SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

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

on

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Held virtually through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83735185530?pwd=YysxczdxYk80WU81aEkyUm1PVi9Hdz09

Meeting ID: 837 3518 5530 Passcode: 907820

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 12, 2021** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. © Recommendation: Motion to Adopt.

4. Request for Decision:

- 4.1 Policy Statement 62-28-04 Mowing Program. ©
- 4.2 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association 2022 Contract. ©
- 4.3 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Farm Member Appointment. ©
- 4.4 Policy Statement 62-10 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan. ©

5. Issues for Information:

- 5.1 ASB Chairman's Report. ©
- 5.2 Agricultural Department Report. ©
- 5.3 2021 Clubroot Map. ©
- 5.4 Alberta Crop Report. ©
- 5.5 Smoky Lake 2021 Insect Survey Results. ©
- 5.6 2022 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions. ©

6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Letter received from Phil Kolodychuk, Agricultural Service Board Chairman, Municipal District of Fairview No. 136, dated October 18, 2021 RE: Funding for Agricultural Service Boards.
- 6.2 Letter received from Ian Sundquist, Agricultural Service Board Chairman, Municipal District of Willow Creek, dated November 24, 2021 RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions.

7. Delegation(s):

- 7.1 Doug Macaulay, ASB Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry @9:30am re: Agricultural Service Board Member Orientation. ©
- 7.2 Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager and Forage & Livestock Specialist, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) @11:00am re: LARA Update.

8. Executive Session:

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

Adjournment





Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **October 12, 2021**, at 9:03 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting and physically in County Council Chambers.

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

		ATTENDANCE			
Div. No.	Councillor(s)	Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021			
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	Virtually Present			
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present			
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh McMullin	Present in Chambers			
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers			
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present			
Natural Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present			
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No Members of the Media were Present. No Members of the Public were Present.

### 2. Agenda:

1243-21: Orichowski

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, October 12, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

### 3. Minutes:

1244-21: Lukinuk

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

1245-21: Halisky

That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, be filed for information.

Carried.

### 4. Request for Decision:

No Requests for Decisions.

### 5. Issues for Information:

### Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

The Agricultural Service Board Chairperson: Dan Gawalko Councillor Division 1, provided a verbal Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report as follows:

 LARA will be producing a magazine & maybe a video to promote LARA more.

### Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

1246-21: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's verbal report for the period: August 11, 2021 to October 12, 2021 in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), be accepted for information.

Carried

One Member of the Public virtually joined the meeting, time 9:13 a.m.

Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager, Forage and Livestock Program, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) virtually joined the meeting, time 9:27 a.m.

### Agricultural Fieldman Report

1247-21: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Fieldman's written Report as of October 5, 2021, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

### Delegation: 7.

### Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board from 9:32 a.m. to 9:40 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager, Forage and Livestock Program, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide a verbal update, which included but was not limited to the following points:

- The Hemp Workshop held September 15, 2021, with Rocky Mountain Hemp had 13 attendees.
- A virtual Cattle Nutrition Workshop is being planned.
- Busy with data processing at this time of year.
- Smoky Lake County's general plot was harvested on September 28, 2021 - it combined good and should have the yields information in the next month.

Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager, Forage and Livestock Program, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually left the meeting, time 9:40 a.m.

### Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

1248-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board, accept the report from Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager, Forage and Livestock Program, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), for information as presented on October 12, 2021.

Carried.

### 2021 Weed Inspection Report

1249-21: Cherniwchan That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board, accept the Agricultural Service Board Departments' Year-2021 Weed Inspection report as of October 12, 2021, as presented for information.

Carried.

Agricultural Service Board October 12, 2021

2021 Mowing Progress Map

1250-21: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board, accept the Agricultural Service Board Departments' Year-2021 Mowing Progress

Map as of October 12, 2021, as presented for information.

Carried.

2021 Herbicide Progress Map

1251-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board, accept the Agricultural Service Board Departments' Year-2021 Herbicide Progress Map as of October 12, 2021, as presented for information.

Carried.

### Correspondence:

No correspondence.

**Next Meeting** 

1252-21: Orichowski

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

1253-21: Gawalko

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 12, 2021, be adjourned, time 9:52 a.m.

Carried.

**CHAIRPERSON** 

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Agricultural Fieldman



REQU	JEST FOR DECISION	ON DATE	December 14 th , 2021	4.1			
TOPIC	Policy Statement 62	-28-04 Mowing Pr	ogram				
PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL  To bring Policy Statement 62-28-03 Mowing Program forward to make changes and bring clarity to the guidelines.  To include a second seasonal pass for high growth areas that have been mowed earlier in the season. This second seasonal pass is for motoring traffic safety (visibility), weed and brush control.						
CORRELAT	TION TO BUSINESS (STR	ATEGIC) PLAN					
Mowing is Plan	a core program under the	e Weed Control Ac	section of the Ag Service B	oard Business			
	VE, BYLAW and/or PLICATIONS	Fulfilling legislative d	uties under the Weed Control Act of A	lberta			
BENEFITS	leading to a more efficier	nt mowing program. By in-	nower operators clear direction and cluding this second seasonal pass in t is and better weed management.	expectations, thus he mowing policy it			
DISADVAN							
ALTERNAT	TIVES						
FINANCE/	BUDGET IMPLICATIONS						
Operating	Costs: N/A	Capital C	osts: N/A				
Budget Ava	ailable: \$100,690	Source of	Funds: Operating Budget				
Budgeted (	Budgeted Costs: N/A  Actual Costs: N/A						
COMMUNI	CATION STRATEGY						
RECOMME	NDATION						
That the Sm	oky Lake County Council ame	1	-28-03 Mowing Program, as prese	nted.			

### **SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**



Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-03	
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 1 of 3	
			$\boldsymbol{E}$

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
Legislation Reference.	Alberta Frovincial Statutes

Purpose: Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.

### **Policy Statement and Guidelines:**

### 1. STATEMENT:

- 1.1 Smoky Lake County will mow developed road allowances annually to maintain safe visibility for the travelling public and to improve drainage of infrastructure.
- The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.
- 1.3 The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.

### 2. DEFINITION(S):

- 2.1 **County Lands:** Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County
- 2.2 **Developed Road Allowances:** Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.

### 3. OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1 Define areas that will be moved within the right-of-way and on County lands.
- 3.2 Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.
- 3.3 The County's desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program:
  - to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the rightof-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road
  - to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way
  - to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public
  - to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way.

Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-03
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 2 of 3
		E

### **Policy Statement and Guidelines:**

 To prevent drifting on roads, where the blowing snow will travel across the road, rather than being trapped by standing vegetation which will travel across

### 4. GUIDELINES:

- 4.1 The mowing program will be developed and planned by the Agricultural Service Board and implemented through the Agricultural Services Department. The defined mowing areas consist of three (3) zones, divided using range road 150 and Highway 855 as boundaries.
- 4.2 Ditch clean-up and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.
- 4.3 One-pass herbicide mowers will begin mowing operation the first week of June for more effective weed control. Non-herbicide mower operations will begin the last week of June. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1st.
- 4.4 Mowing Operations consist of three (3) tractors and mowers used to cut grass, brush, and noxious weeds. These mowers are able to accomplish a significant amount of mowing and right-of-way clearing very efficiently when compared to other methods of mechanical control.
- 4.5 Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following:
- 4.5.1 Developed Road Allowances: All grassy areas along, oiled, or gravel roads will be mowed once a year mowing from roads edge to property line where conditions allow. A second seasonal shoulder pass will be completed once all developed road allowances have received the first seasonal pass to the property line. The second seasonal pass will be completed where the mowers began mowing in the early season and there is high grass regrowth. This second seasonal pass will only be a 'shoulder pass' meaning one width of the mower, mowers will not need to go to the property line on this second seasonal pass.
  - These secondary passes should be a minimum of 5ft.
  - Main roads into lake resorts will only be moved prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)
  - Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to Hwy 855 will be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts prior to July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)
  - The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season
  - It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program
  - 4.6 All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and

### added to Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	May 24, 2018	# 581-18 - Page # 13130
Amended	October 22, 2018	#1030-18 - Page # 13312
Amended	April 13, 2021	

Section 62 Policy: 28-03



### SCHEDULE "A" APPROVED ADDITIONAL MOWING



Metis Crossing

Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds

Smoky Lake Air Strip

Hamlin Ball Diamonds

Waskatenau Ball Diamonds

Bellis Ball Diamonds

Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626



REQUEST FOR DECIS			SION	DATE	December 14 th , 2021	4.2	
ТОРІС	202	2 Lak	eland Agı	ricultural I	Research	Association (LARA) Cor	ntract
PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL  For the last 6 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.						tension programming
CORRELAT					BAZATK		PARTE YALL
3. Environr				d Extension	1		
LEGISLATIV POLICY IM							
BENEFITS				d extension ev	ents at a local	level for producers.	
DISADVAN	TAGE	S					
-Host Events in-house -Quarterly Communication news letter -Host events on a as needed basis -No extra extension events							
FINANCE/E	BUDG	ET IMF	PLICATION	IS			
Operating (	Costs:				Capital C	osts:	
Budget Available: \$55,000					Source of l	Funds: Operating Budget	
Budgeted C	osts:				Actual Co	sts:	
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS					ly with Lac La Biche Coun County of St. Paul through l	
COMMUNIC	COMMUNICATION STRATEGY						

### RECOMMENDATION

That Smoky Lake County Council sign a contract with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for the 2022 year for continued extension programming at a cost of \$55,000.

Agricultural Fieldman





### **Operational Funding Agreement**

Between

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

and

Smoky Lake County (the Municipality)

### 1.0 Term

This agreement will commence January 1, 2022 and subject to termination, according to terms of the agreement, continue through December 31, 2022. 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 3D 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 Smoky Lake County P.O. Box 310 Smoky Lake, AB TOA 3CO

T9N 2H4
Fax: (780) 826-7099

7.0 Signed and sealed by the proper officers this ______ day of ________, 2021

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

Alyssa Krawchuk, Association Manager

Wanda Austin, LARA Chairman

Smoky Lake County	
Carleigh Danyluk, Agricultural Fieldman	

Dan Gawalko, Ag Service Board Chairman



REQU	JEST	FOR DECIS	ION	DATE	December 14 th , 2021	4.3
TOPIC	Lak	eland Agricultu	ral Resea	arch Asso	ciation Farm Member	
PROPOSAL		Barb Shapka has so She has expressed years.	at on the LAI I interest in	RA board as continuing to	a farm member for 7 years and n sit on the board as a farm mem	ow her term is up. nber for another 2
CORRELAT	ION T	O BUSINESS (ST	RATEGIC)	PLAN	uresta e l'intelligia di	
POLICY IM BENEFITS DISADVAN	PLICA TAGE					
ALTERNAT		T IMPLICATION	C			
Operating (		ET IMPLICATION	3	Capital C	osts:	
Budget Ava		•		Source of		
Budgeted C		•	Actual Costs:			
	ENT/	ENTAL IMPLICATIONS ON STRATEGY				
COMMUNI	CATIC	ON STRATEGY				
RECOMME	NDAT	ION				
That the Smo	oky Lak e for Sn	e County Council red			ent of Barb Shapka as a Farm Me al Research Association Board for	
Agricultur	al Fiel	ldman		Carlas	Paught	



REQU	JEST	FOF	R DECIS	ION	DATE	December 14th, 2021	4.4
TOPIC	Poli	cy Sta	atement 6	2-10 Agri	cultural S	ervice Board Business Plan	
PROPOSAL							The business
CORRELAT	ION T	O BUS	SINESS (ST	RATEGIC)	PLAN		
LEGISLATIV POLICY IM							
BENEFITS	2 111						
DISADVAN		5					
ALTERNAT FINANCE/E		T IMP	LICATION	C			
		I IIVIP	LICATION	3	Capital C	nete:	
Operating Costs:							
Budget Ava	ilable:			Source of Funds:			
Budgeted C	osts:				Actual Co	sts:	
INTERGOV INVOLVEM							
COMMUNIC	77 T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T						
RECOMME	NDATI	ON		-70,710,810			
That Smoky along with the						05 Agricultural Service Board Business	s Plan 2022,
					1	1 11	
Agricultura	al Field	dman		ifor J	larly	Panglell	

### SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



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

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Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes

Purpose:	To establish a Business Plan for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service
	Board.

### Policy Statement and Guidelines:

### **STATEMENT**

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.

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

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

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

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

Title: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan	Policy No.:	10-05
Section: 62	Page No.:	2 of 12

### **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

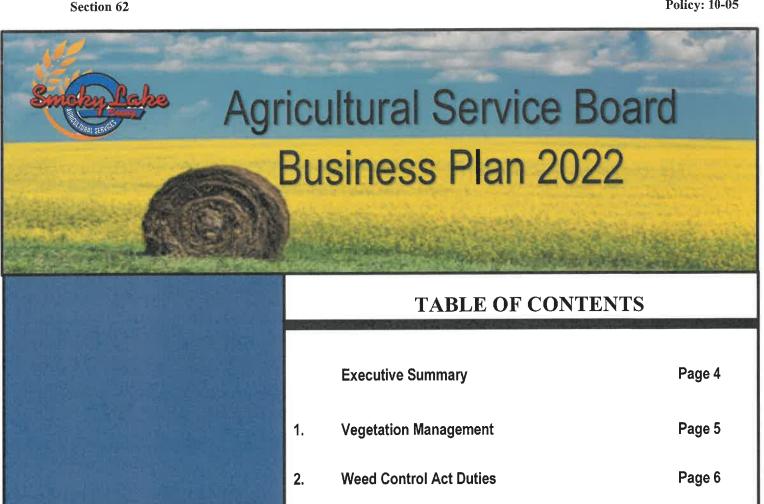
Seven: Intergovernmental Collaboration

### **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	December 17, 2010	#184-10 - Page 9570
Amended	March 5, 2015	#416-15 -Page 11626
Amended	December 12, 2017	# 59-17 -Page 12873
Amended	December 12, 2018	
Amended	December 8, 2020	

**Policy: 10-05** Section 62



**Problem Wildlife** 

**Agricultural Pest Act Duties** 

**Soil Conservation Act Duties** 

Intergovernmental Collaboration

**Environmental Stewardship and Extension** 

3.

5.

6.

7.

Page 7

Page 8-9

Page 10

Page 11

Page 12

Business Plan

### **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:**

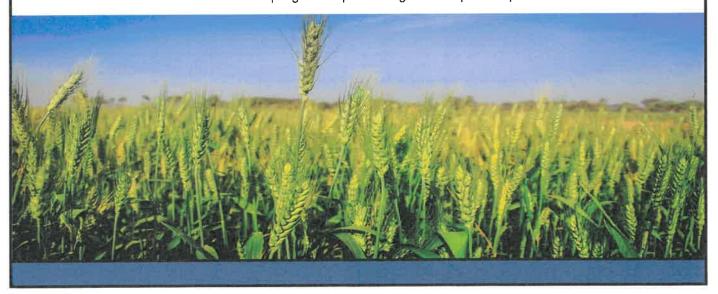
To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.

**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.



### 1. Vegetation Management Program

Goal:

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.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Identify problem noxious weeds within the municipal right of way	-Key emphasis will be on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed species analyzing both environmental and economic threats.	-All roads inspected for noxious weeds at least once during the growing season.
Roadside Spraying	-1/2 of all county roads will be sprayed following the rotation spraying guidelines set out in <i>Policy Statement</i> 62-15 "Vegetation Management Plan" and Policy Statement 62-23 "Tansy Reduction Program". Brush Spraying will be completed during the regular roadside spraying rotation.	-Number of miles of roadside spraying completed.  -Amount of herbicide applied for brush control
Spot Spraying	-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.  -Custom spraying of private lands will occur if time and budget allows and priority is put on landowners	<ul> <li>-Number of locations spot sprayed.</li> <li>-Amount of herbicide applied during spot spraying.</li> <li>-Number of landowners who receive help eliminating there Prohibited noxious weeds</li> </ul>
Roadside Mowing	struggling to control prohibited noxious weeds.  -Roadside mowing will be conducted as stated in <i>Policy Statement 62-M-02</i> "Mowing Program". 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.  -Lake roads leading to resorts will be mowed before the July and August long weekends.  -One-pass mowers will be used in rotation to apply herbicide on ROW's	eliminating there Prohibited hoxious weeds by the ASB Department.  -1 pass of roadside mowing to the property line and a second seasonal 'shoulder' pass is to be completed by November 1st of each year.  -Iron Horse Trail mowed once a year.  -Amount of additional mowing completed for community events.  -Amount of additional mowing completed on other municipal properties.

### 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
Weed Inspection Program	-Weed Inspection are conducted on private land during the growing season annually.  -Letters are sent to landowners who are in non-compliance with the Weed Control Act of Alberta, as specified in Policy Statement 62-14 "Weed Inspection and Weed Notice".  -Weed Notices are issued to landowners who do not comply with recommendation letters.  -Enforcement actions are completed by the Agricultural Services Department for landowners who are non-compliant with a weed notice that has been issued.	-Number of inspections completed  -Number of letters sent to landowners/renters  -Number of weed notices issued  -Number of Weed enforcements completed
Noxious Weed Education and Awareness	-Provide weed identification for landowners on farm or samples brought in for identification  -Promote weed awareness at our annual Smoky Lake County Farmer Appreciation Event  -Produce and circulate information on invasive species through our website and local newspapers and brochures  -Weed Wanted posters hung annually at all the Towns, Villages & Hamlets including all the water stations, lake lot bulletin boards	- Number of landowners assisted annually  -Number of events hosted  -Number of articles circulated  -Number of brochures& weed wanted posters given out/posted.

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
Environmental Farm Plans  Building ON A SOLID FOUNDATION	-Assist local producers with completion of Environmental Farm Plans	-Number of Environmental Farm plans assisted with
EFF FINIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN	-Provide air photographs for fields and farm yards and soils information  -Provide water well information from the Alberta Water Wells Database	-Increased adoption of beneficial management practices by producers
Canadian Agricultural Partnership  THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP FOCUSES ON SIX PRIORITY AREAS:  • science, research and innovation • markets and trade • environmental sustainability and climate change • value-added agriculture and agri-food processing • public trust • risk management	-Assist local producers with information about new agricultural programs and grants.  -Stay current with program updates and changes.  -Promote programs and workshop events.	-Number of producers assisted  -Number of events hosted or promoted
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association	-Ensure Smoky Lake County receives programs as promised by LARA.  -Ensure crop plot trials are complete in Smoky Lake County  -LARA to give updates throughout the year by attending ASB meetings	-Number of events hosted by LARA in our county.  -Crop Walk hosted for local producers  -Number of unbiased research plots within Smoky Lake County.  -How many updates were received

4.

### Problem Wildlife Program

### Goal:

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

Strategies	Action	Measures
Beavers	-Beaver Tail Bounty for \$15.00 per tail from pre-approved locations as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-07</i> "Beaver Management" -Beaver Dam Removal may occur to mitigate flooding which causes damage to municipal infrastructure. Dam removal will be conducted as per Policy Statement 62-21 "Beaver Control- Fee for Removal with Explosives"Maintain Certified Blasters License with the Province of AlbertaTrapping and removing problem beavers	-Number of Beaver tails brought in.  -Number of dams removed affecting municipal infrastructure.  -Amount of revenue generated completing private land blasting.  -Renew every 5 years as required.  -How many beavers removed
Coyotes	-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> .  - Coyote control booklets available for agricultural producers to help better manage coyote predation.	-Number of tablets given out annually
Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gopher)	-2% Liquid Strychnine registration has been cancelledRecommend Rozol to producers -Recommend local trappers	- Number of producers assisted
Northern Pocket Gopher (Mole)	-Mole tail bounty for \$1.00 per tail can be brought in as per <i>Policy</i> Statement 62-02 "Bounty for Pocket Gopher Tails".	-Number of mole tails brought in for bounty.

### 4. **Problem Wildlife Continued** Measures Strategies Action -Number of wild boar ears brought in. Wild Boar -Participate annually in the Wild Boar Ear Bounty with Alberta Agriculture. -Wild Boar ears can be brought in for a reward of \$50.00 per set of ears. The boars must be at large. -Number of rentals that occur Waterfowl Damage Control -Scare Cannons are available for rent as per Policy Statement 62-26 "Scare Cannon Rental". -Number of producers that engage in -Suggest alternative control measures alternative control methods. to mitigate crop damage cause by waterfowl during fall migration. -Attend In Service Training to hear from **Alternative Control** -Agricultural Fieldmen will continue other Ag Fieldman from across the to look into alternative control Methods province methods for all pest species. -Attend demonstrations with government -Promote and notify producers of alternative control measures when research groups they come in.

### 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
Swede Midge of Canola	-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.
Grasshoppers	-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
Bertha Army Worms	- 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
Wheat Midge	- 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
Blackleg of Canola	- 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.
Clubroot	- 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</i> "Clubroot" -Number of Pest Notices given Annually

### 6. Soil Conservation Act Duties

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

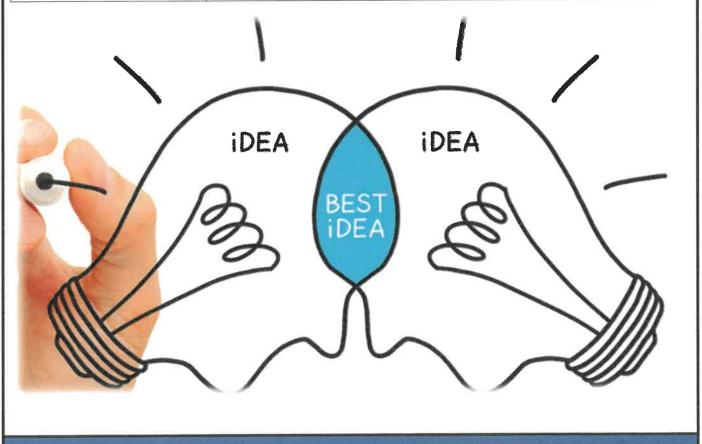
Strategies	Action	Measures
Soil Conservation	-Agricultural Fieldman are deemed as inspectors and can issue notices under this Act.	-Number of Soil Conservation Notice issued
	-Document and photograph any non- compliance with the Soil Conservation Act	-Number of Soil Conservation Letters issued
	-Promote soil health workshops and site demonstrations	-Number of workshops



### 7. Intergovernmental Collaboration

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

Strategies	Action	Measures
Collaborate with multiple levels and forms of government	-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.
Protect the interests of Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community	-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 2021.

### AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- 3 Agricultural Pest Inspectors appointed
- 75 Clubroot fields Inspected 6 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
- 52 Beaver tails brought in
- 4 New water stabilizers installed (gizmos)
- 7 repaired/upgraded gizmos
- 0 1080 pills distributed
- 0 Bottles of strychnine sold
- 193 Problem beavers removed
- 457 Pocket Gopher tails brought in
- 0 Rat calls investigated

### WEED CONTROL ACT

- 3 Weed Inspectors appointed
- 0 Weed Enforcements
- 1 Weed Notice issued with 11 locations
- 50% of Municipal Rights of way's were sprayed for control of noxious weeds
- 2 Location sprayed for prohibited noxious weeds
- 336 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

- 0 EFP's completed
- 19 virtual and in person workshops open to all producers
- 1 LARA Trial plot location in the County including a Hemp Trial

### LARA Meeting of board of directors November 8 2021 Ashmont Agriplex Dan Gawalko councillor Div. one

- Wanda Austin the chair opened the meeting at 1 pm she had no chair report at this time
- Alyssa gave the office building update they received the beautification grant /loan through community futures
   Bonnyville and the MD of Bonnyville for 10,000 dollars she is waiting for some quotes on window replacement and replacing the lights in the office and shop her and Kellie are looking into emission reduction Alberta grants also.
- Lots of wear on the old forage harvester its in for repairs thinking about replacing it in the next 5-10 years looking at costs for replacing their truck they use for hauling equipment and also the trailer they are currently using with that unit.
- FarmRITE report, the next meeting will be on Nov 15/21 goals moving forward working with RDAR potential new core grant towards manpower and updating their website
- Managers report was given by Alyssa the new LARA
  website is almost ready to launch, RDAR has created an
  extension task force and requested that the Applied
  Research and Forage Associations in the province sit on it
  Lisa Jeffrey is our rep from Peace Country Beef & Forage

- Alyssa is the alternate, LARA staff are looking into potential projects to apply for through RDAR and also looking to develop a research committee LARA.
- Research report ,all trials have been combined and the seed processed , currently working on data analysis and compilation , soil sampled the liming trials to determine ph levels attended the rvac meeting for the rvt trial program.
- Kellie gave the AESA report lots of interest in the Environmental Farm Plans EFPs due to many grant programs requiring a completed EFP, she is involved in the Thought for food initiative aimed at increasing local food use hosted the Living labs producer engagement session and know workshop with ag safe Alberta, she will also be attending a meeting on potential hemp projects across the province with Amanda.
- The financial statements were presented and 2022 budget was also presented and discussed .
- The LFA report was given and they are constructing a new dugout in pasture C4 to replace an aging one.
- Upcoming events, cultivating resilience on the farm by Leslie Kelly on November 16 in Ashmont, looking into some webinars for 2022, and a decision was made not to host Farmer Appreciation night in 2022 because of the ongoing covid issues.
- The next board meeting is at Ashmont on December 13 2021 at 1:00 pm , for any financial statements or the

minutes of this meeting please contact a LARA staff member at the Ft.Kent office





# AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PLAN

## (ASB) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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Goal	Progress Update	Current Com	Start Date	Due Date
Council Member Inquiry (ASB): 100%	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements: 1) Request sent on September 17th, 2021 asking to deal with an aggressive dog that loams freely at Bonnie Lake. Follow Up: Gene sent an e-mail on September 17th reminding Council that this is a Bylaw issue opposed to being a direct Dog Catching issue.		2017/12/31	2022/12/31
	2) Request sent on September 20th, 2021 asking to follow up on a water issue on White Earth Creek from RR 172 to RR 163. Follow Up: Flew the area with the drone on September 28th, 2021. Located 1 dam within the problem location. Dam was blasted on October 6th, 2021.			
	3) Request sent on September 20th, 2021 about a beaver house built on the east shoulder of RR 163 south of Twp 604. Follow Up: Trapper went out on September 20th, 2021 and set a trap. As of October 5th all the beavers at this location have been trapped.			
	4) Request sent on September 24th, 2021 about a new dam being built at RR 130 North of Hwy 28. Follow-Up: Already had a trap set here and will continue to trap this location. Also have been sitting in the evening with intentions of shooting this beaver because he is becoming smart.	100% 100 / 100%		
	5) Request sent on October 2nd, 2021 about a rock that rolled onto the County right of way on RR 133 North of Twp 594. Follow-Up: Mowers are done for the season, we have marked it down to be removed in the Spring during ditch clean-up.			
	6) Request sent on October 18th, 2021 in regards to a dam being rebuilt on RR 130. <b>Follow-</b> up: <b>Tr</b> apper sent to the location on October 18th to reset traps.			
	7) Request sent on October 22nd, 2021 to share Lesley Kelly LARA event on social media. Follow-up: Event had already been shared through our social media channels.			
	Challenges: No value			
	Next Steps: No value 2021/10/05			
Administrative Activity: 100%	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements: Training and Meetings attended between Oct 12- Dec 14, 2021	91% 91 / 100% 7% behind	2017/12/31	2021/12/31
	• Joint Health & Safety Meeting: October 14th			
	• Carleigh attended AAAF Education Committee Meeting: October 14th			
	Carleigh attended Council Meeting: October 15th			

- Professional Vegetation Managers Association (PVMA) Fall Conference: October 20th
- NE AAAF Regional Meeting: October 28th
- Carleigh attended Council Budget Meeting: October 29th
- Carleigh Cascade Training: November 3rd
- Carleigh AAAF Education Committee Meeting: November 4th
- ASB Regional Conference in Myrnam: November 5th
- Rural Woman's Conference Lac La Biche: November 17th
- Amanda attended Joint Health & Safety Meeting: November 18th
- Amanda attended ASB Provincial Webinar Update: November 18th
- Carleigh attended Council Budget Meeting: November 19th
- Safety Audit Initial Exit Report Meeting: November 22
- Meet & Greet with new Provincial Key Contact: November 24
- ASB Provincial update webinar: December 2
- Alberta Institute of Agrologists 2021 Clubroot update: December 2
- AAAF In Service Training December 6th-10th

## **Current Administrative Projects**

- Completing Department reports
- GIS Data Entry to begin soon
- Completing DCL applications for Crown land trapping
- Going through easement binder ensuring we have all signed and complete easements for problem areas in preparation for upcoming trapping season
- Reviewing policies and will be creating new policies based on recommendations given from our 2021 Field Visit

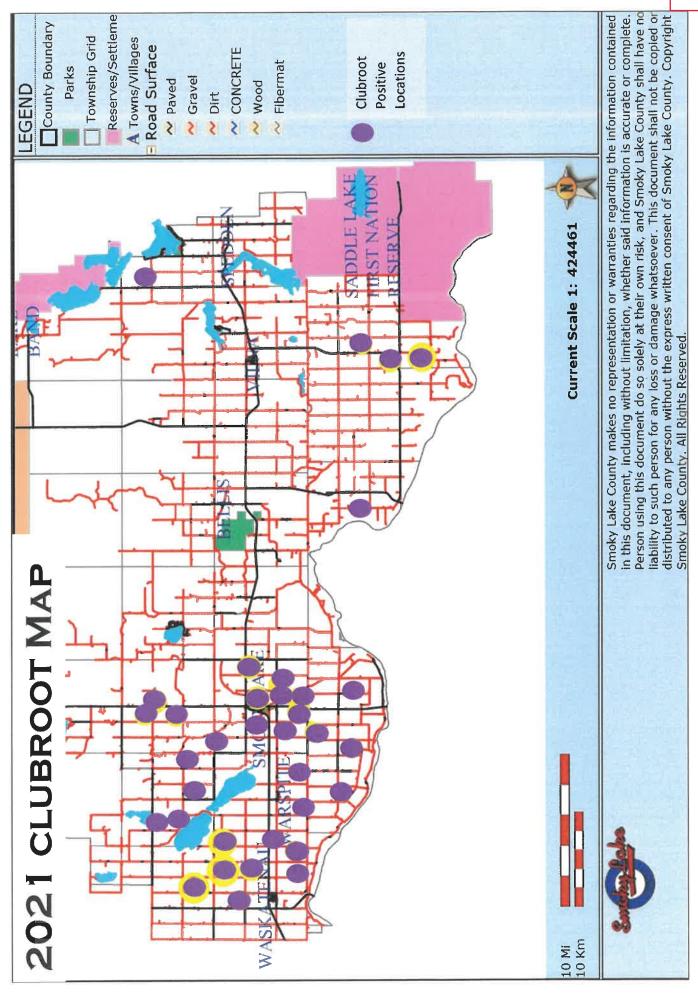
Challenges: No value

Next Steps: No value

2021/11/29

Goal	Progress Update	Current Com	Start Date	Due Date
Grazing school for Women	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2020/01/01	2022/09/30
	<ul> <li>Carleigh is sitting on the Grazing School for Woman Committee for the upcoming year.</li> <li>Currently we are working on planning an in-person event for 2022. It is still very early in the planning stages but it is going to be taking place in Wainwright and the day-of events are still to be determined.</li> </ul>	93% 93 / 93% ahead		
	Challenges: No value			
	<b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/11/29			
Blasting Activity (ASB): 100%	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2020/08/01	2021/12/31
	<ul> <li>Blasting has been completed for the season. Getting permission was a bit of a hurdle this year, but we mostly had success at locations of high priority.</li> </ul>	100% 100 / 100%		
	Challenges: No value			
	<b>Next Steps:</b> No value 2021/11/29			
Pest Control (ASB): 100%	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2017/12/31	2021/12/31
	Challenges: No value	90% 90 / 100%		
	<b>Next Steps:</b> No value 2021/11/29	8% behind		
	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2020/01/01	2021/12/31
	• 193 beavers have been caught as of November 29th, 2021.			
	• 140 muskrats have been caught as of November 29th, 2021.	94%		
	<ul> <li>4 new pond levelers have been installed, and 10 replacements on existing levelers.</li> </ul>	<b>94 /</b> 94% ahead		
	Challenges: No value			
	<b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/11/29			

Goal	Progress Update	Current Com	Start Date	Due Date
Clubroot Inspections: 100	NEW Carleigh McMullin:		2020/01/01	2020/10/31
reid(s)	Achievements:			
	<ul> <li>6 positive fields were found. Clubroot information packages and agreements were sent out to landowners.</li> </ul>	75% 75 / 100 Field(s)		
	Challenges: No value	25 Field(s) behind		
	<b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/11/29			
Safety Activity (ASB)	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2020/01/01	2021/12/31
	<ul> <li>Ag Department completed the online portion of CPR &amp; First Aid</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Attended both October and November JH&amp;S Meeting</li> </ul>	/ 06 %06		
	Challenges: No value	6% behind		
	<b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/11/29			
Dog Catching	NEW Carleigh McMullin: Achievements:		2021/10/05	2021/12/31
	<ul> <li>Since beginning dog catching in August 2021 we have received 21 phone calls and caught 7 dogs.</li> </ul>	/ 0 %0		
	Challenges: No value			
	<b>Next Steps:</b> No value 2021/11/29			
→ Dog Catching Phone Calls 0 Call(s)		101% 21 / 0 Call(s) 21 Call(s) ahead	2021/01/01	2021/12/31
→ Dog Catching Success 0 Dog(s)		101% 7 / 0 Dog(s) 7 Dog(s) ahead	2021/01/01	2021/12/31
ASB Environmental Services: 100%		0% 0 / 100% 92% behind	2021/01/01	2021/12/31



#### SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Clubroot			Policy No.:	Policy No.: 12-03			
Section:	62	Code: P-S	Page No.:	1	of	9	
							$\boldsymbol{E}$

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes	
	<del></del>	

Purpose:

To recognize that Clubroot is a serious problem and Smoky Lake County supports the agricultural community to help minimize the spread of Clubroot which is a pest under the *Agricultural Pest Act*.

#### **Policy Statement and Guidelines:**

#### 1. **DEFINITION**:

"Clubroot" is a disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the cabbage family (*Cruciferae*), caused by a parasite of plants (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) that lives in the soil and characterized by knobby or club-shaped swellings on the roots and premature wilting, yellowing, and stunted growth of aboveground parts.

#### 2. BACKGROUND:

2.1 Clubroot can spread through spores in the soil or in cruciferous plant material containing galls such as Canola, Mustard, Flixweed, Sherperd's purse, Stinkweed. Resting spores are extremely long lived, surviving in soil for up to 20 years; and are most likely to spread via contaminated soil carried from field to field by equipment. Tillage equipment represents the greatest risk of spreading the disease as soil is frequently carried on shovels and discs from field to field.

#### 3. **OBJECTIVE:**

- 3.1 To minimize the spread and build-up of Clubroot in canola fields through education and awareness.
- 3.2 To prevent economic loss by employing a Clubroot Management Agreement between agricultural producers who have confirmed Clubroot fields within Smoky Lake County.

#### 4. STATEMENT:

- 4.1 The Agricultural Service Board, under the authority of the *Agricultural Pest Act*, will undertake the following measures to assist in the minimization of Clubroot in canola.
  - 4.1.1 Perform random testing of susceptible crops and confirm suspected infestations through laboratory testing (PCR).

Title:	Clubroot		Policy No.:	12-03		
Section:	62	Code: P-S	Page No.:	2 of	9	
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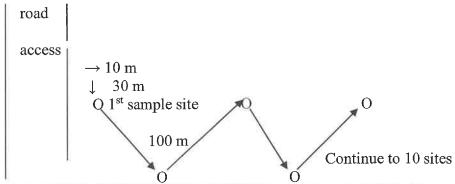
#### **Policy Statement and Guidelines:**

- 4.1.2 Advertise Public Awareness of County's random testing program.
- 4.1.3 Implement a Clubroot Management Agreement with agricultural producers based on the Canola Council of Canada Clubroot management recommendations and research.

#### 5. SURVEY PROCEDURE:

- 5.1 Clubroot disease development is favored by wet and acidic soil conditions and is mainly spread by movement of soil and infected plant material, as well as run-off water carrying soil.
- 5.2 Symptoms: The spores infect the roots of susceptible hosts, causing the formation of club-shaped galls or swellings that restrict the uptake of water and nutrients by the plant. Above-ground symptoms include yellowing, stunting, premature, ripening and wilting of plants.
- 5.3 Equipment and Materials needed: Clipboard, record sheets, hand towel, garden shears, Ziploc bags, 5% bleach solution, Plastic tray or pail, disposable boot covers, GPS Unit.
- 5.4 Clubroot field inspections will be conducted randomly by the appointed agricultural pest inspectors.
- 5.5 Agricultural Services Department Clubroot survey methods, reporting form and calculation of disease incidence will follow standard protocols as recommended by the Alberta Clubroot Management, as per Schedule "A":

  Clubroot Survey Form. The standard survey method is as follows: Scout for Clubroot by visually inspecting canola/mustard/cole crop roots for galls. As symptoms may take 6-8 weeks to develop, they are most detectable later in the summer (late July or August). Do not drive into field or access, but park on the road whenever possible.
  - 5.5.1 Put on new disposable boot covers. Survey the field in a "W" pattern, sampling 10 plants at each of 10 equally spaced sites along the arms of the W. Begin 30 m to the right of the field access. 10 m from field edge and allow 100 m between sampling points.



Title: Clubroot			Policy No.: 12-03				
Section:	62	Code: P-S	Page No.:	3	of	9	
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#### **Policy Statement and Guidelines:**

- 5.5.2 At each sample site, dig up roots from 10 plants and shake off excess soil. Examine roots for presence of galls. Record sample site location and findings on Clubroot survey form. Fields where infection is found or suspected, collect 5 10 root specimens, by cutting off stems and placing roots in a Ziploc bag labeled with field location and date surveyed. Retain sample for submission to lab for conformation.
- 5.5.3 Prior to leaving potentially infested field, discard disposable boot covers into garbage bag and incinerate later. Disinfect sampling tools with bleach solution.

#### 6. NOTIFICATION PROCESS:

- When land is verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner will be **notified in writing**, as per Schedule "B": Notification To Landowner Of Clubroot if an agricultural producer is found not adhering to their Clubroot Management Agreement, a legal notice in accordance with the Province of Alberta Agricultural Pest Act, as per Schedule "C": Legal Notice To Control Pests may be issued. Agricultural producers will be required to complete Schedule "D" Clubroot Management Agreement and have it signed and returned within 60 days.
- 6.2 If a host crop is sown on land that has Clubroot and a notice has been issued on this property restricting the growth of host crops, the host crop shall be destroyed.

Date		Resolution Number
Approved	June 11, 2009	# 556-10 - Page # 8996
Amended	November 6, 2014	# 118-14 - Page #11462
Amended	February 19, 2019	# 388-19 - Page #13475



## SCHEDULE "A"

### AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CLUBROOT SURVEY FORM

-					
Field location:	(Legal Property): _	Section	Quarter	Township range	Median
Name of produce	r farming that field:				
Date surveyed:					
Crop Cultivar:					
Previous crops:					<u> </u>
					— —
Strictly ac			rey results lants at eac	h of 10 sites using W	pattern).
Clubroot Found				1 N	
Yes 🗌					1
No 🗌					
	s / 10: ation:				
Additional Comm	ents:				
Dra	aw map of field and lan	dmarks with sam	pling points		
Inspector			Date: _		

#### **SCHEDULE "B"**



#### NOTIFICATION TO LANDOWNER OF CLUBROOT



Date:

Dear Agricultural Producer,

#### RE: Random Clubroot Survey Results

During Smoky Lake County's annual Clubroot surveying program, we have identified Clubroot on the **Legal Land Description**. Please note Clubroot is a serious disease affecting canola, if the disease is not managed properly it will continue to spread and overtime severely decrease yield in future canola crops. Smoky Lake County holds the right to issue a Clubroot Notice restricting the growth of canola, but we much prefer to work with producers first. Attached to this letter is a Clubroot Management Plan of Alberta, along with the 20/20 seed lab report confirming the presence of Clubroot, and a Clubroot Management Agreement that <u>MUST</u> be returned to Smoky Lake County's Office within **60** days of this letter being issued. This Clubroot Management Agreement must be reviewed and signed off by a Certified Crop Advisor and/or Agrologists. A list of these professionals in your area are attached.

Please understand we want to work with agricultural producers first and foremost, as we are here to provide support to the Agricultural Community as a whole. Please notify any renter or lease holders of this property if you are not currently farming the property yourself.

If you have any questions with any of the attached information or forms please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Fieldman

#### **SCHEDULE "C"**

#### **LEGAL NOTICE TO CONTROL PESTS**

# Agricultural Pests Act Section 6(1) - Form 2

	PEST AND NUISANCE CO	NTROL REGULATION	ON		
To: I	Name:		•		
	10.4000000				
MAILIN	Box	City or Town		Postal Code	
meridia Pest ar	e hereby notified that thequarter of section n, Alberta, as indicated on the diagram below, contained Nuisance Control Regulation made under the powing measures:	ains Clubroot, which ha	is been de	clared a pest b	y the
1.	Do not plant canola on  Legal Property  until  Year		NW	NE	
2.	Keep Legal Property free of volunteer canola, wild mustard and shepherds purse or any other host vegetation.				
3.	Use direct seeding and any soil conservation practices to minimize soil movement.		SW	SE	
4.	Clean soil and crop debris from field equipment before entering or leaving all fields.				
5.	Avoid the use of straw, hay, greenfeed, silage o manure from the				
IMMED	DIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:				
TO BE	COMPLETED BY:				
	ne above measures must be completed withinion may be taken in accordance with the legislation	years from the date		of this notice, fa	ailing
served above o	tice is issued under Section 12(1) of the Agricultural on the municipal secretary, accompanied by a deposit the period of 10 days from service of the notice, with the Agricultural Pests Act.	osit of <b>\$100.00</b> , before	the expiry	of the time stat	ed
	f Issue enter/Leasee (if different from the Landowner)	Inspector - Telephone N		Lake County 80-656-3730	

#### **SCHEDULE "D"**

# Clubroot Management Agreement



This Clubroot Management Agreement is for developing a proactive management plan with the help of a Certified Crop Advisors to reduce or keep spore levels low and to minimize yield loss due to Clubroot. For each section below, please fill out all required information for all management strategies. The strategies listed as —Required are minimum requirements that must be included. Additional strategies can be included where ever feasible and possible. For in depth information on Clubroot management strategies, please refer to the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan or your professional advisor.

Agricultura	l Producer Informati	ion				
· ·				Date:		
Landowner or	r Lease Holder Name: 🖃					
Certified Crop	Advisor			<del>-</del>		
Field location:	(Legal Property):					
		Section	Quarter	Township	Range	Median
Field leastions	(Legal Property):					
Field location.	(Legal Property):	Section	Quarter	Township	Range	Median
			197 20	TO LIFE	Charles V	
Part 1: Crop	Rotation					
Crop Rotation	n has proven to lower s	pore loads	in the soil	with a minii	num of a t	hree year
rotation. Lon	ger rotations are encour	raged in fie	elds with h	igh disease s	everity.	
Indicate which	ch crop rotation interva	l will be fo	llowed:			
	Three-year rotation (t	wo year br	eak) — <mark>Req</mark>	uired		
	T	lo				
	Four-year rotation (th	iree year b	reak)			
	Perennial forage crop	for more th	nan two ye	ars		
	Other- please indicate					
	Other-picase mulcate					
	Other- please mulcate					

Part 2: Vari	ety Selection
Select all stra	tegies that will be used:
	Only Clubroot-resistant varieties in Clubroot confirmed fields will be grown – Required
	Use of Clubroot-resistant varieties in all canola fields
	Rotating Clubroot varieties with multi-genetics varieties
	Seeding Canola earlier
The state of the s	
	d Management
Select all wee	d management strategies that will be used:  Control of volunteer crops including: Canola, Camelina, Mustard or other  Clubroot susceptible hosts <u>Required</u>
	Control of cruciferous weeds throughout all rotations -Required
	Rotating herbicide programs within Canola varieties ex. Liberty, Roundup, Clearfield
S. A. SANT	
Part 4: Sma	ll Clubroot Patch Management
	Hand pulling and safely disposing of all Clubroot-infected plants
	Liming of soil in Clubroot-infected patches to increase pH 7.3
	Soil testing to monitor Clubroot spore levels
	Seeding known Clubroot patches last
THE PERSON NAMED IN	
	ucing Soil Movement
Please indica	te all the ways that soil movement will be minimized:  Seed grass in the field entry way to reduce spore or as an area for cleaning equipment
	Create separate entrance and exits away from existing field entrances
	Remove large clumps of soil from equipment
	Wash and sanitize with bleach when possible
	Visit Clubroot infected fields last
	Require others (industry) to implement a biosecurity protocol
	Use of soil conservation practices, such as zero till or minimum tillage-Required
	Minimize traffic in fields, especially during wet conditions
	Discourage recreational vehicles from crossing land with signage, fencing and gates

	STATE OF BUILDING						
Part 6: Disc	closure of Clubroot Infesta	tion and Biosecuri	ty				
	Notification of all occupants land-Required	t holders who have access to					
	☐ Notification and disclosure to contracted services and or other parties accessing the land- Required						
	☐ Disclosure that Clubroot is present to when the land is sold or rented to other parties						
		1 18 - 2 - 4 12 " The	ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT				
Part 7: Club	proot Scouting and Monite	oring					
	Continued scouting in other	fields rented or owne	d				
11.50 4 5 7 9			THE RESERVE OF STREET				
Part 8: Dec	laration						
	I have answered the above to agement strategies, as a minim	•	and will adhere to the required t spore levels low.				
Landowner/R	enters Signature:		Date:				
Certified Crop	Advisor:		Date:				
Agricultural 1	Fieldman Signature:		Date:				
	is agreement to the Smoky Lake Cou er information regarding this matter		f receiving your Clubroot notification tural Services Department at (780)				
Physical Address	Physical Address: 4612 McDougall Drive Mailing Address: Box 310 Smoky Lake, AB Smoky Lake, AB TOA 3C0						

# Alberta Crop Report



5.4

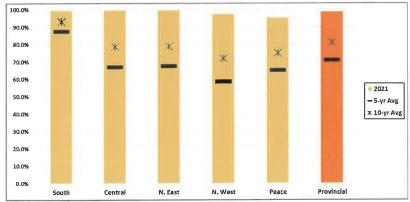
# Crop Conditions as of October 12 (Abbreviated Report) Final Report for 2021

Favourable harvest conditions in 2021 advanced harvesting operations by three to four weeks across the province. While harvest is practically complete in the South, Central and North East Regions, about 98 per cent of crops in the North West Region and 95 per cent of crops in the Peace Region are now in the bin (see Table 1). Provincially, harvest progress is now 99 per cent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average of 71 per cent and the 10-year average of 81 per cent. About 0.5 per cent of major crops are in swath and 0.7 per cent remain standing. When compared to the averages, harvest progress is well ahead for all regions (see Figure 1).

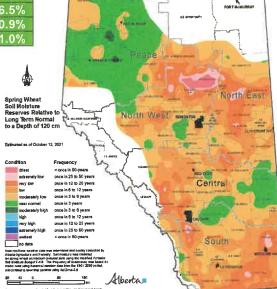
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 12, 2021

	Per cent of Crops Combined							
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta		
Spring Wheat	99.6%	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%	98.2%	99.6%		
Barley	99.3%	100.0%	99.8%	99.2%	97.1%	99.4%		
Oats	99.9%	99.7%	99.6%	96.1%	96.3%	98.0%		
Canola	99.2%	98.9%	99.1%	95.4%	92.0%	97.3%		
Dry Peas	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%	99.9%		
Major Crops, Oct 12	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%	97.5%	95.4%	98.7%		
Major Crops, Oct 5	98.3%	98.6%	98.2%	92.4%	87.8%	96.1%		
Major Crops, Last Year	99.1%	96.4%	97.2%	95.4%	92.0%	96.5%		
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	87.6%	67.0%	67.6%	58.6%	65.2%	70.9%		
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	93.0%	78.7%	78.8%	72.1%	75.0%	81.0%		

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Harvest Progress, 2021 vs Averages



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Weather has started to cool down, with frosts happening overnight. Soil moisture remained poor throughout much of the South, Central, North East and North West Regions and is near normal for the Peace Region and small pockets in the



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and staff of AFSC for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. The climate map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch.



North West and Central Regions (see the Map on the previous page). Provincial surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture shown in brackets) is currently depleted and rated as 35 (42) per cent poor, 35 (32) per cent fair, 27 (23) per cent good and 3 (3) per cent excellent (See Table 2).

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of October 12, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	33.9%	46.3%	19.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Central	27.4%	35.2%	34.7%	2.7%	0.0%
North East	53.9%	18.9%	24.1%	3.1%	0.0%
North West	21.8%	27.4%	38.9%	12.0%	0.0%
Peace	40.1%	33.9%	24.5%	1.4%	0.1%
Alberta	35.6%	34.7%	26.8%	3.0%	0.0%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	5.9%	19.3%	47.5%	24.2%	3.1%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	11.6%	25.9%	42.6%	18.0%	1.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Feed availability is variable across the province, even within municipalities, depending on topography, precipitation received, etc. Some producers have adequate or even surplus feed grain and forages, while others are supplementing their feed shortfalls with straw from their fields, as there has been a substantial amount baled after harvest. In other cases, producers need to buy straw where little crop was harvested. Additionally, cattle in most areas are grazing on harvested fields and producers are cutting and baling harvested fields. Hay and straw are mostly moved locally to minimize trucking costs. Provincially, forage reserves are estimated at 20 per cent deficit, 26 per cent shortfall, 50 per cent adequate, and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 18 per cent deficit, 24 per cent shortfall, 52 per cent adequate and 6 per cent surplus.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Harvest of major crops is practically complete. Some light snow and rain have moderated moisture levels, while temperatures are returning to seasonal normal and light frosts have started overnight.
- Forage reserve estimates for this region are 18 per cent deficit, 35 per cent shortfall, 43 per cent adequate and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 18 per cent deficit, 32 per cent shortfall, 45 per cent adequate and 5 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 7 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 50 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 34 (60) per cent poor, 46 (32) per cent fair, 19 (8) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest in the region is virtually complete and producers are progressing with fall fieldwork. In some counties, livestock producers are purchasing feed and straw due to extremely dry conditions and heat stress from the growing season.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 10 per cent deficit, 17 per cent shortfall, 65 per cent adequate and 8 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 9 per cent deficit, 15 per cent shortfall, 64 per cent adequate and 12 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 27 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 45 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent.

• Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 27 (34) per cent poor, 35 (29) per cent fair, 35 (35) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is almost complete in the region and temperatures are cooling off, with heavier frosts overnight. Cattle are grazing on harvested fields and producers are cutting and baling remaining crop.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 23 per cent deficit, 17 per cent shortfall, 58 per cent adequate and 2 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 21 per cent deficit, 16 per cent shortfall, 60 per cent adequate and 3 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 27 per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, and 60 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 54 (43) per cent poor, 19 (31) per cent fair, 24 (24) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- With about 98 per cent of crops in the bin, harvest is nearing completion. Less than two per cent of crops are still
  standing, which include oats and canola fields that were damaged over the growing season, delaying maturity. Some
  producers are facing feed and hay shortages, which is supplemented by baling some crops remaining or sourcing
  locally to avoid trucking costs.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 47 per cent deficit, 27 per cent shortfall, 25 per cent adequate and 1 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 43 per cent deficit, 24 per cent shortfall, 30 per cent adequate and 3 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 38 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 22 (12) per cent poor, 27 (37) per cent fair, 39 (39) per cent good and 12 (12) per cent excellent.

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

- About 95 per cent of crops are now in the bin. Only some late seeded crops and fields with second growth are still to be harvested. While two per cent of crops are in swath, almost three per cent are still standing, including two per cent of spring wheat and barley, three per cent of oats and four per cent of canola.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 10 per cent deficit, 39 per cent shortfall, 47 per cent adequate and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 5 per cent deficit, 33 per cent shortfall, 52 per cent adequate and 10 per cent surplus.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 40 (36) per cent poor, 34 (39) per cent fair, 25 (24) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

#### Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch Statistics and Data Development Section October 15, 2021 Ashan Shooshtarian Crop Statistician Phone: 780-422-2887

Email: ashan shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

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#### Amanda Kihn

From: Shelley Barkley <Shelley.Barkley@gov.ab.ca>

**Sent:** December 1, 2021 1:52 PM

To: Amanda Kihn

**Subject:** insect survey results 2021

Attachments: alberta_crop_insect_update-2021.pdf; Here are some thoughts about Canola flower

midge and swede midge.docx; smokylake.docx

#### Hello Amanda

Here are the results of the insect surveys we did in your municipality.

These include results from Agronomists; Applied Research Associations; AAAF; Producers and Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development.

I have added a couple extra files for your reading pleasure. One is the report I gave to the Western Committee on Crop Pests (alberta_crop_insect_update.pdf), the second is some background information about swede midge and canola flower midge surveying/surveillance that has happened in Alberta. If you have questions about the canola flower midge survey either in the buds or in the pods I would gladly have a visit.

As always I am so grateful for all your help with the program over the past 2 years while we wait for a new Insect Management Specialist.

If there are any issues you have with my program please reach out. And if you have any suggestions about how we communicate better with producers so they know that we are surveying in your region, I welcome that too. Thank you for your participation in the grasshopper survey. We were well over 2000 lines of data. This is the one survey that gets the most hits on the Alberta Agriculture website.

And I can say it now... Happy Holidays and the best in 2022 Shelley

To see current insect issues visit <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx</a>



# INSECT SURVEY RESULTS - 2021 - SMOKY LAKE

#### 2021 Summary

There were 4 bertha armyworm sites in Smoky Lake in 2021, and none were close to the first warning level of 300 moths. Although there was one that was very close... Even though the catch this year was low, trapping continues to be very important to watch for a possible build-up in the population and to get an early warning if there are issues brewing in the 2022 fields.

Pea leaf weevil damage was evident again in the survey conducted in late May – early June. I could only find 1 pea field in Smoky Lake this year. I did find feeding damage, but below economic thresholds. It will be important to watch this insect over the next few years to determine if it will become a problem in your area. And I need to find more fields in 2022.

Wheat midge numbers are still relatively low in your area but I did find midge in two of the four samples I took. Producers and agronomists want to keep an eye on the wheat as it begins to flower in 2022 for signs of wheat midge populations. Experience has shown that the wheat midge population increases in wet years and when seeding is delayed.

No cabbage seedpod weevil were found in Smoky Lake.

One thing that we need to keep an eye on is the cutworm situation. With the long fall and crop regrowth, cutworm moths had the opportunity to lay a lot of eggs. Fields with bare spots should be checked for cutworms next spring.

#### BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

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
SE-3-59-17-W4	251
SW-29-58-13-W4	29
NW-15-60-19-W4	115

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE			
SW-29-58-21-W4	118			
SW-34-60-19-W4	7			

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.



LLD	CSPW in 25 sweeps	Lygus Adult	Lygus Nymph	Leafhopper	Striped Flea beetle	crucifer	Other Flea Beetle	Turnip beetle	DBM Adult	DBM larva	Wasp <5 mm	Wasp >5mm	honey bee	bee but not honey	caterpillar
sw-1-58-17-W4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ne-19-59-16-W4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
nw-16-59-18-W4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	14	58	17	4	5.44	59	1.18	

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/m²)</li>
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m²)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m²)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m²)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	PARASITOID		
nw-9-60-19-W4	0	0	0		
ne-32-58-17-W4	0	0	0		
ne-7-59-15-W4	1	1	0		
se-2-58-15-W4	1	1	0		

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



#### **Alberta Crop Insect Update 2021**

#### SUMMARY

Lygus bugs were a major pest in canola through much of the province. Flea beetle numbers were high going into the fall and some control measures were used at the late pod stage to protect what yield was there. Diamondback moth and bertha armyworm were not an issue in 2021. Although not new, wheat stem sawfly damage was found as far north as highway 9 and the cutting damage in its traditional area is over 65%. New finds of the lily leaf beetle continue as it moves around the province. Spotted Wing Drosophila was detected at four localities in Alberta.

#### **OILSEED INSECTS**

Flea beetles were a major concern in canola throughout Alberta. A common comment from many agronomists and producers was that there were high numbers in late summer and fall. Some spraying of canola at late pod was done in the Falher and Eaglesham area of the Peace to protect yield as beetles were doing significant damage to the pods. Producers are gearing up for strong flea beetle pressure in 2022, booking canola seed with effective seed treatments.

Bertha armyworm moth (*Mamestra configurata*) was monitored at 337 locations in 2021. The population outbreak in the Peace seems to be on the decline. In 2021, only two of the 337 pheromone traps went over the first warning level of 300; but there was isolated spraying for this insect in central Alberta.

Diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*). Our monitoring system for diamondback moth has expanded to 41 sites. There was no major migration of this insect.

The cabbage seedpod weevil (*Ceutorhynchus obstrictus*) survey covered central and southern Alberta (excluding the Peace region which is coordinated by Jennifer Otani, AAFC Beaverlodge). The survey was conducted in 264 fields with an additional 38 on-line reports from agrologists. Results from the survey and online reporting indicated that cabbage seedpod weevil numbers were low in 2021 with the exception of some early-planted fields south of Fort McLeod and near Magrath that were over threshold and required insecticide treatment.

Lygus bugs were a concern as high numbers of the insect were found at podding. Producers and crop advisors struggled with the decision to control the pest in heat and drought stressed crops, debating whether to salvage every bushel or abandon failing crops. Hot and dry conditions in late spring allowed populations to explode and migrate to canola during flowering. Lygus during flower normally are less than 1 per sweep but some fields had 2-3 lygus per sweep during the 2021 flowering period. A nominal threshold of 2-3/sweep (work by Hector Carcamo, AAFC Lethbridge) replaced the older Lygus threshold charts when it became apparent that many regions of the prairies were finding high lygus numbers. Some growers sprayed at flower, but still had lygus over threshold at the pod stage.

Root maggots (*Delia* spp.) were not much of an issue in 2021. This insect is usually associated with moist growing conditions. Root examinations when scouting for clubroot found limited damage in 2021.

In August 2020, Diptera larvae found inside canola pods, were collected from a field in Wheatland County. Late in 2020, DNA analysis, done by the Alberta Plant Health Lab, identified these insects as *Contarinia brassicola*, the canola flower midge.

In mid-July 2021, nine fields within an eight-mile radius of the 2020 field were surveyed for the presence of the larvae in the pods. One field was found with larvae in pods, which were collected and sent to the Alberta Plant Health Lab and Mori Lab at University of Alberta for identification. Results confirmed *Contarinia brassicola*. A delineation survey in Wheatland county; northern edge of Vulcan county and the southern edge of Kneehill county was done under the direction of Dr. Boyd Mori. An additional 9 fields were found to have pods with infestation including two more fields reported by the Alan Mittelstadt, the agronomist who reported the original 2020 find.

#### CEREAL INSECTS

Wireworm (Elateridae) continues to be a difficult problem for many producers. While the serious problems continue in southern Alberta, reports of wireworm and wireworm issues are showing up further north each year. There is no monitoring program for wireworms, so we rely on communications from producers and agronomists. 2021 was the first growing season for a new insecticide seed treatment in cereals, it remains to be seen if recent new chemicals will reduce the wireworm problems in Alberta.

Wheat stem sawfly (*Cephus cinctus*). In 2021, 85 fields were surveyed for wheat stem sawfly. Sawfly numbers increased in 2021, in the southeast corner of AB, with fields well over 65% cutting. High levels of damage were observed at Lethbridge in AAFC farmland (Brian Beres' field observation). Sawfly cutting was found in nearly every field visited south of Highway 3. Damage at very low levels (<3%) was also found in Rocky View, Kneehill and Starland Counties. The 2021 summer heat and premature maturation of wheat will reduce the second generation of the key sawfly parasitoid, *Bracon cephi* going into winter.

Wheat midge (Sitodiplosis mosellana) processing of 285 fields is complete. Results from the survey and reports from producers and agronomists are indicating wheat midge was not an issue in 2021.

Wheat head armyworm (*Dargida diffusa*) was reported (and a cause of alarm when scouted for by using the combine header) from Strathmore north to Three Hills-Drumheller area. Cotesia wasp parasitism, indicated by pupal masses, was also reported. Producers and agronomists are asking about scouting and control measures.

A small survey (10 fields) for European corn borer (Ostrinia nubilalis) was done in Newell County. No larvae were found.

#### **PULSE CROP INSECTS**

Pea leaf weevil (Sitona lineatus) continues to be found over a wide range in 2021 but damage is lower than normal in traditional areas and did not expand its northern edge.

Three surveillance sites, Bow Island (Forty Mile County), Rainier and Tilley (Newell County) were set up for Western Bean Cutworm (*Striacosta albicosta*) and none were found.

Lentil growers are noticing significant feeding damage on lentil roots by wireworm. Lentil growers also had to contend with grasshoppers, many lentil fields were sprayed.

#### **GRASS CROPS, PASTURES AND GENERAL INSECTS**

Black grass bug (*Labops hesperius*) was of concern in the Municipal District of Foothills this spring in dry pastures.

The black army cutworm (Actebia fennica) was reported in alfalfa hay fields in the spring in Sturgeon County.

Lesser migratory grasshopper, *Melanoplus sanguinipes*, a pest of cereals and oilseeds, was low in density, and low in relative abundance across much of Alberta, and nearly absent in the area from Lethbridge to the USA and east to Saskatchewan. Lesser migratory grasshopper, like all of the pest species, increase in numbers locally when warm, dry spring and summer weather allow.

Two-striped grasshopper, *Melanoplus bivitattus*, increased in abundance in 2021 across southern Alberta, with hot spots of over 100 per square meter in areas near Carmangay, Skiff, Foremost, Lethbridge, and east to the Saskatchewan border. Variability also increased, hot spots were separated by large areas with no *Melanoplus bivitattus* to be found. The fungal disease, *E. grylli*, a common sight in some areas, killed thousands in southern Alberta in 2021. Two-striped grasshopper is expected to increase in numbers and range in 2022. Packard's grasshopper, remains much lower and more restricted to roadsides near grass and hay.

Clear-winged grasshopper increased density in southern Alberta, and in Peace River, but remain much lower in numbers than other dominant species. It seems that this species had a much greater rate of parasitism than other grasshoppers during 2018-2021 (up to 50% killed by internal maggots), and this natural control might be helping. This species is expected to increase in 2022.

Bruner's spur-throated grasshopper populations from Falher to Peace River, Manning and Keg River were significant but still not as high as a full outbreak.

European skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*) questions about effects of larval feeding on timothy and brome hay production are starting to circulate among producers in the Peace. Some are saying they are losing yield to this insect.

#### **Horticulture**

Two pheromone trap locations were set up in Brooks region for the invasive Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica*. Trap locations included the golf course and a private residence. No beetles were captured.

The Lily Beetle, *Lilioceris lilii*, has continued its spread throughout the province with a distribution that ranges from Gibbons, Onoway and Bruderheim in the north-central to Leslieville and Cochrane in the west, to Vegreville, Drumheller, and Lloydminster in the east, and to Lethbridge and Brooks in the south.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED), Ophiostoma novi-ulmi, had been detected in the City of Lethbridge with two boulevard trees testing positive in 2020. Eradication was successful and it is considered as an isolated case. This is the second detection of the disease since a single tree had tested positive in 1998 in the Town of Wainwright. All 2021 DED suspect samples cultured at the Alberta Plant Health Lab tested negative for the fungus. Alberta continues to monitor annually for the DED beetle vectors throughout the province. In 2021, STOPDED commissioned Living Tree Environmental to conduct enhanced DED surveys in locations that captured higher, sustained numbers of elm bark beetles over the last 2 years to determine if DED was present. Locations surveyed were Town of Brooks, Taber, Oyen and Drumheller, Village of Diamond City, Consort, Cereal and Barons, Taber Municipal Park and Park Lake and Tillebrook Provincial Parks. Alberta is still DED free.

The Elm Seed Bug, Arocatus melanocephalus, was detected for the first time in Alberta in the Medicine Hat region. This insect feeds on the seeds of elm and is not considered a threat to the tree. However, it can be a nuisance due to its habit of entering homes in large numbers in the summer to avoid heat.

There is a tentative record of the Poplar Sawfly, *Trichiocampus grandis*, from Red Deer last summer and now this summer from Chestermere. Rearing was not successful from last year. Specimens will be collected next summer to confirm a western range extension.

In a survey of 6 localities in central and southern Alberta, Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), *Drosophila suzukii*, was detected at several localities (Olds, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Lacombe).

Thank you to those that contributed to this report: Autumn Barnes; Norm Boulet; Jenny Cronkite; Janet Feddes-Calpas; Hector Carcamo; Haley Catton; Jeff DeHaan; Belinda DeSmet; Rob Dunn; Ken Fry; Keith Gabert; Ashley Glover; Dan Johnson; Alan Middelstadt; Boyd Mori; James Oberhofer; Fred Sawchuck and Sheri Stridhorst.

Special thank you to Boyd Mori for editing the report.

Report compiled by Shelley Barkley shelley.barkley@gov.ab.ca Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Crop Diversification Centre South 301 Horticultural Station Road East Brooks, AB

#### **Amanda Kihn**

From: Mike Bates <mbates@beaver.ab.ca>

**Sent:** December 1, 2021 12:35 PM

To: Aimee Boese; Brett.w@lamontcounty.ca; Matt Janz; Carleigh McMullin; Janice Boden;

Mike Penner; jacob.marfo@laclabichecounty.com; Terry Eleniuk; Darwin Ullery; Jessica Robley; Caitlin Wolf; Amanda Kihn; kkornelsen@county.stpaul.ab.ca; Warren Leister;

Elden Kozak; Sara Miller; Cathie Erichsen Arychuk; Darrin Beckett;

hmusterer@county24.com; agfield@mdwainwright.ca; soracheski@mdwainwright.ca

Subject: ASB Conference

#### Afternoon Northeast,

Aimee and I have gotten a few questions about the ASB Conference dates. The Conference is scheduled for January 25-27th. I don't have any additional details to pass along but, at least you can get it on your future dates.

Additional Conference details (other than dates) should be released by the Northwest shortly.

#### Have a great afternoon!

Mike Bates Agricultural Fieldman Beaver County Box 140 Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Office: 780-663-3730 Cell: 780-996-1275



# RESOLUTION 1-22 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS: Invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems which

may result in economic harm to agricultural and recreation

industries;

WHEREAS: Highway corridors facilitate the spread of invasive plants both

locally and internationally;

**WHEREAS:** The Alberta Transportation is responsible for weed control within

the rights of way of the 31,000 kilometers of provincial highways in

the province, as per the Weed Control Act;

WHEREAS: Alberta Transportation has not adequately maintained control of

noxious and prohibited noxious weeds within provincial highway

rights of way in recent years;

WHEREAS: This lack of control is affecting neighboring landowners, as these

invasive weeds are spreading into their fields;

WHEREAS: Due to this lack of control, landowners adjacent to provincial

highways are faced with increased costs to their vegetation control

programs;

WHEREAS: Allowing noxious and invasive plant growth including brush along

highways increases the risk to public safety by reducing visibility

along road shoulders where wildlife is crossing or grazing;

WHEREAS: The most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is

preventing them from establishing rather than relying on eliminating

them after an infestation has begun;

WHEREAS: In 2017, Alberta Transportation developed a three-year provincial

vegetation management plan, which included a plan to manage

noxious weeds in highway rights of way;

WHEREAS: Alberta Transportation must allocate sufficient funds and capacity

to meet its weed control requirements along provincial highways;

**WHEREAS:** Continued advocacy efforts have been ongoing with the ASB

Provincial Committee and the Ministry has agreed to focus on improving communication and relationships to put the limited

dollars available to their best use.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Transportation increase funding for summer maintenance programs for its vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along provincial highways;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Transportation enhances their current vegetation management strategy at a minimum to the level of the 2017 Provincial Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to manage noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds, and any unsafe vegetation on the full rights of way of all primary and secondary provincial highways;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Transportation continue to allow the option to enter into service agreements with municipalities for the purposes of vegetation management and/or weed control within their respective municipalities.

SPONSORED BY	: County of Two Hills / Leduc County
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED BY:	
CARRIED:	
DEFEATED:	
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Alberta Transportation

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION Member Background

This is not a new issue, municipalities across the province have been dealing with these issues since the province privatized Alberta Transportation services in the mid 1990's. There has been less and less vegetation management along provincial highways every year.

Reductions in provincial funding in recent years have severely impacted vegetation management along provincial highways. This has resulted in changes stating that maintenance along provincial highways will be one shoulder cut of mowing per year, with no full width mowing and no scheduled weed spraying. Although late fall mowing ensures that vegetation height is managed going into the winter season, it does not control noxious or prohibited noxious weeds at that stage of growth, especially if the mowing is only a single shoulder pass of a wide right-of-way.

Adjacent landowners are frustrated with the weeds in the Provincial Right-of-Ways because the weeds are propagating onto their lands causing financial burden and the overgrowth is impacting the safety of travelling motorists and migratory wildlife along Alberta highways.

#### Expense:

Landowners are spending large sums of money on weed control, but are also seeing their results diminish because of a lack of responsibility by the province, regarding the Alberta Weed Act. The Alberta Weed Act was introduced in 1907 to ensure landowners practice good husbandry and stewardship of our lands. As fellow landowners, the province, by not proactively controlling weeds is insinuating we should wait until a weed notice is issued (as referred to in the response by Alberta Transportation) before conducting any weed control. We have noticed the amount of time taken to respond to a weed infestation has increased - leading to larger infestations. It affects our ratepayers/landowners and the county, as both must increase their budgets for weed control.

#### Potential transfer of weeds provincially, nationally and internationally:

The weed issue in our county has local, provincial, national, and possibly international impacts as hay, grain, and other commodities are transported via our highway network daily. Any vehicle that stops on the side of the highway could potentially transfer weed seeds anywhere. The impact is two-fold: an increased weed control budget (whether it's spraying, or mowing, or hand removal) and dockage to grains and forages sold into the market place. The added increased costs affect the overall net profits at the farm level.

Mowing of right-of-ways can be an effective method of control of some noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, if mowing occurs prior to seed set. However, if mowing does not occur throughout the right-of-way, those weeds growing outside of the mowing path will be able to complete their life cycle, creating a larger issue in subsequent years. If full right-of-way mowing cannot occur in a timely fashion annually, additional control measures must be utilized to ensure control.

Spraying of weeds will only occur if local municipalities identify areas of concern and issue a notice under the Weed Control Act to Alberta Transportation. This is an inefficient use of resources both on the municipal and provincial end. The best control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds comes from prevention or early detection and control of an infestation. Furthermore, multiple control measures over consecutive years is the most effective and efficient way to control weeds. Reactive control is considerably more expensive if weeds are not controlled annually.

#### Safety:

In addition to not controlling weeds in highway ditches, the province has reduced its mowing program along our highway ditches. Mowing, also a method of controlling weeds, used to be conducted twice per year along our highways – along the shoulder, and every four to five years as prescribed from shoulder to fence-line.

This year we were initially informed that the province did not budget for any ditch mowing. After raising concerns to Alberta Transportation, we were informed we would get one mow this season, of only one pass along the shoulder of the highway. Not only does this impact control of the weeds along our highways, we have a grave concern for the safety of the public travelling these highways. The visibility of wildlife crossing the highways is hindered by the tall weeds and grass.

We have received several calls and visits from county residents who have noticed increased wildlife and bird strike along our two- and three-digit highways. They are worried for their own safety as well as the safety of local wildlife impacted by motorist's inability to spot wildlife and have proper warning time in which to react to wildlife crossing. Furthermore, this has a financial impact from the aspect of automobile insurance rates and premiums.

#### Province ignoring its own Act:

Under the *Weed Control* Act, landowners have a responsibility to "control a noxious weed that is on the land the person owns or occupies" as well as "destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies." As owner of provincial highways, the Province of Alberta, through the Ministry of Transportation, has a responsibility to control weeds throughout their right-of-ways.

The best control of weeds comes from prevention, not reaction. The province is not abiding by its own legislation intended to control the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. By not controlling the ditches, municipalities are put in the uncomfortable position of having to issue weed notice to the province. We cannot expect landowners to control weeds on their land while the province ignores weeds in their right-of-way's.

#### History & Legislation:

Alberta highway shoulders were mowed twice per season. Approximately every four years, a manager would prescribe additional shoulder to fence-line mowing. In 2015, Alberta Transportation stopped mowing along all highways. Alberta Transportation proactive weed control plans changed in 2014. Alberta Transportation stopped spraying weeds proactively, and would only spray if they were issued a weed notice.

The Alberta Weed Control Act was proclaimed in Province of Alberta in 1907. It is reviewed and proclaimed every four or six years. It was last reviewed and proclaimed in 2016.

The Alberta Weed Control Act aims to regulate noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds, and weed seeds through various control measures, such as inspection and enforcement, together with provisions for recovery of expenses in cases of non-compliance. Additionally, it mandates the licensing of seed cleaning plants and mechanisms. An excerpt is included:

#### Part 1:

#### Noxious weeds — control

2 A person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

#### Prohibited noxious weeds — destroy

**3** A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies. **Spread of weeds prohibited** 

**4(1)** Subject to the regulations, a person shall not use or move anything that, if used or moved, might spread a noxious weed or prohibited noxious weed.

#### Other Stakeholders

Alberta Invasive Plants Council - This group of individuals and organizations work hard to educate, the public on invasive species (plants, and organisms) not only in our province, but also those that can potentially be introduced in our province. This group tries very hard to stop the spread of invasive species.

**Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen** - This is a group of about 160 members from across the province, these men and women work hard every day to try and reduce or eradicate the invasive species in their respective Counties or MD's. We are bound by the Alberta Weed Act in our own jurisdiction to both keep Right of Ways clean, but also educate and enforce weed concerns to local producers.

**Agricultural Services Board** - There are 69 municipalities that have an Agricultural Services Board, this board and its members create and uphold strategic plans that include proactive measures to reduce invasive populations in their jurisdiction. We work hard every year to improve our stewardship on the lands around us.

**Alberta Transportation** - Alberta Transportation has a very high invested interest as they are in control of the highways, these roads must be kept safe for all travelers. Letting unwanted vegetation stay on the shoulders of the roads, growing tall allows for very unsafe driving conditions, as wildlife can emerge with little notice, as well as, travelers when stopping on the sides of the roads can unknowingly transfer invasive species.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – The Alberta Weed Act is an act that has been around since 1907. This is an act that was created by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. If the expectation is to educate and enforce this act upon the public, they must abide themselves.

**CP and CN rail lines** - The rail lines cross over provincial highways all over the province, when the two crosses, there is a chance of transferring weeds further on, even out of province.

#### **Past Advocacy Efforts**

Previous resolutions have been passed by the Provincial ASB Conference that have addressed weed control within Alberta Transportation: in 2008, 2010, 2016 and 2017. In addition, a resolution was brought to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C), currently know as the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) in 2016.

Provincial Agricultural Services Board Conference

#### 2006:

#### Resolution #10 - Weed Control Along Primary and Secondary Highways

A resolution was passed that requested "the Provincial Government allocate sufficient funds to control the weeds and undesirable vegetation along their primary and secondary highways within the province".

At that time Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation indicated that they placed a "high priority on weed control within all highway rights-of-way". The department also stated that in 1999 a

process was initiated "to involve the Fieldmen more directly in the weed control programs by allowing them, in urgent situations, to order work directly from highway maintenance contractors or to undertake weed control using their own forces. This process has been quite successful on a provincial basis".

#### 2008:

Resolution #15 - Weed Control of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Roadways Agricultural Services Boards across Alberta are/were interested in providing weed control in their municipality, the local Agricultural Services Boards are willing and ready to help control the highways, in the most effective, and efficient way possible. Weed Control within all highway right of-way's is a priority for government. The department has contractual obligations to have weed control work done by the highway maintenance contractors. Staff from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation (INFTRA) and Alberta Agriculture and Food work closely with Agricultural Fieldmen and highway maintenance contractors to determine the weed spraying and mowing requirements along each roadway within their jurisdiction. Also, Agricultural Fieldmen identify problematic locations that need special attention and ensure they are addressed

#### 2010:

#### Resolution #4 - Alberta Transportation Roadside Weed Control

A resolution was passed that requested "Alberta Transportation review their current weed control program to ensure the effectiveness of the program and give consideration to an increase in the current width of ditch that is sprayed as well as implementing a monitoring and assessment program to ensure that severe populations are dealt with proactively not reactively."

#### 2017:

#### Resolution #5- Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

Enforcement of the Weeds Act along highways in the province continues to be limited by provincial budget constraints. The proactive approach planned by the Ministry of Transportation has been put on hold and ASBs are not likely to see a blanket plan like the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan agreed on for 2017 to 2019.

In the response letter to the 2017 resolution, Alberta Transportation replied that the ministry was developing a "comprehensive and mutually agreeable vegetation management control plan" that was intended to address vegetation management over a multiple year approach. This was to include:

#### Chemical vegetation control:

- All class highways: one full right-of-way spray every four years.
- All class highways: one percent of total hectares reactive spraying for prohibited noxious weeds annually and/or localized noxious weed concerns. Mowing may be completed instead of spraying if appropriate.

#### Mowing:

- Class 1A highway: one full-width right-of-way cut and one shoulder cut annually.
- Class 1B highways: one full-width right-of-way cut every four years and one shoulder cut annually.
- Class 2 and 3 highways: one full-with right-of-way cut every four years and one shoulder cut annually.

Although this plan was initiated, a full four-year cycle was not completed as provincial budget cuts reduced funding. Vegetation management reverted to minimal action (one shoulder pass of mowing along most provincial highways).

On September 1, 2020 the ASB Provincial Committee met with Deputy Minister Rae-Ann Lajeunesse and Assistant Deputy Minister Tom Loo from the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the conclusion of the 2017-2019 Integrated Vegetation Management plan, and the possibility of creating another 3 year plan. The DM was very positive with a willingness to improve communications and coordinate management approaches at the local level. Regional and District Operational staff were encouraged to attend regional ASB conferences to answer questions and facilitate relationship.

**In May 2021**, the ASBPC met with Darren Davidson, Regional Director and Rob Huston, Operations Manager with Alberta Transportation to discuss plans for the upcoming field season. Here are a few things to keep in mind as weeds start popping up along Alberta's highways this summer:

- Contractors require a work order from the <u>AT District or Regional office</u> before they can
  do any vegetation related work on the highways. Vegetation control is not part of their
  regular contract.
- There are limited funds currently so the blanket approach taken in the last Integrated Vegetation Management Plan is not possible. Instead work orders for vegetation control will be issued for public safety concerns first, and weed concerns as funds allow.
- Any weed notices issued by municipal staff should be sent directly to the appropriate
  District or Regional Alberta Transportation office for the fastest response. Notices sent
  directly to the minister have a longer process for being addressed.

Currently, some municipalities have agreements in place to conduct reactive weed control along provincial highways. This is done in circumstances where the Maintenance Contractor is unable to perform the weed control in a timely manner and permits the municipality to perform the control on their behalf. The municipality identifies the weed issue and then is permitted to conduct the control. Although not the most efficient or effective control method, this type of agreement does allow for more timely application and control of weeds within the right-of-ways.

#### **RESOLUTION 2-22**

# RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS

WHEREAS: Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development's

provided regionally specialized agricultural professionals employed by the province the opportunity to meet and communicate with ASBs (and ASBs with them) on locally important agricultural issues;

WHEREAS: This steady discontinuation of Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and

Rural Economic Development's staff presence in Alberta's rural communities has resulted in a gradual but steady decline in the Ministry's service to those communities since the early 1990s;

WHEREAS: Cuts to Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic

Development staff & services since the 1990s have drastically reduced effective, consistent dialogue on provincial agricultural policy decisions, leaving local agricultural communities and their Agricultural Service Boards with little input on these decisions due to the lack of consistent, direct contact with specialized Ministry

staff;

WHEREAS: These cuts have left Alberta's local communities and smaller

agricultural sectors largely unsupported with locally based qualified agronomic advice and severed a local communications link with

Ministry decision makers in Edmonton;

WHEREAS: The more recent elimination of many Alberta Agriculture, Forestry

and Rural Economic Development's regional network of experts that were available to Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards has reduced both the quality and quantity of agricultural / environmental technical and policy information exchange between Alberta's rural

communities and the Ministry;

WHEREAS: Alberta's larger agricultural operators and sector associations

utilize their economies of scale to justify the costs of contracting private consulting services to obtain agro-economic advice, as well

as enabling them to lobby policymakers;

WHEREAS: Alberta's smaller farmers, ranchers and industry associations lack

these economies of scale to hire private consultants which leaves

them dependent on all levels of government to provide this

necessary information;

WHEREAS:

Whereas the Alberta government provided a transition grant to the applied research and forage associations to contract specialists let go by the ministry to support producers, these measures are not long term and do not allow for direct feedback by ASBs to policy makers in the Ministry.

# THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta's Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development support and encourage regionally based, Provincial Government staff or contractors, with extensive experience in their chosen agricultural field, to be consistently available to meet with ASBs as an expert source of the timely, detailed and unbiased information that ASBs are now expected to deliver.

SPONSORED BY:	Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9
SECONDED BY:	
CARRIED:	
DEFEATED:	
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development

#### BACKGROUND

# Background: Restoration of Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development 'Key Contact' Network

The background for this resolution is quite eloquently expressed in two articles posted on the website of Farming Smarter, an applied research charity association based out of Lethbridge. The first article was posted on the Farming Smarter website on January 15th, 2021 by Kristi Cox, and is excerpted below. Some sections are bolded for emphasis.

[Alberta Agriculture & Forestry] has existed in some form since the inception of the Province in 1905.

While Alberta Agriculture & Forestry changed over time to meet the evolving needs of producers, it remained a critical piece of the success of agriculture in the province. Various programs, initiatives, offices and individuals ensured producers had all the tools they needed to get the most productivity out of the land.

John Knapp, former Deputy Minister of Agriculture, started out as a District Agriculturist (DA) in 1977.

At the time, Alberta Agriculture had a large physical presence on the rural landscape. There were 65 district offices across the province hosting about 100 DAs, 60 District Home Economists (DHEs) and about 80 specialists who supported those out of six regional offices.

"The District Agriculturist's role was to understand the needs of his or her rural community. (DAs would) sit down with individual farmers and talk about technology changes, breeding changes, livestock, fertilizer placement, herbicide use and all the different technologies. It really began to help us produce more per acre."

Having the DAs and DHEs based out of those district offices had a large impact on their efficacy. "They understood their community and they understood what individual issues wereon their minds," said Knapp.

Knapp explained that DAs shared knowledge in three key ways: Farmers would come to their offices with questions, farmers requested on-farm visits, and DAs organized independent, expert speakers who answered questions that came from area producers.

"DHEs worked with farm families, aiding with home design, family foods and nutrition, or clothing and textiles," said Knapp. "All things that were part of farm families at that point. They listened, made cold calls and brought in speakers." Sometimes they went together on farm visits. The DHE would be farm family focused, and the DA focused on the

business and technology side. It was a unique partnership that addressed the needs ofthe entire farm family when information wasn't easy for the general public to access.

Having knowledgeable DAs [and DHEs] enabled quick, effective resolutions to problems.

John Kolk of Kolk Farms Conrich Ltd grew up on a farm and now runs a specialty crop and irrigation farm with his family. In the 1970's Kolk's dad purchased a piece of land one spring with about 50 acres of salinity. The DA helped him determine the best process to remediate the land from start to finish. By that fall, they had permits in place and implemented the plan. "Three to four years later, it was producing crops like the rest of the land," said Kolk. "You don't forget those things."

Alberta Agriculture also offers crop insurance funded through the federal and provincial governments. This is amalgamated with a lending program under the Alberta Financial Services Corporation.

"Those programs also sat in the district office," said Knapp." You could go to talk to your DHE about home design, you could talk to the DA about a beef ration for the winter, you could talk to the loans officer about expanding your farm and you could talk to your crop insurance officer about crop insurance for the next year." With these services all in one place it was truly one stop shopping for farmers. As technology progressed through the 80's the DAs frequently referred farmers to more specialized individuals.

When Kolk sought to expand into an alternative income source for his farm in the early 1980's, he was considering getting sheep, and accessed Alberta Agriculture's services. "We knew nothing about sheep, so we went to see the sheep specialist," said Kolk. This sheep specialist happened to be (then) DA John Knapp. Knapp told Kolk what was working for other sheep producers, advised on breeds and warned of potential pitfalls. They spent about six hours together over two meetings. Considering Knapp's experience and advice, Kolk determined the best route forward to pursue sheep production on his farm.

# "There was a level of trust in the information that was provided that gave me confidence."

"If someone wanted to talk about dairy rations, you'd contact the dairy specialist," said Knapp. "If someone wanted to talk about seed varieties for the coming spring, you'd transfer them to the crop specialist. By the early 90's it was clear that we needed to convert our service into specialists on the front line."

At this point, DAs evolved again from the role of referral agents to specialists themselves in areas like beef, crop, engineering, and agriculture economics. Just a decade later in the early 2000s, with information more readily available to producers, there was yet another shift. "At that stage, the department decided to take on more of a

trainthe trainer role," said Knapp. "They retained many of the specialists, they still had large numbers doing research and supporting the specialists, but they began to move away from front line extension."

A call center took on the role of front-line extension, at its height fielding about 50,000 calls a year.

While the DAs, DHEs and their evolved forms were key to farm success in Alberta, other components of Alberta Agriculture had significant impact as well.

In most provinces, research was undertaken by a combination of the federal government and universities, but Alberta Agriculture took on a lot of research themselves. "Good things came out of that," said Knapp. "For example: the barley varieties developed out of Lacombe; beef genomics work where we're breeding more efficient cows; much more efficient poultry rations; some great work on peas, breeding for fungal resistance; and Alberta Ag was part of developing that great modern plant called canola out of what used to be rape seed."

Knapp points out that there are niches the private sector can never fill.

"The private sector can't make public policy," Knapp said. "They can certainly have input into public policy, but the government is always going to need analysts and people to develop policy options for the minister and cabinet to look at."

While Alberta Agriculture has evolved over the years, Kolk thinks it is still relevant today. "Alberta Ag has been good on the whole sustainability file," said Kolk. "Whether that's water efficiency, irrigation efficiency, reduced tillage, reduced chemicals, or the four Rs of fertilizer- that sort of stuff is where there was a public need, a public good, and no natural seller."

Kolk finds Alberta Agriculture important for information exchange and distribution through conferences like the Irrigation Update and the Agronomy Update.

He also thinks they are key in surveillance with issues like pests and challenges like clubroot and fusarium.

Recently, when Kolk was investigating subsurface irrigation, one of the first things he did was to sit down with the people at Alberta Ag's irrigation sector. When he wanted to streamline weekly moisture soil checks, he worked with Alberta Ag first for guidance with moisture sensors. Then, they consulted with Dr. Appels at Lethbridge College.

"It takes a village," said Kolk. "It was critical to talk to people that I had a lot of trust in because they had expertise and they weren't trying to sell me anything.

They were there tosay, 'This is what we've learned, and this is what you should be careful of."

"If your agronomist is also working for an input supplier, he's not *your* agronomist," said Kolk. "Alberta Ag has been, and I hope in the future will continue to be, that respected source of information from a neutral party."

On February 26, 2021, Ken Coles, Executive Director of Farming Smarter, lamented the current state of provincially funded agricultural research, extension, and connection with rural Alberta that seems to be a feature of current provincial agriculture policy. A portion of his letter is excerpted below, with some sections bolded for emphasis.

Our community may face a farmer-led research fallacy in its new way of supporting agriculture research.

In 2020, a new government made dramatic changes to Alberta Agriculture...I wish farmers and ranchers showed Bill6 passion about the recent changes to Alberta agriculture research as it will create gaps in history.

This time, the agriculture industry asked for the change. They wanted to see reinvestment into research after losing ACIDF (Agriculture Crop Industry Development Fund). After a series of consultations, what came out didn't replace the grant; it created something entirely different.

The government created RDAR (Results Driven Agricultural Research). They touted it as a one stop funding agency that would empower farmers to decide how to spend public investment in research and extension. An interesting idea with some good promise, but not without challenge. RDAR's 33 members represent everything from goats and eggs to peas and bees. It also has an expanded advisory committee of over 50 organizations including allthe applied research and forage associations. Team FarmRite (a group of seven ag research organizations and three agricultural colleges) is a voting member. RDAR ran a call for proposals this fall and is set to announce its first round of *results driven research* funding to the industry.

But this government completed the gutting of Alberta Agriculture's research and extension work, cuts to agriculture service boards, cuts to applied research associations and a transfer of agriculture research assets to post-secondary institutions.

In addition to this, the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program is mostly frozen. (RDAR is supposed to take over two programs — Accelerating the Advancement of Agricultural Innovation and Adapting Innovative Solutions in Agriculture — that funded \$12 million in research annually).

While many Albertans understand and appreciate government fiscal responsibility, there is an undeniably large decrease in investment, a loss of public focused human resources and, mostimportantly, a detached relationship between producers and government.

Early in the consultations, the Alberta government noted that it was the only province doing its own research. It looked to the Saskatchewan model that supports post-secondary institutions. So, it appears the guiding direction supports transferring some Alberta government scientists to universities and colleges and, in some instances, 2 to-3-year access agreements for land and facilities.

While it may seem like a good thing that these resources remain in agriculture, I have serious concerns regarding their long-term stability. First, these transfers come with Alberta Agriculture funding for two to three years. When the funds run out, post-secondary institutions will compete, mainly through RDAR, to maintain support for scientists, infrastructure, and projects. All while the institutions face significant budgetcuts. To make things even more precarious, everyone will compete for drastically diminished funding and that's when the bubble bursts. I must admit I'm very concerned for the future of publicly funded research and innovation development.

As for extension and knowledge transfer, I believe it will soon disappear completely.

The historical perspectives expressed in these two Farming Smarter articles, which describe the devolution of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry's funding commitment and presence in independent agricultural research and technology transfer to local agricultural communities, certainly echoes our experience in the Municipal District of Pincher Creek.

When the District Alberta Agriculture offices began to close in the early 1990s, our Agricultural Service Board, like many other ASB's around the province, attempted to fill some of the void left by the elimination of the Das, DHEs, and other provincial support staff. To some extent, we had success, but the already existing demands of enforcing provincial legislation for weeds, agricultural pests, soil erosion, and practical programs to support them including vegetation control programs stretched municipal capacities to the limit. In many cases, support to farmers that had been provided by the district offices and the provincial staff simply disappeared altogether.

Other consequences of the disappearance of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry from rural Alberta are outlined in the resolution.

## **RESOLUTION 3-22**

# CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022)

WHEREAS:	Education about agriculture is limited within the current school curriculum;
WHEREAS:	The Classroom Agricultural Program is only able to spend one hour with grade 4 students but was cancelled due to Covid-19;
WHEREAS:	Consumer interest of how agriculture production is achieved, and food is produced is increasing;
WHEREAS:	Less than 2% of the population have a direct role in primary agriculture production, people have a less direct experience with growing their own food or participating in the agriculture industry;
WHEREAS:	There is an increasing amount of incorrect or incomplete information about agriculture and the agri-food industry;
WHEREAS:	Consumer purchases can be influenced by the amount and quality of agriculture and agri-food awareness and education they have received;
WHEREAS:	The Ag More Than Ever website has information and resources to make this easy for schools to access;
that the Minister of	T RESOLVED  AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST  Education, direct all schools to celebrate Canada Agriculture Day at ior high and high school levels.
SPONSORED BY: MOVED BY: SECONDED BY: CARRIED: DEFEATED:	Cypress County  ———————————————————————————————————

Provincial

Education

STATUS:

DEPARTMENT:

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is a well-known and highly respected education program currently reaching over 20,000 Grade 4 Alberta students annually. Since its beginning, CAP has reached more than 570,000 Alberta youth. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the program was put on hold.

The Irvine School Agriculture Discovery Centre in Cypress County is the first school in Alberta to inspire students to consider pursuing the fantastic careers in agriculture. This student-led farm will develop critical thinkers with an entrepreneurial spirit. Students will raise crops, produce and livestock and learn about the vital role that sustainability plays in feeding our future.

In addition to the one hour spent through CAP with students and the new discovery centre in Irvine, other agriculture programs and initiatives are necessary to educate Alberta students on agriculture.

For generations most Albertans grew up on family farms and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised. Now, most Albertans live in urban communities and do not have the same level of understanding. Meanwhile, modern agriculture is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce is being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety. Historically, the general public has had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on the tables of Albertans, Canadians, and worldwide.

Agriculture is a vitally important industry in Alberta, and there should be many opportunities for students to learn about agriculture. Canada Agriculture Day is one day that should be celebrated in schools across the province to educate students on where and how the food that they eat, is produced.

# RESOLUTION 4-22 PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS

WHEREAS: Wildlife ungulate populations, specifically elk, are extremely

high in many areas in Northern Alberta, particularly on lands

used for agricultural production;

WHEREAS: Increased ungulate populations result in significant damage to

agricultural commodities;

WHEREAS: Accurate ungulate population surveys are not conducted regularly;

WHEREAS: The ungulate issue has been an agricultural problem for many years

as can be seen from the past resolutions which were carried at the ASB Provincial Conference as well as at RMA (formerly AAMD&C);

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

that Alberta Environment and Parks address the issue of outdated population data in areas which have high rates of wildlife damage insurance claims and restructure ungulate population survey frequency to accurately understand population densities in relevant Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).

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

that Alberta Environment and Parks use the precise population data to manage ungulate populations through increased numbers of hunting tags.

SPONSORED BY	:Saddle Hills County
MOVED BY:	:
SECONDED BY:	:
CARRIED:	
DEFEATED:	
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Environment and Parks

#### BACKGROUND

Rising ungulate populations have had an increasingly negative impact on producers of agricultural commodities. In 2010, wildlife damage insurance claims were approximately eight hundred and twenty-nine thousand dollars. In 2020, claims were in excess of two million dollars. According to the wildlife biologist employed by the Government of Alberta who is responsible for managing Peace Region wildlife management units, some areas have not been surveyed since 2014. Management decisions are made based on the most recent population data available.

Past resolutions on this issue date back to 1999, from both the Provincial ASB Conference and RMA (AAMD&C) and include:

Resolution 9-15: Elk Quota Hunt

WHEREAS:

Many Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Municipalities are having

difficulties with problem elk populations;

WHEREAS:

Many Peace Region Municipalities have submitted many

resolutions in this regard for these same problems;

WHEREAS:

Minimal and modest increases have been made to Eastern Slopes

and Peace Region Wild Life Management Units (WMU's) harvest

limits:

WHEREAS:

These increases in tag allocations have not resulted in alleviating or

mitigating economic losses sustained by producers;

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

that the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resources implement an Elk Quota Hunt, based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt and/or other ways the ministry can develop to alleviate this problem.

**Status:** Provincial

#### Response

## Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is implementing new elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 162 and 163 in southeastern Alberta. These

additional seasons will occur in areas where there are currently low elk numbers in order to maintain low populations and reduce range expansion.

Our department is increasing the number of antlerless elk hunting seasons for Canadian Forces Base Suffield and creating new hunting seasons for antlered elk. These seasons are in support of lowering elk populations in and around the base in response to landowner concerns. We are also implementing late-season antlerless elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308 and 310 in southwestern Alberta. These seasons will extend into January and are being implemented in response to landowner concerns over agricultural depredation.

Department staff conducted elk population surveys in many wildlife management units throughout the province, including the Peace River area. Updated population estimates will be used to make changes to the number of issued hunting permits for the upcoming 2015 hunting season.

In addition, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is amending the procedure for landowners to provide greater flexibility in obtaining antierless elk landowner licences. Landowners who are unsuccessful in either the antierless or antiered elk special licence draws will be allowed to apply for an antierless elk landowner licence.

Resolution 12-20F

Expansion of Elk Hunting for Management in Agriculture Production Areas

Date:

November 1, 2020 Expiry Date:

December 1, 2023 Active Status:

Active Sponsors:

Leduc County
District:

3 - Pembina River Year:

2020

Convention:

Fall

Category:

Environment

Status:

Intent Not Met Vote Results:

Carried
Preamble:

WHEREAS:

Alberta's elk populations are increasing rapidly due to current

wildlife management policies; and

WHEREAS:

Increased elk populations within primarily agricultural areas has

impacted agricultural producers through damage to hay land,

pasture, silage crops and other crops; and

WHEREAS:

The introduction of an antierless elk season in many of Alberta's wildlife management units was intended to assist in elk population

control:

**Operative Clause:** 

#### THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED

that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Alberta increase the number of antierless elk draw seasons to a minimum of two per wildlife management unit (WMU) located within agricultural areas; and

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

that RMA request that the Government of Alberta increase the number of antierless elk tags allocated within WMUs that are located within agricultural areas to compensate for poor hunter harvest success.

## Member Background:

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 334 is comprised of portions of Leduc County, Brazeau County, and Yellowhead County. The eastern portion of this WMU is primarily agricultural land with a high proportion of livestock operations, who rely on hay land and silage crops (such as corn) to provide winter feed for their cattle herds. Over the past three years, several herds of non-migrating elk have become established within WMU 334. Sightings of at least two separate herds of eighty elk and two herds of forty are common within the area. These elk have been damaging both standing and stockpiled forages that are intended for cattle feed.

Elk in the area have become especially damaging to corn crops that are intended as winter grazing for the cattle. While there are techniques for preventing and mitigating

ungulate damage, such as deterrent, intercept feed and permanent fencing, these techniques are typically not effective/economical when dealing with large areas, such as entire fields.

The introduction of an antlerless elk season is believed to assist in the control of elk populations by removing female elk from the population. Tags are allocated within each WMU based on population numbers. This allocation assumes that with a 100% success rate of harvest, population numbers will be manageable. However, based on Alberta Environment and Parks' (AEP) Hunter Harvest Report, hunter success rates for elk only exceeded 50% in one WMU, and was only 11% in specifically for WMU 334.

AEP has confirmed that there has not been a specific survey for elk conducted within WMU 334, and the last aerial survey that was flown for other ungulate species was in January 2016. However, AEP had allocated 20 antlerless tags for WMU 334 in 2019 and 20 in 2020. According to the 2019 Hunter Harvest Report in 2019, five female elk and two young elk were harvested within the WMU, a success rate of 35%. Although this is a higher success rate than is recorded on the estimated resident harvest for elk, it is not a high enough success rate to ensure populations are managed.

By increasing the number of antlerless hunting seasons within WMUs where agriculture is a significant operation, the season in which elk can be hunted within these WMU's can be extended, and it is believed that the hunter harvest success rate can be increased. By increasing the number of antlerless tags available in these unit areas, elk populations will be more accurately managed even with a less than ideal hunter harvest rate.

Past resolutions have been endorsed by members of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta specifically related to elk population control, although there are no active resolutions currently.

#### Resources:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/hunter-harvest-report-elk-estimated-resident-harvest-for-elk

https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/2-15s-elk-quota-hunt/

https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/4-15s-landowner-special-licence-for-elk/

RMA Background:

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue. Government Response:

#### Alberta Environment and Parks

I appreciated hearing from RMA members regarding elk depredation specific to Wildlife Management Unit 334. To mitigate elk depredation in Alberta's agricultural areas, Environment and Parks employs several management strategies, including adding extra seasons, extending antlerless seasons and changing landowner licence eligibility. While these strategies reduce depredation, they can also contribute to concerns related to hunter density, which can impact hunting access and limit harvest success.

I encourage the RMA to have concerned members track depredation events and provide details to their local fish and wildlife office (contact information is available at www.alberta.ca by searching for "fish and wildlife contacts"), as this information can be used to assist the department in managing elk.

I have asked Environment and Parks staff to review the current landowner special licence process to ensure it is efficient and relevant to minimizing depredation issues. The department will also be evaluating the antlerless elk special licence as part of its annual process for recommending changes to hunting rules, and will adjust the number to better address concerns over agricultural conflict. Department staff indicate that an increase in antlerless elk tags and split seasons will not necessarily account for limited hunter success. Hunters' ability to access lands containing the elk herds remains a key factor in determining the effectiveness of hunting as an elk-management tool. To assist on this front, I encourage RMA's members to facilitate elk hunter access to private and leased public lands. This would have a substantial impact on harvest success.

## Alberta Municipal Affairs

Alberta's disaster recovery programs (DRPs) are intended to be financial assistance programs of last resort in response to widespread disasters or emergencies. The intent is that applicants first use insurance and other sources of assistance prior to accessing DRP assistance. Documentation is required from applicants to ensure that assistance is paid only for eligible uninsurable costs.

To enable DRP applicants to recover more quickly, the 2020 Disaster Assistance Guidelines (DAGs) include shortened program timelines to expedite the closure of DRPs, from five years in previous guidelines to three years. Applicants may request an extension if they experience project delays or are unable to submit the required documentation within the three-year timeline.

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) may provide a local authority applicant with an advance payment of up to 50 per cent of the eligible amount of requested assistance, if requested in writing by the community upon establishment of a DRP. Any subsequent requests for rolling advances must be supported by paid invoices from the applicant. For communities to receive an expedited final DRP payment, it is essential that they have completed their recovery projects and submitted all required records as indicated in the DAGs. Delays or discrepancies in project completion or the submission of requested documents result in final payment delays to the applicant.

The Disaster Assistance Guidelines ensure fair and transparent administration of DRPs and outline documentation requirements for applicants. The guidelines closely align with the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAAs) to maximize federal reimbursement and minimize the financial burden on Alberta taxpayers. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada may provide cost-recovery funding for DRPs based on a progressive formula under the DFAAs.

In order to receive federal reimbursement, the province must pass a strict federal audit for each program and meet all documentation requirements. AEMA is looking for

opportunities to reduce red tape for individuals and communities under the DRP. As part of these efforts, AEMA is advocating for changes to the DFAA guidelines that would reduce administrative burdens under the program.

Development:

RMA appreciates the Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) response outlining the several management strategies currently employed to mitigate elk depredation in agricultural areas. AEP's response has indicated that the department will be evaluating the antierless elk special licence as part of its annual process for recommending changes to hunting rules and will adjust the number to better address concerns over agricultural conflict.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will update the status of the resolution if there are any changes to elk hunting management from the annual evaluation.

Provincial Ministries:

**Environment and Parks** 

Resolution 4-99F

**Ungulate Damage to Stored Grain and Feed** 

Date:

January 1, 1999 Expiry Date:

December 1, 2002 Active Status:

Expired Year:

1999

Convention:

Fall Status:

Archived Vote Results:

Carried Preamble:

WHEREAS: Agricultural producers in Alberta continue to suffer considerable

financial losses, due to ungulate damages;

WHEREAS: Even when producers exercise due diligence in the storage of

grains and feeds, herds growing in size and aggressiveness

consistently cause loss of product and damage to storage facilities;

WHEREAS: While the Department of Environment and the Department of

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development acknowledge there is a

problem, neither of these departments, nor the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation, offer programs to compensate

producers for these types of losses;

Operative Clause:

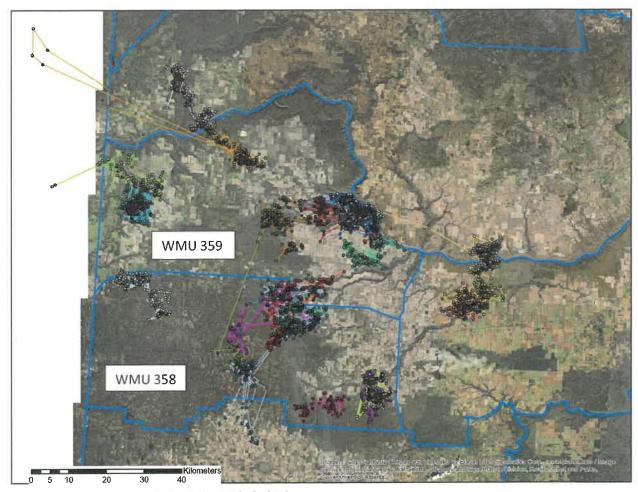
## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta that in addition to proactive herd management practices, programs be established with adequate funding to compensate agricultural producers in Alberta for their loss of stored product and damage to storage facilities related to ungulate activity when the producer has exercised due diligence.

## Member Background:

In recent years, agricultural producers in Alberta have been suffering increasing losses due to ungulate damage. The Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) administers the Waterfowl and Wildlife Compensation Program, which provides compensation for crops damaged by ungulates or waterfowl. However, this program does not extend to stacked or stored feed or bales left in the field. Both Alberta Environment and Agriculture Food and Rural Development have acknowledged this issue and have provided some funding for fencing, stack wrap and intercept sites but when these efforts prove ineffective and a farmer suffers losses, no funding is available. For example, in the Central Peace Region, 60 elk were introduced in the early 1960s. While the local committee, in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife staff, has estimated the area can support approximately 600 animals, the herd size has grown to over 1,600. Elk move throughout the region, knocking down protective fencing and damaging bins to access feeds and grains. Department staff are strapped for financial resources and the manpower to address this issue and while the Province has advised tag numbers for antlerless elk and mule deer will be adjusted to increase the numbers taken, frustration among producers remains high. This is particularly true for producers who have taken the extra measures to secure a site only to find the animals have prevailed. This is the crux of the issue: if a producer takes the necessary steps to protect grains and feed, then there should be funding available to compensate for damage. It is rather ironic when consideration is given to the extra time, effort and expense incurred by the farmer for storing materials that AFSC should provide funds for damaged crops still in the field but not for stored product. Provincial Ministries:

## Agriculture and Rural Development



Elk Collar Movement WMU's 358 & 359

#### **RESOLUTION 5-22**

# EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GASPOLLUTION PRICING ACT

WHEREAS:

The Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA) applies fuel

chargesto natural gas and propane used in agriculture operations,

with the exception of greenhouses;

WHEREAS:

The cost to Canadian farmers of the fuel charges for natural gas and propane are estimated to be \$235 million dollars by 2024;

WHEREAS:

The Private Members Bill C-206 An Act to Amend the Greenhouse

GasPollution Pricing Act to provide relief for the fuel charge passed the House of Commons and did not receive third reading in the Senate to pass into law prior to the 2021 Federal Election;

WHEREAS:

Federal programs such as the Agricultural Clean Technology

Program were to provide relief to farmers from the fuel surcharges for natural gasand propane, however, these programs are currently

closed to new applications until Spring 2022;

WHEREAS:

The fuel charges to natural gas and propane put Canadian farmers

at a competitive disadvantage to international competitors that are

not subject to fuel charges;

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

that the Government of Canada Minister of Finance, with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution PricingAct* to include natural gas and propane as exempted fuels for agriculture production.

SPONSORED BY:	Parkland County
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED BY:	
CARRIED:	
DEFEATED:	
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Minister of Finance, Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-
	Food Canada

#### BACKGROUND

## Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act S.C. 2018, c.12. s. 186

Under the <u>Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA)</u>, adopted on June 21, 2018, the federal government implemented a fuel charge on fossil fuels like gasoline and natural gas that applies inAlberta. The purpose of the GGPPA is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring that carbon pollution pricing applies broadly throughout Canada.

As a result of the repeal of the Alberta carbon levy in May 2019, the federal government implemented the federal fuel charge in Alberta as of January 1, 2020. The GGPPA exempts fuels used in tractors, trucks and other farm machinery from the fuel charge. However, natural gas used for activities such as grain dryers and heating barns are not exempt from the fuel charge.

In 2021, the Parliamentary Budget Office calculated the federal government was collecting fuel charges on natural gas and the propane used in the agricultural sector in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario at the following rates:

2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
\$9 Million	\$47 Million	\$59 Million	\$60 Million	\$60 Million

From 2020-2021 to 2024-25, farmers in the major agriculture production areas of the country will lose

\$235 million in revenue through the fuel charge.

#### Legislative Support

Conservative Member of Parliament Phillip Lawrence introduced a private member bill, Bill C-206, An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act in the House of Commons that would exempt natural gas and propane used for farm operations. from the carbon tax. Note: these fuels are already exempt for greenhouse operations.

Bill C-206 passed third reading in the House of Commons June 23, 2021 and first reading of the Senate before the Senate recessed for summer break. Because the bill had not passed all three readings in the Senate, the bill died when the federal election was called.

## **Funding Relief for Farmers**

The 2021 Federal budget announced the government's intention to return a portion of the proceeds from the price on pollution directly to farmers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario beginning in 2021-22. It is estimated farmers would receive \$100 million in the first year. The Minister of Finance has yet to announce details of this commitment.

Budget 2021 also committed \$50 million for the purchase of more efficient grain dryers for farmers across Canada under the Agricultural Clean Technology program. There were no funding programs to assist other uses of natural gas and propane such as heat for barns.

As of Aug. 1, 2021, the Agricultural Clean Technology program was closed and new applications for the funding program will not be considered until April 1, 2022. It is uncertain whether any further funding will be available for grain dryer purchases in 2022.

#### Resources

#### Government of Canada

https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/alberta.html

https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2018/10/backgrounder-targeted-relief-for- farmers-and-fishers-and-residents-of-rural-and-remote-communities.html

https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricultural-clean-technology-program-adoption-stream/applicant-guide#a1.4
https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p2-en.html#313

## Parliamentary Budget Office

https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/blog/legislative-costing-notes--notes-evaluation-cout-mesure- legislative/LEG-2021-049-M--bill-c-206-extension-exemption-qualifying-farming-fuel-to-marketable- natural-gas-propane--projet-loi-c-206-elargissement-exemption-qui-applique-au-combustible-agricole- admissible-inclure-gaz-naturel-commercialisable-propane

https://pbo-dpb.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/artefacts/5b5b9f57e13225c0aa8015d196d36357877d3bb22266c71 e464604b3b7e1 8576

#### **RESOLUTION 6-22**

# AMENDMENTS TO THE ASB CONFERENCE RESOLUTION RULES OF PROCEDURE

WHEREAS:

Resolutions are crucial to Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards'

advocacy efforts;

WHEREAS:

Effective resolution advocacy relies on strongly-worded resolutions

providing clear and concise direction as to the issue and preferred

solution;

WHEREAS:

Resolutions allow Agricultural Service Boards to bring forward

issues that require action by other levels of government and direct

the advocacy process;

WHEREAS:

Resolutions are reviewed by the Regional Resolution Committee prior to the Regional Conference and reviewed by the Agricultural

Service Board Provincial Committee prior to the Provincial

Conference;

WHEREAS:

The Regional Resolution Committee membership consists of a

different member structure than the Agricultural Service Board

Provincial Committee:

WHEREAS:

The Agricultural Service Board Regional and Provincial Committee

do not have the authority to require changes, aside from grammar,

without the approval of the sponsoring municipality;

WHEREAS:

The Agricultural Service Board Regional and Provincial Committee

do not have the authority to identify when a resolution duplicates an

issue already addressed through a previous resolution;

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

that the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee bring forward amendments to the Regional and Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure for consistent ASB member representation, and to facilitate greater oversight of the review of resolutions, with the objectives to clarify the content within resolutions and reduce resolution duplication in consultation with the sponsoring municipality.

SPONSORED BY: Mountain View County	
MOVED BY:	

SECONDED BY:	
CARRIED:	
DEFEATED:	
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

#### **BACKGROUND**

Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) provide a voice for agricultural producers in Alberta, highlighting the importance and assertion of the issues affecting the industry. Historically, rural municipalities have deemed agriculture to be important enough to require separate regional and provincial conferences, increasing the profile of ASBs. The primary purpose of the Provincial ASB Conference is to bring forward issues to make suggestions or recommendations for future action to bring about desired change through resolutions. It is essential that resolutions articulate the issue clearly for members to vote and for a response from the designated ministries. During a resolution session, discussion can be side-tracked or confused due to the lack of clarity and uncertainty created by having resolutions on the same topic during the voting process or numerous minor amendments. This inevitably dilutes the messaging and direction of the resolution and the overall efficiency of the resolutions process.

To ensure an orderly resolution session at either the Regional or Provincial ASB Conference it is requested the ASB Provincial Committee amend the Rules of Procedure for both regional and provincial resolutions to allow for the Committees to have greater oversight in the resolution process, specifically granting them authority to clarify the content within the resolution, consolidate resolutions on the same or similar topic or intent and divide resolutions with multiple unrelated proposals for action. As well, be able to address resolutions that duplicate an issue already addressed through a previous resolution. This would be alignment with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Resolution Process Policy that identifies the authority of RMA and Resolution Committee.

The structure of the Regional Resolution Committee differs from the Provincial Resolution Committee membership. The Regional Resolution Committee has more administrative members than ASB members. The Regional Resolution Committee consist of the

Provincial ASB Committee representative for that region, the hosting municipality's Agricultural Fieldmen, a member of their ASB, the Regional Director of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and the ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Forestry. The Provincial Resolution Committee consist of 5 Agricultural Service Board members representing their region, Director or executive member of Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), First Vice President of the AAAF, ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Forestry and the ASB Provincial Committee Executive Assistant.

## Applicable Policies:

RMA Governance Policy GOV-04: RMA Resolution Process: <a href="https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GOV-04-RMA-Resolutions-Process.pdf">https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GOV-04-RMA-Resolutions-Process.pdf</a>

Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure <a href="https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/2021-jan-21-regional-rules-of-procedure-final.pdf">https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/2021-jan-21-regional-rules-of-procedure-final.pdf</a>

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure <a href="https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/2021-jan-21-provincial-rules-and-procedure-final.pdf">https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/2021-jan-21-provincial-rules-and-procedure-final.pdf</a>



Box 189, FAIRVIEW, ALBERTA TOH 1L0

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PHONE: 780-835-4903 FAX: 780-835-3131



October 18, 2021

Honourable Devin Dreeshen Minister of Agriculture and Forestry 229 Legislature Building 10800 – 97 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Dreeshen:

## RE: Funding for Agricultural Service Boards (A.S.B.'s)

The Municipal District of Fairview # 136 Agricultural Service Board wishes to support and reinforce the sentiments in the letter Reeve Beaupre of the County of Grande Prairie sent to you dated May 14, 2021.

Our Council and the ASB feel that having funding cuts such as the ASB grant that rural municipalities receive yearly was not a realistic choice of finding cuts within our province. Agricultural Service Boards rely on provincial funding to help carry out the administration of the Pest Act, Weed Act, and Soil Conservation Act of Alberta. Also, most municipal agricultural departments in Alberta provide aid for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff in various weed, pests, and plant disease surveys each year. Depending on what surveys and how many the municipalities assist with, the costs to them could be substantial. That takes away some of the granting we receive from the Alberta Government to assist with our programs only to give back by assisting Alberta Ag and Forestry. Of course, costs to us continue to climb yearly.

In 2020, municipality funding was cut to \$123,907 per year, down from the possible \$168,000 we had received for a decade previously. More tasks have been downloaded to the agriculture departments due to the loss of AB Ag and Forestry staff who were responsible for maintaining the now obsolete "Ropin' the Web". Alberta Government resources are no longer available to continue up-grading 310-Farm with up-to-date experts and specialist support. Many calls from producers are now received by the municipal agriculture department and that takes time away from daily duties which increases the costs of our ag programs.

It has been said that Alberta's agriculture industry is the best in the world due to the various programs the province of Alberta has implemented and that helps us secure good safe products. Alberta's contribution goes hand in hand with most of the Canadian programs that help export safe food for the rest of the world. The Municipal District of Fairview # 136 would like to continue to provide leadership in agriculture production and need the support of the province by increasing our grants, instead of

decreasing them. By putting increased pressure on municipalities to deliver more with less, you compromise our ability to properly support our agricultural producers and through them, the provincial economy.

1

Phil Kolodychuk, Councillor/Agricultural Service Board Chairman Municipal District of Fairview # 136

cc. RMA District 4 Director, Tom Burton
Provincial ASB Chairman
MLA Todd Loewen
Premier Jason Kenney
Minister of Finance, Travis Toews



## Municipal District of Willow Creek

Office of the Administrator

www.mdwillowcreek.com 273129 SEC HWY 520 Claresholm Industrial Area Box 550, Claresholm Alberta TOL 0T0 Office: (403) 625-3351 Fax: (403) 625-3886 Shop: (403) 625-3030 Toll Free: 888-337-3351

November 24, 2021

Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

#### **RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions**

The Agricultural Service Board for the Municipal District of Willow Creek is writing this letter in support of the letters dated June 16 from Brazeau County, July 14 from the M.D. of Smokey River and September 17 from Woodlands County.

We wish to voice our concern over the December 2020, Government of Canada release 'A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy' A plan which pledges to reduce emissions from fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels. Agriculture production is key to our continued existence. With the growing demand for agricultural products for export as well as our own increasing population, it is prudent to take into consideration the recommendations put forward by Fertilizer Canada. Producing more food requires the use of fertilizers. "Fertilizer Canada released a report suggesting a 30 percent reduction target could cost Canadian farmers as much as \$48 billion in lost revenue over the next eight years."

We strongly encourage you to continue to review how best to achieve the fertilizer emissions target without placing limits on overall crop production.

Sincerely,

Ian Sundquist,

Agricultural Service Board Chairman, Municipal District of Willow Creek

CC:

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Federal Minister of Agriculture

Sundgust

Premier Jason Kenney
Honourable Jason Nixon, AB Minister of
Environment and Parks

Honourable Nate Horner, AB Minister of Agriculture Member of Parliament John Barlow, Foothills Provincial Agricultural Service Board's

# Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board Members



Albertan

Debbie Oyarzun (former Supervisor of the Agricultural Service Board Program) for providing the content of this manual.

Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Members
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Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board Members | Agricultural Service Boards 2021

# **Table of Contents**

History of Agricultural Service Boards  Roles and Responsibilities of the ASBs  1. Policy and Administration 2. Program Development and Review 3. Program Promotion and Advertising 4. General  Roles of the ASB Members  ASB Structure  ASB Membership  Attending ASB Meetings	66677
1. Policy and Administration  2. Program Development and Review  3. Program Promotion and Advertising  4. General  Roles of the ASB Members  ASB Structure  ASB Membership  Attending ASB Meetings	6 6 6 7 7
2. Program Development and Review  3. Program Promotion and Advertising  4. General  Roles of the ASB Members  ASB Structure  ASB Membership  Attending ASB Meetings	6 6 7 7
3. Program Promotion and Advertising	677
4. General	6 7 8
Roles of the ASB Members  ASB Structure	7 7 8
ASB Structure	7 8
ASB Membership  Attending ASB Meetings	8
Attending ASB Meetings	
	8
Code of Conduct	8
Voting	8
Conflict of Interest	9
Municipal Advisory Committees	9
Role of the Agricultural Fieldman	10
1. Administration	10
2. Policies and Programs	11
3. Regulatory	11
4. Communication/Liaison	11
5. General	12
Role of the Minister's Representative	
Role of the AF Key Contact	14
Legislated Duties of Agricultural Service Boards	15
Legislation Overview	16
Agricultural Service Board Act	

2. Agricultural Pests Act	16
ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act	17
3. Soil Conservation Act	17
ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act	18
4. Weed Control Act	
ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act	20
5. Animal Health Act	20
ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act	21
Policy Development	22
Bylaws	
ASB Grant Program	
Field Visits	26
Business Planning	
Providing Input to Provincial Agriculture Policy	27
The Resolution Process	27
Provincial ASB Committee	28
Appendix 1 - History of ASB Programming	
Appendix 2 - Pros and Cons of Councilor vs Members-at-Large	
Appendix 3 - Regional ASB Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure	
Annualis 4 Previncial ASP Committee Rules of Procedure	_

## Introduction

Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) are unique to North America. They are special committees appointed by the local municipal council to address agricultural concerns in their communities. They can be comprised of any combination of public or private individuals who develop policies for the local agricultural sector. The provincial government, through Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), partners with these boards in many ways to ensure we collectively maintain and improve agricultural production.

The following information will provide a description of how these boards are formed., governed, and funded. Details about legislation, guidelines, and programs are listed in the Appendices.

## History of Agricultural Service Boards

ASBs are unique to North America. In 2020, ASBs celebrated 75 years of continuous service to producers in Alberta. During the 1920s and 1930s, agriculture was developing rapidly and new issues were being dealt with. Provincial specialists began to feel overwhelmed, but by the 1940s, they realized that the municipalities were closest to the problem and could deal with requests or issues more quickly than provincial inspectors. In 1943, the M.D. of Conrich, currently called Rocky View County, and the County of Red Deer joined forces and initiated a trial project where special agricultural committees were set up. Each committee consisted of two councilors, two farmers, and the District Agriculturist. These committees operated with partial funding from Alberta Agriculture. As a result of the success of these agricultural committees, a resolution was passed at the municipal districts convention in Calgary, in November 1944. The resolution read:

"Be it resolved that this conference endorse and recommend the establishment of ASBs in all municipal districts, such boards to be similar to personnel and objectives as the one established in the M.D. of Conrich, No. 220 and now in operation and that legislation as may be considered necessary be enacted by the Legislature to authorize the formation of such boards and to designate their powers."

In response to the 1944 resolution, the ASB Act was drafted and passed into Alberta Legislation in the spring of 1945. The Act assigned specific duties and powers to both municipal and provincial partners, while encouraging a cooperative and coordinated effort in the development of agricultural policies and programs that were of mutual benefit. Rural municipalities responded to the new legislation in



accordance with agricultural needs and available budget. From 1945-1947, activities under the

ASB Act focused on weed and brush control, and soil conservation. As years passed, the role of the ASB expanded to include a variety of programs to service the agriculture industry. Programs today continue to focus on weed and pest control, but have expanded to include environmental and sustainable agriculture programs. More information about the history of ASBs can be found in Appendix 1.

## Roles and Responsibilities of the ASBs

ASBs play a critical role in assessing the needs and direction of the agriculture industry in their area as well as identifying obstacles and working to resolve any problems that may arise.

The general role of ASBs can be broken down into four main categories:

## 1. Policy and Administration

Once formed, ASBs become advisory to the council in the development and promotion of agricultural policies that meet the needs of the municipality. Through the ASBs, council has an advocate of agriculture that also has the capacity to advise the Ministers of AF, Environment and Parts, etc. on the development and review of external policy. ASBs also have the responsibility to administer and enforce provincial agricultural related Acts, such as the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, and the Soil Conservation Act.

## 2. Program Development and Review

As the major function of an ASB is to identify local requirements for agricultural programs, council may decide to form or justify an ASB in response to local demands for improved or increased support on agricultural issues. The ASB can set program objectives, introduce new programs, and through program planning and execution, encourage participation of those who benefit from the program. The role of an ASB is also to review and evaluate established programs on an annual basis.

## 3. Program Promotion and Advertising

ASBs are responsible for promoting agricultural programs through the use of a newsletter, participation at trade shows and other public forums where agricultural producers are in attendance.

## 4. General

ASBs are also responsible for a variety of other aspects associated with improving the economic welfare of the farmer. The preservation and improvement of agricultural production requires coordinated efforts and frequent communication between the ASB, local institutions, and organizations. The role of the ASB is also to encourage good farming practices and farm

safety. While performing all of the duties and responsibilities of an ASB, the ASB shall remain accountable to the ratepayers.

Over the years, most ASBs have obtained their own shop, equipment, and storage facilities in order to be more self-sufficient. This allows them to be equipped with the tools needed for dealing with the agricultural issues of their local ratepayers.



## Roles of the ASB Members

- To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to the Boards' attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
- To participate generally in developing and evaluating agricultural policies and programs to meet the needs of the municipality;
- To participate in ASB meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed;
- To obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the Chief Administrative Officer or a person designated by the Chief Administrative Officer;
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private at an ASB meeting;
- To communicate effectively with the Agricultural Fieldman, other members of the ASB, and council;
- To review and recommend budget and programs to council for approval;
- To administer approved budget and establish program policy; and
- To evaluate programs.

## **ASB Structure**

Prior to 1997, the ASB Act specified the make-up of a board based on whether the board supported a county, municipality, or improvement district/special area. The Act became more enabling after a review in 1997 and now allows council to determine the structure of the board

and its membership. The council is to determine the chair, the number of members, the voting status, and the term of office of the members of the board.

Board structure varies greatly across the province. The criteria to be appointed as a member of the ASB can be met by both councilors and members-at-large. Boards may be made up entirely of councilors, which are merely an extension of Municipal Council or they may be a blended board consisting of a number of councilors and a number of members-at-large. In 2020, there are 24 boards consisting of all council members and 45 boards consisting of councilors plus members-at-large.

There are advantages and disadvantages of each type of board structure. A comparison of the pros and cons of each board structure can be seen in Appendix 2.

## **ASB** Membership

The legislation requires that the membership of a board must include persons who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, and who are qualified to develop policies consistent with the ASB Act. Board members must also be capable of acting on behalf of the council as legislation also indicates that a board has and must, exercise on behalf of a council, all the duties and powers that are conferred on it by the council, under this or any other enactment, with respect to agricultural matters.

## **Attending ASB Meetings**

ASB members are required to attend meetings. The legislation states:

"A person who is a member of a board ceases to be a member of the board, if, without being authorized by a resolution of the board, the member is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the board."

A vacancy on the board does not impair the right of the remaining members to act as long as a majority (quorum) of the members remain.

## Code of Conduct

A Code of Conduct is a set of rules that outlines the responsibilities of or proper practices for an individual or organization (Wikipedia).

Each municipality should have a Code of Conduct that all ASB members follow and are held accountable to.

## Voting

You are on the ASB to make decisions and that means voting on all resolutions and bylaws unless you are required or permitted to abstain from voting. The board must ensure that each abstention and the reason for it are recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If there is a public hearing on a proposed bylaw or resolution, you must abstain from voting on the bylaw or resolution if you were absent from all of a public hearing, and you may abstain if you were absent for a part of a public hearing. You must also abstain from voting on matters in which you have a pecuniary interest (see "Conflict of Interest" section).

## Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or organization is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation for an act in another. It is typically defined as "a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest." (Wikipedia)

Alberta's municipal ASB members have a strong record of public service to their communities. First and foremost, you are responsible for upholding the public interest above any private interests you may have. Membership of the ASB is a position of public trust. The *Municipal Government Act* describes pecuniary interest and sets out the procedure you must follow if such a matter comes up at a meeting in which you are participating as an ASB member. Failure to follow these procedures can lead to your disqualification.

## **Municipal Advisory Committees**

Each municipal council works with several boards and committees that contribute to the provision of services to the community. The membership of these boards and committees generally consists of volunteers that rely on the good will of each other and a common sense of direction to assist in community development. Most boards and committees in the community are beyond the responsibility of the council, yet often have an impact on the decision making of council. The *ASB Act* provides for council to appoint one or more advisory committees with respect to any matter related to agriculture. Any advisory committee appointed shall act in an advisory capacity to the board and council. The purpose of an advisory committee is to utilize the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of the public in the development and delivery of policies, programs, and services to the public. In general, advisory committees assist the ASB in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in the following ways:

- establishing priorities
- program planning
- policy development
- program promotion
- public relations

#### program evaluation

It is important to keep in mind that an advisory committee is just that, it advises the board and council. Often, advisory committee members expect their advice to become policy; however, advice is taken under consideration, but not necessarily implemented or acted upon.

In order for advisory committees to be effective, council must provide them with a mandate or terms of reference. If no direction or focus is provided, expectations are unlikely to be met and the value of the advisory committee diminishes. Establishment of an advisory committee can also become repetitive in that the members on the advisory committee are often members of the ASB or council. Generally, council meetings are held to adopt resolutions of the advisory committee in addition to meetings to adopt resolutions of the ASB. This duplication of time and effort translates into an additional drain on the budget. To alleviate this problem, the advisory committee may report to the ASB. However, regardless of reporting requirements, the governance structure for the advisory committee must be identified in the terms of reference.

The credibility of an advisory committee is enhanced if the membership represents a crosssection of the agricultural community. An assumption is generally made that the advisory committee represents the majority and therefore, it should be able to provide a broader perspective. In doing so, advisory committees often function as the informal liaison between the ASB and the community.

## Role of the Agricultural Fieldman

An Agricultural Fieldman is a qualified person hired by the council and employed on a full-time basis. The ASB Act requires that once a council has established a board, that the council, in consultation with the board, must appoint a qualified person as Agricultural Fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality. The Agricultural Fieldman is a designated officer of the municipality and is automatically appointed as an inspector under the Weed Control Act, the Agricultural Pests Act, and the Soil Conservation Act by virtue of his position.

The typical duties of an Agricultural Fieldman can be broken down into five main categories:

## 1. Administration

- Act in an advisory capacity to the ASB council.
- Coordinate ASB meetings and agenda with the chairman of the board.
- Prepare and present annual ASB budgets, financial statements, and related progress reports in accordance with the ASB business plan.

- Apply for grants on behalf of the ASB.
- Supervise full-time and temporary staff employed by the ASB.
- Prepare and release timely and related news articles using available media resources.
- Keep up with the latest technology in weed control, pest control, soil conservation, etc.
- Organize field trips, courses, public meetings, and demonstrations.
- Compile and maintain complete office records of related activities.



## 2. Policies and Programs

- Recommend programs and policies targeted to maintain and improve agricultural production.
- Implement policies and programs approved by the board and maintain a record of budget expenditures for these programs.
- Prepare annual reports on current programs.
- Develop and evaluate program plans, budget, and policy. During the evaluation process, explore alternatives that would contribute to developing long-range plans.
- Be involved with educational programs.

## 3. Regulatory

- Enforce the Weed Control Act through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing the control of noxious weeds on all lands within the boundaries of their jurisdiction.
- Enforce the Agricultural Pests Act through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing the control of declared agricultural pests.
- Enforce the Soil Conservation Act through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing regulations and issuing permits regarding soil conservation.
- Inspect and issue permits for seed cleaning plants.
- Supervise the operation of lands under supervision and reclamation.
- Ensure that pesticides are used in accordance with environmental regulations.

## 4. Communication/Liaison

• Act as a liaison with the public, manager, board, and government representatives.



- Keep the board informed of the work being done as well as provide updates on new information.
- · Communicate programs to producers.
- Maintain good public relations while promoting ASB programs and enforcing ASB policies through personal producer contacts, newsletters, meetings, etc..

## 5. General

- Take an applied common sense approach.
- Be responsible directly to the board for ASB programs and operation.
- · Maintain rental equipment.
- Be familiar with all aspects of agricultural pursuits and associate this with community needs and the role of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Identify concerns and problems of the community and relate them to the ASB.
- Demonstrate leadership and organizational skills.
- Attend upgrading courses as the board feels appropriate.

The list above includes typical duties of an Agricultural Fieldman; however, each ASB will have different issues to deal with and a different business plan to work with. Therefore, this list will vary for each ASB. For example, an ASB with extensive water courses may require their Agricultural Fieldman to play a larger role in dealing with beavers as pests and the removal of dams than an ASB in the drier, southern regions of Alberta.

It is apparent that the role of an Agricultural Fieldman is diverse and therefore, council is to ensure that there is a job description for the Agricultural Fieldman with clearly defined expectations. Based on the job description, the Agricultural Fieldman shall have an annual performance appraisal and in support of the Agricultural Fieldman, time shall be allotted for professional development.

## Role of the Minister's Representative

In order to assist a board, the Minister may designate an employee as a Minister's Representative with the following roles:

- To advise the board on government programs, agricultural problems, and needs of industry.
- To assist the board, on the request of the board, in the discharge of its duties.

With the loss of the District Agriculturalist and the District Home Economist, the Minister's Representative is any employee of Alberta AF. At the request of the municipality, a Minister's Representative is available to attend ASB meetings to address specific issues. The ASB Program



Manager is also a representative of the Minister as identified in the ASB Program Funding Agreement and shall act as a liaison between the ASB and the Minister of AF. In addition, needs and concerns of the ASB and its municipality that are related to responsibilities under the legislation of the ASB Act and related Acts and regulations can also be addressed by the ASB Program Manager.

At an ASB meeting, the Minister's Representative is not in attendance to lead, but to guide by providing advice on agricultural issues, as a technical resource, and to clarify the position of government. The Minister's Representative when attending a meeting, becomes a non-voting member of the ASB for that meeting.

In addition to the Minister designating a representative to assist ASBs, the Minister may enter into an agreement with council to address the following issues and make payments provided for in the agreement:

- To provide assistance in soil and water conservation;
- For control of weeds and pests;
- For control of any livestock disease; and
- To implement any other agricultural policies considered necessary.

The agreement between the Minister and the council may provide for:

- Assistance towards the administration and provision of services, material, equipment, and labour in conducting approved programs and policies;
- Assistance towards conducting educational programs; and
- Payment of expenses necessary in the control of livestock disease under the Animal Health Act.

## Role of the AF Key Contact

The Key Contact Program was introduced on March 01, 2009, in an effort to reconnect with rural Albertans. One objective of this program was to strengthen the relationship between ASBs and AF. Each ASB has an AF staff member who serves as their Key Contact person.

A Key Contact is an AF staff member who spends up to 10% of their time engaging with each ASB they are assigned to.

The role of a Key Contact is to:

- Establish and build strong relationships between the ASB and AF;
- Act as a liaison between the ASB and AF;
  - Deliver key messages from AF;
  - Provide feedback back to AF;
- Work with the ASB to provide extension programming;
- Understand local issues and needs; and
- Engage ASB in applicable AF events.

Key Contacts may accomplish this role by:

- Attending ASB meetings;
- Support ASB extension events;
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the ASB.

ASBs are responsible for defining the role of the Key Contact within their organization. Some ASBs have their Key Contact attend every meeting and provide a report, while others have their Key Contact assist them solely with extension events.

## Legislated Duties of Agricultural Service Boards

The ASB Act describes the legislated authority and roles of ASBs in Alberta. The following duties and responsibilities of the ASB Act will apply:

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

The ASB Act was not intended to be mandatory legislation, but rather enabling legislation. However, a bylaw can be passed by the municipal council to have the Act become binding for their district. Although it was not mandatory for local government to establish ASBs, more than 50% of the total 69 boards in place today were established by 1952.

While the ASB Act states the specific duties and responsibilities of the local ASB, the overall purpose is to improve and maintain agricultural production, improve the economic welfare of the farmer, and act as an advisory body to municipal and provincial government. Improving agricultural production requires the application of research findings such as new crop varieties

and tillage techniques at the producer level. Similarly, maintaining agricultural production requires the application of proven preventative measures that will reduce or eliminate soil erosion and the spread of new weeds, insects, and diseases. With each ASB carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the *ASB Act*, came the decentralization of AF, particularly in the areas of weed control and soil conservation.



# **Legislation Overview**

#### 1. Agricultural Service Board Act

The Act is legislation that provides for:

- · Establishment of ASBs;
- Establishment of advisory committees on agricultural matters;
- Transfers authority to enforce provincial legislation to ASBs; and
- Allows ASBs to enter into an agreement with the Minister, making some of their ASBs activities cost-shared.

ASBs are responsible for enforcing the:

- Weed Control Act;
- Agricultural Pests Act; and
- Soil Conservation Act.

And to assist with the:

Animal Health Act.

The ASB Act outlines the duties of an ASB, how boards are to be established, membership of the board, and attendance. Members of the board must be familiar with agricultural concerns and must be qualified to develop policies. Board members must also be able to act on behalf of council with respect to agricultural matters.

The ASB Act also requires that the ASB must present a summary of its activities annually to council that contains the information council requires in the prescribed format.

All ASBs are required to hire a qualified Agricultural Fieldman who is appointed as a municipal inspector under each of the Acts. The Agricultural Fieldman is responsible for carrying out programs related to the Act.

The ASB Act also gives ASBs authority to take land under the control of the municipality in situations where severe erosion or weed/pest infestation occurs and enforcement under the other Acts has not been successful. Please contact the ASBs Program Office for guidance if you are considering putting land under supervision or under an Order of Reclamation.

Link to ASB Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a10Link to Associated Regulations for the ASB Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a10

#### Agricultural Pests Act

The Agricultural Pests Act is enabling legislation that provides legal authority to manage native and introduced pests that affect agricultural production.

The Agricultural Pests Act consists of two parts:

- · Agricultural Pests Act; and
- Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation.

#### The Agricultural Pests Act:

- Defines a pest and nuisance;
  - Actual species listed in Regulation
- Minister's powers and delegation of Minister's powers;
- · Duties of individual and local authorities;
- Requires municipal inspectors to be appointed;
- Powers of an inspector;
  - On private land
  - Warrant to enter a private entrance
- Failure to enforce the Act;
- · Defines how notices are to be written and delivered;
- Appeals process for a notice;
- Ability of municipalities to recover expenses for enforcement work; and
- Offences for contravening the Act.

The Regulation lists species that can be controlled or eradicated, transportation restrictions, control options for certain pests and nuisances, permitting requirements, issuance of notices, and quarantine declaration.

#### ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act (e.g., implementation of a bounty program for Richardson Ground Squirrel tails);
- Ensure adequate pest inspectors are appointed for the municipality; and
- Ensure that an independent appeal committee has been appointed.

Link to Agricultural Pests Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08

Link to Associated Regulations for the Agricultural Pests Act:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08#related

Soil Conservation Act



The *Soil Conservation Act* provides a framework to encourage sound soil conservation practices, to preserve the agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector.

The Soil Conservation Act consists of two parts:

- Soil Conservation Act; and
- Soil Conservation Notice Regulation.

The Soil Conservation Notice Regulation defines the content of notices and provides a notice form.

The Soil Conservation Act:

- Outlines responsibility of landholders;
- · Requirements for issuing notices;
- How notices are to be delivered;
- Appeals procedures and committees;
- Requires a municipal inspector to be appointed;
- Defines right of entry to inspect;
- Ability to enforce Remediation Orders;
- Ability of municipality to recover expenses for enforcement;
- Offences for contravening the Act; and
- Authority of municipality to make bylaws and issue permits.

The Soil Conservation Act remains in force; the Regulations expire November 30, 2025.

# **ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act**

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act;
- Ensure adequate Soil Conservation Officers are appointed for the municipality; and
- Act as the appeal committee for Soil Conservation Act Notice Appeals.

Link to Soil Conservation Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s15

Link to Associated Regulations for the Soil Conservation Act:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s15#related

Weed Control Act



The new Alberta *Weed Control Act* received proclamation and came into force on June 16, 2010. The new Act is a comprehensive re-write of the old Act for the purposes of reorganizing, updating, and providing greater clarity to the existing provisions of the Act.

The Weed Control Act is enabling legislation that provides the legal authority to manage plant species that affect agricultural production.

The Weed Control Act consists of four parts:

- Weed Control Act;
- Weed Control Regulation;
- Alberta Invasive Plant Identification
   Guide; and
- Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC).



#### The Weed Control Act:

- Defines categories of weed species and requirements for control;
- Defines landowners responsibilities;
- · Requires licensing of seed cleaning plants;
- · Regulation of weed seeds and spread of weeds;
- · Requires municipalities to appoint inspectors;
- Outlines inspector's powers for right of entry, inspection, and enforcement;
- · Requirements for issuing notices;
  - Notice content; and
  - Delivery of notices.
- Establishment of appeal committees and right to appeal;
- Right of municipality to recover inspector's expenses;
- Offences for contravening the Act; and
- Minister's responsibilities and rights.

The Weed Control Regulation outlines the requirements for Seed Cleaning Plant licensing, the list of regulated species, bylaws that the municipality can create, and the process to appeal a notice.

#### **ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act**

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act (e.g., reverse fence line spraying programs);
- Ensure adequate Pest Inspectors are appointed for the municipality; and
- Ensure that an independent appeal committee has been appointed.

Link to Weed Control Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1

#### Link to Associated Regulations for the Weed Control Act:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1#related

#### 2. Animal Health Act

The Animal Health Act provides the legal authority and framework to mitigate disease risk and respond rapidly to an animal disease outbreak through livestock traceability systems and the establishment of quarantines and control measures. The Chief Provincial Veterinarian is the designated authority under the Animal Health Act.

The Animal Health Act consists of the Act and eight Regulations.

- Animal Health (General) Regulation;
- Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation;
- Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation;
- Livestock Market Regulation;
- · Premises Identification Regulation;
- Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation;
- Traceability Cattle Identification Regulation; and
- Swine Traceability Regulation.

#### The Animal Health Act:

- Defines reportable and notifiable diseases;
  - Specific diseases listed in the Regulation
- Identifies the duty of an individual to report diseases;
- Provides for examination of animals by inspector;
- Issuance of a Quarantine Order;
- Declaration of a quarantine;
- Restrict animal movement within a quarantine zone.
- Order the destruction of animals and provide compensation;



- Issue licenses and conduct inspections;
- Keeping of records in accordance with the Regulations;
- Establish control zones for disease surveillance;
- Appeals procedure for quarantine costs, licensing, and compensation; and
- Offences for contravening the Act.

The Regulations detail livestock identification and traceability systems, proper disposal of dead animals, name specific notifiable and reportable diseases, and the licensing requirements of a Production Animal Medicine outlet and Livestock Marketing and Assembly Stations.

#### ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

 ASBs are considered an "authorized person" and must report reportable or notifiable diseases under the Animal Health Act to the Office of the Chief Provincial Vet within 24 hours.

Link to the Animal Health Act: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a40p2

Links to Associated Regulations for the Animal Health Act:

Animal Health (General) Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a40p2#related

Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014 131

**Biosecurity Regulation:** 

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2019 185

Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014 132

Livestock Market Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014 133

Premises Identification Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2008_200

Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014 129

Swine Traceability Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014 134

Traceability Cattle Identification Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2009 333

## **Policy Development**

The ASB and council are responsible for providing the services that their ratepayers want and need. This responsibility involves providing input regarding the municipality's programs and services and making sure that the administration provides the programs and services in the best possible manner.

A policy provides a way of ensuring that consistent decisions are made on similar matters. Policies should establish general guidelines that the council sets for the administration to follow. The administration then provides the programs and services to the ratepayers according to the policies.

Policies are essential to good government and to an understanding of the continuity of council decision-making. Policy development contributes to the overall separation of council as policy makers from the staff, who are charged with carrying out council decisions. Written policy statements are useful to current and successive councils as guidelines on key municipal issues. They represent the philosophy of the current council and convey a sense of the direction of decision-making of that council to the public and affected parties.

Program monitoring means staying up to date on the programs and services that are offered and assessing the results against what the council plans to achieve or specific objectives.

## **Bylaws**

Municipal bylaws are public regulatory laws that apply to a certain area. Bylaws may be passed or rescinded by municipalities at any time. Municipal bylaws are applicable only to the particular municipality where declared and do not supersede provincial or federal legislation.

The Agricultural Pests Act, Soil Conservation Act, and Weed Control Act grant authority to municipalities to create specific types of bylaws to assist municipalities with protecting their agricultural resources.

Examples of bylaws that may be passed, under legislation applicable to ASBs, are:

#### Agricultural Service Board Act:

Putting land under an Order of Reclamation

#### Agricultural Pests Act:

 Designate responsibility for pest control from the edge of owned land to the center of the road

#### Soil Conservation Act:

- Permits for topsoil removal and stubble burning
- · Terms and conditions for permits
- Prohibition of topsoil removal and stubble burning

#### Weed Control Act:

- Designate authority for weed control from the edge of owned land to the center of the
- Upgrade the status of a plan or weed species

All bylaws passed under the authority of these Acts require Ministerial approval. Proposed bylaws must go through two separate readings at the municipal council level to allow for discussion and public consultation. Once the bylaw has passed through the second reading, it must be forwarded onto the Minister of AF for review and approval. After Ministerial approval, a third and final reading at the municipal level is required before the bylaw would come into force.

Municipalities may pass other bylaws to protect their agricultural resources and meet the needs of their ratepayers.

## **ASB Grant Program**

The ASB Grant Program is available to municipalities that have formed an ASB under the ASB Act. Municipalities must have an appointed Agricultural Fieldman to carry out Legislative, Resource Management Activities as outlined in the grant agreement.

The 2020-24 ASB Grant Program runs on a five-year grant cycle and allocates a total of \$10.4 million annually. It consists of three funding streams: Legislative, Resource Management and the Rat and Rabies streams. There is \$8.3 million dollars available for the Legislative Funding Stream, \$1.78 million available under the Resource Management Stream and \$215,000 for the Rat and Rabies Control Funding Stream. The Legislative Funding Stream is distributed to 69 applicants and the Resource Management Stream is distributed using a merit-based process. As for the Rat and Rabies Control Funding Stream¹, this funding is only available to applicants located within Alberta's Rat Control Zone, see .Appendix 2 of the Terms and Conditions for more details on this program.

The purpose of the grant is to support ASBs with the administration of legislative requirements under the ASB Act and in the development and delivery of Resource Management extension programming.

The expected program outcomes include:

- Targeted prevention and control of agricultural diseases, pests, weeds, and delivery of soil conversation programs;
- Development of effective agricultural policies and plans that are implemented and address the needs and issues of the municipality related to agricultural practices;
- Increased awareness, understanding, and implementation of resource management agricultural practices, and programs with an emphasis on mitigating agriculture's impact on watershed health; and
- Development of strong collaborations with AF, other municipalities, governments, agencies, etc. to achieve outcomes listed in above bullets.
- The funding under the 2020-2024 ASB Grant Program used the following schedule. This agreement expires March 31, 2024.

Classification: Public

¹ This funding stream was added to the program in 2021.

PTEM:	DATE DUE
Program Application Form	April 24, 2020
ASB Grant Application Form	
<ul> <li>Schedule A</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Part A: Legislative Funding Stream (mandatory)</li> </ul>	
- Part B: Resource Management Funding Stream (optional)	
Grant Agreement signed	Spring/Summer 2020
2017-2019 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2020
2019 ASB Activity Report	May 31, 2020
2019 Expenditure Report	May 31, 2020
Confirmation of filing of 2019 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	Spring/Summer 2020
2020 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2021
2020 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2021
Confirmation of filing of 2020 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2021
2021 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2022
2021 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2022
Confirmation of filing of 2021 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2022
2022 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2023
2022 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2023
Confirmation of filing of 2022 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2023
2023 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2024
2023 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2024
Confirmation of filing of 2023 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2024
2024 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2025
2024 ASB Activity Report	May 31, 2025
2024 Expenditure Report	May 31, 2025
Confirmation of filing of 2024 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	Spring/Summer 2025

#### Field Visits

The ASB Grant Program office conducts a minimum of 15 field visits every year. The purpose of these visits is to meet with the Agricultural Service Board and review their programs with them to ensure the ASB is meeting their responsibilities under the Acts designated to them.

The field visit typically consists of two parts: a meeting with the ASB members and a tour of the municipality. The meeting with the ASB members allows ASB program staff to gain a better understanding of the concerns and needs of the ASB. The tour allows the ASB program staff to review projects and programs that the ASB is conducting to meet their responsibilities under the ASB Act and the effectiveness of those programs. The projects and programs reviewed are based on the outcomes of the ASB Strategic Plan.

## **Business Planning**

Strategic planning is creating a vision of the future and managing towards that future.

Strategic planning is a process of determining what an organization intends to be in the future. An organization searches for the best possible future and then determines how to reach it. The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide a road map to guide the organization and the decisions it makes (Murphy 2004). The roadmap tells you, your staff, and the world ow you expect your organization to achieve its stated objectives.



A strategic or business plan has often been defined as a comprehensive document that clearly describes how the organization tends to operate its business. It is the blueprint that sets you going towards your goals. It is an important communication tool that also details the financial strategy associated with achieving the goals of the organization. In contrast, operational planning is more detailed than a strategic or business plan as it focuses in on just the operations. An operational plan identifies how an organization will implement the business plan in a given year. An operational plan contains a breakdown of activities that supports business plan strategies and ongoing programs. Operational plans are also referred to as work plans where employees should see how their work connect to the organization's business plan.

Strategic business planning is creating a vision of the future and managing towards that future. It will focus the effort of your ASB and provide an effective process to align short-term decisions with long-term goals. It will also aid your ASB in responding to changing environments.

Strategic planning is a process all ASBs should go through every three years, coordinating with local government elections to:

- Set realistic goals of the board;
- Provide a road map to show where the ASBs is going and how to get there;
- Develop better coordination of activities with stakeholders;
- Develop a frame of reference for budgets and short-range operating plans;
- Build commitment among key stakeholders;
- Identify and analyze issues affecting clients, stakeholders, and the industry;
- Recognize the impact current issues are having on the ASBs and how they affect the needed changes in direction to address them;
- Identify and analyze available opportunities and potential risks; and
- Develop better communications with thos both inside and outside the ASBs.

It is important that the ASB members be completely involved in planning as this is the way in which, they as ASB members, give their input and as a result, take ownership of the plan that they create. Planning must be done on an ongoing basis and reviewed at least once per year by the ASB.

# Providing Input to Provincial Agriculture Policy

One of the primary responsibilities of an ASB is to offer constructive input to the process of developing provincial agricultural policy. There are several ways to provide input to the Minister of AF.

- Individual ASB members can contact the Minister via telephone, letter or fax;
- The ASB can request a meeting with the Minister or draft a letter to provide advice or discuss concerns; or
- ASB can also initiate resolutions for the Minister's consideration.

### The Resolution Process

Regional ASB meetings are held in each of the five agricultural areas in October or November. Resolutions that are presented and supported by the majority proceed in the following manner:

- Resolutions that are regional in scope are directed by the hosting ASB to the appropriate regional authority for response.
- Resolutions that are provincial in scope are forwarded to the Provincial ASB Committee for presentation at the Provincial ASB Conference.

The Provincial ASB Committee, which is comprised of elected ASB members from each of the five agricultural regions, meet in November to discuss, amend, and group similar resolutions in an appropriate sequence for presentation to the Provincial Conference.

The Provincial ASB Conference will debate resolutions that were carried and sent forward from



the five regional meetings. The Provincial ASB Conference is usually held in late January or early February of the following year. The resolutions that are carried at this conference will then

be forwarded by the Provincial ASB Committee to the appropriate agency or department for a response.

These agencies and departments will provide a response to the Provincial ASBs Committee by June.

## Provincial ASB Committee

The Provincial ASB Committee was formed based on a recommendation from the review of the ASB Program in 2005.

The committee consists of:

- Five ASB voting representatives, generally one from each region;
- Director or executive member of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA);
- ASB Program Manager representing AF;
- 1ST Vice-President, AAAF as Secretary; and
- Recording Secretary appointed by AF at the request of the committee.

The purpose of the Provincial ASB Committee is to achieve a collective voice for ASBs across Alberta that would facilitate and represent both the diversity and the commonalities of ASBs. Through this collective voice, several additional objectives can be achieved, such as:

- Improved communication between ASB Manager (AF) and ASBs;
- Opportunity to represent ASBs at yearly ministerial meetings;
- Increase policy development capacity of provincial ASBs;
- Elevate significance of ASBs; and
- Work cooperatively with AAAF and RMA on agricultural issues.

The committee currently meets with the Minister twice per year to discuss the responses to the resolutions passed at the Provincial ASB Conference

# Appendix 1 - History of ASB Programming

#### 1945-1950

- Focus on the control of new weeds such as wild mustard and Canada thistle to prevent spread. Efforts included plowing down infested fields and hand pulling.
- Increase awareness of soil conservation by dealing with erosion problems, which occurred as a result of the dry conditions in southern Alberta and the use of the plow.



#### 1950-1960

- Roadside seeding and weed control to prevent weed spread onto adjacent farmland and to reduce roadside hazards.
- Tree planting and the establishment of shelterbelts to further increase soil conservation efforts.
- Forage seed distribution to encourage farmers to seed grass on lands susceptible to erosion.
- During this time, the County of Camrose became the first county to use a municipal seed cleaning plant to reduce weed seed content in seed grain. Following its success, AF agreed to cost share the construction of seed cleaning plants in other municipalities.
- Initiation of the rat program within identified risk areas along the Alberta-Saskatchewan and Alberta-United States border.
- Development and implementation of livestock improvement programs for control of livestock diseases such as tuberculosis, bangs (*Brucellosis*), and warbles.
- Working with livestock owners on the control of predators such as coyotes.
- Implementation of a rabies control program.
- Agricultural equipment was made available to farmers on a rental basis.
- Development and implementation of drainage projects.

#### 1960-1975

- Use of hydro seeding for seeding and reclamation of roadsides.
- Increased role in plant disease control projects in 1966 with the Bacterial Ring Rot Program.
- Continued involvement with the control of insect pest outbreaks, such as the implementation of a special spray program for the Bertha Armyworm outbreak in canola crops.
- Demonstration projects for control of dryland salinity and improvement of solonetzic soils.

#### 1975-1990

- Pesticide container collection sites became common.
- Blackfly Program implemented in 1981 when blackflies were identified as a serious threat to cattle.

#### 1990-2009

- Variety of special projects such as fumigation of straw bales, clubroot awareness, etc.
- Environmental projects.
- Sustainable agriculture initiatives including support for Environmental Farm Plans and the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program.
- Monitoring for various pests such as Fusarium, clubroot, and grasshoppers.
- Begin transition from awareness of weeds to invasive species.
- Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping of spraying.
- Implementation of a Wild Boar Program.
- Awareness of the Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act (FOIP).
   Municipalities reviewed the Acts they enforce in relation to this Act.
- Age verification and premise identification.
- Cooperatively work with AF to develop key contacts for all ASBs.

#### 2010

- Agricultural Service Board Grant and the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Grant merged.
- Crowsnest Pass becomes the 70th ASB to join the program.

#### 2013

ASB Program received an additional \$1.0 million in funding.

#### 2019

ASB Program review completed.

#### 2020

- ASB Program legislative funding reduced by \$3.0 million.
- ASBs Celebrate 75 years of service to Albertans.
- Resource Management Stream Funding replaces Environmental Stream.

#### 2021

Rat and Rabies Program merged with ASB Grant Program as a 3rd Stream.

#### **Funding History**

In 2003, ASBs and the RMA (formerly known as the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC)) submitted resolutions requesting "an increase in the amount of the ASB grant funding". To address the resolutions submitted by ASBs and RMA and to meet the request by the Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs, a review of the level of funding and the ASB Program was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. As a result of the review, a 110% increase to the program budget was committed in 2005, bringing the total ASB Program budget to \$10.5 million. In 2013, the ASB program received an additional \$1.0 million in funding. In 2020, funding was reduced by \$3 million to \$8.5 million. The following table compares the support offered through the ASB grant at its inception in 1945, 1999, 2005, and in 2020.

1945 Funding	1999 Funding	2005 Funding	2016 Funding	2020 Funding
\$14,000 budget	\$5,000,000 budget	\$10,400,000 budget	\$11,400,000 budget	\$8,400,000 budget
60% provincial	21% provincial (average)	20% provincial	18% provincial	13% provincial
40% municipal	79% municipal (average)	80% municipal	82% municipal	87% municipal
Maximum of \$1,000 to each board for basic operating grant	Minimum of \$44,000 to each ASB for basic operating grant	Minimum of \$60,000 to each ASB for basic operating (requires justification)	No minimum set	Minimum of \$100,000 to each ASB to support FTE for Ag Fieldmen.

# Appendix 2 - Pros and Cons of Councilor vs Members-at-Large

There are advantages and disadvantages in operating an ASB with eligible members from each group. The following points offer the pros and cons of councilor vs member-at-large appointments to the board.

#### **Members-at-Large Appointments**

#### **Pros**

- Appointment of members-at-large to the ASB has the potential to diminish the possibility of council members dominating any proceedings and outcomes.
- With the addition of members-at-large on the board, it may open doors for more and better communication and input from the local ratepayers.
- Members-at-large are selected by council from the community to hold a voting position on the ASB. Council is able to select progressive, proactive people that can provide a strong agricultural presence and understanding.
- It is also beneficial if the members-atlarge selected by council consist of a cross-section of the agricultural community with respect to age, gender, areas of production, etc.. This diversity provides different perspectives on the state of agriculture in the community and the issues to be addressed by the ASB.
- Generally, members-at-large tend to be less political in their involvement on the ASB.

#### Cons

- Members-at-large may not see the "bigger picture" and may have the tendency to think in terms of the individual rather than the community.
- It is often perceived that the appointed member may not have public accountability, as they are not elected representatives.



#### **Councilors Appointments**

#### **Pros**

- Council members on the ASB are generally familiar with process and policy of local government, which should improve the function and efficiency of the ASB.
- Council members on the ASB also reside on the municipal board, which has the potential to improve the expediency to pass resolutions, approve budgets and programs, and deal with issues.
- It is often perceived that the councilor will be more accountable to the public as they were elected and; therefore, have a responsibility to the ratepayers.
- Generally, councilors are able to see the "bigger picture" and address issues from a community perspective

#### .Cons

- Councilors may not be as effective in identifying implications at the individual producer level.
- Unfortunately, as members of the municipal board, councilors may bring external politics into ASB meetings.
- Councilors as members of the local government may also have their own political agendas.



# Appendix 3 - Regional ASB Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

#### Link to Online Document:

https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/2021-jan-21-regional-rules-of-procedure-final.pdf

Amended: January 21, 2021

#### Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to formalize the parameters involved for the resolution process used by the Regional Resolution Committee (RRC). It includes aspects of the resolution process including oversight, guidelines, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this policy formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

#### 1. Regional Resolution Committee

- a. Shall consist of:
  - A representative or alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee and to act as the Chairman of the Regional Resolutions Committee.
  - The Agricultural Fieldman or their designate who must be an Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) member from the hosting Agricultural Service Board as Secretary.
  - iii. The Regional Director of AAAF.
  - An Agricultural Service Board member from the hosting Board selected by that Board.
  - The ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Forestry (AF) or their designate.
- The representative and alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee shall be an elected or appointed member of an ASB in the region.
- Election of the representative and alternate shall take place at the beginning of the Resolution session in odd numbered years at each ASB Regional Conference, term of office to be two years. The representative (or alternate) shall assume the chair immediately following the conclusion of the resolutions session.

#### 2. Responsibilities of Regional Resolution Committee Members

- a. The Chairman shall:
  - i. Chair Regional Resolutions Committee meetings
  - ii. Chair the presentation of Resolutions at the Regional Conference
  - iii. Attendall Provincial ASB Committee meetings
  - iv. Assist in presenting Resolutions at the Provincial Conference
- b. The Secretary shall:
  - Advise Agricultural Service Boards that Resolutions must be forwarded four weeks prior to the Regional Conference
  - In conjunction with the Regional Resolutions Committee, review, seek clarification if necessary, compile, and distribute resolutions to Agricultural

REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

1

- Service Boards in the Region, at least one week prior to the Regional Conference
- Record proceedings of Regional Resolutions Committee meetings, and the presentation and voting on resolutions at the Regional Conference
- iv. Forward all approved resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary.
- c. All other members shall:
  - i. Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference
- d. All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer.

#### 3. Resolutions

- a. Resolutions shall be submitted in an approved format and shall follow the procedures for selecting, preparing and drafting resolutions as set out in Appendix "A" attached to this document.
- b. Resolutions, regional or provincial in scope, and having been passed by a majority at a local Agricultural Service Board meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee four weeks prior to the Regional Conference.
- c. Late resolutions must be either:
  - Submitted to the Regional Conference with sufficient copies for all voting delegates and attendants (approximately 125); or
  - ii. Be displayed in a manner that all persons are able to review the resolutions, for example, projected on a screen for all to read.
- d. Late resolutions must be accepted by a simple majority of the assembly.

#### 4. Procedures

- a. Resolutions submitted to the Regional Conference shall be handled in the numerical order assigned by the Chairman unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the floor agree to accept a resolution out of numerical order.
- b. Each resolution must have a Mover and a Seconder.
- c. Only the "Therefore Be it Resolved" section will be read.
- d. The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Seconder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition.
  - i. If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called
  - ii. If there are speakers in opposition, the Chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Seconder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed
- e. Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak to the resolutions as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and Seconder.
- f. The Committee requests the submission of proposed amendments prior to the resolution session for administrative ease
- g. Only one amendment will be accepted at a time and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
- h. The Chairman has the discretion to request a written amendment.

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- The Mover and Seconder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Seconder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.
- The Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two
  minutes each will be allowed for this.
- All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.

#### 5. Voting and Speaking

- Voting members of Agricultural Service Boards/Agricultural Committees shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
  - In the South Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display the voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution (October 1997).
  - ii. In the Peace Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution (ratified by ASB Provincial Committee November 2016).
- An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.
- All resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority.

#### 6. Procedures for Approved Resolutions

- Secretaries of the Regional Resolutions Committee shall:
  - Submit Regional Resolutions to the appropriate agencies as soon as possible following the Regional Conference.
  - Regional Resolutions shall also be submitted to the Provincial ASB Committee for information.
- Submit Provincial Resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary within five working days of the Regional Conference.

#### 7. Amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure

- a. An amendment to Regional Rules of Procedure may be initiated by simple motion from:
  - i. The Provincial ASB Committee
  - ii. Any Voting Delegate at the Provincial ASB Conference
  - iii. The Regional Resolutions Committee if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Regional, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee
  - iv. Any Voting Delegate at a Regional Conference if the proposed amendment were to affect only that region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee.
- Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- Amendments that are carried will take effect at the next Regional Conference.

# REGIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING, PREPARING AND WRITING RESOLUTIONS

- Well in advance of the regional conference, discuss as a board the concerns of your farmers.
   Determine the factors affecting their economic well-being as well as those limiting their capability to maintain or improve agricultural production.
- 2. Make a list of concerns and rate each as to its level of importance.
- 3. Divide your concerns into the following categories:
  - a. Local Concerns
    - i. Concerns that are local in nature.
    - ii. Your board has the authority and capability to deal with these concerns. If local or provincial finances are available you may wish to initiate programs or projects or policy to satisfy these concerns.
  - b. Regional Concerns
    - L. Concerns that are regional in nature.
    - ii. You have the authority and capability to deal with these concerns but wish to request the support (cooperative action) of bordering Agricultural Service Boards, government departments or other agencies. Note: These concerns may be taken to the regional conference with a request for action at the regional level. e.g. You may be concerned about scentless chamomile, its movement and spread in hay, crop seed in the region, etc. You would like the support of all boards in the region as well as government agencies in slowing down spread and in working towards common objectives. If such a resolution was passed at the regional conference, your regional resolutions would forward the request for support to all boards in the region plus the appropriate government agency.
  - c. Provincial Concerns
    - Concerns that are provincial in nature.
    - ii. In order to deal with these concerns at the local level, you require a change in provincial policy. Note: When writing your resolutions make certain you do not ask the province to do something that you already have authority at the local level to do. Because most concerns will ultimately need to be dealt with locally, ask for a change in provincial policy that would enable you as a board to take the necessary action. Resolutions that are provincial in scope, if passed by the regional conference, could be forwarded to the provincial conference for action.
- Conduct some research on your regional and provincial concerns to:
  - a. Ensure that these concerns were not submitted as resolutions previously and that action has already been taken regionally or provincially.
  - b. Check with those agencies that you expect to respond to your concern (resolution).
     Determine if they are aware of the need and whether any action is being considered.
  - Obtain sufficient background information to be able to write and defend your resolution.
- Write your resolutions with sufficient "whereas" statements to ensure that those reading the resolution will be able to understand your request.
  - a. All "whereas" statements should relate specifically to your request.

4		
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#### APPENDIX "A" - AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

- Resolutions need to be presented with only one "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement.
  - If other closely related requests are required in the resolution, it may be appropriate to add no more than two "Further Therefore Be It Resolved" statements.
  - If you wish to make additional requests for action, it is appropriate to write another resolution.
- 6. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.
- The resolution shall be presented in the approved format as indicated on the following page.

5 ____

Classification: Public

# **Regional Resolutions Format**

#### TITLE

WHEREAS
WHEREAS
WHEREAS
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
SPONSORED BY:
MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:
CARRIED
DEFEATED
STATUS
DEPARTMENT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

6

Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board Members | Agricultural Service Boards 2021

# Appendix 4 – Provincial ASB Committee Rules of Procedure

#### **Link to Online Document:**

https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/2021-jan-21-provincial-rules-and-procedure-final.pdf

Approved: January 21, 2021

#### Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to formalize the parameters involved for the resolution process used by the Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC). It includes aspects of the resolution process including oversight, guidelines, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this policy formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide darity and consistency.

#### 1) Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC)

- a) Shall consist of members of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)
   Specifically:
  - i) Five Regional Committee
  - ii) Director or executive member of Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
  - (iii) First Vice President of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) as Secretary
  - w) Manager of the ASB Grant Program representing Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)
  - v) ASBPC Executive Assistant

#### 2) Responsibilities of Provincial Resolution Committee Members

- a) Chainman
  - i) Chairman of the ASBPC shall chair the presentation of Resolutions at the Provincial
  - Present a report card on previous years' resolutions
- b) Secretary
  - Receive resolutions from Regional Conferences within five working days of each conference
  - ii) Provide copies of draft Provincial resolutions to ASBPC
  - iii) Provide copies of approved Provincial resolutions to each ASB by December 1 of each year
  - by Record proceedings of Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session(s)
  - v) Maintain minutes from Provincial ASB Conference
- c) Manager AS8 Grant Program

Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure

Page 1

Approved: January 21, 2021

- i) Time speakers to ensure each ASB member has adequate time to speak to the resolution
- ji) Provide support to the Chair, Secretary and Executive Assistant
- d) Executive Assistant
  - i) Provide support to the Chair and Secretary
  - ii) Ensure resolutions are in appropriate format
- e) All other members shall:
  - i) Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Provincial Conference
- All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer

#### 3) Authority

- a) The PRC, in its' entirety, has authority to review Provincial resolutions
- b) Responsibilities include:
  - Request clarification for a resolution from the sponsoring ASB in terms of wording, intent, etc. to;
    - Amend the grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent,
    - (2) Provide comments on each resolution with regards to its background,
    - (3) Inform the sponsoring municipality(ies) where the resolution will materially change or contradict a current ASB position,
    - (4) Notify the sponsoring municipality(ies) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in this policy, and
  - Amalgamation of two or more resolutions between jurisdictions if several resolutions are of similar topic and content after consultation and approval of the sponsoring municipalities
  - iii) Request withdrawal of a resolution if the resolution:
    - (1) Has no bearing whatsoever with the agricultural industry
    - (2) Has been resolved prior to the resolution screening meeting, or
    - (3) Has been covered by another resolution
- c) Determine order that resolutions will be presented in
  - i) In the event of receipt by the Committee of two or more contradictory resolutions, the Committee will order the resolutions in such fashion that the contradictory resolutions are presented consecutively
  - ii) If the first of the resolutions is passed, the contradicting resolution(s) will be deemed defeated, and will not subsequently be brought to the floor
  - (iii) If the first resolution is defeated, the contradictory resolution(s) will be brought to the floor of the conference for consideration

- d) Resolutions passed at an ASB Provincial Conference will be advocated on for a period of five years from the date of approval. A list of expiring resolutions will be placed in the report card annually.
  - i) If an ASB wishes the resolution to remain active, the resolution must be brought forward for approval again at the next ASB Provincial Conference
  - ii) Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions
- e) The ASBPC may provide annual training on the resolutions policy for all committee members.
- A parliamentarian may be engaged to support the chair during the Resolutions Session.
   The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the ASBPC.
- g) The ASBPC shall have power to rank the resolutions per their relative importance thus determining the order paper.

#### 4) Resolutions

- a) Provincial Resolutions
  - i) Resolutions Provincial in scope and having been passed by simple majority at a Regional Conference shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC within five working days of the Regional Conference. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and province-wide impacts for municipalities.
  - After resolutions Provincial in scope are received by the ASBPC Secretary, the PRC will meet to reviewthem.
  - The PRC shall forward resolutions to each ASB by December 1 each year. Each ASB shall provide sufficient copies for their delegates and staff. Hard copies and/or digital copies of Provincial resolutions will be included in the Provincial Conference package available at registration.

#### b) Regional Resolutions

- i) Resolutions that are Regional in nature and that have been passed by a Regional Conference shall be sent by the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee to whomever they are directed to for reply and a copy of the resolution and resolution response sent to the ASBPC for information only.
- c) Emergent Resolutions
  - i) A resolution received by the ASBPC that was not presented and voted on at a Regional ASB Conference may be considered by the Committee as a potential Emergent Resolution. It may be recommended for acceptance by the PRC if the resolution is deemed an emergency Issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture Policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.

Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure

Page 3

- ii) If a resolution is denied Emergent status by the PRC, the sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling through the Chair to the floor of the Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session, where it may be reconsidered as Emergent at the pleasure of the Voting ASB Conference Delegates. The vote for acceptance of an appealed Emergent Resolution must be carried by a 3/5 majority of voting Provincial ASB Conference delegates.
- Sufficient copies of resolutions accepted as Emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates.
- iv) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC 24 hours prior to the start of the Provincial Conference.

#### 5) Procedures

- a) Approved Provincial Resolutions
  - i) Resolutions approved for debate at the Provincial Conference by the PRC shall be handled in numerical order as recommended by the committee unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the convention floor agree to accept a resolution out of that numerical order.
  - ii) Each resolution must have a Mover and a Seconder
  - iii) Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read
  - iv) The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Seconder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition.
    - (1) If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called
    - (2) If there are speakers in opposition, the Chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Seconder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed
  - v) Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak to the resolution as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and a Seconder. The Committee requests the submission of proposed amendments prior to the resolution session for administrative ease
  - vi) Only one amendment will be accepted at a time, and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
  - vii) The Chairman has the discretion to request a written amendment.
  - viii) The Mover and Seconder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Seconder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.
  - ix) The Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.
  - x) All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.
- b) Emergent Resolutions
  - i) Resolutions approved as Emergent according to Section 4 shall be dealt with last.
  - Chair will advise delegates of the ASB Committee comments with respect to recommending the resolution as emergent.

- (iii) Chair will ask delegates is they wish to accept the resolution for debate.
  - (1) A mover and seconder are required to put a motion on the floor to accept the resolution for debate as emergent.
  - (2) Delegates have the right to speak to the motion regarding whether to accept the emergent resolution for debate.
- iv) A mover has the right to close debate.
- v) Chair will call the question.
- vi) 3/5 majority required for acceptance of the resolution as emergent
- vii) if accepted as an emergent resolution, follow procedure for Provincial Resolutions (Section Sa)

#### 6) Voting and Speaking

- a) Two delegates from each municipality's ASB at the conference shall be recognized waters on any resolution.
- b) An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.
- c) All Resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority except where a change to legislation is asked for or acceptance of an emergent resolutions for debate, when a 3/5 majority is required.

#### 7) Procedures for Approved Resolutions

- a) Secretary of the ASBPC shall submit approved resolutions to the PRC members.
- Executive Assistant and Secretary of the ASBPC will submit resolutions to appropriate agencies and organizations for response.
  - Responses will be compiled, returned to the Secretary for distribution to the ASBPC and individual ASBs, and posted electronically.
- c) Chairman of the ASBPC shall:
  - il Hold a committee meeting to review and discuss responses to resolutions.
  - ii) Request a committee meeting with RMA Executive.
  - Request a committee meeting with the Resource Stewardship Committee to discuss or clarify resolution responses if deemed necessary.
  - Request a committee meeting with the Ministers of appropriate ministries to discuss resolution responses if deemed necessary.
  - v) Direct the ASBPC to prepare and circulate a Resolutions Report Card itemizing actions that have been undertaken by the Committee in response to resolutions passed at previous conference.

#### 8) Roberts Rules of Order

a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the procedure of the Resolutions Committee in all cases for which they are applicable, except if the rules are not consistent with the Provincial ASB Conference Rules

Provincial ASS Conference Rules of Procedure

Page 5

Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board Members | Agricultural Service Boards 2021

Approved: January 21, 2021

of Procedure. The Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure will take precedence. Attached are example excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order that apply directly to the Resolution Process.

#### 9) Amendments to Provincial Rules of Procedure

- a) An amendment to these Rules of Procedure may be made by a simple motion from:
  - il The ASBPC, or,
  - ii) Any voting delegate at the conference
- b) Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference
- Amendments that are "Carried" will take effect at the next Provincial ASB Conference

#### 10) ASB Provincial Committee Fees

- a) The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will collect approved fees on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee to supports the costs of the Committee.
- b) The recommended fee will be based on financial need and will be approved at the Provincial ASB Conference. Billing to all municipalities with Agricultural Service Boards the following year.
- c) Voting on the value of the fee will take place at the Provincial ASB Conference. The two municipal delegates at the conference from each municipality will vote on the value of the fees and must be accepted by a simple majority.

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER - EXCERPTS & CLARIFICATION OF PROCESSES

The ASBPC offers the following excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order as well as a few other suggestions for clarification of the resolution process. The intent is for the entire assembly to have a clearer understanding of the rules of procedure for each member to participate to the fullest extent.

#### MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

- A motion is a proposal that the assembly take certain action, or that it expresses itself as holding certain views.
- It is made by a member obtaining the floor and saying, "I move that," and then stating
  - action he proposes to have taken.
- Thus, a member "moves" that a resolution be adopted, or amended, or referred to a committee, or that a vote of thanks be extended, etc.

#### HANDLING OF A MOTION

#### What precedes a debate?

- Before any subject is open to debate it is necessary for the following 3 actions to occur.
  - A motion is made by a member who has obtained the floor.

Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure

Page 6

Approved: January 21, 2021

- The motion is seconded (with certain exceptions).
- The question is stated by the chair.
- The chair must either rule the motion out of order or state the question on it so that the
  assembly may know what is before them for consideration and action, that is, what is the
  immediately pending question.

#### Stating of the question by the chair:

- When the motion that is in order has been made and seconded, it is the duty of the chair
  to formally place it before the assembly by "stating the question"; that is, he states the
  exact question that is before the assembly for its consideration and action.
  - For example, in the case of a resolution, the chair may state the question by saying, "It is moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution".
- Until the chair states the question,
  - the mover has the right to modify his motion/resolution as he pleases, or to withdraw itentirely.
  - when the mover modifies his motion, the seconder has a right to withdraw his second.
- After the question has been stated by the chair, the motion becomes the property of the assembly,
  - the maker can not modify or withdraw his motion/resolution without the assembly's consent.
- While the motion is pending or being debated,
  - the assembly can change the wording of the motion by the process of amendment.

#### Debate

- After the chair states a question, it is before the assembly for consideration, debate, and
- No member should speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- Any member who wished to force an end to debate (prior to the chair) must first obtain
  the floor by being recognized to speak by the chair. Once the member has obtained the
  floor he must then move to "Call or put the Question (before the assembly)". This
  motion must be seconded and adopted by unanimous consent.
- All resolutions, reports of committees, communications to the assembly, and all
  amendments proposed to them, and all other before final action is taken on them
  [unless by a two-thirds vote the assembly decides to dispose of them without debate).
  debatable motions may be debated

#### Modifying a Motion

- A motion can be modified or amended after the chair states the question.
- Friendly amendments will only be considered for punctuation or spelling corrections.
  - As the chair would already have stated the motion, it is now the property of the assembly and therefore the chair will ask the assembly if there are any objections.
  - If no objection is made, the chair will declare the amendment adopted.
  - If even one member objects (which includes the mover and seconder), the amendment is subject to debate and votes like any other amendment.
- The chair will determine if an amendment is germane.
  - An amendment must be germane to be in order.
  - To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question raised by the motion to which it is applied.
  - An amendment cannot introduce an independent question.
  - An amendment can be hostile to, or even defeat the spirit of the original motion and still be germane.

#### Putting the Question and Announcing the Vote:

- When the debate appears to have closed, the chair asks,
  - "Are you ready for the question?" If no one rises he proceeds to put the question
     or to take the vote on the question.
- In putting the question, the chair should make perfectly clear what the question is that
  the assembly is to decide.
  - o For example, "The question is on amending the resolution by [insert amendment]. Those in favor of the amendment, etc. The question is now on the resolution as amended, which is as follows (read resolution as amended). Are you ready for the question?"
- The vote should always be announced, as it is a necessary part of putting the question.
   The vote does not go into effect until announced.
- If a vote is too close to call, a standing vote will be required. Voting delegates are to remain standing while the count is taken. The Chair will indicate when to sit once the vote is counted.

#### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY A MOTION

- Conditions for withdrawing or modifying a motion depend upon how soon the mover states his wish to withdraw or modify it.
  - Before a motion has been stated by the chair, it is the property of its mover, who can withdraw it or modify it without asking the consent of anyone. Thus, in the brief interval between the making of a motion and the time when the chair places it before the assembly by stating it, the maker can withdraw it.
  - After a motion has been stated by the chair, the mover requires permission from the assembly to withdraw or modify a motion.

Provincial ASB Conference Bules of Procedure

Classification: Public

Page 8

#### SECONDING A MOTION

- A motion is seconded by a member saying, "I second the motion," or "I second it."
  - Members seconding a motion are also required to stand and identify themselves. This is especially important in large assemblies where non-members are scattered throughout the assembly.

"The assembly rules - they have the final say on everything!" (Robert's Rules of Order)
"Silence means consent!" (Robert's Rules of Order)

Note: Content is taken from Robert's Rules of Order as well as clarification of processes suggested by the ASBPC.

Approved: January 21, 2021

#### Appendix A

#### Resolution Writing Guidelines

 Resolutions must include a title, preamble (whereas), operative clause (therefore be it resolved) and member background and shall be in the form:

#### TITLE

WHEREAS ...;
WHEREAS ...;
WHEREAS ....
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
THAT THE ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST...
SPONSORED BY:
MOVED BY:

#### Background

SECONDED BY:
CARRIED DEFEATED

- Resolutions must address a topic of concern that is relevant to municipalities on a provincial or federal basis.
- 2. The title must provide a clear indication of the resolution's intent.
- The preamble must provide clear, brief, factual context for the operative clause.
- 4. The operative clause must clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve and indicate a proposal for action. The wording should be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Resolutions requesting legislative changes must clearly identify the legislation that the resolution is directing changes to.
- 5. Resolutions must be accompanied by background information outlining the following where appropriate:
  - a. The history of the issue,
  - b. Issue impacts, noting the provincial and/or federal impacts of the issue, where applicable,
  - c. Past or current advocacy efforts by the ASB or other organizations,
  - d. Recent incidents or developments,
  - e. Specific legislation linkages, and
  - f. Other stakeholders with a vested interest.

e					

# Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards

# Agricultural Service Board Grant Program

The Agricultural Service Board Grant (ASB) Program promotes long-term sustainability of the agriculture industry and rural communities and the development and delivery of environmental extension programming. ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under the Agricultural Service Board Act, the Weed Control Act (WCA), the Agricultural Pests Act (APA), the Soil Conservation Act (SCA) and assist with the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act (AHA).



#### 2017-18 Annual Impacts

- \$11.4 million in annual grants awarded to 69 Agricultural Service Boards to support legislative requirements
- \$1.8 million in annual grants to 51
   Agricultural Service Boards for environmental programming
- ASBs work to protect 50.5 million acres of farmland, 62,000 farm operators and 43,000 farms from agricultural pests, weeds and soil erosion by enforcing the APA, WCA, and the SCA
- 180 full-time, 102 part-time and 407 seasonal employees supported
- 20% of ASBs who receive an ASB grant receive a field visit by AF staff each year

#### Partnerships in Action

Together we can support our agriculture sector and meet the needs of our rural communities as they continue to evolve.

#### **Weed Control**

- 37,000 prohibited and noxious weed infestations investigated and managed
- 2,061 Weed Control Act notices issued
- Over 100,000 kilometers of weeds on municipal roadways controlled by Integrated Pest Management systems such as mechanical, chemical and cultural methods such as hand picking or biological control technologies
- 100% of the 67 Seed Cleaning Plants
   Operating in Alberta are inspected



# Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards

#### **Pest Management**

- 9,616 fields inspected for clubroot
- 2.566 fields inspected for virulent blackleg
- 747 fields inspected for Fusarium
- 2,969 insect fields surveyed for insects such as Grasshopper, Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamond Back Moth
- 149 Agricultural Pest Act notices issued



# Environmental Protection and Soil Conservation

- 212 Environmental Farm Plans
- 125 GF2 Projects completed with support from our ASB partners
- 4124 one-on-one environmental messages delivered
- Over 16,600 attended 319 environmental events
- Over 660,000 physical and over 210,000 digital versions of the 380 Environmental focused written materials
- 349 fields inspected for soil erosion issues

# Alberta Agriculture & Forestry ASB Key Contacts Program

AF matches with interested ASBs are almost all in place. Key contacts attend ASB meetings to present general updates or topic specific updates, provide information on government programs and grants and take questions and concerns back to AF.

Key contacts work with ASBs and fieldmen to strengthen our existing partnerships and look for new ways to collaborate and share information.

#### **ASB Program Contacts:**

Doug Macaulay, Manager Leduc, Alberta (780) 980-4878

Alan A. Efetha, Provincial ASB Specialist Lethbridge, Alberta (403) 381-5852

Pam Retzloff, ASB Program Coordinator Edmonton, Alberta (780) 427-4213



