



## TOGETHER WE GROW ALBERTA'S FIRST-CLASS CROP SECTOR

Alberta's \$8 billion crop sector is a primary driver  
of Alberta's economy



- Alberta has a cultivated crop area of **20.2 million acres**, producing on average **23.6 million tonnes** of barley, canola, potatoes, pulses, sugar beets, wheat including seeds every year – marking us as one of the world's most productive agricultural economies.
- Alberta produces 40 per cent of Canada's honey valued at around **\$106 million** in 2023.
- Alberta's crop receipts, including honey, reached over **\$8.5 billion** in 2024, a 49 per cent increase since 2019 and contributing \$20 billion to Canada's GDP in 2024.
- Team Alberta Crops' cash receipts represented over **16 per cent** of Canada's total crop receipts, an increase of 5 per cent since 2019.
- Exports of unprocessed commodities from our Alberta farmers rose about 35 per cent since 2019 to approximately **\$6.9 billion** in 2024.
- With around **21,000 farms in Alberta**, our crop sector indirectly supports over 278,373 workers in Canada's agri-food sector.
- Alberta has an expanding value-added agricultural products sector. Since 2020, Alberta's food manufacturing sector grew 56 per cent to **\$24.23 billion** in 2024, making it Alberta's second largest manufacturing sub-sector by sales.
- Alberta's honey production reached approximately **36.95 million** pounds in 2023.
- 28,000 acres of sugar beets are grown annually in Alberta, yielding 125,000 tonnes of refined sugar.
- Alberta produces approximately **1.5 million** metric tonnes of potatoes, with approximately 70 per cent going to the processing sector.
- The grain and oilseed-milling and crushing sub-sector in Alberta sold **\$4.65 billion** in 2024, growing 183 per cent in the past 5 years.
- In 2024 there were over **307,000 acres** used for pedigreed seed production in Alberta.

To continue to grow, farmers need investments and a policy and regulatory environment focused on growth domestically and internationally.



## COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH INNOVATION

Alberta's crops and honey sectors compete in their high-quality and leading-edge practices. The global competitiveness of Alberta producers relies on innovative agronomic and genetic research. Through our commissions, farmers fund a significant level of research. Approximately \$15.5 million of farmers' levy dollars annually are directed to co-funding various research projects.

Both farmers and the public receive significant benefits through publicly funded research **including**: food security and affordability, resilience, environmental benefits, enhanced nutrition and overall economic growth and competitiveness. To remain competitive farmers need:

- The prioritization and increase in research capacity in Alberta through sufficient, long-term funding for: research infrastructure, plant breeding **and bee health** research and restoring gaps in extension capacity and programs.
- Investments like those made in Budget 2025: **improvements** to CDC North and South, WCI and RDAR are a good start; longer-term funding structures are imperative to direct value to farmers and improve economic productivity.
- To regain the capacity of key researchers focused on specific crop management.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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 the land, air, soil and water, contributing to competitiveness and both economic and *environmental* sustainability for the next generation of farmers.

Alberta farmers' practices allow agricultural soils to sequester more carbon from the atmosphere than they produce, while pollinators provide an essential ecosystem service.

Key priorities of farmers in this context include:

- Reviewing policies and regulatory hurdles preventing greater adoption of water management tools including dewatering and controlled tile drainage (CTD) and revisiting the Alberta Wetland Policy.
- We need to use mechanisms like regional planning to minimize loss and land use conflict that is ever mounting. Competition for land resources has seen a loss of 43, 300 hectares of Class 2 & 3 land the past decade.
- Continued investments and studies into irrigation expansion and modernization, providing opportunities for farmers in other regions to expand to new crops and support success.



## 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, farmers need transparency, consultation and accountability from all levels of government with respect to regulatory decisions that could impact their operations and erode the competitiveness of the crop sector.

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

- Bill C-294 and C-244 amended the *Copyright Act* to enable right to repair and interoperability across industries in Canada, including agriculture. To enshrine in legislation farmers' rights to diagnose or repair their equipment or engage independent third parties to do so, expediting critical wait times.
- Farmers' ability to transact in the purchasing or selling of land is greatly hindered by wait times of over six months. Service Alberta must allocate resources to modernize (digitize) and improve their land titles process and to improve timeliness as is the standard in other provinces.
- Provincial amplification to ask Health Canada to withdraw the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) fee proposal before finalized is critical. It was ultimately done without appropriate consultation; and the magnitude of the increase proposed will disincentivize continued investment into pest control innovation in Canada and come at a cost to producers.



## MARKET ACCESS

Exports from the Alberta crop and honey sector in 2024 were \$6.9 billion – representing growth of 173 per cent in the last decade. The potential for agriculture and agri-food value added production and export growth will only increase over the next decade with an enabling policy environment and continual advancement and adoption of new technologies.

The majority of the agricultural sector in Alberta is export-dependent. As such, farmers rely on open market access, adherence to rules-based trade and reliable rail service to get their goods to market.

- With the evolving threat of tariffs from the USA and other markets (China), it is critical that the province continues to work toward market diversification by leading trade missions to emerging markets where Canada has multilateral trade agreements and utilize Alberta's trade offices to expand Alberta's agricultural trade and investment.
- Update the provincial Agri-Food Investment and Growth Strategy, developing tactics to continue to support domestic value-added agricultural processing capacity while prioritizing policy decisions to increase investment attractiveness with Alberta for agri-food processors.
- Farmers and shippers need to have timely, predictable and efficient rail and trucking service to be able to reliably deliver our products to our customers. Failures of rail service or in trucking availability cause significant financial strain on farmers and affect our reputation as a reliable shipper of agricultural exports. Provincial support and amplification for federal government intervention when service issues occur is critical.

## WHO IS TEAM ALBERTA CROPS

Team Alberta Crops represents a working collaboration between seven of Alberta's crop commissions: Alberta Beekeepers Commission, Alberta Canola, Alberta Grains, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and the Potato Growers of Alberta.

Our commissions are producer elected, directed and levy funded organizations, governed by the *Alberta Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*. The commission's work with our respective boards to help farmers succeed by directing funds toward research, market development, communications, education and policy development. Team Alberta Crops represent approximately 21,000 farmer members.

### Team Alberta Crops 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

