

UPCOMING BCGPA AGM - JULY 9TH

On July 9th, 2026, the BC Grain Producers will hold their annual general meeting at the Cecil Lake Hall from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The event will feature multiple field tours with transportation provided and various event speakers offering valuable agricultural and organizational insights throughout the day. Notably, the BC Minister of Agriculture and Foods, the Honorable Lana Popham, will be present at the event.

**To register for our AGM, contact
hello@bcgrain.com or call 250-785-5774**

Annual Love of Ag

On February 17, 2026, the BC Grain Producers hosted their annual Love of Ag Conference. This year, we were excited to welcome a diverse lineup of speakers who shared valuable insights on key agricultural topics. Local producers persevered travelling through the snow to enjoy a fantastic day. Attendees heard presentations from various experts, discussing everything from practical farming advice to results of the Peace Region canola trials. We are looking forward to hosting the event again next year!



2026 BCGPA Love of Ag Event



BC Ag Days 2025: Pictured left to right: Les Willms, Hannah Willms, Niki Copes, Colin Copes

BC Ag Days

On October 28, 2025, Hannah Willms (BCGPA Board Member) and Niki Copes (BCGPA Bookkeeper), as well as Les Willms and Colin Copes, attended the BC Agriculture Council's Ag Day in Victoria. This annual advocacy event, held in October, brought nearly 70 BC farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders together for close to 40 meetings with cabinet ministers, MLAs, senior government officials, and key industry stakeholders. The key message this year was that government recognizes BC's agriculture sector as an essential service, which also means ensuring its critical needs are reliably met. It's valuable for the BC Grain Producers to have a seat and voice at the table during these meetings. We continue to follow up with those we met with, keeping these conversations moving forward for our priorities.

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2026 Below Ground Seminar

The Peace Region Living Lab is a collaborative initiative now in its fifth year, spearheaded by the Peace Region Forage Seed Association and involving nine agricultural organizations across the region. One of its key events, the Below Ground Seminar, took place on February 26th at the Ovintiv Centre in Dawson Creek, BC. Producers had the opportunity to learn from a diverse lineup of speakers, including a producer panel and experts in areas such as plant microbial ecosystems, ag tech, mental health, and more. With significant attendance, participants left the event enriched with agricultural insights and motivated to implement new strategies in their operations.



2026 PRLL Below Ground Seminar



2026 Summer Student Training

Summer Student Training

This year's summer students will be working closely with the Peace Region Living Labs project. Data collection is central to their roles for the summer, looking at over 24 sites across the region. This data works to give producers information that helps them to adopt strategies that increase productivity while fostering sustainability in the Peace Region. Pictured left to right: Makenna Gracey - PRFA, Mason Bentley - BCGPA, Nadia Mori - PRLL & PRFA, Avalin Alexander - PRFA, Maria Hansen - PRFSA.



Mason working in the field

Meet Our 2026 BCGPA Summer Student: Mason!

Introducing our summer student, Mason Bentley! Mason just completed her Northern Environmental and Conservation Science Diploma May 2026 and will be starting on her Bachelor of Science of Wildlife and Fisheries at UNBC September 2026. She will be working on a team together with summer students hired by the Peace River forage Association of BC and Peace Region Forage Seed Association to complete the summer field work for the 5th and final year of the Peace Region Living Lab project.

Season Status Update: Early Season Pests

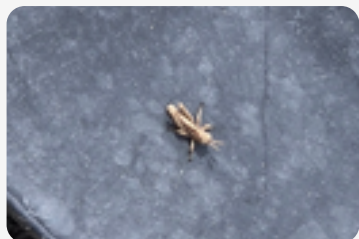
Information provided by Keith Uloth:

As many of the seeded crops start to emerge in the region, so do the insects that will begin to feed on them. Here are a few early growing season pests to watch out for and how to scout for them.

1. **Flea Beetles** are a major pest in canola early in the season up until the plants get past the 4-5 leaf stage. In our region we have one dominate species, the Striped Flea Beetle (*Phyllotreta striolata*), which tends to emerge a little earlier and has been seen stem feeding when the weather is rainy or windy. Plant damage ranges from pits in the leaves to complete defoliation of the leaf. If more than 25% of the leaf is gone consistently among all plants in your field then you are at an economic threshold.
2. **Cutworms** are another early-season threat, with several species feeding on crops in the region. Redbacked, Glassy and Dingy Cutworm are only a few of the many species that affect crops. Scouting for them is generally the same, looking into the soil near the base of plants that are showing symptoms of damage. Typical cutworm damage consists of stem feeding and/or large leaf defoliation. When looking into your field you may notice areas of poor establishment or bare patches, scouting along the fringes of those areas is a good place to start searching for these pests. Thresholds vary by species and crop being affected, but Agriculture and Agri-food Canada offers a free digital copy of Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies. This guide helps with identification, thresholds, and other tips for dealing with cutworms.
3. **Pea Leaf Weevil**, a pulse pest where both the adults and larvae can cause issues, with the adults feeding on the leaves and larvae on the root nodules. Adults feed on the leaves by causing notching into the leaf edge. Scouting a field should be done at total of ten sites, five sites within the field and five along the edge looking at 10 plants for symptoms of notching. The economic threshold for this pest is 30% of seedlings showing symptoms of leaf notching on the clam leaf during the 2nd to 5th node stage.



Flea Beetles on Canola



Grasshopper Nymph

4. **Grasshopper nymphs** have been seen out this season already. This pest can affect all major field crops when present in high numbers. Scouting ditches and field edges to determine population densities is crucial to determine if spraying is needed. Early instar grasshoppers are easier to control, as they cannot fly, compared to the later instars when wings have developed. When scouting keep in mind that threshold for grasshoppers in field is 13 or more per m², while in ditches it's 25 or more per m².

Grain Industry Development Council AGM

On June 25th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. the BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council will be having their AGM at the BC Grain Producers office in Fort St. John. The BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council is involved in the research and development activities that support grain growers in the Peace Region, using levies to ensure the continued growth of the industry and support of those in the agricultural sector.

For those interested in attending, contact Maria at gidc@bcpeace.com, or call 250-263-2864. More information can also be found at bcpeace.com.



GIDC AGM
June 25, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Attendance:

This year's AGM will be held at the BC Grain Producers Association Fort St John

Office:
10504 100 Ave
Fort St John, BC

If you would like to attend, please email or call Maria.

250.263.2864
gidc@bcpeace.com
www.bcpeace.com

NOTICE of AGM



Join us for the BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council's Annual General Meeting.

Your participation is valuable and greatly appreciated.

Important Reminders

Seeded Crop reports need to be submitted by June 14th. Ensure your coverage is in place!

Hail coverage is an affordable option to protect your crop from hail and wildfire.

Premium rates per \$100 of coverage are \$1.67 Cereals, \$2.57 Canola/ Peas/ Fine seeds.

Reminder that the AgrilInvest application deadline is June 30th.

Connect With Us on Social Media

Facebook: @BCGrainProducers

Instagram:

@bcgrainproducersassociation

X / Twitter: @BCGPA

Website: bcgrain.com

Join the BCGPA & Discover More

The BCGPA is seeking an additional board member! To learn more about our initiatives for grain producers in BC, or if you are interested in joining the board, reach out to hello@bcgrain.com or call 250-785-5774. **Join us at our Annual General Meeting on July 9th at the Cecil Lake Hall**, which is a great opportunity to meet our members and discover what we do.

For any questions or comments regarding the BCGPA spring newsletter, please reach out to communications@bcgrain.com



**Box 6004
Fort St. John, BC
V1J 4H6.**