



June 12, 2009

Doug Walkey
Executive Director
ACIDF
Agriculture Building
5030 - 50 St.
Lacombe, AB
T4L 1W8

RE: ACIDF matching for ABC contributions to the Lacombe Field Crop Development Centre

Doug,

The Alberta Barley Commission has been an ardent supporter of the Lacombe Field Crop Development Centre (FCDC) since the Commission was formed in 1991. Our members tell us every year that the research results from FCDC help them to make good cropping decisions on their farms. FCDC has released 17 new barley varieties with ABC support and is currently working on more at their world-class facility. Alberta is a world leader in barley production – thanks in part to the efforts of Dr. Jim Helm and his team at FCDC.

ABC recently signed a 5-year agreement with the province and AAFC to invest \$250,000 annually in FCDC. Those funds are used for projects agreed to annually by the Centre, AAFC, and ABC's research committee and include breeding & germplasm programs, NIRS research, and germplasm development with a focus on disease resistance, and quality. In addition to ABC's contribution, FCDC receives \$300,000 per year from the Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) which is then matched by ACIDF. We understand ABP's funding will be handled in a similar fashion as ABC's: with an annual review of the strategic plan, and the associated budget provided by the FCDC/AAFC. The Centre's costs continue to rise and we are challenged to do more on N use, drought resistance, new disease pressures, and a desire to look into new breeding methods to improve crop yield and quality. In order to recruit a full compliment of staff and continue to generate quality research, more core funding is required. ACIDF's recognition of ABC's contribution of producer funds to this research would be appreciated and enable the industry to move forward more quickly.

ABC would like to obtain matching for its annual contribution similar to what is provided to match the Beef Producers' contribution. We would like the opportunity to sit down with you and begin this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please do hesitate to contact me at 403-291-9111 ext. 23 or via email dkirtzinger@albertabarley.com.

Best Regards,



Darcy Kirtzinger
Policy & Research Coordinator

Cc. Mike Leslie, ABC
Jason Krips, ARD
Terry Young, ABC

