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Race begins for local CWB board position

Four candidates are in the running to take over the District 3 post on the Canadian Wheat Board.

Locally, two southern Albertans are in the mix — Enchant's Lynn Jacobson and Warner's Brian Otto. Brett Meinert, from the Shaunavon, Sask. area and Swift Current-area farmer Stewart Wells are also in the running.

Jacobson is a third-generation farmer who has been on the farm for 35 years with his wife, Elaine. On 1,400 acres, Jacobson grows cereal grains, pulses, oil seed crops and alfalfa, and manages a cow/calf operation. In 1991 when he was elected as a delegate for the Alberta Wheat Pool (AWP). He continued as a delegate for Agricore Co-operative Limited until it joined with United Grain Growers in 2001.

He was also elected to the board of the Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission (ASWPC) in 2000, and held the position of chairman from 2002 until 2006. He was also elected to the board of the Wild Rose Agriculture Producers Association in 2006. In 2007, Jacobson was voted to the position of first vice-president. In addition, he was re-elected to the board of the ASWPC in 2008 and is now chairman.

Meinert, wife, Rana, and son, Barclay, operate a 6,000 acre grain-farm producing a variety of crops, such as yellow mustard, field peas and flax.

His board experience began when he was the founding chairman of the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association. In 1992, Meinert attended the University of Saskatchewan and earned a BSA and a M. Agr. degree. Following university, he became chairman of the Saskatchewan Mustard Growers Association. Afterwards, he was elected director of South West Terminal Ltd. (SWT), in Antelope, Sask. Meinert currently sits as vice-chairman. He chaired the Inland Terminal Association of Canada (ITAC) for three years as well.

Otto, a third-generation farmer, has been a grain, oilseeds and special crops grower for 38 years. He also holds a teaching degree from the University of Calgary. He and his wife, Carolyn, operate a 4,000-acre farm, Provident Farm Ltd.

Otto previously served as Region 1 director and vice-chair of the Alberta Barley Commission. In the 1980s, Otto helped start and has served in a number of executive roles in two provincial producer organizations, the Alberta Winter Wheat Association (which later became the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission) and the Alberta Safflower Growers Association.

Otto also served on the Western Grains Research Foundation and is the current president of the Western Barley Growers

Association.

Wells was born and raised on a family farm near Swift Current. Following high school, he obtained a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan. With the exception of working on two oil and gas pipelining projects in the 1980s, Stewart has been farming full-time.

He operates a third-generation farm and has grown red spring wheat, durum wheat, winter wheat, barley, peas, lentils, kamut, flax, canola, alfalfa, clover and vetch. In recent years the majority of the acres have been seeded to organic red spring wheat, winter wheat, peas and lentils.

He was a farmer-delegate to Saskatchewan Wheat Pool from 1990-1994 and in 1997, Wells joined the National Farmers Union (NFU) and served on the National Board for 12 years. In 2005, he participated in the World Trade Organization meetings in Hong Kong as part of the official Canadian delegation. He has served as an advisor to the Board of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI), and on numerous provincial and national committees related to marketing, trade and safety nets.

Voting packages have been sent out to eligible voters. Those who did not receive packages by Nov. 9 can call 1-877-780-VOTE. Producers eligible to vote, but are not currently on

the list, have until Nov. 19 to validate their eligibility. Dec. 3 is the postmark deadline for completed ballots to be sent in. More information can be found by e-mailing questions@cwbelection.com.

