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## **Producer-Led Alberta Oat Grower's Commission is Established**

August 1, 2012 - After over four years of work, the Alberta Oat Grower's Commission is now in place providing oat growers a unified voice. This commission, formed through regulations approved under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*, will focus on increasing research and development for oats in Alberta and look for new marketing opportunities and uses for Canadian oats.

"With nearly 5,000 oat producers in Alberta it's time that we make our voices heard and sit at the table with the millers, processors and handling companies to increase oat producer profitability," says Gordon Pope, Alberta Oat Growers Commission Steering Committee member and oat producer near Ryley, AB.

The Commission's revenue will be generated by a mandatory/refundable service charge (also known as a check-off) of \$.50/tonne on commercial oat sales in the province of Alberta.

"The expected \$140,000 annual revenue will be used primarily for market development, research and policy development to help advance oats in Alberta and Western Canada," according to Keith Gilchrist, Alberta Oat Growers Commission Steering Committee member and oat producer near Pickardville, AB.

The Alberta Oat Grower's Commission will be joining the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission and the Manitoba Oat Growers Association to complete the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA).

"With the addition of the Alberta Commission, POGA represents nearly 90% of all oats grown in Canada. Canada is the largest exporter of oats in the world so we will have more leverage now," Pope adds.

Now that the commission is in place an interim board of directors will oversee the governance of the Alberta Oat Growers Commission until director elections are held in the spring of 2013.

Any Alberta oat producer interested in becoming a director should send their contact information to [info@poga.ca](mailto:info@poga.ca) to ensure they are included in the mailing list.

For more information please visit our website or contact:

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