



## **MEDIA RELEASE: Harvest—time to think about seeding?**

**August 21, 2009** (Calgary, Alberta)—As summer approaches fall, thousands of Alberta farmers are focussed on harvesting their crops. It's also an ideal time for them to think about seeding their next crop, says Rick Istead of the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission.

“A good seeding plan begins long before a crop goes in the ground,” Istead says. “Plus, what and when farmers harvest is directly related to their next crop.”

That's especially true, he adds, when winter wheat is part of the crop rotation, as it's typically seeded right after an earlier harvested crop like canola. Depending on location, Alberta farmers usually aim to have their winter wheat planted some time between mid-August and mid-September.

While the opportunity to plant winter wheat this fall is rapidly fading, farmers can still include it in their 2010 seeding plans. Indeed, says Istead, winter wheat benefits from good management practices and careful advance planning. In planning for winter wheat, farmers should consider:

- Winter wheat generally produces a higher yielding crop earlier in the crop year, while also helping to reduce input costs and spread out farm workload.
- With good snow coverage, winter wheat can survive air temperatures as low as -40° C. This is most often achieved by sowing into canola stubble, which does the best job of trapping snow and keeping soil temperatures warm enough for overwintering.
- Research by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development shows that when a cereal crop such as winter wheat follows canola, yields can increase 10 to 20 per cent.
- Winter wheat also helps minimize wind and water erosion, plus reduces the disturbance of nesting waterfowl, giving them a better nesting environment.

Farmers developing their seeding plans can find more detailed information on the *Growing Winter Wheat* pages of the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission/ Ducks Unlimited Canada website ([www.wintercereals.ca](http://www.wintercereals.ca)).

A member-driven organization, the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission is dedicated to representing and advancing the interests of the province's winter wheat growers. Our organization and its leaders are committed to partnerships, stewardship, sustainability and marketability. We work throughout our industry to ensure winter wheat benefits our producers, customers and consumers.

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