

# Wheat's Up

Alberta Wheat  
COMMISSION



## General Manager's Message

Tom Steve, General Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

### Time to modernize grain regulations

What are the obstacles to improving Canada's competitiveness in global grain markets?

In this column I will focus on two areas:

- 1) The need to simplify and improve the wheat classification system to take market realities into account; and
- 2) Evolution of the role of the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) from a service provider to an oversight agency.

Both the classification system and the CGC's mandate are embedded in the *Canada Grain Act*, a legislative relic passed in 1912 that had its last major update in 1971. There have been minor tweaks since then and a failed attempt to reform the act through Bill C-48 that died on the order paper prior to the 2015 election.

### Classification system reform

The process of classifying varieties is complex and in our view too controlled by a single agency, the CGC (see Moving Target on page 6).



Classification decisions should involve the entire value chain – farmers, seed companies, seed growers, exporters and end users – to determine what customers want and are willing to pay for.

The current process is heavily influenced by those who do not have a direct financial stake in the industry and does not include an economic or market analysis.

In addition, there are ten western Canadian wheat classes, while over 90 per cent of acres are comprised of four classes: Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS), Canada Western Amber Durum (CWAD), Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) and Canada Western Red Winter (CWRW). Do we really need a separate class for extra strong wheat that accounted for only 500 insured acres in 2017?

AWC would cut the number of wheat classes to the top four, with a general purpose class for everything else.

### CGC role

Unlike our competitors in the U.S. and Australia where up to 40 percent of the costs of federal

inspection agencies are covered by the taxpayer, the CGC operates on a cost recovery basis. This forces it to provide services that could otherwise be provided more cost effectively by the private sector.

Case in point: Currently, all wheat vessels must receive an outward inspection and certificate final from the CGC. Roughly 80 per cent of those vessels are also inspected by a private 3rd party – either SGS or Intertek to meet contractual arrangements with international customers.



It's estimated that these double inspections add roughly \$38 million dollars a year in costs that are ultimately passed down to farmers.

In our view, the CGC should provide the regulatory oversight and open up all inspection services to competition.

Modernizing our classification system and reducing the cost of inspection services – two ways to enhance Canada's competitiveness in global grain markets.



## Chair's Message

### WheatStalk: One day of agronomy solutions

Kevin Bender, Chair | Alberta Wheat Commission

As a farmer, one of the key principles that I always strive for is continuous improvement. There are a lot of local extension events around the province in place to facilitate those goals, aimed at helping farmers yield the best possible results. The Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) is proud to support many of these events, with several of them hosted by your local applied research associations (ARAs). You can read more about these events on page 7. But this year, for the second year running, AWC's staff and directors are excited to invite you to our premier extension event, WheatStalk: one day of agronomy solutions.

Wheat Stalk will take place on July 19 and is hosted in partnership with FarmingSmarter based out of Lethbridge. The event brings together local

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) researchers with applied researchers from Farming Smarter to give farmers the latest updates on research and extension that supports your bottom line.

Like the name sounds, WheatStalk takes a rock-n-roll approach to agronomy. Last year's sessions included "Bred Zepplin" with winter wheat breeder Rob Graf, "Barenaked Bugs" with bug experts Scott Meers and Haley Catton, "the Grateful Bread" with CPS breeder Harpinder Randhawa and plant pathologist Reem Aboukhaddour, and more. This year's sessions are still in the works and will be announced shortly on [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com).

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WheatStalk doesn't stop at rock-n-roll learning sessions. This year's event will have Bug bingo with Dr. Haley Catton, Axe throwing, and other field games and activities. And of course, we'll provide a morning snack and a hearty lunch to make sure you're ready to take it all in.

AWC and Farming Smarter encourage farmers and industry colleagues to register online at [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) in advance and watch for updates on our website on this year's speakers and other details. We hope to see you there!



AWC General Manager Tom Steve (left) and Director Gary Stanford (right) gear up for WheatStalk 2017 in FarmingSmarter swag.

# WheatStalk

ONE DAY OF AGRONOMY SOLUTIONS

EXPLORE ALL THINGS WHEAT!

SAVE THE DATE

July 19 • 8:30 pm – 3:00 pm

For the full lineup check out  
[albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com)



## Get set, before you go!

Heather Watson, Executive Director | Farm Management Canada

**While it's always exciting to head out to the field, have you stopped to consider:**

What's in your farm management toolbox?

You likely have a shed where you keep your tools to ensure your equipment and machinery run at optimal levels and you always have what you need, when you need it. But, when it comes to managing your farm business, what's at your disposal? Are your resources, tools and skills sufficient to meet your needs, and the ever-changing needs of the industry? Have you created a plan? Is it written down? Who is there to support you?

A written plan is the most effective tool for uniting your farm team around a vision and provides a guiding light to help you and your team confront change with confidence and seize opportunity. With the hustle and bustle of farming, a business plan acts as your reference point for making timely, yet informed decisions, based upon the overarching long-term goals of the operation. Planning is also an opportunity to identify strengths and areas for improvement through skills training or working with industry experts including farm advisors.



To stay on task and on time, establish a schedule for regular farm team meetings. Perhaps the team meets briefly at the start of each day to discuss daily tasks, then there's a more formal meeting on a weekly basis to cover operations and a bi-weekly or monthly meeting to cover strategic concerns or opportunities.

Regular meetings are also an opportunity to celebrate successes and progress towards meeting your personal and business goals. Take time to celebrate and appreciate one another. When times get tough, when stress levels rise, you can count on your team and your plan to help ensure you're making the best decisions for the future of the farm and its people.

Before starting any new task, it's a good idea to call a "start-up" meeting to put your plan into action.

Remind everyone; What are the main goals or outcomes? Who's responsible for what? Who's accountable to whom? Having clarity of expectations between members of the farm team helps everyone stay on task to optimize your resources, including people, equipment, inputs and the soil.

Remember, your plan is not set in stone. The plan should be considered a living document...a roadmap that may change routes from time to time, but nonetheless gets you where you need to go. As you move through your day-to-day operations, new opportunities or risks may arise that could warrant revisiting and revising the business plan to adapt to changing farming conditions.

Plan and prosper!

*A national coordinating body and umbrella for cultivating excellence in farm management, Farm Management Canada helps farmers understand the forces shaping the world around them and provides the information, resources, training and tools to enhance their management skills and practices.*





## GGC Lobbying trip to Ottawa

Geoff Backman, Business Development and Markets Manager |  
Alberta Wheat Commission

On April 16, 2018 the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC), of which AWC is a member, launched its inaugural national grain week. Farmers travelled from coast-to-coast to Ottawa to advocate for policies to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of the agri-food export sector.



**In a four-day bi-partisan effort, AWC directors met with Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, and the New Democratic Party. Meetings were also held with Senators, and with directors of both Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Transport Canada.**

The attending producers used this opportunity to thank the Senators for including the requested amendments for longhaul interswitching and reciprocal penalties to Bill C-49, an update to the Canada Transportation Act. Producers informed lawmakers about the realities of being an industry reliant on rail transportation, and how the delays experienced through this winter brought financial difficulties to farm families. At all meetings, it was explained how these amendments could prevent total railway failure through the introduction of competitive solutions for shippers. Bill C-49 officially passed as of May 23 which was a historic step forward for farmers and another good news story to come from lobbying trips that AWC has been part of.

The importance of trade negotiations was also stressed during these meetings. While farmers are striving towards the goal of reaching \$75 billion in agri-food exports, co-operation by government is required to ensure a market is available for these products. Ministers were informed how free trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) are critical to ensuring that our exports have equivalent access as exports from other countries. Parliamentarians were also reminded to be aware of non-tariff barriers. Information was provided on Italian country of origin labelling (COOL) legislation which is impacting Canadian durum exports, and a request was made for assistance in combating COOL under the Canadian-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Parliamentarians were also educated about the safe and sustainable farm practices conducted in Canada. The attending producers explained



*From Left to Right: Shane Stokke, Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission | Jeff Nielsen, Grain Growers of Canada | Dave Quist, Western Canadian Wheat Growers | Jason Lenz, Alberta Barley Commission | Lawrence MacAulay, Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister | Clayton Harder, Canadian Canola Growers Association | Geoff Backman, Alberta Wheat Commission*

that potential regulation changes by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) could remove farm access to critical chemicals, tools that allow farmers to manage pests or disease in a targeted manner. The need was stressed for science-based decisions, and harmonization with similar organizations like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These approaches encourage innovative farm practices and provide farmers with improved tools for sustainable production.

The first national grain week was a resounding success. All parliamentarians were attentive and interested to hear the rural concerns of Canadians during meetings and thanked all producers for taking the trip. The results of these efforts are being seen through meaningful changes to legislation in support of the agricultural sector. Initiatives such as national grain week show that producers can have a voice in Ottawa through well directed groups, such as the GGC.

## New CPSR varieties released from AWC's 4P Investment with CANTERRA SEEDS Ltd. and Ag Canada

Laura Anderson, Research and Special Projects Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission

The Alberta Wheat Commission, in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and CANTERRA Seeds, formed what is known as a 4P Agreement in 2014. This producer/public/private partnership was formed in order to strengthen the breeding capacity of Dr. Harpinder Randhawa's CPSR (Canada Prairie Spring Red) breeding program at the AAFC Lethbridge Research Centre. With a total partner contribution of \$3.4 million over five years, the lab has worked to bring new and improved CPSR varieties to Canadian wheat producers.

The investment dollars have been put to use through increasing germplasm and technology exchange with other scientists around the globe. The lab has increased its capacity for doubled haploid production to speed up the cultivar development process and it has expanded its agronomic and disease testing abilities of advanced generation lines.

Come 2015, the Dr. Randhawa's lab successfully received CFIA registration for two new CPSR cultivars with improved agronomics - HY1627 and HY1632. Given CANTERRA's involvement and contribution to the 4P Agreement, they hold the first right of refusal for cultivars emerging from this breeding program. With this, CANTERRA selected HY1632, better known as AAC Crossfield for seed commercialization. HY1627 (AAC Entice,) AAC Crossfield's sister variety, is being commercialized by Crop Production Services (CPS) and will be available through the Proven Seed line.

While seed growers are busy producing AAC Crossfield this season, AWC staff are working alongside CANTERRA Seeds' marketing team to develop advertising tools and stories to share with wheat farmers prior to the variety's full launch in Spring 2019. The launch of two new CPSR varieties is a great accomplishment arising from the 4P agreement. AWC is proud to be sharing this

development with its member base as it stems from a true for-producer, by-producer investment.

If you are interested in learning more about AAC Crossfield and AAC Entice, AWC encourages you to get in touch with your local seed company representative or seed grower. Be sure to keep an eye out for it at your local field days this summer.

AAC Crossfield and AAC Entice are semi-dwarf varieties with excellent straw strength. They have good resistance to leaf, stem and yellow rusts as well as intermediate FHB resistance.



Ragweed, lamb's-quarters and chickweed: all enemies of wheat growers  
Photo by Clair Langlois

## Spraying Herbicides "On-Time" In A Busy Season

Clair Langlois, Provincial Cereals Specialist | *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

Spraying your wheat in-crop is a bit tricky this year. This is only because we are all competing for the same ten-day window of opportunity on a "provincial scale" that is unprecedented before, thanks to the type of delayed spring we all had to face.

To alleviate some of the problem, you likely picked up your product early and had it on the farm for use, so you will not be in any lineups waiting for advice or service, or worst yet, product. As custom operators have been on the increase in Alberta in recent years, it means some patience will be needed this year, especially as your acres will be handled in an order that makes sense to the custom operators and not so much to you. Areas with less travel will be serviced first as the custom operators try to keep up by being logistically tactful. Do your legwork early for them so as not be responsible for slowing them down when they do come knocking. Have any maps clearly labelled before they get there. Also, be flexible on the product of choice, if you can, to link up with other customers of your custom operator in your immediate area to save on tank cleanups. Call in with your field in plenty of time with as broad a range of application timing as possible.

One of the signs the spring was under pressure, is that many producers planted directly after a quick pass with the disc or vertical tillage, hoping for a quicker start and reliance on in-crop herbicides to be even more helpful. This is fine if no perennial weeds or other nasty hard to kill weeds exist. If so, this will add to the woes of many producers.



**Whether you spray yourself or have a custom operator spray, you should be careful ahead of time as to which product can be applied with the greatest safety for the crop and be ready to know that window ahead of time.**

Some products may have to be sprayed earlier than their ideal window of application, while others near the end of the recommendation window. Knowing which are safe to risk applying early or late, according to the label, is essential to prevent damage to the crop. For example, applying many group 4 herbicides (phenoxy) too early could injure the crop(s) wait for the right stage if using a phenoxy.

Some products, such as contact herbicides, require the most accurate of application windows as coverage is the name of the game. When the canopy begins to fill in, covering any weeds partially or completely will effect these products the most. Weed staging is particularly useful to know, do not just blindly tell the operator the field is ready to go when it has been more than a week since checked last. Contact types require the weeds to be on the small side when applied, they may be too big and the canopy closing in too much for maximum efficiency.

Due to the time of year we are all in, hardening-off of the weeds during drought-like symptoms is of particular concern. Most herbicides require the weeds to be actively growing for maximum control.

The difference a day can make can be the difference between injuring a crop or not, often with no visible symptoms to back it up until it is too late. It is better to know when it is time to call it quits on a product(s) than to spray under hot dry conditions and experience a slow-down in growth or worse yet, a yield penalty.

One should be vigilant at this time of year, more so this year when so many producers are putting a strain on the system. Release the strain by knowing as much as possible about your choice of herbicide, what it can do and cannot do, before the sprayer ever has to do the spraying.



## AWC invests new research aimed at better understanding health and consumption of wheat-based food products

Lauren Comin, Research Manager | *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

AWC recently invested in two projects that will provide new insights into health outcomes related to wheat-based food products. The first project, "Grain consumption patterns, their respective nutrient contribution and related health outcomes in Canadians" is being led by Dr. Hasan Vatanparast, Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan Colleges of Pharmacy and Nutrition and School of Public Health. The project will use data from the 2015 Canadian Community Health Survey to determine the contribution whole and enriched non-whole grains make to Canadians' diets.

Dr. Vatanparast recently presented early findings at the Canadian Nutrition Society annual conference in Nova Scotia which showed that grain-based products contribute significant amounts of dietary fibre and nutrients such as iron, folate and other B vitamins. Despite their contributions, the study has also found that 80 per cent of Canadians are not achieving the recommended number of servings of grain products from the current Food Guide (6-7 servings daily). Results will continue to be presented throughout the project, which wraps up in 2020. Dr. Vatanparast's work is co-funded by AWC, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SWDC) and the Grain Farmers of Ontario, as well as Mitacs, a funding agency that supports collaborations between industry and academia.

AWC, SWDC and the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council have collaborated on funding a project led by renowned food fermentation microbiologist Dr. Michael Gänzle of the University of Alberta. The project, "Fermentation technologies for improved nutritional quality and digestibility of wheat products", was partly inspired by anecdotal evidence that consumption

of breads leavened by sourdough fermentation did not cause digestive upset in those individuals who reported sensitivity after consuming commercial "quick" leavened breads. Dr. Gänzle hypothesizes that the microorganisms involved in the sourdough fermentation process are able to breakdown the proteins and carbohydrates that cause wheat sensitivity sufficiently enough to eliminate, or significantly reduce, this sensitivity. Gänzle will work to optimize the fermentation process and measure the remaining proteins, carbohydrates and their metabolites. Although this process could help those that are sensitive to wheat products enjoy their bread again, it will not eliminate the risk for those diagnosed with celiac disease. Results will be shared with the baking industry across North America.

Both new projects complement AWC's campaign "Life's Simple Ingredient", which celebrates the wholesomeness, nutrition and versatility of wheat as a staple in Canadian diets. By promoting wheat's contributions to health and reducing any digestive sensitivities associated with it, more Canadians will be able to enjoy the wheat that Alberta's growers take pride in. AWC is contributing \$113,125.00 to the two health-related projects.

### Grain based products contribute:

43% of folate  
39% of iron  
31% of dietary fibre  
25% of daily calories



### Refined grain-based products contribute:

23% of fibre  
40% of folate  
31% of iron





## Marketing Matters

# New market opportunities for CPSR wheat could be on the horizon in Colombia

Geoff Backman, Business Development and Markets Manager | Alberta Wheat Commission



Canada has a strong history of producing many different types of wheat for the world. Alberta's producers are responsible for producing the majority of Canadian Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat, as our province contained over 70 per cent of planted acres in 2017.

This high yielding, medium strength wheat has found popularity with Alberta's producers, particularly in the northern regions. Over 85 per cent of CPSR dryland acres in 2017 were located in regions north of the city of Red Deer.

This wheat class is important to many producers in our province, so AWC has been looking for opportunities to grow international demand. In December 2016, Cereals Canada and AWC published a market study focused on CPSR market development. Based on the importance of CPSR to Alberta's producers and the recommendations in that report, Colombia was identified as a market for the development of a pilot project aimed at increasing CPSR exports. A team of technical experts were sent from Cereals Canada, AWC, and the Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi) to conduct interviews with Colombian industry organizations and end users, with the goal of identifying opportunities.

Columbia is home to over 48 million people who live mostly in the urban centers. These large and historic cities often lack the large grocery stores seen in Canada. Dense residential areas rely on many smaller stores to provide their needed groceries and baked goods. Supplying these cities with goods is a challenge due to limited rural infrastructure. Long distance transport within the country relies on trucks, and moving products significant distances quickly becomes expensive. In order to minimize transport costs, wheat is delivered in bulk to a port facility closest to the mill. The flour produced is also sold mainly within the city the mill is located in. This minimizes truck transportation costs, but also results in many mills choosing to operate in cities located nearby ports where bulk wheat can be delivered.

Over a period of eight days the technical group interviewed six milling companies, a milling industry organization, and a baking institute. Responses from millers were overall positive. They appreciated that we produce a clean product with limited amounts of disease, non-wheat seeds, and insects.



Canada is also a convenient source for wheat; our proximity means a shipment arrives from Vancouver over a period of days, while other global suppliers may be weeks away. These millers also use Canada Western Red Spring wheat, creating a blend with CPSR, and it was convenient to receive all their required grain on a single boat.

Millers had some concerns as well. They noticed that the moisture content of received grain had risen since 2015, and falling number (a test for potential sprouting where higher is better) had fallen over the same period. This was resulting in millers using less CPSR in their blends. We explained that these were symptoms of a wet harvest and were not due to changes in production. Millers also talked about how CPSR compared to offerings from the United States and Argentina. These wheats had been incorporated into their blends in the past with success, but these substitutions only occurred when substitute wheats were at significant price discounts. Despite these concerns, millers were unanimous in their expectation to continue buying Canadian wheat into the future.

Industry groups within the country shared the exciting prospects for market growth within Columbia. As the staple grain of Columbia is rice, Columbia's consumption of wheat-based products is still very low compared to other countries in South America. However, the country has been introducing wheat based products for the market and consumption is growing. Breads, pastas, cookies, crackers, and pastries are growing in popularity. The expected growth has led to the establishment of trade schools to teach individuals the skills needed to become bakers.

The technical group identified that the Colombian market appreciates Canadian wheat, and is a market that is still developing opportunities for CPSR wheat, and other Canadian classes as well. Opportunities were identified to educate the market about the functional benefits that Canadian wheat has compared to wheats from other destinations. As technical ability increases, there will be opportunities to provide instruction on how to incorporate Canadian wheat into new product developments. With the opportunities for market growth identified, the work now begins to develop these opportunities into growing markets. AWC will be involved in ongoing work with our partner organizations to help develop demand in Columbia and other international markets, helping to grow the profitability of Alberta's wheat farmers.



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Alberta Wheat



## Moving Wheat a Moving Target for Producers

Geoff Geddes | *The Word Warrior*

Though some farmers love to hunt in their free time, moving targets in their business are less appealing. In part, that explains the wheat industry's concern around the reclassification of 29 long-standing wheat varieties. Effective August 1, 2018, the new Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR) class will include 25 varieties originally registered as hard red spring varieties in the Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) class and four Canada Prairie Spring (CPS) varieties formerly in the Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) class.

While it appears the "what" has been settled, the "why" and "how" of this move are points of contention.

### Why these varieties?

The main reason cited by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) for the move was concern about gluten strength.

"In 2013, a number of domestic and international buyers approached Canada with misgivings about how the CWRS class performed in milling environments," said Rémi Gosselin, Manager - Corporate Information Services for the CGC.

"In response, we did a market analysis and found we needed to take steps to preserve these markets. After extensive consultations, we launched a modernization initiative to protect our premium wheat classes, with overwhelming support from stakeholders."

At least two stakeholders - Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) and Cereals Canada - saw things quite differently. Both organizations wrote letters to the CGC last fall to request an economic analysis be done before any additional varieties were reclassified.

"Our contention all along is that in making decisions on these varieties, they need to look at more than gluten strength," said Tom Steve, General Manager of AWC.

"When wheat is registered through the Prairie Grain Development Committee process, they consider quality, disease and agronomy. From our perspective, agronomic attributes like

yield, standability, days to maturity and disease resistance all play a role in making a variety economically viable for farmers. If you only look at gluten strength, you may remove a tool from producers that helped them be profitable."

Further clouding the picture is a question of whether gluten strength was even an issue with the varieties being moved. AWC argues that most of those varieties meet the gluten strength specifications in most years, but may have fallen short due to wetter harvest conditions when the decision was made by the CGC.

### How will the transition be managed?

If the reason for the move is a sore point, there is fear that the implementation could be equally painful for producers. Transitioning varieties can be delivered by farmers up to July 31, but on August 1, they become part of the CNHR class in store and in transit. Meanwhile, grain companies will have until December 31 of this year to clear the handling system of affected varieties.

"The original timeline for switching classes was August 1, 2017, but the CGC delayed it by a year," said Wade Sobkowich, Executive Director of the Western Grain Elevator Association. "The idea was that farmers would have a chance to deliver into the system and replace those varieties with other ones that will be eligible for the CWRS class going forward."

Even so, the differing treatment of producers and grain companies doesn't sit well in some corners.

"We are extremely disappointed by this double standard," said Steve. "We understand that companies need time to move grain through the system. Yet we also believe there should be concessions for farmers still moving old crop that won't make it into the system by August 1, especially in light of transportation delays this year. Without that consideration, farmers with wheat currently in the system - especially Harvest, Lillian, Unity and Foremost - that becomes CNHR after August 1 will have to absorb the full weight of the drop in value."

For producers with existing contracts or classes impacted with delivery after August 1, Gosselin advises contacting the buyer as soon as possible to discuss implications for the contract and how to handle them. While that's an option, Steve feels the CGC should play a role in the process.

### What about these other varieties?

In addition to the 29 wheat varieties changing class on August 1, five more will be reclassified from CWRS to CNHR effective August 1, 2021. Again, AWC voiced concern about a lack of consideration of the long-term economic implications for farmers. Acres of AC Muchmore have grown by 200 percent since 2014, while acres of AAC Redwater, a high-yielding, early-maturing variety, have increased 450 percent since 2015, according to the commission. The other varieties include AC Domain, Vesper and 5605 HR CL.

Whether it's the original 29 varieties or the additional five, one line of thinking says that focusing on the varieties themselves is misguided.

"Any discussion around these moves should relate to ensuring we are comfortable with the parameters of the class; it shouldn't be about individual varieties," said Sobkowich. "We want to identify those parameters and a reasonable timeline to transition varieties that don't meet the criteria. Once that discussion is done and there is broad support for it, we need to accept the consequences."

Still, when it comes to the five varieties targeted for 2021, AWC noted that moving them will have a spillover effect throughout the value chain. In particular, the move will impact seed growers who have been selling those varieties based on their CWRS classification.

"If I was selling seed to my customers and all of a sudden AAC Redwater was on the chopping block, there isn't enough lead time to get that seed through the system," said Greg Stamp, Seed Sales Manager for Stamp Seeds in Enchant, Alberta. "Redwater won't yield like Faller, so once it's demoted to CNHR there's no reason to grow it. In that respect, CNHR is like a dumping ground."

For affected farmers, Stamp advises paying close attention to what varieties they need to get off their farm by a certain point or risk having to sell them into a lower value class. And while 2021 may seem like a long ways off, for seed growers, time might be running out.

"I'm currently growing AC Transcend Durum seed, and I wouldn't grow more if I knew it was changing class. I'm counting on it being in the durum system for at least five more years, so any change that comes with less than five years notice could pose a big problem."



**As for the more immediate issue of the August 1 deadline, farmers are urged to negotiate wherever possible.**

"Talk to your grain rep at the company you deal with and make the case that this is the last of the shipments of these varieties under this particular class," said Steve. "The volumes out there could still be considerable, so make the case that you should be credited for CWRS or CPSR depending on your circumstances."

Given that farmers often make deals with their local grain buyers, there's still hope, but that doesn't change the bottom line.

"Our concern is that, even though the CGC made the policy decision, they are washing their hands of any issues around the transition and leaving it up to farmers and grain companies to figure it out," said Steve.

Some would say that leaves producers and seed growers with lingering questions, moving targets and little ammunition to stem the tide.





## Extension events near you this summer

Brian Kennedy, Grower Relations and Extension Coordinator | *Alberta Wheat Commission*



Visit [albertawheat.com](http://albertawheat.com) for more information on upcoming events, and to learn about the great work our team is doing.

Pack up your kids and plan your summer vacation or day trip around an extension event. From Cypress County to Fort Vermilion Alberta Wheat is sponsoring a metric ton of learning opportunities. The season starts on June 7 in Lethbridge with the Farming Smarter Plot Hop at the Farming Smarter Research site and continues through to Open Farm Days on August 18. Some dates are inked in and other dates are waiting to be published until the plots are planted. Below is a partial list of upcoming events. Please check the AWC website or our partners' websites as the season progresses for more details, directions and more events.

Date	Host	Title	Location	Cost
June 7, 2018	Farming Smarter	Lethbridge Plot Hop	Lethbridge Research Site	\$95
June 20, 2018	NPARA	Summer Solstice Tour	NPARA Research Farm	Free
	Farming Smarter	Field School	Lethbridge Research Site	\$195
June 21, 2018	Farming Smarter	Field School	Lethbridge Research Site	\$195
June 22, 2018	GRO	GRO Morning	Westlock	
	DUC	Winter Wheat Super Site Tour	Redwater, Alberta	Free
June 27, 2018	ACPC	Canola Palooza	Lacombe AAFC	Free
July 9-11	NPARA	Soil Health Field School	NPARA Research Farm	\$1,500
July 12-14	NPARA	Soil Health Field School	NPARA Research Farm	\$1,500
July 12, 2018	Farming Smarter	Cypress Field Day	Cypress Field Site	\$95
July 19, 2018	AWC	WheatStalk	Lethbridge	\$25 with Coupon Code "AWCPowered"
July 25, 2018	NPARA	Annual Field Tour	NPARA Research Farm	\$10 or free to members
	FCDC South	Annual Station Tour	FCDC Lacombe	Free
July 26, 2018	InnoTech	InnoTech Field Day	Vegreville	
August 15, 2018	NPARA	Morning Coffee Tour	NPARA Research Farm	Free
August 16, 2018	AWC	4P Partnership Tour	Canterra Site, Olds, AB	Free
August 18, 2018	Various	Open Farm Days	Various	Free

NPARA (North Peace Applied Research Association) - [npara.ca](http://npara.ca)

Farming Smarter - [farmingsmarter.com](http://farmingsmarter.com)

FCDC (Field Crop Development Centre) - [innotechalberta.ca](http://innotechalberta.ca)

DUC (Ducks Unlimited Canada) - [ducks.ca/places/alberta](http://ducks.ca/places/alberta)

Open Farm Days - [albertafarmdays.com](http://albertafarmdays.com)

ACPC (Alberta Canola Producers Commission) - [albertawheat.com/media/events](http://albertawheat.com/media/events)

GRO (Gateway Research Association) - [gatewayresearchorganization.com](http://gatewayresearchorganization.com)

AWC (Alberta Wheat Commission) - [albertawheat.com/media/events](http://albertawheat.com/media/events)



# Be ready for the August 1 wheat reclassification

On August 1, 2018, 29 varieties of wheat that are currently classified as Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) or Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) will be reclassified into the new Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR) class.

Wheat classified as CNHR is expected to sell at a discount to the CWRS and CPSR classes, as the gluten strength of CNHR wheat is not of the same standard. While there will still be a market for CNHR varieties, they are not expected to attract the same quality premiums as varieties in the prime milling classes.

**For producers who grew these varieties in 2017 and have yet to sell them, they will need to decide soon how they want to market their wheat.**

If producers have a contracted delivery date after August 1 for a transitioning variety, they should contact their elevator as soon as possible to ensure their grain will be accepted in the class they grew it in.

For a list of the transitioning varieties, please go to the Canadian Grain Commission website:  
[grainscanada.gc.ca](http://grainscanada.gc.ca)



## Contact Us

The Alberta Wheat Commission newsletter is published four times per year.

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## Cleaning House

AWC recently cleaned up our mailing list to cut back on members receiving duplicate copies of Wheat's up. Please contact us at [info@albertawheat.com](mailto:info@albertawheat.com) or 403.219.7906 if you are still receiving multiple copies, or if you or someone you know did not receive a copy.

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