



# February Report

2019 Brad Alexander PAg

## Authority

---

- I have spoken with Paul Tiege (Olds College – Weevil Project) about our authority project needs; you may recall that he specializes in chemicals. He talked directly with Ron P. about the project requirements, and his team would be able to do the required work. Also, he should be able to do the work at the same time as the weevil trial, thus saving us on travel expenses.
- Otherwise, Robert Doel from AgQuest can 'probably squeeze it in'. I imagine that it will be more expensive.

## PPMUC

---

- We heard from Nihan Kavaslar, PPMUC Agricultural Outreach Advisor, who outlined the convoluted process of product reviews, then was bombarded with questions.
- It was very apparent that the reviewers do not include anybody who uses the products (Producers), like apples making decisions for oranges because they're both round. Nevin Rosaasen and I made our concerns regarding this... very known.
- I did finally have an opportunity to discuss our alfalfa weevil issue face to face with this representative and she has agreed to bring the issue up for emergency use evaluation again, with my letter of concerns in hand.

## Spice Publication

---

- Danica has been recovering from a blown out knee so I haven't been able to formally meet with her lately, however, she's been working at home on the publication.

## Pollen Ball Survey

---

- I've sent the survey around a few times for review and have received some good feedback.
- The questions include all of the pollen ball information, weevil questions, and weed questions, but it's still very short and easy to answer.
- I have the online version as well as a printable version for use at the AGM. How many should I have printed out?

## SR&ED Forms

---

- I've prepared all of the forms for our current projects and the extra form for next year. Jodi has sent the forms to the accountant for review and I haven't heard back as of yet.

## Weevils to the south

---

- Dr. Kevin Wanner from Montana State University has contacted me regarding the resistant weevils. Many states are now reporting suspected resistance to Synthetic Pyrethroids and he is heading a project to investigate and find solutions.
- He was very interested in what we've been doing, especially in the Red Dragon trial; he was considering the same trial.
- I've connected him with Dr. Boyd Mori because he may be able to provide more funding to our genetic screening trial, in a partnership.
- Even in the USA they are worried about the limited number of other control options.

## Drone Course

---

- Transport Canada has set new specific guidelines for drone flight and I have to upgrade my training.
- LandView is a drone company that is training producers in the required course and they are travelling to many of the small cities around Southern Alberta. The course also includes an update in the current software.
- Better camera kits are becoming available. Landview sells a drone kit with a multi-spectrum camera that light balances and is capable of taking the type of images that we need to accurately assess the light effects of specific diseases or other issues. The package currently costs \$21,850 and is far more capable of capturing plant colour signatures in the near IR range.
- Every year the cost and availability will come down fast, we should get into the multi-spectrum imaging before it's common place, but maybe wait for the price to continue to drop.