

## **Partner Profile: Alberta Sugar Beet Growers**

*Submitted by Ali Fedak*

### ***Alberta Sugar Beet Industry Overview***

Did you know, the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers grew just over 100,000 tonnes of sugar over the past 5 years, enough to sweeten over 2.5 billion cans of pop or 20 billion cups of coffee?

Every year, hundreds of farmers in Southern Alberta plant sugar beets. The sugar beet is a biennial plant that grows best in rich, deep soil and temperate climate. Being a rotation crop, sugar beets are planted once every four years to minimize potential disease problems. Sugar beet production is well suited for the irrigated land in southern Alberta. Seeding begins in early spring and continues to the end of May, with a harvest cycle running from September to November. Currently, all sugar beets grown in Southern Alberta are under contract with a single processor, Lantic Inc., which operates the processing plant in Taber, Alberta. To ensure the sugar product you are enjoying is locally made, locate the black 22 timestamp on the front of any Roger's brand sugar packaging. There will be a sequence of numbers with 22 being our local plant, and the source of our motto #asbsugar22!

### ***Sugar Beet Producers of Alberta***

The Alberta Cooperative Sugar Beet Growers was established in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1925. The same year in which the Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd. factory was built in Raymond. Our first president was Arthur Dahl. The name was changed to the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Association in 1941 and to Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board in 1984. The board serves the sugar beet growing areas of Southern Alberta, including Bow Island, Coaldale, Diamond City, Iron Springs, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, and Taber. ASBG has had close links with the Canadian Sugar Beet Producers' Association, the national association. Currently there are just over 200 farming families that grow sugar beets in Southern Alberta.

### ***Mission Statement:***

ASBG administers regulation while providing leadership to advance the Sugar Beet industry through agreements, relationships, research, and advocacy on behalf of sugar beet growers in Alberta.

### ***Vision Statement:***

An Alberta Sugar Beet industry that is progressive and sustainable for future generations.

### ***For more information contact:***

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## **Environmental Protection Officer – Wetland Specialist**

*Submitted by Amanda Cooper*

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## **Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partnership**

*Submitted by Terra Simieritsch*

### **About the Alberta NAWMP Partnership**

Alberta NAWMP is a partnership of one federal and two provincial government departments and two non-government agencies that all have a responsibility for Alberta's wetlands as part of their mandates. The five organizations continually seek opportunities to work with each other and with regional and municipal agencies and other stakeholders.

Alberta NAWMP's creativity and success come from the synergy of working together. The Alberta NAWMP partners and their collaborators enhance existing wetland stewardship efforts and launch innovative initiatives that otherwise might not happen.

The Partners of the Alberta NAWMP Partnership are as follows:

- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada

The partnership is directed by a Board of Directors and a Management Committee, which are advised by Policy and Communications committees. Together these committees coordinate joint projects, communications, planning and policy support, and facilitate funding options among the partners. Alberta NAWMP supports the partners through technical and logistical assistance and by advancing innovative ideas. The committees and projects are directed and overseen by the Alberta NAWMP Coordinator.

### **Vision**

Healthy prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes that support sustainable bird populations and provide ecological and economic benefits to society.

### **Mission**

Provide leadership to achieve healthy and diverse waterfowl and other bird populations through conservation partnerships. These partnerships strive for sustainable and responsible management of the landscape taking into account social, economic and environmental factors.

### **The Bigger Picture**

Alberta NAWMP is a provincial partnership, however the North American Waterfowl management Plan is a landmark partnership between Canada, the United States and Mexico for habitat conservation with a focus to sustain continental waterfowl populations. The Plan, signed in 1986, defines and prioritizes geographic regions across the continent. These geographic regions focus on using collaborative approaches at local, regional, national and international levels.

Alberta NAWMP falls under the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture regional partnership, and this region which incorporates prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes in western Canada is one of the most productive areas for waterfowl in the world. The Alberta NAWMP habitat goals are based on the PHJV's Habitat Implementation Plans, and Alberta NAWMP works closely with NWAMP counterparts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to collaborate on furthering projects to enhance wetland and waterfowl policy and science.

### **Projects of Interest**

The Alberta NAWMP Partnership has a variety projects of focus at any given time, however the following projects are of interest to the AEPA:

- The Agriculture Working Group
- The Wetland Education Network
- Annual forums and workshops

For more information on Alberta NAWMP projects please contact:

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## The Soil Information Viewer

*Submitted by David Spiess*

Have you ever wondered if the grass is greener on the other side of the fence? Well now there is an app for that. More specifically a browser based viewer that is viewable from your desktop computer, or any smart device connected to the internet. Android or Apple.

It's called the Alberta Soil Information Viewer and can be accessed by:

- Typing the following Universal Reference Link (URL) in browser bar of your favorite internet browser: [soilinformation.alberta.ca](http://soilinformation.alberta.ca) and activating the On-Line Soil Viewer URL.
- Or scanning the following QR code:



Some of the improvements made from feedback from a user survey was:

- Streamlined search and zooming to a user provided location, and
- Ease of access to Land Suitability Rating information.

Check out the "How Section" of the welcome page to find out how to find your farm and know your Land Suitability Rating for Spring Seeded small grains like Lawrence and Dave:

You know Lawrence I can tell by the Land Suitability Rating System for spring seeded small grains that my farms grass is just as green as yours.

Wow Dave Isn't the Alberta Soil Information Viewer great!



You bet Lawrence and I did it from my iPhone waiting for the combine to unload.



Thats exciting! I wonder what else is possible?

Visit the Alberta soil information viewer today and get a handle the color of your farm's grass as well as:

- Measure areas and distance on your farm
- Find out the percent sand silt and clay in your soils
- The drainage characteristics of your soil
- What soil great group your farm belongs to.
- Print a scale map of your farm with a Satellite or Ortho Photo back drop image.

## Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Program Update

*Submitted by Scott McKie*

With Growing Forward 2 (GF2) coming to a close on March 30th, 2018, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is busy developing new programming for the upcoming Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) grant program. Programming under CAP will be replacing the current GF2 programs starting on April 1st, 2018. Not all programs will be available on April 1st, however each program area will be sharing more information over the coming months; please check the [Canadian Agricultural Partnership website](#) for up-to-date program developments.

The Environmental Stewardship program planning team has been looking for new ways to enhance the grant program while retaining many of the water quality Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that have been supported in the past. The new program will be looking to include programming for environmental concerns affecting soil health, water quality and air quality, while supporting agriculture industry lead sustainability initiatives. The specifics of the program are still being determined and more information will be shared once final decisions have been made.

In the meantime, if you are planning to participate in the CAP Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change program, **please be aware that a current (*at present this means within 10 years*) Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)** will continue to be a requirement to access funds. If you do not have an EFP or are looking to update your EFP, please contact [the Alberta EFP Program](#) or your local EFP Technician.

Currently, the Environmental Stewardship team is busy preparing for the release of the new program. The team is looking forward to helping farmers continue the great work they have been building upon over the past 10 years. If you have any questions or concerns about the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change program please contact [Dale Chrapko](#) or by phone at 780-644-1969.