

Frequently Asked Questions – Amalgamation Plebiscites

1. What are the eligibility requirements to vote?

Alberta barley and wheat farmers who have paid wheat and/or barley check-off between January 1, 2020, to April 30, 2022, are eligible to vote and will receive voting information to their mailing address.

Why is April 30th, 2022, the cut off? This is due to the fact that grain companies have 60 to 90 days to remit check-offs to the commissions so any levies paid to Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) beyond that date would not yet be in our database.

2. If I grow both barley and wheat, do I get two votes?

Yes! Farmers that grow both barley and wheat and have remitted check-off in the above timeframe, will get two votes: one for Alberta Barley, and one for AWC.

*Farmers with two votes (barley and wheat) will receive one PIN letter that gives access to both barley and wheat votes in the online voting platform.

3. How many votes will I receive if my farming operation is a corporation/cooperative/partnership containing multiple stakeholders?

Farming operations under these models will have one vote per company. The vote will be assigned by the authorized representative as reflected in our check-off database.

*An “authorized representative” means a person who has the right to sign documents and/or the power to make decisions on behalf of the organization.

4. What can I expect to receive for voting information, and when?

Beginning of September – Eligible farmers will receive a voter information letter to their mailboxes from the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council) containing details on the plebiscites.

*If an eligible grower does not receive this first letter at the beginning of September, they must contact Marketing Council at [780-427-2164](tel:780-427-2164) or af.marketingcouncil@gov.ab.ca, by September 16, 2022, to be verified and added to official voter list.

Beginning of October – Voters will receive a second letter that contains access to the voting platform, along with their PIN to cast their ballot.

5. Who do I contact for support?

Plebiscite inquiries including voter registration for those who did not receive the information package in early September can contact:

Marketing Council

[780-427-2164](tel:780-427-2164) or af.marketingcouncil@gov.ab.ca

For any other inquiries:

Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' general manager, Tom Steve

403-219-7900 or tsteve@albertawheatbarley.com

Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions' chief operating officer, Syeda Khurram

403-219-6264 or skhurram@albertawheatbarley.com

6. I am both a wheat and barley grower, but I only received one voter information package and/or one PIN letter. Do I still get one vote for wheat, and one vote for barley?

Yes! Farmers that grow both barley and wheat will receive one PIN letter but two votes once they sign-in to the online platform. These growers can expect to get one vote for barley, and one for wheat.

7. Is the online voting platform mobile friendly?

Yes! The voting platform is user-friendly as farmers can vote from any smartphone, tablet, or computer.

8. Why is it necessary to terminate the plan regulations for Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission?

Since Alberta Barley and AWC are separate commissions and operate as separate legal entities, they each have their own plan regulation under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. In order to amalgamate, this would require terminating their existing plan regulations and forming a new plan regulation as an amalgamated organization.

9. Are Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission conducting these plebiscites?

No. Marketing Council is the official returning officer for the plebiscites. As organizations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, Marketing Council is the official returning officer and executing the plebiscites. Marketing Council underwent a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process to hire a voting administrator and auditor for the plebiscites. MNP was the successful vendor, and Intelivote Systems Inc is the successful online voting platform, as chosen by MNP.

10. How much are the plebiscites costing the commissions?

Marketing Council is a partner in executing the Alberta Barley and AWC plebiscites. The commissions will be cost sharing with Marketing Council.

11. When is the last chance to vote?

November 1, 2022, at 12:00 PM

12. When will the results be public?

The results of the plebiscites will be tabulated shortly after the voting deadline, and will be announced via press release by the commissions.

13. Why are the plebiscites being held during the busy harvest season?

The commissions have been operating under a joint management structure for five years and extensive consultations have been held with wheat and barley farmers at regional meetings, annual general meetings and an online survey conducted in the summer and fall of 2021. These

Better Together

plebiscites are the critical next step in determining the future of the organizations. Despite the busy harvest season, the plebiscites are being held electronically on a convenient platform and for a month-long period to allow farmers ample time to cast their digital ballots.

