



# News Release

Agricultural Research and  
Extension Council of Alberta

[www.areca.ab.ca](http://www.areca.ab.ca)

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT ARECA

**ALBERTA, March 26, 2009** – Effective April 1, 2009, the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) will see a change in leadership as Dee Ann Benard, Executive Director since 2004, leaves the organization to pursue a new opportunity.

With her departure, Dr. Ty Faechner, ARECA's Research Program Manager, will be appointed Interim Executive Director. Dr. Faechner will remain in that position until such time as a permanent replacement is chosen.

Ty Faechner is a professional agrologist and certified agricultural consultant who has worked for the Alberta Government and private business in the agriculture industry for 30 years. He has taught GIS, GPS and precision agriculture courses at Assiniboine Community College and Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, as well as at the University of Alberta and King's University College in Edmonton. Ty completed his Ph.D. in variable rate herbicide application at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Alberta. He currently works as the Research Program Manager with ARECA where he has been involved in developing methods to monitor reclaimed industrial sites with GPS, assessing the costs of farming around midfield structures, doing field scale farm research and developing funding initiatives for farm training for Alberta producers.

At this time, ARECA would like to thank Dee Ann Benard for her exceptional efforts on behalf of the organization. She consistently demonstrated a passion for agriculture in Alberta, and was committed to enhancing the environmental and economic sustainability of farm operations throughout the province. The board, member associations and staff at ARECA will miss her greatly but wish her every success with her future endeavours.

For more information, please contact:

**Laura McNabb**

Communications Program Manager  
Agricultural Research and Extension  
Council of Alberta

Ph: (780) 416-6046 Ext. 12

Cell: (780) 238-1766

[mcnabb@areca.ab.ca](mailto:mcnabb@areca.ab.ca)

**Dr. Ty Faechner**

Interim Executive Director  
Agricultural Research and Extension  
Council of Alberta

Ph: (780) 416-6046 Ext. 14

[faechner@areca.ab.ca](mailto:faechner@areca.ab.ca)