



news release

for immediate release...

CALGARY, AB (June 21, 2010)

Alberta Barley Commission secures an additional \$5M in leveraged research project funding

The Alberta Barley Commission is making sure barley producer dollars go a long way. Since August 2009, the Commission has attracted over \$5 million in additional funding for research projects that benefit Alberta's barley producers.

"Over the last two years, we have focused on increasing the leverage of our producers' investments in research," says Mike Leslie, the Commission's CEO. "In the last 10 months our focus on attracting outside investment to our research projects has especially paid off."

Government spending cuts mean there has been a decline in the Commission's ability to leverage producer dollars to research funding. In recent years, government investment in research has focused on matching research dollars at a sliding ratio from 13:1 to 7:1 to 6:1 over the last few years with a goal of eventually moving to 1:1. Working with government and industry partners, the Commission has tried to reverse this trend and over the last 10 months has achieved a ratio of 12:1—\$12 from investors for every \$1 from Alberta's barley producers. This change is due in large part to multi-year federal programs, including Developing Innovative Agri-Products (DIAP) and the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). Although these programs are short-term (three to four years), they will go a long way in growing research dollars in the near future.

"Our goal is to leverage producer dollars to the maximum to develop and facilitate research projects that will improve Alberta's barley industry," says Leslie. "This includes working with scientists, government and industry on projects that will have long-term benefits for barley farmers."

This increase in research investment is indicative of the Commission's commitment to a diverse portfolio of research projects. These projects include improving malt quality, strengthening feed market prices and optimizing water and nitrogen use, as well as determining the health benefits of barley and developing new markets for existing barley varieties.

Canada's only barley commission, the Alberta Barley Commission 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 -

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