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The Plant Biosafety Office delivers regulatory programs related to the environmental release of plants developed using biotechnology. This includes the confined research field testing program for lines under development, and the unconfined release program for plants with commercial potential. To meet the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's mandate of safeguarding a healthy and sustainable plant resource base and support Canada's economic prosperity, the Plant Biosafety Office works to continually improve and adapt its program design.

Prior to joining the Plant Biosafety Office in 2011, Heather obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Guelph, and completed post-doctoral studies at the National Research Council, Saskatoon.