

Committee Report on Cooperative Extension Model - January 26, 2024

Hello ASB Provincial Committee,

The Extension Working Group seeks to inform stakeholders and to get feedback from them during their process of creating the framework for a Co-operative Extension Model. A 2-day session in January focussed on who does what, on gaps, and on measurables.

To summarize the Extension Working Group work so far:

1. the Working Group is composed of 14 members representing
 - a. Alberta Agriculture,
 - b. ARECA
 - c. RDAR
 - d. Ag Canada
 - e. ARA's
 - f. Crop & Livestock Commissions
 - g. ASB's
 - h. Post Secondary
 - i. Private sector

The Working Group aspires to:

Create a built-in-Alberta Co-operative Ag Extension Model based on "Together we are Better".

The system needs to be flexible, with the ability to evolve as producer needs and environmental factors change. The Working Group identified that extension is being done by many different organizations and individuals in the province. The Working Group agrees that these extension activities need to continue. Coordination and communication of these activities would benefit producers seeking information and would help to identify gaps.

The mandate of the Working Group is to design the overall system. The initial system will serve as a strong foundation on which to grow, evolve and adapt to meet producer and industry needs.

There is an opportunity to build a "Knowledge Hub" that can be accessed by everyone.

Follow up sessions are planned for Feb 7th and 8th and more later in February with a conclusion to this work by March 31st.

Cheers,
Walter Preugschas,
Northwest region ASBPC Rep