

Bill Chapman, PAg- Distinguished Agrologist Award

Bill Chapman is a Crop Business Development Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry at Barrhead, Alberta. He started with the department over 33 years ago as a Regional Crop Production Specialist training District Agriculturists and farmers in the North West region. Bill obtained a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, graduating with a major in Agronomy. He joined the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists in 1979 and transferred to Alberta in 1984. Bill was raised on a mixed family farm in Central Butte, Saskatchewan.

After moving to Alberta, Bill was eager to work with local farmers in the north west region, as well as research staff and crop input suppliers, to improve crop yields and quality by initiating new soil fertility and agronomy meetings. These partnerships have stood the test of time and are now moving into the third generation with participation from the same family farms.

Bill's list of accomplishments are many. He has worked closely with Field Crops Development Centre in Lacombe as the Provincial Cereal Specialist. This includes working with the Alberta Barley Commission on provincial projects, with the goal of growing international trade for high-value barley. Key projects include working with Sapporro Breweries, the Japan value chain, Rahr Malting, and contract malt growers from central Alberta, followed by the Shochu Barley Project with Itochu, Japan. Bill was also involved with co-editing the *Triticale Manual* with Dr. Don Salmon, and extending swath grazing practices and projects. Another great accomplishment was his involvement with Diagnostic Field School, both as an instructor and an organizer. From there he moved on to the Info-Synergy Team, which was initiated to extend early generation research on projects from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Station in Lacombe.

"I've always asked questions and listened to people like the scientists, researchers and extension staff and find that to be a great network."-Bill Chapman

Acclamations:

"If I was to sum up Bill's career in one statement it would be his absolute tenacity, focus and commitment to the grower."- Elston Solberg, P.Ag.

"Bill can see the big picture...right from putting the seed into the ground to the end user and what it means for industry." "Bill has taken people under his wing, shown them the ropes and shown them the skillsets they need to be really successful in their career. Bill is open to helping anybody that would come to him. He stands up as a role model."- Patricia Juskiw, P.Ag.