

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**

Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Thursday, **March 5, 2015** at 9:02 A.M. in the County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to Order by the Agricultural Service Board Chairman, Ron Bobocel in the presence of the following persons:

		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
		<u>Thursday, March 5, 2015</u>
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	
1	Dareld Cholak	Present
2	Ron Bobocel	Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present
4	Cary Smigerowsky	Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Present
A.F.	Tory Dey	Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Present
CAO	Cory Ollikka	Present
Asst CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present
Assistant A.F.	Amanda Shapka	Present
Legislative Svcs/R.S.	Angela Bilski	Present

\*\*\*\*\*

Doug Ponich, Public Works Manager entered the Council Chambers, time 9:02 a.m.

**2. Agenda:**

408-15: Orichowski

That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 5, 2015, be adopted, as amended.

Addition(s) to the Agenda:

1. Delegation – Associated Engineering of Alberta Ltd. re: BF 79279.
2. Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) update.

Carried Unanimously.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**Delegation:**

**Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.**

Present before County Council at 9:06 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. were Mr. Gene Sobolewski, Project Manager, Sara Wadlow, Civil Engineer, and Mrigni Kitaly, Structural Engineer with Associated Engineering of Alberta Ltd. to discuss BF 79279.

409-15: Cholak

That County Council and representatives from Associated Engineering of Alberta Ltd. meet with the Minister of Transportation during the 2015 Spring Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Convention to discuss Bridge File 79279 and the Spedden reservoir.

Carried.

Doug Ponich, Public Works Manager, left the meeting at 9:56 a.m.



**7. Delegation(s):**

**Northlands/ATB Farm Family Award**

Present before the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board at 10:24 a.m. to 10:27 a.m. was Mr. Scott Franchuk on behalf of Franchuk Farms/Ryan & Chelsea Franchuk. Reeve Ron Bobocel presented a plaque to Mr. Scott Franchuk to recognize Franchuk Farms as the 2014 Recipient of the Northlands/ATB Farm Family Award. A photograph was taken of the plaque presentation.

**3. Minutes:**

410-15: Lukinuk

That the Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on January 9, 2015, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

411-15: Orichowski

That the Action List of January 9, 2015, Agricultural Service Board Meeting, be filed for information.

Carried.

**8. Executive Session:**

412-15: Orichowski

That County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue: Agricultural Service Board Staff Status, time 10:35 a.m.

Carried.

413-15: Lukinuk

That County Council go out of Executive Session, time 10:43 a.m.

Carried.

**4. Request for Decision:**

**Policy Statement No. 62-23-01: Tansy Reduction Program**

414-15: Lukinuk

That **Policy Statement No. 62-23-01** entitled "Tansy Reduction Program", be adopted:

<b>Title:</b> Tansy Reduction Program	<b>Policy No.:</b> 23-01	<b>E</b>
<b>Section:</b> 62	<b>Code:</b> P-R	<b>Page No.:</b> 1 of 2
<b>Legislation Reference:</b>	The Alberta Weed Control Act Statutes	
<b>Purpose:</b>	To develop a program to achieve a reduction of the Common Tansy population within Smoky Lake County's municipal lands and private properties.	
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>		
<b>1. STATEMENT:</b>		
1.1 Common Tansy is a wide spread perennial that is highly established within Smoky Lake County. This noxious weed is detrimental to both humans and livestock.		
<b>2. DEFINITION:</b>		
2.1 Common Tansy is declared a noxious weed under the Alberta Weed Control Act. This Act states that municipalities must ensure that growth or spread of this invasive species is inhibited on all land within its municipal borders.		
<b>3. GUIDELINE:</b>		
3.1 The <b>Schedule "A": Tansy Reduction Plan</b> outlines the need for a multi-phase project to reduce Smoky Lake County's current Tansy population.		
3.2 This policy in concurrence with our <b>Vegetation Management Policy (62-15)</b> and <b>Roadside Mowing Policy (62-02)</b> starts with controlling Tansy populations within municipal right of ways in a three zone rotation.		





Schedule "A": Tansy Reduction Plan



Weeds are Everyone's  
Responsibility

## Table of Contents

1. Identification.....	Page 2
2. Why is Tansy a Problem? .....	Page 3
2.1 Pasture Management.....	Page 3
2.2 Pasture Health.....	Page 4
3. Control of Tansy.....	Page 5
3.1 Cultivation of Tansy.....	Page 5
3.2 Mechanical Control of Tansy.....	Page 5
3.3 Herbicide control of Tansy.....	Page 6
4. Cropland Threats from Tansy.....	Page 7
Agricultural Services Plan of Attack.....	Page 8
Phase 1.....	Page 8
Phase 2- 2016.....	Page 9
Phase 3- 2017.....	Page 10
Phase 4 2018.....	Page 11
5. Smoky Lake County Weed Control Products.....	Page 11-12
Vegetation Management Zone Map.....	Page 13

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## Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



### Part A: Context —Invasive Plants are often referred to as weeds!

#### 1. Identification



Common Tansy is an aromatic plant with numerous yellow button shaped flowers in dense clusters at the top of the plant. The flowers have no petals, as you can see in the picture on the left. They are called disc flowers and are quite small in size, you can see the size comparison of the rain drops on the flowers. These flowers can produce hundreds of seeds that are a yellowish brown achene with short, five tooth crowns.

The seeds are dispersed as they fall on to the snow, either by wind or by animals in the winter. Below is a picture of the seed heads after all the seeds have fallen out.



Tansy plants can grow quite tall if all the environmental conditions are right. This can cause problems for municipalities trying to keep roadside vegetation down, so the motoring public can see any wildlife or other traffic



approaching. As you can see, Tansy can grow as tall as a fence post in some locations. In the juvenile stage it has fern like leaves that are deeply divided. If you pick a leaf and smell it, the odor will be very strong.



#### 2. Why is Tansy a Problem?

Common Tansy was introduced to North America from Europe in the early 1600's. Settlers brought it over for various different uses, such as medicinal. Today the plant



flourishes with little problem, as it has no natural predators here. Common Tansy is designated as **Noxious under the Weed Control Act of Alberta**.

Therefore it is landowner's responsibility to keep this weed from spreading. Local Authorities hire weed inspectors to carry out inspections under this act and enforce any non-compliance by issuing weed notices to landowners. The municipalities are

also responsible for maintaining county property to ensure noxious weeds are not allowed to spread and flourish. However effective long term weed management can only be achieved through participation of all landowners, communities, and business operators. **Invasive plants do not respect property, managerial or political boundaries.**

#### 2.1 Pasture Management

Smoky Lake County has large amounts of range and pasture land that is highly infested with Common Tansy, along with the municipal roadside ditches. Tansy is very detrimental to pasture health for multiple reasons.

1. It reduces pasture carrying capacity
2. It is toxic to livestock
3. It outcompetes beneficial species
4. If livestock ingest tansy it can lead to abortions
5. Can lead to poor overall animal health



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## 2.2 Pasture Health- Fewer Weeds More Grass

The animal carrying capacity of a pasture can be greatly reduced when weeds such as Tansy start to take over. Tansy is very competitive, as the cattle graze the grass down it allows Tansy to flourish, because competition of the grass is reduced. More grass is a valuable contributor to the bottom line of every ranch operation. It directly contributes to better herd condition, higher wean weights, improved ability of pastures to withstand drought.



Untreated pasture



Treated pasture

**CAUTION: Tansy contains alkaloids that are toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed in large enough quantities.**



## 3.0 Tansy Control

Intensively grazing Tansy WILL NOT control it. Cattle and horses do not graze it, unless it the only thing left in the pasture to eat. In this case the pasture is severely over grazed and this could run the risk of animals become poisoned; thus aborting their offspring.



### 3.1 Cultivation of Tansy

Common Tansy is a rhizomatous plant, which means flowering stems can re-grow from severed roots, therefore cultivation is not a recommended form of control. If cultivation is a repeated practice that is used in grain land and it can be effective in that area, but the tansy often will move to the headlands of the field where it will not be disturbed by cultivation. This just creates a headland weed problem which many neighbors will complain about spreading to their land or others.

### 3.2 Mechanical Control of Tansy

Regular mowing can reduce seed production of the plant, but this must be repeated to eliminate growth from the rootstock. Mowing alone will not remove the plant or stop it from spreading so this is not a recommended form of control. Mowing is also not economical in the case of large acres as it would have to be mowed several times a year.



### 3.3 Herbicide Control of Tansy

The use of herbicides is a very effective control of Tansy. There are many products and tank mixes on the market that are registered to control Common Tansy. Broadleaf selective herbicides will not harm grasses if used correctly by following the products information label.

Reclaim and Grazon are products released by Dow Agrosciences, they are excellent products to use for Range and Pasture management. They are selective herbicides, which are designed to have effective control on both broadleaf weeds and brush in permanent pasture. Reclaim and Grazon are absorbed by the leaves and roots and are translocated throughout the plant resulting in total weed control. The products have no grazing restrictions for beef cows or horses. The only restriction is for dairy cows being used for milk production. When using Reclaim, the dairy cows must be removed from the pasture for seven days, then they will be allowed to re-enter to graze as normal. If using Grazon dairy animals must not be put back in the pasture for 6 weeks. Reclaim and Grazon work like a natural growth regulating hormone found only in plants, not in livestock, wildlife or humans. Mammals do not metabolize Reclaim or Grazon, if ingested, it is rapidly excreted from the body in the urine and will not accumulate in the animal.



Always check the product label to ensure the herbicide is registered for the use of the species you are targeting. **ALWAYS read and follow the label directions!** Consult your local Agricultural Fieldmen or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information for other herbicide options.

### 4. Cropland threats from Tansy

Cropland can also host a problem and harbor Tansy infestations in the headlands. This can cause problems for producers in many different ways. One of them being the social impact that this invasive weed can cause. If you have a large infestation of noxious weeds, it does not matter what kind, this can cause tensions between neighboring landowners. Invasive plants do not respect property boundaries, this puts pressure on the County to implement fair compliance with landowners.

Smoky Lake County offers a Reverse Fenceline Spray Program, which allows the Agricultural Service Board staff to apply herbicide from the landowner's property into the County right-of-way thereby controlling invasive species on fenceline and field margins. Landowners interested in participating in the Reverse Fenceline Program must come in and sign a Schedule "B": Reverse Fenceline Spray Program – Application Form.



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### Agricultural Services Plan of Attack

Tansy Reduction Program

#### Phase 1- 2015

The main focus is controlling Tansy on municipal land for 2015. More specifically in zone 3, where the plan will start. Every road in this zone will be sprayed from fenceline to fenceline for noxious weeds. After this zone is completed, Ag Services will then move to Zone 1 and 2 to complete spot spraying in locations where noxious weeds are present in municipal right-of-ways.



Private land weed inspections will occur and introduction letters will be sent out to landowners with property that is highly infested by Tansy or other noxious weeds. A more intensive inspection and private-land letter program will begin in Phase 3, after Ag Services has control over the tansy problem within the municipal right-of-way.

Tansy Reduction Program

#### Phase 2 -2016

Phase 2 will consist of targeting zone 2, in which all municipal right-of-way will be sprayed for noxious weeds. The zone borders are highway 855 and range road 150. Phase 2 will be similar to phase 1 in which letters will be sent out to land owners.



Education and awareness will be the main focus for private land noxious weed problems. Once zone 2 is completed spot spraying in the other two zones will commence with majority of the spot spraying being completed in zone 1.



Spraying will start on the opposite end of where the mowing will start at the beginning of each year. This will ensure adequate time for herbicide absorption before mowing.

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Tansy Reduction Program

**Phase 3- 2017**

Phase 3 will be a total spray of Zone 1. This area has the least amount of Tansy within the municipal right-of-way. This will allow for us to target roadside thistle or other noxious weeds in this area. Inspections will increase to ensure more education and awareness is being place on private land. Tansy fact sheets will be widely distributed to landowners in Zone 2 and 3.



Spraying will start in the opposite end mowing does as well so that the two programs do not overlap one another. Once Zone 1 is completed, Ag services will commence spot spraying in in other problem locations in Zone 2 and 3.

Overview- Rotational Spraying

Year	Target Zone
2015	Zone 3
2016	Zone 2
2017	Zone 1
2018	Zone 3
2019	Zone 2
2020	Zone 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB'.



Tansy Reduction Program

Phase 4- 2018

Will consist of spraying Zone 3 in the rotation. Phase 4 will be continuing the education and awareness with the introduction of compliance request and non-compliance letters. This will allow heavily infested locations with noxious weeds to start the process of decreasing those invasive weed populations.

5. Smoky Lake County's Weed Control Products

The word herbicide to most people means harmful, toxic, and destructive. Anyone can think and believe that herbicides are the worst substance on the planet, until you know the real facts proven by science. At Smoky Lake County we do not target native plants species, in fact we remove the invasive plants that take over native pastures and fields because they have no natural competition. The products we use are selective, which means they will not harm the grass species and they only remove the broadleaf invasive plants that we target, such as Tansy and Canada thistle.

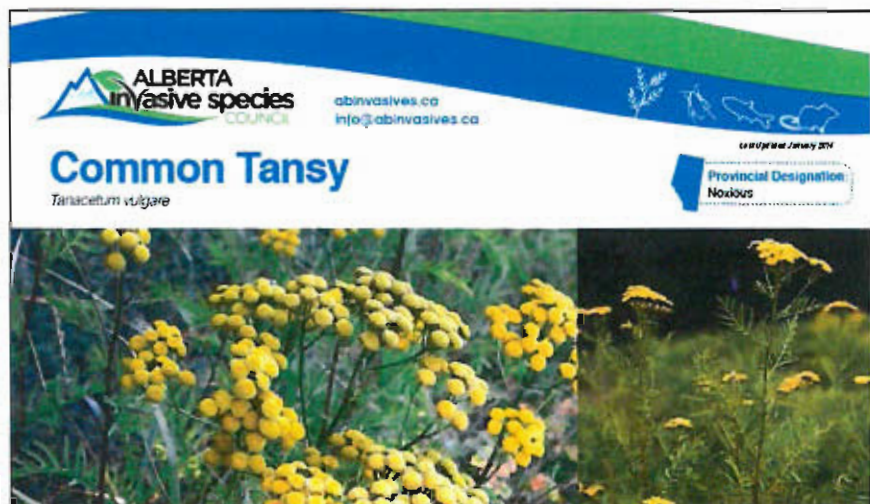
Product 1.



ClearView is a product designed for use on right-of-way, industrial and other non-crop areas. ClearView has very low acute and chronic toxicity to mammals, fish, aquatic invertebrates, honey bees and earthworms. It does not bio-accumulate in the environment. There are no grazing restrictions for livestock or lactating dairy animals that have grazed on treated areas, this includes horses. ClearView works like a natural growth hormone found only in plants and not in livestock or wildlife.

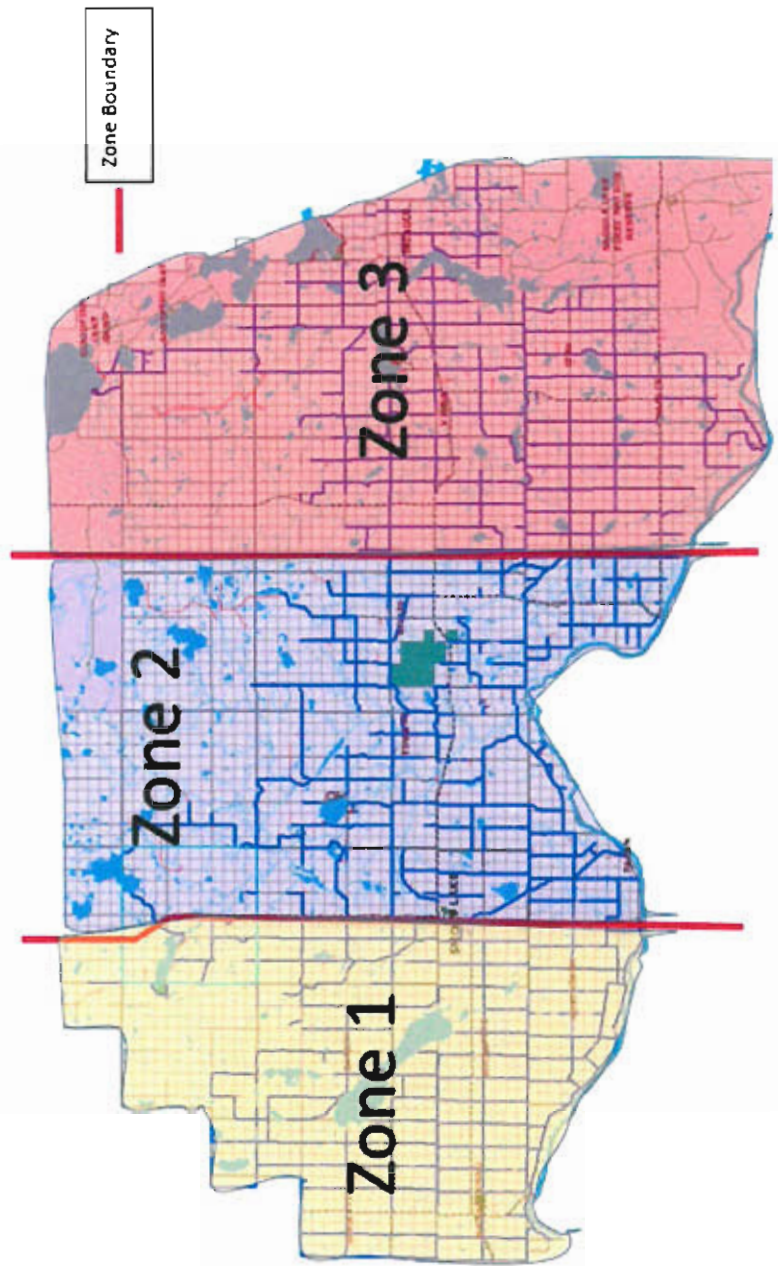
Product 2.

Garlon is a product that we use to control unwanted tree or brush growth within municipal right-of-ways or on intersection corners to increase visibility of oncoming traffic or wildlife. Garlon is also a selective herbicide that only controls the target species and does not harm grasses. Garlon similar to ClearView will not bio-accumulate in humans or animals. There are no grazing restrictions with Garlon this includes horses.



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Vegetation Management Zones



Carried.

**Mower and Arm Tender Results**

415-15: Orichowski

That Smoky Lake County purchase the 2015 Schulte XH1000 10ft Rotary Mower and Flex Arm-1510 not to exceed the amount of \$42,975.00 from Waskatenau Motors, subject to delivery by June 1, 2015.

Carried.

**Policy Statement No. 62-10-02: Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan**

416-15: Cholak

That **Policy Statement No. 62-10-02** entitled "Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan", be amended:

<b>Title:</b> Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan		<b>Policy No.:</b> 10-02
<b>Section:</b> 62	<b>Code:</b> P-R	<b>Page No.:</b> 1 of 14 <b>E</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To establish a three-year Strategic Plan for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board.	
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>		
<b>STATEMENT:</b> The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is in the business of providing its residents with agricultural programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Roadside Vegetation Management Programming, Agricultural Extension Programming, Problem Wildlife Programming, Pest Control and Monitoring as well Government Lobbying.		

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The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the *Weed Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Soil Conservation Act* and the *Animal Health Act*.

**VISION STATEMENT:**

To encourage sustainable agriculture, environmental integrity and improved quality of life in Smoky Lake County.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board identifies the following priorities:

- One: Vegetation Management.
- Two: Invasion Species.
- Three: Environmental Stewardship.
- Four: Problem Wildlife.
- Five: Agricultural Extension.
- Six: Pest Management.
- Seven: Viable Livestock Industry.
- Eight: Soil Conservation.
- Nine: Intergovernmental Co-operation.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board shall review annually and as required by Alberta Agriculture.
2. Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board staff will consider and follow the priorities of the Strategic Plan when creating budgets and work plans.

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board  
**Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019**  
forms part of  
**Policy Statement 62-10: Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan.**

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2019**



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2019	
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	
Overview of Statements	Page 1
1. Vegetation Management	Page 2
2. Invasive Species	Page 3
3. Environmental Stewardship	Page 4
4. Problem Wildlife	Page 6
5. Agricultural Extension	Page 8
6. Pest Management	Page 9
7. Viable Livestock Industry	Page 10
8. Soil Conservation	Page 11
9. Intergovernmental Co-operation	Page 12

Strategic  
Plan

Overview of Statements

STATEMENT:

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board is in the business of providing its residents with Agricultural Programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Roadside Vegetation Management Programming, Agricultural Extension Programming, Problem Wildlife Programming, Pest Control and Monitoring as well as, Government Lobbying. The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the *Weed Act*, *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Act*.

**VISION STATEMENT:**

To encourage sustainable agriculture, environmental integrity and improved quality of life in Smoky Lake County.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.

**VALUES:**

**Integrity:** The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will conduct business in an ethical manner respecting the environment, public and applicable legislation.

**Commitment to Service:** The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will strive to provide the best service possible to its ratepayers conducting operations in an efficient and cost effective manner.

**Progressive:** The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will take a proactive and innovative approach in its programming examining new technologies and protocol while accepting and implementing relevant public input.

**Resources:**

Manpower:

- Agricultural Fieldman
- 2 Assistant Agricultural Fieldman (1 part time)
- 1 Weed Inspectors/Sprayer Operators (Seasonal)
- Three Mower Operators (Seasonal)

Equipment:

- 3 x 90+ horsepower FWA assist tractors with 15 ft mowers
- 1 chemical injection GPS equipped spray truck
- 2 x skid mount boomless sprayers
- 4 x ¾ ton pick-up trucks
- ATV equipped with sprayer
- ATV Trailer

1. **Vegetation Management Program**

**Goal:**

To execute Integrated Vegetation Management Program on Municipal Right-of-Ways.

**Strategy:**

1.1 **Identify Problem Areas**

Activity 1.1.1 **Follow the Tansy Reduction Plan five year plan 2015 - 2019**

Key emphasis will be on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds as well as other invasive species and analyzing both environmental and economic threats.

**Performance Measures:**

- **60** Weed Inspections completed in 2014.
- **240** Miles of Road Inspected in 2014.

**Evaluation:**

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1.2 **Roadside Spray Program**

Activity 1.2.1 Agricultural Service Board Staff will spray 1/3

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of the County each year, spot spray where necessary.

**Spraying on private land will be undertaken if required and only as time and budget permit.**

Activity 1.2.2 Brush will be sprayed in conjunction with Public Works Department to keep Right-of-Ways brush free to enhance visibility and snow removal operations.

**Performance Measures:**

- 237 Miles of Road Sprayed in 2014.
- Reduction in weed populations.
- Reduction of weed complaints on Municipal Right-of-Ways.

**Evaluation:**

1.3 **Roadside Mowing Program**

Activity 1.3.1 All Municipal Right-of-Ways will be mowed twice per year to increase visibility and control weed and brush re-growth. Resources, Resort and other Major Roadways will be mowed on as needed basis.

**Performance Measures:**

- All Roads Mowed in 2014.
- Reduction in mowing complaints.

2. **Invasive Species**

**Goal:**

To control the spread and prevent the establishment of invasive species on privately owned land through responsible communication with landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public.

**Strategy:**

2.1 **Weed Inspection Program**

Activity 2.1.1 Conduct weed inspections on private land in conjunction with Municipal Right-of-Ways weed inspections and as complaints arise.

Activity 2.1.2 Effectively communicate with landowners and occupants where weed issues arise.

Activity 2.1.3 Issue weed notices as a last resort method when all other avenues have been exhausted.

**Performance Measures:**

- 60 Weed Inspections conducted on private land in 2014.
- Reduction of weed complaints.
- Reduction of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed infestations.

2.2 **Establishment of a Weed Awareness and Education Program**

Activity 2.2.1 Offer workshops to agricultural producers, landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public in the identifications, control and impact of invasive species and the *Weed Control Act*

Activity 2.2.2 Produce and circulate information sheet on Invasive species to County residents through Mail as well as at Community events.

Activity 2.2.3 Make individual farm calls on an as needed basis to assist producers with the identification and control of invasive species.

**Performance Measures:**



- 5 producers helped with weed identification in 2014.
- Reduced amount of weed complaints.

**3. Environmental Stewardship**

**Goal:**

To work in partnership with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association to deliver collaborative environmental stewardship initiatives and unbiased research that result in sustainable growth of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Community.

**Strategy:**

**3.1 Ensure all producers are aware that L.A.R.A is providing unbiased agricultural research within Smoky Lake County.**

Activity 3.1.1 Work with local producers and advertise the ongoing Projects LARA is conducting.

Activity 3.1.2 Work in partnership with LARA to coordinate a Crop walk with local producers in August to show Case LARA's research.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of Producers attend Crop Walk 2015

**3.2 Environmental Farm Plans and Growing Forward Applications**

Activity 3.2.1 Assist local producers in completing their Environmental Farm Plans and applying for Funding under the Growing Forward program.

**Performance Measures:**

- Increased adoption of beneficial management practices by producers.
- Completed and approved Environmental Farm Plans.
- Number of producers assisted with the Growing Forward Program.

**4. Problem Wildlife**

**Goal:**

To co-operate and execute and Problem Wildlife Management Program.

**Strategy:**

**4.1 Agricultural Land Flooding Control Program**

Activity 4.1.1 The Agricultural Service Board will provide the services to facilitate the removal of beaver dams with explosives where there is flooding of agricultural land and other methods of removal and control will not work.

Activity 4.1.2 The Agricultural Service Board will provide information to landowners through mailouts, county website and on farm visits on alternate methods of beaver and flood control.

Activity 4.1.3 Water level stabilization devices will be installed in areas where repetitive blasting is required to reduce costs and environmental footprint.

Activity 4.1.4 Agricultural Service Board will assist Public Works Department when County roads are affected by beaver dam flooding.

Activity 4.1.5 The Agricultural Service Board will continue to offer a bounty of Ten Dollars per beaver tail removed from flooded agricultural land.

**Performance Measures:**

- 285 Mole Tails brought in.
- 304 Beaver Tails.
- Reduction in the amount of blasting product used.

**Evaluation:**

**4.2 Control Coyote Predation of Livestock.**

Activity 4.2.1 Toxicants (i.e., 1080) will be available to livestock producers who have coyote predation in their herds. This will be a last resort after all other methods of control and management have been explored.

Activity 4.2.2 Educate livestock producers on herd management strategies to prevent losses from coyote predation via mailouts or producer workshops.

**4.3 Nuisance Pest Management.**

Activity 4.3.1 Magpie and mole traps will be available for purchase from the Agricultural Service Board.

Activity 4.3.2 Richardson ground squirrel control methods (i.e., strychnine) will be available for purchase as availability permits.

**Performance Measures:**

- 4 traps sold in 2014.
- 64 Amount of Strychnine sold.
- 57 1080 tablets distributed.

**Evaluation:**

**4.4 Alternate Control Methods.**

Activity 4.4.1 Agricultural Service Board staff will continue to look into alternate control methods for all problem wildlife. This will be achieved through attending annual IST, as well as accessing government research, private research and other available learning tools.

**Performance Measures:**

- Reduction in the use of conventional control methods and/or increased adaption of new alternative methods.

**Evaluation:**

**5. Agricultural Extension**

**Goal:**

To communicate with and educate agricultural producers through an agricultural extension program which offers viable information to enhance all areas of agricultural production and rural life.

**Strategy:**

**5.1 Facilitate the flow of current information to agricultural producers.**

Activity 5.1.1 Identify current topics and information which will be informative and relevant to agricultural producers.

Activity 5.1.2 Present topics to agricultural producers in formats which will be well accessed, informative and interesting.

Activity 5.1.3 Update producers on municipal policy or Legislative changes in conjunction with other Workshops or via mailouts and website updates.

Activity 5.1.4 Post updated information on the Smoky Lake County website.



Activity 5.1.5 In the event of an agricultural emergency every effort will be made to get relevant information out to producers in a timely manner.

**Performance Measures:**

- 80 people attended workshops.
- Increased producer awareness.
- Positive feedback.

**Evaluation:**

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5.2 **Host producers' appreciation events.**

Activity 5.2.1 Host farmer appreciation day BBQ in conjunction with 4-H Achievement Day.

Activity 5.2.2 Investigate other producer appreciation events; i.e., golf tournaments, suppers, breakfast meetings and other types of events.

**Performance Measures:**

- Event attendance.
- Positive feedback.

**Evaluation:**

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6. **Pest Management**

**Goal:**

To provide Smoky Lake County agricultural producers with responsible pest management strategies, pest monitoring and enforce control of declared pests.

**Strategy:**

6.1 **Participate in pest monitoring program.**

Activity 6.1.1 Conduct clubroot surveys on an annual basis.

Activity 6.1.2 Agricultural Service Board staff will monitor conditions on an on-going basis throughout the growing season and if conditions permit surveys or inspections will take place.

Activity 6.1.3 Conduct other pest surveys as directed by Alberta Agriculture or as other agronomic or Climatic conditions dictate (i.e., weed survey, fusarium survey, etc.).

**Performance Measures:**

- 86 Surveys completed.
- Pests identified.

**Evaluation:**

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6.2 **Develop and execute pest management strategies to protect Agricultural commodities.**

Activity 6.2.1 Advise agricultural producers on clubroot management plan and policy and enforce as per the *Pest Control Act*.

Activity 6.2.2 Agricultural Service Board will rebate growers for applying insecticide in Municipal Right-of-Ways where grasshoppers are considered above the economic threshold and are applying insecticide in the adjacent field.

Activity 6.2.3 Agricultural Service Board staff will apply Eco Bran Bait in Municipal Right-of-Ways Where insecticide is not permitted or practical if the landowner is applying insecticide on the adjacent field.

Activity 6.2.4 Eco Bran Bait will be retailed and Eco Bran Bait spreaders will be available for rent.

Activity 6.2.5 Create pest management strategies to combat



other pest problems as they arise.

Activity 6.2.6 Act as Officers to enforce the *Pest Control Act*.

**Performance Measures:**

- 6 Positive Clubroot Fields found in 2014.
- 1 Participation in the insecticide rebate program.
- 1 mile treated with Eco Bran Bait.
- 0 enforcements under the Agricultural Pest Act.

Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Viable Livestock Industry**

**Goal:**

To support a viable livestock industry in Smoky Lake County.

**Strategy:**

**7.1 Cattle Scale.**

Activity 7.1.1 Agricultural Service Board will provide a cattle scale for use at no cost to livestock producers who reside within the Municipality as per County Policy.

Activity 7.1.2 The Agricultural Department will provide resources to livestock producers that are available through Alberta Agriculture free publications.

**Performance Measures:**

- 1 livestock weigh scale.

Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

**7.2 Offer workshops and other events to assist and enhance livestock industry.**

Activity 7.2.1 Workshops will be offered to livestock producers on an as needed basis. If emergency situations arise information will be distributed via workshop (i.e., drought, feed shortage, disease outbreak, marketing situations, etc.).

Activity 7.2.2 Explore other options to support cattle industry such as cattle sales, fairs, tradeshow, etc..

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of workshops held.
- Other events held.
- Positive feedback from ratepayers.

Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Soil Conservation**

**Goal:**

Protect the quality and integrity of agricultural soils in Smoky Lake County.

**Strategy:**

**8.1 Roadside Seeding Program.**

Activity 8.1.1 Agricultural Service Board staff will seed Municipal Right-of-Ways where construction projects have taken place.

Activity 8.1.2 Grass seed will be provided to adjacent Landowners if construction on a County Right-of-Way has affected their farming operations and they wish to do the seeding themselves.

<p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of miles of roadside seeding.</li> <li>■ Amount of grass seed distributed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p> <p>_____</p>	
8.2	<p><b>Soil Conservation Act.</b></p> <p>Activity 8.2.1      Agricultural Service Board staff will be designated officers under the <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> and enforce applicable legislation as situations arise.</p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of complaints.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p> <p>_____</p>
<p>9.      Intergovernmental Co-operation</p>	
<p><b>Goal:</b></p> <p>Conduct intergovernmental co-operation.</p>	
<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <p>9.1      <b>Actively lobby Government agencies to protect the interests of the Smoky Lake County agricultural community.</b></p> <p>Activity 9.1.1      Agricultural Service Board to participate in drafting and passing resolutions at Regional and Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences.</p> <p>Activity 9.1.2      Every effort will be made to convey agricultural concerns from the agricultural committee to relevant government agencies via face-to-face interactions, letter writing or any other available means.</p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Joined LARA in 2014.</li> <li>■ Positive feedback from producers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p> <p>_____</p>	

Carried.

**Policy Statement No. 62-04-04: Sale of Pesticides**

417-15: Orichowski

That **Policy Statement No. 62-04-04** entitled "Sale of Pesticides", be amended:

<b>Title: Sale of Pesticides</b>		<b>Policy No.: 04-04</b>	
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Code: P-R</b>	<b>Page No.: 1 of 1</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To establish guidelines for the Sale of Pesticides.		
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>			
<p>That the Agricultural Fieldman's office only sell herbicides or pesticides which are not readily available within the County and authorized by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.</p> <p>The Agricultural Fieldman shall ensure that the following licenses are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Alberta Environment Pesticide Retail Vendors License.</li> <li>■ The Agricultural Fieldman hold an Alberta Pesticide Applicator License.</li> </ul>			

Carried.

*RB*

**5. Issues for Information**

**Agriculture Department Report**

418-15: Smigerowsky That the updated report presented by the Agricultural Fieldman dated January 7, 2015 to February 27, 2015 be accepted, and filed for information.

Carried.

**2015 Wheat Midge Forecast**

419-15: Cholak That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board discussion of the 2015 Wheat Midge Forecast be advertised for awareness, and filed for information.

Carried.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Update**

420-15: Cholak That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board submit an application under the Growing Forward 2 Biosecurity Delivery Agent Program Grant for the Emergency Biosecurity Livestock Response Trailer project and other agricultural related livestock equipment.

Carried.

421-15: Orichowski That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the update for information on the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) of the Smoky Lake County producers appointed to the Board for Year 2015 to 2017: Charlie Leskiw and Barb Shapka.

Carried.

**6. Correspondence:**

422-15: Lukinuk That all Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board members and relevant administration who can attend – attend the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Tour in Grande Prairie, Alberta on July 14 – 16, 2015.

Carried.

**Next Meeting**

423-15: Cholak That the next **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to be held at the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

That this meeting be adjourned, time 11:20 a.m.

Carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RB