefits to the 3-month date for a new employee and you will have to pay for the first 3 months in a lump sum.**
6. **Each plant will have an assigned group plan administrator. It is the responsibility of the administrator to update records on a timely basis. Updating family additions, deletions, salary changes, etc. are very important to ensure each employee is properly covered.**
7. Have you had a change in employees? This includes new employees, eligible dependent updates such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, etc. Changes **MUST** be submitted to Alberta Blue Cross within 31 days of the change.
8. Participation under the Employee Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D), Dependent Life and Long-Term Disability (LTD) benefits is mandatory for all eligible staff. Eligible employees are considered to be working FULL time (not seasonal) with a minimum of 15 hours/week. For new employees, there is a three (3) month waiting period to being considered a full-time eligible employee.
9. **Eligible employees and their dependents who apply for coverage more than 31 days after being eligible are deemed late applicants. Late applicants may be required to show proof of good health and upon review by Alberta Blue Cross benefits can be refused or only limited coverage offered.**

### **[Require information on joining Alberta Blue Cross Benefit Program?](#)**

Contact Trish Gillespie at NFP Brokers. Phone : (780) 930 4443 E-mail : [trish.gillespie@nfp.ca](mailto:trish.gillespie@nfp.ca)

# Seed Health

**What to Know About Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS)** \* following is an excerpt from 2020 seed labs tech bulletin  
Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS) was recently noted as a seed-borne disease emerging as a concern in Canada, affecting cereal crops and especially in irrigated areas.

Xanthomonas translucens has been identified as the pathogen responsible for BLS and Black Chaff diseases of small cereal grains, by infection of leaves and glumes respectively. Pathovars of X. translucens are recognized based on their ability to induce disease symptoms on different crop hosts, and wild or cultivated grasses. This is a distinctly different pathogen from X. vasicola which is responsible for BLS on corn. Both Xanthomonas species like areas with abundant moisture, as do most bacteria. There are no effective products – seed treatment or foliar - against BLS so prevention is important.

- Testing for BLS if there's a concern in your area.
- Extend crop rotations, if possible, to keep those cereal hosts away from any stubble that may carry the infection.
- Viability of Xanthomonas on seed has also been reported to decrease by 79% after 6 months in storage so using an older seed lot may also be helpful.
- Scout and be prepared to reduce water levels if symptoms occur. Keep good records of fields that show significant symptoms. Avoid planting a cereal crop in those fields for a couple years too.
- Avoid using the seed harvested from infected fields in other high-risk fields.

Be aware that BLS is a much bigger issue for durum and irrigated fields. When growing durum under irrigation be extra cautious and follow the BMP's.

## RISK MANAGEMENT



Looking for a past articles, or information on Wheat Midge Stewardship, Plant Breeders Rights, Risk Management, etc.? Check out past issues of *CONNECTIONS* posted on the website. <https://seedprocessors.ca/news-events/>

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Handler 1 Seed Treater

Never used, still in packaging. Could be used as a mix tank for inoculants, or as a second unit.  
\$2500.00 obo call Monica for details 403 489 9999

### Cimbria Delta 108 Super Cleaner

lots of life left in it. Full a ray of screens, from flax to chickpeas  
\$50,000.00 o.b.o. call Greg at Three Hills. 403-443-3296

## Carter Day 6 row indent with scalper aspirator currently set

up for flax but have cylinders to change back to cereals.  
\$15,000.00 o.b.o. call Greg at Three Hills. 403-443-3296

## Sortex Z+ FOR SALE: Buhler

Purchased in 2010. 3 shoot – rated for 450 bus/hour. New transformer in July 2022.  
New bulbs in 2022. Regularly maintained by CanSeed every July/August  
\$55,000 OBO Call Peggy or Pat at the Alliance Seed Cleaning

## Sortex Z+ FOR SALE: Buhler

Buhler Z+ 3 chute optical sorter installed in 2011 and replaced in 2021, crated and ready to go to a new home. The unit is in great shape, and was maintained by Canseed equipment. Asking \$50,000. Please contact James Cambridge, Plant Manager: Willingdon Seed Cleaning Plant Ph (780) 367-2711

## FOR SALE: CRIPPEN 688-PRO-LH Air & Screen Machine

Manufactured-in 1990. Includes motors and some screens. \$15,000.00 or best offer. Call 780-362-6212.

## FOR SALE: Gustafson On Farm Seed Treater: (OFT)

Perfect for treating small lots of seed- especially 25 kg bags.  
For more information contact Tom @ Warburg 780 848 2365

## IN SEARCH OF: Seed Cleaning Equipment

In search of screens for Flax, Mustard and Lentils for a Crippen Century Pro 488 with 1 by 3 screens.  
Also looking for a Similar Air and Screen machine with 500 to 600 bushel capacity.  
Mike: Bus. 403 627 5010 Cell. 780 385 0825 [Email.seedinfo@pcseedplant.com](mailto:Email.seedinfo@pcseedplant.com)

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