

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

for Friday, October 13th, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. to be held virtually:

Telus Business Connect Video Meeting link:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/018154636>

Meeting ID: 018154636

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

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 **February 21st, 2023** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©
Recommendation: Motion to Adopt.

4. Request for Decision:

5. Issues for Information:

- 5.1 Orientation: Agricultural Service Board Bylaw 1441-23, Policy: 62-19-04, Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference, Schedule “B” Oath of Confidentiality Agreement, Schedule “C” Producer-at-Large Expense Claim. ©

6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Letter received from Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, received August 23, 2023 RE: Funding of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association. ©

Recommendation: Boards Decision.

- 6.2 2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference. ©

Recommendation: That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board and Agricultural Services administration who can attend the 2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference October 20th at Metis Crossing in Smoky Lake County, attend.

- 6.3 Letter received from Liz Seutter-Rosell, Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Brazeau County, dated September 12, 2023 RE: Alberta Weed Control Act. ©

Recommendation: Boards Decision.

- 6.4 Email received from Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, received September 21, 2023 RE: Report Card on the Resolutions 2023. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.5 Email received from Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, received September 25, 2023 RE: Agricultural Service Board Position Statement. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

7. **Delegation(s):**

- 7.1 Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Program Manager, Alberta Agriculture, and Irrigation @10:00am re: Agricultural Service Board Orientation
- 7.2 Alyssa Krawchuk, Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association @ 12:30pm

8. **Executive Session:**

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

Adjournment



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Organizational and Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 1:01 P.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the County Chief Administrative Officer, Gene Sobolewski, in the presence of the following persons:

ATTENDANCE		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tues., Feb.21, 2023</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
County CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Present in Chambers
County Assistant CAO	Lydia Cielin	Absent
County Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Absent
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present Virtually
Interim Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Tori Stang	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually

No Members of the Media were Present.
No Members of the Public were Present.

2. Agenda:

ASB019-23: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, December 13, 2022, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB020-23: Serben That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, be adopted as amended: Motion #ASB002-22 was moved by Halisky not Fenerty.

Carried.

ASB021-23: Fenerty That the Action List from Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, be filed for information.

Carried.

Evonne Zukiwski, Communications Officer, virtually joined the meeting time 1:08 pm.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually joined the meeting, time 1:10 p.m.

Kyle Schole, Planning Technician, virtually joined the meeting, time 1:13 p.m.

4. Request for Decision:

County Policy Statement No. 62-10-08: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan
ASB022-23: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend the Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-10-08: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan, be amended by County Council to include the changes as discussed.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board from 1:11 p.m. to 1:21 p.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide Council a verbal report of LARA activities, including but not limited to the following points:

- Annual General Meeting is March 14, 2023 in Vilna,
- LARA Board Meeting is February 27, 2023,
- Forage species webinar February 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.,
- Nutrient management webinar March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.,
- Drone training, in Ashmont, March 30-31, 2023,
- Looking for plots and what should be seeded in those plots.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually left the meeting, time 1:22 p.m.

4. Request for Decision:

2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference

ASB023-23: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board agree to host and schedule the Year-2023 Northern Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference on Friday, November 3, 2023, at a local location to be determined.

Carried.

Brenda Adamson, Finance Manager, virtually joined the meeting, time 1:30 p.m.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

ASB024-23: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared by Dan Gawalko as of February 15, 2023, be accepted and filed for information as follows:

Dan Gawalko ASB chair report

February 15 2023

- January 23/23 attended LARA strategic planning session in Ashmont redefined our vision, goals and mission statement and looked closely at LARA moving into the future a summary of the goals of the strategic plan are improve producer engagement, strengthen collaborations with external stakeholders, strengthen program and operational funding, development of human resource strategy and increase awareness of LARA
- January 25 attended the LARA board of directors meeting Wanda gave her chair report met with MLA's in December and spent time on the HR committee Kellie also met with some MLA's and Minister Nate Horner discussing FARMRITE and research funding she also gave her executive director report. Amanda gave her cropping report she posted the summer student jobs, did 3 age verifications, attended an agronomy update, reporting rvt trials and grant funding and attended Western Canada soil conference, Megan gave the forage report she is doing grant reporting the drought book is completed, she is having a feeding webinar with Barry Yaremko, Kellie presented the finances and the 2023 budget Jay gave the LFA report they are putting out ads for a new pasture manager, upcoming events were sent to Jenna at Smoky Lake county to forward to council and to get posted on the county website for more information on the finances or the minutes please feel free to contact Kellie or Amanda at the LARA office in Ft. Kent. The next meeting is at the Ashmont legion on Monday February 27 @ 10:30 am,
- February 15 attended the Smoky Lake county council meeting and council approved being part of LARA for the 2023 year

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

County of Warner - Rural Veterinarian Shortage in Alberta

ASB025-23: Halisky That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from Shawn Rodgers, ASB Chairman, County of Warner, dated January 9, 2023, advocating to awareness to the rural veterinarian shortage in Alberta, be filed for information.

Carried.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

ASB026-23: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, accept the verbal report from Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), for information as presented on February 21, 2023.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

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

Next Meeting

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

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB027-23: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of February 21, 2023, be adjourned, time 1:36 p.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
BYLAW NO. 1441-23**

**BEING A BYLAW OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO
ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

WHEREAS, Section 145 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26 authorizes Smoky Lake County Council to pass bylaws relating to the establishment and function of Council Committees and other bodies;

AND WHEREAS, the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-10, authorizes Council to pass a bylaw to establish an Agricultural Service Board;

AND WHEREAS, Smoky Lake County Council deems it desirable and necessary to establish an Agricultural Service Board;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of Smoky Lake County in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled hereby enacts as follows:



PART ONE: TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw shall be cited as the **“Agricultural Service Board Bylaw”**.

PART TWO: PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of this Bylaw is to establish the Agricultural Service Board and to provide that the Agricultural Service Board will act as an advisory body and will assist County Council and Ministry in matters of mutual concern.

PART THREE: DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **“Act”**: means the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, RSA 2000, c-A-10, and successive Acts and amendments thereto.
- 3.2 **“Board”**: means the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board.
- 3.3 **“Council”**: means the Reeve and Councillors duly elected in the Smoky Lake
- 3.4 **“Councillor”**: is a Member duly elected as a Councilor as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 3.5 **“County”**: means the geographic area contained within the boundaries of the municipality of Smoky Lake County.
- 3.6 **“Meeting”**: means an Agricultural Service Board meeting.
- 3.7 **“Member”**: means a member of Council of the Agricultural Service Board.
- 3.8 **“Annual General Meeting”**: means an annual Meeting of the Board to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair.
- 3.9 **“Procedural Bylaw”**: means the Bylaw governing Council and Council committee meetings as adopted by Council from time to time.

PART FOUR: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

4.1 The County’s Agricultural Service Board is hereby established.

PART FIVE: MEMBERSHIP, TERM AND RENUMERATION

- 5.1 Members of the Board shall be appointed by Council and shall consist of two (2) Council members and three (3) Producer Members-at-Large.
- 5.2 Annually, at the first Board meeting following the County Organizational Meeting, the majority of the members of the Board shall elect a Council member to act as a Chairperson and a second Council member to act as Vice-Chairperson for the Board.
- 5.3 Members of the Board shall be remunerated as per the rate set by County Council annually at the County Organizational Meeting and paid meals and mileage at the same rate as stated in the Council Remuneration and Expenses Policy.

PART SIX: QUORUM & VOTING

- 6.1 Three voting members of the board shall constitute quorum.
- 6.2 All decisions of the Board shall be determined by a simple majority vote.
- 6.3 A person who is a member of the Board ceases to be a member if without being authorized by a resolution of the Board, he/she is absent from 3 consecutive regular meetings of the Board.

PART SEVEN: MEETINGS AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 7.1 The Board shall adhere to the County's Procedural Bylaw, as applicable.
- 7.2 In the absence of any applicable provisions of the Procedural Bylaw, the Board may establish its own procedure.
- 7.3 The Board shall meet a minimum of three (3) times per year, or at the call of the Chair.
- 7.4 If a meeting is not required or additional meetings are necessary, they will be at the call of the chair.
- 7.5 The Chairperson and in his or her absence the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at Board meetings and carry out the following duties:
 - 7.5.1 Represent the Board at official functions with approval,
 - 7.5.2 Speak to Board related items that arise during Council or other meetings, including bringing forward Board recommendations that require Council approval.
 - 7.5.3 Communicate with the Agricultural Fieldman or designate regarding Board agenda items.

PART EIGHT: FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- 8.1 The Board shall:
 - 8.1.1 exercise on behalf of Council all the powers and perform all the duties that are conferred on it by Council under the *Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c. A-10* or any other Act with respect to agricultural matters.
 - 8.1.2 act as an advisory body and assist the Council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern.
 - 8.1.3 advise on and help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs.
 - 8.1.4 assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*.

- 8.1.5 promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer.
- 8.1.6 promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.
- 8.2 Decision making authority rests with the Board within the approved Board budget.

PART NINE: FUNDING

- 9.1 The budget will be prepared by the Board and approved by Council prior to December 31st of the calendar year.

PART TEN: AGENDA AND MINUTES

- 10.1 Preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and minutes will be the responsibility of administrative support assigned to carry out this function.
- 10.2 Board minutes act as a board report to Council and are provided for Council approval.

PART ELEVEN: ADMINISTRATION

- 11.1 The Agricultural Fieldman shall act as an administrative officer to the Board in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the Board.
- 11.2 The Producers-at-Large as members appointed to the Agricultural Service board have a fiduciary responsibility to Smoky Lake County to act in good faith, not disclose confidential information and due diligence of care in managing of the business relating to all agricultural matters.
- 11.3 **REPEAL and EFFECTIVE DATE**


That Bylaw No. 1357-19 is hereby repealed.

This Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the final date of passing thereof.

Read a First time this 27th day of April, 2023.

Read a Second time this 27th day of April, 2023.

Read a Third and Final time this 27th day of April, 2023 and finally passed.



 REEVE

S E A L 

 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference	Policy No.: 19-04
Section: 62	Code: P-A
	Page No.: 1 of 6

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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Purpose:	To provide a guideline for appointing Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Members, including Producers-at-Large and Elected Officials.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. STATEMENT:

- 1.1 Smoky Lake County Council has established an Agricultural Service Board Bylaw No. 1441-23 that advises on the development of agricultural programs and services to promote and enhance viable sustainable agriculture in the County.

2. OBJECTIVE:

- 2.1 To establish Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) membership to be three (3) Producer-at-Large members with two (2) alternate Producer-at-Large members, and two (2) Elected Official members with two (2) alternate Elected Official members.
- 2.2 To authorize per diem and mileage expense compensation for Producer-at-Large members.

3. GUIDELINES:

- 3.1 Appointment of Producers-at-Large:
 - 3.1.1 Smoky Lake County will advertise for ASB Producers-at-Large prior to its annual Organizational Meeting in each Municipal Election year.
- 3.2 Selection of Producers-at-Large:
 - 3.2.1 Applications will be reviewed by County Council.
 - 3.2.2 County Council, at its sole discretion, will appoint three (3) Producer-at-Large members and two (2) alternate Producer-at-Large members.
 - 3.2.3 Producers-at-Large are appointed for a four (4) year term, in coordination with the Municipal Election.
 - 3.2.4 Orientation will be provided to successful applicants to outline the position, responsibilities, and the role of the Agricultural Service Board within Alberta.

Title: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference	Policy No.: 19-04
Section: 62	Code: P-A
	Page No.: 2 of 6

Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
4. PROCEDURE:	
4.1	Applicants must be received in writing as per Schedule "A": Application for Producer-At-Large detailing Agricultural related experience, Community Involvement and reason for interest in serving on the ASB.
4.2	Applicants who are actively farming are preferred and must be familiar with current agricultural practices and trends that affect producers in Smoky Lake County.
4.3	Producers-at-Large are required to execute Schedule "B": Producer-At-Large: Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement , to exercise on behalf of Council, all the powers and perform all the duties that are conferred on it by Council under the <i>Agricultural Service Board Act</i> , RSA 2000, c.A-10 or any other Act with respect to agricultural matters.
4.4	An Expense Claim Form, as per Schedule "C": Producer-At-Large: Expense Claim , must be submitted in order for a claim to be processed, unless provided otherwise.
4.1.1	All necessary receipts and/or documentation must accompany the Expense Claim.
4.1.2	Receipts must be detailed and must show the vendor GST registration number.
4.1.3	Producer-at-Large Expense Claims must be submitted within the same year as the year when the expense occurred.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	October 21, 2010	# 978-10 - Page # 9491
Amended	May 9, 2016	# 687-16 - Page # 12241
Amended	April 27, 2023	# 560-23 - Page # 15626
	June 29, 2023	# 680-23 - Page # 15690

Schedule "A" Agricultural Service Board Application for Producer-at-Large



Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large Application Form

Personal Information *(Please print or type)*

Title (Mr./Mrs./etc.)

Full Name

Town/City

Province

Postal Code

Phone

Email

Are you a resident of Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

If yes, how long?

Are you actively farming within Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

Are you an employee of Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

By completing and submitting this form you are consenting to the confidential review of your application by County Council, County Representatives and Representatives from the respective Board. If appointed, your name would appear in the record of the meeting and other County publications, as a Member of the ASB, and may be publicized from time to time, when required.

I accept the release of my name to the general public: Yes / No

Completed application forms can be submitted to Smoky Lake County by either:

Email: county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Mail: Smoky Lake County, Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Deliver to: Smoky Lake County Main Office, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

Interest and Qualifications

Please answer each of the following questions, in relation to the committee and describe your relevant education, expertise, work or real-life experience.

Are you an active producer within Smoky Lake County? Please describe your farming operation.

Do you have any previous Board experience? Please elaborate.

How will Smoky Lake County benefit from your participation on the Agricultural Service Board?

What special skills or knowledge would you bring to the Board?

Are there any professional or personal constraints to your time that could interfere with serving on the Board?

Describe your understanding of the purpose and function of the Agricultural Service Board and how it operates.

What would make for a satisfying Board experience for you? What are you hoping to get out of being on this Board?

Do you foresee any limitation to you being on this Board in terms of personal interests that could conflict? If so, please elaborate.

Any other information you would like to add?

Signature

Date

Schedule "B"
Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large:
OATH OF OFFICE AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT



As a **Producer-at-Large** Member of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) on behalf of Smoky Lake County:

I, _____ UNDERSTAND AND AGREE I SHALL:
(Please Print Name)

1. exercise the powers of my office and fulfill my responsibilities, at all times, in good faith, with due diligence, care and skill in a reasonable and prudent manner; and in the best interests of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB);
2. respect and support the Board's and municipalities bylaws, policies, Code of Conduct, and decisions of the Board and membership;
3. agree any information recorded or not, received or acquired in connection with my duties is considered confidential, including all records which in any way would divulge information in regards to any community member or their family; and any other matters specifically determined by the Board to be matters of confidence, including matters dealt with during executive session (in-camera) meetings of the Board;
4. act in a professional manner in the performance of my duties as a Producer-at-Large on the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board;
5. immediately declare any personal conflict of interest that may come to my attention;
6. immediately resign my position as Producer-at-Large of the Agricultural Service Board in the event that I, or my colleagues on the Board, have concluded that I have breached my Oath of Office; and
7. be bound to maintain, in strict confidence, the Agricultural Service Board's business, even after my appointment as a member ceases.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Board Member Name

Board Member Signature

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Schedule "C" Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Expense Claim



As a **Producer-at-Large** Member of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), on behalf of Smoky Lake County:

I, _____ claim the following expenses:
(Please Print Name)

IN ACCORDANCE TO: Bylaw Section 5.3.3 At-Large members will be reimbursed at the current per diem rate and expenses for mileage

Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Producer-at-Large Expense Claim				
Date	Meeting Description	Meals	Mileage	Total
	\$175 per day	Breakfast \$20, Lunch \$20, Dinner \$30	\$.55/km	

Producer-at-Large Signature

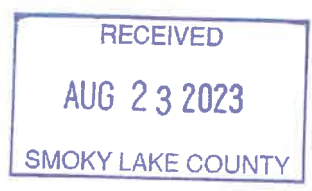
Date



Box 7068, Bonnyville, AB T9N 2H4
Tel. (780) 826-7260 Fax. (780) 826-7099



Smoky Lake County
4612 McDougall Drive
Smoky Lake, Alberta
T0A 3C0



RE: Funding of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

To Whom It May Concern:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (L.A.R.A.) and Smoky Lake County have partnered for 8 years to bring local agricultural producers regionally specific research projects and provide the opportunity to address specific concerns in the Lakeland. Since 2015, LARA has worked with the County to establish the association's name and presence in the local community and bring useful services to local agricultural producers. Through this, LARA has created a means of linking all facets of agriculture – agriculture industry and farmers – to produce a team effort towards research and extension work in the area.

We greatly appreciate this partnership and the funding provided by Smoky Lake County has allowed LARA to grow and expand within the region and increase the services offered to local agricultural producers. Funding provided by the county has been used to match funding received from the Government of Alberta through the Agriculture Opportunity Fund (AOF). However, over the last 10 years, the government has shifted away from the AOF grant which has reduced funding stability. Not only has this impacted retention of qualified staff, it has also impacted the programs and services that LARA can offer to Lakeland area producers.

Some of the programs and services impacted include:

- Providing free forage testing to local producers
- Providing free soil testing to local producers
- Implementation of field scale research trials
- The number of small plot research trials conducted
- The number of extension events held

The reduction or complete loss of some of these programs and services is directly impacting local agricultural producers and we have received several requests to reimplement them. Currently, Smoky Lake County provides \$55,000.00 annually to LARA's operating budget. With variability in core funding from the Government of Alberta for the association, we are requesting if the County can increase funding to LARA in order to ensure that the above programs and services can be reimplemented and, potentially, expanded for Smoky Lake County agricultural producers going forward.

We look forward to receiving your response and am happy to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Krawchuk B.Sc. Ag., P.Ag.
Executive Director
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

Wanda Austin
Chair
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association



**NORTHEAST REGIONAL
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
CONFERENCE**

“Sustainable Local Foods and Diversifying your Agricultural Operation.”

Draft Agenda Package

October 20th, 2023

Metis Crossing- Smoky Lake County, AB

CONTENTS:

- 2023 Northeast Regional ASB Conference Agenda
- Registration Form and Directions
- 2022 Northeast Regional ASB Conference Minutes
- ASB Resolution Rules of Procedure
- ASB Resolutions Format

2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference
Draft Agenda
Friday, October 20, 2023
Metis Crossing, Smoky Lake County, Alberta

- 9:00--9:30 Coffee & Registration
- 9:30 – 9:45 Call to Order (Smoky Lake County ASB Chair)
- Nominations for Recording Secretary
- Welcome & Introductions
- Reeve/ASB Chair/MLA(s)
- Adoption of 2023 Regional ASB Conference Agenda
Adoption of 2022 Regional ASB Conference Minutes
- 9:45 – 10:15 ASB Program Update – Doug Macaulay, Director, Crop Assurance Programs
- 10:15--10:30 Stakeholder Update – Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
- 10:30-- 10:40 Coffee Break
- 10:40--11:00 AFSC Program Update –Maureen Vadnais-Sloan, Relationship Manager Insurance, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
- 11:00 – 11:30 Presentation-Don & Linda Christensen, Diversifying your Agricultural Operation, Smoky Lake County
- 11:30--12:00 Elections – Nominations for Regional ASB Committee Representatives/Alternate
Update from Provincial ASB Committee – Sebastien Dutrisac
Review 2022 Report Card/Review ASB Rules of Procedure – Sebastien Dutrisac
Resolutions 1 – Sebastien Dutrisac
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 Presentation- Cole Ambrock, 'The Effectiveness of Agritourism in Raising Awareness of Primary Agriculture Production Practices for Millennial Urbanites in Alberta, Canada', Lakeland College
- 2:05 – 2:35 Presentation- Linda Hunt, AgKnow Alberta Farm Mental Health Network
- 2:35 – 2:45 Coffee Break
- 2:45--3:00 Resolutions 2 – Sebastien Dutrisac
- 3:00--3:05 Invitation to Next Regional Conference – MD of Provost/Close Conference
- 3:05 Adjournment

Directions to the 2023 Northeast Regional ASB Conference

Address: 17339 Victoria Trail, Smoky Lake County, AB

Metis Crossing, Smoky Lake County, AB



Directions from the Town of Smoky Lake: Head South on Secondary Highway 855 to Victoria Trail (Twp Rd 581A). Turn left (East) and Metis Crossing Cultural Centre is on the right hand side.

2022 Northeast Regional ASB Conference
November 4, 2022

Ashmont, Alberta

Attendance:

Representatives from the following Municipalities attended the 2022 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference:

Beaver County	Smoky Lake County
MD of Bonnyville	County of St. Paul
Lac La Biche County	County of Two Hills
Lamont County	County of Vermilion River
County of Minburn	Town of Vermilion
MD of Provost	MD of Wainwright

Guests:

- MLA Dave Hanson, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, St. Paul
- MLA Garth Roswell, Vermilion, Lloydminster, Wainwright
- MLA Glenn Van Dijken, Barrhead, Morinville, Westlock
- Bob Bepalko, Executive Director, Northeast Alberta Information Hub
- Sharon Hanson, Business Advisor and Partner, MNP
- Doug Macaulay, ABS Program Manager
- Kelly Nikoporik, Interim Executive Director, LARA
- Nevin Rosaasen, Sustainability & Gov't Relations Lead, Alberta Pulse Growers
- Lynette Tremblay, Chief Operating Officer, Invest Alberta
- Maureen Vadnais-Sloan, Relationship Manager, AFSC

Call to Order

County of St. Paul ASB Chairman Darrell Younghans, called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Recording Secretary

Chairman Younghans called for nomination for Recording Secretary.

Moved by Maxine Fodness to appoint Phyllis Corbiere of the County of St. Paul as Recording Secretary.

Louis Dechaine moved nominations cease. Carried.

Welcome and Introductions

Darrell Younghans, ASB Chairman of the County of St. Paul welcomed the delegates and guests to the 2022 North East Regional ASB Conference. Darrell then introduced the County of St. Paul Council and County staff in attendance.

Glenn Van Dijken, MLA of Barrhead, Morinville, Westlock, Dave Hanson, MLA of Bonnyville Cold Lake, and Garth Roswell, MLA of Vermilion, Lloydminster, Wainwright brought greetings to those in attendance.

Glen Ockerman, Reeve of the County of St. Paul, then welcomed the delegates to the 2022 ASB Regional Conference.

Adoption of 2022 Regional ASB Conference Agenda

Moved by Roger Konieczny, County of Minburn to accept the agenda with the following amendment:

Remove 11:30 – 12:15 Dr. Todd Sumner, Vice President of Academic & Research with Lakeland College as he is unable to attend.

Carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills that the minutes of the 2021 North East Regional ASB Conference be adopted as presented. Carried.

Doug Macaulay, Manager, ASB Program

Doug Macaulay provided an update on the ASB Programs and gave an overview of the department and staff. Municipalities are entering the third year of the 5-year agreement which expires end of 2024.

Field visits – they do a friendly audit to check in every 5 years to see how municipalities are aligning with legislation. Checked 15 municipalities this year. In some municipalities they had forgotten to appoint their fieldman. Therefore, they were unable to issue weed notices. Some municipalities need to align with how appeal boards are set up.

Regional Liaison team in place to connect with municipalities to bring back issues that they are having in their areas.

Introduced Hannah McKenzie, new employee working on the Wild Boar Program and bounty program. She will work with municipalities to set up traps and remove the boars from Landscape.

Weed Act Review – in process of reviewing all 75 weeds on weed act. Narrowed down to 25 weeds that fieldman have flagged as potential candidates for change – some are replicated in fisheries; 60 nonregulated weeds that may be candidates to be added to the act. Stakeholder engagement to come.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, Kellie Nikoporik

Kellie Nikoporik, Environmental Program Manager, Interim Executive Director, provided an overview of LARA which began in 1991 out of the Lakeland Forage Association and is run by a Board of Directors. They are a leader in Applied Ag Research in Alberta. LARA operates within the County of St. Paul, MD of Bonnyville, County of Smoky Lake and Lac La Biche County.

LARA has serviced over 2100 farms with close to 2 million acres of farmland including forage and livestock, cropping, environmental and some horticulture. In 2022 they had 2200 research plots. They provide information to farmers of which varieties to use. They also focus on field scale trials, increasing pasture rejuvenation, watering system for farmers to try out on their operation, and rancher researcher projects – prevention of adoption of innovation on ranches.

LARA is filling a gap. Work that was previously done by Provincial Specialists has fallen onto LARA. Core funding has been \$2 million to divide amongst groups for the past 20 years. They apply for grants and have been successful in receiving a 30:1 return on the funding

Recess for a short break.

Sharon Hanson, CPA, CA Business advisor and Partner, MNP

Sharon Hanson, CPA with MNP, works with Hutterite colonies in central Alberta.

She gave a history of how Hutterite Colonies came to Canada in the early 1900's. There are three difference colonies – Lehrerleut, the most traditional branch; Dariusleuth are the types of colonies in this area; and the Schmiedeleuth who are the most liberal.

The average size of a colony is 15-20 families of approximately 100-120 people, and it takes from 30-35 years for a colony to get that big. They farm between 7500-12,000 acres. Their goal is the become large enough to split into two colonies. She also spoke of how the colonies get involved in the surrounding communities.

Maureen Vadnais-Sloan, Agricultural Financial Services, Relationship Manager

Maureen provided an update on 2021, which has been a busy year with claims processed. Last year's drought was a 1 in 50-year event resulting in 2.5 billion in claims being paid out – the highest year on record.

She spoke briefly about perennial production insurance, annual crop insurance, Agri Stability and the Agri Recovery programs.

The pasture insurance is an area-based program where the producer chooses weather station they want to be based out of. A change was made last year based on information from producers. Moisture level increased from .01 mm to 1 mm as base measurement; temperature – added in heat component – greater than +30 then remove 1 mm of rain from total per day; +35 remove 3 mm per day. Additional weather stations were added in the area.

Wildlife damage compensation program also had changes to the program in 2021 to maintain sustainability of the program. Removed the 20% top up. In 2022 wild boar at large was added to the program. There's a strict set of rules to qualify for compensation through the wild boar specialist.

Recess for Lunch

Sebastian Dutrisac, Provincial Chair, Update Provincial ASB Committee

Sebastian Dutrisac, Northeast Regional ASB Representative, and Provincial ASB Chair provided an update from the Provincial ASB Committee including the expiring resolutions (2018) and Resolution Highlights for 2022.

Resolution 1 brought forward by the County of Two Hills

Therefore, be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Services Boards request Alberta Environment and Parks to provide adequate resources to support the Alberta Water Act, to ensure these contraventions are being dealt with.

Moved by Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills
Seconded by Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

All in Favor. CARRIED

Resolution 2 brought forward by County of St. Paul

Therefore, be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards Request Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season for control of Richardson ground squirrel

And further therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Services Boards Request that Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development petition and study avenues to convince Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to leave 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson Ground Squirrels.

Kevin Smook, Beaver County requested a friendly amendment from Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development to Agriculture and Irrigation.

Moved by: Glen Ockerman, County of St. Paul
Seconded by: Josh Crick, MD of Bonnyville

All in favor. CARRIED.

Resolution 6-22: Proposed Changes to Rules of Procedures

Moved by Louis Dechaine, County of St. Paul, to accept the amendments to the Regional and Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedures as presented.

Seconded by Roger Konieczny, County of Minburn.

All in Favor. CARRIED.

Emergent Resolutions

Sebastian Dutrisac, called three times for any emergent resolutions. There being none, the resolution session was concluded.

Lynette Tremblay, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Invest Alberta

Provided an overview of Invest Alberta, which is a Crown Corporation funded by the Provincial Government. Their role is to attract high value and high impact jobs into the province. Major opportunities for Alberta – Plant protein, Agri-tech vertical farming; biomass utilizations. Looking at opportunities to explore.

The three pillars for attracting investment include:

1. Targeting and Marketing; promote Alberta's value proposition.
2. Working with Alberta Partners; collaborate locally, work with HUB municipalities
3. International Outreach

She also spoke of the looming food shortage. Alberta has increased exports from 12 billion to 14 billion in 2021.

Bob Bezpalko, Executive Director, Northeast Alberta Information HUB

Provided an overview of AB HUB - 44 members; 38 communities – 9 are counties and 1 MD. HUB works closely with local EDOs to bring new money into communities and focuses on enabling investment; business support/entrepreneurship; regional/ Capacity building/enhance community readiness and marketing.

Economic Development Departments assist in addressing barriers, provide support for growth but need support of municipalities. Bob spoke about how every municipal role is involved in Economic Development and how municipalities can attract investment by sharing information with all levels of government.

Nevin Rosaasen, Sustainability & Government Relations Lead, Alberta Pulse Growers

Nevin Rosaasen spoke about what's happening with federal government's proposed fertilizer emission reductions and technologies and management practices.

He gave an update on the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and described the expansion of Team Alberta Crops which is made up of Team barley, Team canola, pulse growers and wheat commission who have come together to discuss environment issues.

Invitation to the 2023 Regional ASB Conference

Danny Gawalko, Smoky Lake County ASB Chairman, invited delegates to the 2023 North East Regional Conference, which will be hosted by Smoky Lake County. Date and location to be determined.

Adjourn

Moved by Sebastian Dutrisac that the meeting be adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

DRAFT

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:

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iv. An Agricultural Service Board member from the hosting Board selected by that Board.

v. The ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Forestry (AF) or their designate.

b. 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 that region.

c. 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 resolution's 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. Attend all Provincial ASB Committee meetings

iv. Assist in presenting Resolutions at the Provincial Conference

b. The Secretary shall:

i. Advise Agricultural Service Boards that Resolutions must be forwarded four weeks prior to the Regional Conference

ii. In conjunction with the Regional Resolutions Committee, review, seek clarification, if necessary, compile, and distribute resolutions to Agricultural

Amended: January 21, 2021

REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE 2

Service Boards in the Region, at least one week prior to the Regional Conference

iii. 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:

i. 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 Secunder.

c. Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read.

d. The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Secunder 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 Secunder 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 Secunder.

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.

Amended: January 21, 2021

REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE 3

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

5. Voting and Speaking a. Voting members of Agricultural Service Boards/Agricultural Committees shall be recognized voters on any resolution. i. 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).

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.

6. Procedures for Approved Resolutions a. Secretaries of the Regional Resolutions Committee shall: i. Submit Regional Resolutions to the appropriate agencies as soon as possible following the Regional Conference.

ii. Regional Resolutions shall also be submitted to the Provincial ASB Committee for information.

b. 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.

b. Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference.

c. Amendments that are carried will take effect at the next Regional Conference.

APPENDIX "A" – AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE 4

REGIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING, PREPARING AND WRITING RESOLUTIONS

1. 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 i. 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 were 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 i. 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.

4. 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.

c. Obtain sufficient background information to be able to write and defend your resolution.

5. 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.

APPENDIX "A" – AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS
REGIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE 5

b. Resolutions need to be presented with only one "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement. i. 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.

ii. 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.

7. The resolution shall be presented in the approved format as indicated on the following page.

DRAFT

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.



Brazeau County

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PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

6.3

September 12, 2023

The Honorable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislative Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6



Dear Minister Sigurdson:

Re: Alberta Weed Control Act

The Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board recently discussed some of the challenges with enforcing the Alberta *Weed Control Act*. As you know, each municipality is required to administer and enforce the Act.

Beyond our weed inspection, control, and enforcement program, Brazeau County Council and Agricultural Service Board have supported the Agricultural Services Department by approving programs designed to assist our landowners in controlling/destroying species listed in the Weed Control Regulation. Brazeau County has provided a Weed Control Herbicide Rebate, Hawkweed Spraying Program, and Fence Line Spraying Program to incentivize landowners to spray weeds. While these programs have been successful, there are still several barriers in administering the legislation.

The vast acres of some prohibited noxious species and the requirement of the *Weed Control Act* to issue a notice for every occurrence of a Prohibited Noxious species makes the administration of serving notices and enforcing unmanageable. We do not believe it is prudent to issue so many notices in a season that if it were to come to enforcement action we would not have the capacity to follow through.

The *Weed Control Act* prohibits the movement of anything that if used or moved might spread the seeds of a noxious or prohibited noxious weed. This statement is broad, and the legislation lacks any clear instrument to administer or enforce it. Brazeau County's Agricultural Service Board is concerned with the movement of hay around the province and no discernable way to prevent the movement of infested bales, that we are at a high risk of moving regulated species seeds at an accelerated rate. Forage seed allows a percentage of noxious weeds in the seed. This results in fields being introduced with the weeds that we are expected to control. The issue is compounded by some municipalities, urban and rural, and Alberta's provincial highways that do little to act on their responsibilities under the *Weed Control Act*. That leaves municipalities that do at a loss because weeds know no boundary. A conscientious county adjacent to weed infested neighbors is wasting their time and resources fighting noxious weeds. This issue needs a coordinated provincial initiative on effective weed control.

The Agricultural Service Board requests that you reply with your expectations of how to strengthen the enforcement of the Alberta *Weed Control Act* across the Province.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Seutter-Rosell
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson
cc: Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta



Report Card on the Resolutions 2023

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Introduction

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2023 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the Agricultural Service Board website at agriculturalserviceboards.com. Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

2023 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Position	Members	Alternates	Representation
Chair, Region Rep.	Sebastien Dutrisac	Clifford Wowdzia	Northeast Region
Vice, Region Rep.	Brenda Knight	Kathy Rooyakkers	Central
Region Rep	Walter Preugschas	Ross Bohnet	Northwest Region
Region Rep	Morgan Rockenbach	John Van Driesten	South
Region Rep	Christi Friesen	Bob Chrenek	Peace
Secretary	Stephen Bevans		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		
RMA Rep.	Jason Schneider		RMA
AAAF President	Aaron VanBeers		AAAF
ASB Program Manager	Doug Macaulay		AFRED
Recording Secretary	Anita Ash		AFRED

2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
COMMITTEE	APPOINTMENT	ALTERNATE
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group	Walter Preugschas	Brenda Knight
Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee Previously the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG)	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas
Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas
Clubroot Action Committee	Walter Preugschas	Christi Friesen
Fusarium Action Committee	Morgan Rockenbach	Sebastian Dutrisac
Wildlife Predator Compensation Committee	Christi Friesen	Sebastian Dutrisac
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (Alternate for RMA appointment)	RMA	Sebastian Dutrisac
Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta working group	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas

Executive Summary

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2023 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Table

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade
1-23	CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	Accept in Principle
2-23	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS	Accept in Principle
3-23	APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING	Accept in Principle
4-23	GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	Incomplete
5-23	LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE	Accept in Principle
6-23	ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT	Incomplete
7-23	CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE	DEFEATED
8-23	CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS	Incomplete
9-23	SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	Incomplete
10-23	ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALY REGULATED WEEDS	Incomplete
11-23	LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE	Accept the Response
12-23	REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)	Incomplete
E1-23	STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING	Incomplete
E2-23	STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH	Incomplete
E3-23	SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA	Incomplete

The Committee reviewed the responses and assigned one of four grades: *Accept the Response*, *Accept in Principle*, *Incomplete* and *Unsatisfactory*. The Committee considers the quality of each response and the grading and comments submitted by ASBs when determining the final grades for the report card. The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction for advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative if you have questions or comments about the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

A summary of grading provided by ASBs is attached for information. The Committee appreciates the input of ASBs into the grading process.

Response Summary

Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	#ASBs Responding	% of Region 2023	% of Region 2022	% of Region 2021
South	4	22	33	33%
Central	14	100	93	43%
Northeast	9	82	82	15%
Northwest	2	15	38	31%
Peace	5	38	38	23%
Overall	34	49%	55%	32%

Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-23	3	31	0	0
2-23	4	1	28	1
3-23	1	28	4	1
4-23	1	1	16	15
5-23	1	31	1	1
6-23	0	0	17	16
8-23	1	0	28	5
9-23	0	0	32	1
10-23	0	0	18	15
11-23	32	1	0	1
12-23	0	0	18	15
E1-23	2	1	30	1
E2-23	0	4	28	2
E3-23	1	5	28	0

2023 Activities of the ASBPC

ASBPC Regular Meetings

Date	Delegations
September 2, 2022	
November 7, 2022	Organizational Meeting; ADM Conrad, DM Hale
November 21, 2022	
January 17, 2023	Parliamentarian Todd Brand
March 20, 2023	RMA and DM Hale/Marcia Hewit-Fisher
April 17, 2023	
May 15, 2023	
July 19, 2023	ABVMA
August 18, 2023	Alberta BeeKeepers Association

Engagements:

Date	Event
November 28, 2022	RDAR Extension Taskforce stakeholder engagement
November 30, 2022	Minister Horner meeting - resolutions
December 16, 2022	ADM Townhall
January 17, 2023	Dinner with Minister Horner
March 6, 2023	RALP discussion GOA
March 30, 2023	RALP review
April 18, 2023	ASB Townhall
May 11, 2023	ABVMA initial discussion
June 21, 2023	AG Plastics Recycling

Activities on Appointed Committees:

Date	Committee	Member Attending
August 2022	AgPlastics	Walter
November 28, 2022	AgPlastics tour	Walter, Brenda
December 7, 2022	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter and Sebastian
March 17, 2023	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter,
March/April?	AB Game Policy	Brenda, Jason (RMA)
April 26	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter, Sebastian, Christi
April 26, 2023	ESCC	
May 2, 2023	Fusarium Action Committee	Sebastian
June 21, 2023	AgPastics	Brenda

Definition of Terms

The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

Accept the Response

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

Accept in Principle

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

Incomplete

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

Unsatisfactory

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

2023 Resolutions

**RESOLUTION 1-23: CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA)
PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION**

- WHEREAS** the scope of practice for Alberta veterinary professionals is governed by the ABVMA, which is governed by the Veterinary Profession Act, (RSA 200, Ch. V-2); and
- WHEREAS** the lack of veterinary professionals has a direct impact on the sustainability and profitability of livestock producers; and
- WHEREAS** medical doctor shortages led to the growth of the Nurse Practitioner designation in human medicine; and
- WHEREAS** addressing the current rural veterinary shortage will take a number of years to have an impact, but the livestock industry needs assistance now; and
- WHEREAS** there are veterinary services that could be performed by a mid-level veterinary professional, alleviating some pressure on Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

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

The Alberta Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid- Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers with veterinary oversight, including but not limited to:

1. Pregnancy Checking
2. Vaccination
3. Semen Testing
4. Blood draws
5. Injections
6. Catheterization
7. Wellness checks
8. Renewing prescriptions
9. Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (response to 1-23 and 2-23)
2. Skilled Trades and Professions (response to 1-23 and 2-23)
3. ABVMA (response to 1-23, and 2-23)

Resolution 2-23: Rural Veterinary Students

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST that the Government of Alberta aid the crisis of rural veterinary shortage by directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize accepting students who intend to specialize in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program.

Response:

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has a current class size of 50 students and plans to expand its class size to 100 students. This places Alberta in a high-ranking position within Canada in terms of its number of veterinary students per capita. It is noteworthy that a consistent 30-35 per cent of veterinary students at the University of Calgary come from rural communities. Unfortunately, approximately only half of those students return to a rural community to practice.

The University of Calgary has adjusted its admissions process for the latest intake of veterinary students. After identifying applicants that meet a minimum academic threshold, academic standing is no longer a consideration in the further evaluation of those qualified applicants. Instead, an applicant's work experience, hobbies, volunteer experience and home community are considered to determine which students will advance to the interview stage. The admissions process was adjusted to help ensure graduates will meet the needs of the profession and the province.

Agriculture and Irrigation continues to work with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Calgary to develop strategies to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural communities. Attracting these professionals to rural Alberta poses complex challenges, and we continue to look at ways to help our rural communities recruit and retain veterinarians.

Resolution 1-23, which is directed to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development, proposes a nurse practitioner model in the veterinary profession. The development of training and evaluation materials for this model, as well as the legal framework within which those materials will operate, will take time. It is also worth noting that most of the tasks mentioned in the resolution – livestock pregnancy-checks, livestock vaccinations, semen collection, blood collection, injections, catheterization and dispensing prescription medication – may already be delegated to registered veterinary technologists.



ALBERTA
SKILLED TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - South West*

AR 318

MAR 14 2023

Mr. Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Mr. Stephen Bevans
Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

The Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development, forwarded a copy of your February 2, 2023 letter regarding the 2023 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Resolutions. As Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions responsible for the *Veterinary Profession Act*, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Alberta government is aware of the severe shortage of veterinarians across all veterinary practice types in Alberta. Recognizing the particularly acute scarcity of veterinarians in rural Alberta, we have been working closely with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) to address this critical issue.

In 2021, the ABVMA and the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Medical Association (ABVTA) collaborated with the Government of Alberta to conduct a workforce study to gain a comprehensive understanding of key human resource issues facing the veterinary profession in Alberta. As a result of the study, the ABVMA established two industry-focused working groups to explore possible actions. One of the working groups is on domestic education of veterinary professionals in western Canada and the other is on utilization and retention of veterinarians and veterinary technologists. Both the ABVMA and the ABVTA are optimistic that through working with stakeholders, educational institutions, and the Alberta government, the issue will be resolved.

The ABVMA has also recently completed a study, namely the Economic Impact Assessment of the Veterinary Medical Sector in Alberta, to document the economic benefits of veterinary medicine to the province of Alberta. The study addresses the impact of the veterinary medical sector on rural communities and has become a useful tool in supporting the ABVMA and the veterinary profession's efforts to address the critical workforce shortage issues.

As part of the Alberta Recovery Plan and under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Strategy, the Alberta government has recently developed new entrepreneur immigration streams for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program to help bring in skilled economic immigrants, including veterinarians, to support the province's workforce. There are two streams that may contribute to addressing the

Mr. Sebastien Dutrisac
Page 2

labour shortage in rural Alberta. The Rural Renewal Stream supports attraction and retention of immigrants through a community-driven approach responsive to local economic development needs in rural Alberta communities, and the Rural Entrepreneur Stream attracts and encourages qualified and capable immigrant entrepreneurs to start new or buy existing businesses, conduct the day-to-day operations, and live-in rural communities to support economic growth in rural Alberta.

As you know, the Alberta government has also recently provided additional funding to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). This money will be used to increase programming for veterinary studies and allow the UCVM to double its yearly enrolment of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students from 50 to 100 by 2025.

Regarding your suggestion to establish a mid-level veterinary professional designation to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers, my department will confer with the ABVMA to discuss the proposal. To implement another category of veterinarian, the ABVMA will require member approval, a formal proposal for changes to the *Veterinary Professional Act*, and significant consultations with stakeholders, educational institutions, and the public. While not a fast solution to the situation, it may fit into the range of responses that will work together to help address the shortage.

Like your committee, the Government of Alberta recognizes the important role of veterinarians in this province and the critical need to address the labour shortage in this profession. Thank you for writing and bringing this proposal to my attention.

Yours very truly,



Honourable Kaycee Madu, KC, ECA
Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions

cc: Honourable Brian Jean, KC, ECA
Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development



May 12, 2023

Agricultural Service Board Executive Committee
c/o Mr. Sebastian Dutrisec
Chair, ASB Committee
Delivered Via Email

Dear Mr. Dutrisec and the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Members,

Re: Response to ASB Resolutions 1-23 and 2-23

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is the professional regulatory organization responsible for regulating and supporting the profession of veterinary medicine in Alberta. This includes regulatory oversight and advocacy for both Alberta's veterinarians and veterinary technologists (RVT's). There are 3982 professionals practicing in Alberta which is comprised of 1925 practicing veterinarians and 2057 technologists many of whom are practicing medicine within one of the 580 veterinary practices located throughout Alberta. Less than half of those practices are located in rural Alberta.

We would like to thank the Agricultural Service Board for your willingness to address the shortage of veterinary professionals in Alberta. You recently passed two resolutions, Resolution 1-23, Creation of a Mid-level Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) Professional Designation and Resolution 2-23 Rural Veterinary Students. We recognize that these two resolutions are intended to provide some solution to this complex problem of veterinary professional labour shortage, especially as they affect rural animal owners. While we recognize the intention of the resolutions, we would like to provide some updates on the activities we have been undertaking that will hopefully provide some insight and will allow us to further our discussion with you on some key activities for which we would seek your support.

Our association works closely with partner organizations including the Alberta Veterinary Technologists Association (ABVTA), University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), the intensive livestock sector, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Municipalities, and the Alberta government. Together we have been actively engaged in addressing the issue of veterinary professional shortages which are at a crisis level not only in Alberta but globally. Although labor shortages affect both mixed animal and companion animal veterinary practice, we have been especially aware of the acute need of veterinary professionals in rural communities.

In 2020, ABVMA undertook a workforce study with the support of the Alberta government. This report was completed in 2021 and underscored the crisis level shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists in the province. Today we need nearly 900 professionals that includes at minimum 377 veterinarians and 487 technologists. In less than 20 years we will need three and

a half times that amount. Even today, in 2023 the professional job vacancy rate exceeds the provincial job vacancy rate and attrition in clinical practice remains high at 3% for veterinarians and 8% for RVT's. We know that with Alberta having the highest pet ownership rate in Canada at 65% and with continued growth of foundational livestock production, the demand for veterinarians and technologists is increasing.

We also know that educational seats are not keeping pace to the demand of students. In the Alberta Budget 2022-23, the Alberta government committed \$69 million to UCVM to expand the veterinary program from 50 students to 100 students over 3 years. This was a generational investment and was the first time since the inception of the school in 2005 that money was allocated to veterinary medicine in Alberta. Of note, you must be an Alberta resident to attend UCVM making this a critical investment in veterinary education of Alberta students. Additionally in budget 2022, money was available for colleges offering animal science programs including registered veterinary technologist education.

We also recognize that only 7-9% of the veterinarians registered to practice in Alberta are international trained veterinarians. With a global shortage of veterinarians, it is competitive to attract professionals from an accredited school. Internationally trained veterinarians require support to ensure successful placement. Alberta does not have a bridging program at UCVM which will allow more veterinarians from non-accredited schools to come to Alberta. Receiving some short-term training in the form of a micro-credentialing program will augment their veterinary knowledge and skills to ensure they are at the Canadian standard that animal owners expect.

Despite the 50 additional seats allocated under budget 2022, we believe that was a start and not an ending. There is a need to expand seat capacity at UCVM and the four technical colleges in Alberta offering veterinary technologist (animal health technology) education in Alberta. We also believe that further collaborative work needs attention to attract and retain professionals in rural communities in Alberta. We want to assure you that we have been addressing this issue with our partners as a profession. We need the assistance of stakeholders like you to also make positive strides to growing a veterinary workforce that comes and stays in rural practice. We need to ensure we are working collaboratively and with an understanding of the complexity of the issues.

Resolution 2-23

As per resolution 2-23, one of the ways you have identified to help rural Alberta veterinary shortages is by *"...directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize students who intend to specialise in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program"*. As a profession we work closely with the UCVM and are very pleased that, beginning with the class admitted in the fall of 2022, they have changed their selection policy and process to acknowledge that academic ability is necessary but not sufficient. There is a three step process that includes:

1. Confirm Academic Ability: the qualified pool consists of Alberta residents who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on their four most recent full-time terms of undergraduate education, a passing grade in 10 of the required courses and a score of at least 495 on the MCAT within 3 years of application.

2. File Review: each qualified applicant's file is reviewed by 3 members of the file review subcommittee to score "goodness of fit" for the UCVM DVM program, which includes assessment of rural attributes. The top 128 are invited for an interview.
3. Non-academic attributes: are evaluated which includes multiple mini-interviews and an on-site essay. The activities of the rural students are highlighted including their hobbies, agriculture experience, work experience, etc.

Interestingly, of the 50 students accepted in 2022 who will graduate in 2026, 36.5% identify their home as an acreage or farm within a community of less than 10,000 population. 32.7% identify themselves as residing within a metropolitan region of more than 50,000 people. The data from this class supports us saying that rural students are being accepted to the veterinary program. Additional data for the class to be admitted in the fall of 2023 will be available shortly. ABVMA is pleased that UCVM has made significant changes to its admissions process and requirements that are not solely academically focused and that consider a student's overall qualifications which will not disadvantage a rural student.

UCVM has also provided information on where the veterinary graduates go upon graduation. Out of the 273 graduates from 9 graduating classes, 195 veterinarians, or 71% are registered to practice in Alberta. Of the 195 veterinarians working in Alberta, 92 (47%) are working in small communities (defined as a community of less than 37,000 people) and 83 (43%) are working in large urban communities (defined as a community with population greater than 100,000). The remainder will work in academia, industry, or other animal facilities such as feedlots and zoos. This means that of all the 273 graduates of UCVM since inception, 33.7% are working in a small community in Alberta.

The data supports that not only are rural based students being selected for the veterinary program at UCVM, but they are also returning to those smaller communities. Despite this, we recognize that there are not enough graduates for the demand making increasing capacity of seats critical for Alberta. We also note that graduates are returning to rural Alberta and mixed animal practice, but they are not staying. Retention is an issue for veterinarians and technologists in rural Alberta because of a number of factors among which include reliable broadband services, livable housing, and daycare options.

Resolution 1-23

We also want to address the issue raised by ASB's resolution 1-23 that requests *"The Alberta Minister of Job, Economy, and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid-Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers with veterinary oversight, including but not limited to:*

1. *Pregnancy checking*
2. *Vaccination*
3. *Semen testing*
4. *Blood draws*
5. *Injections*
6. *Catheterization*

7. *Wellness checks*
8. *Renewing prescriptions*
9. *Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines.”*

The veterinary profession is facing shortages of veterinary technologists that exceeds normal practice standards. There is a demand for veterinary technologists with recent graduates having no delay for job entry. The four veterinary technology (animal health technology) programs in Alberta are competitive meaning there are more qualified applicants than there are seats for all the students looking for technologist education. Quite simply, there is not enough educational capacity to graduate enough veterinary technologists and there is a need for further government investment in the veterinary technology educational programs.

Attraction of veterinary technologists from other jurisdictions including Canada, the US and international is minimal largely because of the non-competitive wages in Alberta. Retention is an issue in rural Alberta due to the low wages and physical demands of the job combined with a lack of services such as daycare, options for livable, affordable housing and educational options for children. Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of technologists are female, they are on average between 25 and 29 years of age and remain in clinical practice for an average of 9.31 years. In a recent compensation survey, it was found that while the average hourly compensation for veterinary technologists in urban Alberta is \$27.07, the average hourly rate in rural Alberta practice is only \$24.95. Technologists are choosing the career but not staying in it making turnover within the profession very high. We do not believe that a new level of professional will address these issues facing a technologist. In fact, adding in an additionally trained professional will place greater financial strain on the veterinary practice and higher fees for veterinary service will result.

The ABVMA policy regulating delegation of veterinary services to a registered veterinary technologist (RVT) has been updated as of February 2023 with both the veterinarians and veterinary technologists working collaboratively and in agreement to this new professional standard. This was in collaboration with the Alberta Veterinary Technologists Association (ABVTA). It is accepted that the barrier to increasing the engagement of veterinary technologists in veterinary practice is mainly culture in veterinary practices and is not a regulatory barrier. Updated policy seeks to encourage increased engagement of veterinary technologists in practice.

Under the Veterinary Profession General Regulation, sec 9(2), veterinarians may delegate veterinary medical services to registered veterinary technologists. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) must exist prior to delegation of any medical task. The VCPR exists by virtue of the registered veterinarian having sufficient knowledge of a person's animals by examination of the animals, and/or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept.

The scope of practice that may be delegated by a veterinarian to a veterinary technologist, pursuant to a VCPR being in place between the client and the veterinarian, is defined as:

(2) A technologist may practice all aspects of veterinary medicine other than (a) making a diagnosis (b) determining a course of treatment (c) applying surgical techniques.

Registered Veterinary Technologists (RVTs) are allowed, by legislation, to perform a broad scope of primary animal health care tasks and veterinary practice activities. RVTs are

precluded from making a diagnosis, determining a course of treatment (which includes prescribing medications), or performing any surgical procedure. RVTs may appropriately perform triage in the absence of a VCPR.

Whether a specific veterinary medical procedure is delegated, and the level of supervision required for RVTs performing various tasks is determined by the veterinarian's assessment of the competency of the technologist, the complexity of the task and the risk to the patient and client. The veterinarian is responsible for verifying the competency or skill level of the employee to whom any procedure is delegated. Verification is achieved by observing and evaluating to the satisfaction of the individual registered ABVMA member.

Certain higher risk procedures, such as administering anesthesia, while they may be delegated, require a higher level of supervision by a veterinarian given the risks and obligation to protect the public interest.

The following skills are medical in nature, constitute the practice of veterinary medicine, pose a risk to the patient and the public, and therefore can only be delegated to a registered veterinary technologist.

Client Relations/Practice Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain client informed consent. • Administer and maintain Infection Prevention and Control and biosecurity protocols and staff education with a focus on limiting hospital-acquired infection, recognition of potentially infectious patients, isolation protocols • Develop and provide client education on topics including clinical nutrition, tube feeding care, • diabetes management, behaviour, post chemotherapy care • Discharge medical/surgical patients with communication of medical instructions • Participate in the development, implementation and review of practice policies, protocols and procedures • Perform patient triage including teletriage
Pharmacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and dispense pharmaceuticals, including performing final check • Prepare and administer medications i.e. calculate, reconstitute, dilute oral and parental, IV fluid rates, constant rate infusions • Educate clients regarding prescribed drugs i.e., indications and contraindications, handling, storage, administration, side-effects, drug interactions, safety for patient and humans • Use and explain the 5 rights of pharmaceuticals and biologics • Respond to abnormal and normal responses to medication • Handle, measure and administer controlled substances • Maintain controlled substance acquisition and usage logs Nursing Procedures
Nursing Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a comprehensive physical examination including assessments and documentation of findings including mentation, heart rate, pulse rate, respiratory rate, heart/lung sounds, body condition score, pain score, hydration

- Perform venipuncture for treatment or blood sampling including identifying appropriate and inappropriate sites and blood volumes
- Administer oral and parenteral medications
- Administer biologicals (including rabies)
- Express anal sacs
- Perform fluorescein staining, Schirmer tear test and tonometry
- Establish and manage intravenous access sites as determined by the patient conditions and therapy required
- Administer and maintain fluid therapy
- Assess volume status and administer crystalloid and colloids via infusion pump or drip set. Assess response to fluid therapy plan 5
- Collect and administer blood and blood products, monitor administration, and adjust administration as required
- Place and maintain of advanced catheters such as PICC lines, intraosseous, arterial, central, catheters
- Perform and evaluate invasive (pressure transducer or aneroid manometer) and non-invasive blood pressure measurement. (oscillometric, Doppler, etc)
- Perform thoracocentesis and non-surgical chest tube placement
- Maintain chest, tracheotomy, pharyngostomy, nasogastric, esophagostomy tubes
- Place and care for urinary catheters
- Collect urine samples including by cystocentesis (including ultrasound guided)
- Setup and evaluate normal vs abnormal ECG
- Apply established emergency protocols for CPR e.g. RECOVER CPR Algorithm
- Perform appropriate wound care
- Administer enemas
- Perform tattoo
- Insert microchip
- Trim hooves
- Clean sheath
- Calculate and administer nutritional support using a variety of techniques (esophagostomy, nasogastric, parenteral)
- Perform nasogastric intubation
- Use esophageal feeder
- Apply and remove bandages and splints
- Remove sutures or staples
- Remove casts
- Perform rehabilitation techniques including massage therapy, cryo/heat therapy, range of motion, low level laser therapy, shockwave therapy
- Explain timing and types of pregnancy testing
- Semen collection
- Electrostimulation and semen collection for breeding soundness examination
- Perform artificial insemination
- Assist and prepare for large animal reproductive procedures including embryo flush, oocyte aspirations, endometrial biopsies etc
- Assist with birthing, both routine and dystocia
- Provide resuscitation and nursing care to neonates

Peri and IntraOperative Procedures

- Organize medical records/consent forms, review pre-operative evaluation, evaluate current patient status, organize, and implement anesthesia
- Perform a surgical clip and aseptic prep application
- Perform set-up, maintenance, troubleshooting and operation of surgical equipment including suction, cautery, laser and fiberoptic equipment
- Aseptically handle tissues, instruments, and supplies during surgery
- Administer post-operative care including hydrotherapy, orthopedic, and neurological care Perform the role of laser safety officer

Dental Prophylaxis

- Perform scaling and polishing, subgingival scaling, root planing and curettage
- Probe, measure, and chart pockets with a periodontal probe; grade periodontal disease; complete dental chart
- Obtain diagnostic images using intraoral radiology positioning
- Perform dental anesthesia blocks
- Perform flotation of equid teeth Rabbit and rodent non-surgical occlusal adjustment and correction

Anesthesia

- Review patient history, PE, and diagnostic results in collaboration with a veterinarian to assign patient anesthetic status score (ASA)
- Assign appropriate numerical pain score after reviewing patient history and physical examination in conjunction with evaluation of any prescribed analgesic plans to provide effective pain management
- Set up, test, and/or troubleshoot anesthesia machines and breathing circuits
- Develop patient-specific anesthetic protocols for veterinarian review and implementation to provide effective pain management and maximum anesthetic
- Calculate dosages for and administer injectable analgesics and anesthetics as prescribed by the veterinarian
- Perform regional nerve blocks i.e. dental, biopsy site, testicular, linea, distal limb
- Perform epidural anesthesia Utilize ECG, capnography, pulse oximetry, blood pressure monitors and thermometers to assess patient status and anesthetic depth
- Use clinical signs and monitoring equipment to monitor patient status in all stages of anesthesia
- Record and maintain anesthesia and operative medical records
- Evaluate the effects of common pre-anesthetic, induction, and maintenance drugs, recognize, and respond to adverse reactions, complications, or emergencies
- Use and assess peripheral nerve simulation
- Monitor and evaluate appropriate extubation time, anesthetic recovery, postoperative care, and pain management during the recovery period

Diagnostic Procedures

- Perform urinalysis
- Perform CBC
- Identify blood, external and internal parasites
- Perform blood chemistry tests
- Perform serologic tests
- Perform bacteriologic procedures
- Examine canine vaginal smears

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in collecting, preparing, and appropriately evaluating transudate, exudates & cytologic specimens e.g. joint, cerebrospinal, airway and body cavity • Perform and evaluate fine needle tissue aspirates and impression smears • Perform point of care tests e.g. lactate, blood glucose, ketostix Collect and evaluate skin scrapings • Perform blood type and cross match, and evaluate results • Prepare and stain bone marrow specimens • Examine semen • Evaluate blood gases • Perform California mastitis test • Perform necropsy procedures including collecting photographs, videos and tissue samples Prepare samples for analyses and submission • Perform the role of lab quality assurance officer
<p>Diagnostic Imaging</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate and maintain xray, CT and MRI machines to produce diagnostic images • Calculate and administer contrast media via different routes for contrast studies • Maintain and utilize ultrasound to obtain diagnostic images* • Perform the role of radiation quality assurance officer • * Council has established policy for pregnancy detection by ultrasound in beef cattle and small ruminants
<p>Euthanasia</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss quality of life assessments with client • Administer premedication and euthanasia solution with or without client present • Confirm patient is deceased * Council has established policy for pregnancy detection by ultrasound in beef cattle and small ruminants

While engagement of the RVT in clinical practice has been improving, the ABVTA and ABVMA continue to work on educating practice owners and staff on utilization of technologist and retention strategies. A new class of professional as suggested by this resolution will not improve utilization of RVT's, and a new professional will take considerable time to establish. The expectation would be that ABVMA membership and stakeholders would need to be consulted on the scope of practice and utilization of the professional. Further, the current legislation provides that the scope of practice that may not currently be delegated to an RVT is narrow – making diagnosis, surgery and determining the course of treatment. Any scope of practice afforded to a new professional designation would venture into the scope of practice for a veterinarian. A new curriculum would need to be developed at colleges and would require extensive consultation and ongoing advocacy for additional public dollars for this educational program. Legislation would need to be changed to accommodate this new professional which is at the discretion of the provincial government. We estimate this process to take 4-6 years with dedicated work from the profession, academia, government, and stakeholders including ASB.

The concept of a “mid-level practitioner” has been discussed across Canada and in the US. While it is acknowledged that at some point it may play a role in delivery of veterinary medical services, there is an unrecognized opportunity to leverage improved engagement of veterinary technologists in clinical practice.

While we appreciate ASB's interest in and resolutions related to the veterinary professional workforce shortage, we believe that time will be better spent working with Alberta's post-secondary institutions to ensure that the veterinary professional educational programming is relevant and meeting the needs of animal owners. Micro-credential programs at Alberta's technical colleges for RVT's will provide a technologist interested in expanding their knowledge and skills an opportunity in a shorter program of study. In our study of the labour issues, we believe these actions will improve retention of RVT's much better than a new classification of professional that will take, considerable time and money to implement.

We also believe that rural communities need to be engaged in attraction programs to their communities. Providing veterinary students with a positive experience for summer employment in a rural veterinary practice requires a community to be engaged and welcoming to that student. Municipalities that have housing that is affordable and livable will be attractive to a student and professional. Local bursaries are helpful, but success will be best achieved when your local veterinary practices are engaged, and the definitions of eligibility are not narrowly defined.

We also believe that engagement with younger students, those in junior high and high school, about the value of veterinary medicine is helpful to ensuring there is a continued stream of qualified applicants to the veterinary medicine programs. Providing incentives such as scholarships to local students who pursue veterinary medicine and return to the local rural community to practice, may also be an important tool to recruitment and retention of rural veterinary professionals. UCVM is open to providing assistance to municipalities to support recruitment of students.

We together with UCVM and ABVTA would appreciate an opportunity for our delegation to meet with the ASB Provincial Committee members to discuss the labour issues, provide relevant information on activities and to determine further ways our organization can work collaboratively with the ASB's. We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you in July 2023.

Thank you again for the interest and willingness of the ASB to address the workforce issues facing the veterinary medical profession. It is our intention to work collaboratively with stakeholders to find the best solutions to the problem which is compounded by the global shortage. I can assure you that Alberta is taking the lead in Canada to address this issue and we appreciate the opportunity to work with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



Phil Buote
Interim Registrar and CEO, ABVMA

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	9	The response from the GoA was less than informative, but the response from the ABVMA provided a substantive amount of detail as to the enhanced role RVTs can play within veterinary medicine. That seems worth exploring and discussing with practices in our area as to the degree of utilization of RVT scope-of-practice. This seems an appropriate first step before pushing further for a mid-tier professional designation which would require a large investment of time and resources and will have a long lag time to realize.
Accept in Principle	91	The response is disappointing as there could be great merit in a new professional designation. Although the process to do so may be cumbersome due to the number of parties involved, the long process should not result in no attempt for an additional professional designation.
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The responses from the Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions and the ABVMA addresses the resolution in part and contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

In May, the Committee was approached by Pam Cholak, a consultant hired by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association, and the UofC Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to work on the Veterinarian shortage issue.

The following delegation attended the July 19 ASBPC meeting to discuss this resolution further.

- Dr. Phil Buote, ABVMA Interim CEO
- Dr. Navjot Gosal, ABVMA Council member on behalf of Dr. Natasha Kutryk, ABVMA President, who is unable to attend.
- Darryl Haugen, ABVTA President
- Vanessa George, ABVTA Executive Director
- Dr. Renate Weller, Dean of UCVM
- Dr. Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach at UCVM
- Pam Cholak, Consultant to ABVMA, President of What Matters Consulting

The delegation did not feel that creating a mid level vet professional designation would solve the issues facing rural vet practices. They found in their research that rural RVTs are paid less than urban ones, that they are mostly women so need access to child care and affordable housing to live rural, and as a result there is a large turnover of RVTs with an average of only 9.3 years in the profession. Municipalities can assist with reducing the turnover by actively addressing community barriers for young professional women.

In February 2023, the ABVMA and the ABVTA worked collaboratively to adjust their bylaws to ensure that vet practices were able to fully utilize the knowledge and skills of the professionals they employ. These changes allow veterinarians to delegate veterinary services to a RVT provided a relationship

between the veterinarian and the client exists, and the veterinarian did the diagnosis and determined the course of treatment.

It was found that limits placed on the RVTs in a practice are most often due to the culture of the practice rather than the regulations. Further efforts are being taken by RVT programs to provide further training in specific veterinarian services like pre-checking cows, to further improve skills and build trust with the Veterinarians and the clients. See the ABVMA response for more details.

ASBPC will continue to monitor the progress over the next three years.

RESOLUTION 2-23: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS

WHEREAS rural Alberta is experiencing a significant shortage of rural based veterinary medical professionals; which has now reached a crisis level, and

WHEREAS there are five veterinary schools in Canada, students may only attend school in the region where they live. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary currently accepts fifty (50) students into the program each year, while it is expanding to one hundred (100) students in 2024 the current program selection process is not resulting in enough graduates to sustain rural veterinary practices; and

WHEREAS it has been shown that students originating from rural areas and/or having significant interest in and have experience with rural veterinary practice and the rural lifestyle are far more likely to locate and be successful in rural veterinary practice;

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

That the Government of Alberta aid the crisis of rural veterinary shortage by directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize accepting students who intend to specialize in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Advanced Education
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSES:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (see above)
2. Skilled Trades and Professions (see above)
3. ABVMA (see above)

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	12	The information provided in the ABVMA response (and in other information that they have made publicly available) gives the appearance that rural enrollment makes a substantive proportion of their admissions. The only sticking points are in the varying ways of defining "rural". As to students admissions, the number of <10,000 population was given to define rural, but this did not define whether this was the population size of a rural town or rural town plus catchment area. The working definition in their response became even more confusing when talking about the distribution of veterinary practices as the distinction became between "small" (<35,000 population) and "large urban" communities. By the standard of "small" communities in much of rural Alberta, that is a big population centre. Greater clarity and consistency about their definitions would help in better ascertaining the ongoing success of their changes to admissions.
Accept in Principle	3	By doubling enrolment, they are also allowing in more possible large animal vets

Incomplete	82	The Board would like tangible results on the number of rural students being admitted into the program based on their hands-on experience. They feel the difficulty of the MCAT exam in conjunction with the lack of resources available to rural students for success when writing the exam was not addressed. // ASB was hoping/want to see an incentive to pay for part of the tuition for rural students paid by GoA, and for a signed contract between student/vet and clinic to keep them as a large animal vet for a minimum of 5 years.
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC initially graded this response as incomplete, and the further information provided by the ABVMA was sent to the ASBs in May. After engagement from the ABVMA the ASBPC recommends a grade of Accept in Principle and will continue to monitor progress.

In May, the Committee received an ABVMA response to this resolution (see above) and received the following delegation at their July 19 ASBPC meeting to discuss this resolution further.

- Dr. Phil Buote, ABVMA Interim CEO
- Dr. Navjot Gosal, ABVMA Council member on behalf of Dr. Natasha Kutryk, ABVMA President, who is unable to attend.
- Darryl Haugen, ABVTA President
- Vanessa George, ABVTA Executive Director
- Dr. Renate Weller, Dean of UCVM
- Dr. Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach at UCVM
- Pam Cholak, Consultant to ABVMA, President of What Matters Consulting

The faculty of VM at the UofC made changes to admittance for the fall of 2022 that recognizes that academic ability should not be the only criteria for selection. The process attempts to both evaluate the candidates qualitatively (academic score) and quantitatively (experience and aptitude).

The process has three parts:

1. Confirm Academic Ability - 3.0 GPA on their undergraduate, passing grade in 10 required courses, and score a minimum of 495 on the MCAT.
2. File Review: reviewed for “goodness and fit”, including rural attributes, by three committee members.
3. Non-academic attribute evaluation: interviewed by 14 individuals in 8 different stations and complete an onsite essay. Work experience and hobbies related to the profession are reviewed as part of the file review process.

In the application process, applicants are asked if they have lived in or on a farm, acreage or community with a population less than 10,000 people. About 25% of the applicants fit one of these three categories which is about the same number that come from communities with populations over 50,000. 50% of the students come from communities with populations between 10,000 to 50,000.

At the conclusion of the engagement, the ASBPC recommends the following:

1. Continue to ask the government to invest in Veterinary post secondary education for more seats for the UofC VM program and the Veterinarian technologist programs. Government has already increased the number of seats, but they still are not enough to meet the current demand and keep up with retirements.
2. Encourage municipalities to use a similar process for recruiting Vets to their rural communities as the RhPAP does to encourage health care professionals. Anything a municipality can do to showcase their amenities and opportunities will help with encouraging graduates to establish practices in rural Alberta.
3. ASBs to support a bridging program that would create a way for internationally trained veterinarians who want to work in rural Alberta to become credentialed. This was proposed to the Alberta government already but was not yet supported.

The ASBPC will continue to keep tabs on progress.

RESOLUTION 3-23: APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING

WHEREAS the Alberta Provincial Government outsourced the agriculture research and extension services within the province and Applied Research Associations (ARA) have taken on a larger role without sources of funding to sustain these operations; and

WHEREAS Applied Research Associations have been historically funded by the Alberta Government and changes in their funding structure threatens the longevity of their operations; and

WHEREAS the current proposed funding from the organization Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) is project based and does not adequately meet the needs for regional extension and knowledge transfer; and

WHEREAS local research and knowledge transfer funding is not dependable as it is not provided long-term; and

WHEREAS the services provided by ARAs are especially important when considering the increasing social and political pressure for innovation to improve the sustainability of Canadian agriculture; and

WHEREAS Applied Research Associations are an integral source of unbiased regional research and extension services pertinent to local producers and Agricultural Service Boards (ASB).

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

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

STATUS: Federal and Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. ECCC

Resolution 3-23: *Applied Research Associations Funding*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

Response:

Alberta's 12 Agricultural Research Associations (ARA), and the Alberta Research and Extension Council of Alberta, are recognized and valued partners in agricultural research programming and delivering extension activities to many municipalities in Alberta. Agriculture and Irrigation is committed to supporting the vital work ARAs undertake to provide producers with unbiased extension information and to help grow Alberta's agriculture sector.

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) provides the 12 ARAs with \$2.5 million per year in operational funding for a two-year period – similar to the funding the ARAs received under the discontinued Agriculture Opportunities Fund. RDAR also initiated and facilitated a process to examine the operational needs of the ARAs, which resulted in a Harmonized Base Funding proposal that ARAs shared with the department and RDAR in summer 2022. RDAR is committed to continuing to fund ARA operations to ensure capacity to transfer knowledge between academia and farmers is maintained. In fiscal year 2023-24, ARA funding will increase by \$1.5 million, bringing the total funding to support ARA operations to \$4 million.



Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	82	
Incomplete	12	Does not address the request for sustainable operational funding.//The response delivered does not provide information on new funding that could aid the ARAs with capital and operational needs, nor does it address the long-term sustainability of funding for the associations. In addition, RDAR has not proven to be as effective as intended to be. It appears that the funding is more-so directed to industry partners rather than the local producer, due to stipulations of hiring contractors. //
Unsatisfactory	3	The response emphasizes the \$2.5M increase, but the funding is still only 2-year funding. This does not constitute sustainable funding for agricultural research with most projects running a minimum of 3-years and with any climate-related activity needing 5-10 years project times so as to capture longer-term climate cycles and trends. Sustainable is more about duration of funding and not just amount of funding.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: All of the concerns from the resolution were addressed in part and there is information to suggest that further actions are being considered. There remains ambiguity around whether or not the funding provided will be “sustainable operational funding” as the response did not specify that the funding would cover operational costs or commit to funding past two years. The Committee is open to feedback from ASBs regarding this resolution and will continue to express the need for provincial support for the applied research associations.

RESOLUTION 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS population assessments completed in 2014 and 2018 of Alberta’s Grizzly Bear in Bear Management Area (BMA) 3, 4, and 5 revealed that population and density has increased in all three BMAs since the 2006-2008 estimates were completed; and

WHEREAS population assessment of BMA 7 in 2018 provided population and density figures for the first time, but the research institute performing the assessment warned the results should be interpreted with caution due to low precision of the data collected; and

WHEREAS population assessment of BMA 2 was completed in 2008 and revealed a density of 18.1 grizzly per 1000 km², the highest density in Alberta; and

WHEREAS programming exists in BMA 5 to mitigate the impacts of Grizzly Bear populations on agricultural production, there are few programs to mitigate impacts elsewhere in the province; and

WHEREAS rendering of deadstock is a difficult option, with rendering trucks not servicing north of Highway 16; and

WHEREAS there has been an increase of reported grizzly sightings in BMA 2 along with the associated impact on cattle, bees and grain storage.

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

The Minister of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to have BMA 2 population and density of Grizzly Bears assessed and develop a suite of programs for Agricultural Producers, like those available to agricultural producers in BMA 5; including a Provincial Grizzly Impact Mitigation Plan.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE: None received

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	48	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC will continue to bring up the lack of response from the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, and encourages ASBs attending the Town Halls with ADM John Conrad to bring up the concern as well.

RESOLUTION 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE

- WHEREAS** wildlife ungulate populations, specifically elk, continue to cause significant damage to agricultural commodities; and
- WHEREAS** current tag allocations and hunting quotas have not alleviated or mitigated economic losses for producers; and
- WHEREAS** landowners must currently apply and be unsuccessful in the draw for regular season before applying for a Landowner Special License; and
- WHEREAS** the Landowner Special License is only valid for a single season; and
- WHEREAS** the ungulate issue is an ongoing agricultural problem as evidenced by previous resolutions regarding the management of elk at both the ASB Conference as well as RMA.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas restructure the criteria for Landowner Special Licenses to allow for landowners to receive tags without having to previously be unsuccessful in a regular draw.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas allow Landowner Special Licenses to be valid for the entirety of the season in all Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) in which the applicant has deeded land.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE:

- 1. Forestry and Parks**



ALBERTA
FORESTRY, PARKS AND TOURISM

AR-819

Office of the Minister

APR 25 2023

Sebastien Durtrisac
Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Sebastien Durtrisac:

My colleague, Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, forwarded your recent letter regarding Landowner Special License (LSL) hunting tags. As Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

Amendments to the Wildlife Regulations to restructure the eligibility criteria for an LSL, including the potential change to allow for landowners to receive tags without having been previously unsuccessful in a regular draw, would require broad public engagement. We will bring this issue for engagement at a provincial scale to assess concerns for all stakeholders this may affect. While the current system is generally effective and well supported by users, there are limitations that preclude creating conditions on special licences specific to landowners.

My ministry is exploring options to support agricultural producers experiencing ungulate depredation, including increasing hunting opportunities and strategies to harvest in Wildlife Management Units where conflict is high, relaxing restrictions on the number and type of elk licences held by an individual, increasing the diversity of programs and potential municipal partnership opportunities under the Ungulate Damage Prevention Program to reflect the diversity of stored livestock crops and storage systems, and exploring alternate strategies and regulations to decrease elk populations on a sub-regional basis.

Ministry staff will continue working with agricultural producers to explore options and develop effective tools to meet the combined goals of sound wildlife management and allocation and the needs of landowners.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,

Todd Loewen
Minister

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Matt Besko, Director, Hunting and Fishing Branch, Forestry, Parks and Tourism

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	Only exploring options at this point, nothing in action
Accept in Principle	91	The response demonstrates they are working toward a solution.// We recognize the time it take to shift approaches so we acknowledge the commitment to exploring how to enhance landowner opportunities to have more management tools for wildlife competition with and/or damages to feed. Would like commitment to more open window for Landowner, 1 season only, not multiple.
Incomplete	3	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response addresses the resolution in part and that they are working towards a solution, but no solution was given. The ASBPC will continue to engage the ministry on this resolution and press for an extended season for landowners dealing with large herds of elk that fit better with farming.

RESOLUTION 6-23: ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT

WHEREAS some landowners are in contravention to the Alberta Environment Water Act; diverting, pumping, blocking waterways, unapproved creek crossings; and

WHEREAS the contravention is affecting adjacent landowners and municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS complainants are referred to the Alberta Environment 24/7 Complaint Hotline; and

WHEREAS the affected landowners/complainants do not receive a response, an investigation or a follow up, due to a lack of staff and funding.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas provide adequate resources to support the Alberta Water Act, to ensure these contraventions are being dealt with.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE: NONE

GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response		
Accept in Principle		
Incomplete	52	
Unsatisfactory	48	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC will continue to bring up the lack of response from the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, and encourages ASBs attending the Town Halls with ADM John Conrad to bring up the concern as well.

RESOLUTION 8-23 : CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* requires that Municipal Development Plans include policies for the protection of agricultural operations and that a land use bylaw may regulate and control the use and development of land and buildings to protect agricultural land; and

WHEREAS the Weed Control Act requires municipalities to inspect compliance under this Act; and

WHEREAS the Soil Conservation Act requires landowners to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place; and

WHEREAS the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024 aims to promote and remove barrier to new investments in renewable energy; and

WHEREAS Federal and Provincial policies are impeding collaboration, innovation, and diversification by adding regulations to large scale energy developments without consideration of the local environmental conditions and of local municipal policies and bylaws to uphold existing Acts, Regulations, and regional plans.

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

That when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale renewable energy developments through quasi-judicial boards, that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

STATUS: Federal and Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Canada Energy Regulator
Alberta Energy
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Environment & Protected Areas
Alberta Energy Regulator
Alberta Utilities Commission

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSES:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. Affordability and Utilities
3. ECCC
4. Canadian Energy Regulator
5. Impact Assessment Agency

Resolution 8-23: Consideration of Municipal Policies for Energy Developments

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale renewable energy developments through quasi-judicial boards, that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

Response:

In 2016, the *Renewable Energy Act* established the "30 in 30" target: at least 30 per cent of the electric energy produced in Alberta must be produced from renewable energy resources by 2030. Additionally, Alberta's deregulated electricity market and rich solar and wind resources have created a surge of investment in renewable energy projects. Protecting individual property rights, conserving Alberta's finite agricultural land base and encouraging the growth of renewable energy resources are all important. However, they also create conflicting priorities.

Agriculture and Irrigation recognizes this is an important issue. The Ministry continues to work with the utility sector, municipalities and landowners to identify issues and opportunities for resolution regarding renewable energy developments on agricultural land.



ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

RE: Considering Municipal zoning and development bylaws in Renewable Energy projects

1 message

AU Minister <AU.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 2:59 PM

To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

Cc: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>, Minister of Energy <Minister.Energy@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

The development of renewable energy projects on agricultural land is an important issue in Alberta as the impacts cut across electricity development, agriculture, municipalities, and private landowners. I appreciate your frustrations regarding appropriate weed and vegetation control for these projects, especially in light of the significant wind and solar development currently occurring in the province.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) covers the area in which much of the wind and solar development is currently occurring. The SSRP recognizes the importance of both agricultural production and renewable energy in the region but does not address these specific issues.

As you are aware, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is exempt from the requirement to align decisions with municipal statutory plans, per the *Municipal Government Act*. However, the AUC is responsible to ensure that municipalities and affected landowners are provided the opportunity to participate in the project review process. The AUC has indicated it would appreciate having the municipal perspectives presented and welcomes increased participation by municipal governments.

Some municipalities have expressed concerns and would like to see legislation changed to ensure their municipal plans are respected. I do not want to understate the challenges for both municipalities and the provincial government relating to this issue, as limiting development options for private landowners may be perceived as an infringement on property rights. Respecting property rights is a tenet of this government and any actions that may eliminate a potential source of revenue for a landowner must be carefully weighed against the potential benefits.

I would like to thank you for bringing this issue forward. I expect it will be the subject of further discussion this year and welcome further input and suggestions from rural municipalities and private landowners.

Sincerely,

Matt Jones

Minister



Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.



ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

RE: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
Cc: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 3:12 PM

Hi Linda,

I have heard back from an internal contact regarding your enquiry, and they suggest that you contact the province of Alberta regarding this matter.

"Non-emergency 311 call systems, used increasingly in Alberta cities, offer a number of advantages. They give citizens a quick, convenient way to report about problems in their neighborhoods, and get a response. Assistance with civic information and services." [Bylaws | LawCentral \(lawcentralalberta.ca\)](#)

Regards,

Lindsay Griffin, MLIS, LIT, BMus (she/her/elle)
Librarian | Bibliothécaire
Library & Publications Services | Services de bibliothèque et de publications
Open Government | Gouvernement ouvert
Data & Information Management | Gestion des données et de l'information
Telephone | Téléphone 403-292-4800

From: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 4:35 PM
To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
Cc: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

Hi Linda,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your message, and to let you know that your email enquiry has been forwarded to the appropriate internal contacts.

Regards,

Lindsay Griffin, MLIS, LIT, BMus (she/her/elle)
Librarian | Bibliothécaire
Library & Publications Services | Services de bibliothèque et de publications
Open Government | Gouvernement ouvert
Data & Information Management | Gestion des données et de l'information
Telephone | Téléphone 403-292-4800

From: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:18 PM
To: INFO INFO <INFO@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Subject: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

41

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CAUTION: This message was sent from outside of the organization.
MISE EN GARDE: Ce message a été envoyé de l'extérieur de l'organisation.

To Whom it May Concern:

The Alberta Agricultural Service Boards recently held their annual Provincial Conference in Grande Prairie January 17-19, 2023. The delegates passed 14 resolutions at their conference and passed Resolution 8-23 asking for your assistance to ensure that municipal zoning and bylaws are considered when approving large scale renewable energy projects.

There have been several significant issues including interference with air ambulance services to communities. Please find the attached letter and resolution for more details and respond in writing on or before April 7, 2023.

On behalf of the Committee,

--

Linda Hunt
Executive Assistant
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
PH: 780-678-5984

Website: www.agriculturalserviceboards.com



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Président

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

February 23, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Sebastien Dutrisac:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning the 2023 Alberta Agricultural Service Board Resolution 8-23, regarding the consideration of municipal environmental and agricultural policies for large-scale renewable energy developments on agricultural lands. I appreciate you sharing these concerns, though I note that no large-scale solar development projects proposed in the County of Warner, Alberta, were subject to federal assessment processes administered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), formerly known as the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

The *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA) sets out the federal process for assessing the impacts of certain major projects. The *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Regulations) under the IAA describe those types of projects that would be subject to the requirements of the IAA. Proponents of projects described in the Regulations are required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in order to determine whether an impact assessment is required. Further information on the IAA and associated regulations can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>.

The IAA recognizes the importance of meaningful public participation and requires that opportunities for public participation be provided during the assessment process. For projects that are subject to the IAA, public participation opportunities occur during the Planning, Impact Statement, and Impact Assessment Phases of the impact assessment process.

.../2



External stakeholders interested in projects subject to the IAA, including local municipalities, can engage as part of the public participation process and are extended opportunities to provide knowledge and expertise to inform the impact assessment process. Public and stakeholder input on key issues and concerns are taken into account before decisions are made, as appropriate.

Should large-scale renewable energy developments in the County of Warner or elsewhere in Canada be subject to the IAA in the future, please be assured that the Agency would carefully consider municipal environmental and agricultural policies in any assessment.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and trust that you will find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	Would we like to put forward a resolution for a process change not just to consider municipal policies?
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	82	The Board feels the concern is ongoing as there is uncertainty of new windmill locations, their impacts on the environment, the use of productive agricultural land, and reclamation assurance of the land if the company that constructs the windmill becomes insolvent. The board feels municipalities should have more input in the land used in the establishment of these sites.//
Unsatisfactory	15	All the responses dance around the issue with emphasis that developers and the AUC will "provide opportunities to participate" and like to "have municipal perspective". The word participate really gets overused when other statements acknowledge that the AUC is exempt from municipal bylaws and policy and that government has no desire to "infringe on personal property rights... that may limit potential revenue"; i.e., government won't let municipal desire to have regional planning and land use decisions get in the way of individual economic activity, even if that activity may need to be consider for its potential detriment to the collective good and to good neighbourliness A real emphasis is placed on the revenue opportunity for landowners without at all acknowledging the major liabilities that a landowner, and potentially municipalities as recipients of tax-defaulting lands, can face. They face this as regulatory requirements safeguarding landowners—to ensure minimum standards are achieved in proponent-landowner negotiations—are almost fully absent for renewable energy developments.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The responses do not provide enough information and don't completely address the resolution. Feedback from the ADM Townhall is that the issue is known and that they are working out how to address it. The ASBPC will continue to engage the ministry of Affordability and Utilities on this topic and follow the progress. The RMA representative has committed to getting an update on progress to the ASBPC to pass on to the ASBs.

RESOLUTION 9-23: SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS

- WHEREAS** the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with synthetic fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030; and
- WHEREAS** the federal government has set a goal for 2025 to achieve \$75 billion in agricultural exports; and
- WHEREAS** instituting a reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions will inevitably place a cap on synthetic fertilizer use and limit crop production for Canadian farmers; and
- WHEREAS** limiting crop yield by limiting fertilizer usage will inevitably reduce production and food security; and
- WHEREAS** regional research and development is necessary to eliminate the uncertainty resulting from incomplete data for measuring fertilizer emission levels in different crop types, geographical regions, and growing conditions; and
- WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol is designed to promote sustainable use of fertilizer in crop production and can reduce GHG emissions by focusing on the “4 Rs” of fertilizer application: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place; and
- WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, maximizes profitability, and minimizes nitrous oxide emissions.

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

That the Federal Government of Canada adopt the 4R Climate- Smart Protocol approach developed by The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) of Fertilizer Canada and provide sustainable funding into research and development regarding fertilizer use efficiency.

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

That the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change suspend the 30% synthetic fertilizer emission reduction targets until the proper tools to measure emissions for producers are available

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada

STATUS: Federal

RESPONSE:

1. ECCC



Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	97	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

RESOLUTION 10-23: ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALY REGULATED WEEDS

- WHEREAS** organic producers must achieve organic certification through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and no other regulatory body; and
- WHEREAS** the CFIA establishes the Canadian Organic Standards and procedures for certification and maintenance of organic status; and
- WHEREAS** the provinces may enact legislation to control or destroy invasive species of concern; and
- WHEREAS** all producers, regardless of production method must comply with provincial invasive species legislation; and
- WHEREAS** the current organic management standards do not explicitly state that organic producers must be in compliance with provincial regulations regarding invasive species; and
- WHEREAS** an explicit standard for certification and maintenance of organic status regarding compliance with provincially mandated invasive species legislation would reinforce the need to effectively address regulated weeds.

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

That Canada Food Inspection Agency add a requirement to the Canadian Organic Standards that requires the organic grower be compliant with any provincial legislation regarding invasive species in order to achieve and maintain organic certification.

STATUS: Federal
DEPARTMENT: Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Agriculture and Agri Food Canada
 Minister of Health Canada

RESPONSE: NONE RECEIVED

GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	55	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: No response was received, so graded as Unsatisfactory.

RESOLUTION 11-23: LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE

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

WHEREAS Alberta producers have used Strychnine to effectively control Richardson’s Ground Squirrels for decades; and

WHEREAS in an integrated pest management plan there is a need for options of control like 2% liquid Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.).

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

That Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson’s Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season and until an alternative single feed product is available.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation study alternative products in part with Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency to replace 2% liquid Strychnine with a viable single feed alternative product that is classified as safe and effective for the control of Richardson ground squirrels.

STATUS: Federal and Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Health Canada
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. PMRA

Resolution 11-23: Loss of 2 per cent Liquid Strychnine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season and until an alternative single feed product is available.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation study alternative products in part with Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency to replace 2% liquid Strychnine with a viable single feed alternative product that is classified as safe and effective for the control of Richardson ground squirrels.

Response:

In 2020, Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) deregistered two per cent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate for the control Richardson ground squirrel (gophers). This decision was made to address significant environmental concerns and risks to wildlife caused by secondary poisonings. March 4, 2023, was the last day two per cent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate could be used for gopher control.

In 2021, the Alberta government filed a Notice of Objection regarding this decision. On February 3, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation wrote to the federal government to request a reversal of the decision. The letter stated that the loss of this pesticide could cost hay and pasture producers nearly \$800 million per year. The Minister also advised that with no viable alternative to control Richardson's ground squirrel, the decision will create immense pressure for producers and potentially exacerbate the food affordability and security crisis.

Furthermore, Agriculture and Irrigation officials have engaged Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) officials on this issue to press AAFC to support producers in the transition to alternatives. AGI expects that a key element of this transitional support would be federal compensation to cover crop losses and cost differentials of using alternative pesticides.

The Government of Saskatchewan conducted an evaluation of available alternatives, including zinc phosphide products, ZP Rodent Oat Bait and Burrow Oat Bait. Some evidence indicated these alternatives might be as effective as strychnine, and less expensive. In spring 2022, the Government of Alberta conducted a similar evaluation; however, conclusive evidence was not available due to inclement spring weather. Alberta hopes to conduct a similar evaluation again this year.



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Pest
Management
Regulatory
Agency

Agence de
réglementation
de la lutte
antiparasitaire

May 10, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 19, 2023, addressed to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's Pest Management Information Service, requesting the emergency registration and use of strychnine in Canada to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS) for the 2023 season, as well as collaborative work to find a single feed alternative for strychnine. I appreciate your taking the time to send us a copy of a recent resolution passed by the Alberta Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee on this important topic.

Health Canada acknowledges the implications the cancellation of the pesticide product containing strychnine could have on agricultural producers in Alberta and Western Canada and takes them seriously.

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

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

.../2

Canada

2 Constellation Drive Woodline Bldg. Nepean Ontario K1A 0K9

Under section 18 of the [Pest Control Products Regulations](#), the Minister of Health may register a pest control product or amend the registration of a pest control product to permit its use, for a period not exceeding one year, for the emergency control of seriously detrimental pest infestations. For information on emergency registrations, such as criteria and information requirements, please refer to Regulatory Directive DIR2017-03, *Registration of Pesticides for Emergency Use: Revised Procedures*. With respect to strychnine, an Emergency Use Registration is not an option as there are alternative products registered for the control of RGS and the environmental risks have been shown to not be acceptable. Emergency registrations are not a tool to be used to extend access to the use of a pest control product that has been cancelled. For known or ongoing pest problems where no registered product is available, the normal registration processes would apply to address such situations.

Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into RGS control should involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency will continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered products.

I hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

2023-05-10

X



Frédéric Bissonnette
A/Executive Director, PMRA
Signed by: Bissonnette, Frederic

GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	94	The response is sufficient for the resolution put forward.//The decision by the PMRA is done, that ship has sailed. And the request to evaluate alternatives has already been done in Saskatchewan (which represented a cross-border study with locations in Cypress County) and the GoA has committed to another round of evaluation as their study last year ran into issues. So we may not like the loss of product, but the ask within the resolution has been responded to.// But, didn't address the the single use alternative.
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response addresses the resolution as presented and although disappointing meets the expectations of the ASBPC.

RESOLUTION 12-23: REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)

- WHEREAS:** agricultural producers in rural Alberta remain some of the most skilled individuals agrowing, harvesting, and producing high quality food products for Canadian, as well as international consumers; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry are both very important parts of the Alberta economy; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry both benefit from an environment of mutual cooperation when the surface of privately owned lands are being utilized for the purpose of extracting natural resources; and
- WHEREAS:** the Surface Rights Act and related legislation outlines considerations for landowner compensation through surface leases for these expropriation-like activities; and
- WHEREAS:** a level of knowledge of relevant modern agricultural practices including agricultural law, science, agronomy, valuation and business experience is imperative to surface rights deliberations; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT has in recent years seen a steady and significant increase in the number and type of applications received, indicating a consistent trend of year over year increases in the number of disputes between landowners and oil and gas companies; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT is the appointed body that is mandated to provide Albertans with access to independent, fair and timely quasi-judicial and alternative dispute resolution processes.

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

That Municipal Affairs establish a task force comprised of Agricultural Service Board Members, agricultural producers, experts in agricultural science, agronomy and business, as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry associations, to conduct a full review into the function and mandate of the Surface Rights components of the LPRT as directed by related legislation, with a focus on matters of, or related to:

- Contractual negotiations being fully paid by energy operators,
- Implementation of mandatory mediation prior to LPRT application,
- Improved timeliness of applications, and
- Clarity of terms used in the Surface Rights Act.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Municipal Affairs
RESPONSE: NONE RECEIVED
GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY
GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	55	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: No response was received, so graded as Unsatisfactory.

RESOLUTION E1-23: STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING

WHEREAS The RDAR lead Extension Task Force presented their recommendations for a cooperative extension model on November 28, 2022 which considered research extension exclusively, and there are many agricultural extension topics outside of research important to farmers;

WHEREAS ASBs and other agriculture not for profits work collaboratively on provincial priorities that address regional needs of farmers on topics such as sustainable farming, business acumen, rural economic development, food safety, animal welfare and other best management practices that impact public trust;

WHEREAS ASBs collaborate with the province and not for profits such as the Applied Research and Forage Associations, ALUS, Cleanfarms, Environmental Farm Plan, riparian and watershed associations and Ag in the Classroom on topics outside of the RDAR mandate;

WHEREAS ASBs and their not-for-profit partners do not currently have a stable reliable source of funding to support non research extension activities in their regions;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation make available five-year stable regional funding for ASBs and their agriculture not for profit partners to hire and maintain the staff and operational costs associated with maintaining regional agricultural extension networks.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

- 1. Agriculture and Irrigation**

Resolution E1-23: Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation make available five year stable regional funding for ASBs and their agriculture not for profit partners to hire and maintain the staff and operational costs associated with maintaining regional agricultural extension networks.

Response:

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) facilitated a review of agricultural extension in Alberta with a seven-member, industry-led Extension Task Force (ETF). The ETF was to deliver recommendations to improve knowledge transfer and innovation mobilization for agricultural producers in Alberta. Work focused on understanding the current practices and existing capacity of the extension model as well as examining future needs. This work identified three opportunities for extension improvement:

- Establish shared accountability to improve cooperative extension.
- Build connections across sectors to address industry gaps.
- Ensure intentional and deliberate cooperative extension.

The ETF concluded Alberta's existing extension model has many strengths, and that it should be leveraged, not remade, to foster future improvement and success. The group recommended building a Cooperative Agricultural Extension model in Alberta.

The ETF recommendations have given all extension partners a clearer picture of the agricultural extension landscape and a road map to move forward. Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to work with partners, including RDAR, Applied Research Associations (ARA), Agricultural Service Boards (ASB), post-secondary institutions and many others to analyze and implement the ETF recommendations.

As the response to Resolution 3-23 indicates, RDAR provides the 12 regional ARAs with operational funding of \$2.5 million per year for a two-year period. This is similar to the funding ARAs received under the defunct Agriculture Opportunities Fund. RDAR also initiated and facilitated a process to examine the operational needs of ARAs. In fiscal year 2023-24, ARA funding will increase by \$1.5 million to \$4 million to support ARA operations.

Agriculture and Irrigation also provides long-term, stable funding to ASBs. The ASB grant is \$11.9 million for 2023-24 – an increase of \$3 million from the previous year.

In particular, the Resource Management stream supports regional extension work to promote the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Environmental Farm Plans. Additionally, it supports the extension work that helps build awareness and promote the adoption of various beneficial management practices.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	Does not address the timeline of 5-years or stability of the funding.
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	88	The responsibility for agricultural extension is being downloaded to municipalities. The Board is concerned that Agricultural Service Boards and the Applied Research Associations should not have blended funding as they are two very different entities with different priorities.
Unsatisfactory	3	As with Resolution 3-23, a short-term increase in money to ARAs does not represent stable funding, particularly when a 5-year ask was clearly made. There is also an assumption that our request for regional extension activities for "ASB and their regional not-for-profit partners" means just ARAs. We (ASBs) do our own extension for things other than ARAs do to fill the void left by the gutting of Provincial extension activities and the 310-FARM call centre. We also do much of our environmental programming and extension work in partnership with other non-ARA groups (watershed councils, conservation groups, etc.).

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. There is no indication of an intention to continue funding beyond 2 years, or to ensure that the funding is available in every region. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

RESOLUTION E2-23: STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS Canadian research shows that farmers currently have 20% more moderate and severe anxiety and depression than the general population, and 1 in 4 farmers had suicidal thoughts in the past 12 months;

WHEREAS An Alberta white paper released in spring of 2022 recommends the creation of a farm mental health network to create specific mental health resources and service accessible to farm families;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has supported the above recommendation by providing a one off grant for the development of the AgKnow initiative in November 2022 which expires in March 2023;

WHEREAS The Alberta Farm Mental Health Network (AgKnow) is looking for operational funding to continue to pilot the free counselling session and other initiatives that make supports affordable and accessible to farm families;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

RESPONSE:

- 1. Agriculture and Irrigation**

Resolution E2-23: Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

Response:

The mental health of farmers is an important topic. Agriculture and Irrigation is actively working to provide support for Farm Mental Health Network.

Last year, the Ministry provided \$524,500 to the Agriculture Research Extension Council of Alberta to fund proposals for farmer mental health supports in the province. To date, this funding has helped achieve the following milestones:

- Team members for the Farm Mental Health Network were established.
- Research contracts for University of Alberta studies on Farm Mental Health were signed.
- The AgKnow.ca website was soft launched.
- A Community of Practice platform for mental health professionals that have experience in providing farmers with support was established.
- The Livestock Depopulation Support Program was launched.

Agriculture and Irrigation is currently working on the Resiliency and Public Trust Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. This program will include funding opportunities for projects that support and empower producers and agri-food workers to take care of their mental health.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	12	
Incomplete	82	The response does not address the resolution E1-23 or the current state of the mental health crisis for farmers.
Unsatisfactory	6	The Province references a sum of money given to ARECA that has resulted in funding for aspects of what AgKnow is doing, but they don't articulate how much of that sum and for what duration to AgKnow projects and core operating funding. Again, as with some of the other resolutions, the request is for stable funding; one-off or short duration are not stable funds. The letter skirts directly responding to the ask within the resolution.// Would like to see a statement of commitment and increase in funding.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs. ASBs are looking for a long term commitment to farm specific mental health supports and services.

RESOLUTION E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA

WHEREAS even though the value of cervid carcasses, velvet and exports has remained strong, the number of animals, their movement within Alberta and the use of provincial slaughter facilities has dramatically declined since 2005;

WHEREAS Alberta Elk Commission has identified that cervid farmers are disproportionately and negatively impacted by current federal programs and regulatory processes, and that the industry which had a value of over \$13 million in sales in 2021 is in crisis;

WHEREAS successful regulations and processes for protecting human health and preventing the spread of prion diseases already exist for cattle and sheep, and chronic wasting disease poses no more threat than scrapie in sheep or BSE in cattle;

WHEREAS the current regulatory process is resulting in farmers having to actively participate in the needless slaughter of their healthy animals causing unnecessary mental health trauma and distress;

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

That the minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory burden and bring the legislation and regulatory processes in line with other livestock.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. **Agriculture and Irrigation**

Resolution E3-23: *Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry in Alberta*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory processes in line with other livestock.

Response:

There are significant differences between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and chronic wasting disease (CWD), as well as significant unknowns related to CWD and risks to environmental and human health.

The CWD situation has evolved significantly in Alberta over the past 20 years. Cervid producers farm an exact duplicate of an animal that exists as wildlife, which has resulted in certain regulations and processes for the cervid industry.

Agriculture and Irrigation has conducted ongoing engagement with the cervid industry to discuss regulation of the industry. Engagement on this topic will continue.

On February 27, 2023, the Ministry held an industry meeting to discuss these issues. Based on discussions, we are committed to working with industry to resolve regulatory processes in the following areas:

- Removing restrictions on out-of-province cervids that enter Alberta for immediate slaughter.
- Identifying alternative options for CWD sample collection or identification.
- Including cervids in the predator compensation program.
- Modifying CWD control policies for farmed cervids (regarding not requiring herd depopulation and allowing repopulation in certain situations).
- Committing to work with Environment and Protected Areas regarding the wild CWD situation and with the federal government on other policy issues that affect the cervid industry.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	15	The response seems to suggest that the Feb 2023 meeting with industry was successful (from the GoAs perspective) in addressing some of the regulatory burden faced by cervid farms. The changes listed do seem to be within the resolution. But with very limited presence of the cervid industry in our County we have limited ability to understand the value in the measures taken. As such, it seems a reasonable response, but we would defer to other regions with a greater presence of cervid farms to critique the response for the validity and utility of the statements.
Incomplete	82	The Board feels the response is incomplete as it did not provide clarity on the changes that are required for an effective solution.
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2022 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-22	<p>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring of 2022 Ministry of Transportation agrees to review how weeds on highways are dealt with and get back to the ASB - Feb 2023 the Committee learns that their key contact for the file has changed and reaches out to brief the new contact - Chase Milligan is the new contact and delegates the conversation to staff, they agree to create a plan, and once it is approved by management communicate it with the ASBs. - Summer 2023 ASBPC follows up with Chase, the plan is enacted and there is a plan to communicate it with the RMA. Chase agrees to send someone to the next ASBPC meeting to present plan. Next meeting scheduled for September 15, 2023 	Accept in Principle	
2-22	RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS	Accept in Principle	

3-22	<p>CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - response received by sponsoring municipalities and they are encouraged to engage directly with schools and districts 	Accept the Response	
4-22	<p>PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - still no movement or engagement on this resolution - Ministries are reorganized and contacts are lost. 	Incomplete	
5-22	<p>EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate had two readings for bill S-234, and on June 8, 2023 the bill went to committee for consideration. After a report from the committee is received it will go for the third reading - Alberta Pork posted information on how ASB members and farmers could support this bill by writing to the Senators involved. Information posted in the ASB Blog - ASBPC writes to all the Senators listed in support of Bill S-234 	Incomplete	
6-22	<p>AMENDMENTS TO THE ASB CONFERENCE RESOLUTION RULES OF PROCEDURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All amendments were presented at the 2023 conference and adopted by the assembly. - Changes come into place for the 2024 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability for the ASBPC to bring emergent resolutions to the assembly for vote if not addressed by Regions - align the years of advocacy for resolutions with the RMA process so move from 5 years to 3 years of active resolutions - Adjustments made to the Regional ROP to align with the Provincial ROP 	Accept the Response	

Expiring Resolutions

The January 2023 Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(d) that the ASB Provincial Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of three years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2023.

2021 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-21	Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta - 2023-nothing to report	Accept in Principle	
2-21	Pesticide Container Collection Program	Unsatisfactory	Accept the Response
3-21	An Effective Solution for Control of RG Squirrels in Alberta - results of a study done in SK and AB on the different control products on market was presented by webinar (recording available) on the Chinook Applied Research Association website and a blog post created on the ASB website to bring new information on the effective and safe use of the products on market.	Accept the Response	
4-21	Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept the Response	
5-21	Fusarium Testing After Cleaning	Incomplete	
6-21	Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option	Accept the Response	
7-21	Delegation of ASBs and AAAF to Agriculture Associations and Commodity Groups	DEFEATED	
8-21	Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff	Accept the Response	
9-21	Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed - Further discussion occurred at the 2022 Provincial ASB Conference	Incomplete	
10-21	Federal Fuel Charge	Accept the Response	

2020 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Grade	Grade	Updated
1-20	Ropin' the Web	Accept the Response	
2-20	Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant	Incomplete	
3-20	Clubroot Pathotype Testing -	Unsatisfactory	<i>Accept in Principle</i>
4-20	Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors	Unsatisfactory	
5-20	AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests	Unsatisfactory	
6-20	Beehive Depredation - Beekeeper Commission is satisfied with the response and delivery of this program and is	Accept in Principle	

	hopeful that it will be well utilized by their beekeepers		
7-20	Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions	Accept in Principle	
8-20	Emergency Livestock Removal	Accept in Principle	
9-20	Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom	Unsatisfactory	
10-20	Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program - RALP program has ability for farmers to plant trees,	Accept in Principle	
11-20	Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters	Defeated	
12-20	Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i>	Accept in Principle	
13-20	Canadian Product and Canadian Made	Incomplete	
E1-20	Review of Business Risk Management Programs -	Unsatisfactory	
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework	Unsatisfactory	
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes -	Unsatisfactory	

2019 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Update
1-19	Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept in Principle	
2-19	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	Incomplete	Accept in Principle
3-19	Deadstock Removal	Unsatisfactory	
4-19	Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands	Accept in Principle	
5-19	Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta	Incomplete	
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	Accept the Response	
E1-19	Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources AgKnow, Developing an Alberta approach to farm mental health: - www.agknow.ca launched January 2023, - Identified mental health supports available to all farmers on the website "get support" page	Unsatisfactory	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnered with Counselling Alberta to provide farm culture training to all counsellors - Conducted Alberta specific research to identify gaps, issues and ways to impact the wellbeing of Alberta Farmers - Engagement with Health Care and Mental Health service providers to improve their understanding of farming, farm stress and coping strategies - Created a customize Suicide Prevention and Awareness training and trained facilitators across the province to deliver it. - Created Farm specific mental health workshops and engaged with agriculture associations for delivery - Continue to build a community of engagement through social media, newsletters and direct connections. - Connected with ABVMA, Uof C VM and CFIA/provincial vets to see what can be done to support vets and farmers impacted by depopulation - Farmer and vet group in Togetherall app made available to farmers by Do More Ag 		
E2-19	No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed	Accept in Principle	

Current Advocacy

Creating a Position Statement on Agriculture Extension for the ASBs to ensure they have a voice in the ongoing discussions and development of the Collaborative Extension Model.

- 2-22: RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS (ASB extension Committee formed, preparation for Fall engagements)
- 3-23: APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING
- E1-23: STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING

Mental Health and farmer wellbeing:

- E-19: ACCESS TO AG SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- E2-23 STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH

Managing wildlife:

- 4-22: PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS and

- E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
- 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE

5-22: EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE *GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT*

Agricultural Service Board

Position Statement



Agriculture Extension

ASBs are one of many agriculture extension agents and have a unique and integral role in agricultural extension. ASBs exist in every rural municipality where agriculture production takes place, and are mandated by legislation to promote, enhance and protect viable sustainable agriculture with the view to improve the economic viability of the agriculture producer. They do this by advising their local municipal government and the provincial government on agriculture issues and concerns and promoting the development of policies and programs that support the farmers in their regions.

ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under [4 agriculture related Acts](#) and to assist with the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act. They are assurance partners with the province to provide monitoring, detection and enforcement services that work to minimize the risk of disease and pest outbreaks keeping markets open and accessible to agriculture producers. ([About ASBs](#), <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/about-asbs/>)

Agriculture extension topics that encourage sustainable agriculture practices, that encourage compliance with the legislation, promote economic viability and enhance community/family wellbeing are important to ASBs. ASBs are empowered by their local councils to respond to both agriculture and non agriculture rate payers and so have a broad understanding of how agriculture practices impact those outside the industry.

What is the ASB's position on the importance of having a municipal perspective in agriculture extension?

ASBs have a unique and important perspective on agriculture extension, and it is important that they have input into the development and governance of agriculture extension programs and services. ASBs:

- are positioned to address regional/local issues
- have a unique mandate and therefore have unique role to play in extension, Their extension differs from that done by ARA's, post secondary institutions or private industry
- are mandated to serve both farming and non farming communities, so offer a wide perspective and insight on issues impacting agriculture.
- serve all farmers as assurance partners working to keep market access.

What financial considerations do ASB's have with respect to agriculture extension delivery?

The majority of ASBs feel that they require more base operating funding to provide quality stable extension services to meet the needs of their farmers.

- Many ASBs feel that the current ASB grant does not fund enough manpower for market assurance activities and preventative agriculture extension.
- The financial needs of each municipality vary.
- Agriculture extension agents are not evenly distributed throughout the province, so it can be expensive for ASBs to partner to provide their farmers access to relevant extension resources.
- ASB grants and grants provided to partnering agriculture extension agents are not keeping up with the increasing cost of extension delivery.

What do the ASBs believe is needed to continue to support agriculture extension?

ASBs believe the formation of an organized coordinated system that provides access to current agriculture extension resources and the specialists to adapt them to local situations is needed.

To do that:

1. A coordinating body that identifies needs in the industry and works with the relevant agriculture extension agents to meet those needs in the most efficient way possible.
 - a. ASBs need to be part of the steering and governance
 - b. ASBs are in a position to provide advice on the current issues and needs for agriculture extension because of their legislated advisory role.
 - c. A coordinating body would help to reduce competition between extension service providers and improve efficiency for the greatest value to farmers and the public.
2. Access to current unbiased information and agriculture specialists that can work with ASBs to customize innovations and agronomics to local conditions, addressing regional concerns.
 - a. ASBs staff tend to be generalists and are best suited to delivering extension messages and ideas that were well developed by the experts and known to be relevant and useful to farmer audiences.
 - b. Agriculture specialists are needed to adapt innovations, extension resources and programs to address regional concerns and fit the mandate of the ASBs.
 - c. ASBs are positioned to deliver extension across the entire province, when adequately funded
3. All extension agents need access to stable consistent reliable funding that is responsive to the cost of delivery that consists of:
 - a. Operational funding that is not traditionally covered in projects.
 - b. Opportunities for capital funding.

What current agriculture issues are impacting rural Alberta that are important to the ASBs but are not currently addressed in the CEM model?

- **Security** - Extension efforts that inform and provide practical solutions for increasing security on farm for bio control, protection from activism, and rural crime as well as increasing the understanding of laws in place to protect citizens. More needs to be done to ensure people know the laws, are being proactive to prevent crime. Coordinated
- **Mental Health/ Wellbeing** - Extension products to inform rural service providers, municipal officials, and those involved in the agriculture industry about the current state of farm wellbeing, and how to access supports is an ongoing need.
- **Economic development** - Extension products that keep farmers, agriculture associations, and municipalities up to date with the latest programs and opportunities that are designed to encourage rural economic development. The average age of farmers is 56, and only 19% of farmers are under the age of 35. This means a lot of assets and equity will need to change hands, and having access to schools, sports, health care and other amenities is an important part of encouraging families to farm.
- **Emergency planning** - Systems need to be in place to accommodate livestock in evacuation or disease outbreaks. Extension that educates farmers, first responders, and municipal emergency response teams about the processes, responsibilities, and regulations governing animal welfare and traceability are needed.
- **Conflicting land use** - Selling agricultural land to other development is financially attractive, particularly to older farmers looking to retire, but has a negative impact on the amount of farmland available to farm.
- **Soil Conservation** - Extension resources and activities that give farmers and municipalities the tools and knowledge needed are not readily available.