



news release

for immediate release ...

Federal research funding supports barley industry

Calgary, Alberta (September 28, 2010) – The Alberta Barley Commission is pleased to announce a \$2.8 million investment in barley breeding and related research from the Government of Canada. These funds will go to the development of new barley varieties that are resistant to existing and emerging threats, while continuing to offer optimal yields.

Research is key to ensuring new varieties are available as older varieties become less resistant to environmental stresses and disease.

“Investment in new barley varieties just makes sense,” says Commission Chair Matt Sawyer. “As demand continues to rise for high-quality Canadian barley for feed, malt, malt products, bio-products and healthy food, we want to be able to meet that demand with a high-quality, consistent crop. New varieties can offer quality traits for a specific end-use, as well as increased yield, better agronomic performance and improved resistance to disease.”

The funding initiative through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s (AAFC’s) Developing Innovative Agri-Products (DIAP) program, pulls together partners including the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF), the Canadian Wheat Board, the Alberta Barley Commission, the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute, and Rahr Malting Canada Ltd. The research will take place across western Canada.

“Our goal is to collaboratively support barley development by AAFC barley breeders, as well as research by AAFC researchers into agronomic traits and disease resistance,” explains Sawyer. “By working with government, research and industry partners, we are able to remain competitive in our industry.”

Canada’s only barley commission, the Alberta Barley Commission is a not-for-profit organization directed, funded, 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.

***For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact
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