



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m. held

Virtually <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/576579227> (Meeting ID # 576579227) and
Physically in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
 - 3.1. Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Thursday, October 3rd, 2024
4. Delegation(s)
 - 4.1. Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, to provide information on their year-to-date activities @ 9:15 a.m.
5. Business – Requests for Decisions
 - 5.1 Agricultural Fieldman Appointment.
 - 5.2 Policy Statement No. 62-05-07 Grasshopper Control Compensation.
 - 5.3 Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of- Ways.
 - 5.4 Policy Statement No. 62-30-01 Animal Health and Livestock Preparedness.
 - 5.5 Agricultural Weigh Scale Discussion.
 - 5.6 Coyote Bounty Discussion.
 - 5.7 ASB Provincial Conference.
6. Issues for Information
 - 6.1 ASB Chairman’s Report.
7. Correspondence
 - 7.1 Email received from Alan Hall, Executive Director, Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta, received October 18th 2024, RE: AgKnow Operations
Recommendation: File for Information.
 - 7.2 Letters of Concern Regarding Bill; C-293 received from the following municipalities:
Northern Sunrise County, received November 18th, 2024
Municipal District of Fairview No. 136, received November 18th, 2024
County of Northern Lights, received November 18th, 2024
M.D of Bonnyville, received November 25th,2024
County of St. Paul, received November 25th,2024
Cypress County, received November 25th,2024

Lesser Slave River, received November 25th,2024

County of Warner, received November 25th,2024

Recommendation: File for Information.

7.3 Letter sent from Smoky Lake County, Dan Gawalko, ASB Chair, November 18th, 2024 RE: Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293.

Recommendation: Acknowledge Action Taken.

7.4 Email received from MP Shannon Stubbs Office, November 20th, 2024 RE: Response to Smoky Lake County's Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293.

Recommendation: File for Information.

7.5 Email received from Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, received November 20th, 2024 RE: Response to Smoky Lake County's Letter of Support for AgKnow Funding.

Recommendation: File for Information

7.6 Letter received from Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, received November 29th, 2024 RE: Funding of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association.

Recommendation: Acknowledge Receipt.

8. Date and time of Next Meeting
Adjournment.



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 9:01 A.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Thurs. Oct. 3, 2024</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
County CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Present Virtually

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

2. Agenda:

ASB58-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 3, 2024, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Discussion on the County Brushing Program - to allow producers to effectively and safely move their equipment.

Carried Unanimously.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually joined the meeting time 9:03 a.m.

3. Minutes:

ASB59-24: Flondra That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

5. Business - Requests for Decision:

5.1 Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributor

ASB60-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend County Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributor, be updated with a relevant policy name and current practices and chemical resources, to be reviewed at a future meeting prior to recommending an amendment by County Council.

Carried.

Approve Action in Rescheduling the August 1, 2024 meeting to October 3, 2024

ASB61-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board approve action taken in rescheduling this meeting from Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m..

Carried.

4. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:14 a.m. to 9:20 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide the following report of LARA's activities:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Report October 3rd, 2024

It has been a very busy year so far in 2024 as we welcomed our three new staff members Lance Ouellete, Angelica Ouellete and Kristy Tetreau. They, along with Momna Farzand and our four-summer staff, worked hard at implementing and maintaining this year's research and demonstration program and applying for project funding.

This year, we had four small plot research trials in Smoky Lake County, including:

- Regional Variety Trials oats featuring 10 oat varieties.
- Industry trials with Eco-Tea assessing products on barley and canola.
- Assessing the economic and agronomic management of row spacing in pulse/cereal intercrops.

Staff have just finished up harvesting and are moving into processing grain trial samples. We are excited to share the results of our research trials in our annual report and upcoming events.

We have hosted 16 in-person extension events across our operational area and 3 webinars. A few highlights of those events include:

- Farmer Appreciation Night was held on February 9th, 2024 in Glendon. We had a bit smaller of a crowd than pre-COVID with only 150 local producers attending, but it was a great evening of conversation and entertainment.
- Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch on March 13th, 2024 at the Smoky Lake Ukrainian National Hall.
- Annual General Meeting on March 6th, 2024 in Goodridge.
- Effective Stockmanship Clinic with Dawn Hnatow of Cattle-up Stockmanship on August 16th, 2024 at the St. Paul Ag Corral. We have had requests to bring her back for a two-day clinic next year.
- It's Dry: Now What hosted at the Bellis Hall on March 26th, 2024.
- Drone Spraying Clinic hosted at Tandem T Farms in Smoky Lake on July 24th, 2024.
- Smoky Lake Summer Field Day hosted at the Smoky Lake Agriplex on July 30th, 2024.

We are currently planning our fall workshops, a few planned so far include:

- Grow Your Own Microgreen happening in Ardmore on October 17th, 2024.
- CowBytes Ration Balancing Workshops supported by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) happening in Smoky Lake on October 29th, 2024 and in Fort Kent on November 14th, 2024.
- Ladies Ranching Workshop happening in Mallaig on November 30th, 2024.
- Agriculture Drone School happening in Vilna on November 4 & 5, 2024.

We are also planning for our 2025 extension program, with the following events/workshops in the works so far:

- Ranching for Profit 2-Day School coming in March 2025. Location TBD.
- Sheep and Goat Forum on February 10th, 2025. Elk Point.
- Innovation on the Ranch on March 1st, 2025. Bonnyville.
- Soils School with Nicole Masters happening summer 2025. Location TBD.
- 2-Day Effective Stockmanship Clinic with Dawn Hnatow of Cattle-Up Stockmanship happening fall of 2025. Location TBD.
- No-Till Gardening Workshop. Location TBD.
- Holistic Management School. Location TBD.
- Upcoming webinars:
 - o To Graze or not to Graze: Understanding and managing poisonous plants
 - o Riparian area management: effective grazing strategies

LARA staff assisted over 150 local producers, at no cost, with filling out and submitting funding applications through the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP), the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and the LARA Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) so far this year. As projects are completed, staff are currently assisting producers with submitting interim and final project reports. As well, the OFCAF program re-opened for an additional 150 applications and staff have assisted 15 local producers in the last week and a half. Both the RALP and OFCAF programs are expected to re-open in full in February – April of 2025.

Our two Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) technicians have been busy with assisting local producers in completing and/or updating their EFP, which is now required for most of the funding opportunities available. So far this year, staff have assisted 56 local producers with starting and/or completing their EFP, including 14 from Smoky Lake County. We have had requests to host EFP workshops in our operational area and are currently working on setting dates, times and locations.

We really appreciate the support we have received from Smoky Lake County over the years and are looking forward to continuing working with you in the years ahead. We are always looking for feedback regarding extension and research programming, please reach out to any LARA staff if there are specific trials or events you would like to see in the County.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB62-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the October 3, 2024, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

Chris Minailo, Smoky Lake County Public Works Manager entered chambers, time 9:24 a.m.

Addition to the Agenda:

County Brushing Program

Discussion was held in respect to the difficulties of moving farm equipment along County roads that are overgrown with overhanging trees.

The Public Works Manager noted the County has the ability to conduct tree trimming with poll-saws that reach up to 12 feet currently and there is a list of priority roads for Hydroaxing; and also noted that producers can let Public Works know about problem areas that need attention so they can address it as soon as possible.

ASB63-24: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the information received from the County Public Works Manager, in respect to the County's Brushing Program, for information.

Carried.

6. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair Report September 2024

- July 15, attended the LARA meeting, Alysa provided a brief update regarding municipal funding an invoice has been sent to Lac La Biche county, Kristy has been working on pamphlets to send out to producers highlighting LARA's programs and services, the Lakeland college plot was seeded end of May & Lance will be presenting the 3rd week of July, on the research side Lance & Angelica have submitted a proposal to the canola agronomic research proposal call also one with ROAR & the ultra early winter wheat cereals project has been approved through ROAR, Alyssa presented the finances the final report has been submitted to ROAR for 2023-2024 base funding & interim report for 2024-2025 base funding, next meeting August 19/24.
- July 30, attended the LARA field day in Smoky Lake councillors Cyr, Fenerty, Halisky myself ,the County CAD, and our ag fieldman were in attendance for a presentation on the introgression of clubroot from different sources, the breeding program, proper field rotation & development of clubroot resistance hybrid cultivar, Councillor Halisky, our ag fieldman and myself then boarded a bus to take us to the Smoky Lake Trial plot to see the different trials and listen to 2 more presentations on the Economics of cover crops & what is the value & timing of applying manure on crops.
- August 3 participated in the Smoky Lake Heritage Days parade on the county float with all council.
- August 17 participated in the Vilna Boom Town parade with all council in attendance, also auctioned off some hay bales donated by local producers raising over 4,000 dollars for the Vilna Ag Society to be used for building maintenance.
- August 19, Attended the LARA meeting we had a presentation from Grateful Greenhouse Structures on a Alberta sustainable food solution & a northern greenhouse design, Alyssa is getting quotes for a new pole building to be funded from the Capital
- funding, we purchased a used sea can, Alyssa also gave her Executive director report working with Lakeland HR increasing awareness of LARA attended the summer tours, the drone workshop in Smoky Lake County with 25 producers in attendance, St. Paul field day was cancelled due to lack of registrant's staff were on sight to give a tour of the plots, Kristy attended the field tours & the MD. Of Bonnyville beautification tour where LARA was a stop on, she is expanding social media and the mailing list so if you have producers in your division not receiving any LARA material have them reach out and enter the cultivating connection draw, Jay gave the LFA report vandals have been driving through fences & locked gates in over 20 spots on the pasture & private property the bulls were taken out Aug 7 to have a 60 day breeding, upcoming events include a COW Bytes workshop maybe one for our local 4H clubs Oct. 29, Nov. 14 tentative dates, a ladies ranching workshop in November & a micro green workshop, next meeting is October 21, 10:00 am in Ashmont.

Have a safe and bountiful harvest.

ASB64-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for October 3, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Chris Minailo, Smoky Lake County Public Works Manager left chambers, time 9:34 a.m.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 2024 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference

ASB65-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board members who can attend – attend the Year-2024 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for October 25, 2024, to be held in Czar Cultural and Rec Center, in Czar Alberta.

Carried.

7.2 Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network – Funding Advocacy

ASB66-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board write a letter to the Minister of Mental Health advocating for sustainable multi-year funding toward Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, and copy the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, and Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock MLA, in response to the letter received from the Program Director of AgKnow, dated June 12, 2024, urgently requesting financial assistance.

Carried.

Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network - Funding

ASB67-24: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board approve to provide AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 in Year-2024 and in the amount of \$5,000.00 in Year-2025; and continue to promote AgKnow information and resources through the County's social media, grapevine, utility bill stuffers, and sharing with the local schools.

Carried.

7.3 Municipal District of Ranchland No.66 - Weed Control Regulations

ASB68-24: Ponich That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Jody Wilson, ASB Chairperson, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66, dated June 18, 2024, in respect to proposed changes to the Weed Control Regulations, be filed for information.

Carried.

7.4 County of Vermillion River - Sustainable Funding for AgKnow

ASB69-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Marty Baker, Reeve, County of Vermillion River, dated July 16, 2024, addressed to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, in respect to sustainable funding for AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network Program, be filed for information.

Carried.

7.5 M.D of Fairview No. 136 - Centralization of the Provincial ASB Conference

ASB70-24: Serben That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Nolan Robertson, ASB Chair, M.D of Fairview No. 136, dated August 20, 2024, in respect to concerns with the centralization for hosting the Provincial ASB Conference, be filed for information.

Carried.

7.6 ASB Provincial Committee - Report Card on the Resolutions 2024

ASB71-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee including the report titled: Report Card on the Resolutions 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

7.7 ASB, Crop Assurance & Rural Programming Branch – Grant Program Renewal

ASB72-24: Boychuk That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Manager Agricultural Service Boards, Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch, dated September 23 2024, stating the "Grant Program Renewal for all three streams (Legislative, Resource Management and Rat Control) has been approved for another 5-year cycle (2025-2029) with the funding anticipated to remain at current levels", be filed for information.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

One Member of the Public virtually left the meeting, time 9:55 a.m.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB73-24: Ponich That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

AS74-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 3, 2024, be adjourned, time 9:55 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Agenda Item: # 5.1

Topic: Agricultural Fieldman Appointment

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board appoint Kierstin Dubitz as Agricultural Fieldman for Smoky Lake County, effective December 10th, 2024, to termination of employment.

Background:

Under the *Agricultural Service Board Act* of Alberta Section 8(1), states a local authority shall appoint an Agricultural Fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.

Benefits:

These appointments are done as part of our legislative requirements to the Province of Alberta and we report on how many inspections are done at the end of each year through our ASB Grant Reporting. This reporting determines if we continue to qualify for grant funding.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

There are no alternatives to the recommendation because it is a legislative requirement.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial or budget implications to this recommendation.

Legislation:

Alberta Weed Control Act

Agricultural Pests Act

Agricultural Service Board Act

Soil Conservation Act

Intergovernmental:

Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kierstin Dubitz", written over a horizontal line.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Agenda Item: # 5.2

Topic: Policy Statement No. 62-05-07 Grasshopper Control Compensation

Presented By: Agriculture Department

Recommendation:

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributer, be amended to update the name of the Policy to "Grasshopper Control Compensation" and provide procedures for compensating landowners for grasshopper control, due to the County no longer offering grasshopper control services or products.

Background:

Under the Alberta *Agricultural Pest Act*, grasshoppers have been declared pests, therefore they require control action. Smoky Lake County participates in annual grasshopper surveys and provide data to the Province of Alberta who then compiles the information and creates risk maps that can be found online.

The Agriculture Department has not funded this program through operational budget for several years and has not received any inquiries on the program in that time. The Eco Bran bait is very difficult to find in Canada and typically needs to be purchased through a U.S company, which adds an additional expense.

In contrast to Saskatchewan, Alberta's environmental conditions rarely result in a high population of grasshoppers and significant damage, which is why the province has not proclaimed a state of emergency over grasshopper damage in several decades. Most municipalities do not have any policies that specifically address municipality obligation to remedy grasshopper damage or infestation. Producers who are impacted are often in charge of deciding whether to control grasshoppers for crop protection. Producers will receive compensation for lost production through standard crop insurance.

Smoky Lake County would not be expected to be directly involved with grasshopper control unless specific criteria are met based on environmental conditions and grasshopper population numbers.

Benefits:

By having a grasshopper policy it allows Smoky Lake County to have clear expectations for grasshopper control within the County roadsides.

Disadvantages:

Smoky Lake County will no longer offer in-house services for grasshopper control.

Alternatives:

Further amendments to Policy Statement No. 62-05-07 Grasshopper Control Compensation.

Financial Implications:

(Describe any Financial / Budget Implications or select from dropdown)



Request for Decision (RFD)

Legislation:

Agricultural Pest Act

Intergovernmental:

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

Strategic Alignment:

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

Enclosure(s):

DRAFT Policy Statement No. 62-05-07

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the "Signature of the CAO:" label.



Title: Grasshopper Control Compensation		Policy No.: 05-07
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 1 of 3

Legislation Reference:	<i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>
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Purpose:	To providing funding in the event of an Agricultural Disaster to landowners for the control of grasshoppers on County right-of-ways.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

- 1. STATEMENT:**
 - 1.1. Smoky Lake County recognizes that grasshoppers are a provincially regulated pest that can cause devastation to agricultural crops and that there is an obligation of pest control under the *Agricultural Pests Act*; and as such, the County will take an active measure to compensate landowners for grasshopper control subject to the guidelines and procedures of this policy.

- 2. OBJECTIVE:**
 - 2.1. To financially assist landowners with grasshopper control during Agricultural Disaster.

- 3. DEFINITIONS:**
 - 3.1 **Agricultural Disaster** means a significant event, such as drought, flood, pest infestation, or other conditions that severely affect crop production, livestock, or infrastructure, necessitating emergency assistance.

 - 3.2 **Economic Threshold** for the purpose of this policy shall be 12 grasshoppers/m² based on the Economic Thresholds of the Provincial government.

- 4. GUIDELINES:**
 - 4.1. It is the landowner's responsibility to prevent the establishment of, to control, or destroy pests under the *Agricultural Pests Act, Sec. 5, RSA 200, Chapter A-8*.

 - 4.2. When the Economic Threshold has been met or exceeded, and the County has declared an Agricultural Disaster, the County may allocate funds to compensate landowners for grasshopper control on County right-of-ways; however, the availability of funds is contingent upon the budgetary discretion of Council.

 - 4.3. Compensation for grasshopper control on County right-of-ways shall be Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per mile of adjacent land, up to a maximum compensation in the amount of Two-Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per applicant, per year.

 - 4.4. The County will coordinate with Provincial Programs, if provincial assistance is available for the control of grasshoppers and assist landowners in expediting access to these programs.

- 5. PROCEDURES:**
 - 5.1. The Agricultural Services Department shall conduct field and County right-of-way surveys to monitor grasshopper populations as required by the Government of Alberta for Economic Threshold data.



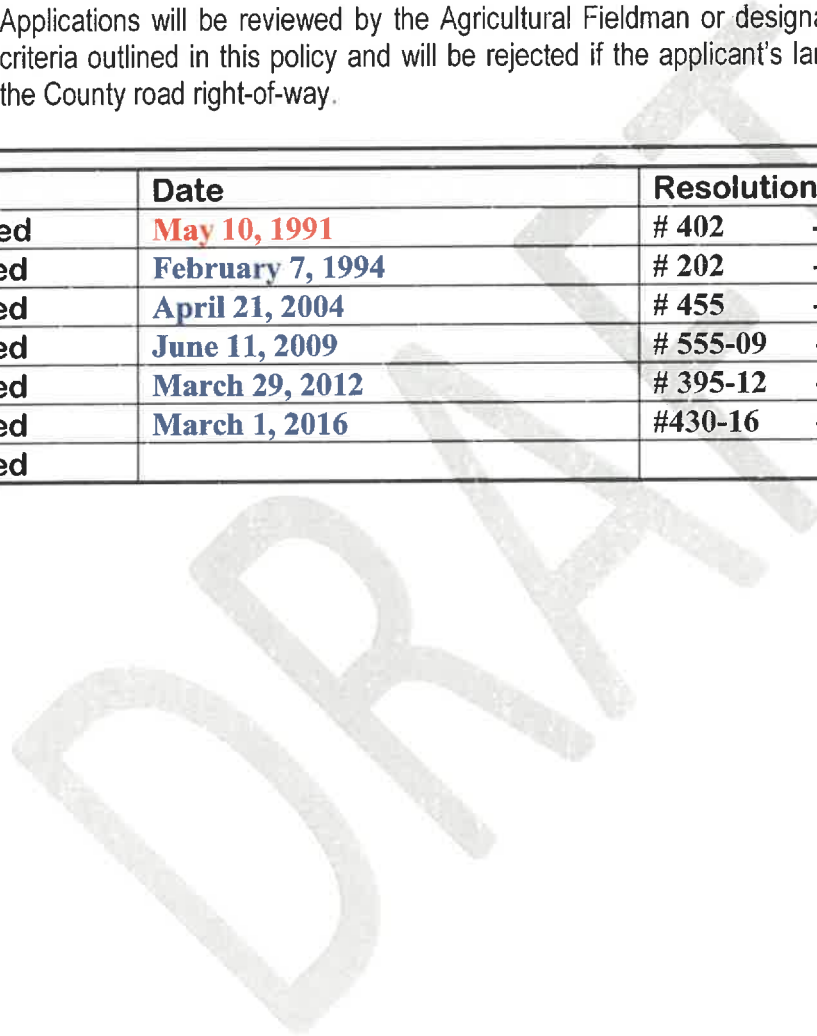
Title: Grasshopper Control Compensation		Policy No.: 05-07
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 2 of 3

5.2. Landowners seeking compensation for controlling grasshoppers on County right-of-ways must complete and submit the application form under **“Schedule A” Application for Grasshopper Control Compensation**, between May 15th and September 15th along with:

- 5.2.1. valid receipts for custom spraying applications, indicating the area treated, the date of application, product used, and the total cost of the service, and
- 5.2.2. a detailed map of treated area.

5.3. Applications will be reviewed by the Agricultural Fieldman or designate, to ensure it meets the criteria outlined in this policy and will be rejected if the applicant’s land does not directly border the County road right-of-way.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	May 10, 1991	# 402 - Page # 5320
Amended	February 7, 1994	# 202 - Page # 5641
Amended	April 21, 2004	# 455 - Page # 7746
Amended	June 11, 2009	# 555-09 - Page # 8995
Amended	March 29, 2012	# 395-12 - Page # 10013
Amended	March 1, 2016	#430-16 - Page # 12100
Amended		





Title: Grasshopper Control Compensation		Policy No.: 05-07
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 3 of 3

SCHEDULE "A"
APPLICATION FOR GRASSHOPPER CONTROL COMPENSATION

DETAILS	Property Owner: Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____ Email: _____

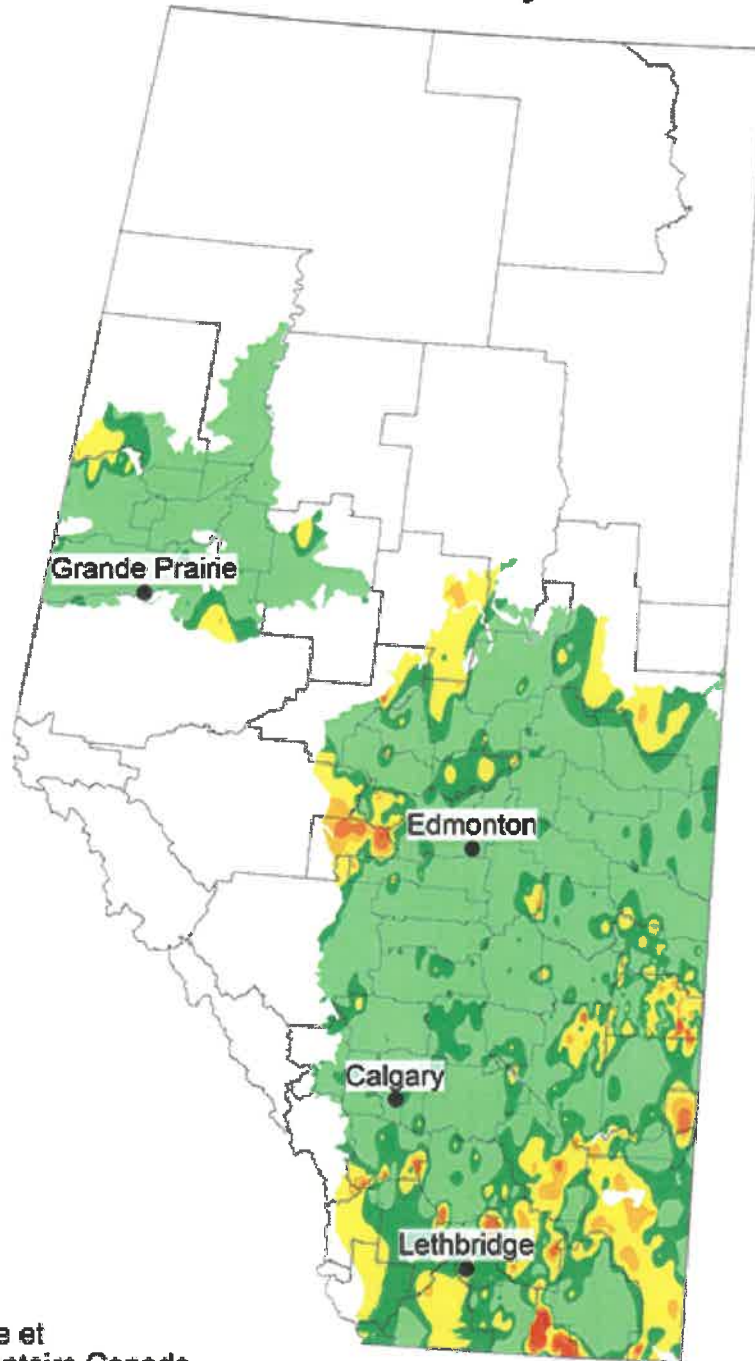
LEGAL DETAILS	I DO HEREBY apply for compensation of \$25.00/mile for completing a custom spray application for grasshopper control. I declare that I have incurred expenses along the following road right-of-way as described by the following legal land locations.
	Maximum one application per year to a maximum compensation in the amount of \$200.00
	Adjacent Legal Land Description _____
	Adjacent Legal Land Description _____
	Adjacent Legal Land Description _____
	Adjacent Legal Land Description _____
Total number of miles _____	

PROOF OF EXPENDITURES	Please attach:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> valid receipts for custom spraying applications, indicating the area treated, the date of application, product used, and the total cost of the service, and <input type="checkbox"/> a detailed map of treated area.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THIS POLICY AND APPLICATION AND AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS AND AGREE TO THE CONDTIONS THEREIN.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____	DATE: _____
SIGNATURE OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY: _____	DATE: _____

Grasshopper 2024 Survey



Risk rating for June-July 2025	Density (#/m ²)
Very Severe	>24
Severe	12-24
Moderate	8-12
Light	4-8
Very Light	2-4
None	0-2



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Alberta



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Agenda Item: # 5.3

Topic: Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways

Presented By: Agriculture Department

Recommendation:

That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-08-01: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways, be adopted.

That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-17-02 License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes, be rescinded, as made redundant by Policy Statement No. 62-08-01: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways.

Background:

Under the Agriculture Department policy clean up and review similar policies were found to be redundant. For simplification, merging the two policies into one that encompasses both haying and grazing in municipal right-of-way.

Policy Statement No. 62-17-02 License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes, allows landowners to apply to use Smoky Lake County right-of-way as temporary grazing areas. Landowners are allowed to set up fencing for livestock between summer months for grazing given it does not interfere with County Road maintenance. This policy has not been updated for numerous years and there has been no public inquiries regarding putting up temporary fences in recent years.

Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Hay Permit, allows landowners to apply to use Smoky Lake County right-of-way for haying purposes. Landowners may cut and bale ditches during the summer months. Bales must be removed promptly, and haying activities must not interfere with County Road maintenance.

Benefits:

Resolve intra and inter department policy duplications.

Allows records of landowner use in County right-of-way to be available to departments during road maintenance and vegetation management activities.

Disadvantages:

(Describe the disadvantages of the recommendation or select from dropdown)

Alternatives:

Retain and update both Agriculture and Public Works policies regarding municipal right of way usage for agricultural purposes.

Financial Implications:

N/A



Request for Decision (RFD)

Legislation:

Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1 – Section 18(1) and Section 545.

Intergovernmental:

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

Strategic Alignment:

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

Enclosure(s):

DRAFT Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Agricultural Use of Municipal Right of Ways

Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Hay Permit

Policy Statement No. 62-17-02 License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes.



Title: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 1 of 5

Legislation Reference:	<i>Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1, Section 18(1) and Section 545.</i>
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Purpose:	To provide landowners authorization to conduct the agricultural activities of haying or livestock grazing, within the road right-of-ways adjacent to their land.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. **STATEMENT:**
 - 1.3 Smoky Lake County supports local agricultural operations by permitting agricultural haying and grazing within the untraveled portion of the road right-of-ways by issuing haying permits or grazing licenses, which are subject to conditions and seasonal restrictions to ensure public safety and infrastructure integrity.

2. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - 2.1 **License:** A formal authorization allowing livestock grazing within the untraveled portion of the road right-of-way, under specific conditions.
 - 2.2 **Permit:** A formal authorization allowing landowners to cut and remove hay the untraveled portion of the road right-of-way, under specific conditions.
 - 2.3 **Zone:** The designated area the untraveled portion of the road right-of-way that can be used for haying or livestock grazing as outlined on the License or Permit application.
 - 2.4 **Ditch:** Drainage areas between the County roads edge and the landowners land(s) that are managed by the municipality.
 - 2.5 **Temporary Fencing:** An easily moveable barrier designed for short-term use to contain livestock. Approved materials consist of electric poly wire, poly tape, or portable mesh netting, supported by stakes or small posts that are quick to install and remove (there shall be no pounding of any wooden posts into County ditches).
 - 2.6 **Roads Edge:** Boundary where gravel/paved surface meets the surrounding natural terrain, such as grass, soil, etc.

3. **OBJECTIVE:**
 - 3.1 To govern the issuance of Permits and Licenses, authorizing adjacent landowners to utilize the untraveled portion of the road right-of-way for haying and grazing purposes.
 - 3.2 To support local agriculture while maintaining the integrity of municipal infrastructure.
 - 3.3 To specify the conditions, responsibilities, and requirements for adjacent landowners, to facilitate a structured and mutually beneficial use of municipal lands and ensure compliance from the Permit and License holders.

4. **GUIDELINE:**
 - 4.1 Applications made under **Schedule "A": Haying Permit Application** and **Schedule "B": Grazing License Application**, must be received by the County **prior to June 1st of each year**.
 - 4.2 Smoky Lake County may grant landowners, the right to use and occupy a portion of the municipal right-of-way, which is not closer than such distance that may interfere with road grading, snowplowing, or maintenance, to the outer edge of the traveled portion of the road nearest the applicants' land, for purposes of haying or livestock grazing, at the landowners' risk.



Title: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 2 of 5

5. PROCEDURE

5.1 **Haying Permit Application:** Applicants must read and understand the conditions within **Schedule "A": Haying Permit Application** and complete and submit the application prior to June 1st of each year, at no cost.

5.2 **Grazing Permit Application:** Applicants must read and understand the conditions within **Schedule "A": Haying Permit Application** and complete and submit the application prior to June 1st of each year, at no cost.

5.3 **Right to Enter:** Smoky Lake County officers, employees, agents and contractors shall have the right at any time to enter upon the municipal right-of-way for the purpose of reconstructing, maintaining, repairing, inspecting, testing or removing any public works, utility or road existing at the date of this agreement. The County shall in undertaking such activities use reasonable efforts to cause its officers, employees, agents and contractors to minimize any disruption or damage to the landowners use and fence which occurs pursuant to such activities to the extent that any loss, damage or injury shall have been caused by the acts of negligence of the County's officers, employees, agents or contractors.

5.4 **Inspections:** Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Department staff will conduct periodic inspections to ensure compliance with License and Permit conditions and failure to meet the conditions may result in the License or Permit being immediately revoked.

5.5 **Cancellation or Denial:** Permits and Licenses may be cancelled or denied at any time with no liability or obligation to the County, under the following circumstances:

- 5.5.1 If spraying schedule priorities for vegetation control on that specific right-of-way cannot be deferred until after the haying or grazing period.
- 5.5.2 If road construction, repair, gravelling or any other maintenance activities are scheduled during the haying or grazing period.
- 5.5.3 If the applicant did not comply with Permit of License conditions previously.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved		# - Page #
Amended		
Amended		



Title: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 3 of 5

SCHEDULE "A"
Haying Permit Application

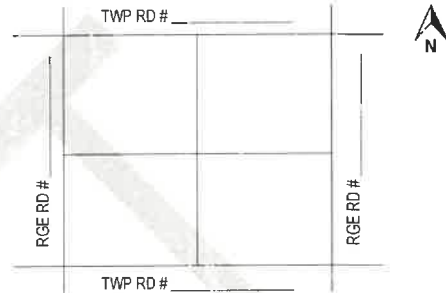
Applicant Name: _____

Date of Application: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Legal Land Description of the Adjacent Lands:

Qrt	Sec	Twp	Rge	Mer
				W4
				W4
				W4
				W4



In consideration of granting this license, the following conditions apply:

1. Up to June 1st, priority will be given to applications received from landowners for the purpose of cutting hay along Municipal right-of-way adjacent to their land. Applications received after June 1st cannot be guaranteed to be free of herbicide application.
2. Approved permits are valid only from June 15th to August 1st. All haying operations must be completed by this time.
3. Baled hay must be removed within 7 days of cutting. Permitted bales not removed after 7 days shall, at the discretion of the County, invalidate the permit and be removed by County forces with no liability to the County.
4. Approved permits will be noted by the appropriate County personnel conducting right-or-way and road management.
5. Permits may be cancelled at any time by the County with no liability or obligation from the County to the permit holder.
6. The permit holder indemnifies and saves harmless the County from any claims arising from his/her operations.
7. The permit holder will carry out haying operations in a manner creating no hazard to vehicular traffic.
8. The permit holder will not sublet or sell the rights granted under this permit.
9. The permit holder will satisfy himself as to the presence of herbicides or pesticides.
10. The County reserves the right to enter upon the right-of-way described in this permit for the purposes of weed control, roadside maintenance or any other reason whatsoever.

I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless Smoky Lake County, its councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damage, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person/livestock or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of Smoky Lake County on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described activities.

I (We) have read, understand, and accept the terms and conditions of the policy and of this permit.

Applicant Signature

Date

Agricultural Fieldman

Date



Title: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 4 of 5

SCHEDULE "A"^B
Grazing License Application

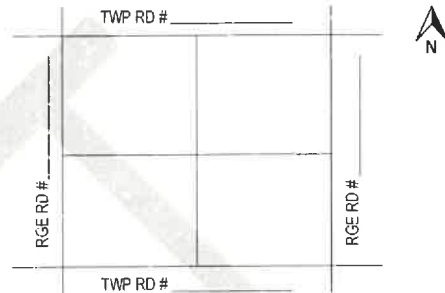
Applicant Name: _____

Date of Application: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Legal Land Description of the Adjacent Lands:

Qrt	Sec	Twp	Rge	Mer
				W4
				W4
				W4
				W4



In consideration of granting this license, the following conditions apply:

1. Up to June 1st, priority will be given to applications received from landowners for the purpose of grazing livestock along Municipal right-of-way adjacent to their land. Applications received after June 1 cannot be guaranteed to be free of herbicide application.
2. Approved licenses are valid only from June 15th to October 1st. All grazing operations must be completed by this time.
3. Temporary electric fences must be removed by October 15th, if fences remain and at the discretion of the County, they will be removed by County forces with no liability to the County.
4. Approved license will be noted by the appropriate County personnel conducting right-or-way and road management.
5. License may be cancelled at any time by the County with no liability or obligation of the license holder.
6. The license holder indemnifies and saves harmless the County from any claims arising from his/her operations.
7. The license holder will carry out grazing operations in a manner creating no hazard to vehicular traffic.
8. The license holder will not sublet or sell the rights granted under this license.
9. The license holder will satisfy themselves as to the presence of herbicides or pesticides.
10. The County reserves the right to enter upon the right-of-way described in this license for the purposes of weed control, roadside maintenance or any other reason whatsoever.

I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless Smoky Lake County, its councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damage, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person/livestock or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of Smoky Lake County on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described activities.

I (We) have read, understand, and accept the terms and conditions of the policy and of this permit.

Applicant Signature

Date

Agricultural Fieldman

Date

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Hay Permits on County Right-of-Way		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 1 of 3 E

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Purpose:	To provide a guideline for removal of hay within municipal right of way.
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<p>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</p> <p>1. STATEMENT:</p> <p>1.1 Smoky Lake County may allow right-of-ways within its jurisdiction to be cut for hay where it does not interfere with county operations.</p> <p>2. DEFINITION:</p> <p>2.1 "Permit" means a hay cutting permit.</p> <p>2.2 "Zone" means a hay cutting limit outlined in the cutting zone diagram.</p> <p>3. GUIDELINE:</p> <p>3.1 To establish an organized procedure to allow haying within the right-of-way to occur.</p> <p>4. PROCEDURE:</p> <p>4.1 Applicants shall submit Schedule "A": Request for Hay Permit.</p> <p>4.1.1 The application MUST be submitted before June 1st of each year or your request to cut hay within the municipal right-of-way will be denied. The application will be submitted at no charge from the County.</p> <p>4.2 Approved Permits are only valid from June 15th to August 1st, and baled hay must be baled and removed within seven days of cutting.</p> <p>4.3 Bales not removed after seven days shall, at the discretion of county administration invalidate the permit and be removed by the County, with no liability to the County, under section 545 of the Municipal Government Act, and at the expense of the permit applicant.</p> <p>4.4 Any hay cut along the right-of-way without permit is subject to removal, destruction or any other effect by County activity without liability or obligation by Smoky Lake County.</p>

Title: Hay Permits on County Right-of-Way		Policy No.: 08-01
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 2 of 3 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

- 4.5 A permit may be cancelled or denied under the following circumstances:
- Spraying schedule priorities for vegetation control on that specific right-of-way cannot be deferred to after the haying period.
 - Road construction, repair, gravelling or any other maintenance activities are scheduled during the permit period.
 - Previous permit approvals did not comply with policy.
- 4.6 Permits may be cancelled at any time by Smoky Lake County in circumstances where the right-of-way takes priority. No liability or obligation will be incurred by the County.
- 4.7 **By signing the permit the permittee hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless the SMOKY LAKE COUNTY, its Councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of SMOKY LAKE COUNTY on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described work(s).**

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	November 4, 2015	# 104-15 - Page # 11983
Amended		
Amended		



SCHEDULE "A"

REQUEST FOR HAY PERMIT

Applicant Name: _____

Date of Application: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Homestead location: (Legal Property): _____
Section Quarter Township Range Median

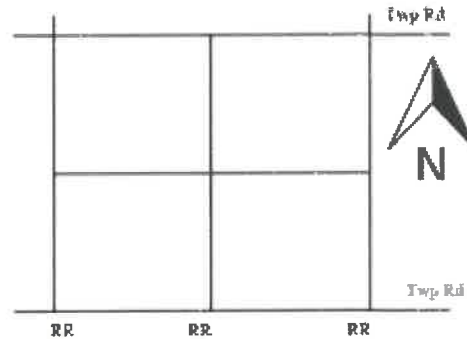
Hay Permit location: (Legal Property): _____
Section Quarter Township Range Median

Hay Permit location: (Legal Property): _____
Section Quarter Township Range Median

Hay Permit location: (Legal Property): _____
Section Quarter Township Range Median

In consideration of granting this permit, the following conditions apply:

1. Up to June 1, priority will be given to applications received from landowners for the purpose of cutting hay along County right-of-way adjacent to their land. Applications received after June 1 cannot be guaranteed to be free of herbicide application.
2. Approved permits are valid only from June 15 to August 1. All haying operations must be completed by this time.
3. Baled hay must be removed within 7 days of cutting. Permitted bales not removed after 7 days shall, at the discretion of the County, invalidate the permit and be removed by County forces with no liability to the County.
4. Approved permits will be noted by the appropriate County personnel conducting right-of-way and road management.
5. Permits may be cancelled at any time by the County with no liability or obligation of the permit holder.
6. The permit holder indemnifies and saves harmless the County from any claims arising from his/her operations.
7. The permit holder will carry out haying operations in a manner creating no hazard to vehicular traffic.
8. The permit holder will not sublet or sell the rights granted under this permit.
9. The permit holder will satisfy himself as to the presence of herbicides or pesticides.
10. The County reserves the right to enter upon the right-of-way described in this permit for the purposes of weed control, roadside maintenance or any other reason whatsoever.



CUTTING ZONE DIAGRAM

I, _____ have read the Smoky Lake County Hay Permits for County Right-of-Ways Policy. I understand and accept the terms and conditions of the policy and of this permit.

Permittee Signature

Date

Agricultural Fieldman

Date

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes		Policy No.: 17-02
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 1 of 7 <i>E</i>

Legislation Reference:	Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1 – Section 18(1).
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Purpose:	To provide access for ranchers and farmers owning or leasing land adjacent to County road allowances for grazing and farming purposes.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:
<p>That Smoky Lake County require farmers and ranchers to take out a “License of Occupation” for ditches along county roads for farming and ranching purposes adjacent to owned or rented land. Terms and conditions are specified in “Schedule A” and form part of this policy.</p> <p>Farmers and ranchers who place an electric fence along, but not within a County Road Allowance do not require a “License of Occupation”.</p>

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	July 26, 2000	# 538 - Page # 6889
Amended	January 18, 2007	# 174-07 - Page # 8268
Amended		



LICENSE OF OCCUPATION OF ROAD ALLOWANCE FOR RANCHING AND FARMING PURPOSES

THIS AGREEMENT made this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

BETWEEN:

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY
Box 310, Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0
a Municipal Corporation in the Province of Alberta
(hereinafter referred to as “**the County**”)

OF THE FIRST PART

AND

of _____
(hereinafter referred to as “**the Rancher/Farmer**”)

OF THE SECOND PART

Legal Description: _____

WHEREAS the County has and will continue to have direction, control and management of the municipal road allowance located adjacent to lands described above (hereinafter called “**the Road**”).

WHEREAS the Road contains a ditch area between the traveled portion of the Road and the rancher's/farmer's lands described above, hereinafter referred to as "**the Ditch**").

WHEREAS the rancher/farmer owns or leases land described above adjacent to the Road and the leasing is confirmed – as informed by the owner (hereinafter called "**the Land**").

WHEREAS the rancher/farmer wishes to use a portion of the Ditch for the purpose of grazing livestock.

NOW THEREFORE this agreement witnesses that in consideration of the premises, the covenants herein contained and other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereby agree as follows:

IN CONSIDERATION OF \$ **NIL** **DOLLARS** per ½ mile or major portion thereof, now paid and exchanged between the parties hereto, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, and of the premises and covenants herein contained and for other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Subject to the terms of this License, the County grants to the rancher/farmer the right to use and occupy that portion of the Ditch shown on *Schedule "A"* and which is not closer than such distance that may interfere with road grading and road snowplowing to the outer edge of the traveled portion of the Road nearest the Lands, for purposes of farming or livestock grazing.

2. The rancher/farmer is hereby entitled to use and occupy the said portion of the Ditch for a normal livestock grazing operation and to use, and to fence the said area of the Ditch provided that no provision herein shall restrict, hinder or prohibit the public's and County's use of the Road for transportation purposes.
3. All temporary electric fences should be installed no earlier than by May 1 and must be removed by October 15 from the County Road Allowances.
4. The rancher/farmer shall use plastic and fiberglass fencing material and ensure the visibility in the interest of public safety.
5. The rancher/farmer shall at all times and at their own expense keep and maintain the fence constructed within the Ditch in good and sufficient repair to the reasonable satisfaction of the County.
6. The rancher/farmer shall not construct any other structure in the Ditch than the fence referred to above unless the County gives its prior approval in writing to the proposed construction.
7. The rancher/farmer acknowledges and agrees that his/her rights to the use of the Licensed Area shall not confer any exclusive right whatsoever in respect to the use or occupation of the License Area, and that the rancher/farmer shall have no claim to the License Area other than as herein provided.
8. Fencing associated with this License of Occupation shall not cross an intersecting road allowance to ensure public access, except in the case when the rancher/farmer has a Roadway License Agreement on the intersecting road allowance.
9. No provision of this agreement and no act or omission or finding of negligence, whether joint or several, as against the County, in favour of any third party, shall relieve the rancher/farmer from liability to the County, when such liability arises under this agreement, to the extent that such liability shall be caused by the acts or negligence of the County, provided however, that any liability caused by the County and the rancher/farmer jointly or together shall be borne in proportion to the degree of cause as between the County and the rancher/farmer.

10. If the rancher/farmer violates any provision of this agreement, or any provision of the County's bylaws, all rights accruing to the rancher/farmer under this agreement shall, unless the County otherwise decides, cease upon **THIRTY (30) DAYS** written notice if not remedied within that period, but the County shall retain the right to proceed with the enforcement of any security or indemnity provided in satisfaction of any claim, loss or expense of any kind whatsoever arising under this agreement.

11.
 - a. The rancher/farmer indemnifies, saves harmless, releases and forever discharges the County from and against any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, claims, debts, suits, loss, costs (including legal costs on a solicitor-client basis), demands and promises whatsoever, whether known or unknown, which the rancher/farmer or any other person now has or may at any time have by reason of:
 - i. the permission to use and occupy the portion of the Ditch within the Road granted herein; or
 - ii. the construction, maintenance, existence, use or removal of the fence including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, a claim for loss or injury to persons or property due to the rancher's/farmer's negligence or failure to comply with the County's bylaws or with any provision of this Agreement.
 - b. The rancher/farmer shall carry comprehensive liability insurance with insurable limits of no less than **Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00)** for each occurrence or incident, which shall name the County as an insured party and the Licensee shall provide proof of such insurance to the satisfaction of the County upon demand.

12. The County's officers, employees, agents and contractors shall have the right at any time to enter upon the Road for the purpose of reconstructing, maintaining, repairing, inspecting, testing or removing any public works, utility or road existing at the date of this Agreement. The County shall in undertaking such activities use reasonable efforts to cause its officers, employees, agents and contractors to minimize any disruption or damage to the rancher's/farmer's use and fence which occurs pursuant to such activities to the extent that any loss, damage or injury shall have been caused by the acts of negligence of the County's officers, employees, agents or contractors.

13. All costs to repair or replace the fence which occur as a result of the County's activities pursuant to **Paragraph 11** shall be borne entirely by the rancher/farmer. In addition, the rancher/farmer shall reimburse the County for all necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the County as part of the County's activities pursuant to **Paragraph 10** in excess of those costs that would have been incurred if the fence did not exist.
14. The County may at any time in its sole discretion withdraw the rights it has granted herein to the rancher/farmer and resume possession of the Road for public purposes, provided that the County gives the rancher/farmer **THIRTY (30) DAYS** notice specifying the public purpose and gives the rancher/farmer the right to make submissions to the County's Municipal Council in respect to the necessity, methods, and alternative means of achieving the public purpose, and the rancher/farmer shall at his/her own expense within a period of **SIX (6) MONTHS** from the date receiving such notice of withdrawal or within such shorter time as may be specified by the County's Municipal Council remove the fence and restore the Ditch to the satisfaction of the County.
15. The rancher/farmer shall not, without the prior written consent of the County, assign either in whole or in part any of the rights herein conferred upon the rancher/farmer.
16. The rancher/farmer acknowledges and agrees that all property of the rancher/farmer which may hereafter be located on, under, over or adjacent to the Licensed Area shall be at the sole risk of the rancher/farmer and that the County shall not be liable for any loss or damage thereto howsoever occurring and the rancher/farmer hereby releases the County from all actions, claims, demands, suits or proceedings whatsoever in respect of any such loss or damage, except and to the extent of which such loss or damage is caused by the neglect or fault of the County or its servants or agents.
17. In the event the rancher/farmer fails to keep the Ditch or any structure pertaining thereto, including the fence, in good repair to the reasonable satisfaction of the County in conformance with the prevailing standards of maintenance in the County from time to time, or in the event the rancher/farmer fails to remove the fence and restore the Ditch to the satisfaction of the County, pursuant to **Paragraph 12**, the County may in its sole discretion cause such repairs to be made, as it deems reasonable and necessary, and the cost thereof shall be borne by the rancher/farmer.

18. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this agreement is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a Court or competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the decision that is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this agreement.
19. This agreement shall ensure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto **NOTWITHSTANDING** any rule of law or equity to the contrary; and this agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Alberta.
20. The rancher/farmer shall pay to the County all legal costs incurred by the County in the preparation, execution and registration of this License of Occupation.
21. The term of the license shall be **THREE (3) YEARS** normally renewable and shall terminate on the ____ day of _____, 20 ____.
22. To be eligible for and/or remain eligible for the License of Occupation and for this agreement to remain in effect, the rancher/farmer must be either the owner or hold a license; or be a renter of the property adjacent to the road.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day first above written.

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Per: _____
Signature

Per: _____
Print Name

RANCHER(S)/FARMER(S)

Per: _____
Signature

Per: _____
Print Name



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Agenda Item: # 5.4

Topic: Policy Statement No. 62-30-01 Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness

Presented By: Agriculture Department

Recommendation:

That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-30-01: Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness be adopted.

Background:

Under the *Agricultural Service Board Act* section 2 (c) an agricultural service board has a duty to assist in the control of animal diseases as an authorized person under Section 1(e) and Schedule Authorized Persons 1(f) of the *Animal Health Act*.

The Agricultural Fieldman would work with the Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer under the *Animal Health Act* to assist the Provincial authorities to enforce animal health regulations pertaining to outbreaks of animal diseases, animal health during natural disasters, and animal diseases that impact public health and food safety.

Benefits:

Allows Smoky Lake County to have a policy clearly illustrating its own responsibilities and partnership with the Province under the *Animal Health Act*.

Smoky Lake County encouraging producers to be aware and develop Emergency Response Plans for their livestock.

Disadvantages:

(Describe the disadvantages of the recommendation or select from dropdown)

Alternatives:

Further amendments to draft Policy Statement No. 62-30-01

Financial Implications:

N/A

Legislation:

Agricultural Service Board Act

Animal Health Act

Intergovernmental:

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

Strategic Alignment:

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

Enclosure(s):

DRAFT Policy Statement No. 62-30-01 Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.



Title: Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness		Policy No.: 30-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 1 of 2

Legislation Reference:	<i>Animal Health Act</i>
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Purpose:	To identify Smoky Lake County's role in supporting animal health and disease prevention under the <i>Animal Health Act</i> and ensure coordination of timely communication and collaboration with the Chief Veterinary Officer, producers and provincial authorities.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. STATEMENT:

- 1.1. Under the *Animal Health Act*, Smoky Lake County, in partnership with the Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), will assist the Provincial authorities in implementing animal health regulations that relate to animal diseases affecting animal health, public health, and food safety, animal disease outbreaks, or animal health during natural disasters.
- 1.2. Smoky Lake County promotes and encourages producers to develop an Emergency Response Plan for their livestock.

2. OBJECTIVE:

- 2.1. To ensure a coordinated approach to preparedness, response and recovery for livestock related emergencies, such as disease outbreaks, natural disasters or other threats, while working collaboratively with producers and provincial authorities.
- 2.2. To facilitate effective communication and collaboration between Smoky Lake County, the CVO, residents, livestock owners and agricultural producers.
- 2.3. To promote education and resources for livestock producers in respect to emergency preparedness measures, including biosecurity, evacuation plans and emergency feeding.
- 2.4. To establish clear communication channels between the municipality, livestock producers, emergency services, and provincial authorities to ensure timely and effective responses to livestock emergencies.

3. PROCEDURES:

- 3.1. The County's Agricultural Fieldman or designate, will act as the primary liaison between the municipality and the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).
- 3.2. The County's Agricultural Fieldman or designate, will monitor and report any animal health concerns to the CVO as required under the *Animal Health Act*.
- 3.3. Smoky Lake County will provide residents with accurate, timely and relevant information regarding animal health, disease outbreaks, and preventative measures through available communication channels.
- 3.4. Smoky Lake County will assist producers by providing information on any recovery resources, including financial assistance programs and veterinary support, to rebuild and restore operations following an emergency.
- 3.5. The County's Agricultural Fieldman or designate will work closely with the CVO, agricultural organizations, and other municipalities to align local efforts with regional and provincial livestock emergency management strategies.



Title: Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness		Policy No.: 30-01
Section: 62	Code:	Page No.: 2 of 2

3.6. The County shall encourage producers to develop an Emergency Response Plan for their livestock that addresses:

- 3.6.1. Risk Assessments - identify potential threats such as floods, wildfires, disease outbreaks etc. this would include conducting regular evaluations of farm vulnerabilities.
- 3.6.2. Shelter in place strategies in the event evacuation is not feasible.
- 3.6.3. Identifying and prioritizing a risk animal (pregnant, young, sick)
- 3.6.4. Access to feed, water and veterinary care during crisis.
- 3.6.5. Communication plan- maintain up-to-date list of emergency contacts (vets, local authorities, transportation services, neighbours)
- 3.6.6. Livestock records- inventory, including current location
- 3.6.7. Pre-identifying safe relocation sites i.e. higher ground or neighbouring farms.
- 3.6.8. Shelter in place procedures - designate secure areas on property to house livestock during an emergency, stockpile at least 72 hours worth of feed, water and essential medical supplies in a secure location if possible.
- 3.6.9. Establishing quarantine procedure, maintain sanitation protocols.
- 3.6.10. Conducting post-emergency assessment as soon as possible (animal health, infrastructure damage) and updating your emergency management plan asap on lessons learned.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved		
Amended		
Amended		
Amended		
Amended		
Amended		
Amended		

Tire Pressure Scales



Air-Weigh LoadMaxx Trailer Scale Kit, ABS T-Breakout

Product Code: E94950

\$1,390.00

1

[ADD TO CART](#)

Scales, On-Board

BIT Air Scale

Real load weights anytime, anywhere

BIT Air Scale are wireless semi truck scales that provides loading weights to drivers and admins

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Bales Scales



Crane Scales



1.00

Klau 2000kg 4000 Lb Heavy Duty Crane Scale Industrial Hanging Scales LCD Display With Remote Orange For Home Farm Factory Hunting

[Visit](#)

\$122.99

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair Report

December 2024

- Oct 3, Ag Service Board meeting, updated grass hopper bait distributor policy, received an update from LARA, discussed the AgKnow Alberta mental health network and recommended the county provide funds for the program in 2024 and 2025, received the report card on the resolutions, next meeting December 10 @ 9 am.
- Oct 21, attended the LARA meeting, discussed capital funding 3.2 million finalized number for 12 associations ARECA will be in charge applications must be in by end of October all assoc. get together and see who gets what by end of November funds must be spent by December 31 2025, looking into grants and letter of support for new storage building, LARA will sponsor BJ Thomas cowboy poet for the Vilna Ag Society fall supper, Alyssa gave the executive director report, working with Lakeland HR on staff wages and grid, working on 2025 budget, looking at business & corporate sponsorship, Jay gave the LFA report all the heifers are out and the next LFA meeting is next month in Goodridge, the LARA AGM will be in St. Paul county on February 26 @ 10:00 am, other upcoming events were sent out by the Ag department.
- Oct 25, attended the NE Agricultural Service Board Conference in Czar AB. with our 2 ag fieldmen and producer rep Tamara Flondra. Had an update from Alberta Ag ensure your legislative requirements are being met, ASB grant cycle has been approved by the Ag minister for a 5 year agreement, update on the weed review that was started in 2021/2022, keep an eye on Bertha army worms for 2025, dutch elm disease 4 trees in Edmonton that have

been dealt with, the road side weed survey 4,500 weed records, 46% Canada thistle then sow thistle, Tansy & oxeye daisy, next ASB townhall November 14 11-12pm, a presentation on the Alberta rat patrol program past & present, Jade Almberg from Prairie Shore Agronomy talked about running an agronomy business in cattle country they service over 80,000 acres and help farmers and ranchers access grants, the MD of Provost gave a talk about reclamation and the key to social license in municipal operations they rebuild approx.. 20 miles of road a year seeding grass on the shoulders with hydro seeders also reclaiming some of their gravel pits to beyond what's needed, went through the resolutions and had a provincial chair update, Natasha Warwaruk of Powerhouse Embryonics from Provost gave an introduction to assisted reproductive technologies in cattle talking about conventional flushes, embryo grading, frozen versus fresh, invitro fertilization, & cloning she is able to provide world class cutting edge technologies to cattle producers, the 2025 Regional conference will be in Minburn county.

- November 18 attended the LARA board meeting in Ashmont, discussed municipal funding and will be sending letters out to the municipalities looking for 2 year funding contracts for known budgeting, Capital funding from the government for equipment only no buildings December 15/24 application deadline Alyssa will be applying, did a recap of the Vilna Ag Society event that LARA sponsored for 500 dollars (cowboy poet BJ Thomas)at their harvest dine & dance, we will be revitalizing the fish pond at the Ft. Kent site working with LICA and the MD of Bonnyville, looking at changing the LARA logo for marketing purposes & branding, finances were given & Alyssa gave the executive director report, will be receiving our payout from Canada summer jobs we had 4

positions this year, working with Lakeland HR went over 2 policies, will be selling the 2006 Chev 2500 pickup in the spring, Ford tractor tires have been replaced & the 20' sea container has been purchased, in the research report all are busy with data analysis finalizing reports and some project proposals, in communications Kristy is working on the logo design, the peaveymart community spirit grant & organizing the women in ranching workshop, Next meeting December 16/24, @ noon upcoming events:

- Women in ranching Nov. 30/24, Mallaig
- Farmer Appreciation Event Feb. 7/25 county of St. Paul
- LARA AGM Feb. 26/25, county of St. Paul 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Ranching for Profit March 18/25.
- Anything that you as a board would like to see as an extension event or a trial please contact Alyssa or your board member.

May you cherish the time with family and friends this holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Dan Gawalko, ASB chair.



October 18, 2024

ARECA
Box 1195 Brooks, AB T1R 1B9

To: ASBs

It is with deep regret that the ARECA Board has decided to temporarily scale back AgKnow operations due to lack of funding. Grant applications are in process with the government, and we are optimistic they will be supported; however, we have simply run out of resources to keep things going in the meantime. As of the end of October, AgKnow staff will be reduced to one part time employee who will work to meet the currently scheduled November commitments.

All activities currently scheduled in November will be supported. Any new requests will be held until multiyear financing is resolved and full AgKnow operations can be resumed. At such times we will be hiring and reaching out to schedule and satisfy each request.

ARECA is actively pursuing options to resolve this current AgKnow financial situation including an agreement with a charitable foundation, several sponsorship agreements with companies, and the grant proposals already in progress. The Porch Light Society has elected to donate the proceeds to their first ever Gala event in Olds on November 2 to AgKnow so please spread the word using the attached poster and share the social media announcements in your media.

Should operational financing still be unresolved at the end of November, then effective December 1st AgKnow will temporarily close, and ARECA will continue to administer the free session program until all funds are exhausted.

ARECA extends a warm thank you to the many organizations who have been aware of this impending situation and have provided financial support to help AgKnow continue in these uncertain financial times. These short-term funds that you and others have provided coupled with ARECA financial support, have kept AgKnow operational since July.

I am cautiously optimistic that this situation will be resolved soon. AgKnow is a highly valued service in the farm and ranching community and a lot of time and investment has been made to get it to where it is. The situation in our industry has not changed and AgKnow can be part of the solution.

Please feel free to call if you would like to discuss this situation further.

With kindest regards

Alan

Executive Director ARECA

CC Linda Hunt

AgKnow – Alberta Farm Mental Health Network

- Recent research shows that Canadian farmers are reporting higher rates of suicide ideation, chronic stress, burn out and depression.
- It is well known that mental health outcomes for those living in rural and remote areas are considerably worse than for urban centers.
- AgKnow was created from the advocacy of the Agricultural Service Boards, RMA, Agriculture Commodity Boards and Commissions and farmers.
- AgKnow is the first from the farmer by the farmer initiative engaging farmers in a way that aligns with their needs.

We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support and contributions to the AgKnow mandate from businesses, farmers, mental health professionals, and government.

Mandate:

At Agknow we are driven by a passion for the well-being of farmers and a commitment to cultivating resilient farming communities where mental health is prioritized, contributing to the overall prosperity of Alberta for long-term impact.

We do this by providing tools, resources, and training so that every farmer understands the connection between mental health and a productive farm. Healthy successful farm families contribute to sustainable resilient rural communities that the world relies on for food, energy, and recreation. Our work is evidence based and is used to make recommendations to policymakers to ensure that our mandate is achieved.

Services Provided:

The Province of Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as generously invested in the development activities of AgKnow including the website, seed funding Alberta specific research, piloting of free counselling sessions with a network of farm informed counsellors, and the development of workshops and resources. These have been fundamental for AgKnow to provide foundational services including but not limited to:

- Access to Farm Informed counselling
- Farm specific training programs
- Community engagement to reduce the stigma and increase awareness of services
- Research and discovery activities
- Resources that fit the needs of Alberta farmers

We do this for several reasons:

1. To increase awareness of mental health challenges in ag production.
2. To reduce barriers for ag producers to receive the help they need.
3. To develop data and knowledge to inform policy and programs.
4. Improve the capacity of the health and mental health systems to address and support farmers during farm specific crises.

The current need

For 2 years AgKnow has been connecting vital mental health services to farming communities using grant funding. Recently those funds have been exhausted, and AgKnow is at risk of closing its doors if a sustainable funding source is not found. We need your help to raise awareness with your local MLA and the Ministers of Agriculture and Irrigation and Mental Health and Addictions to create a broad base of support.

1. 3-4 years of stable operational funding that allows us to
 - establish trust and credibility with our target audiences,
 - develop formalized partnerships with stakeholders,
 - identify gaps and discover the approaches that work.
2. Funding for:
 - 4 full time staff
 - Expand the counselling network into gap areas (Peace, South, NW)
 - Professional development opportunities that increase specialization in farm specific crisis and concerns like depopulation
 - Delivering mental health events and training across the province
 - Raise awareness of available services
 - Subsidizing counselling sessions to overcome barriers and provide immediate support

How to Advocate locally and Key Messages

AgKnow has drafted some key messages that are being used to communicate the need with funders and that may be useful to your municipality. We appreciate any effort you can add to reach out to your local MLAs, MPs and municipal folks. A broad base of support is desired to secure the funding needed.

- Farmers in Alberta are reporting higher rates of anxiety, chronic stress, and depression than the general population.
- A dedicated approach is needed as farmers realize greater barriers to accessing support.
- Agknow has laid the foundation for a made in Alberta approach to supporting the wellbeing of farmers and by extension their communities.
- Supporting the wellbeing of farmers has a direct benefit to maintaining food safety, environmental sustainability and animal welfare which all Albertan's value.
- AgKnow needs immediate reliable funding support to keep staff and the mandate.
- AgKnow has a broad base of support from rural service providers including municipalities.
- AgKnow's approach is to work within the existing health system to support and enhance the good work that is already being done and increase the adoption by the farming community.

Send a Letter of support

When writing to government officials the ultimate request should be twofold:

1. Immediate short-term funding so staff can be rehired to continue to deliver current commitments and solidify the partnerships and sponsorship opportunities already underway.
2. Multiyear grants with reduced or no matching requirements so that AgKnow has time to establish other funding sources for future matching requirements and interim financing.



November 15, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

RE: Northern Sunrise County Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293

Dear Honourable Senators,

Northern Sunrise County (NSC) Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express concerns regarding Bill C-293 – *An act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness* currently before the senate.

This bill could severely impact Canada’s agricultural sector, especially the animal production industry. Its aim to regulate industrial animal agriculture and phase out activities considered high-risk lacks clear definitions and guidelines, potentially harming Canadian agriculture, rural communities, and national food security.

Section 3(2)(l) of Bill C-293 suggests regulation over “commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture,” and proposes the promotion of “alternative proteins.” While pandemic preparedness is essential, this section is vague, leaving the door open for broad interpretations and misuse of power. Without specific definitions, the bill risks undue government intervention in agricultural practices, consumer choices, and the broader economy. Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, has noted concerns that this vagueness grants excessive discretionary power, which could allow officials to halt agricultural operations during a crisis, leading to severe disruptions across the food supply chain.

Canada’s agricultural sector already implements rigorous biosecurity standards to prevent disease transmission, demonstrating responsible stewardship. Established protocols, including the Canadian On-Farm Beef Cattle Biosecurity Standard and specialized plans for hog and poultry farms, exemplify the proactive measures in place to manage health risks. The North American Preparedness for Animal and Human Pandemics Initiative (NAPAHPI) has also been updated since COVID-19 to enhance cooperation between sectors in pandemic scenarios, reducing the need for additional regulations under Bill C-293. Sandra Spruit, a board member of Alberta Pork, emphasizes that Bill C-293 fails to acknowledge the sector’s responsible antimicrobial use and robust biosecurity programs, implying a lack of trust in an industry that has long prioritized public health.

Moreover, animal agriculture supports rural economies and food security in Canada. About 40% of Alberta’s farm cash receipts are from livestock production contributing over \$10 Billion in Alberta in 2023. This represents the livelihood of a significant number of farm families, a significant contribution to local food supply and an important economic contributor to our rural and remote communities. Efforts to phase out activities without concrete evidence of their risks could harm sectors like pork, poultry, and beef production, which employ thousands and feed millions.





While MPs like Erskine-Smith assert that Bill C-293 is not meant to eliminate meat production, the bill's current language provides no such assurances. Without clear limitations, future interpretations could impose restrictions on significant areas of animal agriculture, based on evolving perceptions of risk.

Please consider the consequences of passing Bill C-293 on the source and stability of our local food system, and the livelihood of our livestock producers and the communities they support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corinna Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corinna Williams, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County





Municipal District of Fairview No. 136
Box 189
Fairview, Alberta
T0H1L0
Phone: 780-835-4903
Fax: 780-835-3131
Email: mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca

November 15, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

RE: Bill C-293, An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness

Dear Honourable Senators,

We are writing to express our strong opposition and deep concern regarding Bill C-293, which focuses on pandemic preparedness. While we acknowledge the importance of this Bill and fully support the need for governments to plan more effectively to manage risks, we believe that certain aspects of the Bill require further scrutiny and clarification.

In particular, Section L of the Bill, which recommends "derisking" animal agriculture and promoting alternative proteins, raises significant concerns. This provision appears to be an overreach, as it is not clearly related to pandemic preparedness and instead targets a specific sector of the economy. Animal agriculture is an essential component of our food system, and any policy changes affecting it must be based on clear, evidence-driven risk assessments.

The language in the Bill is dangerously vague and harsh, lacking the necessary details to understand its full implications for both farmers and consumers. Of particular concern, in regard to animal agriculture, language such as "regulate" and "phase-out" are utilized. This language suggests that the bill has assumed that animal agriculture in Canada is a cause of, or contributes to, the spread of disease, a notion that we unequivocally reject, and further, is not supported by evidence. While the promotion of alternative proteins may have merit in certain contexts, it should not come at the expense of others within the agricultural sector.

We urge the Senate to carefully consider the implications of Section L and ensure that any policies aimed at mitigating future pandemic risks are balanced, evidence-based, and focused on the core issue of public health rather than introducing measures that could unintentionally disrupt our food system.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We trust that you will consider these concerns as you deliberate on the contents of Bill C-293.

Sincerely,



Nolan Robertson
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board

cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada
Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food
Mr. Arnold Viersen, Member of Parliament for Peace River – Westlock
Hon. Todd Lowen, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Central-Peace Notley
Rural Municipalities of Alberta Member Municipalities
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



COUNTY OF
Northern Lights

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The Honourable Senators of Canada
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

November 18, 2024

Re: Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness

We are deeply concerned with the referenced bill before the Senate for various reasons centered around the ever-growing need of Ottawa to regulate the livelihoods of others and their obsession to stifle economic stability. However, we will not be writing a letter to summarize where concerns of new potential government overreach could lie because those are well known, but rather highlight the current government overreach that currently exists, the atrocities already enacted and a warning to not repeat the mistake.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) already has the power to quarantine, restrict movement of livestock, implement disease control measures, and euthanize livestock during disease outbreaks and biosecurity threats. All of which the CFIA has used and potentially abused across the Western Provinces. We have seen the CFIA destroy the cattle sector and market during the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) threat, their approach and use of current powers destroyed the cattle market for over a decade. It wasn't the CFIA that revived the market, it was the trust and perseverance of ranchers that weathered financial and emotional hardships while CFIA ruined their market overnight. BSE was CFIA's red herring of a potential disease that never was, all to put a feather in their cap at the expense of the cattle sector. The CFIA is currently using their power to cripple the Cervid Industry of the Western Provinces through overregulation, restriction of the sale of meat and live animals as we speak. Federal Government overreach and willingness to use current expansive and overreaching legislation is ever present, leads to financial hardship and guides ranchers into emotional turmoil.

We do not need to see more regulation and potential government overreach be legislated to the Federal Minister of Health with respect to livestock and livestock welfare as they are already responsible for the destruction of so many lives and businesses. If this isn't known by the Minister of Health and the CFIA, we point to the decimation of livestock numbers through Canada and destruction of native grasslands that are being torn up to grow crops as ranchers and livestock producers went broke under their implementation of biosecurity and disease outbreak management.

Not to mention the ridiculous and bad idea to promote 'fake' alternative proteins and meats over or at the expense of real meat. Again, Ottawa is deaf or negligent in its ability to listen and understand what the 'People' want. Alternative protein, 'fake' milk and 'fake' meat companies initially surged in market share and stock prices when they hit the market, however, almost all of them have floundered as consumer did not re buy or return to the product. For example, Beyond Meat's (BYND) all time stock price was posted in 2019 at \$234.90 a share and had a market cap of over \$15.5B; at the time of writing this it is \$4.96 a share and a market cap of around \$450M. General studies and surveys of these companies indicate consumers are dissatisfied with these products due to taste, texture, too many ingredients, too expensive, too many additives or preservatives and most of all people felt unhealthy after eating the products. It is clear people want to eat 'real' food with the least amount of ingredients, preservatives and additives, that is not highly addictive and highly processed.

We urge the Canadian Senate to please, just stop the bad ideas, unnecessary over regulation and allow Canadians the ability to chose for themselves and not support Bill C-293.

Sincerely,



Terry Ungarian, Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board
County of Northern Lights

Cc:

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada
Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food
Hon. Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Grande Prairie-Mackenzie
Hon. Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions for Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



November 20, 2024

Senator Paula Simons
600 Chambers Building
40 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Via email: paula.simons@sen.parl.gc.ca

Senator Simons:

Re: Concerns regarding Bill C-293 Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act

On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Bonnyville I am expressing our concerns regarding Bill C-293, an Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness. While we broadly support the objective of the bill, we have concerns regarding the potential negative impact on the agricultural industry.

Clause 2, Section L (ii) of the Bill C-293 addresses the regulation of commercial activities, specifically mentioning industrial animal agriculture. Subsections (iii) and (iv) raise particular concerns by promoting the production of alternative proteins to reduce pandemic risks and suggesting the phase-out of commercial activities involving high-risk species. We believe that the language used in these provisions is vague and lacks the clarity necessary for a full understanding of its implications.

Our concerns center around the potential for overreach by the federal government into areas traditionally managed by provincial and municipal authorities. The agricultural sector, particularly in Alberta, is highly regulated, with world-class animal disease surveillance programs, food safety protocols, and biosecurity measures already in place. We believe that these existing frameworks should be recognized and considered within the scope of the bill, rather than introducing additional and potentially duplicative federal regulations.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully ask that the Senate revisit Bill C-293 to ensure that it is clear, concise, and respectful of the jurisdictional responsibilities of provincial and municipal authorities. We also request that the bill be revised to ensure fairness and equity for all industries, particularly agriculture, which plays a crucial role in both our provincial and national economies.



Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the Senate will give careful consideration to our concerns and work toward an outcome that strengthens pandemic preparedness without unintended negative impacts on the agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JC", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Josh Crick
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board
Municipal District of Bonnyville

cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada
Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food
Mr. Scott Cyr, Member of Legislative Assembly for Bonnyville, Cold Lake, St Paul
Laila Goodridge, Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray-Cold Lake
Rural Municipalities of Alberta Member Municipalities
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL

5015 49 Avenue, St. Paul, Alberta, T0A 3A4
www.county.stpaul.ab.ca

Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences



November 21, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Re: Bill C-293 – An act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness

Dear Honourable Senators,

We, the County of St. Paul Agricultural Service Board (ASB), are writing to express our deep concerns and opposition to the proposed Bill C-293. We agree that a pandemic prevention and preparedness plan is necessary to manage risks to health, safety, and the economy. However, the lack of clarity in the current wording of Bill C-293 has the potential to harm national food security, directly affecting the very things the Bill aims to manage.

The implication of the Bill, as worded, is that animal agriculture – a key industry sector in the County of St. Paul and many rural municipalities in Western Canada – is a perpetrator of disease. This is incredibly harmful, as this is not evidence-based and ignores that producers adhere to established protocols, such as the Canadian On-Farm Beef Cattle Biosecurity Standard, with rigorous biosecurity measures for consumer safety.

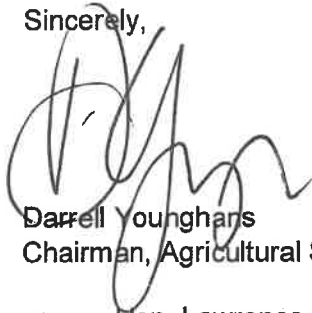
Additionally, the vague language used in the Bill, with the use of “regulate” and “phase out”, can grant excessive discretionary power, which may harm Canadian agriculture and rural communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted to many communities the need for local food security, including in the St. Paul Region, spearheading potential economic development in the animal agriculture space. Without clarification, Bill C-293 can halt this development before it can even progress, stunting local economies from growing and protecting themselves in another pandemic situation.

While the Bill notes these measures would be “after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments”, based on Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture Honourable RJ Sigurdson’s reaction, we’re left unsure if there was even prior consultation on this Bill. This leaves us feeling even less confident that there will not be an overreach of power should we ever face the situation.

We urge the Senate to carefully consider the consequences of passing Bill C-293 and how it could inadvertently affect communities across the country, in disrupting food security and harming local economies.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Younghans
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board

- cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada
Hon. RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture & Agri-Food
Hon. Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Hon. Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul
Hon. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



CYPRESS COUNTY

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November 25, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Office of the Minister
Agriculture and Irrigation
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Opposition to Bill C-293

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson, via email: (AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca),

The Cypress County Agricultural Service Board wishes to extend our support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the opposition of Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic and Preparedness, which received its third reading in the Senate on June 5, 2024.

While we can appreciate plans to mitigate the risks of a pandemic from occurring, this new federal bill in its current form would impose damaging regulations on Alberta's animal farmers. Bill C-293 gives Ottawa the authority to shut down operations that they consider to be 'high risk', the potential for these sudden closures of key facilities could destabilize supply chains and affect the livelihoods of workers in the agricultural and agri-food sectors.

Agriculture is a key industry in Cypress County and a vital part of the Canadian economy. The repercussions of this Bill could be devastating to the animal farming industry.

We thank you for your continued support of the Agriculture Industry and we wholly support and urge you to continue advocating against Bill C-293.

Sincerely,

Dan Hamilton, Reeve
Cypress County

Cc: The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of the Province of Alberta
The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health Canada
Mr. Glen Motz, MP Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner
Mr. Justin Wright, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat
Alberta Agriculture Service Boards
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



Lesser Slave River

cc: The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Mr. Arnold Viersen, MP for Peace River-Westlock

Mr. Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake

Alberta Agricultural Services Boards

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



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Fax: 403-642-2256
Email: jmeeks@warnercounty.ca
Website: www.warnercounty.ca

November 25, 2024

ASB2024-030

Honourable Senator Scott Tannis
scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

RE: Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention & Preparedness

Dear Honourable Senator Scott Tannis,

The County of Warner Agriculture Service Board (ASB) would like to express concerns regarding Bill C-293 – *An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness currently before the senate.*

Canada currently has the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a robust and science-based government agency, who is responsible for the administration, inspection, and enforcement of the country's food systems. They are empowered to quarantine and cull any animals that are a threat to animal and/or public health.

While we acknowledge the importance of a proactive approach and support the need for governments to plan more effectively to manage risks, we believe that certain aspects of Bill C-293 require further scrutiny and clarification. 3 (2)(l) of Bill C-293 recommends "derisking" animal agriculture and promoting alternative proteins, raises significant concerns. This provision appears to be an overreach, as it is not clearly related to pandemic preparedness and instead targets a specific sector of the economy. Animal agriculture is an essential component of our food system, and any policy changes affecting it must be based on clear, evidence-driven risk assessments.

The bill includes reference to several ministries that we believe should not have the level of influence that is written in the bill. The entire bill intrudes into the provinces' jurisdiction over healthcare, as well as seemingly giving the Minister of Environment an extended influence over healthcare and agriculture. The Minister of Environment's involvement only allows for alternate agendas unrelated to pandemic preparedness to be implemented.

We urge the Senate of Canada to reconsider Bill C-293 and the unintended consequences to Canada's agricultural industry. Disruptions to our food system would be detrimental to our country's food security and our trade relationships. We are asking Senate to vote against Bill C-293. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Shawn Rodgers, ASB Chairman
Councillor Division 5 | County of Warner No. 5

Cc Honourable Senator Kristopher Wells Honourable Senator Karen Sorensen
Honourable Senator Paula Simons Honourable Senator Daryl S. Fridhandler
Honourable Senator Patti LaBoucane-Benson
Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of the Province of Alberta
Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health Canada
Glen Motz, MP Medicine Hat – Cardston – Warner Grant Hunter, MLA Taber – Warner
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Provincial ASB Committee



Smoky Lake County

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 Fax: 780-656-3768
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

November 18th, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada
 Senate of Canada
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A4

RE: Smoky Lake County Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293

Dear Honourable Senators,

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board would like to express our concerns and strong disapproval about the Senate's ongoing consideration of Bill C-293. While the Bill may have been introduced with the intention of improving Canada's readiness for future pandemics, we believe it raises serious issues that require further scrutiny.

This Bill will severely impact Canada's agricultural sector, mainly the animal production industry. With no clear standards or process on how "derisking" animal agriculture would be done. This harsh language lacks details on the full implications to producers, consumers, and food security in our country. Animal agriculture is a huge part of the Canadian economy and food system. This Bill has unjustly singled out this economy sector that has no clear connection to pandemic preparedness. The language assumes Canadian animal agriculture is the cause and contributor to the spread of disease which we fully reject. Canadian animal agriculture has the top-of-the-line health and safety guidelines that are recognized globally for their merit. Canadian animal production and food sectors have updated numerous biosecurity policies following the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, this Bill risks undue government intervention and misuse of power into consumer food choices by "phasing-out" animal proteins to be replaced by alternative proteins. Bill C-293 fails to recognize the pre-existing safety framework of Canada's animal agriculture industry. Condemning an industry as a source of the pandemic and antimicrobial resistance that has spent decades placing a high priority on national public health is unfair.

The Bill does not sufficiently address mechanisms for ensuring transparency and accountability in pandemic prevention and preparedness measures. Broad and vague mandates risk undermining public trust in government institutions. The Bill does not adequately assess the long-term economic and social consequences of the measures it proposes, potentially leading to undue burdens on the agricultural business sector.

We strongly urge the Senate to reject Bill C- 293 in its current form. Instead, we encourage the development of a more collaborative, transparent, and balanced approach that respects the rights and interests of all Canadians while addressing pandemic preparedness effectively.

We trust the Senate will carefully consider these concerns and ensure that any legislation passed reflects the values and priorities of Canadians.



Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan Gawalko
ASB Chairman
Smoky Lake County

cc.

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada

Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta

Glenn Van Dijken, MLA, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Shannon Stubbs, MP, Lakeland

Carleigh Danyluk

From: Stubbs, Shannon - M.P. <Shannon.Stubbs@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 11:21 AM
To: Carleigh Danyluk
Subject: RE: Smoky Lake County Letter of Concern Bill C-293

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

Good day,

Thank you for reaching out regarding your concerns with bill C-293, the private members Bill which was brought forward by Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith and was first introduced in the House of Commons on June 17, 2022. This bill has passed all initial stages of the House of Commons and is currently in the Senate where it was read for the first time June 6, 2024. It would next go through second reading and committee before final vote returning to the House of Commons.

This bill went through the house with full support from the Liberal and NDP and was only opposed by all Conservatives, the Bloc and one independent. We want you to know we will keep pushing against this bill at every step. We know this bill is yet another government overreach designed to control and restrict our rights and freedoms. As you may have seen our leaders stated that only Canadians should have a say of what happens in Canada and MP Stubbs was one of the first MPs to speak out about health being a personal decision that should be made by the individual not by a government or foreign entity.

What we have seen is this NDP-Liberal government will use every opportunity to push their agenda and have done so many times by slipping in lines into omnibus bills and hiding it under the premise of protection and research when really it is about restriction and control. We will keep using every tool to bring this to Canadians so that they are aware, and informed.

Thank you again for reaching out and pushing back on this flawed legislation. We will make sure MP Stubbs receives your letter and we can also keep pushing forward on this issue

*Office of MP Shannon Stubbs
Lakeland
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources*

E: Shannon.Stubbs@parl.gc.ca

T: 780-657-7075

F: 780-657-7079

Carleigh Danyluk

From: Dan Gawalko
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Carleigh Danyluk
Subject: Fw: Letter of Support for AgKnow

Can you please add this to the asb meeting thanks and have a great afternoon

Councilmember Gawalko via iPhone

From: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 12:49:23 PM
To: dgawalko@smokylakecounty.ab.ca <dgawalko@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>
Cc: Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock <Athabasca.Barrhead.Westlock@assembly.ab.ca>; Minister of Mental Health and Addiction <MHA.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for AgKnow

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

Dear Dan Gawalko:

My colleague, the Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, forwarded your October 10, 2024 letter expressing support for the AgKnow Program. As the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The mental health of farmers is critically important to my ministry. AGI provided grant funding to the Applied Research and Extension Council of Alberta for the development of AgKnow, alongside other organizations offering mental health services. I understand the stresses arising from issues in the agriculture industry and am encouraged to hear there is industry support for work being done for mental health.

Since 2022, AGI has invested over \$1 million in AgKnow through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), or its predecessor CAP, to support the development and initial delivery of the program. Although Sustainable CAP funding cannot be used for ongoing operations of an organization or program, it can support project-based deliverables and outcomes.

AgKnow is a good fit with Alberta's Sustainable CAP-funded Resiliency and Public Trust Program. My department has been actively working with AgKnow administrators to help access support for eligible initiatives in the next phase of AgKnow and the program team is in the process of moving AgKnow's current funding application through our approval processes. AGI has also encouraged AgKnow to connect with the ministry of Mental Health and Addiction and other stakeholders in mental health and agriculture communities to source long-term operational funding for the program.

The Alberta government is investing in the diverse health needs of rural Albertans through specific rural health programming. You may be interested in learning more about Alberta Health Services' [Community and Rural Health Planning Framework](#) and [services](#), including mental health, available across Alberta's rural communities.

Thank you again for sharing your support for the AgKnow Program and your endorsement for the continued funding of mental health supports for the agriculture industry.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR86313

From: Carleigh Danyluk <cdanyluk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:56 AM

To: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>; Minister of Mental Health and Addiction <MHA.Minister@gov.ab.ca>; Athabasca.Barrhead.Westlock@assembly.ab.ca

Cc:

Subject: Letter of Support for AgKnow

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence from the Agricultural Service Board of Smoky Lake County.

Thank you,



Carleigh Danyluk

Agricultural Fieldman

p:780-656-3730 or toll free 1-888-656-3730

c:780-650-5409

4612 - McDougall Drive, PO Box 310

Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

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Located on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis Nation

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LARA
LAKELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

November 18th, 2024

NOV 28 2024

Smoky Lake County
4612 McDougall Drive
PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
cao@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

RE: Funding of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

Dear Mr. Lucas,

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) and Smoky Lake County have partnered since 2015 to bring local agricultural producers regionally specific research projects and provide the opportunity to address specific concerns in the Lakeland. By working together, we have been able to create a means of linking all facets of agriculture – agriculture industry and farmers – to produce a team effort towards research and extension services in the area.

We greatly appreciate the partnership and support provided by Smoky Lake County, which has helped to see the services that LARA offers to local agriculture producers grow and expand across the region. However, as a non-profit organization, funding can often be uncertain and this can make long-term planning a challenge. Currently, the County provides \$55,000.00 annual to LARA through a 1-year contract signed in the first quarter of each year. In order to ensure long-term consistency in the services LARA provides, we are inquiring if the County would enter into a 2-to-3-year contract with our organization at the current funding level. This would enhance our organization’s ability to plan long-term research and extension-based projects to ensure that our local farmers and ranchers continue to have access to the latest in agriculture research, innovation and extension.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Jay Cory
Chair, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

cc: Amanda Fischer, Vice-Chair, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
Murray Scott, Secretary/Treasurer, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association