

**Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting**  
**A G E N D A**

**for Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at 9:00 A.M. to be held virtually:

Telus Business Connect Video Meeting link:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/686682801>

Meeting ID: 686682801

**and/or** physically in County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake.

\*\*\*\*\*

**1. Meeting:**

1.1 Call to Order.

**2. Agenda:**

Acceptance of Agenda:  
as presented or  
subject to additions or deletions.

**3. Minutes:**

3.1 Adopt minutes of **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©  
**Recommendation:** Motion to Adopt.

**4. Request for Decision:**

**5. Issues for Information:**

- 5.1 ASB Chairman’s Report. ©
- 5.2 Contract Licensed Vegetation Control for County Right of Ways. ©
- 5.3 2024 Spraying Progress Maps. ©
- 5.4 2024 Mowing Progress Maps. ©
- 5.5 2024 Resolution Responses and Grading. ©

**6. Correspondence:**

6.1 Letter received from Corinna Williams, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Northern Sunrise County received February 12, 2024 RE: Maintaining the Integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.2 Letter received from Bob Chrenek, Agricultural Service Board Chair, County of Grande Prairie received April 24, 2024 RE: ASB Provincial Conference Location. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.3 Letter received from John Van Driesten, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Municipal District of Willow Creek received April 22, 2024 RE: 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.4 Letter received from Dan Bourassa, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Saddle Hills County, received April 8, 2024 RE: 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.5 Letter received from Robert Mitchell, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Yellowhead County, received May 23, 2024, RE: Review of the Weed Control Act of Alberta. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.6 Alberta Crop Report as of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, provided by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on May 31, 2024. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.7 Moisture Situation Update as of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, provided by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on June 7, 2024. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information
- 6.8 Acknowledge receipt of *Weed Control Act* Survey as an opportunity to participate and provide feedback to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.  
**Recommendation:** Acknowledge Receipt

## **7. Delegation(s):**

- 7.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Update. ©

## **8. Executive Session:**

## **9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s): Adjournment**

3.1



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **March 5, 2024**, at 1:02 P.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Dan Gawalko, in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Tues. Mar. 5, 2024</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
County Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assistant Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Khin	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually
County Communications Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Present Virtually

\*\*\*\*\*  
No Members of the Media were Present.  
One Members of the Public were Present.

**2. Agenda:**

ASB29-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, March 5, 2024, be adopted as amended:

**Addition to the Agenda:**

1. Moisture Situation Update as of March 3, 2024.

Carried Unanimously.

**3. Minutes:**

ASB30-24: Flondra That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 12, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

**4. Request for Decision:**

Nil.

**5. Issues for Information:**

**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report**

Dan Gawalko ASB report March 2024

- January 22-24 attended the 2024 ASB Conference in Leth bridge AB. With our Ag field man Carliegh, Amanda and producer rep Tamara Flondra the first day I attended the ASB town hall meeting, some points discussed were the Feds gave 36 million for OFCAF so far , new program coming out in February, increased funding for weed control on Alberta highways, Alberta bee keepers produced more honey than any other jurisdiction, some of the other topics of the conference included history and impact of ASB's in Alberta and ASB updates, history of the soil conservation act and reality of soil erosion, pest act, weed control act, clubroot protocols, a Cleanfarms update, the Alberta rat control program, hydrogen and energy transition for rural Alberta, drones in agriculture, farm transitions, the Taber sugar beet factory, and a presentation on

the story of the Irvine school agriculture discovery centre, a resolutions session, and a address from the Hon. RJ Sigurdson minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

- February 5 attended the LARA meeting along with our 2 producer reps Barb Shapka & Amanda Fischer, municipal funding was discussed and the board made a decision that only the \$5,000 dollar option was available to be able to contract LARA for extension and field plots for variety trials, Lakeland HR will be working on some of the policies and staff grid, met the new research scientists Angelica and Lance Ouellette they are excited to be at LARA and have some new ideas for research including hemp as a cash crop, rye grass inter crop, distance between rows using 15" rows for canola and using a seed master drill, also a camelina trial, the chair went to a recent RDAR meeting, Alyssa gave the executive directors report along with the financials she attended several ASB meetings LICA and a watershed meeting EFP's are being done, purchased a new Ford truck for towing the trailer, the RALP program opened up again and she is working on the financials for the ROAR audit.
  - Upcoming LARA events
    - Feb 7 regenerative living labs workshop Vilna
    - Feb 9 farmer appreciation Glendon
    - Feb 13 sheep and goat forum Elk Point
    - Feb 15 securing success programs and funding opportunities Lac La Biche
    - Feb 21 gardening for pollinators Flat Lake Hall
    - March 2 innovation on the ranch Lac La Biche
    - March 6 LARA AGM Goodridge Hall
    - March 12 Lakeland agronomy update Ashmont Agriplex
    - March 13 securing success programs and funding opportunities Smoky Lake National Hall
    - March 25 policy and regular meeting Ashmont
- Feb 9, I attended the Farmer appreciation evening in Glendon with our 2 producer reps Barb Shapka and Amanda Fischer along with some of their family members.
- February 12 chaired the Smoky Lake ASB meeting, had a presentation from Alyssa executive director of LARA and the board made a recommending motion to fund LARA for the 2024 year and for our ag field men to bring back how and what they could do for extension work in the county by Oct 2024 also received an event poster from connect for food happening on April 15next ASB meeting March 5.

ASB31-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for March 5, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

## Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview Year-2023

### Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview

The following is an overview of the report that is sent to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation outlining the outcomes of our programs in 2023.

#### AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ACT

- Smoky Lake County changed its Agricultural Service Board structure from an all-Council member Board to a mixed Board comprised of Council members and Producers-at-Large.
- Smoky Lake County hosted the 2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference held at Metis Crossing on October 20, 2023.

#### AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- 2 Agricultural Pest Inspectors appointed
- 87 canola fields inspected for Clubroot - 4 Positive
- 4 fields inspected for Virulent Blackleg in canola
- 3 Bertha Armyworm trap locations monitored throughout the County for AB Ag
- 18 Townships surveyed for Grasshoppers on behalf of AB Ag
- 2 fields sampled for Fusarium Head Blight in wheat
- 3 new water stabilizers (Gizmos) installed
- **3 Gizmos repaired/upgraded**
- 9 1080 toxicant pills distributed as a last resort for coyote predation during calving
- 194 Problem beavers removed.
- 66 Beaver dams removed to protect County infrastructure
- **\*Internal purposes only\*** 49 problem muskrats removed
- Landowners can participate in Beaver Tail Bounty Program and Northern Pocket Gopher Tail Bounty Program
  - 351 Pocket Gopher tails brought in
  - 87 beaver tails brought in
- 0 Rat calls investigated
- 3 Wild Boar sighting calls received and responded to

#### WEED CONTROL ACT

- 2 seasonal Weed Inspectors appointed
- 657 weed awareness letters sent for noxious weeds on private land
- 1 Weed Notice issued with 24 locations to Alberta Transportation
- 0 Weed Enforcements
- 50% of Municipal right-of-way's were sprayed for control of noxious weeds and corner brush for sightlines in the West half of the County
- 2 locations received a combination of spraying and hand picking for Prohibited Noxious Hoary Alyssum
- Leafy Spurge biocontrol location was monitored after beetle release in 2022 and successful establishment occurred
- Weed awareness "WANTED" posters hung at all County truck fills and bulletin boards in all of the towns, villages and hamlets.
- Noxious weed awareness "centerpieces" displayed at Farmers Appreciation BBQ
- Lake lot hand picking and weed awareness campaign with AISC fact sheets prior to July long weekend.

- All County roads received 1 'shoulder' mowing pass early in the season and a second mowing pass to the 'property line' in the Fall. 3,036 total mowing miles in 2023
- Sat on the Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee with the Province and other stakeholders to complete risk assessments for current regulated weeds

**SOIL CONSERVATION ACT**

- 2 Soil Conservation Inspectors appointed.
- 0 Soil Conservation letters issued.
- Monitoring for different types of soil erosion occurs throughout growing season.
- Shelterbelts and best practices promoted at County events.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EXTENSION AND OUTREACH**

- 2 EFP's completed.
- 175 producers attended 25 extension events put on by LARA.
- 1 LARA trial plot location in the County
- Ag Department info booth at our Farmers Appreciation BBQ and LARA Annual General Meeting highlighting County programs, weed & pest awareness, shelterbelt info, Environmental Farm Plan info, beaver management techniques and Wild Boar 'Squeal on Pigs' Campaign
- Attended Lakeland College Career Fair on behalf of the AAAF as an opportunity to educate students on the AAAF & ASB's, weed & pest awareness, and an opportunity to recruit seasonal staff.
- Sat on the Grazing School for Women planning committee.
- Delivered the Classroom Agriculture Program to the Grade 4 students at schools within Smoky Lake County
- Completed Brodyk Lake Erosion Prevention Project to satisfy Alberta Environment and maintain the County's Recreation Lease that allows public access to the lake.

**Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview Year-2023**

ASB32-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview for Year-2023, for information.

Carried.

**6. Correspondence:**

**Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation**

ASB33-24: Flondra That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Corinna Williams, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Northern Sunrise County, dated February 8, 2024, outlining concerns in respect to being underrepresented in the pre-engagement review for the Year-2024 proposed changes to Weed Control Regulation, be filed for information.

Carried.

**ASB Connector Newsletter – January 2024**

ASB34-24: Melnyk That the e-newsletter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, produced by the Government of Alberta, dated January 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

**Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta**

ASB35-24: Flondra That the information guide received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, prepared by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), titled: A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta, which was provided for awareness, be filed for information.

Carried.

Dave Franchuk, Smoky Lake County's Environment and Parks Manager, entered Chambers, for the purpose of being an information resource to answer questions in respect to the County's Water Truckfills in relation to drought preparedness, time 1:32 p.m.

Dave Franchuk, Environment and Parks Manager, left Chambers, time 1:40 p.m.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**Moisture Situation Update – Informal - as of March 3 2024**

ASB36-24: Melnyk

That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Section Administrator / Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program Coordinator, Crop Assurance Programming Section, Primary Agriculture Division, Agriculture and Irrigation, dated March 3, 2024, providing an update on the moisture situation as follows, be filed for information:

**Total precipitation since the Feb 28<sup>th</sup> report was released (Map 1) .**

- Many of the mountain stations saw more than 40mm of additional precipitation.
- Foot hills between Hinton and the US boarder 10-15 mm
- Eastern side of the province from the Special Areas up to Wood Buffalo, 5-10 mm
- Reasonable accumulations in the western portions of the Central and North West regions (5-10 mm)
- Relatively dry < 2mm across parts of the south and through Athabasca county and nearby lands.

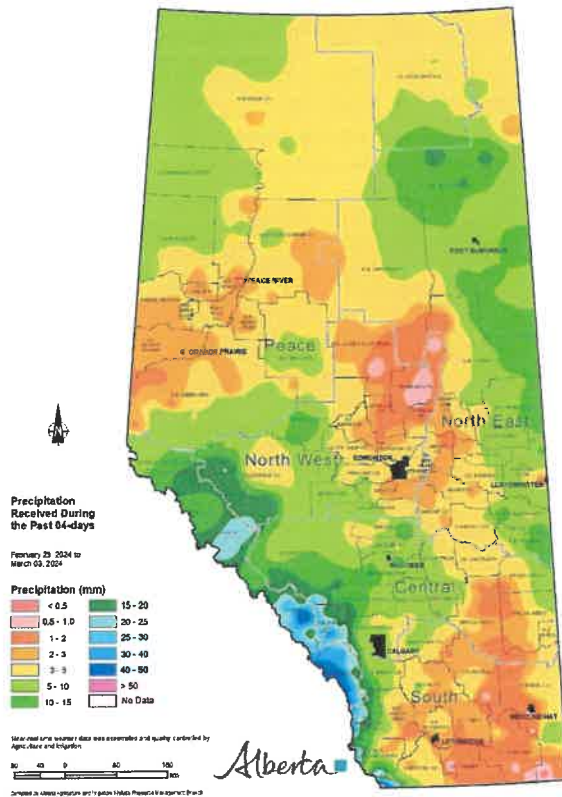
**Perspective:** For the entire month of March average accumulations (Map 2) range from about 20-25 mm in the foothills, down to less than 10 mm in parts of the Special Areas.

**Additional Maps:**

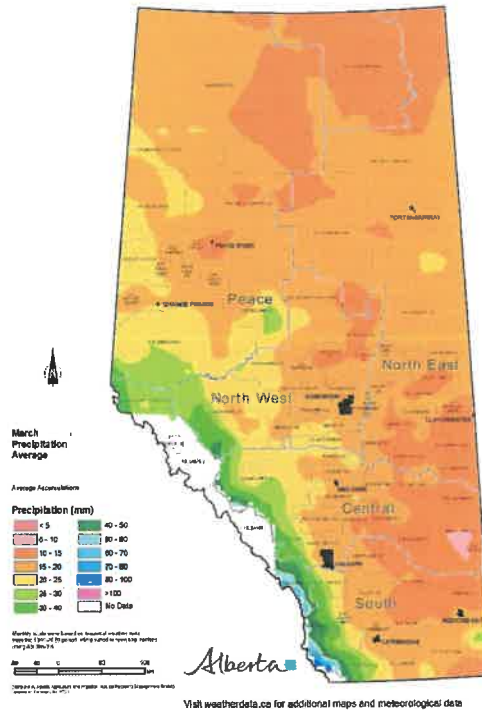
Snow pack water equivalent (Map 3) and snow pack relative to normal (Map 4)

- Very poor snowpack development across much of the north-half of the province, down at least as far south as Red Deer.

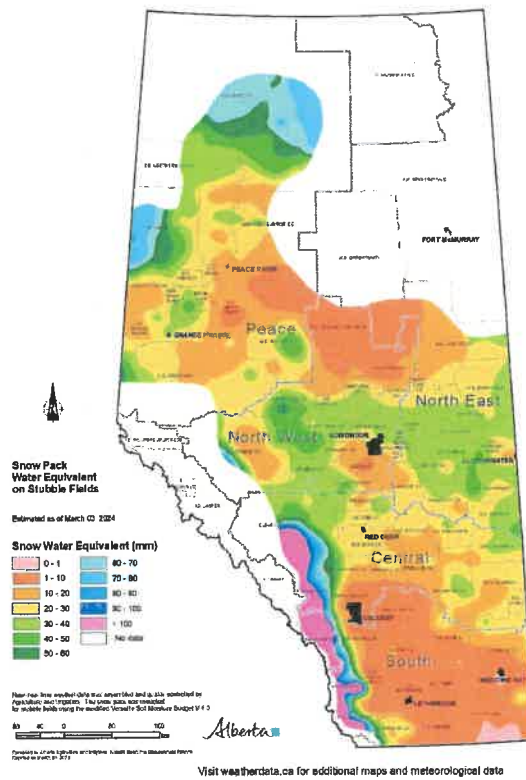
Map 1



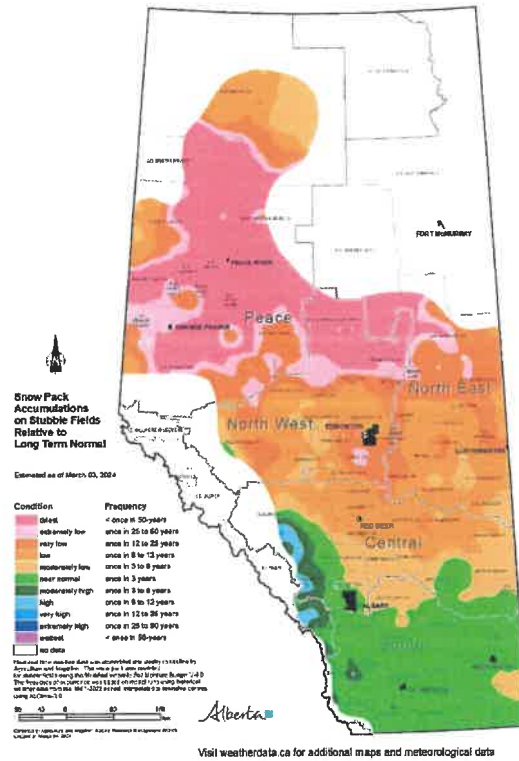
Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Carried.

**7. Delegation:**

Nil.

**8. Executive Session:**

No Executive Session.

**9. Date and time of Next Meeting:**

**Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting**

The next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting will be scheduled at the call of the Chairperson.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

ASB37-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of March 5, 2024, be adjourned, time 1:41 p.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



## Dan Gawalko Councillor report

### March 2024

February 29, completed the ASB grant survey for the legislation stream, input will be used to inform the review and updating of the next ASB grant program documents and programming as the current 5 year grant cycle will conclude at the end of 2024.

March 5, Held a ASB meeting, received the ASB grant reporting overview for Smoky Lake county received the RMA guide for declaring municipal agricultural disasters in Alberta, received a moisture situation update from Alberta agriculture and irrigation, received a letter from Sunrise county proposed changes to the weed control regulation expressing their concern regarding lack of consultation and transparency throughout the process, the ASB connector was also presented to the board and anyone can sign up to receive it the link is ASB Connector, E-Newsletter-Agriculture Service Boards.

March 6 attended the LARA board meeting Wanda the chair gave her report attended a very well attended funding opportunity in Lac La Biche county and Innovation on the ranch, Alyssa gave the director report lots of ASB meetings, will be purchasing 2 wheel hoes, she attended LLB watershed meeting, LICA meeting, she is on the organizing committee of women's grazing school and western Canada soil health, a discussion on what subscriptions we need for our researchers, Lance gave the research report all proposals have been submitted, helping producers with the grants, sourcing seeds, Jay gave the LFA report they held their AGM 2 new board members, 140 people attended the farmer appreciation event in Glendon, the meeting was adjourned and we proceeded to have our AGM at Goodridge hall, Wanda Austin the chair will not be putting her name forward next term so she thanked LARA and the staff, RDAR and all the municipalities and directors involved in LARA, Alyssa gave the executive directors report some staff changes and going forward the 3 new staff members and the knowledge they have, the increased funding from RDAR, Barb from JMD gave the financial statements for the year, elections took place and Jamie Shapka was elected producer rep for Smoky Lake county, George L'Heureux Lac La Biche county and Patrick Elsen for St. Paul county all for 3 year terms.

March 13, attended the LARA securing success: programs, services and funding opportunities for your farm or ranch in Smoky Lake with councillor Lorne Halisky a very informative session on how to access and how much money you can receive from these programs and what is eligible a very good turnout with approx. 40 producers attending Lance and Alyssa from LARA really know a lot about these programs and are proving to be an excellent contact for both OFCAF On-Farm-Climate-Action-Fund, RALP Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program and the WRRP Watershed resiliency and restoration program Smoky Lake county fieldmen had a information booth along with a presentation from our county trapper on beavers and pond levelers and how producers can control the water levels in ponds and streams, EFP environmental farm plans were also talked about as most programs need this living document to access funds, upcoming events EFP

workshop March 23 Craighend hall, Funding assistance March 25 Smoky Lake county, March 28 St.Paul county, Its dry now what March 26 Bellis hall or April 9 at Flat Lake hall, April 27 no-till vegetable gardening, and Western Canada conference on soil health and grazing in Edmonton December 10-12 2024.

March 18 RMA conference attended confronting net zero with Dr. Tammy Nemeth a discussion on carbon and methane and how it will effect Canadians in the future, also what is happening in the EU right now. Also attended the building your municipality one engineer at a time discussed procurement processes and project success rates, met with R.C.M.P. K division

March 19 RMA conference attended the Vibrant Landscapes helping farmers sow resiliency, discussed the ALUS program and some on farm projects they have ongoing in communities near us by helping producers build nature based solutions and restore acres of nature on their land, the RALP program was also touched on.

March 21 attended the Evergreen Regional Waste Commission meeting, the fire department did a report on the tire aggregate we intend to stock pile and we will start hauling in fall of 2024, discussed new msw future cell construction, Paul gave a report on the Alberta CARE conference, the Beaver River Waste Commission, St.Paul county hauled gravel and screenings for road maintenance, a staff member passed his landfill operator test we will be looking for a seasonal employee, a quote to bring the shredder on site came to 40,500 for 40 hours of shredding we have 1,800 mattresses that we collected plus other material that needs to be shredded we discussed the EPR programs and Ashley gave the finances next meeting April 18.

# SOIL BUILDERS

with Dr. David Johnson &

**JUNE 27, 2024**  
**FORT KENT HALL**

Dive into the innovative world of soil biology with our live demonstration on how to build your very own Johnson-Su Bioreactor.

Developers of the Johnson-Su Compost Bioreactor will share the details on creating a fungal-dominant, biologically diverse compost inoculant to increase farm and ranch profitability with better plant, soil, and ecosystem health.

## **AGENDA**

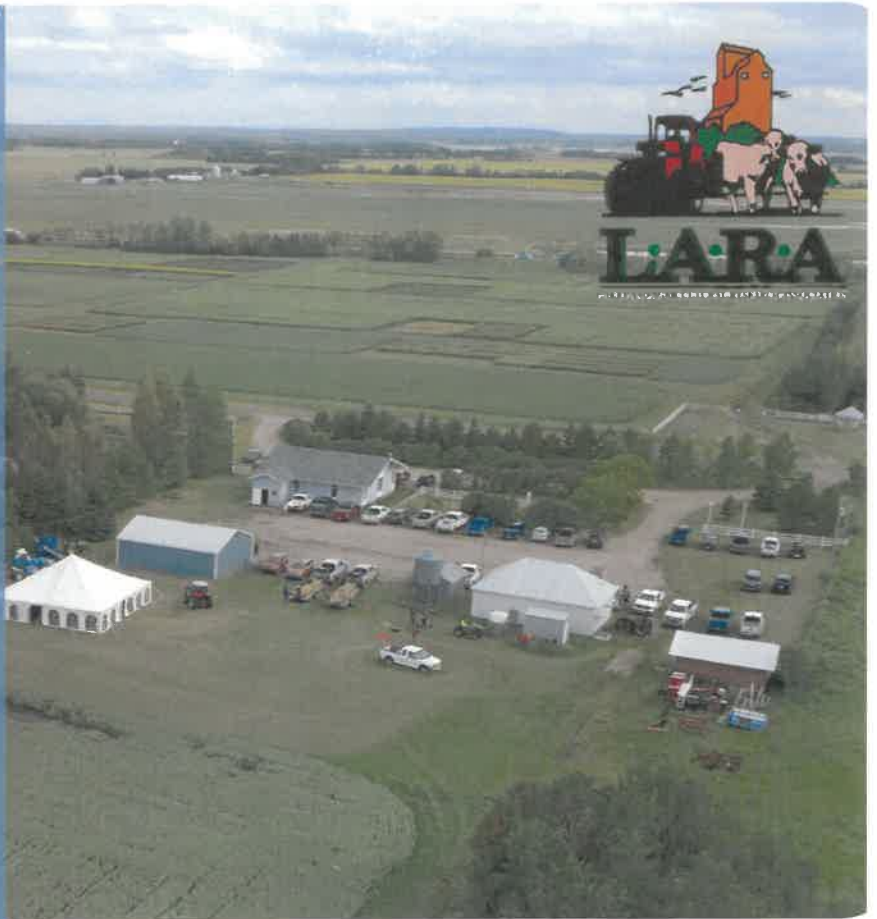
- 9:00 am - Coffee & Registration at Fort Kent Hall
- 9:30 am - Presentations by Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Yamily Zavala



# SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars for  
these great events  
coming your way this  
summer!

[WWW.LARAONLINE.CA](http://WWW.LARAONLINE.CA)



**JUNE 27, 2024**

**JOHNSON-SU COMPOST  
BIOREACTOR WORKSHOP**

**JULY 25, 2024**

**FORT KENT SUMMER FIELD DAY**

**JULY 30, 2024**

**SMOKY LAKE SUMMER FIELD DAY**

**AUGUST 1, 2024**

**LAC LA BICHE SUMMER FIELD DAY**

**AUGUST 6, 2024**

**ST. PAUL SUMMER FIELD DAY**

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE AT [WWW.LARAONLINE.CA](http://WWW.LARAONLINE.CA)

**Executive Director Board Report  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**1) Human Resources Update**

- a. Re-advertised for summer student positions due to a lack of qualified applicants in previous round.
  - i. U of S, U of A, Lakeland College, Lakelandjobs.ca
  - ii. One summer staff from 2023 will be returning this summer.
  - iii. Looking for 1-2 more summer staff.
- b. The contract with Lakeland HR regarding performance appraisals and staff salary/wage grids development is finalized. I met with Sarah Hurtubise on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to start the project.
- c. Offered an Environment and Communications Coordinator position to Kristy Tetreau. Working on drafting an employment agreement and she will be starting in May.

**2) Financial Update**

- a. Budget Update: see financial report
- b. Review of E-transfers March 2024
- c. Review of ATB financial statements of account
- d. Finalized the Regenerative Alberta Living Labs (RALL) report for 2023-2024 fiscal year.
  - i. A total of \$4,600.00 of unused funds was returned.

**3) Strategic Plan Update**

<b>Strategic Item</b>	<b>Related Goal</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Development of HR strategy</i>	<i>Increase communication and succession planning</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Met with Lakeland HR to kick-off the development of a performance review structure and pay grid</i>	<i>Will be ongoing for the next few months, final end date is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</i>
<i>Increase Awareness of LARA</i>	<i>Increase the number of producers reached by extension activities</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Have reached 362 producers</i>	<i>Increased attendance at events this year</i>
<i>Strengthen Collaborations with External Stakeholders /</i>	<i>Update sponsorship package</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Updated sponsorship package for 2024 and have distributed to local industry</i>	<i>Aiming to meet with more local industry in the coming weeks</i>

- i. 33 attendees
  - ii. Great feedback and discussion
  - iii. Speaker fees were sponsored by Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGAs) for \$750.00
- b. It's Dry: Now What? Hosted at Flat Lake Hall on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - i. 18 attendees
  - ii. Speaker fees were sponsored by Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGAs) for \$1200.00

**9) Summary of producers reached by municipality**

- a. Smoky Lake – 106 producers
  - i. 70 producer attended in person events
  - ii. 6 producers completed EFPs
  - iii. 15 producers assisted one-on-one
  - iv. 18 producers assisted with funding opportunities
- b. St. Paul – 87 producers
  - i. 37 producers attended in person events
  - ii. 8 producers completed EFPs
  - iii. 14 producers assisted one-on-one
  - iv. 32 producers assisted with funding opportunities
- c. Bonnyville – 83 producers
  - i. 33 producers attended events
  - ii. 7 producers completed EFPs
  - iii. 12 producers assisted one-on-one
  - iv. 33 producers assisted with funding opportunities
- d. Lac La Biche 70 producers
  - i. 46 producers attended events
  - ii. 3 producers completed EFPs
  - iii. 8 producers assisted one-on-one
  - iv. 3 producers submitted feed tests
  - v. 19 producers assisted with funding opportunities

Dear LARA Board,

Hope all is well on your end! Spring is rapidly approaching. We are kind of hoping for a bit rain this week to take the rest of the frost out. Just want to give you a bit of an update over what I've been doing over the past 3 weeks. Happy seeding to all!

What I've been up to:

- Helping producers with RALP and OFCAF applications.
- Ordered supplies from CS Frensch (Stakes, Tags, etc).
- Sourcing seed for small plot trials and demonstration trials.
- Sent out contract for EcoTea industry trials, and I have another one to send.
- Sent out fieldscale trial application for plot2farm program with Alberta Grains.
  - Confirmed sourcing of product for fieldscale trial – SuperU
- Confirmed sourcing of straw and composted manure from Murray Scott for the No-Till Garden workshop (April 27<sup>th</sup>).
- Received, treated, and sent seed to ARA collaborators for an early seeded winter cereal trial.
- Still haven't heard back from the folks at Graymont concerning AgLime trial. I will continue to reach out, but the trial will be happening in the fall, so there is no immediate rush.
- Completed "wishlist" with LARA team and maxed out the budget (310K).
- Regular meetings with RVT coordinator on trials.

What is left to do:

- Continue to help producers with RALP, OFCAF applications. I've already been telling folks that I will mostly help with reviewing. Sometimes I do have to help them on a one-on-one basis, but not always.
- Send rest of the contracts for small-plot trials.
- Send updated application for the plot2farm program for the SuperU fieldscale trial.
- Start soil sampling all sites.
- Calibrate seeding equipment.
- Source seed for fill areas.
- Trial placement in designated areas.
- Coordinating with Dustin on tillage and bed preparation for No-Till Garden.

## Research Program Report (April)

First off, I want to express my immense gratitude to each staff member (Alyssa, Charlene, Dustin, Lance and Angelica) for their help and support at LARA. I am grateful to be part of such a dedicated team.

I have been busy lately sourcing materials and organizing trials for 2024. I created a seed inventory to track what kind of seed we have and what we need to order. Lance and I visited our Fort Kent site and plan to do soil sampling this week. We will treat seeds and pack them soon, aiming to seed ultra early winter cereals trial by the end of this week. Once we confirm sites for St. Paul and Smoky Lake, I will create field layouts for all trials. I am still waiting to hear back from RDAR about funding decisions for my research proposals.

I would like to get approval from Alyssa and LARA board to join the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA); membership fee is 125 CAD/year. It would offer me the perfect opportunity to keep abreast of crop research in Canada.

Lastly, I want to say a huge thank you to each board member for their continued support to LARA. It is because of your contributions LARA has successful trials every year.

Wishing everyone a very successful growing season ahead!

Momna Farzand

Cropping Agrologist

April 15, 2024



*April 15, 2024*

# María Angélica Ouellette

## Research Scientist

Tasks and progressive duties:

### Done

- Wrote AFC LOI
  - Evaluating different seeding rates of spring cereals and annual ryegrass to determine best grain and forage yield and to ameliorate impact of summer drought.
- Updated wishlist for RDAR
- Went with Lance to soil sample field trial in St Lina
- Participated in RVT RST meetings with Sheri Strydhorst
- Prepared folders for small plot trials by site location
- Went and helped set up and lead Drought workshop in Flat Lake
- Paid and filled out remaining items for Pag in training membership
  - Ethics course programmed by October 14
- Modified master schedule and seed inventory
- Confirmed speakers for Lac La Biche field tour

### To do

- Submit AFC proposal to AFC
- Write protocols for SCAP projects
  - Ultra early winter cereals
  - Allelopathy
  - Intercropping distance
  - Underseeded clover
- Order supplies from Uline
  - Set up account
- Maintain master schedule and seed inventory up to date
- Soil sample sites
- Teach Momna ARM

## Carleigh Danyluk

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**From:** Danny Gawalko <dustydog1@live.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:28 PM  
**To:** Carleigh Danyluk  
**Subject:** Fwd: RDAR Spring 2024

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** RDAR <hello@rdar.ca>  
**Date:** April 11, 2024 at 10:00:59 AM MDT  
**To:** dustydog1@live.ca  
**Subject:** RDAR Spring 2024  
**Reply-To:** RDAR <hello@rdar.ca>



# From Invention to the Final Mile™

*RDAR News*

Spring 2024

This edition delivers updates about funding opportunities, RDAR developments, and stories that showcase the impact of our research investments on the agriculture sector.

In late April, we will open registration for the 3rd annual Round Up 2024, RDAR's summer event, which will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Cremona. Save the date – this is an event not to be missed!

RDAR Funding Quick View:

- Accelerating Agriculture Innovations 2.0 is targeting applications under two new streams. Learn more [here](#).
- The Agricultural Funding Consortium (AFC) 2024 – 2025 Call: Letters of Intent are due April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024. Learn more about the AFC [here](#).

## **RDAR's Third Annual Round-Up is coming to the Red Barn, Cremona. Please plan to join us June 6<sup>th</sup>**



Join your peers and Alberta's wide-ranging agriculture network for a day of learning, collaboration, and connecting.

This Round-Up **is all about water**, from not having enough — to having too much. Join us as we discuss water quality, use efficiency and reuse, and how we can adapt to changing weather conditions in the short and long term.

Seize this opportunity to connect with your peers and expand your network. For more information, keep connected to [rdar.ca](http://rdar.ca) and our communication channels for Round-Up updates.

What people have said about our previous Round-Ups:

- *"It was inspiring because of who was in the room—people like me who have ideas about improving agriculture and working together. The themes of partnership, collaboration, and communication resonated with me."*
- *"It's the place to be in the Ag Industry."*

## **RDAR New Targeted Calls for Proposals**

Accelerating Agricultural Innovations 2.0 opens two targeted funding streams



RDAR's Accelerating Agricultural Innovations 2.0 (AAI 2.0) is an ongoing RDAR funding opportunity with continuous intake. This April, RDAR invites applicants to design and submit project proposals specific to:

- Drought Management and Production Resilience,
- Soil Health and Fertility

Although the intake is continuous, we encourage applicants to submit by May 15th to accelerate the decision process.

Please write to [research@rdar.ca](mailto:research@rdar.ca) with any questions about these streams. Additional information is available on [RDAR's website](#).

## **RDAR presents an updated Strategic Framework**



First introduced in 2022, RDAR's Strategic Framework continues evolving to meet urgent and emergent industry issues. For 2024, we updated our strategies to reflect recent industry developments and global challenges such as changing weather patterns, increased food prices, and shortages of water and feed.

Our updated Strategic Framework will enable RDAR to meet these challenges through to 2027.

Notable Updates:

- Launching and supporting Sector Tables and Research Clusters for beef genomics, major field crops (i.e., wheat, canola, barley, and pulses), Irrigation, and soil health. These advisory groups emphasize that RDAR invests in the projects that matter to producers and Alberta's economy.

- Strengthening requirements for producer participation in research projects, ensuring that the research is needed and has a direct line to on-farm impact.
- Emphasizing the requirement for economic data and return in investment information in all proposals to measure, validate, and report outcomes.
- Broadening the range of funding programs to reach early adopters and those wanting to create and adopt new beneficial management practices on farms or ranches.

Learn more about [RDAR's Strategic Framework](#) and how we are working to deliver value to Alberta's producers and Alberta's economy.

## Researcher Spotlight: Dr. Kajal Latimer

Leveraging genomic technology to support Canadian commercial beef producers



*“From a geneticist’s perspective, the opportunity to lead this project is a dream come true. Thanks to the project partnerships and support from RDAR, we can link animal performance information from all parts of the Canadian beef industry to create genomic predictions that work for our commercial sector. Nothing is more rewarding than having the opportunity to develop science and systems that support our commercial producers.”*

Dr. Kajal Latimer - Director of Science and Technology for the Canadian Angus Association

Dr. Latimer is leading a \$3.8M project to help increase Canadian cattle producers' ability to make data-driven decisions based on genomics to benefit their commercial livestock operations' economic performance. The investment will be used to develop a genetic selection tool to equip producers with breeding data to select the best replacement heifers to improve their herds.

Using the selection tool, producers will have access to reliable genetic data to select desired traits such as growth and fertility. This will improve the overall genetic potential of Canadian cattle herds, which promises to translate into increased profits across the value chain and add value to exports.

Read [more](#).

[Read the project press release](#)

## RDAR Welcomes New Staff in April



Dr. Kawalpreet Kaur

**Research Program Officer - Crops**

Dr. Kawalpreet Kaur is joining RDAR as a *Research Program Officer*

responsible for the Crop Sector. Kawalpreet is a distinguished plant scientist specializing in molecular breeding. Deeply connected to agriculture, her expertise is leveraging cutting-edge molecular techniques to enhance crop traits such as yield, stress tolerance, and nutritional content. She looks forward to working with the crop sector to develop the most impactful research projects for the producer.

### **Research Extension Coordinator**

Jackson Bitz joins RDAR in a new organizational role that will accelerate progress along the "Final Mile™," encouraging the adoption of research on the farm. As RDAR's *Research Extension Coordinator*, Jackson will be the lynchpin to connect research results with producers.

Jackson holds a BSc in Agronomy and Crop Science from the University of Alberta and has extensive experience with science communication and developing key messages for targeted audiences.

Welcome Kawalpreet and Jackson to our team!

**[Learn more about the RDAR team](#)**





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250 Karl Clark Road  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6N 1E4

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5. Public Hearing:

Nil.

6. Municipal Planning Commission:

Nil.

7. Request for Decision:

**7.1. Contract Licensed Vegetation Control for County Right of Ways**

568-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County engage Cortex Vegetation Controls, to perform licensed vegetation control services within the County for the period of June 15, 2024, to September 1, 2024, up to a maximum cost in the amount of \$9,147.00, to apply vegetation control on both sides of the County's road allowance for approximately 300 miles, in response to the recent shortfall in staffing of the Agricultural Department and to meet the vegetation management program requirements.

Carried.

**7.2. Weed and Pest Inspector Appointment**

569-24: Fenerty

That Smoky Lake County Council appoint Kierstin Dubitz as a Weed and Pest Inspector for Smoky Lake County, effective May 6, 2024 to termination of employment.

Carried.

**7.3. Safe Grad Request to use Victoria Picnic Grounds**

570-24: Cere

That Smoky Lake County **take no action** to the email received from Cheryl Semeniuk, dated April 22, 2024, requesting the H. A. Kostash Graduating Class of 2024 to use the Victoria Picnic Grounds site, located at the rural address of 58343 Hwy 855, for a Safe Grad Celebration on Saturday June 29, 2024, as the said land is not owned by the County and the extent of liability risk is unknown.

Carried.

**7.4. Year-2024 Junior Fire Summer Day Camp - Request for FCSS Funding**

571-24: Cere

That Smoky Lake County **approve** to allocate funding from the 2024 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant budget in accordance with Policy No. 08-17-01: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) grant as follows:

Community Group	Eligibility	Funding
Smoky Lake County Year-2024 Junior Fire Summer Day Camp	Teaches youth interpersonal, planning, and decision-making skills	\$6,500.00

Carried.

**7.5. Policy Statement No. 15-01-03: Discipline Policy**

572-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement No. 15-01-03: Discipline Policy:

Title: <b>Discipline Policy</b>	Policy No.: <b>01-03</b>
Section: <b>16</b>	Code: <b>P-S</b>
	Page No.: <b>1 of 8</b> E
Legislation Reference:	<i>Municipal Government Act, Section 201(1)</i>
Purpose:	To describe the disciplinary process for correcting unacceptable performance or conduct among employees that is fair and consistent of all employees.



# Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024  
Topic: Contract Spraying- Cortex Vegetation  
Presented By: Agricultural Department

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Agenda Item: #

## Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County engage Cortex Vegetation Controls, to perform licensed vegetation control services within the County for the period of June 15, 2024, to September 1, 2024, up to a maximum cost in the amount of \$9,147.00, to apply vegetation control on both sides of the County's road allowance for approximately 300 miles, in response to the temporary shortfall in staffing of the Agricultural Department and to meet the vegetation management program requirements.

## Background:

Smoky Lake County has always carried out their own vegetation management program by means of inhouse mowing and inhouse roadside herbicide applications (spraying). Due to the recent staffing changes in the Agricultural Department the option to contract out a portion of the roadside herbicide application may be a **temporary** option for Smoky Lake County to cover the potential shortfall in that program.

Historically, Smoky Lake County has had two spray crews (4 people) to carry out the roadside spray program. In 2024 it will only be one spray crew (2 people).

By hiring a contract spray crew to assist in the vegetation management program this will allow the Agricultural Fieldman to work on creating the proposal for the extension program that was requested by the Agricultural Service Board. At this point it is unknown whether the Agricultural Department will be carrying out an internal extension program or continuing their partnership with LARA. This will allow time for discussions to take place with the ASB and Council in respect to the future of the Agricultural Department staffing and programming.

## Benefits:

By contracting out a portion of the roadside spray program it will ensure that spraying is completed in a timely manner. This will ensure there are no pauses in the spray program while the Agricultural Fieldman is in the office doing administrative work, or on vacation.

## Disadvantages:

Unknown at this time.

## Alternatives:

Do not hire a contract spray operator, and rely on the mowers to do the majority of the roadside spray program.

## Financial Implications:

Savings:

\$14,616 by only hiring one weed inspector

\$65,000 Assistant Ag. Fieldman wages

**\$79,616 Total**



# Request for Decision (RFD)

\$30,000 for herbicide for contract sprayer

\$9,147 labour for contract sprayer (based on \$30.49/mile and 300 miles)

**\$39,147 Total**

**Total savings:**

**\$40,469**

**Legislation:**

*Weed Control Act of Alberta*

**Intergovernmental:**

*(Describe any intergovernmental involvement and/or implications related to or affecting the recommendation or select from dropdown)*

**Strategic Alignment:**

*(Select the Strategic Plan Priority that this topic is associated with)*

**Enclosure(s):**

RFQ-Smoky Lake 2024 Herbicide Application Services, Rebecca McAndrew, Cortex Vegetation

**Signature of the CAO:** \_\_\_\_\_



A Division of



**SUBMISSION DATE:**  
**APRIL 26, 2024**

# RFQ – Smoky Lake 2024 Herbicide Application Services

## Submission



### Primary Contact

Rebecca McAndrew

Account Manager

D:(587) 785-0483

rebecca.mcandrew@cortexvegetation.com

### Cortex Management Inc.

6400 – 30 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T6P 1J6

Office: (780) 504-1317

cortex@cortexvegetation.com

*All information submitted in support of the proposal is accurate, all representations made regarding the willingness to make the required guarantees are accurate, and the proposed business arrangements are accurate.*

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# COVER LETTER

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Attn: Carleigh Danyluk  
4612 McDougall Drive  
Box 310  
Smoky Lake AB, T0A 3C0

## **Re: Smoky Lake County 2024 Herbicide Application Services.**

Cortex is pleased to provide Smokey Lake County with a response in regards to RFQ Smoky Lake County 2024 Herbicide Application Services. With our weed control expertise and passion for compliance, Cortex is the ideal candidate to complete this project.

As experienced municipal weed control specialists, Cortex understands the importance of effective management of regulated weeds. In addition to implementing weed control programs for various municipalities, Cortex has been managing The County of Two Hills roadside spraying program for 2 seasons and Lamont County for 1 season. Both programs will extend into the 2024 season. Our team has the knowledge and experience to carry out this scope of work successfully.

We look forward to developing a relationship with Smoky Lake County and supplying our services should our submission be acceptable.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding Cortex's submission, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*RMcAndrew*

**Rebecca McAndrew**  
Operations Manager | Spraying

C: 587.785.0483  
T: 780.504.1317

6400 30 Street NW | Edmonton, AB, T6P 1J6

[www.cortexvegetation.com](http://www.cortexvegetation.com)





## CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

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Cortex Management offers a complete range of services to optimize vegetation management for your right-of-ways, industrial property, pastures, and roadsides throughout Alberta. Our experience and technical resources make it possible to meet your requirements quickly, effectively, and safely.

Cortex is experienced in several areas of vegetation management. We specialize in high-standard herbicide services for Government, Commercial, and Industrial clients, providing integrated vegetation management, from initial planning and site preparation to ongoing maintenance and monitoring. With nine years of experience in the industry, we have built a reputation for excellence, reliability, and customer satisfaction. Our team has the knowledge and technical capabilities to ensure efficient, effective operations.

Our company has completed noxious weed applications for the Government of Alberta, as well as multiple municipalities in Alberta. Our licenses include agriculture, industrial, landscape, forestry aquatic vegetation and specialized fish and aquatic invertebrates. We understand that every client's needs are unique, so we offer customized solutions tailored to your requirements. We work closely with you to identify your needs, develop effective strategies, and implement them precisely.

At Cortex, we are dedicated to delivering exceptional service and quality workmanship from start to finish.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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## REFERENCES

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Cortex's has completed numerous programs for various Municipalities and we have chosen to highlight the following projects and provide the following references.

### County of Two Hills

Cortex was successful in obtaining a 3 year contract (2022-2024) with the County of Two Hills to complete roadside spraying for noxious weed and brush control. 459 to 545 miles have been treated per season (both sides of the road). Elden Kozack can be reached at 780-208-2372 to provide a reference.

### County of Lamont

Cortex was successful in obtaining the 1 year RFQ Lamont County issued for roadside spraying in 2023. 177 miles were treated for noxious/prohibited noxious weeds and 76 miles were treated for brush (both sides of the road). We will be assisting Lamont County again this season. Terry Eleniak can be reached at 780-579-5054 to provide a reference.

## PROJECT TEAM

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Cortex's team has many years of industry experience and knowledge. We have completed roadside spraying programs for the County of Two Hills and the County of Lamont. If Cortex is successful in this RFQ, we are confident in our abilities to execute a successful program for Smoky Lake County.

Project Manager - Rebecca McAndrew

- 16+ years industry experience
- Industrial applicator.
- Managed the County of Two Hills, Lamont and Strathcona.

# PROJECT TEAM

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## Field Supervisor and Applicator - Chris Awid

- 4+ years industry experience.
- Industrial, Landscape, Aquatic, Fish and Agricultural applicator.
- Sprayed for the County of Town Hills and Strathcona County.

## Field Lead and Applicator - Max Lychak

- 2+ years industry experience
- Authorized assistant.
- Sprayed for Strathcona County.

## Applicator - Rebecca Williamson

- 2+ years industry experience
- Authorized assistant.
- Sprayed for the County of Two Hills, Lamont and Strathcona.

## Applicator - Emad Farkouh

- 2+ years industry experience
- Authorized assistant.
- Sprayed for the County of Two Hills, Lamont and Strathcona.

## Applicator - Bryce McEwan

- 1+ years industry experience
- Authorized assistant.
- Sprayed for the County of Strathcona.

## Applicator - Alex Brown

- 1+ years industry experience
- Authorized assistant.
- Sprayed for the County of Strathcona.

Our team is available to complete this project between June 10-September 1 as specified in the RFQ. However, Cortex is available sooner if the growing season requires an earlier start.

## EQUIPMENT

Chemical application is completed in accordance with product labels, SDS, and all legislation. If Cortex is successful in this RFQ, the primary equipment used to complete this project will be a 2012 F550 truck with boom sprayer. The boom has three settings which allow distances of 10 feet, 20 feet, and 30 feet. The truck has two fresh water totes, each are able to hold 1200L of water. The spray tank also holds 1200L of solution, allowing this unit to carry 3600L when fully loaded. There is ample chemical storage on this truck and the hose and handgun can reach up to 50 meters. In addition to the roadside unit, Cortex has multiple one-ton spray trucks, trailers, and UTVs. The equipment list provided below is relevant to the scope of work described in the RFQ.

QTY	Vehicle	Make	Model	Year	Notes
2	UTV(s)	Honda	Pioneer 500	2015	200L sprayer 30 m hose & 20ft boomless nozzles beacon ROP winch
2	UTV(s)	Kubota	RTV900	2018 2019	200L sprayer 30 m hose & 45ft boomless nozzles beacon ROP winch Positive Air Shut Off light kit, GPS and Microtrak
1	Roadside Spray Truck	Ford	F550 6.7L	2012	2X1200L nurse tank, 1X1200L spray tank 10-30ft boomless roadside sprayer, 50m hose
1	Spray Truck	GMC	Sierra 2500	2008	Dual 200L sprayer 50 m hose
5	Spray Truck	Ford	F 550 6.7L	2023	1250 nurse tank, 2X500L spray tanks dual reels 100m hose

## SCOPE OF WORK

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Cortex will supply the required human resources and equipment to complete this project. Which includes:

- Spot Treatment: up to 300 miles (both sides of the road).
- Herbicide application from gravel to property line as required.

Application will take place between June 10 to September 1, 2024. If the growing season dictates an earlier start Cortex will accommodate if required. A pre-job meeting will be held prior to the program commencing between Cortex and Smoky Lake County to review the scope of work and project objectives

Smoky Lake County will provide Cortex with access to the County water fills and provide herbicide/surfactant. Cortex will be responsible for hauling water and for coordinating herbicide pick up with the County as needed. Smoky Lake County will inform Cortex of current No-Spray and Haying Agreements.

Cortex will provide Smoky Lake County with a 2-person licensed spray crew and roadside truck. Roadsides will be spot sprayed from the gravel edge to the property line as required. The application will be completed following recommended label rates and directions and will be conducted at a minimum of 200L/ha water volume. The crew will document the application and records from the treatment will be provided to Smoky Lake County. Application will only take place under favorable weather conditions. Early mornings and evenings may be required to avoid hot temperatures or high winds. Cortex anticipates will take 9-10 days to complete, weather permitting.

Cortex's Project Manager and Field Supervisor will ensure crews are trained and competent in the tasks they will be performing. A two person crew will be provided to eliminate working alone. This will also help increase job site awareness and hazard identification as the second person will be continuously scanning the surrounding area. 4-way flashers and a beacon will be utilized to help make Cortex's roadside unit and crew more visible to other road users. When vehicles are approaching, our crew will turn off the boom, pull over and park and allow the vehicle to pass safely before returning to work. Protecting the public is Cortex's top priority. Damage will not be caused to infrastructure or rate payers property. Cortex will comply with Smoky Lake County's safety policies and procedures.

# SAFETY & TRAINING

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## Safety

At Cortex, ensuring the safety of everyone and the environment is our top priority. No job is so important that we cannot take the time to perform it safely. Cortex complies with a comprehensive safety program that exceeds industry standard best practices and procedures.

- Regularly inspected and maintained equipment using certified and field response mechanics
- Trucks are fully equipped with emergency supplies and equipment
- Job hazard assessments completed before the commencement of work
- Two applicators per crew eliminates working alone
- Appropriate PPE provided for all staff

Cortex is listed with **ComplyWorks** and **ISNetworld**.

## Training

Cortex employees hold certifications and licenses to provide top-notch service to clients. All personnel will possess at minimum, the following certifications:

- Standard First Aid C/AED
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- Oil Sands Safety Association-Basic Safety Orientation
- Fire Extinguisher
- Alberta Safety Council Utility Terrain Vehicle Safe Rider
- H2S Alive

Cortex places great emphasis on training employees. Staff receive applicator certifications through our Safety Coordinator, a certified pesticide applicator trainer. Following successful achievement of certifications, staff are required to practice the set-up and operation of trucks, UTVs, and relevant applicator equipment. Employee aptitude is thoroughly examined before servicing customers to ensure best practices are followed and services are completed to the highest standard.



# BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Prices are based on the minimum work requirements described in the RFQ

APPLICATION TYPE(S)	ESTIMATED BUDGET
Cortex will supply human resources and equipment.	Roadside Spot Spray - \$30.49/MI Project = \$9,147.00
Smoky Lake County will supply herbicide and water.	
GRAND TOTAL	\$9,147.00



# EFFECTIVE INVASIVE WEED CONTROL SPECIALISTS

Ensuring your property complies with regulations

At Cortex, we offer cutting-edge vegetation management solutions that you can rely on. We are committed to collaborating with you to ensure your community is compliant with the Weed Control Act, safely and effeciently.



A Division of



**SEASONAL  
IMPACT**

PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPES

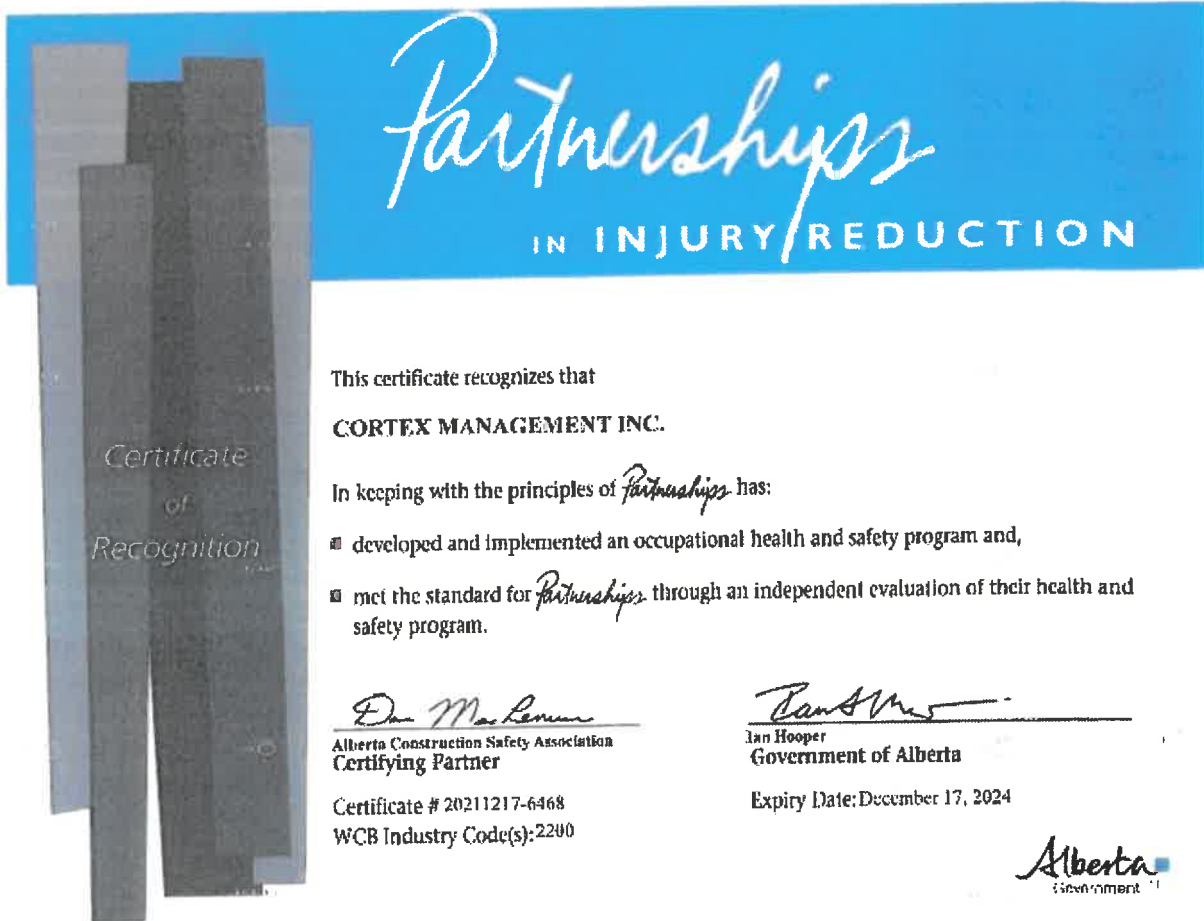
For Everything Vegetation Control.  
[www.cortexvegetation.com](http://www.cortexvegetation.com)

For Everything Landscaping.  
[www.seasonalimpact.ca](http://www.seasonalimpact.ca)





# APPENDIX



# APPENDIX



NFP Canada Corp.  
 8200, 17784 169th Avenue  
 Edmonton, AB T6B 1J9

P 780.488.4991  
 F 780.488.0188  
 nfp.ca

## CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

**NAMED INSURED:** Coctex Management Inc.  
 6403 30 Street NW  
 Edmonton, AB T6C 1J6

**CERTIFICATE HOLDER:** Ernsky Lake County

P.O. Box 310 4512 McDougall Drive  
 Ernsky Lake AB T0A 3G0

This is to certify that the policies of insurance listed below have been issued to the insured named above for the policy period indicated, notwithstanding any requirement, term or condition of any contract or other document with respect to which this certificate may be issued or may pertain, the insurance afforded by the policies herein is subject to all the terms, conditions and conditions of such policies.

LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TERM (MM/DD/YYYY)	TH	TO	LIMITS OF LIABILITY
<b>GENERAL LIABILITY</b> Per Occurrence * Contingent Employees Liability * Blanket Contractual Liability * Broad Form Property Damage * Cross Liability / Severability of Interest * Primary Non-Contributory * Premises and Operations Liability * Fire Damage	Underwritten at Lloyd's under Agreement No. B1306C380432300 - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	FPBK1045	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Products and Completed Operations Aggregate \$ 2,000,000 Products, Completed Operations Aggregate \$ 2,000,000 Personal Injury & Advertising Liability \$ 2,000,000 Products Legal Liability \$ 1,000,000 Non-Owned Automobile \$ 5,000,000 SEP 64 - Hired Vehicle Damage \$ 75,000 Forest Fire Fighting Expenses \$ 2,000,000 Chemical Release & Spills, DRI Damage \$ 1,000,000
<b>AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY</b> Per Occurrence * All Owned & Lended Automobiles	Definity Insurance Company - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	5400884	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Bodily Injury & Property Damage Combined Single Limit \$ 2,000,000
<b>UMBRELLA LIABILITY</b> Per Occurrence * Follow Form	Underwritten at Lloyd's under Agreement No. B1306C380432300 - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	FPBK1046	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Aggregate \$ 3,000,000 Excess of \$ 300,000 Commercial General Liability Excess of \$ 200,000 Commercial Automobile Liability
<b>COMMERCIAL CRIME</b> * Employee Dishonesty	Definity Insurance Company - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	4029224	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Limit \$ 50,000 Deductible On file with broker
<b>PROPERTY</b> * All Risk	Definity Insurance Company - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	4029224	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Limit On file with broker Deductible On file with broker
<b>EQUIPMENT</b> * All Risk	Definity Insurance Company - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	4029224	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Limit On file with broker Deductible On file with broker
<b>CONTRACTORS POLLUTION LIABILITY</b> * Claims Made Operations	Underwriting Managers Inc. - A.M. Best Rating - "A+"				
	B-2390	Jan 28/04	Jan 28/05		Limit \$ 5,000,000 Aggregate \$ 5,000,000 Deductible \$ 5,000
<b>ADDITIONAL INSURERS ORS PAYABLE LESSOR</b> Certificate Holder is added as Additional Insured on the CGL. It Underwrite policies as required by written contract but only with respect to liability arising out of the operations of the Named Insured.					
<b>CANCELLATION</b> Should any of the above described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, the issuing company will endeavor to mail 30 days written notice to the certificate holder named above, but failure to mail such notice shall impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives.					
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b> All operations: Snow Removal & Landscaping & Vegetation Management Additional insured: Ernsky Lake County					

**DATE:** Apr 26 2004

**PER:**   
 Ana Dos Santos

[ana.dosantos@nfp.ca](mailto:ana.dosantos@nfp.ca)

This certificate is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the certificate holder. This certificate does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by the policies above.

# APPENDIX



9912 - 107 Street  
PO Box 2415  
Edmonton AB T5J 2S6

Email: [ebusiness.support@wcb.ab.ca](mailto:ebusiness.support@wcb.ab.ca)  
Tel: (780) 488-3000 (1-866-622-8221)  
Fax: (780) 488-7000  
WCB website: [www.wcb.ab.ca](http://www.wcb.ab.ca)

April 26, 2024

Reference Number: 787107

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
PO BOX 310  
SMOKY LAKE AB T0A 3C0

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: CORTEX MANAGEMENT INC.  
6400 30 ST NW  
EDMONTON AB T6P 1J6

The above named subcontractor has an account with WCB-Alberta in the following industry(ies):

account	trade name(s)/industry	effective date	coverage
5419470	RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE / WEED SPRAYING	Sep 18, 2013	worker coverage no personal coverage

Thank you for checking into the status of this contractor or subcontractor. Under Section 126 of the Workers' Compensation Act, you are responsible for obtaining a clearance on your contractor or subcontractor, in order to release you from any liability for unpaid WCB premiums owed by them. Please ensure clearance has been issued in the correct name and that there is coverage in the industry(ies) for which work was performed.

Please accept this letter as a clearance for work completed between the effective date of the account and the date of this letter. For this account, you are cleared of any liability under Section 126 of the Workers' Compensation Act up to the date of this letter. Any holdback may be released for contracts completed, and/or for work completed to the date of this letter. For an account that shows closed under the effective date, the clearance is only valid for work completed up to the close date. If work has not started, obtain a clearance prior to releasing final payment.

Please note, if any directors of the corporation are injured at work, you are protected from lawsuit if they have personal coverage. If they do not have personal coverage, you may not be protected in the case of a workplace injury.

If your contractor or subcontractor is performing work outside Alberta, contact the WCB in that jurisdiction to determine your clearance and any other WCB requirements.

Any alteration of this document is strictly prohibited.

Yours truly,

eBusiness Support Team (14827643)

SIGN UP FOR ONLINE SERVICES - GO TO [MY.WCB.AB.CA](http://MY.WCB.AB.CA)

# APPENDIX



## PESTICIDE SERVICE REGISTRATION NO. 483145-00-02

CORTEX MANAGEMENT INC. (6400 30 ST NW, EDMONTON, AB, T6P 1J6) is hereby issued this registration under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* to offer a pesticide service involving the use and application of pesticides in accordance with the *Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation*; the *Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation*; and the *Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides*.

Pesticide application services shall be limited to the following class(es) described in Schedule 5 of the Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation:

AGRICULTURE AQUATIC VEGETATION LANDSCAPE INDUSTRIAL  
SPECIAL: FISH AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

This registration is issued and is based on the information below that was identified in the registration application submitted on March 15, 2024:

- a) the name of the operation, currently known as CORTEX VEGETATION CONTROL,
- b) the class(es) of pesticide application activities offered by this operation,
- c) the location of the operation base and pesticide storage facility at 6400 30 ST NW, EDMONTON, AB, T6P 1J6 (BLOCK 13, PLAN 5129AJ),
- d) the insurance coverage for the pesticide application service activities.

Written notification shall be provided to the Director within 15 days of a change from the above information. Please Note: A change in any of the above information, including the sale of the operation to another person or company, will result in automatic cancellation of the registration. The registration is automatically re-instated when the service hires or employs a new applicator with the appropriate class of certificate or the service obtains the appropriate insurance. For all other changes, a new or amended registration must be obtained.

This registration is not transferable and is valid from this date of issue until March 31, 2032, unless suspended or cancelled prior to that date.

Glenora Coles Digitally signed by Glenora Coles  
Date: 2024.04.04 09:36:52 -06'00'

Designated Director under the Act

April 4, 2024  
Date

Questions regarding this Registration may be directed to Environment and Protected Areas by contacting (780) 644-4647 (to be connected toll free first dial 310-0000).

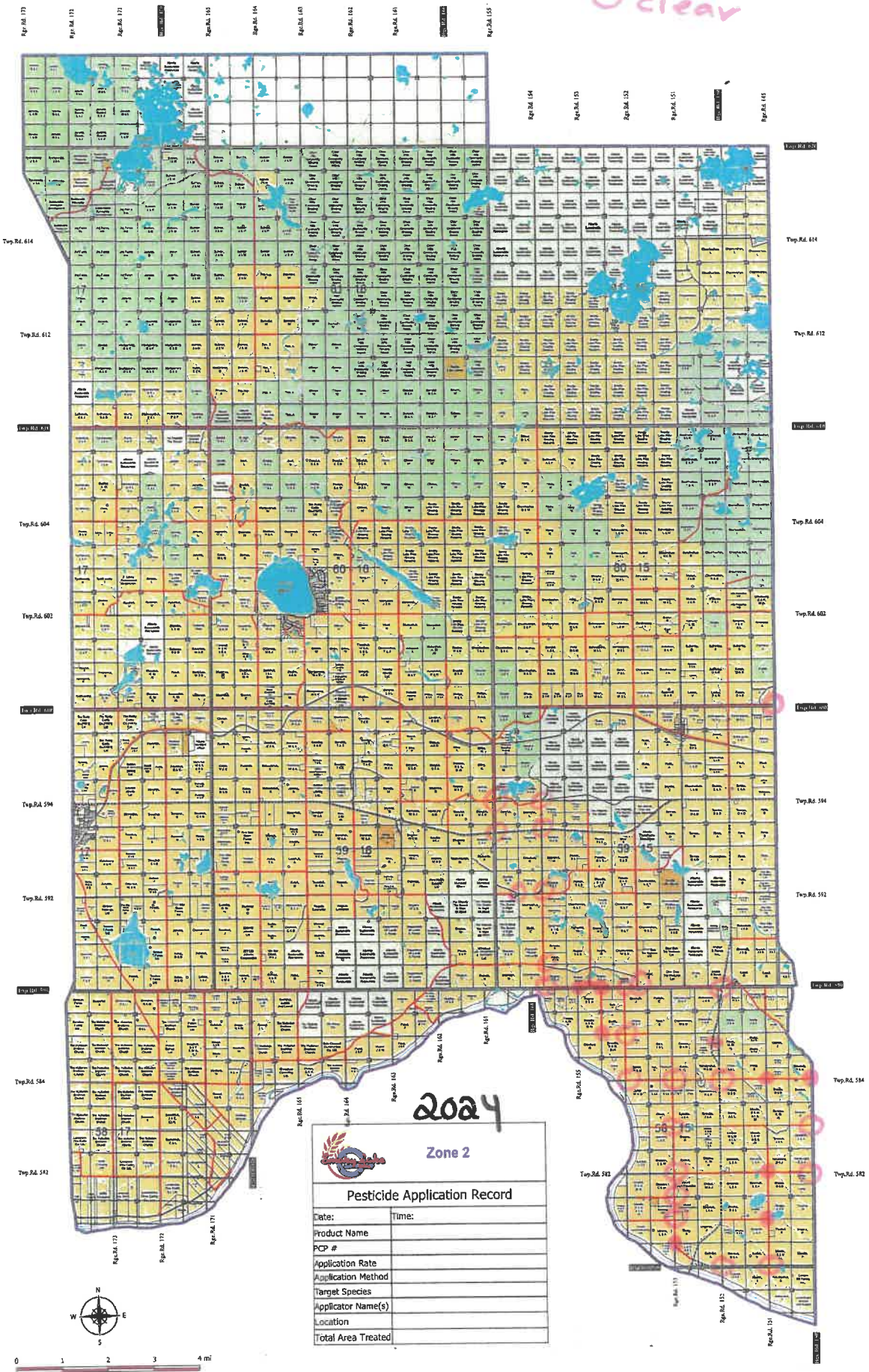
# APPENDIX



# 2024 Master Corner Brush Map as of June 7, 2024

5.3

● Sprayed  
○ Clear



**2024**

**Zone 2**

**Pesticide Application Record**

Date:	Time:
Product Name	
PCP #	
Application Rate	
Application Method	
Target Species	
Applicator Name(s)	
Location	
Total Area Treated	

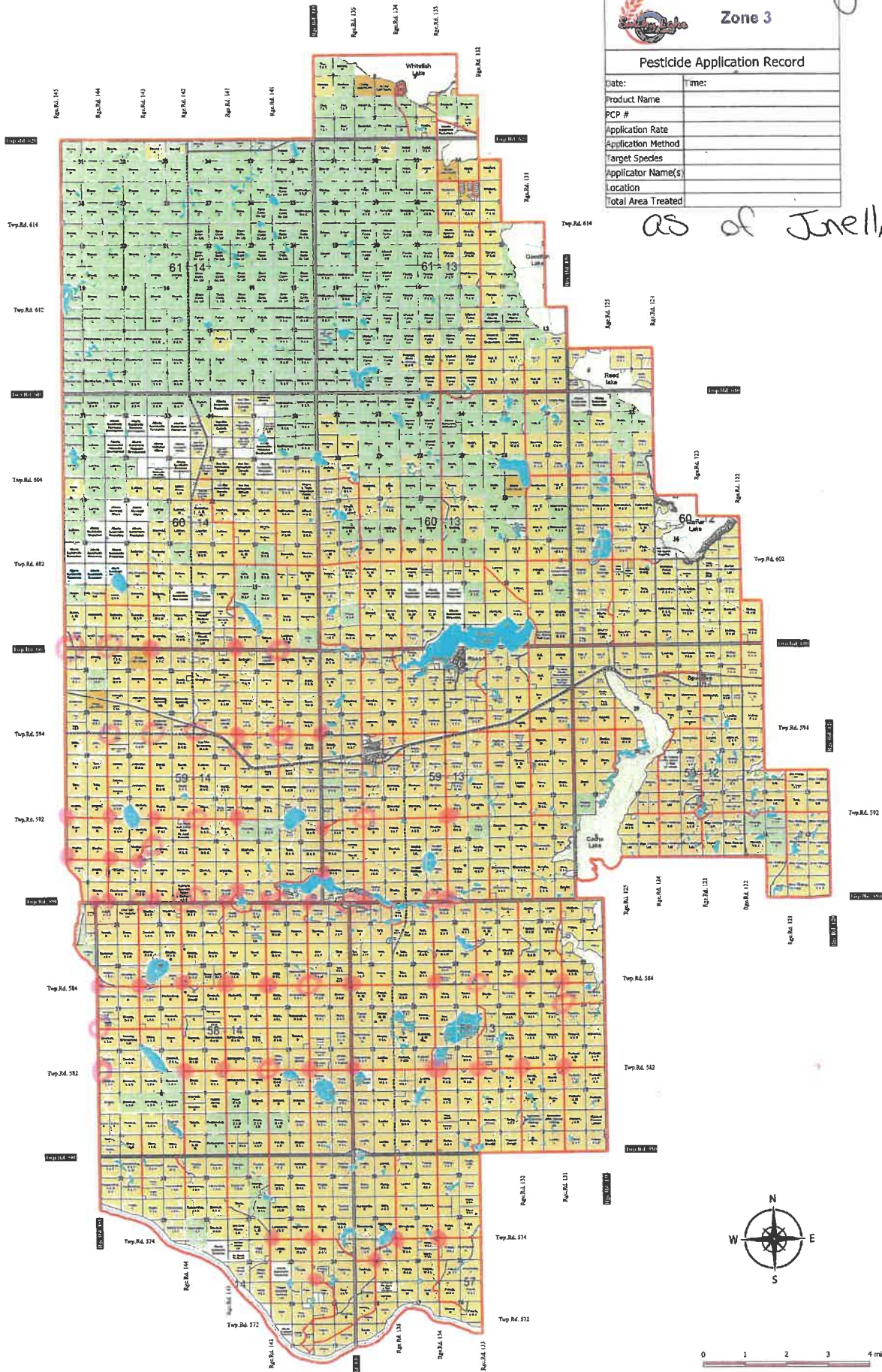
# 2024 Spraying Master Map

**Zone 3**

**Pesticide Application Record**

Date:	Time:
Product Name	
PCP #	
Application Rate	
Application Method	
Target Species	
Applicator Name(s)	
Location	
Total Area Treated	

as of June 11, 2024

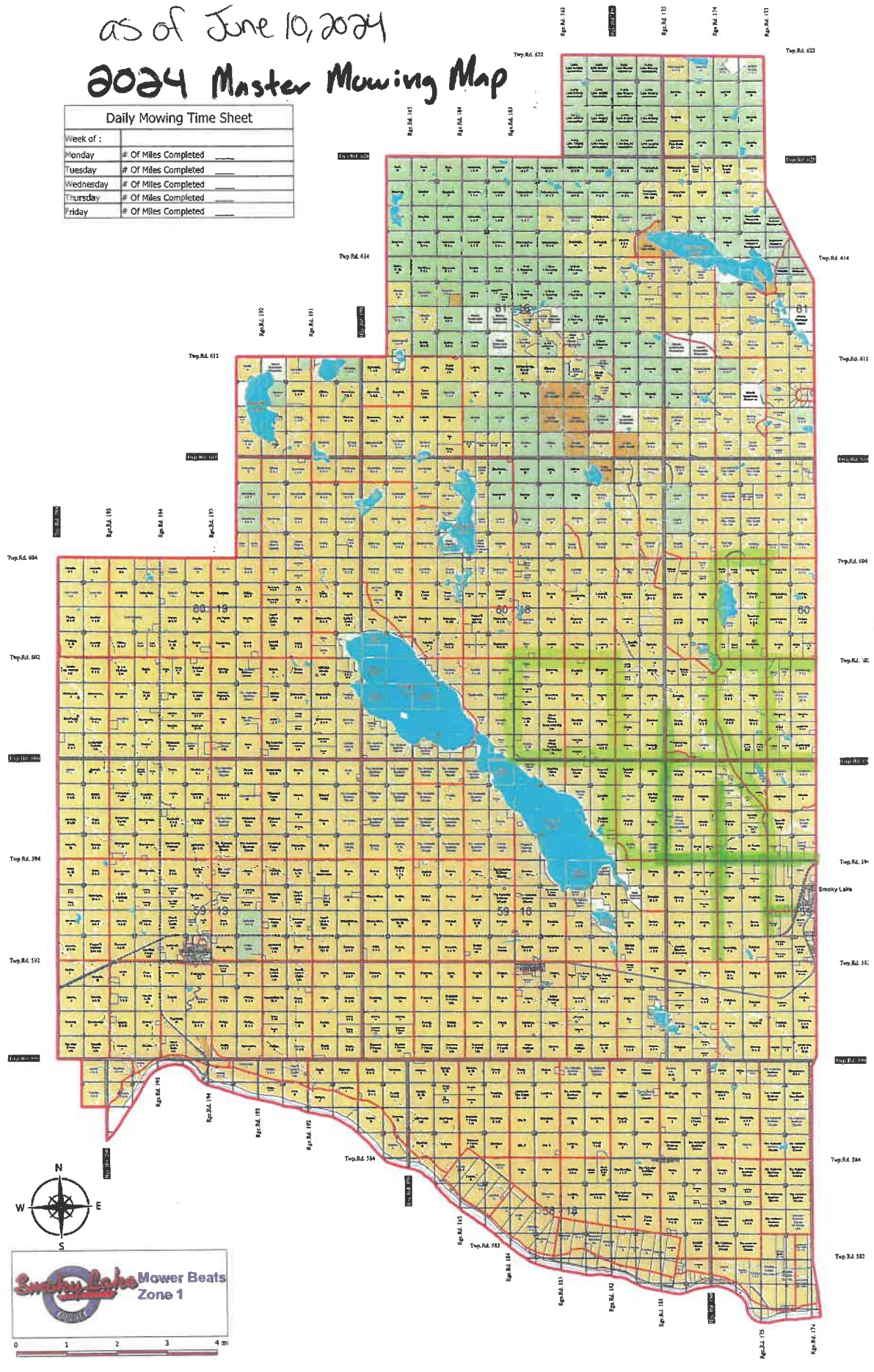


5.4

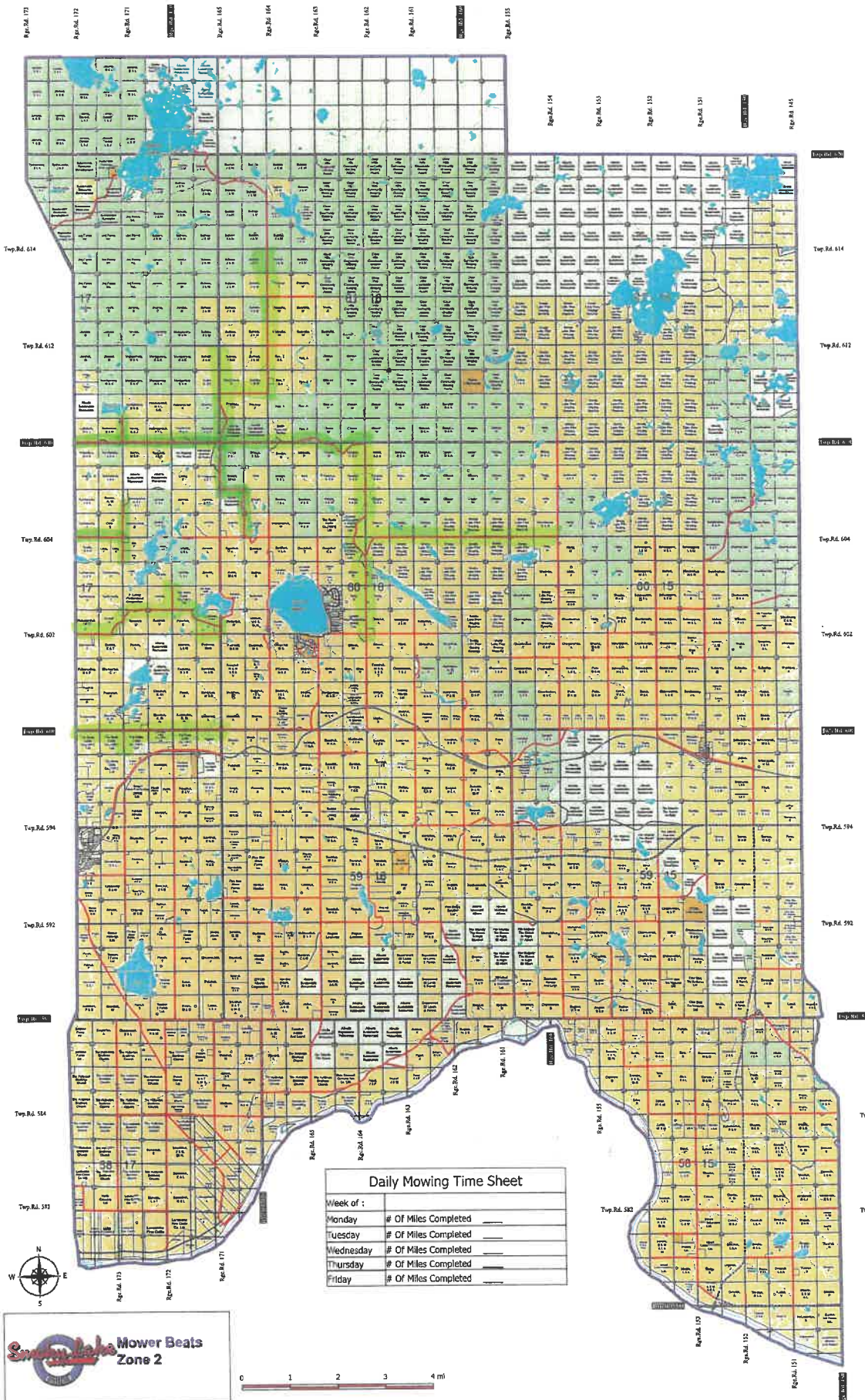
as of June 10, 2024

# 2024 Master Mowing Map

Daily Mowing Time Sheet	
Week of :	
Monday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Tuesday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Wednesday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Thursday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Friday	# Of Miles Completed _____







**Daily Mowing Time Sheet**

Week of :	
Monday	# Of Miles Completed
Tuesday	# Of Miles Completed
Wednesday	# Of Miles Completed
Thursday	# Of Miles Completed
Friday	# Of Miles Completed



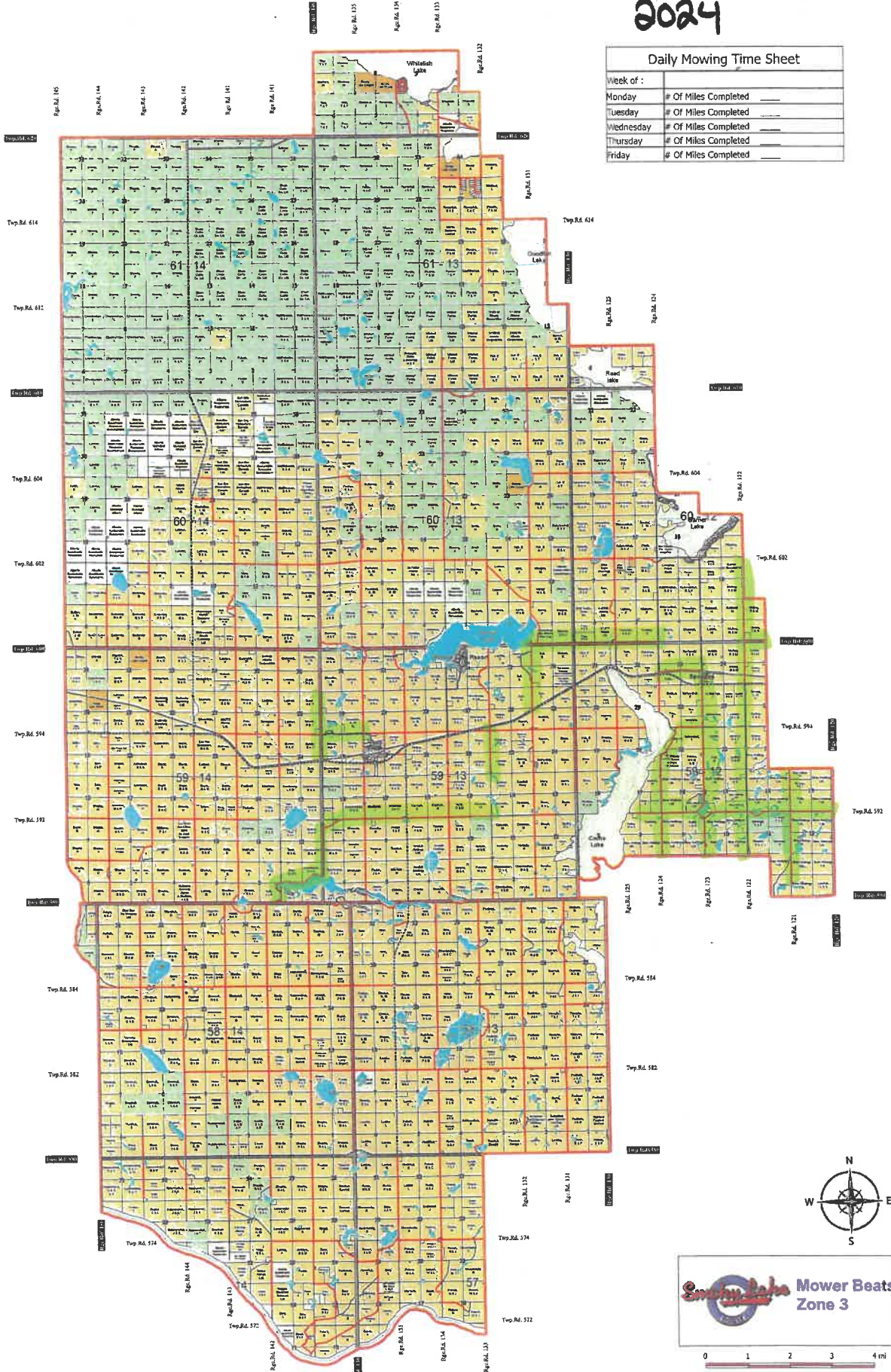
2024

Mowing Master map as of June 10, 2024

Mowing Master map as of June 10

2024

Daily Mowing Time Sheet	
Week of :	
Monday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Tuesday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Wednesday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Thursday	# Of Miles Completed _____
Friday	# Of Miles Completed _____



**Smoky Lake Mower Beats Zone 3**

0 1 2 3 4 mi

## 2024 Resolution Grading

### How to Use:

1. Use dropdown menu to insert name of municipality in Box A24 (highlighted)
2. Use dropdown menu in column D to grade each resolution
3. Add comments that can assist the Committee in assigning final grade in Column E
4. Submit completed spreadsheet by **June 30** to Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant to the ASB Provincial Committee at: [asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)

### Definitions:

#### Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

#### Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

#### Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

#### Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee

Municipality Name	Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Comments
Big Lakes	1-24	AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS		
	2-24	COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES		
	3-24	CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE		
	4-24	SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER		
	5-24	WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT		
	6-24a	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS		
	6-24b	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES		
	7-24	RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS		
	E2-24	SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER		
	PC1-24	FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)		



# RESOLUTION RESPONSE GRADING PACKAGE

May 29, 2024

Linda Hunt  
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

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RESOLUTION 1-24: AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS

**WHEREAS:** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and

**WHEREAS:** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and

**WHEREAS:** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and

**WHEREAS:** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and

**WHEREAS:** Alberta's highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

Alberta Transportation provides each Agricultural Service Board with signs that state "Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment" to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

**SPONSORED BY:** Brazeau County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSE: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

**None Received**

## RESOLUTION 2-24: COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**WHEREAS:** society is now placing more emphasis on the role of producers as stewards of the environment for their benefit; and

**WHEREAS:** the Federal Government has established a price metric for carbon and is considering reductions in nitrogen use that will impact producers without developing the appropriate offset or compensation system to producers performing these services; and

**WHEREAS:** Governments and the Public are demanding or restricting more ecological activities such as wetland use, species preservation, wildlife management, predator control, reduced impact/emissions, carbon sequestration, changes in management practices and others; and

**WHEREAS:** it is becoming increasingly costly for producers to shoulder the burden of every public interest at their expense without being compensated or offset fairly for the beneficial ecosystem services performed;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Federal and Provincial governments develop and implement immediately a "good actor" compensation mechanism for producers performing ecosystem services beneficial for society.

### **FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Federal and Provincial governments investigate creating an exchange to trade Carbon and other ecological services for compensation at the minimum rate already determined by the Federal Government.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial/Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



#### Response Agriculture and Irrigation:

Alberta's agricultural lands provide a variety of ecosystem services that go beyond food, fibre and fuel. Through their on-farm activities, producers affect the supply of ecosystem services such as carbon storage, photosynthesis, and water purification. As greater value is placed on carbon storage, Agriculture, and Irrigation (AGI) will continue to support market-based mechanisms that incentivize producers for their carbon-storing activities.

Several such mechanisms already exist. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), which launched in April 2023 under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, is one example. The program is specifically designed to reward producers for providing ecosystem services. RALP covers up to 100 percent of expenses for producers to implement eligible practices that increase the provision of ecosystem services. A program with similar goals and incentives is offered by the federal government through Alberta's Results Driven Agriculture Research.

ALUS Canada works with farmers and ranchers to create, restore and enhance riparian areas. Those who participate in the ALUS program have flexible agreements that suit their operation and are offered financial compensation for their ecosystem management. Alberta has the most community based ALUS groups across Canada supporting the development of ecosystem services within their communities. Many of these communities partner with their local municipality, which are supported by Agricultural Service Board Resource Management Grant funding. ALUS Canada also delivers RALP extension and verification services on behalf of AGI.

There are currently three Alberta-approved agriculture emissions offset protocols (i.e., Nitrous Oxide Emission Reductions, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Fed Cattle and Selection for Low Residual Feed Intake Markers in Beef Cattle). The Nitrous Oxide Emissions Reduction Protocol (NERP) was recently updated to Version 2.1 and released in April 2023 to improve usability for producers regarding measurement and reporting requirements. In addition, the federal government is developing agricultural offset protocols for use in its Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System. Emission offset projects must meet the requirements in the Technology, Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) regulation, the Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emission Offset Project Developers and a relevant Alberta-approved quantification protocol. Additional information regarding existing emissions offset protocols may be found on: <https://alberta.ca/alberta-emission-offset-system>.

Federal and provincial governments have been investigating further opportunities for ecosystem services tools, such as biodiversity offsetting. In February 2023, Environment and Climate Change Canada initiated engagement on a draft Offsetting Policy for Biodiversity (<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/offsetting-policy-biodiversity/draft-biodiversity-offsetting-policy.pdf>). The Canadian Wildlife Service supports this policy through development of tools to support implementation of an offsetting system for biodiversity. Alberta remains engaged to ensure alignment with provincial priorities and processes.

The Alberta government supports numerous programs that are not directly offsets, but which provide financial support/incentives for the implementation of beneficial management practices. Examples include:

1. Alberta's Rangeland Sustainability Program promotes the conservation and long-term sustainability of Alberta's rangelands and the ecosystem services they provide. The program, funded by a portion of annual grazing rental revenue, works with partners and stakeholders to:

- support sustainable rangeland stewardship initiatives implemented by industry and stakeholders.
- increase knowledge and understanding of rangeland management outcomes for long-term sustainability through research, education, and tool development.
- support rangeland initiatives that help producers overcome barriers to the sustainability of rangelands.

2. Alberta's Wetland Replacement Program, administered by Environment and Protected Areas, provides funding for projects. It aims to re-establish wetlands in partnership with Albertans by providing resources for collaborative restoration projects across the province. In 2020-21 the program used \$5.6 million of funding to restore 208 hectares of wetland habitat.

Alberta will continue to deliver various programs and services that support farmers and ranchers to implement beneficial management practices that benefit their operations and position themselves to capitalize on current and future environmental goods and service opportunities.

## RESOLUTION 3-24: CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE

**WHEREAS:** livestock operations, especially cow calf operations, fall through the cracks on certain business risk management programs like AgriStability and Wildlife Predator Compensation Program; and

**WHEREAS:** the current business risk management programs do not address in year losses and do not protect from extraordinary losses that occur from extenuating circumstances or abnormal cost of doing business losses; and

**WHEREAS:** AFSC offers Crop Production Insurance which caps production losses, but does not provide a similar option for Livestock.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation work with AFSC and consult stakeholder groups in the livestock sector to develop a new Livestock Production Insurance Program or other suitable program.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

#### Response Agriculture and Irrigation:

The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is consulting with stakeholder groups for improvements to its livestock risk management offering. AFSC has shared the report *Evaluating Business Risk Management Programs for the Cow-calf Sector in Alberta* with the Alberta Beef Producers and Canadian Cattle Association's Domestic Agriculture Policy Groups. This report highlights the existing Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreements in place that do allow for the development of cost-shared production insurance in Canada.

While there have been comments received from industry requesting a production calf insurance product, industry feedback has largely highlighted that price and cost of production are the key risks to manage. Unlike crop production, beef producers are less sensitive to production risk and generally more interested in margin protection that covers both price and cost risk.

Alberta Beef Producers has communicated to prioritize AgriStability enhancements for risk management changes. For 2024, a pilot project is being undertaken to analyse key program improvements to AgriStability to better support Alberta's cow-calf sector.

## RESOLUTION 4-24: SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER

**WHEREAS** predator attacks can cause significant economic losses, but not limited to, death, decrease weight gain, treatment, rehabilitation and lower conception rates; and

**WHEREAS** predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year; and

**WHEREAS** the current iteration of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program (WPCP) poorly addresses concerns and losses outside confirmed kills and producers affected with large losses; and

**WHEREAS** the use of a multiplier to increase compensation would go some way to compensate for unfound kills, kills without enough evidence, time and resources spent by producers locating, treating and deterring predators, injured and or dead livestock;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Environment and Protected Areas work with the Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed compensation multiplier to address direct and indirect losses from predation.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,  
Environment and Protected Areas

Response: Agriculture and Irrigation

This resolution has been forwarded to the Ministry of Forestry and Parks to provide a response. The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is delivered by Forestry and Parks.

Response: Alberta Forestry and Parks



ALBERTA

Forestry and Parks

Office of the Minister  
MLA, Central Peace - Notley

AR-18966

MAR 28 2024

Brenda Knight  
Chair  
Provincial ASB Committee  
c/o Stephen Bevans, Secretary,  
Provincial ASB Committee  
Box 580  
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for your emails to my government colleagues and me regarding Resolution 4-24, supporting a Compensation Multiplier. As Minister of Forestry and Parks, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is a long-standing program which, in 2024, will have successfully delivered a safety net for livestock producers for 50 years. The fundamental purpose of the program is to enhance the relationship between livestock producers and wildlife, who share the same land base. Alberta's government remains committed to supporting livestock producers, which includes exploring opportunities for program improvement while considering damage prevention and mitigation partnerships.

Several program changes have occurred in recent years, including:

- Maintaining the available compensation for confirmed losses at 100 per cent of the commercial livestock market values.
- Adding deferred payment options for calves, lambs, and piglets provides compensation for market-aged animals when they are lost as small, young animals.
- Adjusting sheep and hog pricing formulas to better match cattle formulas.
- Increasing the minimum payment for cattle to \$400.
- Addition of a multiplier for bred cows (1.75) and bulls (1.5) to reflect their value as breeding stock and the potential loss of the unborn calf.
- Maintenance of excellent inspection response protocols. Fish and Wildlife Officers are currently providing 24-hour availability with initial advice, and subsequent completion of

field necropsy, compensation claim submission, and wildlife control, if necessary, all at no cost to the producer.

323 Legislature Building 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-644-7353

*Printed on recycled paper*

Classification: Protected A

Brenda Knight  
Page 2

I recognize and understand that a producer's time is valuable; the time it takes to prepare a compensation claim may not appear to be worthwhile when livestock losses are not discovered in time to investigate or if a producer's decisions does not leave enough time to submit a claim. Please know that the program is intended to act as a partnership and both parties are required to contribute to be successful.

In 2023-24, payments from the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program reached an all-time high. My department is exploring how additional changes can reduce the frequency and severity of predator losses.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim Morton, Manager, Game and Trapping at 403-381-5120 or [kim.morton@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kim.morton@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you for taking the time to write. I hope the information provided has been helpful. As Minister of Forestry and Parks, I am committed to ongoing engagement with dialogue with our key partners, including the Agricultural Service Board.

Sincerely,



Todd Loewen  
Minister

cc: Honourable Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation



RESOLUTION 5-24:WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

**WHEREAS:** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and

**WHEREAS:** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and

**WHEREAS:** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and

**WHEREAS:** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:**

that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:**

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:**County of Stettler No. 6

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

## Response: Agriculture and Irrigation

Although the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms are not explicitly mentioned in the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA) or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, the existing legislation does provide some enforcement of these standards.

Section 5(2) of the APA requires that an owner or occupant of land or property shall take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests. AGI views the minimum containment standards as a valid form of "active measure" an operator may adopt to ensure farmed wild boar do not leave the area in which they are contained.

The APA includes a Notice process (Sec 12-16), a Stop Order process (Sec 20) and Penalties (Sec 23) to enable enforcement of the act and regulation. Due to the current wording of the APA, non-compliance with the minimum containment standards is not an offence and not subject to penalties under Section 23. If a wild boar producer does not abide by the minimum containment standards and an inspector forms the opinion that wild boar may escape and become a "pest", an inspector may issue a Section 12 Notice directing the owner or occupant of the land to take measures (such as following the minimum containment standards) to prevent the escape.

Wild boar farms are inspected annually to ensure they meet the minimum containment standards. If needed, the Compliance Principles of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation are followed to gain compliance with the minimum containment standards.

Wild boar farms are not licensed or regulated by the Government of Alberta. Currently, no existing mechanism exists through which the Government of Alberta could invoke a moratorium on either new wild boar farms or on the expansion of existing wild boar farms. Wild boar bylaws have been enacted in 22 of 69 rural municipalities. These vary by municipality and may include listing wild boar as a prohibited animal limiting the expansion of existing wild boar farms and banning the establishment of new wild boar farms.

RESOLUTION 6-24a: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS

**WHEREAS:** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;

**WHEREAS:** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;

**WHEREAS:** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;

**WHEREAS:** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada's Honey Bee hives;

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Response: Health Canada/PMRA

Dear Brenda Knight:

On behalf of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (**PMRA**), we are responding to your correspondence dated April 23, 2024, regarding the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's Resolutions 6-24a and 6-24b. We apologize for the delay in responding.

The PMRA has no comments to provide towards Resolution 6-24a, as it does not have a role in decisions regarding the importation of honeybees.

Response: CFIA

None received

Input: Agriculture and Irrigation

Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), as well as the Alberta Beekeepers commission, strongly supports the importation of U.S. bees into Alberta. Through 2022-23 and most recently in an early-February meeting between Minister Sigurdson and CFIA President Paul MacKinnon, AGI has advocated on this issue for Alberta's apiculture industry. AGI has requested the expediting of the CFIA's risk assessment to allow for the import of packaged honey bees from the U.S. to ensure the adequate recovery of honey bee colonies. Alberta provided its input to CFIA by the summer 2023 deadline and is now monitoring the risk assessment and awaiting CFIA's decision.

## RESOLUTION 6-24b: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES

**WHEREAS:** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;

**WHEREAS:** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;

**WHEREAS:** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;

**WHEREAS:** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Mite controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Response: Health Canada/PMRA

Dear Brenda Knight:

On behalf of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), we are responding to your correspondence dated April 23, 2024, regarding the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's Resolutions 6-24a and 6-24b. We apologize for the delay in responding.

The PMRA has no comments to provide towards Resolution 6-24a, as it does not have a role in decisions regarding the importation of honeybees. However, with regards to Resolution 6-24b requesting that "*that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Mite controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.*", we would like to clarify that Health Canada's PMRA does not conduct research, as its mandate relates strictly to the regulation of pesticides.

Applications are received from the manufacturers of pesticides and are reviewed for acceptability under the [Pest Control Products Act \(PCPA\)](#), which is administered by PMRA. Our number one priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and the environment.

PMRA acknowledges the serious impact that varroa mites have had on the Canadian and Albertan apiculture industry since varroa mites were first detected in Canada in 1989 and arrived in Alberta in 1993. We are aware that the development of resistance by varroa mites to some registered active ingredients is of great concern to the Canadian apiculture industry and we recognize that healthy honeybees are critical to the sustainability of many agricultural crops grown in Canada.

Since varroa mites became established in Canada, a number of miticides have been registered for use against this pest in honeybee colonies. Miticides currently registered for this use include those formulated with the active ingredients amitraz (e.g., Apivar Strips), flumethrin (e.g., Bayvarol Beehive Pest Control Strips), fluvalinate-tau (e.g., Apistan Anti-Varroa Mite Strips and Apistan Varroa Control Strips), formic acid (e.g., Formic Acid 65%; Mite Away Quick Strips; Formic Acid 65% For Use With Mitegone Ready to Fill and Use Kits; and Formic Pro), hop beta acids (e.g., Hopguard 3), thymol (e.g., Thymovar), oxalic acid (e.g., Oxalic Acid Dihydrate), and a mixture of thymol, racemic camphor, eucalyptus oil, and L-menthol (e.g., Api Life Var). Please note that varroa mites are not expected to develop resistance to several of these registered

active ingredients (including formic acid, oxalic acid, hob beta acids, thymol, and the mixture of thymol, racemic camphor, eucalyptus oil, and L-menthol) based on the mode of action of these products.

Health Canada's PMRA encourages registrants to submit applications for new varroa mite pesticides that might aid in control of this pest and resistance management. Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into varroa mite control could involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's PMRA will continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered pesticides.

We trust that this information is helpful.

Thank you,

**Pest Management Information Service**  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Health Canada  
Government of Canada

Response: CFIA

None received.

Input: Agriculture and Irrigation

Agriculture and Irrigation continues to support Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), through funding of miticide and bee health research. Currently, RDAR is funding the following projects:

[Developing new miticides for varroa destructor control in honey bees \(phase 2\)](#)

Summary: Annually, Alberta's apicultural industry produces  $17 \times 10^6$  Kg of honey and adds \$1.7-\$2.1 billion in pollination value. However, beekeepers suffer 18-44% colony losses per year, largely due to the ectoparasitic mite, Varroa Destructor. The limited availability of varroacides has resulted in widespread evolution of resistance in varroa populations. Thus, new controls that are safe for bees and exhibit high efficacy against varroa need to be developed.

More information: [rdar.ca/projects/developing-new-miticides-for-varroa-destructor-control-in-honey-bees-phase-2](http://rdar.ca/projects/developing-new-miticides-for-varroa-destructor-control-in-honey-bees-phase-2)

[Assessing molecular, individual and colony markers of local and important stocks to improve honey bee health in Alberta](#)

Honey bees are an essential component of modern agricultural systems as they are the most important commercial pollinator and the basis of the apicultural industry. Despite best efforts,

beekeepers continue to experience high colony losses, threatening the sustainability of beekeeping and pollination services in Alberta and elsewhere. Due to the complex combination of stressors responsible for the decline of honey bee health, specific treatment and management practices are only partially successful.

More information: <https://rdar.ca/projects/assessing-molecular-individual-and-colony-markers-of-local-and-important-stocks-to-improve-honey-bee-health-in-alberta>



RESOLUTION 7-24: RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

**WHEREAS:** Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of 2% Liquid Strychnine. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada has canceled the registration of Strychnine, and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson's ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada; and

**WHEREAS:** Alberta producers have used alternative baiting, suffocates, and fumigant rodenticides to control Richardson ground squirrels but have not had the successes of Strychnine; and

**WHEREAS:** in an integrated pest management plan (IPM), there is a need for options of control like Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.); and

**WHEREAS:** the federal government has banned the use of Strychnine without providing producers any comparative alternative or financial support to deal with the Richardson's ground squirrel pest; and

**WHEREAS:** training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

**ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

**SPONSORED BY:** Flagstaff County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Response: Agriculture and Irrigation

On March 4, 2023, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) discontinued the use of Strychnine for Richardson ground squirrel (gopher) control in Canada. This decision was based on scientific evidence to prevent harm to non-targeted species.

To address this issue, the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan filed a Notice of Objection to the cancellation of this important agricultural pesticide. However, Health Canada, via the PMRA, determined the objections were unfounded and the removal of strychnine would continue as scheduled. As such, the PMRA informed the provinces that they would not consider an appeal on the decision to de-register Strychnine for gopher control in Canada.

The PMRA also advised that an attempt to obtain access to the product through an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) would be difficult and would require collaboration with the manufacturer. An EUR is obtained when there are no other effective products available in Canada. Recognizing that there are products available for gopher control in Canada - Rozel®, Zinc Phosphide and Ramik Green® - an EUR approach is not viable.

On March 7, 2024, the PMRA announced a final re-evaluation decision to discontinue the use of all Strychnine in Canada. This decision can be found on the Health Canada website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2024/predacide-uses-strychnine-sodium-monofluoroacetate.html>

AGI presented its notice of objection to PMRA's spring 2020 decision based on scientific information we had at the time. As indicated, PMRA did not support our objection. Unfortunately, the objection period for the 2% Liquid Strychnine decision has passed.

Although AGI is not aware of any new scientific information to present to PMRA for scientific grounds of objection, please note that any person may file a notice of objection (on scientific grounds) within 60 days from the date of publication. The objection period for the March 7, 2024 decision of discontinuation of all strychnine ends on May 7, 2024. Objections can be filed at <https://pest-control.canada.ca/public-engagement-portal/en/forms/notice-objection>.

Response: Health Canada/PMRA

Dear Linda Hunt:

On behalf of Frédéric Bissonnette, Executive Director of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), I am responding to Brenda Knight's correspondence dated February 20, 2024. The Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee wrote requesting the re-registration of 2% liquid **strychnine** for certified applicators in Canada to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS). I appreciate your taking the time to share with us a copy of a recent resolution passed by the Committee on this important topic. Health Canada acknowledges the implications the cancellation of the pesticide product containing strychnine could have on agricultural producers in Alberta and Western Canada and takes them seriously.

As you know, as outlined in [Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products \(Richardson's Ground Squirrels\)](#) published on March 4, 2020, Health Canada concluded that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of RGS were not shown to be acceptable when used according to label directions and that no further feasible mitigation measures could be implemented by users of the product. Consequently, the registration of products containing strychnine used to control RGS was cancelled and a 3-year phase-out period was allowed until March 4, 2023.

In its decision, Health Canada recognized the value of strychnine because it is easy to use, cost effective and manages RGS in a single feeding. However, there are alternative pest control products registered to control RGS that are available to users: chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide, and aluminum phosphide. While these alternatives may have some limitations compared to strychnine, they were found to be efficacious against the target pest during the scientific review that led to their registration.

Reinstatement (i.e., re-registering) cannot be used to extend access to the use of a pest control product that has been canceled. Rather, if there is new information that could demonstrate that a product has acceptable risk and value, this would need to be provided as part of a new registration application. Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into RGS control could involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's PMRA will continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered products.

Should you have further questions regarding pesticides and the federal pesticide regulatory system, please visit our website at [Canada.ca/pesticides](https://Canada.ca/pesticides). You may also contact our Pest Management Information Service by sending an e-mail to [pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca) by telephone, by dialing toll-free, 1-800-267-6315.

I trust that this information is helpful and thank you for writing.

Regards,  
Geneviève

**Pest Management Information Service**  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Health Canada  
Government of Canada

RESOLUTION PC1-24: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)

**WHEREAS:** funding for FCDC was transferred in January 2021 to Olds College from being a Government of Alberta plant breeding and agronomy research facility.

**WHEREAS:** this funding transfer enabled the continuation and revitalization of research and regional trials of cereal crops under Alberta conditions to demonstrate proven traits for the benefit of seed, crop, and livestock producers.

**WHEREAS:** the loss of funding for FCDC research capacity and infrastructure in December 2023 will have long term, negative implications on the viability and sustainability of Alberta and Canada’s seed, crop and livestock sectors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) facilitate the establishment of a stable funding framework for FCDC that includes the retention of existing infrastructure, sites, and human capital for the continued enhancement of programs for seed breeding and agronomic research.

**SPONSORED BY:** ASB Provincial Committee  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** AGI

Response: Agriculture and Irrigation

To help further the development and continued innovation of agricultural research, the FCDC has been relaunched as the Western Crop Innovations (WCI), a non-profit corporation with an interim board. The new structure will revitalize the organization, promote a renewed vision, and better position Alberta to meet the agricultural industry's needs.

Officially starting up April 1, 2024, WCI will carry on the FCDC's important research, including its well-known barley breeding program. Its current programming will undergo a review and where necessary, be transitioned to ensure crop innovations support Alberta's farmers' needs now and into the future.

The re-launch was driven by representatives from government, commissions and agricultural producer groups, specifically from the crops and livestock sector, academia, malting and seed industries, who met to discuss the future of FCDC. All stakeholders affirmed that the FCDC must continue, but the focus and priorities of the centre need to be revamped.

RESOLUTION E2-24:SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR  
SLAUGHTER

**WHEREAS** Bill S-270 is introducing the Prohibition of exporting live horses for slaughter and Bill C-355 is introducing the Prohibition of export of horses by air for slaughter Act; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government is proposing new legislation and changes to three Acts that will dramatically impact the industry of raising draft horses by imposing fines of \$50,000 and up to six months imprisonment for a summary conviction or \$250,000 and up to two years imprisonment for an indictment for transporting horses by air for slaughter; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government is always looking to open new doors for trade markets and partnering with other nations yet are willing to shut down an existing market with products already leaving Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has not conducted or completed a scientific study as to the impact of transporting horses for slaughter overseas by air; and

**WHEREAS** there are 12,000 to 13,000 mares, studs and foals in Canada that are currently being raised for this market; and

**WHEREAS** the Western Canadian Slaughter Facility for Horses has ceased operations and is not purchasing animals to be processed at their facility; and

**WHEREAS** producers do not have a local market to distribute their product but have an already established market globally;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the Government of Alberta jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to prevent these Bills from receiving royal assent.

**SPONSORED BY: County of Wetaskiwin No. 10**

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri Food Canada

Response: Agriculture and Irrigation

Federal Bill S-270, Horse Protection Act (now inactive), and Bill C-355, the Prohibition of the Export of Horses by Air for Slaughter Act, are designed to ban the export of live horses for slaughter.

These concerns fall under regulatory requirements for the live export of animals, which are already addressed under the federal Health of Animals Act and Regulations. This federal act and its regulations are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Veterinary inspectors employed by the CFIA are present for each air shipment to certify the export adheres to federal requirements, that horses are fit to travel and that the process is carried out humanely.

The live horse export industry averages \$11 million annually in Alberta. Since early 2022, The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has been in contact with federal counterparts to outline the economic and animal welfare implications of banning live horse export. AGI is actively monitoring the bills' progress and working to ensure the federal government understands the impacts of any policy change to Alberta.

# 2024 ASBPC Initial Resolution Grading

The ASBPC reviewed the resolutions and responses on April 17, 2024 and on May 24, 2024. Their responses are given below for your information. The final grade in the Report Card will be determined by compiling the responses of individual ASBs.

Resolution Number	Resolution	ASBPC Grade recommendation
1-24	AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS	Incomplete
2-24	COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Accept in principle
3-24	CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE	Accept in Principle
4-24	SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER	Accept in principle
5-24	WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT	Accept the Response
6-24a	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS	Accept the Response  Incomplete (CFIA)
6-24b	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES	Accept the Response  Incomplete (CFIA)
7-24	RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS	Accept the Response
E2-24	SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER	Accept in Principle
PC1-24	FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)	Accept the Response



## Carleigh Danyluk

---

**From:** Agricultural Service Boards <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2024 12:28 PM  
**To:** Carleigh Danyluk  
**Subject:** CFIA Reassessing Risks of Bee Imports from the US

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**Agricultural Service Boards**

# CFIA Reassessing Risks of Bee Imports from the US



**asbexecassistant**

June 5

## [Resolution 6-24a](#)

An email from the Executive Director of the CFIA was received by the ASBPC this morning with their response to Resolution 6-24a, which asks that the CFIA "permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada's Honey Bee hives;" See below:

"Dear Mrs Knight,

I thank you for contacting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with your inquiry. Upon review of the Alberta Agriculture Service Board's recently-passed resolutions, regarding the first item pertaining to the United States (US) border closure for honeybee package imports due to the presence of Varroa mites resistance to miticides, the CFIA is currently in the process of reassessing risks posed by US honeybee imports and anticipates having this US risk assessment completed by the end of June 2024. At this time, a risk management framework document which explains the expectations for any risk mitigation proposals will be shared with a number of stakeholders as well as the USDA. Any risk mitigation proposals submitted to CFIA will then be reviewed to assess if they may

sufficiently reduce the risk posed by the hazards identified. Until this time, no decision regarding the import of US honeybee packages can be made.

With respect to the approval of miticides, this inquiry would be the responsibility of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Please reach out to PMRA, if you haven't already.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CFIA regarding any additional inquiries.

Sincerely,

Parthi

Dr. Parthi Muthukumarasamy (he, him, il)

Executive Director, International Programs Directorate

Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada

[Parthiban.Muthukumarasamy@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Parthiban.Muthukumarasamy@inspection.gc.ca) | 343-550-3542"

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**Automattic, Inc.** - 60 29th St. #343, San Francisco, CA 94110



**Carleigh Danyluk**

---

**From:** Agricultural Service Boards <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 8:32 PM  
**To:** Carleigh Danyluk  
**Subject:** Asking for a Moratorium on Expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta

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**Agricultural Service Boards**

## Asking for a Moratorium on Expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta



**asbexecassistant**

June 6

### [Resolution 5-24](#)

Last January the ASBs passed a resolution asking that the province "amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance, and that Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta."

## [AGI Response](#) to Amending the Act

The [response receive from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation](#) states that " Although the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms are not explicitly mentioned in the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, the existing legislation does provide some enforcement of these standards. " implying that there is no need to adjust the legislation.

Furthermore "Wild boar farms are inspected annually to ensure they meet the minimum containment standards. If needed, the Compliance Principles of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation are followed to gain compliance with the minimum containment standards."

## **AGI Response to the Requested Moratorium**

"Wild boar farms are not licensed or regulated by the Government of Alberta. Currently, no existing mechanism exists through which the Government of Alberta could invoke a moratorium on either new wild boar farms or on the expansion of existing wild boar farms. Wild boar bylaws have been enacted in 22 of 69 rural municipalities. These vary by municipality and may include listing wild boar as a prohibited animal limiting the expansion of existing wild boar farms and banning the establishment of new wild boar farms."

## **Aligning with Industry**

Recently Alberta Pork, wrote to the Minister of AGI to request the following legislative changes:

1. Legislation to ban wild boar, at-large or farmed, in Alberta
2. Legislative change to prohibit sport hunting of wild boar in Alberta
3. Legislative changes to prohibit the marketing or ownership of wild boar in Alberta
4. Stiff penalties for those that do not comply with the legislation"

The response from the Minister's office was that although they want to protect the livestock industries, they were not pursuing regulations that might shut down Alberta businesses." *Charlotte Shipp, Alberta Pork*

Alberta Beef, Alberta Cattle Feeders, and Alberta Milk also sent in similar requests to the province.

## **Further Reading**

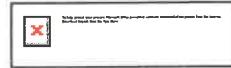
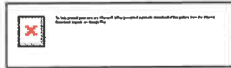
[Pork Industry Wakes up to Counting Wild Boar](#)

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**NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

6.1

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road  
Peace River, AB  
T8S 1Y9

[northernsunrise.net](http://northernsunrise.net)

February 12, 2024

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Rd Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0C5

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health Canada  
Address Locator 1801B, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

To the Honourable Ministers Lawrence MacAulay and Mark Holland:

**RE: Maintaining the Integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency**

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has been long known as a robust and scientifically backed regulatory system that promotes sustainable pest management, which is critical for the agricultural industry.

However, there remains misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding the safety of some products. It's crucial that decisions or actions related to product regulation are well-informed, ethical, and in the industry's best interest. This should be based on relevant scientific research rather than influenced by peer pressure, public opinion, or political interference.

Upon the release of the Private Member's Bill C-287 amending the *Pest Control Act* to prohibit glyphosate, the Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to echo the concerns raised by Big Lakes County ASB, in their letter dated October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, that the integrity of the PMRA can be threatened, when mis-aligned amendments are proposed by individuals with authority. These decisions could have extensive damaging impacts on the industry in terms of production. Any suggested amendments must remain scientifically based to ensure the integrity of the PMRA that plays such a large role in the success of our Canadian agricultural industry. We ask that this mandate be affirmed by both the Ministry of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada.

Sincerely,

Corinna Williams, Chairperson  
Agricultural Service Board  
Northern Sunrise County



**Northern Sunrise County is a supportive  
community where people can grow,  
prosper, and belong.  
We've got it all!**



**NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road  
Peace River, AB  
T8S 1Y9

[northernsunrise.net](http://northernsunrise.net)

CC:

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Dan Williams MLA Peace River  
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)  
Northern Sunrise County Council  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



**Northern Sunrise County is a supportive  
community where people can grow,  
prosper, and belong.  
We've got it all!**



Health  
Canada

Pest  
Management  
Regulatory  
Agency

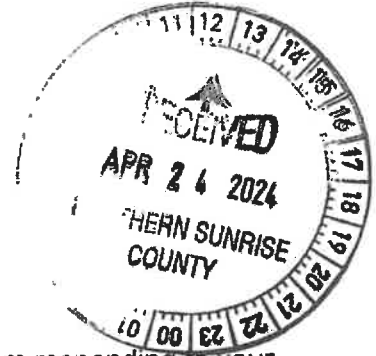
Santé  
Canada

Agence de  
réglementation  
de la lutte  
antiparasitaire

Council Agenda	✓
File Copy	
CAO	
Agricultural Services	✓
Community Services	
Engineering	
Finance	
Legislative Services	
Planning & Dvprmt	
Protective Services	
Public Works	
Other:	

April 15, 2024

Corinna Williams, Chair  
Agricultural Service Board  
Northern Sunrise County  
135 Sunrise Road  
Bag 1300  
Peace River AB T8S 1Y9



Dear Corinna Williams:

On behalf of the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, I am responding to your letter dated February 12, 2024, on maintaining the integrity of Canada's pesticide regulatory system. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us on private Members' bill C-287 which proposes amendments to the Pest Control Products Act to prohibit glyphosate.

In Canada, there are different ways in which bills can be introduced to Parliament, one of which is private Members' bill. Private members' bills are sponsored by private members' and like any bill must undergo legislative process and be passed in both the House of Commons and Senate in order to become law. More information about this process can be found on the Parliament of Canada's Legislative Process website. [https://www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/our-procedure/LegislativeProcess/c\\_g\\_legislativeprocess-e.html](https://www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/our-procedure/LegislativeProcess/c_g_legislativeprocess-e.html).

Please rest assured that Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regulatory process remains science based. We are aware of Bill C-287 proposed by Ms. Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, and are currently monitoring its progress through the House of Commons.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Bissonnette,  
Frédéric  
DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=HC-SC, CN  
="Bissonnette, Frédéric"  
Date: 2024.04.15 09:42:39-04'00'

Frédéric Bissonnette  
Senior Director General  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Health Canada



6.2



April 24, 2024

Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta  
Distributed via Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Dear Alberta Regional Agricultural Service Boards,

The County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express concerns regarding the centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board conference for the next three years (2025-2027).

At the conclusion of the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference it was announced that for the next three years the Provincial ASB Conference will be held in Edmonton at the Delta Hotels Edmonton South Conference Center. The reason given for that decision was the ease of hosting in an area more central to the hosting regions of Central, Northwest and Northeast.

Our ASB understands that the AAAF executive also wished to take advantage of the opportunity to negotiate savings by having a three-year contract with a centralized hotel and event center to keep conference costs and registration costs lower, which in turn benefits all members.

Our concern is that if future conferences continue to be centralized, our region will not get a chance to host in one of our local venues, leading to yearly increased travel costs for our members. As well, our region would lose out on tourism opportunities and the economic benefits associated with hosting a large-scale conference. We also feel it is equally important to host these events in rural locations where possible, to showcase to our members the venues that our rural agricultural communities work so hard to maintain.

Sincerely,

Bob Chrenek

Chair, County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board

cc: Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

6.3



# Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26

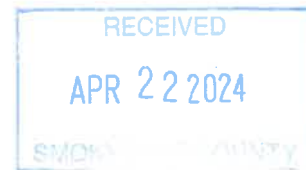
Office of the Administrator

www.mdwillowcreek.com  
273129 SEC HWY 520  
Claresholm Industrial Area  
Box 550, Claresholm Alberta T0L 0T0

Office: (403) 625-3351  
Fax: (403) 625-3886  
Shop: (403) 625-3030  
Toll Free: 888-337-3351

April 11, 2024

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave, Edmonton AB T5K 2B6



**Re: 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation**

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

The Municipal District of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board is writing to bring attention to several key concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Alberta Weed Control Regulations (WCR). These concerns touch upon important aspects of the proposed amendments and their potential implications for agricultural producers, environmental protection, and regulatory efficiency.

- 'Proposed' Removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil, Flowering Rush, Himalayan Balsam, Pale Yellow Iris, and Purple Loosestrife** to remove aquatic invasive species from the Alberta Weed Control Regulations without a clear plan for monitoring and control feels like a significant step backward in our efforts to protect our aquatic ecosystems and could have far-reaching consequences for our environment and communities. At this time there are 1 possibly 2 Aquatic Invasive Species Specialists, employed by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas that would be monitoring for these plants as opposed to the 500+ Weed Inspectors that are appointed under the *Weed Control Act*, by municipal government each year. Any changes to weed control regulations must consider the broader implications for agriculture and prioritize measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in aquatic environments.
- Aquatic Weeds and the Fisheries Act:** The removal of aquatic plant species from the WCR could disrupt coordinated efforts and enforcement mechanisms currently in place. Operational differences between the Weed Control Act (WCA) and the Fisheries (Alberta) Act (FAA) may lead to delays in response actions and increased spread of invasive species. Maintaining the WCA's streamlined response actions and inspection powers is essential for effective aquatic weed management and protecting ecologically sensitive ecosystems.
- Cross-border threats:** By acknowledging cross-border threats such as *Ventenata* we can better protect Alberta's agriculture, environment, and economy from the impacts of invasive species. This invasive grass species has been spreading rapidly across North America, including Montana, due to its aggressive growth habits and ability to outcompete native vegetation. *Ventenata* (*Ventenata dubia*) can form dense monocultures, displace native grasses and reduce forage quality for livestock. Additionally, it can alter ecosystem dynamics, increase wildfire risk, and threaten biodiversity.

4. **Timing:** We urge you to reconsider the timeline for the review process and prioritize extensive consultation and dialogue at both the regional and provincial levels. This will ensure that the updated Weed Regulations reflect the needs and concerns of all stakeholders and contribute to effective weed designations in Alberta.
5. **De-Listing Invasive Plants:** de-listing invasive plants from regulatory oversight feels like a step back in weed control efforts. Invasive plants pose significant threats to ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity. By removing them from regulatory scrutiny, we risk losing vital tools for managing and mitigating their impacts.

We acknowledge and appreciate ongoing efforts to keep legislation current and effective, we ask that Agricultural Service Boards and other stakeholder's have a chance to review the proposed changes after the survey's have been completed and prior to you and your staff finalizing the amendments to the Weed Control Regulations.

Regards,

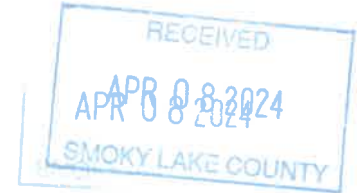


John Van Driesten  
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board  
Municipal District of Willow Creek

Cc Provincial Agricultural Service Board's



6.4



April 8, 2024

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave, Edmonton AB  
T5K 2B6

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson,

**RE: 2024 Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation**

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board would like to express concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Weed Control Regulations (WCR). Due to the concerns outlined below, the Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board believes the review process should be reconducted, using appropriate, up-to-date scientific risk assessment tools and population datasets to inform decisions.

When the process used to determine the proposed changes was presented at the meeting on November 23, 2023, between the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), it brought forth several concerns. It was presented that the Risk Assessment Tool was utilized when conducting the WCR review, a tool universally considered to be outdated within the Agriculture Industry and one which appears to have been used inconsistently throughout the review process.

It was also brought to our attention that Provincial Weed Distribution Maps, which are created using input from Agricultural Fieldmen across the province, were not used to inform the review process. This is a concern as in many cases, when looking at the species proposed for removal on a provincial scale, the species selected are not common in all regions and are potentially still eradicable in many areas.

Throughout the review, decisions made on which weed species to propose for reclassification or removal from the WCR appear to have been made through non-scientifically informed methods, such as discussion, anecdotal evidence, or subjective judgement. As we are sure you are aware, the burden on municipal agriculture staff in Alberta is already incredibly high, especially in larger municipalities such as ours. The bylaw process to elevate species of concern that has been proposed is time consuming and would see this workload increase, putting additional, unnecessary burdens on staff time, which could arguably be better used conducting public education or weed removal.

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board appreciates the efforts being made to update the legislation and understands that this is a difficult and multi-faceted task. We hope that going forward the changes presented will utilize relevant scientific data to create a useful and effective tool for our municipal agriculture staff to utilize.



Sincerely,

Dan Bourassa, Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc:

Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen  
Todd Loewen MLA Central Peace Notley  
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation  
Kerrienne Koehler-Munroe, ASB Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation  
Saddle Hills County Council



May 23, 2024

The Honorable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800- 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

To the Honorable RJ Sigurdson:

RE: Review of the Weed Control Act of Alberta

Yellowhead County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wish to raise concerns over the 2024 Review of the Weed Control Regulations (WCR). While Yellowhead County fully supports the concerns raised by Saddle Hills County and the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26, it also emphasizes its own reservations about the Weed Control Act (WCA). The WCA is overdue for review, and without addressing current concerns within the Act, any regulation changes would be ineffective.

The last assessment of the Weed Control Act of Alberta took place in 2008. Within this Act, terms like “willfully obstructing access” lack defined procedures for field personnel to address actions taken by landowners. While certain sections of the Act outline explicit procedures, such as giving notice before entering a building, still others lack clarity. Another issue with the current Act pertains to its handling of offences and penalties. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties. Although fines are permissible for offences, the Act fails to provide guidance for their administration. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties, complicating enforcement by bylaw officers. This convoluted system hampers agriculture field personnel from fulfilling their legislated duties as described by Agricultural Service Board Act.

These are two instances where the current Act falls short, preventing a Fieldman from fulfilling their legislated responsibilities. Without clearer clauses and comprehensive procedures, the Act’s effectiveness is compromised, leading to increased inspection and enforcement costs for municipalities. This in turn, leads to less-than-ideal compliance, this issue exists regardless of the species or designations listed in the regulations

Yellowhead County extends its gratitude to the ministry for its ongoing efforts to update this legislation and ensure its utmost effectiveness in safeguarding agricultural lands in the province from invasive species.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Mitchell', is written over a solid horizontal line.

**Robert Mitchell**  
**Agricultural Service Board Chair**

**Cc:**  
**Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen**  
**Agricultural Services Boards**

# Alberta Crop Report

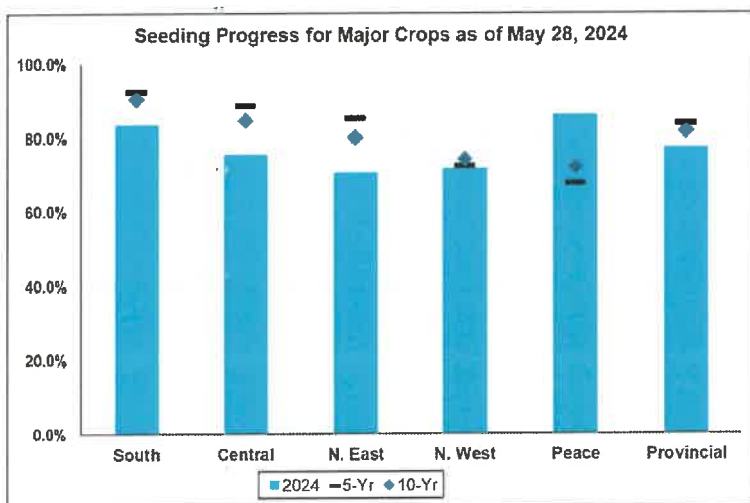
## Crop conditions as of May 28, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Scattered light showers across the province continued with the majority of the province receiving at least a few millimeters whereas areas along the west side of the North West and Central Regions received up to 30-40 mm. Short seeding delays occurred but provincial seeding progressed 20 per cent to 77 per cent complete, which is below the 5-year average of 84 per cent (See Table 1). The most advanced regions are the Peace Region at 86 per cent complete and the South Region at 84 per cent complete. The North East and North West Region have the most left to seed with 71 and 72 per cent complete, respectively. Emergence of major crops doubled over the last week to 40 per cent emerged. Despite concerns that the cool wet weather is delaying crop progress, emergence is marginally ahead of the 5- and 10-year averages. As well, growth stages of provincial cereals are on track with their historical averages.

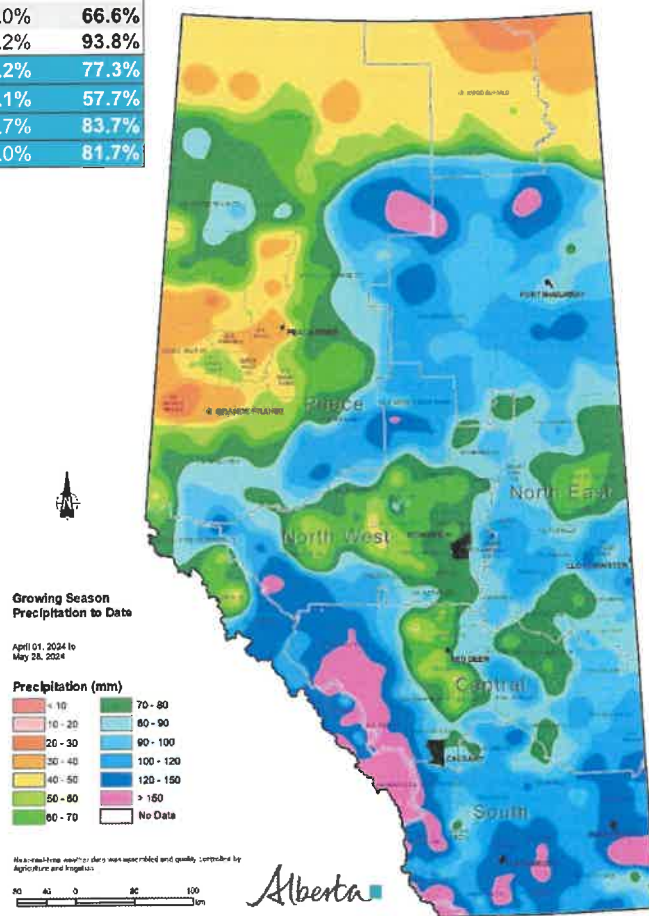
**Table 1: Alberta Major Crop Seeding Progress as of May 28, 2024**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	87.3%	85.0%	91.3%	88.1%	93.3%	<b>88.7%</b>
Barley *	89.0%	70.4%	46.8%	65.0%	75.0%	<b>72.2%</b>
Oats *	82.0%	60.7%	40.7%	53.2%	71.8%	<b>56.4%</b>
Canola *	66.6%	66.2%	57.5%	61.3%	85.0%	<b>66.6%</b>
Dry Peas *	95.7%	88.2%	99.0%	95.1%	91.2%	<b>93.8%</b>
Major Crops (*), May 28	83.6%	75.5%	70.7%	71.6%	86.2%	<b>77.3%</b>
Major Crops (*), May 21	70.6%	57.2%	42.3%	49.4%	71.1%	<b>57.7%</b>
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	92.5%	88.7%	85.3%	72.5%	67.7%	<b>83.7%</b>
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	90.4%	84.6%	80.0%	74.3%	72.0%	<b>81.7%</b>

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey





Surface soil moisture conditions declined slightly across the province despite light showers in many regions, however, they remained above the 5- and 10-year averages (See Table 2). Surface soil moisture rated good to excellent is the highest in the North East at 91 per cent and the North West at 82 per cent. The lowest conditions were in the Peace Region at 64 per cent good to excellent. Over the past week, conditions declined by 5 per cent in the South to 71 per cent, 2 per cent to 80 per cent in the Central, 5 per cent to 82 per cent in the North West and 6 per cent to 64 per cent in the Peace. The only region that had an increase was the North East Region, up 1 per cent to 91 per cent good to excellent.

**Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 28, 2024**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	0.0%	28.8%	63.6%	7.3%	0.3%
Central	1.2%	18.9%	55.0%	24.6%	0.3%
North East	0.0%	5.7%	62.4%	28.7%	3.2%
North West	0.0%	10.9%	55.8%	25.8%	7.5%
Peace	4.1%	31.6%	54.9%	9.4%	0.0%
Alberta	0.8%	20.0%	59.1%	18.5%	1.6%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	10.6%	24.0%	49.2%	15.1%	1.1%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	8.8%	22.2%	44.2%	22.0%	2.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Sub-surface soil moisture conditions were quite stable across the province, though there were small decreases in the Peace Region and small increases in the Central Region. Provincial conditions rated good to excellent were stable at 66 per cent. Regional sub-surface soil moisture conditions (per cent rated on May 21, 2024) rated good to excellent were 55 (54) in the South Region, 67 (64) per cent in the Central Region, 78 (78) per cent in the North East, 65 (65) in the North West and 82 (87) per cent in the Peace Region. While surface and sub-surface soil moisture conditions were quite stable in most regions, the drier week allowed seeding to progress, crops to grow and moisture conditions are still ahead of their historical averages.

**Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 28, 2024**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	2.4%	36.8%	52.4%	8.4%
Central	2.0%	14.2%	82.6%	1.3%
North East	0.3%	27.4%	64.1%	8.3%
North West	4.9%	21.9%	47.0%	26.3%
Peace	14.2%	45.7%	39.4%	0.8%
Alberta	3.0%	27.0%	62.9%	7.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	15.3%	33.7%	47.3%	3.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincial pasture and tame hay conditions rated good to excellent increased 2 per cent to 70 per cent, and 3 per cent to 68 per cent, respectively. All regional pasture ratings improved except for the North West Region which decreased 4 per cent to 73 per cent good to excellent but is still more than 25 per cent above both historical averages. Pastures across the province were reported to be improving after recent rains and are having cattle turned out on them soon. Tame hay growth conditions were reported to improve in all regions except the North West. As of May 28, tame hay conditions (last week's rating) were rated 65 (58) per cent in the South Region, 85 (82) per cent in the Central Region, 64 (59) in the North East Region 76 (80) in the North West and 41 (40) in the Peace Region. All regional tame hay ratings, except the Peace, are currently rated above their historical averages.

## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Seeding progress has been delayed due to showers across the region but was still able to progress 13 per cent to 84 per cent, behind the 5-year average of 93 per cent complete.
- While the rains have improved growing conditions, there are reports of standing water in the south west part of the region and needs for sun and heat remain. Surface soil (sub-surface) moisture conditions are rated 0 (10) per cent poor, 29 (35) per cent fair, 64 (44) per cent good, 7 (11) per cent excellent, 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Some areas in the south east of the region reported spraying or reseeding due to flea beetles and cutworms.
- Tame hay conditions (5-year average) are rated as 3 (11) per cent poor, 32 (33) per cent fair, 56 (51) per cent good, and 9 (6) per cent excellent.

### Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Scattered showers throughout the region delayed seeding and in some low areas, cool evenings resulted in frost. Seeding progress is behind the 5-year average of 89 per cent at 76 per cent complete.
- Pasture conditions have improved due to rain around the region, but some areas still look behind due to over-grazing during the last two summers. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are rated as 2 (13) per cent poor, 13 (21) per cent fair, 83 (61) per cent good and 2 (5) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil (sub-surface) moisture conditions are rated 1 (5) per cent poor, 19 (28) per cent fair, 55 (61) per cent good, 25 (6) per cent excellent, 0 (0) per cent excessive.

### Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Consecutive dry days between showers allowed seeding to progress 28 per cent to 71 per cent complete.
- The north part of the region remains excessively wet with standing water being reported in many fields and some fields are being worked in an attempt to dry up. Currently, surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 0 (7) per cent poor, 6 (15) per cent fair, 62 (57) per cent good, 29 (20) per cent excellent and 3 (1) per cent excessive.
- Forages have taken the moisture well and grasses are well established as there are reports of cattle being turned out. Tame hay conditions (5-year average) are currently rated as 0 (25) per cent poor, 36 (37) per cent fair, 60 (37) good, 4 (2) per cent excellent.

### Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Seeding progressed 22 per cent to 72 per cent complete, on par with the 5-year average.
- While seeding was able to progress, low lying areas that would have been seeded in a dry year may go unseeded or be seeded later due to wet soil conditions. Surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 0 (8) per cent poor, 11 (27) per cent fair, 56 (49) per cent good, 26 (16) per cent excellent and 8 (0) per cent excessive.
- Dependent on upcoming weather, fields that are still wet may see acres go into silage crops. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are rated 4 (6) per cent poor, 20 (42) per cent fair, 47 (48) per cent good and 29 (4) per cent excellent.

### Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Showers were reported around the region but a few 20+ degree days accelerated seeding progress and emergence. Seeding progressed 15 per cent to 86 per cent, ahead of the 5-year average of 68 per cent.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface) is rated as 4 (2) per cent poor, 32 (16) per cent fair, 55 (71) per cent good, 9 (11) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Consecutive warm days helped with pasture and hay growth. Tame hay (5-year average) conditions are now rated 16 (11) per cent poor, 43 (35) per cent fair, 41 (49) per cent good, and 1 (5) per cent excellent.

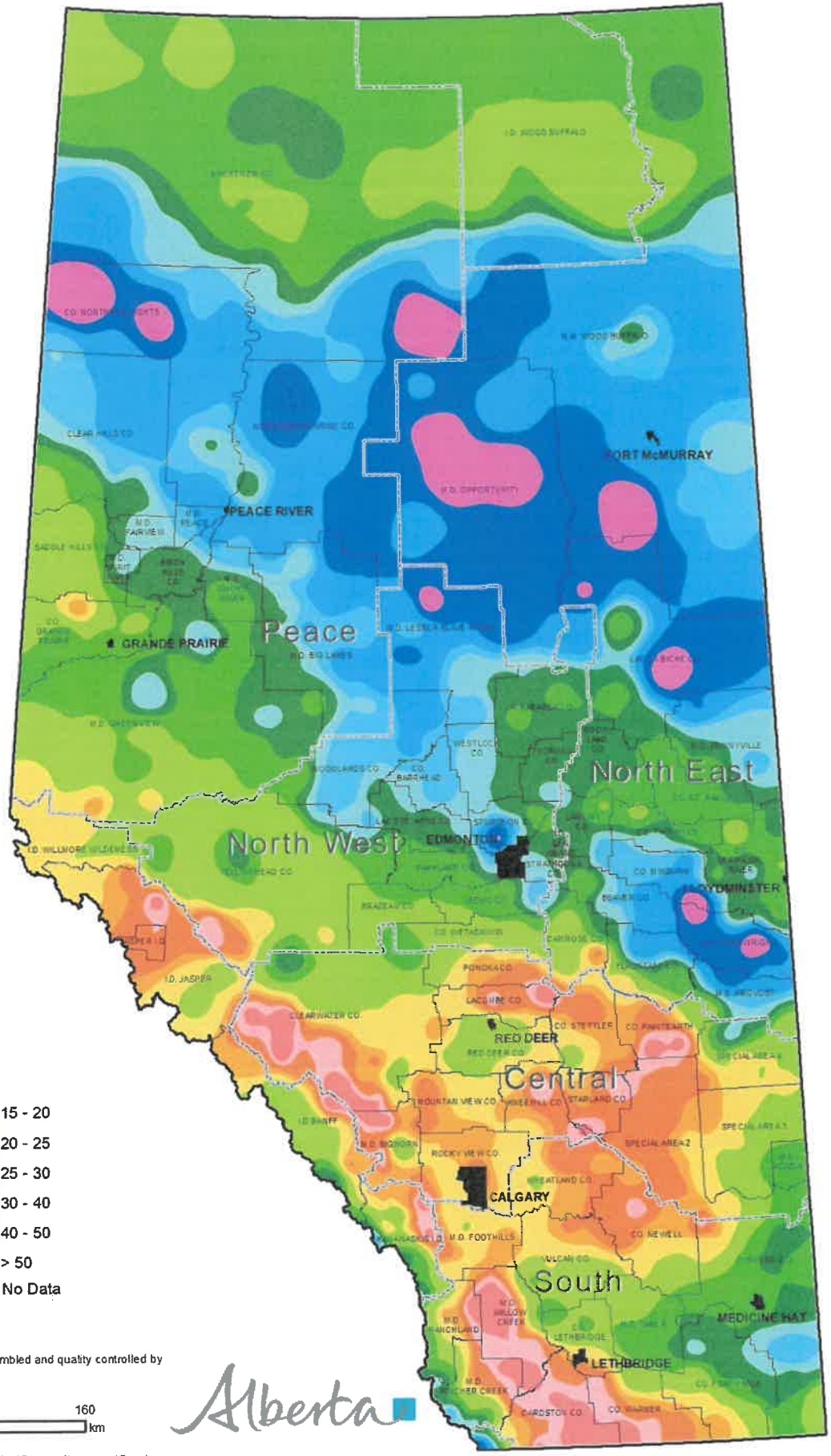
#### Contact

Agriculture and Irrigation  
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section

Brooklyn Wong  
Crop Statistician  
Phone: 780-422-2887  
Email: [brooklyn.wong@gov.ab.ca](mailto:brooklyn.wong@gov.ab.ca)

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and the Government of Alberta.



**Precipitation Received During the Past 07-days**

May 30, 2024 to June 05, 2024

**Precipitation (mm)**

	< 0.5		15 - 20
	0.5 - 1.0		20 - 25
	1 - 2		25 - 30
	2 - 3		30 - 40
	3 - 5		40 - 50
	5 - 10		> 50
	10 - 15		No Data













Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on June 05, 2024

## Growing Season Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

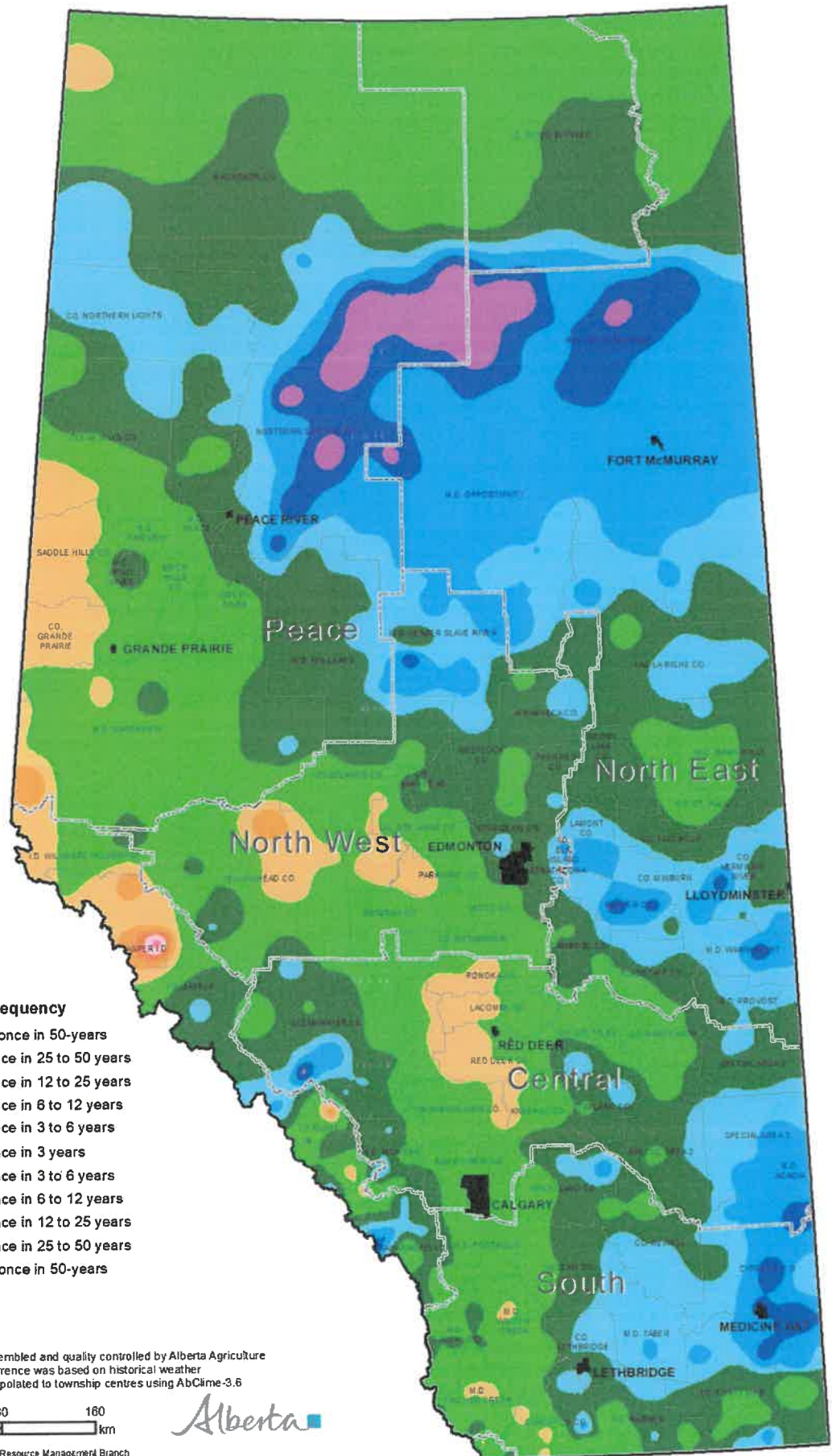
April 01, 2024 to June 05, 2024

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 8 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

80 40 0 80 160 km













Compiled by: Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on June 06, 2024



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

# Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

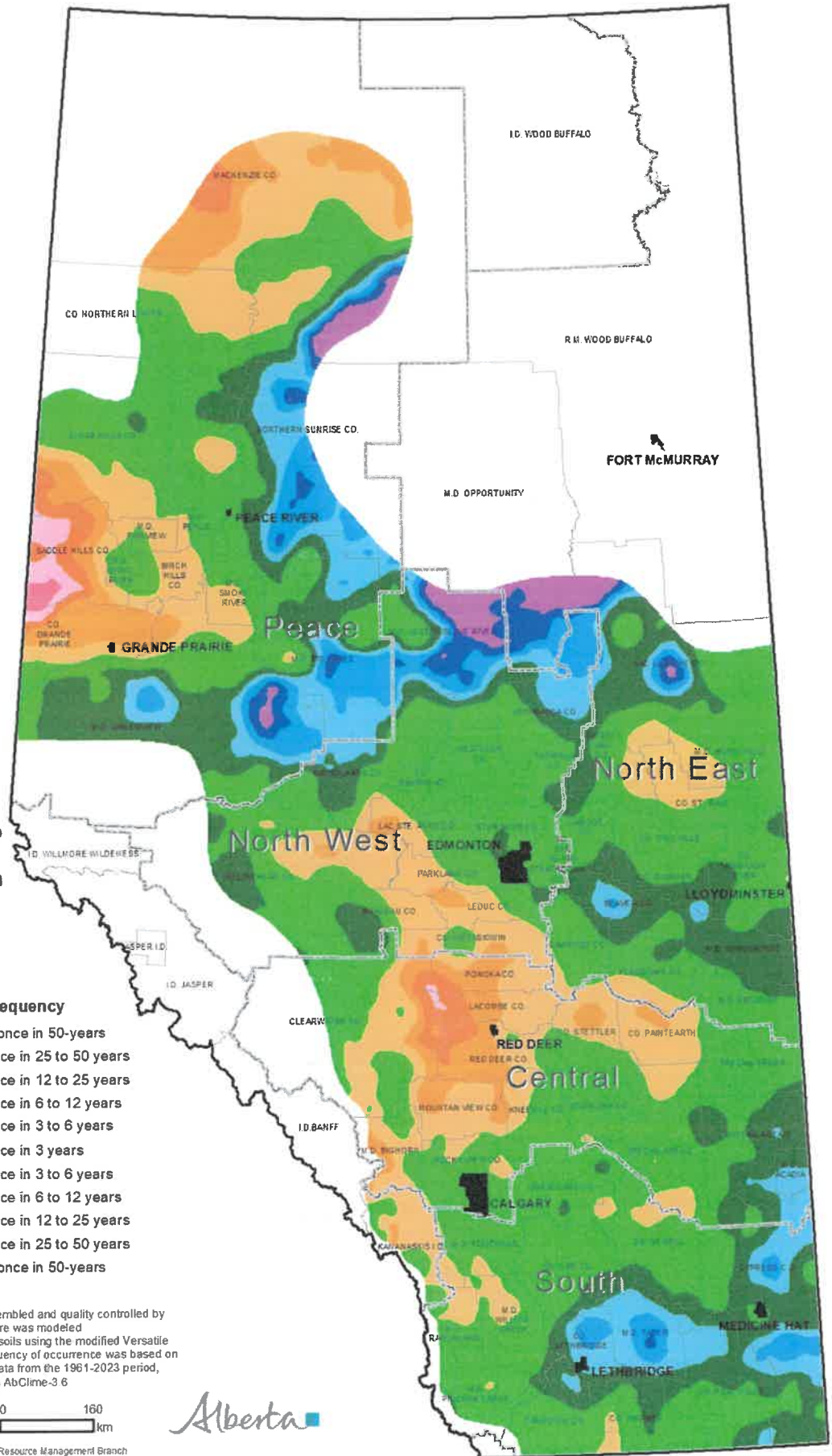
Estimated as of June 05, 2024

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

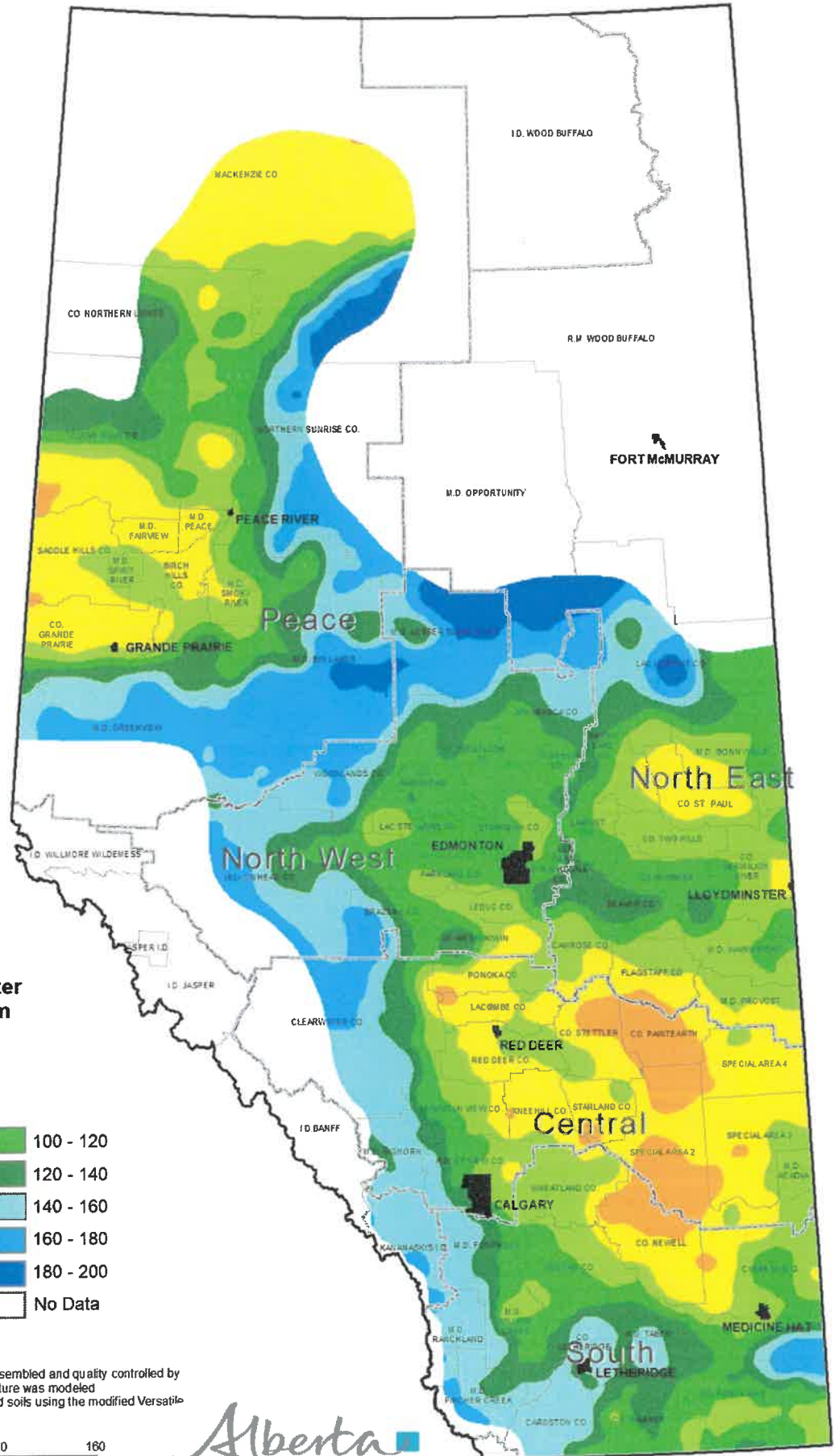
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on June 06, 2024



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch  
Created on June 05, 2024

Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

It has been a very busy year so far in 2024! The research staff have been working hard to ensure seeding was completed by the end of May and preparing for upcoming field days and summer tours. We welcomed Kristy Tetreau to our staff in May in the part-time role of Environment and Communications Coordinator. In addition to providing environment related extension activities for our local farmers and ranchers, Kristy will be spearheading our youth education programs.

In total we have 4 small-plot research trials in the County:

- Regional Variety Trials – Oats
- Investigating the impact of low-growing clovers (white and subterranean clover) and nitrogen rates on silage crop yield, weed pressure, cereal leaf disease levels, and forage quality.
- Determining the effects of EcoTea seed dressing on the emergence rate and early season vigor of canola.
- Determining the effects of EcoTea and varying starter fertilizer on barley biomass, feed quality and yield.

We have hosted a total of 4 extension events in the County and 3 webinars. A few recent highlights of those events include:

- It's Dry: Now What on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Bellis Hall. The event saw 33 local producers come out to listen to topics on cattle health considerations in extreme heat and dry conditions (Dr. Ann-Marie Russ) and rotational grazing for drought management (Kelly Sidoryk).
- Funding Assistance on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Smoky Lake County office saw 3 producers drop-in for assistance.
- Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for your Farm or Ranch on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Ukrainian National Hall. This event included a booth and presentation by Smoky Lake County as well as information on funding programs open to local farmers. A total of 48 local producers attended.
- Overcoming Weed Challenges in Regenerative Agriculture on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Vilna Cultural Center. This event was presented by Dr. Kris Nichols and Kimberly Cornish and combined experience and science to explore the subject of weed management in regenerative systems. A total of 28 producers attended.

We currently have two (2) events scheduled in the County over the summer:

- Smoky Lake Summer Field Tour on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 starting at the Smoky Lake Agriplex followed by a field tour to our research site. Topics and speakers include a spot spraying demonstration, canola disease management and new wheat varieties.
- Agricultural Drone Demonstration on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Location TBD.

We have been very busy with assisting producers with filling out and submitting funding applications through the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP) and the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF). LARA staff assist producers in the County free of charge and, so far, we have assisted over 30 local producers from the County. LARA has also been assisting producers with the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP), a grant administered by LARA to our local producers.

Our two environmental farm plan (EFP) technicians have been busy assisting local producers with completing and/or updating their EFP, which is now required for most funding opportunities available. As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, we have assisted 14 producers in the County with completing their EFP this year and have 4 more in progress.

We greatly appreciate the continued support we receive from Smoky Lake County! We are always looking for feedback on our extension and research programming, please reach out to any LARA staff if there is a specific trial or event you would like to see in the County.