



# Western Crop Innovations

## A Proud Past:

Western Crop Innovations emerges from a 50-year legacy as the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe:

- Recognized across Canada for research plot quality
- Home to North America’s only dedicated triticale breeding program
- Successful track record with release of climate-resistant feed & malt barley varieties, including:
  - AB Prime
  - AB Maximizer
  - AB Standswell
  - AB Hague
  - AB Tofield
  - AB Foothills
  - AB Wrangler
  - AB BrewNet
  - AB Dram



Multi-disciplinary & highly collaborative team with a combined total > 300 years experience in plant breeding



Dedicated, world-class research facility



The “go to” resource for regional plot variety trials and data.

## A New & Exciting Present:



Continue core barley and triticale breeding



Agile organization that will pivot to new research opportunities



Align to stakeholder needs for comprehensive support



Collaborate to identify additional PSI opportunities



Strengthen research + extension + agronomy connections for effective on-farm solutions

- Transitioning to a new stand-alone organization under new management
- Not-for-profit model allows for nimbleness and adaptability:
  - Collaboration with various institutions
  - Leveraging diverse funding sources, including industry support
  - Flexibility to fill research gaps
  - Responsive to industry demands

## Expansion of Research Capacity

Quality program:

- micromalt plant: in-house testing for malting quality traits
- wet chemistry lab: screening for feed, forage and malt quality traits

Biotechnology program:

- genomic selection: increasing selection intensity and accuracy using genetic 'snapshots'

Breeding system:

- digital phenotyping: UAV imagery data for advanced plant trait analysis

Enhanced research capabilities accelerate the development of well-adapted varieties with improved agronomic, quality and disease-resistance traits.

**Getting high-yielding, high-performance, and climate-resistant seed into the hands of producers faster is the cornerstone of our mission!**

## Partnership is Paramount



Focused on showcasing the power of a public-private partnership



Co-creating new initiatives in crop research



Committed to transparency and accountability to our funding partners



Employ best business practices and good governance



Membership model: members will elect the Board of Directors

## Why WCI?



Bold thinkers, intent on driving real impact.



Purpose-driven and recognized as one of Canada's leading interdisciplinary research teams.



Core activities of increasing yield, improving disease resistance, and providing superior end-use quality remain unchanged.



Our team is aiming high, and our commitment to the industry has never been greater.

