



Media Release

Barley growers elect new chair, pass new resolutions

December 14, 2009 (Calgary, Alberta)—The Board of Directors of the Alberta Barley Commission elected Matt Sawyer as chairman and Leo Meyer as vice-chairman at its 18th annual general meeting on Dec. 11.

“Our industry is at a crossroads,” Sawyer said. “We’re not only facing many opportunities and challenges, we’re seeing a new generation of barley producers coming into the business and new practices complementing traditional practices. I look forward to helping set the directions we’ll take.”

The director for Region 2, Sawyer, 37, is a fourth-generation farmer near Acme, Alta., whose family operation grows barley, canola, red spring wheat and Canadian Prairie wheat on 1,680-hectares (4,200-acres). He, his wife Tara and parents Glen and Joy also raise Black Angus cattle. Sawyer is a graduate of Olds College (1993) and joined the Commission in 2003 as a delegate. In 2006, he became a member delegate for Agricore United. Sawyer is also a director for the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Leo Meyer is a director-at-large for the Commission, and president and CEO of Leo Meyer Grain Production Ltd. He joined the Commission in 1999 and has since served as a delegate and director of Region 6 and a member of the Marketing, Research and Risk Management committees. The working farmer is involved with the Alberta Oats, Rye and Triticale Association and Growing Forward. Originally from Switzerland, Meyer has farmed in Canada since 1976.

Commission directors and delegates at Banff also re-elected Region 5 director Albert Wagner and Region 6 director Ron Heck and elected Richard Mueller of Barrhead as one of the organization’s three directors-at-large.

As well, they passed two resolutions. The first calls for the Commission to lobby the grain industry to stop the practice of adding back foreign material to export grain that Western Canadian farmers have already paid to clean. The second called for the Commission to consider a strategic partnership with the Ag Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) to better deliver knowledge and information to Alberta’s barley producers.

Canada’s only barley commission, the Alberta Barley Commission (www.albertabarley.com) is a not-for-profit corporation organized, funded, directed and controlled by the province’s 17,000 barley producers. The Commission coordinates and sponsors research, market development, technology-transfer and policy development on behalf of its producers.

—30—

For more information, contact:

Nikki Jeffrey, Manager, Office & Projects, Alberta Barley Commission
403.291.9111 or njeffrey@albertabarley.com