

Agricultural Service Board

Levels of Service

Created July 2022, Revised January 2025





Agricultural Service Board Business Plan

Vision

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board effectively supports one of the strongest agricultural economies in Canada.

Mission

Lethbridge County council and staff will support Agriculture Sustainability in all sectors through strong leadership and empowered employees. Our parks environment will inspire residents to be active and involved in their rural community.

Values

Service: Agriculture is the foundation of Lethbridge County. We are committed to achieving the highest level of customer service through evolving programs that support Agriculture.

Financial Accountability: Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board will make wise use of financial resources in providing efficient and effective services.

Empowered Staff: Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board intends to recruit and retain committed staff by providing a positive work environment that encourages teamwork, initiative, safety, respect, innovation, learning and hard work. Support and resources are provided to help employees succeed and contribute to our goals.

Strong Relationships: Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board is committed to maintaining strong working relationships with provincial and federal governments, provincial and regional associations, agricultural commodity groups, neighboring municipalities, research and training institutions and educational institutions.

Sustainability: We are committed to using our resources wisely, thinking about long-term success and continuity in our operations and the services we provide. Our staff perform their duties safely and thoroughly, taking the time to make informed decisions to work efficiently and effectively. We measure new ideas and innovations carefully to make sure they'll have a positive impact and keep us strong for the long haul.

Continuous Improvement: We regularly look at how we can improve our processes and systems, ensuring our producers, residents, landowners and businesses are receiving services that are relevant and meaningful. Our staff are committed to learning and growing their skillset to best serve our community.



Table of Contents

Agricultural Service Board Business Plan	2
Vision	2
Mission	2
Values	2
Purpose, Considerations, and Level of Service	6
Scope of Responsibility	7
Level of Service (LOS)	7
Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act	7
Strategy	7
Level of Service Measures	7
Delivery/Support of the Agricultural Pests Act	8
Strategy	8
Level of Service Measures	8
Annual Inspections or Trapping Requirements	8
Delivery/Support of the Soil Conservation Act	8
Strategy	8
Level of Service Measures	9
Support of the Animal Health Act	9
Strategy	9
Level of Service Measures	9
Resource Management/Rural Extension Program	9
Strategy	9
Level of Service Measures	9
Roadside Mowing	10
Strategy	10
Level of Service Measures	10
Rental Equipment	10
Strategy	10



Level of Service Measures.....	10
Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance	11
Strategy.....	11
Level of Service Measures.....	11
Parks.....	11
Cemetery.....	11
Hamlets/Subdivisions.....	11
Brushing/Tree Removal/Pruning Program.....	11
Strategy.....	11
Level of Service Measures.....	11
Delay of Maintenance Operations.....	12
Conclusion.....	12
Guidelines and Procedures	13
Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management	13
Appendix B: Agricultural Pest Act Policies.....	13
Appendix C: Soil Conservation Act	13
Appendix D: Roadside Mowing	13
Appendix E: Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees.....	13
Appendix F: Parks Policies.....	13
Appendix G: Maps	13
Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management.....	14
Guidelines and Procedures.....	14
1. Integrated Weed Management.....	14
2. Weed Inspections	14
3. Weed Notices	15
4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed	15
5. Prohibited Noxious Weeds	15
6. Clubroot Inspection and Control	16
7. Seed Cleaning Plants	17



Appendix B: Pest Control and Management	17
Guidelines and Procedures	17
1. Surveys	17
2. Live Traps	17
3. Norway Rat	17
4. Coyotes	18
5. Skunks	18
6. Grasshopper Control	18
Appendix C: Soil Conservation Management	19
Guidelines and Procedures	19
1. Soil Conservation	19
Appendix D: Roadside Mowing	20
Guidelines and Procedures	20
1. Roadside Mowing	20
Appendix E: ASB Rental Equipment	20
Guidelines and Procedures	20
1. Rental Equipment	20
Appendix F: Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance	21
Guidelines and Procedures	21
1. Parks	21
2. Playground & Trail Inspection	21
3. Supplemental	21
Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing – Map	22
Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying – Map	23

Purpose, Considerations, and Level of Service

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board (hereinafter referred to as ASB) was officially formed in 1958. Operating under the Agricultural Service Board Act, Lethbridge County has always been a strong proponent in administering Provincial Legislation including:

- Alberta Weed Control Act
- Alberta Soil Conservation Act
- Alberta Agricultural Pest Act
- Animal Health Act

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is committed to the promotion of the quality of life in a rural environment. The ASB does this by providing services, information, and new technology in cooperation with other governments, jurisdictions, and agencies. This is achieved by establishing “levels of service” that ensure statutory requirements are met with consideration for the collective interests of residents and clients.

The ASB receives a portion of its funding from the provincial government for implementing the delegated legislation at the ground level. The ASB carries out mowing, spraying, and seeding programs for industry, landholders (i.e., owners and lessees) other County departments and several parks and cemeteries in the County. The County also rents specific equipment to county landholders to help them maintain their obligations under the County’s various legislative responsibilities. The ASB partners with the province and other partners to provide Rural Extension programming aimed at delivering Alberta’s agriculture environmental sustainability initiatives. Vegetation management constitutes a large portion of the ASB duties, including both mowing and spraying activities on all County owned right of way. Other ASB Vegetation Management areas include Cemeteries, Hamlets, Subdivisions, and County-owned Yards, Grader Camps and Water and Wastewater sites. The Parks department is also an additional service of the ASB.

Lethbridge County actively delivers weed and pest control programs that support agriculture production. Programs are designed to assist producers in both identification and control measures for designated weeds and pests. Weed control efforts give special attention to areas of concern that focus on:

- lands adjacent to the bed and shores of water resource features,
- haul routes to intensive livestock operations and other agricultural/rural businesses,
- CPKC Railway right of ways and,
- Recent road construction projects.

Roadside mowing efforts also contribute to the integrated program as ASB staff operate a fleet of mowers and are given the flexibility to control weed infestations occurring outside the first pass.

Scope of Responsibility

Lethbridge County ASB is responsible for Vegetation Management on all County owned right of way and public areas. Herbicide applications are also performed for Alberta Transportation on all Provincial Highways that are within County Municipal Boundaries.

Level of Service (LOS)

It is the expectation of County landholders, citizens, and the agriculture community that the ASB programs maintain a Level of Service that supports agriculture production and rural living. The Level of Service is achieved through funding for a balance between legislated commitments and the needs of our rural population.

Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act

Strategy

To control the spread and establishment of noxious and prohibited weeds in Lethbridge County on both private and public land with guidelines provided under the following guidelines and procedures included in Appendix A; Weed Control and Vegetation Management:

- Weed Notices.
- Weed Extension and Inspections
- Leafy Spurge and Knapweed Vegetation Management
- Prohibited Noxious Weed Control
- Seed Cleaning Plants
- Integrated Weed Management

Level of Service Measures

- Two weed inspectors will be continuously appointed.
- 33% of municipal right of way will be sprayed to control regulated weeds. The 33% rotation is illustrated in the Spraying LOS map.
- All newly seeded roads will be mowed on an as needed basis to control weeds until the grass can withstand a chemical application.
- Revisit the GPS (200+) marked weed sites and hand pull or apply herbicide where necessary.
- Enter into a yearly service agreement with Volker Stevin to provide weed control on Alberta Transportation highways in the County. The contract will provide chemical weed control with allocations used on previously identified weed infestation or hot spots. Funding amounts for this service will depend on the Provincial budget.
- Work with the Planning and Development Department to develop a permitting program/system for Solar and other large industrial developments to include submission of vegetation and pest control plans to ensure compliance with the Weed Control and Pest Control Acts.

Delivery/Support of the Agricultural Pests Act

Strategy

To control the spread and establishment of declared pests and nuisances as outlined in the Pest and Nuisance Regulation with guidelines provided under the following guidelines and procedures included in Appendix B Pest Control and Management:

- Surveys
- Norway Rat
- Coyotes
- Skunks
- Live Traps
- Grasshopper Control

Level of Service Measures

- Two (2) pest inspectors are continuously appointed.
- Up to date pest information is available on the County website and in County Newsletters, which are published at least once a year.

Annual Inspections or Trapping Requirements:

- In cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, a total of ten (10) fields are inspected for Clubroot and Virulent Blackleg.
- Two (2) fields will be monitored for Bertha Army Worm.
- Bacterial Ring Rot inspections will take place on potato fields with locations supplied by the Alberta Potato Growers Association.
- Each township in the County will be surveyed for grasshoppers annually.
- Lethbridge County will have a supply of twenty (20) traps for Magpie and Skunk Control.

Delivery/Support of the Soil Conservation Act

Strategy

To prevent or stop soil erosion from occurring as outlined in the Soil Conservation Act with guidelines provided under guidelines and procedures in Appendix C Soil Conservation Management.

Level of Service Measures

- Two (2) soil conservation officers will be appointed.
- All known instances of soil erosion will be inspected.
- Current information on how to control soil erosion will be posted on the County website and will be promoted through the County newsletter and social media.
- Lethbridge County will have available tractors, straw crimper, cultivator with lister shovels and heavy equipment to carry out control measures when necessary.
- Work with the Planning and Development Department to develop a permitting program/system for Solar and other large industrial developments to include submission of soil conservation and plans to ensure compliance with the Soil Conservation Act.

Support of the Animal Health Act

Strategy

To support the Chief Provincial Veterinarian should a disease outbreak occur in Lethbridge County.

Level of Service Measures

Have staff trained on relevant diseases and how to support an animal disease outbreak situation should one occur. Training is provided during mandatory In-Service Training for Members of the Association of Agricultural Fieldmen or other seminars that may occur.

Resource Management/Rural Extension Program

Strategy

To provide rural extension programming that supports rural living and sustainable agricultural practices.

Level of Service Measures

- Collaboration of internal staff to provide Resource Management services and activities.
 - External expertise is leveraged to further support the program, as appropriate.
- Deliver Environmental Farm Plans to County producers.
- Assist producers with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Programs.
- Collaborate with various stakeholders and support applied research projects that support sustainable agriculture.
- Work with drag line manure applicators to identify and install culvert road crossings that are mutually beneficial to producers and the County.
- Work with commercial manure applicators to extend Agricultural Operations Practices Act regulations and guidelines regarding appropriate manure management and application.
- Publish three newsletters to support Rural Living and Agricultural Services programs.

- Provide and promote programs to improve Riparian Health in the County
 - Work cooperatively with the four watershed groups.
 - Maintaining open communication with the Oldman Watershed Council, Cows and Fish and other groups and agencies focused on environmental sustainability.

Roadside Mowing

Strategy

To maintain a mowing program that is aesthetically pleasing while also providing: weed control, elimination of sightline issues and snow drift prevention with guidelines provided in Appendix D Roadside Mowing.

Level of Service Measures

- Paved roads will be mowed starting in the beginning of June. Mowing will then be treated on an as-needed basis during the growing season.
- All gravel roads will be mowed twice throughout the growing season commencing in mid- June. If re-growth is minimal a second cut may not be required. Mowing LOS map indicates the dryland areas of the County where a second cut is typically not required in dry years.
- A deeper cut into the ditch is made where heavy weed infestations or excess vegetation that may cause snow drift issues are identified.

Rental Equipment

Strategy

To provide a variety of agriculture related equipment to loan or rent to producers with guidelines provided in Appendix E ASB Rental Equipment.

Level of Service Measures

- The following pieces of equipment will be available: Brillion Drills, Plastic Mulcher, Tree Planter, and Chisel Plow with Lister shovels, Plastic Roller, and Straw crimper.
- Yearly rental rates will be set on an annual basis through the Lethbridge County Schedule of Fees Bylaw #25-001.



Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance

Strategy

To maintain all public areas to a consistent and set standard that Lethbridge County stakeholders can rely on as described in the following Appendix F Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance.

- Parks Vegetation Management
- Playgrounds and Trail Inspection

Level of Service Measures

Parks

- Parks are maintained on an as needed basis from May until October. Cycle times for mowing will vary on moisture conditions, cycling from 10-14 days between maintenance.
- Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.
- Trail Systems are inspected for safety related issues in the Spring and Fall.
- Enhance and renew playground equipment in cooperation with community groups.

Cemetery

- Cemeteries are mowed twice per year, subject to prevailing drought or excess moisture conditions.
- Mowing events are scheduled by the Supervisor of Agriculture on an “as needed” basis.

Hamlets/Subdivisions

- Hamlets are mowed twice a year, or more, depending on moisture conditions.
- Water and Wastewater Lagoons will be mowed and cleared of woody plants once per year or more depending on regrowth.
- Back-alley gravel levelling is completed, as needed, in the Spring and Fall.

Brushing/Tree Removal/Pruning Program

Strategy

To maintain all Lethbridge County Roadways, Water and Wastewater Lagoons, Parks, and Environmental Reserve land to address overgrowth and hazards created by trees, brush, and general vegetation.

Level of Service Measures

- Three (3) staff members are available for brushing work during the months of November to March when weather conditions allow.
- Priority brushing is completed where intersection obstruction is noted.
- Brushing will only take place from June to October for downed trees or brush caused by adverse weather conditions.
- Tree maintenance is performed in Parks and Environmental Reserves on an on an as needed basis.



Delay of Maintenance Operations

Vegetation Management on public spaces are impacted by multiple factors that can disrupt services and/or affect maintenance operations timelines, such as:

- Unsuitable or inclement weather.
- Equipment breakdowns.
- Intense farm activity causing safety considerations.
- Manpower shortage due to illness or absenteeism.
- Municipal emergencies.
- Public health emergencies (e.g., pandemic).

Conclusion

Lethbridge County ASB activities are a balance between legislated responsibility and levels of service defined by Council as representatives of the public. The ASB Grant, which provides supplemental funding, was renewed for a five-year term in 2025 (i.e., 2025 – 2029), all legislated activity is also set out in this document. The province requires annual reporting on ASB activities to demonstrate that the County's commitments are met for both the Legislative and Resource Management Grant funding streams.

Appendices

Guidelines and Procedures

Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

1. Integrated Weed Management
2. Weed Extension and Inspections
3. Weed Notices
4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed Vegetation Management
5. Prohibited Noxious Weed Control
6. Clubroot Inspection and Control
7. Seed Cleaning Plants

Appendix B: Agricultural Pest Act Policies

1. Surveys
2. Live Traps
3. Norway Rat
4. Coyotes
5. Skunks
6. Grasshopper Control

Appendix C: Soil Conservation Act

1. Soil Conservation Management

Appendix D: Roadside Mowing

1. Roadside Mowing

Appendix E: Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees

1. ASB Rental Equipment
2. Schedule of Fees/ASB Related Portion of Bylaw #25-001

Appendix F: Parks Policies

1. Parks Vegetation Management
2. Playground and Trail Inspection

Appendix G: Maps

1. Roadside Mowing
2. Roadside Spray Program

Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Integrated Weed Management

- 1.1. To control weeds in Lethbridge County on a timely basis; to ensure compliance with the Weed Control Act.
- 1.2. Paved and oiled roads receive priority.
- 1.3. Spraying is carried out on a three-year rotation within the County, as follows:
 - Area 1 – All right-of-way west of RR-23-0 north of 519, west of 22-0 south of 519 and west of Highway 4 south of Lethbridge.
 - Area 2 – All right-of-way south and east of the Oldman River and east of Highway 4.
 - Area 3 – All right-of-way east of RR 23-0 north of 519 and south of 519 east of RR 22-0. The areas not scheduled for spraying will receive spot treatment.
- 1.4. Weeds that are too mature to be effectively controlled with chemicals or that are located too close to sensitive crops are mowed to control the spread of seeds. It is recognized that inclement weather could impede implementation of portions of the LOS.
- 1.5. Only chemicals registered for right-of-way use are employed.
- 1.6. Spray truck operators will exclude areas such as farmstead frontages and where canals, drainage channels, sloughs, and ponds encroach on the road allowance. Spray booms are also turned off 100 meters on either side of visible beehives.
- 1.7. Landowners that do not want their road allowances sprayed must visibly post DO NOT SPRAY signage so that operators have sufficient time to react.
- 1.8. "Do Not Spray" signs are available at the Lethbridge County office.
- 1.9. a. Landholders posting "Do Not Spray" must sign a "No Spray Zone" Agreement with Lethbridge County.
- 1.10. The County's rights-of-way are not considered as a "buffer zone" for organic farming purposes.
- 1.11. Operators will only spray when weather and wind conditions warrant and will keep a daily log of roads sprayed, weather conditions, wind direction and speed and the PCP number of the chemical being applied.
- 1.12. Difficult to control noxious or prohibited noxious weeds located in rights-of-way in small, contained infestations are mowed, pulled or hand-sprayed with a selective herbicide registered for control of the specific species involved.
- 1.13. The roadside spraying program is advertised prior to commencement of spray activities.
- 1.14. Roadside spraying is coordinated with roadside mowing to avoid duplication.

2. Weed Inspections

- 2.1. The Weed Inspector will enforce the Provincial Weed Control Act during the growing season from May to September.
- 2.2. The Inspector conducts their duties under the supervision of the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.
- 2.3. The Inspector will contact landholders to provide weed control extension materials, where necessary.

- 2.4. County employees will always exercise suitable public relation skills when engaging landholders by applying a firm but fair approach.

3. Weed Notices

- 3.1. Notices to remedy a weed problem are issued at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.
- 3.2. Notices are issued under the provisions outlined in the current Alberta Weed Control Act.
- 3.3. When a landholder demonstrates non-compliance with a weed notice, remedial work will be implemented by the County, or its agents, and all related costs are applied against the landowner.
- 3.4. Where payment is not received for remedial work, the amount owing is placed on the tax roll as an additional levy against the affected lands.
- 3.5. In cases of continued non-compliance, the Agricultural Fieldman, or their designate, may determine that prosecution is the only remaining compliance instrument. In such cases, the ASB Committee will review the case and approve or reject initiation of legal action in a Court of Law.

4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed

- 4.1. During the growing season, the ASB will send operators to systemically survey, map and treat Knapweed and Leafy Spurge within the bed and shore and vacant public lands adjacent to water resource features.
 - 4.1.1. The County is compensated for costs associated with the water resource protection program through the ASB grant and a grant from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.
- 4.2. Landowners adjacent to the bed and shore are encouraged to treat infestations of these weeds on their land. Where necessary, the County's Weed Inspector provides information to help landholders achieve effective results.
- 4.3. If the landowner does not respond to treatment requests for these species, a weed notice will be issued.

5. Prohibited Noxious Weeds

- 5.1. When a prohibited noxious weed infestation is discovered or reported, the County will conduct a thorough inspection to determine the area affected and the number of plants present.
- 5.2. Where necessary, the affected landholder is issued a Weed Notice, as outlined under the Weed Control Act.
- 5.3. Where the landholder is provided with the option to treat infestations occurring in row cropped fields.
- 5.4. The landholder is obliged to hand rogue or spot spray, as many times as the Weed Inspector deems necessary, to destroy all prohibited noxious plant material.
- 5.5. Spot spraying must be with a non-selective herbicide registered for control of the prohibited noxious weed.
- 5.6. All impacted plant material must be disposed of as directed by the Weed Inspector.
- 5.7. Where the weed inspector determines that:
 - 5.7.1. Roguing or spot spraying a prohibited noxious weed occurring in a row crop is not feasible, or
 - 5.7.2. The noxious weed infestation eradication was not conducted effectively.

5.8. The affected area will, at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman, be the eradicated of all vegetation within the infested area though:

5.8.1. The application of a non-selective herbicide to the entire infested area or,

5.8.2. By plowing under the entire infested area.

5.9. Harvest of a previously affected row crop field must be supervised by the Weed Inspector to reduce potential cross-contamination risks.

5.10. Eradication methods for prohibited noxious weed infestations identified in non- row cropped areas are determined by the Weed Inspector.

5.11. Persons failing to comply with a noxious weed notification are subject to the provisions set out under the Weed Control Act.

6. Clubroot Inspection and Control

6.1. Field Surveys

6.1.1. Yearly inspections for Clubroot in Canola are completed by Agricultural Services Staff.

6.1.2. Clubroot survey method, sampling technique, reporting and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.

6.1.3. Positive identification of Clubroot in canola shall be confirmed by certified laboratory testing. Submit samples to two independent accredited laboratories.

6.2. Disease Spread Reduction

6.2.1. A "Notice to Control Pests" shall be issued to any landowner found to own the land infested with clubroot, pursuant to the Agricultural Pests Act.

6.2.2. The "Notice to Control Pests" may include any or all the following conditions:

- A four-year prohibition from growing canola, mustard, and brassica crops.
- Following the four (4) year prohibition period, the landholder must notify the Agricultural Fieldman, in writing, of their intent to grow canola variety. Whereby, the canola must be a registered clubroot resistant variety.
- An owner or occupant must follow a Clubroot Management Plan, intended to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil or equipment¹.
- All other users of the said field(s) must adhere to the same best management practices for Clubroot sanitation.
- Prohibited crops grown within the four-year prohibition period will be destroyed, at the expense of the grower, using any appropriate means.
- All neighboring landowners and all industries having genuine commercial interest will be notified of the confirmed positive Clubroot incidence and its location.
- Canola growers in high-risk situations/locations should follow traditional Canola rotation recommendations (1 in 4 years) to reduce the risk of Clubroot introduction to clean fields.
- Lethbridge County will review these guidelines and procedures within one year of a positive Clubroot result with the County.

7. Seed Cleaning Plants

- 7.1. Seed cleaning plants in the County and City of Lethbridge, or Village or Town whose borders are surrounded by the County will be inspected, as outlined in the Weed Control Act, Seed Cleaning Plant Regulations.
- 7.2. Seed plants are inspected once a year by the Agricultural Fieldman, or their designate.
- 7.3. A minimum of 20 samples per plant will be collected randomly throughout the year.
- 7.4. License issuance is based on test results, in conjunction with the licensing form provided under the Seed Cleaning Regulations of the Weed Control Act.

Appendix B: Pest Control and Management

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Surveys

- 1.1. At the request of senior government, agricultural pest surveys are undertaken by ASB staff for diseases such as the Blackleg and Clubroot in Canola, Ring rot in Potatoes, Fusarium in cereals and the Grasshopper Forecast survey.
- 1.2. The Agricultural Fieldman will negotiate survey methodology and cost share agreements prior to any survey being undertaken.
- 1.3. Surveys are completed with consideration to optimum survey timing, accounting for competing county programs and staffing needs.

2. Live Traps

- 2.1. Live traps are available to County landowners or lessees to enable control of Magpies, Raccoons, or Skunks.
- 2.2. A "Use Agreement," valid for 30 days, is required to obtain a live trap. The agreement includes the name, address, legal land description, telephone number and signature of the responsible landowner or lessee.
- 2.3. The landholder is charged for Live Traps in accordance with the Schedule of Fees Bylaw.

3. Norway Rat

- 3.1. All valid, reported sightings of a Norway Rat are investigated immediately.
 - 3.1.1. The validity of Norway rat sightings is determined by the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.
- 3.2. Where the investigation identifies a positive sighting, where the animal(s) cannot be readily eradicated, the Provincial Rat Specialist will be contacted for assistance.
- 3.3. Lethbridge County will contact the individual(s) who originally submitted the sighting to disclose the outcome of the investigation.



4. Coyotes

- 4.1. All complaints involving Coyote predation on domestic livestock will be investigated as soon as is feasibly possible.
- 4.2. The investigating officer, as outlined under the Agricultural Pests Act, will determine the best method for eliminating the predator responsible.
- 4.3. The appropriate forms must be completed prior to issuance of pest control devices, such as poison or snares.
- 4.4. In particularly difficult cases the Provincial Predator Control Specialist will be contacted to assist the producer.

5. Skunks

- 5.1. All complaints involving skunks behaving abnormally are dealt with immediately. Residents in rural areas are encouraged to eliminate the skunk immediately, preferably without destroying the head or brain.
- 5.2. Where the resident is unable, for any reason, to eliminate the animal, the investigating Officer will trap or eliminate any skunk(s) behaving abnormally on behalf of the complainant.
- 5.3. The Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist will be contacted to assist with having the animal tested. Results obtained from the Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI) will be shared with the complainant.
- 5.4. Where positive results are established, the Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist will cooperate with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (lead agency), the Agricultural Fieldman and ADRI to organize the necessary control measures.
- 5.5. Live traps are available to residents wishing to remove nuisance skunks from their property. Live traps issuance is provided in accordance with the Schedule of Fees Bylaw.

6. Grasshopper Control

- 6.1. Lethbridge County will cooperate with landholders wishing to control the severity of grasshopper infestations on adjacent County owned rights-of-way.
- 6.2. Landholders planning to perform grasshopper control on County owned right-of- way must have approval from the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.
- 6.3. Grasshopper control methodologies must use procedures that minimize risks to road users/traffic.
- 6.4. Applicants for grasshopper control on County lands must include a signed waiver agreement prior to execution of county implemented control measures.
- 6.5. Grasshopper control approvals are issued where pest numbers are above the economic threshold, as per provincial guidelines.
- 6.6. Control methodologies must follow label directions provided for an approved pesticide brand formulation registered for use on grasshoppers.

Appendix C: Soil Conservation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Soil Conservation

- 1.1. Lethbridge County's ASB recognizes the protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural, environmental, and human sustainability.
 - 1.1.1. Alberta's Soil Conservation Act, its associated regulations, as periodically amended, provide the legislated mandate to prevent loss or deterioration of the soil resource.
 - 1.1.2. The County is authorized by the province to enforce the Soil Conservation Act
- 1.2. Soil Conservation notices are issued at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.
- 1.3. When a notice is issued, non-compliance may result in remedial work, either by the County or a Contractor designated by the County.
- 1.4. Remedial work may include mitigation work in the affected field(s) or removal of resulting soil deposits in County owned roadways or drainage ditches.
- 1.5. When remediation of County owned/controlled ditches is deemed necessary, the landholder will be notified prior to commencement of the work, including an estimate of cost.
- 1.6. Costs for the work are calculated using current Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association rates as authorized by the County's Schedule of Fees bylaw.
- 1.7. Upon completion, costs for the remedial complete by the County or its contractor, the legally titled landholder is issued an invoice.
- 1.8. Where the invoice is not paid on or before the due date, the amount will be subject to penalties and interest charges.
- 1.9. All outstanding invoices 120 days or more overdue will be placed on the County tax roll and collected based on County Tax bylaws and policy.
- 1.10. In cases of continued non-compliance, the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate. may determine that prosecution is the only remaining compliance instrument. In such cases, the ASB Committee will review the case and approve or reject initiation of legal action in a Court of Law.

Appendix D: Roadside Mowing

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Roadside Mowing

- 1.1. This program is developed, planned, and implemented by the Agricultural Department, in conjunction with Public Works operations.
- 1.2. Paved or oiled roads are mowed beginning in June, on an as-needed basis, during the growing season.
- 1.3. If necessary, all gravel roads will be mowed twice throughout the growing season, commencing in mid-June.
 - 1.3.1. Where re-growth is minimal, a second cut may not be required.
 - 1.3.2. Inclement weather, such as heavy rain events or early winter, could prevent the completion of the program.
- 1.4. Grader operations are coordinated and implemented in a manner that minimizes interference with and efficiency of mowing operations.
- 1.5. Roadside spraying operations are coordinated and implemented in a manner that minimizes interference with and efficiency of mowing operations.

Appendix E: ASB Rental Equipment

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Rental Equipment

- 1.1. ASB rents equipment for use exclusively on land located within Lethbridge County boundaries.
- 1.2. A current ASB rental equipment list and fees are advertised annually.
- 1.3. A chronological applicants list is maintained, and equipment distribution is provided on a first come, first-serve basis, as near as practical.
- 1.4. County personnel are responsible for moving rental equipment to and between farms.
- 1.5. The applicant is responsible to service, clean and maintain rental equipment, as necessary, before it is returned to the County and/or passed onto the next applicant.
- 1.6. The applicant will provide suitable equipment and competent personnel to operate County equipment.
- 1.7. Customers are assessed fees on a per acre or maximum daily charge, as specified by the Schedule of Fees Bylaw, at the discretion of the County.
- 1.8. The program is evaluated annually to implement necessary LOS or guideline changes.

Appendix F: Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Parks

- 1.1. County Parks maintenance is the responsibility of the Agricultural Department.
- 1.2. The Parks department consists of the following:
 - 1.2.1. All municipal designated hamlet playgrounds and equipment.
 - 1.2.2. Municipal designated green space and walking paths.
 - 1.2.3. Inactive municipal school yards.
 - 1.2.4. Cemetery maintenance at Elinor, Albion Ridge, White Lake, and Barons cemeteries.

2. Playground & Trail Inspection

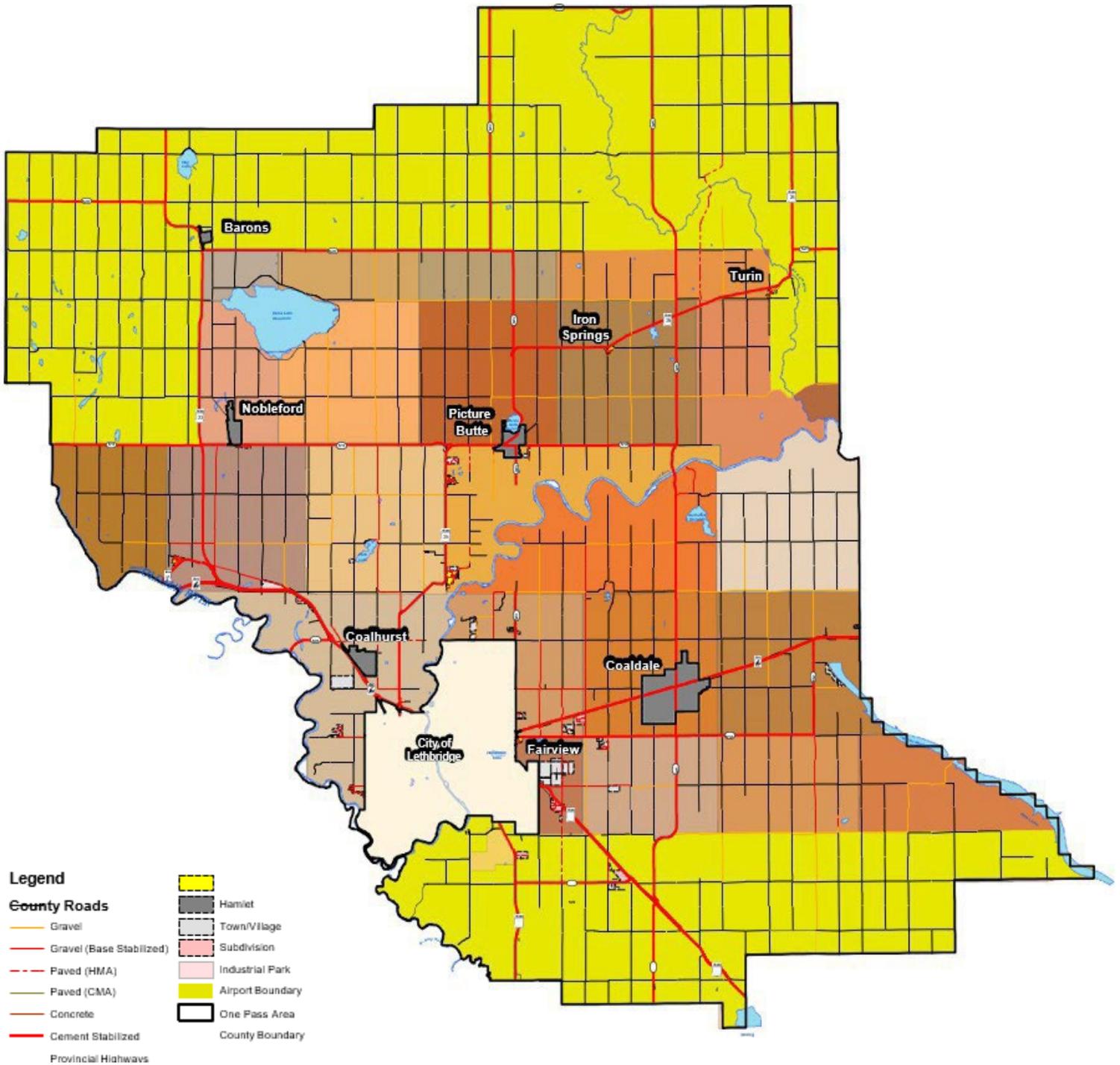
- 2.1. Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.
- 2.2. Lethbridge County trail systems are inspected by a department staff member on a semi-annual basis.
- 2.3. Inspections are recorded on the appropriate forms, including:
 - 2.3.1. Hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions.
 - 2.3.2. Corrective action required or taken to address identified hazards.
 - 2.3.3. Inspection date and inspector's signature.
 - 2.3.4. Inspection forms are submitted to the Agricultural Fieldman for review and coordination of necessary actions.

3. Supplemental

- 3.1. Playground equipment and Trails are also inspected by County crews during maintenance activities.
- 3.2. All equipment, facility and trail deficiencies identified by County maintenance crews are recorded and, wherever possible, corrected immediately.
- 3.3. Any debris, broken glass, foreign objects, etc. are removed from the site during inspection or maintenance activities.
- 3.4. Where identified deficiencies cannot be corrected immediately:
 - 3.4.1. The inspector or maintenance crew will erect caution tape to isolate the affected area.
 - 3.4.2. In such cases, qualified staff will be notified immediately to schedule the necessary corrective action as soon as is feasibly possible.



Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing – Map





Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying – Map

