



**PAMI and Alberta Pulse Growers collaborate to help Alberta producers better manage stored pulse crops**

HUMBOLDT, SK – Researchers at the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) are collaborating with Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) to provide information and tools to Alberta growers on how to better manage their grain and pulses during the storage seasons.

“PAMI has been doing grain storage research for several decades,” said Dr. Joy Agnew, program manager with Prairie Agricultural Machine Institute in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. “This partnership will help get the results and important information to the primary stakeholders: the producers.”

Grain aeration and natural air-drying of pulse crops are commonly used on-farm to minimize the risk of grain spoilage in the bin. However, the airflow rates required to achieve desired cooling and drying rates have not been extensively evaluated, specifically for storing peas and lentils. “With the increasing production of pulses, it is vital that grain temperature, moisture content, resistance to airflow, and seed quality characteristics are measured to better define airflow rates and fan running times for optimum storage practices,” Agnew said. “The goal of our ongoing research is to increase overall knowledge of storing pulse crops in hopes that farmers will be more aware of the different factors that can affect storage conditions and how to manage them during storage with minimal losses.”

Funding from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward 2 bi-lateral agreement is being used for the research trials with peas and lentils, while funding from the Alberta Pulse Growers will be used to compile the relevant results into producer-friendly tools and to distribute the information via webinars and presentations at Alberta-based events.

“APG is pleased to deliver this important information about best storage practices to Alberta pulse producers,” said APG Chair D’Arcy Hilgartner. “It is vital that the research and tools that PAMI has developed get into growers’ hands in a timely and useful way.”

The type of information that will be shared in the releases and events includes: ideal storage conditions for pulses, effect of airflow rate on drying rate, fan size selection, use and economic benefits of supplemental heating, big bin considerations, technologies for monitoring grain during storage, and the pros and cons of fan control systems.

The first pulse-specific research update will be distributed to Alberta producers in early August with another update in December of this year. Dr. Agnew will be travelling throughout Alberta in 2019 and hosting webinars to further distribute this information. Once the events and webinar details are confirmed, they will be posted on PAMI’s and Alberta Pulse Growers’ social media channels.

*Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) is a leader in innovative solutions for agriculture and beyond, offering professional science and engineering services. Established in 1975 with a mandate of research and development for the Western Canadian agricultural sector, PAMI now applies the same research processes and expertise to initiatives in other industrial sectors, from manufacturing and mining to transportation and the military. PAMI has facilities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. For more information about Alberta Pulse Growers, visit [www.albertapulse.com](http://www.albertapulse.com).*

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