



TEAMALBERTA

ADVANCING ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR TO 2025 AND BEYOND

ALBERTA'S \$6 BILLION CROP SECTOR IS A PRIMARY DRIVER OF ALBERTA'S ECONOMY



Alberta
Barley



- With a total cultivated farm area of **31.3 million acres** that produces about **20 million tonnes** of wheat, canola, pulses and barley every year – Alberta is one of the world's most productive agricultural economies.
- Alberta's crop farm cash receipts reached **\$6.93 billion** in 2017, a 4% increase over 2016.
- Alberta's farm cash receipts represented **22.9%** of Canada's primary agricultural production.
- Alberta's exports of unprocessed agricultural products **rose 14%** from 2016 to **\$5.7 billion** in 2017. **Crops accounted for 86%** of these exports at close to **\$5 billion**.
- Crop production employed nearly **20,000 Albertans** in 2017 and indirectly supported 278,000 workers in Canada's agri-food sector.
- Alberta has an expanding value-added agricultural products sector. In 2017, Alberta's processed food and beverage manufacturing sales reached a record **\$14.5 billion**; making it Alberta's top manufacturing industry on a revenue basis.
- The grain and oilseed-milling and crushing sub-sector in Alberta exported **\$1.7 billion** in 2017, which has **grown over 90%** in the last decade.

POLICY FOCUSED ON PRODUCTIVE RESULTS IN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR.



COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH INNOVATION

Alberta grain, oilseed and pulse crops compete on quality. The global competitiveness of Alberta producers relies on innovative agronomic and genetic research. Through our commissions, farmers fund a significant level of research. Currently, between these four crop commissions, approximately \$14.7 million of our farmers' levy dollars are directed to co-funding various research projects.

There has been an erosion in government funds to match producer investment. In order to unlock the further potential of our crop sector and retain competitiveness on the global stage, farmers are looking for:

- A long-term commitment from government partners for strategic investment in crop production research and extension.
- Support for scientific research and training capacity.
- Collaboration in the setting of research priorities.
- A transparent process for the allocation of research funding.



SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE CARBON LEVY

Alberta farmers are among the most sustainable in the world. For decades farmers have voluntarily adopted beneficial management practices and invested in advanced technology and equipment, that have yielded benefits to their competitiveness, and economic and environmental sustainability of the next generation of farmers.

Farmers are removing carbon from the atmosphere, allowing agricultural soil to sequester more carbon produced from other industrial processes. Current climate change policy doesn't reflect these contributions. Farmers have seen an erosion to their competitiveness through increased costs such as the carbon levy. Farmers want to see:

- Recognition for the crop sector's positive contributions to mitigate climate change and sequester carbon.
- Exemption from the carbon levy for all sources of energy used on farm.



REGULATORY HURDLES

Alberta farmers operate in a high risk environment with thin margins and high capital costs that are compounded by unpredictable markets and weather in a unique and variable operating structure. To ensure continued competitiveness in a sector with these factors, farmers require transparency, consultation and accountability from government with respect to regulatory decisions that could impact their operations and erode the competitiveness of the crop sector.

Farmers rely on a predictable, stream-lined, science-based regulatory environment that supports access to innovative tools. For example:

- Disease Management: The current regulatory environment outlined in *Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act* curtails in-field research, limits farmers' access to disease resistant seeds, and doesn't allow for adaptive regional regulatory systems, putting them at a competitive disadvantage to other jurisdictions.
- Fortunately, the government heard Team Alberta and other primary agricultural producers who immediately advocated for an extension for farmers seeking new Class 1 licenses and Mandatory Entry-Level Training. The implication is that farmers are currently faced with potential labour shortages due to having to suddenly comply with regulatory changes that will come into effect right in advance of the growing season
- Current proposed decisions by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada are threatening to remove critical tools (seed treatment pesticides), which would have a detrimental effect on crop production in Alberta. Farmers look to the provincial government to amplify this message.



MARKET ACCESS

Exports from Alberta grain, pulse and oilseed farmers in 2017 alone were close to \$4 billion – a figure that has more than doubled in the past 10 years. The potential for agriculture and agri-food production and export growth will only increase over the next decade with the continual advancement and adoption of new technologies.

The majority of the agricultural sector is export dependent. As such farmers are reliant on open market access which includes reliable rail service to move their goods to markets.

- Access to international markets is imperative: Improved market access, through free-trade agreements, trade promotion and political support to resolve non-tariff to trade, allows farmers to earn the most value for their production and is critical for achieving the \$85 billion federal growth target for agri-food exports by 2025. The potential for agriculture, agri-food production and export growth will only increase over the next decade with the advancement and adoption of new technologies.
- Farmers and shippers need to have timely, predictable and efficient rail service to take advantage of export market opportunities and benefit from trade agreements. Failure for the railways to deliver services causes significant financial strain on farmers, and also affects Alberta and Canada's international reputation as a reliable supplier of agricultural exports. Farmers are concerned about the strain that the increased capacity of oil by rail will have on the western Canadian rail network.

WHO IS TEAM ALBERTA

Team Alberta represents a working collaboration between Alberta's four crop commissions: Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission.

The crop commissions are producer elected, directed and funded organizations, governed by the Marketing of *Agricultural Products Act* of the Province of Alberta. The commissions collect a mandatory, refundable levy on every tonne of wheat, barley, pulses or canola sold. Collectively, Team Alberta represents approximately 20,000 farmer members. The crop commissions work with our respective boards to help farmers succeed by directing funds toward **research, market development, communications, education and policy development initiatives that improve the success of Alberta's farmers.**

Team Alberta works together specifically to:



Advocate on behalf of farmers



Provide policy input to government



Promote the sustainability of Alberta's crop sector



Working to ensure long-term access to markets.



Alberta
Barley

