

Resolution 3-23: *Applied Research Associations Funding*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

Response:

Alberta's 12 Agricultural Research Associations (ARA), and the Alberta Research and Extension Council of Alberta, are recognized and valued partners in agricultural research programming and delivering extension activities to many municipalities in Alberta. Agriculture and Irrigation is committed to supporting the vital work ARAs undertake to provide producers with unbiased extension information and to help grow Alberta's agriculture sector.

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) provides the 12 ARAs with \$2.5 million per year in operational funding for a two-year period – similar to the funding the ARAs received under the discontinued Agriculture Opportunities Fund. RDAR also initiated and facilitated a process to examine the operational needs of the ARAs, which resulted in a Harmonized Base Funding proposal that ARAs shared with the department and RDAR in summer 2022. RDAR is committed to continuing to fund ARA operations to ensure capacity to transfer knowledge between academia and farmers is maintained. In fiscal year 2023-24, ARA funding will increase by \$1.5 million, bringing the total funding to support ARA operations to \$4 million.