

# Harvesting in stages recommended by council

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We see crop fields where one area is developing quicker than others.

It happens all the time, and perhaps more so this year than others. This would be particularly true in the south, where they have experienced extra amounts of rain and ponding and flooded areas.

The Canola Council of Canada has forwarded some thoughts on how to harvest fields at various stages.

While it was written specifically for canola fields, the same thoughts would work equally as well on cereal crops. Here are their thoughts:

One harvest plan is to swath these fields at two timings — if the hope is to salvage the late-developing areas.

Section off fields based on staging and yield potential. Know where the greatest yield potential is within the field and plan to focus on protecting it the most. The greatest yield potential includes the plants with most seeds but also earliest maturing to escape a fall frost. Waiting to swath the whole field at once may put these top areas of the field at risk of pod

shattering.

Other options to consider while scouting:

- Is the staging so variable that a desiccant may be needed to hasten maturity on the latest plants?

- Would swathing be better than straight cutting or vice versa?

- Is there a lot of green weed growth that will require a pre-harvest application?

## Funding to help find new barley markets

The Government of Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) announced here in Alberta last week an investment of more than \$1 million to find ways to find new markets around the world for Canada's top quality barley.

The hope with this funding is to help Canadian farmers expand and capture new niche market opportunities around the world that will boost their bottom line.

The **Alberta Barley Commission** will use this investment to identify and develop new niche markets which will benefit western Canadian barley growers for the shochu barley market. Shochu is

a popular Japanese drink derived from barley. While shochu is expected to be

the primary market for the selected varieties, they will also perform well as malt or livestock feed, providing western Canadian barley farmers with multiple marketing options for their products.

## Food Day

July 31 was deemed Food Day, probably something most of us never heard a thing about.

A government news release alerted us to the fact — too late to let readers of our weekly publication know in time to get out and celebrate, or whatever you are supposed to do on Food Day.

What the release did note was Food Day is a perfect opportunity to recognize Canadian farmers' hard work and dedication to producing the best food in the world.

July 31 marked the 8th annual national celebration of Canada's culinary excellence, from farm to fork, even though you may not have seen any real celebration anywhere.

Perhaps it needs much more attention put ahead of time to it, perhaps in conjunction with our Her-

itage Day, Aug. 2.

Of Food Day, federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz noted, "Canadian farmers produce the best food in the world and we're not shy to say it. What better day than Food Day to celebrate Canada's hard working farm families and their important contribution to our economy, our country, and the health of consumers at home and around the world.

"On Food Day and every day of the year, everyone is encouraged to cook, grill and savour Canada's safe, high-quality food."

Agriculture is a vital part of Canada's growing and modern economy as it drives eight percent of our Gross Domestic Product. The industry is responsible for one in eight of jobs and last year its contribution to trade was more than \$40 billion.

