



MEDIA RELEASE:

Winter wheat and barley growers urged to vote in CWB election

November 4, 2010 (Calgary, Alberta)—The Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission and the Alberta Barley Commission are urging their members to vote in this fall's Canadian Wheat Board election. The CWB is holding director elections in five districts, including districts 1, 3 and 5, which are partly located in Alberta. More than 280,000 mail-in ballots were sent to eligible voters across the prairies this past week; balloting closes Dec. 3.

"Farmers have worked very hard for direct representation on the CWB's Board of Directors and it's important they vote for the candidate they feel will bring their views to the CWB," Rick Istead, the executive director of AWWPC, says.

"Wheat and barley producers are increasingly under pressure," Mike Leslie, the CEO of the Alberta Barley Commission, says. "Canada faces tougher competition than ever in international grain trade, and overall wheat and barley acreage is declining as farmers turn to other crops that offer higher value."

Nonetheless, winter wheat and barley remain agronomically important. Winter wheat can help spread out farmers' workloads because it's planted in the fall and typically harvested from late July to mid-August. Barley is a vital rotational crop that ensures ongoing soil sustainability, and when it meets malting specifications, offers premium returns to producers.

"Farmers' issues and challenges are constantly changing. Having farmer-elected directors at the CWB table is one of the most effective ways the organization can better understand and respond to those changes," Istead says.

The two commissions are not endorsing any particular candidate, but they are encouraging eligible voters to support the candidate who best represents their concerns and issues.

"Like agriculture itself, the candidates are diverse, and farmers need to do their research to determine who is best aligned with their interests," Leslie says.

The candidates in District 1 are:

- Dan Gauthier of Donnelly, Alta. (dangauthiercwb.com)
- Henry Vos of Fairview, Alta. (votevosscwb.ca)

The candidates in District 3 are:

- Lynn Jacobson of Enchant, Alta. (votelynnjacobsoncwb.ca)
- Brett Meinert of Shaunavon, Sask. ([see cwbelection.com](http://cwbelection.com))
- Brian Otto of Warner, Alta. (voteottoforcwb.com)
- Stewart Wells of Swift Current, Sask. (vote1wellscwb.ca)

The candidates in District 5 are:

- Vicki Dutton of Paynton, Sask. (see cwbelection.com)
- Allen Oberg of Forestburg, Alta. (see cwbelection.com)

The Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission is a provincial grower organization focused on a strong and sustainable winter wheat industry for the benefit of all Alberta producers. The AWWPC leads efforts to make winter wheat a viable crop option by supporting innovative research, developing valued-added marketing programs, and providing producers with relevant and timely information.

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.

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