

## SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

**A G E N D A:** County Council Meeting to be held for the purpose of discussing the **Agricultural Service Board**

on

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020** at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Held virtually through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84780321364?pwd=eFpUbk5MeUloYkEzSnk0dlhoejksUT09>

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### 1. Meeting:

- 1.1 Call to Order.
- 1.2 Election of Agricultural Service Board Chairperson.
- 1.3 Election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairperson.

### 2. Agenda:

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

### 3. Minutes:

- 3.1 Adopt minutes of **October 14, 2020** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©  
**Recommendation:** Motion to Adopt.
- 3.2 Agricultural Service Board Meeting: October 14, 2020 – **Action List.** ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.

### 4. Request for Decision:

- 4.1 Policy Statement 62-22 Northlands Farm Family Award. ©
- 4.2 Policy Statement 62-10 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan. ©
- 4.3 2021 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Contract. ©
- 4.4 LARA Farm Member Appointment. ©

**5. Issues for Information:**

- 5.1 ASB Chairman's Report. ©
- 5.2 Agricultural Department Report. ©
- 5.3 2020 Insect Survey Results. ©
- 5.4 2021 Provincial ASB Conference Resolutions. ©

**6. Correspondence:**

- 6.1 Email received from Andrea Sawatsky, Pesticide Compliance & Enforcement Officer, Pesticide Compliance Program, Health Canada, October 28, 2020 RE: Notice to 2% Liquid Strychnine Users. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

**7. Delegation(s):**

- 7.1 Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) @9:30am re: LARA Update

**8. Executive Session:**

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

**Adjournment**

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Wednesday, **October 14, 2020** at 9:07 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting.

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

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Present in Chambers
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Randy Orichowski	Present in Chambers
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Present in Chambers
Assist. CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh McMullin	Present in Chambers
Assistant A.F.	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present
*****		
Nat. Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present
Media	Smoky Lake Signal	Absent
Media	Redwater Review	Absent
Public	None	N/A

**2. Agenda:**

1189-20: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, October 14, 2020, be adopted as amended:

**Addition to the Agenda:**

1. Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Minutes from July 13, 2020.
2. Lakeland Industry and Community Association, Large Scale Riparian Assessment.

Carried Unanimously.

**3. Minutes:**

1190-20: Orichowski

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

1191-20: Lukinuk That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, be filed for information.

Carried.

**4. Request for Decision:**

No Request for Decision.

**5. Issues for Information:**

**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report**

1192-20: Orichowski That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's Verbal Report, as of October 14, 2020, which included information in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association's (LARA's) new combine equipment, a meeting held at the end of August 2020, and the next meeting scheduled for October 26, 2020 in Ashmont, be accepted for information.

Carried.

**Agricultural Fieldman's Report**

1193-20: Cherniwchan That the report received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from Carleigh McMullin, Agricultural Fieldman, dated October 6, 2020, be accepted as presented and filed for information.

Carried.

**2020 Mowing Progress Map**

1194-20: Orichowski That the Smoky Lake County 2020 Mowing Progress Map for Zones: 1, 2 and 3, as of October 5, 2020 be accepted as presented and filed for information.

Carried.

**2020 Spraying Progress Map**

1195-20: Lukinuk That the Smoky Lake County 2020 Herbicide Spraying Progress Map for Zones: 1, 2 and 3, as of October 5, 2020 be accepted as presented and filed for information.

Carried.

**Debris in Road Right of Ways**

1196-20: Halisky That the Smoky Lake County promote information on Social Media in respect to the negative impacts when the County mower encounters debris along roadsides, in an effort to deter the public from dumping items such as wire, rocks, and other debris in County road right of ways.

Carried.

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

1197-20: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Board of Directors' Minutes from their meeting held on July 13, 2020.

Carried.

**6. Correspondence:**

**Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour – Year 2021 Cancellation**

1198-20: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the cancellation of the Year-2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of municipal assessment, as per the letter received from Jocelyn Whaley, Chief Administrative Officer, Brazeau County, dated August 31, 2020.

Carried.

**Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Agriculture and Forestry**

1199-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the email received from the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Agriculture and Forestry, dated September 3, 2020, in response to Smoky Lake County's Declaration of a Municipal State of Agriculture Disaster, and in regard to the provincial re-assessment to be done this fall based on how existing programs respond to determine if there is further need for disaster programming.

Carried.

**BMO Farm Family Awards**

1200-20: Halisky That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the Year-2020 BMO Farmfair International event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and therefore the Year-2020 BMO Farm Family Awards have been postponed until

Year-2021 as per the email received from Kimberly Sekura-Zagar, Agriculture Coordinator, Northlands, dated September 3, 2020; and prepare a plaque in accordance with Policy Statement No. 62-22-03 for the Year-2020 Farm Family nominate: Edward Huk and Family from Division 1, for Councillor Dan Gawalko, to personally present at the Huk Family's farm to create a photo opportunity to be posted on Social Media.

Carried.

#### **Agricultural Service Board Grant Program**

1201-20: Cherniwchan That the fact sheet received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Fieldman, titled: Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards, from Doug Macaulay, Manager, Agricultural Service Board Unit, on September 18, 2020, in regard to the Agricultural Service Board Grant Program and the 2019-20 Annual Impacts, be filed for information.

Carried.

#### **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Beaver Coexistence Tools**

1202-20: Lukinuk That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Fieldman, from the Miistakis Institute, dated September 22, 2020, outlining the "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Beaver Coexistence Tools" by comparing the cost of traditional beaver management to coexistence tools proven to result in a cost saving of 62% to 90%, be filed for information.

Carried.

#### **Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen**

1203-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County write a letter questioning the full and/or partial hold back of Agricultural Service Board grant payments to some Alberta Municipalities, and to advocate for red tape reduction in reapplying for the said funding when it has no bearing on the amount of funding received, to our local MLA: Mr. Glenn van Dijken - Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency, in response to the email received from Sebastien Dutrtisac, President, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, September 25, 2020; and pose the said questions to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, at the 2020 RMA Fall Convention scheduled for November 3-4, 2020, if possible, during the round table discussion.

Carried.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**Lakeland Industry and Community Association – Large Scale Riparian Assessment**

1204-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County provide a list qualifying bodies of water to the Lakeland Industry and Community Association for the purpose of possibly conducting large-scale riparian assessments in the Beaver River watershed as part of their Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) grant from the Government of Alberta, in response to the correspondence from Tricia B. Fleming, Environmental Coordinator, Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) – Environmental Stewards, dated October 1, 2020.

Carried.

**7. Delegation:**

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

Virtually Present before Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:45 a.m. to 9:53 a.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) to provide a verbal update on LARA activities in Smoky Lake County including the following points:

- Started combining September 22, 2020, finished on October 9, 2020.
- Smoky Lake plots were completed on October 5, 2020.
- Had to mow down the first three trials.
- Data is being collected and processed for producers.
- Hosting a Water Treatment System Webinar October 29, 2020.
- Hosting a Soil Health Webinar November 3, 2020.
- If producers are interested, we can do hemp plots.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) virtually left the meeting, time 9:54 a.m.

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

1204-20: Lukinuk That the verbal update received by Smoky Lake County from the October 14, 2020 meeting delegation: Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), in regard to LARA activities within Smoky Lake County, be accepted for information.

Carried.

**Next Meeting**

1205-20: Orichowski That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** to be held Virtually and/or in the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

1206-20: Gawalko

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 14, 2020, be adjourned, time 9:55 a.m.

Carried.

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CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



# ACTION LIST:

## October 14, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
1196-20	That the Smoky Lake County promote information on Social Media in respect to the negative impacts when the County mower encounters debris along roadsides, in an effort to deter the public from dumping items such as wire, rocks, and other debris in County road right of ways.	Communications	<p>Ad was created and advertised on social media on October 20, 2020. The ad will also be run again in the spring time as a reminder.</p> <p><b>No DUMPING IN ROAD RIGHT OF WAY</b></p>  <p>Smoky Lake County requests your cooperation in keeping our County Road Right-of-Way clear of garbage and debris. Field rocks, tires, furniture, car parts, wire, etc., causes damage to equipment, productivity downtime, and costly repairs. Disposing of any litter or debris in the road right of way (the ditch) is an offense subject to penalties of up to \$500.00 under <i>Bylaw 1211-12: Respecting Road Rights-of-Ways</i>.</p>	
1197-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Board of Directors' Minutes from their meeting held on July 13, 2020.	Assistant CAO	<p>Retained for documentation purposes to be informed and updated on LARA activities.</p> <p>Municipal File: 62-9</p>	
1198-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the cancellation of the Year-2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of municipal assessment, as per the letter received from Jocelyn Whaley, Chief Administrative Officer, Brazeau County, dated August 31, 2020.	Assistant CAO	<p>Correspondence retained for historical reference and documentation purposes.</p> <p>Municipal File: 62-28</p>	
1199-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the email received from the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Agriculture and Forestry, dated September 3, 2020, in response to Smoky Lake County's Declaration of a Municipal State of Agriculture Disaster, and in regard to the provincial re-assessment to be done this fall based on how existing programs respond to determine if there is further need for disaster programming.	Assistant CAO	<p>Correspondence retained for historical reference and documentation purposes.</p> <p>Municipal File: 62-40</p>	

# ACTION LIST:

## October 14, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
1200-20	<p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the Year-2020 BMO Farmfair International event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and therefore the Year-2020 BMO Farm Family Awards have been postponed until Year-2021 as per the email received from Kimberly Sekura-Zagar, Agriculture Coordinator, Northlands, dated September 3, 2020; and prepare a plaque in accordance with Policy Statement No. 62-22-03 for the Year-2020 Farm Family nominate: Edward Huk and Family from Division 1, for Councillor Dan Gawalko, to personally present at the Huk Family's farm to create a photo opportunity to be posted on Social Media.</p>	<p>Ag. Fieldman &amp; Communications</p>	<p>The Nominee did not want to receive the award in person. Mailed out the plaque on November 6th, 2020.</p> <p>Municipal File: 62-49</p>	
1203-20	<p>That Smoky Lake County write a letter questioning the full and/or partial hold back of Agricultural Service Board grant payments to some Alberta Municipalities, and to advocate for red tape reduction in reapplying for the said funding when it has no bearing on the amount of funding received, to our local MLA: Mr. Glenn van Dijken - Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency, in response to the email received from Sebastien Dutriscac, President, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, September 25, 2020; and pose the said questions to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, at the 2020 RMA Fall Convention scheduled for November 4-5, 2020, if possible, during the round table discussion.</p>	<p>Ag. Fieldman Assistant CAO</p>	<p>Letter written and sent to MLA: MR Glenn van Dijken on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</p> <p>October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020</p> <p>Mr. Glenn van Dijken MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency Box 4250 Barrhead, AB T7N 1A3</p> <p>Dear Mr. van Dijken</p> <p>During these difficult times, several provincial grant applications across the province were delayed in being released including our 5-year Agricultural Service Board grant. Most municipalities do not have enough capital and reserves to see them through these tough times; and we would like to question the delay regarding the release of the grant payments.</p> <p>Smoky Lake County continues to stay committed to carrying out all the required work of Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's). ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under the <i>Agricultural Service Board Act</i>, the <i>Weed Control Act</i>, the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>, the <i>Soil Conservation Act</i>, and assist with the control of animal disease under the <i>Animal Health Act</i> on behalf of the province through weed inspections, crop surveys, vegetation control etc. We strive to make improvements year after year to ensure we are providing the best services possible based on the provincial requirements. We believe the grant amount allocated has nothing to do with the eligible expenditures in the new grant application. Apparently, the application has no bearing on the amount of funds to be received, and it is time consuming to redo the application as it is unnecessary red tape.</p> <p>According to the provinces own ASB fact sheet there is a 6.1 return on Alberta Agriculture investment and it would cost them \$30 million to replace all legislated work done by ASB's. We respectfully urge you to advocate and question the reduction in the provincial ASB grant reduction.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.</p>	

**ACTION LIST:**

**October 14, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting**



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
1204-20	That Smoky Lake County provide a list qualifying bodies of water to the Lakeland Industry and Community Association for the purpose of possibly conducting large-scale riparian assessments in the Beaver River watershed as part of their Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) grant from the Government of Alberta, in response to the correspondence from Tricia B. Fleming, Environmental Coordinator, Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) – Environmental Stewards, dated October 1, 2020.	Ag. Fieldman	Email was sent to Tricia Fleming on October 14, 2020 recommending riparian health assessments be conducted on Garner Lake, Whitefish Lake, Mons Lake and Hanmore Lake, as they are high traffic lakes within our County that see a lot of traffic on the water and the shores in the summer months.  Municipal File: 62-39	



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	December 8th, 2020	<b>4.1</b>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Policy Statement 62-22 Northlands Farm Family</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board nominated the Huk Family Farm for the 2020 Farm Family awards. We need to update schedule "A" to reflect this year's winners.			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN</b>				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>BENEFITS</b>	This award is to recognize outstanding farm families in an area of our municipality who best exemplifies the value of the family farm and society in general.			
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>	None			
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Operating Costs:</b>			<b>Capital Costs:</b>	
<b>Budget Available:</b>			<b>Source of Funds:</b>	
<b>Budgeted Costs:</b>			<b>Actual Costs:</b>	
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<p>That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board add Huk Family Farms as the recipient from Division 1 to Schedule "A" of Policy Statement 62-22-05 Northland Farm Family for 2020.</p>	
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>	

# SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



<b>Title:</b> Northlands Farm Family Award	<b>Policy No.:</b> 22-05	
<b>Section:</b> 62	<b>Code:</b> P-R	<b>Page No.:</b> 1 of 3

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<b>Legislation Reference:</b>	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide a guideline for the Northlands Farm Family Award.
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<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>
<p><b>1. STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>1.1 County Council acknowledges the significant contribution made by farm families in Alberta and is proud to recognize residents in Smoky Lake County who are eligible to receive the Northlands Farm Family Award.</p> <p><b>2. DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>2.1 <b>“Farm Family”</b> means a family whose primary income is derived from agricultural production.</p> <p><b>3. GUIDELINE:</b></p> <p>3.1 Residents of Smoky Lake County who are considered a “farm family” and meet the requirements of the Northland Farm Family Award will be eligible for nomination by the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board.</p> <p><b>4. PROCEDURE:</b></p> <p>4.1 Each division will have the opportunity to nominate one of their constituents on a rotating basis once every two years. Please see <i>Schedule “A” Northlands Farm Family Award Divisional Rotation/ List of Past Recipients.</i></p> <p>4.2 Councillor representing the division of the nominated family will be the County representative at the Northlands award ceremony. If unable to attend ASB Chairman, Agricultural Fieldman or other designate may be appointed to attend by the ASB.</p> <p>4.3 Applicants will be notified when the Award is prepared and invited to receive a plaque on behalf of the ASB. Please see <i>Schedule “B” Northlands Farm Family Award Plaque.</i></p>

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	February 4, 2013	#370-13 - Page #10460
Amended	January 9, 2015	#250-15 - Page #11526
Amended	March 6, 2017	#428-17 - Page #12547
Amended	December 12, 2018	#196-18 - Page #13405



**SCHEDULE "A"**

**NORTHLANDS FARM FAMILY AWARD – DIVISIONAL ROTATION AND PAST  
RECIPIENT LIST**

**2022 Division 5  
2024 Division 4  
2026 Division 2**

<b>2020</b>	<b>Huk Family Farm</b>	<b>Div. 1</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Barry Feniak Family</b>	<b>Div. 3</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Dmetruik Farms</b>	<b>Div.2</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Ryan Franchuk</b>	<b>Div.4</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Curtis Boychuk</b>	<b>Div.5</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Roy Mulkay</b>	<b>Div.1</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Don Christensen</b>	<b>Div.3</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Shapka Family</b>	<b>Div.2</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Ed Doktor</b>	<b>Div.4</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Barry Przekop</b>	<b>Div.5</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>George Balask</b>	<b>Div.1</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Gary Kulka</b>	<b>Div.3</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>Billy Hominiuk</b>	<b>Div.2</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Ken Danyluk</b>	<b>Div.4</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>Jack Jarema</b>	<b>Div.5</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>Peter Flondra</b>	<b>Div.1</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>Terry Melnyk</b>	<b>Div.3</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>Bernie Buyar</b>	<b>Div.2</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>John Semeniuk</b>	<b>Div.3</b>
<b>1992</b>	<b>Clinton Phillips</b>	<b>Div.3</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>Henry Melnyk</b>	<b>Div.3</b>





**SCHEDULE "B"**

**NORTHLANDS FARM FAMILY AWARD PLAQUE**

**Congratulations  
To  
ABC Farms Inc.  
John and Jane Smith**


**Northlands / ATB Farm Family Award  
YEAR Recipient**

**Nominated by  
Smoky Lake County  
Agricultural Service Board**

**Presented; Month Day Year**

*Note: Title may change dependent on Northlands official title and corporate sponsor*



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	<b>4.2</b>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Policy Statement 62-10 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	To review our Business plan for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board annually. This plan provides the agricultural producers with a more cohesive vision of our Ag Service Board. The business plan will be reviewed annually as required by Alberta Agriculture. The ASB data from 2020 is collected to give an overview of results from our measurables from the ASB Business Plan.			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN</b>				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>BENEFITS</b>				
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>				
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		<b>Capital Costs:</b>		
<b>Budget Available:</b>		<b>Source of Funds:</b>		
<b>Budgeted Costs:</b>		<b>Actual Costs:</b>		
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>				
<p><i>That Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement 62-10-05 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2021, along with the 2020 ASB Grant Reporting data overview.</i></p>				
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>				



# SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



<b>Title: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan</b>	<b>Policy No.: 10-05</b>
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Page No.: 1 of 12</b>

<b>Legislation Reference:</b>	<i>Alberta Provincial Statutes</i>
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<b>Purpose:</b>	To establish a Business Plan for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board.
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<p><b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b></p> <p><b>STATEMENT</b></p> <p>The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is in the business of providing its residents with agricultural programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Vegetation Management Programming, Agricultural Extension Programming, Problem Wildlife Programming, Pest Control and Monitoring as well as Government Lobbying.</p> <p><b>The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the <i>Weed Act</i>, <i>Agricultural Pest Act</i>, <i>Agricultural Service Board Act</i>, <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> and the <i>Animal Health Act</i>.</b></p> <p><b>VISION STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>To encourage sustainable agriculture, environmental integrity and improved quality of life in Smoky Lake County.</p> <p><b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.</p>
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<b>Title: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan</b>	<b>Policy No.: 10-05</b>
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Page No.: 2 of 12</b>

**PRIORITIES:**

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

- One: Vegetation Management Program
- Two: Weed Control Act Duties
- Three: Environmental Stewardship and Extension
- Four: Problem Wildlife program
- Five: Agricultural Pest Act Duties
- Six: Soil Conservation Act Duties
- Seven: Intergovernmental Collaboration

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

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

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	<b>December 17, 2010</b>	<b>#184-10 - Page 9570</b>
Amended	<b>March 5, 2015</b>	<b>#416-15 -Page 11626</b>
Amended	<b>December 12, 2017</b>	<b># 59-17 -Page 12873</b>
Amended	<b>December 12, 2018</b>	
Amended	<b>December 8, 2020</b>	



# Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2021

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## Executive Summary

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board is in the business of providing its agricultural producers with agricultural programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Vegetation Management, Agricultural Extension, Problem Wildlife, Pest Control, programming and monitoring as well as, government lobbying. The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Health Act*.

### VISION STATEMENT:

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

### MISSION STATEMENT:

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

### VALUES:




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

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

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







<b>1.</b>	<b>Vegetation Management Program</b>	
<p><b>Goal:</b> To implement an integrated vegetation management program on municipal right-of-ways for the purpose of reducing noxious weeds and ensuring sightlines are clear for the motoring public.</p>		
Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Identify problem noxious weeds within the municipal right of way</b></p>	<p>-Key emphasis will be on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed species analyzing both environmental and economic threats.</p>	<p>-All roads inspected for noxious weeds at least once during the growing season.</p>
<p><b>Roadside Spraying</b></p> 	<p>-1/2 of all county roads will be sprayed following the rotation spraying guidelines set out in <i>Policy Statement 62-15 "Vegetation Management Plan"</i> and <i>Policy Statement 62-23 "Tansy Reduction Program"</i>. Brush Spraying will be completed during the regular roadside spraying rotation.</p>	<p>-Number of miles of roadside spraying completed.</p> <p>-Amount of herbicide applied for brush control</p>
<p><b>Spot Spraying</b></p> 	<p>-Spot spraying will be completed in the other two zone in which regular roadside spraying is being completed. Noxious weeds and brush will be targeted.</p> <p>-Custom spraying of private lands will occur if time and budget allows and priority is put on landowners struggling to control prohibited noxious weeds.</p>	<p>-Number of locations spot sprayed.</p> <p>-Amount of herbicide applied during spot spraying.</p> <p>-Number of landowners who receive help eliminating there Prohibited noxious weeds by the ASB Department.</p>
<p><b>Roadside Mowing</b></p> 	<p>-Roadside mowing will be conducted as stated in <i>Policy Statement 62-M-02 "Mowing Program"</i>. Roadsides will be mowed as close to the municipal property line as possible, while ensuing passes are only done if deemed efficient to eliminate extra freewheeling and passes of 5 feet or less.</p> <p>-Lake roads leading to resorts will be mowed before the July and August long weekends.</p> <p>-One-pass mowers will be used in rotation to apply herbicide on ROW's</p>	<p>-1 pass of roadside mowing are completed by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.</p> <p>-Iron Horse Trail mowed once a year.</p> <p>-Amount of additional mowing completed for community events.</p> <p>-Amount of additional mowing completed on other municipal properties.</p>

## 2. Weed Control Act Duties

**Goal:**




To control the spread and prevent the establishment of invasive species on privately owned land through responsible communication with landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public as set out in the Weed Control Act of Alberta.

Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Weed Inspection Program</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Weed Inspection are conducted on private land during the growing season annually.</li> <li>-Letters are sent to landowners who are in non-compliance with the Weed Control Act of Alberta, as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-14 "Weed Inspection and Weed Notice"</i>.</li> <li>-Weed Notices are issued to landowners who do not comply with recommendation letters.</li> <li>-Enforcement actions are completed by the Agricultural Services Department for landowners who are non-compliant with a weed notice that has been issued.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of inspections completed</li> <li>-Number of letters sent to landowners/renters</li> <li>-Number of weed notices issued</li> <li>-Number of Weed enforcements completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noxious Weed Education and Awareness</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provide weed identification for landowners on farm or samples brought in for identification</li> <li>-Promote weed awareness at our annual Smoky Lake County Farmer Appreciation Event</li> <li>-Produce and circulate information on invasive species through our website and local newspapers.</li> <li>-Weed Wanted posters hung annually at all the Towns, Villages &amp; Hamlets including all the water stations, lake lot bulletin boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of landowners assisted annually</li> <li>-Number of events hosted</li> <li>-Number of articles circulated</li> </ul>

### 3. Environmental Stewardship and Extension

**Goal:**





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

Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Environmental Farm Plans</b></p> 	<p>-Assist local producers with completion of Environmental Farm Plans</p> <p>-Provide air photographs for fields and farm yards and soils information</p> <p>-Provide water well information from the Alberta Water Wells Database</p>	<p>-Number of Environmental Farm plans assisted with</p> <p>-Increased adoption of beneficial management practices by producers</p>
<p><b>Canadian Agricultural Partnership</b></p> 	<p>-Assist local producers with information about new agricultural programs and grants.</p> <p>-Stay current with program updates and changes.</p> <p>-Promote programs and workshop events.</p>	<p>-Number of producers assisted</p> <p>-Number of events hosted or promoted</p>
<p><b>Lakeland Agricultural Research Association</b></p> 	<p>-Ensure Smoky Lake County receives programs as promised by LARA.</p> <p>-Ensure crop plot trials are complete in Smoky Lake County</p>	<p>-Number of events hosted by LARA in our county.</p> <p>-Crop Walk hosted for local producers</p> <p>-Number of unbiased research plots within Smoky Lake County.</p>




## 4. Problem Wildlife Program

**Goal:**

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

Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Beavers</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Beaver Tail Bounty for \$15.00 per tail from pre-approved locations as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-07 "Beaver Management"</i></li> <li>-Beaver Dam Removal may occur to mitigate flooding which causes damage to municipal infrastructure. Dam removal will be conducted as per <i>Policy Statement 62-21 "Beaver Control- Fee for Removal with Explosives"</i>.</li> <li>-Maintain Certified Blasters License with the Province of Alberta.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of Beaver tails brought in.</li> <li>-Number of dams removed affecting municipal infrastructure.</li> <li>-Amount of revenue generated completing private land blasting.</li> <li>-Renew every 5 years as required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coyotes</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintain Form 7 License to ensure Smoky Lake County can provide 1080 toxicant to agricultural producers as per <i>Policy Statement 62-03 "Coyote Control"</i>.</li> <li>- Coyote control booklets available for agricultural producers to help better manage coyote predation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of tablets given out annually</li> </ul>
<p><b>Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gopher)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2% Liquid Strychnine registration has been cancelled.</li> <li>-Recommend Rozol to producers</li> <li>-Recommend local trappers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of producers assisted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Pocket Gopher (Mole)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mole tail bounty for \$1.00 per tail can be brought in as per <i>Policy Statement 62-02 "Bounty for Pocket Gopher Tails"</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of mole tails brought in for bounty.</li> </ul>









<span style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; padding-right: 10px;">4.</span> <span style="font-size: 20px; font-weight: bold;">Problem Wildlife Continued</span>		
Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Wild Boar</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Participate annually in the Wild Boar Ear Bounty with Alberta Agriculture.</li> <li>-Wild Boar ears can be brought in for a reward of <b>\$50.00</b> per set of ears. The boars <u>must</u> be at large.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of wild boar ears brought in.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Waterfowl Damage Control</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scare Cannons are available for rent as per <i>Policy Statement 62-26 "Scare Cannon Rental"</i>.</li> <li>-Suggest alternative control measures to mitigate crop damage cause by waterfowl during fall migration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of rentals that occur</li> <li>-Number of producers that engage in alternative control methods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alternative Control Methods</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Agricultural Fieldmen will continue to look into alternative control methods for all pest species.</li> <li>-Promote and notify producers of alternative control measures when they come in.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Attend In Service Training to hear from other Ag Fieldman from across the province</li> <li>-Attend demonstrations with government research groups</li> </ul>

## 5. Agricultural Pest Act Duties

**Goal:** To provide Smoky Lake County agricultural producers with responsible pest management strategies, pest monitoring and enforcement of declared agricultural pests as deemed by the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta.

### Crop Surveying

Strategies	Action	Measures
<b>Swede Midge of Canola</b> 	-Swede Midge is monitored on behalf of Agri-food Canada. It is an 8 week program where sticky pads are changed weekly.	-Continue to monitor for new and invading pest that threaten our agriculture industry.
<b>Grasshoppers</b> 	-Townships are surveyed annually and data is sent to Alberta Agriculture for forecasting. The county ditch and fields are sampled at each location.	-Number of fields surveyed -Number of outbreaks that occur
<b>Bertha Army Worms</b> 	- 3 Fields across the county are monitored starting in June until August. The traps are set out in the fields to collect the moths that lay the eggs.	-Number of moths counted annually -Number of outbreaks that are forecasted
<b>Wheat Midge</b> 	- Wheat Midge in high numbers can cause yield loss, wheat crops are monitored around the end of June as wheat heads are emerging up until anthesis (Flowering)	-Samples collected annually and sent to Alberta Agriculture when required
<b>Blackleg of Canola</b> 	- Canola fields are sampled annually for Blackleg severity. Samples are provided to the Crop Diversification Centre for research purposes. Blackleg can cause significant yield loss and harm international exporting	Number of fields sampled annually.
<b>Clubroot</b> 	- Random canola fields are surveyed after the crop has been swathed. We look for visual symptoms and if we find galls the plant sample is sent to the lab for DNA confirmation	-Number of Canola fields sampled annually -Number of Clubroot Management Agreements sent to producers annually as per <i>Policy Statement 62-12-03 "Clubroot"</i> -Number of Pest Notices given Annually

## 6. Soil Conservation Act Duties

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

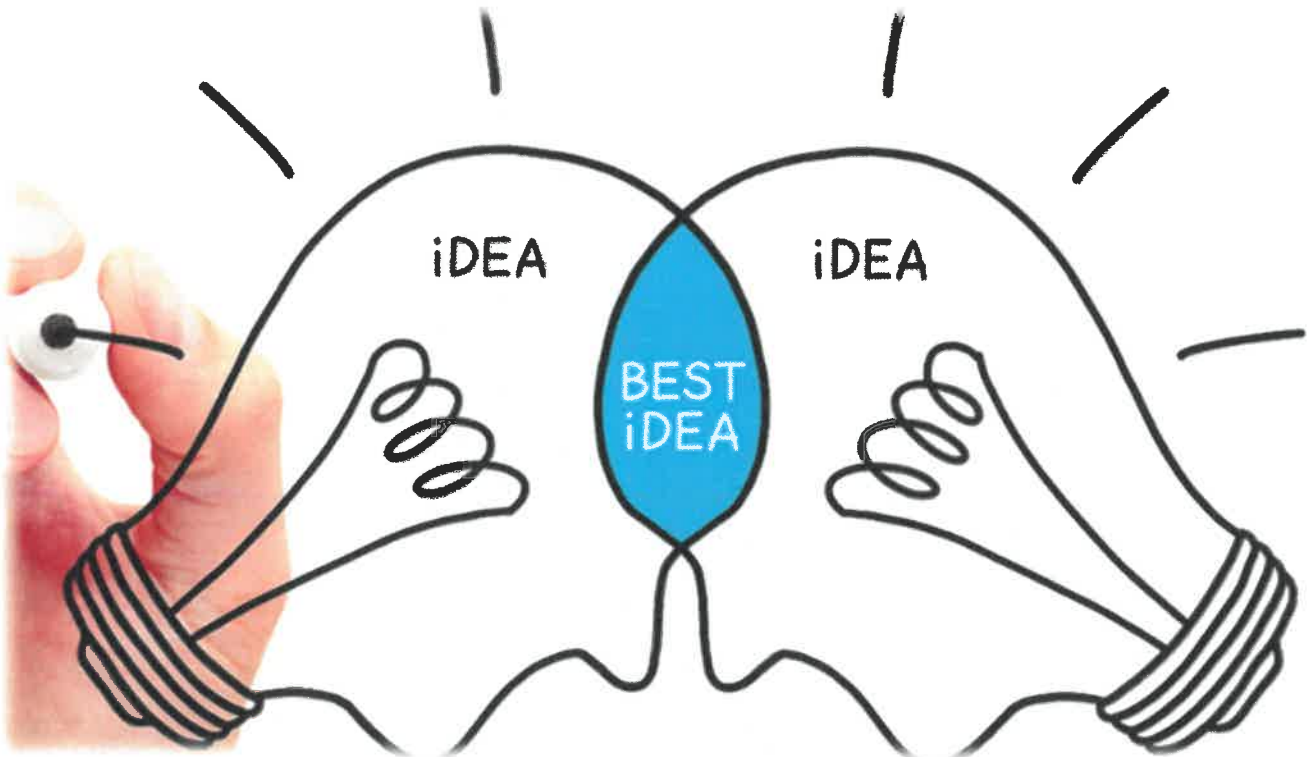
Strategies	Action	Measures
<p><b>Soil Conservation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Agricultural Fieldman are deemed as inspectors and can issue notices under this Act.</li> <li>-Document and photograph any non-compliance with the Soil Conservation Act</li> <li>-Promote soil health workshops and site demonstrations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of Soil Conservation Notice issued</li> <li>-Number of Soil Conservation Letters issued</li> </ul>



## 7. Intergovernmental Collaboration

**Goal:** Conduct intergovernmental collaboration will all levels of governments.

Strategies	Action	Measures
<b>Collaborate with multiple levels and forms of government</b>	-Agricultural Service Board to participate in drafting and passing resolutions at Regional and Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences annually	-Attend annual conferences and participate by discussion and voting on various agricultural issues.
<b>Protect the interests of Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community</b>	-Every effort will be made to convey agricultural concerns from the agricultural community to relevant government agencies via face-to-face interactions, letter writing or any other available means.	-Number of letters sent to MLA's, PM's or other government members



# Ag Service Board Grant Reporting Overview

The following is an over view of the report that is sent to Alberta Agriculture, outlining the outcomes of our programs in 2020.

## **AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT**

- 3 Agricultural Pest Inspectors appointed
- 45 Clubroot fields Inspected - 1 Positive
- 4 Fields inspected for Virulent Blackleg in canola
- 3 Bertha armyworms locations monitored throughout County for AB Ag
- 12 Locations for Grasshoppers monitored for AB Ag
- 2 Fields Sampled for Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat
- 44 Dams blasted
- 41 Beaver tails brought in
- 4 New water stabilizers installed (gizmos)
- 5 repaired/upgraded gizmos
- 15 1080 pills distributed
- 0 Bottles of strychnine sold
- 388 Problem beavers removed
- 504 Pocket Gopher tails brought in
- 0 Rat calls investigated

## **WEED CONTROL ACT**

- 3 Weed Inspectors appointed
- 0 Weed Enforcements
- 1 Weed Notice issued with 17 locations
- 40% of Municipal Rights of way's were sprayed for control of noxious weeds
- 2 Location sprayed for prohibited noxious weeds
- 200 Introduction letters sent
- All County roads mowed once

### **SOIL CONSERVATION ACT**

- 2 Soil Conservation Inspectors appointed
- 0 Soil Conservation letters issued
- Monitoring for different types of soil erosion occurs throughout growing season

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTREACH**

- 3 EFP's completed
- 18 virtual workshops open to all producers
- 1 LARA Trial plot location in the County



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	4.3
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>2021 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Contract</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<p>For the last 5 years Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board has partnered with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) to provide unbiased environmental and extension programming to Smoky Lake County's agricultural community. Smoky Lake County has contributed \$55,000.00 of ASB operational funds to LARA annually, since 2015.</p>			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS PLAN</b>				
<b>3. Environmental Stewardship and Extension</b>				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>BENEFITS</b>	Unbiased research and extension events at a local level for producers.			
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Host Events in-house</li> <li>-Quarterly Communication news letter</li> <li>-Host events on a as needed basis</li> <li>-No extra extension events</li> </ul>			
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		<b>Capital Costs:</b>		
<b>Budget Available:</b>		<b>Source of Funds:</b>		
<b>Budgeted Costs:</b>		<b>Actual Costs:</b>		
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS</b>		Collaborate regionally with Lac La Biche County, MD of Bonnyville and the County of St. Paul through L.A.R.A		
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<p>Option 1: That Smoky Lake County Council sign a contract with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for the 2021 year for continued extension programming at a cost of \$55,000.</p> <p>Option 2: That Smoky Lake County not renew the agreement with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for extension programming for 2021.</p>	
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>	





## Operational Funding Agreement

Between

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association  
(LARA)

and

Smoky Lake County  
(the Municipality)

### 1.0 Term

This agreement will commence January 1, 2021 and subject to termination, according to terms of the agreement, continue through December 31, 2021. This agreement will be renewed on an annual basis.

### 2.0 Conditions

2.1 During the term of this agreement, LARA agrees to:

- a) Allow representation from Smoky Lake County on the LARA Board of Directors according to the bylaws of LARA.
- b) Make public results from LARA research and demonstration programs via newsletters, annual report, meetings, articles, etc. as may be decided by the LARA Board of Directors.
- c) Conduct extension programs and related research and demonstration trials that maybe requested by municipal representatives, residents and the LARA Board of Directors in conjunction with Smoky Lake County.
- d) Have the research trials in Smoky Lake County planted and harvested in a reasonable timeline and maintained weed free. In case of severe weather conditions such as drought, excess moisture, storms and animal damage these conditions will be eased.
- e) Continued partnership with Smoky Lake's County through their Agricultural Service Boards, Lakeland Forage Association, AAFRD and private Ag-Industries.
- f) LARA manager to liaise with the Smoky Lake's County's Agricultural Fieldman or Assistant Agricultural Fieldman on a monthly basis.
- g) LARA manager to provide Smoky Lake's Agricultural Fieldman with current Board of Directors meeting minutes.

2.2 During the term of this agreement the Municipality agrees to:

- a) provide operational funding to LARA in the amount of \$55,000.00 upon signing of agreement
- b) appoint representatives to the LARA Board of Directors according to the bylaws of LARA.
- c) allow LARA to use Agricultural Demonstration Equipment owned by the County at no cost.
- d) provide project ideas to the LARA Board of Directors, via the Agricultural Service Board.
- e) LARA participation at the Agricultural Service Board meetings bi-annually to review project status.

2.3 Smoky Lake County will be doing our own Environmental Farm plans and assisting producers with growing forward 2 applications. This service will not be needed from LARA.

2.4 LARA will provide Smoky Lake County with an outline of the research trails and extension programs LARA wishes to put on for that calendar year.

2.5 In the case where Smoky Lake County finds that LARA is not providing sufficient services, Smoky Lake County holds the right to withhold funds until services are being completed or termination of contract may occur.





**Infrastructure**

- 3.0** To ensure optimal regional coverage by LARA the Municipality will provide:
  - a) Access to telephone and/or fax
  - b) In Kind contributions

**4.0 Hold Harmless**

4.1 LARA agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Smoky Lake County, its employees and agents from any claims, demands, actions and costs whatsoever that may arise directly or indirectly, out of any act or omission of their employees or agents, in performance of this agreement.  
 This hold harmless shall survive the term of this agreement.

**5.0 Termination**

5.1 Smoky Lake County may terminate their involvement in this agreement with 30 days' notice should Lakeland Agricultural Research Association fail to meet Smoky Lake County's conditions in (2.1) listed above.

**6.0 Addresses for Notices**

6.1 Any notice made under the Agreement shall be deemed given to the other parties in writing and personally delivered, sent by registered mail or equivalent, addressed as follows:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association  
 P.O. Box 7068  
 Bonnyville, Alberta  
 T9N 2H4  
 Fax: (780) 826-7099

Smoky Lake County  
 P.O. Box 310  
 Smoky Lake, AB  
 T0A 3C0  
 Fax: (780) 656-3730

**7.0 Signed and sealed by the proper officers this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020**

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Wanda Austin, LARA Chairman

**Smoky Lake County**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Carleigh McMullin, Agricultural Fieldman

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Dan Gawalko, Ag Service Board Chairman



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	<b>4.4</b>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Farm Member</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Charlie Leskiw has sat on the LARA board as a farm member for 5 years and now his term is up. He has expressed interest in continuing to sit on the board as a farm member for another 2 years.			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN</b>				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>BENEFITS</b>				
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>				
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		<b>Capital Costs:</b>		
<b>Budget Available:</b>		<b>Source of Funds:</b>		
<b>Budgeted Costs:</b>		<b>Actual Costs:</b>		
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>				
<p style="color: red;">That the Smoky Lake County Council recommend the reappoint Charlie Leskiw as a Farm Member representative for Smoky Lake County for the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Board for another 2 year term: 2021 to 2023.</p>				
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>				

Meeting of Board of Directors  
Ashmont Agriplex

### LARA Minutes of August 17th , 2020

**Present:**

Wanda Austin	Charlie Leskiw	George Leroux	Stephanie Bilodeau
Luc Tellier	Phil Amyotte	Danny Gawalko	Kellie Nichiporik
Murry Scott	Kevin Wirsta	Cliff Martin	
Ulf Herde	Marc Jubinville	Amanda Mathiot	

**Recording Secretary:** Amanda Mathiot

#### 1.0 Opening

Wanda called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

##### A. Agenda

**Motion 20-21:** Marc **moved** to adopt the agenda as presented. Ulf seconded. **Carried.**

**Motion 20-22:** Marc **moved** to adopt the minutes of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Murry seconded. **Carried.**

#### 2.0 Business Arising

None

#### 3.0 Standing Business

##### A. Chair Report

- a. Attended all of LARA's plot tours, crops looked good considering the weather conditions this year.
- b. Attending RDAR meeting on Tuesday morning, John Knapp will be working on the policy for RDAR.

##### B. ARECA Report (Charlie)

- a. Time spent getting RDAR going
- b. ARECA wants ARA's opinion on Orphan Well Association (OWA) project. Alan sent information sheet and is looking forward to feedback from ARA's.
- c. LARA would be willing to support OWA by hosting town hall meetings and putting information into our newsletters.

**Motion 20-23:** Marc **moved** that LARA support the Orphan Well Association (OWA) through ARECA and OWA. George seconded.

C. FarmRite Report

- a. Attended multiple FarmRite meetings discussing Advocacy
- b. FarmRite has submitted a proposal to the Ag minister and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry asking to consider FarmRite and ARECA to manage CAP funding. Still haven't heard back with a response at this moment.
- c. Vance is attending lots of meetings as he is on one of the boards and is a good support for the ARA's

D. Manager Report

- a. New combine arrived, will be put onto our insurance this week.
- b. All of the summer field days were well attended considering COVID-19. Both Lac La Biche and Smoky Lake were held in a hall due to weather conditions.

E. Research Report (Amanda/Stephanie)

- a. Smoky Lake site is finally out of the water, the three trials in the front have been drowned out as there is a lot of yellowing. The LARA RVT looks good as it was on the highest part of the field.
- b. Starting silaging our RST this week.
- c. Sent one Bale probe out to Smoky Lake. St. Paul and MD of Bonnyville sharing the bale probe.

**Motion 20-24:** Murry **moved** to look into buying another bale probe. Charlie seconded. **Carried**

F. AESA Report

- a. Did MAD about science
- b. CAP has been Busy
- c. Keep our lake blue champion
- d. Soil Health Academy will be held in 2021

G. Financial Report

- a. Amanda presented the financial statements updated to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- b. LARA has received the funding's from the county of St. Paul.
- c. Received \$4,112.00 for the RVT Pulses
- d. Equipment repair and maintenance increased due to regular maintenance on trucks

H. LFA Report (Luc)

- a. Everything is good

**Motion 20-25:** Cliff **moved** to accept the reports as presented. Charlie seconded. **Carried.**

**4.0 New Business**

A. Upcoming Events

- a. Soil Health Academy Webinar

B. Vic's lawn mower

- a. The transmission in the lawn mower at LARA went. Dustin called talked to Chad with John Deere and he is 99% sure that is the issue as there was metal shavings.. It would cost \$1000 just to pull the mower apart to confirm that it is the transmission. Also the transmission is obsolete as they are unable to get parts for the mower
- b. Board recommended getting quotes for a zero turn 60" and 72" mowing deck.
- c. Could ask about promotional space to help with the cost of the mower.

C. By- laws

- a. Chairman on Board of other committees

**Motion 20- 26:** Marc **moved** that our chair Wanda sit on the RDAR committee as a representative of LARA and Collette as an alternative. Charlie seconded. **Carried**

**5.0 Correspondence**

None

**6.0 Board of Directors (closed session)**

**Motion 20-24:** 10:47 am Luc **moved** to go into closed session. Danny seconded. **Carried.**

**Motion 20-25:** 11:25 am Cliff moved to go out of closed session. George seconded. **Carried.**

**7.0 Closure**

**Next Board Meeting:** October 26, 2020 at Ashmont Agriplex at 9:30 am

**Motion 20-29:** Wanda **moved** meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

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LARA Director

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LARA Director

LARA OPERATING BUDGET: Revenue	2020 (Sep 30)	2020 Budget Remaining	2020 Draft Budget	2019 Budget	Actual 2018	Actual 2017	Actual 2016
<b>Government Grants:</b>							
<i>Provincial</i>							
AESA - ASB	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
AESA - AOF	-	-	-	-	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
AOF - Cropping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AOF - Forage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AOF - Supplemental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhanced Funding - AOF	-	-	-	-	\$30,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$48,088.17
Transitional Grant	\$30,916.00	-	\$30,916.00	\$102,000.00	-	-	-
Manpower - AOF	-	-	-	-	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Administration - AOF	-	-	-	-	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Core Funding Grant	\$177,221.00	\$0.00	\$177,221.00	-	-	-	-
AEP Environmental Grant	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	-	-
Pest Monitoring	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,232.15	\$4,974.75	\$963.87
Blackleg Survey	\$0.00	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,795.00
AFSC - Forage Pricing	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	-	-	\$600.00
Other	\$0.00	-	-	-	\$4,556.00	-	\$2,500.00
Federal Government Funding	\$29,767.50						
<i>Canadian Agriculture Partnership</i>							
Soil Health Benchmark Project	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	-	-	-
Soil Health /Winter Grazing	\$17,665.00	\$0.00	\$17,665.00	-	-	-	-
Longevity of Perennial Forages	\$12,290.00	-\$2,290.00	\$10,000.00	-	-	-	-
Liming and Crop Rotation	\$13,380.00	\$0.00	\$13,380.00				
ESN in Spring Cereals	\$4,906.00	\$0.00	\$4,906.00				
<i>Government - Matchable</i>							
MD of Bonnyville	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
County of St. Paul	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
Lac La Biche County	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$52,500.00	\$52,379.00	\$52,739.00
Smoky Lake County	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
Canada Summer Jobs	\$8,400.00	-\$400.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,400.00	\$7,283.00	\$8,784.00	\$9,190.00
<b>Matchable:</b>							
ARECA	\$0.00				\$551.25		\$5,588.95
ACPC/Canola Council of Canada	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00
Alberta Barley Commission	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,690.50	\$1,000.00
Alberta Pulse Growers	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,828.50
Alberta Wheat Commission	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
Alberta Beef Producers	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-	\$135.00	\$2,350.00
RVT Pulse	\$5,168.00	-\$168.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,808.00	\$5,632.30	\$5,693.21
RVT Cereal	\$0.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$14,571.35	\$13,444.80	\$10,356.00
Mosaic	-						
La Co-Op Oats	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,600.00		\$4,320.00
Perennial Forages	-				\$17,253.00	\$13,275.00	\$13,125.00
Canola Performance Trial (CCC)	\$2,352.00	\$6,148.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$10,260.00	\$4,180.00	-
Northern Quinoa	\$8,250.00	\$6,750.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,660.00	\$3,300.00	-
Contract Research	\$12,847.00	\$47,731.00	\$60,578.00	\$65,175.00	\$3,000.00	\$600.00	\$2,240.36
Program Revenue (tours, etc)	\$7,320.00	\$32,680.00	\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$1,920.00	\$20,014.60	\$10,563.00
Memberships	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$40.00
Rebates	\$283.38	\$5,216.62	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$3,200.49	\$5,779.83	\$5,969.43
Donations	\$3,102.00	-\$1,602.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,760.00	\$1,654.60	\$1,552.30
Event Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,350.00	-	-
Interest	\$2,788.82	-\$288.82	\$2,500.00	\$4,631.00	\$2,926.00	\$69.02	\$807.01
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$572,706.70</b>	<b>\$181,609.30</b>	<b>\$754,316.00</b>	<b>\$590,356.00</b>	<b>\$579,431.24</b>	<b>\$624,433.40</b>	<b>\$570,809.80</b>

# Government exits the agricultural research game but questions abound

ew publicly funded body launches drive for ‘farmer-led’ research but details still ‘en’t known



By **Jennifer Blair**  
Reporter

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**News**

ading Time: 7 minutes

ith a flurry of announcements — and a leaked layoff plan — the UCP government has made it ear that it’s largely exiting ag research.

But what comes next is still up in the air.

In mid-October, the province shifted several research programs to universities and colleges while also informing the union representing agriculture employees that 190 jobs will be eliminated.

At the same time, a new government-funded but arm’s-length agency announced its set of broad priorities covering everything from productivity and sustainability to creating new value-added products and getting research results into the hands of farmers.



David Chalack. photo: Supplied

“We’re tailoring our research for the benefit of producers to increase competitiveness and profitability,” said David Chalack, chair of the interim board of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR). “These came from the ground up, and that is important.”

But questions remain about what type of projects will ultimately be approved, how the work will be funded, and who will be doing it.

“There are some positive things happening, but I think there are also a whole bunch of elephants in the room that aren’t being discussed openly,” said Ken Coles, general manager of Farming Smarter.

“Very few people know about what’s actually happening, farmers included.”

RDAR was launched in March as a way to shift the focus of ag research in Alberta to a farmer-led, results-driven model, a move that received strong support from farmers and many

researchers. A 50-member advisory committee — composed of reps from farm groups, industry and applied research associations, and post-secondary institutions — was convened in August. Four smaller working groups looked at four areas: Enhanced productivity, profitability, and competitiveness; sustainable and responsible agriculture; market demands (food safety, quality, value-added products and diversification); and extension and knowledge transfer.

In all, they cited 20 priorities but these, too, were general in nature. For example, the enhanced productivity priorities are: Improved animal and crop health; production efficiency; feed utilization; enhanced pest and disease management; and genetic improvements.



Stan Blade. photo: Supplied

But these are integral to the “profitability and competitiveness of our producers,” said University of Alberta agriculture dean, Stan Blade, who is interim chair of RDAR’s research committee.

“Research and innovation will be the thing that’s going to continue to keep us on the upward trend, and RDAR is going to be a key component of that,” said Blade. “This is a real chance to grow our industry and to bring new ideas and new people into the industry.”

“As the RDAR interim board, we’re very proud of both the process and the results that have come out in this list of priorities.”

## Prioritizing the priorities

But because the list of priorities is broad, “pretty much anything will fit,” said Coles.

And since RDAR’s annual budget is only \$37 million, decisions will have to be made.

“There is a finite amount of money that’s going to be available, and unfortunately when the priorities were being discussed, we really didn’t know exactly how much money was going to be available to be directed to specific projects,” added Dianne Westerlund, manager of Chinook Applied Research Association.

“If we had had knowledge of the actual amount that’s going to be available for projects, I would suspect that priority list would have been much more specific.”

“The jury’s out as to how it’s all going to play out in the end, and in my opinion, that’s because of the uncertainties of how much money is actually going to be available for projects.”

Coles agrees.





*n Coles. photo:  
plied*

“My biggest concern is that a list of priorities is basically a wish list without a budget,” said Coles. “We need to start assigning budget breakdowns to the different categories and get a little more specific on that front before there’s any meaningful meat to it.”

But that process is underway.

Eight days after releasing its priorities, RDAR issued its first call for proposals — \$4 million for “producer-led” research projects on soil health and quality; water quality and efficiency; feed production; and plant and animal diseases and pests.

## **‘balancing act’**

Leaving the door open to a wide range of projects is not unusual for research funders, said Alan Hall, executive director of the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta, the umbrella group for six farmer-directed applied research organizations and two forage associations.

“I would say that’s been a bit by design — to take a broad approach and then see what comes forward in terms of specifics when they put out their calls for proposals,” said Hall, who worked at the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) before its closure in 2018.

“It gives them a little more flexibility and a little more latitude.”

ACIDF went through a similar experience during its inception, starting out with broad priorities and then narrowing them down as proposals came in. In one meeting Hall recalled, the ACIDF board had to whittle a list of 14 priorities down to three — a “never-ending process” that required plenty of homework and “good, knowledgeable people around the table.”

That’s how RDAR plans to operate, with its interim board, staff, and technical experts evaluating proposals both on their merit and how they fit within the four categories. The priorities will also evolve through an ‘ever-greening process’ aimed at responding to new issues and opportunities.

“It’s a bit of a balancing act, and they’ve chosen to take a similar approach — keep the priorities fairly broad at this stage of the game,” said Hall. “I would expect that with experience and a bit of time, we’ll see a tightening up of some of the priorities.”

## **Funding fears**

However, that leaves applied research groups in a bind as it’s unclear how much money will go toward new projects, and how much to existing programs and operational expenses.

“How that shakes out when projects are being evaluated is the risk,” said Westerlund. “Not everything is going to be funded, so there’s going to have to be some decisions made.”

Applied research associations have been getting about \$1.5 million annually from the Agriculture Opportunity Fund, but it was axed last year. Core funding is now supposed to come through RDAR, but the details aren’t known.

“We’re facing a lot of uncertainty because we don’t have a core grant continued yet,” said Coles.

RDAR now has us wondering if they can support programmatic functions as opposed to just projects. Everything seems to be targeted toward RDAR, and as they’re setting up as an organization, these are tough things to contend with.

For the applied research associations, we haven’t had any certainty for a number of years. But that core support is important, especially for a lot of the groups that are smaller and more dependent on it.”

Coles also worries provincial budget cuts to municipalities will chip away at that support even further.

“As the cuts go down to the municipalities, unfortunately support of outside groups is likely to be the first thing cut,” he said. “So you’ve got this trickle-down effect where you’ve lost your core support and now you’ve lost your local support.

“I’m pretty concerned about how things are going to turn out.”

## **Dwindling research capacity**

Topping the list of RDAR’s operating principles is: “Be a highly respected, forward-thinking leader in agriculture research funding.”

But the agency’s creation is accompanied by the government’s decision to largely get out of research. In its letter to the union, the province said 135 of the 190 jobs being cut would be in the Primary Agriculture division. Without giving specific numbers, it said the new focus on a “farmer-led delivery model” would see job losses in a number of research or research-related areas.

“I think there are a lot of concerns overall about the long-term sustainability of our research capacity within the province,” said Coles.

“There isn’t really going to be enough capacity available to do more work at this point in time. I’ve been raising that red flag a fair bit lately. We focus so much on how we’re going to divvy it up

and we don't think about who's going to do the work."

This round of cuts and those a year ago will have an impact, said Hall.

"There's just going to be a significant drop in capacity for the work that's going to be happening because Alberta Ag is no longer on the scene," he said. "Those people carried a lot of knowledge and were carrying out a lot of the research. It's left some holes. How those holes will be addressed has yet to be determined."

And while the province is providing transitional funding that will allow post-secondary institutions to take over several programs (and put several provincial researchers on their payroll), the long-term picture isn't clear. Alberta's post-secondary system is facing a 20 per cent reduction in provincial funding over the next three years.

"Universities have taken some pretty significant cuts, so they're having to rejig things," said Hall. "Somewhere along the way, that may or may not have an impact on scientists. We do have a bit of a capacity issue here in the province right now. How that will be dealt with will be a longer-term issue."

Research capacity is an ongoing discussion for post-secondary institutions, said Blade.

"We're always trying to make sure we have the capability to address the issues that are coming up for Alberta's producers and food processors," he said. "We will continue to work with the government, our commodity partners, and the private sector to ensure that we can deliver on those necessary priorities."

## **Trickle-down effect**

Extension is another key piece that's missing right now. Knowledge transfer was identified as a key priority among RDAR's members, with some ranking it higher than market development.

"It was interesting how strongly it came up across the 50 members of the consultation," said Blade. "We've seen a lot of change in the way the agri-food sector has addressed knowledge transfer in the past, but our members are very clear they want to see, as we start to invest in new research projects, a very thoughtful, intentional plan about how the knowledge that will be generated will actually get into the hands of producers and other end-users."

But that area has faced cuts as well, notably the closure of the Ag-Info Centre and the layoffs of its eight specialists.

"Some of the specialists were key components of our extension plans because we were able to rely on their expertise and share that with our local producers," said Westerlund. "The same

could be said about the researchers.

“The dilution of the support and the expertise within the provincial system is definitely going to be an important element as we move forward.”

In most regions, applied research associations are now the only game in town when it comes to knowledge transfer, added Hall.

Colleges don't have that capability, universities don't have that capability. Alberta Ag is now gone — its whole office structure in rural Alberta is gone. What's left of capacity in rural areas comes down to the associations.”

Applied research associations can be “part of the solution” as long as they have the funding to do that work, said Coles.

The changes that are happening now are going to be felt for many years to come, so I hope farmers will pay attention to what's happening and get involved. This is a big deal.”

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22 GOALS

31% GOAL COMPLETION

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PLAN  
(ASB) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal	2018	2019	2020	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date	Due Date
<b>Crop Surveying: 100%</b>				<p><b>NEW Carleigh McMullin:</b>  <b>Achievements:</b> Completed 45 total Clubroot surveys.  <b>Challenges:</b> Challenging finding as many canola fields as we typically do because a lot of producers had already worked their canola under; and a lot of producers opted to not seed canola this year due to the Spring weather and 2019 unharvested acres.  <b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i>                      2020/11/27</p>	100% 100 / 100%	2017/12/31	2020/12/30

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:** 1) E-mail sent on October 30th requesting that we trap the beavers that are causing issues at Hanmore lake.

2) Asked on October 19th to send MLA Glenn van Dijken all the information we have on file in regards to the Declaration of Ag Disaster

3) E-mail sent on November 17th requesting all documents associated with our Ag Disaster

**Challenges:** 1) Due to the weather warming back up and thawing what little ice had formed the trapper was unable to reach the house to trap the beavers. Although we were unsuccessful this Fall, we have it as a priority location for the Spring when the trapper returns.

100%  
100 / 100%

2) Sent e-mail to MLA on October 20th, 2020. E-mail included our press release, the response we received from the Minister of Ag, as well as our motion.

3) Sent e-mail that included our press release, letter to the Ag Minister to tour our County, Letter to the Ag Minister notifying of our declaring an Ag Disaster, the response we received from the Ag Minister, the unseeded acre information received from AFSC, as well as motion # 894-20 of us declaring an Ag Disaster.

**Next Steps:** *No value*  
2020/11/27

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

84%  
84.39 / 100%  
13% behind

**Achievements: meetings & Training Oct 14-Nov 27**

Attended the October 21st Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting.

Attended PYMA Fall 2020 Workshop (free and virtual)

Carleigh budget meeting with Brenda and Gene

Attended NE ASB Virtual Conference October 27th, 2020.

Main Office Staff Meeting October 27th, 2020.

AAAF meeting October 28th, 2020.

Attended Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting on November 19th, 2020.

Attended Form 7 virtual and free training on November 24th, 2020

Attended Wetland Mapper Demo on November 24th, 2020.

Carleigh attended County budget meeting on November 26th, 2020.

Carleigh completed BEM and ICS-100 Training

Attended AIA's Seed Testing Webinar (free)

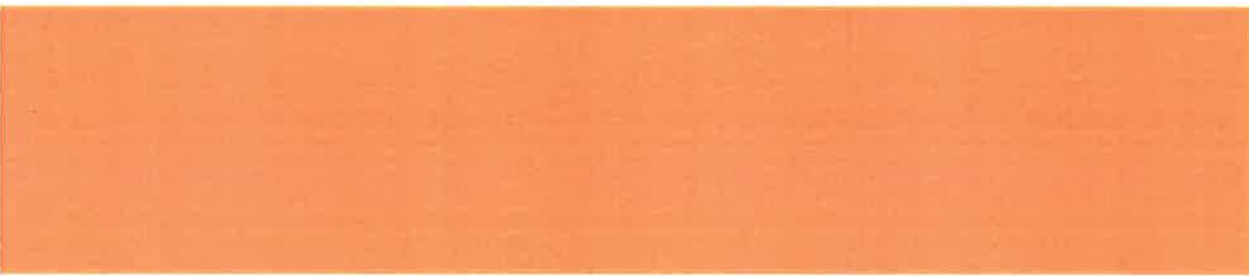
Attended AIA's Precision Manure Management Webinar (free)

**Administrative Highlights**

Completed Capital budget forms

Signed ASB Grant Agreement-received funds.

Completed all Action List items from Oct 14th meeting





Carneign perennuity helped with taxes throughout all of October as the deadline approached

Completed herbicide, vehicle mileage, and toxicant inventory.

Completed LICA grant funding application

Completed MOU for Alberta Conservation Association

Amanda has completed 3 EFP's for producers

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** Attending Clubroot workshop (free) on November 30th virtually being hosted by Lamont County

Attending our In Service Training on December 1-2nd, 2020

Need to complete explosives inventory

2020/11/27

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin: Achievements: Blasting is completed for the season.

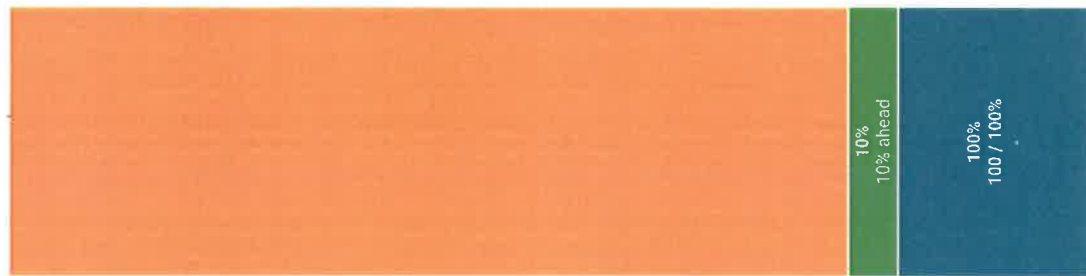
**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2020/11/27

→ Budget Review/ Meeting

**Blasting Activity (ASB): 100%**

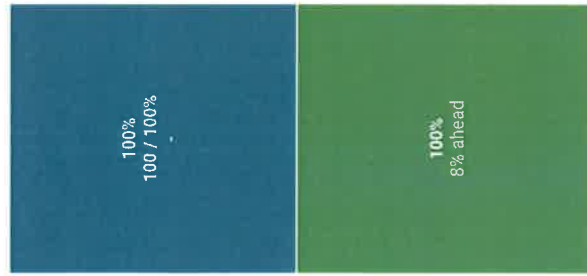


Pest Control (ASB): 100%

2021/12/31

2020/12/30

**NEW Carleigh McMullin:**  
**Achievements:** Finished the season with 388 beavers. Trapper was finished on November 13th, 2020.  
 Attended Form 7 1080 toxicant training  
**Challenges:** *No value*  
**Next Steps:** *No value*  
 2020/11/27



Safety Activity (ASB)

2020/01/01

2020/12/31

**NEW Carleigh McMullin:**  
**Achievements:** Attended both the October 21st and November 19th Joint Health & Safety Committee meetings  
 Carleigh completed BEM and ICS-100 Training  
**Challenges:** *No value*  
**Next Steps:** *No value*  
 2020/11/27



**(ASB) MANAGER'S PLAN**

Goal	Q1 '20	Q2 '20	Q3 '20	Q4 '20	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date	Due Date
(ASB) Human Resources / Training / OH&S	0%	91% behind				0%	2020/01/01	2020/12/31
(ASB) Financial Accountability	50%	41% behind				50%	2020/01/01	2020/12/31
(ASB) Organizational Efficiency	0%	91% behind				0%	2020/01/01	2020/12/31

**(ASB) PROJECTS**

Goal	2020	2021	2022	2023	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date	Due Date
2020 REPLACE MOWER/SPRAYER/CUTTER: 100%	0%	0 / 100%				0%	2019/12/31	2020/12/30
2023 REPLACE MOWER: 100%						0%	2022/12/31	2023/12/30
→ Budget - 2023 REPLACE MOWER: \$31.2k						0%	2023/01/01	2023/12/31
2023 REPLACE CUTTER: 100%						0%	2022/12/31	2023/12/30
→ Budget - 2023 REPLACE CUTTER: \$31.2k						0%	2023/01/01	2023/12/31

2023 REPLACE 454 TRAILER:  
100%

2023/12/30

2023 REPLACE 455 JOHN DEER  
TRACTOR: 100%

2023/12/30

(ASB) FINANCIAL MEASURES/BUDGET

Goal	2020	2021	2022	2023	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date	Due Date
2020 Agriculture Service Board: \$887.48k	Orange bar					63% 563.48k / \$887.48k \$563.48k behind	2020/01/01	2020/12/31
2021 Agriculture Service Board: \$904.3k		Green bar				0% 0 / \$904.3k	2021/01/01	2021/12/31
2022 Agriculture Service Board: \$922.38k			Green bar			0% 0 / \$922.38k	2022/01/01	2022/12/31
2023 Agriculture Service Board: \$940.83k				Green bar		0% 0 / \$940.83k	2023/01/01	2023/12/31
Budget Review/ Meeting	Green bar					10% ahead	2020/01/01	2020/12/31

# INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2020 – SMOKY LAKE

## 2020 Summary

There were 4 bertha armyworm sites in Smoky Lake in 2020, a one was edging close to the first warning level of 300 moths. The two had relatively low moth catches and the third was somewhere in between. Could there be a building population of bertha in your county? Monitoring in 2021 will be very important.

Pea leaf weevil damage was evident again in the survey conducted in late May – early June. It will be important to watch this insect over the next few years to determine if it will become a problem in your area. If this trend continues seed treatment may be required to control this insect.

Wheat midge numbers are still relatively low in your area but we found midge in two of the four samples we took. Fields should be scouting for wheat midge as the crop starts to head out. Experience has shown that the wheat midge population increases in wet years especially when seeding is delayed.

No cabbage seedpod weevil were found in your area. The population in central Alberta seems to have been reduced to very low numbers.

## BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

Amanda, thank you for all your help with this survey.

Bertha armyworm is very cyclical. In order to catch outbreaks and help producers minimize losses it is necessary to maintain a good monitoring system using pheromone traps. The number of moths caught in the traps informs us of the risk of damaging populations with a 3 to 5 week lead time. These numbers are generated from paired pheromone traps in single fields.

Bertha armyworm populations are normally kept in check by such factors as weather and natural enemies. Potential damage may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather and crop conditions and localized population dynamics. Research has clearly shown that very few fields are ever affected in an area with moth catches less than 300. Even at higher moth counts field scouting is critical for pest management decisions because experience has shown that field to field and even within field variations can be very large.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NE-10-59-19-W4	286
NE-11-59-17-W4	165.5

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
SW-36-59-18-W4	113.5
SE-25-58-14-W4	200.5

Shaded cells were managed by County

## CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

In southern Alberta, including all counties south of and touching Highway 1, the earliest flowering canola crops will be at the highest risk from cabbage seedpod weevil and should be monitored very closely.

Cabbage seedpod weevil overwinters as an adult so the risk of infestation is further indicated by the adult population of the preceding fall. Winter condition also appear to have an impact on populations with mild winter favoring build-up of populations and expansion of their range.

We track the population of other insects in these sweeps as well. These go into long term data sets that will help us research their population trends over time from individual fields.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					CSPW IN 25 SWEEPS	LYGUS NYMPH	LYGUS ADULT	LEAFHOPPER	FLEA BEETLE	RED TURNIP BEETLE	DBM LARVA	DBM ADULT	WASP <5 MM	WASP >5MM	HONEY BEE	BEE BUT NOT HONEY	CATERPILLAR
sw	3	58	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
sw	23	59	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
sw	15	59	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0

Samples done with standard sweep net. (15" diameter & 3 foot handle). 25-180 degree sweeps.

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff.

### PEA LEAF WEEVIL (PLW)

Experience has shown us that high numbers of pea leaf weevil adults in fall will likely mean significant infestation levels in the following spring. The timing and intensity of spring damage is strongly related to the onset of warm conditions (>20oC) for more than a few days in April or May. The earlier the weevils arrive in fields the higher yield loss potential. Extended cool weather delays weevil movement into the field. Yield impact is lower if the crop advances past the 6 node stage before the weevils arrive. The numbers represented here are generated from assessing feeding damage on 10 plants in 5 locations in a field.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					AVERAGE NODE STAGE	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
ne	20	60	17	4	5.16	52	1.04
se	14	59	17	4	4.76	225	4.5

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff.

### WHEAT MIDGE (SOIL) (WM)

Wheat midge is an insect that increases in numbers in wet years. Numbers can vary drastically from field to field and we try to sample wheat adjacent to the previous years' wheat in order to pick up populations if they are present. There is no definitive way to know exactly the risk in any given field so field scouting when the wheat comes into head is critical. The numbers shown here give a general trend of midge populations. Individual fields will have a different risk.

These numbers are generated by taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standardized soil probe. The risk level as shown on our maps is as follows:

- 0 midge will be displayed as light grey (No infestation)
- 2 or less midge will be shown as dark grey (<600/m<sup>2</sup>)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m<sup>2</sup>)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m<sup>2</sup>)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m<sup>2</sup>)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	NOT VIABLE	PARASITOID
nw	17	60	19	4	0	0	0	0
sw	1	58	15	4	0	0	0	0
ne	19	59	16	4	2	2	0	0
se	27	58	18	4	4	4	0	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff.

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CHECK OFF OPTION**

- WHEREAS** Producers must pay mandatory checkoff's on various agricultural products;
- WHEREAS** Producers have no voluntary option to chose where they send these checkoff dollars;
- WHEREAS** This process seems to violate freedom of choice and would be an excellent candidate for red tape reduction;
- WHEREAS** Agricultural Research Associations have conducted variety trials and provided proof of concept for farming practices for decades, efforts that are often unsung, and face a funding crunch under the changes to Agricultural Research funding in the Province of Alberta.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council create the option for producers to allocate check-off dollars directly to their local Applied Research Association or various approved Agricultural Research and Development Organizations or Agricultural Service Board.

**SPONSORED BY:** MD of Peace No. 135

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

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

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

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

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producer Council, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Seed Processors Association, Alberta Seed Growers Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Chicken Producers, Potato Growers of Alberta and other appropriate bodies.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, check-off dollars are mandatory for every producer marketing their products in Alberta. The receiving facility must then remit these funds to the appropriate commission. If a producer wants their funds back, they must remit for reimbursement in two narrow windows in January and August.

The sustainable funding of Agricultural Research Associations, which have been providing proof of concept and regional variety trial work for decades, is in doubt. With recent changes to the funding of Agricultural Research within Alberta and discussions from the current interim chair of RDAR indicating the potential for Alberta tax dollars funding out-of-province research, the Province of Alberta should allow producers to direct check-off dollars to these valuable organizations, should they so choose.

### [Alberta's new vision for ag research](#)

Published: August 13, 2020  
**Opinion**- Western Producer

At the core of the plan is the creation of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), a non-profit, producer-led company that will operate at arm's length from the government of Alberta. This new organization will determine and fund industry-wide research priorities to enhance producers' competitive advantage.

Alberta is embarking on a bold new direction in agriculture research where the spending priorities will be set by producers who grow the crops and raise the livestock. It's a model like none other you will find anywhere in Canada.

On March 30, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Devin Dreeshen announced a new vision for provincial agriculture research following a series of consultations with farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders throughout the province. The process revealed that producers, in collaboration with other partners, including scientists, educational institutions and private industry, are better positioned than government officials to determine research priorities.

At the core of the plan is the creation of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), a non-profit, producer-led company that will operate at arm's length from the government of Alberta. This new organization will determine and fund industry-wide research priorities to enhance producers' competitive advantage.

I am proud to chair the interim board of directors of RDAR, which is currently in its formative stages. Our board consists of a broad cross-section of respected individuals from livestock and crops boards and commissions, applied research associations, farm organizations, academia and individual producers.



Our goal is to incorporate the new company by the fall of 2020 and we have been extremely busy, holding eight board meetings since April 1. At our meeting in Red Deer on July 6 the board adopted two founding principles:

**Mandate:** To support results-driven research priorities and programs that will increase competitiveness and profitability of the Alberta agriculture industry.

**Vision:** Alberta's agriculture and food sectors achieve their full potential through producer-led, strategic investments in research and innovation.

RDAR will be entrusted with investing \$37 million per year in agriculture research funding. We are currently being funded through a \$2 million Canadian Agricultural Partnership grant administered by the Alberta Barley Commission until the new company is incorporated.

Our initial goals reflect a collective commitment to providing maximum benefit to producers and leveraging opportunities with public, private and producer funders.

One of our first priorities has been to consult early and often with the key players in agriculture research in Alberta — and some beyond our borders.

Working with our interim management team led by chief executive officer Gerald Hauer and consultants with deep experience in the sector, we have hosted 10 separate webinars with more than 250 participants to gauge the views of our partners on issues such as: the core focus areas of our funding, how far up the value chain we should invest, our philosophy on investing beyond our borders and the makeup of the permanent board and advisory committee, to name a few.

Change can be intimidating, but it's also an opportunity for a new beginning. The RDAR board has embraced that challenge and we look forward to the startup of the new company.

*David Chalack is interim board chair of RDAR, a veterinarian from the Calgary-Cochrane area and a Canadian Agriculture Hall of Famer. Chalack has held numerous chair positions including the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, and is the former president and chair of the Calgary Stampede. He has also developed international experience in his roles at Alta Genetics Inc.*

**PROTECT FARMERS RIGHTS TO USE FARM SAVED SEED**

- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted consultations on implementing a system to collect royalties on farm saved seed in 2018/19; and
- WHEREAS:** Paying royalties on farm saved seed will increase the price of seed and decrease profit margins for farmers; and
- WHEREAS:** Royalties on farm saved seed could limit seed choices for farmers as seed companies move to deregister old varieties, which could mean farmers would be forced to pay royalties and to grow only newer varieties; and
- WHEREAS:** AAFC and CFIA have not outlined details on how much a royalty would be, how it would be collected or how royalties would be dispersed; and
- WHEREAS:** The Canadian Plant Technology Agency launched a pilot project in spring 2020 to test value use agreements whereby farmers would be required to pay royalties on farm saved seed; and
- WHEREAS:** A royalty system has potential to decrease farmers’ ability to make sound agronomic decisions and operate profitably; and
- WHEREAS:** Other options to fund crop variety research are available, including increased investment of grain commission check-off funds in variety research; and
- WHEREAS:** Options other than royalty systems to increase investment in crop variety development are required in order to maintain Canada’s competitive advantage in the global market; and

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

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada abandon the proposal to implement the adoption of End Point Royalties or farm saved seed “trailing royalty contracts” and pursue investment options for globally competitive crop variety development that have direct and tangible on farm benefits.

**SPONSORED BY:** Parkland County

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

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

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

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

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency

## **Background**

In 2018, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada conducted a series of consultations on proposals for royalty collection models for cereal grains. The royalty collection models are one mechanism to fund cereal grain variety development. Historically, the majority of cereal grain variety development was conducted by public institutions with public funds. However, public cereal variety research and development has decreased over time.

In order for Canada to remain competitive in the international cereal grain market, new variety research is required. With the reduction in public funding for this research, new funding models for variety development are required.

The new seed royalty proposal brought forward by the federal government will require farmers to pay additional seed royalties on farm saved seed. Previously farm saved seed could be kept, cleaned, conditioned, and grown by farmers for years without having to pay royalties back to seed companies or the original plant breeders.

The new seed royalty proposals are end point royalties or trailing royalties otherwise known as the Seed Variety Use Agreement (SVUA). End point royalties will mandate that farmers pay seed royalties on Plant Breeders' Rights protected varieties at the time the crop is sold, while trailing royalties or the SVUA will have Canadian producers paying an annual fee that grants them the permission to grow their own farm saved seed each year. It is unclear how royalties would be collected if a farmer sells seed to a neighbor.

The intended use of these new royalties is to fund plant breeding and research by private industry. Similar royalty schemes have been implemented in Australia and France.

The royalty amount and method they are paid are still unknown, however, pilot projects on royalty collection are being conducted by the seed industry.

The proposed changes to the current seed royalty regulations being brought forward will have a negative financial impact on Canadian farmers.

The change to seed royalties will essentially take away "Farmers Privilege," which was the term used for farmers to freely grow farm saved seed. Government will argue that farmers are still entitled to the "Farmers Privilege," although now it is a privilege that must be paid for.

**AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR CONTROL OF RICHARDSON GROUND  
SQUIRRELS IN ALBERTA**

**WHEREAS:** Strychnine will no longer be available for Richardson Ground Squirrel Control as of March 4, 2023 and

**WHEREAS:** There is no efficacious, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to strychnine.

**WHEREAS:** Richardson Ground Squirrels can multiply quickly and can be very destructive to both annual and perennial crops and cause livestock injuries.

**WHEREAS:** It appears little research has recently been carried out on alternate, effective control measures.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

the Pest Management Regulatory Agency have Strychnine registration extended until an effective and safe alternative control be found and/or Alberta Agriculture and Forestry make significant funding available for research into a sustainable, long term solution for control of Richardson ground squirrels.

**SPONSORED BY:** Flagstaff County

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

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

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

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

**STATUS:** Federal, Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Producers had access to strychnine up until 1993. After that they were restricted to using a pre- treated grain bait. Due to severe drought in 2001 and very significant damage to annual crops and pastures, access was again granted to producers to 2% strychnine solution. The PMRA, the registering body for pesticides in Canada, has reviewed the registration for 2% strychnine solution and decided not to renew the registration. Repeated research has shown there is a high level of non-target species being negatively affected from scavenging of dead squirrels and unintended poisoning.

However, there is little, recent research available on alternative methods to control Richardson Ground Squirrel populations.

Richardson ground squirrels continue to be a problem to both graziers and annual crop farmers. There does not appear to be any recent research conducted into a more effective, targeted control method and this motion looks to address this issue.

## **REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE**

**WHEREAS:** Under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has stated that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, have been cancelled;

**WHEREAS:** Studies conducted by the PMRA and the province of Alberta indicated that risks associated with label-approved use to non-target species was low;

**WHEREAS:** Richardson's Ground Squirrels are considered agricultural pests due to the substantial damage they cause to crops, livestock, and equipment which can result in economic losses for farmers;

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

**WHEREAS:** To help maintain a level of Richardson ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

That the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Forestry lobby with all other Provincial Ministries of Agriculture to encourage Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to reinstate 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a temporary basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

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

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create and maintain a system that provides producers participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program the opportunity to purchase and use Strychnine safely.

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS:** Provincial & Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Health Canada and the PMRA have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine. According to the review conclusion the recommendation is to remove the use of 2% Liquid Strychnine for use on ground squirrels. Richardson Ground Squirrels continue to pose a significant threat to agricultural production and strychnine has been used to reduce the impacts of severe infestations.

Strychnine being a single feed bait is efficient and effective and allows producers to treat small area and large area infestations when other parts of their integrated pest management practices have failed. Using multi-feed baits can be ineffective due to the fact that there are too many other options for Richardson's Ground Squirrels to eat. Using shooting and trapping methods can be time consuming especially during peak times of production (seeding, spraying, irrigating, calving, branding, etc.).

2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management toolbox as a consistent, effective tool in controlling Richardson's Ground Squirrel infestations.



## **REINSTATING PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for supporting environmentally sustainable resource management practices;

**WHEREAS:** Staffing levels in the Agriculture and Forestry department have been reduced significantly;

**WHEREAS:** Municipal staff have been required to provide assistance to agricultural producers and acreage owners;

**WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Forestry staff members having years of experience represent institutional experience that cannot be replaced;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstates funding for extension staff that will assist agricultural, apicultural, and horticultural producers throughout Alberta.

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

**MOVED BY:**

**SECONDED BY:**

**CARRIED:**

**DEFEATED:**

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In October of 2019, the provincial budget showed 51 positions would be eliminated, which ultimately occurred in December. The 2020 provincial budget released in February detailed plans for an additional 277 job cuts, which would be 40% of all government reductions this year. Many of these staff members have years of experience with the province, and represent many years of institutional experience that cannot be replaced.

Several of these many cuts were positions based in the Ag-Info Centre, a trusted resource for producers around the province. The staff members whose positions were eliminated provided unbiased information based on years of research, much of which was performed by provincial researchers. While industry representatives are available to producers to provide information on livestock and grain production methods, the private sector may lead to more biased information being relied upon. If so, this will increase costs for producers that once relied on an impartial source like the Ag-Info Centre.

Municipal staff members have also begun assisting agricultural producers more at the same time that municipalities around the province have seen dramatic reductions in revenue. Rather than refer to documents that were once available on Ropin' the Web, municipal staff must now refer to a small amount of industry representatives when the information cannot be found.

**DELEGATION OF ASB'S AND AAAF TO AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AND  
COMMODITY GROUPS**

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been more vocal regarding provincial agricultural issues;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been increasingly discussing municipal/provincial policies and legislation;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have a lack of legislative and municipal/provincial government experts on their board;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have made legislative and policy recommendations that negatively impacted the agricultural industry.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

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

That the Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations listed below be contacted and requested to have an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) representative chosen by the ASB Provincial Committee and a technical advisor chosen by the AAAF to be present as a delegation during policy and legislative discussions at their Board/Director meetings and/or Annual General Meetings & Special Meetings.

**Sponsored by:** Northern Sunrise County

**Moved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carried:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Defeated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Status:** Provincial

**Department:** Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producer Council, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Seed Processors Association, Alberta Seed Growers Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Chicken Producers, Potato Growers of Alberta

## **Background information**

Discussions during the Fusarium Action Committee, the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee, as well as the Fusarium Ministerial Roundtable recent meetings these last few years, a consistent pattern emerged of the lack of awareness of the provincial legislation and municipal policies as indicated in the *Agricultural Service Board Act* Section 2.

### **Agricultural service board duties**

2 The duties of an agricultural service board are

- (a) to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern,
- (b) to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs,
- (c) to assist in the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act,
- (d) to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- (e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

The lack of awareness is the cause of major strife, misunderstanding, missed opportunities, and unexplored options.

## **PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS:** Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment & Parks to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities, which many of these sites are in need of repair; and

**WHEREAS:** Municipal governments in cooperation with transfer station and landfill operators manage the day to day maintenance and supervision of the sites and cover the costs associated with the transfer of containers from temporary depots to permanent sites without any funding from Alberta Environment and Parks; and

**WHEREAS:** The highest rinse rate compliance on pesticide containers are in the provinces that are currently running the program through the Agricultural Retail Industry as a result of their zero tolerance policy and container rejection if they do not meet the requirements due to their constant supervision; and

**WHEREAS:** Collection programs are poised to become increasingly expensive and labor intensive with the addition of bale & silage wrap, Ag-film, twine and grain bag collection programs, and

**WHEREAS:** Alberta and Manitoba are the only provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products.

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

That Alberta Environment and Parks develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

**SPONSORED BY:** Vulcan County  
**MOVED BY:**  
**SECONDED BY:**  
**CARRIED:**  
**DEFEATED:**  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Environment & Parks

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an industry led voluntary extended producer responsibility program delivered by CleanFARMS. The program operates to collect, clean and recycle empty commercial class pesticide containers (less than 23 litres) from farmers and other pesticide users. Upon collection, the containers are shredded, cleaned and recycled into various value added plastic products.

CleanFARMS is a non-profit industry stewardship organization that funds this program through a levy collected from its pesticide manufacturer members on each container sold into the marketplace.

There are approximately 1200 collection sites throughout Canada (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island) that utilize Agricultural Retail Facilities while two provinces (Alberta and Manitoba) rely upon municipal collection facilities.

Most Alberta municipalities have been involved with the Pesticide container collection program since its inception and established permanent collection facilities with one-time funding from Alberta Environment. Municipalities have not received any funding to maintain or operate these collection facilities since 1989, while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces have handled this responsibility.

Vulcan County operates one main collection site and 4 satellite sites to increase access for pesticide container disposal. Due to the size of Vulcan County if we closed our 4 satellite sites we risk the increase of pesticide containers not being returned to our main collection facility in Vulcan. Our main site and our 4 temporary sites are over 30 years old and in need of repair, over the years we have put considerable time and money to ensure that they are operated properly at the expense of the municipality while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces handle this responsibility.

According to CleanFARMS, Alberta has an empty pesticide container rinse rate of 90% as opposed to Saskatchewan's 95%. Ontario and East have the best rinse rate at 99+%. The higher rinse rate in Ontario and the East is attributed to a zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers. The containers are rejected if they do not meet the requirements. A retail-based collection system would be able to provide consistent supervision and would increase the rinse-rate of empty herbicide containers.

Alberta should move towards a dealer collection program, it would provide CleanFARMS the opportunity to develop a system similar to the one that exists in Ontario and East. They would be able to implement a program with zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers.



## **WEED ISSUES ON OIL AND GAS SITES IN RURAL ALBERTA**

**WHEREAS:** the Province of Alberta has experienced an extended period of economic challenge in the oil and gas industry. This has resulted in many resource companies becoming insolvent, forced into receivership, or ultimately claiming bankruptcy;

**WHEREAS:** there are over 1,000 oil and gas wells in the M.D. of Taber where regular lease maintenance is not being carried out as per the terms of private surface lease agreements. These include wells transferred to the Orphan Wells Association (OWA), companies in receivership or in bankruptcy proceedings, or companies currently still operating and producing product;

**WHEREAS:** there are no legislated timelines for oil and gas companies to reclaim inactive wells. This has resulted in 90,000 inactive wells in Alberta;

**WHEREAS:** the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been reluctant to suspend well licenses or limit access to these sites for companies that are in non-compliance of their surface leases terms. These terms could include issues such as weed control, contamination issues, fence maintenance, non-payment of surface rentals, and/or non-payment of municipal taxes

**WHEREAS:** the agricultural community in Alberta have been left to deal with the liabilities of countless oil and gas wells that have been abandoned by bankrupt companies or companies that are unwilling or financially unable to maintain their sites.

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

that Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy and the Alberta Energy Regulator, who are responsible for energy development, to put in place appropriate legislation and standards to protect landowners from undue hardship as a result of oil and gas company neglect of oil and gas site maintenance issues, namely weed control.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Taber  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Environment and Parks  
Alberta Energy  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The ongoing depressed oil and natural gas prices has dramatically affected the industry, the provincial Government, and the residents of Alberta. One of the unforeseen consequences to the landowners of the

M.D. of Taber has been the effects of unaddressed weed issues stemming from oil and gas lease sites.

Several struggling oil and gas companies have opted to forego weed control measures on their lease sites on both private and provincial crown lands within the municipality. This includes companies whose assets have been assigned to the Orphan Well Association, companies in receivership or bankruptcy proceedings, and companies that continue to operate and are choosing not to address their weed control obligations through their surface lease agreements with landowners.

This unfortunate symptom of an industry in peril has resulted in economic implications to cooperating landowners. In many cases, these neglected leases have resulted in weeds moving off the lease onto neighboring lands causing reduced crop yields and having landowners incur the cost, inconvenience, and liability of managing these weed issues themselves.

Efforts by M.D. of Taber landowners to contact operators of these facilities has proven to be frustrating. Commonly, a contact person cannot be found. If they are successful in contacting the company, many times the issues go unresolved.

The plant of primary concern is the Kochia weed (*Kochia scoparia*). This now common, non-native plant grows in wide range of soil types, is drought tolerant, and is becoming increasingly resistant to traditional herbicide treatments. This plant is of great concern to producers of annual cereal crops as it can substantially reduce crop yields and seed cleaning costs in affected fields. Kochia is not listed in the Alberta Weed Control Regulation, therefore municipalities are limited in their ability to address this issue through legislative processes.

Attempts at contacting the Orphan Well Association, the Alberta Energy Regulator, and the Alberta Surface Rights Board have not been successful in attenuating this situation.

## **FUSARIUM TESTING AFTER CLEANING**

**WHEREAS:** Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affect kernel development, affecting yield and quality; and

**WHEREAS:** FHB was added as a declared pest to Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act in 1999; and

**WHEREAS:** The *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan was released in 2002, hoping to limit the spread of the disease and lessen the economic impact; and

**WHEREAS:** FHB was removed from the Act in early 2020 after many years of discussion to allow tolerance in crops, at which time seed cleaning plants required testing of the lot prior to cleaning; and

**WHEREAS:** Currently some seed cleaning plants still require testing for FHB prior to cleaning in order to avoid transferring to other seed lots; and

**WHEREAS:** The initial sample might not be representative of the seed lot due to improper sampling procedures; and

**WHEREAS:** Seed can be sold as "Certified Fusarium Free", but still have a high concentration of the disease present due to improper sampling resulting in false negative test results; and

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada revise the labeling requirements to include "Fusarium Free" seed, in that the sample is taken at the seed plant after it is cleaned by the seed plant operator in order to ensure the quality of the certified seed, and test results, same as the germination test, will have to be provided to the buyer.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Barrhead

**MOVED BY:**

**SECONDED BY:**

**CARRIED:**

**DEFEATED:**

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As FHB has been taken off the *Agricultural Pest Act*, there are now no regulations regarding the sale of infected seed or the introduction of the disease into a new field. In areas of the province where the local producers want to keep it out, they depend on buying Certified Fusarium Free seed. As seed treatments can offer some control, the disease will still be present in an area where it was not present before and can then be easily dispersed by the wind to neighbouring properties.

There is nothing stopping a producer from submitting a grain sample for FHB testing from a source that is known to be clean, but then bringing grain to the seed plant from a different field, knowing that it is infected. After cleaning, the certified grain will be labelled as "Fusarium Free", which is inaccurate. Producers who've bought this seed have been extremely frustrated to find that their crop had the disease, but it was sold to them as being "Fusarium Free".

Although different regions of the province have different levels of acceptance of FHB, buyers of seed must be aware of what they are buying and not be misled by false/inaccurate labeling. As seed plants are already doing germination testing before and after cleaning anyway, it would be easy to add the FHB test as a value-added service. By changing to a post-cleaning FHB test, we can have confidence in the quality of the certified seed being bought and sold.

**Taken from Alberta Seed Growers website ([www.seedalberta.ca](http://www.seedalberta.ca))**

### ***What is Certified Seed?***

Certified seed is seed that has followed very strict protocols and has been rigorously tested, as per Canadian seed system regulations, to ensure it retains its varietal and genetic benefits, purity and quality.

Any seed that is labelled "certified" has been:

- Purchased as pedigreed seed from a plant breeder or seed distributor with identifiable traits or characteristics
- Planted with equipment that has been meticulously cleaned between crop types and varieties, on a field with documented crop history
- Managed with proper separation distances to similar crop types
- Rogued by hand to remove volunteer weeds and genetic off-types
- Inspected by a third-party, in the field
- Harvested by equipment that has been meticulously cleaned between crop types and varieties
- Tested to uphold quality standards

- Verified by a CSGA-certified authority (where it came from, who grew it and how it was grown)
- Assigned a traceable seed certificate or blue tag

### ***Certified seed premiums***

Certified seed takes great effort to produce. Each step listed above requires additional time and resources, which in turn adds expense to the process. Producing certified seed may also require a royalty to be paid to the plant breeder of the seed. This is why certified seed comes at a premium cost.

Alberta farmers are investing in certified seed, despite the higher cost, because they realize the economic and agronomic benefits it provides them in the long run. Certified seed can also benefit the entire value chain, by creating higher quality (identity preserved) products that end users are willing to pay for.

## FEDERAL FUEL CHARGE

**WHEREAS** the Federal Fuel Charge (Carbon Tax) mandated under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* came into effect in Alberta on January 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Fuel Charge amount varies by fuel product offering and the Federal Government has announced targeting relief for certain sectors and individuals including farmers; and

**WHEREAS** the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* effective January 1, 2017 states “that every recipient shall pay a carbon levy on purchases of natural gas and propane”; and

**WHEREAS** as purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional costs on to consumers or international markets as the international markets set the price for agricultural products and that a producer trying to increase their price to compensate would not be able to sell their product and recover the additional costs; and

**WHEREAS** certain categories of customers are exempt from paying the Federal Fuel Charge, including:

- Farmers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
- Fishers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
- Registered Distributors;
- Registered Air Carriers;
- Registered Rail Carriers;
- Registered Road Carriers;
- Remote Power Plant Operators that generate Electricity for remote Communities for light fuel oil; and
- A partial exemption at eighty per cent (80 %) for propane supplied to Greenhouse operators; and

**WHEREAS** propane and natural gas used by many farming operations in their agricultural production is not included in the list of eligible exemptions; and

**WHEREAS** under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purpose of farming and that is a “farm truck or tractor”, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, an industrial machine, or a stationary or portable engine, or prescribed activity.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Energy jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to provide an exemption for all consumption of propane and natural gas for all recognized agricultural production, including, but not limited to grain farming, greenhouse, and other similar practices.

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Energy

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Additional costs will be borne by farmers due to the Farm Fuel Charge as farmers are unable to pass the additional costs on the consumers or international markets as those prices are set by international markets. Without this exemption, farmers will have an increase in costs to produce their products yet will not be able to recover those costs.

**Attached Documents**

1. Copy of the Backgrounder Targeted Relief for Farmers and Fishers, and Residents of Rural and Remote Communities
2. Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers



# Backgrounder: Targeted Relief for Farmers and Fishers, and Residents of Rural and Remote Communities

## Background

The Government of Canada has a plan to build a cleaner environment and a stronger economy for today and tomorrow. A key part of this plan, the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA)*, which was enacted on June 21, 2018, establishes a federal Canada-wide standard for reducing carbon pollution. The federal standard gives provinces and territories the flexibility to choose a system that meets this standard and works best for them.

Provinces or territories that meet this standard with their own carbon pollution pricing systems will continue to reduce carbon pollution using their own systems.

For all other provinces and territories, beginning in 2019, the federal "backstop" carbon pollution pricing system will apply to ensure that all jurisdictions in Canada meet the federal standard.

The federal carbon pollution pricing backstop system is composed of two components:

- A charge on fossil fuels ("fuel charge"), which will be administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) starting in April 2019; and
- An output-based pricing system (OBPS), which will be administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) starting in January 2019.

The purpose of the GGPPA is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring that carbon pollution pricing applies broadly throughout Canada.

At the same time, the Government recognizes that particular groups or sectors require targeted relief from the fuel charge – in particular because of the small number of alternative options they may have in the face of carbon pollution pricing.

## Relief for Farmers

The GGPPA will provide farmers with relief from the fuel charge for fuels used in tractors, trucks and other farm machinery. The relief is provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, when certain conditions are met. Specifically, the GGPPA provides that a registered distributor can generally deliver, without the fuel charge applying, gasoline or light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) to a farmer at a farm, if the fuel is for use exclusively in the operation of eligible farming machinery and all or substantially all of the fuel is for use in the course of eligible farming activities. Farmers do not need to be registered for the purposes of this relief.

Under the GGPPA, eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or tractor, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, or an industrial machine or stationary or portable engine.



The GGPPA also includes diversion rules to ensure that the fuel charge applies if gasoline or light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

## Relief for Fishers

The GGPPA also provides relief of the fuel charge for gasoline and light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) that is generally delivered to a fisher, if the fuel is for use exclusively in an eligible fishing vessel and all or substantially all of the fuel is for use in the course of eligible fishing activities. The relief is provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, when certain conditions are met, one of them being that the province or territory subject to the fuel charge (i.e., "listed") be prescribed for the purposes of the relief. Fishers do not need to be registered for the purposes of this relief.

The GGPPA also includes diversion rules to ensure that the fuel charge applies if gasoline or light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

There are currently no listed provinces that are prescribed. It is proposed that all listed provinces and territories for the purpose of the fuel charge be prescribed for the purpose of the relief.

It is proposed that this relief apply as of April 2019, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

## Providing Additional, Targeted Relief Under the GGPPA

In addition to the relief from the fuel charge that is already provided under the GGPPA, the Government is proposing that additional, targeted relief be provided to certain groups or sectors, including:

- Residents of rural and small communities;
- Users of aviation fuels in the territories;
- Greenhouse operators;
- Power plants that generate electricity for remote communities; and
- Indigenous Peoples.

The following sections provide further details on proposed relief measures.

## Supplement for Residents of Rural and Small Communities

For provinces that have not taken adequate action to meet the federal standard for pricing carbon pollution — Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan — the Government proposes to provide a supplementary amount to the baseline Climate Action Incentive payments for residents of rural and small communities, in recognition of their increased energy needs and reduced access to alternative transportation options. This supplement would increase the amount that people living in these provinces would receive by 10 per cent. For more information, see the accompanying backgrounders regarding return of direct proceeds to the respective provinces.

## Users of Aviation Fuels in the Territories

Generally, the fuel charge under the GGPPA applies to aviation gasoline and aviation turbo fuel that is used in intra-jurisdictional flights (i.e., between two points in the same province or territory), but not in inter-jurisdictional flights (e.g., between two different Canadian provinces or territories, or international flights).

As part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, the federal government committed to work with the territories to address their unique circumstances, including the high cost of living, challenges with food security and emerging territorial economies.

Consequently, the federal government is proposing to apply the fuel charge at a rate of \$0 per litre to aviation gasoline and aviation turbo fuel for listed territories (Yukon and Nunavut), as noted in the backgrounder entitled Fuel Charge Rates in Listed Provinces and Territories. This will also be in keeping with the treatment of aviation fuels under the proposed carbon pollution pricing system of the Northwest Territories. This ensures that, while carbon pollution pricing applies broadly in Canada, it also reflects the high-reliance on air transportation in the territories.

Air carriers in the listed territories will continue to be subject to the GGPPA (e.g., reporting and filing requirements), as required, but ultimately the fuel charge will not be paid on any flights in the territories.

The proposed rate of \$0 per litre will be effective as of July 2019 (the implementation date of the fuel charge in the listed territories) and will apply for all years.

## Greenhouse Operators

Partial relief of the fuel charge (i.e., 80 per cent) is proposed to apply to natural gas and propane that is exclusively for use in the operation of a commercial greenhouse for growing any plants, including vegetables, fruits, bedding plants, cut flowers, ornamental plants, tree seedlings and medicinal plants. It is also proposed that, in order for relief to be available, all or substantially all of the greenhouse building must be used for the growing of plants.

The relief is proposed to be provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, similar to other exemption certificates under the GGPPA, such that only 20 per cent of the fuel charge applies to natural gas and propane that is delivered by a registered distributor to an eligible greenhouse operator if the fuel is exclusively for use in the heating of, or for the production of carbon dioxide for use in the operation of, a commercial greenhouse.

- An eligible greenhouse operator is proposed to be a person that carries on a greenhouse operation with a reasonable expectation of profit.

It is also proposed that diversion rules be included, in line with existing provisions of the GGPPA, to ensure that the fuel charge applies if natural gas or propane is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

This relief is proposed to generally apply as of April 2019 in all listed provinces and as of July 2019 in all listed territories, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

## Power Plant Operators that Generate Electricity for Remote Communities

Full relief of the fuel charge is proposed to apply to light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) that is used exclusively to generate electricity for remote communities.

The relief is proposed to be provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, similar to other exemption certificates under the GGPPA, such that the fuel charge does not apply to light fuel oil that is delivered by a registered distributor to a person that operates a remote power plant if that fuel is exclusively for use in the generation of electricity for distribution to the general public in remote communities.

- A remote community will be defined to mean a geographic area that is neither serviced by an electrical distribution network that is under the jurisdiction of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation nor a natural gas distribution system.

It is also proposed that diversion rules be included, in line with existing provisions of the GGPPA, to ensure that the fuel charge applies if light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

This relief is proposed to generally apply as of April 2019 in all listed provinces and as of July 2019 in all listed territories, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

## Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples could benefit from a number of the proposed relief measures announced by the Government – the supplement for residents of rural and small communities, the fuel charge relief for aviation fuels in the territories, the fuel charge relief for diesel-fired generation of electricity for remote communities, the fuel charge relief for greenhouse operators, and other targeted support for affected sectors. More information is found in the backgrounder entitled [Climate Action and Indigenous Peoples](#).

## Have Your Say

Canadians are invited to provide comments on the proposed relief for greenhouse operators and power plant operators that generate electricity for remote communities.

Please send your comments to [fin.tarification-pollution-pricing,fin@canada.ca](mailto:fin.tarification-pollution-pricing,fin@canada.ca) by November 23, 2018. Written correspondence related to these consultations can also be mailed to:

Carbon Pollution Pricing  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0G5



## Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers

under section 36 of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, and the Fuel Charge Regulations

If you are a farmer within the meaning of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (the Act) and you carry out eligible farming activities (as defined below), give this exemption certificate to the registered distributor that delivers the fuel in accordance with this Act.

If a farmer receives delivery of gasoline or light fuel oil (diesel fuel) using its exemption certificate, whether the fuel was delivered at the farm or delivered at a cardlock facility that is registered as a distributor, but uses that fuel type for non-eligible farming activities, the farmer must self-assess the fuel charge based on the quantity of the fuel type that is used for purposes other than those eligible for farmers under the Act and its regulations, using Form B401, Fuel Charge Return for Non-registrants, and the related schedule.

Eligible farming activity means either of the following:

- the operation of eligible farming machinery on a farm for the purposes of farming
- the operation of eligible farming machinery for the purposes of going from a location at a farm to another location at a farm

Eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or a tractor.

### 1. Business information

Legal name:

Business number:

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### 2. Farmer

Tick the box to declare that you are a farmer carrying out eligible farming activities, within the meaning of the Act.

### 3. Type of fuel

Tick the box(es) corresponding to the fuel type by listed province covered by this exemption certificate.

Type of fuel by listed province							
	Alberta	Manitoba	New Brunswick	Nunavut	Ontario	Saskatchewan	Yukon
Gasoline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Light fuel oil (for example, diesel fuel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 4. Certification

As an authorized person, I certify that the information given on this form is correct and complete. I understand that it is a serious offence to make a false declaration.

Name (print)		Title				
Telephone number	Extension	Signature	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Year</td> <td>Month</td> <td>Day</td> </tr> </table>	Year	Month	Day
Year	Month	Day				

Personal information is collected for purposes of the administration or enforcement of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, Part 1 ("the Act"). The information collected may be used or disclosed for any purpose related to the administration or enforcement of the Act including audit, compliance and collection activities. It may also be disclosed to other federal, provincial, territorial or foreign government institutions to the extent authorized by law. Failure to provide this information may result in penalties, interest payable or other actions. Under the Privacy Act, individuals have the right to access their personal information, request correction, or file a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada regarding the handling of the individual's personal information. Refer to Personal Information Bank CRA PPU 062 on Info Source at [canada.ca/cra-info-source](http://canada.ca/cra-info-source).

#### Did you know?

##### False declaration

If a particular person delivers fuel in a listed province to another person at a particular time, if an exemption certificate applies in respect of the delivery in accordance with subsection 36(1) and if the declaration referred to in paragraph 36(1)(b) is, at the particular time, false, the following rules apply:

- the other person must pay to the Receiver General for Canada a charge in respect of the fuel and the listed province in the amount determined under section 40;
- the other person is liable to pay, in addition to any other penalty under Part 1, a penalty equal to 25% of the amount of the charge under paragraph (a) payable in respect of the fuel; and
- if the particular person knows, or ought to have known, that the declaration is, at the particular time, false, the particular person and the other person are jointly and severally, or solidarily, liable for the payment of the charge in respect of the fuel and the listed province under paragraph (a), the penalty under paragraph (b) and any related interest and penalties.

#### What to do now

- Give the original certificate to your supplier.
- Keep a copy of this certificate with your records.
- Do not send this certificate to the Canada Revenue Agency.

**ATTENTION**  
**2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE USERS**

On March 4, 2020, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the final re-evaluation decision on strychnine used to control Richardson's ground squirrels (RVD2020-06).

Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act Health Canada is cancelling the registration of all strychnine products used to control Richardson ground squirrels. Environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrels are not acceptable.

### **Important Dates:**

**2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (Registration No. 30433 PCP Act) is cancelled and phased out with timelines as follows:**

- **Last date of sale by Registrant is March 4, 2021 (Manufacturer)**
- **Last date of sale by Retailer is March 4, 2022**
- **Last date of permitted use is March 4, 2023**

Proper disposal of all unsold existing stock is the responsibility of the registrant of 2% Liquid Strychnine and is to be done in accordance with the label directions and any applicable provincial laws. This includes disposal of all unsold stock in the distribution and retail chain following the above schedule. Furthermore, the registrant is responsible for providing information to members of the distribution and retail chain regarding the above-specified last dates.

The registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate will expire after the March 4, 2023 the last day of permitted use. Continued possession and/or use of the product after this date is a violation of the Pest Control Products Act. For more information on the regulation of pesticides, you are encouraged to contact PMRA at [hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca) or telephoning 1-800-267-6315.

## **2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate Final Re-evaluation Decision** by Health Canada

This article is intended to provide information to Retailers (Rural Municipality Offices or County Offices) and end Users (Farmers) on important dates regarding the cancellation of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (Registration No. 30433 PCP Act) for use on Richardson's ground squirrels (the gopher).

On March 4, 2020, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the final re-evaluation decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and its Associated End-use Products (Richardson's Ground Squirrels). The PMRA reviewed available scientific information and considered comments submitted by stakeholders when making their decision.

The re-evaluation concluded the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrel are not acceptable when the product is used according to the label directions, or when additional risk mitigation measures are considered. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, PMRA cancelled strychnine products used to control Richardson's ground squirrel populations

### **Key Messages:**

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- Health Canada's primary objective in regulating pesticides is to protect the health of Canadians and the environment. Pesticides must undergo a rigorous science-based review before being approved for sale and use in Canada.
- Health Canada regularly reviews pesticides under the *Pest Control Products Act* to ensure that they continue to meet modern health and environmental safety standards.
- Following a re-evaluation process, Health Canada cancelled the use of Strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrels to protect non-target animals, including species at risk, such as the swift fox and burrowing owl, from strychnine-related poisonings.
- The March 4, 2020 re-evaluation decision applies only to the strychnine products registered for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels. Strychnine products registered to control wolves, coyotes, skunks and black bears are unaffected by this decision. The distribution and use of these

products is only for use by applicators authorized by the Province of Alberta. Please refer to the label of the pest control product and the government department responsible for its use.

### **Important Dates:**

To comply with the re-evaluation decision, the registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (Registration No. 30433 PCP Act) is cancelled and is subject to the following phase out timelines:

- Last date of Sale by **Registrant** is **March 4, 2021**,
- Last date of Sale by **Retailer** is **March 4, 2022**,
- Last date permitted for use by the **User** is **March 4, 2023**.

Proper disposal of all unsold existing stock is the responsibility of the registrant of 2% Liquid Strychnine and is to be done in accordance with the label directions and any applicable provincial laws. This includes disposal of all unsold stock in the distribution and retail chain following the above schedule. Furthermore, the registrant is responsible for providing information to members of the distribution and retail chain regarding the above-specified last dates. The registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate will expire after the March 4, 2023 the last day of permitted use. Continued possession and/or use of the product after this date is a violation of the *Pest Control Products Act*.

If you have questions about the cancellation of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate, a copy of the Final Re-evaluation Decision RVD RVD2020-06 can be found at this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html>.

Questions about this re-evaluation decision can be directed to the PMRA's Pest Management Information Service by phone (1-800-267-6315) or by e-mail ([hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca)).