

Monica Klaas, RTAg – Professional Recognition Award, Registered Technologist in Agrology

When Monica Klaas RTAg started her career in the agriculture sector in the early 1980's she did not know that in 2020, she would still have no plans on exiting the industry. With over 3 decades of varied experience, continuous learning has been, and will continue to be, the hallmark of a very rewarding career.

She has been employed by local, municipal, and provincial governments in various capacities, as well as multi-national crop input corporations and most recently, not-for-profit organizations. With this breadth of experience, she still uses the Einstein quotes "*The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing*" & "*I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious*" as inspirational & guiding mantras.

Monica grew up on a small farm near the Alberta/Montana border receiving much hands-on farm experience hauling grain, tending livestock, moving irrigation pipe, and even hoeing 2 acres of carrots. The 4H program provided the foundation on which she built communication skills, through her participation in beef and horse 4H clubs.

Monica received her formal education at Olds College, graduating with honors from the Horticulture Program with a greenhouse major. However, the education she is most proud of, and utilizes the most is the education received on the job and in the field. She notes that the ag industry has a lot of very intelligent people that are fantastic communicators, and are very generous with their time and talent. She is also a proponent of participating in educational activities outside of the ag industry, and has participated in professional development courses that include other sectors like finance, petroleum, and engineering to name a few.

Currently Monica is the General Manager for Alberta Seed Processors Association, a position that has created new learning opportunities and challenges- mostly outside of the agronomy sphere. However, she is very fortunate to maintain a small agronomy contract with the Western Winter Wheat Initiative- a division of Ducks Unlimited Canada. In this position Monica promotes winter cereals as a sustainable crop choice for Alberta farmers.

When Monica is not working, she is maintaining a yard and garden at the large acreage near Claresholm that she shares with her husband Dan, 4 cats, 3 horses, & 2 dogs. Winters in Alberta whiz by as most weekends are spent skiing in the southern Rockies. The couple have 2 children that are currently students at Mount Royal University & University of Lethbridge.