



Alberta Canola Producers Commission

Policy Position Statements

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Policy Position: Grain Handling and Transportation

The ACPC supports:

- A grain handling and transportation system that is commercial in operation, efficient, affordable, performance accountable, and available to all parties.
- A grain handling and transportation system that is production neutral.
- The removal of regulation and legislation that causes inefficiencies in the western Canadian grain handling and transportation system.
- Having all grain transportation and handling designated as essential services necessary for the public good.
- The producer's right to have access to producer cars.
- The sale and operation of the federally owned grain car fleet being commercially based, efficient, affordable, performance accountable, and available to all parties.

Policy Position: Marketing - Canola Seed, Oil, and Meal

The ACPC supports:

- The marketing of canola remain in the open market.
- An efficient futures market as it is an integral part of the price discovery mechanism and price risk management for canola seed, meal, and oil.
- Component pricing of canola seed for the efficient transmission of end user demand signals.
- The ACPC supports the removal of the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) 90 day pricing provision, which occurred on August 1, 2004, and supports the CGC's 90-day security provision.
- The ACPC supports an independent, external review of the mandate of the Canadian Grain Commission.
- The current grading method for canola as the Visual Eligibility Declaration (VED) proposed by the CGC has little or no relevance as a grading method for canola.
- The ACPC supports a system for the objective and accurate grade determination of canola utilizing instruments.

Policy Position: Industry Support

The ACPC supports:

- Individual safety net programs by provinces established under a Federal/Provincial agreement including adherence to a set of national principles and criteria that include a high degree (perhaps up to 70%) the risk base level to make farm insurance programs more attractive to producers.
- The inclusion in safety net programs for coverage of trade injury as demonstrated by the Grain Growers of Canada Trade Injury program.
- A consultative process with fertilizer manufacturers in the three western provinces to discuss fertilizer pricing being established.
- The inclusion of the hail rider in crop insurance, and that coverage should include production levels in normal production years and that coverage should be offered for identity preserved or contract production that reflects its value rather than its yield.
- Providing the Alberta Agricultural industry with financial assistance to offset rising electrical energy costs.
- A fair and equitable tax structure in Alberta for all Alberta agricultural producers.
- A tax credit by the Government of Alberta for Albertans who are willing to invest in innovative agricultural research and developments.
- Financially support for the Alberta canola crushing industry.

Policy Position: Variety Registration

The ACPC supports

- the removal of agronomic criteria, including yield, from the merit score, but the data must still be collected.
- the use of “better than the checks” as a recommendation criteria, rather than ‘equal to or better than’.
- the inclusion of standardized fusarium wilt testing when varieties are tested for registration. Evidence of collection must be required but resistance is not necessary for registration.
- A seed purity test as being a mandatory part of all common seed cleaning testing at all private and municipal seed cleaning plants in Alberta. The seed tag should also indicate if the tests were conducted on a clean or un-cleaned sample.
- The term "resistant" being used only for varieties that are 100% resistant to virulent blackleg, and that the current "resistant" classification be replaced by "tolerant".
- independent, third party varietal trials in order to provide growers as much information as possible about new canola varieties.

Policy Position: Environment and Sustainable Agriculture

ACPC supports:

- a self-evaluated, voluntary environmental farm plan with appropriate rewards.
- Unrestricted availability of approved crop protection products.
- Replacement products when existing ones are withdrawn from the market.
- International and inter-provincial harmonization of approval processes.
- Accelerated licensing processes.
- A timelier, emergency registration process for crop protection products and methods of application.
- The Farmers Advocate of Alberta having a role in mediating disputes involving canola growers and crop protection companies.
- The timely availability of herbicide tolerant canola.
- The proactive approach to emergency registration of crop protection products for aerial application.
- Separate accounting of PMRA expenditures for pest control product regulation and pest management activities and that the cost of PMRA pest management activities must not influence the cost of pest control products.
- The use of alternative advertising crop protection products in place of mass media television and radio commercials.
- Defining wild ungulates as problem wildlife in order to allow canola growers to control these animals.

Policy Position: Biotech Regulations

The ACPC strongly supports the position of Agriculture Canada in that labeling only is required where there was a concern in respect to safety, health, or quality.

That if a canola breeder/researcher is unable to ensure that the results of his/her work would receive Canadian governmental food, feed, and environmental approvals at the onset of the research, the researcher should not proceed with that research.

Policy Position: Farmer Saved Seed

The ACPC supports the Farmer's Privilege as being defined as "the use of harvested material of the plant variety grown by a farmer on the farmer's holdings for subsequent reproduction by the farmer of the plant variety on those holdings" and that this definition be used in the Plant Breeders' Rights Act to define the farmer's ability to save seed.

Policy Position: International Trade

The ACPC is supportive of open, freer trade, and supports to move towards a zero-for-zero trade agreement in oilseeds.

Policy Position: Bio-products

The ACPC believes in the development of new food and non-food products from canola seed, oil, and meal.

The ACPC supports the public funding of new product development research.

The ACPC believes in the removal of regulatory barriers that hinder economically viable new product from being developed and marketed domestically and internationally without compromising food, feed and environmental safety requirements.

The ACPC believes that government should support the commercialization and market establishment of new products.